Welcome to the School of Pharmacy Class of 2009!

Celebrating the School of Pharmacy’s annual White Coat Ceremony, faculty and administration welcomed the Class of 2009 to the pharmacy profession on Aug. 29.

As family, friends and faculty looked on, 131 new PharmD students were “coated” by Cathy Jarvis, PharmD, assistant dean of Student Services, and Ralph Altiere, PharmD, associate dean of the School of Pharmacy. Of the new P1 students, 82 are women and 49 are men.

The school’s strengths in racial diversity continue this year: 66 percent are white; 9 percent are African American; 17 percent are Asian (including Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian students); 7 percent are Hispanic/Latino; and 1 percent are from other countries.

After donning their white coats, students recited the oath of professionalism they had written as a class, promising to be compassionate and ethical in the treatment of patients. The ceremony was followed by a cookout for students and well-wishers held on the school’s lawn and sponsored by Walgreen’s.

Long a tradition at the School of Pharmacy, the White Coat Ceremony symbolizes to students their role as health care practitioners and their entry into the pharmacy profession. Although they are first year pharmacy students, they are henceforth health care professionals dedicated to patient care.
English as a Second Language helps non-native speaking students

Since pharmacists must convey vital information to patients and health care providers, being a proficient communicator is a crucial skill for pharmacy school students. A mispronounced or wrong word when talking about medications, dosages and interactions could lead to a serious health situation.

Students at the School of Pharmacy represent a culturally and linguistically diverse group, coming from all corners of the world to become pharmacists.

To ensure that international and bilingual students can communicate well, the school’s English as a Second Language (ESL) summer courses provide students the opportunity to hone their English language skills prior to entering the pharmacy school in the fall. Under the direction of Mary Seeber, the program helps non-native speaking students become more proficient with their written and oral communications skills.

"There are cultural norms that differ in the way we answer a question," she said. "The students need to learn, what we can do in class to help them learn, and then determine how we will know when they’ve learned it," said Seeber.

Now in its third year, the Summer ESL program provides students from Ethiopia and Vietnam to Puerto Rico and Bulgaria with the skills and extra attention needed to hone their communication skills. A total of 20 students participated in the course this year.

Students have different needs depending on their native language and levels of English-speaking skills. Some students are bilingual, speaking with both a native language and English. Others came to the U.S. to attend pharmacy school and are earning a specialized certification in testing and assessing oral proficiency in English.

My whole premise is finding out what it is the students need to learn, what we can do in class to help them learn, and then determine how we will know when they’ve learned it," said Seeber.

Several of the team leaders for the Daniels College Prep and Scholarship Program workshops held in July were pharmacy students, which gave the Daniels Fund students the opportunity to talk with us and to get a better understanding of the field of pharmacy.

When I was working with a group of the students doing community service at the Ronald McDonald House, we had a long, intense conversation about what health fields work best with each student’s individual personality.

I reviewed in great detail the field of pharmacy and gave them the information I knew about the other health fields, including dentistry, medicine, physical therapy, athletic training and others. During this conversation many of them began to get a better understanding of where they wanted to go professionally. It was awesome to help them with that decision.

As team leaders, the pharmacy students also taught several lectures. A majority of the students were very impressed with P2 students, Olivia Rapacciuotta’s lecture on AIDS and HIV. We answered many questions and the students were very appreciative of us talking to them.

A more intense activity for the students included case studies of patients with different conditions who were taking several medications. The students were instructed to change medications and directions if necessary, based on the patient’s profile.

A pharmacy student’s experience as a Daniels Fund team leader

Working with these individuals’ ambition and energy allowed me to rekindle my passion for working in the health field and the community," said Seeber. "Just because they have issues with writing or pronunciation doesn’t mean they can’t communicate with you or that they can’t do what they need to do competently. The pharmacy degree is a doctoral level, professional degree and the standards for admission in terms of proficiency in English need to be very high."
Daniels College Prep Program opens doors to higher education

During the summer of 2005, 37 high school juniors attended workshops at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center to help sharpen their skills in preparing for college and applying for financial aid.

The purpose of the workshops, held July 24-30, was to expose students to a variety of health career options, according to Jason R. Thompson, MA, interim director, UCDHSC Office of Diversity. The theme was Making Visible the Invisible: Health Disparities – beyond ER and CSI.

