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The SIG

Newsletter

Southwestern Oklahoma State University™ College of Pharmacy Weatherford, Oklahoma

2021 Edition

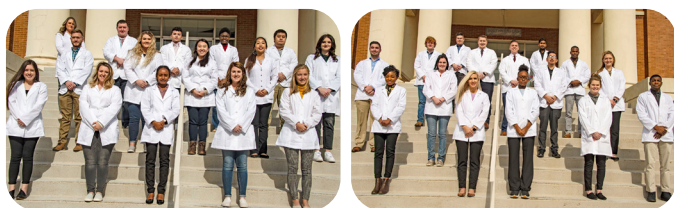
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College of Pharmacy News

2021 Admissions

The SWOSU College of Pharmacy (COP) admitted 71 students in 2021. Minimum requirements to make application for admission to the program include completion of at least 61 semester hours of specified pre-pharmacy courses with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50. The selection process is competitive and based on a number of factors. These include, but are not limited to, science and mathematics grade average, overall grade average, American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores, motivation, character, and communication skills. Welcome new COP students!

- Spring
 - o Thirty (30) students were admitted to the program. The mean age was 22 years old. The mean GPA was 3.35. The mean science GPA was 3.07. The mean ACT was 23. The class is 57% female (17) and 43% male (13).



- Fall
 - o Forty-one (41) students were admitted to the program. The mean age was 22 years old. The mean GPA was 3.45. The mean science GPA was 3.21. The mean ACT was 25. The class is 49% female (20) and 51% male (21).



Faculty & Staff News

The AACP Teacher of the Year for 2021 for Pharmacy Practice was Dr. Krista Brooks. The AACP Teacher of the Year for 2021 for Pharmaceutical Sciences was Dr. Steve Drinnon.

Drs. Randy Curry, Steve Drinnon, and Sally Drinnon received the Brandy Alumni Award during the 2021 SWOSU Homecoming Pharmacy Alumni Recognition Ceremony. The Brandy Alumni Award recognizes outstanding service to the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and the Pharmacy Alumni Association. It can also recognize the achievements of an individual working on behalf of the College of Pharmacy through service in alumni programs, on advisory committees, or through efforts made to ensure the welfare of the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Tom Davis received the Dr. H.F. Timmons Award at the ceremony. This award recognizes a SWOSU College of Pharmacy faculty, staff, or administration member who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and service to SWOSU, the College of Pharmacy, the Pharmacy Alumni Association, and the community (as Dr. Timmons did throughout his lifetime).

Dr. Randy Curry also received the Presidential Order of Merit at the 2021 SWOSU Homecoming. The SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit is an honor bestowed upon an individual who has shown outstanding achievement on the state, national or international level, in the arts, sciences, business, industry, the professions, sports, social service or public service. The prestigious award represents recognition of significant distinction that a member of the SWOSU family has attained.



Several faculty were awarded tenure and/or promotion in 2021. These changes went into effect August 16th:

- Dr. Melanie Claborn received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.
- Dr. Debra Stevens received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.
- Dr. Horrick Sharma received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

The following faculty members received Faculty Service Awards at the annual Faculty Workshop held prior to the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester:

- 5 years - Dr. Horrick Sharma and Dr. Debra Stevens
- 10 years - Dr. Krista Brooks and Dr. Virgil VanDusen (since returning to SWOSU)
- 20 years - Dr. Edna Patatanian & Dr. Randall Sharp
- 25 years - Dr. Shelly Stockton
- 30 years - Dr. Mark Gales

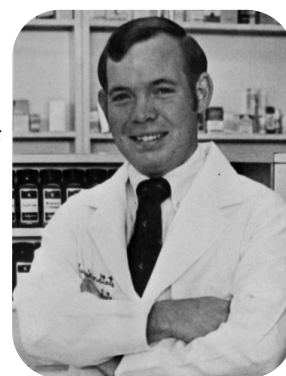
Summer Davenport joined the COP staff in January as the Admissions Counselor Administrative Assistant.

Tanya Diaz joined the SWOSU COP Alumni Office as an Administrative Assistant in June.

Dr. Horrick Sharma and his wife Dr. Pragya Sharma welcomed a baby boy in May 2021. He is their second son.

End of an Era: Dr. Davis Retired December 2021

After 33 years of service, Dr. Tom Davis retired from the SWOSU COP. Dr. Davis earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree from SWOSU in 1970 and went on to pursue his Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Oklahoma.



Following graduation from medical school in 1974, he completed a post-graduate training program in pathology and internal medicine at Saint Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City. From 1977 to 1980, he served as an Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at SWOSU before leaving to start a private medical practice in Oklahoma City. In 1992, Dr. Davis returned to the COP, where he taught for 24 years in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, followed by 5 years in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. During this time, he continued his affiliation with Saint Anthony Hospital, in the areas of pharmacy and behavioral health/substance abuse.

Dr. Davis was widely known as a gifted teacher with the unique ability of making the most difficult concepts easy to understand. His love for teaching was apparent to everyone, as he would always go above and beyond to make sure students were learning. This dedication to teaching is why he was selected by the students a record 13 times as the AACP Teacher of the Year.

Besides being an excellent teacher, Dr. Davis was passionate about his alma mater. At the university



level, he served on the Strategic Planning Committee, the 100th Anniversary Committee, the Presidential Inauguration Committee, Faculty Senate, and various other university committees. Within the COP, Dr. Davis served on countless committees and working groups. He was also part of the Pharmacy Alumni Council and was instrumental in the development of the SWOSU COP White Coat Ceremony.

Dr. Davis received numerous honors and awards throughout his career. He was named the Pharmacist of the Year in 2010 by the Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists. In 2018, he was selected by the Cardinal Health Foundation and the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association as the recipient of the Generation Rx Champions Award for his outstanding work in fighting prescription drug misuse. He was also honored by the SWOSU Pharmacy Alumni Association in October 2021 with the Dr. H.F. Timmons award.

We want to thank Dr. Davis for the remarkable contributions that he has made to the COP and to the lives of countless pharmacy students, faculty members, and other colleagues within the profession. We will miss him tremendously, but we are excited for his future traveling adventures. Well done, Dr. Davis!



