Excitement is in the air. Summer’s over and school is back in session. For some, summer was not long enough. For others, it was too long. And for others still, the break was “just right.”

The beginning of the school year marks a new journey for the incoming first-year pharmacy students and a continuation of learning for second, third and fourth-year students.

Welcome back.
If Rajesh Agarwal, PhD, has his wish, some day the School of Pharmacy will include a center dedicated to botanical research in disease prevention. And if his wish is entirely fulfilled, he will lead it.

Dr. Agarwal, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and associate editor of the world renowned journal Cancer Research, has been studying dietary and synthetic agents in the prevention and therapy of cancer for 20 years. One particular agent has long intrigued him and has already shown promise in responding to skin cancer in mouse models – silibinin, which is found in milk thistle.

Agarwal also discovered that compounds in milk thistle extract are effective in the prevention and treatment of skin and prostate cancers, and is investigating their effectiveness in colon, bladder, ovarian and lung cancers.

There may also be application as a liver tonic, demulcent and treatment of hepatic ailments, he says.

When it comes to finding ways to prevent cancer, there are no favorites. “Disease is disease and a sufferer is a sufferer.”

In the spring of 2009 Agarwal was named co-leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the University of Colorado Denver Cancer Center. The center wanted to broaden its cancer prevention and chemoprevention work so it would include more preclinical research, says its interim executive director, Tim Byers, adding that Agarwal’s being part of the team strengthens the bridge between translational work from pre-clinical to clinical and community prevention work. And natural products may play an important role in cancer prevention.
RESEARCH

Ensuring drugs’ efficacy – a matter of MISSION

Imagine a child with hemophilia who develops immunity to the only drug that can save her.

It’s not a fictitious scenario, and John Carpenter, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and co-director of the University of Colorado’s Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, is on a mission to ensure that such scenarios don’t recur.

Dr. Carpenter is focused on analyzing and improving the stability of the proteins on which biopharmaceutical drugs are based. When these products are degraded in the manufacturing process, the proteins’ stability is compromised. That triggers the immune response in patients, which increases the risk of and has actually resulted in death.

“It’s sad when a promising drug fails because it wasn’t made properly so it degraded. We’re advocates for patients and we’re very serious about safety,” he says.

Seeing Clearly

RMLEI scientists awarded $990,000 ARRA Challenge Grant

University of Colorado Denver scientists have been awarded an American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act (ARRA) Challenge Grant to develop new therapeutic agents for prevention or reversal of blinding diseases such as cataract and retinitis pigmentosa.

J. Mark Petrash, PhD and Uday Kompella, PhD, are the co-investigators on the grant. Petrash is professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute. Kompella is professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the School of Pharmacy and adjunct faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Research in the Petrash laboratory contributed to the discovery that specialized proteins in the lens help to protect tissues against the damaging effects of protein aggregation. Kompella’s laboratory is well known as a leader in nanomedicine and for developing technologies to deliver pharmaceuticals to ocular tissues. Work to be carried out with funding from the Challenge Grant will marry expertise of the two laboratories. Together, they will develop technology to optimize the formulation and delivery of protective molecules, called heat shock proteins, to the eye.

The ARRA Challenge Grant Program was developed by the National Institutes of Health as a means to stimulate innovative, high-impact research that can move quickly from the laboratory to the clinic. Roughly 2 percent of the 21,000 applications were chosen for funding under this highly selective program. The $990,000 grant will be funded over a period of two years.

According to Dr. Petrash, “Reviewers of our grant application considered the close proximity of my laboratory to that of Dr. Kompella on the Anschutz Medical Campus, together with the rich environment for collaborative research among schools at UC Denver, as significant strengths of our grant application. It is an honor to be selected for one of these highly competitive awards.”
Eradicating measles one deep breath at a time

The first dry-powder inhalable vaccine for measles is moving toward clinical trials next year in India, where the disease still sickens millions of infants and children and kills almost 200,000 annually.

