

ShowGlobe

Spring/Summer 2009



A Tradition of Excellence: *BOWL OF HYGEIA*

The WVU School of Pharmacy is steadfast in educating our students to be the leaders of tomorrow. We are proud to announce that since 1959, 32 of the 50 West Virginia Bowl of Hygeia recipients have been WVU School of Pharmacy alumni. Congratulations to our alumni for your outstanding service and leadership in the community.

1960	Joseph W. Pugh, '39	1990	David W. Miller, '60
1962	Guy N. Lang, '52	1991	Sandra E. Justice, '78
1963	Ann Dinardi, '31	1992	Charles V. Selby, Jr., '62
1965	Stephen B. Thompson, '47	1993	Thomas L. Carson, '52
1966	William Sidney Coleman, '48	1994	Donley W. Hutson, '56
1973	Robert H. Shirey, '42	1995	Karen L. Reed, '80
1974	Carl E. Furbee, Jr., '51	1996	John E. Corkrean, '74
1975	Virgil R. Hertzog, '22	1997	Gary Mastromichales, '68
1978	Maurice Neil Lohr, '50	2000	Carol Ann Hudachek, '88
1980	George E. Fisher, Jr., '43	2002	Lydia DeBonis Main, '56
1981	Joseph Monti, Jr., '59	2003	Lora Lewellyn Good, '96
1983	Robert N. Lohr, '74	2004	Charles Burdette, '79
1984	Thomas E. Menighan, '74	2005	Steven C. Judy, '75
1985	Roger Allen Shallis, '67	2006	John J. Bernabei, '89
1987	David Stephen Crawford, '68	2007	R. Kelley Massie, Jr., '82
1989	R. Scott Criss, '70	2008	Susan P. Meredith, '67

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Featured Faculty
Yon Rojanasakul

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Message from the Dean

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The theme of this issue of The ShowGlobe is “Giving Back.” Our faculty, staff, and students accomplished so much this semester, and even though they were hard at work, they managed to make time to give back to our community. Our student organizations worked to support legislation for pharmacists in West Virginia (page 3) and raise funds to ease financial worries of those diagnosed with cancer (page 7), students assisted the Special Olympics (page 8) and worked to raise funds to help those afflicted with cystic fibrosis (page 9), and our faculty members were part of research teams to develop treatments to help society at large.

The list goes on, but please peruse the newsletter to read for yourself all the wonderful contributions our students, faculty, and staff have made to support our mission of improving the health and well-being of West Virginians.

Speaking of giving back, I would like to thank all of our alumni and friends who have donated to our scholarships and funds. I know this is a trying time due to the economy, and we are extremely grateful for all you have given. Because of you, we were able to: provide travel, lodging, and meals for 26 students to attend the APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio; provide travel, lodging, and meals for 24 students to attend the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando; and award 110 students with scholarships at our Awards and Convocation Ceremony. I would also like to thank those who have donated funds in memory of Dr. Calvin Brister. He touched the lives of so many, and it is wonderful that we are able to honor his memory.

The School is also giving back to Mother Earth. We are working to make all our publications environmentally friendly by using recycled paper. If you would like to receive your copy of The ShowGlobe electronically to reduce the amount of paper used, please let us know using our online alumni information update form.

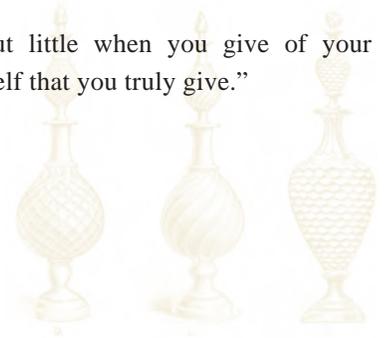
To quote Kahlil Gibran, “You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

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.

DEAN

Patricia Chase, Ph.D.

