



From the DEAN'S DESK



September - October 2009

Support Continues for SOP Student Scholarships

Each year our students reap the benefits provided by those individuals, companies and organizations that generously support our program by providing scholarship funds.

Despite the sluggish economy that has affected the way we all go about our daily routines, the SOP has been fortunate to see the level of scholarship funding increase significantly over the last seven years. During the 2003-04 school year, we were able to offer 101 scholarships totaling \$98,500. This year those numbers have climbed to 332 scholarships totaling \$403,010.

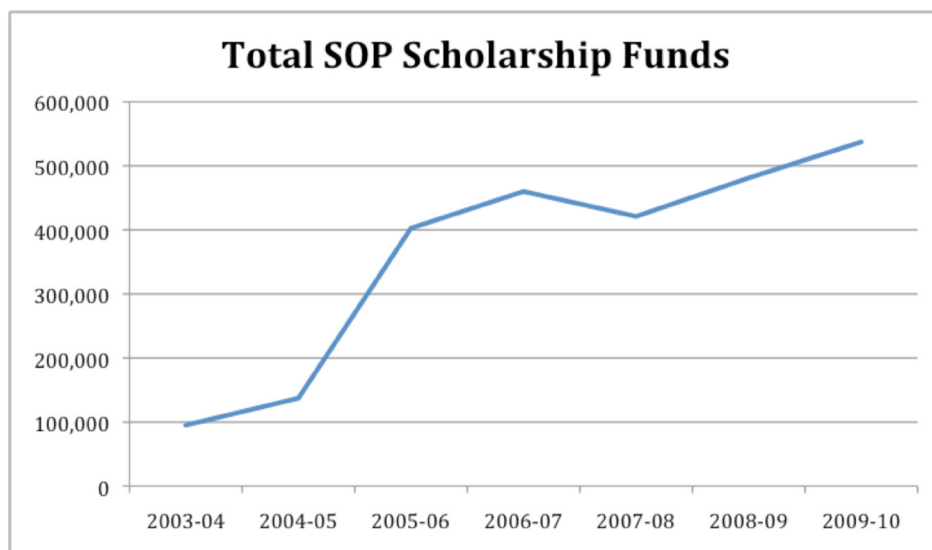
In addition, we have received more than \$835,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration since the 2005-06 school year. Those funds, which include \$194,822 for the current school year, allow us to provide scholarships to disadvantaged students. All told, we will provide our students with \$597,832 in financial aid scholarships for the 2009-10 school year.

Identifying which students are eligible for which scholarships is an arduous task that falls to

members of the Student Affairs Committee. Members of the SAC include Dr. Majid Moridani (SAC Chair and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo), Dr. Angela Treadway (SAC Chair-Elect and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth SW), Dr. Lisa Chastain (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth VA), Dr. Carol Fox (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Abilene), Dr. Jay Gunaje (Associate Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Sciences – Amarillo), Dr. Rebecca Sleeper-Irons (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice –

Lubbock) and Dr. Margaret Weis (Associate Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Sciences – Amarillo).

This year Drs. Treadway, Weis and Fox served on the subcommittee that was responsible for disbursing scholarship funds. They were joined by Ms. Linda Goldstein (Unit Supervisor, Office of Student Affairs – Amarillo). I want to personally thank each of these subcommittee members, and the entire SAC, for the wonderful job they do on behalf of our students and our program. I also want to thank all of our scholarship donors for continuing to support our students. Their help is an indispensable part of our program.



SOP Students, TSRC Partner to Help the Homeless

I'd like to applaud the efforts of a group of P1 and P2 students who recently volunteered their time to provide free screening services to the homeless at Amarillo's Tyler Street Resource Center. Alicia Aragon (Coordinator, Experiential Programs - Amarillo) and TSRC Coordinator Bryan Gillespie worked together to organize the clinic.



P2 Chad Dilbeck administers a blood glucose test to a patient at the Tyler St. Resource Center clinic, held Oct. 31 in Amarillo.

The students performed screenings for cholesterol and glucose and also conducted blood pressure checks. The group provided these services to 122 people over a four-hour period.

"This clinic allowed students to actually interact with patients in a more hands-on manner," P2 Chad Dilbeck said. "Students are also able to get over some of their fear of working directly with the patient."

Jared Gower (P2) said it is important for students to participate in these types of clinics because it gets them out of the classroom and introduces them to real world experiences in patient care.

"It's so easy for students to bury their heads in the books, and these types of activities help us remember the main focus in pharmacy: the patients."

P1 Crystal Rodriguez said the clinics give students a glimpse into life as a professional pharmacist.

