

PITT Pharmacy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

SPRING 2011

SALK HALL ADDITION AND UPGRADE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PITTSBURGH, PA 15260

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VOLUME 1 OF 2



Ballinger



Dear Friends,

In his book *Outliers: The Story of Success*, the popular author Malcolm Gladwell makes the case that extraordinary success is a combination of talent, opportunity, and the preparedness of at least 10,000 hours of intensive work. Gladwell relays a fascinating analysis of historical and contemporary figures and calls upon the work of others to arrive at his conclusion.

In each of the *Pitt Pharmacy* issues including this one, we provide glimpses into the work of a few faculty or alumni members of our extended Pitt Pharmacy family. Theirs are stories of innovation and leadership. Theirs are stories of extraordinary success that results from that combination of talent, opportunity, and at least 10,000 hours of intensive work that Gladwell describes.

And what about our students? Will they also achieve extraordinary success? Each person in each class is admitted to the School of Pharmacy because of his or her talent. The School fosters the values of passion, commitment, and diligence. Each student pharmacist graduates from Pitt with a superb education that is second to none and that is the hallmark of a Pitt diploma—replete with pharmacy science, clinical, and professional skills. Our graduates have the talent and they have the education. As health care evolves ever more rapidly due to economic, political, and patient access factors, our graduates also have expanded opportunity. Your own intuition confirms what Gladwell's numbers state: the new graduates will have impact upon graduation, but will have to cultivate their talent for 10,000 hours to achieve extraordinary success.

I ask each of you to reach out to our students and the young pharmacists around you. Be a part of the network that helps them find the opportunities; give them the encouragement to cultivate their personal niches in health care. The opportunities to solve problems for patients and for our health care systems are great. Together, let's continue to achieve and continue to build on our legacy of excellence, innovation, and leadership—and to assure that extraordinary success stories continue from our School of Pharmacy.

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After the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony in February, P1 students strike a happy pose. Left to right: Anna Bondar, Samantha Becker, Jonathan Lucas, Sajid Ahmed, and Ravi Patel.

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On the Cover:

Clockwise from top left: Paul Schiff, professor, pharmaceutical sciences; Kerry Empey, assistant professor, pharmacy and therapeutics, Song Li, associate professor, pharmaceutical sciences; Wen Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences; Janie Bradish, director of space management; and Samuel Poloyac, associate professor, pharmaceutical sciences

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New Digs

School of Pharmacy Expands Its Footprint with New State-of-the-Art Research Building

In Sam Poloyac's laboratory at Salk Hall, work is accomplished in time to the constant tick-ticking of a piston pump tank that boosts house air pressure to the required 90 lbs. necessary to run his nitrogen generator.

For reasons that nobody has ever fully understood, the air pressure only reaches 90 lbs. on floors five and below at Salk Hall; in Poloyac's eighth-floor lab, it's a paltry 50 lbs. The only way that can happen is if there is a regulator somewhere in the walls of the building, but nobody has ever been able to find it. So Poloyac and his team make do with the ticking.

Fortunately, those days of working alongside what amounts

to a metronome are numbered. Poloyac, an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, will be one of the faculty members moving to the School of Pharmacy's new home adjacent to Salk Hall, where groundbreaking began earlier this year.

"It's very exciting," says Lisa Rohan, also an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, who participated in faculty meetings contributing ideas to the new building's architects. "The acquisition of this additional space is so critical to the growth of this pharmacy school. It's already excellent and nationally recognized, but the availability of this additional space is just so key."

A bridge to the future

Known informally as Salk Pavilion, the new building has a targeted completion date of January 2013 and will be connected to Salk Hall through a bridge—something Rohan sees as an important factor in unifying the two facilities.

For Poloyac, who contributed to the layout of part of one floor, the new building's open-space format is one of its most valuable features. Labs will no longer be separated by walls, benches assigned to various faculty will be contiguous, and instrumentation and tissue culture rooms will be shared by everyone on the same floor. The idea is to encourage more collaboration among faculty.



Architects meet with University and School personnel to discuss plans for the Salk Pavilion. From left to right: Colleen Ramsay Hoesch, AIA, project manager, planning, design and construction, Facilities Management; Wen Xie, professor, School of Pharmacy; Patricia Kroboth, dean, School of Pharmacy; Janie Bradish, director of space management, School of Pharmacy; Lisa Rohan, associate professor, School of Pharmacy; Mark Phillips, RA, project coordinator and space planner, Office of Research, Health Sciences; Song Li, associate professor, School of Pharmacy; and Ballanger architects Stephen Bartlett, AIA, associate principal; Kenneth Gardiner, AIA, senior associate; Ben Patane, AIA, associate

"The nice part is that's kind of the way we function on the eighth floor now. But we still have wall separation, so there's not the resource sharing that we could have," explains Poloyac, who adds that Pitt's new Biomedical Science Tower 3, or BST3, is similarly designed.

"The open lab format is pretty much the exclusive format of the pharmaceutical industry," he says. "It will increase collaboration within our own School and faculty for sure."

"This is going to make our research more efficient, so we will increase our productivity."
—Song Li

He teaches an interdisciplinary course, *Introduction to Translational Research in the Health Sciences*, that includes students from medicine, nursing, public health, dentistry, and pharmacy. Though the course currently is given at the Parkvale Building, Poloyac hopes to move it to the Salk Pavilion.

Wen Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, agrees that the open lab format will enhance faculty relationships.

"People need to talk, they need to learn from each other," he says. "We do have some vehicles to do that, like lab meetings, but the daily interaction—and the sharing of some equipment—sounds trivial, but it can be quite critical... When you have an open lab, you can talk about the research on a daily basis, and that can stimulate some ideas."



The New Building at a Glance

Here is a thumbnail description of the new School of Pharmacy building, designed by Philadelphia-based architect Ballinger with the input of the School's faculty:

A home by any other name: The new building, as yet unnamed, is known informally as the research tower or Salk Pavilion.

Location, location, location: The building will stand adjacent to Salk Hall, and the two will be connected in two places—the first-floor Commons and a bridge that will link the fifth floor of Salk Hall to the second floor of the new building.

Size matters: The new building will be five stories tall and encompass 80,000 gross square feet.

Creature comforts: The Commons will feature a café, while Salk Hall will continue to serve as the home of working laboratories, office, and classroom space.

Going green: The project goal is to obtain LEED™ silver certification, which recognizes sustainability and other environmentally-friendly features.

Opening day: The anticipated opening of the new tower is January 2013.

The collaborative approach will strengthen the research, says Poloyac, because answering a question from multiple viewpoints is more thorough.

"Research in general is creative whenever it crosses boundaries," he explains. "If you can draw from multiple techniques—molecular biology along with analytical chemistry—it makes for more interesting research."

Efficiency experts

Faculty point to clever designs that maximize the use of lab space instead of trying to retrofit their needs to the available rooms in Salk Hall. For example, Song Li, an associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, recalls how one faculty member recommended that a refrigerator be located under a bench to keep frequently used items handy without sacrificing much cabinet space.

