



Student Organizations Fire Up the Grills at Back to School Picnic

A big pat on the back goes out to all the student organizations for once again making the annual Back to School Picnic a flame-broiled success. The event was held Aug. 18, and as usual, everyone who attended had a great time...and some good ol' burgers and hot dogs right off the grill.

Lee Wehde, R.Ph. was this year's guest of honor. Lee is retired from United Pharmacy and has been instrumental with the SOP since before it was even built. He has also been very involved with us since the doors opened (the Deans Advisory Council, the CE committee, etc) and his efforts are greatly appreciated.



Robert Gagliardi (P2-Amarillo) is one happy hot dog griller.



Jaime Guyear (P4-Amarillo) serves a burger to Ellen Patterson (Coordinator, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice-Amarillo)

AHA Singles Out SOP Grad Student



Jason Crumley

I am always amazed at the amount of time our students, faculty and staff donate to the local community and I am extremely proud of the effort and energy put forth by all of them. Although I can't list them all here, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the efforts of Jason Crumley (Graduate Student/Research Asst., Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo).

The American Heart Association named Jason its Newcomer of the Year for his contributions to the organization. Jason most recently served as co-chair for AHA's 2005 Shoot from the Heart event in Amarillo.

Jason is presently working with Dr. Margaret Weis (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo).

Poison Center Personnel Honored as Texans Caring for Texans

It always nice to see hard work recognized, and that's exactly what happened for the dedicated crew at the Texas Panhandle Poison Center. These folks were recognized Aug. 24 at the Ninth Annual Texans Caring for Texans ceremony, which was held at the WTAMU campus in Canyon.



From left: Poison Center personnel Robbie Rivers, Mary Lou Nester, Ronica Farrar, Cristie Barkley, Jeanie Jaramillo, Dr. Shu Shum and Virginia Chucovich pose in front of the TPPC display prior to the Texans Caring for Texans ceremony.

For those of you who may not know, Texans Caring for Texans is a chance for employees at various state agencies to be recognized for their efforts by their peers and the Texas Legislature. Honorees receive plaques, certificates and a hardy round of applause for their accomplishments.

Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo, Dr. Shu Shum, Ronica Farrar, Robbie Rivers, Mary Lou Nester, Cristie Barkley and *Virginia Chucovich* were on hand to represent the Poison Center. Congratulations to each of these individuals and to those TPPC folks who were unable to attend the event (someone has to man the phones!).

Dr. Busti Begins Board Chairmanship

Dr. Anthony Busti (Asst. Professor, Dept of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth) recently returned from Austin where he led his first meeting as chairman for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Drug Use Review (DUR) Board for the Texas Medicaid program. Although he says he was nervous at first, he reports that the meeting “went very well and we have a good group of clinicians on the board.”

Following the DUR meeting Dr. Busti attended the State Pharmaceutical & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee meeting where he received an indication that Governor Rick Perry would reappoint him for another two-year term.

Congratulations Dr. Busti and keep us up-to-date on your important work!



Dr. Anthony Busti

A Welcome to Our New Employees

Several new faces have recently joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the SOP family.

ZhuZhu Li is a post-doctoral research assistant and *Lloyd Alfonso, Chaitany Chimalakonda, James Egbert* and *Ridhi Parasrampurua* will be working as graduate students/research assistants. In addition, *Prema Rao* will be performing some temporary assignments for us.

Please join me in welcoming each of these individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy. We look forward to their contributions!

GETTING TO KNOW...

Amie Blaszczyk, R. Ph., Pharm.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth



Dr. Amie Blaszczyk with husband Scott and Maddie.

Amie was born and raised a Steelers fan in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the home of Little League Baseball. She earned her Pharm.D. from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where she also met a charming Polish boy named Scott Blaszczyk. After deciding that six years in Pittsburgh was plenty, she went on to complete a pharmacy practice residency in Milwaukee and a geriatrics specialty residency at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. During her residency at UM, Scott and Amie decided to tie the knot and got married in Erie, PA during a Nor'easter that contributed nine inches of snow to the ceremony!

Amie loves spending time with her husband and her Tennis Ball Retriever, Maddie. She also enjoys watching Steelers football (she and Scott are the 23,209th group in line for Steelers season tickets), playing cello, watching baseball, reading, baking and helping people pronounce and spell her last name (“zoo-cat-zoo!”). She is looking forward to getting to know the Dallas/Fort Worth area and all it has to offer.

Karin Borges, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo



Dr. Karin Borges

Dr. Borges was born in Hamburg, Germany and grew up near Frankfurt, Germany. She studied Biology in Freiburg, one of the most beautiful towns in Germany's Black Forest.

After receiving her Ph.D in Biology in Heidelberg, Germany she joined Dr. Dingledine laboratory at Emory University in Atlanta GA to study glutamate receptors as a post-doctoral fellow. After she was appointed to instructor at Emory University in 2001 she worked on mouse epilepsy models to investigate the development of epilepsy and possible therapeutic interventions.

Dr. Borges joined the TTUHSC - SOP Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences this September, and will continue her work in basic epilepsy research.

Inspired by her life-long love of nature and outside sports she has always biked to work and for pleasure and used to compete in triathlons. She plans to keep biking in Amarillo and in the area's beautiful prairie and canyons. She invites everyone to join her on your bike and find out how great it feels to fill your lungs with oxygen.

In her spare time, Dr. Borges enjoys yoga, gardening and traveling—and most of all—the company of her husband and doggie Suzie. Don't be surprised if you may see all three of them walking in the prairie.

Gabriela Robledo

Clerical Specialist III

Staff - Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock



Gabriela Robledo

Gabby was born in Denver but was raised in Lubbock. She is a graduate of Lubbock High School and South Plains Community College in Levelland, TX.

Gabby and her husband Antonio were married two and a half years ago and have been blessed with a wonderful family which includes five year-old daughter Karyme and eight month-old son Auden.

“My husband and my children are the most important things in my life,” Gabby says. “They brighten my days and I look forward to seeing them at the end of each and every work day.”

Gabby’s hopes and desires for the future are to enjoy a long and healthy life with her family. She enjoys traveling, music and dance but her favorite hobby is cross-stitching.