

BUZZ

February 2025



KRYSTAL HAASE, PHARM.D., regional dean in Amarillo of the **TTUHSC-JERRY H. HODGE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**, was recently awarded a Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award. This is the most prestigious award granted through the Texas Tech University System. Haase, a professor in the Jerry

H. Hodge School of Pharmacy Department of Pharmacy Practice and the school's Regional Dean at Amarillo, is a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist. Haase has served as a preceptor for pharmacy students and residents and established 15 new residency programs across four TTUHSC campuses. Haase established and directed the innovative PGY1/PGY2 Pharmacotherapy Residency for 15 years, training residents who have advanced into prominent roles in academia, clinical practice, and health care leadership. She also led the creation of the school's hybrid Pioneer Pathway curriculum, the first of its kind in Texas.



Rheumatologist **DR. CHEN CHAO** has joined the esteemed team at **ALLERGY A.R.T.S.** Dr. Chao earned a Master of Business Administration from Boston University's Questrom School of Business. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and completed his residency in internal

medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai's Program in New York City. Dr. Chao is an active member of several distinguished medical organizations, including the American College of Rheumatology, the American College of Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, and the Medical Society of the State of New York. His contributions to the field have been recognized with notable accolades, including the Patient Care Trust Fund - Research/Community Project Grant in May 2022. Among his many achievements, Dr. Chao has received the Junior Resident of the Year Award, the Healthcare Administration Scholar Award, and the Best Resident Educator Award. He is also a Fellow of the Rheumatology Society and has served as President of the ICU Research Committee at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, New York.

BROWN & FORTUNATO announced that **ATTORNEYS DUSTY A. ABRESCH, JESSE K. FISHMAN, and MICHAEL K. GAWARGI** have joined the firm. **DUSTY ABRESCH** is a member of Brown & Fortunato's Corporate Group where



Dusty Abresch



Jesse Fishman



Michael Gawargi

her practice includes mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and real estate. She has experience handling a variety of equity and asset transactions, restructuring corporate entities, and negotiating real estate agreements. Dusty earned her Bachelor of Business Administration with honors from Loyola University New Orleans and her Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University School of Law. Dusty is a member of the State Bar of Colorado, the Colorado Bar Association and the Denver Bar Association. **JESSE FISHMAN** is a Senior Attorney in the firm's Labor and Employment Group where her practice is focused on representing employers in litigation, pre-litigation, and counseling matters. Jesse has experience representing individuals in various discrimination, harassment, and wrongful termination matters and uses that knowledge to advise employers on best practices

and how to avoid costly mistakes. Jesse attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star from 2019 through 2024. Jesse is active in community leadership and participates in several volunteer programs. She is a member of the Colorado Bar Association, the Wyoming State Bar and the Washington State Bar Association. **MICHAEL GAWARGI** joined Brown & Fortunato as a member of the firm's Corporate Group where his practice is focused on drafting and negotiating complex agreements, assisting in mergers and acquisitions, managing corporate governance issues, and guiding business entities through formation and strategic growth initiatives. Michael also has experience in private equity holdings, giving him a unique perspective and a well-rounded background in corporate and transactional matters. Michael attended Texas A&M University, graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a minor in Philosophy. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. Michael is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the Amarillo Area Bar Association, and Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association.



ANDREA'S PROJECT and WELCOME PARDNER surprised **REPRESENTATIVE FOUR AND MRS. KAREN PRICE** both with a **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARD** for their over a decade of service to the Texas



Sheriff Brian Thomas

Panhandle and State of Texas. Even though Representative Four Price was elected to the post, his wife, Karen, donated a lot of time during his service: her attendance and multiple functions as well as sacrifice of family time. Many community leaders, **REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SMITHEE**, judges, citizens, nonprofits as well as newly-elected **STATE REPRESENTATIVE CAROLINE FAIRLY**, were in attendance. In addition, **POTTER COUNTY SHERIFF BRIAN THOMAS** was similarly surprised with a **SHERIFF WITH A HEART AWARD** from Andrea's Project and Welcome Pardner, for the heartfelt difference he has made in our community.



Kelsey Ward



Chris Jensen

FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST ("FBSW") recently announced the appointment of **KELSEY WARD** as Vice President, Commercial Banker. With 14 years of banking experience, Kelsey brings a wealth of expertise to her new role, where she will serve local businesses by providing tailored financial solutions and fostering strong relationships. Kelsey, a native of the Texas Panhandle, earned her Finance degree from West Texas A&M University after running cross-country at Dallas Baptist University. Her banking career includes roles at Happy State Bank, Amarillo National Bank, and Education Credit Union, where she gained extensive experience in consumer lending and branch management. She was honored as the Canyon Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Woman of the Year, and served as a Canyon City Commissioner (2021-2023) and Canyon Lions Club President (2020-2021). In addition, **FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST** welcomed **CHRIS JENSEN** as Executive Vice President Associate General Counsel. With nearly 30 years of legal experience, Chris brings extensive knowledge and leadership to the institution. Chris has built a distinguished career representing clients in commercial issues, real property, natural resources, construction, and eminent domain. Prior to joining FBSW, he served as President of Sprouse Shrader Smith PLLC and worked with a diverse range of clients, including utilities, financial institutions, and agricultural enterprises. Chris's accolades include being named a Texas Super Lawyer for 11 consecutive years and serving as a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. He has held leadership roles in the Amarillo Area Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee. Chris holds a Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southern Methodist University.

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CFRE INTERNATIONAL announced that **AMY LANDESS JUBA, CFRE, MBA**, has been recertified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive. Ms. Juba, Amarillo-based nonprofit consultant and owner of **AMY JUBA, CFRE NONPROFIT CONSULTING**, is one of over 7,700

professionals worldwide who hold the CFRE designation. Juba has held the CFRE certification since 2013 and has more than 20 years of experience in the fundraising profession and nonprofit industry. Juba has also served on the boards and leadership roles for many nonprofit organizations. She holds a BBA in Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from Southern Methodist University.



MOLLY DAVIS, a dedicated movement professional and 500-hour Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT) since 2015, announced her recent achievement of **STOTT PILATES CERTIFICATION** in Mat-work, Reformer, Cadillac, Chair, and Barrels Level 1. This milestone

underscores Molly's commitment to expanding her expertise in delivering a comprehensive, high-quality experience to her clients. Molly's dual expertise in yoga and Pilates allows her to create a well-rounded approach to movement, blending strength, flexibility, and mindfulness. Since becoming a Stott-trained Pilates instructor in 2021, she has continued to deepen her knowledge, solidifying her role as a trusted resource in the wellness community. Her newly earned certification reaffirms her dedication to providing top-tier instruction and fostering a supportive environment for her clients. Molly teaches classes at **RE-FORM PHYSICAL THERAPY, PILATES & AESTHETICS** and is available for private sessions. *AW*