New Digs

School of Pharmacy Expands Its Footprint with New State-of-the-Art Research Building (continued)

Members of the School of Pharmacy faculty and staff that contributed in the planning of research facilities for Salk Pavilion:

Wen Xie

Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie

Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dexi Liu

Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Yong Tae Kwon

Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Song Li

Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Samuel Poloyac

Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Lisa Rohan

Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Kerry Empey

Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Philip Empey

Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Thomas Nolin

Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Janie Bradish

Director of Space Management

"This is going to make our research more efficient, so we will increase our productivity," he says.

Li, a biologist, studies drug delivery systems with the help of tissue cultures and animal specimens. Dissection in the old lab is "really not the best environment to do this type of research," he says, adding that it will be a significant improvement to put dissection microscopes in a dedicated room.

Faculty expect the new building will enhance the student experience as well. On the first floor where the two buildings are joined, the pavilion will have a common area, possibly including a coffee shop, to create a more casual conversation space.

"When faculty are in their office working, they're less approachable," says Poloyac. By providing a space to allow less formal interactions, students can forge better relationships with both classmates and professors.

Climate control

The modern design is expected to attract more students and faculty, particularly when coupled with the features of BST3.

For his part, Poloyac is particularly excited about the environmental upgrades that come from moving out of a World War II-era building into one designed with conservation in mind.

"Two things are going to happen: one, we'll have great space. But two, they'll be upgrading it to be more energy efficient and green compliant," he says.

Li agrees. Look up the walls of Salk Hall, and you see bulky air conditioners that work erratically.

"Our building is old," says Li. "It has some history, but we don't even have central air, which is

really a factor for research. One place is too cold, and another is too hot."

The new building will offer a better climate, as well as the space the School needs to expand its footprint in pharmacy education and research.

"We're like the turtle on steroids, we have nowhere to go in this building," jokes Poloyac.

According to Rohan, the School's pressing need for space is a reflection on the growth and prominence of its programs.

With "the excellence the pharmacy school has achieved, growth is going to be an outcome," she says.

"The sharing of some equipment—sounds trivial, but it can be quite critical..."

When you have an open lab, you can talk about the research on a daily basis, and that can stimulate some ideas."

—Wen Xie

The Man Behind the Multiple Choice

Schiff Reflects on Four Decades with the School of Pharmacy

Paul Schiff likes to say he's a man from a different generation than that of the students he teaches, born before many antibiotics were developed, and more concerned with being presentable than being cool.

When he wakes up each morning at 5:30, he puts on a suit — something that matches without his giving it much thought. Occasionally he'll mix things up a bit and switch to a sport jacket and slacks; eventually, he moves from white shirts to colors; and during the summer, he's in short sleeves and khakis. ("Let the women in your life who love you buy your clothes," he advises his male students. "They want you to look good.")

So when the School of Pharmacy offered a tutorial on appropriate professional attire for P1 students, Schiff, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences, seemed a natural for the task. What nobody expected was his approach.

Clad in a pair of old jeans, sneakers, a sweatshirt, hat, and sunglasses, Schiff shuffled out onto the stage, spun his hat around backward, and pulled out his shirttail. Then he turned around, pulled his pants down far enough to make his point, but just short of being indecent, and walked back offstage. He brought the house down.

"Probably most of them thought, 'This is the last guy who would do this,'" laughs Schiff. And they were right.

"In our society, I think it's important to have as much of a direct hand in helping patients understand medications, and how they should use them, and when they should use them."

—Paul Schiff

A lark, an offer, and the beginnings of a career

A Midwesterner born at the tail end of the Depression, Schiff, 71, arrived at the University of Pittsburgh in the summer of 1970 to take advantage of an unusual professional opportunity: running what was then the Department of Pharmacognosy, or the study of drugs that originate with microbes, plants, and animals.

At the time, Schiff was only about six months into his new job on the faculty of the University of Mississippi, and he really had no intention of moving.

"Never take an interview on a lark," he now tells his students. He knew that the other candidates who were interviewing for the job were more senior to him, but "I figured—you'll pardon the expression—what the hell. It's good experience."

What he didn't realize was that the more senior candidates declined their offers, and there was no fourth choice. There was only Schiff, a few years out of pharmacy school himself. So he took the job.



Paul Schiff

"To come to an empty department and be able to recruit pretty much whomever you wanted, that was really compelling," he says.

So he and his wife, Lois, packed up and went to Pittsburgh. His first order of business was to recruit his dearest friend from graduate school along with a promising graduate student he'd met at Ole Miss. Together, Schiff, Joseph Knapp, and David Slatkin became known by various nicknames to classes that graduated in the 1970s and '80s: the Three Stooges and the Terrible Three were the ones that stuck.

Though only Schiff still remains at Pitt, they taught through decades that preceded clinical

The Man Behind the Multiple Choice

Schiff Reflects on Four Decades with the School of Pharmacy
(continued)



Schiff at his best—in the classroom.

pharmacy, pharmacy practice, or disease management in the curriculum. Schiff recalls how, as a student, he was still compounding drugs and physically handling ingredients—tasks that today are completed mostly by the pharmaceutical industry. Then, over time, pharmacy evolved to more of a patient-centered profession, and the School's coursework reflected that change.

"In our society, I think it's important to have as much of a direct hand in helping patients understand medications, and

how they should use them, and when they should use them," says Schiff. "I'm really very happy to see a lot of our people in key positions that deal with therapeutic management of different patients and helping make decisions with regard to medication management."

'Schiff Happens'

Teaching methods changed, too. Schiff's students in the early part of his career were willing to challenge their professors, "but as long as you knew your stuff and

put your foot down appropriately, collegially, you were fine."

Professors who weren't up to snuff would "be challenged right off the stage," he says, a marked contrast from his own pharmacy school experience, when "we would have placidly sat there and listened to Genghis Khan and taken notes."

Schiff became famous for his difficult multiple-choice quizzes, which include what he calls cause/effect questions: he gives the student a statement, followed by the word *because*, followed by five choices. The student then must

“If I have the love of family, there’s only one other thing that really counts, and that’s touching the lives of other people. If you can somehow make them richer, then you’re living a great life.”

—Paul Schiff

determine whether the statements are true and causally related, true and unrelated, or false.

One year, students printed up T-shirts that bore a sample of his signature questions and the logo “Schiff Happens.”

According to Schiff, some of the School’s administrators thought he might take offense. They needn’t have worried. He bought three shirts and “would have bought more, but they ran out.”

One of his greatest delights is watching his students grow in their careers. As a member of the dietary supplements committee of the *U.S. Pharmacopeia*, Schiff sometimes travels to its headquarters in Rockville, Md., where a former student now works as Schiff’s section head.

“Here, the teacher now works for the student, who is now the teacher,” says Schiff. “I think that’s the way it’s supposed to be.”

