



The Alumni Postscript

The alumni newsletter of Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy

WINTER 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual Alumni Dinner April 17, 2009 at the TSHP Annual Meeting in Austin.

2009 Graduation Ceremonies: May 16th at United Spirit Arena

Annual Hooding Ceremony: May 15th, Lubbock Civic Center

Alumni are always encouraged to attend these events to reunite with colleagues and welcome new grads into the Association.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Have you visited our Texas Tech HSC School of Pharmacy Continuing Education web site lately? Check us out for stream-line video continuing education programs, including preceptor CE!!!

For additional information on live and on-line programs visit our website at: <http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sop/ContinuingEd/>

Board of Directors Election

After a period of quiescence, it is time to reactivate the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association with the election of new board members. All members of the Alumni Association, comprised of all those who have graduated from Texas Tech HSC School of Pharmacy, have a vote in the election.

As we approach the 10 year anniversary of the graduation of the first class from the School of Pharmacy it is time to engage the Alumni in the management and decision-making of the Association. To place your vote for your members of the BOD, please go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspxsm=zvtAlzDG_2fAscuKkXZwTHDg_3d_3d. Elections will be open until March 15th. The following are your nominees:

Alisia Baker, PharmD

Alisia Baker received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 2006. She completed a post-graduate Pharmacy Practice Residency with emphasis in geriatrics at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital in San Antonio. Alisia is currently a staff pharmacist at Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital.

While in pharmacy school, she had significant involvement in student organizations including Rho Chi Honor Society, Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society, Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Student Senate, Student

Global Health Initiative

Niambi Horton, PharmD & Shawna King, PharmD

In the Fall of 2006, assistant professors Drs. Niambi Horton and Shawna King, discovered a shared interest in mission work in Central America, namely in Costa Rica. They began the initial planning of what would become the Global Health Outreach (GHO) elective clerkship.

The mission of the GHO elective clerkship is to expose students to populations in which barriers to healthcare exist and teach them how pharmacists can help to overcome these barriers. Students will be expected to provide pharmaceutical care in a setting with limited resources

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Leadership Council, and Student Affairs Committee. Alisia held several officer positions in these organizations. She is currently a member of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

“I am excited about the possible opportunity to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and is enthusiastic in leading our alumni to become more involved with the School of Pharmacy. I am eager to initiate new alumni programs and events to promote this increased involvement.”

Tyson L. Cromeens RPh PharmD

Tyson Cromeens is a 2002 graduate of Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy. As the pharmacy supervisor for 18 West Texas CVS Pharmacies he is excited by the fact that most of his excellent pharmacists are from the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy.

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Distinguished Alumni Awards

Award Nominations Sought

The School of Pharmacy is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Awards to be presented this spring at the 2008 Alumni dinner. The Distinguished Awards will recognize individuals for their contributions and or achievements in the areas of practice, research, and leadership. All Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy Alumni, including alumni of the doctoral, PhD, and residency programs, are eligible for nomination for the awards.

The Excellence in Pharmacy Practice Award will recognize an individual

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Have you or a fellow alum . . .

developed a new process or guide line?

implemented a new practice at your pharmacy or institution?

completed an interesting DUE?

We would like to share in your success! The call for nominations is open until March 15th, 2009.

Please go to <http://www.ttuhschool.edu/sop/alumni/> for additional information and to post your submission.

Award recipients will be recognized at the Annual Alumni Dinner with a special sculpture award, and one night hotel accommodations.



Alumni Best Practice Award recipients will receive a Bowl of Hygeia sculpture.

Board Elections

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“As a 2002 grad I have used the skills given to me by my great education to help bring health and happiness to many patients. I also hope I can give back to my school through work, promotion, and time.”

Dr. Cromeens serves on the Dean’s Advisory Committee and is constantly at the pharmacy school in both Lubbock and Amarillo. “I believe that through this alumni organization we can serve not only the current alumni, but set precedence for the future alumni. I want to see our alumni stay strong and together as we prove that we are the best school for the best profession.”

Theresa Gerst, PharmD

Theresa Gerst received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy in 2007. She hopes to serve as one of your Board of Directors to improve communication amongst alumni and improve the association. Dr. Gerst was nominated in 2007 by her fellow classmates to carry the Bowl of Hygeia. Since graduation she has completed one year of residency training with a focus in geriatrics at the St. Louis VA and is currently completing a second year in psychiatry at the University of North Carolina Hospitals. “I would love to share what I have learned from other schools of pharmacy to improve Texas Tech. I also would like to see more benefits for Alumni, including better communication of continuing education opportunities and access to pharmaceutical resources.”