Faculty/Student Publications

The COP faculty and students continued to work hard, which resulted in a number of publications:

- **Sharma H**, Mondal S. Functionalized Graphene Oxide for Chemotherapeutic Drug Delivery and Cancer Treatment: A Promising Material in Nanomedicine. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 2020, 21(17), 6280; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21176280>
- **Sharma H**, Leffler M, Khan F. Antidepressant Drugs in the series title Medicinal Chemistry for Pharmacy Students, Vol. 2, Medicinal Chemistry of Drugs Affecting the Nervous System. Pp. 163-206, 2020. (Book Chapter published in Sep 2020)
- Calnan L, Holliday L, Ogle K, **Johnson JL**. How to Differentiate Between Varying Types of Diabetes in Adult Patients. *Oklahoma State Medical Proceedings (OSMP)* 2020;4(1): published online at <http://www.okstatemedicalproceedings.com/index.php/OSMP/article/view/134>. Published July 6, 2020
- O'Hare C, Rahman T, **Williams NT**. Treatment of chronic refractory cough in adults: focus on neuromodulators and other therapeutic modalities. *Journal of Pharmacy Technology*. 2020; 36(6):251-64. doi:10.1177/8755122520954866
- **Sharp RP**, **Patatanian E**, Sirajuddin R. Use of Ranolazine for the Treatment of Coronary Microvascular Dysfunction. *American Journal of Cardiovascular Drugs* 2021;21:513-21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40256-020-00462-6>. Published online January 13, 2021
- **Stevens D**, **Hix M**, **Gildon BL**. Crizanlizumab



for vaso-occlusive pain crises in patients with sickle cell disease. J Pharm Tech. 2021. Online ahead of print. DOI: 10.1177/87551225211008460

- **Stevens D, Claborn MK, Gildon BL, Kessler TL**, Walker C. Onasemnogene abeparvovec-xioi: Gene therapy for spinal muscular atrophy. Ann of Pharmacother 2020; 54: 1001-1009. DOI: 10.1177/1060028020914274
- Walker CK, Shaw CM, Moss Perry MV, **Claborn MK**. Antiretroviral Therapy Management in Adults With HIV During ICU Admission. Journal of Pharmacy Practice. April 2021. doi:10.1177/08971900211000692
- **Stockton S**. Stoklosa & Ansel's Pharmaceutical Calculations 16th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer Inc.; 2022
- Downs JM, **Appeddu LA, Johnson JL**, Haywood KS, James BJ, Wingard KD. An exploratory survey on the awareness and usage of clinical practice guidelines among clinical pharmacists. Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy 2021; 2:2667-2776, 100013. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rcsop.2021.100013>
- **Callen ED**, Pray WS. Ramsey Hunt Syndrome and the Pharmacist. US Pharm. 2021;46(3):31-35.
- Williams M, **Moser T**. (2021). The psychodynamics of distance learning: The online discussion room. International Forum of Teaching and Studies (IFTOS). 17(2)
- **Moser T**, Edwards J, Pryor F, Manson L, O'Hare C. (2020). Workflow improvement and the use of PDSA cycles: An exploration using screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) integration. Quality Management in Health Care. 29(2). P.100-108

Current faculty names are bolded

Preceptor Conference

The annual SWOSU/OU Preceptor Conference was hosted virtually by SWOSU on Thursday, August 12th, 2021. The programming was recorded, so that preceptors who could not attend on the day of live streaming would have an opportunity to participate and learn. Dr. David Ralph, Dean of the SWOSU COP, and Dr. Vince Dennis, Associate Dean for Professional Programs at OU, provided each of the college updates. Dr. Keevie Ridener, a Compliance Officer at the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy, provided a law update.

Preceptors were introduced to the concept of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) and how they apply to pharmacy education. This part of the programming was delivered by the guest speaker, Dr. Seena Haines, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.

SWOSU Preceptor Award Winners were announced by Dr. Ralph. Awards are earned based on several criteria. The following preceptors received awards:

- Distinguished Community Preceptor- Chad Caldwell (ProHealth Pharmacy, Edmond)
- Distinguished Clinical Preceptor- Robie Harrington (Integris SWMC, OKC)
- Distinguished Selective Preceptor- Terry Furrow (One Point Patient Care, OKC)
- Distinguished Institutional Preceptor- Christina Phillips (St. John Medical Center, Owasso)
- Distinguished Early Experience Preceptor- Michael Richey (West End Drug, Lawton)



Annual Professionalism Banquet

The 11th annual Professionalism Banquet was held virtually on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, and was attended by over 100 participants, including all first-year pharmacy students. The banquet is held annually and serves to provide incoming students with an introduction to the standards of professionalism and ethics that are expected from pharmacists.

Dr. Randy Beutler and Dr. David Ralph, Dean of the COP, each addressed the attendees. Two special guest speakers were invited and spoke on topics related to their expertise in pharmacy.

The first guest speaker was Dr. Keevie Ridener from the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. She graduated from OU College of Pharmacy and began her career in independent pharmacy. She then moved to retail pharmacy management for several years before going to work for the State Board in 2017. Dr. Ridener gave a brief law overview and reminded the students of the legal and professional duties of a practicing pharmacist.



The second guest speaker of the evening was Dr. Travis Wolff. Dr. Wolff is a December 2011 graduate of SWOSU COP. He holds a teaching certificate from the University of Connecticut College of Pharmacy and a Psychology of Leadership certificate from Cornell University College



of Management. He is also a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist. He is the co-owner of two Oklahoma pharmacies, Med-World Pharmacy in Sapulpa and Apothecary Pharmacy in Mounds. He is founder of PharmFurther, where he is the lead business coach. Dr. Wolff is active in multiple local, state, and national organizations and has spoken at a multitude of professional engagements. He enthralled the audience with his energetic discussion over leadership and pharmacy ownership.

Rural Health Center

In January 2021, the SWOSU COP and Rural Health Center provided immunization skills training for pharmacists, so that they could help with administering the coronavirus vaccine.

