Abilene programs team up for health fair

The Abilene campus organized its first interprofessional health fair March 3 at Walmart. Students from the schools of pharmacy and nursing conducted blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol screenings and provided patients with information about heartburn prevention and tobacco cessation.

“This event is typically the annual spring health fair by the Abilene experiential program and this year the nursing school joined us,” Experiential Program Coordinator Shannon Ferrill said. “The outcome of the fair was very successful; the students worked well with each other and the patients responded well to the screenings and counseling given by the students.”

During the six-hour fair, 41 pharmacy students and 34 nursing students screened 125 patients. Ferrill said the event was successful because the faculty and students from both schools donated their time and worked to benefit the patients.

“The health fair wouldn’t have been possible without each and every one of the students,” Ferrill said. “It’s very important that we continue to serve our community with events like this and hopefully this fair will be the first of many more to come.”

Pharmacy and nursing students from the Abilene campus joined forces to bring free health screenings and information to local residents.

Pharmacy faculty who participated in the fair included Drs. Chris Tawwater, Carol Fox, Sherry Laguardia, Celia Lu and Tania Thomas. Nursing faculty participants included Dr. Pearl Merritt, Ms. Kate Woehl and Ms. Kamie Parks.

Assistant Professor Dr. Chris Tawwater discusses a patient’s cholesterol screening results with P2 Na Hoang.
From the Dean’s Desk

SOP students showcase compounding skills in Florida

A three-student team from the Abilene campus traveled to Florida Gator country in March and bagged three awards at the National Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition.

P2s Megan Young, Lt. Miranda Smith and Perry Sanford earned first place for teamwork, second place in the regulatory challenge and third place overall against 14 other teams from across the country. Assistant Professor Nishil Desai (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Abilene) also made the trip and served as the team’s faculty advisor and mentor.

“After the competition was over, the judges came and met us personally and congratulated all of us for the great work,” Desai said. “According to one of the judges, selecting the winning team was a really difficult task because there was a three-way tie for first. They had to go up to four and five decimals to sort the matter out.”

The national contest included compounding, preparing a regulatory essay and presenting a quality assurance poster. However, the competition actually began earlier in the year when Desai organized a local competition for pharmacy students. At that contest, Smith, Young and Sanford beat out seven other teams to qualify for the trip to the University of Florida and the chance to compete at the national level.

“It was really challenging and difficult to enroll the students for the competition,” Desai said. “After sending several emails to all students and approaching some of them on a one-to-one basis to explain the benefits of participation, we were able to recruit five teams in Amarillo and three teams in Abilene.”

Sanford said he and some of his P2 classmates hesitated to join the competition because their schedules are already challenging.

“Top that off with working three or so days out of the week and time for extracurricular preparation for a compounding competition — first local and then national — was kind of hard to coordinate,” Sanford said.

Young said her interest was piqued by the Desai’s initial email, and after learning the details of the competition, she asked Smith and Sanford to join her as a team. After a brainstorming session, they decided each would focus on an area of preparation they felt would be keys to success.

“I studied all the old drug delivery systems class lectures and the math calculations involved in compounding,” Young said. “Perry is the best compounder, as he does it for his job, so he focused on learning new techniques and the proportions of ingredients for different formulations. Miranda studied all of the U.S. Pharmacopeia standards for both sterile and non-sterile compounding.”

Despite their preparation, Smith said the team really had no idea what to expect in Florida. She said several teams were a step ahead because they had competed the previous year.

“We knew the actual compounding portion of the competition would involve making three preparations, but that was as far as it went,” Smith said. “Because we were a bit unsure of how to go about everything, our time management was a little rough. We worked down to the last minute in all three portions of the competition.”

Young said the compounding portion of the competition was challenging because there was no Internet access allowed and some of the other teams had better reference materials.

“We were just given a few printouts of the pharmaceutical excipients, the names of the three compounds and a bucket of ingredients,” Young explained. “We had to figure out which ingredients went in each compound and how much of each to use. Other teams had copies of the U.S. Pharmacopeia and other compounding books that we did not have. We did have a couple of books but they weren’t very helpful and the school would not allow us to take any of their reference texts with us to the competition. This made it more difficult and stressful because we had to make compounds we had never made before using only our prior knowledge. I believe if we had been able to bring better reference texts with us it would have helped us perform even better.”

