



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy™

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From the **DEAN'S**
DESK



July - August 2009

SOP Professor Receives Highest TTUHSC Honor

The TTUHSC Board of Regents has named SOP faculty researcher Dr. Quentin Smith as the sixth recipient of the Grover E. Murray Professorship, the highest honor TTUHSC bestows upon its faculty members.

Dr. Smith was one of the SOP's early faculty members. His chief research interests are in drug development and delivery to the central nervous system. He is presently chair and professor for the department of pharmaceutical sciences in Amarillo. When the department's reorganization plan is implemented Sept. 1 he will assume the role of senior associate dean for pharmacy sciences.

The Board of Regents established the Murray Professorship in 1995 to honor Grover E. Murray, the first president of TTUHSC. Murray

Professorships are granted to faculty in recognition of the attainment of national and/or international distinction for outstanding research or other creative scholarly achievements.

"I think it is a nice recognition of a lot of work over the past 12 years," Dr. Smith said. "I feel that it credits a lot of the efforts in teaching, research and service as a faculty member to TTUHSC and with the founding and growth of the pharmacy school. Each of these areas has been a big job."

Prior to his arrival at TTUHSC Dr. Smith worked for 17 years as a section chief for the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health.

"I started working formally at TTUHSC-SOP on June 15, 1997, though as the Dean knows, I really started working on school issues soon after I signed on with the SOP in February of the same year," Dr. Smith recalled. "During those first two years of my stay at Texas Tech, the faculty literally created and delivered the first P2 and P3 Pharm.D. courses. Then we started the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1999 and followed with the special January 2000 Class and other changes as the School matured.

"There was always a lot to do and I tried to do my best because I

loved teaching. Once things were up and running I often served as the 'fill in guy' for the department if there was a hole in a course team or some other emergency developed. In the last 12 years I have probably taught in over half the courses of the School; one year I covered more than 250 lectures."

In 2007



Dr. Quentin Smith was named University Distinguished Professor in 2007.

TTUHSC honored Dr. Smith as a University Distinguished Professor. He has also received numerous teaching and teaching team awards from the SOP and has twice been voted Most

Influential Professor by graduating Pharm.D. students.

"I am proud of the teaching awards that I received from the students," Dr. Smith said. "At this stage I am actually prouder of some of the team awards, as those involved working with a diverse group of faculty and getting us all to pull in the same direction to achieve a wonderful course. It is not easy, especially when the team is diverse and includes members from multiple campuses."

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Grover E. Murray Professorship honoree Dr. Quentin Smith at work in his SOP laboratory.

Dr. Smith has authored more than 100 journal and book articles and is a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He has also served on numerous grant review panels, the local American Heart Association board and was chief organizer of the Cerebral Vascular Biology 2003 International Symposium. In addition, Dr. Smith was recently elected chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Barriers of the Nervous System, 2012.

The Murray professorship is strongly weighted toward research, which is a part of his job that Dr. Smith particularly enjoys. His first grant as an SOP researcher was an American Heart Association award and he has continuously received extramural funding while at the School.

"Some people just love research and I am one of those," Dr. Smith

said. "It is not something that is 9-5 or only for weekdays; it's 24/7 and consumes your life. One of my greatest blessings is to have had an understanding family and an angelic wife to put up with all this. These are tough times with incredible competition for research grants. I very much appreciate the collaboration and help that I have received from faculty, post-docs and graduate students in the School. There is no doubt that this has been a group effort."

After he arrived at TTUHSC, Dr. Smith said many people told him the SOP would never succeed in bringing significant research projects to the Amarillo campus.

"Well, yes - we have had our ups and downs, but I think history has pretty much proved them wrong," Dr. Smith said. "In fact, Pharmaceutical Sciences has been the top—or one of the top—

performing research departments for the University for the past several years. I hope we will continue to improve with the new transition in department structure."

As he moves forward with his career, Dr. Smith said research will continue to be an integral part of his life. He is hopeful that his new role as associate dean will afford him even more time in the laboratory.

"I very much appreciate that this award recognizes my efforts and good fortune over the past 12 years in this area. The development of the department and School has been a whirlwind of work and a labor of love; there is no doubt about that. I would like to thank the Dean for nominating me. It's an honor and I hope there will be additional Murray professors in the School in the future."

White Coats Presented to SOP Class of 2013

The new academic year officially opened in early August when we welcomed the SOP Class of 2013 with the annual White Coat Ceremony.