Robert Sievers, PhD, co-founder of AktivDry with School of Pharmacy faculty member Dr. John Carpenter, leads the team that developed the dry-powder vaccine. Dr. Sievers, University of Colorado professor, says it’s a perfect fit for use in back-roads areas of developing countries because those areas often lack the electricity for refrigeration, clean water and sterile needles needed to administer traditional liquid vaccines.

Although made for developing countries, the technology eventually could become the basis for a new generation of inhalable – and ouchless vaccines – in the United States. So far, an inhalable vaccine is available only for the flu.

The study has been conducted with a grant from the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health as part of the Grand Challenges in Global Health Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
A PINCH of this, a DASH of that...

Finding the formula to manage pancreatic cancer

“I don’t obsess about living or for how long, I just live,” says Garrison Roots, age 57.

Three years ago, ER docs gave Roots three months to live. Diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer, the doctors told him to, “get your house in order.” Because there is no screening test for pancreatic cancer and patients are virtually symptom-free until the disease has begun to spread, the likelihood of surviving pancreatic cancer is dismal.

But instead of giving up and succumbing to the disease, Roots has defied the odds and is thriving despite his initial prognosis.

Why?

Placed in a phase 1 clinical trial early after his diagnosis, Roots credits Cindy O’Bryant, PharmD and School of Pharmacy faculty member, and a team of health care professionals at the University of Colorado Cancer Center with saving his life.

Dr. O’Bryant and a multidisciplinary team of colleagues focus on the early, phase 1 studies that take newly developed drugs to human patients for the first time. Patients like Roots who are a good fit for phase 1 studies typically have an obscure or unusual kind of cancer, or a cancer for which standard treatment has been exhausted. “They have very few or no other options,” says O’Bryant.

Initially unresponsive to radiation and early chemotherapy treatments, Roots’ tumor cannot be surgically removed. For him, “experimentation was the only way to go. I wanted to be at the university, where the research is.”

Still, not all patients with the same kind of cancer will respond to the same drug therapy. Finding the right combination of agents takes trial and tweaking, O’Bryant explains. “You can take three patients with pancreatic cancer and they will all respond differently to the same treatment. It depends on drug metabolism, disease sensitivity, and tumor genetics.”

O’Bryant tests therapies that are developed to target cancer cells and to find which drugs may work best for a specific type of cancer or patient. In recent years, progress has been made toward finding treatments that don’t poison the entire body while they attack the cancer, she explains.

Roots is not only responding to treatment, he’s continuing his work as chair of the Department of Art and Art History at CU-Boulder. In addition to his day job, Roots – working alongside his son – has recently installed a major art project at the new Justice Center in Denver (pictured top right).

Roots’ attitude toward his condition defied the odds and is thriving despite his initial prognosis.

That’s the way O’Bryant likes it. “I love the science and I love the people, getting to know them and their families. Small victories are huge. If I can’t give them three years of life, but I can make their quality of life better, that’s what I want to do.” And she does that with a big smile and a positive attitude, which for patients like Roots make all the difference.

For him, on top of managing his medications, O’Bryant and the team provide a positive attitude and treat him as “a person – not just a patient.”

Benefits and risks of participating in a clinical trial

Benefits to participants:

• The ability to play an active role in their own health care
• Access to new research treatments before they are widely available
• Obtain expert medical care at leading health care facilities during the trial
• Help others by contributing to medical research

Risks to participants:

• There may be unpleasant, serious or even life-threatening side effects to experimental treatment
• The experimental treatment may not be effective
• The study treatment may require more time and attention than would a standard treatment, including trips to the study site, close monitoring, more frequent treatments, hospital stays or complex dosing requirements
Published Studies

Rob Valuck, PharmD and Anne Libby, PhD, School of Pharmacy and Colorado School of Public Health, interviewed with the Associated Press, Reuters, WebMD.com, and HealthDay.com about their embargoed study that was published in JAMA June 1, around the effects of the FDA warning labels on antidepressants. The study spotlights the fact that the rate of depression diagnosis has fallen and treatment (antidepressants and substitutes) is not being prescribed.