Return of the teacher

Though he came to Pitt as an administrator, at his core, Schiff was always fundamentally a teacher. When the School reorganized its departments in the 1980s, he became chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, stabilizing the merger of several separate disciplines under one umbrella. But in June 1996, he stepped aside.

When asked why, he recalls an occasion where he walked into David Slatkin’s office and noticed a pile of items on his friend’s desk, including some classroom notes, spectral data, and professional education materials.

“He made the comment, “I don’t want to be doing this for the rest of my life,”” recalls Schiff, meaning teaching, research, and service. Slatkin had ambitions to become an administrator, something Schiff, who was a chairman, lacked. It illustrated for him that it was time to get back to his true loves, teaching and research.

From August 1993 to January 1996, he tied up loose ends (“I’m a guy who likes to leave the barn swept,” he says), and only his wife and then-dean Randy Juhl knew that he was leaving his position as department chair.

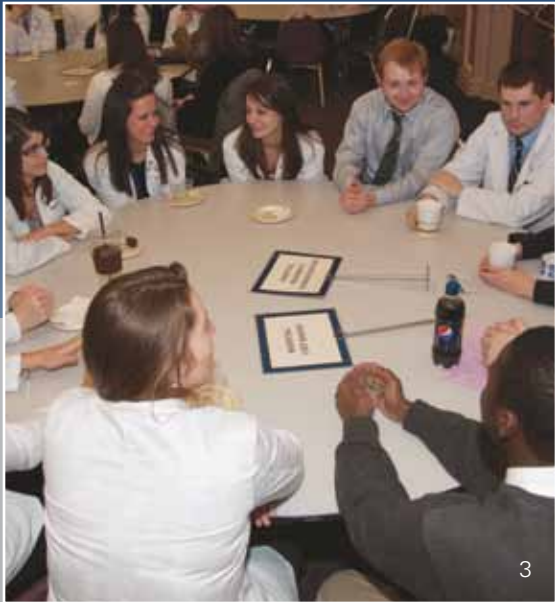
His personal life had undergone some changes, too. Shortly after giving birth to their third child, Lois died from breast cancer. Schiff met another faculty member at the School of Pharmacy, Denise Howrie, and they got married. Denise raised the young boy, also named Paul, and in 1992, the couple had a daughter, Mary. (Schiff’s older daughters, Anne-Marie Iten and Elizabeth Massa, are both pharmacists.) Denise, an associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, became the School’s assistant dean for academic affairs.

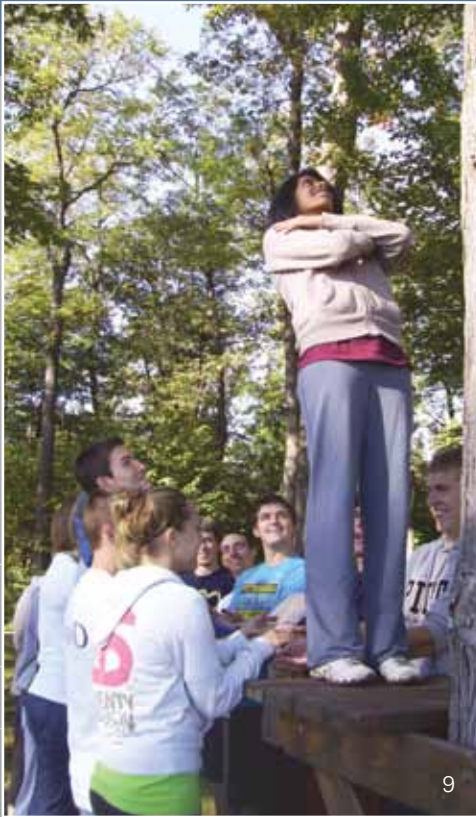
“I was really blessed,” says Schiff.

He threw himself into teaching with a vengeance. Currently, he teaches in nine separate courses, two of which he also coordinates.

“I like to be busy, and I love teaching. Always have,” says Schiff. “Let’s put it this way. If I have the love of family, there’s only one other thing that really counts, and that’s touching the lives of other people. If you can somehow make them richer, then you’re living a great life.”

Photographic Memories





See page 27 for captions.

Our School



Anna Stracci

The School of Pharmacy's student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists co-hosted the 2nd Annual Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy Student Research Symposium, held in October.

The Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program received two awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative at its third cohort in October in Dallas. The awards included the Outstanding Performance Award in collaboration with North Side Christian Health Center and the Clinical Pharmacy Services Improvement Award and the Health Outcome Management Award in collaboration with the Program for Health Care to Underserved Populations Birmingham Free Clinic.

Anna Stracci, registrar and academic advisor for the School of Pharmacy, was recognized by the University for her 40 years of service at a special reception in December that honored long-term Pitt staff.

The Fifth Annual Preceptor Program and Dinner was held at the University Club on January 25, 2011. The School recognized preceptors for their valuable contributions to the PharmD program. Preceptors also enjoyed a continuing education presentation by Kathie Simpson, RN, executive director of the SARPH Pennsylvania Peer Assistance Program.

The School of Pharmacy held the Ninth Annual Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony on February 4, 2011. During the ceremony, students were individu-



Students meet with Koch lecturer Stephen Schondelmeyer. Seated: Schondelmeyer (center) with Rho Chi faculty advisors Susan Meyer and Susan Skledar. Second row, left to right: P2 students Elyse Weitzman, Natalie Capozzolo, Lindsay McCartney, and Cari Cline. Back row, left to right: P3 students Rebecca Crooks, Daniel Yarabinec, and Brendan Dimond.



James Pschirer, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics; Patricia Kroboth, dean; guest speaker Kathie Simpson, SARPH; and Susan Meyer, associate dean for education.

ally garbed in a white clinician's coat and declared their commitment to integrity, ethical behavior, and honor by reciting the pledge of professionalism. At this year's ceremony, 109 students received their white coats.

Stephen Schondelmeyer, professor and head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Care and Health Systems at the University of

Minnesota College of Pharmacy, presented the 2011 Julius A. Koch Memorial Lecture, "Health Reform, Pharmacy & Beyond," on March 22 in Scaife Hall. Schondelmeyer reviewed contemporary issues related to health care delivery and health care reform to an audience of more than 250 faculty members and students.

Jane of All Trades: Bradish keeps facilities, budget running smoothly

This is how Janie Bradish's Friday morning is going: the landlord at the Parkvale Building is calling to complain about a cage of parakeets that a professor is keeping in his newly relocated office. Five minutes into the conversation, she is interrupted by a health and safety officer who tells her another professor's worries about a potential "sick building" are unfounded, and a little dusting should clear up the problem.

Seamlessly, and with good humor, Bradish navigates the obstacles that are bound to occur when you are the steward of a 1940s-era building that is home to cutting-edge scientific research. When the air conditioners don't work, the faucets leak, the carpet is worn or equipment needs to be moved, everyone at the School of Pharmacy observes one rule: call Janie.