"Not only do we get to practice skills learned in the classroom like taking blood pressure,

or checking glucose levels, but we also get to practice communicating with people of different socioeconomic backgrounds, different ethnicities and different personalities," she explained.

Jared said it was also inspiring to see first-hand how a good blood pressure measurement or a good cholesterol reading can lift a person's spirits.

"It was amazing to see how empowering it was to educate these people on ways to lower blood pressure or cholesterol," he said. "It was almost as if we were giving them a feeling of control over something, where they may have very little over other things."

"In this time of health care reform, I realized just how many people in our own community need better health care, and how big of a difference pharmacists—and pharmacy students, for that matter—can make."

Other P1 students who participated in the clinic included: Bethany Alley, Holly Arimo, Ben Barrie, Robert Boulware, Gabe Castaneda, Andrew Cobert, Richard Enchelmeyer, Chris Gumulya, Glenda Hart, Natalie Inthirath, Sheba Jacob, Priscilla Ko, Ricardo Leveck, Catvu Luong, Rene Mani, Glenn Mukai, Hannah Nguyen, Ehihimen Okogbo, Michael Olmos, Leah Schumpert, Larmie Sears, Wendy Suen-Lee, Sherin Thomas and Barakha Yadav.



Faculty and staff who helped with the TSRC clinic. From left: TSRC Coordinator Bryan Gillespie, Dr. Mark Haase, Dr. Jill Polk, Dr. Niambi Horton, Alicia Aragon, Dr. Shawna King and Dr. Cynthia Raehl.



P2s Evan Adams (left) and Kyle Burnam perform cholesterol screenings at the TSRC clinic.

The other P2 participants included: Evan Adams, Kyle Burnam, Les Covington, Angela Crispo, Natalie Dellavalle, Megan Fowlkes, John Fullerton, Natasha Gildersleeve, Josh Hinojosa, Kim Huynh, Nisha Malhotra, Farouk Meklat, Amanda Melton, Tan Nguyen, James Palmer, Terri Paulson, Mark Rasband, Jason Salas, Tiffany Thompson and Catherine Yoakum.

SOP faculty members Dr. Mark Haase, Dr. Niambi Horton, Dr. Shawna King, Dr. Jill Polk and Dr. Cynthia Raehl were also on hand to help the students.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Grad Students Take Steps to Give Back

Thanks to a lot of hard work, the Graduate Student Association of Amarillo recently raised more than \$2,000 in cash and gift certificates for the American Heart Association through the AHA Start! Heart Walk. The walk was held Oct. 17 at Medi-Park.

“The research performed by the graduate students in our



GSAA team members pose for a group photo prior to the AHA Start! Heart Walk, which was held Oct. 17 around the Medi-Park lake.

program is funded largely by grants and donations that are the result of fund raisers such as the Start! Heart Walk program,” GSAA



Grad student Snehal Padhye shows off her face paint prior to the AHA Start! Heart Walk.

to sell advertising spots that were placed on the back of the t-shirts that were worn by GSAA walk team members.

“Any donation would get a business name on the back of the shirt, but businesses donating at

president Sarah Willis said. “We felt as though this was our opportunity to give something back.”

Sarah said the GSAA collaborated with the AHA



HSC Intern Franziska Mohr gets grad student Imam Shaik ready for the Heart Walk with some face paint.

least \$250 in cash, gift certificates or merchandise got their logo on the back of the shirt also,” Sarah explained. “In the end, we believe this fund raiser was a success! We plan on doing this again in the future and hope to raise even more money, since we will learn from our mistakes.”

Organizations Tab SOP Students for Scholarships, Awards

I want to extend my congratulations to four SOP students whose efforts inside and outside the classroom were recently recognized.



Jill Merritt



Zubin Bhakta

Dallas/Fort Worth students Jill Merritt (P4) and Zubin Bhakta (P3) were each awarded a \$1,250 Helen Hodges Educational Charitable Trust scholarship. They were chosen for these scholarships on the basis of their academic achievement, personal written statements and interviews.

The National Community Pharmacists Association also recognized a pair of SOP students.



Lucas Bozick

Lucas received his \$2,000 scholarship at a featured event during the October NCPA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Not only did Lucas receive the scholarship, he was awarded complimentary registration to the conference and a travel stipend. Applicants for this scholarship were evaluated on the basis of leadership qualities and accomplishments, involvement in extracurricular activities, and a demonstrated interest in independent pharmacy.

NCPA also announced its 28 outstanding student chapter mem-

bers and Brenda Ojeda (P3 – Dallas/Fort Worth) was the TTUHSC-SOP honoree.



