OU Pharmacy
A Publication for Alumni and Friends of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy
Fall 2011

Looking back, moving forward:

**a prescription for success**
Dean’s Message

There is a healthy aspect to any comprehensive review, whether it’s an individual assessment of one’s strengths or if it involves an entire organization such as the OU College of Pharmacy. You gain a perspective of what has been accomplished in the past and develop a better understanding of how to proceed into the future.

We believe that a prescription for inspiration is a healthy balance of understanding where we’ve been and where we’re going. That’s why we willingly participate in the accreditation process and devote 12 months to better understand our strengths and our mission.

My sincere thanks is definitely not enough to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr. Mark Britton and Dr. Melissa Medina in co-chairing the self-study process this past year. Their diligence and ability to adapt to a new electronic system was demanding, but worthwhile. We provided the American Council of Pharmacy Education with valuable feedback on the new Assessment and Accreditation Management System software for which they are extremely grateful. Our faculty, staff and students were also involved in this entire process.

This magazine has a healthy balance between individual accomplishments and organization triumphs. We are a college rich in tradition (such as our fireside chats) and we’re proud of our history. We are inspired to step into the future.

Dean and David Ross Boyd Professor

Pharmacy Alumni - Go Green!

In an effort to join the university’s Green Initiative, the college’s Alumni Affairs Office is requesting that alumni provide an email address, if possible.

To reduce the amount of paper used, alumni may elect to receive communications via email. Of course, this information will only be used for College of Pharmacy business and will not be provided to any external entity.

Please email your electronic address to Sandy Warner at sandy-warner@ouhsc.edu.

Thank you for helping the Alumni Affairs Office go green!

College of Pharmacy Wins National Award for Community Project. Outreach to the Homeless: An Interprofessional Longitudinal Initiative.

EDGE Funding Received by Faculty Member, Dr. H. Anne Pereira.

Keeping a Tradition Alive - The Spirit of Fireside Chats.

Marketing Efforts Nationally Recognized. College of Pharmacy achieves gold status for its television commercial in the 2011 Hermes Creative Awards competition.

Students Desiring More From Their Education. A Look at the Pharm.D./M.S. Program.

New Students Present Seminar on Summer Research Projects.

OU Pharmacy Team Scores High Honors for Business Plan. Our team wins second place overall in national NCPA competition.

Dr. Dennis Recognized for Superior Teaching. 2011 Regents’ Award.

Preparing for Clinical Practice: OU College of Pharmacy Residency Programs. Graduates from the OU Pharmacy residency program share their experiences.

Fulfilling the Imaging Needs of Research in Oklahoma. World’s first biomarker generator.

New Faculty at the OU College of Pharmacy.

OU College of Pharmacy Alumnus Tapped for Top Position at NCPA. B. Douglas Hoey, R.Ph., M.B.A., appointed as executive vice president and CEO.

Current Research Projects.

College Investigator Evaluates Post-Traumatic Stress and Pain. A $1.35 million grant helps research the link between PTSD and chronic pain.

Educating Legislators About Pharmacy. University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy invites 14 state legislators to join faculty and students to learn about pharmacy.

Pharmacy Students Learn About Community Medicine. OU School of Community Medicine in Tulsa inaugurate an innovative education program.

Sachdev Retires From College of Pharmacy. George Lynn Cross Professor of Medicinal Chemistry retires after 27 years in the College of Pharmacy.

College Receives Gift From Scheffe Estate. College of Pharmacy receives $600,000 gift.

OU College of Pharmacy Well-represented on National Board.

Rx for Fitness: A Healthy Initiative Program - Year Two.

Dean Draugalis Receives Lifetime Professorship.

Welcome Class of 2015.

Alumni President Spotlight – Mark St. Cyr.

Alumni Celebrate in Grand Style. 2011 Alumni Celebration and Awards.

Alumni Call for Nominations.

The Oklahoma Poison Control Center: An Investment in Excellence.

Wal-Mart Scholars Benefit from AACP Program.
One of the most meticulous methods of reviewing standards of a professional program is to undergo an intensive re-accreditation process. This process is continuous in nature, but for colleges of pharmacy that want their programs accredited, it involves a self-study process that is documented every five years.

The OU College of Pharmacy uses a continuous quality improvement approach, and regular work is done to improve its efforts to prepare students to practice pharmacy and address the American College of Pharmacy Education standards. In light of these efforts, the last formal self-study process at the college officially began in July 2010 when the self-study co-chairs Drs. Mark Britton and Melissa Medina were named and the college was invited by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy to participate in the Assessment and Accreditation Management System software pilot. After the co-chairs received AAMS software training in July 2010 and completed the ACPE self-study workshop in August 2010, six self-study teams at the college were announced in September 2010. The teams were launched and then trained on AAMS software by the co-chairs in October 2010. While each team consisted of up to six faculty and staff members, they were encouraged to involve others (faculty, staff and students) to address questions about specific standards as needed.

Team Meetings and Updates
Each of the six teams met regularly with a deadline of April 30, 2011, for their responses to assigned standards and required uploads to AAMS. All self-study team members met with the co-chairs to identify any resource needs and discuss process concerns. In addition, all team members met to discuss the revised guidelines and rubrics for the accreditation standards released by ACPE in March 2011. The co-chairs announced a new deadline of May 20, 2011, since our college would be held accountable for addressing these revisions.

Material Preparation
All self-study teams prepared college responses in the AAMS program assessment tab for their respective standards. The self-study co-chairs were responsible for migrating all responses and required uploads to the self-study tab. Future self-study initiatives will encourage team use of the self-study tab as a way to promote team consistency and focus.

College Review of Self-Study Materials
Prior to submission, all faculty, staff and invited students of the college were given access to the AAMS system and asked to review all team responses, data uploads and tables for each of the 30 responses. Each of the six self-study team chairs then offered overviews of their team’s responses at a college faculty retreat and fielded questions.
Final Editing and Report Preparation
During this past summer, the self-study co-chairs migrated all data, and in consultation with the dean, edited college responses for each standard to fit within allotted character limits and ensured all required data uploads were present. The college had access to the self-study tab and was invited to provide feedback. The dean and the self-study co-chairs then prepared the report for submission.

Overall Assessment
Overall, the self-study process successfully included the entire college and provided useful feedback to AACP, Liaison International and ACPE regarding the new AAMS software tool and revised standards.

The college has continued to work hard to improve in all aspects of its mission since the last on-site accreditation visit in November 2005. Significant accomplishments and developments are highlighted below under each of the six sections of the preset standards.

Mission, Planning and Evaluation. Using a broad, inclusive approach, the college refined its mission and vision statements as well as developed a detailed strategic plan. Work is well under way to meet the specific objectives for each goal of the plan. To gauge progress and facilitate improvements with this work, the college developed an assessment committee four years ago. This committee continues to grow and mature, establishing assessment procedures and modeling the attitudes and behaviors necessary for a positive, constructive, peer-reviewed process of all college work. A notable achievement of this committee is the development of a web-based strategic plan with supportive data available for review by all within the college community.

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Organization and Administration. In the past five years, the college successfully recruited a new dean, created a new department on its Tulsa campus, and has chairs in place for each department. Efforts to improve communication within the organization have yielded positive results. The college continues to grow in its self-understanding as a professional program on two campuses and is learning how best to unify efforts, meet challenges and develop esprit de corps.

Curriculum. The college completed a restructuring of the professional curriculum based on its curriculum mapping work. Pharmacy practice courses in each semester of the didactic curriculum serve as the foundation upon which knowledge, skills and attitudes are integrated and advanced. IPPE activities are strengthened across the first three years, and the Office of Experiential Education has made progress coordinating institutional IPPE and APPE activities for the same students in the same health systems across the four years of the professional curriculum, but work remains to realize this pattern of education for all students. The curriculum continues to mature as more electives have been developed and several specialization tracks are available to focus student study.

Notably, terminal outcomes for the professional program have been revised, and the college is now working on an assessment map and assessment strategies for each of these outcomes across the four years of the curriculum. Finally, through the sustained efforts of the assessment and curriculum committees and with broad faculty involvement, the college developed an integrated assessment examination for each semester of the first three years of the professional program. These assessments are administered as a component of the final examinations in each pharmacy practice course. All continue to gain understanding of this process and how to use results; refinements are expected as understanding increases.

Students. The Office of Student Affairs has made great strides in developing a professional and efficient organization to meet all student needs with equity in a two-campus model. Student engagement and leadership development are two key focuses for college efforts. Student mentoring and tutoring programs are highly successful, and a leadership development track is available through elective coursework and supported by the many extracurricular activities available within the college and on the campus.

Faculty and Staff. The college enjoys a large faculty and many competent staff members. Faculty numbers are stable on both campuses. Faculty engagement in strategic planning, revision of curricular outcomes and programmatic assessment; greater faculty understanding of a two campus system; and clear performance expectations and a consistent faculty evaluation process has been positive for the college.

Facilities and Resources. The college maintains excellent facilities and technology, even during a time of economic struggle. Enhanced research productivity, new relationships with funding agencies and health care partners, and successful service units have generated new resources and make it possible for the college to evolve and create new opportunities for its students and the profession.
Service learning is included in pharmacy college/school curricula and identified as a needed curriculum component by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Because it is a structured learning experience, often experiential in nature, it lends itself well to a wide range of community-connected projects and outcomes evaluation.

The competition encourages student pharmacists and faculty to design and build programs of community-engaged service learning, delivering consumer education about medication use, expanding access to affordable medications and improving public health. A rewarding benefit of such a program is better educating pharmacy college/school faculty and students on the contemporary issues such as access to affordable health care and medication therapy.

As a winner of this year’s competition, the OU College of Pharmacy received:

- A Steuben Star Stream statue for the college and plaques for team members and Dr. Wilson
- A cash award to the Dean’s Office to be used exclusively to support program expansion of recognized or new community engaged service projects
- Funding up to $2,500 to cover travel costs for a designated student and one faculty adviser to attend the national awards ceremony at AACP’s 2012 annual meeting and to present their projects in a special session and explain their impact on the community
- A cash award to be administered by participating students for enhancing or sustaining the program being recognized, or for travel support (travel, hotel, registration) for student(s) to attend and present their projects at a professional meeting

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The OU College of Pharmacy has been well-represented at the community health fairs. At each year’s event, approximately 100 students and faculty participate in staffing several booths during the day.

