



From The Dean's Desk

May 2005 - Issue 31

Class of 2005 Takes Center Stage

As everyone knows, May is one of the busiest months for the SOP as we prepare for graduation. However, it's also one of the best times of the year because we get to watch another class of outstanding students cross the stage and receive their degree. It's a time of celebration, reflection and transition for everyone involved, and this year's event, which included our second Hooding Ceremony, was every bit as special as the five that preceded it. Yes, this was our sixth graduating class, which means there are now more than 350 TTUHSC - SOP alumni.

As usual, there are many people who make such an event—and the entire month—successful. With that in mind, I'd personally like to thank the entire Student Services staff for organizing the event, each of the faculty members who were able to make the trip to Lubbock and all of the families of the graduates whose support was so important over the last four years. Your efforts and attendance gave our 2005 graduates the recognition they truly deserved.

Graduation



*Class
of*



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*TTUHSC
School of Pharmacy*

SOP Students Selected by ARCS Foundation, AFPE

Katie Bennett (Doctoral Student, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) and ***Julie Gaasch (Graduate Student, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo)*** recently received good news regarding their academic and research efforts.

Katie has been named a recipient of the 2005 Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Scholarship by the ARCS Foundation, which annually awards scholarships to academically outstanding United States citizens who are studying to complete their degrees in natural sciences, medicine and engineering. The scholarship is worth \$5,000

Julie was awarded a \$6,000 pre-doctoral fellowship by The American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE), whose mission is to advance and support pharmaceutical sciences education at U.S. schools and colleges of pharmacy. She is working with Dr. David Allen TTUHSC - SOP associate professor. Her research interests include the toxic effects of blood on mitochondria in hemorrhagic stroke.

Ms. Sexton, Ms. Klein Go to Washington

Mindy Sexton (P2 – Amarillo) and ***Mary Klein (P3 – Amarillo)*** joined a group of more than 400 independent pharmacy leaders from across the country May 1-3 at the 37th Annual Conference on National Legislation and Government Affairs in Washington, D.C. The conference, which is held by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), is designed to bring key issues facing the nation's community pharmacists and their patients to the attention of federal lawmakers and regulators.

This year the conference addressed the Community Pharmacy Fairness Act, H.R.1671, which would allow independent community pharmacists—rather than publicly-held companies—to collectively negotiate the terms of third-party contracts without fear of violating antitrust laws and therefore provide better patient care.



Dr. Linda Mick, left (TTUHSC - SOP Class of 2004), Mindy Sexton and Mary Klein pose for a "Guns Up" photo outside the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas).

Mindy recently completed two years as the Founding President of our student NCPA Chapter. She has now received a position on the NCPA-PSES Student Regional Council (SRC) and will help disseminate information to NCPA student chapters in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico area. Her two-year term includes one year on the SRC and a second year on the NCPA Student Leadership Council (SLC). And if that weren't enough, Mindy was elected by the members of the SRC and SLC to serve as the NCPA-PSES National Student President-Elect, which means she will be chairman and spokesperson for the SRC, an NCPA Summer Intern in 2006, and eventually the NCPA National Student President.

These are great honors for Mindy and she will represent us well, just as she and Mary have done at the last two NCPA conferences.

Dr. Bond Honored by ACCP



Dr. CAB Bond

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) recently selected *Dr. C. A. (CAB) Bond (Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)* to receive the 2005 Russell R. Miller Award for his substantial contributions to the literature of clinical pharmacy. Dr. Bond will receive the award at ACCP's annual meeting Oct. 23 in San Francisco.

The Russell R. Miller Award recognizes an ACCP member who has advanced both clinical pharmacy practice and rational pharmacotherapy by making substantial contributions to the literature of clinical pharmacy. It's named for Russell Miller, who was the founding editor of *Pharmacotherapy*, which is the ACCP journal.

Congratulations to Dr. Bond for receiving this prestigious award.

Dr. Busti Receives Award, Appointment



Dr. Anthony Busti

The Body, a service of Body Health Resources Corporation in New York City whose mission is to use the internet to lower barriers between patients and clinicians, demystify HIV/AIDS and its treatment, improve patients' quality of life and foster community through human connection, has selected *Dr. Anthony Busti (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas)* to receive an Outstanding Pharmacist HIV Leadership Award for 2005. Dr. Busti was selected for his research efforts and for the direct patient care he provides HIV patients at the Dallas VAMC.

In addition, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Executive Commissioner has selected Dr. Busti to be chairman of the HHSC Drug Use Review (DUR) Board for the Texas Medicaid program. The DUR Board is comprised of physicians and pharmacists from across Texas who promote more rational medication prescribing and dispensing in the state. For those of you who may not know, Dr. Busti previously served a two-year term on the HHSC Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee as an appointee of Texas Governor Rick Perry.

Kudos to Dr. Busti for these honors and for his tireless dedication to our profession.

Three SOP Faculty Promoted

I want to take this opportunity to send belated newsletter-congratulations to *Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara (Associate Dean, Office of Research – Amarillo), Dr. Mark Haase (Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo) and Dr. Michelle Condren (Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)* for their recent promotions.

In February the Texas Tech Board of Regents approved Dr. Thekkumkara's promotion to Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dr. Haase's and Dr. Condren's promotion to Associate Professor. Each promotion will become effective September 1. Needless to say, we are very proud of all the hard work each of these individuals has put in over the years and for this latest success.



