



***Grad Students Form New Association***

I recently had the honor of approving the formation of The Graduate Students Association at Amarillo (GSAA), a group of students pursuing Masters and Ph.D. degrees with the SOPs Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program. The GSSA was organized with the goal of facilitating a sense of community between students of diverse cultures and backgrounds while raising awareness of a responsibility to continuing a life-long pursuit of learning, affiliating as a chapter with national scholarly societies, and promoting civic responsibility.

The graduate program was established in 1999 and has grown from three students to 19. In fact, that number will swell to 22 with the admission of three more students in January 2005.

The newly formed GSAA has made its presence felt very quickly. Members of the group signed up to participate in two of the most important fund raising walks in our area—the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk and the Alzheimer’s Association’s Memory Walk—even before becoming an official organization.

At the Heart Walk, GSAA students raised \$1,550 were one of seven teams who pushed TTUHSC to the top of the list of heart research contributors with a total of \$4,499.45. At the Memory Walk, eleven GSAA members were recognized as the Number 1 fund raising team by contributing \$813.



*GSAA members Katie Bennett (left), Fancy Thomas and Tiffany Nguyen setting the pace at the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk.*



*Back, from left: Dr. Jochen Klein, Dr. Neels Van der Schyf, Dr. Quentin Smith, Cornelia Kiewert and Joachim Hartmann. Front, from left: Fancy Thomas, Briah Gaasch, Tiffany Nguyen, Katie Bennett and Sharanya Vemula.*



*Dr. Jochen Klein (left) and Dr. Neels Van der Schyf take a break to cool off and mug for the camera at the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk.*

The group is also busy planning social events to create a sense of family among students who may otherwise feel isolated by the work they perform in individual labs. The association wants every student to know they are connected and that they have a support system while they are students at TTUHSC Amarillo.

GSAA president ***Julie Gaasch*** and vice president ***Jason Crumley*** have also committed to organize and run the American Heart Association’s upcoming “Shoot for the Heart” fund raising event. This is an honor for Julie and Jason, as well as the rest of the GSAA members who will be assisting with the event. To say this group has hit the ground running—and walking—is a huge understatement!



*Julie Gaasch*



*Jason Crumley*

## *Chimalakonda Receives Award*



*Prasad  
Chimalakonda*

*Prasad Chimalakonda*, a Ph.D. candidate in the TTUHSC- SOP pharmaceutical sciences department graduate program has been awarded the school's prestigious Chancellor's Scholarship Award.

Prasad was selected from a group of Ph.D. students nominated from each of the ten programs that make up the TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He carries a 4.0 grade point average and has had four first-author and two second-author research papers appear in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The award includes a \$2,500 scholarship. Congratulations Prasad!

## *Dr. Mehvar Recognized by Chancellor's Council*



*Dr. Mehvar*

*Dr. Reza Mehvar (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo)*, was one of four faculty members from TTUHSC and Texas Tech University who received the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards December 10.

Dr. Mehvar, who has been selected Teacher of the Year by our P2s for each of the last five years, was named the winner of the TTUHSC Distinguished Teaching award by the Chancellor's Council, which raises funds to support student scholarships, faculty recruitment and support and other programs. He received a plaque and a \$10,000 cash award.

## *Museum Exhibit Part of Local History Fair*

*Dr. Paul Katz (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo and Texas Pharmacy Museum Curator)*, the Texas Pharmacy Museum, and several SOP students participated in the Eighth Annual Fannin History Fair held November 16 at Fannin Middle School in Amarillo. This year's event proved to be quite popular and was attended by more than 1,000 students, their families, and the general public. More than 50 exhibitors demonstrated crafts and performed living history reenactments that included everything from prehistoric corn grinding to a WWII infantry encampment.



*Dr. Paul Katz chats with a Fannin History Fair attendee at the Texas Pharmacy Museum's "Chuck Wagon Therapy" exhibit.*

This was the fifth year that Dr. Katz and the Texas Pharmacy Museum have participated in the event. In past years SOP students have provided drug compounding demonstrations; this year the TPM presented its first traveling exhibit, "Chuck Wagon Therapy." This exhibit consists of a replica of a chuck box filled with the medications and tools carried on the cattle drives of the late 19th century to treat the medical, pharmaceutical, and dental problems encountered on these long drives. This exhibit was subsequently on display in the SOP south lobby during National Pharmacy Week and is now on permanent display in the Museum.

