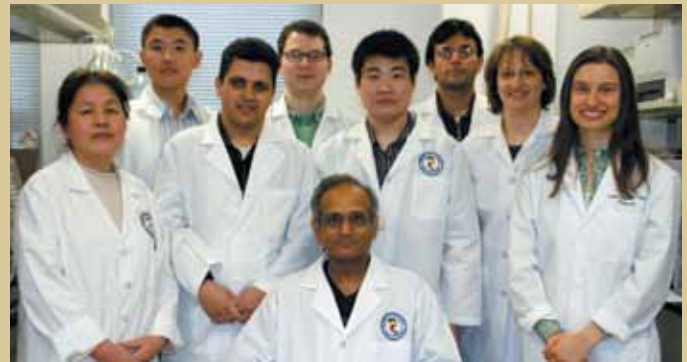


PITT Pharmacy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

SPRING 2010

BUILDING
EXCELLENCE
INNOVATION
LEADERSHIP





Dear Friends,

2009 will be memorable in the life of the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Pharmacy. For the University, we will remember it as the year that Pitt moved up yet another place in rankings, placing Pitt as the No. 5 university in the country according to NIH funding.

2009 saw the culmination of the School's Self-Study and the evaluation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The Evaluation Team Report holds accolades in every category—mission and planning, administration and organization, curriculum, students, faculty, and physical facilities. The ACPE Board of Directors granted the School of Pharmacy continuation of the Doctor of Pharmacy Program through June 30, 2016—the maximum period of accreditation. In this era of ever more rigorous educational standards, I hope you share with me the sense of pleasure in the ACPE recognition of the quality of the School as well as the wonderful culture. It is all of us—the “people of the School,” the faculty, staff, students, alumni, preceptors, and friends—that made this ACPE action and report possible.

2009 marks the year that the University and the School embarked on the historic opportunity to construct the Salk Pavilion, which will house state-of-the-art research facilities that will be shared with the School of Dental Medicine. The new facility, which will be located in back of Salk Hall, will provide much needed space to support the work of our faculty. While dollars do not relay the importance of research, 32 faculty members had 71 research projects worth \$35 million over multiple years. These projects generated \$9.6 million in total project costs in fiscal year 2009. Although ACPE commented positively on the utilization of our space, they indicated the need for improvement in research space. Given the commitment from the University, we are right on track!

The story only begins with the construction of Salk Pavilion. A Commons will connect Salk Hall and Salk Pavilion and will create a bright “neighborhood” for meeting, reading, eating, and relaxing. (Did I say relaxing?) The Commons, which will also be an elegant place for receptions, will lead to the lobby of the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum.

The story continues! As research faculty relocate to Salk Pavilion, spaces in Salk Hall will be vacated, then renovated to create technologically advanced teaching and learning spaces.

The University is generously providing the support for Salk Pavilion as well as funds to make Salk Hall more energy efficient. With your financial help, we will be able to fund the construction of the Commons and the renovations of Salk Hall space to create a stimulating educational environment.

The words stated by Steven Jobs many years ago that “the journey is the reward” ring true today. Let's celebrate the news. And let's also take the next steps in our journey of “excellence, innovation, and leadership in education of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, in research and scholarship, in care of patients, and service to our communities.” I look forward to our continuing journey together.

PS: See the ACPE Evaluation Team Report at www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/reports.

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P3 students, left to right: Taylor Miller, Ashley Tale, Brian Straub, Michael Smith, and Alexa Ray volunteer their time at the Gordon Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony.

Dean's Message	2
Features:	
Professor, Mentor Helps Pioneer	
Drug Therapies in Transplant Surgery	4
Young Alumni Making an Impact:	
Community Pharmacy	7
Photographic Memories	10
News:	
Our School	12
Our Faculty	15
Our Students	18
Our Alumni	20
Investing in the Future	23
Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past	26
Contact Us	27

On the Cover:

1. Community pharmacist Stephanie Spence (PharmD '07)
2. Legacy Laureate Tony Civello (BS '67) with Daniel Mancini (P3), the recipient of the Joseph N. Civello Student Award in Pharmacy.
3. Raman Venkataramanan, professor, with members of his lab, left to right: Shimin Zhang, research associate; Kelong Han, teaching assistant; Mohammad Shawaqfeh, clinical scientist associate; Jeremiah Momper, graduate student; Venkataramanan (seated); Wenchen Zhao, visiting scholar; Shringi Sharma, graduate student; Jennifer Bonner, clinical scientist associate; and Nisanne Ghonem, graduate student.

Corrections from Pitt Pharmacy News Fall 2009:

Page 27: In Memory Fund, Carmen Muro should read Carmen Muto. Page 29: Joseph Cippel Sr.'s daughter, Colleen Ann Cippel Sellner (BS '85), was omitted from article. Page 31: Caption 7 should read: 14 distinguished alumni "keep good company." Front Row: James Kirkwood (BS '65), Nancy Rutledge Zahniser (PhD '77), Renée Kubacka Juhl (BS '78), Salvatore Gaetano Jr. (BS '59), William Kennedy Sr. (BS '61) Back Row: Richard Lithgow (BS '50), Ronald Cameron (BS '57), Robert LeWinter (BS '59), James Mastrian (BS '65), Balwant Dixit (PhD '66), William Liepack (BS '52), Carole Finelli Ladik (BS '59), Vincent Venturella (BS '54, MS '56, PhD '61), Randy Juhl (Distinguished Service Award)

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Professor, Mentor Helps Pioneer Drug Therapies in Transplant Surgery



Raman Venkataramanan received the 2009 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring at the William Pitt Union on April 7, 2009. The award recognized his excellence in mentoring of doctoral students. Pictured left to right: Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Patricia Beeson, Venkataramanan, and Provost James Maher.

Raman Venkataramanan was sitting in his office one day in 1987 when the transplant pioneer surgeon Thomas Starzl walked in with a bottle in his hand and several residents and fellows trailing him.

"Do you know what this is?" asked Dr. Starzl, who had just brought a bottle of a chemical from Japan.

Venkat had some idea as he'd recently been to a conference where a Japanese surgeon had presented some preliminary study on a chemical then known as FK-900506. Starzl, who was fascinated by its possibilities, went back to Japan and had brought it back to the University of Pittsburgh for further studies.

"He said, 'This is worth more than its weight in gold,'" recalls Venkat. "And sure, it was."

Venkat, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences, had been working with Dr. Starzl and the University of Pittsburgh's famed transplant program since December 1982, just a few years after Venkat arrived at the School of Pharmacy in 1980. Originally interested in the effect of liver and kidney disease on how the drugs were handled, Venkat became interested in the new field of organ transplantation soon after he came to Pittsburgh.

