White Coat Ceremony Welcomes Class of 2012

The SOP Class of 2012 took center stage when we held our annual White Coat Ceremony in Abilene and Amarillo.

The Abilene ceremony took place Aug. 3 at the Paramount Theatre. The event in Amarillo was held Aug. 10 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

The White Coat Ceremony is where we officially present our incoming students with their white pharmacy coats and where they recite the “Oath of a Pharmacist” for the first time.

The students also sign the Pharmacist Code of Ethics, which states the roles and responsibilities of the pharmacist. The code forms the basis for our students’ interactions with patients and colleagues, not only during their years in our program, but also when they graduate and enter the profession.

The ceremony serves as an early induction into the pharmacy profession for our students. It is an important part of our eight-day “boot camp,” which helps prepare our new students for their first year of classes and provides them with an overview of TTUHSC’s four-year pharmacy program.

The white coat is a symbol of health care providers and encompasses all aspects of pharmacy practice and the provisions of pharmaceutical care.

The “Oath of a Pharmacist” was adopted by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in 1983 and is based upon the “Oath of Maimonides.”

This year’s events were sponsored by CVS/Caremark.
D/FW Campus Celebrates Expansion

In August we celebrated the addition of new facilities for our Dallas/Fort Worth regional campus with a grand opening and dedication ceremony.

TTUHSC President Dr. John Baldwin and Dr. Richard Leff, D/FW Regional Dean were among those who addressed the more than 50 people who dropped by for a look at the new location.

The event took place inside the new facilities, which are housed on the fourth floor of the Southwest Professional Building at 5920 Forest Park Road in Dallas.

The 9,300 square-foot space provides us with the capacity to host more students in the Metroplex—up to 72 per class—with a state-of-the-art classroom, small group rooms, more faculty offices and research labs. It also gives our students and faculty better access to the Dallas Medical Center and several important SOP partners such as Children’s Medical Center, Parkland Hospital and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

The Dallas VA Medical Center is also a critical partner for our Metroplex programs and we will continue to maintain our campus at Dallas VAMC.

Grad Student Organizes Run in Father’s Memory

Inspired by a personal loss, SOP graduate student Erica Wisdom organized a 15K run on July 12 to raise money for mental health awareness and the event was a huge success.

“We raised $1,000 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness,” Erica said. “This race was a memorial for my dad, Oscar Baeza, who we lost to suicide on December 18, 2002 and whose birthday was on July 14.

“The reason for the race was to raise awareness for all of these mental ailments and I am not ashamed of it. If there is anyone out there who can be helped by our work, then it’s worth it.”

The run started at the north rim of the Palo Duro Canyon in Armstrong County and stretched 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) to the south rim.

“It was a very challenging course because of the heat and with a 10 percent grade hill at the beginning and another at the end that spanned 1.2 miles,” Erica said. “We had hot dogs after the race and awards for the overall male and female as well as age group winners.”

Erica said the event included 88 registered runners who came from as far away as Omaha, Nebraska and Dallas, Burleson and Paris, Texas.

“We also had runners from many local towns like Childress, Amarillo, Stratford, Vega, Panhandle, Canyon and Hereford.”

Erica said two of her fellow grad students—Katie Bennett and Imam Shaik—graciously donated their time to help with the event.

“Dr. Abbruscato (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences) ran in the race and placed second in his age group. We also had one summer intern and two grad students run in the three-person relay where each leg ran five kilometers (3.1 miles).”
TTUHSC-SOP residents kicked off the new academic year in July with a residency workshop at the Dallas/Fort Worth campus.

The workshop, under the direction of Residency Program Vice Chair Dr. Sara Brouse, is designed to provide formal education and discussions about problem-based learning, precepting and research/IRB considerations along with networking and team-building opportunities.

This year our residents will receive diverse training opportunities through 18 unique pharmacy practice and specialty programs located in each of our campus communities. Since 1997, more than 120 residents have successfully completed training.

This year’s 23 residents, including their program-campus sites and the school from which they received their Pharm.D.:

