Ralph J. Altiere appointed dean

Ralph J. Altiere, PhD, has been selected as the dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. He will officially assume the position on Dec. 16.

Altiere has been at the School of Pharmacy for 19 years. Currently, he is professor, associate dean for academic affairs and interim chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. He is a member of the school’s Executive Committee and Executive Council, and has served as acting dean in the dean’s absence.

Altiere has served as director of the school’s Center of Excellence Diversity Program and is the recipient of a University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Innovations in Teaching Award in 2001, Diversity Award in 2004, the School of Nursing Dean’s Award for Distinguished Leadership in 2005 and is coauthor on three Innovations in Teaching Awards from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, where he has served on numerous committees and in various leadership positions and is a member of the Advisory Board for the campus Center for Bioethics and Humanities.

“I am particularly excited to assume this role as the School of Pharmacy makes its transition to the Fitzsimons campus,” Altiere said. “This is a period of great change, and with that, great opportunity.”

Altiere received his bachelor of science degree from Manhattan College, a master’s of science degree from New York University, and a master’s and doctorate in pharmacology from New York Medical College. Prior to his arrival at the University of Colorado in 1987, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Yale University and assistant professor at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy.

Roy Wilson, MD, MS, chancellor of UCDHSC applauded the selection. He said, “Dr. Altiere has a tremendous breadth of knowledge and experience in education, research and academic administration. Our School of Pharmacy is one of the nation’s premier institutions of pharmaceutical education and research. I am confident that the School of Pharmacy will attain even greater prominence under his leadership.”

Louis Diamond, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy for 20 years, announced his resignation in January. The chancellor recognized his outstanding leadership saying, “Very few deans in this country – in any discipline – have served longer and with as much distinction as has Dean Louis Diamond.”

Altiere’s wife, Melinda, holds degrees from Berea College of Kentucky and Front Range Community College and is the Nurse Coordinator for Rocky Mountain Cyberknife in Boulder, Colo. and a board member of the Boulder Ballet. Their two children, Nicholas and Emily, are sophomore and freshman college students, respectively. Ralph and Melinda reside in Boulder, Colo.

Clickers put technology in the hands of students

With a new technology introduced this fall at the school, professors won’t have to wonder if their lectures are sinking in with students. Immediate feedback is just a click away.

Audience response systems, better known as “clickers,” are the newest way to get students actively involved in class and to find out how well they are absorbing the material. The technology can make classes more engaging and interactive, especially for students who have grown up with the Web, cell phones and video games.

The devices work like a TV remote control and have a range of about 250 feet. Faculty can ask true/false or multiple choice questions and students record their answers by pushing a button on their remotes instead of raising their hands or shouting out answers.

The radio frequency clicker response is read by a receiver in the classroom. Test scores are automatically logged into the system where the data are tabulated, eliminating the need to manually collect and grade tests. Instructors can use the devices for taking attendance and integrating material into power point presentations. If the majority of the class doesn’t respond correctly to a question posed during the lecture, the information point can be clarified then or at the next lecture.

“This technology provides another way for faculty to learn...
King Soopers’ scholars

We regret omitting the King Soopers name from the list of scholarships awarded at the May 5 convocation in the summer newsletter. The 27 students generously supported by King Soopers scholarships in the 2006-2007 academic year are:

Michael Appel        Jessica Hoang        Xuan Nguyen
Kassandra Bankovich  Nancy Hoang          Ashley Pearson
Elena Chemanaeva     Kyong Kim            Jon Peterson
Vina Dam             Rory Lambert          Tuyet-Hong Pham
Jessica Engelbert    Loc Le               Christopher Ryan
Ashley Hall          Jennifer Meyer        Trang Van
Brittany Hanselin    Binh Nguyen          Berin Vattapillil
Michele Hanselin     Jenny Nguyen         Ghadeer Wahdan
Mandy Hemmert        Minh-Thu Nguyen      Tasheba West

Students visit Career Opportunities Fair

More than 250 students attended the Career Opportunities Fair on September 29. Employers lined the corridors of the school while students from all four PharmD classes gathered information from representatives of more than 20 pharmacy organizations.

It was a lively event with catered food at every floor to encourage circulation of participants throughout the pharmacy school.

In addition to exhibitor tables, many prominent professionals shared their knowledge during roundtable discussions. Students were able to drop in and listen to the discussion and ask questions of the presenters.


