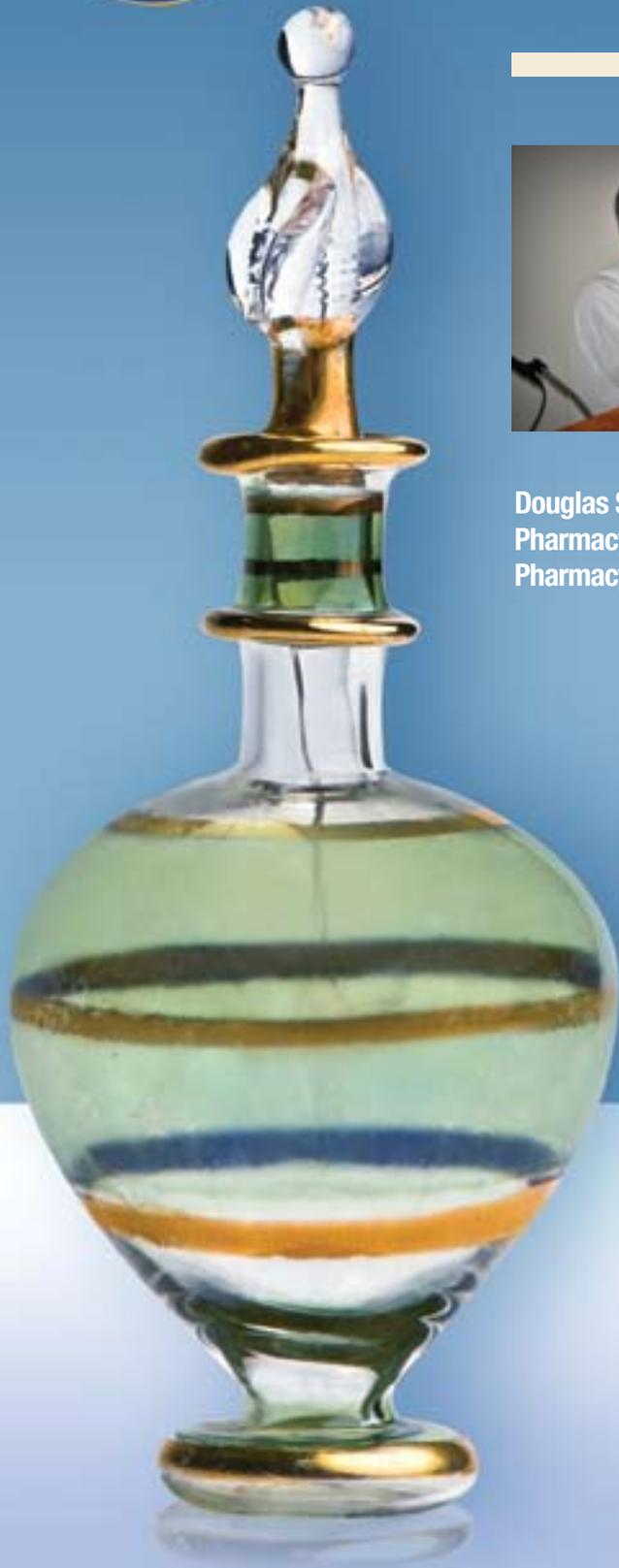


ShowGlobe

Winter 2008



Professor Selected to Distinguished Fellowship

Douglas Slain, Pharm.D., BCPS, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, has been selected as a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP).

Dr. Slain was recognized during a special ceremony on October 19 at the ACCP Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Recognition as a fellow is awarded to ACCP members who have demonstrated a sustained level of excellence in clinical pharmacy practice and/or research.

Dr. Slain is active at the national level in several infectious diseases and pharmacy associations. He was selected as 2007 "Clinician of the Year" by The Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP). He is WVU's faculty liaison for The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and ACCP, two national associations that serve the needs of clinical pharmacy practitioners. He is also the program director and principal mentor for the Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Specialized Residency at the WVU School of Pharmacy and has garnered multiple teaching awards.

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Message from the Dean

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Another year is upon us, and I used the first few days of 2009 to sit behind my desk and reflect on 2008 — what we have accomplished, the upcoming semester and how to grow our future. The School has had another wonderful year of advancements in research, teaching and service. Our students have excelled in their studies, as well as with community outreach and service projects. However, there are always areas for improvement, and I began to plan our strategy of how to strengthen these areas.