Dr. Randy Curry, Rural Health Center Coordinator, worked closely with the Oklahoma State Department of Health to obtain vaccine supply and organize vaccine appointments. He worked with SWOSU administration to provide clinics at the SWOSU Pioneer Cellular Event Center and to advertise these clinics.

Each clinic that Randy Curry organized was designed to conduct 1200-1300 appointments. Vaccine appointments were made available via the Oklahoma State Department of Health portal. Dr. Curry coordinated volunteers to screen for and administer both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. He utilized the services of registered pharmacists (from the community and SWOSU COP faculty), SWOSU nursing faculty, SWOSU staff, as well as SWOSU pharmacy and nursing students. A few Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) nurses also helped provide vaccinations.



During 2021, SWOSU clinic volunteers had the opportunity to provide vaccine education and administration services to 17,032 people. Most of the patients were from western Oklahoma, where it is often difficult to obtain medical services and answers to patient specific questions.

As the year progressed, he encountered new challenges. Currently the biggest challenge is getting young adults to consider taking the vaccine.

He is working hard, together with the SWOSU administration, to encourage SWOSU students to get vaccinated.

Dr. Curry saw the opportunity to serve rural western Oklahoma in late 2019. He has found that the pandemic has been a tremendous opportunity to serve people. He also says that this has been a great experience for SWOSU students in getting a lot of hands-on practice with immunization skills, and also with patient communication skills.

SAGE-STEAM Camp

The Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts/ Humanities, and Mathematics (SAGE STEAM) Camp was held from June 13 to 19, 2021 on the SWOSU campus. The 2020 camp was postponed due to COVID-19, resulting in a "mega-camp" in 2021, consisting of 78 girls going into the 8th and 9th grades. Campers experienced



interactive workshops hosted by COP faculty and students. Workshops included "Unlock the Box" (solving problems to reveal the correct treatment in an escape room game), Pharmacy Compounding (compounding, packaging, and labeling anti-itch cream), Pharmacy Dispensing (dispensing and counseling on M&Ms), and Apollo

Manikin & Diabetes (working with Will E. Survive and diagnostic instruments).



PharmCORP



PharmCORP (PreCollege Program) was held on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at the SWOSU COP. This annual event is a day filled with information and hands-on activities for high school students in 9th - 12th grade who are interested in a career in pharmacy. There were eight workshops packed with exercises in pharmacy skills. PharmCORP is sponsored by Kappa Epsilon Pharmaceutical Fraternity, a student organization at the SWOSU COP.

Student Achievement

Residency Match

A total of 18 students matched to Post-Graduate Year 1 and Year 2 (PGY1, PGY2) residency programs across the U.S and continued their training. Congratulations to these recent graduates!

1. Graduates pursuing PGY1 training:
 - o Abel Abame - Oklahoma City VA Health Care System in OKC, OK
 - o Gage Bouziden - Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, OK
 - o Kyle Carter - Lawton Indian Hospital in Lawton, OK
 - o Whitney Dovel - Covenant Health System/Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX
 - o Amanda Geisler - CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System in Tyler, TX
 - o Robert Harwell - Integris Baptist Medical Center in OKC, OK
 - o Raven Hayworth - Claremore Comprehensive Indian Health Care Facility in Claremore, OK
 - o Makayla Herbst - CoxHealth in Springfield, MO
 - o Nicholas Lockyear - Total Dose Pharmacy in Edmond, OK
 - o Eugene Neboh - Baptist Saint Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, TX
 - o Isaac Nichols - OSU Medical Center in Tulsa, OK
 - o Barrett Powell - OSU Medical Center in Tulsa, OK
 - o Kalyn Powers - Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, OK
 - o Carla Williams - Crownpoint Healthcare Facility in Crownpoint, NM
 - o Kayla Woods - Oklahoma City VA Health Care System in OKC, OK
2. Graduates pursuing specialized PGY2 training:
 - o Brooke Lizotte - Cook Children's Healthcare System in Fort Worth, TX (pediatrics)
 - o Sierra Mullen - Huntsville Hospital System in Huntsville, AL (critical care)
 - o Chloe Williams - Monument Health Rapid City Hospital in Rapid City, SD (critical care)

Both SWOSU-affiliated residency programs matched with students/graduates this spring.

1. The SWOSU-Walgreen Co. PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency program matched with Dr. Damini Patel, graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.
2. OSU Medical Center-SWOSU PGY2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency matched with Dr. Zachary Dunn, who completed his PGY1 residency at OSU Medical Center in Tulsa and is a graduate of OU College of Pharmacy.

Competitions:

1. The local APhA Patient Counseling Competition was held in February 2021. Winners were:
 - 1st place - Brianne (Kirchgessner) Crews
 - 2nd place - Cole Eichelberger
 - 3rd Place - Haley Nap
2. The local ACCP Clinical Research Challenge competition winners for 2021 were:
 - Elizabeth Brown (P2.2), Megan Do (P2.2), and Gabrielle Parli (P2.2).
3. The ASHP Local Clinical Skills Competition was held virtually on October 25th and 26th, 2021. A total of 10 teams, with 2 students on each team, competed in the competition. Dr. Tiffany Kessler, Dr. Edna Patatanian, and Dr. Nancy Williams served as judges. The case was challenging and highlighted the students' critical thinking skills. For the first round, all students developed written care plans. During the second round, the top 50% of the teams presented their care plans. The winning teams received monetary prizes and were:
 - 1st Place: Andrew "Cole" Eichelberger and Cassidy Thompson (both were P4.1s)
 - 2nd Place: Le Nguyen and Julian Nguyen (both were P3.2s)
 - 3rd Place: Michael Flinn and Daniel Miller (both were P4.2s)

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SWOSU To Receive Largest-Ever Single Donation for Healthcare Education Center

Published June 15, 2021 – Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford is set to receive the largest single donation in the history of the university. Longtime SWOSU benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge of Amarillo (TX) have generously committed a **record-breaking \$5 million charitable gift**. The Hodge donation will enable SWOSU to take the next steps toward construction of a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy, named in honor of the Hodges. The gift will also establish a substantial new endowment benefitting students enrolled in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

Jerry Hodge, former chairman and chief executive officer of Maxor National Pharmacy Services Corporation, is a 1965 graduate of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy and a long-time supporter of the university. He was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1979 and was honored by the SWOSU College of Pharmacy as Outstanding Alumnus in 2008.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler said the goal of the building project is to establish SWOSU as the center for rural health education in the region. An integral part of the center will be components of the College of Pharmacy and other health-related fields at SWOSU that will further the university's mission of enhancing outreach efforts across western Oklahoma.

