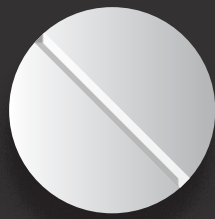


PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | SUMMER 2016



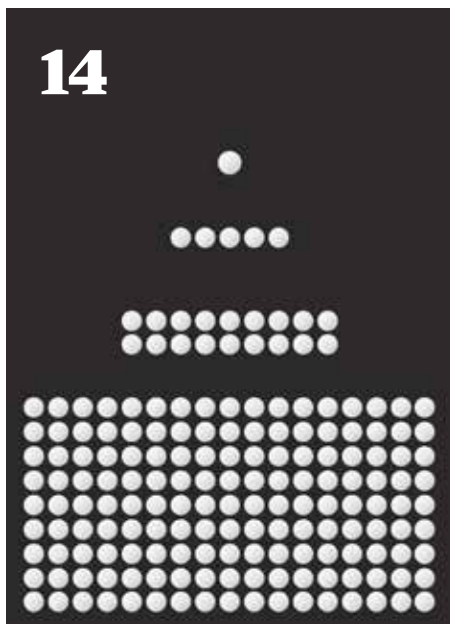
RESEARCH INTERVENTION PREVENTION

PITTPHARMACY IS FRONT AND CENTER IN ADDRESSING THE DRUG OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

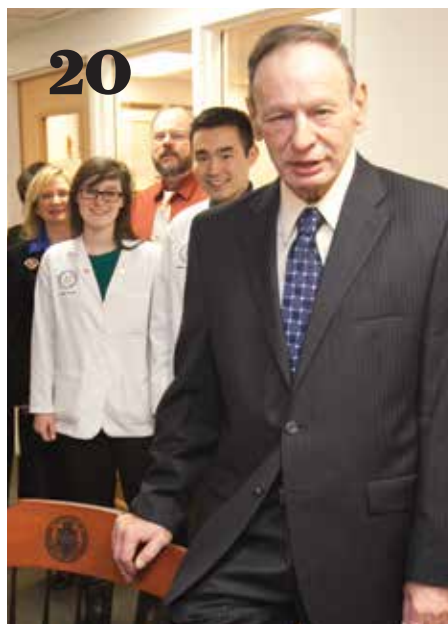


PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | SUMMER 2016



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Inside Front Cover:

Class of 2019 pharmacy students sing the Alma Mater at their White Coat Ceremony in February 2016.

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Dear Friends,

As I stood onstage at our Pitt Pharmacy Graduation and Hooding Ceremony, I listened intently to each student's individual biography as he or she walked across the stage. What different paths they are pursuing—and what an impressive group of young colleagues they have become. This was the first class for whom “personalizing education” was a goal from the beginning of their first year and they really took the concept to heart.

As I listened, I realized that while I had some small part in facilitating their educational journey, I saw in a grand scale the magnitude of caring, skill, mentoring, and resources that all of you—our preceptors, alumni, families and friends, faculty and staff—provided. I say thank you because without your commitment, we would not have heard the incredible stories of accomplishment and varied goals and dreams of the members of the Class of 2016. Their individual stories add to those that appear in our magazine and to those we have yet to hear.

I have to say that it has been a pretty exciting year for PittPharmacy! We ranked #9 among schools of pharmacy by *U.S. News & World Report!* The research we do is significant and has impact and importance well beyond the funding we receive. In education, we have been deliberate about developing incredible educational innovations that shape student experiences and allows them to “get to expert faster” while “personalizing their education.” As one example, we offered a term-long educational game to teach drug development for the first time this year. I hope you take the time to read about it and appreciate what a novel approach to course teaching this is.

The years of developing partnerships in the community are reaping rewards for patients and the communities. We describe in this magazine the impact of our programs on preventing overdoses due to opiates. And then there is the multiyear student project to address catch up for HPV vaccinations in college-age students. The students won both a national and a University award for their work!

All of these accomplishments contribute to shaping our reputation and making us a great school, worthy of our rankings and more. It is my belief that our reputation has lagged behind the true excellence of our programs and our leadership and innovation.

Hail to PittPharmacy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Kroboth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia D. Kroboth, Dean

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

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Associate Dean for Education: **Susan M. Meyer, PhD**
Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs: **Samuel M. Poloyac, PharmD, PhD**
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PITTPHARMACY

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Awards & Accolades

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI



Dylan Atkinson

Atkinson Named APhA-ASP Speaker of the House

In March 2016 at the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Baltimore, Md., **Dylan Atkinson** (Class of 2017) was elected as the 2016–2017 speaker of the house by a committee of his peers. Through this position, Atkinson will serve as one of just five members of the National Executive Committee as part of American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP). APhA-ASP is one of three academies housed within APhA and represents between 32,000 and 36,000 student pharmacists across the nation.

Atkinson will chair the Policy Standing Committee in APhA-ASP and will serve as a delegate to the APhA House of Delegates. In addition, Atkinson will be an acting member of the APhA Government Affairs Committee and Political Action Committee. In his role, Atkinson will serve a one-year term.

Lauren Jonkman 2016 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Awardee

Assistant Professor **Lauren Jonkman** (PharmD '06) received the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award recognizing her outstanding public service here and abroad. Jonkman took a leading role in developing a successful pharmacist-managed clinic at Birmingham Free Clinic to provide patients with consistent continuing and comprehensive appointment-based care. She has also been a fervent advocate for community health care abroad. For many years, Jonkman has been a valued volunteer and chief pharmacist for Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh-San Jose, playing an integral role through facilitating real change in a village in Honduras to develop a well-staffed, full-time clinic and in Namibia helping the faculty establish a new School of Pharmacy by teaching patient care and supporting program development. The award underscores the university's priority to utilize the expertise of the University to address social problems in ways that are consistent with the University's teaching and research functions.

Neal Benedict 2016 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awardee

Associate Professor **Neal Benedict** was awarded the 2016 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award which recognizes his impact on the teaching mission of the School of Pharmacy. His individual efforts stand as inspiring examples of excellence in the role of University teacher. As codirector of the Pharmacotherapy Scholars Program and as professional student portfolio advisor and career-learning advisor, Benedict continues to mentor and develop evaluations, which include expansive



Lauren Jonkman



Neal Benedict

comments of praise and recognition, commitment to teaching, and creating engaging situations in and out of the classroom. Benedict's previous awards including the 2014 Innovation in Teaching Award from the American Association of College Pharmacy, the 2011 Innovation in Teaching Award selected by the students of Rho Chi honorary society, and the 2009 and 2014 Cohen Teacher of the Year underscore his commitment to the profession. Benedict also earned the 2012 Preceptor of the Year award selected by his students.



Katlyn Grossman

PittPharmacy's Grossman Wins Highly Selective RESPy Award

Katlyn Grossman (Class of 2016) was chosen for the May 2016 Walmart/Pharmacy Times RESPy award. The RESPy Award program is designed to recognize pharmacy students nationwide for extraordinary humanitarian work in the community. Grossman is one of only 10 winners to be selected for the RESPy award. When asked how Grossman's activities impacted the community, her advisor Lauren Jonkman wrote, "Katlyn oversees and leads a team of medical and pharmacy students of different levels at the Birmingham Free Clinic to provide high-quality patient care and access to medicines on-site. The patients have seen major clinical improvements including A1C reduction, blood pressure control, and others. In addition to Katlyn's service at the student run clinic, Katlyn spent at least one half day each week volunteering at the Birmingham Free Clinic during her P3 year and embraced her role as patient advocate and problem solver more than most students. She personally ensured access to necessary medicine for a large number of patients through her service."

Katlyn spent additional time each week volunteering at the Birmingham Free Clinic during her P3 year. She embraced her role as patient advocate and problem solver and personally ensured access to necessary medicine for a large number of patients through her service.



Sean Xie

Distinguished Young Pharmacist: Alumna Melody

Alumna, **Karleen Melody**, (PharmD'10), received the Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Companies Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award during PPA's 2015 Annual Conference held at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg-Hershey. The Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award recognizes new pharmacists for their involvement in PPA, their dedication to the profession, and participation in community activities. Currently, Melody is an APhA-ASP faculty coadvisor at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and a new Practitioner Network Mentor. Melody practices at a community pharmacy serving a minority medicare population at SunRay Drugs in West Philadelphia. Melody has developed programs for medication therapy management, immunizations, and wellness screenings.

FDA Science Board Appointment: Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie

Associate Dean **Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie**, MD, PhD, was appointed a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Science Board serving until 2018. As a member of the FDA's highest advisory board, Xie will provide advice to the commissioner and other appropriate officials on specific complex scientific and technical issues important to FDA and its mission, including emerging issues within the scientific community. Additionally, the science board will provide advice that supports the agency in keeping pace with technical and scientific developments including in regulatory science, input into the Agency's research agenda, and on upgrading its scientific and research facilities and training opportunities. It will also provide, where requested, expert review of agency-sponsored intramural and extramural scientific research programs.



Mike Zemaitis

Rx Champion Award Goes to PittPharmacy's Zemaitis

Michael A. Zemaitis, PhD, received the Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions Award sponsored by the Cardinal Health Foundation in October 2015. This award honors a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment in raising awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among the general public and among the pharmacy community. The award is also intended to encourage educational prevention efforts aimed at patients, youth, and other members of the community.

Zemaitis has been an advocate for research, policy, and education surrounding prescription drug abuse. Evidence of his commitment includes funding by the Pennsylvania Department of Health to develop a plan for a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in Pennsylvania; an appointment to the FBI Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education (HOPE) working group; and an appointment by Pennsylvania Department of Health Secretary Karen Murphy to the state advisory group to implement Act 191: Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions, Pennsylvania's new prescription drug monitoring plan designed to improve opioid prescribing and patient care and reduce "doctor shopping" in the state.



Patricia Kroboth

Dean Kroboth Awarded AAAS Fellowship

Patricia D. Kroboth, dean and Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Distinguished Service Professor, was awarded the distinction of fellow during the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Kroboth elected to fellowship, because of her efforts toward advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.

She was recognized for "distinguished contributions using pharmacodynamics to explain variability in response to drugs and for excellence in administrative contributions as center director, department chair, and dean," as quoted by AAAS.

Kroboth is a fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. In 2013, she was awarded the American College of Clinical Pharmacology Award for Mentoring in Clinical Pharmacology.



Amy Donihi

Donihi Receives Speak Up for Patient Safety Award

Amy C. Donihi, PharmD, BCPS, was selected as a 2015 recipient of the Richard L. Simmons Speak Up for Patient Safety Award at UPMC. Donihi received this award in recognition of the work she has done during the past 15 years as a member of the Diabetes Patient Safety Committee to improve the glycemic management and safety of people with diabetes or newly recognized hyperglycemia in the hospital setting.

This award honors individuals who speak up for patient safety and who have dedicated much of their career to reducing risk and developing processes to eliminate potential errors. Dr. Mary Korytkowski nominated Amy for this award and said, "Her carefully calibrated protocols have improved the glycemic management of literally thousands of hospitalized patients."

Donihi was honored at the 2015 Dr. Loren Roth UPMC Quality and Patient Safety Symposium in October 2015 at the Herberman Conference Center.



Susan Meyer



2015-16 RhoChi Officers Andrea Evankovich, Keito Hoshitsuki, Meredith Bollinger, and Melissa Bastacky.

PittPharmacy Associate Dean Meyer named Codirector CIPE

The University of Pittsburgh's Health Policy Institute and its primary clinical partner, UPMC, have created the Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE) to foster the development of innovative new models of team-based, collaborative care education and practice. The new Center is directed by **Susan M. Meyer, PhD**, associate dean for education and professor, PittPharmacy, and Ben Reynolds, PA-C, director of the Office of Advanced Practice Providers at UPMC. CIPE will conduct research that evaluates the cost, quality, and patient outcomes of new interprofessional care models. Findings from these studies will inform the curricula and training of Pitt's six schools of the health sciences to ensure graduates are prepared for collaborative practice.