But as I sat and planned our future, my thoughts kept drifting back to a deep loss for the School. A loss that will never be regained or replaced. It was the loss of our faculty member and dear friend, Dr. Calvin Brister.

Dr. Brister joined the faculty of the School of Pharmacy 37 years ago. He was a wonderful man, a great teacher and a mentor to many. While at his memorial service, the pastor read a poem about a man speaking at a funeral. The speaker stated it was not the dates on the tombstone that mattered, but the dash that was in between. The dash represented how the person lived his life.

We can all say with absolute certainty that Dr. Brister lived his dash to the fullest. Whether he was in the role of teacher, advisor, test proctor or friend, he did not hold back in his passion for helping others succeed.

We are implementing a scholarship in Dr. Brister's name. More information about the scholarship can be found on page 8. Please help the School leave a lasting legacy in honor of Dr. Brister. It was his "dash" that helped many of our students and made our School what it is today.

Warm regards,

Patricia Chase, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
WVU School of Pharmacy



The West Virginia University School of Pharmacy newsletter, The *ShowGlobe*, is printed and mailed to School of Pharmacy alumni and friends quarterly. It is also available online at www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop under Alumni Association.

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American Pharmacists Month Celebrated

By Travis White, 2009 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate

For many people, the month of October brings to mind cooling weather, bright blue skies, changing leaves and visits from trick-or-treaters. For the pharmacists among us, October is also affectionately known as American Pharmacists Month. Each year, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) collaborates with its student organization, the Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) to host a variety of activities. The underlying theme of the month's events is to "Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacist."

Pharmacy is an evolving profession and many of the month's activities were aimed at educating community members about all the services a pharmacist can provide. A variety of practicing pharmacists came to speak to the students about potential pharmacy career paths they may want to pursue. Pharmacy students also used this time to reach out to their community. You found students at pharmacies, grocery stores and health fairs providing free blood glucose, A1C,

and cholesterol screenings to the public. They also served to educate the community about conditions such as hypertension and the common cold. The purpose of this outreach was to demonstrate the ability of the pharmacist to be a resource not only for drug information but also for the management of many common disease states.

Of course, pharmacy month wasn't just all work and no play. Each year the students in the first-, second- and third-year classes form flag football teams. The result was a fierce competition like one you rarely see. In the end, one men's and women's team are crowned champions and immortalized on a plaque hanging in the Mylan Center. Following the games, the sociality continued as students and faculty join together at the Firkin & Fox for food. There was much to learn and do during American Pharmacists Month. Above all else, the invitation was extended to everyone everywhere to know your medicine and know your pharmacist.

WV Prescription Drug Abuse Quitline Active Throughout West Virginia

The misuse and abuse of prescription medications has become a life-threatening epidemic in the Mountain State. Reports are showing that incidents of abuse are growing at an alarming rate each year. However, there is some hope for West Virginians wrestling with abuse of prescription medications. The West Virginia University School of Medicine offers a service for those with prescription drug problems and for their loved ones: the West Virginia Prescription Drug Abuse Quitline.

The Quitline, 1-866-WV-QUIT, is a confidential telephone hotline where callers can speak with an educator who can give information about referrals to treatment centers, provide education about the use of Narcotics Anonymous and other support meetings, and mail self-help materials. At the caller's request, the educators can also make follow-up calls over several months to check in on the caller. Friends or

family members who are concerned about a loved one may also call for information.

For School of Pharmacy alumni practicing in a community or retail pharmacy setting, you are on the front lines and may have had an incident with a questionable controlled substance prescription or have spoken with someone who has a loved one who is addicted. Since your support and advocacy for neighbors, clients and community members' lives is paramount to the safety and wellness of our community, we ask your support in sharing Quitline information with your patients and their families. The Quitline can provide you with free information you can distribute in your pharmacy for those needing help. For more information about the Quitline or to obtain materials, please contact Clara Shockley, program manager, Prescription Drug Abuse Quitline, at cshockley@hsc.wvu.edu or by calling 304.293.3560.

