



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
 School of Pharmacy™

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

From the **DEAN'S**
DESK



July-August 2007

White Coats and a Ribbon Cutting

The annual White Coat Ceremony in Amarillo, held this year on Aug. 5 at the Civic Center Grand Plaza, has become one of the best traditions here at the SOP and this year it took on added significance. For the first time, we welcomed students who will be attending classes at our new regional campus in Abilene. The Abilene ceremony took place Aug. 12 at the Paramount Theatre in Abilene and served as a prelude to a ribbon cutting ceremony held at our new regional campus building.



Courtney Duval receives her pharmacy jacket from Dr. Cynthia Raehl at the 2007 White Coat Ceremony in Amarillo.

main SOP campus in Amarillo, the Abilene regional campus will offer all four years of TTUHSC's Pharm. D. program. The Abilene campus will open with 40 students and will expand the overall TTUHSC-SOP class sizes from 90 students to



Cutting the ribbon at the new SOP Regional Campus building in Abilene.



The Abilene Regional Campus founding class poses after the 2007 White Coat Ceremony.

As most of you know, the White Coat Ceremony is an annual event for incoming first-year pharmacy students. The students receive their white pharmacy coats and recite the Oath of a Pharmacist for the first time. The event is part of our two-week "boot camp" for first-year students. The boot camp pre-

pares incoming students for their first year of classes and provides them with an overview of TTUHSC's four-year pharmacy program.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was a culmination of events that began in the fall of 2004 when Abilene Community Partners approached TTUHSC to explore the possibility of expanding the pharmacy program to their city. The Abilene group and TTUHSC-SOP worked together for the next year to develop an expansion plan, which the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved in January 2006.

Abilene joins Dallas-Fort Worth and Lubbock as TTUHSC - SOP regional campus sites. Like the

130 students. The Abilene program will be home to 160 students by the start of the 2010-2011 academic year; the founding class will graduate in May of 2011.

A big "thank you" to all those who were involved with planning and coordinating these events. As usual, everyone did a fantastic job!



The new SOP Regional Campus in Abilene.

SOP Faculty, Students Gather for Research Days

Faculty and student researchers from each of the SOP campus sites came to Amarillo Aug. 2-3 to participate in the SOP's Sixth Annual Research Days, which is an interdisciplinary forum designed to showcase research activities that have taken place at TTUHSC – SOP during the past year.

Research Days provides faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students an opportunity to exchange research ideas and interests and seeks to stimulate interdisciplinary



Dr. Kenneth W. Miller

collaborations between departments and schools. Dr. Kenneth W. Miller, senior vice president for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, was the keynote speaker for this year's event. Dr. Miller served as a member of the AACP Commission to Implement Change in Pharmaceutical Education from 1989-1992. Recommen-

dations made by that committee resulted in adoption of the single Doctor of Pharmacy degree for pharmacy. His research interests lie in the areas of drug metabolism and clinical pharmacokinetics.

As is the case every year, the highlight of Research Days was the poster presentation competition. This year we had 49 total posters;



Fancy Thomas (right) discusses her poster with Research Days judges Dr. Thomas Abruscato and Dr. Krystal Haase.

47 were entered into the competition and two were displayed as extra, non-judged posters highlighting additional research projects. All were very well prepared and presented. The winners of the 2007 poster competition included:

First Place – Nikhil Vad (mentored by Dr. Majid Moridani,

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo).

Second Place – Katie Bennett (mentored by Dr. Jim Stoll, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo).



Katie Bennett is all smiles as she receives second place for her Research Days poster.

Third Place – Bhakti Naik (mentored by Dr. Majid Moridani, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo).

Best Poster, Amarillo Biomedical Research Intern – Jennifer Markley.

Congratulations to the winners and to all those who participated in the competition, and thanks to the Office of Research for all the hard work they put in to make the event such a success!

TTUHSC Breaks Ground on Amarillo Research Center

Although the excavators have been hard at work for a while now, TTUHSC officially broke ground on the new Amarillo Research Center Aug. 23. The new building will be located west of the former Amarillo

clinic building site and south of the School of Medicine/Allied Health Sciences building.

The new 48,000 square-foot building is scheduled for completion in 14 months and is designed

to support additional research initiatives for TTUHSC in Amarillo. The facility will include open and closed laboratories and shared lab support resources.

Lavin Architects of Amarillo de-



Mike Ellicott, Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Construction, speaks at the ground breaking ceremony.

signed the facility and Western Builders of Amarillo will serve as the construction manager. The projected budget is \$18 million.



A drawing of the new Amarillo Research Building by Lavin Architects.

SOP Students Receive Scholarships

The American Business Women's Association-West Texas Catclaw Chapter awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Lori Law (P1 – Abilene). Lori was recognized at the chapter's Aug. 13 meeting.



Lori Law

In addition, the TTUHSC Office of Rural and Community Health

awarded \$4,000 renewable scholarships to five SOP candidates: Aaron Borden (P1 – Abilene); Amanda Spangler (P1 – Abilene); Roshni Patel (P1 – Amarillo); Amanda Klein (P1 – Amarillo); and Casey Henderson (P2 – Amarillo).

I want to congratulate each of these students and wish them nothing but success in their future academic endeavors.