"It seemed logical," he says. "Why stop at studying patients who have a liver problem or a kidney problem? It made sense

"These were exciting times, because I was there every day making sure the patients were getting the right dose..."

—Raman Venkataramanan

to study them after their transplantation to see if they become “normal” with reference to how the organs work and handle drugs given to the patients.”

The bottle Dr. Starzl brought back from Japan became Venkat’s responsibility; he tracked its use and worked with different investigators who used it in the lab and in small and large animal transplant models. Eventually, FK-506 became known as Tacrolimus, the primary immunosuppressive drug that is currently used in liver, lung, heart, and many kidney transplant patients. Essentially, it allows the body to become more receptive to the new organs and has made a major impact on the survival of transplant patient.

Venkat vividly recalls the first time the Pitt team used Tacrolimus in a patient. It was on March 1, 1989, and the patient, who was at UPMC, was to get the drug through a vein in the body.

“With the help of Larry Lough, a UPMC hospital pharmacist, I prepared the solution and put it into the syringe and set it in a pump that is to deliver it at a constant rate,” he says. “we went to the 10th floor of Presby, where patients were.”

With three other transplant team members (Drs. Fung, Jain, and Cadoff) standing around the bed side, “We turned on the pump, and we were anxiously watching the patient,” says Venkat.

To their relief, the drug worked, and they moved on to the second, third, and fourth patients — people who had already endured multiple liver transplants that had failed, who had no other option. Although they had some side effects, they all appeared to benefit from the drug.

Dr. Starzl was the first one to realize its great potential and

continued on using the drug in additional patients. “We all soon realized that there was something unique to this compound,” says Venkat. “The data that was generated from the University of Pittsburgh was critical for the company to then go on and conduct a multi-center trial.”

In 1994, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Tacrolimus, and thousands of patients have benefited from it since that time.

“These were exciting times because we were all there every day making sure that the patients were getting the right dose by measuring blood level of the drug (moving from patient’s room to lab and back to patient’s room). We met as a group every Monday and discussed the progress of every patient,” Venkat says.

Life’s work

Throughout his career, Venkat has focused on what he views as the overarching theme of “LIFE”, whether it’s preventing premature births (first chance in Life) or giving people a second chance in life through a successful organ transplantation.

His work on improving the first chance in life is in the area of preterm delivery.

Premature delivery of babies is a major health issue in the United States. There is no FDA-approved drug for treatment of premature delivery. Working with Dr. Steve Caritis at the Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, Venkat is trying to optimize the use of a new compound and improve the clinical outcome. His research also aims to understand the effect of pregnancy on how drugs are handled in the body and come up with recommendations for appropriate use of drugs during pregnancy.

Honoraria

Below is a list of awards honoring the research and teaching of Raman Venkataramanan, professor of pharmaceutical sciences:

- Fellow, American College of Clinical Pharmacology
- Fellow, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists
- Orator award from the First Scientific session of the Sri Lanka Association of Nephrology and Transplantation (SLANT), 1995
- Ranbaxy Research Award in Pharmaceutical Sciences for excellence in research, 1998
- BMS Mentorship in Clinical Pharmacology offered by ACCP, 2009
- Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring, University of Pittsburgh, 2009
- Innovations in Teaching award, Rho Chi Society, 2009
- Scholarly Contributions award, Rho Chi Society, 2007

He has conducted multiple studies in liver, kidney, small bowel, heart, lung, and bone marrow transplant patients to optimize the use of several drugs in this patient population.

One of his current projects, also initiated by Dr. Starzl, aims to address the critical shortage in organs available for transplant by developing a drug that will prevent the potential damage and improve the overall function of the so-called “extended criteria organs,” which are otherwise considered less than ideal.

“When [an] organ is taken from someone’s body, it’s cooled down, brought to the place where the patient is awaiting a transplant, put inside the patient, and warm blood is allowed to flow through it,” explains Venkat.

That process creates a biochemical reaction that can damage

Professor, Mentor Helps Pioneer Drug Therapies in Transplant Surgery (continued)



Raman Venkataramanan pictured with Thomas Starzl, the recipient of the Gustav O. Lienhard Award, at the Institute of Medicine National Academy of Sciences Award ceremony on October 12, 2009. Venkataramanan was introduced at the ceremony as part of the "Pittsburgh transplant team."

**"I have been very fortunate in my life and had wonderful mentors who stimulated my interest in teaching and research."
—Raman Venkataramanan**

some of the liver cells. By using a drug that has already been approved for use for some other indication, the Pitt team hopes to demonstrate ways to better protect the transplanted organ and improve its function.

"It would increase the number of organs that could be transplanted, and the patients would have a much better overall outcome in terms of not staying in the ICU for such a long time, and going home in a shorter time, and getting better faster," Venkat explains. "I think it will be an overall win-win situation."

Mentor, visionary

In addition to his research, Venkat is known for his love of teaching and mentoring students, something he cites as a primary reason he works

in a university setting.

"I have been very fortunate in my life and had wonderful mentors who stimulated my interest in teaching and research," he says. "I have also been blessed to have great co-investigators and dedicated graduate students, research associates, and undergraduate students."

For his efforts, Venkat has been honored with Pitt's Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring (2009), the BMS-ACCP award for mentoring in Clinical Pharmacology (2009), as well as the Innovations in Teaching award offered by the Pitt chapter of the Rho Chi Society (2009), among many other awards.

He is pleased with the evolution of the School of Pharmacy since his arrival more than 30 years ago, noting that while departments have been consolidated from five

to two, the School places a heavier emphasis on cross-disciplinary research and has gained more prominence at the national level.

Toward that end, he emphasizes the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork with his graduate students. He also offers a course that gives graduate students an overview of teaching philosophy, including strategies for setting curricular objectives and assessing student performance.

"Traditionally in a graduate program, you learn how to do research. But nobody really teaches you how to be a good academician," says Venkat, who offers the course to all the first-year graduate students in the School of Pharmacy. "This course will expose graduate students to what it really is to become an educator. And hopefully in the long run, it will inspire more graduate students to pursue an academic career."

Venkat also emphasizes that there is more to life than exams, grades, and publications. Every time he lectures he shares "life lessons" with his students, lessons that we all learn every day but do not take the time to share with others.

Young Alumni Making an Impact: Community Pharmacy

There is nothing typical about Stephanie Spence's job, and that suits her just fine.

Every day brings a new challenge that tests Spence's mettle as a community pharmacist, whether it's educating other health care providers about medications, following up with patients, or helping to manage the side effects that their prescriptions can cause.

As a clinical pharmacy specialist with Prosperity Specialty Pharmacy in Fairfax, Va., Spence (PharmD '07) spends a lot of time teaching; it might be providers, patients, pharmacy students who are on rotation, or giving a lecture at nearby Shenandoah University. But the bottom line is that she is the liaison between patients with complex diagnoses and the medication that improves or extends their lives.