Jason Heuerman, PharmD

Dr. Jason Heuerman is a member of the 2001 graduation class of Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy. “As the school approaches its first group of alumni to reach the 10 year anniversary mark, I feel I could help the Alumni Association by representing the views of my fellow alums. As our P4 class president (2000-2001), I was able to work with my class and the Student Senate to meet certain needs and requests made by my fellow classmates. My leadership and communication skills should prove valuable as a member of the Alumni Board of Directors.”

Dr. Heuerman decided to pursue a career in pharmacy his senior year in high school in Merkel, Texas upon taking a job as a delivery person for a pharmacy in Abilene. He worked part-time as a member of the pharmacy support staff until he graduated Cum Laude with his BS in Biology from Abilene Christian University in 1997. Upon graduation, he was accepted by the newly created Texas Tech School of Pharmacy in Ama-

rillo and was a member of the second graduating class and received his Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2001. Since graduation, he has been a Community Pharmacist in Abilene working for an independent pharmacy at James McCoy’s Drug Store. In 2003, he helped to create a veterinary compounding only pharmacy, called National Veterinary Pharmacy which was later converted into a second traditional community pharmacy, James McCoy’s Drug Store South. He is the co-owner of this pharmacy since 2006. “My specialty as a health care professional in Abilene is that of a compounding pharmacist, helping to optimize patient outcomes through specialty prescription formulations. This experience has allowed me to become adjunct faculty at the Abilene School of Pharmacy campus working with the DDS Laboratory course.”

Dr. Heuerman is also involved in a variety of community activities including psychotropic medication training for foster parents and providing guest lectures for diabetes care. He is currently serving as a member of the Abilene Christian University Department of Biology Visiting Committee and is a member of the National Community Pharmacists Association. “I have been married to my wonderful wife, Mendy, for 11 years and we have been blessed with 4 kids; Reid (age 6) and our triplets; Tate, Ella and Brin (age 2).”

Traci Metting, PharmD

Traci L. Metting is Senior Director of Clinical Pharmacy at Broadlane in Dallas. She obtained a B.S. in Biology from Texas Woman’s University and a Doctor of Pharmacy from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, School of Pharmacy in Amarillo, Texas. Her pharmacy training was continued with a Pharmacy Practice Residency at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in Houston and a specialty residency in Primary Care at Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas. Before taking a position with Broadlane, Traci worked as the Clinical Manager at a Community Hospital in Dallas.

Dr. Metting was part of the founding class at Texas Tech. As part of the founding class she helped establish both the student ASHP chapter (TTSSHP) and Kappa Psi and held various offices in both. She is a previous Distinguished Alumni for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy. She continues to show leadership in the college by serving on the Dean’s Advisory Committee. She is also a former President of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

“I would honored to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association.”

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Global Health Initiative

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and to patients with different cultural backgrounds and languages.

This clerkship will be offered, for the first time, in block 1 of the summer semester 2009. Six rising P-4 students have been selected to participate in this year's clerkship: Jason Crumley (AMA), Audrey Eigenmann (AMA), and Josh Hawver (AMA), Travis Garrett (DFW),



Madelyne Cearley (LUB), and Lacey Lantelme (LUB).

All 6 students will spend 4 weeks in Amarillo with Drs. Horton and King preparing for the trip and 2 weeks in Tamarindo, Costa Rica. Tamarindo is located about six hours south of Costa Rica's capital city of San José and 45 minutes from Panama. It is in the poorest region of Costa Rica with 50% of the population living in poverty.

Drs. King and Horton are the only faculty currently involved with this course, but would like to expand the clerkship in the future. They have completed the initial clerkship planning and are excited about the opportunity to share this experience with pharmacy students.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can become involved with the mission outreach or if you would like to sponsor a student to assist with their travel costs, please contact Dr. Horton or Dr. King at niambi.horton@ttuhsc.edu or Shawna.king@ttuhsc.edu.

Board Elections

Sidney P Phillips R.Ph., PharmD.

Sid Phillips was raised on a cotton farm in rural West Texas and attended undergrad at Texas Tech University. He graduated pharmacy school from Texas Tech School of Pharmacy in 2001, after which he completed a pharmacy practice residency at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and the Texas Heart Institute Houston followed by a pharmacy management residency at Cardinal Health Provider Pharmacy Services Houston, Texas. He has served as the Director of Pharmacy at Odessa Regional Hospital, a 100 bed acute care hospital, and at Trinity Medical Center in Carrollton, Texas a 200 bed acute care hospital. Currently, Dr. Phillips is an Operations Director for Cardinal Health Pharmacy Management based out of his home office in Ponder, Texas. His primary job responsibility is the direct operational over-site of 25 small and critical access hospitals.