Since July 1988, Bradish has been at the School, all but six months of which have been dedicated to maintaining the School's physical space in its beloved Salk Hall and other buildings, including the new state-of-the-art pavilion that is under construction on a lot adjacent to Salk. Asked her for her job title, and she has to first check her business card (for the record, it's director of space management and departmental budgets—"and anything else that needs done," she adds).

"I have touched every room that the School of Pharmacy is responsible for in this building," she says. "Carpet, paint, water leaks ... everybody's always too hot, too cold. We've had several water leaks going down to the dental dean's area. People leave faucets running overnight."

On one particularly memorable day, "I had a radiator explode," she recalls. "That was a very, very interesting time." The explosion "just cremated all the equipment in the lab."

Making space

Though she handles often-frustrating problems with a sense of humor, she allows that "there are days that I want to scream, but I try my best." There are faculty members who have been relocated and refused to talk to her for years, even though such decisions ultimately lie with the dean. And there was the endless dithering over the logistics of moving a mass spectrometer from Biomedical Sciences Tower 3 to Salk Hall.

"At one point in time, we threatened to push it up the street ourselves," says Bradish, until the job finally got done.

She assigns a lot of the credit for her ability to do her job to those who help her, particularly the staff in Facilities Management and Michele Chamberlain, who often stands in for Bradish when Bradish is dealing with the construction of the new five-story pavilion. And she credits Dean Patricia Kroboth with realizing the necessity for renovation and new construction to house a first-rate pharmacy program.

"She really envisions the School moving forward, but she doesn't forget the fact that you have to have nice space to move forward," Bradish says.

The pavilion is among the most exciting projects Bradish has handled, because it has been so highly anticipated.

"This being an old building, we're maxed out electrically, and our



Janie Bradish

hood ventilation isn't what it needs to be," she says.

The new building is expected to solve many of those problems.

"It's just so nice to be able to have state-of-the-art research space," Bradish says. "We have some really talented, high-end researchers who have been working in less than optimal space. This new building gives us a chance to say, 'Yes, you have room for your freezers, and life is going to be so good.'"

Bradish will be among those who remain in Salk Hall, but she doesn't mind. The eleventh floor, where she works, was remodeled about three years ago, and she's content to remain there until she retires.

Our School



Maria Osborne



Michael Armahizer



Shailly Shah (P3), Tucci Lecturer David Angaran, and Elyse Weitzman (P2)

Shailly Shah (P3) and Elyse Weitzman (P2) presented David Angaran, director of the Medication Therapy Management Call Center and professor at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, with a gift in appreciation of his presentation at the School's annual Tucci Lecture. Angaran gave his talk, "A Student-Staffed MTM Call Center: 3000 Calls and 2000 Stories," on January 26, 2011. The Tucci Lecture provides a forum for nationally recognized speakers to visit the Pitt campus to discuss issues of interest to pharmacy.

Residents

Michael Armahizer, critical care PGY2 resident, presented his PGY1 research project "Evaluating the occurrence of QT prolongation resulting from drug-drug interactions" at the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Annual Congress in January. His abstract was ranked in the top five percent of those submitted to SCCM, qualifying him as a research citation finalist. Based on his oral presentation at the SCCM Annual Congress, he received the research citation award. His mentors on this project were Associate Professors Sandra Kane-Gill and Amy Seybert, and Assistant Professor Pamela Smithburger.

Maria Osborne, a 2009 community pharmacy practice residency graduate, was honored by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association as the 2010 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of Pennsylvania. Osborne is currently a clinical pharmacist with two family physician practices through a partnership with UPMC St. Margaret and UPMC Health Plan.

Deceased Former Faculty and Staff Members

John Fischer, PharmD, MS (Drug Information and Library Science)

John joined the School of Pharmacy as assistant professor of clinical and community pharmacy in 1976 and assumed the responsibility as the director of the newly established Drug Information Center. John passed away in 2010.

Theodore (Ted) Bates, PhD

Ted's career spanned 44 years beginning at CIBA Pharmaceutical Company and included several academic appointments. Ted joined the School of Pharmacy as chair of the Department of Pharmaceutics in 1979. He left Pitt in 1984 to assume the position of professor of pharmaceutics and chair of the Division of Pharmaceutics at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Texas Southern University. Ted passed away in January 2011.

Wilma Friday

Wilma was a longtime administrative secretary in the School's Office of the Dean. She worked with Dean Joseph Bianculli, Interim Dean Balwant Dixit, and Dean Lewis Dittert. Wilma passed away in January 2011.

Our Faculty

Promotions

Brian Potoski (PharmD '99) has been promoted to the rank of associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics as of March 1, 2011.

Wen Xie has been promoted to the rank of professor of pharmaceutical sciences as of April 1, 2011.

Grants

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation has approved a grant to the School of Pharmacy for a one-year demonstration project titled "Pharmacists as Advocates in Care Transitions." The principal investigators are **Patricia Kroboth** (MS '80, PhD '83), dean of the School of Pharmacy, and **Kim Coley** (BS '87), professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. This project aims to develop, implement, and assess a model of care that incorporates a pharmacist advocate in the care transition team. This new model will focus on empowering patients to manage their medications and health effectively once discharged from the hospital. The ultimate goal is to prevent hospital readmissions.

Song Li, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Polymeric System for Synergistic Targeting of AR Signaling in Prostate Cancer." The purpose of this study is to develop a combined therapeutics that is synergistically targeted at the androgen receptor signaling in prostate cancer. Successful completion of this study may lead to the development of a novel therapy for the management of advanced prostate cancer.

Brian Potoski (PharmD '99), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was awarded a grant from Wayne State University for "High-Dose Daptomycin for Enterococcal Infections." This project is designed to evaluate up to 25 case studies for the safety and efficacy of high-dose daptomycin therapy in patients with enterococcal infections in a large multi-center cohort of patients.

Wen Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for "The Regulation of Human Hydroxysteroid Sulfotransferase by Nuclear Receptor ROR." The goal of this project is to study the regulation of the human hydroxysteroid sulfotransferase (SULT2A1), a Phase II drug-metabolizing enzyme, by the retinoid-related orphan receptors (RORs). Results from this study may help to understand the role of RORs in the interindividual variation of SULT2A1 gene expression and the propensity to cholestasis in patients.

News

Billy Day, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was elected the 2011–2012 chairperson-elect of the steering committee of the Chemistry in Cancer Research (CICR) Working Group of the American Association for Cancer Research. The mission of the CICR is to promote the future success of cancer research and AACR through the scholarly exchange of chemistry-related information within the community of researchers that utilize chemical sciences and technologies in accomplishing their objectives.

Day was named to a three-year term as associate editor of the journal *Toxicology in Vitro* beginning March 1, 2011.