“The workshops emphasized the impact of health disparities and the need for culturally educated health care providers in our communities,” said Thompson. “Furthermore, the workshops exposed students to risk behaviors that can cause diseases, focusing on the importance of a healthy lifestyle.”

The workshops were part of the Daniels College Prep and Scholarship Program (DCPSP), whose goal is to open access to higher education for promising young people in the foundation’s four-state region (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). The Daniels Fund recognizes that many high school students have a strong desire to attend college, but may lack the necessary preparation, financial support, and other resources to advance their education.

Connie Valdez, PharmD, assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy’s Department of Clinical Pharmacy, and several students from the School of Pharmacy were involved throughout the week. Kaiser Permanente donated the time of eight INROAD students who helped with the week-long program. INROAD is a summer program Kaiser provides for pre-healthcare college students (pre-pharmacy, pre-med, etc.).

Additional funding for the camp was provided by the Colorado Trust. The Colorado Trust grant was written by Chris Turner, PhD, director of Experiential Programs at the School of Pharmacy. The School of Medicine also provided staff time to assist in the program.

Unlike traditional programs that target high academic achievers, the Daniels College Prep and Scholarship Program seeks promising individuals whose academic performance has not necessarily reflected their potential. Students will often have faced financial challenges and other extenuating circumstances that may have prevented them from demonstrating the full range of their abilities during their high school years.

Rather than exclusively reward past success (traditional quantitative measures of merit such as grades, test scores, class rank, etc.), the DCPSP seeks to invest in students who demonstrate:

- Academic performance or promise;
- Strength of character, evidence of leadership potential, and emotional maturity and stability;
- Well rounded personality, abilities and broad interests;
- The potential to contribute to one's community later in life.

Financial need (Financial eligibility for the DCPSP is determined by the Daniels Fund and is based upon several criteria including household income and assets. Students must also be eligible to apply for and receive a Federal Pell Grant).

Daniels Fund team leader continued from page 2

One person with whom I have developed a close relationship is Erica. Erica is bright, has one of the biggest hearts and is as unselfish as they get. She taught me a lot about her condition and the difficulty of being restricted to a wheelchair. She never once complained and instead is happy and outgoing. She is a true idol.

I hope these students learned and got at least half of what I learned from this program. It was the best experience I have ever had working with youth and I hope to continue being involved in the program for years to come.

Helping those affected by Hurricane Katrina

The Asian American Pharmacy Students Association (AAPSA) in conjunction with the Office of Student Services, led a successful campaign to raise money for those suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Members of AAPSA collected $1,500 which they gave to the American Red Cross for the hurricane relief efforts.

Many thanks to Evelyn Phan, Bethanie Tran, Nancy Hoang and Tian Zeng for their diligent efforts to circulate the donation can around to the classes. Thanks also to Diane Padilla Gutierrez for spearheading the program in the Office of Student Services.

Student organizations and student council representation 2005-06

P4 Class:
President: ................. Carrie Dunn
Vice President ............... Jennifer Cooper
Secretary .................. Theresa Cao
Treasurer .................... Parisa Shahmohammadi

P3 Class and Student Council Officers:
President .................... Dominique Minjarez
Vice President ............... Benjamin Brunner
Secretary .................... Josh Lock
Treasurer .................... Joyce Gallegos
Senate Reps ............... Jarrett DeHerrera and Patricia McCauley

P1 Student Council Officers:
President .................... Ashley Hall
Vice President ............... Parisa Shahmohammadi
Secretary .................... Duke Cheney
Treasurer .................... Lam Nguyen

Kappa Epsilon honored

The Theta Chapter of Kappa Epsilon, a pharmacy student fraternity, received two awards at the biennial convention. The first award is a Certificate of Excellence for their new member recruitment program and the second is an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Collegiate Chapter. The Theta Chapter members of KE, under the guidance of faculty advisors Cindy O’Bryant and Sheryl Vondracek, were recognized by the Grand Council as a continuing “model of excellence within the community and the profession.”
Dr. Jamie Poust to head new Anemia Center

This fall, when Jamie Poust, PharmD, steps into the lead position in a new pharmacy clinical service at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, she’ll have big shoes to fill — her own.