"We are extremely grateful and excited about the opportunities that this provides for SWOSU," Beutler said. "This incredibly generous gift from Jerry and Margaret Hodge and the long-term, positive benefits it will provide to our students, faculty and programs is truly a watershed moment in the 120-year history of this institution."

"I am deeply indebted to SWOSU and the College of Pharmacy," Hodge said. "Without my pharmacy degree, I would not have been able to purchase Maxor in 1966, and Maxor would not have been able to contract with Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to run their out-patient pharmacies in 1991. It was at John Hopkins Hospital that I met Margaret, and we married in 1994. With her support and her medical background, Maxor began to grow nationally. So, now you understand why I feel so indebted to SWOSU and the School of Pharmacy. This gift is from the two of us."

The Hodge donation will complement the \$7 million in resources provided by the recently passed sales tax by the citizens of Weatherford with a focus on rural health sciences and education. As SWOSU continues to expand its health sciences offerings, the Hodge donation will enable the university to proceed with planning for strategic partnerships with other higher education institutions. These partnerships could lead to SWOSU students having access to a Physician Assistant program and the possibility of a dual degrees program through the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. This is a long-term goal and priority of SWOSU that will be powerfully and positively impacted by the Hodge gift.

The endowment component of the donation is \$500,000 and the Pharmacy Foundation will honor the endowment by raising equal amounts of the matching funds. SWOSU has committed to working on matching that portion of the gift, according to Beutler. The Hodge gift and related endowments will be collaboratively stewarded by SWOSU's long-time institutionally-related charities—the Southwestern Pharmacy Alumni Foundation, Inc., (SPAF) and the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. (SWOSUF). The two Foundations will partner in raising matching funds to help further the ability of the Hodge gift to provide financial assistance to SWOSU College of Pharmacy students.

In 2005, the Jerry and Margaret Hodge Endowed Scholarship was established at SWOSU. Since its inception, the fund has provided a total of \$60,000 in scholarship awards to 52 pharmacy students.

Hodge was born in Carnegie and attended a two-room country school outside of Mountain View through the eighth grade before moving to Amarillo, where he graduated in 1960 from Tascosa High School. Following his graduation from SWOSU, he purchased Maxor Drug Company, Inc., in Amarillo and transformed it from a small community drugstore into Maxor National Pharmacy Services Corporation, a company that at one time employed nearly 500 people in Amarillo and more than 660 people nationwide. Hodge served as Maxor's chairman and chief executive officer until he retired in 2016. He served on the Texas State Board of Pharmacy from 1981 to 1987, including a stint as president from 1984 to 1985. He is a past



Longtime Southwestern Oklahoma State University benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge of Amarillo (TX) have generously committed a record-breaking \$5 million charitable gift to the university, which is the largest single donation in the history of SWOSU. The gift will be used for a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy, named in honor of the Hodges (drawing below), and a new endowment benefitting students enrolled in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. The Hodges are pictured here with former SWOSU President Randy L. Beutler.

president of the Texas Panhandle Pharmaceutical Association and was a charter member of the American Society of Consulting Pharmacists.

In 1973, Hodge was first elected to the Amarillo City Commission at the age of 30. After serving two 2-year terms as City Commissioner, at the age of 34, he was elected the youngest mayor in Amarillo history, serving two terms. In 2018, Hodge was named the Amarillo Globe-News Man of the Year for his many civic, business and charitable contributions to Amarillo. Known as a person always working behind the scenes to improve Amarillo, Hodge was honored for being a great asset to the city, region and state. One friend described him as a problem solver, tough businessman and to his family and friends, a real sweetheart. Hodge has also been involved in many past positions at the state and national levels, including: Chairman and vice-chairman of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Board, Chair of the Mayors' Advisory Committee to the Governor of Texas, Personal advisor on utilities and utility rates for Texas Governor W.P. Clements, President of the Texas Municipal League Region II, Economic Advisory Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Director of the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

SWOSU Provides Update on Jerry and Margaret Hodge Pharmacy & Rural Health Center

Published June 21, 2021 – Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has released additional information following the recent announcement of the largest-ever single gift in the university's history that will be allocated to supporting a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to pharmacy and healthcare education.

The facility will be named the **Jerry & Margaret Hodge Pharmacy & Rural Health Center** in honor of a major charitable investment from longtime SWOSU benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge of Amarillo (TX). The gift from the Hodges will complement the estimated \$7 million in resources, which will be provided by the recently passed sales tax by the citizens of Weatherford with a focus on rural health sciences and education.

"Jerry and Margaret Hodge's historic gift to SWOSU makes immediate provision for increased student scholarships while also investing in our long-term strategic vision of SWOSU becoming the premiere center for rural health education in our region," said SWOSU Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement Garrett King.

As part of the gift, the Hodges have generously committed \$500,000 in new pharmacy scholarships to the Southwestern Pharmacy Alumni Foundation, Inc., contingent on SWOSU raising a matching valuation of \$500,000 in new pharmacy scholarships for the SWOSU Foundation, Inc.

"We are asking SWOSU's generous community of alumni, emeriti and friends to unite in raising the \$500,000 matching total of scholarship gifts to support our College of Pharmacy students and to recognize Jerry and Margaret Hodge's generosity," King said.

SWOSU is currently strategizing the next steps towards construction of the Hodge Pharmacy & Rural Health Center. University and Foundation leaders are working to secure additional funding for the facility from a variety of governmental and nonprofit entities, as well as from private donors. The construction timeline and detailed plans for the Hodge Pharmacy & Rural Health Center will be formulated and solidified as funding is secured.

Donors who wish to contribute now may visit www.HodgePharmacyChallenge.com. Contributions may also be made via check made payable to "SWOSU Foundation" with "Hodge Pharmacy Scholarship" noted in the memorandum line; checks may be mailed to: SWOSU Foundation, Inc., 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096. Contributions may also be made by calling the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3267.