The core student group presenting this project was Tara Hutchinson, Timmellyn Buchanan, Sheri Winner, Jill Szzech, Tiffany Tu and Tiffany Sanders. Dean Jane Wilson served as faculty adviser.

Student leader Timmellyn Buchanan considers the community project exceptional because it allows students and faculty from the OU Health Sciences Center to come together on a yearly basis to provide care to the homeless community. The homeless are obvious beneficiaries, but the students benefit as well.

“I believe this project has resulted in awareness by the students of the benefits of working as a team and a realization of what each discipline can contribute to the team,” she said. “Parallel components of health professions curricula such as the role of the health professional in health promotion, collaboration and team building have been reinforced during this project and helped to cross discipline boundaries. It also has impacted the institution in a positive way,” she added.

Buchanan also noted that students learn that all individuals have options for greater access to care through free or low-cost services. She pointed out that in Oklahoma, more than 50 percent of emergency room visits are for non-emergency conditions. Information presented at the health fairs has increased the health literacy of the clients and raised their awareness of where health care can be obtained other than hospital emergency rooms. She hopes that a positive impact of this program has been reducing the number of unnecessary emergency room visits and thereby decreasing its cost to the health care system.

The professional manner in which the health fairs were conducted in the past few years, and the way in which students interacted with clients, reflected positively on the institution and the profession of pharmacy, said Buchanan. “I know that several students emerged as leaders, became more aware of themselves as health professionals and as health information resources. In turn, these student leaders have had the opportunity to mentor other students. Those involved in this project have the potential to evolve into health profession leaders who can positively influence the health of the communities in which they reside and the policies which govern those communities.”

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EDGE Funding Received by Faculty Member

Dr. H. Anne Pereira, associate dean for research and professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year, $1.8 million grant award through Biolytx Pharmaceuticals. This grant was awarded through the Economic Development Generating Excellence fund from the state of Oklahoma. The EDGE Fund is uniquely designed to strengthen Oklahoma’s technology-based economy and to attract federal funds.

Biolytx, formed in 2005, has developed an entirely new class of anti-infective treatments using peptides. This peptide will treat serious hospital-acquired infections, including those resistant to current antibiotics. Biolytx peptides can neutralize deadly endotoxins while treating the infections.

Part of the project was awarded to the OU College of Pharmacy for different services, including biodistribution methods, pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics to determine half-life efficacy.

According to Dean Draugalis, there are few companies that can provide such services in the preclinical stage, so the relationship between Biolytx and the expertise provided within the college is vital and innovative.
Keeping a Tradition Alive  the Spirit of Fireside Chats

By Shamama Burney* and Paula Meder

Fireside chats have become a tradition at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, providing a tremendous opportunity for both students and faculty to interact outside the confines of the classroom and get to know one another on a more personal level.

Dr. Vic Yanchick started the fireside chats in Oklahoma City shortly after his arrival in 1985 as dean of the college. Professor Emeritus H. Richard Shough claims that he and his wife, Kay, hosted at least 40 “chats” between 1986 and 2009. Shough said, “the menu was always the same: Kay's homemade lasagna, a strawberry-gelatin-cream cheese salad, green salad, garlic bread, and chocolate sheet cake; leftovers went home with the students. The format was also always the same: usually 12 students showed up. We would place six students in the dining room with me and six in the kitchen with Kay. We’d switch for dessert.”

No subject was considered off-limits, according to Shough, adding that “it was pretty rare for either of us to refuse to answer a question or venture an opinion.” He recalled that his wife’s stories about being a lady pharmacist in the sixties, “and especially about both of us being classmates, friends and married during pharmacy school, seemed to entertain during these chats.” Alumni and past “chat” guests continue to ask if he is still hosting these events and whether Kay is still making her lasagna and sheet cakes.

Because the atmosphere is casual and relaxed, the chats allow students the opportunity to see their host faculty from a fresh perspective. Sheri Winner (P4) commented, “I attended my first fireside chat in the fall semester of my P2 year and have attended many since.

I believe this is a valuable opportunity for students and faculty to interact with each other in a more casual environment away from the usual classroom setting. It allows everyone to gain insight into the people we are on a personal level. Being welcomed into the faculty member’s home, meeting their family, hearing their personal stories, while enjoying a wonderful meal is my idea of an evening well spent.”

The chats also provide faculty a unique opportunity to learn more about the students and their diverse backgrounds, thereby gaining a better understanding of students’ choice to pursue the pharmacy profession and their aspirations.

Dr. Alan Spies agrees. “The fireside chat experience is more personal because students can be themselves,” he explains. “Faculty can learn something new about students, get to hear their stories, and learn more about them. Students tend to ask more questions, and that makes faculty more human and possibly more vulnerable. Fireside chats break the perception and stereotypes of students and faculty. It really enhances the education experience and it also increases faculty satisfaction.” Spies has already hosted three chats since joining the college, and definitely plans to continue contributing to this tradition.

Graduate student Dr. Tammy Lambert commented, “Fireside chats allow students to see professors as people and learn the stories of how they got to where they are now. I would encourage P-1 and P-2 students to attend chats with professors who they do not know so that they can get to know them. I think that the tendency is to only attend the chats with professors you know. Unfortunately, you miss out on this wonderful experience. As a P-1, I attended a fireside chat with Dr. Kevin Farmer before I had him in class. He eventually became my mentor during my Pharm.D. program and was instrumental in my success in that program. And now he is my adviser in my Ph.D. program. Attending the fireside chat at his home was one of the first steps in the development of our mentoring relationship.”

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* Fireside chat coordinator in OKC 2009-2011 and P4 student

H. Richard Shough, Ph.D.

Jordan Pasley, Timmie Buchanan, Dr. Spies, Kate Denney and Jeff Samuel

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In the past few years, the popularity of chats experienced a swell of interest. In fact, the demand is such that there are now student waiting lists. Likewise, faculty have grown more interested in hosting, taking time out of their busy schedules to plan out a wonderful evening and provide their unique spin to the ideal chat.

Dr. Michelle Condren hosted her first dessert chat for four Tulsa students at a local bakery. Drs. Ann Lloyd and Kim Crosby then joined her for a chat at a popular pizza restaurant and eight students attended. The third chat was hosted at Condren’s home, making s'mores and cooking hot dogs over a camp fire built in her back yard. Twelve students joined her along with co-hosts Drs. Lloyd and Crosby.

The most rewarding of all three chats was definitely the one at her house, said Dr. Condren. “We shared many moments of trying to stay warm while the fire was prepared, coaxing portable gas heaters to work, laughing as we tried to see in the dark and watching students make their very first s’mores!” She believes faculty have a lot to learn from students. “Taking the time to know each other in these casual environments is one of the more rewarding aspects of being a faculty member. Students seem more comfortable with faculty after fireside chats which, in turn, makes the teaching and learning environment much more enriching.”

A relatively new faculty member on the Tulsa campus, Dr. Katherine O’Neal, has already co-hosted a chat with Dr. Michelle Lamb. They took four students to a Mexican restaurant for a relaxed meal. A relaxed, casual environment lends itself to good, open conversations. “They get to see that I am a real person!” said O’Neal. She looks forward to hosting more.

Even college deans host chats. Since coming to OU, Dr. Michael Smith has hosted four fireside chats, all of them at his home. He invited only P3 students to his first fireside chat in April 2010. “I wanted to have an opportunity to spend time with them before they left campus for rotations,” he said. “Eight students attended, and all commented on how appreciative they were to spend time with a dean at his house.” He added, “In the spring of 2011, I again offered my home to P3 students for a fireside chat. Shortly afterward, students from the P1 and P2 classes inquired when I was going to open my home for their respective classes. So this past spring, I held three chats, one for students from each class. Eight students attended each of the P3 and P2 chats. There were six P1 students who attended the P1 chat.”

Dean Smith commented that in all chats, the students were eager to learn about his career story. “I shared with them my journey from pharmacy school to present day. I also asked each student to share his/her career interests so that we could learn about each other and get to know each other in a relaxed environment. I immensely enjoyed hosting students, and I look forward to hosting a fireside chat annually.”

Some chat veterans, like Dr. Les Reinke, host at least one chat a year in Oklahoma City, where Reinke primarily enjoys sharing famous stories about the exploits of his family and their adventures in world travels. Robert Kennedy (P4) commented, “I participated in the fireside chat because I had never been to one before and Dr. Reinke tells great stories in class, so I thought I would hear even better stories over dinner. I didn’t really know what to expect, just that some other students and I would be eating dinner with Dr. Reinke and his wife. There are many benefits to attending a fireside chat. It’s a great opportunity to get to know the faculty outside of the classroom. The meal will be delicious. And overall, this helped me develop a greater appreciation of the wonderful faculty we have at the College of Pharmacy. The fireside chat has made my education feel more personal. Often times, we students only see a professor teaching one course and we assume that course is all they’re working on this semester. Getting to talk more with Dr. Reinke, I didn’t realize he was coordinating six courses and still found time to have dinner with us. I’m thankful to have faculty that even when they’re busy will make time for students.”

Tiffany Sanders (P4), who also attended a Reinke-hosted chat, said, “I have been to fireside chats before, and while they are different as per teacher personalities, they always are a great experience. I went to a Reinke fireside chat last year and decided to do the same this year.

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As soon as you enter their house, it’s like going home, where you want to take off your shoes, sit down and prop up your feet. It is a place where you feel very comfortable, along with the warmth of the Reinkes and their lovely home. I anticipated great conversation, companionship with the Reinkes and fellow students and tasty food. My expectations were not dissuaded as Mrs. Reinke is a wonderful cook!