EDITOR

Amy Newton

CONTRIBUTORS:

Kathy Areford, Adam Cagle, Patricia Chase, Christopher Costelnock, David Elliott, Peter Gannett, Brenda Higa, Art Jacknowitz, Suresh Madhavan, Rae Matsumoto, Tom McIntire, Joy Piper, Clarke Ridgway, Yon Rojanasakul, Terry Schwinghammer, Mary Stamatakis, Bianca Violante, and Erin Wendel

1142 Health Sciences Center North
P.O. Box 9500
Morgantown, WV, 26506

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Pharmacy Day at the Legislature 2009

By Chris Costelnock, Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate

More than eighty WVU School of Pharmacy students and faculty journeyed to the State Capitol for Pharmacy Day at the West Virginia Legislature in February. This was the first trip to the Capitol complex for many of the students who participated, and the goal of the day was to deliver a message to West Virginia legislators that pharmacists and pharmacies should be recognized as health care providers by the state.

According to a 2007 decision by the West Virginia Supreme Court, pharmacists and pharmacies are not defined as health care providers under the Medical Professionals Liability Act (MPLA).

Before Pharmacy Day, the students hosted a health fair at the Edgewood Summit senior living community. They provided free blood pressure, bone density, and diabetes screenings to the residents. The students then had dinner with Richard Stevens, executive director of the WVPA, to prepare and discuss important issues that would be addressed throughout Legislative Day.

With their agendas fresh in their minds, students visited legislators from both the Senate and the House of Delegates throughout the day to voice their opinions. Brochures highlighting why pharmacists and pharmacies should be recognized as health care providers were distributed, and several booths were displayed outside the Senate chambers illustrating the different types of pharmacy practice to stress to legislators that a pharmacist is an important part of a patient's health care team. The displays included blood glucose screenings, total body fat assessments, and bone density screenings.

Students also attended both the Senate and House sessions. The School of Pharmacy was recognized in the House by Delegates Larry Border and Don Purdue, both registered pharmacists, and in the Senate by Senator Ron Stollings. To commemorate the day's events, a photo of all the students and faculty in attendance was taken with Delegate Border and Delegate Purdue in the House chambers prior to the session.

Editor's Note: While Senate Bill 738 did not pass, our students did an amazing job in their advocacy efforts.

Grant to Advance Scientific Discovery

West Virginia University received a STEM Fellows grant, with **Dr. Peter Gannett**, professor, Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, as principal investigator. This award in the amount of \$300,000 funds a training program to develop interdisciplinary research and education at WVU.

"Traditionally, graduate training has been department based. However, many research problems require multiple disciplines to solve," explained Dr. Gannett. "Pharmacy is a good example; to get a drug from initial discovery to on the shelf at a drug store, requires medical chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology, toxicology...all of which have its own language and way of thinking. This grant program addresses that issue with progress being made."

Dr. Gannett hopes this training program will be accepted by the National Science Foundation, specifically, the Integrative Graduate Education, Research and Training program, which would provide up to \$3 million over the course of five years. A pre-proposal was submitted on March 13, 2009.

The requirement for interdisciplinary research brings together faculty from HSC, CEMR and ECAS.

"This program requires people to work and think together who would not normally do so otherwise," said Dr. Gannett, "These connections result in new research relationships and proposals, with some already funded. It is opening doors and leading to new partnerships."

Improving Patient Care for an Aging Population

By Bianca Violante, Public Relations Intern



As West Virginians continue to age, their health care providers continue to learn. West Virginia ranks fourth in the nation in the proportion of its population that is elderly (65+) according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Due to the actively aging population, the Geriatrics Initiative of WVU Health Sciences Center – Charleston Division and Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) is taking steps to educate students and professionals in the field of geriatrics. An important partner with this initiative is the West Virginia Geriatric Education Center

“Almost everyone who provides health care takes care of the elderly,” explains **David Elliott, Pharm.D.**, associate chair for the Charleston division and professor in the department of clinical pharmacy. “Their diseases are the same as younger people; the difference is instead of having only diabetes, they have multiple ailments. The important thing is we are dealing with them as people, not as diseases.”

Dr. Elliott said that pharmacy students on his rotation get a lot of experience in developing an accurate and complete list of a patient’s medications (prescription, nonprescription, and supplements). They also clearly document whether the patient or a caregiver is responsible for a patient’s medications. In addition, they work with prescribers in helping to design medication regimens that best serve patients’ needs. Dr.

Elliott believes that these are basic pharmacy services that should be available to all older adults.

