



## From The Dean's Desk

July 2004 - Issue 24

### *Latest NAPLEX Results: 100% Pass*

Eight of our graduates recently took their licensure examinations, including seven who were taking the exam for the first time. All eight passed with an average score of 91.50. Overall, the average for students from state schools was 86.91 and the pass rate was 74.24 percent (the University of Texas had only one retake; the University of Houston had four applicants; and Texas Southern had 19 applicants). Nationally, the average score was 92.13 and the pass rate was 83.22 percent. So our graduates did well regarding pass rates and scored slightly below national rates on average score. Congratulations to those who took the exam and to those who helped them prepare.

### *SOP Students Open NCPA Chapter*

Thanks to a lot of hard work by a group of dedicated students, the School received approval to open a National Community Pharmacists Association student chapter here on campus. The Texas Tech NCPA Chapter will be comprised of Pharm.D. candidates who have an interest in independent pharmacy ownership or a career in independent pharmacy. The chapter's 30 founding members recently held a Charter Ceremony Dinner to show their appreciation for the support they received from a group of local independent pharmacists, including Pete Allen, R.Ph., whose generous \$1,000 donation jump-started their efforts.



Left to right: David Simmons, R.Ph., Rachel Mason, Hui Kang, Mindy Sexton, Donna Boatwright, Dr. Arthur Nelson and Dick Storseth, R.Ph. (independent pharmacist - Village Pharmacy in Amarillo)

The Chapter's first elected officers include **Mindy Sexton, President; Rachel Mason, President-elect; Hui Kang, Secretary; Donna Boatwright, treasurer; and David Simmons, R.Ph., Advisor. Dr. Sherry Luedtke (Associate Dean for Professional Affairs and Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo)** will be the chapter's NCPA liaison.

## *Grad Students Awarded AFPE Grants*

Congratulations go out to *Vaughan Wittman and Julie Gaasch*, both of whom are graduate students in the Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences here in Amarillo. Vaughan and Julie were recently awarded a Pre-doctoral Fellowship by the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Board of Grants. The awards are for \$6,000 each. Vaughan is working with *Dr. Jon Weidanz (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo)* on the effects of the rennin-angiotensin system on T-cells. Julie is working with *Dr. Suzanne Lindsey (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo)*. Her research interests include growth factor and hormonal regulation of cell migration, specifically the role they play in osteoclast migration during bone remodeling and osteoporosis.



*Vaughan Wittman*



*Julie  
Gaasch*

## *Students Represent School, Profession at D.C. Conference*

*Mindy Sexton and Mary Klein (Class of 2007)* recently got an opportunity to rub elbows with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on National Legislation and Government Affairs in Washington, D.C. They joined more than 350 independent pharmacy leaders from across the country who were seeking to raise the awareness of federal lawmakers and regulators regarding some of the key health care issues being faced by community pharmacists and their patients. This year's conference included discussions about how to make pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) more competitive and how to amend Medicare so patients have more flexibility when it comes to selecting pharmacies and products, payment terms, and mail order prescription services. The event was held by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), which represents the nation's community pharmacists, including the owners of nearly 24,000 independent pharmacies. Good Job, Ladies!



*SOP students Mary Klein (fourth from left) and Mindy Sexton (far right) pose with U.S. Representative Ralph M. Hall (R-Texas) and other NCPA conference attendees*

## Faculty Receive Technology Upgrades

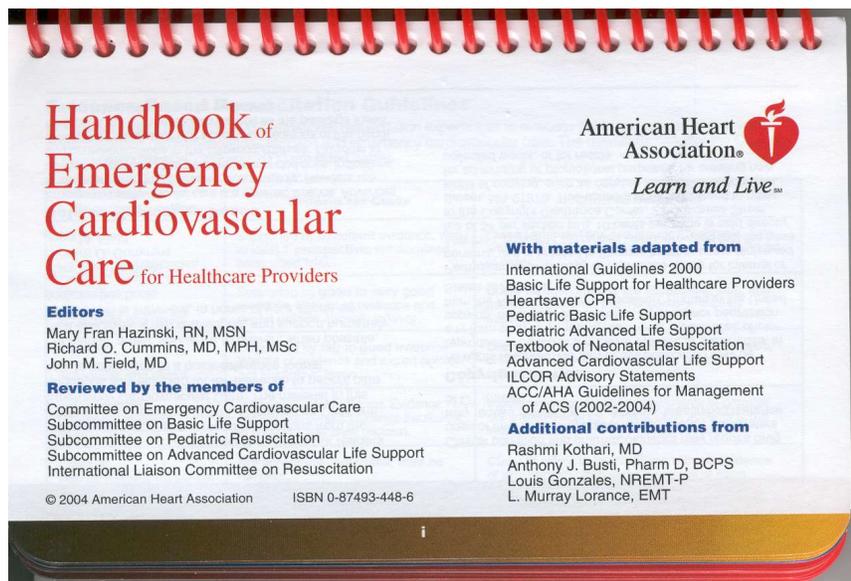
Due to the efforts of [Kaci Henson, R.Ph. \(Academic Instructor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo\)](#) and the ad-hoc technology committee, faculty who requested technology upgrades recently started receiving their new "toys." The committee met in May and devised a plan for splitting the available funds equally among all faculty members who requested eligible upgrades. The original allocation called for each faculty member to receive \$380. The committee sent out three requests, and when 10 faculty did not request upgrades, the figure was increased to \$450. The time and effort put in by the committee is greatly appreciated.