Several pharmacy organizations attended to disseminate information about their organization and the services they provide. Among them were Peer Assistance Services/Colorado Pharmacists Recovery Network, Donna Lindsey, RN, The Colorado Pharmacists Society, Val Kalnins, RPh, and Pharmacy Unions, Mary Newell, RPh, and Val Gehller RPh.

More than 60 prospective students attended, responding to our invitation to Colorado’s two and four year colleges and universities around the state. Leann Mori, a fourth-year pharmacy student on rotation in the Office of Student Services, gave a presentation to about 40 prospective students on applying to pharmacy school.

Although PharmD program graduates generally have several opportunities to choose from upon graduation, the purpose of the day is to give all students an opportunity to peruse the different paths their pharmacy careers can take. Sometimes students discover companies they did not realize offered pharmacy positions and often they learn of practice options they had not realized were open to them.

On Saturday, September 30, the school also hosted an interview day for graduating students. Students were able to meet employers one-on-one throughout the day for preliminary interviews for jobs after graduation. It was a chance for students to be able to interview with several employers all in one day and location. Job offers are often made on the spot to P4 students, allowing them to secure their career start before graduation.

School of Pharmacy News

Louis Diamond, PhD  Kenna Bruner
Dean, School of Pharmacy  Communications Specialist
Susan Saunders  Office of Public Relations
Assistant to the Dean  UCDHSC
School of Pharmacy
Mitzi Schindler  Mail Stop C-238
Director of Publications  4200 E. Ninth Ave.
Office of Public Relations  Denver, CO 80262
SOP.alumni@UCHSC.edu  http://www.uchsc.edu/sop
Pharmacists Recovery Network regional meeting enlightens students

The annual meeting of the Southwest Pharmacist Recovery Network (SWPRN) took place in September, in Durango, Colo. Cally, giving them options to continue their careers in the profession. The event, attended by four P4 students, was designed to help pharmacists and pharmacy students struggling with chemical dependency. The students’ experience at the meeting raised their awareness of this disease and provided them more information about the resources available to help overcome the perils of drug and alcohol addiction within the profession.

More than other professional conferences, this one imparted a strong feeling of solidarity and openness. At least one student admitted some discomfort contemplating a meeting where would include some recovered and recovering substance abusers. The recovery network personnel demonstrated caring and determination to help pharmacists move past troubling life events. These successful networks provide their services to licensed pharmacists and pharmacy interns by helping individuals who voluntarily report themselves or receive referral from state boards of pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems.

A topic of emphasis was Dual Diagnosis, the combination of a personality disorder plus chemical addiction. Excerpts from a Peer Assistance Services handbook include these warning signs of impairment:

**Physical Changes**
- Change in appearance/poor hygiene
- Looks tired/insomnia
- Frequent shaking and/or sweating
- Loss of appetite/weight loss
- Slurred speech

**Behavioral Changes**
- Mood swings
- Loss of memory/blackouts
- Withdrawal from friends and social activities
- Extreme temper, mistrusting, anxious, depressed, irritable

**Performance Changes**
- Disorganized
- Increased number of prescription errors
- Increased number of prescription complaints
- Frequent absence

If you see these or other signs, the handout suggests you call the recovery network to help yourself or a colleague. The pharmacy profession requires a high level of responsibility and trustworthiness. Finding yourself or a co-worker in need of help requires positive steps and the recovery network personnel are experienced professionals who are trained to assist with these situations. The Colorado Pharmacists Recovery Network can be reached at 303-369-0239.

P3 student participates in national organization

When Diane Beavers, P3, attended the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists policy week in Washington, DC, in September, she went not only as a student representative of the organization, but to help advocate on issues of concern to all health system pharmacists as well as their patients.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems. Professional and student members of ASHP’s policy-recommending council met in Bethesda, Md., and spent a day on Capitol Hill educating their congressional representatives about pharmacy-related issues that included enhancing post-marketing surveillance, ensuring meaningful therapy management programs are available for high-risk beneficiaries and helping safety net hospitals provide pharmaceuticals to the nation’s most vulnerable patients.

During her year-long tenure as a student member of the council, Beavers will review and make recommendations on specific drug priority-care therapies (tuberculosis treatment for example) or proposed policies such as national licensure for pharmacists.

