

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

TTUHSC.EDU/PHARMACY

STUDENTS WRECK THE NAPLEX

Results are in and our most recent PharmD graduates WRECKED the NAPLEX and MPJE national exams to attain their licensure with a **NAPLEX first-time pass rate of 86.7%**, well exceeding both the state (73.7%) and national (77.5%) averages. A MPJE first-time pass rate of 87.5% was also well above the national average (76%). Congratulations to our graduates on proving their readiness to excel as pharmacists and a big thank you to our faculty and staff members for their dedication to our students and ensuring their success.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear SOP Team Members, Students, Alumni, and Friends,
Our students, faculty, and staff have amazing accomplishments. In this issue, you will read about multiple accolades earned by our team members at local, regional, state, and national levels. Our teams continue to serve the community through health affairs and will soon have a series of the Spring Medication Cleanout events in Abilene, Lubbock, and Amarillo.

—Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD



HAASE RECEIVES CHANCELLOR'S AWARD



In January, Krystal Haase, Pharm.D., was awarded a Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award, the most prestigious award granted through the Texas Tech University System.

Haase is a professor pharmacy practice and the school's regional dean at Amarillo. She is a board-certified specialist in Pharmacotherapy and practiced for 24 years as a critical care pharmacist in the medical intensive care unit at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Dr. Haase has served as a preceptor for over 340 pharmacy students and residents, established 15 new residency programs across four TTUHSC campuses and procured \$1.86 million in external funding by creating residency affiliations.

She also led the creation of the hybrid Pioneer Pathway curriculum, the first of its kind in Texas, which seated its inaugural class in fall 2024.

DAS NAMED NAI FELLOW



Hiranmoy Das, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). NAI Fellowship is the highest professional distinction awarded solely to inventors, and this year's class is comprised of 170 individuals.



Alaina Van Dyke, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the Dallas campus, gave a presentation on defeating type 2 diabetes with lifestyle interventions at the AACP annual meeting.

TWO NAMED UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

University leadership presented the 2025 TTUHSC University Distinguished Faculty Awards on January 30 at the State of the University event in Lubbock. The title of “distinguished faculty” is granted each year to faculty members who have clearly exhibited outstanding achievement in teaching, research and service. School of Pharmacy faculty members, Eric MacLaughlin, PharmD, and Lance McMahon, PhD, were among those honored. Recipients hold this honor throughout the remainder of their active service at TTUHSC.



JONES RECEIVES STRIPE DOUBLE HELIX



Shawn Jones, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the Dallas campus, recently received a STRIPE Double Helix Award from the American Society of Pharmacovigilance. Jones was recognized in the Excellence in Advancing Pharmacogenomics Through Collaboration award category, which honors leaders who have driven significant advancements in pharmacogenomics by fostering collaboration across disciplines, organizations, and sectors. Their work has helped bridge gaps in science, practice, and policy, accelerating the adoption of PGx.

MAHAN BECOMES INAUGURAL RECIPIENT

Earlier this month, Becky Mahan, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice at the Abilene campus, was the inaugural recipient of the ASCP Foundation: Neil Marshall Patient Safety Award. Mahan’s practice site team at Hendrick Home Health nominated her and she received the award, which recognizes focus on improving patient safety through direct/indirect patient care and/or dispensing activities, at the ASCP Annual Meeting.



KLEIN RECOGNIZED BY APHA



Mary Klein, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice at the Abilene campus, was one of 10 recipients selected by the APhA-APPM for the 2024-2025 American Pharmacists Association Fellow Award. This award recognizes exemplary professional achievements in professional practice and outstanding service to the profession.



SELBY RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

Chris Selby, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received the 2024 President's Excellence in Teaching Award. President's Excellence Awards recognize faculty members who have demonstrated unparalleled contributions to medical education, research and clinical care.