Aaron Borden



Amanda Spangler



Roshni Patel



Amanda Klein



Casey Henderson

TPA Recognizes SOP Student



Joanna Cardiff

Joanna Cardiff (P2 – Amarillo) took 3rd place - Innovative Student Project Award in July at the Texas Pharmacist Association Annual Meeting in Grapevine. She received the award for her work with the Texas Panhandle Poison Center Puppet Show project, which illustrates the importance of poison prevention and awareness to elementary students.

Joanna worked in conjunction with TPPC and our APHA-ASP student chapter to promote poison awareness among area first-, second- and third-grade students and brought together more than 40 P1 students to present puppet shows to 18 elementary schools.

Great work, Joanna, and thanks to all of our students who gave their time to this worthy project!

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, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Introducing...

Christopher Adkins
Technician II
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Shari Morris
Senior Business Assistant
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Amanda Arambula
Coordinator, P3-P4 Clerkships
Office of Experiential Programs
Amarillo

Pradeep Selvaraj
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Lisa Brinn
Instructor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Abilene

Angela Sims
Analyst II
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Quamrun Masuda
Academic Instructor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Amanda Whiteside
Technician III
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Harold Miller
Associate Professor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Abilene

Please take a moment to welcome each of these individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.



A Tribute to Our Crystal APPLE Award Winners

Dr. Cynthia Raehl (standing, center) and I had the honor of posing for a photo with our AACP Crystal Apple Award winners: Dr. Shane Greene, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Ft. Worth (standing, right); Dr. Cynthia Foslien-Nash, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Ft.Worth and Clinical Programs Manager-VA North Texas Health Care System (seated, left); and Dr. Craig Cox, Asst. Professor and Vice Chair for Experiential Programs, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock.

The SOP's affiliation with the North Texas VA Medical Center received this prestigious award at the AACP annual meeting in Orlando. Our continued collaboration with the North Texas VAMC in practice and education is a foundational relationship for TTUHSC's success in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This award will bring national recognition to North Texas VAMC and the SOP and speaks to the quality of our partnership.

At the same meeting, Dr. Raehl was installed as AACP president and Dr. Paul Lockman (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) received an AACP National Teaching Innovation Award for his computerized competency-based modular approach to teaching anatomy.

In Case You Missed It...

Here are some items regarding SOP students, faculty and staff you may have missed:

- Dr. Richard Leff (SOP Regional Dean – Dallas/Ft. Worth) recently received a very complimentary letter from Dr. Frances C. Morriss (Chair, Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee – Children's Medical Center of Dallas) regarding Hui Kang, Pharm.D. (Class of 2007). The letter reads:

"As Chair of Children's Medical Center of Dallas (Children's) Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee (P&T), I had the opportunity to observe a presentation made by Hui Kang. She presented a monograph on Cinacalcet (Sensipar®). Hui's presentation was professional and the information provided was excellent. She was able to field questions from Medical Staff Committee members ad hoc.

"This group (P&T) can be intimidating and Hui did a marvelous job. Your program is to be commended for the excellent future pharmacists it is producing and of which Hui is a stellar example."

Great job Hui!

- Dr. Jon Weidanz (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Abilene) recently participated in the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies meeting June 7-11 in San Diego. His presentation was entitled, *"Improving Targeted Immunotherapy Through Direct Validation of Peptide-MHC Epitopes Using TCRm Antibodies."*

- Dr. Ming-Hai Wang (Professor and Amarillo Community Endowed Chair, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) was an invited speaker June 29 at Pfizer in San Diego. His presentation was entitled, *"RON receptor as therapeutic target for epithelial cancers: rationale and progress."* Dr. Wang served as a representative for TTUHSC at the meeting and summarized our ongoing research.

- Cristie Barkley, R.N., who joined the Texas Panhandle Poison Center staff in 2005, was recently notified that she passed the Specialist in Poison Information exam which she took in May. Her title now becomes Certified Specialist in Poison Information. Congratulations Cristie!

Getting to Know...

Holly Hoffman-Roberts, Pharm.D.

Assistant Professor

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Ft. Worth

Holly grew up in Cross Plains, Wisconsin where she lived with her parents and two older brothers. She attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison and received her BS degree in Zoology. She then started her southward journey and moved to Chicago where she attended the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Pharmacy.

After earning her Pharm.D., Holly completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency in Omaha at the University of Nebraska and then embarked upon a two-year Infectious Diseases Fellowship at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Once she concluded her training, Holly took her first faculty position at the University of Okla-

homa in Oklahoma City where she remained for five years. In Oklahoma City Holly met her Sooner husband, Scott Roberts, and also developed a fondness for OU foot-



Holly Hoffman-Roberts and her husband, Mike, pose during a 2005 trip to Italy.

ball. "Of course, the UW Badgers will always be more important, but as long as they don't play each other, I can cheer for both!"

Scott is a software developer who has his own business. Holly says Scott "has the luxury of avoiding Dallas traffic by working from home." Scott and Holly have been married for two years and have a yellow Labrador retriever named Duchess.

In her spare time Holly enjoys gourmet cooking, baking, cake decorating and gardening. She enjoys spending time outdoors and runs everyday with Duchess. Scott and Holly also like to travel and spend time at Lake Texoma where Scott's parents have a lake house.