"That's the beauty of pharmacy. We're capable of doing different things," says Spence. "When I talk to students, I always remind them that they can try to define their path, but one day, someone's going to come up to you and say, 'Have you tried this?'"



Stephanie Spence (PharmD '07)

As the pharmacy profession evolves, and new medications enter the health care arena, pharmacists like Spence increasingly find job satisfaction as caregivers within their communities. They may consult one-on-one with patients, or they may oversee programs that reach many corners of a nationwide retail chain, but the impact of the profession can be felt in multiple layers through many communities.

A steady course

Suzanne Feeney laughs when she recalls her high school yearbook from Berwick, Pa. In it, she said she planned to become a pharmacist, a career to which she had aspired since working an after-school job at a small independent pharmacy in her hometown.

While other kids' aspirations might have fluctuated after graduation, Feeney's remained constant. After earning her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004, she went right into community practice, and today works as a clinical coordinator for SUPERVALU Pharmacies.

While she was still in school, she explored other rotations to confirm what she really wanted to do. A residency in a community setting in 2005 turned out to be a dream job.

"I loved what I did every single day," says Feeney. "It was something different, it was something new. I had patient contact. I helped make interventions on a daily basis that improved patient outcomes."

Shortly after the residency, she accepted a job with Jewel-Osco, splitting time between the store and precepting in a residency location. As medication therapy management began to pick up steam, she began dedicating eight to 16 hours a week to meeting with patients by appointment.



Suzanne Feeney (PharmD '04)

"I had patient contact. I helped make interventions on a daily basis that improved patient outcomes."

—Suzanne Feeney

"That's the beauty of pharmacy. We're capable of doing different things."

—Stephanie Spence

Young Alumni Making an Impact: Community Pharmacy (continued)



Julie Fike (PharmD '99), left, with Ann Txakeeyang, a potential pharmacy student

“The patients don’t understand their disease state. They think they can take their meds for a month and then go off, but that’s not true. Most of the time you’re talking about lifelong compliance.”

—Julie Fike

Now working in the store support center, a more corporate setting, Feeney still impacts the community, helping to implement programs such as the clinical specialist appointments and integrated services, in which pharmacists hold shorter patient meetings to identify and document drug interactions and follow up on any necessary issues.

Feeney continues to serve as a residency director and precept students, something she greatly enjoys. When she shows students what community-based programs look like in action, “I’m very enthusiastic,” she says.

Complex diagnoses

For Julie Fike, who earned her PharmD in 1999, daily practice involves caring for people who require medication for mental health reasons. Fike works inside

an outpatient psychiatric clinic for Genoa Healthcare in suburban Minneapolis to keep patients compliant, on their medications, and connected with the medical system.

Specialty packaging—in which a morning’s medication is put in a single blister pack to make compliance easier—is one key to Fike’s success. Other efforts include offering delivery service and billing systems for co-payments—anything the pharmacist can do to help the patient stay on track with his or her prescriptions.

“The patients don’t understand their disease state,” she explains. “They think they can take their meds for a month and then go off, but that’s not true. Most of the time you’re talking about lifelong compliance.”

When patients show up at the clinic without the minimum co-payment, for example, the billing system allows them to still get their medication. Not only do these extra steps create better patient care, they also save money, says Fike.

Fike had previously worked in retail pharmacy before setting up her own company, Custom Medication Solutions, to offer medication therapy management (MTM). She joined Genoa, which was looking for a pharmacist to pilot a program for an outpatient setting.

Currently, she is working with the University of Minnesota–Duluth on a grant project for a collaborative practice model so patients can receive and fill their prescriptions at a single location, instead of receiving a slip and potentially losing or forgetting about it by the time they get to a different site.

Fike notes that her presence on a health care team can help a physician or nurse practitioner realize important factors that a patient might not otherwise reveal.

“The face of community pharmacy is changing to give us more of a clinical presence. I see immunizations as a key role in preventative care for the future.” —*Brian Bobby*

Protecting the public

While Brian Bobby was a pharmacy manager for Rite Aid, he spent a lot of time working to ensure that patients in the communities he served were immunized against influenza, meningitis, pneumonia, and other diseases.

Now that Pennsylvania allows pharmacists to administer immunizations to patients 18 years and older, clinics such as the one Bobby and his wife Kelly, also a certified immunizing pharmacist, coordinated for Rite Aid went a long way toward keeping the community healthy.

In White Oak, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh, more than 300 vaccinations were administered at one such clinic. Pharmacy interns and students assisted by conducting blood pressure and glucose screenings and offered diabetes education. In times of vaccine shortage, waitlists were created for patients seeking high-demand vaccines, such as the one for shingles, to ensure that no patient fell through the cracks.

“The clinic was very well received by the community. Groups of patients were scheduled in 15-minute intervals, and refreshments and health awareness materials were provided,” says Bobby, who also earned his PharmD in 2004. “Pharmacists are the most visible health care workers out there, and we can make a substantial impact in our community.”

A former president of Pitt’s chapter of Rho Chi, Bobby has recently been promoted to pharmacy district manager for Rite Aid. He envisions a future in which Rite



Brian Bobby (PharmD '04)

Aid will be able to offer at least one immunizing pharmacist in every store.

“The face of community pharmacy is changing to give us more of a clinical presence,” he says. “I see immunizations as a key role in preventative care for the future.”

Photographic Memories





Register for the 7th Annual School of Pharmacy Golf Invitational, May 14, 2010, at Quicksilver Golf Course by contacting Laraine Kuchma, 412-648-3304.

1: School of Pharmacy preceptors Karen Fielding (PharmD '99), Jamie Montgomery (BS '86), and Juliana Nowak with James Pschirer (BS '76), assistant professor and director of experiential learning and continuing professional development, at the Preceptor Program and Dinner at the University Club on January 27, 2010. 2: Wen Xie, associate professor, and Robert Gibbs, professor, with prospective graduate students at GEAR UP, October 31, 2009. 3: P3 students Rhea Santangelo and Megan Reilly at the School's Career Expo, fall 2009. 4: Deanne Hall (BS '96, PharmD '98), assistant professor, immunizing School staff member Dolly Hornick. 5: P1 students recite Pledge of Professionalism during the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Eighth Annual White Coat Ceremony on January 29, 2010. 6: Gary Haberle, assistant dean of business and finance, Barry Gold, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Michael Zemaitis (BS '69), professor, and James Pschirer (BS '76), assistant professor, at the 2009 School of Pharmacy Golf Invitational.

Our School



Peter Alt, (BS '74) and Michael Mokotoff, emeritus professor, with students at the School's Career Roundtables, March 3, 2010

The Eighteenth Annual Career Roundtable was held on March 3, 2010. Thirty pharmacy alumnus from 19 different practice areas participated. As part of the P1 curriculum, students had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions in areas of their professional interest.