Dr. Elliott is working with faculty from the WVU Schools of Medicine and Nursing who are developing training programs in geriatrics. Dr. Elliott is developing a second year pharmacy residency in geriatrics that will be accredited by the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists. He hopes this residency will prepare future pharmacists for advanced pharmacy practice in settings that provide care for seniors.

The overall strength of the Geriatrics Initiative is teaching — serving as a location for learners in pharmacy, medicine and nursing, Dr. Elliott said that eventually other learners like social workers will also be included in the program. The other arm of the Geriatrics Initiative is the research, which will continue to grow in years to come.

For further information about the geriatric pharmacy residency, visit <http://www.camcinstitute.org/pharmacy/geriatrics.htm>.

Information about the West Virginia Geriatric Education Center can be found at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/charleston/WVGEC/>

Alumni News

Paula Adkins, '04, and her husband, Wayne, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Matthew Adkins. Ethan joins big brother Cameron Gary Adkins. Paula states Ethan is a little miracle for his parents since he was born at 26 weeks 4 days. Paula is pharmacist in charge at CVS/pharmacy in Elkview, W.Va.

Donna (Barron) Baldwin, '02, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their son, Connor Patrick Baldwin. Connor joins big brother Colin.

Dwight and Melissa (Simmons) Blair, both '93, announce the birth of their first child, Bryan James Blair.

Murhl Flowers, '65, retired in October 2002 after 20 years as director of pharmacy for the eastern division of Safeway Stores, Inc. He is past-president of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, and remains very active with the organization. Flowers currently resides in Lothian, Md., and enjoys playing golf, staying active in his church, and enjoying being the grandfather of seven grandchildren.

Holly Green, '04, is the pharmacy manager at CVS/pharmacy in Buckhannon, W.Va.

Kent Hunter, '04, published, "The Value-based Model: Health Management Worth Exploring," in The American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits, Vol. 1, No.1

Deborah Lange, '85, was the recipient of the Good Government Award of the Ohio Pharmacists Association. This award recognizes a pharmacist member who has made major contributions to the public through government and/or legislative service or education at the local, state, or national level.

Gina (Fratto) Marozzi, '98, announces her marriage to Curtis Marozzi. She and Curtis have a wonderful blended family of five children: Emily 20, Mitchell 19, Katy, 17, Gayle 7, and Vinnie, 18 months. Gina is the pharmacy manager at Medwood Pharmacy in Lumberport, W.Va.

Sarah (Frashure) Miller, '05, wed Joseph Miller in St. Lucia on April 20, 2009. Joseph is a field service technician for the Flying Force of Aristocrat Technologies and Sarah is a pharmacist for Martin's Food Market in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Kara (Bazzie) Murray, '03, and husband, Edward, announce the birth of their daughter, Alyssa Kate, born January 23, 2009.

Robert Pierce, '42, is retired and is living in Pinellas Park, Fla.

Christina Webb, '02, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of their first child, Jackson Robert Webb, on December 3, 2008.

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 online at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/alumni/updateform.html>

Pharm.D. Organization and *Student News*

The **American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)** won two regional awards for educating the community about diabetes, diabetes management and the importance of obtaining vaccinations through the 2008 Operation Diabetes and Operation Immunization campaigns. The chapter also won a national award in recognition of their local chapter work. The award recognized the chapter for attracting 90 percent or greater of eligible members to join. Only 11 chapters of the approximately 110 schools of pharmacy across the nation received this award.

The Alpha Mu chapter of the **Rho Chi** pharmaceutical honor society received the national 2009 Chapter Project Proposal Award. Their proposal, “Developing a Co-curricular Learning Experience at the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy,” provided a detailed plan of action to develop programs and activities that support the mission and vision of the Rho Chi society—to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement and foster fellowship among its members.

Across the miles to inspire

By Bianca Violante, Public Relations Intern

High rises, flat lands, and dust storms describe a place far from Morgantown, W.Va., where **Terry Schwinghammer, Pharm.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, traveled to speak about contemporary pharmaceutical practice and education. Dr. Schwinghammer was invited to the 2nd Kuwait International Pharmaceutical Conference (KIPC) at Kuwait University held March 1–3, 2009. While Kuwait is about 6,600 miles from the WVU School of Pharmacy, its health care problems are similar to those in the United States, and students are just as eager to learn.

