



Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

Research achieves new heights in AACP rankings

According to the latest information released by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP), the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Pharmacy ranks among the top pharmaceutical research programs in the country. The rankings, based upon 2012 research funding totals, shows TTUHSC pharmacy researchers received more than \$6.2 million in combined research grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and all other federal and non-federal funding sources. The total ranked 24th nationally among accredited U.S. pharmacy schools.

“This national survey is a recognition and validation of all the hard work the faculty, staff and students of the School of Pharmacy do to push back the frontiers of disease and make advances so we can better treat the ailments that plague us,” School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Quentin Smith said. “This survey ranks our school in the top 20 percent of the 124 accredited colleges and school of pharmacy in the United States, which is an incredible achievement for a schools that is less than 20 years old.”

Smith said the AACCP rankings also underscore the pharmacy school’s dedication to train the best pharmacy practitioners for Texas and their

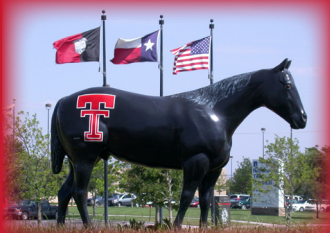
efforts to create better and more effective treatments for afflictions like cancer and vascular disease.

In achieving its overall ranking, the pharmacy school ranked 35th in total NIH funding with more than \$2.75 million, seventh in funding from all other federal sources (\$1.6 million) and ninth in non-federal funding (\$1.9 million).

Researchers at the school are utilizing these funds for the discovery of new gene therapies; treatments for a wide range of diseases, including afflictions of the brain, pancreatic and colon cancers; and the development of new drugs and deliveries for stroke victims and sufferers of hypertension.

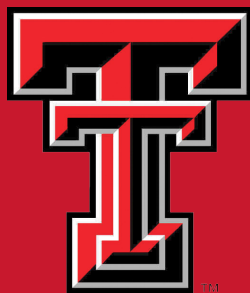
TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., said the School of Pharmacy has a proud tradition of providing a high-quality education for their students.

“The most recent NIH rankings confirm what we’ve known for many years—our pharmacy school scientists are dedicated professionals striving to expand knowledge in the area of pharmaceutical sciences for the betterment of society,” Mitchell said. “Our school is one of the nation’s best in scientific research, making our students some of the most highly sought after graduates in their field.”



The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) 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, Ga. 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the TTUHSC accreditation.

Research is thriving at the School of Pharmacy, as evidenced by the latest rankings from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.



Pharmacy group performs mission work in Peru

In May, a team of TTUHSC pharmacy students and faculty members spent a week providing health care services and companionship to children in Huancayo, Peru.

The students included Dallas P3s Olga Shvarts and Michelle Sterrett; Lubbock P3s Michelle Castelli, Chris Figert and Holly Molloy; Amarillo P2s Cody Frausto and Cassandra Sheldon; and Abilene P2 Adriana Oviedo. Faculty members Dr. Jamie McCarrell and Dr. Cindy Raehl accompanied the students, who are all members of TTUHSC's Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC) chapter.

FIMRC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving pediatric and maternal health in the local community and throughout the developing world by implementing innovative and self-sustainable health improvement programs.

McCarrell said the national FIMRC office, in conjunction with field operators in Peru, determined the mission location. He said the decision to go to Huancayo was based upon the needs of the community and the available opportunities for volunteers traveling to Peru.

"The main purpose of the mission was to provide health care and health education to the underprivileged children in Peru," McCarrell said. "We were also able to spend a significant amount of time with a group of Peruvian orphans that was not necessarily health care focused. This allowed our volunteers and these children to engage in natural relationship-building activities such as group games, personal conversations and the basic human contact that the children crave so much."

Frausto said the group was introduced to the country's health care system by visiting local hospitals, accompanying doctors as they made their rounds, observing surgeries

and births and interacting with patients. They also attended a presentation about the Peruvian health care system given by local medical school students.

"We spent an afternoon visiting a local elementary school where we gave oral fluoride treatments to around 200 children," Frausto said. "A big problem for the children in Huancayo is cavities due to the poor water system, low resources and a general lack of knowledge about dental hygiene."