A native of Georgia, Beavers comes from a family of pharmacists. She served as a congressional intern to the Subcommittee Chairman of Health, Congressman Nathan Deal, federal congressman of the 10th District of Ga., and last summer held an internship in the pharmacy at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

“I was one of five pharmacy students in the nation to participate in policy week,” said Beavers, who plans to pursue a career in hospital pharmacy. “I’m interested in policy, so it was a great experience for me.”

Dean’s List

**P2 Class of 2009**

- Liza Alarid
- Tracie Andreas
- Timothy Arnold
- Stephanie Cho
- Lisa Cicero
- Matthew Cummin
- Andre Doniec
- Gina Haug
- Sara Johnson
- Jennifer Jorgensen
- Irina Kandinova
- Rory Lambert
- Jessica Leonard
- Ashley Letourneau
- Kathryn Lumsden
- Chad Martell
- Bradley Megee
- Edwin Mcrae
- Lindy Meadowcroft
- Kelly Meyers

- Katherine Miller
- Jessica Morris
- Adam Nielsen
- Shauna Nordine
- Audra Patten
- Melanie Red Owl
- Darcey Reant
- Michele Sampayan
- Melissa Sanderson
- Brandy Shalberg
- Sara Stable
- Lindsay Stanfield
- Sarah Summer
- Thu Tran
- Tara Vlaisimskas
- Amy Watson

**P1 Class of 2010**

- Stella Abramova
- Shawn Ackerman
- Laura Anderson
- Solomon Arass
- Mary Azadegan
- Kassandra Bankovich
- Caleb Burkitt
- Amy Castro
- Duke Cheney
- Hana Dowai
- Darla Eckley
- Allison Garnhart
- Zachary Gergely
- William Gordon
- Michele Hanselin

- Jana Harris
- Ri Holbrook
- Charles Jordan
- Amanda Kilen
- Tracey Laessig
- Brandon Lamarr
- Huong Le
- Valerie Moore
- Momein Refaat
- Matthew Retger
- Sergey Simonovich
- Kathleen Simons
- Berin Vattapnill
- Nikolai Voinitsklovich
- Cynthia Warwick

Summer 2006 Graduates

Sandhya Buchanan, PhD, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Erin Werner, master’s, Biomedical Basic Sciences
Coca-Cola Summer Enrichment Program prepares students for school

The Coca-Cola Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) is a unique experience for incoming pharmacy students, one that has proven effective in equipping prospective and new students with skills, knowledge and a group of friends who remain supportive throughout their pharmacy education. The program offers academic preparation, learning skills preparation and practical experience through an eight-week summer program worth six credit hours.

The program has a number of components including academic survival skills, professional skills development and supplemental seminars. Through 2005, students admitted to the SEP had to successfully complete all components in the program to matriculate into the fall semester Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) classes. Beginning with the 2006 SEP, successful students can apply for admission to the PharmD program for a future term. Successful completion requires a minimum of an 80 percent grade in the six components.

This program was started in summer 1989 and was intended primarily for minority students. It evolved into a program designed to prepare diversity students for the rigors of a professional pharmacy curriculum and finally into a recruiting tool for the enhancement of the applicant pool.

A sharp change in the population of students in the SEP occurred in summer of 2004 when the school was advised that the selection process for the SEP could not be exclusive, i.e., could no longer focus specifically on underrepresented minority students. The school has revised the program to better meet its original mission of increasing diversity in the student body, while remaining within the legal boundaries set by the university. Converting the program to a recruiting tool which increases and enhances the applicant pool is expected to continue providing qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds.

Save the Date!

Advances in Pharmacy Practice: 2007
presented by
University of Colorado School of Pharmacy
& Colorado Pharmacists Society

Saturday, February 24, 2007
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 six contact hours of ACPE-approved continuing pharmacy education of interest to pharmacists across a range of practices. An exciting new schedule will feature more choices with several clinical topics and two optional workshops.


For registration information, please call the Colorado Pharmacists Society at 303-756-3069. Program information will also be available at www.uochsc.edu/sop (click on Continuing Education).

Students attend NCPA’s annual conference

By Miciah Davis

In May the University of Colorado’s National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Student Chapter sent three members to NCPA’s 38th Annual Conference on National Legislation and Government Affairs. The trip was attended by Vice President Miciah Davis, Secretary/Treasurer Nicholas Vogel, and member Sean Fitzpatrick.

During the conference, we were privileged to have the opportunity to meet and interact with many influential people in pharmacy. Also, we were fortunate enough to hear some of our nation’s leaders speak about current issues effecting pharmacy. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi spoke to the conference, commending independent pharmacies for going "far and beyond" the line of duty during the initiation of Medicare Part D.

