



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
School of Pharmacy™

*Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene*

# *From the* DEAN'S DESK



*January - February 2009*

## Abilene Campus Set to Host Two Events

In the coming months Abilene will be the sight for a pair of big TTUHSC events.

On April 14, the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health will conduct "The Staying Power of Women," its inaugural Women's Health Symposium to promote the health and education of women who call the Abilene area home.

The symposium is scheduled to take place from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center.

*Laura W. Bush*  
INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH

Attendees will be offered free health screenings and receive information for issues specifically related to women's health. The event will also include a luncheon, break-out educational sessions and several speakers, including Dr. Marjorie Jenkins, Executive Director for the LWBIWH and Associate Professor for the TTUHSC Center for Women's Health and Gender Based Medicine.

Tickets are available for the entire event or the luncheon only

and may be purchased online at [www.ttuhsc.edu/abilene/sop/lwb09symposium.aspx](http://www.ttuhsc.edu/abilene/sop/lwb09symposium.aspx).

SOP faculty and staff in Abilene are also preparing to host the Second Annual Raider Red Pharmacy Summer Camp June 15-19 at the TTUHSC-SOP campus located at 1718 Pine St. in Abilene.

The camp is an excellent opportunity for area high school juniors and seniors who are interested in pharmacy as a career to explore the profession through hands-on learning experiences and activities. Students will participate in tours of local health care facilities and meet with recruiters from local colleges to discuss pre-pharmacy course requirements.

In addition, TTUHSC-SOP faculty and local pharmacists will introduce the students to drug compounding, patient assessment and research that is conducted in pharmacy science laboratories.

Abilene Christian University will provide dormitory space for overnight accommodations. TTUHSC-SOP will provide transportation to all camp activities.

Students interested in attending the camp must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and must have submitted a camp application and a teacher recommendation. Scholarships for the camp are available.

For more information regarding the LWBIWH Women's Health Symposium or the Raider Red Pharmacy Summer Camp, please contact Melissa L. Edwards, TTUHSC-SOP Unit Coordinator, at [Melissa.L.Edwards@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:Melissa.L.Edwards@ttuhsc.edu) or at (325) 676-7948 ext 227.

### Raider Red Pharmacy Camp

*A Prescription for Success*



## SOP Professor Continues to Develop Research Field

Earlier in his career as a researcher, Dr. Mark Lyte (Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock) created a new field of research—Microbial Endocrinology—when he discovered that bacteria could actually respond to the very same neuroendocrine hormones that make up the human nervous system. The field, he explained, represents the intersection of microbiology and neurobiology.



Dr. Mark Lyte has developed the field of Microbial Endocrinology with his research.

“It has provided a new way to look at how bacteria interface with us in both health and disease,” Dr. Lyte said. “When you consider that bacteria can recognize hormones such as those that are produced during stress, then a whole new way of looking at the mechanisms by which infection occur take on a whole new light.

“Further, by understanding how bacteria are able to survive in our bodies by recognizing our hormones and responding to them, then you also have a new way to design drugs that will interfere with their ability to recognize our hormones and thereby stop an infection from developing.”

Dr. Lyte said the field of Microbial Endocrinology also seeks

to understand how hormones in our gut, which are produced by the gut’s enteric nervous system (also known in the press as “the second brain in the gut”) regulate the bacteria that live within our intestinal tract and are essential for our survival as they help to process the food we eat.

“So, Microbial Endocrinology applies to understanding the role of bacteria both in health and disease,” he said.

Thanks to his unique research, Dr. Lyte was invited to make a presentation in July at the National Institutes of Health as a finalist for the prestigious NIH Director’s Pioneer Award. Although he wasn’t ultimately selected for a final award, he was one of only 25 individual finalists selected from the hundreds of international applicants who applied for the award.

“I was repeatedly told by the NIH Director’s Office that to have been chosen from a pool of over 450 candidates from around the world, and to be invited to NIH to present in front of the Director’s staff and all the Institutes’ directors and their staffs, is quite an achievement even though only half of the people invited are given an award,” Dr. Lyte said. “This year all the awards only went to the top Tier 1 institutions like Harvard, which by itself took over 30 percent of all the awards. I may have been the only candidate from an institution such as Tech invited to NIH.”