Alexander Doemling, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to spend a week at the University of Calicut, Kerala, South India, to teach MCR chemistry and drug discovery. Doemling also was chosen to present a lecture as part of the University of Pittsburgh's Senior Vice Chancellor's Research Seminar 2011 Program. He presented "Lessons in Drug Design" in January.

Scott Drab (BS '89), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was interviewed recently by several local news stations. He was interviewed for a segment on KDKA-TV about how people split pills to save money. He also appeared on WTAE-TV in a report on herbal supplements and on WPXI-TV in a report on generic vs. brand names.

Carl Gainor (BS '66, MS '69, PhD '72), professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, lives in Florida but travels on the major airlines to Pittsburgh each week during the fall term to teach Pharmacy Law. What most people do not know is that Gainor also holds a commercial pilot license and has accumulated almost 2,000 hours of flight time. He flies his own airplanes for pleasure as frequently as possible. Last November, he was invited by the Navy's Blue Angels precision flying team to fly with one of their pilots in an F-18 Hornet fighter jet. The invitation was in recognition of both his educational commitment for more than 30 years to pharmacy students at various colleges of



Scott Drab



Billy Day

Our Faculty



Blue Angels Flight team member with Carl Gainor.

pharmacy and his participation in aviation camps for middle and high school students.

Barry Gold, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his distinguished contributions to the fields of cancer pharmacology, environmental carcinogenesis, and medicinal chemistry. His research interests are related to designing, synthesizing, and characterizing small-molecule anticancer drugs, particularly those that influence DNA repair pathways. Gold participated as a mentor for high school teachers as part of the mentoring program of the Society for the Advancement of Native Americans and Chicanos in Science and is on the minority affairs committee of the Biophysical Society. He has been the lead inventor for three patents and has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers.

Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07), visiting assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, has been selected as one of the 10 honorable mention awardees for the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) One-to-One Counseling Program. She will be profiled in *Pharmacy Today* and was a guest of honor at the One-To-One Awards reception dinner at the APhA Annual Meeting in March.

Sandra Kane-Gill, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was invited to give two presentations at the 40th Society of Critical Care Medicine Critical Care Congress held in San Diego in January. The topics of her presentations were "CPOE and Clinical Decision Support—Knowing the Limits" and "Answers to Challenging Pharmacotherapeutic Questions: Which Drug for Routine Sedation?" She also presented four research posters at the meeting.

Susan Meyer, professor and associate dean for education, was recognized by the School's American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter as Faculty Member of the Year. The group's executive board selected Meyer for the award, recognizing her contributions to pharmacy students as well as her enthusiasm for promoting interprofessional engagement across the health sciences. Meyer was also elected the 2011 Council of Deans secretary for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Among the interests of this Council are the educational policies, the internal administration of colleges/schools, and relationships to other elements of the community of higher education and to society at large.

Thomas Nolin (PharmD '99, PhD '03), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was one of 20 individuals invited to participate in the Acute Dialysis

Our Faculty

Quality Initiative International Consensus Conference on Blood Purification in Toxicology titled "The Dialysis and Other Extracorporeal Treatments in Drug Overdose (DEXTRO) Workgroup," held in October in Denver, Colo. Experts in the areas of nephrology, toxicology, critical care, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, toxicokinetics, epidemiology, and statistics have joined together to develop clinical recommendations for the use of extracorporeal therapies in the setting of acute xenobiotic toxicity.

Samuel Poloyac (BS '93), associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to be a featured speaker for the University of Pittsburgh's Alumni Lecture Series. He presented a lecture entitled "Early Intervention in Stroke: a Lifesaving Approach" at the University Club in February.

Brian Potoski (PharmD '99), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received the 2010 Jerry Siegel Clinical Achievement Award from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The award recognizes a graduate of The Ohio State University Medical Center pharmacy residency program who has advanced clinical service by expanding or creating venues of practice, advanced the base of knowledge by scholarly activity in research and literature, and contributed to the education of health care students and residents.

Janice Pringle, research associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was invited to present "Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment Methods (SBIRT)" at grand rounds at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta in September. The primary goal of the medical residency SBIRT is to develop and implement training programs to teach medical residents the skills to provide evidence-based screening, brief intervention, brief treatment, and referral to treatment for patients who have, or are at risk for, substance use disorders.

Kristine Schonder, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, has been selected as a co-chair of the National Quality Forum steering committee for end-stage renal disease. The steering committee will endorse measures relating to health care for patients with kidney disease. These measures are expected to become the national standards used by regulatory authorities. Schonder is the only pharmacist to serve on the steering committee and the first pharmacist to serve as co-chair of the committee.

Susan Skledar (BS '88), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was a member of the interdisciplinary health care team at UPMC that was the 2010 silver winner of the Teamwork Excellence in Healthcare Award from the Fine Foundation and Jewish Healthcare Foundation. The project, "Venous Thromboembolism Prevention," was a collaborative effort to ensure that hospitalized patients receive appropriate and timely prophylaxis for prevention of thromboembolic events and also proper education on use of their anticoagulant medications after hospitalization.

Pamela Smithburger (PharmD '07), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received board certification from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties as a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. Smithburger was also appointed chair-elect of the Safety Committee of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Section of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Raman Venkataramanan, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was awarded the prestigious American Pharmacists Association Tyler Prize for Stimulation of Research. Presented every three years, the Tyler Prize recognizes individuals for encouraging research by peers, students, fellows, residents, and others through publications or by directing research, serving as a preceptor, or mentoring in any discipline of the pharmaceutical sciences. Venkataramanan was also recently appointed editor in chief of the *American Journal of Analytical Chemistry*.



Top to bottom:
Thomas Nolin, Barry
Gold, Susan Skledar

Our Faculty

Technology and Faculty



Left to right: Amy Calabrese Donihi, Sandra Kane-Gill, and Tara Pummer

Technology in the classroom is a challenge met by every faculty member, but several innovative instructors are motivating our students in new ways and meeting the challenge of pharmacy education in 2011.

Amy Calabrese Donihi, associate professor, pharmacy and therapeutics

"In the gastroenterology/nutrition course that I have coordinated since 2002, I replaced traditional in-class lectures with on-demand lecture videos using voice-over power point slides. I post these on CourseWeb for students to view prior to class. Class time is now exclusively used for students to work through patient cases and practice application of materials presented in the videos. For instance, for the GERD/PUD module, videos regarding the anatomy, physiology, epidemiology, signs and symptoms, aggravating factors, diagnosis, and complications were viewed. Then, during class, students were introduced to several patients who presented with symptoms of GERD or PUD. The students evaluated each patient

and determined whether each was appropriate for self-care or if the patient should be referred to a physician or the emergency room. During the next week, students watched videos covering treatment options for GERD and PUD and also performed research to determine how patients with these conditions should be counseled. In class, the students worked in groups to make therapeutic recommendations and provide patient education for the patients they had met the previous week. This allows students to receive didactic information on demand, based on their own available time, and produces a more interactive and enriched classroom experience."