Dr. Schwinghammer suggested that programs worldwide should switch to patient care focused practices in his presentations, *Teaching and Learning in a Contemporary Pharmacy Curriculum* and *Providing and Optimizing Pharmaceutical Care in the 21st Century*.

“The purpose of pharmaceutical care in the 21st century is to assure the best patient outcomes and make medication use systems as safe as possible,” explained Dr. Schwinghammer. “Experiential learning in actual practice settings under the guidance of licensed pharmacists is needed to prepare students for real life practice. Schools of pharmacy must develop partnerships with hospital and community



Dr. Terry Schwinghammer (second from left) with faculty members of the Kuwait University College of Pharmacy (l-r) Dr. Ladislav Novotny, dean; Dr. Mohamed G. Qaddoumi, assistant professor, Department of Applied Therapeutics; and Dr. Samuel Kombian, associate professor, Department of Applied Therapeutics

pharmacists as well as individual pharmacists, which could help develop introductory and advanced pharmaceutical practice experience programs.”

The most rewarding part of the trip for Dr. Schwinghammer was interacting with students. He was able to connect with students leading the tour of Kuwait, forging new relationships and influencing students to pursue their goals.

“The important focus of my travel lectures and teaching is the interaction with students,” Schwinghammer said. “Spending time in other countries reaffirms that even though it’s a different part of the world, we share so much, from problems with health care to developing innovative pharmacy curricula. If we can meet students’ classroom and practice needs, we can better prepare them for real-world practice.”

Giving back to the Community

Showcasing Talent

to Bring Comfort



John Dolan performs the dance segment from the “Napoleon Dynamite” movie.



(l-r) ASP organization president Lindsay Zatezalo; John Crowley; Dr. Jame Abraham and Mark Medina

Our students recognize that their profession enables them to contribute greatly to the health of our community members. Our faculty members and preceptors bestow the knowledge necessary for our students to conduct research and provide exceptional patient care, but some lessons cannot be read in a textbook or discovered in a lab. Compassion is the greatest gift one can offer, and the pharmacy students in the following stories show that giving back to the community is a gift they are happy to give.

On Wednesday, April 22, the APhA-ASP chapter hosted a variety show benefiting the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center (MBRCC) Comfort Fund. The Comfort Fund was established to help hematology/oncology patients actively being treated at the MBRCC or in limited situations at WVUH. The Comfort Fund provides financial assistance for hematology/oncology patients facing certain economic burdens. The intent of the Fund is to provide temporary, short-term assistance for immediate needs, until patients can be linked with appropriate community, state or national resources.

The show was spearheaded by P-3s **John Crowley** and **Mark Medina**. Performances included musical acts, comedy sketches, and a poetry reading. Through the hard work of the students, a total of \$1,226 was donated to the Comfort Fund.

“We knew about the Comfort Fund through our clinical pharmacy professor, Dr. Betsy Elswick, who co-coordinates the Comfort Music Fest every summer with her husband, Dr. Daniel Elswick,” said Crowley. “As pharmacy students, we realize the impact that a cancer diagnosis can have on patients and their families, and that our chosen profession can help those who need treatment for this disease. It just made sense to us to donate the show’s proceeds to the Fund.”

“I commend and thank the students from the WVU School of Pharmacy for devoting their time and talent to support the Comfort Fund,” said Dr. Jame Abraham, chief of Hematology Oncology, medical director of the MBRCC and director of the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program at the Cancer Center. “Their compassion and generosity will help ease the financial burden many patients face so they can concentrate on getting well.”

Giving back to the Community

Freezin' for a reason



(front l-r) Crystal Mayles, Hannah McCullough, Mary Beth Vincent, (back row) Todd Lemley, and Dr. Ma contemplate the icy water.

Most people wouldn't jump into the Monongahela River in February if you paid them; but 21 pharmacy students, along with two faculty members, actually paid to jump into the river. The reason? The Fifth Annual Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics West Virginia.