Dr. Phillips has been a member of TSHP and ASHP since 1998. He has previously served as the vice chair for the Professional Affairs Council of TSHP and as the chair for the Professional Affairs Council. He has had the opportunity to work with a wide array of hospital pharmacy's throughout the state of Texas and now nationally. His experience as a working director of pharmacy has allowed him to look at issues not only from the management perspective but also

from the staff pharmacist and technician's perspective.

Joshua Rodgers, PharmD

After graduating in 2003, Josh Rodgers took a position with HEB grocery as a staff pharmacist. Due to an out-of-state move, he took another position with CVS pharmacy and had a short opportunity as a pharmacy manager. Although he enjoyed retail pharmacy, he felt he needed a change. In March of 2005, Dr. Rodgers began working at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In the last 3 years he has worked in several different areas in the pharmacy department. This has allowed him to experience many different practice settings, from outpatient and inpatient pharmacy to pharmacy management and procurement. One thing that never left him from his time in pharmacy school was the need to learn and better himself. This led Dr. Rodgers to begin work on a Masters of Pharmacy Administration at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in 2006. With interests in pharmacoeconomics and pharmacy management, he hopes to complete his thesis work in 2009.

"As we near the 10 year anniversary of the first graduating class it is imperative that we create a connection between alumni and current students. This can be accomplished by involving students in alumni activities and contributing to alumni communications. I will work to promote this connection to ensure the continued growth of the alumni association."

Alumni Notes

Luke Barnett ('08) and his wife are excited to announce the birth of Olivia Anne, born on January 5th, 2009.

Allison Walker ('05) and her husband welcomed their third child, Kelsey Grace on January 27th, 2009.

Kristin Marshall ('05) and her husband welcomed a son, Peter, on December 24th, 2008.

Sarah Gressett ('06) is excited to announce her engagement to Josh Ussery of Red Oak, Texas. A November 2009 wedding is being planned.

Michelle (Boatwright) Goff ('03) and her husband Philip announce the birth of their baby girl, Hynslee Michelle, born on June 20th, 2008.



Alumni Notes

KEEP US INFORMED!!!

If you have recently received a promotion, accepted a new position, received recognitions/honors, become engaged/married, or expanded your family we would love to hear from you and share your success with your fellow alumni!!

Just send an email with your news to sherry.luedtke@ttuhsc.edu and we will include it in our next Alumni Newsletter.

Dean's Column

Arthur Nelson, PhD, RPh

A colleague of mine relayed a question he had received from one of his first year pharmacy students. *Dean, how did you plan your career when you were a pharmacy student? Did you grow-up dreaming of being a dean?* What a horrible nightmare!



How many of you ever *dreamed* about the place you are today with your career? Have you gotten to this point in your professional life by creating a detailed plan that came from a vision of your job, the people you work with, and the patients or others you serve? Or, have you arrived at this point in your career through a series of serendipitous events that pushed and shoved you to your current job or place in your professional life? I bet if most of us would answer true fully, we would admit we had no idea of where we would be when we enrolled in pharmacy school, but somehow, we just arrived where we are without any really driving plan.

Perhaps the greater question for this communication with our alumni is not whether you had a plan to guide you, but what difference would it have made in your life if *someone* had asked you the question during your first year of pharmacy school; *where do you want to be in your life as a pharmacist?* Would your journey to this point in time and place be any different? What type of activities would you have chosen to prepare yourself

for a different direction. Perhaps none, but... *is it possible that there is something for which you are better suited out there?*

Many of our students, perhaps like you, arrive at the School of Pharmacy with some vague idea of where you want to practice and the type of practice you would enjoy, but unfortunately, most young people have a limited vision of the opportunities that are available for them. Many of the opportunities have to be *created*, but without help from those who are older (and perhaps wiser), most of us would never know about the multitude of opportunities available to us if we just prepared ourselves.

This is the challenge of the leadership of the School and the Office of the Associate Dean for Professional Affairs. How do we best help our students consider their opportunities? Dr. Sherry Luedtke does a wonderful job in trying to help our students look *over-the-hill* of the next examination, clerkship or job to pay next month's rent. The common questions she receives are not what unique careers are there for pharmacy, but rather, *are we required to attend this convocation? How long do we have to stay to get credit for attending?*

We all struggle with how to be more effective and more compelling in our message to motivate the students to understand and develop a way to seek to achieve their personal career goals. I would enjoy hearing of your ideas on how to achieve our goals to communicate and motivate students to consider their career options. If you have some thoughts, just drop me an email (arthur.nelson@ttuhsc.edu). Who knows; perhaps your helping our students think about their career options might just motivate you to look over the mortgage payments, car note and the kids next school event to dream of where your professional career can take you.