One advantage that benefitted the team was Sanford’s experience working in a compounding drug store prior to being accepted to pharmacy school and during his P2 year. However, that experience also added to Sanford’s stress once the competition began.

(Continued on next page)
“I felt a lot of pressure in the first three-hour long compounding session,” Sanford said. “Since I was the formulation guy, I felt that I needed to go above and beyond in this area for the team. To be honest, I felt very confident before going into the lab. Our team had a game plan and we were eager to get started. But when I saw 22 pages of blank compounding records, my confidence slipped a little bit and I struggled to wrap my head around what needed to be done.

“I was intimidated at the start and hesitated a little,” Sanford added, “but once my thoughts cleared up and we worked through some trial and error, our team was able to put out three great and pharmaceutically eloquent products.”

Each team member said their efforts were validated at the end of the competition when they were recognized on stage in front of their fellow competitors.

“For it to be our first year to attend and to finish so well we felt as though our hard work had paid off and we were extremely proud,” Smith said. “I think because we did as well as we did it also solidified TTUHSC as a quality program.

“We learn so much during our four years of school that it seems as though you’ll never remember it all. So it was nice to look back and realize that compounding skills learned during the P1 year really do stick with you.”

Smith said the team also enjoyed meeting students from other schools and hearing about those school’s curricula and what their students are learning.

“We are so grateful to everyone that supported us, especially Dr. Desai for being such a wonderful advisor throughout this process.”

The Abilene team (center) took the stage at the awards ceremony for the National Student Pharmacist Compounding competition at the University of Florida.
Convocation recognizes students, faculty, staff

The efforts and achievements of pharmacy students, faculty and staff during the 2011-2012 academic year were recognized April 20 at the school’s annual Honors Convocation.

Student honorees and the award they received included: Elena Doan (P2-Amarillo), the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award; Ronni Miller (P4-Dallas/Fort Worth), the Eli Lilly Achievement Award; Matthew Miller (P4-Dallas/Fort Worth), the Facts and Comparisons - Excellence in Clinical Communication Award; Krista Hutchison (P4-Abilene), the Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award; Christina Petrie (P4-Abilene), the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition; Minh Hong (P4-Abilene), the Teva Outstanding Student; Elly Lango (P4-Dallas/Fort Worth), the SOP Communications Award; Josh Longbine (P4-Amarillo), the SOP Patient Care Award; Loretta Rios, the SOP Geriatric Achievement Award; and Aleric Nielson (P2-Amarillo), the SOP Student Professionalism Commendation.

Faculty honorees included: Dr. Nakita Mirajkar (assistant professor, Biomedical Sciences), P1 Teacher of the Year; Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (professor, Pharmacy Practice), P2 Teacher of the Year; and Dr. Monica Mathys (associate professor, Pharmacy Practice), P3 Teacher of the Year.

In addition, Dr. Margaret Weis (associate professor, Biomedical Sciences) was named Graduate Teacher of the Year and Dr. Fakruhl Ahsan (associate professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences) was named Graduate Student Faculty Mentor of the Year.

Teaching Teams of the Year included the Anatomy Team (P1 students), the Cardiovascular Team (P2s), the Psychiatric Team (P3s) and the Basic Pharmacokinetics Team (graduate students).

P1 Mandy Whiteside (left) presents her class’ Teacher of the Year Award to Assistant Professor Dr. Nakita Mirajkar.

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 School of Pharmacy to all four of our campuses 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

(executive associate to the dean), Toni Johnson (administrator-regional dean’s office) and Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara (professor and regional dean) received the Student Staff Appreciation Award for the Amarillo campus.

P4 Elly Lango (right) receives the School of Pharmacy Communications Award from Associate Professor Dr. Shane Greene.

P1 Mandy Whiteside (left) presents her class’ Teacher of the Year Award to Assistant Professor Dr. Nakita Mirajkar.