Dr. Lyte has since been awarded a book contract from Springer Publishers for a volume dedicated to the research field he created. He will co-author the work with the help of a long-time collaborator in England. The book, to be

published later this year, will have contributions from investigators working as far away as Russia.

In addition, the American Society of Microbiology, which is oldest and largest single life science membership organization in the world with more than 43,000 members, will highlight Dr. Lyte in the April issue of their *Microbe* journal and will publish a major article about his research.

“Only 12 individuals are chosen throughout the whole year to be so portrayed,” Dr. Lyte explained. “Also, for the second time in four years the ASM has chosen to hold a symposium based on Microbial Endocrinology at their May general meeting, which this year will be in Philadelphia.”

The University of Chicago School of Medicine acknowledged the clinical impact of Dr. Lyte’s research by appointing him a visiting professor. In December he traveled to UC-SOM where he not only lectured, but also met with individual faculty to discuss collaborative research opportunities between UC-SOM and TTUHSC.

“It was really an honor, as I presented to a combined audience drawn from a number of departments, including the department of surgery and the department of gastroenterology,” Dr. Lyte said. “I also had meetings with a number of different research groups cutting across a wide spectrum from infectious disease to computer modeling of disease and health states. From those meetings, a number of research collaborations have been established, including work from the pediatric surgery to aid in research models for necrotizing enterocolitis in babies. We are now also exploring joint NIH applications.”

## SOP Students to Receive Phonathon Scholarships

Congratulations to our recent Phonathon Scholarship recipients. These students were selected in recognition of school activities, community service, demonstrated leadership ability and academic standing.

Awards will apply to the Fall 2009 semester. All P4s who will

graduate before Fall 2009 will receive their awards prior to the Spring 2009 Commencement.

The SOP's 2009 Phonathon Scholarship recipients include Joshua Jacobs (P1 Abilene); Megan Moonjian (P1 Abilene); Elizabeth White (P2 Abilene); Toni Edgar (P2 Amarillo); Elise Johnson (P2

Amarillo); Jill Ellis (P3 Dallas); James Lee (P3 Dallas); Aby Rajagiriyl (P3 Dallas); Madelyne Cearley (P3 Lubbock); Melinda Crum (P4 Dallas); Tien Le (P4 Dallas); Guo Yu (P4 Dallas); and Jenna Hensley (P4 Lubbock).



*Joshua Jacobs*



*Megan Moonjian*



*Elizabeth White*



*Toni Edgar*



*Elise Johnson*



*Jill Ellis*



*James Lee*



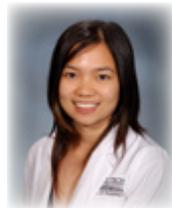
*Aby Rajagiriyl*



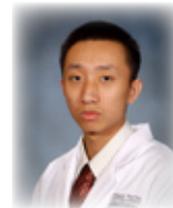
*Madelyne Cearley*



*Melinda Crum*



*Tien Le*



*Guo Yu*



*Jenna Hensley*

## SOP Alumna Addresses Issues as Ms. Wheelchair Texas



*Dr. Staci Moss enjoyed her reign as Ms. Wheelchair Texas.*

When Michelle Covard, Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2008, vacated her crown in August to become Ms. Wheelchair America, SOP alumna Dr. Staci Moss was there to help. Dr. Moss added to her own busy schedule as a clinical pharmacist at Covenant Health System in Lubbock to complete a six-month tenure as Ms. Wheelchair Texas that ended in February.

During her reign, Dr. Moss traveled the state to

make appearances and give media interviews to promote awareness regarding issues that are important to the millions of disabled throughout Texas and the US. Among those issues are the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers.

Dr. Moss also used the opportunity to trumpet the achievements of people across the state who live with disabilities and to otherwise educate the general public, the business community and legislators about disability issues.

"This has been such a rewarding experience," Dr. Moss said. "It has been really rewarding to meet so many wonderful people

and be the spokeswoman for this unique organization. I hope that I can recruit other women from West Texas to compete."