Sam Ellis, PharmD, reported at the annual scientific sessions of the American Diabetes Association that the rate of obesity appears to be increasing more quickly among young adults with type 1 diabetes compared with national prevalence data. At the same time, obesity significantly increased the likelihood of having elevated systolic and diastolic blood pressures and LDL cholesterol levels, after adjusting for demographic factors.

Announcements

New Center

Academic and private investigators who wish to incorporate pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenomics into their research will find the newly formed Center for Translational Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics a valuable asset. Recently approved by the Chancellor’s office, the Center for Translational Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics brings together the scientific and technical expertise, knowledge, and physical resources to conduct high-level translational research. Contact Drs. Peter Anderson, Christine Aquilante or Jennifer Kiser at UCDenver.edu for more information.

Medical Chemistry Core Facility

A Medicinal Chemistry Core facility has been established through the School of Pharmacy to help validate proof-of-principle target discovery and assist in pre-clinical evaluation. For more information, contact Dr. Michael Wempe at Michael.Wempe@UCDenver.edu

Employee of the Month

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences staff member, Lisa Trujillo was nominated and honored as UC Denver’s Employee of the Month at the Anschutz Medical Campus for the month of August. A surprised and delighted Trujillo was definitely taken aback by the accolades of her co-workers. Fellow staff described Trujillo during the presentation as a person “who does more than just her job. She is a person who does things willingly and with a smile, and goes the extra mile for everyone. Never too busy to help anyone, Lisa is a great addition to the department.”

Faculty Honored

Sunny Linnebur, PharmD, FCCP, was recently elected Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Linnebur, one of 23 ACCP members elected for this designation, was acknowledged for demonstrating a sustained level of excellence in clinical pharmacy practice and/or research during a special ceremony at the College’s 2009 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, Calif.

Robert Page, PharmD, BCPS, MS, together with 31 fellow pharmacists was designated “Fellow” by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in recognition of the excellence he has achieved in pharmacy practice. The ASHP Practitioner Program recognizes excellence in practice and promotes public awareness of outstanding pharmacists. Each applicant’s credentials are assessed against rigorous criteria that include contributions to the scientific literature, research, education, and active involvement and leadership in professional activities. Applicants also must have practiced in health-system pharmacy for at least 10 years. The program has recognized 619 Fellows since it began in 1988.

In addition to the ASHP award, Page was offered and accepted the position of chair of the Clinical Pharmacology Committee for the American Heart Association (AHA). This newly formed committee, comprised of 10 members and one trainee, has the primary responsibility of advising the AHA leadership on a wide range of clinical, research, policy and educational matters related to cardiovascular disease and stroke. This appointment is an important step in recognizing the significant role pharmacists have in the management of cardiovascular disease.

Wes Nuffer, PharmD, recently achieved the status of Certified Diabetes Educator. This designation requires 1,000 patient contact hours (face-to-face with diabetes patients) and successful completion/passing of an exam.

5-years

Dr. LaToya Braun
Lin Cheng
Pam Duval
Ruth Fulton
Dr. Numsen Hail
Michelle Ray
Biehuoy Shieh

10-years

Dr. Laura Borgelt
Dr. Brian Hemstreet
Susan Kepner
Dr. Sunny Linnebur
Dr. Robert MacLaren
Dr. Kavita Nair
Dr. Cindy O’Bryant
Jeri Rome
Timothy Tracy

15-years

Glenda Tate
Dr. Robert Valuck
Jia Hua Zheng

20-plus years

Dr. Ralph J. Aliiere
Cindy Austin
Charlotte Klaus
Dr. Al Malkinson
Dr. Dennis Petersen
Dr. David Ross
Dr. David Thompson
Dr. John Thompson
Dr. David Siegel
Susan Saunders
White Coat Celebration

The University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy marked the beginning of the school year with its annual White Coat Ceremony and the largest P-1 class ever in the school’s near 100-year history.

With more than 1,100 applicants vying for only 160 spots, first-year pharmacy students were elated by the news they were accepted into one of the top pharmacy schools in the nation.