Made in School of Pharmacy **Heaven**

Being accepted into the School of Pharmacy is a transition into a new phase of life. You have new professors, you make new friends and you have a whole new set of priorities. Pharmacy school was not only the right career path for **Tim and Jennifer (Smith) Kmen, both '08**, it also turned out to be the right path to meeting that special someone.



First Year - Dating

A career in pharmacy was a natural choice for Jen. She began work in an independent pharmacy in her hometown of Chapmanville, W.Va., during high school. The longer she worked at the pharmacy, the closer she became to the customers and knew that she wanted to learn more about the medication she worked around each day and be able to help others the way the pharmacist did. Tim, a native of Huntington, W.Va., was drawn to the profession as it involved three of his passions: math, science and the ability to help others.



Second Year - Engaged

They first met at the orientation dinner for the Class of 2008. "Tim heard me talking with a fellow first-year student as we were lining up to enter the auditorium and said, 'I like your accent. It's cute!'" From there, they quickly became friends and started dating shortly thereafter.



Third Year - Married

Fourth Year - Baby Addison

During their second year, Tim proposed and plans ensued for a wedding during the third year of school. "It was difficult planning a wedding while taking classes because the second year of school is the hardest," said Jen. "I struggled to maintain balance between studying and wedding planning. I often found myself searching for wedding favors and ideas online and had to remind myself to focus on studies. In the end, it worked out for the best because my grades, and our wedding, turned out great!"



Graduation 2008

The fourth year of school brought rotations and a little bundle of joy named Addison. The Kmens now reside in Winston-Salem, N.C., and work for Walgreens. "Life has been wonderful and we are still close enough to visit family and friends," said Jen. "We couldn't have asked for anything better."

You truly never know where life, or the profession of pharmacy, will lead you, but for Jen, Tim and little Addison, the School of Pharmacy made all the difference in the world. Best wishes to Tim and Jen for a happy and fulfilling life!

Editor's Note: Tim and Jennifer are expecting another bundle of Mountaineer joy in July 2009.

Bidding Frenzy!

The 2nd Annual School of Pharmacy Awesome Auction was held November 17 in the Health Sciences Center Okey Patteson Auditorium. Participants were able to bid on an incredible array of items, such as home baked doggie treats á la Mrs. Brenda Higa, poker lessons by Assistant Dean of Student Services Clarke Ridgway and Dr. Robert Griffith, pottery, field trips, yoga classes and much more. Students, faculty and staff bid, outbid, and at times nearly came to fisticuffs, for these unique items to raise a total of \$2,200. All proceeds from the auction supported student travel to meetings of professional organizations, such as the annual meeting of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA).



Alumni News

Chanda (Saucerman) Adkins, '05, works at the Charleston Area Medical Center. Chanda and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of their daughter, Leah Noel Adkins, born December 17, 2008.

Neelam Azad, '07, a Ph.D. graduate in pharmaceutical sciences under the direction of Dr. Yon Rojanasakul, has finished her first semester as an assistant professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Hampton University School of Pharmacy in Virginia.

Troy and Elutea Blum, both '96, announce their twin daughters, Sydney and Alexis, are enrolled in kindergarten and both had a wonderful first report card.

Brittany (Jarvis) Keener, '07, is a staff pharmacist at the United States Public Health Service/Alaska Native Medical Center. Brittany and her husband, Kevin, were married July 12, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Ann (Sullivan) Lambert, '01, and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of their first child, Elliot Franklin Lambert, born December 4, 2008.

Jennifer (Aukerman) McCallister, '96, is an assistant professor of clinical internal medicine and pulmonary/critical care physician at The Ohio State University Medical Center. Jennifer and her husband, Jeff, announce the birth of their daughter Riley Elise. Riley joins big brothers, Aiden and Kieran.

Amanda J. Smith, '97, announces the birth of her daughter, Emily Kate Smith, born October 7, 2008. Emily's big brother, Eli Frank, is 3 years old.

Kristin Stickley, '07, married Greg Harper on May 24, 2008. She is a pharmacy assistant manager at Wal-Mart in Summersville, W.Va.

Shannon (Whipkey) Thornhill, '98, and her husband, Andy, welcomed their first child, Emma Dae Thornhill, on October 20, 2008. Shannon is a pharmacy manager at Farm Fresh in Virginia Beach, Va. She states that even though Emma was born in Hokie territory, she is a Mountaineer at heart.