Pitt has been a leader in interprofessional practice since 2007, when the Pitt Working Group on Interprofessional Education, chaired by Meyer, was established to promote the advancement of interprofessional education. Since then, the Pitt/UPMC partnership has been designated a Nexus Innovation Incubator site within the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education. It was developed and implemented a Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation-funded classroom and clinical program focused on interprofessional modeling and caring for elderly and hosted All

Together Better Health VII, the largest global conference on interprofessional practice and education. CIPE is housed within the Pitt Health Policy Institute, which has been committed to producing evidence-based policy research and programming for government, business, and the foundation community since 1988.

Meyer National president-elect Rho Chi Society

Delegates to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Rho Chi Society elected **Susan M. Meyer, PhD**, associate dean for education and professor, PittPharmacy, as national president-elect. Meyer will serve a six-year term on the Society's Executive Council as president-elect (2016-2018), president (2018-2020), and immediate past president (2020-2022). Meyer's engagement with Rho Chi Society is long-standing. She was selected for membership in Rho Chi as a pharmacy student in 1982. She served as the faculty co-advisor for the Alpha Eta Chapter at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey from 1987 to 1990 and, since 2008, serves as the faculty coadvisor for the Alpha Omicron Chapter at the University of Pittsburgh. She previously served to consecutive terms on the Executive Council as the elected Councilor from Region II (2010-2012; 2012-2014).

PittPharmacy's Alpha Omicron Chapter Outstanding Chapter

At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Rho Chi Society PittPharmacy's Alpha Omicron Chapter was recognized as the most outstanding chapter in Region II and a finalist for the Society's Chapter Achievement Award. Chapters are selected based on the full scope of chapter activities as documented in the annual chapter report. Chapter reports are comprehensive in nature, describing the breadth of activities and accomplishments by the chapter. Notable initiatives of the Alpha Omicron Chapter in the 2014-2015 academic year included the Posters, Professors, and Progress poster session to promote student engagement in intellectual excellence and critical inquiry alongside faculty researchers; Health Talks at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in the Southside neighborhood of Pittsburgh to promote health behaviors in the community; Rho Chi member engagement in educating first-year pharmacy students on patient assessment techniques and screenings; and a professional lecture series to promote the advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences through intellectual scholarship and leadership.

APhA Immunization Champion Deanne Hall

Every year the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recognizes individual practitioners who have made extraordinary contributions towards improved vaccination rates within their communities. PittPharmacy faculty member **Deanne L. Hall**, PharmD, CDE, BCACP was honored with a 2016 Honorable Mention for Individual Practitioners given by the APhA Immunization Champion Awards.

Beginning in 2008, Hall has championed a campus-wide initiative to immunize the University's 3,800 full-time faculty and 6,700 full-time staff to influenza. Since then, her outreach has grown to more than nine influenza clinics around campus, which reached more than 3,300 employees last fall.

Hall received her award at the APhA Annual Meeting March 2016 in Baltimore, Md.



Deanne Hall

Linking Together For A Better Future

Ted Search (PharmD '05) was recently recognized as one of the 100 Most Inspiring People by PharmaVoice in their summer 2015 issue. Featured in the Entrepreneurs Category, Search was recognized as "a visionary leader who works to fill industry needs and leads his company to new heights." Search is the CEO of Skipta, LLC, which develops verified medical communication communities. His initial network creation was Pharmacist Society, which uses current technology and resources specifically for pharmacist. The company has expanded to include 17 additional specialty networks. As mentioned in the article, "His goal is to be viewed as an industry innovator and a leader who forever changed the way health care providers and the industry connect and collaborate"

Skipta, the leading social network of specialized online medical communities for verified health care professionals, was named a 2015 Trailblazer Company of the year by PM360. Taking home silver honors in the supplier/vendor category, Skipta, founded by alumnus, Ted Search, PharmD ('05) was celebrated for their innovations across pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Entries for this prestigious award were selected by the PM360 Editorial Advisory Board comprised of experts across the country. The awards ceremony took place September 2015 at Gotham Hall on Broadway in New York City. The event hosted over 500 of the industry's top professionals and hosted more pharmaceutical professionals than any other event in the nation. The PM360 Trailblazer Awards span five categories, including Company of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Marketer of the Year, Brand Champion Awards, and Initiative Awards.

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/8964fa39#/8964fa39/66>



Ted Search

**LEAD →
ING THE
WAY**



Nicolette Diehl, Marissa Badzik, and Justin Saver

PittPharmacy Students Are OTC Winners

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) named the University of Pittsburgh the 2016 Champions of the annual OTC Competition sponsored by NASPA during PPA's Mid-year Conference held at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center January 2016 in Harrisburg, Pa.

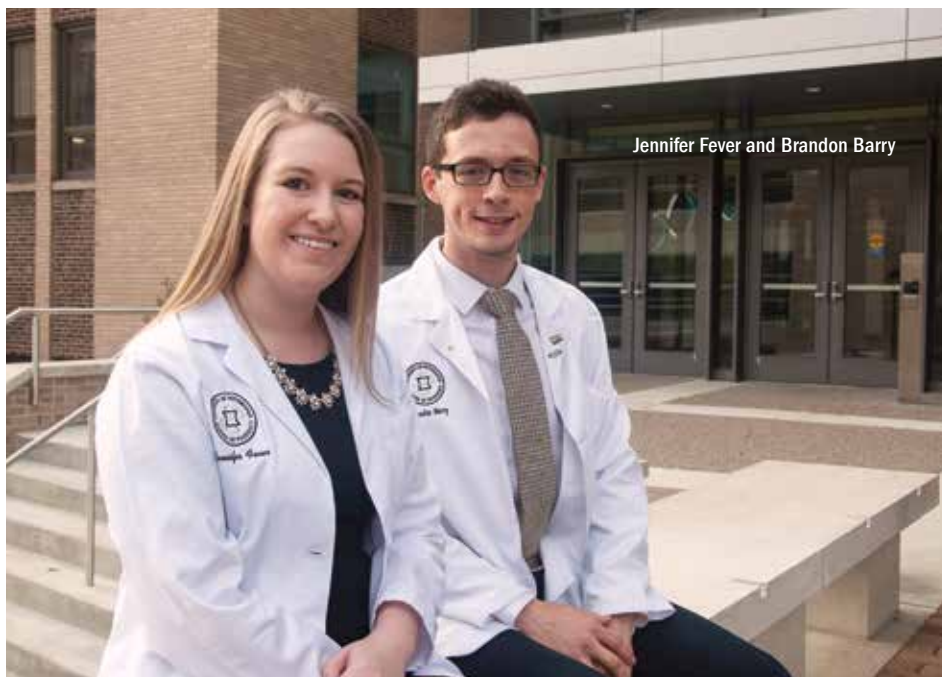
Played much like the game show Jeopardy with a touch of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, the Self-care Championship is a nationwide competition among pharmacy students designed to test their knowledge of OTC products and home remedies. All seven Pennsylvania schools of pharmacy participated. The H2P OTC team (self titled) consisted of Class of 2018 members **Marissa Badzik, Nicolette Diehl, and Justin Saver**. These students did a superb job, edging out their competitors in the final question.

Students Win PPA Achieving Independence Award Making it a Three-Peat!

The University of Pittsburgh won the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association's (PPA) 2015 Achieving Independence Competition during the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association's Annual Conference held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey October 2015. This competition is designed to foster the budding entrepreneurial pharmacy students to one day own their own pharmacy. Students are asked to start up a new pharmacy in Pennsylvania or purchase an existing pharmacy and implement something new. The team was made up of **Dylan Atkinson, John Chang, Alexander Marshall, and Kerry Moore**. Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy, Wilkes University, Duquesne University and Philadelphia College of Pharmacy also participated in the competition.



Kerry Moore, Dylan Atkinson, Alexander Marshall, and John Chang



Jennifer Fever and Brandon Barry

PittPharmacy Students Win PPA Government Relations Award

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) recently presented the University of Pittsburgh with the Government Relations Award during PPA's Annual Conference held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg- Hershey October 2015, in Grantville, Pa. This award appropriately salutes the school which has gone above and beyond in the area of advocacy work. Points were awarded for participation in legislative day, meetings with legislators, PAC awareness, and other innovative advocacy efforts. The University of Pittsburgh had 132 attendees at legislative day with 89 appointments with legislators and staff. Participants sold t-shirts to raise money for PharmPAC, conducted a letter writing campaign, created a unique advocacy video to share experiences in providing patient care, and had numerous meetings at their school on legislative and policy matters. The student group received a commemorative plaque and a cash prize for their organization. Accepting the award on behalf of PittPharmacy were **Brandon Barry** (Class of 2018) and **Jennifer Fever** (Class of 2017).

Shilpa Sant Receives BMES Rising Star Award

Shilpa Sant, PhD received a Rising Star Award for Early Career Faculty from the Biomedical Engineering Society during the Biomedical Engineering Society-Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering meeting held in New Orleans, La., January 2016. This year's conference theme focused on engineered tissues as models of disease, micro- and macro-scale technologies for building tissues, mechanobiology of regenerative medicine, and stem cell processing.

Sant delivered her presentation entitled Engineering Tumor Microenvironments in Early and Advanced Stage Breast Tumors. Previously, Sant was the recipient of a Rising Star Award in the postdoctoral fellow category on her work on gradient materials for tooth morphogenesis in 2013.



Shilpa Sant



Deborah Cook, chair-elect, Donna Huryn, and Rick Ewing, chair of the Philadelphia ACS Section

American Chemical Society Award Given to Huryn

Donna Huryn, PhD is the recipient of the 2015 American Chemical Society Philadelphia Section Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS). The award recognizes individuals "who, by conspicuous scientific achievement through research, has made important contributions to man's knowledge and thereby aided the public appreciation of the profession."

ACS is the world's largest scientific society and one of the world's leading sources of authoritative scientific information. A nonprofit organization chartered by Congress, ACS is at the forefront of the evolving worldwide chemical enterprise and the premier professional home for chemists, chemical engineers, and related professions around the globe.

In the News

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI



Joshua Thorpe

Thorpe Appointed RSAP Associate Editor

Joshua Thorpe, PhD, MPH, has been appointed associate editor for the journal *Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy* (RSAP). Thorpe will be responsible for reviewing submitted manuscripts in the areas of modeling methods and analytics, measurement, and pharmacoepidemiology.

RSAP is an international, peer-reviewed journal featuring original scientific reports and comprehensive review articles in the social and administrative pharmaceutical sciences. RSAP strives to be a leading research journal in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy research, comparative effectiveness research, pharmacoepidemiology, and pharmaceutical health services research. Thorpe joins Dr. Shane Desselle (editor in chief), professor and former dean at California Northstate University College of Pharmacy, and fellow associate editor Dr. Parisa Aslani as the editorial team for the journal.



Anna Bondar

PittPharmacy Alumna Bondar Wins ACCP Best Student Poster

Alumna Anna Bondar, (PharmD '15) was selected as the winner of the Best Student Poster at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Global Meeting on Clinical Pharmacy in October 2015. Bondar's research, Antibiotic Use in San Jose del Negrito, Honduras was research completed as part of her area of concentration in global health at PittPharmacy. Bondar received funding from the Center for Global Health at Pitt to complete her work in Honduras during her P4 year. Bondar was mentored on her research by ARCO-GH codirectors, assistant professor Lauren Jonkman, PharmD, MPH, BCPS and assistant professor Sharon E. Connor, PharmD. Bondar is currently a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident at UPMC St. Margaret.



Jennifer Baird

AMCP Gold Medal Winner Jennifer Baird

Jennifer Baird (Class of 2016) was one of 21 individuals awarded a gold medal for her abstract submission to the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Nexus conference. Baird presented this research, Palbociclib Utilization and Costs Among 18 Million Insured Americans: Managed Care Pharmacy Opportunities, at the poster exhibition during the conference in Orlando, Fla. This retrospective claims analysis was designed to evaluate palbociclib utilization patterns and costs immediately following approval in order to optimize utilization management programs. Research was conducted at Prime Therapeutics in Bloomington, Minn. Other key contributors included Patrick Gleason, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP, Cathy Starner, PharmD, BCPS, CGP and Kevin Bowen, MD, MBA.

AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. Internship Selects PittPharmacy's Marshall

Alex Marshall (Class of 2017) was selected for the AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. Managed Care Pharmacy Summer Internship Program. Only four student pharmacists are selected for the internship annually through a nationwide selection process at four different employer sites across the country. This program provides students with exposure to population health and the application of managed care pharmacy principles in formulary management, benefit design, medication therapy management, and adherence management.

As a part of the structured 10-week internship program, Marshall will be involved in the daily activities of managed care pharmacy practice at Prime Therapeutics in Eagan, Minn. The selected interns will also work with Pfizer medical outcomes specialists and the AMCP Foundation that expose them, respectively, to the pharmaceutical industry and a professional membership society. Through the program, students will work directly with pharmacists and other members of the health care team to maximize health care resources and patient care outcomes.



Alex Marshall

Jesse McCullough Rite Aid Pharmacist Testifies Before U.S. House on Value of Medication

Jesse McCullough, (PharmD '00) and Rite Aid's director of field clinical services testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health during its hearing titled, Examining the Medicare Part D Medication Therapy Management Program.

McCullough's testimony focused on the importance of medication therapy management services, its vital role in improving the health of senior Americans, and the progress in advancing MTM programs and opportunities to pass legislative measures (S. 776, the Medication Therapy Management Empowerment Act). McCullough explained how community pharmacists present an idea solution for expanding the Medicare Part D MTM program, as they are one of the most accessible health care providers currently in the field. McCullough cited cost savings for the U.S. health care system that could be remedied through the expansion of the Medicare Part D MTM program. "Poor medication adherence alone costs the nation approximately \$290 billion annually—13 percent of total health care expenditures—and results in avoidable and costly health complications," McCullough said.



Jesse McCullough



Morgan Cassal

Casal Granted St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Scholarship

Morgan Casal (Class of 2019) was selected as a St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Pediatric Oncology Education program scholar for summer 2016. The Pediatric Oncology Education program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute. Students participating in the Pediatric Oncology Education program receive training in an academic environment created by the interaction of committed basic scientists, research-oriented physicians, and postdoctoral fellows. Casal will be with Dr. Taosheng Chen and associates, working on functional characterization of the constitutive androstane receptor splice variants and mutants. Research activities in the Chen laboratory focus on the regulation of the pregnane X receptor (PXR) and the CAR in drug toxicity and resistance. The goal is to discover and develop novel pharmacological tools and therapeutic agents that will help prevent drug toxicity, attenuate drug resistance, and treat cancer.



Kathryn Muzzio

Muzzio Accepts American Heart and Vascular Medicine Internship

Kathryn Muzzio (Class of 2019) was chosen for the American Heart Association Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) for summer 2016. The University of Pittsburgh, in cooperation with the AHA and the Vascular Medicine Institute, offers a stipend to support summer research experiences in cardiovascular sciences or brain ischemia research for undergraduates mentored by a university faculty member. SURP is designed to expose students to cutting-edge basic and translational cardiovascular research. The program includes research experience, didactic core curriculum lectures, workshops in grant writing, networking opportunities with world leaders in cardiovascular sciences and medicine, training in bench-top and translational research methods and techniques, and opportunities to present in progress research results to colleagues and faculty.



Patrick Squires

Muzzio's project is titled Alterations of the Cerebral Microvascular Circulation after Asphyxial Cardiac Arrest in Developing Rats.

Professor Samuel M. Poloyac, PharmD, PhD is Muzzio's faculty mentor for the program.

iGES Selects Squires for Young Investigator Award

Patrick Squires (Class of 2017) was selected for a Young Investigator Award and oral presentation at the Annual Meeting of the International Gastrointestinal Electrophysiology Society (iGES) in San Diego, Calif. for his abstract, Electrogastrography Determines Subtypes of Gastroparesis Responsive to Pyloric Balloon Dilation: Functional Gastric Outlet Obstruction.

Squires' research focuses on interpreting the electrical activity of the stomach to identify and subsequently treat a subset of patients with gastroparesis. Squires will be presenting an additional four abstracts at digestive disease week with gastroenterologist Dr. Mark Noar, MD, MPH regarding refractory gastroesophageal reflux disease patients who were surgically treated with Radiofrequency Energy Delivery to the Lower Esophageal Sphincter. Noar and Squires will be presenting the procedure's long-term effect on proton pump inhibitor utilization, health related quality of life, and patient satisfaction within multiple subpopulations.

Associate Professor Sandra L. Kane-Gill, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP is Squires' faculty advisor.

RxPedition

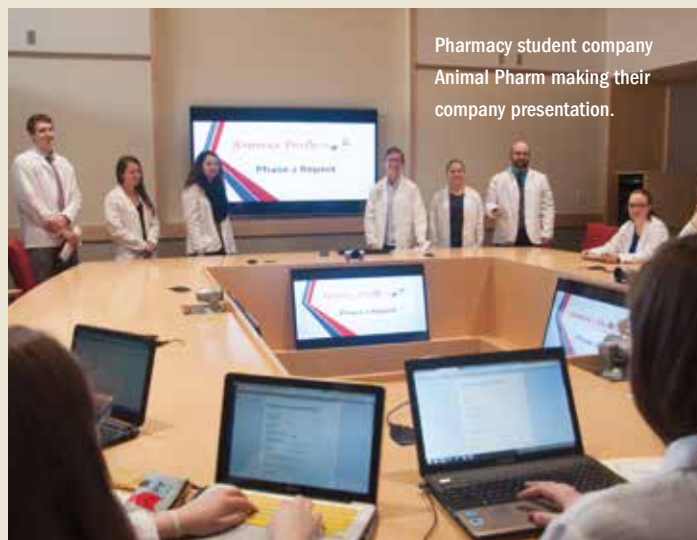
As education adapts to engage student learners, courses incorporate application of concepts. In the past, the drug development course incorporated computer-simulated drug data and high fidelity mannequins as a part of course practica. A traditional course structure would involve a class of 114 student pharmacists sitting through various lectures and practicums as a large group. Randy Smith, PhD, senior associate dean, volunteered to be the course coordinator for drug development in 2013 so he could lead the evolution of the drug development course from a series of lectures to a competitive simulation learning experience. He engaged the team of graduate students and faculty that created the new approach allowing students to experience the wide variety of factors and data that go into creating a successful drug product. In the spring term of 2016, the new drug development course (PHARM 5119) taught by faculty members Lorin Grieve '14 and Ravi Patel '14 was introduced to students as a term-long game experience, referred to as RxPedition. The software of RxPedition provides students to be split into 19 small groups. RxPedition was the results of a collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and Pitt's School of Information Science (iSchool).

To create a game experience in the course, RxPedition treats each small group as a biotech startup. Each student has a specific role within each company from a research and development officer to the chief executive officer. The company's goal is to review data from animal trials to take a fictional drug compound of interest, modeled after real compounds currently under study, through the various phases of research to earn FDA approval. Amidst these trials, each company must account for the various costs of research, request appropriate funding through grants and investors, and market their progress through FDA adherent guidelines. As students progress in the drug development process, they must balance the cost, quality, and time required of each phase of research. Just as real companies experience failures in clinical trials during drug development, student trials are not always successful. Students review data derived from research to design their clinical trials. They then test these design in computer-simulated patient populations and high fidelity mannequins to learn the safety and outcomes of their trials. By eschewing traditional grades and examinations, RxPedition offers students the opportunity to design and redesign trials based on outcomes. While failed trials don't lower grades, they incur time and money costs for which the companies must account. Instructors take on a narrative role throughout the term to guide student learning. Instead of distributing grades, instructors act as investors to reward successes, hold students accountable for failure/learning, and make the experience fun. These trials, and the course, culminate with a presentation seeking approval from a mock panel comprised of faculty and, tentatively, FDA representatives.

Through leveraging applied gaming principles, the drug development course at the School of Pharmacy is engaging learners and educators in a new process.

"I think that the class is an excellent idea and has the potential to teach students a lot about the drug development process."

LEADING → THE WAY



Pharmacy student company Animal Pharm making their company presentation.

"I really enjoy this class. I love the overall concept and I think it's been a great learning experience. I've learned more about drug development in this class than in any others."

"I definitely enjoy the structure—it's a refreshing change from just lecture."



Above: Selected logo designs of student "companies"

RISKY BUSINESS

PITTPHARMACY FRONT AND CENTER
IN THE FIGHT TO STEM DRUG
OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

2014

UNITED STATES

47,000

APPROXIMATE
OVERDOSE
DEATHS

18,893

RX PAIN
RELIEVER
DEATHS

10,574

HEROIN
DEATHS

PENNSYLVANIA

2,500

APPROXIMATE
OVERDOSE DEATHS

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

307

APPROXIMATE
OVERDOSE DEATHS

FEATURE

Opioids, including both prescription narcotics and heroin, are in the news almost daily because of overdose deaths. More people in Pennsylvania died from opioid overdose in 2014 than died from car accidents and gunshot wounds combined. Opioids accounted for 28,648 overdose deaths nationwide in 2014. This epidemic of opioid overdose deaths is now recognized as one of the leading public health issues in the United States. Many government agencies are offering programs to stem the epidemic. President Barack Obama announced in February 2016 that more than \$1 billion is being allocated to ensure everyone with “heroin use disorder” can receive treatment. The FDA has announced new guidelines for pain medications to improve safety and prevent addiction. The United States attorney general recently initiated a program to reduce overdose deaths through prevention, treatment, and enforcement. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidance that physical therapy, exercise, and over-the-counter drugs be used before opiates.

Pharmacists have a great opportunity to help patients that may be at risk for addiction and are perfectly positioned to be positive force in stopping opioid overdoses. Frequent pharmacist-patient interactions provide pharmacists the ability to assess risk, educate, monitor patient behavior, and intervene when necessary. Pharmacists routinely perform these activities for chronic disease and can use them to improve safe use of pain medication.

ASSESSING RISK FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

PittPharmacy faculty member Ralph Tarter, director of the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research (CEDAR) has been studying substance abuse. CEDAR is a longitudinal research study that began in 1990, following a cohort of 700 families. Tarter has been studying these characteristics in children who carried a high risk of addiction due to genetic and environmental factors with children who carried an average or low risk. In addition to following children and their families, the CEDAR team cross-referenced information such as brain waves, census data about the neighborhood, and other details that make up the

We are leading the way in helping all of pharmacy to grasp the opportunity to help solve this national crisis.

PittPharmacy

- has had research programs to understand substance abuse disorder and how to predict risk for more than 25 years.
- has been among the national leaders in developing and implementing screening and referral to treatment systems.
- participated in reducing the amount of unused medications through drug take-back days.
- is developing and implementing the prescription drug-monitoring program in Pennsylvania.
- faculty members are leaders in making the overdose antidote NARCAN widely available in the state.
- students and faculty are also working to raise public awareness of potential for misuse and diversion of pain medications.
- faculty are working to ensure those that need pain relief for chronic conditions and palliative care are able to continue to receive effective care.

mosaic of an individual’s potential for abusing drugs. The data created a platform for developing an algorithm used in screening tools to identify at-risk patients.

The CEDAR-based screenings are being tested in community pharmacies around Western Pennsylvania, where pharmacists take the key role of monitoring the patient’s drug experience and interacting with the prescribing physician if the potential for a problem is identified. In this first year of the project, patients will complete questionnaires while they wait for their prescriptions to be filled. Scores from the questionnaire will alert

the pharmacist to the potential for addiction and the pharmacist will intervene.

“Identifying at-risk patients as being on a potential trajectory to addiction would be a major step forward,” Tarter says.

SCREENING FOR SUBSTANCE USE PROBLEMS

Janice Pringle, PittPharmacy faculty member and director of the Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU), has been implementing and evaluating Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), a program to detect substance abuse problems at different points of access in health care for more than 15 years. SBIRT helps a health professional quickly identify if a patient has a substance abuse problem and the level of intervention that is required for that patient.

PERU was originally funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA) to create curriculum for training medical residents in to use SBIRT. PERU currently supports four SBIRT Training Initiatives funded by SAMHSA. These grants provide support to provide SBIRT training and champion development and evaluation services to programs in Western Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., and Atlanta, Ga. They also provide support to develop SBIRT Health Professionals Interdisciplinary Up Training within health science schools including pharmacy. The first grant, POSITIVE (positive.pitt.edu/), is in the third and final year of implementation with the Allegheny Singer Research Institute and partners. The SBIRT Health Professions Student Training grants with Chatham University, University of the Sciences, and Morehouse College (sbirt.pitt.edu/) are each in their initial year of a total of three. Additionally, PERU supported SBIRT training and collaborative implementation initiatives with primary care and drug and alcohol programs in Blair County and currently supports a SBIRT project in Clearfield Jefferson County by providing SBIRT training, data collection, implementation consultation, and evaluation services.

