



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER School of Pharmacy

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

From the DEAN'S DESK



November - December 2009

Pharmacy Academic Center Officially Opens

Fourteen months after we first broke ground, the new Pharmacy Academic Center in Amarillo was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Nov. 20.

The guest list included state Sen. Kel Seliger; state Rep. Warren Chisum; state Rep. John Smithee; Amarillo Mayor Debra McCartt; and Elmo Cavin, TTUHSC interim president. Ms. Summer Balcer, SOP assistant dean for student services, emceed the event and Amarillo P4 Barbara Corn represented our students.

The 23,000 square-foot facility includes two 120-student instructional classrooms, a 12-room patient simulation training and assessment center, administrative space for the SOP student services division and space for student and technology support staff.

Staff and administrators started moving into the building in early November. Once the PAC is fully operational, the SOP will have the ability to increase its Amarillo class sizes to 115 students. The Amarillo campus presently enrolls 90 students per class.



The new Pharmacy Academic Center is an attractive addition to the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo.



The new Pharmacy Academic Center as it appears from the main entrance of the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo.



SOP Amarillo Regional Dean Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara greets visitors at the Pharmacy Academic Center ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Summer Balcer, assistant dean for student services (left), helps me cut the ribbon on the new Pharmacy Academic Center while Amarillo Mayor Debra McCartt, TTUHSC Interim President Elmo Cavin and John Salazar (right), executive director for the Amarillo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce look on.



A view inside one of the new Pharmacy Academic Center classrooms.

OEP Schedules Volunteer Day, Health Fair

Thanks to the efforts of the Office of Experiential Programs in Amarillo, SOP volunteers will have two opportunities to help the local community on Jan. 30.

On this day, the Amarillo campus will send students, faculty and staff out into the community to help organizations that have a need for volunteers in an event known as Helping Hands Volunteer Day.

As of Jan. 5, the list of community organizations that have expressed a need for our help includes: Amarillo Habitat for Humanity; the Downtown Women's Center; the Eveline Rivers Christmas Project; Faith City Ministries; the Girl Scouts of TX & OK Plains; the High Plains Food Bank; the Maverick Boys & Girls Club; Family Support Services; the American Red Cross; and the Opportunity School.

The SOP will also participate in the Spring Health Fair Jan. 30 at



the Tyler Street Resource Center. At this event, the SOP will join several other local organizations and businesses who will set up booths and offer services to those in need. The Office of Experiential Programs began accepting sign-ups for both events on Jan. 11th.

Students will be able to sign up for one-hour shifts at the Health Fair and then sign up for a later Helping Hands activity. They may also sign up for additional shifts at the Health Fair beginning Jan. 12.

Students who participate in the Helping Hands Volunteer Day event will receive VPS credit. Those participating in the Health Fair will receive PCA credit.

Every SOP volunteer—student, faculty and staff—will meet at the school the morning of Jan. 30th. Following a breakfast graciously provided by CVS, volunteers will then travel to the locations for which they signed up. There are also plans to have door prizes and each volunteer will receive a t-shirt.

We encourage all SOP students, faculty and staff to take part in this special day, so please mark your calendars and plan to pitch in at one of these events.

If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Aragon (Coordinator, Office of Experiential Programs) or Amarillo P2 Crystal Campbell.

Museum, Student Organization Participate in History Festival

Eleven of our P2 students helped spread the word about pharmacy by participating in the 13th Annual Fannin History Festival at Fannin Middle School in Amarillo. The festival, which also coincides with National Pharmacy Week and American Pharmacists Month, provides us with a wonderful opportunity to inform school age children, their families and the general public about present and past aspects of the profession.

The Texas Pharmacy Museum has participated in the event every year since its inception. The students who helped Dr. Paul Katz (TPM Curator and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo) man the SOP/TPM table this year included: Brad Anderson; Daniel Contreras;

Justin Fancher; Tausha Kemp; O.J. Martinez; Ronnie Matheke; Amber Miller; Matt Miller; Larry Pineda; Jessica Williams; and Catherine Yoakum. All are members of our Phi Delta Chi professional pharmacy fraternity.

This year the SOP students demonstrated pill rolling using Tootsie Rolls® and a hand operated pill machine. They also showed attendees how to grind a sugar coating for the pills using a mortar and pestle and Smarties® candy. After watching the students demonstrate the different processes, visitors were given the opportunity to try their hands with the devices.

Julie Greene, Fannin Middle School librarian and festival organizer, estimated that more than 1,450 people attended the event.