Other events of note included a forum on Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM’s) that included Kansas Representative Don Hill, Creighton University Professor Robert Garls, and Mark Kinney of Colorado. The day following the forum Kinney treated the three of us to lunch with K.C. Owen, an independent pharmacy owner in Colorado.

Clicker Technology
Continued from page 4

about their own teaching,” said Dallas Jensen, manger for informational technology at the school. “We’re going to see more and more of that kind of self-assessment. It’s an exciting possibility for students and faculty.” Associate Professor Sheryl Vondracek, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, uses the new technology in the Integrated Organ System courses classes, which are mostly didactic.

“it gives me the opportunity to reinforce important points with the students and I can see immediately if the concepts are getting through,” said Vondracek.

Each clicker has an internal ID code for the student that gets transmitted every time the device is used. Despite some technical glitches, feedback from the students has generally been positive.

“The clickers are beneficial for letting students show what we’ve learned and for letting the instructors know right away if we’re getting it,” said Elise Attwood, P2.
Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center celebrates 50th anniversary

by Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

When he was a kid, Richard Dart, MD, PhD, had to have his stomach pumped out after drinking furniture polish that had been stored in a pop bottle under the kitchen sink. Today, as director of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC), Dart oversees a regional poison control center that handles upwards of 550 calls a day from medical professionals and consumers in a five state area.

His childhood experience serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of keeping potential poisons in containers originally used for eating or drinking. It’s one of the many messages RMPDC promotes to keep kids safe.

“Poisoning deaths in kids during the 1960s were common, but are almost unheard of now,” said Dart, who has been director of RMPDC for 14 years.

RMPDC celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer. The center has served as a preceptor site for students at the School of Pharmacy for five years.

In 80 percent of cases in which the center is contacted, there is no need for an emergency room visit. The child can be cared for at home, and often no treatment is needed, either because the substance was not particularly toxic or the amount consumed could do no harm. For those individuals who must be hospitalized, the center’s staff works with physicians on treatment options.

RMPDC services include access to medical toxicologists 24 hours a day; language lines which can translate more than 260 languages, tele-type for the hearing impaired; and preparedness for handling unexpected situations such as a large-scale poisoning, product tampering and recalls.

Pharmacy students on rotation at the center go on rounds with physicians; write drug evaluations and monographs for the therapeutics committee. By listening in on incoming calls to the center, students learn how to take a history; estimate dosages and refer patients to treatment centers. Shireen Banerji, PharmD, is coordinator for the pharmacy elective.

“The students get from the school have been smart and have had good ideas,” he said. “The more active participants they are, the better they do. I’m really happy we can participate in their learning.”

Poison control centers were started in the late 1950s by the American Academy of Pediatrics in response to a drastic increase in childhood poisonings from the proliferation of new drugs and chemicals in the marketplace after WWII. Health care professionals faced with cases of acute poisonings often had little knowledge of the ingredients these new products contained.

By 1970 there were 600 individual poison control centers in the United States, each with its own phone number. Today, there are 60 regional poison centers with one toll free number (800-222-1222) that connects callers to their nearest center.

There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of child- hood poisonings in recent years, due largely to safety caps on medications and household products, like furniture polish. For decades now, parents have been warned to keep toxic substances, medications and OTC remedies out of the reach of children.

Dart is a professor of pharmacy, surgery and medicine at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center and a staff physician in the emergency department at University of Colorado Hospital. His MD degree is from the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center and his PhD in pharmacology and toxicology is from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy.

He cringes when he remembers how, as a resident in emergency medicine, he and his colleagues advised patients to take two or three times the recommended dose of OTC nonsteroidal as an inexpensive way to treat pain. It was a pharmacy resident who pointed out to them that what they were recommending was not appropriate because of the potential for bleeding complications.

“That’s where I got my admiration for the profession of pharmacy,” he said. “The concept of pharmacy is very important in health care. Not all physicians understand this, but they should.”

SNPhA 2nd Annual Field Day

As part of member recruitment, SNPhA held its second annual field day on Thursday, September 7, at the Hale Park. There was plenty of food, fun and music, despite the unpleasant, wet weather. Many P1, 2 and 3s showed up to compete for class bragging rights as dodgeball and kickball champions. Wet conditions did not stop the organized and powerful P2 class from devouring and eliminating other classes and the P1 and P3s showed up to compete for class bragging rights as dodgeball and kickball champions. Everyone had a good time and they look forward to dethroning the reigning champs next year. Thanks to the faculty and students that braved the cold and rain and made our field day a success.

