

PharmNews

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Celebration of Achievement

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Class of 2015 receive awards at graduation

For the first time since 2002, the School of Pharmacy held its commencement ceremonies in Amarillo. This year, eleven individual awards were presented to members of the Class of 2015. Jordan Burdine received The Bowl of Hygieia, awarded to a graduating Doctor of Pharmacy candidate who best exemplifies the qualities most desirable in a pharmacist, including leadership, high ethical standards, dedication and promotion of the pharmacy profession. The Bowl of Hygieia symbolizes pure and potent medicines and is an internationally recognized symbol for the pharmacy profession.

Steven Willis had the highest cumulative grade point average for the Class of 2015, earning him recognition as the Banner Bearer for the commencement exercises.

Other honorees included Telyssa Anderson (Wolters Kluwer Excellence in Clinical Communication Award); Jessica Hunter (SOP Geriatrics Award); Michelle Castelli (TTUHSC Pharmacy Communication Award); Burdine (TTUHSC Pharmacy Patient Care Award and SOP Pediatrics Award); Saeed Alzghari (Teva USA Outstanding Student Award); Julianne Yeary (Eli Lilly Achievement Award); Kyla Reed (Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award); and Samantha Olsen (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition).

The Class of 2015 also presented its award for the Most Influential Professor to Kenna Payne, Pharm.D., an assistant professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice. In addition, SOP Dean Quentin Smith, Ph.D., honored retiring SOP Founding Dean Arthur Nelson, R.Ph., Ph.D., as a Professor Emeritus and recognized retiring founding faculty member Sherida Nelson, R.Ph., for her years of outstanding service to TTUHSC and the SOP.

Amarillo SOP hosts Fourteenth Annual Research Days

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Pharmacy in Amarillo played host to scientists and researchers from across the country at its **Fourteenth Annual Research Days Symposium** June 11-12 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Edward A. Neuwelt, M.D., was the keynote speaker June 11. Neuwelt is a professor for the blood brain barrier and neuro-oncology program and the department of neurology and neurosurgery at Oregon Health & Science University. His presentation was titled, Drug & Biomarker Development on a Redox Platform.

Kenneth Tew, Ph.D., D.Sc., served as the June 12 keynote speaker. Tew is professor and chairman for the John C. West Chair of Cancer Research and the development cancer therapeutics program leader for the Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. His presentation was titled, Current Status and Future Directions of Delivery Across the BBB: Challenges and Advances.

The event was highlighted by the annual research poster competition,

which this year featured more than 65 entries prepared by School of Pharmacy students, graduate students and residents.

Poster presentation winners in the resident category included Courtney Givens, Pharm.D., Joshua Koontz, Pharm.D., and Maegan Patterson, Pharm.D. Junior and senior graduate student winners included Benard Ogola, Md. Abdul Kaisar, Neel Fofaria and Suresh Voruganti. Winners in the research associate and postdoctoral research associate categories included Jiang-Jiang Qin, Michael Melkus, Vikram Mavinkurve and Robin Rajan.

Research Days is an interdisciplinary forum showcasing the pharmacy school's research activities during the past year. It provides the school's faculty, postdoctoral fellows, residents and students an **opportunity to exchange research ideas and interests** and to discuss potential interdisciplinary collaborations between the school's departments and campuses.

OUTSTANDING SOP MEMEBERS

Celebration of Achievement

The School of Pharmacy held its 2014-2015 Celebration of Achievement program April 24 in the Pharmacy Academic Center. The annual event recognizes the many student organization accomplishments from the academic year and announces the winners of the faculty member of the year, the faculty teaching teams of the year and the outstanding staff member.

Faculty and staff honorees from the Amarillo campus included Nikita Mirajkar, Ph.D., as Teacher of the Year for the first-year (P1) and P2 students; Anna Karamyan, Ph.D., as a member of the Drug Delivery Systems team (P1 Teaching Team of the Year); Xinli Liu, Ph.D., and Krystal Haase, Pharm.D., as members of the Infectious Diseases Team (P2 Teaching Team of the Year); Kalkunte Srivenugopal, Ph.D., and Ming-Hai Wang, Ph.D., as members of the Oncology Team (P3 Teaching Team of the Year); Sanjay Srivastava, Ph.D., (Graduate Faculty Mentor of the Year); James Stoll, Ph.D., (Graduate Student Teacher of the Year); Ulrich Bickel, Ph.D., Luca Cucullo, Ph.D., Vardan Karamyan, Ph.D., Kalkunte Srivenugopal, Ph.D., and Margaret Weis, Ph.D., as members of the Physiology-Based Pharmacology Team (Graduate Student Teaching Team of the Year); and Jean Haynes (Excellence in Staff Services).