“This was my second try at getting in here,” says first-year pharmacy student Ryan Foll. “I applied at other schools as well, but this was my first choice. I still can’t believe I made it.” In the meantime, Foll has obtained two undergraduate degrees – a BS and a BA – prior to being accepted into pharmacy school.

Due to local and national demand for pharmacists, classes at UC Denver’s School of Pharmacy have grown tremendously since 2003. Because of an aging population and new breakthroughs in drugs, pharmacy as a career is emerging as one of the hottest fields in the country.

Dean’s List

Students who achieve semester grade point average of 3.5 or above are recognized on the Dean’s List. Those students for the spring of 2009 are:

**P1 Spring 2009**
Caitlin Drayna
Jennifer Duewall
Keili Esbaum
Daniel Fling
Kristopher Fogo
Aaron Gard
Anna Jessup
Eric Johnson
Sweta K C
Robyn Keeley
Jennifer Konieczny
Kevin Larson
Lan Luong
Edward Mang’eni
Luke Markham
Keili Metz
Melissa Meyer
Kristen Morrow
Ofir Nevo
Diana Nguyen
Caleb Oh
Brigitte Peterson
Christine Pham
Emma Ross
Melanie Sauerman
Matthew Schenk
Amanda Stahl
Linsey Thompson
Tom Vang
Andy Wang
Aleksandra Wolanin
Diana Wu

**P2 Spring 2009**
Anita Abata
Mary Alger
Jessica Bannon
Cynthia Beckett
Paula Bliss
Alexander Block
Jordan Califano
Jonathan Caughran
Jeffrey Clark
Emil Dezia
Morgan Ehlers
Jeremy Gradisar
Kyle Hammond
Kevin Henderson
Gregory Hofer
Lashell Holland
Ria Johns
Alexander Kanack
Aaron Lee
Charles Needle
Nicole Peterson
Joanna Puszka
Paul Reynolds
Jennifer Schwab
Samantha Sedillo
Sara Settie
Stacey Smith
Karen Thoresdale
Rebecca Tyler
Jessica Vaughn
Christopher Walton

Excited first-year students cheer each other on during the White Coat Ceremony.
Lena could no longer endure her husband’s violence. Seven months pregnant, suffering from a chronic genetic disorder requiring medication, and with $29.40 in her pocket, she had few places to turn. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ Stout Street Clinic and Pharmacy were the support she needed.

Afflicted with Graves Disease, which requires regular medical attention, eye care and prescription medication, Lena was forced to choose between filling her prescriptions or feeding her kids. The choice was clear. “I went a few years without meds. At $145 per month, I said my kids need to eat and they need a roof over their heads.” Fortunately for Lena and thousands of others like her in the Denver metro area, the Stout Street Clinic was there for her.

Filling anywhere from 500 to 750 prescriptions per day at no cost to the patient, the pharmacy dispenses nearly 230,000 medications per year. “That’s nearly triple the number we filled just three years ago,” says pharmacy director and SOP alumnus, Dr. Ozzie Ramirez, PharmD ’06. “With the recession, we have seen demand skyrocket.”

And, with the increased demand for medications, there has been an increase in the need for “skilled people” to dispense those medications.

That’s why the clinic serves as an experiential training site for students currently enrolled in the PharmD program and those seeking entry into the program. During the course of the school year, students rotate through Stout Street and fulfill their experiential requirements. Last summer, 18 pre-pharmacy students vying for a berth in future doctor of pharmacy classes volunteered their time to help fill prescriptions at the clinic. “Their assistance was a Godsend,” says Ramirez.

Under the supervision of third-year pharmacy student Candido Chacon, Dr. Ozzie Ramirez and a staff of three pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, students were provided with an opportunity to earn valuable skills and “face time” during the two-month summer enrichment program. Because of the competitive nature of pharmacy school, many of the students in the program have already applied multiple times to numerous pharmacy schools throughout the country without success. “I was once in the same boat,” empathizes Chacon. After receiving his undergrad degree in molecular biology from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2003, Chacon decided to pursue his PharmD. He applied to the school of pharmacy, but was not accepted. So, he was offered an opportunity to enroll in the summer enrichment program, which provided him the opportunity to become familiar with the faculty and requirements. As a consequence, he was able to re-apply the following year and was accepted. “This is an extremely competitive program. But if you work hard and keep trying you can eventually make it.” Chacon is proof that persistence pays off.