The Amarillo ceremony took place Aug. 2 at the Amarillo Civic Center. The Abilene ceremony followed a week later on Aug. 9 at the historic Paramount Theatre.

The ceremony serves as an early induction into the pharmacy profession for our students. This is where we officially present our incoming class with their white

pharmacy coats and where they recite the Oath of a Pharmacist for the first time.

The white coat is a symbol of health care providers and encompasses all aspects of pharmacy practice and the provisions of pharmaceutical care.

The Oath of a Pharmacist was adopted by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in 1983 and is based upon the Oath of Maimonides.

The White Coat Ceremony is also where incoming P1 students sign the Pharmacist Code of Ethics. The code defines the roles and responsibilities of the pharmacist and forms the basis for our students' interactions with patients and colleagues, not only during their years in our program, but also when they graduate and enter the profession.

The ceremony is an integral part of our two-week "boot



Incoming P1s Jean-Marie Gibson (left), Ryan George and Muriel Garza wait to take the stage in Abilene.

camp," which is where we help our incoming P1s prepare for their first year of classes and present them with an overview of TTUHSC's four-year pharmacy program.

I'd like to personally extend my gratitude to all of our staff and faculty who were involved with planning and coordinating this event and to the faculty and alumni who took time out of their schedules to participate in the program. I also want to thank CVS/Caremark for sponsoring the event. Their support is greatly appreciated.



The Amarillo Class of 2013 recites the Oath of a Pharmacist for the first time.

Summer Clerkship Takes P4s to Costa Rica

Traveling is a common activity for many of us during the summer months and six SOP students recently received an opportunity to spend some time visiting Costa Rica. Rather than souvenirs, however, they came home with a renewed appreciation for helping others.

The two-week trip was the culmination of the SOP's first Global Health Outreach Elective Clerkship and was included as part of the Block 1 rotation during May and June. Drs. Niambi Horton and Shawna King (Assistant Professors, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo) developed the clerkship, which has been approved as an annual P4 elective.

The mission of the clerkship is to expose students to populations where healthcare barriers are commonplace and teach them effective methods pharmacists can employ to help patients overcome these barriers.

"Another integral part of the rotation is exposing the students to populations and cultures different from their own," Dr. Horton explained. "This is really important because it helps develop empathy, which makes you a better person and ultimately a better pharmacist."

Students who took part in the 2009 clerkship included Jason Crumley, Audrey Eigenmann and

Joshua Hawver from the Amarillo campus; Madelyne Cearley and Lacey Lantelme from the Lubbock campus; and Travis Garrett from the Dallas/Ft. Worth campus.

The group spent the first four weeks of the rotation preparing for the trip. The process included 6 hours of interactive Spanish classes, 8-12 hours of clinic, readings and discussions on cultural diversity, development and delivery of the presentations and handouts in Spanish and collecting supplies. SOP resident Dr. Penny Sitka also precepted the students one-half day per week in an anticoagulation clinic.

"The four-week schedule proved to have immense benefits and contributed to my preparedness for the mission itself," Cearley said. "For the first time I truly prepared myself mentally, physically and emotionally for a mission trip. The feeling of preparedness was a stark contrast to experiences on previous foreign mission trips in which I was not fully prepared and for which I did not have appropriate expectations."

For the 2009 clerkship, the local contact in Finca Tamarindo requested that the TTUHSC-SOP contingent educate teenaged and adult patients about male/female hygiene, STDs, healthy eating habits and exercise. Students also taught the children how to properly brush their teeth and wash their hands and made a presentation about prenatal and infant care. In addition, the group performed health screenings for hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Patients in need of further work-ups were referred to the local physician.

"The community greatly appreciated our efforts and asked us to return next year with the hope of serving more people in this and other local communities," Dr. Horton said.

To help them meet patient needs, the students prepared presentations and produced handouts

in Spanish and answered questions with the aid of a translator.

Dr. Horton said the rotation has many benefits for the students because it forces them to step outside their individual comfort zones in a place far from home and subjects them to a sense of vulnerability that many people never experience.

"This type of experience really forces you to meaningfully interact with people regardless of any cultural or language barriers because it's all you have," Dr. Horton said. "All of the comforts of home were stripped away so that it leveled the playing field so to speak."



Amarillo P4 Jason Crumley checks the blood pressure of a patient in Costa Rica.

