May is always a special—and busy—time for SOP students, faculty and staff. The month is marked by dinners and award ceremonies, all of which have become traditions that signal the end of another academic year.

Of course, the climax takes place when we make the trip to Lubbock and honor our graduating class with the hooding ceremony and graduation. It’s a special time of the year for all of us, to be sure, but for the young men and women who cross the stage, it’s one of the moments in life they and their families will always remember.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this year’s festivities, but from the good things I’ve heard, it was indeed a special weekend for the Class of 2007. With that in mind, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and faculty for all the hard work they put in to make sure these events ran so smoothly and for the four years of effort and support they gave the Class of 2007, from the moment these students first entered our building until the moment they exited the stage as an SOP graduate. I’d also like to thank the friends and family members who traveled to Lubbock to attend the ceremonies to give our students the recognition they truly deserve.

Good Luck to each member of the Class of 2007. We celebrate the many things you accomplished during the last four years and we can’t wait to see what you achieve during your careers!
SOP Honors Students, Faculty and Staff

TTUHSC – SOP brought down the curtains on the 2006-2007 school year with a pair of awards ceremonies held May 4 at the main SOP campus in Amarillo and May 18-19 as part of the TTUHSC graduation weekend festivities in Lubbock.

Students who received awards at the May 4 event included: Amy Arnold (Perrigo Award of Excellence in Non-prescription Medication Studies); Whitney Fisk (American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Student Recognition Award); Jenna Hensley (U.S. Public Health Service Award); Kelsey LaMunyon (Pharmacists Mutual Book Award); and Norma Solis (P2 Achievement Scholarship).

Also receiving recognition at the May 4 event were Dr. Jon Weidanz (P1 Teacher of the Year), Dr. Kenneth McCall (P2 and P4 Teacher of the Year), Dr. Paul Lockman (P3 Teacher of the Year) and Dr. Reza Mehvar (Graduate Teacher of the Year). Teaching Teams of the Year included the Biochemistry Team (P1 students), the Infectious Disease Team (P2s), the Toxicology Team (P3s) and the Principals of Drug Action Team (Graduate students).

Shawn Morton, who is an accountant for our office of finance and administration, was named the recipient of the Excellence in Staff Services award.

P4 students who received awards during graduation weekend ceremonies included: Raelene Trudeau (Lilly Achievement Award); Wilson Krezdorn (Roche Pharmacy Communications Award); Michelle Johnson (Facts and Comparisons - Excellence in Clinical Communication Award); Melanie Boatwright (Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award); Ajith Pai (GlaxoSmithKline Patient Care Award); Rachel Mason (McNeil Consumer Healthcare APhA-ASP Mortar and Pestle Professionalism Award); and Chris Tawwater (Teva Outstanding Student).

Raelene Trudeau also received the Banner Bearer Award for the Class of 2007 and Theresa Gerst was the 2007 Bowl of Hygieia honoree.

Annual TSHP Seminar Recognizes SOP Students, Faculty

Several students and faculty from TTUHSC – SOP were recognized April 19-23 at the Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists 59th Annual Seminar in San Antonio.

The TSHP Research & Education Foundation awarded scholarships to three SOP students.

P1 Amanda Ulibani received the Celso & Matiana M. Cuellar, Sr. Scholarship; Sarah Villarreal, another P1, was awarded the El Paso Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists Scholarship; and P3 Jessica Njoku received the Jon Peyton Hudlow Memorial Scholarship.

TSHP R&E Foundation President Lourdes M. Cuellar also appointed SOP pharmacy practice department faculty members Butch Habeger, R.Ph., M.B.A. and Dr. Roland Patry to the TSHP R&E Board of Directors. Habeger is an associate professor and director of the SOP’s pharmacy management division. Dr. Patry is a professor and the clinical practice and management chair for the department of pharmacy practice.

Dr. Patry and his wife, Jan, also received a $15,000 contribution from the El Paso Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists to establish a scholarship in memory of their son, Michael.

ASHP to Place SOP’s Patry on Ballot

The American Society of Health System Pharmacists recently announced it is placing SOP professor and pharmacy practice department chair Dr. Roland Patry on its ballot to serve as the organization’s’s president-elect.