Lambert, who has attended a couple of fireside chats with the Reinkes, agrees. “I knew I wanted to return to the Reinkes for a fireside chat because I love the cozy, homey atmosphere of their home. I had attended a cook-out at their home last summer and loved seeing all of the interesting arts and craft projects and designs that they have placed around their home and yard. Visiting them is like visiting your favorite relatives that live far away – you are made to feel so welcome, time flies while you are there and the end of the evening arrives far too soon.”

Other pharmacy faculty are getting involved in the tradition. Dr. Matthew Bird and Dr. Rebecca Dunn, who hosted a chat for the first time this year, used a Mexican Fiesta theme. They’re already looking forward to hosting a chat again next year.

For 25 years, fireside chats have helped bridge the gap between student and faculty, and in so doing, fanned those relationships. Opportunities in which students and faculty can “just be themselves” are rare in a professional program setting, and the OU College of Pharmacy fireside chats have proven to be a successful ingredient in cooking up a quality education experience.

“A Prescription for Inspiration” was designed to brand and increase awareness of the college, primarily within the state of Oklahoma. It is shown on a regular basis in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa markets, and is narrated by OU President David Boren. Additionally, a voice-over edition created for the Hispanic markets through Univision and Telemundo is narrated by Brenda Hernandez of Tango Public Relations in Oklahoma City.

The Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in traditional and emerging media. The awards recognize outstanding work in the industry while promoting the philanthropic nature of marketing and communication professionals and are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. This year, there were more than 4,400 entries.

“ ’A prescription for inspiration’ is indicative of the type of institution we strive to be in promoting our brand around the state,” stated Eric Johnson, associate dean for Administration and Finance at the college.

This award was the fourth received by the college this past year. The college also won a silver award for the commercial, a bronze award for its mortar and pestle imprinting, and an honorable mention for its 2010 annual college magazine from the Higher Education Marketing Report awards program, the nation’s largest marketing competition for higher education.

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy was recognized with a 2011 Hermes Creative Awards Competition gold award for its television commercial “A Prescription for Inspiration.” The competition honors the creativity of marketing and advertising from around the world in multiple categories. OU Pharmacy won the gold in one of the competition’s most competitive categories, video/corporate image.

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Students Desiring More From Their Education
A Look at the Pharm.D./M.S. Program

There is a small group of pharmacy students who see beyond the four-year curriculum and want even more from their education. In particular, these students recognize the need for research and scientific writing experience. They found a niche by participating in the Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Science program (or dual-degree program), which combines a professional and graduate degree program to allow students to obtain both their Pharm.D. and M.S. degrees.

The intent of the dual degree program is to enable students to earn a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences within 12 months of completing their Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Students who complete the program will take a minimum of 30 hours of graduate-level coursework, conduct original research and write a master’s thesis. Only students who are currently enrolled in the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy are eligible to apply for the Pharm.D./M.S. dual degree program.

The most recent graduates of the program were Jason Kesinger and Mackenzie Cottrell. Kesinger successfully defended his master’s thesis in early June of 2011 on “A study of novel keratinocyte growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors.” His faculty mentor was Tom Pento, professor emeritus.

Cottrell defended her thesis, “The role in interleukin (IL)-6 and its regulation of the transforming growth factor- type II receptor (TGF- II) in epidermal wound healing processes,” last fall. Her faculty mentor was Randy Gallucci, associate professor.

Cottrell agreed that the program was worthwhile for her. “In my view, completion of the master’s was my greatest accomplishment during pharmacy school. The program gave me an opportunity to learn research and scientific writing technique under the close supervision of an experienced mentor, and these skills will serve me well in my professional life. Additionally, through developing personal relationships with my mentor, collaborating faculty members and lab mates, I greatly expanded my understanding of the academic institution. This understanding was critical in exploring and deciding whether a future career in academia would be appropriate for me. I am so glad I went through the program. Because of this program, my curriculum vitae boasts two manuscripts, one abstract and two professional presentations. I fully believe these inclusions played a critical role in attaining my residency position.”

Personal and professional growth also was evident, according to Cottrell. “While writing my thesis, I was surprised by my ability to find, interpret, integrate and express information independently. Until that point in my academic career, an

Jason Kesinger

Mackenzie Cottrell
overwhelming portion of my education consisted of being provided the exact information to learn, then exhibiting my learning by restating the information. I enjoyed the independent learning afforded in the master’s and liked the flexibility provided by the program’s structure. At this point, I feel truly able to independently learn a topic well enough to draw an appropriate conclusion and possibly generate reasonable hypotheses concerning questions existing in the area.”

There was an added benefit to being in the dual degree program. “I didn’t anticipate the dual degree program would be so helpful in my Pharm D. classes. The additional basic science, pharmacology and immunology that I got in the program made understanding the Pharm D. modules much easier,” she said.

Five professional pharmacy students, all from the Class of 2014, were accepted to the dual-degree program this summer. Four of these students worked on a research project over the summer and then had an opportunity to present their projects to the college on Sept. 9. Each student had 15 minutes to highlight their research and answer questions from the audience. Their projects were:

• “The role of oxygen in T cell development,” presented by Christopher Pack (Tulsa). Dr. Kent Teague serves as his faculty mentor.

• “Nociceptin/Orphanin FQ modulation of IL-6 and IL-10 in monocytes,” presented by John Halfren (Oklahoma City). Dr. Kelly Standifer serves as his faculty mentor.

• “Interleukin-6 indirectly affects keratinocyte migration,” presented by Shafaq Feroz (Oklahoma City). Dr. Randy Gallucci serves as her faculty mentor.

• “Development and testing of novel antimicrotubule agents with potential kinase inhibiting activity for aggressive breast and brain cancer,” presented by Kiya Harrison (Oklahoma City). Dr. Michael Ihnat serves as her faculty mentor.

Suzanne Boyd (Tulsa) also was accepted into the dual-degree program this fall and her faculty mentor will be Dr. Justin Van De Wiele. Sarah Payne (P-4) continues her dual-degree program, with Dr. Nathan Shankar serving as her faculty mentor.

The college welcomed five new students into the dual degree program: Oklahoma City students Shafaq Feroz (Dr. Gallucci, faculty mentor); John Halfren (Dr. Standifer, faculty mentor); Kiya Harrison (Dr. Ihnat, faculty mentor) and Tulsa students Christopher Pack (Dr. Teague, faculty mentor) and Suzanne Boyd (Dr. Van De Wiele, faculty mentor).

Cottrell’s advice to the new students? “Work hard throughout your first two summers as well as the school years so the majority of your research is completed before your P4 year. Absolutely volunteer to be lead author on any publication that may arise from your data. This experience is an important opportunity for professional growth. Finally, select a mentor whose teaching style is right for you. Your mentor is a priceless resource, and your ability to learn from this individual is important for success. My mentor, Dr. Randy Gallucci, provided me invaluable mentorship over the last three years. Thank you, Dr. Gallucci!”
OU Pharmacy Team Scores High Honors
in NCPA Competition for Their Business Plan

There’s nothing quite like beating previous standards of performance! That’s how four OU College of Pharmacy students and their advisers felt after placing in the top three finalists for the 2011 National Community Pharmacist Association Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition and winning second place honors at the national NCPA competition in Nashville. In addition to the OU team, the finalists were Idaho State University and the University of Buffalo.

Brittain Manchester, Cale Leeper, Tara Hutchinson, Caleb Reaber and their faculty adviser, Justin Wilson, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences, comprised OU’s Pruitt-Schutte 2011 team. Eric Johnson, associate dean for administration and finance, served as faculty mentor. The OU College of Pharmacy has participated every year in this competition, but this is the first time that an OU team placed in the top three finalists nationally. The live final competition took place Oct. 8 through 12 in Nashville in front of a panel of judges and approximately 1,000 audience members.

Dr. Wilson is an independent pharmacist as well as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences in Oklahoma City. He feels that it is important to share with students the opportunities available to them in the independent sector; everything from patient care services to advantages of being your own boss. He takes a special interest in the elective class PHARM 7703 (Practice Management) and has served as the faculty adviser for the OU-NCPA student chapter since 2004. He is the Oklahoma City campus adviser while Robin Milton serves as adviser on the Tulsa campus.

According to Dr. Wilson, this year’s team was outstanding. He said that they had an excellent and professional-looking plan that contained many creative ideas that took their pharmacy to the next level. "The passion they had for their innovative ideas and patient care services was apparent throughout the plan. It was no surprise to me that they were chosen as finalists."

Johnson agreed that this team was exceptional. He said that while all the teams in the class presented viable and great business plans, this team won the original class competition with some innovative ideas. For example, their “Greenlight Card” idea utilizes technology that the customer can scan when entering the pharmacy. The information populates the computer system and lets the technicians and pharmacists know why the customer is in the store (for example, to pick up a called-in prescription) and can anticipate that need quicker. He indicated that the original team was further strengthened when they added a member from another team and incorporated several ideas into the final business plan that was submitted to the national competition. According to Johnson, “This is a great example of collaboration and teamwork that will benefit them throughout their careers.”

Leeper, team member, grew up around independent pharmacy. When it came time for him to go to pharmacy school and participate in rotations, he knew he needed to examine a variety of routes to thoroughly enjoy his profession. He said he learned a lot from developing a business plan and added, “It’s very time consuming; you need to have great resources and people supporting you. That’s the difference Continued on page 13.
Dr. Dennis Recognized for Superior Teaching

Dr. Vincent Dennis, assistant dean for experiential programs and associate professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences-OKC, received a 2011 Regent’s Award for Superior Teaching on the OU Health Sciences Center campus last spring.

His consistency in superior teaching is evident in the college. In 2010, the second-, third- and fourth-year students presented him with the College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year award.

“This kind of acknowledgement from multiple classes is unprecedented,” said Dr. Mark Britton, senior associate dean for academic affairs and professional programs. “What makes Dr. Dennis a rare find is that he has a true desire to make every contact with students meaningful and makes a point to bring relevance and clarity to all content. He engages both students and residents to perform at the highest level of their ability. He has developed four pharmacy practice courses, created several therapeutic areas, published educational research, and redesigned the experiential education program within the doctor of pharmacy program. Dr. Dennis teaches with the highest level of professionalism with strong character and humility.”