STOUT STREET provides valuable resource for students and patients

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visits Stout Street Clinic

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, joined U.S. Representatives Diana DeGette and Jared Polis, to highlight the impact of the economic recovery funds on healthcare services at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless on Thursday, August 6, 2009.

Speaker Pelosi and Members of the Colorado delegation visited the Coalition’s Stout Street Clinic and saw firsthand how the Coalition will be able to meet increased need, improve healthcare systems and create 25 new jobs with $7.8 million in federal recovery funds.

“We see a place of dedicated professionals, working with volunteers, to give the respect that the clients who come here deserve,” said Pelosi. “We see a holistic approach where you can’t talk about ending homelessness or addressing it, unless you address the health needs and mental health needs of the clients.”

Part of the funds will enable the Stout Street Clinic to purchase an Electronic Health Records System. A second grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will help the clinic meet the unprecedented increase in demand for mental health services. The largest grant is through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist families at risk of losing their homes and create a more coordinated strategy to rapidly re-house families who do end up homeless.

The Coalition has requested additional recovery funds to expand the Stout Street Clinic, to help families at risk of homelessness across the state, and to proceed with a shovel-ready affordable housing development in downtown Denver. If approved, these recovery funds would create another 149 jobs and help the Coalition reach even more homeless individuals and families in need of services.
As the first member of her immediate family to graduate from college, and the first to pursue a PhD as well as a career in pharmaceutical science, Nicole Payton is used to breaking new ground.

An only child, Payton saw her parents struggle to make ends meet. Recognizing at a young age that an education would allow her to be the mistress of her own destiny, she earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of New Mexico (UNM).

"Graduating from college was a very big deal for my family. I was the first to be accepted into college, and the first to graduate," she modestly says. Her first foray into academia fueled the fire to continue with her studies. After graduating magna cum laude from UNM, she began researching graduate programs in biomedical science throughout the Rocky Mountain region, and selected UC Denver three years ago and loves it.

According to Payton, "The program is challenging and rewarding. The faculty is great. The labs ... beautiful. This campus has everything you need. And, you get to do lab work from day one!" Added to that, "there’s a sense of social responsibility that the faculty instill in students that is refreshing."

Currently working in Dr. Anchordoquy’s lab, Payton says "I love science, exploration and discovery. I’ve been provided with a unique opportunity that will open up other doors for me in the future." Half-way through the program, Payton is considering breaking more ground in the future by pursuing a career in academia.
Nicole Rubalcaba-Lopez and Hanna Gurara grew up in rural communities; Lopez in Pueblo, and Gurara in a small town in Ethiopia.

Less than a year away from graduating with their doctor of pharmacy degrees, both are contemplating where they will begin their practice, and with a little encouragement from scholarships have decided to return to their rural roots.

Gurara and Lopez have received two-year $30,000 scholarships to assist with completing their pharmacy degrees. Open to graduate level students from a variety of health disciplines (medicine, physical therapy, nursing and pharmacy) that plan on practicing in rural communities, the Colorado Trust Health Professions Scholarship Program is making it possible for students to pursue careers in healthcare.

Inspired by her uncle, a pharmacist back in her native country, Gurara wants to follow in his footsteps and help those in need in rural Colorado. Growing up in a small town in Ethiopia has made her fully aware of the challenges and opportunities rural providers face and how an industrious and welcoming nature can be a tremendous asset in a small town.

In addition to scholarships like these, a new $2.4 million grant from Kaiser Permanente is making it possible for students like Gurara and Lopez to either return home or strike out and practice in a rural setting. The grant will be used to establish the university’s Interdisciplinary Rural Training and Service Program, where students from a variety of health care disciplines will practice together, gain a greater appreciation for each specialty, and collaborate – all in an effort to improve patient care.