ASHP is a national professional association that represents 30,000-member pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, long-term care facilities, home care and other health care system components.
2006-2007 Scholarship Recipients Recognize Donors

SOP students at each campus who received scholarships for 2006-2007 honored the individuals and organizations that made the awards possible with a Scholarship Appreciation Dinner.

Amarillo scholarship donors and their student recipients included:
- Chancellor’s Council Scholarship – John Carpio, Wade Dean, George Jenkins, Tien Le and Seth Rutherford
- CVS Scholarship – Adam Beam and Kyu Mee Kim
- Education Credit Union Scholarship – Michele King
- Sybil B. Harrington Pharmacy Scholarship – Amma Akrofi, Beau Baker, Vince Beasley, Karen Brewer, Megan Brown, Madelyne Cearly, Daisy Chisenhall, Audrey Eigenmann, Elizabeth Garcia, Roy Gregory, Kyla Hoover, Lana Jones, Kalyth Mathis, Robert Morris, Joseph Ottis, Rebeka Primera, Barbara Queener, Jared Thornhill, Steven Walker and Timothy Weigel
- Helen Hodges Charitable Trust Scholarship – Rachel Mason and Emily Nguyen
- Roberta High Memorial Scholarship – Randall Martin and Rachel Mason
- Lonnie and Nancy Hollingsworth Scholarship – Rex Gueffroy
- Houston Endowment, Incorporated Scholarship – Jadi Parker and Joe Valadez
- Koibatech Kenyan Professional Scholarship – Esther Njoka
- Lubbock Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists Marlin Ferguson Memorial Scholarship – Vern Stairs
- Medco Health Solutions Scholarship – Donna Boatwright and Jian Shi
- National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Pharmacy Student Scholarship – Whitney Fisk
- Reverend Arthur Nelson, Sr. Memorial Scholarship – Donna Boatwright
- Panhandle Society of Health-System Pharmacists Neil Pounds Memorial Scholarship – Martin Ziska
- Pharmacists Mutual Scholarship – Emily Nguyen
- Stanley M. Reinhau Family Foundation Scholarship – Holly Bland and Samuel Park
- Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship – Whitney Fisk and Penny Sitka

Dallas/Fort Worth campus donors and student recipients included:
- Albertson’s Scholarship – Huy Ha Silva
- Children’s Medical Center of Dallas Scholarship – Monica Calderon, Hui Kang, Tracy Raabe, Stephanie Rangel and Lesley Thomas
- Gary Collins Scholarship – Melanie Boatwright
- CVS Scholarship – Ardin Isfahani and Jessica Njoku
- Dean’s Leadership Scholarship – Frederick Labrador
- Dean’s Leadership Scholarship (sponsored by United Supermarkets) – Elaine Chen
- Dean’s Leadership Scholarship (sponsored by Walgreens) – Lee Jaquez, Janice Millikan and Anuj Mittal

Lubbock scholarship donors and student recipients included:
- CVS Scholarship – Staci Lemon
- Dean’s Leadership Scholarship (sponsored by Albertson’s) – Robyn McGraw
- Dean’s Leadership Scholarship (sponsored by Walgreens) – Mary Klein, Amanda Leach and Michelle Wickson
- Garrison Institute on Aging Interdisciplinary Student Scholars in Geriatrics – Latisha Tomlinson
- Houston Endowment, Incorporated Scholarship – Ruth Martinez

Carlos Garcia (left) poses with a representative of the Roberta High Memorial Scholarship.