According to an organization news release, the Ms. Wheelchair Texas Pageant is designed to select the most accomplished and articulate spokeswoman to represent the millions of disabled Americans.

The Ms. Wheelchair Texas Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, strives to improve the lives of people with disabilities through its mission of advocacy and education. For more information, please go to [www.mswheelchairtexas.org](http://www.mswheelchairtexas.org).

**In Case You Missed It...**



*Dr. Paul Katz*

• Dr. Paul Katz (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo and Texas Pharmacy Museum Curator) spoke at the monthly meeting of the Amarillo International Club. His presentation was entitled, "Drugs and Pharmacy on Stamps" and discussed the history of pharmacy practice from prehistoric times to the present as illustrated on postage stamps and cancelled envelopes. The show was produced by the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, headquartered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy.

• The TTUHSC Pharmacy, Dr. Sidney Ontai (TTUHSC-SOM), and the TTUHSC Department of

Rural Health were awarded the Texas Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Collaborative Practice Award for 2009. The award was announced at the Jan. 24 TSHP Board of Directors meeting. The actual award presentation will be in April at the TSHP Annual Seminar in Austin.



*Dr. Sanjay Srivastava*

• Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) spoke Feb. 11 at the National Cancer Institute, NIH.

His presentation was entitled, "Role of NFkB in Activity of Benzyl Isothiocyanate Against Pancreatic Cancer" and will be available as an NIH podcast.



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**WTPA Announces Scholarship Winners**

The West Texas Pharmacy Association recently announced its scholarship recipients.

Congratulations to these SOP students who were awarded \$1,000 scholarships: Stacey Jordan (P1 Abilene); Thomas Lawson (P1 Abilene); Lora McCullough (P1 Abilene); Richard Carracedo (P1

Abilene); William Sherman (P1 Abilene); Brenton Welch (P1 Amarillo); Lori Law (P2 Abilene); José Jimenez (P2 Abilene); Amanda Spangler (P2 Abilene); Rachel Nielsen (P2 Abilene); Ashlee Flowers (P2 Amarillo); Jacob Hopkins (P2 Amarillo); Brooke Britten (P3 Amarillo); David Ramirez (P4

Amarillo); and Nathan Buerkle (P4 Lubbock).

WTPA has been serving the pharmacists of West Texas since 1921, providing continuing education opportunities and expanding professional contacts. I know I speak for everyone when I say we appreciate their support.



*Stacey Jordan*



*Thomas Lawson*



*Lora McCullough*



*Richard Carracedo*



*William Sherman*



*Brenton Welch*



*Lori Law*



*José Jimenez*



*Amanda Spangler*



*Rachel Nielsen*



*Ashlee Flowers*



*Jacob Hopkins*



*Brooke Britten*



*David Ramirez*



*Nathan Buerkle*

## '09 Research Days to Include Marsh Lectureship

The Twelfth Annual Wendy & Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology & Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction will again take place in 2009 during the SOP's annual Research Days and should be even better than in years past.

Research Days is slated for June 16-17 at the SOP's main campus in Amarillo.

This year's Marsh Endowed Lectureship speaker is Fulton Crews, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology & Psychiatry and Director of the Skipper Bowles

Center for Alcohol Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Crews' current research interests revolve around three main areas: addiction and neurodegeneration, stem cells and the regeneration of the brain during recovery from addiction. He will also discuss the use of gene delivery to understand how changes in genes alter brain function and behavior.

The Research Advisory Committee voted to combine the events once again to give more people an opportunity

to attend the Marsh lecture.

The Research Days poster presentation will also have a few changes. This year the researchers who finish in the top five for Pharmaceutical Sciences category and those who finish among the top five in the Pharmacy Practice category will give a 15-minute podium presentation. More information will be e-mailed soon.

## Lubbock P3 Wins TT-ASP Competition



*Madelyne Cearley*

Hats off to Texas Tech-Academy of Student Pharmacists (TT-ASP) member Madelyne Cearley (P3-Lubbock) who won the 2009

American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Patient Counseling Competition. By winning the competition, Madelyne receives free registration to the APhA-ASP annual meeting April 3-6 in San Antonio. While there she will compete in the 2009 APhA-ASP National Counseling Competition.