- Shanika Beatty, Community Pharmacy – Amarillo, Xavier University (LA) College of Pharmacy
- Julie Capper, Pharmacy Practice – Abilene, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
- Michalea Daggett, Pharmacotherapy – Lubbock, University of Houston College of Pharmacy
- Samuel Evang, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, Albany (NY) College of Pharmacy
- Abimbola Farinde, Psychiatry – D/FW, Texas Southern University
- Christopher Giuliano, Pharmacotherapy – Amarillo, University of Toledo
- Katie Hazlewood, Critical Care – D/FW, University of Oklahoma HSC
- Gary Jean, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, TTUHSC-SOP
- Sherry Lagueur, Pharmacology Practice – Lubbock, Texas Southern University
- Young Ran Lee, Critical Care – D/FW, Western University (CA) Health Sciences School of Pharmacy
- Tara Loan, Pharmacotherapy – Lubbock, Drake University College of Pharmacy
- Monique Lopes-Serrao, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy
- Elizabeth Marsh, Pharmacy Practice – Abilene, University of Texas College of Pharmacy and University of Texas HSC at San Antonio
- LaTonya Menefee, Geriatrics – D/FW, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Jessica Njoku, Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock, TTUHSC-SOP
- Alison O’Brien, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, University of Houston College of Pharmacy
- Saguna Patel, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, University of Texas College of Pharmacy
- Penny Sitka, Community Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo, TTUHSC-SOP
- Lauren Snodgrass, Ambulatory Care – D/FW, University of Oklahoma HSC
- Chris Tawwater, Pharmacotherapy – Amarillo, TTUHSC-SOP
- Katura Thomas, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, Xavier University (LA) College of Pharmacy
- Anesia Zeller, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW, University of California, San Diego.

Camp Introduces High School Students to Pharmacy

This summer the SOP’s Abilene regional campus held its first Raider Red Pharmacy Camp for high school students who had completed their junior or senior years. The 21 students who attended the camp came from large cities like Houston and Lubbock and small communities like Clyde, Merkel and Spearman.

The five-day camp featured numerous educational activities, including field trips to the Receptor Logic research laboratory, James McCoy’s Drug Store and the Hendrick Medical Center. Campers also made lip balm and cold cream in a compounding lab, learned about animal research, took a crash course in deciphering prescriptions and participated in a scavenger hunt for over-the-counter medications and remedies at Wal-Mart.

These activities allowed campers to interact TTUHSC-SOP faculty and at least a dozen other pharmacists and practitioners.

The camp was made possible through the support of the James A. “Buddy” Davidson Charitable Foundation and several other organizations, including Big Country Area Health Education Center, First Financial Bank, Wal-Mart Pharmacy, CVS/pharmacy, Walgreens, Hendrick Medical Center, James McCoy Drug Store, West Texas Rehab and HEB.

A Raider Red camper at work in the SOP Abilene campus lab.
**From the Dean’s Desk**

**July - August 2008**

**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 TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to all four of our campus sites 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:

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TTUHSC-SOP/Amarillo
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**IMLS Selects Texas Pharmacy Museum**

The Texas Pharmacy Museum, located at the SOP’s main campus in Amarillo, was recently selected as one of 776 museums, libraries and archives to receive the Connecting to Collections Bookshelf from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Bookshelf contents were selected by a blue ribbon panel of conservation experts and includes an essential set of books, online resources and a user’s guide that can profoundly affect the ability of small libraries and museums to care for their collections.

According to IMLS Director Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, the bookshelf “provides museums, libraries, and archives essential instructions on how to rescue treasures of yesterday that they hold in trust. These Bookshelves, once they are all distributed, will touch institutions around the nation.”

The 776 bookshelf recipients represent every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. Recipients are located in 327 of the nation’s 435 congressional districts.

The IMLS Bookshelf was made possible by a cooperative agreement with the American Association for State and Local History with support from the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. It is part of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a strategic initiative by IMLS to address the challenges described in A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America’s Collections.

The report concluded that: 190 million objects need conservation treatment; 65 percent of collecting institutions have damaged collections due to improper storage; 80 percent of collecting institutions lack an emergency plan for their collections and trained staff to carry it out; and 40 percent of institutions have no funds allocated in their annual budget for preservation and conservation.

Most recipients have small budgets and staff, and have demonstrated an urgent need for this permanent resource. History museums, historic houses and academic libraries with special collections are especially well represented among the recipients. Ten zoos, aquaria, botanical gardens and nature centers are also represented.

Ten art museums with Kress Collection items will also receive the bookshelf.

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**In Case You Missed It...**

- Dr. Cynthia Raehl (Chair and Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo) was recognized July 21 for her successful term as President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy at the President’s Reception, which was held as part of the AACP Annual Meeting in Chicago.

- Dr. Krystal Edwards (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - D/FW) has been announced as the chair-elect for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s Endocrine and Metabolism Practice and Research Network. She will officially take office at the ACCP annual meeting in October.

- Dr. Ron Hall (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Fort Worth) has been selected to receive the Young Alumni of the Year award from his alma mater, the St Louis College of Pharmacy. He will receive the award Oct 3-4 “on the banks of the Mississippi.”
• Amarillo P2 Keith Holguin has been awarded the Michael Patry Memorial Scholarship by the El Paso chapter of the TSHP Research and Education Foundation. The scholarship is designated for a TTUHSC-SOP student from the El Paso area who has achieved good academic standing and has demonstrated leadership qualities.

