Pharmacy was the first professional program at the University of Oklahoma and, since 1896, the College of Pharmacy has had more than 4,300 graduates. Today, the college offers the Doctor of Pharmacy professional degree program and graduate programs in the pharmaceutical sciences leading to the master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees. Eight years ago we admitted our first class at the Schusterman Center and today we enjoy the availability and flexibility of a two-campus program in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, made possible with state-of-the-art technology.

Our faculty members are recognized nationally and internationally for their contributions to the college’s teaching, research and service missions as innovative practitioners, distinguished educators and outstanding scientists. Did you know that they have brought in over $12.5 million in extramural funding over the past two years?

Our students are the recipients of unparalleled instruction and hands-on experiences. A committed faculty and staff provide countless opportunities to inspire them to build successful foundations for promising careers.

Our magazine this fall capitalizes on the theme of excellence. In the pursuit or attainment of excellence, it is expected that values play a major role. In our value statements, we indicate that our college is committed to excellence that is shown through the following ways:

• Integrity in all that we do
• Accountability to others, as individuals and as an organization
• Compassion and respect for each other and those we serve
• Innovation in patient care, research and education to advance the public’s health and well-being
• Collaboration for synergy
• Diversity to enrich our environment, perspectives and influence
• Dynamic leadership demonstrated by all and to all we serve
• Professionalism and passion in serving others

Can a college of pharmacy incorporate excellence in the face of new treatment modalities, legislative mandates and emerging technologies? I firmly believe excellence is not only possible, but necessary. We endeavor to make every interaction count. By striving for excellence and adding value in all we do, we fulfill our mission to educate and empower professional, graduate and post-graduate students to be highly qualified pharmacy practitioners, scientists and educators.

Dean and Edith Kinney Gaylord Professor
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**College of Pharmacy**

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

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On the Cover

The ambassador pin is a symbol of pride to students who volunteer for the college. Student Ambassadors represent the college in many events over the academic year.
Over the last few months, I have enjoyed watching several of the Grand Round lectures archived on the OUHSC Geriatric Education Center website (www.ouhsc.edu/okgec). Recently, I was impressed with the lecture by OU Professor of Pharmacy, Mark Stratton, Pharm.D., who specializes in geriatric pharmacy. Dr. Stratton talked about the large number of adverse drug reactions in this population, describing a variety of causes. He emphasized the importance of education and the need for increased awareness regarding potential drug related problems.

A day or two later, with the lecture still fresh on my mind, my mother called expressing concern about a close family friend who was severely depressed, fatigued, just “shuffling around.” I suggested there might be a problem with her medication, a thought my parents had also considered. They faxed me a list of her medications. I went through each one of the 16 medications, noting what the medication treated and possible side effects. First I was astonished by the amount of medication she was prescribed, costing her $700/month on a fixed income; then I was outraged at the side effects that were exactly the symptoms they had observed. Several of the prescribed medications treated the side effects of the others on the list.

My parents also got feedback from a physician and a pharmacist who shared our concern. We communicated, via phone and email, with the family about our findings and actions they might take to get help. They had become overwhelmed with not being able to find solutions and they were so grateful for the input and direction. They were able to get an appointment this week with a geriatrician in their area.

I am so grateful for the work Dr. Stratton is doing and for his obvious passion in educating and raising awareness of potential problems with medications, particularly in the geriatric population. His lecture may have saved a woman’s life.

– Connie Morain Baker
A great deal has been mentioned recently in the news regarding the future of health care, and the concerns of a growing older population have been equally brought to the forefront. While people over 65 make up 13 percent of the population, they account for a disproportionate share of problems associated with medications, accounting for 50 percent of drug-related hospitalizations and 40 percent of deaths. An estimated one-half of these deaths are considered to be entirely preventable. Deaths from inappropriate, excessive and unnecessary medications are the fifth-leading cause of death among the older population. Therefore, it is important for older people, and those who care for them, to become active participants in health care decisions, especially regarding their medications.

To address this issue, the college established the Institute for Geriatric Pharmacy in 2001. (For more information, visit http://pharmacy.ouhsc.edu/geriatric/contact.asp.) The goal of the institute is to improve the outcomes from drug therapy in older people through research, education and service. Institute director Mark Stratton, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., C.G.P., F.A.S.H.P., who serves as professor and Herbert and Dorothy Langsam Endowed Chair in Geriatric Pharmacy at the OU College of Pharmacy, has been an active champion for promoting better medication choices for elders over the past 25 years. His work has demonstrated to health care professionals, government agencies and countless individuals the value of having a pharmacist provide assistance, particularly in the area of medication treatment management for seniors.

The field of geriatric pharmacy is growing, but it has by no means reached its full potential, according to Dr. Stratton. Having an endowed chair in this area at the college and the establishment of the Institute for Geriatric Pharmacy are just two indicators of the importance of geriatric pharmacy. The establishment of the Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine within the College of Medicine at the OU Health Sciences Center is another clear indication of the priority for preparing health care professionals to care for an ever increasing number of older people.

Dr. Stratton believes that a large part of his role is to provide education on the safe use of medications for the elderly. He views each seminar as an opportunity to reach physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, physical therapists and pharmacists. Since 2001, he has made more than 80 presentations to professional audiences, touching the lives of countless people from communities throughout the state. A recent contract awarded by the Health Care Authority of Oklahoma will further the mission of the institute by providing a means to deliver medication therapy management to patients, allowing them to transition from nursing home care back into independent living environments.

Another component of the solution to “America’s Other Drug Problem” is a better-educated consumer. To this end, the institute provides lectures to community-based groups of seniors, usually in affiliation with one of the 11 area agencies on aging in Oklahoma. The program, called “Using Medications Safely – A Key Ingredient to Your Health,” has been presented more than 170 times to nearly 5,000 older Oklahomans since 2001 by either Dr. Stratton or Keith Swanson, Pharm.D., C.G.P. As part of the presentation, the audience is encouraged to realize that being an active participant in the medication process significantly reduces their risk of experiencing side-effects. Program participants are provided a set of simple, straightforward questions to ask when they are prescribed new medications by their physicians as well as a brochure outlining medication safety tips.

An added public service that helps the institute meets its educational goals is the provision of “Brown Bag” medication reviews for seniors. These programs allow students under faculty supervision to review medications for seniors residing in the community. This is not only a valuable service to the seniors but also provides essential real-life training for our students. This activity has been conducted nearly 20 times in the past six years. It is anticipated that this activity will be expanded to our Tulsa campus in the near future under the supervision of Kim Crosby, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., C.G.P.

The OU College of Pharmacy is unique in that there are now four Certified Geriatric Pharmacists on faculty. In addition to the three mentioned above is Dr. Nancy Brahm.

As an adjunct to the presentations mentioned above, and as an integral part of the Institute for Geriatric Pharmacy, Dr. Stratton provides patient consultative services through a Medication Therapy Management Clinic, which targets senior adults with multiple chronic illnesses and on multiple medications. As part of these services, Dr. Stratton compiles a comprehensive review of all medications, identification of possible adverse reactions, evaluation of costs and the provision of a written consultation report to the patient’s physician.

At times, Dr. Stratton and Dr. Swanson must be able to relate to the main character from the “Lone Ranger.” Their crusading spirit for the rights of older adults is obvious. They see there is much need in the area of medication management, and both unabashedly admit it is a labor of love. Nothing is more rewarding than the knowledge that one has made a real difference in people’s lives. Excellence in education? Absolutely.

To address this issue, the college established the Institute for Geriatric Pharmacy in 2001. (For more information, visit http://pharmacy.ouhsc.edu/geriatric/contact.asp.) The goal of the institute is to improve the outcomes from drug therapy in older people through research, education and service. Institute director Mark Stratton, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., C.G.P., F.A.S.H.P., who serves as professor and Herbert and Dorothy Langsam Endowed Chair in Geriatric Pharmacy at the OU College of Pharmacy, has been an active champion for promoting better medication choices for elders over the past 25 years. His work has demonstrated to health care professionals, government agencies and countless individuals the value of having a pharmacist provide assistance, particularly in the area of medication treatment management for seniors.

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Recent years have seen an unqualified growth in understanding the role of pharmacy from research laboratories to patient care settings. Research in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Oklahoma has focused on several key concerns of the general population such as cancer, diabetes and infectious diseases (e.g., HIV). Research in the clinical and administrative sciences at the college has looked at the outcomes of medication use in clinical settings as well as administrative claims databases. In both areas, OU College of Pharmacy researchers have achieved national and international attention as evidenced in federal, state and local funding.

The faculty and their focused areas highlighted in this article do not represent all the research activity at the college, but emphasizes the variety and depth of what is being pursued.

Inflammation and Healing

Randle M. Gallucci, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Events following skin injury follow a fairly predictable timeline: homeostasis, inflammation, proliferation and remodeling. My research centers on finding out how a specific inflammatory gene is aiding healing. Research can lead to possible pharmaceutical application in the treatment of chronic wounds.

I am also involved in other inflammation-related projects. Past research in my laboratory was devoted to JP-8 jet fuel dermatitis. Our ultimate aim is the prevention or treatment of such dermatitis in military personnel. A recent grant application in this area, “The role of IL-6 in jet fuel irritant dermatitis,” has been funded through NIH.

We are also looking at the mechanisms of gender differences in alcoholic liver damage. The ultimate goal is to provide effective treatment or prevention of liver damage in women alcoholics. It is known that women have worse alcoholic liver disease as compared to men. It looks like it has something to do with increased inflammation in the liver. The lab has found a specific inflammatory gene (interleukin 6 receptor) is increased in the livers of alcohol-consuming female rats as compared to males. My goal is to find out why this gene is upregulated in females, and perhaps manipulate its function to see if that will decrease alcoholic liver damage.

Health Literacy

Michael J. Miller, Dr.P.H., R.Ph., Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences, Tulsa

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (2006), approximately 36 percent of adult Americans have below basic to basic health literacy skills (i.e., “the ability to understand and use health-related printed information in daily activities at home, at work, and in the community to achieve one’s goals and to develop one’s knowledge and potential”). “The Institute of Medicine in Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion” stated in 2004 that health literacy is essential for health promotion and disease prevention, understanding, interpreting and analyzing health information, applying health information to life’s situations, navigating the health system, active participation in health encounters as well as understanding and providing consent. Health literacy is fundamental to quality care.

The NIH has issued several priority areas for health literacy funding including: nature and scope of health literacy abilities; lifespan and cultural differences; mediators and moderators of health literacy; impacts and consequences of low health literacy; education and training; health systems interventions and methodology; and research technology development.

We recently submitted a NIH Challenge Grant application titled “Assessing Literacy-Sensitive Interventions in Antidepressant Medicine Persistence.” This grant proposal uniquely tests the individual effects of literacy-sensitive written and verbal communication strategies on antidepressant medication persistence. Results will serve to inform the refinement of literacy-sensitive strategies for improving antidepressant persistence in chronically underserved populations. Another project in progress is a collaborative effort with colleagues Kim Crosby and Kelly Grober-Murray that evaluates health literacy preparedness in chain pharmacy settings. Results of this project will serve to inform strategies that improve communication for patients at risk for low health literacy.
Chronic Opiates: Implication for Pain and Substance Abuse
Kelly M. Standifer, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Pain affects more Americans than diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined. The annual cost of chronic pain in the United States is estimated to be a staggering $100 million dollars. This cost estimate was provided by the National Institutes of Health Guide, New Directions in Pain Research-1998. Costs include health care expenses, lost income and lost productivity.

Past research has shown that chronic severe pain and opioid therapy can manage pain effectively. Opioid therapy increases levels of a neuropeptide (Orphanin FQ; OFQ) which has been proven to modulate morphine tolerance and block drug-seeking behavior in rodents.

The goals of my research are to 1) explore cellular mechanisms of opioid tolerance, which will provide better drug therapies; 2) delineate mechanism by which OFQ alters additive properties of drugs, which will pave the way for new drug therapy for addition prevention/treatment; and 3) to explore any gender differences. Current funding includes a new grant from the Department of Defense, and continued funding from OCAST and NIH-NIDA.