For the second year in a row, a team of University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy students came out on top in the student Over-the-Counter (OTC) Competition that was held during the annual Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association 2010 Midyear Conference. Team members Eric Gardner, Gerard Mascara, and Michael Smith, all P3 students, touted their OTC knowledge by beating out competing teams representing all other Pennsylvania schools of pharmacy. The conference was held in Harrisburg on February 5-7, 2010.

On Friday, January 29, the School of Pharmacy held the eighth annual Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony is a symbolic event marking the entry of first-year students into the pharmacy profession. During the ceremony, students are individually garbed in a white clinician's coat and publicly declare their commitment to integrity, ethical behavior, and honor by reciting the pledge of professionalism. At this year's ceremony, 108 students received their white coats.

School faculty and staff members were recognized at the Faculty and Staff Recognition Program in December. Among those honored were Andrea Stofka, grants and contracts manager, and Jack Sutcliffe, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, for 40 years of service. Faculty and staff are recognized annually for reaching 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, and 40-year milestones. A total of 20 faculty and staff members were recognized at this year's program.



*Andrea Stofka,
Manager of Grants and Contracts*

The annual School of Pharmacy Preceptor Program and Dinner was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at the University Club. This event recognizes the contributions of preceptors in the education of our students. After a welcome from Dean Patricia Kroboth and Associate Dean for Education Susan Meyer, the 63 attendees enjoyed dinner and a continuing education program. The program, "Engaging Students in Innovative Practices," was presented by James Pschirer, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics; Juliana Nowak, clinical pharmacist at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC; Jamie Montgomery, manager of Forbes Pharmacy, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic; and Karen Fielding, manager, medication safety, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

Director of New Media Helps School of Pharmacy Stay at the Head of the Class

Back in the mid-1990s, the World Wide Web was still in its awkward years, with users still trying to figure out how to make the best use of this new tool.

But to Thomas Waters, who was just transferring into the School of Pharmacy, cyberspace represented enormous possibilities.

"Those were the really early days of the Web, and there wasn't a whole lot out there yet," recalls Waters, who is now the school's director of new media.

In his prior position, serving as a medical photographer in the Department of Neurobiology at the School of Medicine, he also maintained lab databases and handled PowerPoint presentations. So he'd dabbled in Internet services, but it was at the School of Pharmacy where he jumped in headfirst.

Originally, he was hired to create a faculty and staff directory and to get the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum online.

"It was really challenging. Both of those projects included a lot of items," says Waters. He wanted to use a database, but had little precedent to follow. Then he heard a National Public Radio story about an art museum putting its collection in cyberspace, and he contacted the museum about duplicating their process.

"Within a month, we had something up and running, but it's come a long way since then," he says.

Later, he went on to work in the school's print communications and information technology. And today, his job has come almost full circle, bringing him back to dealing heavily with the Web and figuring out how to move the school into new territory such as social media and innovative educational technology.

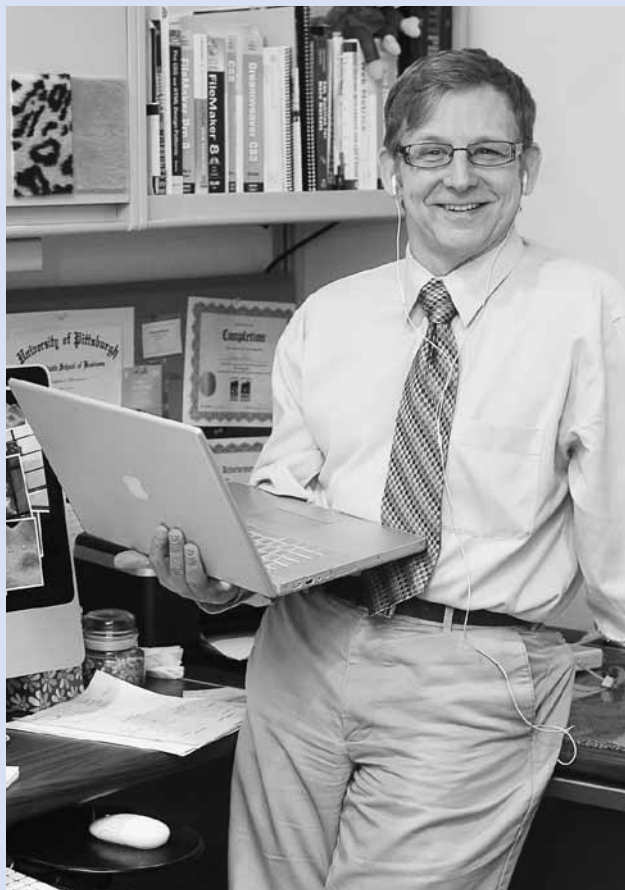
"The school has just grown by leaps and bounds in so many ways," says Waters. "The best measure of that is the accreditation that we moved through last year."

Waters, who is celebrating 20 years with the University of Pittsburgh, is something of a Renaissance man. He holds degrees in photography, multimedia, and agricultural education, and when he's not keeping the School of Pharmacy at the crest of the information superhighway, he can be found exhibiting his photography and multimedia work "pretty much all over the place." Active as a blogger, he also works as an advocate for equal rights legislation.

A recent project that earned high marks from accreditors was a curriculum map, which allowed the school to compare the topics it teaches against learning objectives. Though other schools have created maps, the School is unique in that it is being database-driven for easy maintenance.

A new syllabus builder will allow faculty course coordinators to automatically generate a syllabus based on content they put in the curriculum map, another idea that is unique to the School of Pharmacy, Waters says.

"So there's no shortage of projects or tasks for me to be working on," he notes. "In another 10 years, we'll look back and see how the School of Pharmacy is a leader in those areas, much as we're a leader in actual curriculum ... It seems to me I can keep taking the lead on projects like those that help the school continue to be at the head of the pack."



Thomas Waters, Director of New Media

**"The school has just grown by leaps and bounds in so many ways."
—Thomas Waters**

School Celebrates Six-Year Continuation of PharmD Program Accreditation



Faculty and staff members of the School's Self-Study Steering Committee, which directed the 24-month self-study process

At its January 2010 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) granted the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy continuation of the Doctor of Pharmacy program through June 30, 2016, the maximum period of accreditation. The Evaluation Team Report provides detailed comments, which are replete with accolades in virtually each of the 30 standards. While many standards are specific to the PharmD program, many address more global areas of the School.

The evaluation team summed up the seriousness and dedication of the administrative leaders, faculty, and staff toward their tasks of long-range planning and assessing the School's progress as "impressive." The team praised the students for their active participation and commitment on the committees to which they were assigned. Indeed, the accreditation team observed that the "hallmark"

of the school's program was the "professionalism shared among the administrative team, faculty, staff, and students."

