

PITTPharmacy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

FALL 2011





Dear Friends,

How far we have come. In 2006, the country was in the throes of defining distribution mechanisms for anti-infectious agents in the event of a bioterrorism attack. In my letter to you at that time, I described what I had imagined: "I picture the citizens of our communities visiting their friendly neighborhood pharmacies to receive the medications that would save their lives." Even though pharmacists are the most accessible health professional, pharmacies were not part of the 2006 proposed distribution mechanism. I questioned whether we as a profession would meet the challenge.

Fast forward to 2011. Pharmacists in Pennsylvania and across the country are increasingly being recognized as the go-to provider for immunizations. Immunizations are important for human health; they also signal that pharmacists can do more than the public thought we could. According to the CDC, community or food-store pharmacies were second to physicians' offices as locations providing immunizations during the 2010-11 flu season, which followed the fear of the H1N1 pandemic. Even more pharmacists are prepared for the 2011-12 season. Every pharmacy student who graduates from Pitt is now certified as an immunization provider.

Other challenges face us. As health reform advances, how will community pharmacies make the link to medical (or health) homes? What role will pharmacists play in accountable care organizations? How can pharmacists identify patients who need referral to treatment for drug abuse, depression, or medication management? How can pharmacies become centers of health and wellness? How will pharmacists be reimbursed? Solving these puzzles is part of our next great challenge.

The time for pharmacy has never been better. Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Donald Berwick, MD, MPP, has said that not only are "pharmacists the most accessible health professionals, pharmacists are the best educated to deal with medications."

We at the School are working at solutions. The door is open for all of us. Let's walk through it together.

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Elated members of the Class of 2011 celebrate at the University's commencement at the Petersen Events Center on May 1, 2011.

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On the Cover:

The School of Pharmacy's graduate program has grown over the years. Past and present students at the Petersen Events Center panther for the traditional photo.

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Evolution of Knowledge

Graduate program grows to attract students, generate research

Since 1955, when Joseph McEvilla became the first PhD graduate from the School of Pharmacy, training and graduating outstanding scientists has been a tradition. Whether graduate students conducted research in pharmacology, pharmacognosy, medicinal chemistry, formulations, or pharmaceuticals, their training set them up for success. Graduates became faculty, department chairs, and deans across the country; they became leading scientists in pharmaceutical companies and at the Food and Drug Administration.

In the 1980s, the School became one of the first in the country to create a clinical pharmaceutical scientist PhD program and is recognized

nationally to this day for this innovation. By 2000, faculty had built strong NIH-funded research programs.

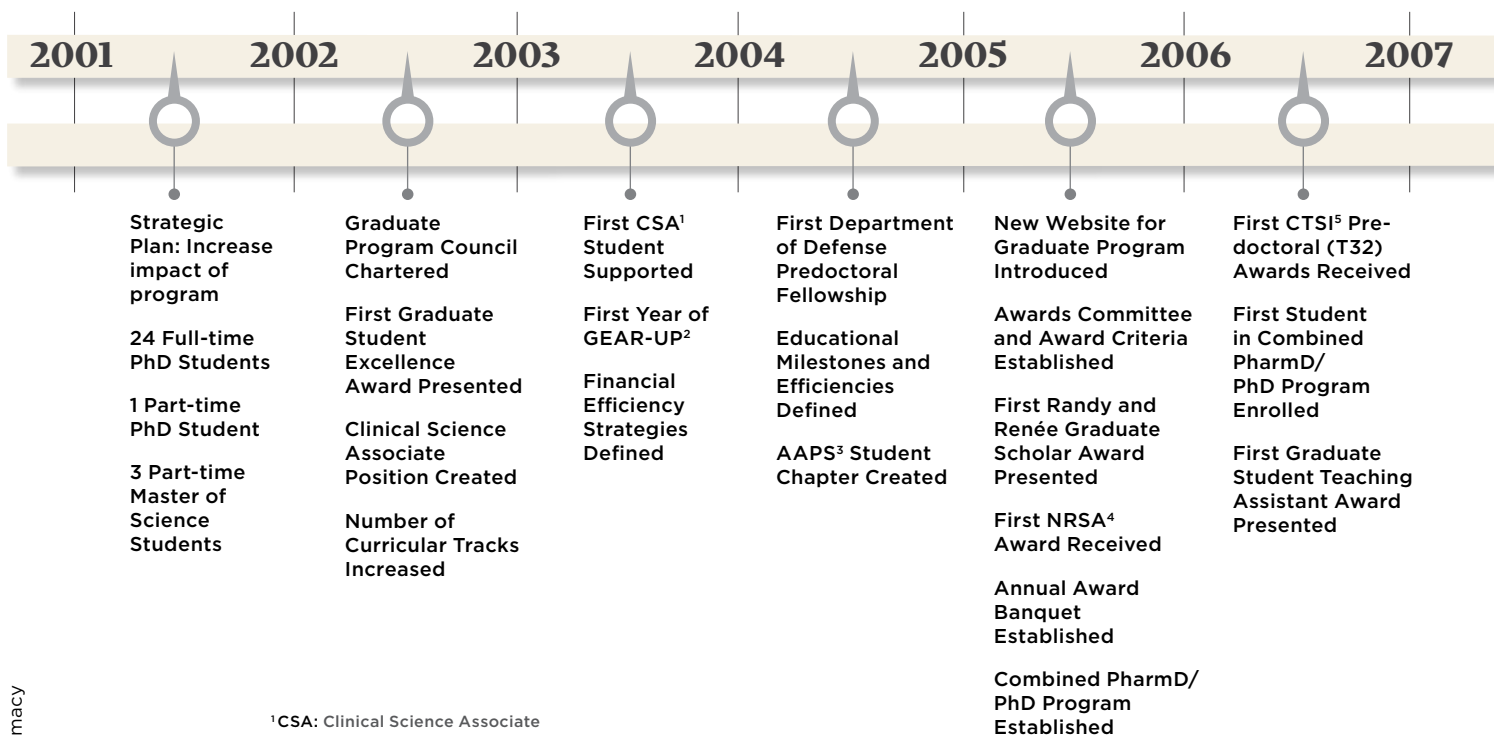
During the 2001 faculty and staff retreat, faculty expressed pride in past accomplishments and saw the opportunity to build on successes of the PhD program. Faculty were especially keen on graduate training in 2001 because of the significant increase in the School's NIH research funding.

"Ten years ago, we decided we really wanted to increase the impact of our program," recalls Dean Patricia Kroboth, then the associate dean responsible for developing the Long-Range Plan. Samuel Poloyac, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and an early contributor

to reshaping graduate studies at the School, remembers that "we realized the need for developing focus areas and on growing the number of students in the program."

Today, we look back and see that we have doubled the size of the graduate program—from 24 full-time PhD students in 2001 to 49 this fall. This remarkable increase was a direct result of faculty setting a goal, the dean charging a Graduate Program Council to lead change, and teams of faculty and staff developing and implementing plans to reach this ambitious goal.

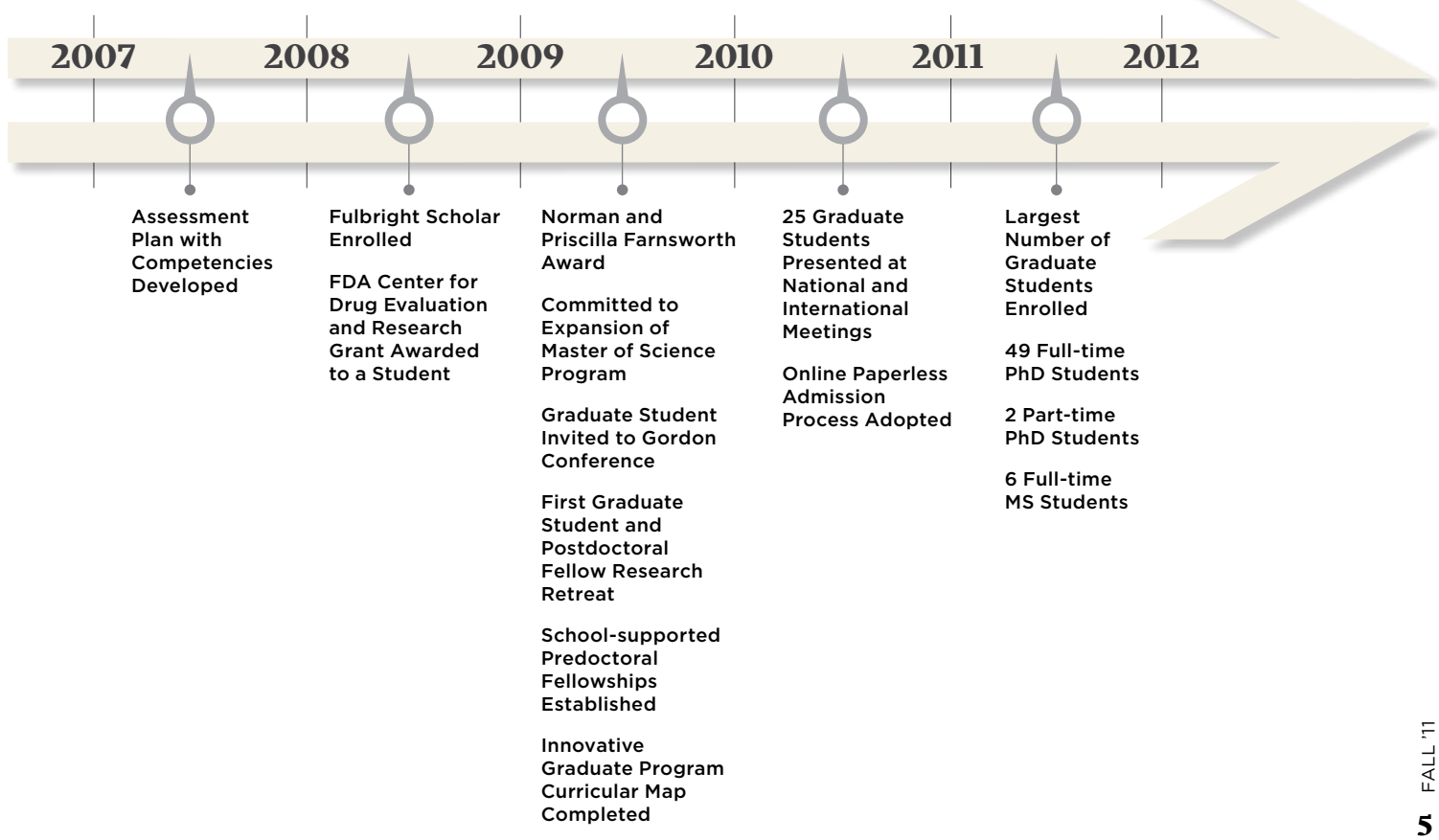
Robert Gibbs, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of the Graduate Program Council for several years, recalls that "the goals



