



The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences News

An Electronic Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Fall 2008 Volume 3, Issue 1

Dean's Message



A new school year has begun, and I am pleased to inform you that the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences enrolled 147 new Pharm. D. students for the 2008-2009 Fall semester. This surpassed our enrollment goal of 145. This class came from 20 different states with 63.3 percent females; the entering core

GPA was 3.52; and their PCAT (pharmacy college admissions test) was 81. Over 23 percent of students in the class have a 3.75 or higher overall undergraduate GPA and received merit scholarships from COPHS.

More than 58 percent of the entering students received bachelor's degree prior to entering

pharmacy school and one student has a Ph.D. degree. The average age of the entering class was 24.6 and the minority representation is 41.5 percent. We have 13 incoming students who are legacies, related to College alums or current students.

Over 81 percent of these students had work experience in a pharmacy prior to enrollment. The vast majority (97%) had community pharmacy experience.

We are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year from our students, and I want to thank the faculty and staff for their commitment.

Sincerely,

H. W. "Ted" Matthews
Dean and Vice President for the Health Sciences
Matthews_h@mercer.edu

Long-Time Supporter Remembered

Dr. G. Van Greene, one of the most loyal supporters of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS), recently passed away at the age of 96. Dr. Greene served on the Mercer University Board of Trustees of Mercer University for 18 years as well as on the President's Council. During that time, he was also chair of the Pharmacy Advisory Committee and instrumental in helping the College of Pharmacy achieve financial success and stability.

In 2005, Dr. Greene generously endowed the G. Van Greene Distinguished Lecture Program at COPHS, which has featured speakers in the profession of pharmacy and health care. Dr. Greene, along with his late wife Minta, also established the G. Van and Minta J. Greene Endowed Scholarship for pharmacy students.

As an expression of appreciation to Dr. Greene, his portrait was unveiled in 1996 and now hangs in the COPHS administration building. He loved Mercer and the pharmacy school and he will be greatly missed.



Class of 2012 Begin Journey to Pharm.D.

The Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Class of 2012 participated in the sixth annual White Coat Ceremony on August 14. This ceremony signifies the beginning of their academic path toward the doctor of pharmacy degree. Each student received a white coat to represent the profession of pharmacy.

After the ceremony, more than 500 people attended the reception, sponsored by The Kroger Company. Kroger has been the only sponsor of this event since its inception.



Incoming students recite the Pledge of Professionalism during White Coat Ceremony.

The 147 incoming students were given an overview of the College and Atlanta campus during the orientation held on August 15. Dean H.W. "Ted" Matthews welcomed the group with words of inspiration. Students were also introduced to representatives from student services including financial aid, student life, and technical resources.



New student Loam Fessehaye receives white coat from Dr. Michael Jann, Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Leaders from the Council of Students, which is comprised of the leaders of all the student organizations within the College, gave an introduction of their respective organizations and activities.

Students were treated to a "COPHS Welcome" lunchtime event on Monday, August 18, the day classes began.

Pharmacy Student News

- ◆ Third-year student Bobby Price was elected the national president-elect for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.
- ◆ The Alpha Rho Chapter of Phi Delta Chi won several national awards including First Place for the Brotherhood Award and was the only chapter to ever to receive a perfect score from all judges.
- ◆ The Gamma Psi Chapter of Kappa Psi was given the number one ranking in their Province and is currently ranked number three in the nation.



Dean Ted Matthews, students Hillary Volsteadt, Johnathan Hamrick, Megan Hines, and Professor Richard Jackson gather as the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association was named First Runner-Up for Chapter of the Year during the annual National Community Pharmacists Association meeting.

Students and Donors Recognized During Honors Luncheon

More than 200 students were recognized at the 2008 Honors and Awards Luncheon. Over 70 awards and scholarships were given to students who attended the event. Awards were also presented to 27 students who were the top academic achievers at the end of the 2007-2008 year.

Special recognition was given to Curtis L. Pickels, BSPHM '68, for his dedication to the Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and for the distinction he brings to his alma mater through his community service.

The Dean's Award was presented to Pamala Marquess, a distinguished Mercer graduate, who earned her Pharm.D. degree in 1993, for her dedication to the pharmacy profession and her alma mater.

New Faculty Receive Prestigious New Investigators Award



Nader Moniri, Ph.D. and Chalet Tan, Ph.D. each received the news that their proposals for the 2008-2009 AACP New Investigators Award had been approved for funding.

Dr. Tan's project will be on "Micellar nanocarriers for targeted cancer therapy" and Dr. Moniri's proposal was for "Uncovering the molecular mechanisms behind Beta2-adrenergic receptor mediated generation of reactive oxygen species."

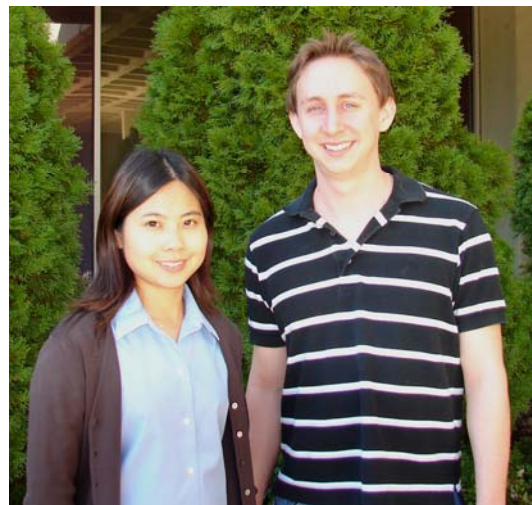
2008-2009 Council of Students



Seated (from left to right) are: Hillary Volsteadt, President of ASP; Sarah Brown, President of COS; Mindy La, President of Rho Chi; and Neelam Patel, President of Kappa Epsilon.