Antibiotic Resistant Superbugs
Nathan Shankar, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The increasing incidence of antibiotic resistance has brought a new sense of urgency to the discovery and development of antibacterial drugs. For over a decade I have been actively involved in research areas such as microbial pathogenesis, antibiotic resistance, and anti-infectives.

Effectively conquering antibiotic resistance will require expanding available targets. One approach to this problem is to identify new targets by panning the genomes of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Enterococci, gram-positive bacteria normally growing as commensal organisms of the gut, have emerged as a leading cause of nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections and are frequently resistant to multiple antibiotics.

Although the ability of *Enterococcus faecalis* to cause serious disease is well recognized, not much is known about enterococcal virulence factors that contribute to pathogenesis. For instance, factors which may influence the ability of enterococci to colonize host tissues, translocate across epithelial barriers, or survive in grossly different host environments are poorly understood. My laboratory is interested in the identification of potential virulence determinants in *E. faecalis* that play a role in enterococcal pathogenesis, with particular emphasis on enterococcal surface components. The lab’s long term interest is in the development of novel therapeutic approaches to treat serious enterococcal infections by targeting bacterial components that aid the bacteria in causing disease.

Pharmaceutical Marketing and Pharmacoeconomics
Donald Harrison, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences

My research activities have focused on two areas: pharmaceutical marketing and pharmacoeconomics. In pharmaceutical marketing, I examine the extent and comprehensiveness of strategic planning activities by hospital pharmacies, and most recently in community pharmacies. In pharmacoeconomics, I look at drug-to-drug comparisons and such pharmacy services areas as poison control centers, consultant pharmacists (long-term care nursing facilities) and therapeutic monitoring services.

Current research activities in database research includes 1) depression screening in the ambulatory care setting (through the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey); and 2) long-term impact of the ALLHAT study findings on the prevalence of HCTZ therapy for hypertension. My current research activities in pharmacoeconomics include 1) cost-effectiveness of triptans in the treatment of migraine headaches; and 2) cost-effectiveness of three alternatives for the step-down therapy in mild, persistent asthma.
Inappropriate, incorrect and excessive use of medications are the fifth leading cause of death among the elderly and cause nearly one-third of hospital admissions in this group. The purpose of the Institute for Geriatric Pharmacy is to address these issues and improve outcomes from drug therapy in older people through research, education and service. The Institute has five broad-based goals from collaborative research arrangements with other aging programs, to education and training programs for students and practitioners. It is the intent of the Institute to position itself in a leadership role among peer groups in regard to its programs in pharmaceutical care of the elderly.

More than 150 presentations on medication use have been made to over 4,000 older Oklahomans. Production and development of a film on medication safety has been accomplished. Grants and contracts have been submitted to various state and federal agencies with varying success. Presentations to professional audiences as well as lectures to different colleges have been well received. The Institute has established local and national presence and leadership (ASCP, CCGP).

Future direction can be channeled into two specific goals. Under research, there will be a focus on drug therapy of the very old with cardiovascular disease, looking at pharmacotherapy, kinetics and dynamics. Another focus in research is looking at the effects of medication therapy management on home-bound elders. Under the goal of education and training, we plan to develop a residency and fellowship program. In both of these goals, partnerships with other colleges and agencies will be a necessity and actively pursued.

Pediatrics

Tracy Hagemann, Pharm.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences

Pediatric patients are not little adults, and so their drug therapy needs are different. At the college, there are currently six full-time pediatric pharmacotherapy specialists with an additional ASHP-Accredited PGY2 Pediatric resident. The faculty practice in Oklahoma City at the Children’s Hospital, and in Tulsa at the OU Pediatric Physicians Clinics, with areas of specialty in hematology/oncology, primary care, cystic fibrosis, asthma, critical care, nephrology, neonatology, as well as general pediatrics. Currently, we have 10 clinical studies in pediatrics, including one industry-sponsored grant and one college-funded grant.

Research interests go hand-in-hand with our practice areas, including pain management, dosing medications in obese pediatric patients, estimation of methotrexate clearance in children with cancer, nutritional needs of premature infants, estimating kidney function in overweight children, pharmacokinetics of vancomycin in pediatric patients, and medication error avoidance in pediatric prescribing and dosing. We also work closely with the Oklahoma Poison Control Center when a pediatric poisoning occurs.

Our pediatric pharmacy faculty has made a concentrated effort to involve students in clinical pediatric research. Students learn to write protocols, do background data collection and literature searches, assist in IRB protocol development and administer surveys and consents. They get co-authorship on published papers and present findings at national meetings through poster and oral presentations and abstracts.

HIV Therapy: Practice and Research Overview

R. Chris Rathbun, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S., AQ-Infectious Diseases, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences

A federally funded HIV clinic located on the OUHSC campus (Infectious Diseases Institute Clinic) was originally established in 1996. Today, approximately 1,400 HIV-infected patients are seen by five physicians who specialize in infectious diseases. Separate contracts with the Oklahoma State Health Department and the Infectious Diseases Section at the OUHSC College of Medicine provide funding to support three HIV specialty pharmacists who provide care to HIV-infected indigent and low-income individuals in central and western Oklahoma.

Pharmacy services at the clinic include medication histories, medication adherence assessments and patient counseling at routine physician visits. More intensive services include the 1) medication-adherence clinic, where patients meet with an HIV specialty pharmacist for more extensive education, monitoring, and pill box fills; 2) hepatitis C co-infection clinic; 3) perinatal HIV transmission consultation to minimize mother-to-child HIV transmission, and 4) refill reconciliation program.

Research takes place in several different areas. A clinical trial unit is actively involved in phase III and phase IV studies with investigational agents studying new indications. Investigator-initiated research is also conducted in areas such as drug interactions, clinical outcomes and medication adherence.
excellence in LEADERSHIP
the academic leadership program

Since its inception in August 2004, the AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program has developed some of the nation’s most promising pharmacy faculty as leaders in academic pharmacy and higher education. In the past five years, 68 member institutions have invested in leadership development by sponsoring one or more faculty in this program. Eight University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy faculty members have participated in the program so far – one of the highest participatory rates of all colleges of pharmacy in the United States.

A prescription for excellence must include finding opportunities to mentor promising faculty leaders to be better prepared to make significant contributions on behalf of the college. The College of Pharmacy has indeed reaped the benefits of building and strengthening ties with other pharmacy schools and institutions, increasing greater visibility and presence both in academics and research.

The academic leadership program has over four sessions in residence. Fellows engage in seminars, activities and networking events designed to enhance their natural leadership strengths. Speakers chosen for the program include recognized leaders and experts. Each fellow is assigned to a peer group for the program, which has a current pharmacy dean as facilitator. Each group designs, conducts and reports on a policy study, providing a perspective on current and relevant issues facing their institutions. In turn, the fellows present their projects at the AACP annual meeting, and project presentations are prepared for submission to the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education for publication, thereby contributing to the scholarly literature.

Several of the OU College of Pharmacy participants are featured on the next pages, with an explanation of how the AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program equipped them to make significant contributions to the college.
I was a member of the first offering of this program from August 2004 through July 2005 – one of the “trail blazers!” I was in my fifth year as the college’s associate dean for academic affairs, and I had been a full-time faculty member in the college since October 1995. I already had a lot of academic administrative experience – and in some very challenging times for the college (development and implementation of the new Pharm.D. program and the alternate pathway to the Pharm.D. degree, as well as the expansion of the professional program to include all four years on the Tulsa campus using distance-education technologies).

The leadership program helped me gain a broader perspective on pharmacy education and higher education in general. I learned that pharmacy programs across the nation struggle with the same problems, but I also learned to appreciate the many advantages of our college of pharmacy compared with others. I appreciated the opportunity to learn how other pharmacy academic administrators are addressing (or not addressing) similar concerns with program delivery and assessment. I also found the sessions on how to conceptualize and live life as an academic administrator quite helpful.

In many ways, the guidance, direction and insights that I gained from the program saved me from some of the frustrations that had led others to leave their institutions or pharmacy education altogether. Of course, I still experience frustrations, but I am able to keep them in a healthier perspective.

I have used my experiences from the program to help those who are interested grow in their understanding of organizational structure and process, improve their effectiveness as leaders or executives, and learn how to sustain themselves in the face of the usual criticisms encountered everywhere in academic institutions. I learned that the most important thing I can do is to focus my energies and efforts on identifying and developing leadership in others, for the greater good of the college.

I highly recommend this program. It helps expand one’s understanding of academic life and processes, establishing a realistic foundation upon which leadership skills can be developed and applied.

The few years prior to joining the leadership program was spent on feverishly fulfilling all the requirements for attaining tenure and promotion to associate professor. After successfully accomplishing this milestone, I felt it was time to explore the profession in greater depth and get involved with aspects of pharmacy I hadn’t been involved in yet. The AACP leadership program provided this opportunity.

The greatest benefit to me was the interaction with colleagues from other schools and the opportunity to hear their views and perspective on matters related to pharmacy education and research. Because my long-term goal is to assume administrative responsibilities dealing with graduate education and research, it was especially stimulating to talk to deans and administrative heads from other institutions and get their views and thoughts as to the future within the profession of pharmacy.

After graduating from the program, I have accepted committee service whenever offered the opportunity, and I’ve also volunteered to serve on national AACP committees. Outside of increased involvement with AACP, the leadership training experience also makes me pause and examine my approach in dealing with my colleagues, peers and students on a daily basis.

I would recommend the program to any faculty member who is interested in making a difference and doing more than what is “required” professionally. Choose the right time in your career to be involved in the program so you can get the most out of it.

I’ve had several sessions on leadership philosophy and team-building exercises, including a ropes course. Leadership philosophy was covered from defining it first, to looking at different leadership styles and differences between successful leaders and managers. We also had a speaker talk about “framing,” in which problems are viewed from different aspects, such as legal, social, emotional, etc. Another speaker emphasized a professional balance between leadership and ethics. Practical leadership classes included media training by Tina Puglisi and how to make a great first impression by Cynthia Lett, a certified etiquette professional.

Perhaps the most important area (for me) covered early on in this program is the Clifton’s Strengths Finder®, a self-analysis tool. Curt Leisveld, a senior consultant and analyst from the Gallup organization, focused on our top five strengths as determined by the Finder, and defined how they can aid in our success as leaders. Later on we looked at our weaknesses within the scope of the Finder, and how to compensate (not correct) for them. The philosophy is that everyone has strengths and weaknesses and you need to accept that and work with what you have. I found the Strengths Finder so beneficial that I bought books for all my lab personnel.

Is the program worthwhile? Absolutely. I never really “thought” about administration – I just “sort of” did it the best I could. Now I appreciate the motives and circumstances behind decision making in an administrative position. I also feel that after personal introspection resulting from the Strengths Finder, I can better understand my own motivations as well as those of my staff, and use this knowledge to become a better administrator.
Kevin Farmer, Ph.D. (2006 Fellow)

Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences, Interim Assistant Dean for Tulsa Programs

I was an associate professor with administrative responsibilities for clinical pharmacology services when I entered the 2005-2006 leadership program. I found the program most beneficial in understanding the dynamics of academia, the national professional organizations and the challenges facing colleges of pharmacy. The program also did a very good job helping you to understand how to focus on your strengths to enhance your managerial and leadership capabilities. It was also valuable to meet numerous deans from across the country, get a chance to work with them, and understand ultimately how they evolved as leaders.

The program has been helpful to me in numerous ways, not only in administrative situations, but also in further developing as a faculty member. It was very useful to me serving as interim assistant dean for Tulsa programs. Mid-career faculty members would benefit from the program by using it as a means to focus, provide guidance and refuel energy they need for the rest of their careers.

Nancy Letassy, Pharm.D., CDE (2007 Fellow)

Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences, Director of Clinic Operations, Pharmacotherapy Service (Family Medicine Center)

I am an associate professor and director of the pharmacotherapy service. As a full-time faculty member, the biggest benefit for me was networking with faculty from other colleges of pharmacy. I believe the information I use most are identifying strengths of those with whom I work and mentor, understanding my frames of reference, and evaluating the strengths of a group. As director of clinic operations, the basic tenets of the fellows program have been utilized frequently.

This is a valuable program for anyone who has been on faculty for five or more years and is being asked to take on more leadership within their college or profession. I highly recommend it!