SWOSU Launches Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge

Published September 2, 2021– The Challenge goal is to create a new \$500,000 scholarships endowment to benefit SWOSU College of Pharmacy students. This new endowment will be used to **match \$500,000**, which was donated this June by SWOSU alumnus and benefactor Jerry Hodge of Amarillo (TX) and his wife, Margaret.

"As part of their historic \$5 million philanthropic investment in SWOSU announced earlier this year, Jerry and Margaret Hodge have committed to helping us **endow \$1,000,000 in new scholarships** support for our outstanding College of Pharmacy," said SWOSU President Dr. Diane R. Lovell. "The Hodges have graciously committed \$500,000 towards this worthy objective, and I know that our enthusiastic community of alumni, emeriti and friends will take advantage of this tremendous opening to double the impact of the Hodges' generosity!"

100% of contributions made to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge will be endowed solely for the benefit of providing financial assistance to students enrolled in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. Contributions may be made by visiting www.HodgePharmacyChallenge.com. Donors may make contributions via check made payable to "SWOSU FOUNDATION" with "HODGE CHALLENGE" noted in the memorandum line; checks should be mailed to: SWOSU Foundation, Inc., 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096

Gifts may also be made to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge using credit/debit cards or direct bank account debit via calling the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement/SWOSU Foundation, Inc. offices at 580-774-3267. For more information, please contact Patti Harper at 580-774-3190, patti.harper@swosu.edu or Clarke Hale at 817-707-6795, clarke.hale@swosu.edu.

We need your help to match the \$500,000. Please make your most generous contribution to the Hodge Pharmacy Scholarship Match Challenge today for tomorrow's pharmacy students at SWOSU. Convenient giving options are available: online at www.HodgePharmacyChallenge.com (one-time gift, pledge gift, recurring monthly gift) using your credit or debit card; direct mail to SWOSU College of Pharmacy (ATTN Hodge Pharmacy Match, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096) with credit card information or check made payable to SWOSU Foundation with Hodge Challenge noted in the memo line. If you need more information and/or have questions, please contact SWOSU College of Pharmacy Alumni & Development Director, Patti Harper (580-774-3190; patti.harper@swosu.edu) **Thank you for your support!**



**Jerry and Margaret Hodge
Pharmacy Scholarships Challenge**

SWOSU
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



GIVE
↓
ONLINE



SWOSU and OSU-CHS Sign MOU to Explore Expansion of Rural Healthcare Education

Published June 29, 2021 - Southwestern Oklahoma State University's (SWOSU) College of Pharmacy in Weatherford and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS) in Tulsa have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate to serve students and the citizens of Oklahoma through expansion of rural healthcare education.

The MOU was signed by SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler and OSU-CHS President Dr. Kayse Shrum, who will take over as president of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on July 1. SWOSU and OSU-CHS will explore options for a dual-degree partnership involving SWOSU's Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program and the OSU-CHS Physician Assistant (P.A.) program.



"We greatly appreciate the opportunity to begin a closer relationship with Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences that will lead to future enhancement of health-related programs at both institutions," Beutler said. "This is a partnership with great potential."

SWOSU recently received the largest single donation in the history of the university (\$5 million) from longtime SWOSU benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge of Amarillo (TX). That gift is enabling SWOSU to take the next steps toward construction of a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy.

SWOSU and OSU-CHS will cooperate on intra-professional education opportunities through electronic or physical means at the earliest possible opportunity. The two higher education institutions will be looking at possibilities and planning methods to utilize selected clinical rotations from one institution's program to meet requirements for clinical rotations of the other institution's program.

In addition, discussion will take place about the guaranteed admission slots into the OSU-CHS P.A. program for SWOSU Pharm.D. graduates, once the probationary accreditation class size cap on the OSU-CHS P.A. program is lifted, provided pre-requisites are met. And discussion will take place on the logistics of guaranteed admission slots into the SWOSU Pharm.D. program for OSU-CHS P.A. graduates, provided pre-requisites are met. Beutler said the two entities will explore other methods in which SWOSU can collaborate with OSU-CHS to expand rural healthcare opportunities for students and citizens, including the physical expansion of the OSU-CHS P.A. program into western Oklahoma at a site on SWOSU's Weatherford campus, when OSU-CHS' P.A. accreditation and funding levels allow consideration of such an expansion.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION Regarding the SWOSU June 29, 2021 Press Release

The announcement of the generous gift from Jerry and Margaret Hodge to support the development of a rural health center on the SWOSU campus will provide an invaluable opportunity to expand rural healthcare in western Oklahoma. As was announced in the June 29 press release, another component of this plan is the possible creation of a PharmD/Physician Assistant (PA) program in collaboration with the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS).

*Since the June 21 announcement, we have received inquiries regarding this proposed dual-degrees program. Although there has been a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SWOSU and OSU-CHS, **planning for the dual degrees program is just in the beginning stages**. Since the PA degree offering at OSU-CHS is new, the program is required to undergo a probationary period for 5 years before formal accreditation. During this time, there is a cap on the class size. Once the probationary accreditation class size cap on the OSU-CHS PA program is lifted, we hope to have a dual degrees program in place to allow matriculation of PharmD students and graduates. Moving forward, we will send periodic updates to the SWOSU College of Pharmacy community as new developments take place. If you are interested in receiving updates, please send your email address to swpharmacy@swosu.edu.*

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continued from page 7: Student Achievement

The first place team competed at the national competition (held at the virtual ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in December). They placed in the top 11 teams nationally.

