

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

TTUHSC.EDU/PHARMACY



STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The 2024 Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) Conference and Expo proved to be successful for many TTUHSC-SOP students. Taygan Henderson, Chloe Grabenhorst, Hannah Gorczyca and Afsana Musharof teamed up to win first place in the State Championship of the Student Pharmacist Self-Care Competition. Musharof and Grace Onaiwu took top awards in the Student Patient Counseling Competition and Musharof and Duke Cullins both received scholarships from TPA. Irina Gradinaru, Janelle Agolue, Michayla Harris, Senco Selimovic, Mackenzie Gunn and Sritej Veeramachaneni all presented posters during the event.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear SOP Team Members, Students, Alumni, and Friends,
In this newsletter issue, you will read about community services and outstanding accomplishments from our team members, alumni and students, including championship at competitions and community services across West and North Texas. The start of the academic year has been celebratory as the School welcomes the Class of 2028, including our inaugural cohort of Pioneer (hybrid) Pathway students. Hope y'all enjoy fall festivities!

—Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD



NEW STUDENTS WELCOMED AT WHITE COAT CEREMONIES

We had the pleasure of welcoming 119 incoming first-year students from the Class of 2028 at annual White Coat ceremonies on the Dallas, Amarillo and Abilene campuses in August and September

The Dallas ceremony was held on August 3 at the Dallas Scottish Rite Library and Museum.

The Amarillo ceremony took place on August 10 at the Sybil B. Harrington Auditorium on the TTUHSC Amarillo campus.

The Abilene Ceremony was held on August 11 at the Historic Paramount Theatre.

On September 27, we had the privilege of hosting a White Coat ceremony for our inaugural cohort of Pioneer Pathway students. The Pioneer Pathway is a groundbreaking learning approach that integrates online, immersive and experiential learning – offering a flexible, accessible, and affordable option for aspiring student pharmacists.

During each event, students received their traditional white coat, one of the most visible symbols of the health care profession. Receiving the white coat is a reminder of the commitment our students make to an honorable and trusted profession, and it marks the beginning of their four-year pharmacy school journey.



TTUHSC RECOGNIZES YEARS OF SERVICE



A series of Years of Service recognition ceremonies were held across TTUHSC campuses this summer. Awards are presented based on the team member's years of service to the university in five-year increments. The 2024 School of Pharmacy honorees included:

- **5 YEARS:** Missy Caton, Emily Buatois, Meggan Domzalski, Heather Houser, Ronica Farrar, Dhavalkumar Patel, Bunny Pumphrey, Matthew White, Brett Bessac, Chelsea Krueger, Ashley Selby
- **10 YEARS:** Vicki Whiteaker, Robyn Wood, Abraham Al-Ahmad, Kaci Bohn, William Dyer, Michal Hodge, Vicente Rubio, Rebecca Young, Rachel Basinger, Kalin Clifford, Vindhya Edpuganti, Carl Ellis, Staci Moss
- **20 YEARS:** Devin Lowe, Robbi Rivers, Ming-Hai Wang
- **25 YEARS:** Mark Haase, Craig Cox, Brian Irons, Rebecca Sleeper

ABBRUSCATO RECEIVES ENDOWMENT



In August, Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D., and Min Kang, Pharm.D., became the first recipients of the Douglas Stocco Research Chair, an endowment formerly known as the TTUHSC Research Endowment. During his 40-year tenure at TTUHSC, Douglas Stocco, Ph.D., served in many leadership roles including executive vice president for research and dean of the TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

AWARDS HONOR STAFF AND TEAMWORK

In August, multiple team members were honored at the 2024 Distinguished Staff Awards ceremony.

Rebecca Arredondo, business coordinator in the Office of Experiential Programs at the Abilene campus, was awarded the *Quality Staff Award*. The award is presented to team members who continually demonstrate the TTUHSC value of Beyond Service by creating and delivering positive defining moments, anticipating the needs of others, and going the extra mile.

Jean Haynes, senior director within in the Office of Experiential Programs at the Amarillo campus, was awarded the *Quality Supervisor Award*. The award is presented to supervisors who lead with consistency, compassion, and respect that enables those team members not only to achieve goals but develop and grow as contributors to TTUHSC.