Graduate student Tammy Lambert, Pharm.D. agrees. “Dr. Dennis is a great teacher. He is not only an example of a lifelong learner, he enables students to become lifelong learners as well. In spite of having over 100 students in each Pharm.D. class, he has found a way to adapt the curriculum to challenge the students to continually improve their pharmacy skills. Looking back on my Pharm.D. education at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Dr. Dennis certainly stands out as an outstanding instructor.”

Faculty adviser Justin Wilson strongly feels any recognition for students from OU is an excellent benefit for the college. “We are always proud of the student involvement at NCPA national meetings. The students and college were recognized throughout the convention. The success of this team will let the rest of the country know what we continue to feel about our students – that they are some of the best and brightest in the country. Independent pharmacy continues to thrive in Oklahoma.”

Congratulations to the OU College of Pharmacy business team!
Preparing for Clinical Practice:
OU College of Pharmacy Residency Programs
by Mark Britton and Paula Meder

Even though the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy has conducted pharmacy residency programs since 1991, only one program had sought and achieved American Society of Health-System Pharmacists accreditation prior to 2004. A pivotal point occurred that year when the college decided to establish formal systems to develop and manage pharmacy graduate year one and two residency programs concurrent with its initiative to expand the doctor of pharmacy program from its Oklahoma City location to a second campus in Tulsa. The college made accreditation mandatory for all residency programs, requiring more coordination and cooperation with its affiliated practice sites to accomplish this goal.

These two initiatives have been successful, benefitting both the college and the entire state of Oklahoma. The college now has 10 residency programs at sites in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Miami; seven programs have achieved accreditation from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and three others are seeking it. Every site is connected via distance education technology, with all residents participating in core curriculums for the PGY1 and PGY2 programs.

The college realized that there is a significant financial commitment to having successful residency programs. In the beginning, college funds were used to seed programs and support resident salaries at affiliated practice sites. Today, the college enjoys partnerships and shared financial commitments with health systems, independent pharmacies and pharmacy chains within the residency programs. The college has provided residency directors for all PGY1 and PGY2 programs, and their leadership has contributed to the advancement of practice and education in these sites.

The residency program curricula at OU surpasses requirements necessary for accreditation, particularly in the teaching and research components. The current national accreditation process only requires...Continued on page 15.

Current residents on the Oklahoma City campus include: Allison Baxley, Stefanie Lystlund, Christina Bulkley, Tommy Kleyn, Mackenzie Cottrell, Erin Lammers, Megan Andrews and Candace Hooper.

Current residents on the OU-Tulsa campus are Marquita Bradshaw, Matthew Davidson and Lyndsey Hogg.
residents to conduct projects, but the OU College of Pharmacy requires residents to complete a community-driven research project that can be developed with rigor and support similar to graduate student research. Additionally, the college has implemented longitudinal teaching skills development in each program’s curriculum – not a requirement for accreditation, but definitely a tangible benefit for the residents and their future involvement with teaching students and other health care professionals.

What happens after residency graduation?
Many of the residents who finished their program at OU now are working in varied positions across the country and also within the state of Oklahoma. For example, Emily Gish is a clinical pharmacist in a 44-bed pediatric intensive care unit at Primary Children’s Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Tiffany Kessler is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, Knoxville campus, and in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine. Other graduates of the OU residency program found positions on the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Graduates agree that their career options expanded tremendously with their residency experiences.

Impact to the practice sites
One benefit of this college initiative for practice sites is the residency program management infrastructure. Effective development, implementation and management of quality residency programs take time and resources that are no longer readily available to health care institutions. The availability of this level of support from the college has encouraged some facilities to move forward with residency program development, benefitting patient care, pharmacy practice and pharmacy education. Faculty members serving as residency program directors and preceptors have supported the advancement of pharmacy practice, and the core curriculum delivered by a number of college faculty members as well as their research expertise bring a depth of support that enhances residency program quality.

Impact to the college and state
Besides the apparent benefit to pharmacy practice at affiliated sites, the college has found that graduates of the residency programs are better prepared to teach doctor of pharmacy students and precept other residents. This provides a consistent pool of potential faculty candidates who have excellent teaching qualifications in advanced practice sites. The residency programs at OU have increased the number of pharmacy specialists in many areas of clinical practice within the state, providing a mechanism to develop advanced practice skills in programs that previously were not available for the state.

Graduates From the OU Pharmacy Residency Program Share Their Experiences

Rebecca Dunn, Pharm.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences at OU College of Pharmacy. She provides clinical service to the Internal Medicine Department at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center-Presbyterian Tower, which includes monitoring of labs and renal/hepatic function, medication review, pharmacokinetic monitoring and consultation, drug information, informal teaching to medical residents and students, and making adjustments based on progress, therapeutic goals and endpoints. She also teaches in both the experiential and didactic setting. Experientially, she provides four-week APPE rotations to pharmacy students in their last year of training through an Internal Medicine I Practicum, as well as various IPPE experiences to students in their first through third year of training.

She comments, “I cannot say enough about the residency programs here at OU College of Pharmacy. The objectives far exceed those required in the areas of teaching and research, and the clinical experiences gained in a comprehensive Health Sciences Center are unbeatable. Residency grows individuals into competent, independent practitioners with the ability to think critically and make advanced clinical decisions. Regardless of where you aim to practice, I feel that residency training can enhance your knowledge, skills and abilities.”

Matthew Bird, Pharm.D., is an assistant professor at the OU College of Pharmacy and has clinical responsibilities on the internal medicine teaching teams at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center. He educates P4 students during these clinical responsibilities and coordinates a module, as well as having research and scholarship responsibilities. “Of course, I am biased because the OU College of Pharmacy is the only place that I did post graduate training,” he comments. “But I feel that the OU College of Pharmacy has a lot to offer to its residents and provides exceptional training experiences for them.”

Reflecting on his residency training, Bird adds, “On the whole, residency training gives pharmacy school graduates an opportunity to take care of patients at a higher level. On a more practical level, you also have a decided advantage over your peers when applying for other jobs.”

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Jamie Miller, Pharm.D., is an assistant professor at the OU College of Pharmacy and practices as a clinical pharmacy specialist in the neonatal intensive care unit. In the NICU, she works in collaboration with the medical teams providing recommendations for medication selection and dosing, assists medical residents in writing total parenteral nutrition, and develops therapeutic plans.

"A physician I worked with closely in my residency provided feedback to one of my preceptors. He said, due to my contributions, he realized how much benefit it was to have a pharmacist work with his patients and staff."

Julie Nix, Pharm.D.

"The experiences that I had in my two years as a pharmacy resident at the OU College of Pharmacy were invaluable," Miller said. "I developed my skills as both a practitioner and as an academician. The educational component of the residency is what actually attracted me to this program. I had a strong desire to enter the world of academia and I felt that my training here adequately prepared me for a career in academia. In residency, the residents have the opportunity to deliver didactic (classroom) lectures in both small and large group settings, as well as assist in precepting pharmacy students on rotation. A post-graduate residency accelerates your clinical training and provides opportunities to learn and grow with a 'safety net.' A resident is able to function in an autonomous manner, but can call on the assistance of a preceptor when necessary."

Brooke L. Honey, Pharm.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences – Tulsa and also serves on faculty for the Pediatric Department in the OU School of Community Medicine. Her clinical practice is in pediatric ambulatory care and practice areas include ambulatory general pediatrics and pediatric asthma. She teaches asthma, pediatric over-the-counter products, and various neurology and psychiatry topics at the college.

Honey agrees with the others that without participating in PGY1 and PGY2 pediatrics residency programs, her current position would not be possible. She commented, "The knowledge and skills that I obtained from these experiences are priceless. Residency provided me the opportunity to do what I love: teach and help children! I truly feel the OU residency programs are exceptional. I know the programs prepare Pharm.D. graduates to be successful in both the clinical pharmacy and education environments. Furthermore, the residency program faculty deeply care about the success of their residents. I would highly recommend this program!"

Teresa Truong, Pharm.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences – Oklahoma City. She provides clinical service in an ambulatory care setting with a focus in diabetes self-management education and pharmacotherapy management. While providing patient care, she teaches and mentors fourth-year pharmacy students to hone their outpatient skills as well as providing opportunities for students in their first through third year of training to observe clinical practice.

Being trained in an academic setting meant receiving a solid foundation of teaching and actual experiences such as precepting, lecturing, writing test questions and giving student evaluations, according to Truong. "I also received research training from some of the most experienced mentors, which helped me as a faculty member to publish multiple peer-reviewed papers. For those who are interested in a career in academia, the OU program will more than prepare you."

"Residency is an avenue that challenges a person to bring out the best in themselves as a person and as a pharmacist. It reinforces the concepts of responsibility, organization, work ethic, communication, leadership, and healthy relationships while also advancing pharmacy knowledge, critical thinking skills and clinical decision-making."

Teresa Truong, Pharm.D.
Todd Marcy, Pharm.D., associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences in Oklahoma City, is active in an outpatient clinical setting in which he is able to establish relationships with patients and collaborate in making drug changes. He also coordinates the PGY1 community pharmacy residency program, interacting with pharmacy students and residents. A second-year residency provided much-needed professional training and development, according to Marcy. As a result, he accepted a faculty position at OU College of Pharmacy that gave him an opportunity to teach and do research as well as continue meeting with patients in an outpatient clinical setting. “My residency experience was foundational. The Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum prepared me to understand how drugs work and provided skills necessary in most pharmacy environments. However, the residency programs taught me how to apply that knowledge in a variety of different circumstances and provided me depth of knowledge in teaching and research that’s not available in the Pharm.D. curriculum.”