Brenda Ojeda

“Each NCPA Student Chapter Member of the Year winner is determined by the people who know them best—their fellow students and the faculty,” NCPA President and Seattle, Washington pharmacy owner Holly Whitcomb Henry, R.Ph. said. “While that criteria is unique, what makes these students really stand out is their involvement with independent community pharmacy activities and the encouragement they give to others to get involved in this more patient-friendly and entrepreneurial side of pharmacy.”

Inaugural Medication Cleanout Program a Success

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center joined forces with the Amarillo Independent School District's Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative to conduct a medication cleanout program Sept. 12.



SOP volunteers Alicia Aragon and Joel Epps collect unused drugs at Medication Cleanout.

The program was designed to encourage residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and bring in any unused, expired or no-longer needed medications for proper disposal. TPPC Director and SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jeannie Jaramillo said these drugs are often the cause of accidental poisonings, abuse and misuse and that simply tossing them into the trash or flushing down the toilet can harm the environment.

Collection took place at Caprock High School and TTUHSC-SOM and 45 volunteers were on hand at each site to make sure the drive-through, drop-off format ran smoothly. Dr. Jaramillo said 870 pounds of drugs were removed from medicine cabinets and taken out of circulation. "The drugs collected could have resulted in an enormous amount of poisonings if stored improperly or could have done significant harm to the environment if flushed," she added.

Although collection took place for only four hours, it took event personnel about three weeks to input all of the data they collected. Dr. Jaramillo said the project is ongoing because the database is

being fine-tuned to remove misspellings and make sure drugs are properly identified and classified. She said TPPC and AISD organizers were surprised by the amount of time that was required to inventory the collected drugs.

"We will be tweaking our database for the next round, primarily to capture those drugs returned that were generated by mail-order," Dr. Jaramillo explained. "We will also utilize more volunteers for future events because the info we are collecting is extremely valuable."

Dr. Jaramillo said she was impressed that 55 percent of those who brought in drugs indicated that if the Medication Cleanout event had not taken place they would have simply kept their unused meds rather than flushing them or throwing them away. She said the pharmacy students who volunteered to help with the event were equally surprised by the amount of drugs that were collected and that many of those students have now become interested in studying why people do not take their medications.



Medication Cleanout volunteers help to catalog and identify old medications.

"There were specific over-the-counter agents like stool softener that should definitely be marketed in smaller quantities to prevent such waste. I hope that the data we collect can help drive policy in that area."

Dr. Jaramillo said the project was rewarding and she looks

forward to the next event, which is scheduled to take place in March. Until then she will share the results and experiences from the Sept. event with as many people as she can reach.

"I will definitely be expanding my research efforts into this area," she said. "I am presenting our project to the Houston-Galveston Area Council next week and then I will be providing a live CE here at the SOP on Nov. 19th."



Just a portion of the unused drugs collected at the Medication Cleanout project.

She said she also hopes to arrange a conference in Texas to bring together individuals and organizations that are interested in conducting these types of events. She will also try to arrange meetings between the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and others to develop some guidance to those conducting events in Texas.

"With our work at Tech, we are positioned to lead the way in these efforts, particularly in Texas."

Dr. Jaramillo praised the efforts of all project volunteers, including TPPC Coordinator Robbi Rivers and Educator Ronica Farrar. "They spent countless hours working on the event. Ronica developed the website and an Access database to use for capturing the inventory. Robbi coordinated all of the volunteers - a massive effort."

Introducing...

Nina Blakeman
Research Assistant
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Srinivas Boreddy
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Raghavender Chivukula
Research Assistant
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Cinnamon Copeland
Unit Supervisor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Sandy DeLosSantos
Lead Account Processor
Office of Finance/Administration
Amarillo

Brittany Garritson
Director
Office of Continuing Education
Amarillo

Parul Gupta
Research Assistant
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Karen Hendricks
Coordinator
Office of Experiential Programs
Amarillo

Randy King
Assistant Director
Office of Experiential Programs
Abilene

Pamala Miller
Coordinator
Office of Continuing Education
Amarillo

Ameya Paranjpe
Research Assistant
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Jill Polk
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Amarillo

Kartick Pramanik
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Dept. of Biomedical Sciences
Amarillo

Hongying Zhang
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.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy™

In Case You Missed It...



Prabodh Kandala

• Prabodh Kandala, a third year graduate student in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded the GSBS Dean's Scholars Award of \$5,000 for the duration of his degree plan. Prabodh is a research assistant in the lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava.



