



The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences News

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

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Pharmacy Students Make Significant Contributions

In Fall 2006, Dr. Marvin Smith, Deputy Director of the Bahamas National Drug Agency (BND), began hosting Mercer fourth-year pharmacy students in our newest international advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE). The BND is responsible for the regulation and management of pharmaceuticals for all public health care institutions of the Public Hospitals Authority, the clinics of the Ministry of Health, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Her Majesty's Prison, the College of The Bahamas and other related government health centers. In addition, the BND also coordinates the regulation of controlled drugs in all public and private pharmacies, health care centers, and pharmaceutical distributors in the Bahamas.

Students on rotation with the BND are exposed to the issues that pertain to oversight and administration of pharmaceuticals, including public health and education, the national drug formulary, and regulatory affairs. As part of their assignments, the students who took part in the initial APPE presented a proposed Drug Utilization Review (DUR) system. Dr. Smith stated that, "These students designed a DUR system that became the foundation for the current system which is now being used by the BND for supply management. It was clear that their preparation at Mercer gave them many of the essential tools utilized in this design process."

The five-week APPE includes a visit to the HIV clinic at the Princess Margaret Hospital, where the students are able to observe pharmacists, physicians and members of clergy conduct HIV drug therapy education and counseling. It also includes inventory and a shadow experience at the geriatric and psychiatric hospital. Students are also given a day to tour various cultural and historical sites.



Office of the Bahamas National Drug Agency

system and other socialized health care systems in the Caribbean region and other countries in the western hemisphere. "These students did an excellent job in comprehensively presenting the issues in this matter. Their research was not only thorough, but it allowed them to give their own perspective on the matter, elevating the discourse from the mere presentation of data, to the delivery of insight, and open exchange of ideas. They were impressive," said Dr. Smith.

Upon returning to campus, all students completing international APPEs make formal presentations to their peers and faculty. In addition to the Bahamas, this year's presentations were given by students returning from London and Manchester, England, Scotland, Denmark, Japan, and Australia. Reflecting on his Bahamian experience, student Ross Philpot said, "We learned about the current health care system in the Bahamas and about socialized health care systems and topics worldwide. It is really amazing to think that they may develop their new socialized health care program based on our research. In addition, Dr. Smith and his staff really made us feel welcome."



Khuong An Nguyen shows details of her APPE in Scotland.



Jack Rumph, who participated in Bahamas APPE, displays photos from his experience.

Fourth-year students who completed the APPE in Spring 2008 presented a paper to Agency officials outlining the comparisons and contrasts between the current national health care

Dean's Message



In March 2008, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) performed a site visit for the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program. I am very pleased to report that ACPE has granted us an accreditation term

extending to June 30, 2014, which represents the maximum six-year cycle.

The Pharm.D. program met all 30 of the ACPE accreditation standards (Standards 2007). Some areas for improvement that had already been identified in our Self Study Report were reaffirmed by the ACPE Evaluation Team. These areas were primarily related to the need to increase faculty size; make available more experiential practice sites; and renovate campus facilities to meet the needs of our College.

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in addressing the identified issues. For example, we have already hired seven new faculty members for the 2008-2009 academic year and have significantly enhanced our introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experience site capacity for the next academic year. Also, we are currently in the process of renovating our large lecture classrooms as well as space for new research laboratories.

I would like to express appreciation to everyone who participated in the accreditation process. Special kudos are in order to Drs. Susan Miller and Candace Barnett on their tireless efforts in helping our Program receive a successful accreditation review.

Sincerely,

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

Honor Someone Special with a Lasting Legacy

A very meaningful way to honor a loved one, a faculty member or someone who has had a significant impact on your life is to establish an endowed scholarship in their honor or in their memory.

Establishing an endowed scholarship can be accomplished through a variety of ways, including securities, bequest or as a deferred gift. The process is simple. As the donor, you designate the scholarship name, assist in writing the description and setting the criteria for the Scholarship Committee to use in choosing the recipient.

Each Fall, we honor those who have established endowed scholarships and recognize the recipients through the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences' Honors Luncheon. It is a very special and heartwarming occasion that our supporters look forward to each year.