Annual Giving Phonathon

Soon you will receive a phone call from a CU student asking you to renew your contribution to the School of Pharmacy’s Annual Fund. If you have not given previously, you will be asked to join your classmates and other alumni in contributing to a crucial part of the school’s annual budget. The Annual Fund drive is on a fiscal year cycle, so your gift will be counted for the period from July 2006 through June 2007.

As the School of Pharmacy continues to struggle with massive cutbacks in state support, gift dollars are an increasingly important means for us to maintain the excellence of our educational programs while holding down tuition costs as much as possible. We hope you find your student caller informative and that the call is a welcome reminder of your alma mater and her importance to you and the future of the pharmacy profession.
George Tibbs, class of ’48, wants his classmates to know he’s living in a warmer climate at 1011 S. 12th St., Raymondville, Texas, 78580. You can reach him at 956-689-5830. (See story, page 7.)

Byron K. Lighty, Jr, class of ’49, has a new address in California: 1995 Escalon Ave, Clovis, Calif., 93611-0677.

Metta Kossler Wickstrom, class of ’53, has a change of address. She and her husband Phillip, MS, class of ’54, are at 1224 Ham Hill Rd., Centralia, Wash., 98531. You may also reach them at mwick@localaccess.com or pwick@localaccess.com.

John Panepinto, class of ’65, was honored Sept. 29 at the 26th Annual Parkview Foundation Starlight Gala, in Pueblo, Colo. Each year the Parkview Foundation honors an individual or couple, who has supported Parkview Medical Center through philanthropic endeavors and has had a positive impact on the community.

Wendy Anderson, class of ’85, was named the new executive director of the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy, beginning July 1, 2006. She worked for the state board as an inspector for more than 10 years prior to this appointment.

Terry Garberding, class of ’91, and his wife Gailynn announce the birth of their second daughter, Cassidy Joy, March 26, 2006. She joins them and Carly Grace, her big sister of 3 1/2 years. Terry is now working for a compounding company specializing in veterinary medicine. He can be reached at tgarber@cox.net, 623-561-6364, or 26015 N. 85th Drive, Peoria, Ariz., 85383.

Kristi Guy, class of ’02, wrote to say she and husband Jason welcomed twins on June 17 and 18, 2006. Zachary Guy arrived first and Molly held out for Father’s Day. They can be reached at jaykristig@msn.com.

Phuonglan Cat Cao, class of ’04, and her husband, Christopher, announced the birth of their first child, Benjamin BaoVan Coke, who was born October 14, 2005. They are living at 14301 E. Summerfield St., Wichita, Kan., 67210-7184. They can also be reached at 316-613-3451 or lanniegirl@cox.net.

Steven Harlass, class of ’06, is working in Reno, Nev., at St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center.

In Memoriam

Mae Kauffman sent us notice that William H. Kauffman, class of ’55, passed away on July 2, 2006, in Asheville, NC.

Ray D. Dame, class of ’43, passed away June 20, 2006, in Casper, Wyo.

Class of 1956 celebrates 50th reunion

Eleven members of the Class of ’56 (and their spouses) met June 8 to celebrate their 50th reunion. A buffet was set up in Skaff Common Room at the school and the next few hours were spent telling stories of past and current exploits. “Memory Control Pills” were supplied by Don and Sharon Greve, who co-engined the reunion with John Torbit, after Duane Lambert distributed names and addresses.

Gutke, Heim and Jones were a few of the former faculty names recalled with fondness and not a little hilarity. Following lunch the classmates toured the current home of the school, getting a demonstration of the multifaceted pharmaceutical care learning center. After pausing on the steps for a group photo, most of the classmates caravanned to the Fitzsimons campus for a rooftop view of the construction taking place there. The skeletons of massive new buildings were taking shape rapidly and the layout of the new campus could be seen in its entirety. A rain shower brought events to a close, but not before all agreed to keep in touch.

Please Join Us!