Sandra Kane-Gill, associate professor, pharmacy and therapeutics

"I am the co-coordinator of an acute care simulation elective with Drs. Seybert and Smithburger in which we use high-fidelity mannequins to teach critical care pharmacotherapy concepts. While always looking to incorporate additional technology into the course, we developed a dual immersive approach that incorporates online lecture material before the application of concepts with simulation during contact hours. This approach maximizes the time that the students spend on task with simulated life-like cases. This year we have incorporated the use of handheld and mobile devices. We want to enhance the student's critical thinking so we only provide diagnostic and laboratory tests as students request them. This really gets the students thinking about how to analyze the patient case. We deliver the test results via a free app called "Bump" to

their handheld device. We have discovered "bumping" promotes critical thinking, saves time and its fun! The process also simulates working in a paperless chart environment, helping acquaint students with other new technologies."

Tara Pummer, assistant professor, pharmacy and therapeutics

"A great success has been a blog I started for the P1 students, designed to help them track literature and add content regarding medications and disease management called The Daily Dose, www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/DailyDose.

Students created Google Reader accounts and added subscriptions for FDA MedWatch, Physician's First Watch, Medscape, and two peer-reviewed journals, in addition to our blog. They review the postings from these subscriptions, and when they see an interesting topic/alert/article, they post about it on the blog, posing some questions they are interested in having answered. If they found the topic has already been added to the blog, they comment on the original posting.

Blogs and RSS subscriptions are an increasingly valuable source of news and information, which will over time, replace paper magazines. This project instills the value of keeping up with new information in pharmacy/medicine. It will be something the students can continue to do throughout their schooling and carry with them as lifelong learners."



Top, left to right:
Eric Gardner (P4),
Indrani Kar (P2),
Elyse Weitzman (P2)
Bottom, left to
right: Anna Bodnar
(P1), Nicholas
Wytiaz (P3)



Anna Bondar (P1) participated as a member of the panel “Localized Perspectives on Globalized Concerns” and gave a presentation at the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies Annual Conference: Globalization and Well-Being in Latin America (MACLAS). Bondar’s presentation “Self Medication: Healthcare Choices in a Decentralized System,” stemmed from a six-week field research group project conducted in Leon, Nicaragua, last summer sponsored by the University’s Center for Latin American Studies. The project dealt with the residents’ perceptions of Western pharmaceuticals versus natural medicine and the decision-making processes involved.

Eric Gardner (P4) is a co-author on the first guideline put forth by the Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (CPIC) of the National Institutes of Health’s Pharmacogenomics Research Network. “Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium Guidelines for Thiopurine Methyltransferase Genotype and Thiopurine Dosing” was published in the March 2011 issue of *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

Indrani Kar (P2) was selected to serve on the national American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists Awards Standing Committee. Her one-year term begins in July.

Pharmacy students **Indrani Kar (P2)**, **Corrine Martenak (P2)**, **Andrew Clark (P3)**, **Eric Gardner (P4)**, and **Diana Pinchevsky** (graduate student) were recipients of the 2010 Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Jonas Salk Fellowship. This fellowship, a JHF educational program, co-sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law, is offered to current or recent graduate students in health-related disciplines. Facilitated by JHF staff, the fellowship’s aim is to give students in health-related disciplines a venue to explore issues of revolutionary change in medicine and public health through discussions, reflections, and interactions with experts and peers about their respective experiences and documented change models in the literature. A total of 23 students from several universities and health disciplines received the fellowship.

Elyse Weitzman (P2) was awarded a scholarship from the Allegheny County Pharmacists Association. One student from each school of pharmacy in Allegheny County, the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University, receives this honor annually.

Our Students



New graduate student lounge in Salk Hall



Mark Donnelly

Nicholas Wytiaz (P3) received one of two honorable mentions for the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy “Summer Intern Best Project Competition” at the 2010 Educational Conference in St. Louis, Mo., in October for his poster “Impact of a Value-Based Formulary Initiative on Utilization and Adherence of Asthma Medications, Disease Control, and Prescribing Trends.”

A team of pharmacy students led by **Nicholas Wytiaz** (P3), project coordinator, placed second in the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Appropriate Medication Use Project Competition for their project with the UPMC Staying-at-Home Program. The project presentation developers were P3 students **Melissa Ruminski** and **Sarah Dombrowski**. Students met with senior citizens at several area independent living facilities to discuss medication adherence and common safety concerns in regard to medications.

During pharmacy weeks, more than 100 students and faculty members participated in Phi Lambda Sigma’s annual auction, at which over \$6500 was raised to benefit the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program for the Underserved and to support student leadership experiences.

Graduate Students

Nisanne Ghonem received the best oral presentation award at the 2nd Annual Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy Student Research Symposium, held in October. The title of her presentation was “Trepstinil protects against ischemia-reperfusion injury in rat orthotopic liver transplantation.” The symposium was co-hosted by our School’s student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Mark Donnelly was awarded the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (F31) for his grant “Role of 20-HETE and EETs in Cerebrovascular Complications after Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage.” The funding for this research is provided by the NIH National Institute for Nursing Research. The goal of the research is to identify new targets for therapy in hemorrhagic stroke patients and provide a rapid and effective method to determine patients at high risk for developing ischemic complications.

When not in the lab or at their desks, students in the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences can spend some down time in the new state-of-the-art graduate student lounge dedicated in January 2011. Students now have an area where they can eat, relax, and study on the 10th floor of Salk Hall.

Our Alumni

Richard Bertin (BS '65) executive director of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS), will retire this spring. Under his leadership, BPS approved a new specialty in ambulatory care, implemented a process for added qualifications credentials, expanded the staff, and received accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The number of board-certified pharmacists increased from fewer than 3,000 to more than 10,000 during Bertin's 13-year tenure.

Timothy Davis (PharmD '00) was awarded the Next Generation Pharmacist Award: Technology Category at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on October 25, 2010. The Next Generation Pharmacist Award consisted of 10 categories, with three finalists per category.

Anil D'mello (PhD '86), professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, received a three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Maternal low protein diet imprints lipid metabolism in

the adult offspring." The objective of the research is to determine the mechanisms by which maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation imprints long-term, possibly permanent, changes in lipid metabolism in the offspring.

Reginald Frye (PhD '95) was selected Teacher of the Year by the curriculum committee at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

Douglas Gebhard (PharmD '09) accepted a position with CVS/Caremark in Woonsocket, R.I. Gebhard works in Pharmacy Operations in Retail Strategic Product Development and designs programs and initiatives within the pharmacy that focus on proactive medication management.