¹CSA: Clinical Science Associate
²GEAR-UP: Graduate Education and Research at the University of Pittsburgh
³AAPS: American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists
⁴NRSA: National Research Service Award
⁵CTSI: Clinical Translational Science Institute



Maggie Folan (PhD '03),
director of the Graduate
Program in Pharmaceutical
Sciences



Evolution of Knowledge

Graduate program grows to attract students, generate research

“When you talk about going from a program of 24 students to a program of 50 students, you’re talking about a very large increase in commitment and investment.”

—Robert Gibbs



If you have a smartphone, simply scan the QR code above to view video information about the School of Pharmacy Graduate Program or visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-Kao0-MrcA>

were ambitious: attract more students to do more research, have them compete for federal support, attend national meetings, and publish their findings. We realized it required money, faculty, [and] recruitment efforts in order to accomplish this. And that it was not going to happen overnight.”

Birth of a plan

To meet these challenges, council members initiated a series of strategies.

“If you think about it, in order to increase the size and impact of your research program, you need money to support the students. You need to have faculty that are able to train the students. And you need to have the research infrastructure in which

they can get their training to do their work,” says Gibbs. “When you talk about going from a program of 24 students to a program of 50 students, you’re talking about a very large increase in commitment and investment.”

The School’s leadership began by working with UPMC to develop a mechanism that supported clinical science associates—typically, a PharmD student who wants to focus on human-based research. Graduate students with pharmacy degrees in the Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist Program, which is part of the PhD program, work part-time at the hospital and gain residency-like experience while also earning a paycheck.

“It provided a way to support a few more students,” Poloyac says.

Attracting talent

Maggie Folan, director of the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, says, “maintaining a balance of domestic and international students was another goal of the program.” From a financial perspective, the ratio of international to domestic students is significant because only domestic students can receive certain federal grants, which in turn affects financial support for the program.

To date, the School has met and maintained its goal of creating a class that is comprised of 50 percent of students coming from the United States.

“We changed the way we recruited,” Folan says, noting that the School targeted candidates with high GRE scores for invitations and beefed up its presence at clinical meetings to emphasize Pitt’s status as one of the few U.S. schools with a clinical pharmaceutical program.

The GEAR UP Program—Graduate Education and Research at the University of Pittsburgh—was initiated in 2003. The program includes two tools: an open house, which includes a weekend mini-graduate school program to introduce candidates to the experience, and a summer internship, which is an intense research immersion for students who are seriously contemplating graduate studies.

The program originally targeted pharmacy school students, then expanded to include individuals who majored in other disciplines within the basic sciences such as chemistry, biology, and engineering.

Poloyac, former director of the GEAR-UP Program, likes to draw this analogy: “You don’t know if you like broccoli unless you’ve tasted it,” he says. Similarly, students don’t know if research is in their blood until they’ve had a chance to try it. And in some cases, they discover the necessary ingredient: a passion for discovering the undiscovered.

“People don’t go into research because they want to make a lot of money,” says Gibbs. “People go into research because they have a passion for it. This is hard stuff. Doing research is time-consuming, often frustrating; but it’s also very rewarding in the sense that you’re asking and answering important questions, and you’re adding new knowledge.”

When students discover that love, they often don’t know how to take the next step. That’s when the School steps in to help them find a path, Gibbs notes.

Folan says establishing a track-in program to help PharmD students segue into the PhD program has also been helpful in attracting students by exposing

them to a research career path they otherwise might not have considered.

“By tracking into the PhD program, pharmacy students are able to gain efficiencies in the time to complete both programs,” she says.

Toward that end, the School also offers its PharmD students exposure to research early on. Even if they don’t wind up pursuing a career in the field, it’s useful to help them identify important questions—as well as scientifically rigorous methods for answering those questions—when they are dealing with patients.

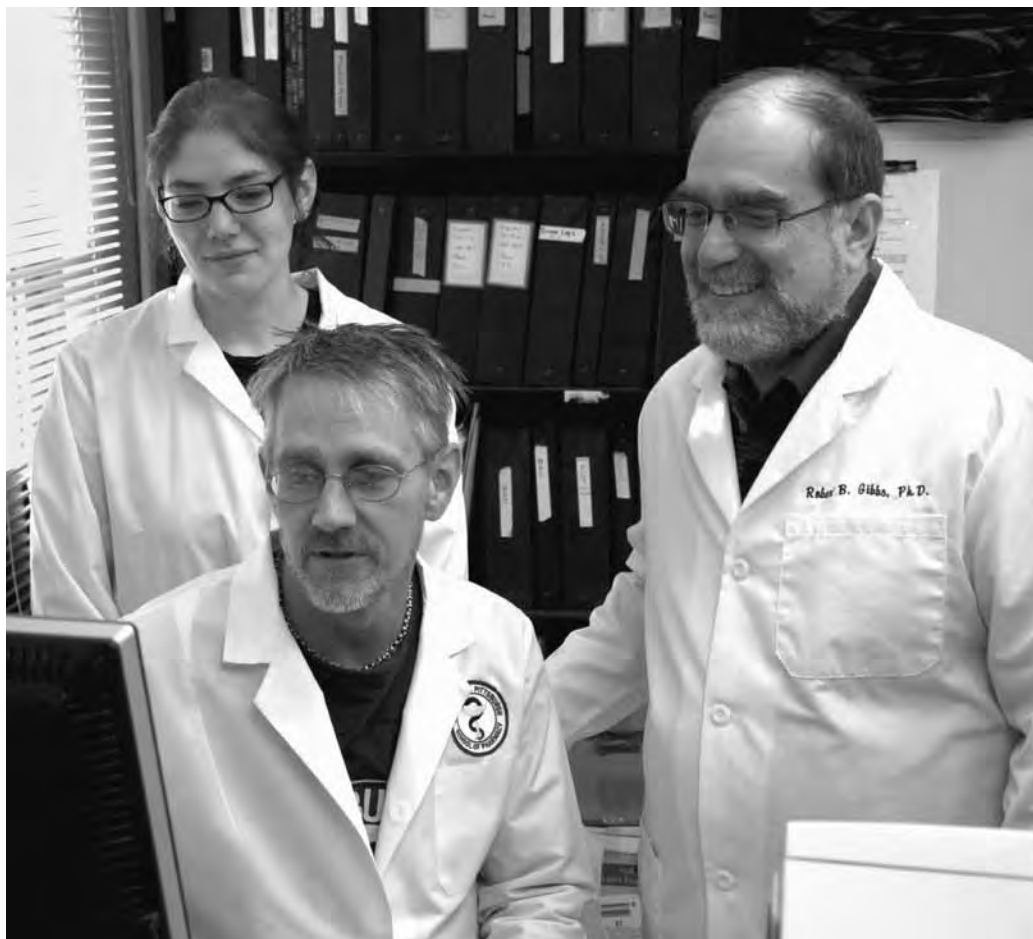
Courting new research

With the 2005 hiring of Barry Gold, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the track in medicinal chemistry/drug discovery gained new emphasis. Investments resulting from gifts to the School and other external sources, combined with grants such as the Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health, created additional opportunities for students.

Technological advancements

A new Web site developed exclusively for the graduate program has helped increase the School’s online visibility, and a completely paperless admissions process has saved countless hours of labor, not to mention the mailing expenses for applicants.

A new building with expanded, state-of-the-art laboratory space is expected to increase applications, as has cross-disciplinary research made possible by the University’s five other schools of the health sciences.



Graduate student Rebecca Hammond with lab manager Douglas Nelson and professor Robert Gibbs.

In terms of alumni testimonials, there is perhaps no greater advocate for the School of Pharmacy than its own dean, Patricia Kroboth, who was the first graduate of the clinical science program, according to Folan, who also is a graduate.

“It’s a great place to be,” Folan says. “I don’t think you can put a price tag on being happy in the morning when you’re on your way to work. And that’s what it’s like for me there.”

“Students don’t know if research is in their blood until they’ve had a chance to try it. And in some cases, they discover the necessary ingredient: a passion for discovering the undiscovered.”

—Samuel Poloyac

A Passion for Patient Care

Drab leads diabetes education for students, patients, professionals



Scott Drab
(BS '89)

When Scott Drab helped pioneer experiential learning at the School of Pharmacy, his goal was simple: He wanted to teach pharmacy students the importance of walking in a patient's shoes.

Having worked as a community pharmacist, Drab knew the importance of thinking through drug therapies from the patient's point of view. By developing experience with the homeless, elderly, adolescents, and dealing with multiple diagnoses, the pharmacist can offer more effective treatment.

"Students come away with a better appreciation of dealing with people," he says. "It's really learning about populations and population groups .. [As pharmacists], we deal with so many different types of people."

"Word got around to physicians: If you have diabetes, this particular pharmacy and its staff will help train you."