Colorado Alumni & Friends Reception during the American Society of Health-system Pharmacists Mid-year Meeting

December 4, 2006
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort, Anaheim, California

This year’s faculty hosts include Drs. Catherine Jarvis, Laura Hansen, Joseph Saseen, Norman Kwong and Geoff Lawton

Co-sponsored by the Colorado Pharmacists Society and the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy
In Memoriam:
Arnold J. Hennig

The School of Pharmacy lost a great friend and colleague with the passing on July 24, 2006, of Professor Emeritus Arnold J. Hennig, PhD. Born and raised in Wisconsin, Hennig earned his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944-1946 and then returned to the university to complete his PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry.

Hennig joined the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Mich., as a pharmaceutical scientist in research and development. In 1949, he married Yolanda and they made their home in Madison, Wis. In 1957, Hennig joined the faculty of the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy where he remained until his retirement in 1989. He taught extensively and served as a consultant to a number of pharmaceutical companies.

During his tenure at the School of Pharmacy, he received the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award and the school’s Distinguished Coloradan Award. Hennig is survived by his wife Yolanda of Billings, Mont., a son Steven, three daughters, Cheryl, Arnella and Rita, as well as seven grandchildren and two brothers.

Condolences may be extended to Yolanda Hennig, c/o Mission Ridge, 3840 Rimrock Road, Billings, Mont., 59102.

In Memoriam:
Dennis Ludwig

Dennis Ludwig, RPh, friend of the school and owner of Ludwig’s Pharmacy until his retirement, died June 4 in Boulder, Colo. He was a graduate of South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and served as president of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and as president of the Colorado Pharmacists Association. He was described by Bruce Roberts, executive vice president and CEO of NCPA as “a politically astute grassroots activist from the capitol in Denver to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.”

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to Christina Ludwig, class of ‘04, at 1530 South Florence Way, Unit 320, Denver, Colo., 80247.
A self-described “middle of the pack student” with no clear goal while in pharmacy school, Kevin Kam, ‘95, RPh, CDE, discovered his passion for the profession during his final rotation.

Since that career-defining rotation, Kam has established a successful niche for himself as a certified diabetes educator and pharmacist with his family’s pharmacy in Honolulu, Hawaii.

During a recent visit to the School of Pharmacy, Kam talked about his dramatic turnaround from lackluster student to an enthusiastic and skilled professional. He was in Colorado in July to attend a conference on managing diabetes in youngsters presented by the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes on the Fitzsimons campus. His wife Karen and two-year-old son Shafer accompanied him on the trip.

“I hate to admit this, but I was an underachiever academically. My grades were mediocre at best,” joked Kam. “That began to turn around for me during rotations when I finally realized that everything I learned in school I could start putting into practice. I had some great experiences in pharmacy school, but when you finally find that passion, everything truly falls into place.”

His breakthrough occurred during his last rotation in a small independent pharmacy in Colorado Springs where the pharmacist, Nelli Whalley, provided diabetes counseling to patients. Kam found diabetes management interesting and realized that diabetes education would be a good fit for the family business, particularly since Hawaii ranks fifth in the nation for type 2 diabetes.

Kam eventually took that educational model back to City Pharmacy and Diabetes Learning Center, the independent pharmacy that’s been in his family for 26 years. Rather than joining the family business right after graduation however, Kam worked in Waipahu, Hawaii, at Long’s Drugs where 800 prescriptions were filled each day. That volume of prescriptions provided him exposure to the full range of patients that a retail pharmacy practice could encounter or serve.

The pharmacy profession runs in the Kam family. His sister, Christina, (a graduate of the University of Washington School of Pharmacy) and mother, Georgianna, (who graduated from Oregon State University School of Pharmacy) are both pharmacists. Georgianna purchased the pharmacy in 1980 and filled fewer than 100 prescriptions a day at the time. In the past 10 years they have remodeled the pharmacy three times. Today, they typically fill 400 to 500 prescriptions a day.

Kam has received numerous awards for his efforts to educate patients about diabetes care, including the Diabetes Educator of the Year from the Hawaii Association of Diabetes Educators; and the Distinguished Young Pharmacist, Pharmacist of the Year and Innovative Pharmacy Practice from the Hawaii Pharmacist Association.

He’s participating in a large diabetes team in Hawaii similar to the Asheville Project of North Carolina. Begun in 1996, the Asheville project provided health education for employees of select local companies and empowered them to reduce their health risks, control their chronic diseases, and ultimately lower their health care costs. This successful project has led pharmacists across the country to develop thriving patient care services in their community pharmacies.