The Anemia Center was established as an extension of research she conducted while an oncology resident at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

A third-generation pharmacist, Dr. Poust did a study on anemia in cancer patients, from which she developed a pharmacist intervention for patient care. For the study, she met with cancer patients throughout the course of their treatment to ensure they received the appropriate support and medications for anemia.

“Oncology is challenging,” said Dr. Poust, now a clinical oncology pharmacist at the University of Colorado Hospital.

After graduating from the School of Pharmacy in 2003, she completed a yearlong pharmacy practice residency at Southwest Washington Medical Center in Vancouver, Wash. She then returned to Colorado to take the residency in oncology where her rotations gave her experience with the different types of cancers and treatments.

Although taking two residencies meant being half a continent away from her husband Adam Poust, Class of 2003, for one year and delaying her practice for two years, it nevertheless was time well spent, said Dr. Poust.

She was able to get more experience in the subspecialties of the practice residency, including internal medicine, critical care and infectious disease, as well as hone her skills in presenting papers at conferences, speaking to audiences and publishing.

“I completed both residencies to make sure oncology was something I would be able to do,” she said.

“In the practice residency you learn how to develop yourself professionally. It gives you a broad perspective in several different areas of pharmacy before you go on into your specialty.”

Dr. Poust credits Cindy O’Bryant, PharmD, assistant professor in the school’s Department of Clinical Pharmacy, for being a supportive mentor and friend.

“Cindy’s been fabulous,” said Dr. Poust. “When I was a student, she made sure I had the opportunity to spend time with cancer patients so I could really understand the field I was going into. She encouraged me to follow my dreams and do the two residencies.”

Throughout her residencies Dr. Poust has precepted and taught students and this fall will have two oncology residents to precept.

“I love doing that because you get to watch the students and residents grow and change over the course of the experience,” she said. “My advice to them is that your residency is what you make of it. The more you put into it, the greater the benefit you get out of it.”

Dean’s List for Spring 2005

P3 Class of 2006
Melissa Bassett
Roy Brunson
Tait Beery
Casillo Anna
Valentina Chesnokova
Angela Cook
Jennifer Cooper
Carolyn Dunn
Cheryl Ewing
Daniel Finger
Lauren Fitzpatrick
Laurel Forrest
Asfawosen Haileselassie
Steven Harlass
Wendy Johnson Lytle
Fitsumberhan Kidane
Stephanie Lee Jones
Dawn Lefevre
Daniel Liccione
Michael Long
Chad Lundin
Francis Macalalag
Adrienne Mackzum
Kerri Martinez
Bernadette Niba
Edward O’Donnell
Gregory Palmrose
Oswaldo Ramirez
Jaclyn Ripley

P2 Class of 2007
Jing An
Daniel Bates
Ella Breitenbach
Tin Chou
Diane Desugny
James Farrar
Sean Fitzpatrick
Kevin Flynn
Dawn Hollingshead
Xiaojun Lu
Monica Munatt
Matthew Marshall
Jessica Meier

Sarah Mercer
Jennifer Meyer
Asad Omar
Elaine Thannum
Kate Tran
James Vinton
Shaun White

P1 Class of 2008
Oluseun Abolaji
Victoria Anderson
Savannah Bennett
Stephanie Cho
Matthew Cumin
Krista Davies
Qwynnram Do
Andrew Doniec
Michele Garcia
Amber Hodges
Patrick Hughes
Jennifer Jorgensen
Rory Lambert
Loc Le
Jessica Leonard
Ashley Letourneau
Marlene Lopez
Chad Martell
Jacquelyn Martin
Patrina McCauley
Bradley Mcgee

Edwin McRae
Lindy Meadowcraft
Katherine Miller
Jessica Morris
Lisa Mosgrave
Adam Nielsen
Hodan Noor
Shauna Nordine
Audra Patten
Tiffany Pham
Michelle Pulido
Melanie Red Owl
Christopher Ryan
Darcie Rant
Michele Sampayan
Melissa Sanderson
Tomas Sandoval
Katheryn Schneider
Sara Stable
Lindsay Stansfield
Charli Strebig
Sarah Sumner
Hung Tran
Thu Tran
Tara Vlasimsky
Amy Watson
Tasha Herbert
Christopher Wilson
Every drug comes with risks

A safe drug does not necessarily mean the drug is harmless, but that its benefits outweigh the risks to people who take it. Elaine Morrato wants to participate in national policymaking for drug safety and evaluation of how well you’re doing,” said Morrato, MPH, an Outcomes Research Fellow in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. “You learn, improve and continue.”