Julie Nix, Pharm.D., is a staff pharmacist for a community independent pharmacy with multiple locations within a Tulsa suburb. In her current employment, she is charged with expanding immunization and disease management services, precepting pharmacy students and initiating a patient adherence program. She admits that, for her, the OU residency program contributed the most in increasing her confidence level. “Before the residency program, my confidence in making medication recommendations to other health care providers was non-existent, even though my education had provided me with the necessary information. Residency gave me condensed experience in working directly with physicians and other prescribers. It is possible that I could have achieved this without residency, but it would have taken me several more years. I now have a high comfort level in starting and enhancing pharmacy services such as immunizations and medication therapy management, which are requirements in my current position.”

“The autonomy with security that you receive as a resident allows you to continue to build your clinical knowledge and skills with the supervision of experienced mentors. You are able to learn from your years of victories and mistakes. This type of in-depth training not only improves the care of our patients, but raises the level of our profession.”

Shaunta’ M. Ray, Pharm.D.
Fulfilling the Imaging Needs of Research in Oklahoma

What started as part of an ambitious objective of a strategic plan almost five years ago is now a reality, thanks to a large commitment by the OU College of Pharmacy to boost its research funding.

The college wanted to develop a research core emphasizing radio-pharmaceutical development and biomolecular imaging, which is a natural synergistic link with its currently operating nuclear pharmacy. It was anticipated that such a program would naturally facilitate an increase in external grant funding.

As a result, the OU College of Pharmacy is methodically developing a research imaging facility that has major benefits, not only for its own researchers, but for researchers in the entire state of Oklahoma.

Its services to date include 1) assistance in the development of new PET and SPECT agents; 2) provide imaging solutions in biomedical research; 3) foster education in the field of nuclear pharmacy, and 4) enhance clinical nuclear pharmacy services.

The OU Research Imaging Facility, directed by Dr. Vibhudutta Awasthi, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, also is accessible to researchers in the University of Oklahoma at Norman (~20 miles south), Oklahoma State University at Stillwater (~65 miles north) and University of Oklahoma-Tulsa (120 miles east). It has the potential to fulfill the imaging needs of research investigators in the state of Oklahoma.

The PET/CT system has a capability of acquiring both CT and PET imaging by using the same scanner bed. The ultimate result is tracing a marker within an anatomical model, which allows the researcher to record the effect of certain drugs.

The Single Photon Emission Tomography (SPECT) machine comes with dual detectors and a maximum resolution of less than 1 mm. Because of its high-energy resolution, the NanoSPECT machine is capable of imaging multiple isotopes together, including I-125 radionuclide.

World’s First Biomarker Generator

Remember when large computers filled entire rooms and needed a staff of technicians to run the machines? Similarly, up to now, radioactive biomarkers used in research had to be purchased from commercial cyclotron facilities, sometimes requiring several hours in transit. This posed an array of problems for researchers on the OUHSC campus.

These commercial cyclotrons fill large rooms and need multiple technicians to handle the radioactive doses. Commercial cyclotrons operate many hours in a day, mass-producing radioactivity.

In contrast, the first Biomarker Generator in the world was installed this past year to support PET imaging activities at the OU Research Imaging Facility. It has the capability to produce a single dose of a radioactive biomarker at the push of a button and is finished in about 30 minutes. It also takes up one-fifth the space of a commercial cyclotron.

Many researchers look at biomarkers as one of the most important links in making progress against diseases like cancer, diabetes and even neurological conditions. Currently, biomarkers are used with radioactivity and a PET scan to pinpoint where in the body disease may be present. This new biomarker generator vastly improves the radioactivity step of the process, according to Dr. Awasthi.

Radiochemistry Laboratory

In order to provide comprehensive services to the OUHSC investigators, the imaging equipment and Biomarker Generator are supported by unique nuclear medicine, imaging, radiochemistry and analytical expertise. The entire infrastructure is supported by an on-campus nuclear pharmacy operation that fulfills both research and clinical radioactivity needs within OUHSC. Radiolabeling services include development of radiolabeling methods suitable for specific projects and synthesis of radiolabeled compounds for conducting in vitro and in vivo studies.

The Research Imaging Facility at the OU College of Pharmacy will benefit a number of research initiatives in the current strategic plan of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, particularly in the

Continued on page 19.
areas of cancer and neuroscience. Both the OUHSC Cancer Institute and the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center have a number of basic and clinical investigators whose research is dependent on model imaging. The Research Imaging Facility will serve as a core facility for these and other researchers at the OUHSC and other research facilities in the region.

The College of Pharmacy has all of the necessary facilities for the purchasing and transportation of required radioisotopes through the OU Nuclear Pharmacy. Custom synthesis and/or formulation of novel radiopharmaceuticals now are available through the college research faculty and staff. Dr. Vibhudutta Awasthi, associate professor and director of the Research Imaging Facility, has extensive experience in pharmaceutics, radiochemistry and radionuclide imaging. Dr. Hariprasad Gali is a radiochemist with experience in the synthesis of both small molecules and macromolecules.

Imaging studies most frequently requested at OU Research Imaging Facility

1. Brain glucose metabolism using F-18-labeled fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) and PET
2. Cell proliferation imaging with F-18-labeled fluoro-L-thymidine (FLT) and PET
3. Cell trafficking in vivo by PET or SPECT
4. Peptide radiolabeling, biodistribution and pharmacokinetics
5. Radiolabeling of nanoparticles and their biodistribution
6. Imaging tumor growth and proliferation of various cancers in animal models
7. Hypoxia imaging in tumors or cerebral tissue (F-18-FMISO and PET)
8. Apoptosis imaging using radiolabeled Annexin V and SPECT or PET
9. Noninvasive infection and inflammation imaging

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New Faculty at the OU College of Pharmacy

Lucila Garcia-Contreras, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr. Garcia-Contreras joined the department on Jan. 1. Her main research interest is in the targeted delivery of drugs, primarily pulmonary drug delivery. The goal of her laboratory is to design therapies that are more efficient and more convenient in delivering therapeutic or prophylactic agents to the site of action, thereby maximizing efficacy and efficiency of the agent and minimizing its undesired side effects. She received her master’s of science and doctoral degrees in pharmaceutics at the College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia, in Athens, Ga.

Michael Ihnat, Ph.D.
Associate Professor - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr. Ihnat joined the department on June 1. His main research interest is in pre-clinical drug development, with cancer and inflammatory diseases as major current areas of focus. He has partnered with medicinal chemists and biomedical researchers to target molecules involved in inflammation, carcinogenesis, metastasis, angiogenesis and bone formation. He received his bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from Ohio State and his doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, N.H. He then served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, Wash. Most recently, Ihnat was an associate professor in the Department of Cell Biology at the OU College of Medicine in Oklahoma City.

Holly Herring, Pharm. D.
Assistant Professor - Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences - Oklahoma City
Dr. Herring joined the department on Oct. 1. Her focus will be on starting a new clinical pharmacy service on the cardiovascular care unit at OU Medical Center. In addition, she joins the Internal Medicine pharmacy faculty to provide clinical pharmacy services to multidisciplinary adult medicine teams at OUMC. Her research interests include acute care cardiovascular pharmacotherapy, quality improvement and medication safety, and educational research.

OU College of Pharmacy Alumnus Tapped for Top Position at NCPA

The National Community Pharmacists Association Executive Committee in early April appointed B. Douglas Hoey, R.Ph., M.B.A., as executive vice president and CEO after Kathleen Jaeger resigned to pursue other opportunities.

In selecting Hoey as its chief executive, the association tapped a registered pharmacist and the son of an independent pharmacist in Bartlesville. Hoey previously was the association’s senior vice president and chief operating officer.

Prior to joining NCPA’s staff, Hoey spent 14 years working in community pharmacies that provide home infusion, long-term care consulting, compounding, and full line of durable medical equipment services. Hoey is a graduate of the OU College of Pharmacy (B.S., 1992) and holds a master’s degree in business administration from Oklahoma City University. He currently serves as a national advisory board member for the OU College of Pharmacy.

Congratulations from the OU College of Pharmacy!
Current Research Projects

Shanjana Awasthi, Ph.D.
Modulation of host defense by SP-A–TLR4 interaction. (AHA Grant-in-Aid; PI)

Vibhudutta Awasthi, Ph.D.
- Biologic evaluation of liposome-encapsulated hemoglobin. (NIH/NHLBI R01; PI)
- Dietary prevention of cancer. (NIH/NCI R01; principal investigator of subcontract)
- Pancreatic cancer therapy with GRP receptor-targeted imageable diphenyl difluoroketone.
- (NIH/NCI R03; PI)
- New drugs for bad bugs. (Biolytx; co-investigator of subcontract)
- F-MISO validation. (ABT Molecular Imaging Inc.; PI)

Shane P. Desselle, R.Ph., Ph.D., FAPhA
- Evaluation of Merck’s Headache School: A quasi-experimental phase 4 examination of effectiveness. (Merck; PI)
- Effectiveness of an educational intervention on the caring behaviors and referral activities of community pharmacists. (Merck; PI)
- Predoctoral fellowship for Gretchen Peirce. (AFPE; PI)

Randle Gallucci, Ph.D.
- The role of IL-6 in diabetic wound healing. (OCAST; PI)

Lucila Garcia-Contreras, Ph.D.
- Development of cationic peptide adjuvants and formulations for Biodefense vaccine. (NIH U01; principal investigator of subcontract)
- Inhaled caprazamycin for tuberculosis therapy. (Research Triangle Institute; principal investigator of subcontract)

Michael Ihnat, Ph.D.
- Single agents with designed combination chemotherapy potential. (NIH/NCI R01; principal investigator of subcontract)

Nancy Letassy, Pharm.D., C.D.E.
- Integration of diabetes self-management education into a patient-centered medical home. (AADE; PI)

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

Todd Marcy, Pharm.D., BCPS, CACP
- Multidisciplinary team approach to reduce adverse drug events with clinical pharmacy initiatives in health systems. (OFMQ; PI)

W. Michael McShan, Ph.D.
- Bacteriophage control of DNA repair in Streptococcus pyogenes. (NIH/NIAID R15; PI)
- Mobile element SpyCIM1 enhances survival in S. pyogenes. (OCAST; PI)