Research and Publications:

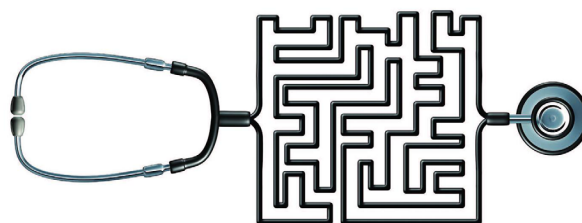
- Several SWOSU College of Pharmacy students presented their original research at the virtual Oklahoma Research Day hosted by Cameron University on March 5, 2021. Dr. Erin Callen served as a faculty mentor for each of these projects. Projects presented include:
 - Megan Do, Sophia Do, Brianna Hassett, Raven Haworth, Morgan Lewis, and Kadesha Williamson submitted a project entitled "Media-Fill Tests in Medication Compounding: Do They Really Prove Appropriate Aseptic Technique?"
 - "Pharmacy Student Perceptions Regarding Online Learning During a Pandemic" was a poster presentation given by Kaelan Jeffrey, Kena McCord, and Abigail Newman.
 - Kyla Hobson, Tracey Oliver, and Madison Thelen presented their research, "Prevalence of Anxiety and Stress in Pharmacy Students and Perceived Barriers for Seeking Treatment".
- Brianna Hassett, a May 2021 graduate, and Dr. Darrell Willyard, PharmD (Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute) authored an article in September 2020...THE DIR LABYRINTH: HOW CONFLICTING ADHERENCE RULES HAMPER MID CLINICS. It was published in the Spring 2021 edition of Oncolytics Today, which is a publication of the National Community Oncology Dispensing Association (NCODA) professional organization.
- Jackson Beach, a P2 student, created a YouTube tutorial on how to add a legislation tracker to your computer that is featured on the National

Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) website.

Achievements:

- Brianne (Kirchgessner) Crews, a 4th year student pharmacist, was selected for the NCPA Foundation Presidential Scholarship. Selection for this national scholarship is based on demonstrated leadership qualities, academic achievement, and interest in independent pharmacy. Brianne received a \$5000 scholarship and was honored at the NCPA Foundation Awards ceremony at the NCPA Annual Convention in Charlotte, NC in October 2021.
- Jackson Beach, a second-year pharmacy student, was selected for the NCPA Student Leadership Council as the Region 6 Representative and Secretary-Elect.

D I R F E E S



THE DIR LABYRINTH: HOW CONFLICTING ADHERENCE RULES HAMPER MID CLINICS

By Brianna Hassett & Darrell Willyard, PharmD

Direct and Indirect Remuneration (DIR) adherence fees have created a frustrating roadblock for Medically Integrated Dispensing (MID) pharmacies and their Medicare patients.

DIRs were originally created by the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) along with the initiation of Medicare Part D in 2006. DIRs were initiated in an attempt to determine the actual cost of medications after drug manufacturer kickbacks or other allowances were given to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM).

PBMs have since expanded the definition and use of DIRs to ostensibly promote quality.¹ In reality, this strategy has produced a labyrinth of goals from each PBM that makes it almost impossible for small in-house pharmacies to determine the financial penalties that might be retroactively taken back by the PBMs due to performance standings.²

Sometimes the goals of one PBM



Brianna Hassett



Darrell Willyard

may directly contradict those of another. For example, one may promote 90-day prescription fills while others may penalize for their use.³

Most PBMs provide a unique category for in-house oncology clinics, described as a "specialty component."⁴ PBMs often choose to focus on specialty drugs dispensed by in-house pharmacies versus broader criteria used by other retail pharmacies for diabetes and statin usage. The PBM determines what is defined as a specialty drug and the respective adherence rate.

A CLOSER LOOK

Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute's clinic-based phar-

macy (OCS Pharmacy) currently works under DIRs from seven different PBMs. The pharmacy chose to look at specialty drugs and adherence rates from one of the largest PBMs, which will be referred to as XYZ PBM.⁵

Specialty adherence rates reported for the insurance groups XYZ represents were 82.5%, 87%, 89.6%, 89.75% and 92.54%.⁶ The adherence rates reported by XYZ do not correspond to rates in previous retrospective reviews performed by the pharmacy, which were between 90% and 94%.^{5,6}

XYZ accounted for 26% of the DIR fees recouped from OCS Pharmacy in 2019, making it a good candidate for review.⁷

XYZ provides the pharmacy with an extensive trimester report on the pharmacy's performance, a report both long and confusing to understand. The most recent report was broken down into the five major insurance groups represented by XYZ, and their DIR goals.⁸ The total report was 13 pages in length.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



White Coat Ceremony



The 2021 White Coat Ceremony was held on Saturday, March 27th. This year the ceremony was closed to the public but streamed live over the SWOSU YouTube channel for all family, friends, faculty and staff to view. During the ceremony, 3.1 and 3.2 students received their coats and reflected upon and celebrated their many accomplishments that brought them to this point. The ceremony was sponsored by Walgreens, Pharmacist Mutual, and the SWOSU APhA-ASP chapter.



Scholarships

Over 100 awards and scholarships, totaling more than \$188,000, were awarded to COP students in 2021. The majority of the awards and scholarships are based on academic performance. The Selection Committee, however, also considers financial need, professionalism, and service activities as components of the criteria for some awards and scholarships. Two new scholarships have been established this year because of generous gifts made by Bryan and Deanne Hammons of Kennedale (TX), and by Vonya Streetz of OKC.

Graduation

The SWOSU College of Pharmacy Convocation and Graduate Recognition Ceremony was held on April 30, 2021. Speakers included Dean Ralph and SWOSU President Dr. Beutler. Awards were presented by Dean Ralph and Dr. Ramos. Dean Ralph donned each graduate with their doctoral hood, and President Beutler conferred the Doctor of Pharmacy degrees. Eleven students completed the dual degrees of the Doctor of Pharmacy and the Master of Business Administration. Ten students in the Nelson Sims Leadership, Innovation, and Quality Outcomes degree specialization program graduated. They are recognized as Sims Scholars.

Organization News

American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)

Over the past year, the SWOSU chapter of the APhA-ASP worked diligently to provide improved patient care and education through numerous projects and activities.

Operation Immunization assisted the SWOSU Rural Health Center and the Custer County Health Department with recruiting student volunteers and developing large-scale clinics, located on campus at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center. Several members spoke at a local radio station to answer questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and the clinics. SWOSU's Operation Immunization was also featured on the national APhA-ASP's Instagram page. During the fall, members created an informational slide that addressed current myths about the COVID-19 vaccines, which was displayed on campus monitors all across the campus. They also hosted flu vaccine clinics for the entire COP.