“Once a risk is identified, I’m interested in how you educate physicians, pharmacists and patients so that you’re minimizing the risk in clinical practice, and then evaluating how well you’re doing,” said Morrato, MPH, an Outcomes Research Fellow in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. “You learn, improve and continue.”

Morrato has a joint fellowship with Robert Valuck, PhD, associate professor of Clinical Pharmacy, who specializes in psychiatric pharmacoepidemiology and with Patrick Sullivan, PhD, assistant professor of Clinical Pharmacy.

She is using the medical claims databases of Dr. Valuck for two studies. In one study she is investigating the impact of new drug warnings and “Dear Doctor” letters on utilization of nefazodone (an antidepressant) in community practice and the inclusion of recommended laboratory testing in patient treatment regimens. Her work will add to the scientific literature and FDA policy discussion on the effectiveness of pharmaceutical risk management interventions and appropriate risk minimization evaluations.

In the second study, Dr. Valuck and Morrato are investigating factors influencing utilization of atypical antipsychotics and predictors of higher costs in Medicaid patients across six states and over five years of observation. This has implications for state Medicaid decision makers, because atypical antipsychotics are a new growing and expensive drug class used to treat patients with schizophrenia who are heavily represented in the Medicaid population.

Pharmacists across the country are playing a larger role in helping people manage their diabetes, and in her work with Dr. Sullivan, Morrato is using his data bases on diabetes to investigate obesity and physical activity. Dr. Sullivan has developed expertise in analyzing the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, a nationally representative survey of the U.S. population. They recently published a study in Diabetes Care examining the relative associations of physical activity and BMI with the prevalence of diabetes and diabetes-related cardiovascular co-morbidities. They found that both physical inactivity and obesity were strongly and independently associated with diabetes and diabetes-related co-morbidities.

Morrato became interested in pharmacoepidemiology when she worked in research and development at Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati, OH. As a global R&D leader, responsible for phase III, IIIb and IV prescription drug evaluations.

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A residency experience

Amy Miller, PharmD, is assistant professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Where did you take your residencies?  
Pharmacy Practice Residency at University of California-San Francisco; Primary Care Specialty Residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

How did your residency experience benefit you professionally?  
Residency training helped me prepare for a career in academia. Specifically, it helped me develop my clinical, research, and teaching skills, and it also allows for great networking opportunities.

How do you feel after the experience?  
Each year of residency training is a year of hard work, but well worth it. I feel it has prepared me very well for my residency.

What is your area of pharmacy interest/expertise?  
I specialize in Primary Care with an emphasis in Family Medicine. I am particularly interested in diabetes management.

Why does that particular area interest you?  
I enjoy working one-on-one with patients in the outpatient setting, working with Family Medicine physicians and residents, and I particularly like diabetes as this is an area where modern pharmacists can really be very influential.

What was your residency director at UCHSC and what was it like to work with him?  
My residency director at UCHSC was Joseph Saseen, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS. Joe is an amazing clinical pharmacist, educator, and mentor. He is great to work with. I have learned so much from Joe both clinically and professionally. He is one of the best teachers I have ever had and an incredible role model.

What are your goals, what do you hope to accomplish?  
I just started a new job as assistant professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. My clinic site is in Family Medicine. In the short term, I plan to become a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) and a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE). Over the next few years, I hope to become an effective educator for both pharmacy students and medical residents, to continue to pursue scholarly activities conducting research and publishing research, and to be an active participant in professional pharmacy organizations, potentially holding a leadership position.

How was Pueblo different from towns in Australia?  
Pueblo was very different from small, rural towns in Australia. I couldn’t believe the number of fast food outlets! In rural towns in Australia you might find a small fish and chips shop, a Chinese restaurant and a McDonald’s in rural towns. The people in Pueblo were all very friendly, much more willing to have a chat than most people I encountered in Denver. Everyone commented on my accent – though most people thought that I was English.