—Scott Drab

From 1996 to 2006, Drab served as the School's director of experiential education and coordinated all rotations for pharmacy students across multiple years. His objective was to offer introductory experiences to students in the first three years of school, with P4 students tackling more advanced-practice rotations—seven in the final year alone.

"In the old BS program, we did three site rotations: community, hospital, and clinical," he explains." The expansion under

the establishment of the PharmD program was far more comprehensive, so we had to create a considerable number of additional rotations."

Rainer's Pharmacy in Jeannette, Pa., is where Drab's diabetes clinic, University Diabetes Care Associates, is located. This clinic, which has collaborative care practice agreements with more than 35 physicians in three counties, serves as a site for many of those rotations, taking approximately 16 students every year.

“So by understanding the time course, the peaks, and the profiles of insulin, we’re in an excellent position to really partner with the medical community and help those patients.”

—Scott Drab



If you have a smartphone, simply scan the QR code above to view more information on Diabetes Care and Prevention or visit:

<http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/DM/PUBS/statistics/>

He also engages in both didactic and clinical instruction, and in 2006, he transitioned out of experiential learning to focus on DM Educate®, a multidisciplinary Internet-based curriculum on diabetes education that is distributed for free to pharmacy schools and is offered as continuing education to pharmacists and other health care providers. DM Educate® is made available through a generous gift from Novo Nordisk, a health care company specializing in diabetes.

A passion for education

All of these projects tie in to Drab’s commitment to education, whether it’s pharmacy students, patients, or physicians, particularly when it comes to managing diabetes—a widely publicized and increasingly complex epidemic.

“The explosion of diabetes in this country has really put pharmacists on the map,” says Drab. To illustrate how much the treatment of the disease has evolved, he points to his early years at Pitt, when students might have attended one or two lectures about diabetes. In fact, prior to 1995, only two classes of drugs were used to treat it. Now there are 11 classes of drugs, and diabetes is one-third of the School’s entire endocrinology course.

“We are so much better prepared,” he says. “It has really expanded. When I first started teaching, we didn’t have a lot of drugs to talk about. Today, we do.”

As with most health care professionals who treat diabetics, Drab reports an alarming drop in the average age of patients—once they were in their 60s, now they’re people in their 40s or younger, some as young as adolescents. That, combined with increasingly complicated drug treatments, spells a greater need for education.

In 1989, before he started his diabetes clinic, Drab worked for an independent pharmacy, Union Prescription Center. Then, as now, the pharmacist was an easily accessible health care resource, so patients came into the pharmacy asking for help with blood glucose monitors, and he and the rest of the staff would gladly oblige.

“What we knew was that many of these patients didn’t have the proper tools, the proper education to monitor their disease,” Drab says. “Lo and behold, what happened was that word got around to physicians: If you have diabetes, this particular pharmacy and its staff will help train you.”

One day, a physician came into the pharmacy and asked if

he could get some help with a particular patient. “I gave him some recommendations, and the recommendations that I gave really helped and worked,” says Drab.

That prompted the doctor to refer patients for more complex problems related to diabetes, and eventually, the clinic was born in 1992. Business expanded through word of mouth, and today, the clinic’s services include education, medication therapy management (MTM) services, medical nutrition therapy, exercise therapy, pharmacokinetic services, and care plan development.

Expansion at the School of Pharmacy

At Pitt, Drab has incorporated diabetes education not only into his didactic work, but also into practicums. In one case, a patient with Type 1 diabetes comes to the School and explains his life as a patient with diabetes. It is not uncommon for students to ask questions of the patient for hours. “Our students certainly understand the pathophysiology of diabetes, but this experience allows them to see the human side of the disease. It allows the students to gain empathy and understanding of what patients with diabetes have to go through,” he says.



A Passion for Patient Care

Drab leads diabetes education for students, patients, professionals

In a second practicum, students learn about insulin injection and blood glucose testing. They go through six different work stations and work through four blood glucose monitors, learn about insulin pen technology, vials, and syringes. They can also do controlled test solutions and test their own blood sugar to learn how meters operate.

Other practicums address insulin dosing or bring in actors to serve as sample patients so

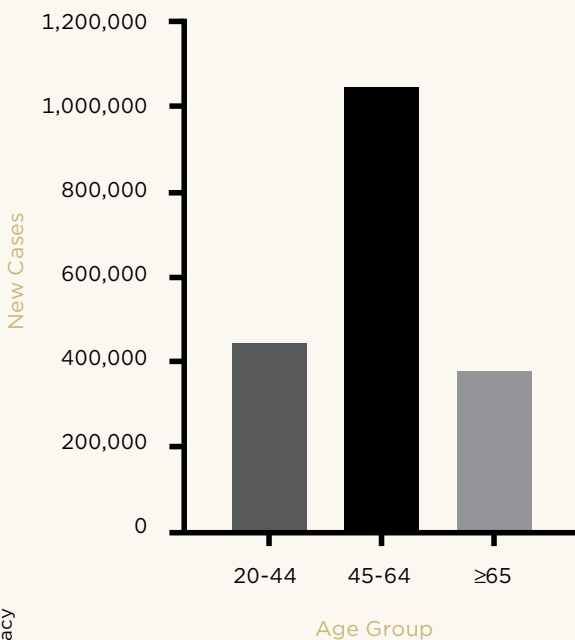
students can practice doing a complete workup. Due to student interest in diabetes being so high, Drab has created an elective course in diabetes that covers the disease in more depth and is supplemented with DM Educate®, guest presenters, and cases.

Because the disease is so prevalent, Drab sees nothing but opportunity ahead for pharmacists who want to help patients better manage diabetes through optimized drug therapy, MTM, and possibly insulin clinics.

“Many physicians oftentimes find insulin to be cumbersome, or they don’t quite understand it,” he says. “We really know the drugs the best. So by understanding the time course, the peaks, and the profiles of insulin, we’re in an excellent position to really partner with the medical community and help those patients.”

Estimated number of new cases of diagnosed diabetes among people aged 20 years or older, by age group, United States, 2010.

About 1.9 million people aged 20 years or older were newly diagnosed with diabetes in 2010.



Estimated diabetes costs, United States, 2007

Total costs (direct and indirect):
\$174 billion

Direct medical costs:
\$116 billion

(after adjusting for population age and sex differences, average medical expenditures among people with diagnosed diabetes were 2.3 times higher than what expenditures would be in the absence of diabetes)

Indirect costs:
\$58 billion
 (disability, work loss, premature mortality)

Medical expenses for people with diabetes are more than 2 times higher than for people without diabetes.

Source: 2007–2009 National Health Interview Survey estimates projected to the year 2010

Schiff wins Stanford I. Cohen Teacher of the Year award

Paul Schiff, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the School of Pharmacy since 1970, has been named the School's Stanford I. Cohen Teacher of the Year for 2011, an honor he also received in 2001 and 2005.

Schiff previously has served as the chairman of the Department of Pharmacognosy, a position he held until 1985, and the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a position he held from 1985 until July 1996. He is the principal instructor in two team-taught courses in pharmacotherapy of infectious disease and is a contributing teacher in courses in drug development, pharmacotherapy of cardiovascular disease, pulmon-

ology/rheumatology, oncology/hematology, and neurology/psychiatry.

Schiff has been active in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, where he has chaired both the Section of Teachers of Biological Sciences and the Section of Teachers of Chemistry. He was twice elected the Hygeia Teacher of the Year, in 1987 and 1993.

Benedict recognized for innovation in teaching

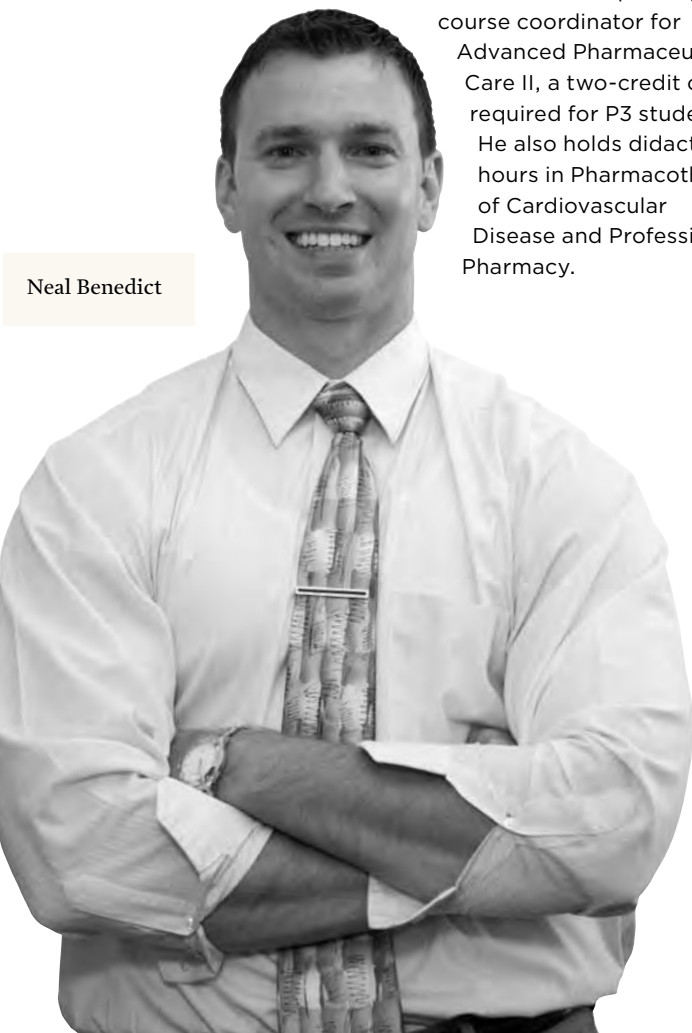
The School's Rho Chi Society chapter honored Neal Benedict, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, with its Innovation in Teaching Award, which recognizes faculty members for new and creative teaching methods.