Kelly Standifer, Ph.D. (2005 Fellow)

Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

I was a member of the inaugural year of the program, 2004-2005 — in the same class as Mark Britton. One year prior to acceptance in the program I was appointed director of Graduate Studies and vice chair of the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. I was also an associate professor with tenure at that time.

This program was full of benefits for me. First, it provided an incredible framework through which to view life and interaction with others, and that was just the first session! It began with a “ropes” course and other team building exercises and continued with the Strengths Finder® exercises. It culminated with the concept of viewing life and making decisions through different “frames” in order to understand and anticipate different points of view. This helps one to anticipate reactions to and effects of a decision upon different groups of stakeholders.

Second, the entire program was a fantastic way to meet others, as well as come to know and understand issues and concerns of colleagues in other disciplines and colleges of pharmacy.

The leadership program has helped me better appreciate the potential benefits when individuals are encouraged to use their strengths within an organization. I would recommend the program to anyone who wants an opportunity for personal and professional growth. It is a unique offering to influence your vision.

Vince Dennis, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE (2008 Fellow)

Associate Professor and Director of Experiential Education

I was in my 11th year as a faculty member and my second year as an associate professor when I became involved in the leadership program. I believe some of the biggest benefits for me personally were the discussions and readings that were geared toward applications of leadership. The section on individual and organizational strengths was invaluable. I appreciated the opportunities to explore perspectives of current and emergent academic leaders in our profession.

The leadership program has helped me better appreciate the potential benefits when individuals are encouraged to use their strengths within an organization. I would recommend the program to anyone who wants an opportunity for personal and professional growth. It is a unique offering to influence your vision.

...continued on page 17
Having a quality education at a college of pharmacy is very important, but it’s not enough. That’s the message students are learning at the University of Oklahoma through the Student Ambassador Program.

The ultimate intent of this program is to encourage the quality of education not necessarily available in the classroom and yet essential to cultivate service, leadership and professionalism as an individual and as a specialist in the field of pharmacy.

Founded in 2007, the ambassador program has served as a platform for students to formally represent the College of Pharmacy. Students involved in the program have a visible presence on the college campuses and serve as role models to fellow students, faculty and staff. They are expected to adhere to all college policies and to exhibit a professional demeanor not only in the classroom, but at all college functions.

Representing the college may mean leading campus tours or participating on a student panel. Ambassadors are involved in university and campus-wide events and in undergraduate clubs and association meetings. It may mean participating in the White Coat Ceremony at the beginning of the academic year as well as graduation at the end of the year.

Student ambassadors are selected annually, and even current ambassadors must re-apply. To be a student ambassador, one must be able to commit to a minimum of four events during the course of an academic year (P-4 students commit to two events, based on their rotation schedules).

“I am so proud of the students who serve as ambassadors here at the college,” said Jennifer Richardson, assistant director of Student Affairs. “They play an important role in the recruitment of prospective students and they convey a positive outlook about the college to everyone with whom they come into contact while serving at college events and functions.”
AMBASSADORS’ TESTIMONIALS

“Through the ambassador program, I have had many opportunities to represent the college. In the past two years I have given tours to potential and new students; volunteered for college events such as graduation, interviews and the white coat ceremony; assisted with orientation for the new classes; represented the college at the NSU career fair; worked in the annual phone-a-thon; and assisted Student Affairs with recruitment. As an ambassador, you get the intrinsic benefit of knowing that you are making a difference in the future of the college. You also get to know the faculty and build lasting relationships with your fellow ambassadors. The ambassadors get preference when it comes to volunteering for college events such as graduation and interviews. When you get into pharmacy school, it is easy to lose yourself in studying and preparing for exams. Students often forget how important it is to connect with other students and build relationships. The ambassador program is a great way to build these relationships while providing service to the university. My best memories in pharmacy school will not include the time I spent studying. Getting involved is the only way to go! I have served as an ambassador for two years, and I plan to continue in the program until I graduate. It has and continues to be a great experience.”

- Tori Welker

“I volunteered for the ambassador program because it was an opportunity to interact with students interested in our program. Many different events are available to cater to each ambassador’s strong suits. I prefer one-on-one events, so I naturally try to pick that type of event for involvement. However, one time I spoke with an Intro to Health Sciences class at OSU — that was a large class and very nerve-wracking! I also spoke with the Pre-Pharmacy Club at OU. I led a group of students during the interview sessions. Finally, I spoke to another large group at OU consisting of high school juniors interested in the health field. I originally thought the only true benefit of the ambassador program was received by the audience. Through my involvement, I realized that public speaking has really helped my fears in talking to large audiences. The program also allows us (as current students) to promote the college the way we think it should be presented to possible students. I am in several clubs, but not really involved. I am involved in the ambassador program because it can have a large effect on the type of students who are admitted into the field of pharmacy.”

- Chris Waller

“I recently received recognition as the Student Ambassador of the Year 2009, which was great. I enjoy pharmacy school very much and like having opportunities to share my experiences with students and formally represent the college. I have been an e-mail buddy for a couple of pre-pharmacy students and hope to continue doing this. As a student ambassador, my communication and leadership skills have improved a lot. Some of the activities I have been involved with include pre-pharmacy mock interviews, the homeless health fair, P1 orientation, and OU spring cleaning clothing drives. This has given me the opportunity to interact with many people. When working in my role as an ambassador, I am reminded to be very grateful that I chose pharmacy as a career and the OU pharmacy school in particular. This, in turn, motivates me to do well.”

- Thao Ngoc Pham

“The ambassador pin is placed on the student’s white coat, signifying their participation in the program.

- Coty M. Walters

“I volunteered to be an ambassador because it enabled me to be involved in the recruiting process and help future generations of pharmacy students transition into the professional program. They also give us a nifty ambassador lapel pin, which adds a little bling to our white coats! Through the ambassador program I’ve helped with recruiting on various college campuses, mock interviews, student panels for answering questions and things of that nature. One of the biggest benefits for me is to get to build relationships with college staff. They make the behind-the-scene decisions that help the college run smoothly. It’s been great to offer input when possible.”

- Coty M. Walters
excellence is defined differently by
TODAY'S PHARMACY STUDENT

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy is producing more than well-trained pharmacy professionals ready to meet today's challenges. During the fall and spring semesters, you'll find fliers and announcements of pharmacy student organizations focusing on how they can volunteer time and money to the communities around them. The school is being radically transformed by a new type of student — one who makes a difference in his or her community even before they graduate.

Nothing proves this statement more than the fact that in the past four years, three OU College of Pharmacy professional students have received national attention through the Wal-Mart and Pharmacy Times RESPy awards. The RESPy (Respect, Excellence and Service in Pharmacy) award is a national competition that recognizes students who have made a difference in his or her community by demonstrating excellence in pharmaceutical care. These students realized, before their graduation, that a professional career in pharmacy means they can positively impact their community and people around them.

Jennifer Thackray

“I really believe that developing professionally and personally is just as important as developing academically,” said Jennifer Thackray, a 2009 RESPy awardee. Thackray, who graduated from OU College of Pharmacy May 2009, immersed herself in various organizations and volunteer activities from day one at the college. As student council president in 2008, she led the group to be recognized as the OU Health Sciences Center Outstanding Student Organization. This recognition resulted in a heightened awareness of the profession and the college by others on the Health Sciences Center campus.

Another highlight of her year as president was spearheading a silent auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Thackray’s efforts helped raise nearly $20,000 for children with terminal illnesses. Her leadership in this initiative was noted by a Tulsa, Okla., news program that interviewed her and subsequently aired to the northeast quadrant of the state, bringing recognition to the college.

Her excellence was defined in volunteer outlets as well. As a Neighbor-Neighbor volunteer, Thackray dispensed donated medications to the working poor. She volunteered for Vial of Life, distributing baggies to Tulsa-area residents, who fill out information meant to help emergency respondents provide life-saving care.

Kacee Vogt

A sampling of Kacee Vogt’s volunteerism includes assisting in the construction of a church in Juarez, Mexico; presenting poison prevention information to elementary school students in Oklahoma City; hurricane cleanup in Port Arthur, Texas; and sifting through debris after a tornado in Cordell, Okla. “It’s no wonder that community service has always been a priority for her,” said Dr. Wilson, in her nomination letter recommending Kacee for the RESPy award in 2006.

Being president of the executive council that served as overseer for the student organizations in the college enabled Kacee to see how much that applied to being a professional within a community. “I was able to use my leadership skills. I became a liaison between students and faculty. I was a voice for students,” she said.

According to Dr. Wilson, “Kacee was a good leader who was involved in service projects. She was always there and always available to her colleagues.”

Leigh Anderson

Leigh Anderson received RESPy attention in 2008 because of her philosophy that “pursuing a career in health care is the greatest way you can impact someone else’s life.” Her dedication to making a difference extended beyond professional training to numerous community-service projects and activities.

“Leigh stood out early on as someone who sees a need and wants to make other lives better,” said Dr. Jane Wilson, assistant dean for student affairs at the college. “Her passion lies in service.”

In 2007, as the chair of the first Homeless Health and Safety Fair held at the Oklahoma City Rescue Mission, Anderson coordinated a city-wide fair that served at least 500 homeless individuals. The fair included volunteers from every college on campus — a true campus community event spearheaded by pharmacy students.

There is indeed a profound similarity between the three RESPy winners from OU College of Pharmacy that can’t be overlooked. The college’s most prestigious award to second-year pharmacy students, the Mosier Scholar Award, has been presented to all three of these women. This award is presented to students who have achieved academic distinction along with a strong record of leadership in community service and extracurricular activities.

Mosier Scholar Award and RESPy winners. This comparable distinction runs like a fine gold thread between the three of them. A distinction of excellence.
A large gymnasium filled with students from various health professions handing out information and performing health screenings for those standing in line may not seem like an unusual event. After all, health professionals often are called upon to host health fairs in the community.

The difference lies in the downcast stares, the tattered clothing and the worn backpacks that clearly hold every belonging each person possesses. Consider the hungry look in each person’s eyes as they enter and the contrasting glimmer of hope as they exit after receiving personal attention.

Barriers were broken down between two distinct populations, students’ eyes were opened to the needs of the indigent and bonds were formed between students from seven different health professions. This was the Homeless Health and Safety Fair. The interactions that took place provided inspiration that I will always carry with me in my pharmacy career.

Before planning this event, I chose to become personally involved with the population we would be serving. Months before the project was to take place, I met with the clinical director of the City Rescue Mission at the shelter so I could see first-hand the needs of the population.

I invited a representative from the OKC Homeless Alliance to come and speak to students on campus about the needs of this underserved group. I arranged for a guided tour where our team leaders could meet the residents of the homeless shelter and see their environment first-hand. Students from seven different health disciplines came together wholeheartedly in this act of service.

When the day of the health fair arrived, I saw highly educated and confident students become humbled before their clients and serve alongside each other without reservation. This is the model of healthcare that our world needs – professionals putting their differences aside and seeking to make a difference in the lives of those who desperately need their expertise and compassion.

While looking into the eyes of an elderly homeless woman who had experienced more loss in her life than I can ever imagine, I was strangely reminded that we are not all that different. As we began talking, I realized that she, too, had once been young and full of hope for her future. Somehow, unimaginable circumstances caused her to choose paths that eventually led to her current situation. Although I wore a freshly pressed white lab coat and she was dressed in rags, for a moment we connected simply as two humans. We forgot about the social stereotypes that always surround us. As a pharmacist, I will keep this moment as a reminder that each patient is unique, and that the healthcare decisions made for each person can be greatly influenced simply by taking time to learn their story.

As I pursue my career as a clinical pharmacist, I plan to continue my involvement in serving the indigent population by working to match the needs of the patient with the skills of healthcare professionals. I will seek out opportunities to interact with those who have a passion for serving the poor. I will make a point to educate and involve those who have not yet experienced the joy of giving back to their communities, for there is certainly great joy in serving others.