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How I spent my summer rotation

Lauren Tarrant will graduate in November from Sydney University with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy. Pharmacy is a four-year undergraduate degree in Australia.

Lauren grew up in Newcastle, Australia, which is a two-hour drive north of Sydney on the eastern coast. Newcastle is renowned for its beaches and surfing. She also spent part of her childhood in Houston, Texas, and has dual U.S. and Australian citizenship.

Where did you take your summer rotation?  
During my July rotation, I spent a week at the University of Colorado Hospital where I spent a day in a diabetes clinic at the Fitzsimons campus. I also went to a Family Health Clinic and spent a few days with a pharmacist who specialized in infectious diseases. During my second week in Colorado, I spent time in an anticoagulation clinic at St Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo.

Did your rotation experience change the way you view your pharmacy career?  
I always thought that I would go into retail pharmacy. However, after enjoying the clinical side of pharmacy and seeing how many opportunities there are in hospitals in the U.S. I have decided to apply for graduate pharmacy positions at some of the major Sydney hospitals. Seeing the retail pharmacies in the U.S. also made me realize what Australian pharmacies will be like in the near future – all owned by major corpora-
Shari Bohn, RPh, 2005 Roche Preceptor of the Year

Shari Bohn, RPh, was named 2005 Roche Preceptor of the Year by CU School of Pharmacy students. Bohn is a pharmacist at Walgreen’s Patient Care Center in Aurora and has been precepting for several years at different locations. “It was such an honor to be recognized by my students,” said Bohn, who received her BS degree from the School of Pharmacy in 1994. “I have learned so much from them and I hope I’ve bestowed some knowledge upon them as well.”

The key to her successful precepting, according to Bohn, is a desire to enhance her students’ education and proficiency. Bohn finds it rewarding to watch her students excel and become confident, and to then go on to establish successful pharmacy careers. “I try to teach them certain skills so they’re prepared to do their job when they graduate,” she said. “I try to give them the inspiration to make their careers whatever they want. I really try to inspire them to reach out to their patients and make their job a hands-on role.”

A true health advocate, Bohn never tires of sharing her knowledge with her students and her patients. Walgreen’s Patient Care Center has a product suite for disease state management, which provides her students many opportunities to interact with patients. The various levels of patient education at the center range from handing out brochures and counseling patients by telephone for Walgreen’s national programs such as smoking cessation, to disease state management programs that involve face-to-face counseling for diseases such as diabetes, high cholesterol or osteoporosis.

“It’s rewarding to help patients manage their disease states and help screen them for potential disease states,” she said. “I really enjoy watching students as they develop in their career. And I learn a great deal from them as well.”

ASCP Fellows

Robert Page, PharmD, and Sunny Linnebur, PharmD, have fulfilled the requirements for qualification as Fellows of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP). Dr. Page is an associate professor and Dr. Linnebur is an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy’s Clinical Pharmacy Department.

ASCP Fellowship is an honor bestowed upon pharmacists who meet the highest standards in Senior Care Pharmacy and have demonstrated an extraordinary level of service and dedication in professional pharmacy practice activities.

Preceptors participate in Diabetes Clinical Care Workshop

Dr. Sam Ellis, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, ran a workshop for pharmacists preceptors who are setting up diabetes clinical care centers in their pharmacies. These centers will be aimed at improving health outcomes for patients with diabetes and other problems including high blood pressure and cholesterol. Funded by a grant from the Colorado Trust, Dr. Ellis and his colleagues, Drs. Hansen, Saseen and Valdez, are working with pharmacists who wish to expand their scope of practice and provide innovative practice sites to train CU pharmacy students. Roy Cardwell, a resident, helped with the training. Greg Barton and Ron Legge, from the Rocky Mountain Pharmacy of Estes Park; Norma McCarthy, from the Community Health Center of Pueblo; and Leticia Silva, from the Stout Street Clinic of Denver participated in the workshop.

Distinguished speaker

Dr. Dennis K. Helling, executive director of pharmacy operations and therapeutics for Kaiser Permanente, was the distinguished speaker at the Mercer School of Pharmacy commencement ceremonies in May 2005. He holds appointments to the Dean’s Development Council and as an adjunct professor for the CU School of Pharmacy. Dr. Helling also was presented with an honorary doctor of science degree by Mercer. This was awarded for his advocacy of pharmacists, his commitment to quality health care through the profession of pharmacy and his leadership in modern pharmacy education.