Alumni Awards

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who has demonstrated excellence in pharmacy practice. The type of practice is not limited to clinical pharmacy, but may entail any aspect of pharmacy practice from retail pharmacy, compounding, management, etc.

The Pharmacy Research Award will recognize an individual who has demonstrated excellence in research. All types of research expertise will be considered from bench top researchers to clinical/administrative researchers.

Former students, residents, and graduate students actively participating in research programs should be considered for nomination.

Lastly the Pharmacy Leadership Award will recognize and honor an individual who has demonstrated leadership in professional organizations, health care, and/or community service. Individuals whose leadership has brought significant credit to the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy will be considered.

Nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Awards will be accepted through March 15, 2009. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the School of Pharmacy website at <http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sop/Alumni/>.

Alumni Spotlight

Staci Moss, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Staci Moss, class of 2002, is the Pharmacy Education Coordinator for Covenant Health System. She is responsible for education of pharmacists, technicians, help with nursing and physician education on pharmacy issues. Dr. Moss also serves as a preceptor for TTUHSC School of Pharmacy students and residents.

As part of her role at Covenant Health System, Dr. Moss is responsible for performing drug utilization evaluations and answering drug information questions. She has been instrumental in establishing the pharmacokinetics consult service and teaches kinetics classes. She also teaches Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support for staff, and in 2008 Covenant Health System received ACPE accreditation to be a provider of continuing education. She publishes monthly newsletter which provides CE for staff at Covenant Health Systems. When asked what she enjoys most about her current position, Dr. Moss stated "I enjoy the people that I work with



Staci Moss is the reigning Ms. Wheelchair Texas during which she hopes to empower girls with challenges.

and I enjoy doing a wide variety of activities." In here "free time" Dr. Moss is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Pharmacy Administration and Public Policy from the University of Florida.

Dr. Moss was recently crowned Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2008. "My platform was developing mentor opportunities for women with physical challenges and to empower girls with challenges to strive to choose a profession that they are passionate about that will allow them to be financially independent."

"... you have to make your own way in the world. No one will ever do as much for you as you will do for yourself. You are in control of your own destiny."

In regards to her experience during pharmacy school, Dr. Moss states "More than anything else, pharmacy school taught me to value my education. Pharmacy school is difficult for anyone, but because of the health issues that I had during pharmacy school, I really had to be dedicated to graduate. As a pharmacist, I take my job seriously and strive to be as determined as I was in school to take care of my patients and now my staff and students."

Dr. Moss has some sage advice to offer to those pursuing a degree in pharmacy: "In life as well as the profession of pharmacy, you have to make your own way in the world. No one will ever do as much for you as you will do for yourself. You are in control of your own destiny. I urge you to figure out what area of pharmacy that you want to practice in, and figure out what you need to do to be the best pharmacist you can be. Make a plan, and get busy putting that plan into action."

"Another piece of advice I would give is to not EVER forget that there is a person behind the prescription. Every script we see is somebody's mother, father, child, etc. I think that often, pharmacists are removed from direct patient care and forget that point. At any point in your life, you will depend on someone else to take care of you or your family. Be sure that you do everything you can to give the best care to your patients so that one day that same care will hopefully be extended to someone you love."

Alumni Notes

Amy (Cunningham) Martin ('02) and her husband Randall are proud to announce the birth of their 2nd son, Spencer, born July 10th, 2008. The family lives in Haskell, Texas where Amy works at Doyle High's The Drug Store and Haskell Clinical Services.

Kimberly Mitchell ('04) recently received the Clinical Preceptor of the Year Award at SWOSU COP.

Marissa Escobar Quinones ('04) recently accepted a new position as a Primary Care Specialist at Parkland Health and Hospital System at Southeast Dallas Health Center.

Congratulations to Amy McKinley ('00) !! Amy married Matthew Cave on December 13th, 2008.



GET INVOLVED

Alumni Giving Makes a Difference

There are many ways that you, the alumnus, can give back to the School of Pharmacy to continue your tradition of excellence. All contributions, both small and large, can greatly impact the future of students. If you would like to get involved please indicate your interest below:

- Student mentoring program**
- Student professional meeting travel sponsorship**
- Alumni scholarship fund**
- Student organization support**
- Recruitment/student interviews**
- Become a preceptor/site**
- Alumni focus group**
- Other** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comment: _____

Please detach this form and send to:

Rebecca Perry
 Unit Coordinator, Professional Affairs
 TTUHSC School of Pharmacy
 1300 S. Coulter
 Amarillo, TX 79106

Or email your preferences to rebecca.perry@ttuhsc.edu

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EDITOR
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