The evaluation team commended the School's efforts to integrate curricular content, noting that many courses have co-chairs from pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science to ensure the scientific foundation required for achievement of professional competencies. Also

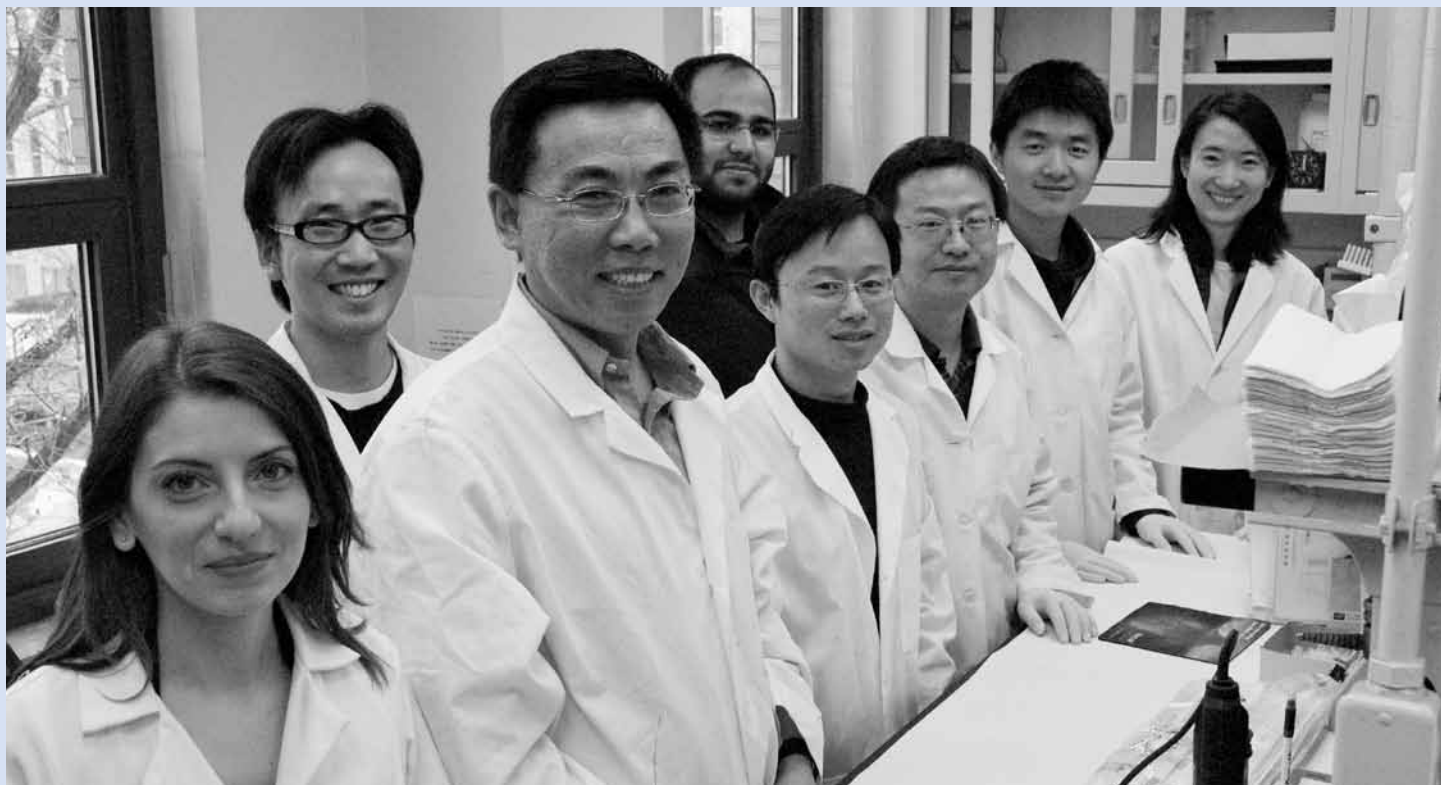
of particular note was the School's modification to its Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) by providing opportunities for the students to learn in a variety of practice environments

The University, as well as the School, earned the team members' praise by acknowledging the School's efforts to increase interprofessional opportunities for pharmacy students. They indicated that the strength of the University's health sciences programs and the proximity to exceptional learning opportunities within UPMC should provide the catalyst for the School to become "a national leader in redefining interprofessional training opportunities."

High praise, indeed, but the School of Pharmacy's values statement maintains, "Integrity guides our daily work." The accreditation team has judged that work a success, and the work continues today. Tomorrow is yet another opportunity to fulfill the vision "to be an outstanding school of pharmacy renowned for excellence in discovery and advancement of science-based use of medicines and other interventions to enhance the vitality and quality of life."



In preparation for the ACPE accreditation site visit, the School invited John Pieper, PharmD, and S. William Zito, PhD, to review a draft of the Self-Study and conduct a two-day mock-site visit in June 2009. They were invited because of their extensive experience as ACPE Evaluation Team members.



Dexi Liu, professor, with members of his lab. Left to right: Barbara Bonamassa, lab assistant; Tsutomu Kanefuji, post doctoral associate; Liu, Ali Alshabi, graduate student; Yongjie Ma, post doctoral associate; Jianfeng Li, post doctoral associate; Tian Zhou, graduate student; and Li Hai, research associate.

New faculty member **Rima Mohammad** has been appointed assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

Recently promoted faculty members include **Scott Mark** and **Melissa McGivney** (PharmD '98), both promoted to the rank of associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, and **Beth Minnigh**, promoted to the rank of assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

Alexander Doemling, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received an NIH grant for "Anchor: A PDB-wide and Web-based Discovery Resource of Small Molecular Weight Protein Interaction (Ant)agonists."

Kerry Empey, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was awarded a Central Research Development Fund grant from the University of Pittsburgh for "Development of an RSV-Infected Mouse Model" to study the effects of inhaled granulocyte macrophage-colony stimulating factor and interferon gamma during FSV infection.

Philip Empey and **Pamela Smithburger**, assistant professors of pharmacy and therapeutics, were invited to present their research at the Society of Critical Care Medicine's 39th Critical Care Congress in Miami, Fla., in January. Empey spoke on the "Effect of Mild Induced Hypothermia on Fentanyl and Midazolam Clearance

in a Rat Model of Hypoxic Cardiac Arrest." Smithburger's presentation was titled "Significance of Drug-Drug Interactions in Cardiac Intensive Care Units."