Promotions

We are pleased to announce the following promotions, effective July 1:

Department of Clinical Pharmacy  
- Robert Page, PharmD, to associate professor  
- Sheryl Vondracek, PharmD, to associate professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
- Thomas Anchordoquy, PhD, to associate professor with tenure  
- Manisha Patel, PhD, to associate professor with tenure

Drug risks

continued from page 5

research programs, she coordinated the business and regulatory needs with clinical realities to establish a clinical development program that supported registration and marketing claims for several drugs. Phase III studies gather information about safety and effectiveness, studying different populations and different dosages and using the drug in combination with other drugs. Phase IV studies explore new uses or new populations, long-term effects, and how participants respond to different dosages.

After 15 years at Procter & Gamble, she went back to school to get a master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. Her fellowship overlaps with finishing her dissertation to complete a doctorate in public health from Johns Hopkins. She’ll receive her DrPH in epidemiology in May 2006 and hopes to turn her fellowship into a faculty position at the School of Pharmacy. As part of her fellowship, Morrato has presented posters at the American Diabetes Association, the International Conference of the Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research and the International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management. She won an award for the best poster presentation at the Western Pharmacoeconomics Conference held this past spring.

“What’s been exciting about my fellowship is the flexibility and independence I’ve been given to pursue my research ideas and the many opportunities to utilize the data that exists here,” she said. “I look forward to a career in pharmaceutical outcomes research and the ability to influence future FDA drug policy.”
Alumni Briefs

An evening in the mountains
Dean Louis Diamond (center) and School of Pharmacy alumni Ron Kayne, class of ‘61, former member of the school’s Development Council, and Arnold Hayutin, class of ’59, current member of the council, enjoyed an evening of camaraderie at Dr. Kayne’s mountain home in Estes Park, Colo.

Baby News:
Brian and Elaine (Bellanger) Ripplinger, both Class of 2005 graduates, are the proud parents of twins.

Michelle Cortez, Class of 2005, sent us a photo of her new son, Steven.

Sandra Leal elected president of national board
Sandra Leal, PharmD, CDE, a 1999 graduate of the CU School of Pharmacy, was elected president of the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved at the ACU board meeting held Aug. 7 in Nashville, Tenn. The honor came during National Health Center Week, which recognizes the contributions of community, migrant, homeless and public housing health centers.

The ACU is a nonprofit, multi-disciplinary organization of clinicians, advocates and health care organizations united to improve the health of America’s underserved populations. Its mission includes enhancing the development and support of the health care clinicians who serve these populations.

Dr. Leal is a clinical pharmacist at the El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson, Ariz., and was the first pharmacist in Arizona to become licensed to prescribe medication for patients with hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol. She is certified by the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators as a diabetes educator and teaches pharmacy practice and science at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Leal completed her undergraduate pre-pharmacy studies at the University of Arizona. She then came to the CU School of Pharmacy and completed both the bachelor and doctoral degree programs.

As a recipient of a 2004 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Policy Fellowship, Dr. Leal took her experience with patients and applied it to policy work to impact people outside her circle of patients.

Ways to help our students in these challenging times
Share the pride! Your School of Pharmacy—especially our students—needs and welcomes your funding support. There are many ways to help the future of pharmacy education in these times of diminished state funding and rising tuition, while benefitting you and your family:

- Make an increased gift to the Annual Fund;
- Give appreciated stocks or bonds, which can save you money in capital gains and other taxes;
- Include the school in your will, providing a meaningful legacy while reducing inheritance taxes;
- Lead Trusts enable your property or assets to remain in your family, while the income from them supports the school (and the Trust also reduces your taxes).

Giving back to your school and helping today’s and tomorrow’s students create careers and improve health care can be very satisfying. For more information and assistance at no cost, please feel free to contact Sheldon Steinhauser, director of development, at 303-315-0983.
At a pre-game reception hosted by CU President Hank Brown prior to the CU-CSU football game on Saturday, Sept. 3, Dean Louie Diamond and his wife, Karen, enjoyed the festivities with Tony and Rachel Saiz and CU Regent Peter Steinhauer and his wife Julie. Tony, ’97, is Albertson’s pharmacy sales manager, Rocky Mountain Division. Long-time pharmacy school supporter Jack and Peggy Holden also attended the pre-game party. (CU won the game 31-28.)