Jamie Toothman, '07, married Franklin Simons in July 2008. Jamie is employed at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Susan (Cunha) Villegas, '01, is a clinical pharmacist at the Children's Medical Center of Dallas, Dallas, Texas.

Robert West, '95, is a clinical pharmacy specialist in geriatrics at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Chillicothe, Ohio. Robert is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) and is now a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS).

Alumni, we want to hear from you. Please send us your news, announcements, promotions, etc., by either using the envelope in the center of this newsletter or on-line at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/alumni/updateform.html>

Pharm.D. Organization and Student News

During American Diabetes Month in November, the **APhA-ASP** chapter provided free A1C screenings to community members and hosted a World Diabetes Day seminar with Dr. Charles Ponte as the guest speaker. ASP's Operation Immunization campaign supported National Influenza Vaccination Week December 7-14 by educating the community about the importance of getting a flu vaccination.



Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) hosted a Vera Bradley Bingo in November. The event raised approximately \$445 and all proceeds were donated to Relay for Life.

The LKS chapter is also selling padfolios embossed with the WVU School of Pharmacy logo for \$15 as a chapter fundraiser. If you are interested in purchasing a padfolio, please contact Laurel Kessel at lkessel@sole.wvu.edu or 304.257.8657.

SSHP was recognized by ASHP for 2008-2009. ASHP recognition is bestowed upon student organizations representing hospital and health-system practice that have met specific criteria including: promotion of membership in local, state and national health-system organizations; development of activities to stimulate interest in health-system pharmacy careers; and completion of one or more professional development projects to encourage career and professional development.



SSHP members are (front row, from left): Tessa Rife, Jessica Winter and Heather Leezer Stocking. (back row) Hannah Chambers, Bettina Mason, Erin Bailey, Sarah Rizzo and Chelsea Rexroad.

On September 22, the student chapter of **NCPA** hosted Dr. John Stelmachowicz, association director of student and management affairs for NCPA. Dr. Stelmachowicz presented information about independent pharmacy practice and the wide variety of services and opportunities that NCPA provides.

Rho Chi created and distributed care packages for patients at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. The purpose of the project was to better educate patients about how to help alleviate some of their side effects of their treatment and to remind them about infection prophylaxis. The packages included items such as tissues, hand sanitizer, lip balm, hypoallergenic hand lotion and hard candies.

Both the P-3 women's and men's flag football teams won this year's SoP Pharmacy Month championships. The Estra-DIE-ols beat the P-2 women's team 26-0 and the Yaz-men outscored the P-1 men's team 34-21 in one of the coldest series of games in the history of the competition.

P-3 Courtney Rappold was a recipient of a \$2,000 NCPA Presidential Scholarship.



Dr. Michael Smith (chapter advisor), Nathan Wilson, Heather Leezer Stocking, Dr. Michael Newton and Erin Bailey



Courtney Rappold with parents at the NCPA conference

Future Pharmacists

A Andrew Bryce Ballengee is the son of Jimmy and **Rikki Wilson Ballengee, '02**.

B Ava Elisabeth Branham takes mom and dad, Erin and **Dave Branham, '01**, to a School of Pharmacy football tailgate. Now that's Mountaineer Spirit!

C **Melanie (Wolfe) Cucchi, '93 and '96**, shares a photo of her Future Pharmacist, Elaina Marie Cucchi.

D **Pam (Spohn) Murdock, '05**, and husband, Ed, announce the birth of their son, Andrew Joseph, on August 5, 2008.

E Chloe Vivian Pudder shows her Future Pharmacist spirit for parents, Christopher and **Candice (Judy) Pudder, '03**.



Calling all new moms, dads and grandparents!

Have you recently had a little bundle of joy arrive at your home? The School of Pharmacy wants to know! Please send an e-mail with news about your baby or grandchild to Dean Patricia Chase at pachase@hsc.wvu.edu to receive a "Future Pharmacist" baby shirt (shirt is only available in size 12 months). In exchange, Dean Chase asks that you send a photo of your new "Future Pharmacist" to include in the next issue of ShowGlobe.