Standing (from left) are: Bobby Price, President of SNPhA; Melinda Rowland, President of GSHP; Biral Patel, President Pro-Tem of Class of 2012; Mark Ogunsusi, member of AMCP; Purvish Patel, President of Kappa Psi; Johnathan Hamrick, President of NCPA; Aimee Reinhard, President of Class of 2010; Andrea Gauld, President of Phi Lambda Sigma; Jancie Hatcher, President of ASCP; Kate Gillette, President of Phi Delta Chi; Chloe Ledford, President of CPFI. Not pictured are Tanea Chane, President of the Class of 2009, Neha Nagesh Rao, President of the Class of 2011, and Christopher Allen, President of the Godsey-Matthews Student Society of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Graduate Student Named USP Fellow, Wins \$25,000 Award



David Turner, a Ph.D. student (right) of Dr. Hailing Zhang, was selected as a USP Fellow and will receive one of six 2008-2009 research awards in the amount of \$25,000.

Mr. Turner's research project is entitled "The role of lipids excipients in bioavailability enhancement."

Alumni Association

First of all let me say that it is an honor to serve as your Alumni Board President for this next year.

There is a lot of excitement at Mercer these days, and it is good to share this with other alumni. The Dean and his staff are doing an excellent job.

I can't say enough about the students. I was able to meet a good number of our students at the recent Honors Day, and I found them to be very smart, professional and, above all, dedicated to the profession of pharmacy.

We can all walk tall knowing that Mercer and Pharmacy are well represented by our Dean, Faculty, Staff and Students.

Herbert Hatton, BSPHM
Class of 1967
Alumni Association President

Alumni Notables

Irene Coletta, M.S., BSPHM `73, was named Pharmacist of the Year by the Atlanta Academy of Institutional Pharmacy. Irene is Assistant Director of Pharmacy at Piedmont Hospital, where she has worked for 33 years. Irene has also worked with our students for many years and was named Preceptor of the Year in 1982.

Laura "Gena" Tyson, Pharm.D. `91, has opened Dogwood Pharmacy in Nashville, Georgia.

In Memoriam

We are sad to announce the passing of Malcolm Forte, Jr., BSPHM `59, of Columbus, Georgia and Joseph Cannella, BSPHM `55, of Sandy Springs, Georgia. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.



Dean Ted Matthews takes a moment to talk with COPHS Pharmacy Alumni President Mr. Herbert W. Hatton.

Alumni Weekend Showcase



Bill Hankla, BSPHM `68, and wife Geraldine, BSPHM `69, are pictured next to Bill's 1951 Studebaker Champion Coupe, which won the "Best of Show" trophy in the Antique and Special Interest Car Show organized by Jim Dorsey, BSPHM `55 .



Members of the Class of 1958 (pictured left to right) are Jim Young, Bob King, Stonewall King, Bob Taylor, Lamar Brooks and Jim Garrick, and Ed Mallory (seated).

PA Students Busy with Activities In and Out of Classroom

The Physician Assistant program is in full swing and busy with activities. Students recently participated in several “clinics” where they learned how to cast an injury and stitch wounds.



PA students Stephanie Miller (left) and Sara Nelson (right) receive guidance during casting clinic from PA program director Brad Schwarz.

All PA students and faculty attended the signing of a declaration by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue for National Physician Assistant Week, October 6-12 (pictured right). The students also participated in public awareness and promotional activities during the week.

A “meet and greet” was held on October 17 for the January 2009 incoming students. Class officers planned a day of activities for the new students including a luncheon and treasure hunt on campus.

Students will remain busy as they prepare to begin their clinical rotations and participate in events such as health clinics, Habitat for Humanity of Atlanta and a “My House” fundraiser at Park Tavern.



COPHS Selected for FDA Program

Vikram Arya, Ph.D., Senior Clinical Pharmacologist from the Office of Clinical Pharmacology (OCP) in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) visited the College September 24-25. The COPHS was one of 15 schools of pharmacy in the nation selected to participate in the FDA’s mini-sabbatical program.



The goals of the mini-sabbatical program were to increase awareness of the OCP, how the OCP supports the FDA’s critical pathways initiative in drug development, and discuss strategic initiatives and collaborations between the FDA OCP and

academic institutions. Dr. Arya gave presentations to the faculty and students on “How the OCP Fits into Drug Development and Review.” He met with small groups of graduate and doctor of pharmacy students, and post-doctoral residents to describe possible employment opportunities in the OCP at the FDA.

Dr. Arya also met with faculty to initiate exchange and sabbatical programs between the COPHS and the FDA.

We Want To Hear From You
We Want To Hear From You

Have You:

- Changed jobs?
- Married?
- Moved?
- Added to your family?
- Received an award or other recognition?

Tell Us About It!

Name _____
First Middle Maiden Last

Home Address _____

Email address _____

Company _____

Title _____

Class of _____



IMPORTANT DATES

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 24-28

Last Day of Class
December 5

Pharmacy Interview Day and
Law Review for 4th Year Students
January 7

Student Orientation for
Physician Assistant Program
Class of 2012
January 8-9

First Day of Class
January 12

White Coat Ceremony for
Physician Assistant Program Class of 2012
January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 19

Spring Break
March 9-13

William D. Underwood, J.D.
President, Mercer University

Hewitt W. "Ted" Matthews, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
and Vice President for the Health Sciences

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