Pre-game festivities

Front row left to right: Dennis Burger, Rita Morrill, Joanne (Walters) Schroeder; middle: Bill Pipkin, Gerald Berlage, Don Alix, Budd Pippin; back: John Panepinto, Dick Wilson.

Class of 1965 celebrates 40th reunion

Nine members of the class of 1965 gathered in Denver on Aug. 5 and 6 for their 40th reunion. While five had been long-time residents of Colorado, most had never been to the current School of Pharmacy and never had held a reunion.

Friday’s activities began with tours of the current building on the 9th Avenue campus and at the Fitzsimons campus where the school is expected to relocate in 2008-09. Three classmates took the rooftop tour of the Fitzsimons campus from the top of the historic Army hospital and were shown where a School of Pharmacy building could be located. This was followed by a quick look in the Eisenhower Suite where the president recovered from a heart attack during WWII.

Conversations catching up classmates and former roommates occupied the time on the shuttle rides between the campuses. Following the tours, six classmates and four spouses gathered for a social hour at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and then had dinner at the Macaroni Grill at Cherry Creek.

On Saturday evening, 17, including spouses, attended the class dinner, also at the Four Points. Lots of memories and stories were shared, including how everyone got into the pharmacy profession to start with and what has happened since graduation. Classmates enjoyed lots of laughter and a few moist eyes were seen. Recalling professors, the fondest memories were those of Drs. Drummond, Hammerness and Jones. The evening drew to a close after some group photos captured the classmates and the guests.

Some talk was started regarding a 45th reunion. Las Vegas anyone? Biosketches were collected for a large number of classmates.

If you’d like a copy, please contact Budd Pippin at buddjudi@aol.com or 941-480-1838.

Save the date!

Reception for Alumni and Friends of The University of Colorado School of Pharmacy

at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada

December 6
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Las Vegas Hilton

Faculty hosts:
Drs. Robert Page and Joseph Saseen
Pharmacy Management Course teaches students how to run a business

Students considering ownership or management positions in their pharmacy career can now learn what it takes to put a prescription in the hands of their patient from a business standpoint in the Topics in Pharmacy Management course at the School of Pharmacy.

This new, elective course gives students knowledge and working skills of how to own and operate a pharmacy. The course was developed by Bob Light, BS '78, a Walgreen’s pharmacist and former independent pharmacy owner, and David Hill, EdD, FCSHP, associate dean of Administration and Clinical Affairs for the School of Pharmacy.

While a pharmacy student may know the mechanism of action of a medication, they may not know how to get it sold and make a living at it, according to Light, who draws on 24 years worth of experiences as a business owner to share with his students.

“The school is addressing one phase of pharmacy that is profoundly important and that’s how to run your business, whether it’s your own or it’s one you’re managing,” said Light. “Students learn all the things that can make you or break you when you’re in business for yourself. We give them strategies for how to get into the business, run a successful business and then how to get out of the business whether by retiring, selling or turning it over to someone else.”

The new Topics in Pharmacy Management course was introduced during the winter 2004-05 semester with 21 third year students enrolled. It will be offered again in 2005-06.

When they couldn’t find a suitable textbook for the course, Light and Dr. Hill wrote their own course manual – 200 pages of business information. Topics include accounting, entrepreneurship, inventory control, how to buy a pharmacy, marketing and promotion, formulary economics, employee benefits, and exit strategies. Students learn how to read a profit and loss statement and how make a business plan. They also discuss and evaluate current events that impact a pharmacy business, such as the new Medicare Part D, changes in insurance and issues surrounding drugs and formularies.

“I tell them about the good times and hard times as a business owner,” said Light. “Even if you don’t have your own store – let’s say you’re a consultant – you still need to know how to make a living.

“The skills we teach concerning personnel management, financial management and marketing are transferable to many areas of modern pharmacy practice” added Light.

Pharmacists in demand

There has been an unprecedented demand for pharmacists and pharmaceutical care services, which is not being met by available supply.

An increase in prescriptions and 77 million aging baby boomers have led to a nationwide shortage of pharmacists.