She said one of the most important by-products of the rotation is the development of empathy.

"Even at home—in order to truly help someone or have a meaningful impact in their lives or your community—you have to seek first to understand and then develop a plan of action that can be implemented in each unique situation.

"Another important lesson the students had was serving someone who is not in the position to repay you, but doing it anyway and then realizing the sheer gratefulness shown to you is reward enough for the tiny sacrifice you have made. It was also very beneficial for the students to see the faces of the underserved communities in Finca Tamarindo and realizing they are no different than those here in the States."

(Continued on next page)



Drs. Shawna King (center left) and Niambi Horton (center right) in Costa Rica with SOP students (left to right) Audrey Eigenmann, Lacey Lantelme, Jason Crumley, Joshua Hawver, Madelyne Cearley and Travis Garrett.



Lacey Lantelme gets a blood sample from a patient in Costa Rica as a youngster observes.

Dr. King said the rotation is an extremely satisfying experience for her as both a teacher and pharmacist.

“Working with students is the most rewarding part of being a fac-

ulty member and serving people is the most rewarding part of being a pharmacist,” she explained. “Being able to do both in an underserved area of the world like Finca Tamarindo is an honor and an experience that cannot be put into words. It was a privilege to work with six such amazing pharmacy students and to see the dedication they displayed to the service of our profession was impressive. I never expected the trip to be such a success and it could not have been accomplished without their hard work.

“The people of Finca Tamarindo are incredible and the rea-

son I return to Costa Rica year after year despite the unbearable heat, cold showers, bugs—and yes—poisonous snakes. We go there with the intent to serve them, but what we gain in return is exponential to what we give.”

Drs. Horton and King said several local contributors helped make the trip a success and they greatly appreciate the support. The group includes Martin-Tipton Pharmacy, CVS Pharmacy, United Pharmacy, Dr. Carl Chilton, Dr. Dane Welch, Dr. Stan Cobb and David Simmons, R.Ph. (Clinical Instructor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo).

Global Health Outreach Clerkship Proves Personally, Professionally Satisfying for Students

“The experience of having a true impact on this group of people was one of the most satisfying experiences I have had thus far in my pharmacy career. The reason I chose pharmacy as a career was a hope to impact the lives of others in a significant way and I feel that this experience helped to validate my choice of profession. After seeing the impact that our group had on the people of Tamarindo, I feel empowered to make a difference in the city in which I live through my practice of pharmacy. In the future I hope to seek opportunities to help increase health education, disease screening and access to care for patients on the fringe of our health care system.” — Madelyne Cearley

“Learning from this experience and translating that into pharmacy practice could only benefit both the patient and practitioner and we all learned things about ourselves. This rotation allowed us as students to know each other in a way that just cannot be done in the classroom. I was able to see more patients at a tiny church in Costa Rica than at any health fair I had participated in here at the SOP, and it feels like we had a significant impact in these people's lives. Return trips to this area to repeat health screenings would be very valuable.” — Jason Crumley

“I believe the elective is a worthwhile addition to the Texas Tech curriculum because it reinforces the importance of community service. The lessons we learned from this experience are very applicable to the practice of pharmacy and this rotation served as a medium to foster concepts such as empathy and selfless service. Experiencing the people-focused society of Costa Rica served as a way to remind us that taking care of our patients is the most important part of our career.” — Audrey Eigenmann

“Now, as I look back at the trip and the rotation, I know that I could not have made a better choice on an elective rotation. I gained a lot of experience working with a completely different patient group that will be very helpful to me as a pharmacist. But more than that is the perspective and experience I gained as a human being. I am not just working with patients, I am working with people who in this case could really use the knowledge I have learned and the help I can give as a pharmacy student. I think this perspective can make a big impact on my practice as I go along in my pharmacy career.” — Travis Garrett

“This opportunity allowed me to gain some health knowledge, some Spanish language skills and some friendships. But mostly it gave me a global perspective applicable not only to my future pharmacy endeavors but also to the journey of my life. As our world changes there must be opportunities for students to gain the type of global perspective that can cure the ethnocentrism endemic in our society and also promote spiritual and personal growth in individuals. I hope this program continues and many more students are able to benefit from it as I have.” — Joshua Hawver

“When I found out I was one of the six students chosen, I was ecstatic because I had always wanted the opportunity to go on a mission trip to help people. We slept on the floor, worked in 130 degree heat, had freezing cold water for showers, ate beans and rice for every meal and had a few close calls with some very poisonous snakes; yet it was still two of the best weeks of my life. All the places we saw and the things we did could not compare to the people we met and the relationships we formed. This was my best experience in pharmacy school thus far and possibly my life. We went to teach and help them, but we got so much more in return.” — Lacey Lantelme

Abilene Campus Hosts Second Camp

For the second consecutive summer the SOP held its Raider Red Pharmacy Camp. The camp was held from June 15-19 at the Abilene regional campus. Housing was provided by Abilene Christian University.