Benedict is the primary course coordinator for Advanced Pharmaceutical Care II, a two-credit course required for P3 students.

He also holds didactic hours in Pharmacotherapy of Cardiovascular Disease and Profession of Pharmacy.



Paul Schiff



Neal Benedict

In addition to teaching classes, Benedict serves as a critical care pharmacist at UPMC Presbyterian. His practice sites are the surgical/trauma and intensive care units, where he coordinates with interdisciplinary health care teams to provide care and develops evidence-based protocols related to drug therapy and disease management. Benedict serves as a faculty preceptor for Doctor of Pharmacy students in both introductory and advanced rotations and for first- and second-year residents.

"It has been a true honor to receive this award," says Benedict. "To me, this award is a testament to the impact that virtual patients and other educational technologies can have in the classroom."

Great Faculty Members Honored



Thomas Nolin
(PharmD '99,
PhD '03)

Nolin honored for scholarly contribution

The School's Rho Chi Society chapter presented Thomas Nolin, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, with its 2011 Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award.

This award recognizes intellectual achievement and critical inquiry in the profession.

Nolin, who joined the faculty of the School of Pharmacy in 2008, holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Medicine Renal Electrolyte Division. Prior to coming to Pitt, he worked for several years as a clinical pharmacy specialist in nephrology and transplantation at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine. After earning his PhD in 2003, he served

as a clinical pharmacologist in the Division of Nephrology and Transplantation and as a principal investigator in the Center for Clinical and Translational Research at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute.

Meyer named APhA-ASP Faculty Member of the Year

Susan Meyer, associate dean for education and professor, has been named APhA-ASP Faculty Member of the Year.

Meyer joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 2006. Since then, she has focused on curricular and institutional quality improvement, instructional design and assessment, and faculty development. She also convenes the Working Group on Interprofessional Education, which includes academic leaders from Pitt's six health sciences schools.

Meyer served as a staff member for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy from 1990 to 2006. She represents pharmacy education on the Healthy People Curriculum Task Force. In 2010-11, she was a

member of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative expert panel, and she is now part of a working group on faculty development in interprofessional team-based care.

Meyer is a member of the board of directors of the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative and the board of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research.



Susan Meyer

Clinical Preceptor of the Year Duggal guides the way through clinical pharmacy

As a clinical pharmacy specialist for UPMC Cancer Centers, Shrina Duggal acknowledges that her workplace is intense. But if students have a baseline interest in oncology it's her goal to help them decide whether that interest is enough to fuel a career.

"My rotation is set up very much like a residency rotation would be," explains Duggal. "I do want them to learn what it's like when you go into the real world."

The rotation does not focus solely on oncology; rather, students are expected to review provided literature to find answers to questions that arise during rounds and offer evidence-based responses. Duggal says she designed the rotation that way to mimic the demands of inpatient practice.

"You have to know so much about everything," she explains. "When students go on an outpatient dispensing rotation, they just need to know how to dispense a prescription. A lot of what happens on the inpatient side is not even related to oncology. It's internal medicine, it's renal, it's cardiac."

For that reason, she generally does not answer students' questions, but rather guides them to research the answers on their own.

"If you ask me a question, chances are I'm going to ask you a question right back, and we're going to walk through it."

For Duggal, though she is honored by the award, the true measure of her success comes from the students she supervises.



Shrina Duggal

"I hope that I have that impact on most of my students, because I love what I do," she says. "It's rewarding for me when students finish the rotation and say, 'It was really hard, it was really intense, and I learned a lot.'"

Smithburger, Faculty Preceptor of the Year, pushes for interdisciplinary interaction in ICU

As Pamela Smithburger brought students in the Intensive Care Unit at UPMC Presbyterian to begin their rotation, she quickly realized they were in for a baptism by fire: A patient was coding, a crash cart was brought in, and compressions began.

"I try to prepare them as much as I can before we step into the unit," says Smithburger, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, but she admits that some things just have to be experienced in person.



Pamela Smithburger
(PharmD '07)

The rotation at Presby's ICU allows pharmacy students to serve as part of an interprofessional health care team alongside fellow students from medicine, nursing, and social work. Under Smithburger's supervision, team members learn to communicate effectively with one another and develop a deeper understanding of the role various professions play in a patient's care.

"We train clinicians within [their] profession," explains Smithburger. "It's really when they go out on their clinical rotations that they interact. The challenges are learning what other professions bring to patient care and learning how to best utilize and best learn from each other."

Smithburger likes to stay in touch with students after their rotations, helping them prepare for interviews, reading resumes, and helping guide their career choices.

"I think it's all part of helping the next generation of pharmacists better themselves and be successful," she says.

Clyde Cressler

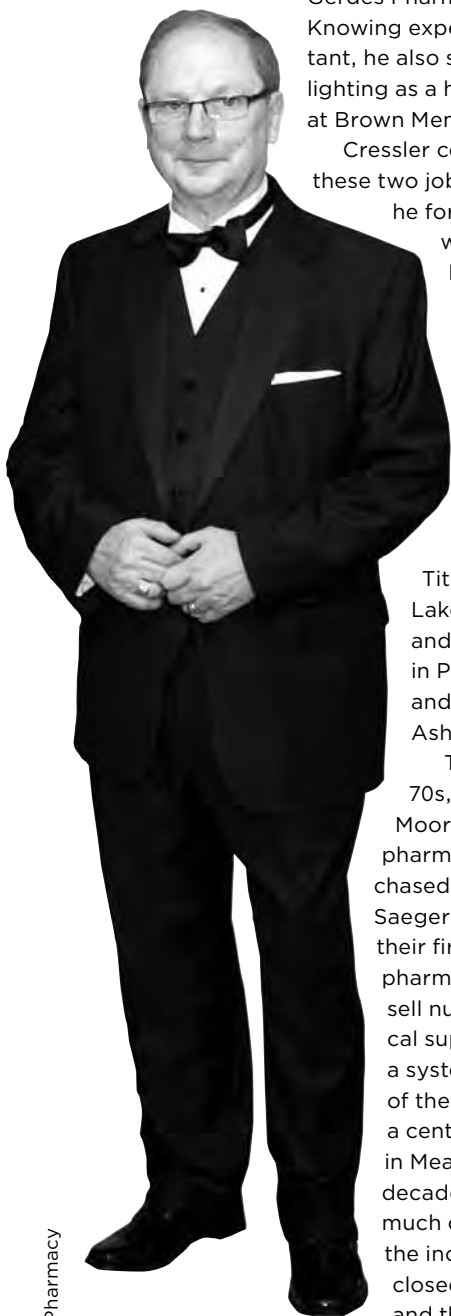
Distinguished Alumnus 2011

Clyde Cressler built his career on the values instilled in him at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. A diligent student, Cressler transferred his impeccable work ethic to the real world when he began his first job as a registered pharmacist at Bill Gerdes Pharmacy in Conneaut. Knowing experience was important, he also spent time moonlighting as a hospital pharmacist at Brown Memorial Hospital.

Cressler continued working these two jobs until 1971, when he formed a partnership with his father-in-law, Vernon Moore, to purchase their first store, Green's Pharmacy in Meadville, Pa.

Watching their business grow, they eventually acquired stores in Greenville, Titusville, Sandy Lake, Sharon, Erie, and Saegertown in Pennsylvania and Conneaut and Ashtabula in Ohio.

Throughout the 70s, Cressler and Moore transformed the pharmacies they purchased, converting the Saegertown store into their first closed-door pharmacy, beginning to sell nursing home medical supplies and using a system to operate all of the pharmacies from a central headquarters in Meadville. The next decade proved to be very much of the same, with the inclusion of a second closed-door pharmacy and the addition of another retail pharmacy.



Left to right: Members of the Cressler family, Carol (wife), Clyde, Helen (mother), Bill (brother), and his wife, Roxy.

When Moore retired in 1990, the corporate headquarters relocated to Newport, Pa., closer to Cressler's home. Soon thereafter, Cressler opened his first Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Huntingdon, Pa.

Over the next several years, he would launch many additional pharmacies throughout four states. His ongoing commitment to providing the right medication to the right patient at the right time allowed his business to continue to expand and led to the creation of CL Cressler, Inc. Today, he and his staff successfully operate 15 Medicine Shoppe pharmacies, 13 of which are retail and two are closed-door.

The Medicine Shoppe pharmacies have been founded on Cressler's core principles: respect, accountability, motivation, and challenge. His goal of serving the public with the best health care under all possible circumstances encourages his team

to work closely with each person who walks through their doors by putting each patient's health care needs first.

Focusing on personal retail service, long-term care, and institutionalized pharmacy, Cressler has found a unique way to blend retail and institutional pharmacy by combining the professionalism of institutional pharmacy with the intimacy of his retail pharmacies. This commitment to others is evident in both his work and personal life. He truly strives to help everyone he meets and treats them all with the same respect—whether it's a pharmacy student, patient, or family member.

Karen Habucky

Distinguished Alumnus 2011



Left to right: Madeleine and Kaite Wirth (daughters), Mark Wirth (husband), Karen, Stephanie Tutka (sister) with husband Thomas and son Patrick.

Growing up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Karen Habucky knew that the University of Pittsburgh was the perfect place to begin her journey as a student. Although she began in the engineering program, she was able to explore her true passion through by taking advantage of Pitt's numerous educational opportunities.

As an undergraduate student, Habucky worked in a lab under the guidance of Professor Raman Venkataramanan, learning about the research aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences. He sent her to several scientific conferences, which opened her eyes to a whole new world of opportunities within pharmacy. She received a BS in pharmacy in 1987 and a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences with an emphasis in pharmacokinetics in 1993.