Ulrich Bickel, Hiranmoy Das, Heather Grubb, and Jeanie Shawhart were part of a team of 15 TTUHSC employees who received the *Quality Team Award*. The award recognizes a team of individuals who together epitomize the TTUHSC One Team value through open collaboration, constructive feedback, accountability, encouragement, and a team spirit that envelops their daily interactions and long term goals.



NEW BRAIN DRUG CENTER ESTABLISHED

After more than a decade of research growth and recruiting efforts to build strong, collaborative research programs, the TTUHSC-Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy in Amarillo has developed the newest TTUHSC research center – the Brain Drug Discovery Center. It will focus on discovering novel drug targets and treatments for a wide range of brain diseases including stroke, dementia, neuropathic pain, addiction, obesity, and brain cancer.

SOP ACCEPTS AACP WEAVER AWARD



On July 21, TTUHSC-SOP team members had the honor of accepting the prestigious Lawrence C. Weaver Transformative Community Service Award at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting. The award recognizes one college or school of pharmacy each year for demonstrating a major institutional commitment to addressing unmet community needs through education, practice, and research. Thank you to AACP for recognizing the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners.

FACULTY IN WORLD'S TOP 2% OF SCIENTISTS



Last fall, Stanford University/Elsevier's sixth edition of the World's Top 2% of Scientists List was released and included four TTUHSC-SOP researchers. The rankings, compiled using data through 2022, combine standardized data on citations, h-index and other bibliometric indicators to identify the world's leading researchers. Congratulations to Drs. Ulrich Bickel, Lance McMahon, Quentin Smith and Sanjay Srivastava.



LUEDTKE WINS PEDIATRIC PHARMACY AWARD

In May, the Pediatric Pharmacy Association awarded Sherry Luedtke, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, the Jeffrey K. Low Service Award at the PediatRxCon33. Congratulations, Dr. Luedtke!

FACULTY RECIEVE NEW APPOINTMENTS



Mary Klein, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice was appointed as the Director of Clinical Correlations. We are excited about Klein’s vision and plans for mapping clinical correlations content and coordinating with all teams to elevate our curriculum.

Trista Bailey, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, was appointed as the new Division Head of Geriatrics and Pediatrics. Bailey has been a valuable member of our Abilene campus since 2012 and is a practicing geriatric consultant pharmacist.

Becky Mahan, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, was appointed Vice Chair of Experiential Education, effective August 1. Mahan is part of the geriatrics/pediatrics division at the Abilene campus and has been a valuable member of our faculty since 2014.

FACULTY FEATURED IN TEXAS PHARMACY



TTUHSC-SOP faculty members had an article featured in the spring 2024 issue of Texas Pharmacy, the official magazine of the Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA). The article discusses an Artificial Intelligence study conducted at TTUHSC-SOP.

TTUHSC WINS GREAT COLLEGES HONORS

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has once again been recognized as one of the best colleges in the U.S. to work for, earning special distinction as an 'Honor Roll' institution, according to the latest survey by The Great Colleges to Work For® program!



AHMED WORKS TO OFFER REGENERATIVE THERAPY OPTION



When a patient is experiencing heart failure, they begin to lose healthy and functioning cardiac cells. Heart failure causes these once-flexible cells to develop into fibrotic cells that are no longer able to contract and relax. This stiffening of the cardiac cells compromises their ability to carry blood efficiently to the rest of the organs in the human system. Because humans cannot regenerate these cardiac cells, the patient faces a long road to recovery marked by preventative or symptomatic treatments. Mahmoud Salama Ahmed, Ph.D., a professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the TTUHSC-SOP in Amarillo, is working to offer patients a regenerative therapy option.

PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR NAMED

Each year, students nominate their favorite preceptor for the Preceptor of the Year Award. A faculty and adjunct faculty member are selected from each campus to receive the award. The 2024 Preceptors of the Year are:

- Trista Bailey, PharmD, Faculty, Abilene
- Emily Buatois, PharmD, Faculty, Amarillo
- Ashley Higbea, PharmD, Faculty, Dallas
- Staci Moss, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Lubbock
- Ryan George, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Abilene
- Tiffany Dobbs, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Amarillo
- Charlene Merritt, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Dallas
- Rebecca Tally, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Lubbock



PHARMACY TIMES FEATURE



Ajay Sharma, PhD, Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and TTUHSC pharmacy students Allyson Gill and Madison Gill, P2s at the Amarillo Campus, were recently featured in Pharmacy Times with an article titled “Are OTC Proton Pump Inhibitors a Boon Or a Curse?”