Sandy Brown (left), an analyst II in Amarillo, was named a recipient of an Excellence in Staff Services Award for 2011-2012.
Class of 2012, pharmacy residents receive matches for 2012-2013

The Graduate Pharmacy Residency Program promotes excellence in patient care by providing education, development and advanced training to future practitioners. Since 1997, more than 200 residents have successfully completed training through the pharmacy residency program.

Every year members of the Pharm.D. graduating class apply for and accept residencies with TTUHSC and other universities and health care institutions across the country.

In the fall, Class of 2012 members began applying for post-graduate residencies, and in April, those students and several current pharmacy residents learned if they had been accepted into one of the residency programs to which they had applied.

As summarized in the table below, 18 members of the Class of 2012 and three current residents have been matched with residencies for 2012-2013.

Congratulations to each of these young men and women as they continue their pharmacy education and good luck to them as they advance in their pharmacy careers in the years to come.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Les Covington</td>
<td>AMA</td>
<td>PGY-1/2 Pharmacotherapy TTUHSC SOP</td>
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<td>Nori Fujinami</td>
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<td>Angela Lefler*</td>
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<td>Austin</td>
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<td>Amanda Melton</td>
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<td>Violet Nguyen</td>
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<td>Brett Noteware*</td>
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<td>PGY-1 Trinity Mother Frances Hospital</td>
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<td>Larry Pineda</td>
<td>LUB</td>
<td>PGY-1 University of New Mexico</td>
<td>Albuquerque, N.M.</td>
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<td>Loretta Rios</td>
<td>DFW</td>
<td>PGY-1 with Geriatrics focus South Georgia/North Florida VAMC</td>
<td>Gainesville, Fla.</td>
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<td>Brian Terrell</td>
<td>DFW</td>
<td>PGY-1 Hendrick Medical Center / TTUHSC SOP</td>
<td>Abilene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruben Villanueva</td>
<td>DFW</td>
<td>PGY-1 Medical Center of Aurora</td>
<td>Aurora, Colo.</td>
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<td>Frank Wang</td>
<td>DFW</td>
<td>PGY-1 Children’s Hospital of Orange County</td>
<td>Orange County, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Wu</td>
<td>DFW</td>
<td>PGY-1 Community, UT-Austin COP</td>
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<td>Courtney Duval</td>
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<td>Toni Edgar</td>
<td>LUB</td>
<td>PGY-2 Critical Care, Roseman University</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celia Lu</td>
<td>ABI</td>
<td>PGY-2 Ambulatory Care, Upstate University Hospital</td>
<td>Syracuse, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Post-match scramble

Students receive travel scholarships to Japan, Czech Republic

Two TTUHSC pharmacy students have received an International Education Fee Award and will be traveling abroad this summer to enhance their pharmacy education.

Danyi Zheng (P4-Dallas/Fort Worth) will complete an elective rotation at Keio University in Tokyo, Japan.

“I believe the rotation in Japan will provide me with a great opportunity to explore pharmacy practice in another country,” Zheng said. “As a pharmacy student and a future pharmacist, it is important to know and accept differences in pharmacy, as well as the health care systems, across the world.”

Olga Shvarts (P2-Amarillo) will complete an internship in the Czech Republic sponsored by the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation.

“Growing up in the former Soviet Union, I noticed how valuable the pharmacy was to the community,” Shvarts said. “When I immigrated to the United States, I saw the pharmacist’s role elevated to that of an essential health care provider and I feel it is necessary to integrate the various global approaches to the practice of pharmacy.”
On March 2, the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Board of Regents voted to accept a gift of $2.3 million designated for the exclusive use of establishing the Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology as part of the School of Pharmacy. The new department, as also approved by the regents, will be housed on the Abilene campus.

This action follows the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) transferring the administrative home for the TTUHSC-wide M.S. in biotechnology degree program and the academic coursework required for that degree to the Abilene campus to engage greater practical experience. Dr. Doug Stocco, executive vice president for research and GSBS dean, selected Dr. Jon Weidanz to be the director for the biotechnology graduate program and named him associate dean for the GSBS on the Abilene campus.