Michael J. Miller, R.Ph., Dr.PH.
- Deep south musculoskeletal CERTS (DSMC).
- (AHRQ U01; principal investigator of subcontract)

H. Anne Pereira, Ph.D.
- CAP 37 and ocular inflammation. (NIH/NEI R01; PI)
- Development of an antimicrobial peptide therapeutic for Pseudomonas infections. (NIH/NIAID U01; PI)
- New drugs for bad bugs. (Biolytx; principal investigator of subcontract)

R. Chris Rathbun, Pharm.D., BCPS, AQ-ID
- HDAP adherence contract. (OSDH; PI)

Nathan Shankar, Ph.D.
- Host immune response to E. faecalis biofilm. (NIH/NIDCR R21; PI)

Michael J. Smith, Ph.D.
- Linking Medicare, West Virginia Medicaid, and West Virginia cancer registry data to study the burden of breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancers in West Virginia. (AHRQ R24; principal investigator on subcontract)

Kelly Standifer, Ph.D.
- Molecular mechanism of chronic pain and its modulation by posttraumatic stress disorder and Nociceptin/Orphanin FQ. (DoD; PI)

Youngjae You, Ph.D.
- Targeted delivery and remote-controlled release of chemotherapeutic agents. (DoD; PI)
- Synthesis and In Vitro study of longer-wavelength absorbing photosensitizers targeting cancer cells for PDT (photodynamic therapy) in recurrent breast cancers. (OU Cancer Institute; PI)
- New BODIPY-type photosensitizers absorbing near IR light. (OCAST; PI)
A College of Pharmacy researcher hopes to determine why post-traumatic stress disorder seems to trigger hypersensitivity to pain.

The Department of Defense recently awarded a three-year, $1.35 million grant to the OU College of Pharmacy to study the link between PTSD and chronic pain.

According to principal investigator Kelly Standifer, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, pain sensitivity with PTSD has been well-documented in clinical settings but it is not well understood from a scientific basis. In fact, there has been little laboratory study of this phenomenon.

Dr. Standifer is looking at changes at the molecular level to try to determine whether PTSD exacerbates the pain of nerve injury or causes the development of chronic pain to occur more quickly. In laboratory models, her research team is comparing molecular changes brought on by pain from nerve injury both in the presence and absence of PTSD.

They suspect the PTSD-pain trigger may lie in a specific peptide in the brain. This peptide fine tunes the body’s response to stress, anxiety, pain sensitivity and inflammation.

Dr. Standifer indicated that she wanted to determine if blocking some of the biochemical changes produced by PTSD also would produce better pain relief or block development of the chronic pain state.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is an anxiety disorder that can occur after a traumatic experience such as combat exposure. Symptoms include reliving the event, avoiding situations that remind a person of the event or feeling hyper-alert for danger.

A 2008 report by the Rand Corp. estimated that nearly 20 percent of 300,000 military personnel who returned from Iraq and Afghanistan suffered from PTSD or major depression.

According to the National Center for PTSD, a division of the Department of Veteran Affairs, 20 to 34 percent of patients with chronic pain also have PTSD, while 45 to 87 percent of patients with PTSD have chronic pain.
State legislators know the importance of hearing from their constituents. They are bombarded daily by letters, phone calls, visits and emails from individuals wanting to share their stories.

So imagine the surprise of 14 state legislators when they received an invitation from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy to join faculty and students for lunch and to learn about pharmacy. There were no associated requests or petitions. The invitation was simply an opportunity for the college to showcase its offerings and achievements and to provide a glimpse into the profession of pharmacy today.

Furthermore, the legislators were picked up and dropped off at the Capitol's front steps.

Students enthusiastically volunteered to work alongside faculty in structuring a two-hour visit in which they had an opportunity to highlight what pharmacists are doing and some of the unique aspects of the OU College of Pharmacy. Members of the House Public Health Committee were targeted and invitations were sent to 14 individuals. Seven legislators responded and five attended the first legislative education visit to the college on March 23.

The college had an opportunity to air both the award-winning television commercial, “A Prescription for Inspiration,” and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy national PharmFlix video “Know your MEDICINE, know your PHARMACIST,” which was produced by Ryan Pettway, Pharm.D. (graduated May 2011). Both are available on the OU College of Pharmacy Youtube channel at http://www.youtube.com/user/oupharmacy.

Other presentations included an overview of the nuclear pharmacy by Dr. Wendy Galbraith and highlights of the Tulsa campus by Dr. Shane Desselle. The legislators and student leaders then took a tour of the Research Imaging Facility, led by Dr. Vibhu Awasthi, and of the Pharmacy Practice Lab, with Dr. Vince Dennis.

During lunch, legislators had an opportunity to listen to a program and curriculum overview as well as presentations from some of the student leaders. Feedback from legislators was very positive. They were impressed that the college would invite them for an opportunity to simply learn. Stay tuned—more of these visits will be scheduled during the spring semester.
Dr. Gordon P. Sachdev, George Lynn Cross Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, retired this summer after 27 years in the College of Pharmacy.

Sachdev came to the college in 1985 as an associate research professor of medicinal chemistry. During his tenure, he has been active in teaching courses in medicinal chemistry and pharmaceutical biotechnology, as well as several pharmaceutical care modules. He received the college’s teaching excellence award in 1994, and has been involved in numerous college and campus committees.

His research has been primarily in the area of cystic fibrosis, the most lethal genetic disease in Caucasians. Work from his laboratory has increased the development of novel pharmacological agents to inhibit the binding of Pseudomonas aeruginosa to CF airway mucins and thus provide a novel approach to prevent or treat infection. This, in turn, limits lung damage and prolongs the lives of CF patients. Sachdev’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

Sachdev earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, all in chemistry, from the University of Delhi in India. He served as a postdoctoral research associate at Yale University and as a member of the Biomembrane Research Program at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City before coming to the OU College of Pharmacy.

Community Medicine

The OU School of Community Medicine in Tulsa inaugurated an innovative education program this year with the School of Community Medicine Summer Institute. This five-day program gathered students, faculty from a range of professions and community leaders for an immersion in community medicine and Oklahoma’s health care needs. The Summer Institute curriculum took attendees out of a traditional classroom and into the community to experience health care from the patient’s point of view.

The OU College of Pharmacy participated in this summer institute. Faculty included Michael Smith, Nancy Burgett, Ann Lloyd and Brooke Honey. Students included Travis Schmitt (P4), Kaleb Chamberlain (P4), Hien Wang (P3) and Kyle Cohenour (P3). The week allowed students to interview patients about their personal health needs and possible community health needs. They took part in a poverty simulation and heard how pharmacy professionals can impact those with poor access to health care. During the last part of the week, students were divided into groups and challenged to make a prototype that addresses an issue they gleaned from the week that could be put into action during the year.

Honey’s prototype group wanted to work on a student-organized and student-run patient assistance program. They had an opportunity to visit other facilities that currently are doing this type of program and have spent time in the Bedlam Clinic, where they will run the prototype. They also met with a pharmaceutical representative to work on some logistical details. P-4 students will continue this project during the year.

At the end of the week, the group presented a poster, “SoonerRx-AP: Student Organized and Operated New and Existing Rx – Assistance Program,” which outlined the proposed prescription assistance program they want to establish at the Bedlam Longitudinal Clinic. The overall goal is to develop a standardized process for enrolling patients with diabetes at the point of care delivery.

Of course, there were other prototype groups and some exceptional ideas. It was exciting for every attendee, both faculty and students, to work in an environment that encouraged creativity and growth.
College Receives Gift from Scheffe Estate

By Jerri Culpepper and Paula Meder

President David Boren announced on Oct. 3, 2011, in Enid, that the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy received a $600,000 planned gift from the estate of the late Walter P. Scheffe. Dean JoLaine Draugalis was present for the announcement, along with Sen. Patrick Anderson.

Scheffe moved to Enid at an early age, and began working for a local pharmacy delivering prescriptions when he was 15. After graduating from Enid High School, he went on to earn his pharmacy degree from OU in 1939. After graduation, he worked for an Enid pharmacy before joining the Air Corps in 1943.

He flew photo reconnaissance missions in the Pacific Theatre for three years, and was involved in photo-mapping missions over China, Burma, India and Japan. Scheffe flew the plane that took photos following the dropping of the atomic bomb from the Enola Gay on Hiroshima at the end of World War II. After leaving the Air Corps, he returned to Enid to open the first of three Scheffe Prescription Shops.

Among his many accomplishments, Scheffe helped create a county-wide immunization program for polio in 1962; it was later adopted and used as a model nationally.

For his perpetual contributions to the community, in 1988 he was named Enid’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

Scheffe also achieved numerous professional accolades, including being named a recipient of the A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award. He served as president of the American College of Apothecaries and of the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association.

In 2007, he sold his businesses and retired, allowing more time for hunting and fishing – his other passions.

He served on the advisory council for the OU College of Pharmacy and earlier provided funds for an annual lectureship, which the college has maintained as a continuing education seminar.

OU College Receives Gift from Scheffe Estate

OU College of Pharmacy

Well-represented on National Board

The 2011-12 Phi Lambda Sigma national officers are: Dr. Alan Spies (Treasurer), Dr. Tina Brock (President-Elect), Dr. Joe Bonnarens (President), Shamama Burney (Member-at-Large), Dr. Jillian Foster (Parliamentarian) and Andrew York (Speaker of the House). OU College of Pharmacy representatives Dr. Spies, associate professor, and Shamama Burney, P-4 student, were elected at the American Pharmacists Association national meeting in Seattle, Wash., last March.
A healthy lifestyle is a critical component for a truly successful pharmacy professional. Faculty must “model the way” for students, and that includes health and fitness. Likewise, as health care professionals, it is critical for pharmacists to “model” this behavior to their patients. That’s the message behind the Rx for Fitness program at OU College of Pharmacy.