- Leigh Anderson, 2008 RESPy award winner. Leigh is currently a PGY-1 resident at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. She writes, “As one of only four pharmacy residents in this 1100-bed hospital, I will have great opportunities to explore many career opportunities in various specialties. I look forward to seeing what doors God opens for me there, but I always keep Oklahoma in my heart and hope to eventually return someday.”
One way for pharmacy students to continue or further develop their careers may include following a prescribed avenue established by both the Graduate College and the College of Pharmacy. The Department of Graduate Pharmaceutical Sciences offers Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Science (M.S.) programs in diverse areas of specialization within the pharmaceutical sciences. In addition to these traditional graduate programs, the college has developed a dual degree, Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Sciences (Pharm.D./M.S.) program, in which gifted pharmacy students seeking graduate training may work concurrently on both degrees, thus allowing savings of both time and finances. For the fall 2009 semester, 21 students are enrolled in Graduate Pharmaceutical Sciences: 12 in the Ph.D. program, two in the M.S. program, and seven in the Pharm.D./M.S. program.

All students in the graduate program must conduct original research resulting in a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation. The majority of our graduate students are working under the direction of our basic scientists, with research projects involving infectious disease, immunopharmacology, cancer chemotherapy, product formulation and toxicology. The recent recruitment of new faculty in pharmacy administration has allowed us to expand our graduate program in the social and administrative sciences. Research projects of the pharmacy administration graduate students include health literacy, pharmacoconomics, managed care and marketing.

Graduate education in the clinical sciences is also possible, with several members of the clinical faculty mentoring students and serving on graduate student committees. The development of a new, interdisciplinary M.S. program in Clinical and Translational Sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center will provide new training opportunities in clinical research for pharmacy students, residents and faculty.

Annette Arthur
Pharm.D./M.S. Program
Hometown: Tulsa, Okla.

Annette graduated from the OU College of Pharmacy with a bachelor’s degree, and has returned to earn her doctor of pharmacy degree. She was admitted into the dual degree program in summer 2009, and is especially interested in clinical research.

Craig Burns
Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Tulsa, Okla.

Craig is a graduate of Tulsa University and also holds a master’s degree from Oklahoma State University. After establishing a career in the pharmaceutical industry, Craig entered the pharmacy administration graduate program in the fall of 2009, and expects to focus on pharmacoconomics.

Kasturee Daw
Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Calcutta, India

Kasturee joined the graduate program in 2007, and is studying in the area of infectious diseases. Her research project is to identify and study genes that regulate the survival of a troublesome bacterial pathogen that causes widespread infections, *Enterococcus faecalis*, after ingestion of the bacterium by macrophages.

Thomas Ha
Pharm.D./M.S. Program
Hometown: Mustang, Okla.

Thomas entered the dual degree program in 2008, with a specialization in pharmacy administration. His research interests are in managed care, and he is interested in doing outcomes research using retrospective pharmacy claims data.
Lerin Chastain

Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Okemah, Okla.

Lerin received her bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University and a master’s degree in cell biology before joining our graduate program. Her dissertation research focuses on interleukin-6 (IL-6), an inflammatory cytokine that is involved in the complex process of wound healing and is essential for repair to proceed. However, the exact mechanism in which IL-6 is involved in skin has yet to be identified. Therefore, the main goal of her dissertation is to identify key IL-6 signaling mechanisms in dermal fibroblasts and how that relates to the different gene regulation and processes in wound repair.

Jennifer Gass

Pharm.D./M.S. Program
Hometown: Tulsa, Okla.

Jennifer was admitted to the dual degree program in 2005 and received her doctor of pharmacy degree in 2008. Jennifer is currently in a critical care specialty residency at Memorial Herman-Texas Medical Center in Houston. Her thesis research has focused on the role of interleukin-7 on thymocyte development, and she plans to complete the requirements for the M.S. degree during the current academic year.

Heith Crosby

Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Afton, Okla.

Heith is a registered pharmacist who received his bachelor’s and doctor of pharmacy degrees from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He has continued his pharmacy practice while participating in the graduate program as a part-time student. His interests include drug development, wound healing and neuropharmacology, and he hopes to pursue a career in drug development and/or academia after graduation.

Amany Hassan

Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Alexandria, Egypt

Amany joined the graduate program in 2008, and is studying in the area of pharmacy administration. Her research interests include economic evaluation of pharmacy services, especially clinical pharmacist intervention, and her long-term goal is to return to Egypt as a faculty member. She is currently involved in a project that assesses how measures of compliance in diabetic patients can be used to predict their outcome through measuring HbA1c levels.

Shellie Keast

Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Oklahoma City

Shellie received her bachelor’s and doctor of pharmacy degrees from the OU College of Pharmacy. She is a registered pharmacist working with the college’s Pharmacy Management Consultants as the drug utilization review manager for Oklahoma Medicaid. Shellie entered the graduate program in 2005, received her master of science degree in 2007, and is continuing in the Ph.D. program, with a research emphasis in managed care.

Jesse Kemp

Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Poteau, Okla.

Jesse earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, and continued his education to earn a master of science degree in forensic science. He is a part-time student in the graduate program, and is specializing in pharmacology/toxicology, but is also interested in pharmacogenetics.
STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE AS STUDENTS

Jason Kesinger
Pharm.D./M.S. Program
Hometown: Norman, Okla.

Jason earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma, and later entered the College of Pharmacy. He was admitted to the dual degree program in 2008, and his project involves screening a novel class of small molecule compounds for their ability to inhibit the proliferation and motility of various types of cancer cells in vitro. The most potent of these compounds will then be tested for their ability to affect the growth and metastasis of human cancer cells in a mouse xenograft model.

Manish Mittal
Ph.D. Program
Hometown: New Delhi, India

Manish joined our graduate program in fall 2009, and is a student in our pharmacy administration graduate program. His primary interests are in pharmacoeconomics and pharmaceutical marketing, and is currently working on a project evaluating the cost-effectiveness analysis of drugs to treat uveitis (inflammation of the eye). The goal is to determine the drug(s) with a high degree of both clinical outcomes and cost effectiveness.

Sarah Payne
Pharm.D./M.S. Program
Hometown: Moore, Okla.

Sarah completed her pre-pharmacy work at the University of Oklahoma, entered the College of Pharmacy in 2008, and was admitted to the dual degree program in 2009. She is particularly interested in infectious disease, and her current project is to identify a protein in Enterococcus faecalis that interferes with an important signaling process in macrophages and dendritic cells. The protein under study is thought to repress the immune response to infection, and she will determine the distribution and expression of this protein in different strains of bacteria.

Gretchen Peirce
Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Moscow, Penn.

Gretchen is a doctor of pharmacy graduate from Duquesne University, and she continued her education in the master of science program in pharmacy administration at the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy. Gretchen has elected to continue her graduate studies in the OU College of Pharmacy, and entered our graduate program this fall. Gretchen is working on a project to determine the relationship between pharmacy faculty’s perceptions of contract violation, their organizational citizenship behaviors, productivity, and commitment to the employing institution.

Eric Lee
Ph.D. Program
Hometown: Selah, Wash.

Eric earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Washington State University, and after teaching for a few years, decided to continue his graduate training in pharmacology/toxicology. His dissertation project focuses on the role of interleukin-6 (IL-6) in diabetic wounding healing. IL-6 is an inflammatory cytokine essential for normal wound healing and has been shown to be elevated in diabetics. Elevated IL-6 may play a role in delayed wound healing and diabetic ulcers.

Ngoc-Phuong Nguyen
Pharm.D./M.S. Program
Hometown: Oklahoma City

Phuong was admitted to the dual degree program in 2007, and her research project involves the mechanism(s) involved in the development of tolerance to morphine. Previous studies have shown that a naturally occurring brain peptide, orphanin FQ/nociceptin (OFQ/N), contributes to the development of morphine tolerance. OFQ/N also reduces the craving of animals that are dependent on alcohol, morphine or heroin, and it produces its effects at the opioid-like 1 receptor (ORL1). Her project will lead to a better understanding of the regulation of the ORL1 receptor.
**Mackenzie Smith**

Pharm.D./M.S. Program  
Hometown: Fairview, Okla.

Mackenzie earned her undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University, entered the College of Pharmacy in 2007, and was admitted to the dual degree program in 2008. Her thesis project involves the exploration of mechanisms through which surface wounds heal. She is particularly interested in the response of skin cells to an inflammatory molecule called interleukin-6, and is studying how IL-6 causes the cells at the edge of a skin wound to replicate and then migrate over the wound surface.

**Joshua Rodgers**

M.S. Program  
Hometown: Plainview, Texas

Josh is a graduate of the Texas Tech College of Pharmacy, and is a practicing hospital pharmacist in Oklahoma City. He is a part-time student in pharmacy administration, and his thesis project is a cost-effectiveness analysis of a formulary change of calcium channel blockers (from felodipine to amlodipine) at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. All patients were converted to amlodipine therapy, whether the patient was stable or unstable on felodipine. His retrospective analysis should determine whether this approach was cost effective, as well as its clinical impact on the patient.

**Michael Schmitt**

M.S. Program  
Hometown: Pittsburgh

Mike earned the doctor of pharmacy degree from Duquesne University and joined our pharmacy administration graduate program in 2007. He became interested in health literacy, and his thesis topic is an evaluation of different communication methods for increasing non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) risk awareness. The results of this work will establish the effects of written medication pamphlets/medication guides, pharmacist counseling and physician counseling on patients’ awareness of the potential risks of NSAIDs. By evaluating the contribution of each of these sources of risk information, future researchers and policy makers will be able to better target communication initiatives to improve patient risk awareness.

**Prachi Vilekar**

Ph.D. Program  
Hometown: Pune, India

Prachi joined our graduate program in 2007 and is specializing in pharmacology. Her dissertation concentrates on curcumin, a well-documented anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory agent. Circumin is not therapeutically useful because of poor bioavailability and rapid metabolism. Novel analogues of curcumin that may overcome some of the deficiencies of the parent drug have been synthesized, and Prachi will investigate these curcumin analogues as potential immune modulators by studying their effects in dendritic cells.

**Kaustuv Sahoo**

Ph.D. Program  
Hometown: Rourkela, India

Kaustuv joined our graduate program in the spring 2009 semester, and is specializing in pharmaceutics. His major research interests are in the areas of drug targeting and novel drug delivery systems, and he is currently working on projects related to drug delivery in nuclear pharmacy.

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**Academic Leadership Program**

...continued from page 9

**Keith Swanson, PharmD, CGP (2009 Fellow)**  
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences

This program purposefully creates small groups of high achieving faculty from across the nation with a variety of skills, knowledge, and experience and then teams them with a dean-mentor who is charged with channeling energies and reorienting the team to the tasks at hand. Our team focused on collecting information regarding the availability of faculty development and enrichment programs for mid and late career (senior) faculty. Through this project, I found that the OU College of Pharmacy and the OU Health Sciences Center are clearly among the leading institutions across the nation when it comes to providing resources for developing faculty both early in their career and those more experienced. I developed a better desire to ACTIVELY participate in local and national opportunities available to faculty in both academic and political environments.

I strongly recommend this or similar leadership and career development opportunities to faculty. It is so easy to pigeon-hole ourselves into current roles, responsibilities, or titles, thinking that this is who we are and what we are supposed to be doing. Programs such as this or the Faculty Leadership Program here at OUHSC can offer an opportunity to see ourselves as the academic scholar and leader we were meant to be. I sincerely thank both Dean Draugalis Dr. Michael Burton for offering me the opportunity to complete this program.
A Strong Curiosity for the Unknown Motivates Student

Spotlight on Lerin Chastain, Graduate Student

My desire to pursue a career in the field of biology started at an early age. I was always fascinated in how the body reacts in states of injury or disease. I majored in biological sciences with a minor in microbiology and received my bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 2004. It was during this time as a student doing lab work as an undergraduate that I realized research really intrigued me!

During my time at the OU College of Pharmacy, I have been fortunate to study under some of the best faculty members. I’ve also had the opportunity to interact and develop friendships with numerous pharmacy students. These interactions have strengthened my desire to pursue a career in pharmaceutical sciences and particularly in research.

The opportunity to participate in pharmacy classes gave me insight, not only into drug names and characteristics, but to better understand how drugs work in the body. The skills and knowledge I have learned in my graduate work will benefit me in countless ways as I embark on my research career.

Following graduate training, I would like to obtain a post-doctoral position. Upon completion of my post-doctoral training, I would like to become a research scientist at a pharmaceutical firm. I would also like to explore opportunities available in academic institutions.