Caption Contest Winner

Dr. Paula Jo Meyer-Stout, '86, is the winner of the fall issue Caption Contest. Dr. Stout received a set of WVU SoP wineglasses for her caption, "OK...OK...now just what is the name...what is the name now...umm...what is the name of that drug that's out on the market now...umm...to help treat... umm...you know...the drug to help treat that disease...you know, that disease where you start to forget things?"



(l-r) Casey Watts and Clarke Ridgway



In Memory of **Dr. Calvin**

January 15, 1935 — December 30, 2008

You will be missed more than words can ever express.

Dr. Calvin Cotten Brister, professor emeritus, WVU School of Pharmacy Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Dr. Brister was a well-known and respected professor. He retired in July 2008 after 37 years of service at the School of Pharmacy, but continued to work 20 hours a week because he loved the School and students.



Dr. Brister, transplanted to the hills of West Virginia from Mississippi, brought with him a deep, abiding faith in his God, a genuine love and compassion for his fellow humankind, the ability to always see the value and potential in each and every one of us, and the strength to carry out the innumerable tasks volunteered for and assigned. A friend to all and a mentor to anyone who asked, Dr. Brister freely dispensed advice, encouragement or consolation to all in need and, on rare occasions, a discipline tempered with love. The approximately 2,500 students and scores of faculty, staff and administrators who have encountered him along life's road are all the better for it.



Cotten Brister



A scholarship fund is being established in memory of Dr. Brister. He had a special place in his heart for students in need, and the School hopes to honor his memory by providing support to these students in his name. Gifts can be made to the WVU Foundation in Dr. Brister's memory. Please include "Dr. Brister Scholarship for Pharmacy" in the memo portion of your check. Gifts may be sent to the WVU Foundation, PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507.

God bless you, Dr. Brister. You have helped many, and so many more who do not even realize it. You will be missed more than words can ever express.

After traveling innumerable miles on recruiting trails, spending hours agonizing over admission decisions, creating or updating lectures for yet another course, speaking words to brighten someone's day or enlighten them with honesty and justice, and after bringing joy and love to his family and School of Pharmacy family, Dr. Brister has moved on to a better place.



An Evening of **Accolades**

The Second Annual Board of Advisors Faculty Staff and Recognition Dinner was held in October. The event honors three full-time WVU faculty members and one full-time staff member who exemplify the mission and vision of the WVU School of Pharmacy.



Outstanding Accomplishments in Service

Dr. Art Jacknowitz is the advisor to the pre-pharmacy students who are selected to enter the Honors College. He is also the founding faculty advisor of the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). His service to the University is exemplified by re-election (for his fifth one-year term) as one of seven faculty colleagues to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. He has also served on the work group on Faculty Shared Governance and currently serves on the Committee to implement the 2010 University Strategic Plan. Nationally, he serves as a member of the NAPLEX Review Committee and the Advisory Committee on Examinations (one of three academicians nationally) at NABP.



Outstanding Staff Member

Mrs. Joy Piper was honored for her work in ensuring positive communications with other departments and units in the School and University. She has been with the School of Pharmacy for 24 years, and is the dean's executive assistant. She works tirelessly to keep Dean Chase on the right track throughout her busy day, and handles requests, meeting rescheduling and any emergency that may arise with the greatest of ease. Her attention to detail ensures that all of our special events and meetings run smoothly, and she manages all these tasks, and the many more that come her way every day, with a positive attitude. Mrs. Piper is always willing to assist on projects and is a valuable member of the SoP team.



Outstanding Accomplishments in Research/Scholarship

Dr. Peter Gannett has a long and distinguished record of significant contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences. He has more than 90 peer-reviewed publications representing sustained performance in prestigious journals that range from basic chemistry topics to biological applications. He has distinguished himself as a scientist willing to think and operate across disciplinary boundaries. Exemplifying his interdisciplinary accomplishments is the breadth of topics covered in more than 140 published abstracts. A search of his name lists citations of his publications in almost 500 other journal articles and 104 published reviews. Dr. Gannett has three patent disclosures on the intellectual property generated from collaborative research. These patents are in the areas of anti-cancer peptides, identification of a cancer therapeutic target and design and chemical synthesis of novel compounds.



