



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy™

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

From the DEAN'S DESK



September - October 2007

SOP Faculty Garner TTUHSC President's Awards

Dr. Quentin Smith (Chair and Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo), Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean for Research - Amarillo) and Dr. Jon Weidanz (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Abilene) were recognized for their exceptional efforts on behalf of the University with a 2007 TTUHSC President's Award.

The awards were presented Oct. 15 following the annual State of the University address, which was delivered by TTUHSC president Dr. John C. Baldwin.



SOP faculty received three TTUHSC President's Awards in 2007.

Dr. Smith received the University Distinguished Professor Award for his superior and recognized teaching skills, his scholarly and research achievements and his distinguished record of clinical and community service.

The University Distinguished Professor Award is a very prestigious honor. Those who receive it have been recognized nationally and usually internationally for the importance of their scholarly and research achievements and have brought distinction to TTUHSC as a result of their activities.



Dr. Quentin Smith, who received the University Distinguished Professor Award, at work in his SOP laboratory.

Dr. Smith is the second SOP faculty member to be so honored. Dr. CAB Bond received the same recognition in 2006.

Dr. Thekkumkara received the 2007 President's Research Achievement Award for his accomplishments in research and scholarship, as demonstrated by his original and high-impact publications, external funding, national and international peer

recognition and research awards for work performed at TTUHSC.

Dr. Weidanz received the 2007 President's Excellence in Teaching Award for his sustained excellence in teaching and his strong commitment to the educational process at TTUHSC, as demonstrated in student and peer evaluations.

Dr. Weidanz recently transferred from Amarillo to our new regional campus in Abilene.

This is the third year in a row that three of our faculty members have received one of these prestigious TTUHSC President's awards and I want to personally extend my congratulations to each of this year's honorees. They truly represent the hard work and dedication that has come to symbolize our entire faculty.



2007 President's Award winners from the SOP (from left): Dr. Weidanz, Dr. Smith and Ms. Logan LaRue, who accepted the award for Dr. Thekkumkara.

CTSA Partnership to Include SOP's Dallas/Ft. Worth Campus

Thanks to an effort led by Dr. Richard Leff, regional dean for the SOP campus in Dallas/Ft. Worth, the TTUHSC-SOP is part of a multidisciplinary and multidimensional partnership that recently received a \$34 million, five-year



Dr. Richard Leff

Clinical and Translational Science Award aimed at turning lab discoveries into new treatments for patients faster.

The CTSA initiative is funded by the National Center for Research Resources, which is a part of the National Institutes of Health.

The partnership that includes TTUHSC-SOP in Dallas/Ft. Worth is known as the North and Central Texas Clinical and Translational Science Initiative and is led by The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

A major goal of the CTSA initiative is to develop a national consortium of CTSA institutions that will work together to transform the

discipline of clinical and translational research across the country.

The consortium is designed to encourage the development of new methods and approaches to clinical and translational research, improve training and mentoring to ensure that new investigators can navigate the increasingly complex research system, design new and improved clinical research informatics tools, assemble interdisciplinary teams that cover the complete spectrum of medical research and forge new partnerships with private and public health care organizations.

The NCTCTSI will serve as a center of excellence for the region and contribute importantly to a NIH-led nationwide renaissance of clinical and translational science. Although UT Southwestern will lead the NCTCTSI, the partnership will represent a fully integrated, multidisciplinary and multidimensional partnership of several academic and clinical institutions and organizations.

The award that is creating the NCTCTSI is one of 12 given to

medical centers throughout the country. The money will be used to bridge a gap that experts say has been growing in U.S. biomedical research: there has been a flood of biological discoveries about disease, but not enough researchers with the training required to translate the discoveries into cures.

Other institutions who are part of the NCTCTSI include Texas A&M Health Science Center's Baylor College of Dentistry, UT-Austin School of Nursing, University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, UT-Dallas School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, the Dallas campus of the UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health and the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at UT-Dallas.



The SOP's Dallas/Ft. Worth regional campus.

Introducing...

Sanjay Batra

Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Xiong Chen

Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Jannette Marek

Accountant
Office of Finance & Administration
Amarillo

Sandra Brown

Analyst II
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Merlin Morris

Graduate Student Advisor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Mahshid Noorjahan

Technician I
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Please take a moment to welcome each of these individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.

Career Fair Slated for November 9 in Lubbock

The 2007 Career Fair for all SOP campuses will be held Nov. 9 at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock. This year's event will truly be our largest Career Fair to date and recruiters from all areas of pharmacy, including residencies, are making plans to attend.