Amarillo P2s Brad Anderson (left), Catherine Yoakum and Larry Pineda show curious onlookers how to grind a sugar coating for pills at the 13th Annual Fannin Middle School History Festival.

“After six hours of constant demonstrations and talking about pharmacy, our students felt like they had visited with all 1,450 attendees,” Dr. Katz said. “But everyone had a good time and we are looking forward to participating in the 2010 festival.”

Grad Students Share Love of Science

At some point in their lives, before they became graduate students at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy, Sarah Willis and Naomi Wangler were inspired to pursue a career in science.

Today they are turning those inspirations into reality and they hope to motivate others to do the same. To that end, Willis and Wangler recently took part in an event known as the WISE (Women in Science Endeavors) Symposium, an annual event sponsored by the Amarillo Independent School District and designed to introduce middle-school aged girls to career opportunities in various science-related fields.



SOP grad student Sarah Willis looks on as a WISE participant makes lozenges.

“The WISE program is a very worthwhile event that makes science fun for young girls,” Willis explained. “I believe it definitely has a large impact on how the girls view science and science based careers. I also like the fact that the girls are introduced to many possible career choices such as nursing, surgery, chemistry, engineering and pharmacy.”

Wangler was also impressed by the concept of the seminar and the way in which it was organized.

“I was delighted by the wide variety of scientific fields that were represented and I was proud to represent pharmaceutical sciences.”



A group of middle school girls learn to use the mortar and pestle at the WISE Symposium in Amarillo.

Willis and Wangler made their presentations in four sessions, each consisting of approximately 15 students. With their help the girls learned about compounding by making flavored lip balm and lozenges, extracted DNA from fresh strawberries and crushed candy pills using a mortar and pestle.

Willis said all of the girls who participated were excited to do so and were very attentive. She believes the program plays an important role in how the students view science and she is certain that some will be motivated to pursue their scientific interests with more confidence because they have a better idea of what fields such as pharmacy entail.

“Naomi and I really enjoyed seeing how we were able to make pharmacy and science fun and interesting. When we were leaving, we both overheard a young girl say very enthusiastically to her mom, ‘guess what I have; I have purified strawberry DNA!’ We thought this was wonderful since many 6th graders may not even know what DNA is.

“We sent the DNA purification protocol home with the girls and I’m sure that some of them went home and probably showed their younger siblings how to purify DNA. This leads me to believe that the influence of this program is not only experienced by the attendees, but also by their friends and families.”

Although the day was a bit hectic, both Willis and Wangler said it was time well spent and that programs like the WISE seminar are important.

“Sarah and I can both remember people or experiences that fueled our appreciation of science and contributed to our chosen area of study,” Wangler said. “Programs like WISE allow impressionable kids to have the opportunity to become inspired like we were. It makes me excited to see others get enthusiastic for science, and if I can influence that, I’m happy.”



Naomi Wangler, SOP grad student, uses strawberries to demonstrate DNA extraction to a group of middle schools at the WISE Symposium.

SOP Grad Student Takes Best Poster Award



Sarah Willis

Sarah Willis, a graduate student for the Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, was awarded Best Poster at the 24th Annual Scientific Meeting

for the Epilepsy Society of Australia. Her research poster was entitled *Anti-epileptic effects of triheptanoin in two chronic mouse epilepsy models*. She conducted her research and prepared her poster under the guidance of Dr. Karin Borges and Dr. James Stoll.

Teaching Others Helps Abilene Students Learn

Four members of our Phi Lambda Sigma student organization at the Abilene SOP campus recently participated in a unique event in which they were teachers rather than students.

P3s Jennifer Dunkle, Kelley Matula, Jaclyn Priest and Elizabeth (White) Riney made their presentation at the Transition Fair, an event designed to educate Abilene area high school juniors and seniors who have special needs and teach them about some of the life skills they may need after high school.



P3s (from left) Jennifer Dunkle, Kelley Matula, Jaclyn Priest and Elizabeth (White) Riney helped special needs students at Abilene's Transition Fair

"I believe the purpose was really to equip students with ways to live a fulfilling and meaningful life," Jennifer explained.

The Abilene SOP was invited to participate in the fair by Workforce Solutions for West Central Texas, who contacted Mike Nall (SOP assistant director for student

services) in late September. SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Ann Canales advised the group as they prepared their presentation.

The SOP quartet presented two 15-minute sessions in which they discussed healthy lifestyles and touched on areas such as healthy eating habits and exercise. Roughly 20 students, all diagnosed with some degree of disability, attended each session.

"We mainly discussed the food guide pyramid, how to read a nutrition label and how to make good choices regarding diet," Elizabeth said. "We emphasized dietary variety, portion control and how to eat the foods you like—though they may not be good for you—in moderation."