“I feel that pharmacy-based diabetes education is one of the great...
est assets to pharmacy,” he said. “Although diabetes education might be viewed as a lost revenue source, what it will do is bring people into the pharmacy month after month. You have to look at diabetes education as marketing or advertising for your pharmacy business as well as an important service to your patients.”

“Academically, the school prepared me well for a career,” he said.

“After I graduated, I finally found what I wanted to do and saw how I could really make a difference.” Kami’s pharmacy is a precepting site for the University of Oregon, University of Southern California and Washington State.

“I like to precept because I feel we can offer students a unique insight into the practice,” he said.

“Besides, I’m a good model for perseverance.”

Kevin Kam
Continued from page 8

AIDS Walk

On September 10, more than 35 CU SNPhA members gathered early in the morning at Cheeseman Park to participate in a 5 kilometer walk. The SNPhA chapter raised over $500 selling “Remember the Ribbon” lapel pins as part of our HIV initiative with all proceeds going to the Colorado AIDS Project. At the national level SNPhA has a HIV initiative that focuses on education, awareness and prevention for at risk communities.

DOPS news:

By Department Chairman, David Bos

I was at a couple of major conferences this spring. Now, I go to these meetings essentially every year and have never written about them in a DOPS newsletter. So, what was different about this year? I think what struck me was the fact that so many of our graduate students attended these international meetings. My faculty colleagues tell me exactly the same story regarding meetings outside of my discipline that I don’t attend. However, our graduate students not only attend but they present; and they do not just present, but in my opinion, they present marvelously well. For example, at the conferences I attended this spring it was not unusual to see 10 or 15 people around one of our graduate student’s posters and the student expertly guiding the assembled throng through the poster and deftly dealing with difficult and sometimes aggressive questions. This makes the faculty and myself feel very proud of our students; their knowledge base, their skilled research work and experimental design that has gone into generating the data and their enthusiasm and ability at communicating the data.

I had the same thought regarding the quality of our students at this spring’s graduation ceremony. Pharmaceutical Sciences and Toxicology graduated seven PhD students at this year’s commencement ceremony and an additional two students who did not walk. The graduation of nine students in a single year is a new record for this department. To paraphrase the comments of Graduate School Dean Freed and Dr. David Thompson who spoke at the Graduate School and School of Pharmacy convocations respectively, it is essential that our newly-minted PhD’s now go out into the larger scientific community and both apply and preserve the same high standards that they have been subjected to during their graduate careers. They are our ambassadors and have now become teachers rather than the school’s students.

Society of Toxicology annual meeting an opportunity to celebrate science

By Natalie Lassen

This year’s Society of Toxicology annual meeting was held in San Diego, Calif., March 5-9. The casual atmosphere of the meeting allowed easy and relaxed exchange of ideas as well as mentorship for new members. Industry was available but not overpowering so that allowed easy and relaxed exchange of ideas as well as mentorship for new members. Industry was available but not overpowering so that allowed easy and relaxed exchange of ideas as well as mentorship for new members. Industry was available but not overpowering so that allowed easy and relaxed exchange of ideas as well as mentorship for new members. Industry was available but not overpowering so that allowed easy and relaxed exchange of ideas as well as mentorship for new members.

I am excited to announce that the overall student participation, pre-doctoral and post-doctoral, increased 7 percent; and, of these, 42 percent were graduate students. Thumbs up to the 12 students from our department who participated in the platform or poster presentations. In addition, faculty participation also increased; all faculty members were directly involved with all students professionally. It also was possible to discuss research over dinner with professors at the beachside.

The meeting is an occasion to “celebrate science,” have fun and create lifelong collegial contacts. See you in Charlotte, NC, March 25-29, 2007.

Jim Stephens remembered for love of knowledge

Friends, co-workers, and family of James Robert Stephens were saddened to learn of his death from an aortic aneurysm on Tuesday, July 4, 2006. Jim Stephens was a student in the University of Colorado Nontraditional Doctor of Pharmacy program, director of pharmacy for the Medical Center of the Rockies, and past president of the Colorado Pharmacists Society.

A native of Wyoming, Stephens earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Wyoming in Laramie in 1983. Seeking a better knowledge of the drugs he was administering to patients as a nurse, Stephens returned to school, completing his BS Pharmacy degree at the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy in 1985. In 1997, he completed a master’s degree in business administration with a concentration in health care administration at the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas.