Reginald Frye (PhD '95)



*Douglas Gebhard
(PharmD '09)*



Christina Mazur (PharmD '09)



*Gretchen Kreckel (PharmD '09)
and Timothy Davis (PharmD '00)*

Our Alumni

In Memoriam

Felix Digiacomo '51
 Leo B. Feld BS '51
 James R. Heiles '52
 H. Lawrence Kossler '43
 Richard A. Lithgow '50
 LuVerne May '60
 Vincent M. Milano '49
 Russell T. Sweely '58
 Richard K. Withrow '51

Bernard Komorowski

(PharmD '00, PhD '05) is director of product marketing at Zoll Cardiac Management Solutions.

Gretchen Kreckel

(PharmD '09) was a finalist for the Next Generation Pharmacist Award in the Rising Star Category, which is for practitioners who are in practice for less than five years. Gretchen has been named clinical assistant professor at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center in Morgantown, W.V.

Christina Mazur

(PharmD '09) is a primary instructor of the Diabetes Self Management Education Program of Mid-Ohio, an independent group that began education sessions in February.

David Rotella

(BS '81) has accepted a position at Montclair State University to become the Margaret and Herman Sokol chair of chemistry and biochemistry and professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The position has a joint appointment in the Sokol Institute for Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences.

Richard A. "Dick" Lithgow JUNE 26, 1928 - MARCH 22, 2011

Dick Lithgow became engaged in every community of which he was a part. He was certainly a part of our School, interacting with alums, students, faculty, and patients right up until the time he left Pittsburgh about six years ago.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Class of 1950, Dick passed away in Florida on March 22, 2011. Dick spent the early part of his career in community pharmacy as proprietor of the Edgewood Pharmacy. In the 1980s, he reinvented his career, developing clinical skills and becoming a pharmacist at the Veterans Administration in Oakland, where he worked in the anticoagulation clinic and gave medication presentations to support groups among other responsibilities. He was the 1991 recipient of the Joe E. Smith Award, a state-wide award for excellence in hospital pharmacy. In 1998, he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the School of Pharmacy.

Retirement in 1994 for Dick was not truly retirement. He worked with Dean Randy Juhl, Jake Grimm, and others to develop what would become the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum and became the Special Assistant to the Dean—first for Dean Juhl, then later for Dean Kroboth. Dick was an enthusiastic and endearing member of the Alumni Society Board, which is not a surprise because service was the hallmark of his life. He volunteered as a pharmacist at the School's program to provide medications and care at the drop-in clinic for the homeless and working poor—the uninsured, and underinsured—the program now known as the Grace Lamsam Program for the Underserved. Until he moved to Florida approximately six years ago, where he met and married Trudi, Dick was seen at every gathering of alums of the School of Pharmacy and most local and regional professional organization meetings. Dick will be sorely missed.



Richard Lithgow (BS '50)



Jasmine Talameh (PharmD '08)



David Rotella (BS '81)



Justin Scholl (PharmD '07)

Justin Scholl (PharmD '07) has been named assistant professor of pharmacy practice at LECOM School of Pharmacy in Erie, Pa. His practice setting is ambulatory care, and his teaching efforts focus on training students in patient care techniques, pharmacoeconomics, and community pharmacy practice.

Margie Snyder (PharmD '06) assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Purdue University. Purdue College of Pharmacy, Center for Medication Safety Advancement, is inviting Indiana pharmacies to join the Medication Safety Research Network of Indiana, or Rx-SafeNet, the first practice-based research network in Indiana focusing on medication-related problems and patient care at community pharmacies. Snyder is the director of the network.

Jasmine Talameh (PharmD '08) and graduate student at University of North Carolina was awarded the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists – American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AAPS-AFPE) pre-doctoral fellowship in clinical pharmaceutical sciences (only one awarded nationally). The award was presented at the AAPS Annual Meeting in New Orleans in November. This fellowship is given to students who show outstanding promise in a pre-doctoral graduate program.

Lt. Col. Keith Parry (BS '94), a Marine recently stationed in Afghanistan, sent the School a gift of the U.S. flag that was flown on Veterans' Day in 2010 in Camp Leatherneck, which is located in Central Helmand Province, which is itself located in southern Afghanistan. He wanted to express his appreciation to the School

in a special way. As Parry says, "While the Marine Corps has played a large part in making me the man I am today; my time in Pitt Pharmacy, and the mentorship from many on the faculty, played an equally vital part in developing my morals and character—and for that I owe a great debt of gratitude. The flag, along with my deepest respect, is the least I could do to repay that debt!"

Our Alumni

University Honors Legacy Laureate

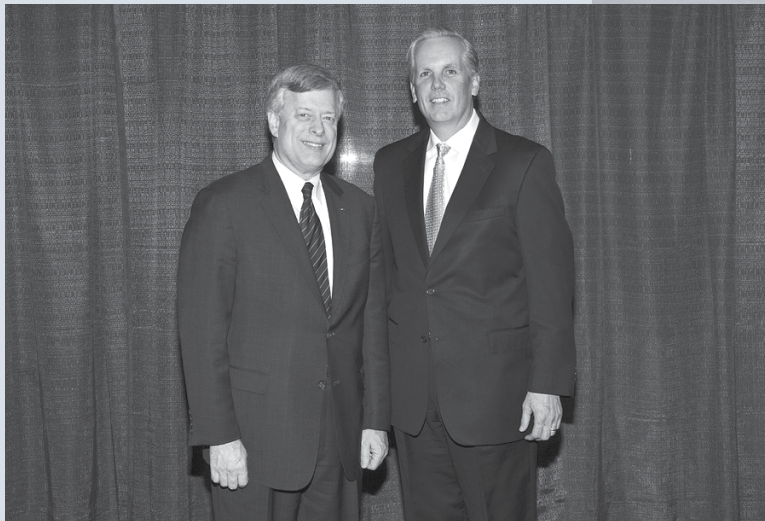
John "Jack" T. Tighe III (BS '78) is among the University of Pittsburgh's 12 new Legacy Laureates, alumni recognized for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments.

Tighe is the founder, president, and chief executive officer of TMG Health, Inc., the nation's largest provider of business process outsourcing services, supporting Medicare Advantage and Managed Medicaid plans for millions of members. Under Tighe's leadership, TMG Health has created more than 1,000 jobs and been recognized as one of the fastest growing and most innovative companies in Pennsylvania and North America.

Tighe was the youngest person to serve as Pennsylvania's secretary of administration, a position to which he was appointed by Governor Robert P. Casey Sr.; he later served as the governor's deputy chief of staff. Tighe developed Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program, which became a model for the federal program.

Tighe is the recipient of many awards, among them the Pennsylvania Cultural Diversity Planning Dedication and Courage Award, and he was named to the New Spring Capital CEO Hall of Fame and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Hall of Fame.

Tighe has demonstrated his long-term commitment to the University of Pittsburgh by providing generous financial support to the Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing and to the Department of Athletics and through his service as Governor Casey's representative to the University's Board of Trustees. He currently serves as a member of the School of Pharmacy's Board of Visitors.



Chancellor Mark Nordenberg with Legacy Laureate Jack Tighe.