If you would like more information about how to establish an endowed scholarship, please contact Allen Wallace in the Office of University Advancement at 678.547.6419, 800.837.2905 or wallace_am@mercer.edu.

New Faculty Joining COPHS

Dr. Ashish A. Advani, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Joseph T. Dye, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Marsha N. Gilbreath, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

Dr. W. Klugh Kennedy, Clinical Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Christine Klein, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Nicole L. Metzger, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Angela Shogbon, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice

PA Program Establishes New Student Organization

Shortly after beginning the Physician Assistant (PA) Program, students expressed a desire to establish a formal student organization. In April, this desire was realized with the formation of the Godsey-Matthews Student Society of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and referred to as the Godsey-Matthews Society.

The purpose of the student society is to serve as the official organization for the students of the Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Physician Assistant Program. The society will pursue integrity, equality, dignity, and competence for the physician assistant as a health practitioner.

“The current cohort is progressing extremely well, and has set the bar for future Mercer PA classes,” PA Director Brad Schwarz said. “We’re very proud of them and excited about the next class as well. This program has far surpassed all of my expectations,” said student Dannyelle Wilcox. “I am from a small town where everyone is family, and I can honestly say that I still feel right at home at Mercer University. The PA Department faculty is outstanding and my classmates are great.”



PA student Erin Baker practices her interviewing skills with a member of the Senior University.

Pharmacy Students Look Toward Fourth Year With Pinning Ceremony

The Pinning Ceremony drew a crowd of more 500 people to witness the Class of 2009 as they marked the transition to the fourth year, which is entirely experiential. This event has become an important part of our culture and promotes professionalism in our students.

Students were presented with specially designed pins to commemorate the occasion and recited the Pledge of Professionalism. Student rotations began in June and most students will complete them by February of 2009. The 2009 Pinning Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008.



Sophia Cheung Braun is congratulated by Dean Matthews after receiving her pin.

Dr. Todd Parker, a clinical pharmacy specialist at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta and a 1997 graduate of our college, was the featured speaker. In his work at Piedmont Hospital, Dr. Parker provides specialized clinical support in pharmacy service areas of pharmacokinetics, nutrition support, critical care and neonatal intensive care.



Representatives from Walgreens, sponsors of the Pinning Ceremony, enjoy the reception after the ceremony. Pictured from left to right are Young Chang, Pharmacy Supervisor Atlanta West, Brian Robinson, Pharmacy Supervisor Atlanta North, Dean Ted Matthews, Bill Sonner, Regional Director for the Southern Division, and Nabil Elkareh, Pharmacy Supervisor Atlanta East .

Commencement Marks End of Successful Year

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences of Mercer University graduated 135 doctor of pharmacy and eight Ph.D. candidates on May 3 at Mercer's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta. The keynote speaker was Michael Cohen, Sc.D., president of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, a non-profit health care organization that specializes in understanding the causes of medication errors and providing error-reduction strategies to the health care community, policy makers and the public.

Dr. Cohen told the graduates to work with other health professionals. "Keep in mind also that you can't accomplish much in this world by yourself, so you are accountable for working as a team, not as an individual. That means developing professional relationships with the doctors, nurses and managers with whom you will be working", Cohen stated. He also reminded them to see themselves as an educator about the safe use of medications. "When at work always do your best, but do not become so consumed, although it is easy to do at times, that you don't take time for yourself. Take the time to enjoy your family and friends, travel, and have hobbies."

Five students received the College's highest scholastic honor, the Reuben C. Hood Award: Xi-Juan Jane Chen, Elizabeth Forrester, Mandi Walton Herndon, James Robert Paarlberg, and Kara Renee Jones. All recipients

have earned a perfect 4.0 grade-point average during their four years of pharmacy education.

Eight students received their Ph.D. degrees. Nima Akhavan, Sanjay Govind Gayakwad, Purna Chandar Kasha, Sameer Gajanan Late, Mychael Alton Scoggins, Tatyana S Sidorova, Viswatej Vemulapalli, and George Kwame Yeboah successfully defended their dissertations to receive the doctor of philosophy degree.