Organized by **Mr. Tom McIntire**, clinical instructor in the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Mylan Center for Pharmaceutical Care Education, the School of Pharmacy has participated in the Polar Plunge for the past five years. This year, our students raised \$5,787 to meet the challenge set by **Dr. Joe Ma**, professor in the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Ma stated he would plunge if the students raised \$4,000. Needless to say, the students worked overtime, checked their couch cushions for change, and possibly skipped a few lunches in order to meet the challenge. Dr. Ma stayed true to his commitment and took the plunge.

Our pharmacy students have contributed over \$10,000 to Special Olympics West Virginia since they began participating in the event. This year, the School was recognized for our participation and fundraising efforts, and received an engraved Blenko glass vase as a special acknowledgment of this achievement.



Dr. Ma takes the plunge.

The School of Pharmacy's top individual fundraiser was **P-3 Todd Lemley**, collecting over \$1,200. The efforts of **P-2s Crystal Mayles** and **Hannah McCullough** also contributed considerably to the fundraiser. Mayles also played an important role for the SoP team by coordinating participants, being the main point of contact in preparations, and finalizing all details.

"This organization is amazing, it provides children who get so few chances in life with a chance to compete with others and succeed in the face of adversity. I am honored to have the opportunity to raise money for Special Olympics West Virginia," explains Lemley. "For some reason, when I tell people that I will jump into freezing water for money, the checkbooks come out. I think that everyone enjoys donating to the cause as much as they love to force me take that icy plunge."

Giving back to the Community

Booming Celebration

For **P-3 Jenna Merandi**, raising awareness about cystic fibrosis is personal. Merandi is a long-time family friend with the events manager of the Boomer Esiason Foundation, and has seen first-hand what her friend has done to help generate awareness about the disease.

The Foundation was created by the NFL quarterback Boomer Esiason when his son Gunnar was afflicted with cystic fibrosis. Boomer set out to eliminate the disease through diverse fundraising efforts. The Foundation also relies on grants, personal pledges and corporate contributions.

“As a pharmacy student, I know that my profession is important in helping those who have cystic fibrosis, through either researching and creating medications, or counseling them in their treatment, but I think it’s also very important to raise awareness about the disease and help raise funds to find a cure,” said Merandi.

With donations from students, faculty and staff from the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy, Merandi helped raise \$1,700 for the Foundation. She and several fellow students attended the 16th Annual Booming Celebration, a fundraising event held in New York City in March, where they were able to meet Gunnar, the reason the Foundation was started.



(l-r) P-3s Lindsay Zatezalo, Lori Hill, Jenna Merandi, and Mareesa Cunningham at the 16th Annual Booming Celebration



P-3s Lori Hill (l) and Jenna Merandi (r) meet Gunnar Esiason. Lori bumps his fist, a better greeting than a handshake for those who are immunocompromised.

“For me, helping raise funds for the event was truly an eye-opening experience,” said Merandi. “When you start talking with people about cystic fibrosis, you find out that they may have a family member who has the disease or know someone who does. As future health care professionals, I feel it is extremely important to get involved and be active in organizations such as this one. I want to get the word out to students in the WVU Health Sciences Center, WVU main campus, and the city of Morgantown about the Boomer Esiason Foundation.”

Online donations and more information can be accessed online by visiting www.esiason.org.

Giving back to the Community

Volunteer Service



Front row (l-r) Erin Bailey, Tessa Rife (middle row) Leesa Shine, Megan McCluskey, (back row) Jeremy Prunty, and Todd Lemley.

“As health care students, we realize how people have to depend on one another. If everyone gets involved we can really make a difference in the community, as well as in the lives of individuals.” — Todd Lemley

Albert Einstein once said, “It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.” Recognizing the importance of giving back to the community, six pharmacy students volunteered over 800 hours of service and were honored at the President’s Volunteer Service Awards in February.

Created by former President George W. Bush’s President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003, the President’s Volunteer Service Award program was designed to reward those who choose to volunteer their time to the community and inspire others to follow in their footsteps. The type of award received is based on the age and amount of time donated by each recipient.

recognized and presented their award by West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant.