Dr. Majid Moridani

• In September Dr. Majid Moridani gave two invited oral presentations at the 68th International Congress of International Pharmaceutical Federation in Istanbul, Turkey: *From bench to bedside – translating pharmacogenetic information in clinical practice*; and *The pharmacogenetics of anticancer agents*.

• The West Texas Pharmacy Association placed \$11,580 in proceeds from their 2009 annual convention into their endowed scholarship fund at TTUHSC-SOP. The 2009 WTPA convention was held in Amarillo and the organization's 2010 annual convention will take place in Abilene.

Dr. Lockman Receives '09 President's Award

Dr. Paul Lockman (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) became the latest SOP faculty member to be recognized by TTUHSC for exceptional efforts on behalf of the University.

Dr. Lockman received a 2009 President's Young Investigator Award for demonstrating exceptional potential as an independent investigator in his research activities at TTUHSC.

The award was announced Oct. 29 at the 2009 Faculty Awards Convocation by TTUHSC Interim President Elmo Cavin.

This is the second President's Award for Dr. Lockman. Last year he received a President's Excellence in Teaching Award for his sustained commitment to the educational process at TTUHSC.

Dr. Lockman is the SOP's twelfth TTUHSC President's Award honoree since 2004.

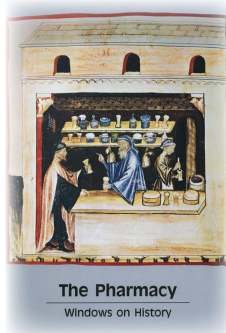


It was my honor to present the 2009 President's Young Investigator Award to Dr. Paul Lockman.

Publisher Sends Museum a Surprise Gift

Earlier this year Dr. Paul Katz (Curator, Texas Pharmacy Museum and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo) contacted Editiones Roche, the publishing arm of F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. (Roche), about receiving an academic discount for one of their publications.

He told the company he was planning to use their book, *The*



Pharmacy: Windows on History, as the primary textbook for History of Pharmacy, a P3 elective that begins in November.

"I must have made a better case than

I thought because Roche Corporate Communications sent me 10 copies free of charge," Dr. Katz said. "The total value is 230 Swiss Francs (CHF), or \$225 USD."

As the saying goes, it never hurts to ask and we certainly appreciate the generosity shown by Editiones Roche and F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd.

Getting to Know...

Kavita Dalal, Pharm.D. Assistant Professor, Primary Care Division Department of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock

Although Lubbock lacks the hustle and bustle that Dr. Dalal grew accustomed to in her hometown of Houston, it does have one thing she truly enjoys: major college athletics.

"In my free time I love playing with my son and watching college football with my husband," she says.

Dr. Dalal completed her undergraduate at the University of Houston and received her Pharm.D. from the UH School of Pharmacy in 2002. In 2003 she completed a pharmacy practice residency at UH-SOP/Memorial

Hermann Southwest Hospital.

Prior to coming to Lubbock she worked as a pharmacy practice clinical specialist for



Dr. Kavita Dalal with her husband, Rajiv, and six-month old Samay.

the University of Texas Medical Branch-Correctional Managed Care. She is a licensed pharmacist in both Texas and Florida.

"My passion is to help patients keep their chronic conditions well controlled so they can stay out of the hospital," Dr. Dalal says. "In addition, I enjoy teaching students pharmacy practice skills applicable to the primary care setting."

Dr. Dalal and her husband, Rajiv, have a six-month old boy named Samay. In addition to watching college football, she enjoys cooking, yoga, Indian classical dance and travelling.

SOP Photo Gallery

The chow lines were busy at the annual SOP Tailgate Party, which was held Oct. 3 prior to the Red Raider victory over the University of New Mexico.



Kensleigh Payne goes straight for the chocolate Halloween treat at the SOP in Amarillo. She likely picked up that trick from her mom, Asst. Professor Dr. Kenna Payne.



Members of the GSAA Start! Heart Walk team show off their face paint prior to the event Oct. 17 at Medi-Park.



The newest SOP faculty members gathered in Amarillo for orientation in September.

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



P2s Nisha Malhotra and James Palmer enjoy some Halloween refreshments courtesy of the Student Affairs office in Amarillo.



SOP assistant professor Jill Polk helps P2 Jared Gower collect a blood sample from a patient at the Tyler Street Resource Center clinic.



SOP Professor Dr. Ulrich Bickel discusses pharmacy education with a group of high school students visiting the U.S. from Germany.



SOP alums Tracey (McMasters) Carruthers (Class of 2000) and Tyson Cromeens ('02) serve up the beef at the annual SOP Tailgate Party in Lubbock. Their unwavering and continued support of our program is truly inspiring!