Extra Opportunities Available With a Pharm.D./M.S. Degree

Spotlight on Ann Howell, Pharm.D./M.S. graduate

I originally felt that the dual degree program (Pharm.D./M.S.) would strengthen my research and presentation skills. Now I know that the extra degree, along with the experiences and skills I have acquired, will provide me with additional opportunities!

I completed three years of pre-pharmacy work with a focus in botany at the University of Oklahoma on the Norman campus before coming to the College of Pharmacy. Since I was the only dual degree student in my Pharm.D. class, many M.S. classes were tailored to fit my schedule and interests. The flexibility provided by the college and the faculty (Drs. Hagemann and Reinke, in particular) gave me the impetus needed to complete the program. My friends and family were incredibly supportive, which I found to be the most important aspect to finishing both the Pharm.D. and M.S. degrees. Any time I felt overwhelmed, they helped to make my experiences positive and kept me on track.

I received my Pharm.D. degree on June 6, 2009, and successfully defended my M.S. thesis on June 11, 2009. I have recently moved to New Jersey and will participate in a two year post-doctoral pharmaceutical industry fellowship through Rutgers University and Schering-Plough.

Advanced Degree Benefits the State of Oklahoma

Spotlight on Shellie Gorman, Graduate Student

My current position at Pharmacy Management Consultants has offered me a wide array of experiences in managed care and pharmacoconomics. I have an undergraduate degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, B.S. in pharmacy and Pharm.D. from the University of Oklahoma, along with a M.S. in pharmaceutical sciences – all have brought me to this stage of my career, and I feel that pursuing an advanced degree would be a benefit not only to myself, but also to the state of Oklahoma.

I have just completed my first year of part-time studies toward a Ph.D. and plan to finish by 2012. My goal is to continue my work at Pharmacy Management Consultants, and with the Pharm.D. students. I would like to contribute to the knowledge base regarding cost-effective and safe use of medications, particularly in the Medicaid arena.

My education at OU College of Pharmacy has definitely been enhanced by the guidance of Dr. Elgene Jacobs as faculty adviser as well as the other pharmacy administration faculty. I also appreciate the patience of Dr. Reinke in answering questions related to my “extended stay” in the graduate program.
When the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy announced a new competition toward the end of 2008, we mistakenly presented this challenge to three bright and creative students in the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy as a student competition. While one of the criteria being judged was collaboration, the Is Pharmacy For You? national video competition was, in fact, open to anyone at colleges of pharmacy. The fact that OU students wrote, produced, filmed, starred and scored the video clearly won the attention of the judging panel.

“Collaboration was one of the judging criteria, but it was not a requirement that the video submission be student-run, and the judges were overwhelmed with the quality of the video submission knowing that the OU video was completely student-driven,” said one of the AACP judges.

When third-year pharmacy students Daniel Gonzalez and Christina Bulkley and second-year student Ryan Pettway first met to discuss this project, it was evident that their enthusiasm and skill set would blend together to create a competitive video. When it was time to append music to the video, instead of relying on their favorite artists or one of the local bands, they once again relied on one of their classmates and tapped the musical talents of third-year student Deshawnt Jelani to score the video.

Jennifer Athay, director of Student Affairs for the AACP, noted that “the competition was very close, but there were two clear leaders. When the CIC directors met to select a winner, they decided that in order to provide more diverse options for promotion of pharmacy careers, two winners should be selected.” Consequently, the OU College of Pharmacy was chosen as co-winners of the competition along with the University of North Carolina.

To view the video on the AACP Web site, visit www.aacp.org/resources/student/currentstudentpharmacists/Pages/default.aspx, or the AACP Youtube (http://www.youtube.com/user/AACPVideo#play/ uploads/1/RKAtJjY7wZo). As these students proved, a prescription for excellence goes beyond the classroom doors.
The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

By Kelly M. Standifer, Ph.D.

The end of the last academic year found the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences entering a new phase of growth with the appointment of a new department chair, faculty promotions and appointments, and initiation of five faculty searches. Though three faculty members retired June 30, two will maintain their valuable contributions as professor emeriti. This is especially important as we look forward to welcoming new colleagues who will expand our areas of research excellence, increase the visibility of the department and college within and outside the OU Health Sciences Center, and enhance our ability to excel in our missions of research, teaching and service.

Dr. Shanjana Awasthi was promoted to a tenure-track assistant professor position last fall. Dr. Awasthi studies the role of innate immune components in lung infection and brought her expertise to the Pharmaceutical Immunology course this spring. We look forward to her continued involvement in that course as well as its new graduate level counterpart course being developed by Dr. Gallucci.

Dr. Nathan Shankar started the new academic year by being awarded a prestigious Associates Presidential Professorship and ended the year with a promotion to full professor. Dr. Shankar’s research focuses on the identification and characterization of enterococcal virulence factors as potential targets for antimicrobial development. He also coordinates the Principles of Drug Action I course and participates in six other professional and graduate courses in the college.

Dr. H. Anne Pereira joined the department and college as professor and associate dean for research. Dr. Pereira was previously from the OUHSC Department of Pathology, where she had been a faculty member since 1992. Dr. Pereira brings a vibrant research program, lab personnel and over $1 million of grant funding to the college. The focus of her lab is the innate immune system and host-pathogen interactions; they are currently working on pre-clinical studies toward the development of an antibiotic for the treatment of nosocomial pneumonia.

Research and Scholarship

In fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009), the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences brought over $1.9 million to the college, with $1.53 million in direct costs and almost $400,000 in indirect costs from new and existing grants. New grants received during that period were awarded by a variety of local, state and federal agencies and private foundations, including two grants from NIH (S10 instrumentation grant for a new SPECT imager to Dr. Vibhudutta Awasthi, associate professor and director of the Small Animal Imaging Facility, and R21, in which Dr. David Bourne, professor, is a co-investigator); a grant from the Astellas USA Foundation to fund pharmacy seed grants (Dr. Les Reinke); two grants from the Oklahoma Center for Advancement in Science and Technology (Dr. Gordon Sachdev, professor, and Dr. Kelly Standifer); and the Presbyterian Health Fund (Dr. Hariprasad Gali, assistant professor of research). In addition, we started the new fiscal year on a bright note in July, as Dr. Standifer received a grant from the Department of Defense, Dr. Hariprasad Gali received an institutional American Cancer Society grant and Dr. Randy Gallucci and Dr. Vibhu Awasthi received NIH R03 awards to begin this fall.

During the past year, faculty in the department contributed to 18 peer-reviewed publications and two book chapters and presented their findings at seven national and three international scientific meetings. Dr. Tom Pento filed patents in the European Union and the United States for use of KGF receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors in the treatment of cancer. In addition, five disclosures were submitted to the OU Office of Technology Development (Drs. Hariprasad Gali and Vibhu Awasthi).
Faculty in the department have distinguished themselves in their areas of scientific expertise by serving nationally and internationally on review panels:

- National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (Dr. Les Reinke)
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (Dr. Nathan Shankar)
- Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (Dr. Nathan Shankar)
- NIH (Dr. Kelly Standifer, Dr. Les Reinke)
- American Heart Association (Dr. Nathan Shankar, Dr. Kelly Standifer)

Dr. Wendy Galbraith (assistant clinical professor) was recognized for her outstanding dedication to the Oklahoma Section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Shanjana Awasthi (assistant professor) was awarded a Junior Faculty Travel Award by the American Association of Immunologists.

Teaching: Post-graduate, Graduate, Undergraduate, High School and Professional Student Research Training

During the past year, faculty in the department supervised and directed the research activities of five post-doctoral fellows and a research associate, nine graduate students in Pharmaceutical Sciences, a graduate student from the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience and a GPIBS graduate student, four Pharm.D./M.S. students, and more than 15 high school, undergraduate and professional students. Of the nine pharmaceutical sciences graduate students, two graduated last summer with a Ph.D. (Drs. Julie Scott and Kelly Williamson). Students were recruited as part of the INBRE, SURE, NARCH and LINC summer research programs or sought out research experiences from as far away as Clermont-Ferrand, France.

Two new courses were developed and taught this last academic year. Dr. Les Reinke introduced Current Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences to provide qualified Pharm.D. students who are interested in advanced training in pharmacy with an overview of the different aspects of pharmaceutical sciences. With help from Dr. Reinke, Dr. Kelly Standifer organized and coordinated the only graduate-level pharmacology course on campus, General Pharmacology.

Service

Two search committees were established in June to review applications for four new tenure or tenure-track faculty in pharmaceutical sciences plus a faculty member with expertise in pharmaceutics and an ability to teach in other pharmaceutical science areas.

Two to three new graduate courses are in the works for next year, with more anticipated as our faculty grows. This fall also will find the department creating and adopting a strategic plan to guide and facilitate our continued growth and development. Stay tuned!

Congratulations to everyone in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for an exciting and successful year! I believe this trend of excellence will continue for many years to come.

- Kelly M. Standifer is a professor of pharmacology and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Shough Retires as Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Richard Shough, whose tenure at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy has included service as associate, acting and interim dean, recently retired as chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The University approved his status as professor emeritus early this fall.

Shough received both his bachelor of science in pharmacy and his doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Tennessee-Memphis. He served as assistant and associate professor of pharmacognosy at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy until 1978 when he accepted a faculty position at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy.

Since 1978, Shough has filled many shoes for the College. He established and directed the Office of Pharmacy Services from 1978-80. He served as assistant dean and associate professor in 1978, receiving a promotion to professor in 1980.

From 1983-2000, Shough served as associate dean, acting dean and interim dean. During his tenure as interim dean in 1983-84, he oversaw the college’s move to its current location on Stonewall Avenue on the Health Sciences Center campus.

In 1996-97, he was again called to serve as interim dean, bridging the gap prior to Dean Carl Buckner’s tenure. Shough has served as chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences since 2005.

His numerous contributions to the College include holding chair positions for the Admissions and Development committees as well as the Nuclear Pharmacy Operations Group. He reprogrammed college database use from 1986 through the introduction of PeopleSoft in 2002. He also participated in the Planning, Dean’s Advisory and Graduate Affairs committees.

Shough also maintained an active and integral role in the teaching mission of the college. Classes he taught included Pharmaceutical Immunology, Alternative Medicine and Principles of Drug Action.

Basmadjian Retires From College of Pharmacy

Dr. Garo Basmadjian, professor and the first holder of the Gilliland Chair in Nuclear Pharmacy, retired this summer after 32 years in the College of Pharmacy. The University approved his status as professor emeritus early this fall.

The Gilliland Chair was established by Dr. David Gilliland, to whom Basmadjian served as Ph.D. adviser and mentor. David and Sandra Gilliland established the chair to support research in diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals on the Health Sciences Center campus, the only campus in the country with a full-service nuclear pharmacy on site.

Basmadjian’s research interests have been in the design, synthesis and animal evaluation of novel radiopharmaceuticals labeled with positron-emitting radioisotopes like C-11 and F-18. The main purpose for these radiopharmaceuticals will be use for human Positron Emission Tomography (PET) studies in oncology, cardiology and neurology.

Research in this area can help identify therapeutic agents for nervous system disorders, including cognitive and attention disorders, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson disease and nicotine addiction.

Basmadjian earned his bachelor’s of science in pharmacy and master’s in pharmacognosy degrees from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and his doctoral degree in medicinal chemistry from Purdue University.

The college began the nuclear pharmacy in the spring of 1977 in the basement of the biomedical sciences building at the OUHSC, just months after Dr. Basmadjian’s arrival. Today, the nuclear pharmacy and research component is flourishing as a modern, state-of-the-art, computerized facility with up-to-date equipment and systems.