For both Lopez and Gurara, pharmacy is in their blood. Lopez, whose father graduated from the School of Pharmacy with a BS in 1985, was indoctrinated into the profession at a very young age. She recalls, “My father would take me to work as part of ‘Take your daughters to work day.’ I discovered that I really liked the science and the environment.”

...a new $2.4 million grant from Kaiser Permanente, is making it possible for students like Gurara and Lopez to either return home or strike out and practice in a rural setting.
In The News... During the last six months, the School of Pharmacy has been included in numerous news stories. Highlighted in the Denver Post, Longmont Times Call, the Aurora Sentinel, 9NEWS, KMGH-Channel 7 and Clinical Endocrinology News, stories have focused on ways to beat the recession by reducing medication costs, the White Coat Ceremony, the potential protective link between Vitamin D and H1N1, the Stout Street Clinic and rural health care. Future stories include ways to help seniors manage their medications, flu shot clinics, and safe disposal of medications.
Alumni Notes

Oddy Jacobsen, BS ’66, recently retired from a 22-year career with King Soopers. Prior to King Soopers, Jacobsen bought and owned his own pharmacy. As he says, “When I went to pharmacy school, everyone wanted their own drug store. But after more than a decade of being my own boss, I realized that there were some advantages to working for someone else.” So, after 12 years as an independent pharmacist, Jacobsen closed up shop and began working for King Soopers. “I have no regrets. It was a good decision.” Now that he is fully retired, Jacobsen is weighing several volunteer opportunities. Should you wish to reach Oddy at oddyjan@comcast.net.

After a 26-plus-year career as a sales representative for Eli Lilly and three years as a staff pharmacists with North Colorado Medical Center, Budd Pippin, BPharm ’65, has retired and is living in Venice, Florida with his wife, Judi. Budd may be reached at budjdudi@aol.com.

Lori Fitzgerald, BS ’99, and her husband, Tim, welcomed their first child, Delaney Grace in April ’09. She is a beautiful 2-year-old, who was born in Kolomna, Russia. Lori is currently a staff pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente. Lori can be reached at Lori.A.Fitzgerald@kp.org.

Since leaving the university in ’92, Glenn Appelt, PhD and RPh ’63, and his wife Jennifer, have built their dream home on the Gulf of Mexico in South Alabama. “We’ve gotten to shore it up several times after a few big storms!” says Dr. Appelt. After having worked as a consultant/staff pharmacist at a Mobile infirmary while teaching part-time at the University of South Alabama in the cardiorespiratory care department, Dr. Appelt now teaches basic biology and chemistry for an accredited distance education university (Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Ala.). Presently, he and his wife divide their time between the beach in the sunny south and a condo in an historic lodge in Estes Park, Colo. Classmates and former students may contact Glenn at gulfgator@aol.com.

Anna Nguyen, PharmD ’04, who works and lives in California dropped by the SOP while visiting her sister, Thuy, a first-year UC Denver pharmacy student. Nguyen combined visiting friends and family with celebrating her younger sister’s acceptance into her alma mater. While on campus, Nguyen toured the facilities and was impressed by “the fantastic new campus.”

Margaret Cording, BCPS ’75, has the distinction of having attended three campuses while at CU – Colorado Springs, Boulder and Denver! Having worked in many states and countries (Georgia, Virginia, California, Iceland, and Japan), for the Navy, the Army and civilian hospitals, Cording’s career has been extremely varied and rewarding. In between the moves, she managed to complete her PharmD from Idaho State University. Today, Dr. Cording is the pharmacy ambulatory care clinical supervisor at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

Denese Clark (formerly Mott), ’89, and Kim Rhoades, ’90, recently dropped by the SOP while at the Anschutz Medical Campus attending a meeting. The two, employees of Kaiser Permanente, were given a tour of the campus and shown the site of the new pharmacy building. Should you wish to connect with them, contact Denese at Rxgirl1989@hotmail.com and Kim at Kimberlrhoades@msn.com.