THE DRUG EPIDEMIC AT A GLANCE

Statistics related to the U.S. drug overdose epidemic

SINCE 2000

Deaths from drug overdoses have increased

137%

Deaths from drug overdoses involving opioid pain relievers and heroin have increased

200%

4 in 5 new heroin users started out misusing prescription painkillers.



259,000,000

prescriptions were written for opioids in 2012.

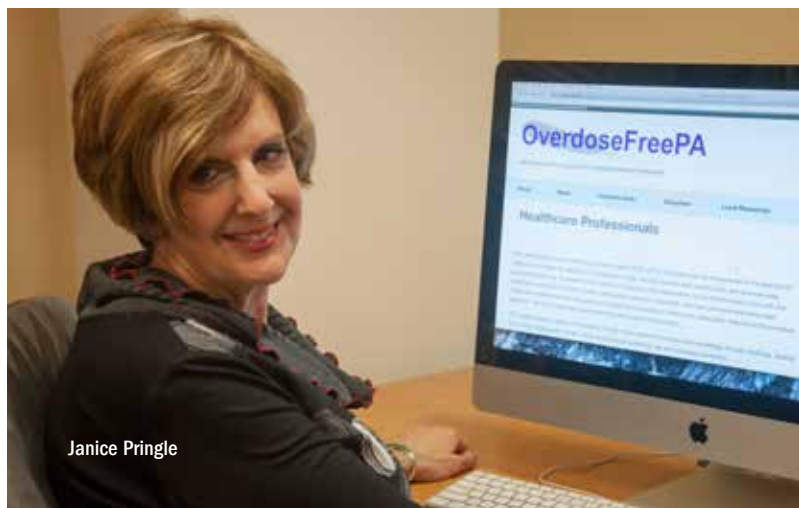
This is enough to give every American adult a bottle of pills, and then some.



(Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Society of Addiction Medicine)



Ralph Tarter



Janice Pringle

FROM SCREENING TO TREATMENT

One problem Pringle observed early in her work was health professionals were not using SBIRT because they weren't sure where they could refer them for treatment. She created Project Safe Landing a collaborative initiative designed to connect an SBIRT model directly to community services that facilitate emergency department patient access to substance use disorder treatment and other services. Implemented in Allegheny County in late 2011, Project Safe Landing reduced the occurrence of repeat emergency department admissions by patients with high risk of substance abuse disorder. Project Safe Landing helps patients who have overdosed by providing access to evidence-based interventions such as education, Suboxone® induction, and naloxone prescriptions (used to treat opioid addiction and prevent death from overdose). Her team employs a continuous quality improvement process and quality metrics developed by community collaborators and PERU researchers to optimize the program's success in reducing health care costs and helping patients.



Mike Zemaitis

SAVING LIVES—PREVENTING OVERDOSE DEATHS

On the front lines of first responders, the school is also taking a leading role in helping people survive overdose emergencies. Naloxone, a rescue drug first introduced in the 1970s in an injectable form, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose within minutes. It has also been demonstrated that intranasal administration is equally effective. A nasal administration kit including naloxone vials, syringes, and nasal applicators has been used for years. In November, the FDA approved an “all-in-one” spray unit that will make naloxone even easier to administer in an emergency.

Associate Professor Mike Zemaitis worked with Pennsylvania's Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and state Physician General Rachel Levine to make the naloxone spray available to first responders statewide through passage of Act 139. He also worked to have a statewide standing order issued to allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone to patients or third parties without a prescription. The Allegheny County Health Department, and eventually the state, issued such orders last year. Zematis has worked with the Pitt Police and University Pharmacy to assure that Pitt is at the forefront of ensuring police carry naloxone.

CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

The School of Pharmacy is serving as a major resource for the development of strategies to reduce overdoses in Western Pennsylvania. Pringle and PERU led the creation of OverdoseFreePA funded through a Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

OverdoseFreePA.org began in April of 2014 as a collaborative project including the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office, and several single county authorities along with the PERU at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. The group organized as the Overdose Prevention Coalition (OPC) to develop a free, meaningful, credible, and accessible resource in the overdosefreepa.org Web site to support multidisciplinary efforts to reduce overdose and overdose deaths. Advisory committees were formed for each of four main interest groups: family and friends; criminal justice; school and work; and health care professionals. Content and curricula for each target audience, a speaker's bureau, and links to resources and reference materials developed with the working groups are available on the Web site. Overdose death data for two pilot counties are screened to provide a close to real-time picture of who is affected, where, and by what substances. This data is critical to understand the current situation of overdose and implement effective strategies to reduce deaths. The Web site launched in August 2014 and is continually updated with current information and resources.

The success of OverdoseFreePA led Pringle to create the Pennsylvania Heroin Overdose Prevention Technical Assistance Center, also funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

This technical assistance center will be the first ever resource and technical assistance hub for all counties within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Based out of PERU, this center will assist counties in developing, implementing, and sustaining community-based initiatives for reducing overdose throughout Pennsylvania.

The Center is a joint effort between PERU and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). PERU staff will expand the existing OverdoseFreePA Web site to a statewide audience and further develop the overdose death database, assist counties across the state in forming or developing coalitions to address overdose and develop a customized strategic plan, will assist PCCD with development of requests for funding proposals to support organizations in their efforts to reduce overdose and deaths. PERU staff also will apply a tested, evidence-based framework to assess each coalition and its leadership to optimize its effectiveness. Staff will provide ongoing technical support to coalitions as they implement, refine, and evaluate their efforts to reduce overdose deaths.

SHARING DATA TO PREVENT DIVERSION AND MISUSE

Zemaitis and Pringle have been instrumental in helping Pennsylvania develop a new prescription-monitoring program, which won legislative approval in November 2014.

Once it is implemented, pharmacists who fill prescriptions for controlled substances report that information within 72 hours to a database that is available to physicians, other pharmacists, law enforcement, licensing boards, coroners, and some insurers.

If a pharmacist is suspicious of a person seeking to fill a prescription—perhaps because of a screening tool like the one Tarter developed—they can consult the database and see the person's history with obtaining the drug from other pharmacies or practitioners.

Zemaitis became interested in developing the database six or seven years ago while consulting on a case for the Drug Enforcement Agency in New Jersey. Through that case, he became aware of the importance of statewide prescription monitoring programs and contacted state and federal officials to learn what Pennsylvania was doing.

"I was sort of determined to make myself an expert in the area," he says.

Though the database was supposed to go live by June 2015 and was funded with \$2.1 million through the Department of Health, Pennsylvania's budget impasse delayed the funding for the database. It has now been approved and is expected to go live in August 2016.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

**RX OPIOID PAIN
RELIEVER SCRIPTS
INCREASED FOUR TIMES
FROM 2009 TO 2013**

**APPROXIMATELY 220
MUNICIPAL PDS AND
ENTIRE PSP CARRYING
NALOXONE**

**OVER 600 OVERDOSE
NALOXONE REVERSALS
BY POLICE IN PENNSYLVANIA
(SINCE NOVEMBER 2014, ACT 139)**

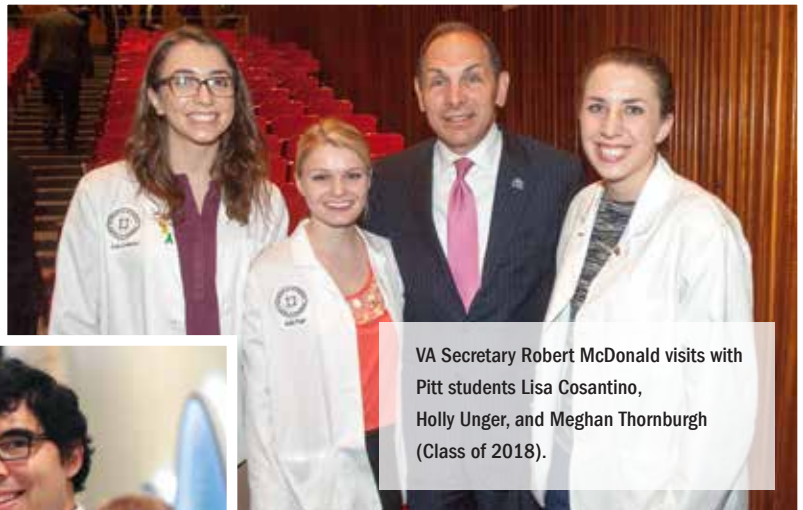
Such public policy obstacles are a frustration for Pringle, who said the complexity of the overdose and addiction problem counters advocates' efforts to address it.

"We, as a culture, don't embrace complexity well. We don't really think through solutions that are effective," she says. "People develop these problems in complex ways. Why do we think an easy solution can solve it?"

In order to enact effective public policies, Zemaitis and Pringle are leading the School of Pharmacy's efforts in advocating for practices that they know will work.

"Eventually, you do get heard, but it can take a long, long time and a lot of energy. Fortunately, we have a lot of passion and support at PittPharmacy," Pringle says.

PHARMACY IN FOCUS



VA Secretary Robert McDonald visits with Pitt students Lisa Cosantino, Holly Unger, and Meghan Thornburgh (Class of 2018).



Megan Barkell Sanchez '06, Ernest Sanchez, and Ernie Sanchez '02 holding Joey Sanchez (Class of ??) at Homecoming 2015.



The Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research group celebrates years of service at PittPharmacy

PittPharmacy student volunteers at Rxtravaganza Gala 2015



Career round table, fall 2015





PITTPHARMACY LOSES A
BELOVED FAMILY MEMBER

Gary Haberle



At what seems like much too young an age, the School of Pharmacy lost a tireless champion for Pitt Pharmacy—particularly for our staff and students.

F. Gary Haberle, assistant dean of business and finance at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, passed away on January 30, 2016.

He worked until he died, which is the way he wanted it.





GARY stood as one of the School's most respected and well-loved administrators. He had been a pillar of the School of Pharmacy and Pitt for five decades. His fierce loyalty, ability to get hard things done, exceptional organizational skills, and caring nature contributed greatly to the sense of community and success of the School today. His generosity knew no bounds.

"Like so many people, I will be forever indebted to Gary. You have heard me speak of my view that my education at the University of Pittsburgh was a great gift, and I give the School of Pharmacy much credit for my career successes. However, without Gary Haberle's influence, I would not have attended the School of Pharmacy. In the spring and summer of 1982, I was struggling to complete 12 credits in a six-week summer session at the University. It was too much, and I was ready to give up. It was Gary's wise counsel that helped me take the longer view. He helped me understand that it was okay to take another year and enter the School in the fall of 1983. There were many more times during my time as a student and as a faculty member when his guidance helped me make better decisions. He usually called me Kid or Danny. In fact, it's a sign of my deep affection for him that he is one of the few people outside my immediate family who I allowed to call me Danny. I always looked forward to seeing him during my visits to the School."

—Dan Cobaugh '88

In 1966, after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in business administration, Haberle, on a whim, submitted a job application to his alma mater. Two weeks later, he began his half century-long career with Pitt. Haberle's talents were recognized early on, and he quickly moved from the University's research accounting office to the School of Pharmacy at the urging of Dr. Joseph Buckley, professor of pharmacology, whose research accounts Haberle managed. In 1968, Haberle found himself serving as assistant to the dean, a job that often required him to take on additional responsibilities to meet the School's needs. Haberle soon assumed responsibility for helping students with their financial aid—a task he relished. He devoted many hours to finding grants, fellowships, and loans for students who struggled to pay their tuition bills. In recognition of his overall talent, he was appointed in the 1980s to the position of assistant dean of business and finance for the School of Pharmacy.