Castelli said she became interested in the FIMRC mission trips during her first year in pharmacy school, but never thought she'd get the opportunity to participate. Now, as the chapter's president-elect, she was the person most responsible for planning the 2013 trip.

"I am so glad the opportunity presented itself for me to not only help plan the trip but also to be able to attend," Castelli said. "It was such a great experience being with students and professors from school, working with them in an environment that is totally different than the normal classroom set-up and combining service and health care into one trip."

Castelli said the volunteers observed C-section and natural births in a neonatal ICU unit. At another facility they sat in on complicated surgeries such as a leg amputation and a hysterectomy. They were taught how to perform surgical sutures.

"Many of these experiences can't be watched or performed directly in the United States, so it was definitely a unique and unforgettable experience," she added.

McCarrell said the mission is a valuable experience for the student volunteers for several reasons. First, it introduces them to a health care system other than their own where much of the care is suboptimal or non-existent for many citizens.

The School of Pharmacy group who traveled to Peru for mission work included (clockwise, from left) Olga Shvarts, Chris Figert, Michelle Sterrett, Michelle Castelli, Cody Frausto, Adriana Oviedo, Cassandra Sheldon, Holly Molloy, Dr. Cynthia Raehl and Dr. Jamie McCarrell.



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Second, the students get to participate in activities that allow them to develop personal experiences with underprivileged children. He said this fosters a better a spirit of sympathy and empathy when working with similar patient groups within the U.S.

"The children at the El Rosario Orphanage in Huancayo loved every minute of spending time with our volunteers," McCarrell said. "We were also able to provide the orphanage with some basic goods such as towels and supplies for their vocational training programs. The emotional and physical impact of our presence there will likely be long-lasting and enhanced by future volunteers."

Castelli said there was no real plan for the mission beforehand other than helping people who were in need of health care. She said the country's outdated surgical standards and medical technology and equipment gave her and her fellow volunteers an appreciation of the American health care system.

"They don't even have doctors of pharmacy in Peru, much less all the medicinal knowledge and options that we have here," Castelli said. "It made me want to give my future patients the best care possible because we are definitely blessed to have the information and technology that we do. It also drives my passion for helping others, especially the

unfortunate. You get the feeling that you are doing something good, serving those that can't serve themselves, and that is our ultimate goal as pharmacists."

Frausto agreed and said mission trips like those made possible through FIMRC are a blessing for the patients and for those who volunteer.

"The feeling you get when you're doing something like this is just unbelievable and unforgettable, and I know God put the desires in my heart to do missions like this for a reason," Frausto said. "It allows us to utilize the skills and abilities we have acquired in pharmacy school to help others that are in need and to glorify God every step of the way."

Scientists come to Amarillo for Research Days



Keynote speaker Dr. Margaret L. Kripke from CPRIT receives a plaque from School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Quentin Smith.

Dr. Margaret L. Kripke, chief scientific officer for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), joined faculty researchers, graduate students and residents as they met June 6-7 in Amarillo for the School of Pharmacy's 12th Annual Research Days.

Kripke's keynote presentation was titled, *Accelerating Progress in Cancer Research: the CPRIT Challenge*.

Several other distinguished speakers followed Kripke to the Research Days podium. The group included Dr. Michael Karin, distinguished professor of pharmacology and pathology at the University of California-San Diego School of Medicine; Dr. Thomas Jacobs, associate chancellor for federal relations for the University of Texas system; and Dr. Mansoor A. Khan, director of product quality research at the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation Research.

There were also several invited podium presentations made by various School of Pharmacy faculty, graduate students and residents.

In addition, 65 posters were entered into the annual Research Days poster competition by pharmacy faculty, graduate students and residents who shared highlights from the research activities

they have undertaken during the past year. Winners received a certificate and a \$150 cash prize.