- H.E.B. Scholarship – Horace Favila
- Houston Endowment, Inc. Scholarship – Amie Abshire, Hollie Arney and Ameenah Campbell
- Roberta High Memorial Scholarship – Carlos Garcia
- Medco Health Solutions Scholarship – Laura Ngo
- National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship – Amy Crawford
- Michael Patry Memorial Scholarship – Deirdre Delea
- Stanley M. Reinhau Family Foundation Scholarship – Jessica Trojacek
- TTUHSC Endowed Phonathon Scholarship – Supriya Abraham, Lindsay Algeo, Adam Beam, Kamal Bhakta, Tina Brandon, Madelyne Cearly, Catherine Cobb, Tiffany Coomer, Tu Cam Dinh, Nancy Dunseth, Whitney Fisk, Theresa Gerst, Jenna Hensley, Michelle King, Brian Lake, Frederick Labrador, Vern Stairs, Jeness Thomas, Rachel Trout and Martin Ziska
- TTUHSC Office of Multicultural Affairs AIG VALIC, Inc. Scholarship – Penny Sitka
- Tom Thumb/Safeway Scholarship – Cory Matoska and Kelly Branigan
- Katelyn Jill Turner Memorial Scholarship – Kayode Ogunsemi
- United Supermarkets Scholarship – Sara Braby and Brian Lake
- Bill Wehner Memorial Scholarship – Julie Perez
- Wal-Mart Scholarship – Angela Farina, Josh Jones, Karen Lucas and Martin Ziska
- APhA-ASP/Wal-Mart APhA Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship – Rachel Mason
- West Texas Pharmacy Association Lonnie Hollingsworth Scholarship – Vern Stairs
- West Texas Pharmacy Association Robert Stanley Scholarship – Andrea Haynes
- West Texas Pharmacy Association Leland Wehde Scholarship – Brent Wiles
- West Texas Pharmacy Association Scholarship – Angela Bazaldua, Kamal Bhakta, Brooke Britten, Nathan Buerkle, Carlos Garcia, Claire Jencopale, Bonnie Morrison, Norma Solis, Amanda Ulilbarri
- Rural Health Education Scholarship – Rebecca Warren
- Texas Federation of Drug Stores Scholarship – Robin Murphy-Clemendot
- Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation Gene Lake Scholarship – Frederick Labrador
- Weinstein Scholarship – Theresa Gerst

Lubbock regional dean Dr. Charles Seifert with Rural Health Education Scholarship recipients (from left) Leigh Wilson, Mary Klein, Mindy Sexton and Amanda Leach.

- National Community Pharmacy Association Foundation Presidential Scholarship – Mary Klein and Mindy Sexton
- Stanley M. Reinhau Family Foundation Scholarship – Brooke Thomas
- Rural Health Education Scholarship – Mary Klein, Amanda Leach, Alexia Rendon, Mindy Sexton, Michelle Wickson and Leigh Wilson
- TTUHSC Endowed Phonathon Scholarship – Brandon Trollege
- United Supermarkets Scholarship – Laura Patterson and Latisha Tomlinson
- Wal-Mart Scholarship – Kami Jenkins
- West Texas Pharmacy Association Roberta High Scholarship – Amanda Leach and Michelle Wickson
From the Dean’s Desk

P3, P4 Students Select 2006-2007 Preceptors of the Year

Please join the Office of Experiential Programs in congratulating the following Faculty and Adjunct Faculty recognized by our students as Preceptors of the Year for 2006-2007.

Faculty Preceptors of the Year include Dr. Sherry Luedtke (Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Professional Affairs - Amarillo); Dr. Amie Blaszczyk (Assistant Professor - Dallas/Fort Worth); and Dr. Craig D. Cox (Assistant Professor - Lubbock). Adjunct Faculty Preceptors of the Year include Dr. Evans Schell (Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center - Amarillo campus); Oscar Medelline, R.Ph. (The Medicine Chest-North, Sulpher Springs, TX - Dallas/Fort Worth campus); and Dr. Scott O’Banion (University Medical Center - Lubbock campus).

The selection process was modified this year; one faculty preceptor and one adjunct preceptor was awarded for each campus. In past years P3 and P4 students at each campus selected a faculty and adjunct preceptor of the year for their campus and class.

In addition, students this year were not asked for nominations. Instead, we reviewed preceptor evaluations and determined the top 5 faculty preceptors and top 5 adjunct preceptors at each campus. Students were then asked to vote for one of the five candidates in each category at their campus.

Each honoree will be presented with a certificate and plaque denoting their selection later this summer.

Introducing...

Dr. Thiruma Arumugam
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Sanjay Batra
Post Doctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Lisa Chastain
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Dallas/Ft. Worth

Dr. Kavita Dalal
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Lubbock

Dr. David Fike
Research Associate Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Amarillo

Dr. Carol Fox
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Dr. Molly Ellen Graham
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Dr. Casey Lee
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Lubbock

Dr. Pamella Ochoa
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Dr. Kenna Payne
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Dallas/Ft. Worth

Dr. Marissa Quinones
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Dallas/Ft. Worth

Ravi Sahu
Post Doctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Yan Shi
Post Doctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Sanjay Srivastava
Associate Professor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Jose Vega
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Please take a moment to welcome each of these individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.
The TTUHSC – SOP Alumni Association held its Annual Alumni Dinner on April 20th at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio. The event was held in conjunction with the Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists meeting and was attended by nearly 50 faculty and former students.