Kelley said events like the Transition Fair provide an opportunity to inform the public about health-related issues, which she believes is part of a pharmacist's responsibilities.

"I believe this was an excellent way to give these kids some information and allow them to have a good time while we did it," she explained. "Some of the families are dealing with children with disabilities, which has its own cost, and I was proud to be there to help them out and give them some free information that could help improve their children's lives and their own lives as well."

"Being a pharmacist is more than knowing about drugs and illness," Elizabeth added. "I firmly believe that education is one of the most important things we offer our patients."

Jaclyn said these events are also an excellent way for pharmacy students to give back to the community, represent the pharmacy school and practice discussing health information in various settings.

"I think the most important thing I learned was that no matter how busy pharmacy school gets, helping others can be a bigger reward than making an A on a test," she said.

Each of the SOP students said they were already looking forward to the 2010 Transition Fair and were hopeful that the school's role will be expanded to an hour-long presentation slot.

"They asked if we would be interested in helping again next year and we said 'of course!'" Elizabeth exclaimed. "We are hoping to participate in this event again and make it a tradition in which all Abilene PLS members can participate."

"The funny thing about it," Jennifer added, "is that while you are trying to help someone else learn something, they end up teaching you things as well."

Dallas SOP Team Takes a Walk for Alzheimer's Disease

An SOP team consisting of faculty and students from our Dallas/Fort Worth regional campus participated in the 2009 Memory Walk for the Dallas area Alzheimer's Association. The event took place Nov. 21 at the Dallas Zoo.

"It was a great opportunity to provide some community service here in the Metroplex," SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Amie Blaszczyk said. "We got to

walk for a good cause and also got a chance to see the zoo."



Members of the D/FW Memory Walk team outside the Dallas Zoo.

Dr. Blaszczyk said the SOP contingent included 39 participants and raised \$3,275. The team was co-captained by D/FW P4s Nicole McAnulty and Sarah Smith.

"It was our biggest group yet and it was the fifth year for me and Dr. April Allen (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice) to walk with the Texas Tech team."

Congratulations to the entire group for donating their time to such a worthy endeavor!

TPPC Begins New Campaign

The first image that enters most of our minds when we think of an accidental poisoning is that of a child reaching into a medicine cabinet or opening a bottle containing a household cleaning product. However, poisoning does not just happen to children. It can happen to anyone at any time and in any place.



To underscore these points and to further promote poison awareness, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center has launched a new campaign known as Poison is Bad (www.poisonisbad.com).

Every 13 seconds someone in the United States calls a poison control center because of a potential poisoning episode or an exposure to poison. In fact, poisoning deaths are second only to motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death in the United States.

The good news is that people can get the help they need in many of these cases over the phone with-

out having to go to a doctor or the hospital by calling 1-800-222-1222 and speaking with a poison center specialist.

U.S. poison centers receive more than four million calls each year and poisoning incidents are on the rise. Some of these calls come from people who just have questions about poisons.

Health care professionals also consult Poison Centers because they rely on the specially trained Poison Center nurses, pharmacists and doctors for information to treat patients who have been exposed to a poison.

The call is toll-free 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. If you think someone has been poisoned, call right away. Do not wait for the victim to look or feel sick. Do not try to treat the person yourself. If the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911 for an ambulance.

To request a presentation for your group or class, invite the TPPC to participate in a health fair or order materials, please contact Ronica Farrar by phone (806/354-1633) or by email ronica.farrar@ttuhsc.edu.

To find out more about the new TPPC Poison is Bad campaign, please visit www.poisonisbad.com.

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:

Mark Hendricks
Communications Coordinator
TTUHSC-SOP/Amarillo
806/356-4000 ext. 245
mark.hendricks@ttuhsc.edu

(www.poisonisbad.com is designed to be informational and educational. Under no circumstance is this website meant to provide medical treatment or replace the expert advice of a qualified poison information specialist or physician).

Introducing...

Racheal Barron
Unit Coordinator
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Brijeshkumar Patel
Graduate Student/Research Asst.
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Kathryn McLewis
Coordinator
Office of Experiential Programs
Dallas/Ft. Worth (SW)

Purushotham Boreddy
Postdoctoral Research Assistant
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Upendra Gumaste
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Srinivasan Marimuthu
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

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

Schedule Announced for 2010 Marsh Lectureship



Dr. Peter Kalivas

Dr. Peter Kalivas, professor in the department of neurosciences at the Medical University of South Carolina, will be the featured speaker for the 13th Annual Wendy & Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed

Lectureship in Pharmacology & Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction. The event will take place March 9-10 at the main SOP campus in Amarillo.