Former faculty member, Dr. F.C. Hammerness, just 88 this past August, is still enjoying his retirement years. He lives in Yuma, Ariz. and is pictured here with a friend from his mobile home park. They know to spend the 120 degree days indoors. Occasional trips to see family and friends in California also provide relief. Hamm recently reminisced about the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the school and we hope to see him at the 100th.

2006 Graduate Receives Distinguished Clinical Practitioner of the Year Award

Frank Breve, ’06 PharmD, has been named Clinical Practitioner of the Year by Temple University. Dr. Breve received his BS in pharmacy from Temple University in 1981 and his PharmD in the non traditional program from the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy in 2006.

“Getting my doctorate was the best thing I’ve ever done. It took five years, but it was well worth it. It has opened many doors for me,” says Dr. Breve. Those doors include being invited to serve on clinical focus groups and speakers’ bureaus, as well as being the keynote speaker at this year’s White Coat Ceremony at Temple University.

“The non traditional program was great. It was flexible and worked with my schedule.” Because he was already a pharmacist it was difficult to justify taking time off from his career to pursue his doctorate in a traditional manner. “This program allowed me to complete the work on my terms.”

“This program allowed me to complete the work on my terms.”
Alums from the class of '79 came from as far as Hawaii and as near as Stapleton to attend their 30-year class reunion.

Representing eight states – Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, and Texas – 50 percent of the class (27 of a total of 55 classmates) attended some part of the festivities.

The weekend, planned by Judy McEvitt (formerly Bergstrom), was packed with activities including a reception and tour of the Anschutz Medical Campus where attendees toured the Eisenhower Suite in the old Fitzsimons Hospital (where President Eisenhower stayed during his recovery from a heart attack while in office), experienced how students learn interactively in the classroom today with a high tech presentation of “Clicker technology” by faculty member Dr. Sheryl Vondraeck, and were treated to rooftop views of the campus.

With plenty of opportunities to reminisce, the class of '79 enjoyed the weekend and some even began making plans to attend the school’s 100th anniversary celebration in 2011.
At 81 years young, Henry Strauss, ’51 RPh, is still going strong. The only obstacles for this octogenarian seem to be heat and humidity. Trips that would exhaust a much younger man are a cakewalk for Strauss. But his recent excursion to India with his wife, Joan, proved too much for this world traveler. Heat, humidity and the lack of air conditioning were his undoing.

Visiting South Asia specifically to expand Joan’s international adoption agency, International Adoption Net (IAN), the Strauss’ decided to merge business with pleasure and “see the sights.” IAN, a nonprofit organization, was contacted by the Nepalese government in the hopes that Joan would consider adding Nepal to the roster of countries she represents. Currently, IAN places more than 100 children annually from a variety of countries including Uzbekistan, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, and Ethiopia.

So, for 18 days, the Strauss’ visited orphanages, talked with facilitators, and managed to squeeze in visits to the Taj Mahal, the Amer Fort and Palace in Jaipur, Kathmandu, the Ganges River, Tibet, and a trip to the Royal Chitwan National Park. And it’s that trip into the jungle that proved to be the proverbial “straw that broke the camel’s back” for Strauss.

April in South Asia is not like springtime in the Rockies. With 100+ degree temperatures and equal amounts of humidity, the weather can be oppressive. But liberal amounts of air conditioning relieve the sweltering heat. Unfortunately for Strauss, a five hour excursion into the jungle via bus, riverboat and Jeep – sans air conditioning – ended with heat exhaustion, a call to the American Embassy, and a helicopter ride back to civilization. Little did Joan and Henry know that the helicopter ride would be the high point of the trip. For two hours, the couple got a birds’ eye view of the Himalayas and even saw Tibetan farmers tilling the land.

“Once out of the jungle, I bounced right back. But that trek into the jungle was rough,” says Strauss.

Globe trotting alum

OUT OF THE WILDS

After a few months in dry, cool Colorado, Strauss and his wife are ready for their next adventure. But you can be sure that they will double check the fine print wherever they travel to ensure that air conditioning is included!
Construction on the School of Pharmacy's new building is progressing as planned, and according to Susan Saunders, director of facilities and planning, is “on budget and on schedule.” The anticipated date for completion and move in is early 2011 – just in time to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the school.