LUBBOCK WELCOME BACK EVENT



The Lubbock campus hosted a welcome back bowling party at Main Event on August 20 where faculty, staff, and third and fourth year students enjoyed bowling, pizza and ice cream.



A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF LEADERSHIP

In August, TTUHSC-SOP students gathered on the Dallas campus to enhance their leadership skills and overall professional development at the annual student leadership retreat. This year’s theme was “A Whole New World...of Leadership.” Attendees participated in team-building exercises, breakout sessions and enjoyed fun opportunities to socialize.



POLANI 1 OF 21 STUDENTS TO RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD



Maheen Polani, P2 at the Dallas campus, was one of twenty-one students selected nationally to receive the 2024 CVS Health/AACP Community Pharmacy Health Equity Award. This award recognizes leadership, dedication to advancing the profession of pharmacy, and commitment to improving patient care in underserved communities. Each awardee will receive a \$20,000 scholarship thanks to the generous support of the CVS Health Foundation. Learn more about the award and this year's recipients [HERE](#).

EDDY RECEIVES COMMUNITY- BASED PRN AWARD



In October, Emily Eddy, PharmD, received the Esteemed New Practitioner Award from the ACCP Community-based PRN. The award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions to the advancement of community-based practice.

FINDING FOCUS

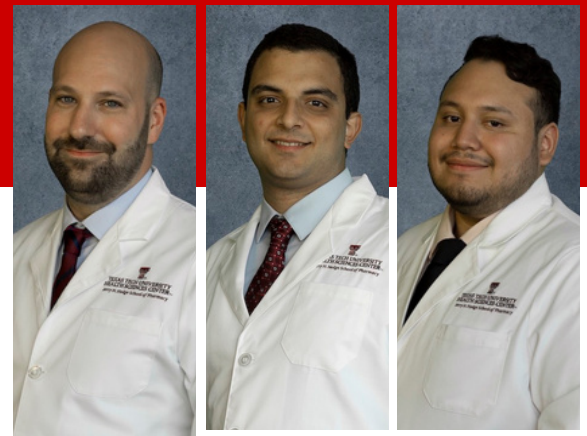
Alexandria Arnett will tell anyone she always felt like she had a zoo at home. Her pets — past and present — include a fish, frogs, geckos, gerbils and a snake. So, it would seem natural that Arnett would land within some realm of the veterinary spectrum. In reality, it took a lot of time and several relocations to realize that she wanted to work around animals. Now, the fourth-year pharmacy student is looking into veterinary pharmacy residency programs.

Read more about Arnett and her pharmacy journey [HERE](#).



STUDENTS WIN CLINICAL PHARMACY CHALLENGE

Students Julien Urech, Mena Masry, and Edwin Silva Gutierrez won the local SCCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge. The team ranked among the top 64 teams in the nation and advanced to the national competition. This achievement reflects their strong knowledge of pharmacology and disease state management which was showcased through answering trivia, clinical cases, and Jeopardy-style questions.



STUDENTS RECEIVE DAPA SCHOLARSHIP

Two TTUHSC-SOP students, Afsana Musharof and Asha Oommen, were selected as 2024 recipients of the Dallas Area Pharmacy Association (DAPA) Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to applicants who demonstrate achievements and involvement in pharmacy school, the student chapter of TPA and community activities. Musharof and Oommen were guests of honor at DAPA's October meeting.



STUDENTS COLLABORATE FOR DIABETES WORKSHOPS

TTUHSC Dallas pharmacy students and UTSW medical students teamed up to start monthly diabetes workshops at Brother Bill's Helping Hands. During the first session, students provided education on diabetes risk factors, symptoms, how it is diagnosed, how to check blood sugar and treat low blood sugar.

For the second session, UTSW dietician students joined the collaboration that was focused on nutrition. Students provided education on how different foods and drinks affect people with diabetes and how to make healthier choices. There was also a cooking demonstration where participants received recipes, spices, and information about the free produce days at Brother Bill's.



FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS GET INTRODUCTION TO IPE

In August, first-year pharmacy and medical students came together for their first IPE event where they learned about IPE and its importance in patient safety. Students learned about the lungs through human cadaver anatomy lab and histology and how their professions can work together to help make sure patients' lung conditions are being treated appropriately with inhalers. The event focused on the importance of teamwork, communication, and roles and responsibilities with team-building activities.



COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIRS



In August, students at the Dallas campus provided health screenings and education about medication safety for homeless women and children at the first Union Gospel Mission Pediatric Health Fair.



Several students at the Dallas campus had the opportunity to participate in and coordinate a booth at the Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy Health Fair. During the event, our students offered vital blood pressure and blood sugar screenings to community members and kids enjoyed emulsion discussions and hands on slime demonstrations.



In partnership with Parkland Health, TTUHSC members of the SNPhA and SPPA volunteered at the 7th Day Adventist Church North Dallas Spanish Health Fair twice this semester. Students provided screening and counseling on hypertension and diabetes and pediatric asthma education services to the Dallas underserved community.



FALL MEDICATION CLEANOUTS CONCLUDE

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) hosted collection events at the TTUHSC Lubbock, Abilene and Amarillo campuses in September and October. Community members were able to drop off unwanted medicines and sharps to dispose of them in a free, legal and environmentally responsible manner. School of Pharmacy student volunteers had the opportunity to collaborate with students from other TTUHSC schools and see first-hand the issues with non-adherence to medications.

- The Abilene event collected 1229 pounds of unused or expired medication and 160 pounds of sharps.
- The Lubbock event collected 617 pounds of unused or expired medication and 137.5 pounds of sharps.
- The Amarillo event collected 1226 pounds of unused or expired medication and 294.5 pounds of sharps.



In August, 35 TTUHSC - SOP faculty, staff, and students had the opportunity to be part of two groups that visited the Walgreen's micro-fulfillment center, a specialty clinic and enjoyed a lunch and learn session.



Over the summer, our 2024-2025 resident class had the chance to get to know one another through team building exercises at a resident workshop, where they took part in several fun activities.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED

Each year we invite nominations to acknowledge the impact of our fellow alumni on the pharmacy profession. In October, the TTUHSC Alumni Association honored two SOP alumni at the 2023-2024 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

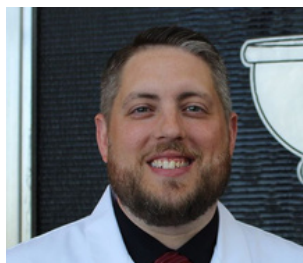


Pharmacy Leadership Award

Randy Martin, PharmD, MHA, BCSCP, CPPS, FASHP

- Class of 2009

Dr. Martin currently serves as clinical pharmacy manager at Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, an 860-bed community teaching hospital. Martin leads teams in service areas including critical care, emergency medicine, acute care and academic medicine, and oversees an expanding pharmacy residency and student academic program. He also holds a faculty appointment as an associate professor of medical education at Texas Christian University. Dr. Martin is nationally recognized as an expert in medication safety and has dedicated his career to professional service.



Excellence in Practice Award

Jamie McCarrell, PharmD, MBA, BCGP, BCPS, FASCP

- Class of 2009

Dr. McCarrell dedicated a decade of his career to teaching future pharmacists as a faculty member in the TTUHSC geriatrics department. During his time at TTUHSC, he earned dual board certification as a pharmacotherapy specialist and geriatric pharmacist, and practiced in a PACE facility where he served as the sole provider of pharmacy services to vulnerable older adults. In the early stages of COVID, Dr. McCarrell had the opportunity to serve his community in hospital leadership. He currently serves as director of pharmacy at BSA Health System in Amarillo, Texas where he and his team strive to lead the profession in innovation and clinical practice.

ALUMNI BOARD SEEKING NOMINATIONS

The SOP Alumni Association Board of Directors currently has two open positions they are seeking to fill. The Board is comprised of seven members who each serve a three year term and meet quarterly via virtual meetings. If you or someone you know is interested in this role please complete the [linked nomination form](#) by **November 22nd, 2024**. Self-nominations are strongly encouraged. For questions, please contact Jacob Rogers at sopaa.ttuhscc@gmail.com.