During her career, she has held various leadership positions in project strategy development, regulatory affairs, preclinical

pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism, clinical pharmacokinetics, and toxicology. She has worked for several of the most well-known pharmaceutical companies, including Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, Sandoz Research Institute, and Huntingdon Life Sciences. Currently, Habucky serves as an executive director in drug regulatory affairs at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, developing the regulatory strategies for the early compounds in the infectious disease, ophthalmology, muscular skeletal, and targeted therapies disease areas.

Habucky has been an active volunteer for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) for more than 20 years—even serving as president in 2008. She has consistently supported and developed initiatives to encourage young women to pursue careers in science and currently men-

tors several junior scientists and graduate students. She fondly remembers one occasion where she spoke at the Girls Raised in Tennessee Science Conference, telling the young women to reach for the stars and not to believe anyone who tells them, "you can't." Two years later, she received a letter from a young woman thanking her for those encouraging words and saying that, because of Habucky's inspiration, she chose a career in the health care field. Because of her ongoing volunteer work and giving back to the community, Habucky continues to make an indelible imprint on the lives of so many young scientists.

For the past 19 years, she has lived in New Jersey and is married to Dr. Mark Wirth, also a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. She and her husband have twin daughters, with whom they love traveling and enjoying the great outdoors kayaking and biking.



Photographic Memories

RxTravaganza 2011...This Magic Moment



To see more photos from Rxtravaganza Gala 2011 go to www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/about/Gala/about.html



See inside back cover for captions.



The School welcomed its Board of Visitors on April 4 and 5, 2011. Left to right: Richard Bertz, Krista Pedley, John Tighe, William Bailey, Patrick Quinn, Daniel Cobaugh, David Rotella, and Leaf Huang (missing from photo: John Innocenti, Karen Fisher).

The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists **graduate student chapter** received a PPDM (pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and drug metabolism) Education Initiative award to host a speaker in the PPDM field. The chapter invited Joseph Polli, the worldwide head of the Mechanism and Extrapolations Technology Section at GlaxoSmithKline's Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics Department. Polli presented a seminar in April entitled, "What's All the Flux About? Interpretation and Application of the International Transporter Consortium Whitepaper and Draft EMA Guidance," and met with students, postdocs, and faculty during his visit.

The School's **Kappa Psi** chapter was recognized as the third best collegiate chapter, continuing the tradition of consistently

being in the top 10. The School's graduate chapter also placed in the top 10 nationally, ranking ninth.

Meredith Jernigan, infectious diseases resident, was awarded the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) Infectious Diseases Fellows Grant. This competitive grant award is presented to pharmacists, physicians, and PhDs who have an abstract accepted to the annual ICAAC meeting. Jernigan will present her abstract, "Doripenem and Colistin Is Synergistic and Demonstrates Bactericidal Killing Against Pandrug-Resistant *Klebsiella Pneumoniae* Isolates in Vitro."

Pharmacy resident **Anna Lungu**, teamed with faculty mentor Sharon Connor, was selected as a Walmart Scholar. Scholars are chosen for their desire and

commitment to a career in academic pharmacy. This year, only 75 students were selected from across the country to receive this prestigious honor.

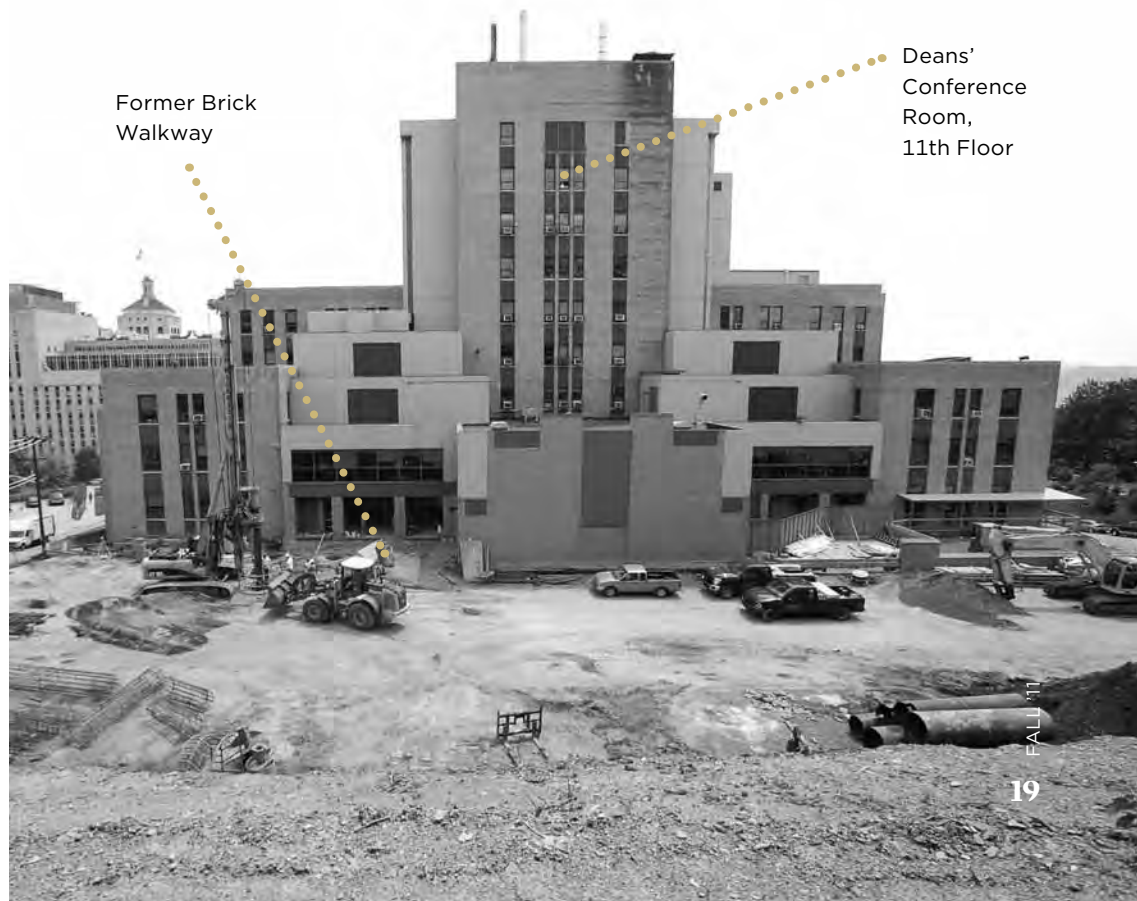
Ajay Srinivasan, School of Pharmacy postdoctoral associate, won the Best Postdoc Poster award for his poster, "Effects of APE-1 Inhibition and Targeted DNA Damage," at the 13th Annual Midwest DNA Repair Symposium. The Symposium was held at the University of Toledo College of Medicine in Toledo, Ohio, in May. The award carries a token monetary amount as well as a copy of the book *DNA Repair and Mutagenesis* (2nd Vol.), signed by Professor Graham C. Walker, one of the authors of the book and a keynote speaker at the event.



Faculty and staff gather during the School's retreat at the Mayernik Center on June 1, 2011, in North Hills with guest speaker and facilitator John Porcari (front row, far right). The focus of the all-day session was identifying shared leadership techniques that result in positive outcomes.

Construction Update

Currently on the project site, the general contractor is drilling caissons through the mine and into the bedrock below the building footprint. In order to drill all 76 caissons, a third of the hillside between the existing Salk Hall and Fitzgerald Field House had to be excavated to the new first-floor elevation. On the east side of the project, the mechanical contractor is starting to install the chilled water for the building by tying into the Petersen Events Center's system and crossing under Sutherland Drive.



Former Brick Walkway

Deans' Conference Room, 11th Floor

New Residents



Since 1990 the School of Pharmacy's Residency Program has had a total of 241 residents, 35 of which have completed two years of residency training in our programs. The 2011-2012 class has 22 PGY1 residents in 8 programs and 16 PGY2 residents in 9 programs. New and growing programs include Children's Hospital, expansion of PGY1 to Shadyside and WPIC, and PGY2 opportunities in Underserved/Global Health.

Bar codes have been around for a long time, and recently, there is a strange new cousin to the bar code that is becoming popular called a QR code. Designed as a way to take a person to a Web site or to retrieve information without any typing, a QR code allows you to scan it with a camera-equipped phone and be connected automatically to the desired information. You can follow QR codes after downloading a QR code reader app. Apps exist for most every camera-equipped phone, and can be found wherever you get apps such as the Apple App store. Most are free. Once the reader app is installed, simply point the camera at a QR code and in a moment the associated Web page will open.



If you have a smartphone, simply scan the QR code above to view more information on QR codes or to download an app. Or visit: http://wikis.pharmacy.pitt.edu/groups/apps/weblog/a66f9/QR_Codes.html

The School of Pharmacy will begin using QR codes in some printed materials as a way to direct readers to more information. So, start looking for them in PITTPharmacy as well as on other information you receive from us.



Donna Huryn

Faculty Grants

Donna Huryn, research professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health, Science Applications International Corporation-Frederick (SAIC-F), for "Evaluation of Rationally-designed Small Molecules Directed Against the c-Myc Oncoprotein." This program aims to identify small molecules that disrupt c-myc function via high throughput screening, and subsequently evaluate, characterize, and optimize small molecules with the potential to develop drug candidates to treat a variety of cancers.

Huryn received an additional grant funded by SAIC-Frederick for "Administrative Support for the UP-CDC."

Kerry Empey, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received an additional two years of KL2 funding for her project, "Local immunomodulation with inhaled cytokines as



Sean Xie

a novel therapy for Respiratory Syncytial Virus in infants."

Tanya Fabian (PharmD '98, PhD '03) and **Heather Johnson**, assistant professors of pharmacy and therapeutics, received an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation PGY1 Expansion Grant. Funds will provide financial support for the training of an additional first-year pharmacy resident at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic/UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside.