*Dr. Thomas
Thekkumkara*



Dr. Mark Haase



Dr. Michelle Condren

Investigators Land Epilepsy Research Grant

Dr. Bi-Botti Celestin Youan and ***Dr. Karin Borges (Assistant Professors, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo)*** have been awarded a New Therapy Grant by the Epilepsy Research Foundation, which is a joint translational research initiative between The Epilepsy Project and the Epilepsy Foundation.

Drs. Youan and Borges are investigating new treatment options and more safe and effective therapies for managing epileptic seizures and for the long-term treatment of epilepsies.

School to Receive Scholarship Funds

A big “Thank You” goes out to ***Linda Goldstein (Unit Supervisor, Office of Student Services – Amarillo)***. On behalf of the SOP Linda applied for a U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) scholarship grant for disadvantaged students. On May 19 she received notification of a \$233,053 award! She did this on her own initiative and we certainly appreciate such dedication!

SOP Says Farewell to Dr. Snella



*Dr. Kathleen
Snella*

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we are going to miss Dr. Kathleen Snella ***(Associate Professor and Primary Care Division Head, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)***. Dr. Snella will be leaving TTUHSC – SOP June 30 for the University of Missouri-Kansas City SOP's Columbia campus where she will assume the post of Assistant Dean for Academic Programs and Vice-Chair. Although we hate to see her go, this is a tremendous opportunity for Dr. Snella and we are extremely grateful for the contributions and leadership she has given us over the years.

Thanks again Dr. Snella. We wish you the very best in your new position.

GETTING TO KNOW...

Paul Lockman, R.N., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo



From left, Payton, Melissa, Karli and Dr. Paul Lockman with Lham'me

Paul was born and raised in the area surrounding Salt Lake City, Utah with his four brothers. During his formative years, he became proficient at basketball, football and wrestling (unfortunately, so did his mother after raising five boys). He also spent four of those years in Spokane, Washington, where he learned the value of delivering papers in two-foot deep snow (“none!”). After graduating high school in 1985, Paul spent four years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in Salt Lake City. During that time he began his undergraduate education in nursing at the University of Utah. He transferred to West Texas A&M University and completed his bachelor degree in nursing in 1992. He has lived in the Amarillo area since.

Paul practiced as a nurse in pediatrics, neonatology, emergency medicine and clinical toxicology for nearly 10 years. His clinical toxicology experience stimulated his desire to attend the newly opened Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at TTUHSC School of Pharmacy in 1999. He has since completed his Ph.D. and a post-doctoral fellowship funded by Philip Morris. In September he will be an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

“Of utmost importance” to Paul is his “wonderful family” and he is thankful to have them. His wife Melissa, who has a Masters degree in library science, is an avid reader and a “wonderful, supportive friend” (Paul says it’s amazing that she’s still a friend to him after they built and moved into a new house!). He also has two children: 11-year old Payton, who attends Greenways Intermediate School and is active in the Amarillo Youth Choir, and eight-year old Karli, who attends Arden Road and enjoys crafts and theater. Last, but not least, the Lockman household is proud to announce the addition of Lham’m, a Lhasa Apso who, Paul says, adds so much joy and laughter to the home (and also a bit of playtime, treat-time, going outside time, guard dog watching time, ball time, etc... too much fun for him to describe).

Debra Moore

Senior Business Assistant

Staff, Department of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo

Debra has spent most of her life as an Air Force brat. She has two children: Ryan, “my wonderful son,” is an award winning Provisioning Agent with Southwest Airlines in Dallas. Andrea, “my wonderful daughter,” is employed at BSA as a Certified Nursing Assistant and is working her way through nursing school. Andrea’s goal is to become an RN/BSN so she can someday specialize in Pediatric Nursing. Debra says she has also “been blessed with a wonderful daughter-in-law” named Eva, who is currently working toward a chemistry degree.

Debra has several pets, including Lucky (“our deaf yellow Lab”), Mick Muffin (“our Heinz 57 Terrier mix that we rescued from the Dog Pound”) and an orange-colored dwarf rabbit named Pumpkin.

Debra says her dream is “to be able to continue to provide care and a loving home for my precious Mother, Jody, and also to watch my children attain their hopes and dreams.” She says her mom and dad are the two people she most admires and that they are her personal heroes. Debra’s favorite hobby is spending time with Pat, her best male friend, his “sweet” eight-year old son Isaac and their kitty cat.

Richard Leff, Pharm.D.

Regional Dean

Professor

Department of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth



Dr. Richard Leff

Dr. Leff was born and raised near Chicago and earned a bachelor degree in education from Northern Illinois University, a bachelor degree in pharmacy from Creighton University and a Pharm.D. from the University of Minnesota. He received his postgraduate training in pediatric clinical pharmacology at the University of Iowa under the mentorship of Robert J. Roberts, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Leff has held academic positions at the University of Texas, the University of Iowa and the University of Kansas and industrial drug and medical device development positions at Child Health Corporation of America and Midwest Research Institute. His research interests include pediatric therapeutics and pharmaceutical product development for infants and children.

Dr. Leff is married to Dessie, a pharmaceutical sales consultant and coach. They have three children—Jason, Ryan and Kirsten—and all three work in the health care industry. Jason is an emergency medicine physician; Kirsten is an anesthesiology resident at the University of Virginia; and Ryan, who Dr. Leff says is the happiest, is a pharmaceutical sales representative and semi-professional water skier. Despite having older children (the youngest is 29 years old), Dr. Leff has a full house that includes three horses (Vic, Phantom, and Dancer), two cats (Moe and Obidaya), and three dogs (Calvin, Cami, and Midnight).

Apart from work and farm chores, Dr. Leff enjoys the outdoors and water sports and his favorite activities are boating, skiing and fishing.