A retirement reception at the Faculty House in Oklahoma City was held in his honor on June 25.
CURRENT RESEARCH

Shanjana Awasthi, Ph.D.
• Evaluation of a vaccine for coccidioides in mouse model. (OCAST; principal investigator)

Vibhudutta Awasthi, Ph.D.
• SPECT imaging module for small animal imaging. (NIH S10; principal investigator)
• Dietary prevention of cancer. (NIH R01; collaborator)
• Pancreatic cancer therapy with GRP receptor-targeted imageable diphenyl difluoroketone. (NIH R03; principal investigator)

David Bourne, Ph.D.
• Cochlear therapy through magnetic targeted drug delivery. (NIH R21; principal investigator of subcontract)
• Pre-clinical investigation of nitrone anti-glioma agent. (OCAST; principal investigator of subcontract)

Hariprasad Gali, Ph.D.
• Development of Ga-68 labeled NGR conjugates for imaging APN expression on tumor vasculature by PET. (American Cancer Society; principal investigator)

Randle Gallucci, Ph.D.
• Identification of an IL-6-induced keratinocyte motogen. (NIH R01; principal investigator)
• The role of IL-6 in jet fuel irritant dermatitis. (CDC R03; principal investigator)

Teresa Lewis, Pharm.D.
• Pharmacokinetics of Daptomycin after single dose infusion in children with chronic kidney disease and in children on dialysis. (Cubist; principal investigator)

W. Michael McShan, Ph.D.
• Bacteriophage control of DNA repair in Streptococcus pyogenes. (NIH R15; principal investigator)

J. Thomas Pento, Ph.D.
• Selective KGFR antagonists for the prevention of cancer metastasis. (NIH R15; principal investigator)

H. Anne Pereira, Ph.D.
• CAP37 and ocular inflammation. (NIH R01; principal investigator)
• Development of an antimicrobial peptide therapeutic for Pseudomonas infections. (NIH U01; principal investigator)
• New therapeutics based on a natural antibiotic peptide. (OCAST; principal investigator)
• Molecular basis of immunity. (NIH T32; co-investigator)

Toni Ripley, Pharm.D.
• Bridging anticoagulation in patients who require temporary interruption of warfarin therapy for an elective invasive procedure for surgery (BRIDGE) trial. (NIH U01; co-investigator)

Goverdhan Sachdev, Ph.D.
• Novel pharmacological treatments of CF lung Pa infection. (OCAST; principal investigator)

Nathan Shankar, Ph.D.
• Role of E. faecalis esp in biofilms and UTI. (NIH R01; principal investigator)
• Role of an AraC-like regulator in Enterococcus faecalis pathogenesis (Fellowship for Phil Coburn. (American Heart Association; principal investigator)

Kelly Standifer, Ph.D.
• Cellular mechanisms of ORL 1 regulation and cross talk. (NIH R01; principal investigator)
• Blockade of nociceptin signaling reduces biochemical, structural and cognitive deficits after traumatic brain injury. (DOD; principal investigator)
• Orphanin FQ regulates tyrosine hydroxylase expression. (OCAST; principal investigator)

Johnson Appointed to AJHP Editorial Board

Peter Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS, assistant professor, was appointed to the American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy (AJHP) Editorial Board and will serve the journal through 2011. Editorial board members are responsible to review articles submitted to AJHP, recruit authors and reviewers for the Journal, and provide expert advice about important and emerging issues in pharmacy practice.

Main topics of interest for Johnson include pediatric critical care pharmacotherapy, medication errors in pediatric patients, general pediatrics issues, and residency training.
Davis Named President of the International Society for Business Education

Tamra S. Davis, M.S., Ph.D., was recently elected president of the International Society for Business Education at the annual conference held in Colchester, Essex, England.

Davis served as the U.S. vice-president from 2007-2009 and assumed the role of president immediately following the annual conference. She is the third U.S. representative to hold the position of international president and will preside through the 2011 annual conference in Basel, Switzerland.

Davis is an instructional design specialist and clinical assistant professor on the Tulsa campus. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Oklahoma State University.

The International Society for Business Education was established in 1901 in Zurich, Switzerland. Today, the society has organized chapters in 17 countries and individual members in approximately 10 additional countries.

TWO PHARMACY TEAMS PLACE IN TOP 10

Two pharmacy teams representing the College of Pharmacy at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City and at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center placed in the top 10 finalists out of entries from 29 schools in the National Community Pharmacy Association’s Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition. This distinction was announced at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Boston.

The competition, now in its seventh year, gives students invaluable experience in creating business plans for independent community pharmacy ownership – or other entrepreneurial activities – and to be judged by a forum of pharmacy professionals.

OU teams are formed through the elective class PHARM 7702 Practice Management, in which students are challenged and encouraged to encompass entrepreneurial thinking and apply it to almost any situation or practice setting. Students apply entrepreneurship in identifying an opportunity for a business plan, developing the business concept, assessing the required resources and then presenting the plan. Tony Palmer (Tulsa) and Eric Johnson (Oklahoma City) co-taught the class this past year.

Students Todd Worsham and Andrew Sanders represented the OU-Tulsa team with their proposal “Broken Arrow Pharmacy and Healthcare Specialists.” David George and Timmellyn Buchanan represented the OU Oklahoma City team with their proposal “ProHealth Pharmacy.” Drs. Robin Milton and Justin Wilson, faculty advisers for the NCPA student chapters, provided mentorship for the student competitors.

Congratulations to these students for representing the college with excellence!
It is again an honor to recognize the efforts of our faculty and staff to continuously improve overall department performance in all areas of teaching, research and scholarship, and professional service.

Teaching Excellence
Two departmental faculty members were recognized for teaching excellence, Dr. Tracy Hagemann received the College of Pharmacy Alumni Teaching Award, and Dr. Peter Johnson received the OU College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Teaching Award for the Pediatric Residency Program. Other faculty recognized for their teaching excellence at the OU College of Pharmacy Celebration were Dr. Patrick Medina for P-3 teaching and Dr. Melissa Medina for P-4 teaching.

Research and Scholarship
Dr. Mark Stratton was awarded a contract by the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority for medication management in the elderly moving from nursing homes back into the community as a part of a larger Medicare/Medicaid national initiative. Dean Draugalis sponsored a grantsmanship workshop in July with 15 department faculty attending. Five department faculty teams from this group submitted five seed grant applications to the college for funding from the workshop. Department faculty published 23 separate peer-reviewed publications in 2008, with an additional 12 in 2009 to date. Faculty continue to mentor residents and doctor of pharmacy students in research projects.

Residency Program Involvement
The college’s residency programs continue to grow through the leadership of department faculty who serve as residency program directors. These directors and residents include:

<table>
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<th>Residency Director</th>
<th>Resident</th>
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| Dr. Tracy Hagemann | Brooke Honey,  
PGY-2 Pediatric Pharmacy Specialty |
| Dr. Kimi Vesta     | Tiffany Kessler,  
PGY2 Adult Medicine Pharmacy Specialty |
| Dr. Winter Smith   | Russell Benefield, Emily Gish and Rebecca Dunn,  
PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice  
(in collaboration with OU Medical Center) |
| Dr. Mark Britton   | Teresa Nguyen,  
PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty |
| Dr. Todd Marcy     | Caroline Johnson,  
PGY-1 Community Care Pharmacy Practice  
(this program is expanding to include Osborn Drugs in Miami, Okla.) |

All college residency programs have ASHP accreditation or are in the process of obtaining accreditation. Two of our residents joined our faculty – Teresa Nguyen as an ambulatory care faculty member in the OU Health Sciences Center Family Medicine Center in Oklahoma City and Brooke Honey as an ambulatory pediatric faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics and colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy in Tulsa. After undergoing the rigorous university peer-review process, two faculty were promoted this year: Staci M. Lockhart, Pharm.D., BCPS, and Melissa S. Medina, Ed.D., both to clinical associate professor.

Professional Service
Our faculty represent the college through service to national pharmacy organizations. Faculty have made numerous presentations, served with committee membership and held leadership positions at the American Associations of Colleges of Pharmacy, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Additional achievements include the following:

- Keith Swanson completed the AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program in July, with Tracy Hagemann starting this program in August.
- Tracy Hagemann is serving as chair of the Pediatrics Practice and Research Network for ACCP.
- Peter Johnson received the 2008 Spirit of the PPAG Award for his service to the organization.
- Patrick Medina serves as treasurer of the Hematology and Oncology Pharmacy Association.
- Susan Conway was named the OSHP Pharmacist for the Year for 2009.
- Beth Resman-Targoff serves as regional counselor for Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society.
- Faculty serving on pharmacy journal editorial boards include Susan Conway (Ambulatory Care), Kimi Vesta (Evidenced Based Medicine), Chris Rathbun (STDs and HIV), Beth Resman-Targoff (Rheumatology) and Mike Burton (Pharmacokinetics) with Annals of Pharmacotherapy and Peter Johnson with the Journal of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

The efforts of our faculty and staff in all areas of academic performance demonstrate their desire to achieve excellence in all we do and reflect the mission of the college of pharmacy.

- Dr. Burton is professor and chair, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences-Oklahoma City.
The Department of Pharmacy

CLINICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES - TULSA

By Shane Desselle, R.Ph., Ph.D., F.A.Ph.A.

The Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences—Tulsa (PCAS-Tulsa) is squarely focused on achieving excellence in the university’s and college’s tripartite mission of teaching, scholarship and service.

Formal Peer Review Program in Teaching

In teaching, the department instituted a formal peer review program in didactic teaching pedagogy. The program was based on findings from the literature and employs pairs of peer reviewers, one of whom is an instructional design specialist, Dr. Tamra Davis, the other a colleague with expertise in the subject matter being taught, but who is not a participant in the course. The peer is assigned by the chair in collaboration with the instructional design specialist. Davis completes a quantitative assessment. Additionally, Davis and the peer construct a prose letter describing their perceptions of the teaching environment observed, including teaching materials and objectives that are discussed during a pre- and post-observation interview.

Communities of Scholarship Program

PCAS-Tulsa saw significant growth in scholarly activity during 2008-2009, and that is expected to increase. The growth is due in part to a culture shift toward research and scholarship facilitated by renewed commitment among existing faculty, new faculty hires and the department’s communities of scholarship program. Through the COSs, faculty are finding colleagues with common interests willing to tackle research problems that may or may not be able to be addressed entirely within the confines of their own practice environment. This past spring, PCAS-Tulsa submitted its first-ever competitive federal grant application — an NIH Challenge grant on evaluating literacy-sensitive interventions on medication persistence among the underserved. Dr. Michael Miller is the principal investigator; other investigators and/or contributors include Drs. Brahm, Farmer, Harrison and Planas, and several faculty from the School of Community Medicine in Tulsa. PCAS-Tulsa has a number of new interdisciplinary collaborative initiatives with other departments, and we expect these, along with the COS activity, to result in new heights of success in research and scholarship.

Update on Residency and Graduate Programs

PCAS-Tulsa is especially excited to add two new PGY2 residency positions in ambulatory care under the auspices of Dr. Michelle Condren, welcoming Drs. Bob John and Katherine O’Neal (chief resident in Tulsa) as the first cohort.

The college and USA Drug have combined forces in establishing a PGY1 residency, welcoming Dr. Megan Scott as the resident for 2009-2010.

Additionally, the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in pharmacy administration continue to grow, as we look forward to the arrival of Dr. Gretchen Peirce and Mr. Craig Burns in Tulsa. An ad hoc committee chaired by Dr. Lourdes Planas produced a set of changes in the Ph.D. program curriculum that includes more course offerings from department faculty and elective tracks in five areas, all of which lend greater flexibility, modernity and marketability of the program.

Clinical Service

An ad hoc committee chaired by Dr. Jeremy Johnson proposed a mechanism to acquire feedback from key prescribers closely affiliated with the faculty member’s practice site. The feedback instrument consists of 10 “generic” items applicable to any site among those in the department, with the ability to include additional items particular to the site or to the faculty member’s goals and interests. The instrument will be delivered via e-mail and hosted electronically.

New Faces in the Department

Five new faculty members have joined the department, successfully completing all of its searches. Dr. Michael Smith, a well-known pharmacoepidemiologist, joins PCAS-Tulsa as assistant dean for Tulsa Programs. Smith will be highly involved with students and their professional organizations in addition to forwarding a research agenda in airway disease.

Dr. Alan Spies joins the department in Oklahoma City as director of professional development, where he will continue his research on the implications of breached/violated psychological contracts on various outcomes associated with the academic process, as well as teach the law and ethics course.

PCAS-Tulsa was especially fortunate to open up several new practice sites in which students will benefit during IPPE and APPE rotations, including St. Francis Medical Center. These new relationships also are

The COSs are in ambulatory care, indigent care, scholarship of teaching, asthma/COPD, and public health/pharmacoepidemiology/secondary databases.
witness to new co-funded positions, such as that of **Dr. Michelle Lamb**, who will be working with Community Health Connection, a federally qualified health center in east Tulsa and with the federally funded "Heart Improvement Project."