The Outstanding Teacher - Last Lecture Award

The Last Lecture Award is not for a faculty member who is actually giving his or her last lecture. It is the opportunity for an outstanding teacher to reflect on the joy he or she has experienced as a teacher. **Dr. Charles Ponte** was chosen for this prestigious award. Dr. Ponte has been with WVU for 28 years and demonstrates that there are a variety of ways that faculty members teach students, both in the classroom and on rotations. He has received three Outstanding Teacher awards from the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Ponte received the APhA/APPM Distinguished Achievement award in Clinical Pharmacotherapeutic Practice. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the national Certification Board for Diabetes Educators. In addition, in 2007, he was named a Distinguished Practitioner in the prestigious National Academies of Practice.

White Coat *Donors*

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 Marie Abate
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 Scot Anderson
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 Jacqueline Welsh
 Tara Whetsel
 Freeman Wickham
 John & Susan Woods
 Janette Yost



Dr. Grazyna Szklarz assists Karen Wilson with her white coat.



Dr. Diana Vinh (center) is interrogated by Sammie Nguyen (left) and Ashley Wilhelm (right) during the Meet Your Faculty segment of the ceremony.



Jessie Stombeck and Polly Dingess share a smile after the ceremony.

The School of Pharmacy extends thanks to all alumni, friends, family members, faculty and staff who generously donated funds for white coats for all members of the Class of 2012. We received enough donations to also provide white coats to our Class of 2009.

Ph.D. *Student News*



ISPOR chapter members (l-r) Rahul Khanna, Pramit Nadpara, Traci LeMasters, Trisha Wilkins, Pallavi Rane, Kim Blake, Gretchen Peirce and Neel Shah

ISPOR Potluck

The WVU student chapter of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) held its second annual potluck on October 15. The menu featured Indian and American cuisine prepared by chapter members. The chapter expanded its potluck service to include takeout boxes for those who were not able to stay for the luncheon (or for those who wanted to take a little extra home!). A total of \$213 was raised and planning is already taking place for the next event. We can't wait!



(l-r) Kim Blake, Dr. Michael Smith (chapter advisor), Gretchen Peirce and Traci LeMasters package their donations for Toy Mountain

Toy Mountain Holiday Drive

A potluck luncheon was not the only activity for the ISPOR student chapter. The chapter gathered donations for Toy Mountain, a project benefiting the Salvation Army and Christian Help where a "mountain" of toys was created for local disadvantaged children.



Ph.D. Student Debuts Research

Kimberly Blake will publish her first research document, "Medication

Therapy Management Services in West Virginia: Pharmacists' Perceptions of Educational and Training Needs." With the help of Drs. Suresh Madhavan, Virginia (Ginger) Scott and Betsy Elswick, Blake analyzed the perceptions held by pharmacists in regard to provision of Medication Therapy Management Services (MTMS).

Surveys were mailed to pharmacists-in-charge of 506 licensed community pharmacies in West Virginia. Pharmacists were asked to rate their comfort level, perception of value to patient, barriers to providing services and interest in receiving educational and training information related to MTMS. Respondents reported that they were comfortable with providing MTMS and likely to utilize education and training services, and felt there was a favorable value of services to patients. The data collected indicated that pharmacists-in-charge are open and interested in providing MTMS education and training to their pharmacists.

With this research, Blake hopes to encourage more interaction between pharmacists and their patients, becoming more involved with and strengthening the relationships among patients, their doctors and their pharmacists.



President's Message

It is with a heavy heart that Debra and I write our message for this issue of the ShowGlobe as we are still stunned by the sudden passing of Dr. Brister. Both Debra and I had Dr. Brister as a professor, and we still remember his lectures as if they were given yesterday. He was an undeniable force who combined his enthusiasm with the love of teaching his students.

I'm sure we all have stories of Dr. Brister's lectures, but I'm also sure that many of us have stories of Dr. Brister's encouragement and compassion. Nothing made him happier than watching his students succeed. If you were in need of a helping hand, he was there to lift you up.



Debra, '96, and Chris, '95, Vaught

Dr. Brister's enthusiasm for the School and students did not stop after the workday was over. If you have been attending the Homecoming tailgates over the years, you would have seen Dr. Brister assisting with the event and speaking with his former students. Just because you graduated didn't mean he no longer considered you a student — or a friend.