• Amarillo P1 Omar (O.J.) Martinez has been awarded a $5,000 scholarship by the Lucille and Edward R. Roybal Foundation. The Roybal Foundation Scholarship Program provides scholarships to students who are pursuing public health careers and who wish to serve low-income Spanish-speaking and/or other low-income communities.

• Amarillo graduate students Kaci Bohn and Lloyd Alfonso have each received $525 travel scholarships.

Kaci Bohn

Lloyd Alfonso

Kaci will attend Neuroscience 2008, the 38th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience scheduled for Nov. 15 - 19 in Washington, DC. She will join scientists from around the world to exchange ideas and information addressing the diverse field of neuroscience.

Lloyd will attend the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists 2008 Annual Meeting Nov. 16-20 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The meeting provides a dynamic international forum for the exchange of knowledge among scientists to enhance their contributions to health.

• Seven SOP students recently received a $4,000 renewable scholarship from TTUHSC’s F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health.

The group includes Amarillo P1 Tausha Kemp, Amarillo P2 Tyler Wood, Abilene P1s Cristalyn Sageser, Ben Sherman, Lance Trojacek and Krista Wilcoxon and Abilene P2 Heather Cave.

A key element of the scholarship program is to emphasize the provision of rural-focused experiences outside the classroom setting. Scholarship recipients participate in a wide range of rural-focused educational and community service activities to foster their development as rural health professionals.

• Tony Edgar (P2-Amarillo) and Kyla Hoover Attebury (P3 – Lubbock) were recently awarded $1,250 scholarships by the Helen Hodges Educational Charitable Trust. Toni and Kyla competed with graduate students enrolled in all disciplines at TTUHSC and received these scholarships based upon their academic achievements, personal goal essays and interviews with foundation trustees.

Toni is also one of six pharmacy students nationwide to be selected for a $1,000 scholarship from the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Foundation. The eligibility requirements include academic achievement, leadership ability, involvement in the professional aspects of the Kappa Psi Chapter and participation in community service activities.

• Dallas/Fort Worth P3 James Lee was selected from hundreds of applicants to participate in the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Externship Program (JRCOSTEP) this past summer. As a participant in the program, James spent most of his internship based in Washington, DC. He was commissioned as an Ensign (O-1) and worked in the same Federal agencies and programs as fully Commissioned Corps officers.

Lori Law, P2-Abilene, was awarded a $1,000 scholarship by the American Business Women’s Association Cat Claw Chapter. She was selected for her academic achievement, strength of character and evidence of personal and professional goals for the future.

Lori Law

Tyler Wood

Heather Cave

Tony Edgar

Kyla Hoover

Lori Law

James Lee
From the Dean’s Desk

July - August 2008

SOP Photo Gallery

GUNS UP!
TTUHSC-SOP was well represented at the AACP Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The Center for Teaching & Learning with Technology staff are in dire need of Red Sox gear. From left: Stevie Rozzell, Garry Rogers and Dr. Patrick King.

Amarillo P1 Jessica Andrade receives her white coat from SOP chair and professor Dr. Roland Patry.

Dr. Deetra Craddock discusses a case study with students at our new D/FW regional campus site. From left: Sarah Villarreal, Austin Dorsey, Dale Williams, Courtney LaGrone, and Jennifer Montoya.

TTU Foundation board member Gary Collins (left) chats with SOP assistant professor Dr. Ron Hall at the grand opening of our new D/FW regional campus facilities.

I had the pleasure of visiting with TSHP President Mike Sanborn (center left) and SOP friends Doyle and Betty High at the 20th reunion of the Texas Pharmacy Congress.

Getting to Know...

Thomas Parker, Pharm.D.
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo

Thomas grew up in the Midwest, mostly in Ohio and West Virginia. After high school he studied materials engineering at the University of Florida and says he is “still a big Gators fan.”

After college, Thomas worked in Florida until 1993 when he moved to Dallas/Fort Worth. He eventually enrolled at the University of North Texas and earned a second degree—this one in chemistry—in 1998.

“That’s when I met my wife, Sandy, and we have been married since 2000,” Thomas says. “We have two children: two-year old Gabrielle Elizabeth and five-month old Zachary Michael. We also have a dog named Alli Gator.”

Thomas earned his Pharm.D. here at TTUHSC-SOP in 2005 and completed a Pediatric Specialty Residency here in 2006. He also joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice-Pediatrics division in ’06.


During his spare time, Thomas says he enjoys “keeping up with my children.” His hobbies include reading and playing an occasional round of golf.