Two faculty members were recognized during the ceremony.

Dr. Martin D'Souza receives the Award for Excellence in Research from Dean Matthews

Martin J. D'Souza, Ph.D., director of Clinical Laboratory, director of Graduate Programs and professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the Award for Excellence in Research, and Lisa Lundquist, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice, was given the Distinguished Educator Award.



Candidates for the Ph.D. degree gather before ceremony.



Pharm.D. degree candidate, Jimmy Case, gives the thumbs up as he marches in the commencement procession.



Rite Aid representative Cal Issacs and Dean Ted Matthews enjoy the commencement reception, which was sponsored by Rite Aid.



Non-traditional Pharm.D. Program students are ready to receive diplomas. Pictured (l to r) are: Monica Eimunjeze, Marie Babalola-Erinle, Deborah Conkle, Michael Collins, Magdalene Oke, Suzzette Howell Carpenter, Jeffrey Langford.

Alumni Notables

Frederick W. "Rick" Karsten, BSPHM `82, was appointed Director of the Georgia Department of Drugs and Narcotics.

Michelle Wilson McCarthy, Pharm.D. `94 was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Commission on Credentialing. Additionally, she was named the 2008 recipient of the Louis P. Jeffrey Award for distinguished service to the profession and commitment to residency training.

Academy of Employee Pharmacists selected **Josh Kinsey, Pharm.D. `05** as Employee Pharmacist of the Year.

Academy of Independent Pharmacists selected **Drew Miller, Pharm.D. `80** as Independent Pharmacist of the Year.

Daniel E. Buffington, Pham.D. `87 was awarded the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) Award of Excellence and the American Pharmacists Association (APHA) Pinnacle Award.

Laura Schumpert Raney, Pharm.D. `91 was promoted to Manager of Government Relations and Clinical Sales for Kroger Pharmacy.



The following awards were presented at the annual Alumni Dinner held during the Georgia Pharmacy Association annual meeting.

Alumni Meritorious Service Award
Pamala S. Marquess, Pharm.D. `93

Young Alumni Award
James W. Duke, Jr., Pharm.D. `99

Carlton Henderson Award
Judy L. Gardner, Pharm.D. `87

Meritorious Service Award
Scott McAuley, Pharm.D.

Roche Laboratories Preceptor of the Year
Steve Aldridge

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



The Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Alumni Association has created a new award. The COPHS Distinguished Alumnus/a Award is the highest award presented by the COPHS Alumni Association, and the Alumni Association Board of Directors invites you to submit nominations.

Nominees should be alumni who meet the following criteria:

1. Have distinguished themselves by achieving recognition to academic, scientific or leadership contributions in science, business, public service or otherwise;
2. Have demonstrated exceptional service to their community; and
3. Have shown exemplary support and service to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Nomination Form

Nominee: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Nominator Phone: _____

Nominator E-mail Address: _____

Please mail Nomination Form and a current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume to the Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, c/o Dean's Office, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30341 or fax to 678-547-6315. **All nominations are due September 19, 2008.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE

We Want To Hear From You

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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 _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lori Anne Hatmaker (Tuten) '06 Pharm.D., a clinical pharmacist at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, along with her husband Kenny, are the proud parents of a baby girl named Madison Paige.

We are sorry to announce the passing of Dr. Z. Tom Grapes on May 6, 2008. Dr. Grapes was a member of our faculty for over 24 years and retired on June 30, 2005. He was a member of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and the Director of the Center for Health Outcomes Research.

We are sad to report the recent death of Mr. Eugene S. Argo BSPHM '58 on May 27. Eugene was a dedicated practitioner and supporter of the College. An endowed scholarship is being established in Gene's memory.

Also, Dr. Constance (Connie) A. McKenzie passed away on June 26. Connie was a 1986 Pharm.D. graduate and Drug Information Resident.

Tell us how we can better stay connected with you.

Send news items to:
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William D. Underwood, J.D.
Mercer University President

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

Genice Johnson CPS/CAP
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IMPORTANT DATES

Alumni Weekend
October 17-18, 2008

Honors Luncheon
October 23, 2008