## *Dr. Raehl Honored by Alma Mater*



*Dr. Raehl*

*Dr. Cynthia Raehl (Professor and Chair, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo),* who earned her Pharm.D. and residency from the University of Kentucky, has been selected to receive the Paul F. Parker Award from her alma mater. She was honored at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' midyear meeting December 7 in Orlando, Florida.

The award is presently annually to a past resident of the UK Pharmacy Residency Program or to an individual associated the program who has displayed sustained contribution to the profession in practice, teaching or research; a commitment to high ideals and excellence; leadership and innovation; and a passion to encourage the personal and professional growth of others.



*Some of our SOP staff members pose for a picture before diving into cake and cookies. Like me, they hope you all had a wonderful holiday season!*

## *GETTING TO KNOW...*

### **Majid Moridani, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo*



Majid was born and raised in Rasht, Gilan, the capital of the smallest province of Iran. The province is located in the north of Iran and is next to Caspian Sea, the largest lake in the world. He says the land is green and receives a lot of rain.

Majid lived in Rasht through the completion of his High School years.

After high school he received his pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Tehran Medical University in 1993. Later the same year he moved to London, United Kingdom to continue his education by working towards a Ph.D. degree in pharmaceutical science at King's College London, University of London.

His next move was to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, his second home and country, where stayed for five years. While In Ontario he first worked at the School of Pharmacy as a postdoctoral researcher in toxicology and drug metabolism and then completed a two-year residency in clinical laboratory medicine at Hospital of Sick Children, School of Medicine, University of Toronto before joining TTUHSC School of Pharmacy as a faculty member in the department of pharmaceutical sciences.

Majid is married to Souzan Heibati-Sadati. The couple have a two-year-old son, Arian, who is the love of their lives. Souzan is a first-year pharmacy student at TTUHSC – SOP in Amarillo and enjoys her first-class pharmacy training. Majid says Amarillo is great to raise a family and he and Souzan enjoy it here because they spend less time commuting between home and work. In their spare time, Majid and Souzan enjoy music, literature, traveling and shopping.

Majid's main research interests are drug metabolism, pharmacogenetics and developing drugs as anti-melanoma agents and as cytoprotective drugs for ischemia. He enjoys interacting with both graduate and pharmacy students.



**Lisa Miller**  
*Unit Coordinator*  
*Staff - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo*



Lisa is a newcomer to the Panhandle, having lived in Austin for more than 30 years. She graduated from Dripping Springs High School (when Dripping Springs was still a tiny town just west of Austin - not so tiny anymore!), and then went on to Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. She also attended graduate school at UT-Austin.

Lisa and her husband were always intrigued by the Panhandle and had read great things about Amarillo, so they were very excited with the opportunity to move here four years ago. Besides fun explorations of their new hometown and the beautiful Panhandle region, Lisa and her husband enjoy the company of their beloved dogs, cat, Raymond “the Wonder Horse” and other assorted critters. The Millers have even developed an admiration for chickens, which may evolve into a chicken coop and some “farm-fresh” eggs! Lisa greatly enjoys working with all the folks at the School of Pharmacy and in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department.

**Shane Greene, Pharm. D., BCPS, CDE**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Department of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas*



*Dr. Greene, wife Nancy  
and daughter Riley Ella*

Born and raised in the small South Plains town of Levelland, Shane graduated from Levelland High School in 1990 and left Red Raider country to attend Texas A&M University in College Station. There he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science and elected to pursue a career in Pharmacy, which forced him to leave Aggieland for rival Longhorn country.

While attending the University of Texas College of Pharmacy, Shane met his soul mate, Nancy, and two years later married her at Tarrytown United Methodist Church in Austin. Upon graduating with his Pharm.D, he pursued a Pharmacy Practice Residency in Cleveland, Ohio at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

After a year in Cleveland, Shane and Nancy were ready to come home to Texas where he completed his training at the VA Medical Center in San Antonio as a Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Resident.

Shane joined the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy Dallas faculty in August of 2001 as an Assistant Professor specializing in Primary Care. He currently practices at the VA Medical Center in Dallas as an Advanced Practice Pharmacist in Ambulatory Care. He received his Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) certification in December 2003 and his Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) certification in December 2004.

When he’s not working, Shane enjoys spending as much time as he can with Nancy and their new little baby girl, Riley Ella, who is seven months old. The Greene’s live south of Arlington in Mansfield with their two cats, Bentley and Alexis. Shane also enjoys sports, woodworking/construction and music.