Pharmacy students bring home TPA award, scholarship

For the second consecutive year, the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy student body won the Texas Pharmacy Association's (TPA) Canned Food Drive contest by collecting the most donations per student than any other Texas pharmacy school. Several students from the school were in attendance when the award was presented in April at the TPA Leadership Symposium in Austin. "This amazing accomplishment would not have been possible without the incredible effort put forth by all the students and faculty of the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy," second-year pharmacy student Shelby Anderson said. "Our TPA chapter partnered with Kappa Psi to put on this event and it would not have been successful without their huge contribution and effort. "We also send **a big thank you to all the faculty** who allowed our students to attend this event and represent TTUHSC. Thank you all again for your hard work in making a difference in the Amarillo, Dallas, Lubbock and Abilene communities." In addition, TPA awarded rising Dallas P4

Eva Coulson its 2015 Texas Pharmacy Foundation Robert Clayton Scholarship. Clayton was a consultant pharmacist and certified diabetes educator who died in a car accident on his way to an American Pharmacists Association conference. He was also an active leader for TPA and what was then known as the Consultant Pharmacists section. Clayton Scholarship recipients must be enrolled in an accredited Texas college of pharmacy and entering their second, third or fourth professional years with a minimum 2.5 GPA and a demonstrated involvement in pharmacy school and community activities. The recipient must also be a TPA student member and show interest in practicing consultant pharmacy related to long-term care, assisted living or mental health facilities, or in pharmacy practice career involving the treatment of geriatric patients.



'Warm Amarillo' project a success

SOP staff and students collected scarves, hats, gloves, etc. to distribute to Amarillo's homeless community.

Taking their cue from other larger cities that have organized similar efforts, personnel from the School of Pharmacy led a campus-wide **effort to collect adult men's and women's scarves, gloves and hats** to place in Ellwood park for Amarillo's homeless to take as needed. After two weeks of collecting the items, SOP staff members took the items to Ellwood Park Feb. 20. "The Amarillo winters can be brutal, and what better way to offer a helping hand

than by donating a new or gently used scarf, hat or gloves to someone that can truly use them," SOP Senior Analyst Janea Robinson said. "This was a chance to **truly make a difference** in a stranger's life."

FIMRC

FIMRC holds Fourth Annual 3-on-3 basketball tourney



POSTER AWARD

Grad Student earns poster award

Pooja Naik, a research assistant in Dr. Luca Cucullo's lab, recently received the Graduate Student Best Abstract Award for 2015 FROM the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin (ASIO). For her accomplishment, Naik brought home a plaque and a check from the ASIO reception held March 23 during the Society of Toxicology (SOT) 54th Annual Meeting in San Diego. The award is presented to students whose work supports toxicology research and is made possible by an ASIO Special Interest Group student award endowment fund established with SOT.

SOP recognizes preceptors

Students, faculty and staff from the School of Pharmacy hosted a Preceptor Appreciation event March 24 in the Pharmacy Academic Center. Attendees enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres and watched a screening of *The Adventures of Interprofessional Precepting*, the second installment of the innovative CE mini-series produced by the SOP's Office of Experiential Programs.



Wei Wang American Cancer Society grant

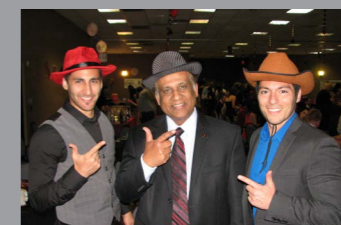
In April, SOP researcher Wei Wang, Ph.D., was awarded a four-year, \$792,000 grant from the American Cancer Society for her research project, titled, "Targeting MDM2 Oncogene to Treat Breast Cancer." Wang is a research assistant professor for the department of pharmaceutical sciences in Amarillo.

The American Cancer Society, the largest non-government, not-for-profit funding source of cancer research in the United States, awarded 100 national research and training grants totaling more than \$45.6 million in

the first of two grant cycles for 2015. The grants will fund investigators at 63 institutions across the United States; 92 are new grants and eight are renewals of previous grants. The grants, including Wang's, go into effect July 1.



Casino Night by SOP's Phi Delta Chi raises \$3,272 for St. Jude





Students advance to state competition

The SOP's student chapter of the Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) conducted its annual school-wide Patient Counseling Competition in May. Rising Amarillo P4 Diane Mechelay took home top honors and a \$200 prize. Second-place and \$150 went to rising Dallas P3 Michael Thatcher and rising Lubbock P4 Anje Mari Juan earned third place and \$100. The trio represented the school July 10-12 at the 2015 TPA Conference and Expo July 10-12 in The Woodlands, Texas.