The goal of the APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition is to encourage student pharmacists in their efforts toward becoming better patient educators. The competition is designed to reflect changes that are occurring in practice, to promote and encourage further professional development of the student pharmacist and to reinforce the role of the pharmacist as a health care provider and educator.

Good Luck Madelyne. We're proud to have you representing our school.

## Grad Student Selected for Travel Award



*Erika Wisdom*

Erika Wisdom (Research Asst. and Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) received a travel

award to attend the Experimental Biology Meeting April 18-22 in New Orleans, LA. The award was granted through the Federation of American Societies for

Experimental Biology (FASEB), Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) and the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB).

Erica presently works in Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara's cell biology laboratory where she is investigating p53 and caspase activation after acute exposures of high glucose to proximal tubule cells.

## *How to Submit Items for the Dean's Newsletter*

The mission of "From the Dean's Desk" is to communicate the news, events and achievements from the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to all four of our campus sites and to alumni and other friends of the school who enjoy hearing about your good work.

If you or your department, division, organization or class have something you'd like to include in this newsletter, or if you have a question about the types of items typically included in the newsletter, please contact:

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## Getting to Know...

**Angela Wingate  
Coordinator**

**Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo**

Angela was born in Pampa but moved to Amarillo early in her childhood. She attended Caprock High School where she was a member of the Caprock Show Choir. As a singer, Angela has performed at several different venues from the Tri-State Fair talent show to the Little League World Series, where she sang the National Anthem. Angela says she has also "belted out a few solos" over the years at her church.

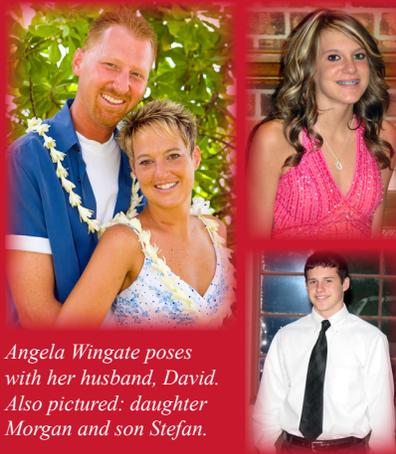
Angela moved back to Amarillo three years ago after spending eight years in Plainview. She and her husband, David, were married July 4, 2007 on Wai'Alae Beach

in Honolulu, Hawaii. She has a son, Stefan, who has already graduated high school and a daughter, Morgan, who attends

Randall High School. Angela also has two stepdaughters, Amber and Holly, and a step grandson, John. The family's pride and joy, though, is her yellow Labrador, Purdy, who "runs the household." She also has a cat named Tinker "who you might find on top of the refrigerator."

Angela says she is a big football fan and on Sunday afternoons you can find her in front of her television watching her Dallas Cowboys.

She is also an "avid" Texas Longhorns fan, which she says "creates interesting conversation at a Texas Tech facility."



*Angela Wingate poses with her husband, David. Also pictured: daughter Morgan and son Stefan.*

## SOP Photo Gallery



*These photos show how activity has progressed at the SOP academic classroom building site since construction kicked off in December 2008.*



*NCPA members pose for a photo at the group's February Wellness Challenge, held at D&S Pharmacy in Amarillo. From left: P1 Stacey Johnson, Steven Turnbow (P2), Kristy Ramirez (P1) and Caroline Sandoval (P2).*

*Amarillo P2 Jennifer Newman helps TTUHSC Coding and Reimbursement Specialist Tracy Brewer perform a body fat analysis and measurement at the NCPA monthly Wellness Challenge held at the Amarillo Pharmaceutical Care Center.*



*SOP associate professor Dr. Raneae Basse (Chief, Managed Health Care Pharmacy Services) looks on as P2 Joshua Simmons draws a blood sample for a cholesterol screen at the Wal-Mart Health Fair organized by the Ofc. of Experiential Programs.*



*Amarillo P2 Steven Turnbow takes a patient's blood pressure at the NCPA Wellness Challenge held at D&S Pharmacy in Amarillo.*