Dr. Kalivas will deliver the endowed lectureship, entitled *The Glutamate Homeostasis Hypothesis of Addiction*, at 4 p.m. on March 9.

At noon on March 10 he will make a presentation at Grand Rounds entitled *Using Neuroplasticity to Treat Addiction*.

Faculty wishing to meet with Dr. Kalivas should contact Logan Larue by phone (806/356-4000 ext. 326) or by email (logan.larue@ttuhsc.edu).

In Case You Missed It...



Dr. Mark Lyte

• Dr. Mark Lyte has recently delivered invited presentations for the Dept. of Medical Virology and Microbiology at the Baylor College of Medicine,

the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Sam Houston State University and the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research at The Ohio State University Medical Center.

His book, *Microbial Endocrinology: Interkingdom Signaling in Infectious Disease and Health*, is now being sold by Springer and Amazon. Springer will make the book available for download as an e-book on April 4.



Dr. Majid Moridani

• Dr. Majid Moridani gave an invited oral presentation in Oct. at the Japanese Society of Pharmaceutical Health Care and Sciences in Nagasaki, Japan. His presentation was entitled *Molecular diagnosis for pharmaceutical care*. He also gave an invited talk in Nov. for the American Association for Pharmaceutical Scientists in Los Angeles entitled *Pharmacogenetics: Methods and Clinical Applications*.

• Heather Cave (P3 - Abilene), Joshua Hinojosa (P2 - Amarillo), José Jimenez (P3 - Abilene) and Loretta Rios (P2 - Amarillo) each

received \$5,000 from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's National College Scholarship Program. The amount represents the highest monetary award conferred by HSF.



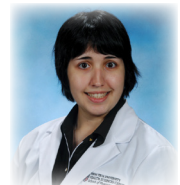
Heather Cave



Joshua Hinojosa



José Jimenez



Loretta Rios

Getting to Know...

**Sandy Brown
Analyst II**

Office of Finance and Administration - Amarillo

Sandy was born and raised in Amarillo. In 1969 she married the late Ray Martin after he returned from a 14-month tour in Vietnam. The couple had a daughter in April 1975.

Sandy met her current husband, Jim, 17 years later in 1992 and they were married in July 1999. Jim has worked at the Pantex plant for 39 years.

In 2000 Sandy joined the School of Pharmacy. She presently works for David Watson (Assistant Dean, Finance & Administration).



Left: Sandy Brown poses with her husband, Jim.



Below: Sandy with her grandchildren Matt, Seanna (center) and Sarah.

In her spare time, Sandy enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren: 15-year old Matt, who is a freshman at Randall High School; Sarah, 13, an eight-grader at Westover Junior High; and 9-year old Seanna, a third-grader at City View Elementary School.

Sandy says she also loves to bake, cook, crochet and paint houses on the inside.

"My husband buys me the paint and then he just leaves," she explains with a laugh.

SOP Photo Gallery

"Bones" poses for a Christmas photo with members of the Amarillo P2 class.



SOP Budget Analyst Debbie Farrow (left) and Tricia Milford (Admin. Business Asst. - Dept. of Pharmacy Practice) select recipient cards from the Employee Love Fund tree.



Amarillo P2 Matt Miller demonstrates pill rolling to a group of onlookers at the 13th Annual Fannin History Festival.



Dr. Quentin Smith and his wife, Dr. Helen Thorsheim, at the December reception honoring Dr. Smith for receiving the TTUHSC Grover E. Murray Professorship.



SOP grad student Sarah Willis helps a middle school student make a chap stick at the Amarillo Independent School District's WISE Symposium.



Melissa Edwards (Unit Coordinator, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Abilene) shows off the gift she received at the Abilene campus Holiday luncheon.



Workers top off a piece of artwork near the new Pharmacy Academic Center. This piece is one of three being erected around the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo.



SOP grad student Naomi Wangler shows a middle school student how to extract DNA from strawberries at the WISE Symposium in Amarillo.



"Rudolphomycin" served as the unofficial greeter at the SOP Holiday luncheon on the Abilene campus.



Amanze Asogu (P4 - Dallas/Fort Worth) is all smiles at the Memory Walk held in November at the Dallas Zoo.



Three of our friends from Walgreens recently stopped by to show their company's continued support of our program with a \$10,000 check. From left: Carlos Garcia (Loss Prevention Supervisor); Jennifer Barnett (Pharmacy Supervisor); and Russ Platt (District Manager).