Maureen Reynolds, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a grant funded by the University of Michigan through the National Institutes of Health. Reynolds and colleagues, under the guidance of professor Ralph Tarter, will prepare CEDAR baseline data collected between 1990 and 2003 to be archived in the National Addiction and HIV Data Archive Program archival system housed at the University of Michigan.

Xiang-Gun (Sean) Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Screen and Design p18 Chemical Probes for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Self-Renewal." The purpose of this study is to screen and identify specific small molecule effectors that can stimulate self-renewal of hematopoietic stem cells. The proposed research will offer a promising approach to design new drugs for hematopoietic stem cell therapies that may have a significant impact on future stem cell drug research and development.

Graduate Student Grants

Yifei Zhang has been awarded a two-year pre-doctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association for her proposal, "Novel Polymeric Vectors for Pulmonary uPA Gene Therapy." She will study how decreased fibrinolytic activity plays an important role in various types of lung injury.

Rebecca Hammond has been awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health for her research project, "Role of GPR30 in Mediating Estrogen Effects on Neurons and Cognitive Performance." This project evaluates the role of GPR30, a novel estrogen receptor, in mediating effects of estradiol on basal forebrain cholinergic function and cognitive performance. Hammond works in the laboratory of Professor Robert Gibbs.



Faculty and staff gathered in December 2010 to celebrate the career of Associate Professor Ada Mezzich. Pictured are Professor and CEDAR Director Ralph Tarter, Professor Michael Vanyukov, Mezzich, and Dean Patricia Kroboth.



Professor David Edwards receiving several acknowledgements of his contributions to the University and to the School of Pharmacy. Left to right: Department Chair Barry Gold, Dean Patricia Kroboth, Vice Chancellor Randy Juhl, Edwards, and Assistant Dean Kenneth Etzel (School of Dental Medicine).

Promotions

Alexander Doemling was promoted to the rank of professor of pharmaceutical sciences with tenure.

Jan Beumer was promoted to the rank of assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the tenure stream.

Retirements

David Edwards, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, retired after spending his entire career of 40 years at the University of Pittsburgh, from postdoctoral fellowship to professor. He taught biochemistry, pharmacology, psychopharmacology, and physiology to well over 6,000 pharmacy, dental, and graduate students.

Ada Mezzich, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and psychiatry, was a member of the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research in the School of Pharmacy. Her main research interest was the etiology of early onset substance use disorder and its continuity into young adulthood, especially in women.

News

Neal Benedict and **Kristine Schonder**, assistant professors of pharmacy and therapeutics, along with James B. McGee from the School of Medicine, received a Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence innovation in education grant. Their project, "Innovative Instructional Approach to Foster Self-Directed Learning," develops

virtual patients to teach the self-directed learning process.

Balwant Dixit (PhD '66), professor of pharmaceutical sciences, chaired a panel on "Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Indian Immigrants in North America" at Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal Convention in Chicago in June.

Alexander Doemling, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been invited as a keynote speaker at the 5th International Conference on Multi-Component Reactions, which will be held in Hangzhou, China, in November 2011. Multicomponent reaction chemistry is among the most rapidly growing areas in organic chemistry and is extensively performed in Doemling's lab.

Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was selected by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation as the recipient of the 2011 Community Pharmacy Faculty of the Year Award. The award recognizes a pharmacy school faculty member who has made significant contributions to the practice of community pharmacy through innovations in patient care.



Melissa McGivney (PharmD '98)

Maggie Folan (PhD '03), assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was elected to the Community Relations Committee of the University Senate.

Donna Huryn, research professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was named to the 2011 class of American Chemical Society (ACS) fellows for outstanding accomplishments in chemistry and contributions to ACS. She was honored at a special ceremony during the ACS National Meeting in Denver in August.

Sandra Kane-Gill, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received the 2011 American College of Clinical

Pharmacy (ACCP) Critical Care Practice and Research Network (PRN) Research Award. Also, her abstract, "Severity and preventability of drug-induced hypotension," was among the 5 percent of abstracts selected as a platform presentation at the ACCP Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh in October.

Levent Kirisci, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was named as statistical consultant of the World Health Organization (WHO) Project on Assessing Health Systems Development Toward Person-centered Care. Kirisci was also named as statistical editor of the *International Journal of Person-Centered Medicine*.



Levent Kirisci



Karen Pater

Susan Meyer, professor and associate dean for education, was invited to participate in the “Team-Based Competencies: Building a Shared Foundation for Education and Clinical Practice” meeting in Washington, D.C., last February. The group developed consensus around core competencies for a health professions workforce prepared for team-based, collaborative practice and proposed an agenda for action.

Thomas Nolin (PharmD '99, PhD '03), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Earlier this year, Nolin co-chaired a symposium, “Assessing the effect of impaired kidney function on drug exposure, response, and dosing: challenges and opportunities,” at the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Annual Meeting in Dallas.

Karen Steinmetz Pater, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was selected to participate as a fellow in the 2011 Provost’s Faculty Diversity Seminar at the University of Pittsburgh, held in May. This annual seminar offers ten faculty members seminar fellowships to redesign their courses to be more inclusive in terms of race and gender.

Pater was an invited lecturer at the 37th Annual Ohio-Marshall County Pharmacists Association (OMCPA) Spring Seminar on March 20, 2011. OMCPA is a tri-state organization representing pharmacists from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Janice Pringle, research associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, participated in conference call with First Lady Michelle Obama and Joshua DuBois—May 18, 3:30 p.m., on faith-based groups supporting military families.

She was invited to present at two national meetings in June. At the Pharmacy Quality Alliance meeting in Washington, D.C., Pringle spoke about the implementation of a program that is testing the impact of pharmacist screening and brief interventions on patient medication adherence across 120 Rite Aid stores in Pennsylvania. She also presented “Motivational Interviewing for Diabetes Self-Management” at the American Diabetes Association meeting in San Diego.

Ty Ridenour, research associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was awarded the Service to the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) Award at the SPR Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in June. SPR is an international

society of researchers committed to developing and improving preventive interventions.

Christine Ruby (BS '90; PharmD '94), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was an invited symposium speaker for the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Pennsylvania Chapter Annual Spring Conference last April.

Kristine Schonder, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was selected as a co-chair of the National Quality Forum Renal Endorsement Maintenance Steering Committee for End-Stage Renal Disease. The role of the committee is to evaluate measures for public reporting and quality improvement addressing quality of care for patients with kidney disease.

Amy Seybert (BS '94; PharmD '96), associate professor and interim chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, was named a Fellow of both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Susan Skledar (BS '88), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was awarded the School of Pharmacy Residency Preceptor of the Year award for 2010-2011.

Randall Smith, senior associate dean, participated in the Biomedical Health and Wellness Main Salon in March in Cannes, France.

Gordon Vanscoy (BS '84), associate dean for business innovation, was the commencement



Carolyn Thorpe

speaker for the Katz Graduate School of Business graduation ceremony last March. The title of his address was “RxELEMENTLESS Pursuit of Happiness.”

Wen Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to attend the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology’s translational research symposium, “Engaging Basic Scientists in Translational Research: Identifying Opportunities, Overcoming Obstacles,” on behalf of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The meeting, which was by invitation only and sponsored by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), took place in March at the HHMI headquarters in Chevy Chase, Md.



Joshua Thorpe

Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to serve as member of the National Institutes of Health Biophysics of Neural Systems Study Section, Center for Scientific Review for a four-year term beginning in July 2011.

New Faculty: We welcome several new faculty members to the School of Pharmacy.

Carolyn Thorpe has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. Her research aims to improve the health of older adults facing multiple chronic conditions by focusing on three areas: comparative effectiveness of strategies for treating complex, older patients

with multiple chronic conditions, quality medication prescribing and patient adherence, and multiple health behavior change in older adults.

Joshua Thorpe has been appointed as an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. He is a nationally recognized pharmaceutical health services researcher whose program of research aims to reduce disparities in access to care and provide evidence on the comparative effectiveness of various treatment options and management strategies for complex older patients managing multiple medical conditions.

Lee McDermott is a visiting research assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a member of the University’s Drug Discovery Institute. His research interests are medicinal chemistry and rational drug design. He is the inventor/co-inventor on 23 patents and patent applications.

Paul Johnston is a research associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a member of the University of Pittsburgh Drug Discovery Institute (UPDDI). Since joining Pitt, Johnston has led fifteen screening campaigns, continued his research in HTS/HCS assay development and implementation, and established drug discovery collaborations throughout the scientific community.

Our Students

Top, left to right:
Daniel Yarabinec (P4), Christina
Elgin (P2), and
Michele Doan (P4).

Below:
José Nery (P3).



The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship announced the selection of the new class of Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows, two of whom are University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy students, **Michele Doan** (P4) and **Cristina Elgin** (P2). Over the next year, these students will join approximately 250 other 2011-2012 Schweitzer Fellows across the country in conceptualizing and carrying out service projects that address the unmet health needs of underserved individuals and communities. Doan aims to establish an asthma clinic that provides underserved patients in McKeesport with counseling and education on how to treat asthma and avoid asthma triggers. Elgin aims to prevent opioid overdose within

the Wilkinsburg community by implementing a naloxone prescription program with the help of Metro Family Practice and Prevention Point Pittsburgh.

José Nery (P3) was awarded the 2011 Anita Angus Scholarship administered by the Pitt Alumni Association. The Angus Scholar is a student who excels academically, participates in football, basketball, or crew at the University of Pittsburgh, and resides in Pennsylvania. José is a member of Pitt's crew team.

Daniel Yarabinec (P4) received one of only nine scholarships awarded by the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Foundation this year. Dan was also runner-up for the national position of Kappa Psi Collegiate Member-at-Large. The Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity is the

Class of 2015

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy welcomes the Class of 2015 to the PharmD Program. The diverse class includes students ranging in age from 19 to 31, from 13 states and the Virgin Islands. Sixteen students have degrees from 12 different undergraduate institutions (four AAU institutions). 88 percent of the entire class is from the University of Pittsburgh.