Rx for Fitness is a college-wide program that was designed to encourage all members (students, faculty and staff) to engage in fitness and wellness activities. The three-month program during the 2011 spring semester included educational events and activities related to proper exercise, diet and stress management. Incentives were offered at meetings in which participants could receive such prizes as gift cards and shirts. A fitness website (www.dailyburn.com) provided the tool necessary to record exercise minutes along with calories burned and weight lost.

This year’s program provided the college with a variety of motivational speakers. Mark Bravo, author of Momentum: 77 Observations Toward a Life Well Lived, and veteran of over 30 marathons, encouraged pharmacy students to be the “best you can be,” not only in a race but life in general. Joe Jacobi, chief executive officer of USA Canoe/Kayak, talked about teaming with Scott Strausbaugh to win America’s first-ever Olympic Gold Medal in Whitewater Canoe Slalom in 1992.

His philosophy and ideas about topics ranging from winning to managing risk to living well challenged students to adopt a “gold medal” lifestyle. Ben Davis, a blogger and founder of Ben Does Life, recounted his 120-pound weight-loss journey and his philosophy to just “do life well.” Suzy Hamilton, running athlete, shared her story about the 2000 Sydney Olympics, when she decided to choose to fall before the finish line to escape not winning the gold medal. Hamilton’s passionate message to students was to find a balance between the expectation of others and the qualities of a life worth living.

Without a doubt, the Rx for Fitness program this past spring was another success. One of the major accomplishments was the involvement of many students who do not normally participate in extracurricular activities. Some chose yoga classes directed by Dr. Jane Wilson, associate dean for Student Affairs. Others chose fun runs scheduled with the motivational speakers, who elected to stay an extra day to encourage participation. One student who walked a half-marathon shared, “I am not an outwardly competitive person. I never played sports and I really don’t keep score. But I am always looking at ways to improve myself and I’m always competing with my previous performance. Because of the website provided by Rx for Fitness, I have worked out in new ways and more consistently than I have in a long time.”

Dr. Wilson leads a morning yoga class on campus for pharmacy students and staff.

**Rx for Fitness: A Healthy Initiative Program – Year Two**

By Alan Spies and Paula Meder
Dean Draugalis Receives Lifetime Professorship

Dean JoLaine Draugalis brings a wealth of experience and talent to her position as dean of the College of Pharmacy. Establishing, measuring and achieving reachable goals using innovative educational approaches have become the hallmark of her professional career. Students, staff and faculty recognize her as a leader, and by example she gives selflessly of her time and effort to support development and research. Enthusiasm is tangible in the college.

Draugalis received the lifetime appointment as a David Ross Boyd Professor at the OU Health Sciences Center spring faculty meeting on April 11. To qualify for this professorship, a faculty member must have consistently demonstrated outstanding teaching, guidance and leadership for students in an academic discipline or in an interdisciplinary program within the university. Fostering a renewed sense of collegiality within the college, Draugalis has helped to develop a shared vision for the future of education and for College of Pharmacy faculty.

Josephine Li-McLeod, the president of the college’s national advisory board, agreed that this appointment was a well-deserved recognition of the dean’s ability to lead. “Dean Draugalis recognizes the value of having a diverse range of perspectives supporting the college,” she said. “The National Advisory Board has been impressed, time and time again, by the dean’s ability to communicate, process feedback and take action to lead the college with good judgment and vision.

Her focus on developing future leaders in pharmacy, both locally and nationally, will serve the practice of pharmacy well.”

Toni Ripley, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences-Oklahoma City, and a member of the faculty since 2000, called Draugalis’ leadership remarkable. “She is known among the students and faculty to be a wise teacher, leader and academician,” Ripley said. “She inspires by praising areas of strength with genuine encouragement and investing time, energy and resources into needed areas of development. She expects students and faculty to engage with their best efforts. From a faculty member viewpoint, there is no doubt that this accolade is well-deserved.”

Congratulations, Dr. Draugalis!

Suzy Favor Hamilton’s “Take Home” Principles for Students by Paula Meder

I had the opportunity to talk with Suzy Hamilton after her seminar on April 22 and asked her for some advice based on her experiences. Together we came up with the following “take home” principles as a prescription for success.

1. Listen to what you want in your life, rather than pleasing those around you.
   a. Being the best doesn’t always make you happy.
   b. You know what you want – you deserve a great life.
   c. Being in an unhappy state of mind takes you away from that great life!

2. Practice positive thinking and surround yourself with positive people.
   a. Don’t compare yourself with others. It’s just a race.
   b. Practice balance in your life. Don’t put all your eggs in one basket!

3. Find something that will constantly remind you or bring you back to a positive reality.
   You can face disappointments with two options: you either fight or deny them, or you embrace and learn from them.
   Some people use worry stones or physical objects as reminders. Others think about family members.

4. Let your ego go!
   Care less what others think. Remind yourself that you don’t need judges in your personal life.

5. Be good to people. It will be returned to you.

For more information on Suzy Favor Hamilton and her personal story, go to suzyfavorhamilton.com
Welcome Class of 2015!

During orientation days for the College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2015 Aug. 17 through 19, students were introduced to life on campus and within the college. There are 39 new P-1s in Tulsa and 76 in Oklahoma City, for a combined total of 115 new students.

There are a combined total of 151 students in Tulsa and 307 in Oklahoma City, for a grand total of 458 students in the professional pharmacy program. The Class of 2015 attended the 10th annual White Coat Ceremony Aug. 20 at the VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education at Tulsa Community College. This ceremony carries on the tradition of excellence, professionalism and prestige associated with the college and the profession of pharmacy. White coats embroidered with the students’ names and college affiliation were presented to each incoming P-1 student, with the understanding that the student will reflect the commitment and professionalism expected of them throughout their academic career.
Alumni President Spotlight

MARK ST. CYR

I am pleased and honored to be this year’s OU College of Pharmacy Alumni Affairs president. It’s true that I am a native Oklahoma Cityan, having grown up as a child not too far from the OU Health Sciences Center. Currently, I am the director of Pharmacy for the OU Medical Center (both downtown and Edmond campuses) and have worked essentially my entire 35-year career as a pharmacist on the OU Health Sciences Center. My wife, Sheila, and I live in Jones, Okla., and we have three sons: Adam, Aaron and Austin. We are proud to be called the grandparents of twin granddaughters, Lainey and Kamden.

I am definitely proud to be a pharmacist and equally as proud to be a 1977 graduate of the OU College of Pharmacy. I actually started my pharmacy school days on the Norman campus and was one of the original graduates on the Oklahoma City campus. It’s been interesting to watch this college grow from the original Norman-based campus. As alumni, we owe our careers to the OU College of Pharmacy. This college provided us with the framework to participate in a very rewarding career, and I am grateful.

One of my favorite things to do is to talk to those aspiring to join our profession and share with them what we actually do as pharmacists.

I trust you share that passion with me.

A Mortar and Pestle Campaign Challenge

The Mortar and Pestle annual giving campaign is our way to participate directly in alumni activities. Giving to the college also makes a tremendous impact with such programs as student scholarships and assisting students in attending national meetings and competitions.

I would like to challenge each OU College of Pharmacy alumni member to participate in the Mortar and Pestle campaign at a level of $500 if you’re under the age of 40 and at the $1,000 level if you are 40 years of age or over. Please know that I personally participate in the Mortar and Pestle giving campaign and have challenged each of the board members to do the same this year.

Alumni can make a difference, and it starts with having a grateful mindset to give back to our college. Please consider this challenge thoughtfully and join me in giving to this year’s Mortar and Pestle giving campaign.

With respect and thanking you in advance,
Mark St. Cyr

Express Your College Pride

The OU College of Pharmacy is pleased to offer several ways to express pride and show school spirit! Car decals, a beautiful translucent glass mortar and pestle, and of course, athletics tops in different sizes and styles promote your support of the college around the country. Proceeds of all sales are directed back to the Alumni Association, which helps fund scholarships for pharmacy students, social activities, campaigns for improved facilities, awards and more.

Check out what’s available at www.pharmacy.ouhsc.edu
Alumni Celebrate in Grand Style

If you want to "celebrate" in grand style, spend an evening at the Skirvin Hilton in downtown Oklahoma City. That's what the College of Pharmacy Alumni Associate decided to do for its 2011 Alumni Celebration and Awards program on March 5.

Approximately 75 alumni, faculty, and staff met for an elegant evening to celebrate the latest alumni award recipients and their accomplishments. Each of the six honored alumni received a unique award – a mortar and pestle set engraved with the college logo and their name.

Dean Draugalis addressed the audience, followed with comments by Joshua Sheffield, president of the Alumni Affairs Board.

Mark your calendars now for next year's Alumni Celebration on March 3, 2012, at the Skirvin!

Award Recipients:
- Outstanding Young Alumni Award: Rahi M. Bigdely, Pharm.D., 2009
- Ralph D. Bienfang Outstanding Practitioner Alumni Award: Mary Kay Vaughan, B.S. Pharm., 1978
- E. Blanche Sommers Alumni Award: Emily Borders, Pharm.D., 2006
- Distinguished Alumni Award: Mark St. Cyr, B.S. Pharm., MPH, 1977
- Special Service Citation: Shauna Peterson, B.S. Pharm., 1994

The Student Ambassador Program Remains Strong

The OU College of Pharmacy Student Ambassador Program is still going strong! The fall 2012 semester accepted 193 ambassadors between both campuses: 147 in Oklahoma City and 46 in Tulsa. By program year, we have 59 P-1 students, 46 P-2 students, 48 P-3 students and 40 P-4 students. This fall marks the fifth year for the ambassador program.

Ambassadors represent the college in a variety of ways, but are most often used for recruitment events and activities. Their motto is “Service-Leadership-Professionalism.”

Thank you, ambassadors, for representing your college!
An Alumna’s Path
Reviewing the Past and Making Adjustments for the Future

Sometimes the path of an OU College of Pharmacy graduate takes a different route than expected. That is definitely true for Annette Arthur.

