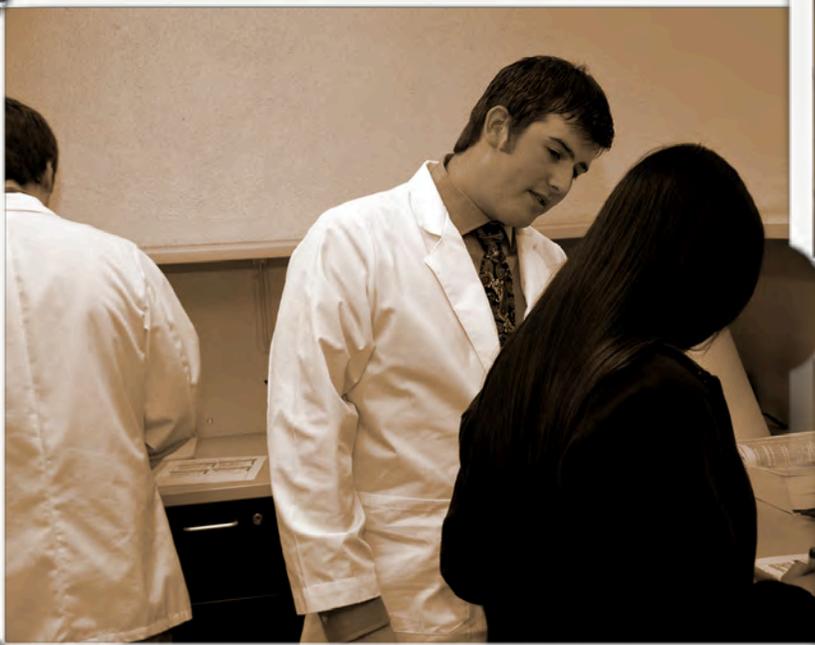




The Sig Newsletter

News from the SWOSU COP

Spring 2012





Trip to Bangladesh

Photo: Dr. Faruk Khan delivering the keynote address in Dhaka.

Dean Dennis Thompson and Associate Professor Faruk Khan of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy recently traveled to Dhaka, Bangladesh. The purpose of their trip was to assist the University of Development Alternatives (UODA) in constructing a viable course curriculum for the development of a new Pharm. D. program at the university.

During the course of their visit Drs. Thompson and Khan touched on many of the concerns the faculty of UODA expressed in implementing a new Pharm. D. program. As well as the required accreditation standards in the US and licensure procedures for both US and foreign pharmacy graduates.

In their keynote address, the evolution of the pharmacy profession into its modern manifestation, the changing roles played by pharmacists and how to best utilize current knowledge and practice into a viable future profession were among the topics discussed by Thompson and Khan.

Dr. Khan says of the trip, “The journey opened up a new avenue for cooperation to the Bangladeshi universities to open their entry level Pharm. D. degree in the future.”

Dr. Khan notes that there is currently no existing Pharm. D. program in Bangladesh, but UODA was given two plausible options, that of starting a 6-year Pharm. D. program based upon the US model or utilize the previous model of obtaining a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree followed by a two year Pharm. D. program.

Dr. Khan states that an enormous opportunity exists in the future to assist UODA in setting up a Pharm. D. program that conforms to the highest academic standards.

The two universities agreed that SWOSU will continue to provide assistance with curriculum development. As well as institutional collaboration through the exchange of ideas and research, faculty visits and the possibility of a distance education program through ITV.

“International collaborations, such as these, are a great way to exchange ideas with our colleagues in other countries. We expect our academic, professional, and research partnerships in Bangladesh to continue to grow as a result of this trip,” says Dean Thompson

Joint Pharm D / MBA Program



Photo: From Left Dean Ken Rose, College of Graduate and Professional Studies. Dr. Les Crall, School of Business and Technology. Ms. Marcia Grant, School of Business. Dr. Virgil VanDusen, College of Pharmacy. Dean Dennis Thompson, College of Pharmacy. Associate Dean David Ralph, College of Pharmacy.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy has recently collaborated with the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology to create a Joint PharmD / MBA program.

The program is designed for students who are already admitted into the college of pharmacy and shown through course work and academic standing that they are fully equipped to handle the strenuous demands of a heavy joint graduate degree course load.

Applicants will be assessed by the College of Pharmacy Review Board to determine eligibility. Once accepted into the program, students may begin to take MBA course work starting in the spring semester of their first year. The selection will be competitive resulting in only a limited number of students being admitted per academic cycle.