Photo taken on the second day of class in park across from Salk Hall with construction site in the background.

oldest and largest professional pharmacy fraternity in the world.

Elyse Weitzman (P3) presented a poster on HIV medication utilization at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., in April. The poster was a culmination of her work with a Medicare Advantage plan in Baltimore, Md., in summer 2010. In her review of antiretroviral medication claims, she analyzed safety concerns and the appropriateness of therapy with the ultimate goal of improving the care of the health plan's HIV members. Her team concluded that patients without a recent infectious disease prescriber were more likely to be on an inappropriate

regimen and be non-compliant. Based on their findings, there is a need for pharmacist-provided intervention to address drug interactions, adherence, and prescriber status.

Graduate Students

Lindsay Ferguson and **Diana Pinchevsky** were awarded highly competitive predoctoral fellowships from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Sciences for a 12-month period beginning September 1, 2011. Ferguson works under the direction of Lisa Rohan, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and her research project is titled "Effects of Vaginal Fluid on the Stability of Microbicide Candidates: Pre-clinical

Evaluations and Drug Delivery Strategy Development."

Pinchevsky's research project is titled "Identifying Genetic Factors That Link Depression and Cardiovascular Diseases to Translate the Findings to Biomolecular Pathophysiology Research and Patient Outcomes." She works under the direction of Tanya Fabian, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

Lindsay Ferguson and **Mohammad Shawaqfeh** graduated with a certificate in clinical and translational sciences from the School of Medicine's Institute for Clinical Research Education in the spring of 2011.

Our Students



Members of the 2011–2012 Dean's Advisory Board. Front row, left to right: Kyle McCormick, Alicia Lichvar, Eric Saggio, Molly Wilson, Paula Nociolo. Back row, left to right: Dean Kroboth, Christine Jordan, Trey Draude, Elyse Weitzman, Alexa Benner, Gordon Watkins, Dr. Corey, and Tamiko Yamatani. Not pictured: Amanda Johnson, Shailly Shah, and Alex Gelfand.

Yijun Huang, who works in Professor Alexander Doemling's lab, was awarded Best Podium Presentation at the 44th Mid-Atlantic Graduate Student Symposium (MAGSS) of Medicinal Chemistry. Huang presented his research work on structure-based drug discovery of p53-Mdm2 antagonist, including design and synthesis of small molecules, biochemical evaluations, and ongoing preclinical investigations. MAGSS is the annual conference for graduate students from schools of pharmacy in the Mid-Atlantic region and was held at Duquesne University in June.

Kareem Khoury, has been selected to receive the American Chemical Society Medicinal

Chemistry Fellowship for 2011-2012 for his proposal on small molecule inhibitors for p53/MDM2/MDM4. He was one of three students to be selected from a large number of highly qualified applicants. This is the second year in a row that a graduate student from the University of Pittsburgh has received this fellowship. Khoury is a graduate student in medicinal chemistry working on design and synthesis of small molecule inhibitors for protein-protein interactions under the supervision of Dr. Alexander Doemling.

Diana Pinchevsky and **Mohammad Shawaqfeh** were selected to participate in the Jewish Healthcare Foundation 2011 Patient Safety Fellowship.

They were two of only 21 students in health-related fields from Pittsburgh universities to be accepted. This eight-week summer fellowship champions leadership skills through team-based, problem-solving exercises. In addition, fellows gain the tools and knowledge needed to provide a better standard of care.

A manuscript titled "Partners in Crime: Ubiquitin-Mediated Degradation and Autophagy," authored by **Shashi Sriram** and **Sung Tae Kim**, has been accepted for publication in *Science Signaling* (Vol. 4, Issue 178). This paper highlights emerging evidence on selective autophagy, which is based on the cooperativity between ubiquitin signaling and traditional autophagy components. The authors' dissertation work is related to N-end rule pathway, under the guidance of Yong Tae Kwon, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

Jeremiah Momper, together with faculty mentor Raman Venkataraman, received one of only 75 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Walmart scholarships. The goal of this scholarship program is to strengthen the recipient's skills and commitment to a career in academic pharmacy through participation in programming and activities at the AACP Annual Meeting.

Rebecca Hammond received an NRSA predoctoral Fellowship (F31) for her proposal "The Role of GPR30 in Mediating Estrogen Effects on Neurons and Cognitive Performance." She is a student working under the mentorship of Professor Robert Gibbs.



CDR James Gemelas (BS '88), a member of the United States Public Health Service, was awarded the 2011 Indian Health Service (IHS) Senior Pharmacist of the Year Award. He was recognized for his work with the IHS electronic health record and as the chair of the IHS Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group.

Adam Welch (PharmD '03) president of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA), received the 2011 Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Companies Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award. The award recognizes new pharmacists for their dedication to and participation in PPA, commitment to the practice of pharmacy, and involvement in community activities.

Illiana Janeshek (BS '80) retired after 21 years of service at the CVS pharmacy in McLean, Va.



Jeannine McCune (BS '93) was promoted to professor in the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Washington, in July 1, 2011. She is also an associate member within the Public Health Sciences Division and the Clinical Research Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

David Maszkiewicz (BS '86) was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for being named one of the top ten Kappa Psi Grand Council Deputies. He serves as one of our chapter's advisors.

James Lyon (BS '72), School of Pharmacy clinical pharmacy faculty member from 1974 to 1982, recently accepted a full-time teaching position at the University of North Carolina Wilmington after spending more than 25 years in the Contract Research Organization industry. He will teach in the BS and MS in Clinical Research Program. The program graduates students for careers in the biopharmaceutical clinical research industry.

Left to right:
Jim Gemelas, (BS '88),
Jeannine S. McCune (BS '93)

Krista Pedley (PharmD '00), is a member of the Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC), an organization that was honored in June with one of three Pinnacle Awards given each year by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation. The Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC) is a breakthrough effort to improve the quality of health care across America by integrating evidence-based clinical pharmacy services into the care and management of high-risk, high-cost, complex patients.

Pedley is the director of the Office of Pharmacy Affairs at the Health Resources and Services Administration at the U.S. Public Health Service and a member of the School's Board of Visitors.

Norman R. Farnsworth

March 23, 1930 – September 10, 2011



Former faculty member and alumnus Norman Farnsworth (PhD '59) died on September 10, 2011. Farnsworth was a distinguished alumnus of the School of Pharmacy, Legacy Laureate of the University of Pittsburgh, a wonderful character, an amazing teacher, and an incredible scientist whose NIH funding continued until his death.

Farnsworth spent more than 50 years studying the medicinal properties of plants and was an internationally recognized scholar and initiator or co-initiator of many significant projects in the fields of pharmacognosy and medicinal plant research.

After teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, he accepted a faculty position at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1970 and went on to serve as head of the Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology. In 1988, he was named Senior University Scholar at UIC. He held the title of Distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy from 2001 until his death.

He was a longtime member of the World Health Organizations' Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional Medicine. After becoming involved with the organization as a consultant in the 1980s, Farnsworth saw the organization grow from a single location to its present 18 centers.

He co-founded the American Botanical Council, an independent nonprofit research and education organization, and was the longest-serving member of its board of trustees. In the mid-1990s, he was appointed to President Clinton's Commission on Dietary Supplement Labels and worked to establish require-

ments for supplement manufacturers so consumers would be sure of a safe product.

His research won him many awards, including the Research Achievement Award from the American Society of Pharmacognosy in 2005.

In 2007, he and his wife Priscilla established the Norman R. and Priscilla A. Farnsworth Student Award endowment at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, which provides assistance to students for meritorious achievements, with preference to graduate students working in natural products research.

A larger-than-life figure, he was a man of incredible energy and a profound and endless commitment to the world of medicinal plant research. He was highly respected in life and will be fondly remembered by students, colleagues, and friends.

In Memoriam

Joseph E. Birmingham Jr. '44
Edward E. Collins '51
Norman R. Farnsworth '59
Marc Alan Fry '80
Sheldon D. Ickes '43
Jack Wade Rohland Sr. '67
Thomas J. Simpson '78
Robert J. Sklenar '58

The School mourns the passing of Gary Spierer, a longtime preceptor who worked for Rite Aid. During his 20 plus years as a preceptor, he shared his knowledge of community pharmacy practice with dozens of Pitt students.

Commitment to Pitt Pharmacy Education

Giant Eagle has made a generous gift to support the construction of the Commons that will connect Salk Hall to Salk Pavilion, the research facility also under construction. Giant Eagle's generosity will impact the School by providing students, faculty, and alumni with a place learn, relax, engage in activities, and build friendships.

The decision to make the gift is in step with Giant Eagle's overall commitment to educating pharmacy students and serving the greater Pittsburgh region. "In addition to being committed to the continued education and training of our current pharmacy staffs, we also look to contribute to the development of tomorrow's pharmacists," says Randy Heiser (BS '83), Giant Eagle Pharmacy's director of pharmacy. "We strive to be a contributing member of each community we serve. We do this through the high-quality service, great overall value, and industry-recognized dedication to prescription fulfillment accuracy we deliver every day."

Randy Heiser and John DeJames, Giant Eagle Pharmacy's manager of pharmacy college relations, have spearheaded the company's support of the School of Pharmacy's students and programs. In particular, Giant Eagle's scholarship support has impacted the lives of the 16 Pitt students who have been awarded the Jama Urbanski Key Scholarship, a scholarship established in 1994 to honor a tragically deceased alumna and Giant Eagle employee.

"We are thrilled to be able to make this gift to the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy," says Heiser. "We

admire and appreciate the high level of education the School is providing, and look forward to seeing today's students make a significant impact in our communities in the near future."