P-3 Todd Lemley received the Gold Award, the highest level, for donating over 250 hours of community service, **P-1 Megan McCluskey** received the Silver Award for donating over 175 hours, and **P-3s Erin Bailey and Tessa Rife and P-2s Jeremy Prunty and Leesa Shine** were recipients of the Bronze Award for donating over 100 hours of service.

When asked how he felt about being receiving recognition for his community involvement, Lemley stated, “As health care students, we realize how people have to depend on one another. If everyone gets involved we can really make a difference in the community, as well as in the lives of individuals.”

Would You Like to Become a *White Coat Sponsor?*



In August 2009, the School of Pharmacy will welcome the class of 2013 to the pharmacy profession with the School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony will formally recognize the students' entrance into the profession and will be held in conjunction with new student

orientation. To help commemorate this special occasion, you are invited to become a White Coat Sponsor.

Your name will be placed in the pocket of the student's white coat to personally welcome them into their chosen profession.

In addition to the coat and name badge, your \$50 donation will also help support the White Coat reception.

If you would like to sponsor a particular student—a son or daughter, neighbor or special friend—please indicate the student name(s) on the gift form.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A WHITE COAT SPONSOR!

Enclosed is my gift to the 2009 White Coat Ceremony in the amount of \$ _____ (\$50 sponsorship per student). Please make check payable to the WVU Foundation or make your gift by credit card.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If you wish to sponsor a particular student, please print the student's name below:

Payment Options

Check VISA Master Card American Express Discover

Name as it appears on Card _____

Card Holder's Billing Address if different from above _____

Card Number _____ Expires _____

Signature _____ Verification Code _____

**Please send the completed gift form
no later than July 27 to:**

Patricia Chase, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Pharmacy
PO Box 9500
Morgantown, WV 26506-9500

*For your convenience, the form can also be found on
the School of Pharmacy Web site under Alumni and
Development, then choose Alumni Association.
www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop*

Ph.D. *Student News*



STaR Symposium winner - Siera Talbott



Elvonna Atkins



Kimberly Blake



STaR Symposium runner up - Jarod Kabulski

Elvonna Atkins is the inaugural Novo Nordisk Fellow in Health Outcomes Research. The fellowship was made possible by a grant from Novo Nordisk, Inc., a world leader in diabetes care. The collaboration was established to support the training of future outcomes research scientists, of whom there is a shortage in the pharmaceutical industry.



ISPOR chapter members (front) Tricia Wilkins, (middle l-r) Kim Blake, Gretchen Peirce, Elvonna Atkins (back l-r) Neel Shah, Abhijeet Bhanegaonkar, and Rahul Khanna celebrate their victories with Dr. Ginger Scott, Dr. Suresh Madhavan, and Dean Pat Chase

STaR Symposium winners

Two Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences graduate students received top honors at the Science, Technology, and Research (STaR) Symposium held in Charleston, W. Va. Only two awards were given and of the 32 finalists who presented their research projects, both winners were from the SoP. **Siera Talbott**, a sixth-year graduate student working with Dr. Yon Rojanasakul, received the first place award for her presentation, “FLIP s-nitrosylation modulated NK-kappaB regulation: implications for death receptor signaling.”

Jarod Kabulski, a fifth-year graduate student working with Dr. Peter Gannett, was awarded second place for his presentation, “Au-bound P450 platform: an in vitro tool for predicting in vivo drug metabolism.”

Fellowships

Kimberly Blake, a third-year graduate student, received an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) pre-doctoral fellowship. The goal of the AFPE fellowship is to provide support for outstanding advanced Ph.D. candidates.

ISPOR Chapter Winners

The WVU student chapter of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) attended the 14th Annual International Meeting in Orlando, Fla. The chapter won first place in the student research competition and second place for Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year. Third-year graduate student **Kimberly Blake** received the ISPOR Distinguished Service Award. The chapter’s t-shirt graphic design, created by student **Gretchen Peirce**, won the ISPOR Student Network T-shirt Competition, and all meeting participants were able to purchase a shirt with the winning design. Also at the meeting, **Neel Shah** was selected as a finalist for his poster presentation, “Alprazolam-Related Deaths in West Virginia.”