The purpose of the camp is an opportunity for high school students who are truly interested in exploring pharmacy as a career to receive information and participate in activities and hands-on learning experiences related to the profession. The camp also gives participants an idea about what it's like to attend pharmacy school.

"The students have time to enjoy themselves at camp but we also try to ensure a sense of reality of the dedication it takes for a person to commit themselves to a career in pharmacy," Abilene SOP Unit Coordinator and camp contact Melissa Edwards said. "The camp is primarily open to high school juniors and seniors, although we did accept a couple of graduated seniors that were going to be enrolled in pre-pharmacy programs."

SOP Associate Professor Dr. Hal Miller was the faculty lead for the 2009 camp and he helped organize the curriculum. Other faculty members who contributed to the camp included: Dr. Lisa Brinn, Dr. Carol Fox, Dr. Molly Graham, Dr. Michelle Johnson, Dr. Mary Klein, Dr. Paul Lockman, Dr. Pam

Ochoa, Dr. Kim Powell, Dr. Jose Vega and Dr. Jon Weidanz.

SOP staff whose efforts helped make the camp a success included: Shannon Ferrill, Meagan Hoekstra, Victor Means, Mike Nall, Richard Rodriguez, Fred Stegner, Kayla Talbott and Amanda Thomas. SOP students Stuart Anders, Michael Clemons, Kaylyn Howard, John Hoyng, Robert Meeks and Heath Patterson also donated their time to the camp.



A group of Raider Red summer campers enjoy some down time in Abilene.

"Working with the campers is exciting," Edwards said. "They bring fresh, young ideas and are always open to learn something new. I have a younger sister at the same age as many of these campers and it's great to see how education has changed over the years. The importance of higher education is being stressed at an early age and getting the students to understand the need for self-discipline is being achieved."

The SOP would like to thank all the sponsors that contributed to Abilene's Raider Red Pharmacy Camp and for their continued support of the Abilene program. The group includes: Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union; Big Country AHEC; CVS/pharmacy; First Financial Bank; HEB; Hendrick Medical Center; James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation; James McCoy's Drug Store; Walgreens; and Wal-Mart.



The high school students who attended the 2009 Raider Red summer camp in Abilene.

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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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
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Students Help Make Diabetic Camp a Success

Thanks to the efforts of the Rotary Club of Amarillo, children 7 -14 years of age from West Texas and eastern New Mexico who are afflicted with diabetes mellitus have the opportunity to enjoy the summer camp experience in a setting that accommodates the lifestyle requirements associated with their disease.

The club's 2009 Diabetic Camp was held at the Ceta Glen Christian Camp site in Palo Duro Canyon. Dr. Thomas Parker (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo) organized the SOP effort this year. He was joined by SOP students Gradee Adrian



P3 Amanda Klein lends a helping hand to a group of sign makers at the 2009 Diabetic Camp.

(Class of 2009); P4s Sadra Daniels, Keely Meyer, Kalyn Qualls and Timothy Weigle; P3s Chris Bartlett, Toni Edgar, Kristen Finical, Maxie Friemel, Amanda Klein, Dustin Koenning, Raul Najera, Tammy Smith and Amanda Spangler; and P2s Merlyn Joseph, Tri-Dung Le, Nohemi Pham and Loretta Rios.

“The camp brings kids together who are fighting the same battles and dealing with the same challenges so they can learn from and share with each other,” Dr. Parker explained. “It’s another opportunity to teach and reinforce proper self-management tied to the hurdles of their daily living.”

The camp has been a Rotary Club project for the past 28 years. The SOP has been heavily involved the past four summers by providing a majority of the camp’s counselors and medical staff.

“Some of the students are on elective rotation, but most are volunteers,” Dr. Parker said.

The camp is one of the most satisfying aspects of Dr. Parker’s job and reinforces the choice he made to become a pharmacist.