Arthur received her bachelor of science degree in pharmacy in 1992 and immediately started working at HealthInfusion in Tulsa, as a pharmacy manager. She admits that she wanted to be involved with clinical research even before she graduated; however, marriage and children came first. It wasn’t until much later, when she was denied advancement, that she decided to return to school for her doctoral degree in pharmacy. This delay proved to be advantageous for her, however, because by then, the OU College of Pharmacy had opened its doors at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center.

When Arthur applied to the Pharm.D. program, Dr. H. Richard Shough was on her application committee. After her interview, he suggested that her love and passion for research may be a better match for the dual Pharm.D./M.S. program, which requires a strong research component.

At the suggestion of Dr. Reinke, she met with Dr. Stephen Thomas, George Kaiser Family Foundation Professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the OU School of Community Medicine. Before coming to OU, Dr. Thomas had worked closely with a research pharmacist as a faculty member at Harvard and on staff at Massachusetts General Hospital. As Arthur explains, “he wanted a pharmacist and I wanted to do research.” For the next 18 months, Dr. Thomas met regularly with Arthur and showed her different aspects of his research. After she completed her terminal degree, Dr. Thomas hired her as his research director in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

The story continues. Arthur was accepted this summer into the master’s in science degree program in clinical and translational sciences at OU-Tulsa. She is excited to delve deeper into learning more, which in turn will enhance her new position in research!

Her advice? “My desire to do research started over 20 years ago. Don’t ignore your passions. Find a way to get what you want and take the advice of professionals in the field. You won’t regret it.”

Alumni Call for Nominations

Five alumni awards are available to be presented annually by the OU College of Pharmacy Alumni Affairs Board. The awards acknowledge those alumni who have made important contributions to the profession and who exemplifies the values of the college. Anyone can nominate alumni for these awards, as long as the nominee matches the criteria. Here are the criteria descriptions of each award.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award is presented to alumni who have made important contributions to the profession of pharmacy within 10 years of graduation.

The E. Blanche Sommers Alumni Award is presented to alumni who have made important contributions to the profession and community within five years of graduation and who have fostered the development of or recognized the early achievements of potentially outstanding future practitioners.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to alumni for these recognitions: 1) Outstanding accomplishments in the profession that are considered to be distinctive and pioneering in nature and scope throughout the span of a career; 2) Leadership in the profession through service in local, state or national pharmacy organizations, or in organizations active in the promotion of pharmacy; 3) Leadership in local, state or national government, community civic organizations or service groups; and 4) Service to the University of Oklahoma through commitment of time or other resources aiding the development of the College of Pharmacy or the broader university.

The Ralph D. Bienfang Outstanding Practitioner Award is presented to an Oklahoma pharmacist (may be a graduate of any school or college of pharmacy) who exemplifies these characteristics of Professor Bienfang: service orientation, sensitivity to human needs, ability to communicate and inspire fellow practitioners, leadership within the profession, and a broad base of interests and accomplishments within and outside of pharmacy.

A Special Service Citation is presented to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions of exceptional quality to OU College of Pharmacy or to the pharmacy profession that leads to events widely recognized as seminal and of such merit as to warrant special honor and recognition.

When you submit your nomination, please include the title of the award, the name of the nominee, graduation year and reason for nomination. It’s important to specify how the nominee meets the criteria.

Please submit your nominations by email to sandy-warner@ouhsc.edu, on the website or by mail. Nominations must be received by Dec. 15. The awards will be presented at the Alumni Celebration on March 4, 2012, at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City. Please participate and nominate someone today!
The Oklahoma Poison Control Center: An Investment in Excellence
By Shannon Holcombe, Education Specialist, Oklahoma Poison Control Center

From its meager beginning in the 1960s to its current receipt of numerous national accolades, the Oklahoma Poison Control Center has grown into one of the nation’s leaders in providing the most advanced treatment recommendations and patient care in poison exposures. This continued standard of excellence and success has been the underlying driving force in the expansion and delivery of services provided by the center.

In July 1994, the center was given the opportunity to flourish under the umbrella of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. Offering abundant resources, support and advocacy, the College of Pharmacy provided an impetus for growth. The progression to a national endorsement as a certified poison center came in May of 2003; it took almost 40 years, but long hours and intensive training have yielded copious rewards. The center grew exponentially from a part-time, non-accredited center occupying a small corner in a hospital pharmacy to more than 20 staff members and a nationally accredited facility with a 24-hour Poison Help-line, where more than 50,000 phone calls are received annually.

Employee attrition is remarkably low at the center. In the past four decades, only two managing directors have served the center, and one of the poison specialists holds the longest employment history of any staff member at a national poison center. In October of 2007, Scott Schaeffer, the center’s managing director, became a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology, a highly esteemed designation. Several specialists, while employed at the center, have furthered their education by earning additional degrees in pharmacy, nursing and public health. Others have provided their expertise as chairs and members for such committees as the Specialist in Poison Information Staff Development committee and the Mentoring, Education and Accreditations committees for the National Association of Poison Control Centers.

The improvement of clinical skills and inservices to build teamwork and develop communication skills are always high priorities. Dr. William Banner, the medical director of the center, serves on the National Association of Poison Control Centers Board of Directors. On Sept. 25, he received the association’s acclaimed Ellenhorn award for extraordinary contributions to the field of medical toxicology.

As a program of the College of Pharmacy, professional education is an important part of the Poison Center’s total mission. Site visits and rotations at the center are completed by pharmacy and nursing students as well as medical residents. All third-year pharmacy students take the Clinical Toxicology course, instructed in large part by the clinical staff of the poison center. Nursing and physician assistant students are exposed to the many facets of toxicology through lectures taught by the clinical supervisor and a physician assistant, who is a poison specialist at the center.

Educational outreach is essential in raising public awareness about unintentional poisoning and the services provided by the Oklahoma Poison Control Center. To assist in these efforts, the center’s education department has aggressively expanded its outreach efforts and distribution of poison prevention literature to special needs groups, including Native Americans, Latinos, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and senior adults. In addition, special focus has been given to day care providers, WIC participants and Head Start programs. In 2003, the center partnered with area agencies in developing a Poison Prevention Instructor Training Program targeting parent educators, child development specialists, prenatal coordinators, day care providers, teachers, parents, public health nurses, and other health care professionals. Clinical presentations, including Advanced Hazmat Life Support classes, are presented to a variety of health care professionals.

As the center looks to the future, attention will be given to opportunities that further advance the emergency management of poisoning exposures and methods in surveillance that help identify poisoning trends and risk factors for unintentional poisoning deaths, hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Current investigations include a research project in community behaviors involving therapeutic errors, information-seeking behavior and medication safety. Anticipated results of this study will help develop strategies for public outreach in the prevention of medication errors and a more informed public knowledge base about the dangers of medications. Other future areas of research target technology, education and outreach.

In the world of poisoning, the specialists at the Oklahoma Poison Control Center who answer the phone can be the difference between a life saved and a life lost. Other measures of success and even excellence, however, are more difficult to define. A frantic mother, reassured that her 2-year-old will be fine after some minor interventions, can be saved from guilt, regret and self-admonishment. Whether physical or emotional, a person was helped, and that is at the very heart of the Oklahoma Poison Control Center.

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Wal-Mart Scholars Benefit from AACP Program

The annual Wal-Mart Scholars Program, in conjunction with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, provides an excellent yet competitive opportunity for interested students and their mentors to attend the annual American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy meeting. Once again, the OU College of Pharmacy rose to the top with three official 2011 Wal-Mart Scholar recipients: Megan G. Andrews (Michelle Condren, faculty mentor), Hibah O. Awwad (Kelly Standifer, faculty mentor); and Kshama Kumari (Michele Splinter, faculty mentor).

Kumari admits that her experiences at the annual meeting greatly exceeded her expectations. She particularly benefitted from the special Wal-Mart scholars meeting session where scholars exchanged their ideas. She participated in many of the seminars, exhibitor presentations, research poster sessions and lectures. Pharmacogenomics, a growing field in pharmacy and a topic that was covered at the meeting, was of particular interest to Kumari. She also had the opportunity to meet many faculty members from different colleges.

“The AACP Wal-mart Program enriched my knowledge on the scope of academic pharmacy,” said Kumari. “Even though my immediate plan is to gain a working experience in hospital/retail pharmacy, my long-term goal is to provide scholarly teaching to students in pharmacy. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to represent the college as a Wal-mart Scholar.”

Attending the AACP annual meeting made an impact on the way that Andrews viewed academic pharmacy. “The seminars and presentations at the meeting highlighted the fact that academic pharmacy is much more than delivering a lecture to students, and it inspired me to explore new avenues of teaching and scholarship as I begin my career in academia,” she explains. Andrews’ immediate plans are to finish her PGY1 residency at the OU College of Pharmacy and then pursue a PGY2 in pediatrics. Her long-term plans are to practice pediatric pharmacy while teaching at a college of pharmacy.

Awwad considered the opportunity to attend her first AACP annual meeting a great honor. She commented that it was of particular benefit to her to have her faculty mentor, Dr. Kelly M. Standifer, accompany her to the teacher’s seminar. “I felt that this seminar helped me prepare for my next step in becoming a faculty member at a college of pharmacy. The focus of putting our students/learners as our No. 1 priority in our teaching strategies was one of the many things endorsed at the meeting and is something that I plan to implement in my future career,” Awwad said. She cited other benefits, including being introduced to the workings of the House of Delegates at the AACP and the methods for policy-making and accreditation at colleges of pharmacies. Her immediate plans are to finish her postdoctoral fellowship and then pursue a tenure-track position as an assistant professor of pharmacology.

Have you ever thought of making a planned gift to OU College of Pharmacy?

Through a planned or deferred gift, you can reach across generations to touch the future of OU College of Pharmacy and its students. Planned gifts are as unique as each individual and may be tailored in a way that best serves your needs, objectives and wishes.

You can find helpful tools to calculate your planned giving goals at the OU Office of Gift and Estate Planning’s website, www.oulegacy.org. Or call (405) 271-6485 and talk to Rex Urice.
Dr. Vibhudutta Awasthi shows the world’s first biomarker generator to members of the OU College of Pharmacy National Advisory Board.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

John Quincy Adams