EDDY PUBLISHED IN JOURNAL

Emily Eddy, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and director of labs and simulation at the Dallas campus, recently had an article titled, Medication therapy management: The evolution of clinical pharmacy services in U.S. Community-Based Pharmacy Practice—An opinion of the community-based practice and research network of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, published in the Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.





SMITH DEVELOPS BREAKTHROUGH METHOD

In research published in the December 2024 issue of *Fluids and Barriers of the CNS*, Quentin Smith, PhD, from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Amarillo, has developed a breakthrough method to accurately measure how drugs cross the blood-brain barrier—a key challenge in treating brain diseases. His team's research reveals that many approved medications enter the brain much faster than previously thought, reshaping how we understand drug delivery for conditions like epilepsy, stroke, and mental health disorders. This discovery could lead to more effective treatments and faster-acting medications for critical brain conditions.

MATHYS NAMED AAPP FELLOW

Monica Mathys, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice, was selected as part of the inaugural class of Fellows of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP). The AAPP Fellows Program recognizes members who have demonstrated excellence in advancing the practice of psychiatric pharmacy and have distinguished themselves in advancing the mission and goals of AAPP, thereby promoting public awareness of the profession. Mathys will be recognized at the 2025 AAPP Annual Meeting on April 28, 2025, in Salt Lake City.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT



Nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards are now open! The annual awards honor the accomplishments and contributions to health care made by alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their professions, or whose efforts have made a positive impact on their community or humanity. This year, there are separate nomination forms for all school awards and the presidential award. Nominations are due by April 27 and can be submitted [ONLINE](#).

STUDENTS PRESENT AT ASHP MEETING



In December, an amazing group of 33 students attend the 2024 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition in New Orleans. Of those, 15 had the honor of presenting posters during the event — a noteworthy accomplishment.

MCCMAHON RECEIVES NIH GRANT

Research at TTUHSC drives innovation and discovery, changing the lives of those it serves and attracting talented faculty, staff and students. In an effort to grow research excellence, a project team led by Lance McMahon, PhD, senior vice president for research and innovation, recently received a grant from The National Institutes of Health to conduct a capacity-building study.



KING SELECTED FOR NEXT LEVEL LEADERS

Randi King, assistant director for experiential programs at the Abilene campus, was one of 15 TTUHSC team members selected to participate in the Next Level Leaders Program through the Office of People and Values.





STUDENTS FINISH TOP 10 AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

In November, Alán Nguyen and Afsana Musharof, P4s at the Dallas campus, won the 2024 local clinical skills competition. The pair then went on to represent TTUHSC-SOP at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) National Clinical Skills Competition, where they placed in the top 10 of approximately 160 teams that competed. This is only the second time in school history that we've had a team place in the top 10 nationally.

ONAIWU WINS LOCAL COUNSELING COMPETITION

Grace Onaiwu, P3 at the Amarillo campus, recently won the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Local Counseling Competition. Onaiwu will go on to represent TTUHSC-SOP in the 2025 APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition. The purpose of the competition is to encourage student pharmacists in their efforts toward becoming better patient educators.



APHA-ASP HOSTS SWAB-A-PALOOZA



The American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Amarillo chapter recently hosted a two-day Swab-a-Palooza event. The event was a blood stem cell swab drive meant to save lives and raise awareness about the critical need for blood stem cell/bone marrow donors.

STUDENTS OFFER HELPING HAND



TTUHSC-SOP students teamed up with UTSW medical students and Chamberlain nursing students to provide 70 influenza vaccines and education to Dallas community members at Brother Bill's Helping Hands.

STUDENTS FEATURED AS VIZIENT HOT TOPIC

Julien Urech and Youssef Ibrahim, P3s at the Dallas campus, were published as the August 2024 Vizient Hot Topic. The pair worked with the Vizient Antimicrobial Stewardship to publish their first article, titled “Is it safe to give cefazolin to patients with penicillin allergies? A shift in the surgical prophylaxis paradigm.” Those who can’t access the link can request a pdf copy of the article from the authors.