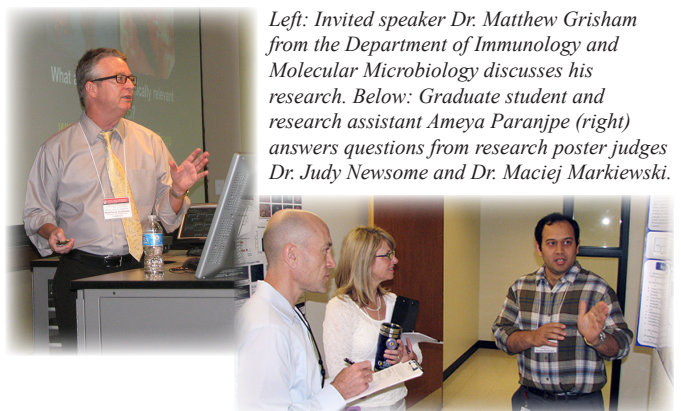
Poster competition winners in the Junior Graduate Student category included Saeed Alzghari and Neel Fofaria.

In the Senior Graduate Student category, winners included Shariar Absar, Ameya Paranjpe and Brijeshkumar Patel.

Postdoctoral winners included Jun-Hung Cho, RK Samala and Su-ni Tang.

Caitlin Gibson, Minh Hong, Christyn Mullen, Brian Terrell and Kayley Will took top honors in the Residents category.

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



Left: Invited speaker Dr. Matthew Grisham from the Department of Immunology and Molecular Microbiology discusses his research. Below: Graduate student and research assistant Ameya Paranjpe (right) answers questions from research poster judges Dr. Judy Newsome and Dr. Maciej Markiewski.

Students enjoy Abilene summer camp

By Matt Brantley and Will Edmiston

Twenty-three high school students from as far away as San Francisco came to Abilene June 3-7 to participate in this year's Raider Red Pharmacy Camp. The campers spent the week attending activities designed to peak their interest in pharmacy as a profession and increase their leadership, professional and teamwork skills. These events also challenged the students' intellect, cultivate their patience and develop their socialization skills.

The week started with some icebreakers and get-to-know-you activities meant to bring students out of their shells and introduce them to each other. These included games like two truths and a lie, where students tell three things about themselves, two of which are true and one that is not. The other students then try to guess which of the three is the lie.

They also played "minute to win it" games like Face the Cookie, where students place a cookie on their forehead and try to maneuver it into their mouths using only their facial muscles. This game allowed students to see each other being silly and having fun and to further get to know each other.

One of the pharmacy-related activities introduced campers to compounding labs. Students attended a pre-lab session where they were introduced to proper lab procedures and instructions and then they moved to the lab to create lollipops, cold cream, lip balm, lozenges, effervescent powder and glow sticks.

In the lab, the students received a firsthand view of life in a compounding pharmacy. They learned to follow instructions, precisely measure ingredients and calculate the amount of ingredients needed to produce a compounded drug.

The campers were also introduced to the pharmacy school's sterile compounding lab, where they learned to properly scrub up and garb for sterile compounding and how to work with positive and negative pressure during the transfer of medication from vials to syringes. Because this can be an important aspect of hospital pharmacy, it allowed students to get a glimpse of another possible career path in pharmacy.

Students also attended several lectures about professionalism, the pharmacy school application

and admission process and how to develop interviewing skills. The lectures gave the students tips about professionalism and what it takes to get into a real professional school and will be invaluable because the tips were presented by actual school interviewers and pharmacy professionals.

The students also toured the School of Nursing's simulation center and learned how nurses practice their skills on mannequins in a safe and controlled environment before they are sent to treat real patients. The mannequins are lifelike and are capable of real pulses, sweating, talking and coughing. Their lips even turn blue when O₂ saturation falls.

The camp also included a wilderness challenge at Butman camp in Merkel where students learned about problem solving, leadership and teamwork. The challenges threw students curve balls in seemingly established situations to keep them on their toes and simulate a real-life changing environment. The wilderness challenge was arguably the students' favorite camp activity.

There was also an anatomy challenge that afforded students a small taste of the time management skills required by pharmacy school, where even if study time is affected by other activities, the exam must go on. It tested their intellect, recall ability and study skills, all crucial elements for a pharmacy student.