"Gary was always a positive influence during my time at Pitt. There were a couple of times I wanted to change majors because it was so hard. I could always depend on Gary to be objective and supportive. He kept on encouraging me. I am forever grateful to have attended such an amazing institution for my education." —Jen Marchegiani Gross, '96

Haberle was a generous donor to the School, establishing the Haberle Staff Appreciation Award, which provides funds to support the children of staff who enroll at the School of Pharmacy. The School of Pharmacy also honored his commitment to scholarships by establishing the Gary Haberle Endowed Fund, which provides scholarship support for deserving students.

"I am the proud recipient of his scholarship, the F. Gary Haberle Scholarship, in 2014. His generosity allows me to pursue my pharmacy studies at the School of Pharmacy. I will fondly remember his caring nature and am honored to be indebted to his generosity." —Keito Hoshitsuki, '17

**The following is a letter sent to PittPharmacy from an alumnus.
Her story, in her own words, demonstrates the kindness of Gary Haberle.**

The year was 1990. I sat in a lecture, staring at the letter from the registrar, alerting me that I would be cancelled from classes in a few days if I did not pay tuition in full. The student seated next to me looked at the letter and said, "Go see Dean Haberle." I asked what he could do, and she proceeded to tell me that he helps her every year.

I reluctantly made an appointment for the next day and walked my butt up to Salk Hall. I sat nervously waiting in Dean Haberle's office. When he came in and asked why I was there, I handed him the letter. He seemed quite familiar with it. He then eyed my engagement ring and commented on how nice it was. That led to the conversation of how I was getting married the coming April, how I could not ask my fiancé for the money, how I had exhausted all my loan options, and how my parents did not have the money to pay. Dean Haberle asked me how my experience at Pitt had been; what I planned on after school, besides getting married; and if my grades were good. He then reached into his drawer, signed a piece of paper, and handed it to me. He told me to take it to the registrar, congrats on getting married, and have a nice life. HE PAID FOR MY FINAL YEAR OF SCHOOL! I walked to the registrar in disbelief.

As it was, I honeymooned during graduation, a decision I now look back on with some sadness, but I am still happily married, so it was worth it. When I returned home, I had to go pick up my diploma and I still was nervous that I may be denied and handed a bill instead. That never happened. The gift Haberle gave me was true and genuine. Now here's where my story gets really good.

In fall 2013, my husband went to give a bid at Dean Haberle's home. He is an electrical contractor, and Dean Haberle needed a new service panel. When my husband needed to make a time to meet at his home, the phone number he gave was his office at the School of Pharmacy. One thing led to the next, and by the end of the meeting and some phone calls, my husband realized who he was and remembered that he had helped me all those years ago. Dean Haberle even took the time to look me up in old pharmacy school photos and ask about what I was doing, family, etc. And here's the best part—when it was time for my husband to give Dean Haberle the written estimate for work to be done, HE RIPPED IT UP. He told Dean Haberle that it was free. He helped me many years ago, and we would not be who and where we are without his help and generosity. Of course he was shocked and insisted on paying, but in my husband's mind, it was a done deal. I feel this is one of the best pay-it-forward stories I have ever told, and I tell it pretty often when the opportunity arises.

I wanted to share this when I heard of Dean Haberle's passing. Feel free to share it if you see fit.

Rest in peace, Dean Haberle. I will always remember you.

Gina (Di Domenico) Coddington (BSPHR '91)



Haberle was a devoted Pitt athletics fan, often traveling to cheer for Pitt teams as they advanced in league and NCAA tournaments. Haberle cared deeply for the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Pharmacy. He was a special colleague to those with whom he worked and a special benefactor to the School's students. In one way or another, Haberle touched the lives of virtually everyone associated with the School of Pharmacy since he began his career 50 years ago.

"I met Gary 35 years ago as a high school senior. At that first meeting, he assured me I would do 'just fine' in Pitt's pharmacy school. He was an incredible person who looked out for everyone. He always guided me through problems at work and would always make things turn out 'just fine.' We shared a passion for Pitt football and basketball."

—Kim Coley ('87), Faculty

Haberle was responsible for hiring and mentoring a number of present-day staff at the School of Pharmacy. At first glance, Haberle seemed to have a gruff or no-nonsense exterior, but those who worked with him can attest that that facade quickly crumbled and his interior kindness and generosity quickly became apparent. Serving as a pillar of support and knowledge for the staff, Haberle treated employees as if they were his own family. Furthermore, he always made time for camaraderie and fun. "Difficult weeks in the office often called for a group pizza lunch," Kellie Mitchell, director of finance, recounted. "He would insist that staff put down their work and attend." Haberle also was infamous for recognizing staff members and University employees with flowers, holiday gifts, and tickets to Pitt football and basketball games. Taking a vested interest in all areas of his employees' lives, Haberle even doted on staffers' children and grandchildren, remembering birthdays and sending thoughtful gifts to celebrate important milestones.



"Over the years, we've had great times with Gary. Whether it was at Buca di Beppo with the staff singing our song to Gary or at our annual cookout playing games, it was such a blessing to have those cherished moments together, Gary truly was loved by all of the staff."

—Dolly Hornick, staff

In his own words, from a previous *PittPharmacy* magazine article, Haberle said, "I've really enjoyed working at the School. I've enjoyed the people. The students are special. I guess that's one of the reasons I stayed: I had a good time."

"A kind, generous, loyal, and loving friend with a sly sense of humor who made our world a much better place in so many ways. I miss him."

—Randy Juhl, former dean, School of Pharmacy



HOW TO GIVE TO THE F. GARY HABERLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The University has a secure link that will allow you to give directly to the F. Gary Haberle Scholarship Fund. Visit <https://secure.giveto.pitt.edu/g16igh>. On the second page of the secure site, you can select the fund.

Distinguished Alumni

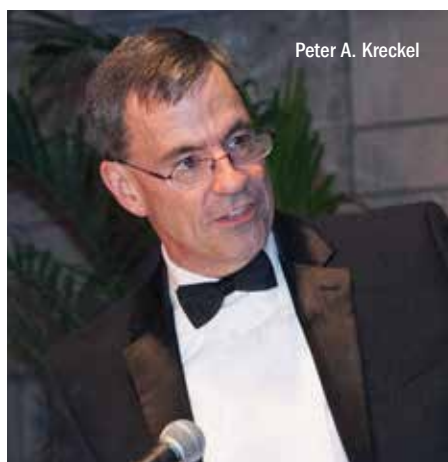
Since 1962, the School of Pharmacy has honored alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Throughout the years, more than 125 men and women have been recognized for their educational, professional, and University-affiliated achievements by showing exemplary achievements over the course of their careers. A list of past recipients can be found at: http://pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/past_distinguished.php.



Simone F. Karp

Simone F. Karp

Simone F. Karp (BSPHR '86) is the cofounder and chief business officer at CECity.com, Inc. CECity.com is the leading provider of cloud-based quality reporting, performance improvement, and lifelong learning platforms. She cofounded the company in 1997 with her brother, Lloyd Myers (BSPHR '84). In August 2015, CECity was acquired by Premier, Inc., a leading health care improvement company. Together, the organizations have the vision to improve the quality of patient care across the continuum. During her career, Karp has pioneered efforts to improve the quality of patient care through the development of proprietary cloud-based registries and technology solutions that enable the alignment of quality and performance improvement, professionalism, and value-based payment. Karp focused her pharmacy career in oncology with both the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. A three-time legacy at the University of Pittsburgh, Karp was involved in Pi Lambda Phi, Phi Delta Chi, and Alpha Epsilon Phi.



Peter A. Kreckel

Peter A. Kreckel

Peter A. Kreckel (BSPHR '81), adjunct assistant professor of pharmacology at Saint Francis University and pharmacy manager of Thompson Pharmacy on Broad Avenue in Altoona, Pa., received his BS in pharmacy in 1981 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Prior to his current roles, he spent 26 years working for the independent chain Kopp Drug.

Kreckel developed a rural pharmacy rotation at Thompson Pharmacy when he arrived in 2008, and he has served as a preceptor for 35 pharmacy students.

He has taught pharmacology in the physician assistant science program at Saint Francis University since 2005. He gives lectures for freeCE.com, where he covers a wide range of community pharmacist-centered topics. He also works with the Partnering for Health Services, an insurance-free office that provides evidence-based, cost-effective prescribing.

Last October, Kreckel was named the 2014 National Preceptor of the Year by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Foundation at the NCPA 116th Annual Convention and Trade Exposition.



Lloyd N. Myers

Lloyd N. Myers

Lloyd N. Myers (BSPHR '84) is the cofounder and president of CECity.com, Inc. CECity.com is the leading provider of cloud-based quality reporting, performance improvement, and lifelong learning platforms. He cofounded the company in 1997 with his sister, Simone Karp (BSPHR '86), also a School of Pharmacy alumnus. During the last 19 years, Myers and Karp have developed and delivered innovative technology solutions to improve patient care. This past August, announced the acquisition of CECity by Premier, Inc., a leading health care improvement company that unites approximately 3,400 hospitals to transform health care.

Prior to CECity, he cofounded the nation's first specialty pharmacy programs at Stadtlanders Pharmacy and then Murray Pharmacy.

A legacy at the University of Pittsburgh, he was a member of Phi Lambda Phi while he was at the University. Myers also is a generous and adamant supporter of the Grace Lamsam Program for the Underserved, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the Friendship Circle, and Shady Side Academy, among other charitable programs.

“Everything I have come from this university: my faith, my family, my friends.” —Peter Kreckel



Jack T. Tighe III

Jack T. Tighe III

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy alumnus **Jack T. Tighe** (BSPHR '78) is the founder, president, and CEO of TMG Health, Inc., a leading national provider of expert solutions for government-sponsored health plans since 1998. Prior to this position, he held several leadership roles, including deputy chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, senior vice president of government programs for Independence Blue Cross, and assistant executive director of the Parenteral Drug Association.

While at Pitt, Tighe was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and Allegheny Pharmaceutical Association's Board of Directors. He served as president of the Student Pharmaceutical Association (Pitt chapter). He also has a master's degree in business administration from Villanova University.

Tighe has received numerous prestigious awards. At Pitt, he was honored as a Legacy Laureate and awarded a 225th Anniversary Medallion. He has served on many committees, including the Board of Visitors of the School of Pharmacy.



Pictured above are past and current distinguished alumni present at RxTravaganza. From left to right are William Kennedy Sr. (2006), Salvatore Gaetano Jr. (2006), Robert LeWinter (1991), Peter Kreckel (2015), Simone Karp (2015), Zane Gates (2013), William Thompson Jr. (2004), Richard Bertin (1977), Jack Tighe III (2015), James Mastrian (2008), and Lloyd Myers (2015).

RXTRAVAGANZA 2015 SPONSORS

<p style="text-align: center;">Platinum Sponsor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CECity.com Rite Aid The Tighe Foundation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gold Sponsor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CVS Health FluidEdge Consulting Giant Eagle Pharmacy Thompson Pharmacy Universal Printing Company LLC UPMC & UPMC Health Plan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Silver Sponsor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Value Drug Company</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Patron Sponsor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Sarah C. Kaiser Peter and Denise Kreckel</p>
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Rising Stars

This award is given to individuals who have graduated between five and 15 years ago and who are making noteworthy contributions to the profession of pharmacy. These individuals have truly distinguished themselves in a short time.



Timothy J.
Davis

Timothy J. Davis

Timothy J. Davis is a 2000 PittPharmacy graduate and holds a BS in neuroscience with a certificate in medical ethics from the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. He is the president and COO of PANTHERx Specialty and president of RevolutionRx LLC. Davis is the owner and vice president of Beaver Falls Health Mart Pharmacy and owner of Beaver Health Mart Pharmacy and Rochester Health Mart. He has held numerous positions, including chair of the McKesson Corporation independent advisory board, chair of the National Community Pharmacists Association Committee on Technology, chair of the National Community Pharmacists Association Special Committee on Vision 2025, member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy, chair of the Pitt School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, and the Health Mart Speakers Bureau. He guest lectures at the University of Pittsburgh on pharmacoconomics, pharmacy business design, and patient focused care systems.