During the first two weeks in February, Operation Women's Health, Operation Heart, and Operation Brain collaborated to host a mental and physical health challenge open to all COP students. Over 30 students participated in the challenge and set goals to develop new healthy habits, with 2 students winning health-themed gift baskets.

Operation Women's Health worked with the local Girl Scout chapter in a demonstration of successful handwashing to help combat the spread of illness. They were also able to teach the girls about the importance of self-confidence and the negative impact social media and photoshop can have on their mental health. This operation also held a women's shelter drive and encouraged student pharmacists to donate items that women and children might find necessary in the escape from a difficult situation. The items were then donated to YWCA Oklahoma City for distribution.

Operation Heart and Operation Diabetes assembled and dispersed informational resources and materials relating to heart health and diabetes in the waiting and recovery areas of the COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Operation Heart provided informational slides to the SWOSU Wellness Committee to be displayed on monitors and as flyers around campus. The operation aided new pharmacy students in honing their blood pressure skills. The two operations hosted a Track-Your-Miles event during the month of November, where participants set mile goals. Also, in November for National Diabetes Month, Operation Diabetes worked with the Rural Health Center to help students track their blood glucose and food choices.

In October, Operation Substance Use Disorder collaborated with Clinton IHS and Red Rock Behavioral Health Services for National Drug Take-Back Day to help collect unwanted and/or unused medications in the Weatherford community. This operation also provided Narcan® training for first semester pharmacy students.

Kappa Psi

With the pandemic having a big effect on the Spring 2021 semester, the leadership in Kappa Psi thought that it would be a good opportunity to update the panel picture that is present in the COP hallway. New member initiation was conducted over Zoom as 4 new members were welcomed into the fraternity.

To begin the Fall 2021 semester, Kappa Psi hosted a recruitment event for the first time since the pandemic began. As in the past, Kappa Psi had a bowling night at the local bowling alley. All of the brothers got together for an enjoyable time with each other, while telling the hopeful rushees what Kappa Psi is all about. Later in the semester, Kappa Psi held an initiation event on campus to welcome in 6 new initiates to the fraternity.

The brothers in the fraternity also seized the opportunity to do their part in the effort to aid in vaccinating the public



against COVID-19. Brothers were designated a specific week to aid with the COVID-19 vaccination clinics held on the SWOSU campus. They helped with completing paperwork and making sure that the flow of the clinic was at its optimal.

Phi Delta Chi (PDC)

The year 2021 was a fantastic one for Phi Delta Chi's Alpha Omega chapter. Although COVID was still very prevalent, hindering the organization's ability to meet in person for most meetings in the spring semester, the members made the best of it with many achievements and hallmarks throughout the year. For both the spring and fall semesters, PDC was a strong presence at the new pharmacy student orientation with great giveaways, advice, and recruiters. Throughout the year, many members and advisors volunteered at the local COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Several members were also selected as the College of Pharmacy Leader of the Month.

In January, the recruiting team got creative and kicked off the semester by passing out goodie bags to incoming pharmacy students, along with hosting a JackBox game night for pharmacy and pre-pharmacy students and a very successful virtual scavenger hunt a few weeks later as part of their recruitment. They also hosted a virtual "smoker" night with guest speaker and former professor Dr. Steven Pray. During February, the members sold candy grams all across campus as a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Throughout the spring semester, the Brotherhood Committee held paint nights to come together and de-stress. In April, the PDC Service Committee hosted a spring-cleaning clothing drive, where about 100 bags of winter clothing were donated, as well as an Easter egg hunt at Crowder Lake. They finished out the semester with a formal banquet, where many awards were given to members and advisors that were finally able to come together (cautiously) and celebrate.

Over the summer, several members attended PDC's

National Grand Council virtually to network with thousands of other pharmacy professionals and present research.

The chapter held their annual retreat in August at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford. The fall semester started relatively normally compared to the previous COVID-19 semesters before vaccinations, so PDC was able to again participate and enthusiastically recruit at SWOSU's Project Blue and new student orientation in person. Recruitment events in the fall included a 90's themed paint slide, a cookout with relay races and other games, and an ice cream social themed "Poker Night" with many games and prizes. On the last day of August, PDC participated in the COP Welcome Back picnic by serving food and hosting a "Pie in the Face" fundraiser, which raised over \$855 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Many faculty members agreed to let a student "pie" them if a certain amount of money was raised, while the whole student body present watched. The members also held several other fundraisers throughout the semester to benefit St. Jude. A formal initiation ceremony was held in November with 14 new members being inducted.

Kappa Epsilon (KE)

The Alpha Beta Chapter of Kappa Epsilon professional pharmacy fraternity strives to promote the profession of pharmacy and serve their community through a variety of projects. In the spring, KE participated in the Custer County Relay for Life and hosted a food drive to support the Connections Food and Resource Center. In both the spring and fall semesters, Kappa Epsilon hosted a drive to gather donations for Harley's House, a charity that provides emergency childcare and supplies to families all across western Oklahoma. In the fall, KE organized and hosted PharmCORP, a day filled with information and hands-on activities for high school students in 9th - 12th grade who are interested in a career in pharmacy. This event allows students to participate in hands-on labs and workshops led by SWOSU faculty and current pharmacy students.



National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)

During the spring semester, NCPA members participated in the first virtual Congressional Fly-In, along with more than 300 pharmacists from across the United States to hold meetings with over 250 congressional offices. NCPA also held several successful virtual speaker meetings with honored guests such as Debra Billingsley, past Executive Director of OPhA, Bill Osborn, past NCPA president, and Erin Selby, NCPA executive resident for 2020-21.

In the fall, members attended the annual NCPA Convention, in person, in Charlotte, North Carolina where they presented their research on the stability of mail-order prescriptions that may be subjected to temperatures outside of the USP recommendations during shipment. Members also attended a student pharmacy ownership workshop where they learned what all is required to own their own business and how to hone the necessary management skills. Nicholas Lockyear, PGY1 community resident (Total Dose Pharmacy) and May 2021 graduate, and Bindhu Batra from Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA), spoke during meetings hosted by NCPA.