The Raider Red Pharmacy Camp was a success this year and the students learned a lot and got to see if pharmacy is a career they are interested in pursuing. They did this while making new friends and taking away an experience they will always remember and which will help them greatly in the future.

We would like to thank Debra Notturmo-Strong, Mike Nall, Melissa Edwards, Randi King, Amanda Hines, Clint Pierce, Brooke Siemers and Mattie King; the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation; the staff of Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center; Drs. Quentin Smith, Desai, Brinn, Vega, Ochoa, Terrell and Miller; and all of the TTUHSC students and organizations who gave their time to help and who donated to the camp. Your time and effort are what made this year's camp a success.

High school students mix business with pleasure at the Raider Red Pharmacy Camp held each summer at the School of Pharmacy campus in Abilene.



2013 Distinguished Alumni honored

In May, the School of Pharmacy recognized alumnus Dr. Brandon Sucher and former resident Dr. Brian Irons as Distinguished Alumni for 2013.

Suchar is an associate professor of pharmacy practice at Regis University School of Pharmacy in Denver. Irons is an associate professor of pharmacy practice at the School of Pharmacy campus in Lubbock. He also heads the school's Ambulatory Care Division.



Suchar

and completed a primary care specialty pharmacy residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He is a board certified ambulatory care pharmacist, a certified diabetes educator and a certified asthma educator.

Prior to his arrival at Regis, Sucher was an associate professor at the Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBAU) Gregory School of Pharmacy. He is a founding faculty member at both pharmacy schools and his work with pharmacy practice residents at the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center earned him PBAU's Pharmacy Preceptor of Distinction in 2007 and 2008.

"Reflecting on these experiences has helped me appreciate the value of my pharmacy education at TTUHSC," Suchar said. "I was blessed with the quality of education and individualized attention from faculty members and staff that one would expect from a private university at the cost of state tuition."

Sucher has been extremely involved in the Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity and served a term as its national president.

"When I reflect on my academic performance as a student

at TTUHSC and the accomplishments of my classmates as alumni, I feel undeserving of this award," Suchar said. "The individualized attention and mentoring I received from faculty advisors in Phi Delta Chi and Double T, coupled with the opportunities to serve in these organizations, facilitated my growth and formation as a leader. I was also held to high academic standards by my faculty, which has led me to strive to bring out the best in my students."

Irons has been with the School of Pharmacy since 1999. He is an associate professor specializing in ambulatory care the school's Lubbock campus and he heads the Ambulatory Care Division within the Department of Pharmacy Practice. He is also a past director of the school's two-year ambulatory care residency in Lubbock and a preceptor for the one- and two-year residents on that campus.



Irons

Irons received his bachelor's and Pharm.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He completed a pharmacy practice residency at United Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., and an ambulatory/managed care residency at the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy.

"I think my time working with the pharmacy school's Managed Health Care Pharmacy Services faculty provided me with opportunities many residents at the time were not afforded," Irons said. "This group — Butch Habeger, Raneé Basse, Sherida Nelson, to name a few — gave me significant independence and allowed me to grow personally and professionally."

"The ability to work in such a way via collaborative drug therapy management and to help hone my skills as an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist and teacher provided me with opportunities I will always feel very lucky

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 School of Pharmacy to all four of our campuses 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:

Mark Hendricks
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to have had. Those experiences helped me launch my academic career and I will always be grateful to the faculty for that."

Irons is certified by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties in ambulatory care and pharmacotherapy and is also board certified in advanced diabetes management. In 2011, he was named fellow by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy for sustained excellence in the discipline of clinical pharmacy.

"It's great that the residency program we have at the School of Pharmacy is included in the alumni awards," Irons said. "We have had 14 classes of fantastic students come through our doors over the years and our professional curriculum is recognized at a national level for its excellence. So too is our residency program."

Leff officially receives endowed professorship

Dr. Richard Leff was officially recognized as the recipient of the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation Endowed Professorship in the Pediatric Pharmacology Aug. 1 at the School of Pharmacy faculty retreat in Fort Worth.