One of the highlights was an Alumni “Roll-Call” where each alumnus in attendance spoke about their current career path. We also recognized the accomplishments of several alumni with special awards.

Dr. RoxAnn Dominguez (Class of 2003) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Pharmacy Practice for her instrumental role in enhancing the care of psychiatry patients in the State of New Mexico.

Dr. Dominguez is presently the Director of Pharmacy for ValueOptions New Mexico, which is a behavioral health carve-out contract that provides all behavioral health-related care for Medicaid and Seriously Mentally Ill patients throughout New Mexico. As Director, she is responsible for a budget that is approaching $30 million and oversees development of VONM behavioral health formulary and behavioral health pharmacy initiatives. She also leads committees that are working to develop standards of care for children and adolescent behavioral health care and antipsychotic practice standards for New Mexico patients.

Dr. Dominguez chairs the State Behavioral Health Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T), serves on the State of New Mexico DUR committee and acts as the liaison for the physical health Medicaid programs to coordinate behavioral health with physical health initiatives.

In addition to her practice, Dr. Dominguez is BCPP certified and is a preceptor for students at the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy where she is proud to have the opportunity to promote pharmacy education and the pharmacy profession.

Dr. Sidney Phillips (Class of 2001) was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for Leadership. After completing his residency training, Dr. Phillips went on to hold Director of Pharmacy positions at Odessa Regional Hospital and Trinity Medical Center in Carrollton, Texas. He has recently assumed the position of Operations Director for Pharmacy Management for Cardinal Health and oversees operational, financial, clinical and contracting responsibilities for 27 facilities across the United States.

Dr. Phillips is also a leader within professional organizations. He served on the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board of Directors for several years and led the group’s effort to develop many crucial recommendations regarding pharmacy regulatory issues, including USP 797.

Dr. Cris Hogue (Class of 2000) received the Alumni Best Practice Award for her role in establishing pharmacy services for the solid organ transplant service at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in South Texas.

Dr. Hogue is presently the Clinical Manager for Driscoll’s Department of Pharmacy. She completed her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles after graduation and then established a practice at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas where she precepted many of our students.

Dr. Hogue was instrumental in establishing the first solid organ transplant service at Driscoll. She was responsible for coordinating and establishing the medication formulary and protocols for kidney transplants at the hospital, which included providing education for patients and family members and arranging discharge prescription services. Her efforts allowed the hospital to establish transplant services in a very short time-frame. She was recently awarded the Clinician of the Year Award by CompleteRx.
Poison Center Receives Funding, Certification

I am excited to report that the Texas Panhandle Poison Center will receive $25,000 in funding for its proposal entitled, “Evaluation of National Poison Data System Quality.” This project is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and was awarded to no more than three centers through the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

“The purpose of the project is to evaluate the quality of the uploaded data from the NCSBeta system by comparing the coded fields to the text kept at the local level,” TPPC director Dr. Jeannie Jaramillo said. “Basically, we will be determining whether more local data should be uploaded to the national system. The results of our evaluation could ultimately impact the uploading of data and may also help in reshaping the poison data collection system nationwide.”

Dr. Jaramillo and TPPC Medical Director Dr. Shu Shum also received a Notification of Verification from AAPCC that allows TPPC to operate as a certified poison center through November 1, 2011.

Dr. Amy Bain won the Young Investigator Award at the National Lipid Association’s 2007 Scientific Sessions Meeting, which was held May 31 through June 3 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Dr. Bain, who is in her first year as an SOP pharmacotherapy specialty resident, competed against other medical and pharmacy residents and fellows from across the United States in a poster presentation of their original research. Dr. Bain received a plaque and $500 for her poster presentation, which was entitled, “A Multicenter Retrospective Study of the Lipid-Lowering Efficacy and Safety of Switching Within the NNRTI Class in HIV-infected Patients.”