The new $59.5 million, 165,000 square-foot building will include research laboratories as well as administrative, faculty and staff offices. The centrally located building on the Anschutz Medical Campus, situated between the library and the Henderson Parking Garage, is within two blocks of the education zone, classrooms and students.

In an effort to be environmentally responsible, the school has incorporated many ‘green’ features into the building. While some are common, such as low flow fixtures in restrooms and laboratories, and the use of low VOC paints, tile and carpet, others are not. Light colored roofing and sidewalks have been incorporated into the design in order to reduce the “heat island” effect. Sustainably produced and recycled products are also being used throughout the building. Even the brick will be supplied from a source within 500 miles of the site. “The construction process has been specifically geared to carefully manage the recyclable materials being used on the project, as well as the collection and disposition of ‘remnants’ for reuse,” says Saunders.

Upon completion and occupation of the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building, the school will be renamed the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in recognition of the Skaggs family and The ALSAM Foundation for their long-standing support of the school’s buildings and educational programs. Most recently, in late 2006, the foundation committed $10 million for the construction of the new building and followed that gift in 2008 with an additional $1 million.

We’d like to hear from you

Name: __________________________ Degree(s) and Year: __________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

City, State and Zip: _______________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________

E-mail: __________________________ You may publish my: □ Address □ Phone □ E-mail

Spouse also an alumna/us? □ No □ Yes Year: __________________________

I’d like my former classmates to know: _______________________________________
How to reach us

Pharmacy Perspectives – Volume 1, Issue 3 is published three times a year by the University of Colorado Denver for alumni and friends of the School of Pharmacy. Editor: Dana Brandorff. Contributing Writers: Dana Brandorff and Mary Lemma. Photos: Tom Cherrey, Dana Brandorff, Isabella Muturi Sauve, and Julie Rodriguez. We welcome your comments, news and story ideas.

University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy – C238-L15
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Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009, 4:30-9 p.m., $10
Zoo Lights
Celebrate the winter holidays with your family and fellow alums at a private UC Denver viewing of the lights at the Denver Zoo. Afterward, warm up inside with coffee, hot chocolate and snacks. Cost is $10 per person, children two and under are free. Register by Nov. 30, 2009. A special area is designated for School of Pharmacy alumni.

Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, 7:30 p.m., $10
CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show
CU alumni from across the Front Range will have a blast at CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show! Your $10 ticket provides access to the stock show grounds and entrance to the rodeo. Register by Jan. 15, 2010. Don’t miss the Mutton Bustin’ Contest where future rodeo stars are made! Visit our Web site before Jan. 4, 2010 for details and to submit an entry.

Remember, students and faculty from the School of Pharmacy are on hand conducting health screenings during the National Western Stock Show, so drop by our booth and reconnect with the school while obtaining valuable health information.

A portion of proceeds from these alumni events will benefit students through scholarships at the University of Colorado Denver.

Save the Date!
Advances in Pharmacy Practice: 2010
Plan now for the Advances in Pharmacy Practice: 2010 continuing education symposium, which will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. Six contact hours of ACPE-accredited continuing education will be provided, with updates in key areas of interest for pharmacists. The following topics are planned: Law/rules & regulations update, new drugs; and clinical updates in the areas of osteoporosis, pain, HIV, and alternative medications.

Please watch for updates on programming on the UC Denver School of Pharmacy CE Web site: http://UCDenver.edu/SOPProgram

When there’s a will, there’s a way.

Your will may be your way to nourish promising, bright minds. Build the leaders of tomorrow. Illuminate new thinking. Spark discoveries. So dream big. Support your passion, make a real difference and leave your imprint on CU (and, perhaps your mark on the world) with a bequest.

To find out how easy it is to make a gift through your will, obtain sample bequest language or learn about other planned giving options, contact our Planned Giving Group, 303.941.1338 or email planned.gifts@ cufund.org

Support your passion

Dream big

When there’s a will, there’s a way.

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