Data from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores shows that through 2010, the supply of community pharmacists is expected to increase 7.8 percent, but the number of prescriptions dispensed is estimated to rise 27 percent. A potential shortfall of 157,000 pharmacists is predicted by 2020, according to the findings of a conference sponsored by the Pharmacy Manpower Project, Inc.

Along with the growing number of prescriptions waiting to be filled and the fact that the number of trained pharmacists isn’t keeping pace at the same rate, more people are taking complex drug regimens requiring counseling. Elderly patients may be taking as many as 15 medications a day.

Jobs are open nationwide and some employers are trying to entice pharmacists with signing bonuses, paid relocation expenses and increased salaries. Although the shortage has peaked, pharmacy jobs are expected to be plentiful for years.

Safeway donates $10,000

In early August, Alanna Isobe, left, Class of 1997 regional pharmacy manager for Safeway, and Cari Schwartz, corporate Safeway pharmacist recruiter presented Sheldon Steinhauser, director of development for the School of Pharmacy with a $10,000 check for the annual support and enhancement of the educational programs at the school. Accompanying Schwartz and Isobe, were Eric Rewerts and Valentina Chesnokova, P4 students on rotation at Safeway. Shadowing the Safeway executives demonstrated, for the students, a facet of pharmacy practice at the corporate level and the continuing generosity Safeway shows to pharmacy education.

School hosts State Board of Pharmacy

The September meeting of the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy was held in the School of Pharmacy’s Skaff Common Room on September 22. Once again, the board members provided this opportunity for students to observe the business of the regulatory board for their profession and to watch public interactions with the board. More than 30 students were able to sit in on discussions between their classes. Students also are invited to join Assistant Dean Cathy Jarvis in attending future meetings at the board’s regular Denver offices.

Save the date!

Advances in Pharmacy Practice: 2006 presented by The University of Colorado School of Pharmacy

Saturday, February 25, 2006
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
School of Pharmacy
Corner of East 8th Ave. and Colorado Blvd.
Denver, Colorado

Join your colleagues to hear updates about key areas of pharmacy practice presented by clinical practice experts. This conference will provide 6 contact hours of ACPE-approved continuing pharmacy education of interest to pharmacists across a range of practices. Anticipated topics include, but will not be limited to: new agents in diabetes, updates in HIV/AIDS, implications for practice of the collaborative drug therapy management rules in Colorado, as well as the Medicare Part D medication therapy management services.

For registration information, please call the Office of Postgraduate Professional Education at 303-315-1916.
Upon completion of my fellowship, I plan to pursue a tenure-track position in academia. As a faculty member, I plan to continue my research in antiretroviral clinical pharmacology through independent projects and national/international clinical trials. I also hope to provide an innovative clinical service and lecture on the topic of HIV to pharmacy students and residents.

What’s it like working together?

Jennifer: It’s nice to work at the same place. We can ride together some days (which saves on gas and parking fees, and spares the environment). And it is nice to see him in the halls once in awhile! Ty: It’s nice to be able to bounce ideas off each other, even though we’re doing different types of research.

What are your plans after the fellowship?

Jennifer: I’m looking at are taking an assistant professor position here at the school or continuing my work at a hospital in town, like the University of Colorado Hospital, and spending more time pursuing my clinical work with patients. I’m looking at are taking an assistant professor position here at the school or continuing my work at a hospital in town, like the University of Colorado Hospital, and spending more time pursuing my clinical work with patients.

What do you like about being at the SOP?

Jennifer: I enjoy the research environment here. I love hearing what our research projects faculty members are working on. I also enjoy getting to know pharmacy students and teaching.

Ty: Foremost, the program offered exactly what I was looking for with regard to teaching, clinical work at the hospital and research. I get to work with big names in our field of pharmacy: Doug Fish, PharmD, associate professor, Rose Jung, PharmD, assistant professor, and Rob MacLaren, PharmD, assistant professor. And it worked out that the exact position Jennifer wanted was open, so being here is a very good match for both of us.

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Ty: I’d like to stay in Denver. We’ve planted roots here. Two options I’m looking at are taking an assistant professor position here at the school or continuing my work at a hospital in town, like the University of Colorado Hospital, and spending more time pursuing my clinical work with patients.
Tell us your news