Leff, a professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the pharmacy school's Dallas/Fort Worth campus, is also the school's associate dean for clinical and translational research, director of the Dallas Clinical Research Office and director of the Clinical Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Center (CPET), one of the School of Pharmacy's four Centers for Research Excellence.

CPET's mission is to provide pharmaceutical expertise to support preclinical and clinical/translational trials, including pharmacokinetics/



Dr. Richard Leff with his wife, Dessie, and sons Jason (left) and Ryan Aug. 1 in Fort Worth where Leff officially received the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation Endowed Professorship in the Pediatric Pharmacology.

pharmacodynamics, drug metabolism, drug delivery, drug formulations and biomarker identification.

"Pharmaceutical manufacturers have overlooked drug therapies in infants and children for years, and as a result, most pediatric drugs used today have incomplete information supporting their use," Leff said. "Furthermore, there is a paucity of objective information available for physicians and pharmacists to use and improve drug therapy while reducing the risk of drug toxicity."

Leff is the author of more than 100 publications and book chapters.

His work has led to improved drug therapy for infants and children and the development of novel medical devices and pediatric pharmaceuticals.

The endowed professorship was made possible by a gift from the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation.

In case you missed it...

- The Texas Pharmacy Foundation awarded scholarships to three TTUHSC pharmacy students. Amarillo P4 Kaytlin Huseman was named the 2013 TTUHSC recipient of a TPF General Scholarship. Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Lilian May will receive the 2013 Robert Clayton Scholarship. Myka McMeans (P4 - Dallas/Fort Worth) was awarded the 2013 Academy of Clinical Pharmacists Scholarship.



Huseman



May



McMeans

Each recipient competed against applicants from all Texas schools and colleges of pharmacy. They received their scholarships July 26 at the Texas Pharmacy Association Conference and Expo in Frisco, Texas.



Absar

- Shahriarul (Abir) Absar, a graduate student in Dr. Fakhru Ahsan's lab, was awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship from the American Heart Association. His grant titled, "Stealth delivery system for targeted and triggered release of tissue plasminogen activators," received a score of 1.07 and a 1-percentile ranking. As a pre-doctoral fellow, Absar will receive an annual \$25,000 stipend for the next two years. He is the first student from the School of Pharmacy's 16-year old graduate program to receive such a nationally competitive pre-doctoral

award. He received part of his doctoral training and mentorship related this project from Dr. Young Min Kwon.

- School of Pharmacy researcher Dr. Sanjay Srivastava is the editor of recently published books: "Pancreatic Cancer-Molecular Mechanism" and "Targets and Pancreatic Cancer-Clinical Management" published by Intech; and "Role of Capsaicin in Oxidative Stress and Cancer" published by Springer.

- An article by School of Pharmacy researchers Dr. Ming-Hai Wang and Dr. Ruiwen Zhang was published in the prestigious journal, *Nature Reviews Cancer*. The work was titled, "MSP-RON signalling: pathogenesis and therapeutic potential" and appeared in the July edition.

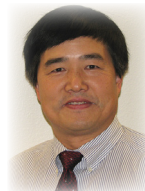
- Amarillo P4 Megan Sneller is the recipient of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Foundation Presidential Scholarship. Applicants were judged based upon leadership qualities and academic achievement. The award includes scholarship funding, paid registration for the NCPA annual convention and a stipend for travel and lodging expenses to attend the convention.



Srivastava



Wang



Zhang



Sneller

TPPC announces Fall Medication Cleanout cycle

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) has announced its Fall 2013 Medication Cleanout cycle.

The collections will kick off with a Sept. 14 collection in Amarillo. Additional take-backs are slated for Lubbock (Sept. 28) and Abilene (Oct. 12).

TPPC Unit Coordinator Robbi Rivers said a collection event in Pampa is also being planned, but details haven't been finalized.

TPPC Director and Assistant Professor Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo said the goals of Medication Cleanout are to prevent poisonings and stop the abuse that may result when old or unused medications are left around the home and improperly stored, prevent the misuse of leftover medications like antibiotics and pain medications and avoid environmental contamination.