SOP grad Gradee Adrian (pink shirt) fields questions at the '09 Rotary Club Diabetes Camp.

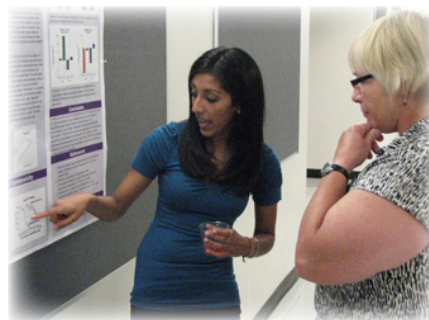
“Experiences like this are the reason I do what I do; participating in camps like this as a student solidified the direction I wanted my career to take. The direct impact we have on each other’s lives is very rewarding. It allows me to be right there with them in dealing with their challenges, broadening my perspective of this disease and its impact on children’s lives. Additionally, many of the campers are my patients and the camp increases our rapport, trust and understanding, which carries over to the office setting.”

Office of Research Completes 2009 Internship Program

Six student interns recently wrapped up a summer of research at the SOP as part of the Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship program.

The Office of Research sponsors the ABRI to attract promising and gifted students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies and research careers in biomedical sciences. The 2009 program started May 26 and concluded July 31.

During the 10-week program ABRI students developed and conducted an investigator initiated research project in consultation with their faculty mentor and other lab personnel. The students also attended weekly lunches



ABRI student intern Asha Rao (left) discusses her research poster with SOP faculty researcher Dr. Karen Mark.

where alternating faculty mentors presented short and informal discussions about their own individual research projects.

On the final day of the program each student showcased

their research projects by preparing a poster presentation.

The students who participated in the 2009 ABRI (and their faculty mentors) included: Joseph Bufford (Dr. James Stoll); Brandon Cooper (Dr. Sanjay Srivastava); Mark Dubina (Dr. Karen Mark); Gregory Mitchon (Dr. Reza Mehvar); Nicholas Muro (Dr. Majid Moridani); and Asha Rao (Dr. Quentin Smith).

The '09 ABRI was held in conjunction with the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health summer internship program. SOP faculty researchers Dr. Margaret Weis and Dr. Xinli Liu joined Drs. Stoll, Srivastava and Moridani as mentors for the LWBIWH internship program.

In Case You Missed It...



Dr. Eric MacLaughlin

• Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo) and Dr. Rodney Young (Regional Chair, TTUHSC-SOM Dept. of Family Medicine - Amarillo) will participate as one of 26 sites chosen for the Collaboration Among Pharmacists and physicians

To Improve Outcome Now (CAPTION) trial.

The CAPTION study is an \$8.5 million multi-center NIH funded study initiated by the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and College of Public Health. It is designed to evaluate and develop treatment strategies centered around physician\ pharmacist collaboration. The study will focus on outcomes related to hypertension and asthma.

• The Dept. of Continuing Education is accepting registration for an Immunization Certification Training Program* scheduled for Sept. 12 at the SOP's Lubbock regional campus. The training is designed for pharmacists who are interested in becoming providers of immunizations and related services. The program will consist of 12 hours of self-study followed by 8 hours of live classroom instruction. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Molly Graham (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Abilene) and Dr. Mary Klein (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock). The cost of the training program is \$400; registration deadline is Sept. 1. For more information, please contact Rebecca Perry at 806/356-4000 ext. 324.



* This program is approved under program provider # 096-000-08-014-C04-P by the Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education for 20.0 contact hours or 2.0 CEU's. Texas Tech University-HSC-School of Pharmacy is an accredited provider of Continuing Education by the Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education for 20.0 contact hours or 2.0 CEU's. TTUHSC-School of Pharmacy is an accredited provider of Continuing Education by the Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education.

Introducing...

Dr. Julie Capper
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Dr. Suna Choi

Research Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Tiffany Coomer
Instructor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Lubbock

Dr. Young Lee
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Dr. Patricia Luera
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Lubbock

Dr. Anitra MacLaughlin
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Amarillo

Dr. Nakita Mirajkar
Instructor

Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Steven Pass
Associate Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Dallas/Ft. Worth (VA)

Dr. Chris Tawwater
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Dr. Amy Thane
Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Lubbock

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

Poison Center, AISD to Conduct Medication Cleanout Program

When old medications are left to collect dust inside the medicine cabinet, they can become potential sources of poisoning to young children or accessed by teens who may be experimenting with drugs. A 2008 report by the Office of National Drug Control Policy found there are now more people aged 12 and older who use psychotherapeutic drugs for non-medical reasons than those who abuse cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine combined.