An emerging relationship with the VA in Muskogee was responsible for new practice sites for **Drs. Brahm and Pondrom** and also for a new, shared ambulatory care position for their clinic in Tulsa. **Dr. Miki Finnin**, whose previous experience includes a stint as a director of pharmacy, will be the perfect fit for this position.

Another new position will be shared with the Department of Pediatrics, where **Dr. Brooke Honey** joins us to continue the myriad teaching and research projects in which she is currently engaged with other pediatrics faculty on both ends of the turnpike.

**Michelle Weiher**, administrative assistant II, cheerfully fulfills all the roles emanating from the academic program. PCAS-Tulsa had an excellent year, but we expect the best is yet to come.

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- **Shane Desselle** is associate dean for Tulsa Programs, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences-Tulsa.

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**Recognized for Excellence at Claremore Hospital**

**Jodi Sparkman**, Pharm.D., BCPS, NCPS received the U.S. Public Health Service Unit Commendation as a member of the Rapid Deployment Force #3 Pharmacy Branch and Augmentees in recognition of providing quality pharmacy services that went beyond the scope and expectations of a pharmacist to ensure medication safety and promote optimal medication management. Sparkman, clinical pharmacist, was recently promoted to Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Public Health Service at the USPHS Claremore Indian Hospital. She is also a clinical assistant professor at OU College of Pharmacy-Tulsa.

**Tim Murray**, Pharm.D., was recently promoted to Commander, U.S. Public Health Service, at the USPHS Claremore Indian Hospital. He received the Allen J. Brands PHS Clinical Pharmacist of the Year Award. This award recognizes the achievements of a pharmacist in the Public Health Service that provides traditional pharmaceutical services with primary emphasis on an outstanding workload, contracts or grants administered, sustained and significant performance levels, new programs developed and implemented, and ability to produce clinical results.
Partnersing with Union Public Schools to Educate the Community on Asthma

To facilitate in building collaborative practices, the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa has developed a Center for Outreach, Research and Education to identify, create, coordinate and sustain partnerships between the community and the university that support the university’s mission. OU CORE is an OU-Tulsa initiative originating and supported, in part, by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and its Office of University Partnerships.

In response to these statistics, the Tulsa Area Asthma Steering Committee, developed as a CORE initiative, identified several partners, including the American Lung Association - Regional Chapter, Tulsa Health Department, Community Service Council, OU College of Pharmacy, OUPTCH (Bedlam Clinics), OU Family Medicine and Union Public Schools, to address asthma in the Tulsa region through education and preventive asthma medication management.

The Tulsa Area Asthma Steering Committee conducted a pilot project in two public schools in the Tulsa area this past April. Through the direction of the OU College of Pharmacy, pre-K through fifth-grade students in these schools were screened for asthma, using an American Lung Association questionnaire. Any child indicating he or she may be “at risk” for asthma or having uncontrolled asthma symptoms were referred to their medical provider or to the OU Physicians Community Health Clinic, which is located at one of the schools.

After the screening phase, training was implemented by conducting an asthma education and awareness program for teachers and parents of children at each school, using the American Lung Association’s “Asthma 101” program. There were two training sessions at each school (one in English and one in Spanish) for a total of four sessions.

The next stage consisted of a school-based asthma management program for children with asthma. Second-year OU pharmacy students delivered the American Lung Association “Open Airways for Schools” program. This six-lesson program spanning three weeks was targeted specifically to third- through fifth-grade students.

Children who complete this program were able to:

- Take steps to prevent asthma symptoms
- Recognize the symptoms of asthma when they first occur, and carry out appropriate management steps
- Discuss and solve problems related to asthma with parents, medical professionals, teachers and friends
- Feel more confident about taking care of their asthma on a daily basis

In a relaxed atmosphere, using flip charts and crayons for random drawings, students were guided through the program by pharmacy students trained to deliver this program. Demonstrations of “belly breathing” or breathing through a straw engaged the children in understanding asthma symptoms. The encouragement by the pharmacy students to see the final prize – “you will be an asthma expert when we finish” – was an acceptable goal.

A Collaborative Interdisciplinary Health Care Service for the Medically Indigent

The extent to which the medically under- or uninsured, also known as the working poor, can access health care services has been extensively reported. If services are available, external barriers, such as hours of operation and types of services offered, may not address individual patient needs with any degree of continuity of care.

In the Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma area, access to services was facilitated by the successful partnering of a variety of health care disciplines and community sponsors. Offering 16 specialty clinics as a component of care for Bedlam-E, area residents now have an option to access primary health care, thereby lessening the load on nearby hospital emergency departments.
Oklahoma has the third-highest prevalence of childhood asthma in the country, a fact that does not surprise most asthma specialists in the Tulsa area. **Tulsa has been cited as one of the top 10 worst cities to live if you have asthma.**

Historically, the term “bedlam” was the locally used name of an asylum for the insane in England and defined the deafening and confusing noise associated with such institutions. A more modern definition is uproar. It also may apply when comparing sports games by two closely intertwined teams. For those who live in the service area today, OU Physician Community Health Evening Clinic means there is an evening clinic that provides clinical pharmacy services.

Originally named “the Bedlam Evening Clinic,” now known affectionately as “Bedlam-E,” this innovative interdisciplinary collaborative health care delivery model is designed to meet the needs of the medically underserved through medication-use counseling and improved prescription drug access via the refill clinic, run by the consulting pharmacist as an agent of the authorizing physician. Pharmacy students also may elect to participate.

When counseling and consulting with the patient, the majority of patients with transportation problems report either being out of medication prior to presentation at the clinic or changing/adjusting the administration schedule to have enough medication until able to get transportation to the clinic. One of the most recent protocol adjustments has been to increase medication availability by changing from a 60- to 90-day supply of maintenance medication, at the discretion of the consulting pharmacist.

Availability of insulin and insulin-related supplies has been a particular challenge for this population. This has been resolved by including the pharmacist to improve the availability of patient-assistance program information.

When the medication list is reviewed, the consulting pharmacist asks if the patient is currently enrolled in the program. If not, information is provided in addition to contact with the social worker to help facilitate completion of the paperwork and avoid any hesitancy on the part of the patient if health literacy is a concern.

Clinical pharmacist services are provided in a number of venues:

- **Refill clinic:** Patients presenting to the evening clinic are triaged. Those wanting refills only are scheduled, based on arrival time, to be seen by the consulting pharmacist. The medical record is electronic and contains refill history information, chart notes and lab results, if pertinent, for review while consulting.

- **Consult requested by other health care professional.** The attending physician or medical student may request a consult on a medication question. In this case, the pharmacist may conduct the interview for medication history, any medication-related questions that may have arisen with previous drug therapy, and determine any barriers to medication use and/or compliance. These may include, but are not limited to, transportation problems, sensorium changes (vision, hearing) and physical limitations (manual dexterity needed to manipulate syringe or testing equipment).

- **Drug information source for best practice information, dosing strategies, formulary consideration and other medication-related concerns that may be identified either at the time services are provided or for future benefit to others.**

Enlarging the scope and breadth of the consulting pharmacists’ participation in clinic activities resulted in a number of outcomes. The impact of college faculty and students on patient outcomes is evidenced by articles recently published and posters presented at national meetings.

Articles have ranged from reports on integrating community health and didactic learning to looking at patients utilizing pharmacist medication management. Bedlam-E demonstrates the positive effect of collaboration among community health providers for the working poor.

-Nancy Brahm and Paula Meder
WELCOME, CLASS OF 2013

During orientation days for the College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2013 Aug. 19 through 21, students were introduced to life on campus and within the college. There are 81 new P-1s in Oklahoma City and 40 in Tulsa, for a combined total of 121 new students. Welcome, Class of 2013!

What does the Class of 2013 look like?

- Oklahoma residents: 77%
- Female: 59%
- Male: 41%
- Ethnic minority: 38%
- Underrepresented minorities: 13%
- Semester hours completed: 124
- PreGPA: 3.37
- PCAT composite (percentile): 66
- Percentage completed bachelor’s: 59%
- Average age: 25

Class of 2013 on the Oklahoma City campus in front of the David L. Boren Student Union and in the Learning Center building on the Tulsa campus.
Convocation for the 114th class of the College of Pharmacy was held June 6 at the Civic Center Music Hall in Oklahoma City. The processional and recessional were provided by the Highlanders of Oklahoma bagpiper ensemble. The convocation address was given by JoLaine R. Draugalis, dean of the College of Pharmacy.

Student remarks were given by Amanda Knott, Class of 2009 valedictorian. Also providing student remarks were Oklahoma City class president Rahi Bigdely and Jeff Gibe (for his wife, Nicole, who gave birth to their daughter, Avery, just days before the ceremony).

Congratulations to our newest alumni

Class of 2009

Graduate Degree:
Master of Science, June 2009
Ann Renee Howell - Pharmacy
Tracy Hagemann, Pharm.D., Faculty Adviser

Professional Degrees:
Doctor of Pharmacy, June 2009
Alicia Diane Abla
Christina D. Adkins
Cynthia Jean Allen
Peter Anthony Alonso
Leigh Ann Anderson
TraseLynn Rachel Anderson
Michael Berko Appiah
Arrash Jon Asgari
Jason Bryce Barrett
Samuel Nicholas Bass
Louis Mark Bateman
Shannon Leigh Beekman
Brittney Renea Bence
Rahi Mark Bigdely
Jodee Elizabeth Borah
Shauna Louise Brown
Rebecca Matlock Burt
Michael Terry Canaday
Khamtoun Chansavong
Daicy Cherriasseril
Eileen Li Shu Chiam
Wendy Wei Chiang
David Alan Clayton
Miles Christian Compton
Amanda Victoria Conley
Craig Elliott Cooper
Clayton Brown Cox

Jenna Diane Coxsey
Jennilee Craig
Nguyen Khoi Dang
Dwayne Kevin David
Kevin Scott Diller
Tram Huong Dinh
Michelle Thuy-Vy Do
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Mark Stewart Fain
Marjan Panida Fardadfar
Lana Marie Faux
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Stephanie Adele Fuchshuber-Moore
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Sheiva Ghazanfari
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Khánh Ba Huấn
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Ryan Matthew Hopper
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Jason Spencer Howard
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Lindsay Nicole Kallenger
Kyle David Keenum
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Yenny Lam
Beverly Crystal Smith Lawrence
Robert McCoy Lawrence
An Nhan Tran Le
Andrew Charles Lewis
Nathan Thomas Long
Rebecca Nahleen Lopez
Nicole Lindsey Melancon
Misty Marie Miller
Timothy Philip Morrison
Ashley Marie Nebbia
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Stefanie Janine Terrell
Jeffrey Scott Terry
Jennifer Linda Thackray
Linda Thuy Thi
Kristi Dawn Thurman
Sarah Jane Townsend
Christy Tran
Gaurang Mukundrai Trivedi
Kavita Mukundrai Trivedi
Dien Dieu Truong
Megan Leigh Underwood
Genevieve Allison Van Herk
Amy Renee Vaughan
Zayne Marcus Walters
Brian Daniel Wesley
Kenneth David Williamson
Raymond Jay Young
Alumni award recipients included:

**Outstanding Young Alumni Award –**

**Joshua Sheffield, Class of 2005**

Joshua Sheffield is a 2005 University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy graduate who currently manages Comfort Care Pharmacy in Del City, Okla. Joshua also is a clinical assistant professor in the OU College of Pharmacy, where he teaches in the hematology/oncology module, geriatrics elective, and assists in the third-year pharmacy practice lab. In addition, Joshua is active in the National Community Pharmacist Association, and serves on the Oklahoma Pharmacist Association Executive Council. Joshua has presented multiple ACPE continuing education programs, and is a hospice clinical consultant for Maxcare Prescription Services.

**Ralph D. Bienfang Outstanding Practitioner Award –**

**Tommy Bishop, Class of 1973**

Tommy Bishop, D.Ph., is a 1973 graduate of the OU College of Pharmacy. He and his wife, Chris, became full owners of Tom’s Central Pharmacy in Norman, Okla., in March 1986. He has been a member of the Norman Chamber of Commerce for more than 20 years, co-founder of the Cleveland County Pharmacists Association, a member of the board of directors for the Camp Fire Girl Scouts and an OU adjunct instructor for experiential teaching. Tommy has been married to Chris since 1968; they have two daughters, Darcy Lynn and Kayla Jo, as well as three grandchildren, Shelby Grace, Lucy Kate and Andrew Bishop.