*Dr. Kelly Rudd, assistant professor (Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo), inspects a new printer she received as part of the technology upgrade funds*

## Busti Contributes to Cardiovascular Handbook

[Dr. Anthony Busti \(Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharm. Practice - Dallas\)](#) was recognized as a contributor for the *2004 Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care for Healthcare Providers*, which is an international publication put out by the American Heart Association. He has also been asked to help with updating the ACLS (Advanced Cardio Life Support) guidelines and reviewing the pharmacotherapy-related material.



*The inside cover page of the American Heart Association's 2004 Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care for Healthcare Providers.*

## ***Collins Assumes Post at North Texas VA***

**Mr. Gary Collins** started his new position as the Chief of Pharmacy Services for the North Texas Veteran Affairs Healthcare System on June 7, 2004. Over the years Gary has provided significant service to the School. Although his new position will reduce his appointment to the School to that of adjunct professor; Gary will still be in a position to continue his service, but his role will be greatly reduced. North Texas VA Healthcare System is our primary teaching affiliate at the DFW campus, so having someone in this critical position who deeply understands our vision and goals will be extremely helpful.

Gary's departure leaves a critical vacancy as Associate Dean for Experiential Programs. The position will be filled on an interim basis until we finalize our reorganization plan. At that time we will review the duties and responsibilities for this position and proceed with an open search. We wish Gary the best and look forward to working closely with him and North Texas VA Healthcare System in the years ahead.

## **GETTING TO KNOW...**

### **Vicki Bailey**

*Graduate Program Coordinator*

*Staff - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo*



Vicki is the oldest of four sisters who are proud to say were all born, raised and still reside in Amarillo. Her family settled here in 1921 and has been very active in the community and church since that time. Vicki lives in a multi-family dwelling where she and her youngest sister's family look after their father.

"I guess we live like folks used to. We still take care of our parents at home and we live together to lessen the responsibility on any one person."

Vicki's true delight is her nieces, nephews, and her baby great-niece Naomi Grace. Her hobbies include reading, cross-stitching, and movies, but the thing she loves to do best is sing, especially with two of her sisters.

"I started singing in church at the age of four and Mom and Dad just added each girl when they turned four to the group. Music makes me a happy person, and I try to pass that along to those around me; that just makes my time here much sweeter."

Vicki's entire family—Dad, sisters, and children—is active in their church's music program and all sing in their respective age group choirs. She loves her work with the graduate students and looks forward to a long association with TTUHSC.

### **Michael Veronin, R.Ph., Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo*



Mike was born in East Los Angeles, California, but he and his wife Lisa consider themselves “Zonies” as they both grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. (They are also the only Arizona Cardinals fans in the state of Texas.) Mike received his B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and after working as a pharmacist for many years in Phoenix, he attended graduate school at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Lisa and Michelle Verbitz

Mike and Lisa have been married for 22 years and have an eight-year old daughter named Michelle. When he's not at work Mike spends his free time caring for three cats and a dog, debating politics with Lisa (she always wins), and playing basketball with Michelle.

## **Beverly Abney, R.Ph., Pharm.D.**

*Clinical Instructor and Staff Pharmacist  
Department of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock*



Dr. Abney was raised in the Bethel Community outside Athens in beautiful East Texas. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy and presently resides in Lubbock with her husband Dusty who is completing his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition at TTU. Beverly and Dusty have three pets who allow the couple to live in the house as long as every whim is immediately and completely indulged.

Dr. Abney’s practice site is located at the Texas Tech Pharmaceutical Care and Infusion Center at Texas Tech Southwest. She says the interaction she has with students, and the positive impact the students have on various aspects of patient care, makes her work most meaningful.

In her spare time, Beverly enjoys photography, working on genealogy projects, and playing with the aforementioned spoiled animals—Dude, William David, and Charlie.