Jaramillo said the Medication Cleanout provides communities a safe option for disposing unused medications and reducing poisoning and abuse risks.

"People are told not to flush these drugs or throw them in the trash because this may result in contamination of the water supply, but they are not really provided with alternatives," Jaramillo said. "The Medication Cleanout events provide a safe and responsible alternative."



TPPC has conducted 25 Medication Cleanout events since September 2009. The collections have taken in 12,527 pounds of unused medications for appropriate disposal.

"These medications are no longer available as a source for poisonings, abuse, misuse or environmental contamination," Jaramillo said. "None of this would be possible without the support of the pharmacy school, our students, volunteers, law enforcement agencies and community supporters."

For more information regarding the Medication Cleanout program, or to volunteer for one of the events, call (806) 351-5626 or visit www.MedicationCleanout.com.

Getting to know...

Brittany Patterson Assistant Director

Experiential/Professional Continuing Education • Amarillo

Brittany Patterson was born and raised in Amarillo. She attended Texas Tech and graduated in 2003 with her BBA in marketing. She also spent six years in the Dallas/Fort Worth area gaining experience with a global marketing firm before running the marketing department for a Metroplex homebuilder.

Patterson eventually moved back to Amarillo to be close to family and joined the School of Pharmacy team in 2009. She is an assistant director of experiential education and focuses on producing quality continuing education and training programs for preceptors and certification courses for pharmacists.

This fall, she will begin pursuing one of her education goals at West Texas A&M University: earning her MBA.

Patterson said her 4-year-old son, Creed, is the light of her life.

"I enjoy introducing Creed to new things and experiences and watching him grow," she said.

In her free time, Patterson enjoys volunteering with various organizations and she is a member of the Junior League of Amarillo. She has also served on the committees for Christmas Roundup (benefiting the Amarillo Museum of Art and the Amarillo Symphony) and the Cattle Baron's Ball (benefiting the American Cancer Society).

When she can, Patterson enjoys traveling and spending time with friends, but she ultimately cherishes family dinners and get-togethers on the patio at her parent's house.



Patterson has been with the School of Pharmacy since 2009. She enjoys spending time with her 4-year-old son, Creed, and her mother, Kay.



School of Pharmacy Photo Gallery

Students and faculty visited a local pharmacy while performing mission work in Peru.



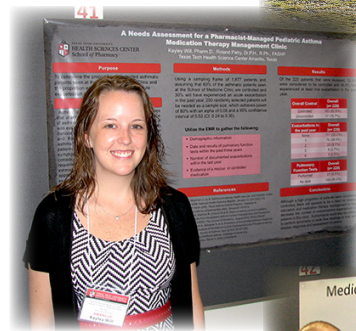
Leadership building and teamwork exercises were among the favorite activities for high school students attending the Raider Red Pharmacy Camp at the Abilene campus.



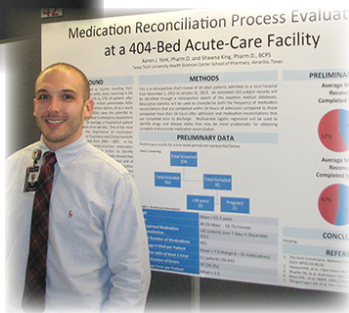
Pharmacy students enjoyed interacting with local children while conducting mission work in Peru.



Team building activities at the faculty retreat in Fort Worth included the Cowboy Necktie exercise, demonstrated at right by Drs. Crystal Edwards and Chuck Seifert under the watchful eye of Dr. Maciej Markiewski.



Pharmacy Practice residents Kayley Will and Aaron York pose with their entries for the 2013 Research Days poster competition.



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Dr. Kristen Hesch prepares for a team building exercise by brushing up on her calf roping skills at the faculty retreat in Fort Worth.



Dr. Steven Pass officially received the Class of 2013 Most Influential Professor award from School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Quentin Smith Aug. 1 at the faculty retreat in Fort Worth.