John H. Christy III Establishes Award in Father's Memory

John H. Christy Jr. made a tremendous impact on many young pharmacists over the years as a pharmacy preceptor and mentor. A 1975 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, John launched his career at Stone's Pharmacy in Oakmont, one of the area's last old-fashioned "soda fountain" pharmacies, where he eventually became an owner. He moved into retail pharmacy after selling Stone's in the mid-80s and worked at Rite Aid, PharMor, and Giant Eagle.

When John passed away in September 2010, his son John H. Christy III began thinking of a way to honor his father. Endowing a scholarship in his name at Pitt's School of Pharmacy was something that made perfect sense. "My dad took immense pride in the profession of pharmacy and was a big believer in the

importance of education," John III explains. "I think he would be pleased knowing that this scholarship will help future generations of pharmacists earn their degrees or at least offset some of the costs of student life."

Both father and son made some lasting memories together at Pitt, as well. "Even though I didn't attend Pitt, I've always felt a strong connection to the Pitt community through my dad," John III says. It all started with Pitt football, back in the days when Dan Marino and Tony Dorsett were on the field. John III, a die-hard Panther fan to this day, also recalls exploring Oakland and Shadyside with his dad during his years at Central Catholic. "After picking me up at school, my dad would take me around Oakland and Shadyside to show me various places where he lived or hung out in his student days," he remembers fondly.

Their connection will live on in the scholarship that now bears the name of John's late father. The John Hill Christy Jr. Student Award will assist students who are on their way to becoming pharmacists. John III plans to continue contributing to this fund and hopes that others who knew and respected his father will do the same. "It's an efficient way for all of us to honor him and to collectively make a bigger difference than we could individually," he explains.

By creating an endowed scholarship, the funds will support deserving students in perpetuity. "I wanted something that would last forever," he explains. "This scholarship will always be around, will always help a student in Pitt's School of Pharmacy, and will always have my dad's name on it. As a way to honor someone, it doesn't get much better than that."

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 following individuals:

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)

Humanism in Pharmacy Award Celebrates Life of Melody Slobada Duffalo

As a 1997 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, Melody Slobada was looking forward to a wonderful life. Not only did she leave the University with a solid foundation as a pharmacist, but she left knowing she had found a life partner in classmate Chad Duffalo.

Melody began her career in a retail pharmacy in Arlington, Virginia. Wanting to turn her attention to clinical patient care, she furthered her education and obtained her PharmD. She soon began taking a true interest in working with underserved populations, most notably providing pharmaceutical care to patients with HIV. "Melody became even more focused on HIV care when she began working as a clinical pharmacist for an infectious disease clinic at Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia," Chad

explains. "She became known by her colleagues for her compassion, dedication and friendly nature."

Sadly, Melody passed away in September 2006 at the age of 32. Chad wanted to do something special to honor his wife and began considering a lasting tribute at the place where they first met. "Melody and I always felt very grateful to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy for our education," he explained. "We always carried with us our friendships and memories from our pharmacy days." Chad, along with Melody's parents, Pat and John Slobada, decided to create a scholarship in Melody's name.

The Melody Slobada Duffalo Award for Humanism in Pharmacy was established to provide tuition support for students who have shown an exceptional willingness to work with underserved



Melody Slobada Duffalo (BS '97)
and Chad Duffalo (BS '97)

populations. "Just as Melody obtained the skills required to have a successful career working with underserved populations, we are honored to help support those pharmacists-in-training who are also working to make a difference in pharmacy," Chad explains.

SNAPSHOT FROM PHARMACY'S PAST

Blue Gold & Black Honors Ella P. Stewart



Alumna Ella P. Stewart, Class of 1916, had the distinct honor of being featured in Blue Gold & Black 2010, one of the University's major publications. She not only graced the cover of the publication, but was highlighted in a six-page article in which Pulitzer-Prize winning author E. R. Shipp described her extraordinary achievements.

Stewart became the first Black woman to earn a degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. After graduation, Stewart became a successful businesswoman with pharmacies in Pennsylvania and Ohio. She served as president of the National

Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. from 1948 to 1952 and in 1963 was appointed to a commissioner's post at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Her many accolades and distinctions include a University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Alumnus award; an appointment as a goodwill ambassador for the U.S. Department of State; and the naming of a Toledo, Ohio, elementary school in her honor.

The complete publication may be viewed at www.chancellor.pitt.edu/publications

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.

Name: _____

Degree and Year of Graduation: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: _____

Position(s): _____

News: _____

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

- Kappa Psi
 Lambda Kappa Sigma – LKS
 Phi Delta Chi – PDC
 Phi Lambda Sigma – PLS
 Rho Chi – Alpha Omicron Chapter

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



Photographic Memories (captions)

1. Marina Shkayeva (P3), at the Preceptor Dinner with Nancy Keefer (PharmD '07) and Luis Gonzalez (BS '81).
2. Iny Marks (PharmD '00), Jay Stragand (BS '88) discuss career opportunities during the School's Career Round Tables sponsored by the School's Alumni Society.
3. Pharmacy students learn about the various opportunities in the pharmacy profession during Career Round Tables.
4. Faculty and staff celebrate ten years of service at the School of Pharmacy.

First row, left to right: Levent Kirisci, Amy Fuhrman, Wendy Ferzacca, Gary Doheny, Sandra Ballantyne.

Middle row, left to right: Michael Vanyukov, Maureen Reynolds, Jacqualine Murer, Steven Knopf, Lois Edmondston.

Back row, left to right: Song Li, Karen Pater, Roberta Farrah, Deanne Hall, James Pschirer, Randall Smith.
5. Banana Split Event at Homecoming 2010. Nicole Butteri (PharmD '00), Daniel Damratoski (BS '68), Graham Ciraulo, Irene Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66), Janet Traynor (BS '87, PharmD '95), Stanton Jonas (BS '51).
6. Francis Iorfido (PharmD '08), Joseph Gatto (BS '75) (background), chairman of the golf committee, at the School's Golf Invitational 2010.
7. Current Alumni Society Board members. Clockwise, from bottom right: Tanya Fabian (PharmD '98, PhD '03), Irene Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66), Ernest Sanchez (PharmD '02), Nicole Butteri (PharmD '00), Kristen Topolosky (PharmD '07), Iny Marks (PharmD '00), Timothy Davis (PharmD '00), Shelby Corman (PharmD '02), James Pschirer (BS '76), Sarah Wegner (PharmD '05), Jaime Genovese (P3), Kara Sperandeo (PharmD '06), Christine Ruby-Scelse (BS '90, PharmD '94), Janet Traynor (BS '87, PharmD '95).
8. Ashley Tylavsky (P4) celebrates with her twin brothers William and David during the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony in February.
9. Shailly Shah (P3) in a trust fall, one of the team-building exercises at the Fall Leadership Retreat held at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.
10. Kristine Schonder, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, administers the flu shot to Senior Vice Chancellor Randy Juhl during an immunization clinic at Salk Hall.



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