2015 Research Days Pictures



Gupta Named Outstanding GSBS student

The TTUHSC Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) has named Nilesh Gupta, a Ph.D. student for the School of Pharmacy's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, as its 2014-2015 Outstanding Graduate Student. As this year's honoree, Gupta will be the speaker May 9 at the GSBS convocation.

Gupta **received the award** based on his excellence in educational merit, his contributions to the laboratory and/or department in which he worked, his contributions to TTUHSC and its students, his receipt of research funding and/or scholarships, his community service and the awards he received during the academic year.

Gupta published four first-authored papers and a textbook chapter. He was also first co-author for one published paper and has published various other papers with all of his current and past co-workers. He received **numerous awards** and scholarships during the year, and several national and international bodies on inhalation drug delivery have recognized his work on the cellular delivery system and invited him to make oral presentations at their meetings.

Gupta successfully defended his dissertation October 7 and he will receive his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences at the May 9 commencement. He completed his research project in the lab of Fakhru Ahsan, Ph.D.



Five students earn Dean's Student Leadership Award

Five SOP students received the Dean's Student Leader of the Quarter Award during the 2014-2015 academic year.

During the fall semester, fourth-year (P4) students Saeed Alzghari, Austin Ballew and Dwaine Fombuh shared the award for the **Abilene campus**. Amarillo P4 Katie Steele and Dallas P4 Jordan Burdine received the award during the spring semester for their respective campuses.

The quarterly award **recognizes students** whose behavior inspires and mobilizes other students to achieve extraordinary things within their community or on their campus.



SOP Student receives ASHP Leadership Award



The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) recently named Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Jordan Burdine as one of 12 pharmacy students from across the country to receive an ASHP Leadership Award for 2014-2015.

ASHP and the ASHP Research and

Education Foundation sponsor the Student Leadership Award Program. The award recognizes students with an interest in health-system pharmacy practice and who have demonstrated leadership ability. It also celebrates the contributions of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members. ASHP offers up to twelve awards annually and only pharmacy students in the second through fourth professional years are eligible to apply. This year, Burdine was one of only four P4 students to receive the honor, which includes a plaque, an ASHP drug reference library and \$2,000.

"I am **very honored and grateful** to have been selected to receive this award," Burdine said. "It truly means so much to be recognized as one of four P4 students in the nation to receive it and to be recognized as a student who has made an impact on moving the profession forward.

"I would like to thank my friend and classmate Telyssa Anderson for believing in my leadership abilities and nominating me for this prestigious award, as well as Dr. Sherry Luedtke and Dr. Jill Frost for their letters of support for this nomination."

Burdine joined the organization in her P1 year through her membership in the Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TTSSHP). During her time at the SOP, she has served as TTSSHP immediate-past president (P4 year), president (P3) and president-elect (P2).

Burdine was also TTSSHP's community service and fundraising coordinator for all four SOP campuses during her P2 year and she has served in various other capacities for ASHP and the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Following her graduation in May, Burdine will pursue a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at the West Virginia University Healthcare in Morgantown, West Virginia. Upon completing her PGY1 residency, she will seek to continue her training through a PGY2 residency in pediatrics.

"I hope to become a board certified pediatric pharmacy specialist and practice as a clinical pediatric pharmacy specialist in a neonatal intensive care unit," Burdine added. "In addition to my clinical practice, **I also plan to continue my involvement in pharmacy organizations** on local, state and national levels to promote our profession. As the only student from Texas to be recognized this year, I hope I am able to be a positive representation of the amazing works students are accomplishing for health-system pharmacy, as well as the strong student leadership at TTUHSC."



SOP grad students earn awards

Alok Ranjan and Mohammad Rashedul 'Rashed' Islam, Ph.D. candidates for the **School of Pharmacy's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences**, received travel awards from Amgen to attend the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists National Biotechnology Conference June 8-10 in San Francisco. Ranjan is a research assistant for Sanjay Srivastava, Ph.D. Islam works as a research assistant for Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D.

Ranjan also received a Young Investigator Award from the American Association of Indian Scientists in Cancer Research (AAISCR) April 20 at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the AAISCR in Philadelphia during the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting.

In addition, Ranjan was selected through the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Awards Committee to receive the **2015 Syngenta Fellowship Award** in Human Health Applications of New Technologies. The award included a plaque; \$15,000 in fellowship funds; travel to the 2015 SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo March 22-26 in San Diego to accept the award; and travel to a Syngenta site to present his results.