Robert Gibbs, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, co-edited a book titled *Hormones, Cognition and Dementia: State of the Art and Emergent Therapeutic Strategies*. He recently authored "Estrogen Therapy and Cognition: A Review of the Cholinergic Hypothesis," a paper that will appear in *Endocrine Reviews*. Gibbs also received a University Central Research Development Fund grant for "Effects of a Selective GPR30 Agonist Cholinergic Function in the Brain."

Our Faculty

Several faculty members were among the first graduates of the American College of Clinical Pharmacists Academy Certificate Program. **Deanne Hall** (BS '96, PharmD '98), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was one of 11 graduates of the Leadership and Management Program; **Kristine Schonder**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, and **Amy Seybert** (BS '94, PharmD '96), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, were two of the 21 graduates of the Teaching and Learning Certification Program.

Jinhan He, postdoctoral fellow, received a travel award to attend the Keystone Symposia meeting on Nuclear Receptors: Development, Physiology and Disease, in March 2010 in Keystone, Colo. He works in the lab of Associate Professor Wen Xie.

Sandra Kane-Gill, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was invited to serve on the editorial board of *Critical Care Medicine*.

Edward Krenzelok, professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and director of the Pittsburgh Poison and Drug Information Center, received the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology Career Achievement Award. The award recognizes an Academy member who has a lifetime of dedication to and distinction in the field of clinical toxicology.

Dexi Liu, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was awarded the Nagai Foundation Tokyo Distinguished Lectureship 2009. Liu also received a two-year grant from NIH for "Image-Guided Hydrodynamic Gene Delivery."

This project is an extension of Liu's work in developing a computer-controlled gene delivery system for human gene therapy. In addition, he received a four-year NIH grant for his project "Computer-Assisted Hydrodynamic Gene Delivery for Hemophilia Gene Therapy."

Samuel Poloyac (BS '93), associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, with co-investigator Paula Sherwood (School of Nursing), received an NIH grant for "Determining Genetic and Biomarker Predictors of Delayed Cerebral Ischemia and Long-Term Outcomes after Subarachnoid Hemorrhage."

Rafael Saenz, instructor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was elected president, Western Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Amy Seybert (BS '94, PharmD '96), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation 2009 Pharmacy Residency Excellence Preceptor Award.

Michael Shullo (BS '95, PharmD '97), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was recently invited to present "Clinical Pharmacy Practice within a Heart Transplant Program at an Academic Medical Center" at the Societa Italiana Di Farmacia Ospedaliera, XXX National Congress in Italy. Shullo was also selected to serve on the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation task force on heart transplantation.

Susan Skledar (BS '88), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was a member



Rafael Saenz, instructor, pharmacy and therapeutics



Samuel Poloyac (BS '93), associate professor; Paul Schiff, professor; and Kim Coley (BS '87), professor, at a recent faculty meeting

of the UPMC interdisciplinary team selected as one of 10 regional finalists for the 2009 Fine Award. The Fine Award is sponsored by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the Fine Foundation. The award recognizes the important role that teamwork plays in health care and local teams that have achieved breakthroughs and progress in safe and effective patient care. The UPMC Presbyterian team was recognized for their work in patient safety related to anticoagulation management, evidence-based protocol design, and adverse event prevention.

The members of the School's chapter of the Academy of Students of Pharmacy selected **Randall Smith**, senior associate dean and professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, as the 2009 Faculty Member of the Year. The award, which recognizes outstanding leadership, was presented to Smith at the School of Pharmacy Formal in January.

Raman Venkataramanan, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to attend the Gustav O. Lienhard Award ceremony at the Institute of Medicine National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., in October, where Dr. Thomas Starzl was honored.

Robert Weber, associate professor and chair, Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, was certified as a pharmacotherapy specialist by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties.

Wen Xie, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was awarded a grant from NIH for "The Hepatoprotective Role of the Orphan Nuclear Receptor LXR." Xie has been invited to serve as a member of the editorial board for *Molecular Endocrinology*, a leading journal published by the Endocrine Society.



Amy Seybert (BS '94, PharmD '96), associate professor, with simulation mannequin

Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to serve as a member of the International Assessment Panel for Fudan University in Shanghai, China, in December 2009, to review and assess the research and education programs of the College of Pharmacy. He was also invited by the Department of Chemistry at Duke University to present a seminar as part of the Duke Theory Seminar Series. The title of his seminar was "Chemical Genomics Library: Bigger and Better?"

Our Students



P3 students
Eric Gardner,
Gerard Mascara,
Michael Smith



Pictured with Thomas E. Menighan, executive vice president and CEO of the American Pharmacists Association, are students Steven Zona, Shailly Shah, Alexa Ray, and Cortlynn Latsha.

Students from the School of Pharmacy attended in large numbers the annual APhA Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., on March 12-15. The meeting also marked the inauguration of **Steven Zona** (P3) as APhA-ASP national president.

Nisanne Ghonem, graduate student, presented her research findings at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute Fall Scientific Retreat in October. The title of her presentation was "Treprostinil ameliorates ischemia-reperfusion injury after rat orthotopic liver transplantation."

Mark Donnelly, graduate student, received the 2009 Amgen Travel Award to attend the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting in November 2009 in Los Angeles, Calif. Donnelly also received a research award from the American Association of Indian

Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAiPS) for his poster presentation at the AAPS Annual Meeting.

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association held its inaugural weekend for the 3rd Annual Government Relations Advocacy for Student Pharmacists (GRASP) program at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association's Harrisburg office on February 19-21, 2010. **Svetlana Goldman (P2)**, **Ruth Seifert (P1)**, **Kate Steward (P2)**, **Elyse Weitzman (P1)**, and **Nick Wytiaz (P2)** were the five University of Pittsburgh students selected to attend the program.

"The GRASP program helped me to see the crucial issues facing pharmacy today and how we, as student pharmacists, can effectively advocate for the profession. It inspired me to become more involved politically to help build a better future for pharmacists and their patients," said Nick Wytiaz when asked about his experience.

P3 Students **Eric Gardner**, **Derek Hinds**, and **Steven Zona** had their poster, "Implications of Student Lead Initiatives in Pharmacy" accepted for presentation at the 69th International Congress of FIP held in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2009. Eric and Derek, accompanied by faculty member Maggie Folan (PhD '03), assistant professor, traveled to Istanbul for the poster presentation where they were also invited to give a podium talk.

Thomas E. Menighan, executive vice president and CEO of the American Pharmacists Association, presented the annual School of Pharmacy Nicholas C.



Dean Patricia Kroboth, faculty, pharmacy students, and staff members attend the APhA-ASP Meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 12-15, 2010.

Tucci Lecture to a standing-room-only audience of students and faculty members in Scaife Hall on January 20, 2010. His presentation, "Addressing the Medication Use Crisis," focused on health care reform and pharmacy.

