



SOP Students Land Scholarships

Thirteen of our students recently received scholarships from the West Texas Pharmacy Association recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 13 TTUHSC – SOP students.

Recipients from the main SOP campus in Amarillo included:

Alisia Baker (P3), Kamal Bhakta (P2), Donna Boatwright (P2), Gina DellaValle (P2), Jessica Fields (P2), Jason Hollingworth (P2), Larry Thompson (P4), Amanda Wickson (P2), Michelle Wickson (P2) and Joseph Young (P4).

Recipients from the our regional campuses included *Micah Pratt (P3 – Lubbock), Tammy Ratliff (P3 – Lubbock) and Sonia Gonzalez (P4 - Dallas/Fort Worth).*

In addition, WTPA awarded the \$2,000 Lonnie F. Hollingsworth Appreciation Scholarship to *Kandace Ballman (P3 - Amarillo) and Randy White (P3 – Lubbock) and Lyndsi White (P3 - Lubbock)* were named co-recipients of the \$2,000 Roberta High Scholarship.



*Kandace
Ballman*



*Randy
White*



*Lyndsi
White*

WTPA is the largest district pharmacy association in the world and has been helping out West Texas pharmacists for more than 80 years. I know I speak for everyone when I say we appreciate their support!

Rho Chi Initiates New Members

Congratulations go out to nine of our P3 students who were inducted into the Rho Chi Society. An induction ceremony was held January 29 at the Amarillo Club for new members *Alisa Baker (Amarillo), Robert Carranza (Dallas/Fort Worth), Sarah Dehoney (Dallas/Fort Worth), Sarah Gressett (Lubbock), Jaime Guyear (Amarillo), Michelle Horan (Dallas/Fort Worth), Kasey Lowery (Dallas/Fort Worth), Meghana Patel (Dallas/Fort Worth), Salman Rahim (Dallas/Fort Worth) and Charlie Taylor (Dallas/Fort Worth)*

These young men and women embody the mission of our Gamma Mu Chapter of Rho Chi, which is to promote and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement, foster fellowship among members, encourage high standards of conduct and character and advocate critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy. We are certainly proud of them all.



Rho Chi members pose for a picture. Back row (from left): Jaime Guyear, Charlie Taylor, Sarah Dehoney, Sarah Gressett and Kasey Lowery. Front row (from left): Alissa Baker and Michelle Horan.

Welcome Our New Faculty and Staff

As you may have noticed we have had many new people join the TTUHSC – SOP family since September 1. New personnel in the Department of Pharmacy Practice include:

April Allen, Assistant Professor – Dallas

Barbie Grimes, Clinical Instructor of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock

Casey Lee, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock

Jerri Patterson, Administrative Business Asst, Pharmacy Practice MHC – Amarillo

New faces in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Amarillo include:

Teresa Carlisle – Senior Business Assistant

Vikas Kumar – Post Doctoral Research Assistant for Dr. Jochen Klein

Jiukuan Hao – Graduate Student/Research Assistant

Wei Feng Lao – Post Doctoral Research Assistant for Dr. Ming-Hai Wang

Malaroviyam Samikkannu – Technician III for Dr. Jayarama Gunaje

Chandan Thomas – Graduate Student/Research Assistant

Nikhil Vad – Graduate Student/Research Assistant

Samip Sheth – Technician III

Imam Shaik – Graduate Assistant

The next time you see one of these new faculty/staff members be sure to give them a friendly West Texas “Welcome.”

GETTING TO KNOW...

Krystal L. Edwards, Pharm. D., BCPS

*Assistant Professor and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care
Department of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth*



Dr. Krystal Edwards

Krystal was born in Michigan and lived there until she was nearly 16 when she moved with her family to Myrtle Beach, SC. Although she's not a "beach bum," Krystal says she enjoys the beach early in the morning and after dark when it is peaceful and very relaxing. She does miss the snow and all the fun that comes with it, but not the cold weather.

Her first job was as a kitchen prep/waitress at a local steak house, then she worked as a waitress at a family owned seafood restaurant in Murrells Inlet, SC where she learned to enjoy hush puppies and seafood.

Krystal earned both her BS in Pharmacy and Pharm.D. at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. She then completed a

Pharmacy Practice Residency in Memphis, TN at Baptist Memorial Hospital System along with Dr. Hall. The following year she completed a Primary Care Residency at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. The next step in her pharmacy career was moving to Texas and going to work for Texas Tech.

After dating for seven years Krystal and her husband Joe were married in October 2002 at Pawley's Island, SC. They presently reside in their newly built home in Fort Worth and Joe is studying geography and Japanese the University of North Texas. He hopes to travel to Japan and is even interested in living there. They have two beta fish, Oz and Speed Fairingly, and hope to have a dog soon to run around their backyard.