You may have seen the information on page eight about the scholarship being established in Dr. Brister's memory. He saw the potential for greatness in so many of us that it is only fitting to pay back the favor and honor his legacy.

Thank you, Dr. Brister, for all you have done for us, the School of Pharmacy, alumni and current students.

Faculty Member Takes Part in NIH Research Practicum

By Adam Cagle, Public Relations Intern



Dr. Paula Meyer-Stout

was invited to participate in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored Dietary

Supplements Research Practicum for a week in June 2008. The conference brought together 60 competitively-selected researchers to discuss what is understood and still to be studied concerning the science and regulation of dietary supplements.

Increased purchasing by the public and recommendations by physicians leading to significantly increased supplement use has spurred this closer scrutiny of these aptly-named "nutraceuticals" (vitamins, minerals, herbals), which include products such as calcium, iron and folic acid. Since nutraceuticals are not studied and regulated with the same level of thoroughness as pharmaceuticals (ie, drugs), there is

concern about their safety and efficacy. Representatives from medicine, pharmacy, nutrition, and exercise physiology who attended this NIH conference debated these matters with NIH and industry scientists, as well as other "stakeholders" at the FDA and on Capital Hill.

Dr. Meyer-Stout was selected for the NIH program due to her nutraceuticals product research performed at the WVU School of Pharmacy and her membership on the United States Pharmacopoeia's (USP) Committee on Vitamin and Minerals Standards. USP, an official standards-setting agency for both prescription and nonprescription drugs, charged Dr. Meyer-Stout's Committee with developing the first monograph standards for nutraceuticals, published in 2000, so to better assure product quality to the public and practitioner.

In Memoriam

Martha Louise Hornor Hickman, '48, passed away December 12, 2008. Hickman was a member of Lambda Kappa Sigma, the Monongalia/Preston Pharmacists Association and WVPA.

Dean L. Holmes, '55, passed away May 26, 2008. Holmes was the director of pharmacy for Wheeling Hospital and after retirement, was a Relief Pharmacist for independently owned pharmacies in West Virginia and North Carolina.

Grover Dailey "Dick" Hott, '64, passed away October 30, 2008. Dick was well known in Cumberland, Md., as the owner of Ford's Pharmacy on West Side. For over 40 years, he provided kind, compassionate service to his customers.

CoHORTS Center Hosts WV Cancer Registry Presentation

By Bianca Violante, Public Relations Intern

The West Virginia Collaborative Health Outcomes Research of Therapies and Services (CoHORTS) invited Dr. Patricia Colsher, director and epidemiologist of the West Virginia Cancer Registry (WVCR), to the School of Pharmacy in October. She presented "The Burden of Cancer in West Virginia" to all professionals in the Health Sciences Center interested in cancer-related health services and outcomes research.

The mission of the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality grant funded CoHORTS Center is to develop research infrastructure and increase capacity necessary for federally funded multidisciplinary health services and outcomes research that will focus on reducing health disparities and improve overall health in West Virginia. Dr. Colsher's presentation was a perfect fit to the mission of the program. A key concern for the WVCR is accessibility of treatment for patients. Future work in cancer-related health services and outcome research has the potential to greatly benefit patients in West Virginia and improve health-care accessibility statewide.

Dr. Colsher's presentation outlined the reporting requirements in West Virginia and the process of obtaining WVCR data. Over 60% of hospitals in West Virginia have cancer registries and report electronically to the WVCR. The WVCR also has data sharing agreements with all five bordering states, as well as twelve additional states. These states send WVCR abstracts for West Virginia patients and vice versa. Colsher focused on how WVCR identifies disparities in stage at diagnosis and treatment patterns and presented how WVCR compares rates



(l-r) Drs. Joel Halverson, Michael Smith, Patricia Colsher and Suresh Madhavan

of major cancers in WV to the nation as a whole. The most current report is available at http://www.wvcancerregistry.org/Portals/27/PDFs/2008_annual_report_Cancer.pdf.

"We thank Dr. Colsher for her presentation and are looking forward to working with the WVCR on mutually beneficial health outcomes research projects," Dr. Suresh Madhavan, principal investigator of the CoHORTS Center grant, said about Dr. Colsher's visit.