The team of P3 students **Eric Gardner, Gerard Mascara,** and **Michael Smith** won the Student OTC competition at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Midyear Conference in February. All Pennsylvania schools of pharmacy took part in the competition. This is the second year in a row that a team from our School came out on top.

The abstracts of P4 students **Safia Kuriakose** and **Louise-Marie Gillis** were accepted for poster presentation at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear meeting in Las Vegas in December. Kuriakose's poster presentation

was titled "Aspergillosis in a Patient with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Receiving Fluticasone: A Case Report," and Gillis's presentation was titled "A Case of Vancomycin-Intermediate Staphylococcus Aureus (VISA): A Review of Risk Factors and Considerations."

Julie Lauffenburger (P4) was selected for the "Featured Student" section of the homepage for the University's Center for Global Health's Web site for the impressive work that she did in Malawi.

Shashi Sriram, graduate student, has been selected to participate in the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) in Italy on May 2-7, 2010. He is the first School of Pharmacy student to attend a GRC. Sriram also received a \$1000 award from the School in recognition of his paper, "Multivalency-Assisted Control of Intracellular



Nick Wytiaz (P2), Kate Steward (P2), Elyse Weitzman (P1), Svetlana Goldman (P2), and Ruth Seifert (P1) were among the participants at the GRASP program in Harrisburg, Pa., February 19-21, 2010.

Signaling Pathways: Application for Ubiquitin-Dependent N-End Rule Pathway," provided by a gift from alumnus Zola Horowitz.

Jocelyn Zhou, graduate student, received the Astra-Zeneca Travel Award to attend the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting in November 2009 in Los Angeles, Ca.

For more than 10 years, Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS), has hosted the annual Charity Auction as part of the annual APhA-ASP Pharmacy Weeks. For the second year in a row, the proceeds were donated to the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program, which provides pharmacy services to five underserved clinics in Pittsburgh. This year's auction was planned by PLS members **Jennifer Bacci** (P3) and **Sarah Krahe** (P2) and, once again, the always entertaining Tanya Fabian and Neal Benedict, assistant professors, were the auctioneers. Thanks to the generosity of the faculty, staff, and student organizations, PLS raised more than \$8000, making this year the most successful ever!

Our Alumni

In Memoriam

- John Fugh '58
- Philip F. Hurray '52
- Ralph M. Little Jr. '43
- Dorothy J. Gayman
- Stull '49

Zane Gates (BS '90, MD '95) was named a WEB MD Magazine Health Hero. Ten years after Dr. Gates established his health clinic, Partnering for Health Services, 3,500 of Blair County's working poor receive free health care each year, with additional thanks to an Altoona Regional Health System endowment and community donations. The Pennsylvania Senate will soon vote on a bill that would fund similar clinics throughout the Commonwealth. Dr. Gates also established after-school programs for children ages 4 to 12 in two housing projects and the story is not over yet. As of October 2009, Blair County citizens can purchase a low-cost, hospital-only insurance plan designed by Dr. Gates.

Michael Vozniak (PharmD '01) was recently elected to be secretary of the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) and will serve as a member of the HOPA board for the 2009-2011 term.

Melissa Mooers Yowonske (BS '00, PharmD '01) has passed the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Certification exam for Pharmacotherapy. She is also one of eight pharmacists worldwide to concurrently hold certifications in the following three specialty areas: psychiatric pharmacy,



geriatric pharmacy, and licensed in Pennsylvania to administer injectable medications.

Lindsay Palkovic (PharmD '06) has been named assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at the University of Sciences in Philadelphia. She also teaches in the clinical case studies, pharmacotherapeutics, and critical care courses at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and in the therapeutics course in the physician assistant program at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Top left, Lindsay Palkovic (PharmD '06); top right, Michael Vozniak (PharmD '01); bottom, Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07)

Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07) led the effort at Shaler Township's Rite Aid to be recognized by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for providing "quality self-management education." Programs that achieve recognition status have knowledgeable health professionals to provide state-of-the-art information about diabetes management.

Melissa Mooers Yowonske (BS '00, PharmD '01)





Diane Ginsburg (BS '84)

Diane Silverman (BS '00) was recognized as the winner of the 2009 innovative Pharmacy Practice Award by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association for her extraordinary contributions toward vaccination rates within her community and surrounding areas.

Diane Ginsburg (BS '84), assistant dean for student affairs and clinical professor at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, was recently elected president of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Ginsburg also served as president of the Austin Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists and Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. In 2005, she received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.



Diane Boomsma, left, 2008 recipient of the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award, presents the award to Diane Silverman (BS '00) at the 2009 Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Annual Conference.

University Honors Legacy Laureate



Anthony "Tony"
Civello (BS '67)

Anthony "Tony" N. Civello (BS '67) is among the University of Pittsburgh's 12 new Legacy Laureates, alumni recognized for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments. As president and CEO of Kerr Drug, Civello expanded the concept of community-based health care in North and South Carolina, bringing the pharmacists out from behind the counter to provide the most up-to-date information and an array of services directly to patients. Among Civello's many philanthropic interests are the Kerr for Kids Foundation and the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

Civello never forgot how difficult it was to pay university tuition, so in 2006 he established a scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in honor of his father who instilled in him "a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility. And loyalty—loyalty to family, to your employer, to your own word."

After 40 years answering the question, "What is a druggist?" Civello said, "I love the profession of pharmacy and the challenge of retailing in competitive environments. I wake up every morning knowing there is a way to do things better, to find the edge."

Dean Kroboth had the honor of presenting the Legacy Laureate award to Civello at the School of Pharmacy with faculty, residents, and students in attendance. Dean Kroboth thanked Civello for "raising the standard of pharmacy practice and for enhancing the reputation of our School."

Lawton “Lawney” Snyder, director of development at the School of Pharmacy for six years, has become the executive director of the UPMC Eye and Ear Foundation. Lawney was instrumental in expanding the School’s resource base—making it possible for more students to benefit from scholarships and for the School to enhance faculty excellence. Graham Ciraulo (BA ’03), who worked with Lawney as development associate for more than two years, has become the interim director of development. Graham earned a master’s degree at the University of Chicago in 2006. After much success working for the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago, Graham knew that securing a position in development was his primary career goal. Excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, Graham said, “I love the School of Pharmacy and particularly the alumni.”