The chapter teamed up with a local business to host a hypertension detection event. Attendees were screened for hypertension and educated on the long-term effects of elevated blood pressure. Members of the community who may have not been able to afford or have access to screenings were the focus of this project, ensuring good health and avoiding hypertension-associated complications in Weatherford's underserved population. Members served the local community through the Weatherford Angel Tree project by donating gifts to ensure that no child experiences the holiday season without the joy of unwrapping a gift. Additionally, many members served at the weekly COVID-19 vaccine clinics held on campus throughout 2021.

Student Chapter of the Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists (sOSHP)

The Student Chapter of the Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists (sOSHP) had yet another successful year. The chapter began both semesters with membership drives and hosted a welcome back picnic on the lawn during the fall semester for the COP.

In the spring semester, sOSHP held their annual residency panel virtually providing around 45 students with an interactive and informational atmosphere to learn more about pharmacy residency. Eleven pharmacy residents representing a diverse array of pharmacy residency programs made up the panel. These residents elaborated on their future career goals and current residency, as well as explaining their preparation prior to residency.

Throughout the year, sOSHP held several speaker meetings, including one with Dr. Chris Pack, the president of OSHP. In April, members participated in a legislative workshop with Dr. Lucas Coody, Director of Government Affairs at Pharmacy Providers of Oklahoma. Dr. Coody shared the importance of advocating for the profession of pharmacy, as well as how to get involved.

Members stayed busy as they hosted the Be Kind to Your Mind Well-Being & Resilience Project. This project consisted of students sending pictures of themselves performing self-care activities. They also teamed up with Kappa Epsilon in hosting a donation drive for Harley's House.

Rho Chi

The Beta Upsilon Chapter of the Rho Chi Academic Honor Society held their Initiation and Officer Installation banquet on November 16, 2021, with 13 students being initiated. In February, Rho Chi members and advisors



joined the first ever Rho Chi Regional Meeting with students from pharmacy schools in Arkansas and Texas. This virtual meeting included unique pharmacy career presentations, discussions regarding the COVID pandemic response, and community service. Throughout both the spring and fall 2021 semesters, members volunteered their time to provide tutoring sessions to all pharmacy students. Rho Chi members joined in the sOSHP sponsored mental health and well-being project by providing "Baskets of Sunshine" and "Don't Be Blue". The members held a very successful t-shirt, sweatshirt, and hoodie fundraiser at the end of the fall semester, with all profit going to the Agape Clinic in Weatherford.

Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS)

On March 8th, 2021, PLS hosted their annual Leadership Seminar with guest speaker Dr. Kristie Edelen (PharmD, DABAT), a Senior Toxicologist with the Oklahoma Poison Center. She spoke to attendees about her career at the poison center, leadership roles she has been in throughout her career, and provided advice to students for their future careers.

During the month of June, President Abigail Thibodeaux and 6 other members attended the annual PLS Virtual Leadership Summit. It was a great networking opportunity for pharmacy students to come and meet influential pharmacists who are helping develop leaders in the pharmacy world. Students attended workshops to help discover their leadership voices and to distinguish certain strengths and weaknesses in themselves and in their teams and how the importance of diversity fosters innovation and success. Many workshops and key speakers focused on tools and techniques that students can use in their daily practices to effectively solve problems and utilize their time to be a more effective and efficient leader.

The chapter continued to promote leadership and involvement within the COP through the "Leader of the Month" award. The award is given to an on-campus pharmacy student who exhibits outstanding leadership within the COP during that month. The winner receives a certificate, recognition on the COP Facebook page,

and a small gift card presented by the Professionalism Committee. Winners for the year are Madison Thelen (January), Elizabeth Brown (February), Brianne (Kirchgessner) Crews (March), Kayla Olson (April), Brianna Pritchard (August), Lauren Chastain (September), Victor Do (October), and Le Nguyen (November).

PLS members went above and beyond to volunteer at the many COVID-19 vaccine clinics held at SWOSU and off campus. The members helped with setup and tear down of the clinics, administering vaccines, completion of paperwork, and anything else that was asked of them. Several members took part in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, held in October.

Fellowship of Christian Pharmacists (FCP)

FCP exists to unite pharmacy students at SWOSU who desire to grow closer to Christ, as well as each other and the local community. Officers rotate leading weekly devotionals. Students also participate in at least one service project every semester. In the fall semester, students gathered supplies to assemble boxes filled with school supplies, clothing, hygiene items, and toys. These boxes are donated to the organization Operation Christmas Child to be delivered to those in need all around the world. Students also served their local community by partnering with local missions such as Harley's House to provide gifts for children as a way to share the love of Christ. During the spring semester, students partook in the Bible Project. They reached out to the COP to help with the donation of Bibles. Each member of the organization was asked to "sponsor" at least one Bible. The donated Bible would include notes of encouragement and highlighted verses of personal inspiration. These "sponsored" Bibles were then donated to the Agape Medical Clinic and given to their patients. Additional activities included worship nights, speaker meetings, and participation in the annual Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFI) meeting.

Campus News



In March 2021, the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) Regents named Dr. Diana "Diane" Lovell president of SWOSU. She started serving in this capacity on July 1st, 2021 following the retirement of President Randy Beutler. Dr. Lovell becomes the 18th president of SWOSU, which was founded in 1901.

She comes from Blinn (TX) College District, where she served over a period of 9 years in the capacities of Vice-Chancellor of Student Services, Dean of Social Sciences, and Professor of History. In addition to being at Blinn College District, Dr. Lovell served as Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities at Houston Baptist University.

Dr. Lovell was born and raised in Weatherford. Both her parents taught at SWOSU, with her father serving as chair of the Biology Department and her mother teaching in the Home Economics Department.

Dr. Lovell articulated her excitement about her prospective service to SWOSU by saying: "I am honored the RUSO board has

appointed me as the next president of SWOSU, and I look forward to partnering with the entire western Oklahoma community to further strengthen our educational system. I am passionate about building innovative programs and alliances with key stakeholders to grow the economy of western Oklahoma and the enrollment of SWOSU while forging connections with the community."

Dr. Lovell has a B.A. in Education from Baylor University (1989), a M.A. in History from the University of Houston (1992), and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Houston (2003).

Welcome Dr. Lovell!





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