President's Message

Summer is fast approaching and with it comes the passing of the torch to the new president of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, **Ms. Elizabeth Keyes**.

Debra and I have truly enjoyed our time as co-presidents. We have made wonderful connections with alumni from different class years, and we hope to make many more with our upcoming Class of 2009 graduates.

Every event hosted by the School and Association this year has generated great attendance by our alumni. We hope that this trend continues and we look forward to all the events planned for 2009–2010. Our last event as co-presidents was attending the 2009 Alumni Banquet at the Lakeview Resort and Conference Center. All in attendance celebrated the golden reunion of the Class of 1959. We had a diverse crowd of class years, and we even had one future graduate attend (**Ms. Caity Frail, Class of 2009**). Caity, good luck to you after graduation and we hope to see you next year as one of our newest members!



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

Time goes so fast and even though our term has ended, as all Mountaineers and SoP graduates do, Debra and I will continue to remain active in the Alumni Association and stay connected to our School. All faculty, staff, classmates, and friends have become part of us, and we could not have made it here without them.

To the Class of 2009, we know this is a time of transition where you are stepping out into the world and going your separate ways, but remember you will always have a home here with your SoP Mountaineer family. Stay connected to us because we will always be here for you.

A New Face at the School of Pharmacy

Greetings Alumni, Preceptors, and Friends!

My name is **Amanda Heaton** and in January 2009, I joined the staff at the WVU School of Pharmacy as the program specialist for the Office of Experiential Learning. It has been a challenge learning all the information necessary for this position, but I thank all of you for your patience during my transition. It is very exciting for me to play such an integral part in the students' pharmacy school experiences through the IPPE and APPE courses. Being a West Virginia native, it is rewarding to know that I will have a positive impact on the people of West Virginia by helping pharmacy students reach their own goals.



It is an honor to embark on this journey with the School of Pharmacy and with each of you. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you through various conferences and site visits throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help to you or if you would like more information on how to become a preceptor.

304-293-1464
aheaton@hsc.wvu.edu

In Memoriam

Joseph E. Concino, '68, passed away May 4, 2009. He started his career at People's Drug Store and retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare with over 25 years of service. He was a member of the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy Alumni Association.

Darrell "Chico" Friel, '74, passed away May 3, 2009, in Jacksonville, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Sandi, and his daughter, Sheila, a graduate of the WVU School of Pharmacy, '95. Those wishing to contact Sandi may contact the editor for her address.

Ted Triplett Lewis, '65, passed away March 25, 2009 in Colorado Springs, Colo. He graduated from the WVU School of Medicine in 1971. Lewis was actively involved in numerous organizations where he lived including: the Arthritis Foundation, Cheyenne Village, Peak Vista, Leadership Pikes Peak, Colorado Haiti Project, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Colorado Springs Medical Society, and the Colorado Medical Society.

Robert E. Neal, '56, passed away January 2, 2009. His family has established a scholarship fund at Williamstown High School, located in Williamstown, W.Va., in his name for a student wishing to attend the WVU School of Pharmacy.

APhA Names School of Pharmacy Alumnus Executive Vice-President and CEO



The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) has named **Thomas E. Menighan, '74**, as its new executive vice president and chief executive officer designate. This follows the announcement earlier this year that John A. Gans, Pharm.D., the current CEO, would step down as EVP after nearly 20 years of service to the organization.

"The Board of Trustees is pleased to appoint a seasoned leader like Tom Menighan as executive vice-president and CEO," said Timothy L. Tucker, president of APhA. "Given Tom's experience and diverse knowledge of the pharmacy profession, we are confident that he will continue to lead the association toward more fulfilling and relationship-based roles for pharmacists in providing optimal medication therapy outcomes."

"As pharmacists, we are blessed with unlimited opportunities to contribute to the prevention and relief of illness," Menighan said. "I am inspired by many APhA leaders and innovators within our profession who are driving the transition to relationship-based patient care. Our job is to promote that innovation into the mainstream with public advocacy while continuing to advance pharmacists' broader contributions within the evolving healthcare system. It will be both humbling and a privilege for me to work with Dr. Gans as EVP-designate during the next few months of transition."

