



The Sig Newsletter

News from the SWOSU COP

Late Spring 2012



Pharmacy Interview Day



The SWOSU College of Pharmacy recently hosted its semi-annual Pharmacy Interview Day. During the event current pharmacy students were able to meet and interview with potential future employers.

The event is open to all current pharmacy students, and it is left to the company to decide the eligibility of the students to participate.



Over 13 companies participated in this year's event including Integris Health, CVS, WalMart, PharmCare, Walgreens and Kroger.

According to college of pharmacy administration assistant Kaye Abramson, "This event is a great way for the students to learn about what the companies have to offer in terms of employment and benefits."



"It's also an opportunity for the students to become familiar with the recruiters and for recruiters to become aware of what our students have to offer as an employee. The recruiters are always positive about the great potential candidates we have here," she said.

Pharmacy Interview Day in Photos



Second Annual Pharmacy Spelling Bee

Students from the Rho Chi, the pharmacy honor society, recently hosted the Second Annual SWOSU Pharmacy Spelling Bee.

All proceeds from the event benefited the Weatherford Agape Medical Clinic, with which several members of the college of pharmacy faculty are involved.

Dean Dennis Thompson addressed the group and thanked students and faculty for their philanthropic efforts with the clinic.

“I would like to commend several of our faculty members who faithfully provide their services to the clinic, which is able to serve over 100 disadvantaged patients each month,” said Thompson.

Dean Thompson then asked the audience to join him in applause to recognize those members of the faculty and finished by reading the first word to the assembled group of 21 spellers.

The participants were all current pharmacy students competing for first place with Gabriel Pray taking first place and the top prize of a Kindle Fire tablet.

The event was organized by Rho Chi, with Drs. Scott Long, Krista Brooks and W. Steven Pray serving as judges.

In addition to the Kindle Fire winner Gabriel Pray also received a compounding spatula. First runner-up Melody Elder and second runner-up Quynh Phi also received compounding spatulas.

The event raised \$500, which will be used for the purchase of clothing, food and medicine for those in need.



Bottom (L-R) John Thompson presents the proceeds of the Pharmacy Spelling Bee to Dr. W. Steven Pray, Director of the Agape Medical Clinic Pharmacy.

Also participating were (Top (L-R) Dr. Les Ramos, contributor and judge, and student organizers Minh Ho, Jenanna Smith, and Meghan Haftman.

Pharmacy Spelling Bee in Photos



AACP Walmart Scholar

SWOSU College of Pharmacy student Kara Connelly was recently selected as an AACP Walmart Scholar recipient.

Ms. Connelly was one of 75 student recipients to receive the honor, which will cover travel expenses to the AACP annual meeting.

The scholarship is in the amount of \$1000 and covers the expenses of the 75 chosen student and faculty pairs from qualifying member institutions.

The program's premise is to serve as an informal apprenticeship for current pharmacy students who wish to further their careers within the academic field.

Ms. Connelly's faculty counterpart is Dr. Erin Callen, both will attend the upcoming July 14-18 meeting and teachers seminar in Kissimmee, Fla.



Dr. Talukder Resigning

Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy professor, Dr. Rahmat Talukder was recently appointed Chair of Pharmaceutical and Social Administrative Sciences at West Coast University(WCU).

Prior to his recent appointment Dr. Talukder served as an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and taught pharmaceuticals and pharmacy care lab.

He joined SWOSU in January, 2005 as an assistant professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and will leave at the end of May, 2012.

Dr. Talukder is a founding member of college of pharmacy at WCU, which was established in 1909. The school primarily narrows its curriculum to established areas of the healthcare field.

WCU has campus locations in Ontario, Canada, Dallas, Los Angeles and Orange County, Calif.

Dr. Talukder will be working to further establish college of pharmacy at the School's Los Angeles campus.

Dr. Choi Receives Several Research Grants

SWOSU College of Pharmacy faculty member Dr. Jaehwa Choi recently had several grants funded, which will further assist her within one of her primary research fields of Molecular targeting for the development of chemotherapeutics.

Dr. Choi was awarded \$20,000 from the Oklahoma-IdeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). This will be used for the purchase of a microplate reader that will be utilized by both faculty members and students.

An additional mini-grant was received from the INBRE program in the amount of \$25,000 for proposed research on the roles played by the JMJD2 protein family in the development of cancer, in particular breast cancer.

A \$31,572 grant was funded through the INBRE program large equipment grant program. With the funding, the COP will receive new cell culture equipment, which is necessary for testing and developing new cancer drugs therapeutic treatments, as well as more efficient therapeutic monitoring of pharmacotherapy.

Dr. Choi also received a grant from the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF), through its course, curriculum and laboratory improvement sub-funding category. The NSF grant was \$62,309 and is given for the purpose of developing teaching materials for current biofuel research.

Dr. Choi received her B.S. degree from Pusan National University in the field of pharmacy and a M.S. degree in toxicology from Seoul National University.

She continued her education in the U.S. obtaining her Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Her post-doctoral research was conducted in neurobiology at the Scripps Research Institute and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in physiology.

Phi Delta Chi Charity Drive

The SWOSU Chapter of the Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity recently sponsored a charity drive that they hope will help alleviate local poverty, while promoting awareness.

The event served as an initiation for the new pledge class, who must build and occupy, at all times, a replica of subsistence housing. The fraternity hopes this brings both students and spectators within proximity of the subculture of impoverished individuals who are forced to live on the fringe of society.

Current fraternity member and pledge trainer Taylor Martin assisted in the initiation process of the 30 new pledges, he hopes this breeds compassion and understanding among students.

“Part of initiation is to understand and fulfill societal responsibility and raise awareness about poverty.” We want students to understand the effects of poverty on the individual,” said Martin.

Part of authenticating this experience includes requiring anyone occupying the structure to remain on the premise until relieved by another student.

“Students can’t leave to go and get food, they must wait until someone arrives.” “This allows them to understand the inconvenience of poverty and hunger,” said Martin.

The 30 new pledges represent the largest class since 1956 and was the fraternity’s first attempt at raising funds in this manner. All proceeds from the event were split evenly between the fraternity, which is coed and the Agape Clinic.

Bernhardt Professor of Pharmacy, Dr. Steven Pray who is serving as one of the fraternity’s sponsors, stated that although the project is about assisting those in need, it also allows the students to form lifelong bonds and friendships with one another.

“It’s good to get the students involved and to witness them begin to recognize and assume the important roles they will play within their communities in the future,” he said

“They develop bonds with each other that allows not only cohesion as an organization, but lifelong friendships,” said Pray.

The organization will continue their efforts throughout the work week, donations of cash, non-perishable food and clothing items were accepted.

Other pharmacy faculty sponsors include Dr. Jaehwa Choi, Dr. Faruk Khan and Dr. Hardeep Saluja.

Phi Delta Chi Photos



Photos: New Phi Delta Chi pledges setup outside the pharmacy building.