The list of registered recruiters includes: Baptist Medical Center (San Antonio); Brookshire Brothers, Ltd. (Lufkin, TX); Christus Spohn Health System (Corpus Christi); Community Health Systems (Franklin, TN); CompleteRx (Houston); Covenant Health System (Lubbock); Covidien (Hazelwood, MO); CVS Caremark (N Richland Hills, TX); Harris Methodist (Fort Worth); HEB (San Antonio); Hendrick Medical Center (Abilene); IBA Molecular (Oak Brook, IL); JPS Health Network (Fort Worth); Kmart (Denver, CO);

Kroger (Irving, TX); Recept Pharmacy (Fort Worth); Saint Francis Hospital (Tulsa, OK); Shannon Medical Center (San Angelo); St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (Houston); Target (Plano, TX); Tom Thumb/Randalls/Safeway (Dallas); United Supermarkets (Lubbock); University Medical Center (Lubbock); U.S. Army (Del City, OK); Walgreens (Deerfield, IL) and Walmart (Bentonville, AR).

Representatives from Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas will also be in attendance and will be looking for residents only.

The Career Fair is great way to make connections and network for future positions whether they be intern positions for P1s, pharmacist positions or residencies. This is also a great time to meet and interact with your fellow classmates on other campuses.

Students who attend can win some great prizes such as gift cards for Starbucks and Walmart, gas cards and iPod nanos! There will also be a scavenger hunt for teams of students to collect items and information from our exhibitors. Prizes will be available for those completing their task.

The exhibits will run from 9 a.m. - noon; interviews are scheduled from 1-4 p.m. Students may choose to attend only the morning exhibit hall in the concourse of United Spirit Arena.

Attendance is not mandatory, but is required to be eligible for door prizes.

There will be a sign-in sheet for free lunch tickets based upon RSVPs that were received by the Oct. 29 RSVP deadline.

We hope you will take this opportunity to network and interact with those in your profession and to just have some fun.

Flu Shots Still Available

The annual flu vaccinations are still being offered in Amarillo to SOP staff and faculty between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Amarillo Pharmaceutical Care Center, located on the first floor of the School of Medicine.

Immediate family members who are at least 15 years old can also receive their flu vaccination at the APCC. The cost is \$15.00 for each family member, which can be paid by check, cash or credit card.

All healthcare workers are strongly encouraged to receive the flu vaccination each year. According to the Centers for Disease Control:

- Influenza is responsible for an average of 36,000 deaths per year in the U.S. and causes more than 200,000 to be admitted to hospitals across the country.

- Influenza results in more than \$87 billion of U.S. economic burden annually due to hospitalization costs, missed days at work, lost lives, etc.

- Recent studies have found that influenza may trigger up to 92,000 cardiac deaths per year in the U.S.

- Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 days after becoming sick.

- Pregnant women can receive the flu vaccine.

The vaccines are also being offered to faculty, staff and immediate family members at each SOP regional campus site. For more information about receiving the vaccine in Lubbock, Dallas/Ft. Worth and Abilene, please contact your respective dean's office.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Grad Students Receive Travel Awards



Nikhil Vad

Congratulations go out to SOP graduate students Nikhil Vad and Sharanya Vemula, who recently received travel awards to events for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Nikhil received his award from AstraZeneca and will attend the 2007 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition Nov. 11-15 in San Diego. His award consists of \$500 to be used for travel and lodging associated with the meeting.

Sharanya was selected to receive a \$250 travel award to attend



Sharanya Vemula

the AAPS Workshop on Enzyme- and Transporter-Based Drug Interactions: Progress and Future Challenges Nov. 10 in San Diego. Her award will also be used toward travel and lodging.

SOP Photo Gallery



Dr. Molly Graham (left) and Dr. Carol Fox at the SOP's 2007 New Faculty Orientation.



Daybreak at the new SOP regional campus building in Abilene.



Dr. Jon Weidanz accepts his 2007 TTUHSC President's Award from Dr. Sherry Luedtke.

Getting to Know...

Kayla Talbott

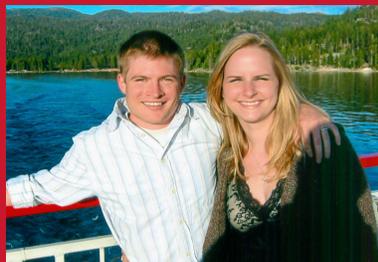
Sr. Business Assistant

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Abilene

Kayla was born in Amarillo but grew up in Canyon where she lived with her parents, David and Janis Artho, an older sister named Paula and a younger sister named Shelly.

After graduating from Canyon High School in 2001, Kayla attended Texas Tech University where she earned her BFA degree in Visual Studies.

Kayla says she left West Texas and moved to Abilene after marrying her husband, Clint, who is a



Clint and Kayla Talbott pose during a trip to Lake Tahoe.

graphic/web designer for a company that produces wakeboarding boats called Tigé Boats. The

couple recently purchased their first house and have just "adopted" an orange tabby cat named Toby.

In her spare time Kayla says she enjoys "playing word games and puzzles like Sudoku and Scrabble. I also enjoy traveling and creating art such as ceramics and painting."

Kayla says she also enjoys working for the SOP in Abilene. "It's great to be a part of something new and to feel like you have really contributed."