MEET THE 2024 SOP ALUMNI BOARD



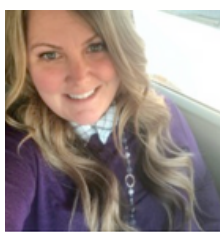
Athena Cannon - Communications Officer

Class of 2020, Abilene
Current Role: Clinical Pharmacist - Indian Health Board Medical Clinic & U.S. Sports Pharmacy Group



Daniel Capps - Secretary

Class of 2020, Amarillo
Current Role: PIC at Hometown Pharmacy in Plainview, TX



Mikala Conatser - Member at Large

Class of 2011, Amarillo



Amber Elliott - Chair Elect

Class of 2009, Amarillo
(Pharmacotherapy Residency 2011)
Current Role: Associate Director, Medical Science Liaison - Sandoz



Jo Ann Leal - Past Chair

Class of 2021, Amarillo
Current Role: Inpatient Operations Manager at Essentia Health



Ike Oguejiofor - Member At Large

Class of 2018
Current Role: Clinical Pharmacist & Residency Program Coordinator at Terry Reilly Health Services



Jacob Rogers - Chair

Class of 2020, Abilene
Current Role: Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist at HSC Health - Center for Older Adults and Assistant Professor of Pharmacotherapy at UNTHSC

THE ROLE OF THE ALUMNI BOARD

The Alumni Board is the official representative for the larger SOP alumni group. The primary goal of the Alumni Board is to connect past graduates with the TTUHSC-SOP to promote collaborative efforts across current students and past graduates.

WHAT WE DO

The Board works to enhance the TTUHSC alumni network, asks alumni for feedback on Board supported initiatives, and encourage alumni to submit initiatives that impact their pharmacy practice.

HOW ALUMNI CAN GET INVOLVED

- Provide continuing education (CE) content on a topic of interest/expertise
- Mentor current TTUHSC student pharmacists
- Attend alumni and TTUHSC sponsored events

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Adam Olson, PharmD, Class of 2019, Amarillo

Olson currently works in medical dermatology in Austin, Texas and stays motivated by wanting to continue to demonstrate all that pharmacists can do aside from their crucial role as dispensers.

He finds working in an academic dermatology setting very rewarding, as it allows him to show physicians, who historically had no experience with pharmacists, the additional care pharmacists can provide to patients.

Outside of pharmacy, Olson enjoys eating and traveling. As someone who didn't travel much growing up, he finds experiencing different cultures truly awesome.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



The Thompsons are a family united by a shared passion for pharmacy, health care and a deep connection to TTUHSC. Suzanne Thompson, Pharm.D., (Pharmacy '04) never imagined the legacy she was building for her children. Inspired by their mother's dedication yet driven by their own aspirations, Aaron Thompson, PharmD, (Pharmacy '15) and Jordan Thompson, PharmD, (Pharmacy '19), and Sarah Wilson, DPT, (Physical Therapy '20) followed in her footsteps to serve in health care. Read more about the Thompson's legacy [HERE](#).

WANT TO SEE YOUR OR A COLLEAGUE'S CURRENT WORK OR LIFE EVENTS HIGHLIGHTED?

Email alumni photos and the following information to the Board at sopaa.ttuhscc@gmail.com.

- Tell us about yourself.
- Where are you now?
- Where do you practice?
- What keeps you motivated?
- What has been the most rewarding part/moment of your career so far?
- What are your favorite things to do outside of pharmacy?

UPCOMING EVENTS



Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will be observing several holidays over the next few months. We hope you all enjoy your time away from the office.

November 28 and 29: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24 and 25: Winter Holiday and Christmas Day

December 31: New Year's Eve

January 1 : New Year's Day

January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

NOVEMBER:

- 11: Veterans Day
- 12: Dean's Huddle - Staff
- 14: Dean's Huddle - Faculty
- 21: National Rural Health Day

DECEMBER:

- 2-13: P1-P2 Final Exams
- 3: Giving Tuesday
- 4: Abilene HSC Holiday Luncheon
- 8-12: ASHP Mid-Year Meeting, New Orleans
- 9-13: P3 Final Exams
- 18: Amarillo HSC Holiday Luncheon

JANUARY:

- 6: First Day of Class for Spring Semester
- 12: National Pharmacist Day



Fun Around Campus



Years of Service



Immersion Week



Medication Cleanouts

Have something or someone you'd like to see featured in the SOP Newsletter? Send a photo and a brief description of what you would like to see featured to amber.bustos@ttuhsc.edu