Other co-investigators who deserve recognition for their contribution to this collaborative research project include Dr. Anita P. Rahman (Internal Medicine Specialty Resident); Dr. Kenna Payne (Pharmacotherapy Specialty Resident); Dr. Roger Bedimo, M.S. (Chief of ID from UTSW and Dallas VA Medical Center); Dr. Darego Maclayton (Texas Southern University); Michael Debakey (VA Medical Center in Houston); and Dr. Maria Rodriguez-Barradas (Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston).

SOP assistant professor Dr. Anthony J. Busti was the senior investigator and program director.

We also had three other residents who made presentations at this meeting. Dr. Busti said he received “a lot of unsolicited positive feedback from many thought leaders in the field of clinical lipidology after their poster presentations. These residents also deserve recognition for their great work and representation of our institutions.”

The group (and the title of their presentations) includes Dr. Anita Rahman (“A Retrospective Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Simvastatin in Treating Hyperlipidemia in HIV-infected Patients on Efavirenz Based HAART.”); Dr. Sean Nguyen (“A Multicenter Retrospective Study on the Clinical Efficacy and Safety on the Lipid Lowering Effects After a Switch to an Atazanavir/ritonavir Based HAART Regimen.”); and Dr. Susan Eaton (“The Efficacy of Pravastatin in Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor (NNRTI) and Protease Inhibitor (PI)-Based HAART in HIV-infected Patients.”);

Congratulations to Dr. Bain for her accomplishment and to Drs. Rahman, Eaton and Nguyen for the accolades they received from experts in the field of clinical lipidology.
Students Receive Scholarships from Various Organizations

Several students from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy have received scholarships recently.

P2 Karen Lucas was awarded a $1,000 Embarq/AUSA Scholarship. The scholarship is presented to active military and their dependents based upon academic achievement, community involvement and personal goals.

P1 Jill Keesee received the Children’s Medical Center of Dallas Scholarship. This $5,000-per-year scholarship also allows Jill to intern at CMC during the summers and complete many of her clerkships at the facility.

Jenna Hensley, who just completed her second year of pharmacy school, was awarded a $1,000 Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship.

In addition to the scholarship, Jenna will receive complimentary registration to the 2007 TPA Annual Meeting and Expo in Grapevine. She was chosen for this scholarship based upon her academic achievement and her potential to be a leader in Texas pharmacy.

Kathryn Calvo, P2, recently received renewal of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund award she received last year. She has received the maximum award - $5,000. Awards are based upon academic achievement, personal strengths, leadership and financial need.

Congratulations to each of these scholarship recipients!

SOP Professors Address International Audiences

One faculty researcher from TTUHSC – SOP recently conducted a seminar for colleagues from around the world while another traveled to China to make a presentation.

Dr. Jon Weidanz, assistant professor of department of pharmaceutical sciences and chief scientist for Receptor Logic, LTD in Amarillo, presented a seminar entitled, “Vaccine Development: What We Don’t Know,” at the International Meeting of Biotechnology Industrial Organization: Bench to Products Meeting May 6 - 9 in Boston.

The meeting sought to shed light on the myriad reasons why vaccines fail. Attendees also discussed what scientific tools are necessary to study further the mechanisms of vaccine failure and offered alternative approaches to vaccine design that may improve success rates.

Dr. Ming-Hai Wang, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and Amarillo Community Endowed Chair, traveled to the University School of Medicine in Hangzhou, China to give a talk entitled, “Novel receptor tyrosine kinases as therapeutical target in molecular cancer therapy.”

Dr. Wang made his presentation May 24 at an event celebrating Zhejiang University’s 110th anniversary.

Getting to Know...

Logan LaRue
Research Administrator
SOP Office of Research - Amarillo

Logan was born and raised in Dumas and is the baby out of three children. She graduated from Dumas High School in 2002 and continued her education at West Texas A&M University where she earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration with a minor in economics.

Logan is presently the research administrator for our Office of Research, but she has been with the TTUHSC family for five years. She has worked for the Harrington Library and she was also a student assistant for the information technology department while she attended college.

“I love my job and all the people I work with. Tech has given me continuous opportunities!”

Logan said she spends most of her free time with friends and family and enjoys playing the guitar and reading. She said she also “really enjoys traveling.” In fact, Logan recently took a vacation to Washington where she visited Seattle, the Olympic National Park and the beach.