And the *winner is...*

The 2008 football season brought with it a bit of friendly competition for the School of Pharmacy. Dean Patricia Chase decided to intensify our alumni's Mountaineer spirit and host tailgates for each home football game. Thus, the Master Tailgate Competition was born.

A call for competitors was sent out and three pharmacies accepted: Colony Drug & Wellness Center owned by alum, Patty Johnston; CVS/pharmacy; and the Rite Aid Corporation. Their mission: create the perfect tailgate being judged on theme, fun, food and atmosphere.

Colony Drug & Wellness Center was selected as the winner by a panel of judges. The theme of the event was, "Consume the Herd," as they chose the WVU vs. Marshall game for their event.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement for a Mountaineer victory from the decorations down to the menu of buffalo burgers and buffalo "pie" brownies for dessert. Colony Drug also engaged alumni with a Capsule Count Contest. **Jason Turner, '03**, of Moundsville Pharmacy was the winner of a fabulous WVU clock. He was only one capsule off in his guess.



The School of Pharmacy would like to thank all our competitors and congratulates Colony Drug & Wellness Center on a job well done.

We look forward to the creativity in next year's competition. If you are interested in being a competitor in the 2009 Master Tailgate Competition, please contact Dean Chase at pachase@hsc.wvu.edu.



Jeremy Prunty poses with his "Pukin' Pumpkin"

Second Annual *School of Pharmacy* **Pumpkin Carving Contest**

It was another display of pumpkin carving creativity for the Second Annual SoP Pumpkin Carving Contest.

The prize-winning students shared their victories by donating their winnings, courtesy of the SoP Alumni Association, to local charities.

The First Prize winner was **P-2 Jeremy Prunty**. Prunty's masterpiece was a "Pukin' Pumpkin" courtesy of the Phenergan prop. His \$50 prize was donated to Relay for Life.

Runners-up were awarded \$25 each. **P-2 Ka Lok Hong** was chosen for his "Bowl of Hygeia" pumpkin and donated his winnings to WVU's ASP chapter. **P-4 Michelle Greathouse** with her creation, "Pharmacy Symbols," donated her winnings to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Your Membership is Important

“Thank You!” to all who have supported your Alumni Association this past year. Our programming is dependent upon the generosity of our alumni. We look forward to your continued support in 2008 - 2009.

Regular Annual Dues

Single \$50
Couple \$75
Retired \$25

Lifetime Dues

Single \$500
Couple \$750

For more information about your alumni dues, please contact Mrs. Brenda Higa at 304.293.5977 or bhiga@hsc.wvu.edu. You can also submit payment online at <http://www.wvusopalumni.org>.

Dr. Glover Book Announcement

The highly anticipated book, *From the Everyday to the Extraordinary: West Virginia Pharmacists' Stories*, by Dr. Douglas Glover is now available for purchase through amazon.com. His book highlights the history of the profession of pharmacy in West Virginia, and the pharmacists who have dedicated their lives to serving our community.

Net profits from the sale of the book will be donated to the George and Lynne Spratto Pharmacy Scholarship for Excellence, a scholarship awarded to pharmacy students who demonstrate academic excellence.

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Upcoming Events

April 16–18

2009 WVSHWP/WVPA Spring Meeting, Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, W.Va.

April 17

WVSHWP/WVPA School of Pharmacy Alumni and Friends Reception, Waterfront Place Hotel, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Room TBA

April 24

Bowl of Hygeia and Awards and Convocation Ceremony Health Sciences Center Okey Patteson Auditorium

May 2

Alumni Banquet, Lakeview Resort and Conference Center, Morgantown, W.Va.

May 16

Commencement, WVU Student Recreation Center

For Continuing Education programs, please visit <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/conted/programs.html>

Health Resources and Services Administration Event

The School of Pharmacy will be hosting a satellite conference call for the HRSA Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC). This Collaborative is a nation-wide initiative to improve patient outcomes and safety through Clinical Pharmacy Services, with special focus on Federally Qualified Health Centers and similar entities. The broadcast will take place Wednesday, May 6, from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm in room 2116 of the HSC. If you are interested in being part of a team to improve health outcomes by focusing on implementing effective patient safety principles and clinical pharmacy services, please contact Dr. Diana Vinh at dvinh@hsc.wvu.edu or call 304-293-0681.



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