Dallas student organizes community outreach project

As she prepares for her final year of training at the School of Pharmacy (SOP) campus in Dallas, fourth-year (P4) student Cindy Adibe will have a tough time matching her own efforts as a P3 student.

During her P2 year in Amarillo, Adibe volunteered at the local Boys & Girls Club every Friday as a hip-hop dance instructor. She helped the children learn a dance routine they eventually performed with some Kappa Psi members in February 2014 in a dance video. Teaching the dance classes gave Adibe the idea to start another project through the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) student organization that she called **Let the Music Move You!**

Once she arrived in Dallas during the summer of 2014, Adibe started seriously planning the project as a way to reach out to underserved children in the Dallas area. First, she formed a planning committee that included SOP students Lida Bineshian, Ivana Bogdanich, Vi Bui, Jasmine Carter, Tenebeb Denboba, Houda El-Fakir, Ola Fagbohun, Charity Thebe, and HaiYen Vo.

Next, the committee began connecting with pharmacy students from the University of North Texas, medical students from UT-Southwestern, dental students from Baylor University and several other undergraduate students in the Dallas area, all of who volunteered to participate in the event. Lastly, Adibe followed up that effort by bringing together three SOP student entities — APhA-ASP, Kappa Psi and the Texas Tech Pediatric Pharmacy Group — and in November, the Dallas campus hosted its first **Let the Music Move You!** Health Fair at the East Dallas Boys & Girls Club.

"The health fair was inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative that raises awareness for the epidemic of childhood obesity," Adibe explained.

During the health fair, students spoke to the children about smoking cessation, medication safety, health, fitness, and

their future careers. In addition, the pharmacy students and TTUHSC preceptors conducted BMI checks and administered flu shots donated by Walgreens. CVS also made a generous monetary donation for the event.

"I led the kids in a fun fitness dance competition and was even joined by some pharmacy and medical students," Adibe recalled. "Several companies donated gift cards and raffle prizes for participants and the winner of the dance competition was able to choose one of the grand prize raffle gifts. The Boys & Girls Club donated two mountain bikes to the raffle and the children were given free meals and sent home with goody bags for participating. All in all, the event was a huge success, and we were able to positively impact the lives of kids in the community. **We look forward to doing it all again next year!**"

Adibe said the event would not have been possible without the support it received from SOP faculty members Deetra Craddock, Pharm.D., Cole Kildow, Pharm.D., and Monica Mathys, Pharm.D.; staff member Noel Garcia; and residents Joy Brodrick, Pharm.D., Barakha Yadav, Pharm.D., Elizabeth Lee, Pharm.D., Norman Mang, Pharm.D., and Marcus Kouma, Pharm.D.; and Dallas-area pharmacist Megan Kildow, Pharm.D.

For all of her work on the **Let the Music Move You!** project, and for all of her other accomplishments as a P2-P3 student, Adibe was presented the prestigious One for All Award in November at Kappa Psi's Fall Province. This award includes a \$250 scholarship and is given to one member from each Kappa Psi region that displays dedication and commitment to the organization by demonstrating outstanding professionalism, philanthropy and impact on their chapter. Adibe is also one of just 17 health care students from across Texas to receive a \$6,000 St. David's Medical Center Healthcare Volunteer Scholarship for the 2015-16 academic year.



SOP represented at TSHP Annual Meeting

Several School of Pharmacy representatives received awards in May at the Texas Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists' (TSHP) 67th Annual Seminar in San Antonio. Student honorees included Jordan Light and Olga Shvarts from the Dallas campus, winners of the P4 Clinical Skills Competition, and Abilene P4 Saeed Alzghari, recipient of the Glenda Lawson McRee Student Award. In addition, Lubbock campus Assistant Professor Janie Robles, Pharm.D., received the Lewis S. Smith Practitioner Award and Sidney Phillips, Pharm.D., (Class of 2001) was installed as TSHP president-elect. Former SOP faculty member Shane Greene, Pharm.D., was also installed as TSHP president.

Retraction: In our previous issue the statement that Rebecca Sleeper, Pharm.D., was promoted from Assistant to Associate professor is incorrect. Sleeper was promoted to Full Professor.

Abilene staff member recognized by TTUHSC

Ruth Austin, senior analyst for finance and administration for the SOP in Abilene, has been named a recipient of a 2015 TTUHSC Distinguished Staff Award. Austin was one of 11 staff to receive the award in the Quality Staff category. TTUHSC President Tedd Mitchell, M.D., made the announcement May 11.




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