The new department is expected to become operative Sept. 1, which gives TTUHSC and the SOP time to secure approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and then notify the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Accrediting Council for Pharmacy Education.

The gift, when added to new university funds, the requirements for the new department to allocate future grant/contract indirect funds and the SOP’s transfer of existing funded positions over the next six years, creates $8.5 million to invest in the new department and replace faculty lines in the departments of biomedical sciences and pharmacy practice.

The Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology will be formed with existing Immunotherapeutic Research Center faculty and new positions funded by the gift and the University. The Immunotherapeutic Research Center will end with the establishment of the academic department. Founding faculty members will include Drs. Irene LaBeck, Magdalena Karbownikczek, Mark Lyte, Maciej Markiewski, Jon Weidanz and new faculty member Dr. Laurence Wood, who joined the Department of Biomedical Sciences in Abilene effective April 1.

Drs. Lisa Brinn, Nishil Desai and Harold Miller will remain as Abilene faculty members within their existing departments. The new department will also add a new faculty line each year through fiscal year 2016 to be paid from the gift and picked up on state funding in fiscal year 2018 by TTUHSC Central Administration.

All SOP departments have curricular responsibilities for certain disciplines in the Pharm.D. program and the Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology will have curricular responsibilities for the disciplines of biotechnology, immunology, microbiology, pathology and pathophysiology. It will be an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action department with the same responsibilities and benefits as the existing three departments. I have asked the Faculty Affairs Committee to review the school’s Faculty Bylaws and recommend revisions for full faculty consideration at the August 2012 faculty meeting.

A search committee named shortly after April 1 will recruit internally and nationally for the new department’s founding chair to be appointed Sept. 1.

To date, the Abilene community has contributed approximately $22 million to the School of Pharmacy, including program start-up funds and first class facilities on the Abilene campus, five new tenure track faculty members with start-ups for the Amarillo campus in pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences, 20 additional graduate assistantships in Amarillo, and most recently a new 14,000-square-foot lab addition to the existing Abilene building. These measures of support made by a community to a school of pharmacy are unheard of anywhere else in the country and strengthen us in so many mission-central ways.

I thank the university administration; our Abilene faculty, administration and staff; and the Abilene Community Partners for their continued investment in our school. As with all programs, “raising the boat” on one campus ultimately results in “raising the boat” for all campuses by making us a stronger and more productive element within the TTUHSC Community and bringing us national recognition for quality education, research and patient care.
April busy month for Medication Cleanout

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) completed a busy stretch during which Medication Cleanout programs were conducted on three consecutive Saturdays.

• On April 14, TPPC joined forces with Hendrick Medical Center to conduct the second Medication Cleanout in Abilene. During the four-hour collection at the Abilene campus, volunteers accepted 387 pounds of unwanted, unused or expired medications from people in 95 vehicles.

• TPPC and the Amarillo Independent School District conducted an Amarillo collection April 21 at the Pharmacy Academic Center. Volunteers collected 1,029.5 pounds of medications from 413 vehicles.

• The final spring collection took place April 28 at the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion in Lubbock. The collection was sponsored by TPPC, Voices and the Managed Care Center with additional support from the TTUHSC School of Medicine and the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Department. Lubbock volunteers collected 395.5 pounds of medications from 161 vehicles.

Since the Medication Cleanout program began in September 2009, 19 collections have been conducted across the TPCC’s coverage area. Combined, nearly 1,000 volunteers have collected 7,974.5 pounds of medications from 2,966 vehicles.

Promotions, tenure approved for SOP faculty

In March, the TTUHSC Board of Regents approved the promotion of five School of Pharmacy faculty members, effective March 2.

Dr. Thomas Abbruscato (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) and Dr. Jon Weidanz (Department of Biomedical Sciences - Abilene) were promoted to professor; Drs. Amie Blaszczyk (Department of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Fort Worth) and Dr. Paul Lockman (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) were promoted to associate professor; and Dr. Nikita Mirajkar (Department of Biomedical Sciences - Amarillo) was promoted to assistant professor.