COMMUNITY FAIRS



TTUHSC-SOP Student National Pharmaceutical Association members participated in the Community Mental Health Fair organized by the Lunch Box of Love Organization. Student volunteers provided health screenings and hypertension and diabetes education to residents at Clayton's Mark Community in Grand Prairie.



TTUHSC-SOP Student National Pharmaceutical Association members participated in a Resource Fair organized by Dallas Hope Charities as part of their Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During the event, student volunteers provided diabetes and hypertension screenings and education to attendees in need.



The Abilene Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Business Council recently hosted the annual Mercado Business Fair. During the event, TTUHSC-SOP and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing students conducted blood pressure checks and glucose screenings for community members in need.

RURAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM IN ABILENE



TTUHSC-SOP, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the Big Country Health Education Center recently invited local high school students to attend the Rural Health Symposium. Students in attendance learned about pharmacy, nursing and various other health professions available within West Texas.



STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT STORYBRIDGE

TTUHSC-SOP and GSAA TTUHSC students joined Texas Tech Physicians Pediatrics team members for a day of volunteering at Storybridge Live. We are proud to support the mission of Storybridge as it works to ensure that all kids in the region have access to an at-home library of age-appropriate books.

AMARILLO TEAM MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Jeri Brown, unit manager, and Rebecca Perry, executive associate, who both work in the Office of the Dean at the Amarillo campus, were presented with Beyond Service Coins by Values Culture Ambassadors. Beyond Service Coins are given on behalf of the Office of People and Values to recognize TTUHSC team members who create and deliver positive defining moments that align with the Beyond Service value.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



NICOLE BUZZARD CURLEE **PharmD, BCPS, Class of 2019, Abilene Campus**

Curlee is currently an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the VA in Oklahoma City. She works with primary care and in the anticoagulation clinic, while also precepting students and residents. Curlee completed a PGY1 and PGY2 in ambulatory care at the VA in Columbia, SC before moving to Oklahoma City in 2022 when her husband got a job coaching football at the University of Central Oklahoma. Together, they have two Labrador retrievers and are adopting their first child this year. Outside of pharmacy, Curlee loves to cook, bake and is dabbling in sourdough. She loves to do CrossFit and ceramics/pottery.

WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED?

I love working with the veteran population. I am consistently reminded by their stories and experiences of the sacrifice they made and feel a strong sense of duty to provide them the best care possible. When it comes to teaching, I feel so fortunate to have had incredible preceptors along the way who have helped me to achieve my goals. I hope to foster a similar learning environment to allow them to reach their full potential.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART/MOMENT OF YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

I received Most Valuable Preceptor and Preceptor of the Year in 2024 from our PGY-1 residents and residency director which was such an honor. I love my job, and I love to share what makes it so special with learners.



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?

MEET THE 24-25 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

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Spring Medication Cleanout collection cycle will kickoff in April. The drive through collections allow the public to drop off unwanted medicines and sharps to dispose of them in a free, legal and environmentally responsible manner. To learn more, visit MedicationCleanout.com

Event Dates:

Abilene Campus: April 12

Lubbock Campus: April 19

Amarillo Campus: April 26

MARCH:

- 19: Residency Match Day – Phase I
- 21: Spring Break HSC Holiday
- 21-24: APhA Annual Meeting - Nashville, TN
- 26: Texas Pharmacy Day at the Capitol
- 28: Lubbock Disaster Day Simulation

APRIL:

- Mar. 30 - 5: FIMRC Medical Mission Trip to Ecuador
- Mar. 31- 5: SOP Spring Break
- 3-5: TSHP Annual Seminar - Irving, TX
- 23: Residency Match Day - Phase II

MAY:

- 14: Celebration of Achievement
- 17: Graduation
- 26: Memorial Day Holiday



Fun Around Campus

P1 TeamSTEPPS Training



Holiday Fun



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