**E. Blanche Sommers Alumni Award –**

**Jacqueline King, Class of 2006**

Jacqueline King received her Pharm.D. from the OU College of Pharmacy in 2006. She is currently pharmacy manager at Walgreens in south Oklahoma City. She coordinates the Walgreens Summer Intern Program for the south district and volunteers at free clinics. She is a member of NCPA and promotes the profession by striving to increase community pharmacists’ influence and accountability in the health care of their patients. Her goal is to motivate our future pharmacists through mentoring and precepting to do the same.

**Distinguished Alumni Award –**

**Loyd V. Allen, Class of 1966 (B.S.) and Class of 1970 (M.S.)**

Loyd Allen, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of the OU College of Pharmacy, editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Pharmaceutical Compounding and CEO of the Midwest Institute of Research and Technology. Dr. Allen taught at the college from 1973-1998, where he opted for early retirement. He has been awarded 13 U.S. patents in the field of drug formulations, both nationally and internationally. The sole author of three books, his primary pharmaceutics textbook is used worldwide and has been translated into several languages, including English, Portuguese, Hebrew, Korean and Chinese.

**Distinguished Alumni Award –**

**M. Lynn Crismon, Class of 1974**

Lynn Crismon is the dean, James T. Doluisio Regents Chair and Behrens Centennial Professor at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy. He received his B.S. degree in pharmacy from OU and his doctor of pharmacy degree from a joint program of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Prior to becoming dean, he developed a nationally recognized training program in psychiatric pharmacotherapy and mental health outcomes. A past chair of the ASHP specialty Practice Group on Psychopharmacy and the task force to recognize psychiatric pharmacy as a specialty by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, he was the first chair of the BPS Specialty Council on Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice. He has served as associate editor of the APhA Drug Treatment Protocols, 2nd edition, and is a member of the editorial advisory boards for The Annals of Pharmacotherapy and the APhA DrugInfoLine, and is a reviewer for numerous journals.
LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE
An Interview With Laura Petty, B.S. Pharm., President, OU College of Pharmacy Alumni Affairs Board

By Mark St. Cyr, M.P.H., R.Ph.

OU Pharmacy alumni are very fortunate to have Laura Petty leading the alumni board this year as president. She is a 2000 graduate from the college and is currently a district pharmacy supervisor for Walgreen Drug Stores. Her duties include oversight of 26 pharmacies in Walgreen’s south Oklahoma City district. Laura and her husband, Bryan, have 4-year-old twins, Paige and Jacob, and reside in Jones, Okla. In fact, she has lived in Jones her whole life!

I had an opportunity to interview Laura recently and wanted to share my experiences in learning more about this exceptional leader and advocate for the college.

In your opinion, what is the value of the OU Pharmacy Alumni Association?

I think there is great value in being involved with the alumni association. The camaraderie of fellow alums, the pride in being part of your school, and the rewarding feeling of helping future pharmacists through scholarships have deepened the meaning of the word “membership.”

What does the OU College of Pharmacy do well?

The college does an excellent job of supporting both the student associations and the alumni association. Faculty and administration get involved by attending meetings, supporting fundraising and community efforts, and helping to sponsor events that bring students and alumni together. OU remains on the leading edge of education and prepares students beyond today’s scope of pharmacy practice to a profession that is advancing every day. Through recruiting efforts, I am fortunate to meet many students and I am continually impressed by their knowledge and professionalism.

Why should OU Pharmacy alumni continue to be involved with the school?

We have been blessed with an excellent education and a very rewarding profession. Giving back to the pharmacy community is ingrained as part of the pharmacist spirit. I also get excited about the potential of providing much-needed scholarships to pharmacy students, but we will need the support of alumni donations to truly make an impact. We have raised some funds through alumni T-shirts and hat sales, but we need to do more.

Please join us in supporting your OU College of Pharmacy alumni association on a regular basis with your ideas and contributions. On behalf of our alumni association, I personally want to thank Laura for working on our behalf as president of the alumni affairs board.

- Mark St. Cyr, M.P.H., R.Ph., Class of 1977, is director of the Department of Pharmacy at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.
Amid the concern over the continuing rise of health care costs, the Oklahoma Poison Control Center continues to provide an invaluable and important service to the state of Oklahoma and its residents. Its vigilance and treatment recommendations keep approximately 80 percent of its 55,000 annual callers safely at home and, therefore, helps prevent unnecessary visits to already burdened emergency departments. Recently, for instance, a distraught, middle-aged man called the poison center seeking information on the possible negative medical effects he might expect to suffer after consuming more than a pint of antifreeze fluid. Receiving the call was a poison specialist, who successfully convinced the caller that he needed immediate medical attention. The specialist arranged transport for the man to the nearest emergency department and provided accessible and specific treatment guidelines for the ED attending physician, averting any unnecessary delays in gathering information. Due to the timely and decisive actions of a poison center specialist, the paramedics and a physician, the man received rapid treatment and quickly recovered from a potentially deadly exposure. This is just one example of how the center serves the public 24/7.

While the poison center’s reputation in providing treatment advice is highly recognized, other services provided by the center, such as its responsibilities in data collection, research development and publishing, are not as conspicuous, although equally as important. For example, the center currently is involved in a large-scale, multistate snakebite study, which is expected to provide vital information that will assist health care professionals in better management of the snakebite patient and understanding the role of antivenom.

As a teaching source for pharmacy and nursing students, the center also provides educational and clinical presentations to laypersons and health care professionals. During the annual National Poison Prevention Week observance, for example, the Oklahoma Poison Control Center teaches school-age children how to call the poison hotline number. The center also communicates prevention strategies to warn children away from common, potentially toxic household chemicals, primarily through a statewide poster competition. The center’s Web site (www.oklahomapoison.org) contains numerous resources for children, adults, teachers and medical professionals.

Another case demonstrating intervention by the poison center involved a 2-year-old boy who ingested almost an entire tube of a fluoride-containing toothpaste. After patiently listening as a worried caller described the exposure of the toddler, the specialist determined that a potentially toxic amount of toothpaste had been ingested and, because the child’s potential ingestion significantly exceeded the typical amount seen with pediatric toothpaste ingestion, the poison specialist advised the foster mother to seek medical evaluation. The toddler was taken to the emergency department; admission to the hospital and administration of calcium and magnesium were required to treat the toxic effects of fluoride. Because of the unusual nature of this exposure, the case was presented at an international conference of toxicologists, alerting others to the potentially significant dangers of what is usually a benign exposure.

Specialists at the Oklahoma Poison Control Center work with the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to recognize possible areas in the state where chemical spills or terrorist activities have occurred by surveying groups of symptoms reported by patients who call the center. The center also collects essential information – the who, what, when, where and why – of poisonings. This one-of-a-kind database provides critical information to help the center inform prevention groups and state residents of poisoning problems and trends.

In addition to their primary mission of assisting in the treatment of poisoning, specialists at the center are recognized as highly capable providers of drug information. In 2008, more than 14,000 such calls were fielded by poison specialists. Information on drug interactions, drug dosage and administration, medication formulation, teratogenicity, and contraindications are just a few of the categories of drug information sought by members of the public as well as health care professionals. For example, recent recommendations by the Food and Drug Administration regarding acetaminophen dosing and formulation have generated many questions, and staff members have provided several interviews with local media outlets to help educate the public regarding proposed changes.

The Poison Control Center is staffed by a medical toxicologist and two clinical toxicologists. CSPIs (certified specialists in poison information), pharmacists and nurses who are trained specialists in poison information answer the emergency calls that come in over the hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many of the staff has advanced training in emergency preparedness and/or HAZMAT.

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy should stand proud of the expertise offered by the specialists that comprise the Oklahoma Poison Control Center. These highly skilled professionals provide treatment recommendations that save lives – the lives of our children, family members, friends and colleagues. They are the specialists on all things poisonous.
CONTROL CENTER: there when you need them

Grand Prize Poster Winner for the State of Oklahoma was Ryann James, 3rd grade, Washington Irving Elementary School, Edmond, Okla.

Top: Randy Badillo, R.N., nurse specialist in poison information, consults on poison exposures at the center.

Bottom: Lee McGoodwin, M.S., Pharm.D., DABT, Poison Center manager and clinical assistant professor, looks online for information on drug interactions.
### University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy National Advisory Board Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Company/Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Education</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Benoit, M.H.A.</td>
<td>COO Adult Services</td>
<td>OU Medical Center</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David L. Gilliland, Ph.D.</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Geodax Imaging</td>
<td>Greensboro, N.C.</td>
<td>Alumnus 1979 M.S., 1983 Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe H. Harmison</td>
<td>Pharmacist-Owner</td>
<td>DFW Prescriptions</td>
<td>Grand Prairie, Texas</td>
<td>Alumnus 1970 B.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hal L. Hefner</td>
<td>Brig Gen (Retired)</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>Alumnus 1949 B.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Douglas Hoey, MBA</td>
<td>Sr. Vice President and COO</td>
<td>National Community Pharmacists Association</td>
<td>Alexandria, Va.</td>
<td>Alumnus 1992 B.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin D. Hutchinson</td>
<td>President and CEO</td>
<td>Prematics</td>
<td>Bethesda, Md.</td>
<td>Alumnus 1986 B.B.A. (Business)</td>
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The National Advisory Board for the OU College of Pharmacy provides advice and counsel in achieving the college’s missions. They assist the college in fundraising initiatives and serve as advocates in the institution and its programs. Board members include alumni, pharmacists practicing in a variety of settings, and leaders in pharmacy education and industry. They demonstrate their dedication to the importance of quality pharmacy education.

On behalf of the college, I want to personally thank the members of the National Advisory Board for working with me to plan for our future and evaluate our progress.

- JoLaine Draugalis

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Josephine Li-McLeod, Chair
Rebecca R. Johnson
President, Allergy Laboratories Inc.
Oklahoma City
Alumnus 1993 B.S.

Thomas C. Kupiec, Ph.D., CEO
Analytical Research Laboratories
Oklahoma City
Alumnus 1997 Ph.D.

Herbert Langsam
President
Medicare Recoveries, Inc.
Oklahoma City
Alumnus 1952 B.S.

Scott Lason
Manager of Professional and College Relations
CVS/Pharmacy
North Richland Hills, Texas
Alumnus 1990 B.S.

Josephine M. Li-McLeod PhD – Chair
Director, Medical Outcomes Research & Economics, Baxter BioScience
Westlake Village, Calif.
Alumna 1994 B.S., 1998 Ph.D.

Jack R. Munn
Pharmacist-Owner
Medical Park Pharmacy/Guardian Health
Dallas
Alumnus 1978 B.S.

Brian S. Nightengale Ph.D.
Corporate Scientific Officer and Executive Vice President, Excenda
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Alumnus 1990 B.S.

Tom J. Noles
Pharm-Assist Consulting
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Alumnus 1984 B.S.

William E. Osborn, PharmD
Vice President Osborn Drugs
Miami, Okla.
Alumnus 1984 B.S., 2003 Pharm.D.

Rick Ratliff, MBA
Co-CEO SureScripts-Rx HUB
Alexandria, Va.
Alumnus 1984 B.S. (Chemical Engineering)

Kasey K. Thompson, Pharm.D.
Vice President, Office of Policy, Planning and Communications American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Bethesda, Md.
Alumnus 1998 B.S., 1999 Pharm.D.

Michael W. Suwalski
Operations Director, On-Site Pharmacies Walgreen Company Deerfield, Ill.

Tom R. Webber
Former Vice President Pharmaceutical Sales, Upjohn Company Kalamazoo, Mich.
Alumnus 1966 B.S., 1970 M.S.

Brian Campbell, chief strategy and development officer of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce, and Chris Anoatubby (’97), chief of Pharmacy Services for the Chickasaw Nation Health System, along with Rex Urice, director of development and Dean Draugalis toured the college on a recent visit in early September and discussed potential future interaction with the Chickasaw Nation.
"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

- Colin Powell