Krystal's parents still reside in Myrtle Beach (which she says is a great place to spend the holidays) and both work in the pharmacy world; her mother is a technician and her father is an assistant manager at a retail chain pharmacy. They introduced Krystal to pharmacy and she often interacted with the pharmacists where her father worked. Her older brother Kevin lives in Columbia, SC. While he was in the service he introduced Joe to his sister. Krystal says the guys are still close friends and that Joe talks to Kevin more than she does.

Krystal practices in the ambulatory setting and will be establishing a new clinical practice at the Ft. Worth Outpatient Clinic as she enters her third year with Tech. During her schooling and residencies she worked at a retail chain pharmacy. She says she often misses that setting, but only momentarily before returning to the clinic on Monday mornings where she enjoys working with patients who have diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, asthma, and heart failure.

In her spare time, Krystal enjoys reading, working out, eating out and going to movies and dancing with her friends.

Melissa Lockman

*Research Program Administrator
Office of Research Staff – Amarillo*



Back from left: Payton, Melissa and Paul Lockman, John Eder Front from left: Karli Lockman, LaVerne Daniel, Alfred Daniel, Vicki Eder. Inset: Lham'me (dog).

Melissa grew up in Canyon and Amarillo. An only child, she had the advantage of lots of attention from her parents and grandparents (ok, so she was spoiled). Her parents, John and Vicki Eder, still live in Amarillo, and her grandparents (really, her second set of parents), Alfred and LaVerne Daniel, live in Canyon.

Melissa graduated with a BA in Psychology from Texas A&M University (Whoop! Gig 'em Ags!) before earning her masters in Library Science from Texas Woman's University. How a librarian drew the attention of a scientist is still a mystery, she says, but she and Paul have now been married for four years and she is the proud step mom to Payton (11) and Karli (7). Her family, which includes two fish, recently expanded by adding a puppy named Lham'me

(weird name, but that's an entirely different story).

Kalkunte S. Srivenugopal, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo



Dr. Venu (KSS) with lab colleagues, Nathan Bailey (NB), a Research Technician, and two Postdoctoral Fellows, Drs. Suryakant Niture (SKN) and Velu (CSV) in front of their poster at a National Cancer Meeting in Orlando.

Venu, as he is called by everyone, was raised and educated in Bangalore, a large city in Southern India. Bangalore, also referred to as the Tech capital or Silicon Valley of India has figured much in political discussions here because many services/jobs are outsourced by American companies to Bangaloreans.

Venu earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at a young age from the Indian Institute of Science, a premier research center in that country. His thesis on polyamine enzymes was judged to be the best and received accolades. He then came to the United States in 1982 and performed postdoctoral research on DNA topoisomerases and other anticancer targets at the University of Washington in Seattle for six years. Since then, he has served as a faculty member around the country, first at the Chicago Medical School, then at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Piscataway and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, which ranks as the foremost

institution for cancer research and patient care in USA. Throughout this period, Venu's research thrust has remained translational cancer research (i.e., understanding the altered biochemical mechanisms found in cancer cells and utilizing the knowledge for improving or developing new anticancer therapies).

When he came to TTUHSC - SOP to interview, Venu says he recognized the vast potential the School offered for teaching and developing his research program and he accepted an associate professorship in October 2002. In the Pharm D. program, Venu teaches oncology (PHAR 4264 for P3 students) and diabetes pathophysiology (Endocrinology, PHAR 3257 to P2 students). He received teaching team awards in each of the past two years. He says he enjoys interacting with students and that the experience has been rewarding.

Venu has received grant awards from the National Institutes of Health, American Cancer Society and private foundations in the past and his current research on brain tumors is funded by the National Cancer Institute. His laboratory, located at 1400 Wallace Blvd. has been targeting a DNA repair protein to improve the therapy of brain tumors, which are second only to leukemia as leading cause of cancer deaths among pediatric and adolescent patients. His goal is to excel as a good and helpful teacher and continue to perform as a nationally and internationally recognized cancer researcher.

Venu is married to Rama, a handsome lady who is currently seeking an accountant/managerial position. They have two sons: 15-year old Vinay, who attends special education programs at AISD, and six-year old Sanjay, a first grader who Venu says thinks he is good enough to be in third grade. The family recently acquired U.S. citizenship and loves living in Amarillo.

In his spare time, Venu likes to maintain his lawn and garden, undertake small home improvement projects, keep up with international news and follow football and international cricket (an English game similar to baseball and highly popular in other parts of the world).