Flushing or throwing old medications into the trash may contaminate the environment, pollute our drinking and ground water and harm aquatic creatures.

With that in mind, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center and the Amarillo Independent School District's Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative will be conducting a medication



cleanout program to encourage residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and bring in any unused, expired or no-longer needed medications for proper disposal.

Collection will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 12 at two Amarillo locations: Caprock High School, 3001 SE 34th; Texas Tech School of Medicine, 1400 S. Coulter.

The event will be conducted using a drive-through, drop-off format and signs will be posted.

The goals of the program are to prevent poisonings that may result when old medications are left around the home and improperly stored; stop the abuse of medications that are left around the home; prevent the misuse of these medications (i.e.

utilization of leftover antibiotics, pain medications, etc.); and avoid the environmental contamination that can occur when people throw old medications in the trash or flush them down the toilet.

TPPC Director and SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jeannie Jaramillo said the program is important to the community because it helps clarify what to do with unused medications.

"They are told not to flush them or throw them in the trash because this may result in contamination of the water supply, but they are not really provided with alternatives. Disposing of medications through this event will help reduce poisonings, abuse and misuse of medications."

For more information regarding the medication cleanout program, please call (806) 351-5626 or visit www.MedicationCleanout.com.

Getting to Know...

Alicia Stringer Coordinator, Accreditation and Planning Office of the Dean - Amarillo

Alicia was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, but her family moved to Texas when she was 4 months old. She spent part of her childhood at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch where her mother and father were dorm parents.

Alicia's family eventually made their way to Amarillo and she graduated from Tascosa High School in 1996. She received her Associate's Degree in general studies from Amarillo College in the spring of 2009 and she will begin working to complete her bachelor's degree at West Texas A&M University this fall.



Alicia and Robert Stringer are proud parents of Nathan and Victoria.

Alicia and her husband, Robert, have been married for 11 years and have been foster parents since 2004. They adopted their 5-year old son, Nathan, in 2005 and are currently in the process of adopting

2-year old Victoria, who is Nathan's half-sister.

"I am at my happiest when I am playing with my kiddos," Alicia says. "We also have two dogs – a cocker spaniel named Max and a Lhasa apso named Bud."

Alicia says she loves to read just about anything she can get her hands on, though she doesn't have a lot of spare time.

"I also like art, music and photography and I wish I was better at all three. One dream of mine would be to travel to Europe and visit all of the historic places that I have only seen in books."

SOP Photo Gallery

SOP Student Services team members at the Texans Caring for Texans ceremony, which was held at the west Texas A&M campus in Canyon. From left: Summer Balcer, Lisa Bentley and Linda Goldstein.



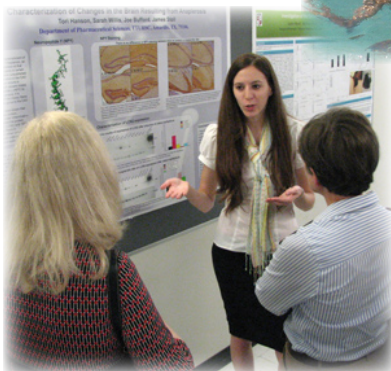
SOP students and faculty who traveled to Costa Rica for the Global Health Outreach Clerkship pose for a photo with some of the patients they helped.



ABRI intern Brandon Cooper (left) receives a certificate of completion from Dr. Thomas Abbruscato, SOP Associate Professor and Associate Dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.



A young swimmer hitches a ride across the pool on the back of P4 Timothy Weigle at the 2009 Rotary Club of Amarillo Diabetic Camp.



Tori Hanson (center), a summer intern for the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, discusses her research project with onlookers at the ABRI/LWBIWH poster presentation.



SOP faculty (from left) Dr. Jon Weidanz, Dr. Ulrich Bickel, Dr. U.S. Rao, Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara and Dr. Karamyan Vardan at the faculty retreat in Dallas.

The SOP's Student Services team was recognized at the 2009 Texans Caring for Texans ceremony. The group includes (clockwise from left): Linda Goldstein, Mike Schwettmann, Janea Robinson, Sharon Harrison, Lisa Bentley and Summer Balcer.