Tanya J.
Fabian

Tanya J. Fabian

Tanya J. Fabian, Pharm D, PhD, received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 1998. She is a graduate of the Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist training program, earning her Doctor of Philosophy in pharmaceutical sciences in 2003. She completed an NIH postdoctoral clinical research fellowship in geriatric psychiatry and became a board-certified psychiatric pharmacy specialist in 2008. Fabian is a dedicated member of the University of Pittsburgh faculty and is currently associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and psychiatry in the Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine. Administrative leadership has been a major focus of her professional career since 2006, when Fabian was appointed director of pharmacy research and pharmacy services at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Fabian has embraced her role as a mentor and currently serves as a faculty advisor for the University of Pittsburgh collegiate chapter of the College of Psychiatric & Neurologic Pharmacists and as residency program director for an ASHP accredited PGY2 psychiatric pharmacy residency program.



John Jang
Kim

John Jang Kim

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy alumnus **John Jang Kim** (PharmD, '99), is the director of value access and policy at Amgen Inc., a global biotechnology company that discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets human therapeutics. Kim has worked at Amgen for the past 14 years. In his present role, he leads the development and implementation of global market access, health economic, and pricing strategies for the commercialization of oncology molecules in the company's pipeline product portfolio. Kim's primary focus is on Europe and other markets outside the United States. Previously, he served as the regional oncology access lead for Amgen's Intercontinental Region and completed a temporary assignment in Switzerland in 2012 as an international access lead for a key oncology product.

While at Pitt, Kim enjoyed representing the School of Pharmacy in leadership societies (Phi Lambda Sigma and Omicron Delta Kappa) and was a brother in Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. In addition to his studies at Pitt, John also attended Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for post-graduate health outcomes training.

“The skills that I received at Pitt really prepared me well for the opportunities and challenges for my career. It really set me up for success.” —John Kim



Stephanie Harriman McGrath

Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07), is a clinical pharmacist at Rite Aid and a recent assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics at PittPharmacy. McGrath was honored to receive the 2013 APhA-ASP Faculty Member of the Year award. She is an active member of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association and serves on the Public Relations Committee. Additionally, McGrath serves as a peer reviewer for the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, *Pharmacists Letter*, and the *Pennsylvania Pharmacist*. She was honored as the 2013 Distinguished Young Pharmacist by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

McGrath is the primary preceptor for the PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Residency program at the University of Pittsburgh and Rite Aid. She was the proud recipient of the 2012 Residency Preceptor of the Year award. Through all of these roles, she strives to develop collaborative relationships with physicians, aid patients in optimizing their medication therapy and health outcomes, and teach students and residents how to care for patients in an outpatient setting.



School of Pharmacy Rising Stars 2015: John Kim, Tanya Fabian, Timothy Davis and Stephanie McGrath



An original silent movie, starring, directed by, and produced by PittPharmacy members, premiered at RXTAVAGANZA 2015. View the movie at <https://youtu.be/e3HyHKREAQI>.

Where We Are Going

INSIDE SALK HALL & RESEARCH PAVILION



Janice Pringle

Pringle Receives Funding for Community Pharmacy Data Projects

Janice L. Pringle, PhD, has received support for several projects under her direction. These include Implementing Screenings, Brief Intervention within Community Pharmacies sponsored by UPMC Health Plan, which will train two clinical coordinators at Giant Eagle on how to implement SBI to effectively support the implementation of the interventions using motivational interviewing principles and implementation science principles and to effectively evaluate data collected from the project to facilitate application of the intervention with fidelity.

The Program and Evaluation Research Unit will provide an organizational health assessment, including strengths and weaknesses, and determine what actions need to be taken to achieve the sponsor's long-range vision under the grant Organizational Health Assessment Sponsor sponsored by Morehouse School of Medicine.

Pringle also will work with Additional Analysis of the Pennsylvania Project Data to provide additional analysis of the data from a previous study. That study evaluated the effectiveness of a patient care approach involving screening and brief interventions upon medication adherence and downstream health care costs. Additional analysis will provide information regarding which patients responded best to the Screenings Brief Intervention and more information regarding what health care costs and events were most impacted by the patient health changes associated with SBI.



Olufunmilola
Abraham and
Rebecca Wytiaz

PittPharmacy Faculty and Student Awarded PPA Grant

Olufunmilola Abraham, BPharm, PhD, and **Rebecca Wytiaz** (Class of 2018) were awarded a grant by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) for their project, Children's Perceptions of Self-care and Medication Adherence Mobile Applications: Implications for Pharmacist-provided Counseling.

This project aims to describe pediatric patients' perceptions about using medication adherence apps and parents' preferences for children's involvement in medication adherence and self-care. Findings from this study will identify the most effective ways to engage children with chronic diseases in innovative medication therapy management services in a developmentally appropriate manner. The knowledge gained also will shed light on the value that pharmacists bring to the larger healthcare team, specifically focusing on the essential educational role pharmacists fulfill with regard to pediatric patient care.



Carolyn Thorpe

Thorpe Awarded VA Grant for Veteran Nursing Home Residents

Carolyn T. Thorpe, PhD, MPH, was awarded an R01-equivalent grant through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Thorpe will examine patterns and outcomes of intense vs. de-intensified treatment for glycemic, blood pressure, and lipid control in veterans with limited life expectancy and/or advanced dementia (LLE/AD) who reside in VA nursing homes. This study will link several large data sources, including Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessments, medication records, VA use and clinical data, and Medicare claims to examine variation across VA nursing homes in implementation of recommendations for de-intensified treatment in this population; identify patient, caregiver, provider, and facility factors contributing to this variation; and determine effects on patient outcomes.

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID SLATKIN

WONDERFUL COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND TO MANY

David Joseph Slatkin, PhD, former faculty member, assistant dean of student affairs, and director of the graduate program at PittPharmacy died November 16, 2015, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was well loved by faculty and students alike for his positive view on life, fun-loving spirit, and can-do attitude.

David had roots in Brooklyn and Scarsdale in the New York, N.Y. area, and in the south, including the University of Mississippi where he earned his PhD in pharmacognosy. David left Pitt in 1991 and went on to become the founding dean at three schools of pharmacy including Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy (1991), Midwestern University's Glendale Campus (1998) and, most recently, Chicago State University. David had his roots in Pharmacognosy, earning his PhD at the University of Mississippi. He was the kind of person who must have been like a duck—very calm on the outside with lots of action going on under the water. The evidence for that was all that he accomplished in his professional career.

Dean Patricia Kroboth recalls his enthusiasm each year for traveling to the Big East basketball tournaments at Madison Square Garden—and the stories of his ventures to the Carnegie Deli, which she has never seen but can imagine quite vividly from his descriptions. Stated Kroboth, "I also remember that when he got a sporty little white car, he put the vanity plate on it that said '4SLATS'—whether it meant the car was for him or whether it meant there were four Slatkins (Judy, his wife of 49 years now, and two daughters), I never knew."

He and Judy moved from Arizona back to Chicago, Ill., for the job—and also because it gave them the opportunity to be near his daughters and their children—he was Papa to six grandchildren.

David's life was too short. He had a big impact on students and faculty and has left us with wonderful memories.



David J. Slatkin
during his career
at PittPharmacy



Sandra Kane-Gill

Kane-Gill Awarded AHRQ Grant

Sandra L. Kane-Gill, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP, was awarded a three-year R18 grant through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Kane-Gill will conduct a cluster randomized controlled trial to determine the impact of patient-centered telemedicine-based high-risk medication regimen reviews on adverse drug event (ADE) reduction in four nursing homes. In this study, a new pharmacy practice model for consultant pharmacists will be developed and evaluated that includes more frequent medication regimen reviews when residents are prescribed high-risk drugs on admission and during their stay. The product of this research will be a generalizable electronic medical record-agnostic medication regimen review model, including decision support rules and structured communication tools to optimally execute the consultant pharmacist's role in ADE prevention in the nursing home.

Kane-Gill also was reelected to the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Council, the decision-making body regarding the governance of SCCM. Kane-Gill began her three-year term in February 2015.

The SCCM Council is the highest governing body, accountable to the SCCM membership itself. Criteria for candidate for the council are visionary leadership, a track record of hard work and productivity in service to SCCM and to critical care, and specific expertise (e.g., in education or finance) germane to the business operations of the society.

Q&A

RHEA BOWMAN (PHARMD '11)

Clinical Pharmacist, Clinical Consultative Operations, CVS Caremark

What does being a clinical pharmacist for consultative operations entail?

"My duties include assessing the needs of patients, talking with them about appropriate use of prescription medicines, identifying potential side effects and drug interactions, and creating individualized strategies for compliance that help to simplify complex medication regimens."

"Physicians refer some of their most complex patients to me. After reviewing the patient's medications, I work on finding the optimal regimen for each person. After assessing patient charts, I make recommendations that hopefully help patients reach their therapeutic goals faster."

Did you think you would be doing this when you were a student pharmacist?

"Yes, actually! I knew that I wanted to do patient counseling and medication therapy management in general, because I have always loved talking with people and helping them understand their medicines. I did not know what setting I would be practicing in, though, and it has been a wonderful surprise to me to learn in my career that this sort of opportunity is available at what most people would think of as an insurance company."

Do you feel like you are a part of a health care team?

"Absolutely. I interact daily with patients and their physicians and see direct changes or improvements to medication regimens as a result of the intervention. I like being a problem solver."

You do your work telephonically. What do you like about the experience?

"Everything really. It offers convenience and accessibility to the patients; we are able to work around their schedules effortlessly. At times, it also provides the opportunity for very open and honest conversation, as sometimes patients are more comfortable divulging information over the phone than they may be in person."

What types of difficult decisions do you make as a pharmacist?

"Every day I deal with difficult decisions, because every patient and every conversation is unique. I prioritize medication-related problems and make quick judgment calls on what information I may ultimately discuss with the physician."



Rhea Santagelo Bowman near Rxpresso, the coffee shop in Salk Commons that was underwritten by her graduating class

What has been the best decision you have made as a pharmacist?

“Moving into managed care, because I get to work more directly with patients, which I love.”

How has your view of pharmacy changed since you transitioned from student to alumnus?

“I think that, generally speaking, I did not realize there were so many opportunities available to pharmacists when I was a student. I was familiar with the traditional jobs in both the retail and hospital settings and a few nontraditional jobs in between. But I was far less familiar with the many, many roles pharmacists could take on in business and other areas.”

What advice do you have for new graduates?

“Be open-minded. A lot of student pharmacists that I interact with mention that they have a very specific practice setting in mind for after they graduate. I think that it is admirable, and imperative, to have defined career goals. However, I also think there is more than one path to get to that end goal, and if you don’t keep an open mind, it may be easy to miss the opportunity that could open the door to your dreams.”

In addition to being a pharmacist, you are a mother, wife, and author. How do you do it all?

“Little sleep and lots of coffee! Joking! I think that being prepared is the key to everything in life. That being said, staying organized is a hobby for me. I am constantly making to-do lists and planning out what I can do in my pockets of free time to advance toward my goal—whether that goal is creating a crafty project with my daughter or writing another chapter of the next novel I’d like to write.”

What changes would you like to see in the future of pharmacy?

“I’d like to see the general perception of pharmacists change. Although pharmacists work in a myriad of practice settings currently, I think that the majority of the population still pictures the pharmacist as someone that they interact with only in the retail setting. I’d love for it to be more commonplace to think of a pharmacist calling you on the phone, working with you in an outpatient clinic, or sitting down with you to do patient counseling.”

NEW FACES: FACULTY

**Christian Fernandez, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Center for Pharmacogenetics

Christian Fernandez received his PhD from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, where he worked on the development of PEGylated peptides for the in vivo delivery of plasmid DNA. Fernandez completed his postdoctoral fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital under the mentorship of Dr. Mary Relling. During his fellowship, his research focused on improving the treatment of pediatric cancers by studying the pharmacogenomics of adverse drug reactions to chemotherapeutic agents. His current research focuses on the immunogenicity of protein-based therapeutics or biologics, a major problem that can lead to life-threatening complications and diminished drug efficacy. The objectives of his research are to identify therapeutic strategies that can block drug-induced immune responses while maintaining therapeutic drug levels, to develop clinical laboratory tests that can monitor drug bioavailability and immunogenicity to indicate when a drug substitution or dose modification is appropriate, and to elucidate the mechanism of adverse drug reactions by identifying polymorphisms (variations) in genes that can explain why certain patients are predisposed to developing immune responses to biologics.