Graham Ciraulo, interim director of development, and Lawton Snyder, former director of development

In Memory Fund

The School of Pharmacy In Memory Award was established in 2005 to provide a deserving pharmacy student with an award in memory of all alumni, families, or friends whose memorial gifts have come to the School of Pharmacy. Gifts have been made to this endowment in memory of:

Name	Year Gift Established
Kim Lawren Reighard (BS '76)	2006
Samuel P. Conte (BS '41)	2006
Eilene Stauchler Liepack (EDUC '57)	2006
Margaret Madarasz Gerson (BS '52)	2006
Fred G. Gatto	2007
Janet Ball	2007
Carmen Muto	2007
Matthew O. Pecht	2007
Brian Haugh (BS '98)	2007
James C. Meisner (BS '48)	2008
Gerald Paulice	2008
Ethel M. Ritzman (BS '58)	2008
Tara Feroce	2008
H. Lawton Snyder	2008
Robert M. Fry	2009
Frank Ulyan	2009
Rose Borrelli	2009
Patricia Kuchma	2009
Wendell Bitzer	2010
Juliano Nickoline	2010
Anna M. Taylor	2010

Legacy of Service Lives On

In fall 2009, the School of Pharmacy was saddened to learn that Ethel Helfant Feldman (BUN '33), the wife of the Thrift Drug co-founder and alumnus Reuben Helfant (PhG '23), passed away at age 97.

Throughout their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Helfant made it a priority to give back to the community and university that had played such instrumental roles in their success. As co-founder and president of Thrift Drug, Mr. Helfant understood the importance of preparing the next generation of pharmacists and established a scholarship-loan-training program for students at both the Pitt and Duquesne schools of pharmacy.

Shortly after Mr. Helfant's death in 1968, Mrs. Helfant Feldman established the Reuben Helfant Scholarship at the School of Pharmacy. Eight years later,

Mrs. Helfant Feldman met and married Mr. Ben Feldman. As a former elementary teacher, Mrs. Helfant Feldman maintained close ties with the School of Education. To support students pursuing careers in elementary education, she founded the Ethel B. Feldman Scholarship. Mrs. Helfant Feldman was also a lifetime member of the board of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and supported a wide range of organizations that serve the people of Pittsburgh.

As her final act of generosity, Mrs. Helfant Feldman remembered the School of Pharmacy in her estate by making a gift to support scholarships for our students. To honor both her and Mr. Helfant's legacy of giving, the School of Pharmacy is proud to name the conference room on the 11th floor of Salk Hall the Reuben and Ethel Helfant Leadership Conference Room.



Ethel Helfant Feldman

Already There



Larry J. Merlo (BS '78)

In February 2010, Larry Merlo (BS '78) and his wife Lee Ann made a very generous donation to establish the Larry and Lee Ann Merlo Student Leadership Award. The scholarship will provide financial support to students at the School of Pharmacy who demonstrate both the ability and determination to become the next generation of leaders in community pharmacy.

As executive vice president of CVS Caremark Corporation and president of CVS/pharmacy – Retail, Merlo has redefined the customer experience at one of the nation's largest retail pharmacy chains. He was the driving force behind CVS/pharmacy's integration with the Eckerd and Osco/Sav-On

chains, which greatly expanded the company's ability to reach customers in almost every region of the country. Most recently, Merlo helped lead CVS/pharmacy's expansion into Puerto Rico, the company's first venture outside of America's 50 states.

Throughout his career, Merlo has drawn upon his educational experiences at the School of Pharmacy to become a leader in his field, and hopes that his scholarship will encourage subsequent generations of students to do the same.

Udder Kindness and Generosity



The School of Pharmacy's Grace Lamsam Program for the Underserved received a donation of 100 cases of Redex Udderly Smooth Udder Cream products in December thanks to the generosity of the William Kennedy family. Helping to unload the boxes at the Birmingham Clinic located on the South Side are left to right: Dean Patricia Kroboth; Instructor Laura Jonkman (PharmD '06); Assistant Professor Sharon

Connor, director of the Lamsam Program; William Kennedy Sr. (BS '61), CEO of Redex Industries; William Kennedy Jr., president of Redex Industries; Graham Ciraulo, interim director of development; and Margaret Kennedy. Under the direction of School of Pharmacy faculty, the Lamsam Program provides medications and pharmacy care for the homeless, uninsured, and underinsured in the Pittsburgh region.

Humphreys Homeopathic Remedies

Humphreys first products were in a white elongated box with large numbers. In the 1960s, the white plastic vial was adopted, replaced in 2006 by ornate boxes.

Dr. Frederick Humphreys was a leading homeopathic physician who marketed "Humphreys Homeopathic Specifics" in 1854. Each contained in a single dose what traditional homeopathic physicians prescribed by an individual ingredient.

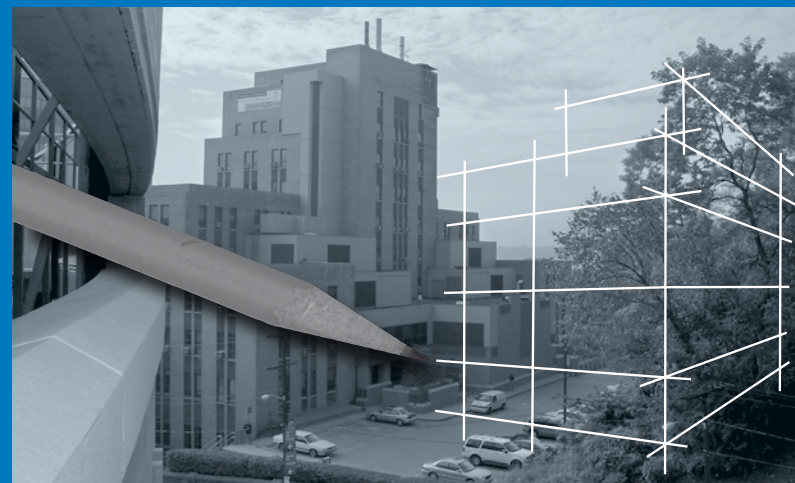
Humphreys now manufactures about 30 products, promoting children's, cough and cold, and personal and skin care products for women. Humphreys "11" "For Irregular or Delayed Menses" still remains popular.

Humphreys' products are available at many Web sites and Walgreens.



Coming soon!

The first new building constructed in the history of the School of Pharmacy. Salk Pavilion, a research facility, will be built behind Salk Hall. A bright and elegant Commons will connect Salk Hall to Salk Pavilion. More information soon!



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

TELL US ABOUT YOU!

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

Name: _____

Degree and Year of Graduation: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: _____

Position(s): _____

News: _____

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

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

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Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law

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American Express will be accepted for any gift of \$25–\$25,000.

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University of Pittsburgh, PITTPharmacy News, Attn: Laraine Kuchma, Suite 1100 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Phone: 412-648-3304 E-mail: laraine@pitt.edu

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished alumni are chosen on the basis of their educational, professional, and University-affiliated achievements. They are individuals who are renowned for their integrity and have exhibited the highest degree of passion, commitment, and diligence in their contributions to the profession of pharmacy. To nominate a distinguished alumnus, please visit our Web site, www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni.

All School of Pharmacy alumni are eligible. You are welcome to nominate yourself or others.

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