The School of Pharmacy's mission includes the key attributes of excellence, innovation, and leadership and extends to our commitment to educate and train the most accomplished young pharmacists and to have the greatest possible impact on quality and vitality of peoples' health. Giant Eagle's gift will serve as a visible representation of our mutual commitment to making a remarkable impact on the lives of pharmacy students and the people of our region which we serve.



Dean Patricia Kroboth presents a gift to Giant Eagle representatives in recognition of Giant Eagle's generous contribution. Left to right: John DeJames, Anthony Mollica (BS '95), Dean Kroboth, Randy Heiser (BS '83), and Senior Associate Dean Randall Smith.

School of Pharmacy Golf Invitational a Success

For the seventh year in a row, the School of Pharmacy Golf Invitational was a resounding success. Thanks to our alumni, friends, and corporate sponsors, more than \$13,000 was raised for student scholarships. We would like to thank all of the businesses who donated prizes and the students who volunteered to help make this year's outing a fun time for all.



Many thanks to our pharmacy students for their help with the golf outing.



Alumni and friends enjoy a day of golf. Left to right: John Poloyac, Brandon Antinopoulos (P2), Jeff Goff (BS '92), and Ron Goff.

Setting a Standard

Class of 2011 Pledge

In an unprecedented act of generosity, the Class of 2011 pledged \$50,000 to support the construction of the Commons. In a letter to Dean Kroboth, class officers Michael Smith, Rhea Santangelo, and Taylor Miller expressed the intent of the class "to make a gift that will benefit all the students who come after us through supporting the construction of the Commons."

Even before discussions of construction began, students had been advocating for a café that served coffee. In recognition of their gift, a café will be constructed in the Commons and will be named in honor the Class of 2011 and its members.

The gift is the largest from any graduating class to date. These young people at the dawn of their careers recognize the importance of giving to make a difference. What an inspiration.



Dean Patricia Kroboth with 2011 class officers, Rhea Santangelo, Taylor Miller, Michael Smith

In Memory Fund

The School of Pharmacy In Memory Award was established in 2005 to provide a deserving pharmacy student with an award in memory of all alumni, families, or friends whose memorial gifts have come to the School of Pharmacy. Gifts have been established to this endowment in memory of the individuals listed. To make a memorial gift, contact Maurissa Vergari at 412-648-0185 or mmv20@pitt.edu.

2006

Kim Lawren Reighard (BS '76)
Samuel P. Conte (BS '41)
Eilene Stauchler Liepack (EDUC '57)
Margaret Madarasz Gerson (BS '52)

2007

Fred G. Gatto
Janet Ball
Carmen Muto
Matthew O. Pecht
Brian Haugh (BS '98)

2008

James C. Meisner (BS '48)
Gerald Paulice
Ethel M. Ritzman (BS '58)
Tara Feroce
H. Lawton Snyder

2009

Robert M. Fry
Frank Ulyan
Rose Borrelli
Patricia Kuchma
Betty Snyder
William F. Roberts Sr.
Bruna Migliorisi

2010

Wendell Bitzer
Juliano Nickoline
Anna M. Taylor
Harry W. Kerr Jr. (BS '58)
Mary Fisher
John H. Christy Jr.
Jean Cohen

2011

Richard Allen Lithgow (BS '50)
Jack Wade Rohland Sr. (BS '67)
C. Leonard O'Connell
Teresa Curcio

Meet Maurissa Vergari

New Development Officer

INVESTING IN
THE FUTURE

The School of Pharmacy welcomes Maurissa Vergari as the director of development. Maurissa is no stranger to Pitt, as she has been with the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation of the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC for the past year working with the School of Medicine. Prior to her work in development, she applied her educational background in communications and business administration to positions as sales and marketing account management in both health IT and health care staffing companies. Maurissa is native of North Apollo, Pa., who has lived and worked throughout the city of Pittsburgh for years. "Pittsburgh is a wonderful city filled with small town values, outstanding people, community

camaraderie, and brilliant minds. I am honored to join the School of Pharmacy and work alongside Dean Kroboth, faculty, staff, and students. I look forward to attaining our goals to increase the facilities available for our students and enhance existing programs. The most rewarding aspect of development is the opportunity to build relationships with my new School of Pharmacy extended family. I am excited to hear individual stories of how the University of Pittsburgh and School of Pharmacy have impacted the lives of our alumni and current students. We too at the School of Pharmacy have a story to be told. I'm thrilled to be part of the story."



Maurissa Vergari
Director of Development

SNAPSHOT FROM PHARMACY'S PAST

During the period of 1862 to 1883, the demands of the Civil War on the Federal Treasury led Congress to pass the Revenue Act of 1862. The government provided the revenue stamps to be affixed to numerous items including proprietary medicines.

Companies could buy stamps from the government or were permitted, at their expense, to have dies engraved and printed with their advertising and used at a discount. These now are known as private die proprietary stamps. Medicines were taxed at the rate of 1 cent for each 25 cents of the retail value. The stamp tax was repealed on March 3, 1883.

William E. Clarke of Providence, R.I., purchased

Private Die Proprietary Stamps

the rights to "The Great Kidney Medicine" from the widow of Mr. Hunt in 1872, and renamed it as "Hunt's Remedy." Sold at 75 cents, it required a 3-cent stamp. The issued design is one of the most popular medicine stamps, with the vignette of a man beating a skeleton with a bottle of Hunt's Remedy. The design was also used by Mr. Clark for a popular trading card and was later used in the design of a U.S. postage stamp in the Celebrate the Century Series commemorating the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

A collection of private die proprietary stamps is on display in the Grimm Museum.

Stanton Jonas (BS '51)
Grimm Museum Curator



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Alumni Society for the 2011-2012 academic year. I am extremely proud to be a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, one of the top pharmacy schools in the country. On behalf of the Alumni Society, I would like to thank you for your commitment and generosity to the School of Pharmacy. Much of what we have been able to accomplish over the years has been directly impacted by you, our alumni. Many of you have given back to the School by lending your time, talents, and resources in teaching, mentoring, and precepting the next generation of pharmacists. Your financial contributions have supported scholarships for students to

study the profession of pharmacy both at home and abroad. If you want to see firsthand the impact that you are having, I invite you to come witness some of the events that our students participate in during the year such as the Career Expo, Career Roundtables, the White Coat Ceremony, and the Scholarship Golf Outing.

The School of Pharmacy continues to be one of the top three schools with a strong alumni engagement within the University of Pittsburgh. While this is an impressive statistic, I believe that there is so much more that can be done. I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you to become more involved in the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society and reconnect with your classmates and with School of Pharmacy faculty, staff, and administrators. RxTravaganza 2012 will be held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall on June 9, 2012. This event promises to once again be a special night, so if you have never attended a gala it is certainly an evening you will enjoy. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dean Kroboth and the members of the Alumni Society Board and with special thanks to Laraine Kuchma, our alumni coordinator, for their time, involvement, and dedication to the School of Pharmacy.

Hail to Pitt!

Tanya J. Fabian (PharmD '98, PhD '03)

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Tanya Fabian shares her expertise with pharmacy students during Career Roundtables 2011.

TELL US ABOUT YOU!

Please send us information about your career advancements, papers presented, honors received, appointments, and further education. We'll include your news in the Alumni section as space allows. Photos are welcome. Please print clearly.

Send us your news by e-mail!
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Name: _____

Degree and Year of Graduation: _____

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Let us know if you belonged to any of the following student organizations. Please check all that apply.

- Kappa Psi Lambda Kappa Sigma - LKS
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Please complete and return to:
 University of Pittsburgh, PITTPharmacy News
 Attn.: Laraine Kuchma
 Suite 1100 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15261
 Phone: 412-648-3304 E-mail: laraine@pitt.edu

Memories of RxTravaganza 2011 (captions)

1. Patsy Buccino, Irene Manios-Buccino (BS '86), Mary Manios, Franklin Manios (BS '57)
2. Diane Ammerman (PharmD '98), David Marks, Iny Marks (PharmD '00), Jamie Montgomery (BS '86)
3. Nelson Berardinelli and Kristen Topolosky (PharmD '07)
4. Seated, left to right: Diane and Al Romaine, Darlene and Shawn Nelson, Jane and Richard Drozd, Lisa Schoedinger. Standing, left to right: Daniel Damratoski (BS '68), Irene Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66), Ed Kroskie, Christine Kroskie (BS '71), Scott Schoedinger
5. Justine Parker (P3), has everyone on their feet enjoying the music as she accompanies Gary Racan and the studio-e band.
6. Colin Kirkwood, Nancy Kirkwood, and James Kirkwood (BS '65)
7. Ronald Cameron (BS '57) and Sookie Cameron
8. Renée Juhl (BS '78) and Susan Meyer
9. School of Pharmacy's 50th Reunion Class of 1961. Left to right: John McNamara, R. Lee Bloom, and spouse, Margaret Namadan Leonard, Richard Goldstein, Louise Cuccarese Mancini, Frances Mazur Edwards, William Kennedy Sr.
10. Phillip McGivney, Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98), Kelly Stell Bobby (PharmD '03), Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07), and Michael McGrath
11. Scott Wilson and Tiffany Dawson (P2)
12. Alumni and friends enjoy the elegant gala atmosphere of the Omni William Penn Hotel Ballroom.



Stay updated with School of Pharmacy events and happenings.
 Look for us on Facebook: www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/facebook
 Keep current by sending your E-mail address to laraine@pitt.edu

The School of Pharmacy Web site is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with all that is happening at the School. We invite you to visit the Web site at:
www.pharmacy.pitt.edu.



University of Pittsburgh

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SAVE THE DATE!

Join Us!
June 9, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

RxTRAVAGANZA 2012

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
MEMORIAL HALL
OAKLAND

The
**Ninth Annual
School of Pharmacy
Golf Invitational**

**Friday, May 18, 2012
Quicksilver Golf Club
Midway, PA**

*Benefits Student
Scholarships*