**Lorin Grieve, PharmD**

Instructor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Lorin Grieve was awarded his PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh in 2014 with a concentration in academic research. The focus of his research was the use of student-led study efforts to enhance learning in the pharmacy curriculum. Grieve completed a postgraduate fellowship in clinical simulation at the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh. During that time, he was contracted with the School of Pharmacy to lead the effort in redesigning the Drug Development 1 class from the standard didactic model to a more engaging game-like experience (see page 13). He has since been brought on board to lead that class (now referred to as RxPedition) and to strengthen the collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and the School of Information Science and Technology. Grieve's years of experience designing games for entertainment purposes allow him to apply gaming techniques to the classroom, gamifying the experience and increasing student engagement and motivation (see page 13). In addition to games, his interests include ancient pharmacy practice and a well-made cup of coffee.

**Thao Huynh, PharmD**

Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Thao Huynh is responsible for coordinating and lecturing in the Pharmacotherapy of Oncology and Hematology course for P3 students. She is a board-certified oncology pharmacist. Huynh practices as an oncology clinical pharmacy specialist at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, where she focuses on gynecologic malignancies and breast cancer. Huynh also serves as a PGY-1 residency preceptor and student preceptor at the site. Huynh received her PharmD degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences, completed an ASHP-accredited PGY-1 pharmacy residency at Lancaster General Health, and specialized in oncology and hematology as a PGY-2 resident at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Prior to joining the University of Pittsburgh, Huynh developed pharmacy services for pain and palliative patients at Reading Hospital and served as a PGY-1 residency preceptor.

NEW FACES: FACULTY

**Amanda Korenoski, PharmD**

Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Amanda Korenoski, PharmD '12, MHA earned her PharmD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. After graduation, she completed three years of ASHP-accredited postgraduate residency training at the UPMC Presbyterian hospital, specializing in health system pharmacy administration and critical care pharmacy. Korenoski earned her master's degree in health administration from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health with a Certificate in Health Care Systems Engineering. In addition, Korenoski received her Six Sigma Green Belt through this program.

Korenoski is the managing director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center of UPMC and a contributing faculty member to the Medical Toxicology Fellowship at UPMC. Korenoski has served on a variety of ASHP committees and is active in many other national, regional, and state-based professional pharmacy organizations.

**Peng Yang, BS, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Peng Yang received his BS degree in Pharmacy from Shandong University and his PhD in medicinal chemistry from Tsinghua University. Upon completion of his studies, Yang worked at a pharmaceutical company (Bio-Duro) as a senior scientist and group leader for three years. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Pitt Pharmacy faculty member Xiang-Qun "Sean" Xie at the University of Pittsburgh. He had extensive training and experience in new drug research and development with one drug in the market, two drugs in clinical trial, and several candidates in pre-clinical studies. Peng's research at the University focuses on design and structure-activity relationship studies of selective cannabinoid receptor 2 (CB2) ligands for cancer and drug abuse, novel p62-ZZZ domain inhibitors for multiple myeloma and osteoporosis, and p18 small molecule chemical probes for hematopoietic stem cells expansion.

NEW FACES: STAFF

**Amy Giles**

Program Coordinator, MSPBA Program

Amy Giles joined the School of Pharmacy in July 2015 as the program coordinator for the new Master of Science in Pharmacy Business Administration (MSPBA) program. This exciting new role allows her to use her marketing and administrative skills to support the faculty and students in the program.

Prior to joining the University, she spent more than 17 years in the marketing department of Guardian Protection Services, a home security company. As the marketing manager, she was responsible for independent research, analysis, and financial comparisons as well as budget development and adherence. She assisted in the development and production of sales literature, interactive presentations, and corporate communications. She was highly involved with event planning for corporate functions. In her later role as production specialist, Giles developed and maintained production calendars and assignments of tasks to staff members while providing daily oversight of the staff and project progress.

Giles has a BS degree in communication from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

EXIT INTERVIEWS 2016 GRADUATES

LANA AVSHALUMOV

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): PharmD

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Favorite Pitt Memory: opportunity to work the North Carolina state fair while on my community pharmacy APPE rotation and immunize more than 1,000 people at this event with their annual flu vaccine

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: extraordinary opportunity, meaningful friendships, unforgettable memories

Where Do You Go from Here: I've interned with CVS Pharmacy throughout my pharmacy school career and I will be working as a pharmacist for CVS upon graduating. I plan on moving to New York in the fall after spending the summer at home in Cleveland.



JENNIFER BAIRD

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): PharmD

Hometown: Blairsville, Pa.

Favorite Pitt Memory: Exploring San Diego, Calif., with my amazing classmates at AMCP annual

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: a community that fosters self-discovery

Where Do You Go from Here: I will be moving to Cambridge, Mass., to complete a two-year Global Commercial Strategy fellowship at Sanofi Genzyme within the Rare Diseases business unit.



KIMBERLY FRANTZ

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): PharmD

Hometown: Pittsburgh

Favorite Pitt Memory: six-week APPE rotation with the Indian Health Service in Shiprock, N.M. with four of my peers

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: Rollercoaster of amazing adventures and experiences

Where Do You Go from Here: PGY1 residency with the Indian Health Service in Tuba City, Ariz.



TYLER HALFHILL

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): BSPS, PharmD

Hometown: Uniontown, Pa.

Favorite Pitt Memory: Going to Pitt football games freshman year

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: An incredible experience

Where Do You Go from Here: Working for Walgreens in Fayetteville, N.C.



KELSEY MOSS

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): BSPS, PharmD

Hometown: New Castle, Pa.

Favorite Pitt Memory: My favorite experience was participating in rotations around the world by practicing in clinics within the Indian Health Service in Phoenix, Ariz., and learning about international health care at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth, Australia. Throughout school, my favorite memories include making some of my closest friends through LKS events and being able to work with faculty members and students to create and implement our mobile application, MEDivate.

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: Unforgettable

Where Do You Go from Here: I will be completing an ambulatory-focused PGY1 at Allegheny General Hospital and also will be working as a floating community pharmacist for Rite Aid in the Pittsburgh North District.

MEERA VACHHANI

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): BSPS, PharmD

Hometown: Plano, Texas

Favorite Pitt Memory: Anything related to the beauty that is the Cathedral of Learning

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: Long nights, close friends, unforgettable experiences

Where Do You Go from Here: PGY1/PGY2 pharmacotherapy residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital

RYAN WINSTEAD

Graduating with Pitt Degree(s): PharmD

Hometown: Canton, Ohio

Favorite Pitt Memory: While Pitt has provided me with many life-changing experiences, I will remember most the sometimes ridiculous, sometimes mundane, sometimes irresponsible, but always extraordinary times spent with the lifelong friends I've made here.

Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Fewer: Unforgettable and irreplaceable

Where Do You Go from Here: University of Kentucky PGY1

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH OUR PITT FAMILY



The PittPharmacy family wants to hear about your achievements and promotions. We want to share with alumni, faculty, staff, and students. Send us your news and keep in touch.

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Facebook: facebook.com/PittPharmacy

Twitter: @pittpharmacy and @RxDeanKroboth

Keep In Touch: rxalumni@pitt.edu

Home Base: pharmacy.pitt.edu

NEWS FLASH!

Don't wait to update your E-mail information!
Get the next electronic issue.

Contact Meg Osborne at omeghan@pitt.edu



IN MEMORY FUND

To establish an award in memory of an alumnus, family, or friend that will provide a deserving pharmacy student with needed funds, please contact Meg Osborne at omeghan@pitt.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

RECENTLY DECEASED SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ALUMNI

John L. Bengel - BS '61	Kenneth W. Parkinson - PharmD '49
Mary E. Berghauer - PhD '75	John W. Ponas - BS '62
Frank J. Boston - BS '59	Arnold L. Roberts - PhD '55
Desmond R. Brown - BS '43	Gary J. Sobotka - BS '71
Matthew J. Davies - BS '12	Robert L. Stevens - PharmD '48
Leonard Irving Edelson - BS '43	Earl Reiser - PhD '51
George Thomas Fee - BS '54	Robert A. Santos - BS '69
Ronald Charles Foster - BS '62	Albert Simmons - BS '58
Paul L. Griffith - BS '40	Charles H. Stahl III - BS '59
Allen M. Hoffman - BS '53	Paul M. Stephan - PharmD '01
Gerald N. Hurwitz - BS '50	Robert L. Stevens - BS '48
William Percy Kolbe - BS '52	James Wilbert Wagner - BS '64
James E. Lamport - BS '58	William R. Weyel - BS '53
David Warren Lehr - BS '55	Roger Lee Wheat Jr. - BS '88
Charles Edward Liken Sr. - BS '59	Richard Lewis Witt - BS '56
Eleanore Mary Manns - BS '49	

Check It Out



Emily Mallit (BCPS '12, PharmD '14), was selected to serve on the 2015–16 American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Government Affairs Committee. This leadership group advocates for the interests of long-term care pharmacy and optimal medication use in nursing facilities.

Emily is director of clinical services at Garda Rx LLC, a long-term care pharmacy servicing Western Pennsylvania.

Matthew Felbinger (PharmD '10), recently accepted a position as a clinical pharmacist in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Elyse Weitzman (BCPS '11, PharmD '13), recently completed her PGY2 ambulatory care residency at Allegheny General Hospital and accepted a position with Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin as a patient-centered medical home ambulatory care pharmacist.

Jacqueline Lovitch (PharmD '04), previously the senior manager of clinical operations at Express Scripts, is now working as a pharmacy sales consultant for Highmark.

Kristal Milo-Ross (PharmD '04), celebrated nine years with Giant Eagle. She is a certified immunizer and is currently working as the clinical coordinator for diabetes education.

Timothy Mizak (PharmD '12), is now the manager of clinical operations and value-based purchasing at Gateway Health. He previously worked as a formulary specialist for the company.

Mark Garofoli (PharmD '04), recently transitioned from his position as an MTM clinical pharmacist for Humana to the MTM program manager and adjunct assistant professor at the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy.

Two recent PittPharmacy graduates, **Sarah Rindfuss** (BCPS '11, PharmD '13) and **Vanita Sundararaman** (PharmD '11), were recently recognized by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) part of the 2016 APhA Immunization Champion Awards, with an honorable mention in the Community Outreach category. This award acknowledges pharmacists for the contributions they have made toward increasing vaccination rates.

Rindfuss and Sundararaman are both clinical pharmacy specialists in ambulatory care at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Care Partner Clinic. They were presented with their award at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition in March 2016 in Baltimore, Md.



Brian Bobby (PharmD '03), was recently promoted to the vice president, clinical services, position for Rite Aid; he is the youngest individual to ever hold such a highly esteemed position. In his new role, he is tasked with developing, implementing, operating, and measuring current clinical programs and new clinical pharmacy business opportunities. Since joining Rite Aid as a pharmacy intern in 2000, Bobby has assumed positions of increasing responsibility. He previously served as director of the innovative Rite Aid Health Alliance program with a nationwide coverage area. Under Bobby's leadership, Health Alliance was able to expand to seven markets nationwide. A leader in pharmacy, Bobby has received numerous honors and accolades, including the Eli Lilly Gold Medallion Award and the Phi Delta Chi Alumni of the Year award.



Madeline
Chavara

IPSF Chairperson Chavara Attends UN Youth Forum

As chairperson of external relations for the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), **Madeline Chavara** (a member of the Class of 2017) attended the United Nations Economic and Social Council youth forum Youth Taking Action to Implement the 2030 Agenda in New York, N.Y., in February 2016. The forum was a platform for youth-led nongovernmental organizations, member state youth delegates, and government representatives to discuss the importance of youth involvement in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which were adopted by UN member states this past September. Decent jobs for youths, forming partnership networks, gender equality, and youths' role in political engagement were among the major themes. Chavara participated on a panel with other student leaders and UN representatives to discuss the importance of health in how it relates to the newly adopted goals.