Throughout his career, Menighan has served volunteer roles within the profession of pharmacy, including president of APhA from 2001 to 2002 and a member of the APhA Board of Trustees between 1995 and 2003. He was a senior staff member of APhA from 1987 to 1992. While on staff as senior director of external affairs, he managed state affairs, public relations, new business development, and practice management issues. Other professional experiences include management of the PharMark Corporation, creator of RationalMed©, and licensed systems for states to conduct Drug Utilization Review for millions of state Medicaid enrollees. Menighan also founded and was a 20-year Medicine Shoppe owner in Huntington, W.Va., and is a partner in Pharmacy Associates, Inc., a multi-state specialty pharmacy that today serves patients in much of the United States.

"Tom is an excellent choice to assume the mantle of leadership of APhA," said John A. Gans, APhA's current executive vice president and CEO. "His broad knowledge of the profession and his breadth of experience coupled with his commitment to pharmacy position him well to lead APhA as the profession is facing many challenges in our fractured health care system. In addition, he has participated in the association's leadership from both the staff and volunteer perspectives which strengthens his understanding of the operations of and opportunities for the Association."

Menighan will begin his transition into the role of APhA CEO-designate in the first quarter of 2009 and will assume the position of CEO on July 1.

Featured Faculty

Yon Rojanasakul



Yon Rojanasakul, Ph.D., professor and acting chair in the WVU School of Pharmacy Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been a faculty member at the School since 1989.

Dr. Rojanasakul has established an internationally recognized research program in the area of free radical biology and cancer

chemotherapeutics. His research has led to the discovery of key molecular targets and signaling pathways involved in cancer cell death and chemoresistance. His research also addresses the development of innovative drug delivery strategies for gene-based therapeutics through an understanding of the biological barriers that prevent these agents from reaching their targets. The overall goal of his research is to develop more effective strategies for the treatment and diagnosis of cancer.

Research Award (2007). This year, Dr. Rojanasakul was selected as the recipient of the Benedum Distinguished Scholar Award, the premier research honor bestowed by West Virginia University. The award recognizes excellence in creative research with Rojanasakul being honored in the biosciences and health sciences category.



Rojanasakul is currently principal investigator on a NIH R01 grant studying the role of Fas-Mediated Lung Cell Apoptosis. He is also a co-investigator on a project funded by the National Occupational Research Agenda that is researching nanoparticle properties and mechanisms causing lung fibrosis.

While he has a great love for research, Rojanasakul also has a passion for teaching, and it can be seen in the numerous awards he has received during his time at the School of Pharmacy. He has been the recipient of six Outstanding Teacher Awards (1994, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2008) and the Outstanding



Alumni Events

The Mountaineers are gearing up for a great football season, and the WVU School of Pharmacy is going to cheer them on by hosting alumni tailgates at each home game. Game times are to be determined right now, but be sure to mark your calendars for these exciting alumni events when details are finalized. The tailgates are a great place to connect with former classmates and whip up your Mountaineer spirit. Also, if you are up for a challenge and would like to sponsor an event in the Master Tailgate Competition, please contact Dean Patricia Chase at pachase@hsc.wvu.edu.



Classmates Michael Newton, '97 and '99, Kim Knuckles, '97 and CVS event sponsor, and Jason Backel, '97, reconnect after eleven years.

Future Pharmacists

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.

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Upcoming Events

August 18-22

New Student Orientation

August 22

White Coat Ceremony, Health Sciences Center Okey Pattenon Auditorium

September 5

Alumni Tailgate: WVU vs. Liberty

September 12

Alumni Tailgate: WVU vs. East Carolina (sponsored by Colony Drug & Wellness Center)

October 1

Alumni Tailgate: WVU vs. Colorado (the Gates Wigner Tailgate)

October 17

Alumni Tailgate: WVU vs. Marshall (sponsored by Rite Aid)

October 24

Homecoming Tailgate: WVU vs. Connecticut (sponsored by the WVU SoP and the WVU SoP Alumni Association)

For Continuing Education programs, please visit <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/conted/programs.html> or contact Adrienne Tucker at 304.293.5103



P.O. Box 9500
Morgantown, WV 26506-9500

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