The college of pharmacy administration believes that this new program will allow students to excel in the increasingly protean environment that new pharmacy graduates will face.

Les Crall, the Associate Dean of the Everett School of Business and Technology, says of the program that while pharmacy students are enlarging their own educational and professional opportunities, they will also be enhancing the educational atmosphere of the school of business.

Dr. Crall, Dr. Ken Rose and Marci Grant from the College of Professional and Graduate Studies were responsible for overseeing the program's implementation. In addition to the guidance and assistance of Dr. David Ralph, Dr. Virgil VanDusen and Dr. Dennis Thompson of the College of Pharmacy.

Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Les Ramos was recently appointed Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. Dr. Ramos takes over the position from Dr. Scott Long.

Dr. Ramos has served on the college of pharmacy faculty for 14 years. He joined the college shortly after completing three years of a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Virginia.

After receiving a B.A. in biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland, Dr. Ramos went on to earn a B.S. in pharmacy and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Ramos' primary academic research interests have been in the study of disease states and pharmacology. Subsidiary research interests include the development of case studies and utilizing case studies with the goal of integrating the principles of pathophysiology and pharmacology.

As chair Dr. Ramos states that, "I hope to carry on the fine work of my predecessors, Drs. Scott Long and Virgil VanDusen. I am fortunate to have access to their knowledge and resources and I will do my best to pass along this information to the next chair. "

"I also hope to be a good steward and resource for all members of the COP community," says Dr. Ramos.

D e p a r t m e n t o f B i o l o g i c a l
S c i e n c e S e m i n a r s e r i e s l e c t u r e

Dr. Babu Tekwani recently gave the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Biological Sciences Seminar Series lecture. The college of pharmacy jointly sponsored the lecture.

Dr. Tekwani addressed a full room of students and faculty on the SWOSU Weatherford campus in the Old Science Building. He outlined his current research efforts into breaking up and identifying malarial strains.

Dr. Tekwani is a professor of pharmacology at the University of Mississippi College of Pharmacy. His other appointments include his position as the principle scientist in the National Center for Natural Products Research, and Coordinator for the University of Mississippi/ Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Discovery Program (UM/WRAIR).

It is in conjecture with the UM/WRAIR that Dr. Tekwani is furthering his research into developing an effective anti-malarial vaccine. Dr. Tekwani has many other active areas of research including seeking natural and environmentally compatible alternatives to commonly used household products and agricultural pesticides.

pesticides.

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Zada Cooper Scholarship



Two members of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University chapter of Kappa Epsilon professional pharmacy fraternity were recently rewarded the organization's national scholarship.

SWOSU College of Pharmacy students Sandra Souvannachak and Avery Karnes were awarded two of only six national scholarships in the amount of \$750.

The Zada Cooper Scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement in two or more semesters in an accredited college of pharmacy and have made substantial contributions to both the organization and their respective institutions.

The SWOSU chapter faculty sponsor, Dr. Shelly Stockton says to the achievement, "They only give out six nationally, so for our chapter to get 1/3 is very significant."

Hallway Information Display System

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy has recently implemented a new hallway information display system. The new system is currently being utilized in both the main college of pharmacy building and the pharmacy annex on the Weatherford campus.

The information system will display current college of pharmacy events, need to know information and student and faculty news items. Future plans for the system will include an interactive system that will allow students and visitors to quickly search and locate faculty and administrative offices in reference to campus building locations.

This system is similar to other general information displays that are already in use throughout the Weatherford campus, however this system is tailored to the college of pharmacy.



Reception Honoring Dr. Long

Dr. Scott Long was recently honored at an event held at the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. The reception was held to thank Dr. Long for his time served as Chair of Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr. Long served as department chair for two years and preceded the current department chair Dr. Les Ramos. As a show of appreciation the department presented Dr. Long with an outstanding leadership plaque and a clock depicting the country of Scotland to reflect Dr. Long's interest in his ancestry.

Dr. Long will continue his work with the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and will serve as professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

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New IV Equipment

The SWOSU College of Pharmacy recently acquired a new automated compounding device that eliminates the need for manual IV fluid mixing.

The new equipment is currently being housed in the Pharmacy Annex Lab, where it is being utilized by Dr. Hardeep S. Saluja's students.

The Baxa 2400 MR is currently being installed and used by major hospitals around the country and includes touch screen display and operating software.



Photos from top: New IV Equipment. Dr. Saluja and lab students.