Cody Moore

Moore Awarded American Society of Transplantation Grant

Cody Moore (BSPS '12, PharmD '14) was recently awarded a travel grant from the American Society of Transplantation to attend the 2015 Fellows Symposium on Transplantation in Grapevine, Texas. The symposium offers an in-depth and interactive study of clinical transplantation, basic transplant immunology, and translational science while offering important insights into career development and unparalleled access to expert faculty. Moore is the first postdoctoral research fellow in solid organ transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. The goals of this program are to educate and train scientists who will assume leadership roles in transplantation research by performing cutting-edge science in support of the field's agenda, with specific emphasis on novel approaches to problems and immunotherapeutics, and to make substantial scientific contributions to improve the lives of transplant candidates and recipients.



Ashley Fancher

Fancher Receives Prestigious and Competitive SLAS Award

PittPharmacy graduate student **Ashley Fancher** has received a Tony B. Academic Travel Award to attend the 2016 Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) conference in San Diego, Calif. The Tony B. Academic Travel Award program recognizes up-and-coming researchers who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in laboratory science and technology.

Fancher will present her abstract, titled "Development of Secondary Radio Ligand Binding and Reporter Assays to Follow-up Hits from the AR-TIF2 HCS." Fancher and team are developing assays to identify compounds with potential to be optimized into drugs for the treatment of castration-resistant prostate cancer.

The Tony B. Academic Travel Award is a very prestigious and competitive award that honors Tony Beugelsdijk of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, an Association for Laboratory Automation cofounder who passed away in August 2009.

Paul A. Johnston, PhD, research associate professor at PittPharmacy, is Fancher's faculty advisor.



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BARK HALL & BOYDSON
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT

95

**THE
CLASS OF 2016
HAD A**

97.5%

**ASHP MATCH
RATE.**

%

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA HOSPITALS
VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN HOSPITAL & CLINICS
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HEALTHCARE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO HEALTH SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HEALTHCARE
PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM – AMBULATORY CARE
CLEVELAND CLINIC FLORIDA
CVS CAREMARK
CHILLICOTHE VAMC
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO/LIFETIME HLTH MEDICAL GROUP
NORTH FLORIDA/SOUTH GEORGIA VA HEALTH SYSTEM
BEAUMONT HOSPITAL, ROYAL OAK
HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD
BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER
BAYFRONT HEALTH ST. PETERSBURG
VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE KING'S DAUGHTERS
PENN STATE HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER
W.G. (BILL) HEFNER VA MEDICAL CENTER
UPMC ST. MARGARET
SSM CARDINAL GLENNON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH PLAN, INC.
ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL
KAISER FOUNDATION HEALTH PLAN OF COLORADO
SAINT VINCENT HEALTH SYSTEM
INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE PHARMACY SERVICES
CHARLESTON AREA MEDICAL CENTER
UPMC MERCY
HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL
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CONEMAUGH MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Investing in the Future

Gift of an Endowed Student Resource Fund



Patricia and Wesley Hartman at Rxtravaganza Gala 2011

WHAT IS A STUDENT RESOURCE FUND?

A student resource fund establishes a fund for books, lab fees, travel, prizes or other educational expenses in a selected department.

Contact June Stine at jus73@pitt.edu for more information.

As parents, we were always involved in our children's schooling, both in grade school and high school. Like most parents, we dreamt that they would go on to college, get a degree, and be successful.

Being accepted into the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy was as a big deal for us as it was for our son. Again, we wanted to be a part of the school and become involved in any way we could. We participated in events, enjoyed exploring what the city of Pittsburgh had to offer, and loved going to the School of Pharmacy's black tie galas.

"It wasn't long before the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy wasn't some stranger but felt more like family. During some five years of involvement with the school, meeting professors, advisors, and Dean Patricia Kroboth, you could sense how much the dean, staff, and faculty loved what they were doing and would in any way ensure the success of their students. They were always there to give support academically and, if needed, a helping hand monetarily to pay a bill. There was no doubt in our mind that the school went beyond the call of duty.

"Upon graduation and seeing our son succeed in his endeavors, we decided there must be some way to give something back to this institution for the quality program they run. Originally, we heard about the 1787 Society, and figured this would be an easy way to give back. It would be effortless for us to leave a gift in our wills.

"After a short period, we decided we were at a time in our lives where we wanted to do something now while we could see and enjoy the results. Then we heard of the student resource fund, where by giving a small amount now, a stipend would be available to help a pharmacy student with books, lab fees, travel, or other educational expenses every year. We decided we would prefer to see where and how our funds were being distributed rather than just going into the general fund of the School of Pharmacy. This would be a gift that keeps on giving! This was just what we were looking for. It's a good feeling to know that you can help others, see results, and be part of a larger cause.

"The completion of the new research pavilion is itself a major asset to the program and a sign of the school's commitment. The Student Research Fund became a prime opportunity to show our commitment to this institution and also to show our support by having our name included in the DNA wall helix that is displayed in the new commons. By setting up an endowed fund, it enables us to have up to five years to fulfill a pledge, making it easy and not much of a financial burden.

"Who knows—maybe someday our grandchildren will attend Pitt Pharmacy and see our names, and we will still be able to help them in their dreams and endeavors.

What a win-win situation!"

—Patricia and Wesley Hartman

Leaving a Legacy

Dr. Marjorie Baney is a 1969 graduate of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. She seems an unlikely candidate to be leaving a bequest to the School of Pharmacy until you speak to her and learn what both the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Pharmacy mean to her. Marjorie has left equally generous gifts in her will to both of these schools and is a proud member of the 1787 Society* here at Pitt.

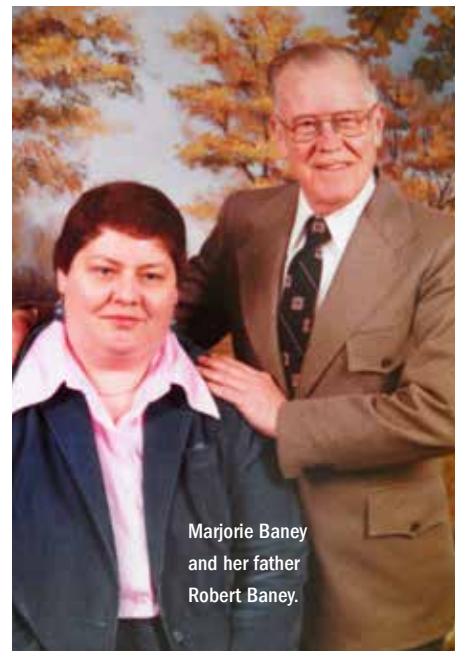
Marjorie's father, Robert Sheasley Baney (PharmD '43), grew up in Lewisburg, Pa. All through high school he worked after school and weekends at the local drug store, Smiths. He knew from an early age he wanted to be a pharmacist, not just a druggist.

After his high school graduation, he attended Bucknell University for a year while he lived at home and continued his work for Smiths. To realize his dream of being a pharmacist, he transferred to Pitt and was accepted into the School of Pharmacy. Putting himself through school, he continued to work at local drug stores in Pittsburgh, living on hotdogs and soda served in the stores at the lunch counter.

After graduating from Pitt, Robert went on to officers training school in Chicago and proudly served in the U.S. Navy until the end of World War II. After the war, he returned to Lewisburg and began working for a small family-owned chain store, Rea and Derick. He was transferred to a store in Bloomsburg Pa., where he met his wife, Ann. They had one child, Marjorie. He eventually moved to Lock Haven and worked for another chain store, Widmann and Leah, where he remained, working in their various stores, until he retired.



Robert Sheasley Baney in his retail pharmacy



Marjorie Baney and her father Robert Baney.

Marjorie said her dad loved retail pharmacy and never wanted to do anything else. He also loved the University of Pittsburgh, which explains why Marjorie grew up wanting to attend Pitt.

Her career path was different from her father's though. At Pitt, she majored in anthropology and, after graduation, attended the University of North Carolina and earned a master's degree in social work. She had a successful career, spending most of it at the National Association of Social Workers in Raleigh, N.C., and then in Washington, D.C., at their national office working in chapter services.

When asked why she left Pitt in her will she said, "Pitt provided a great education and opened job opportunities for my father and our family. He was able to make a good living doing what he loved."

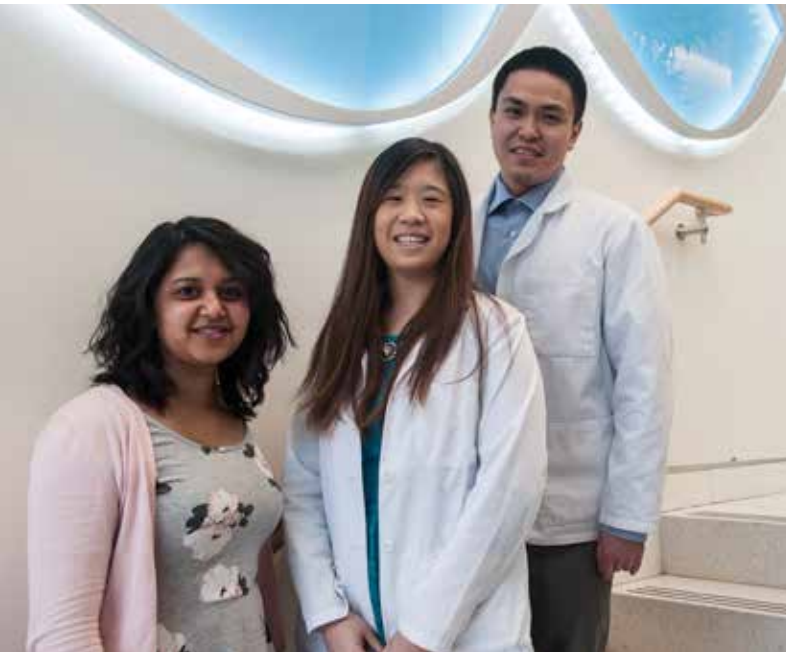
Pitt also provided Marjorie with a great educational foundation from which to pursue a master's degree, doctoral degree, and a career she loved. She would encourage other graduates to consider giving back and leaving a gift to Pitt in their will so other young students can realize their dreams.

WHAT IS THE 1787 SOCIETY? *

The 1787 Society was founded to recognize alumni and friends who have made a commitment to Pitt through planned or deferred gifts. Your commitment may be made to any area of Pitt Pharmacy.

Planned and deferred gifts have become increasingly important to Pitt's strength and growth. They provide professorships, research funds, student scholarships, unrestricted funds, and a higher quality of education for all students.

Contact June Stine at jus73@pitt.edu, for more information.



Nayanika Basu, Ingrid Pan, and Top Triamwong.

PittPharmacy's SNPhA Chapter Wins Service Grant

PittPharmacy's SNPhA chapter was selected as a regional winner in the SNPhA-Walmart Prescription for Service competition in February 2016. Various regional chapters submitted proposals to promote quality, affordable, and accessible health care for everyone. The Pitt chapter project submission *The HPV Vaccine: The Red Light to Cancer*, aims to create awareness and foster discussion to destigmatize HPV and the vaccine and to educate the catch-up, college-aged population through interactive educational campus events. PittPharmacy SNPhA chapter was awarded a grant to carry out their proposal.

Student organizers of the SNPhA win are **Nayanika Basu**, (Class of 2018), **Ingrid Pan**, (Class of 2017) and **Top Triamwong**, (Class of 2018). **Kaley Hayes**, (Class of 2017) was an additional contributor to the winning team. Carolyn Thorpe, PhD, MPH is the faculty advisor for PittPharmacy's SNPhA Chapter.

PittPharmacy Wins Blue Stars Red Carpet Award 2016

The University of Pittsburgh Division of Student Affairs held the annual Blue Stars Red Carpet Awards Ceremony on April 24, 2016, to recognize individual leaders, advisors, and organizations that have contributed to making the University of Pittsburgh the best collegiate experience in the world. PittPharmacy's SNPhA and APhA-ASP won the award for Outstanding Program of the Year for their project *The HPV Vaccine: Red Light to Cancer*. The HPV Vaccine: The Red Light to Cancer aims to create awareness and foster discussion to destigmatize HPV and the vaccine and to educate the catch-up, college-aged population through interactive educational campus events.



PittPharmacy student project leaders, Kaley Hayes, Ingrid Pan (Class of 2017), and Nayanika Basu (Class of 2018)



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U.S. News & World Report

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