In addition, Lockman was granted tenure, which also became effective March 2.
From hoops to crawdads: student organizations active in spring

Casino Night Benefit for St. Jude Children’s Hospital
Phil Delta Chi (Beta Rho Chapter)

International Night Cultural Celebration & Talent Show
Kappa Psi (Delta Pi Chapter)

1st Annual 5k Fun Run for Juvenile Diabetes
Kappa Psi (Delta Pi Chapter)

Hoops for Health 3-on-3 Hoops Basketball Tourney
Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children

4th Annual Mud Bug Bash
Phil Delta Chi (Gamma Eta Chapter)
From the Dean’s Desk

In case you missed it...

• The Amarillo Area Foundation Board of Directors recently approved a $450 disbursement from the Gerald Holman Lectureship Fund to the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy as recommended by Dr. Holman. The donation will provide a student scholarship.

• The following students have been elected to be officers for 2012-2013 by the American Pharmacist Association student organization (all are from the Dallas/Fort Worth campus unless otherwise noted): Kevin Aloysius, president; Justin Thomas (Amarillo), president-elect; Rachel Seka, vice president; Kylie Schott (Amarillo), secretary; Megan Sneller (Amarillo), treasurer; Sharon Samuel, historian; and Traci Pafford, student political action network liaison.

  Samuel Ho (Amarillo), Anne Marie Evans (Abilene), Holly Arimo (Dallas/Fort Worth) and Whitney Mason (Lubbock) will serve as membership vice presidents for their campuses. Kaytlin Huseman (Amarillo) will serve as Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) director, second year and Kellee Brown (Abilene) will serve as TPA director, first year.

• Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, (professor, Biomedical Sciences) served as editor for two books published in March by Intech Publishers, Inc. The books are titled, “Pancreatic Cancer: Molecular Mechanism and Targets” and “Pancreatic Cancer: Clinical Management.”

  Srivastava has also been invited to serve as the chief guest, present a keynote lecture and serve as a session co-chair at the National Seminar on Reactive Oxygen Species: Roles in Animal and Plant Biology in December at Lucknow University in India.

• SOP alumna Dr. Traci Metting (‘00), vice president for clinical pharmacy services for Aspen Healthcare Metrics in Centennial, Colo., has been named a Fellow in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

TAMUHSC HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™
School of Pharmacy

Getting to know...

Shannon Ferrill
Experiential Coordinator
Department of Pharmacy Practice - Abilene

Shannon Ferrill was born and raised in Abilene and graduated from Wylie High School in 2003. Her mother is a nurse at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene and her father works in the oil industry.

Shannon left Abilene for a few years to attend Texas Tech. After receiving her BS in agriculture education in 2008, she returned to the Big Country and has been working as the Abilene campus experiential programs coordinator since 2009.

“Abilene has been a great place to grow up because it is family-oriented and a very supportive community,” Ferrill said. “I have been with the pharmacy school for three years this April and couldn’t ask for a better department or campus to work with.”

In her spare time, Ferrill enjoys gardening, working out and spending time with her friends and boyfriend.

“The love of my life is my puppy, Laney,” Ferrill said. “She will be four next December.”

Shannon Ferrill enjoys spending time with her best friend, 4-year old Laney.
Amarillo students wore green to raise awareness for chronic kidney disease and collect donations for National Kidney Month. The Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity organized the March 13 event, which featured a waffle breakfast.

P2 Eva Vindekilde prepares her waffle just the way she likes it at the National Kidney Month fundraiser organized by the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity.

P2 Eric Bonhard conducts a blood pressure screening March 13 at the Amarillo Spring Health Fair at Walmart.

At the 2011-2012 Honors Convocation, Elena Doan (P2-Amarillo) receives the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award from SOP alumnus and USPHS Lt. Cdr. Dr. C. Kyle Gropp ('05).

SOP Professor Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (left) presents a plaque to Dr. John Milner, chief of cancer prevention for the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. Milner delivered a presentation titled, “Nutrigenomics and Cancer Prevention: Opportunities and Challenges,” March 23 at the Amarillo campus.