Stephens worked at Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie, Wyo., as a staff nurse, charge nurse, and a unit educator responsible for staff development in the area of emergency services from 1983 to 1997. After obtaining his MBA, he worked as a staff pharmacist at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, from July 1997 to May 1999. In May 1999, he became director of pharmacy services at Platte Valley Medical Center in Brighton, Colo. At the time of his death, he was employed as director of pharmacy at the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colo.

Stephens is remembered by former colleagues at Platte Valley Medical Center, Olivia and Jim Rapacchietta, as a caring person who took time to build relationships. Stephens inspired Olivia to apply to pharmacy school when she was a technician in his pharmacy department at Platte Valley. Stephens became excited about joining the Nontraditional PharmD program himself by watching Jim Rapacchietta’s clinical skills improve as he progressed through the program.

Stephens is survived by two sisters, Deborah Stephens of New York, and Kathleen Bertagnolli and husband Michael of Lander, Wyo.; a niece, Sara Bertagnolli; a nephew, Aaron Bertagnolli; an uncle, Gary; and an aunt, Betty Stephens.
Faculty productivity

From L-R are Laura Hansen, PharmD; Sunny Linnebur, PharmD; Heather Ulrich, PharmD; and Cynthia Ju, PhD. Not pictured are faculty head starters, Hilda Ndkium, PharmD; and Mary Seever. Congratulations to all!

Faculty members receive patent

U.S. Patent No. 7,864,192: High Pressure Refolding of Protein Aggregates and Inclusion Bodies was issued on June 20 to John Carpenter, PhD, professor of Pharmacy, Theodore Randolph, PhD, professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Richard St. John, PhD, a recent graduate student of Randolph. The technology they developed to disaggregate and refold proteins is being commercialized by BaroFold. It is used to increase yields and reduce costs of producing therapeutic proteins. It is also used in the production of proteins that are the target of small molecule drugs.

Catherine Jarvis, PharmD, associate dean and associate professor, is president-elect for the Colorado Pharmacists Society this year. She will assume the duties of president in June 2007.

Dr. LaTonya Jones Braun was married to Chad Braun on Sept. 2.

Pamela Lingenfelter retires

Pamela Lingenfelter retired from university service after 32 years. Seventeen of those years (1974-1991) were with the School of Pharmacy. You may recall working with her in one of many roles: typist, word processor, graduate student, secretary/advisor, one-person undergraduate admissions office, and finally director of Student Services.

Just before the school moved to Denver in 1992, Pam transferred to the Department of Sociology so she could remain on the Boulder campus. After several more years she moved to the dean’s office of the College of Arts & Sciences where she remained in several roles until her retirement. She now has time to enjoy travel, gardening and her two grandsons.

Well retires, Lee steps up –

You’ve heard change is a constant and that’s certainly the case for the Experiential Programs Office. A new class of students comes in for guidance while returning students face increasing complexity in their rotation site choices every year. Linda Weil, who had directed many a student rotation match cycle, retired at the end of August. When she announced her plans to stop work and see the world, coworker Greg Lee submitted his application to the search committee as her replacement. Although Lee had been with the experiential programs team only six months, he developed a liking for the students and the role of assisting them in selecting rotations which broadened their professional experience or strengthened their inclination for a particular practice field. More than 500 students are matched with 2,500 rotation options each year.

Greg’s own years of experience with students in music education and a touch of apartment housing management thrown in seem to give him the right balance of firmness and ability to encourage students to meet their requirements while trying new things. He’ll be greeting the new P1’s while seeing familiar faces of P2, 3 and 4 students during this year’s matches.

Milk Thistle and Prostate Cancer: Moving from Bench to Bedside

The milk thistle plant has been used to treat ailments for more than two thousand years. Over the next few years, Rajesh Agarwal, PhD, and his colleagues at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center hope to learn whether a compound from the plant’s seeds might help prevent prostate cancer.

The compound, silybin, is being evaluated in a Phase II clinical trial. Participants will take the compound for 48 weeks prior to undergoing surgery to remove the prostate. The researchers will then determine whether the compound reaches the prostate and assess certain biological markers associated with the proliferation of cells and cell death.

“The clinical trial is very exciting for us,” said Agarwal, who has been investigating silybin and silymarin — the crude form of silybin — with some other compounds in cells and animals for nearly two decades. “We have succeeded in taking silybin from the bench to the bedside in prostate cancer.”

A Phase I clinical trial is also being planned to test the compound’s potential for preventing skin cancer.

Based on his research, Agarwal believes silybin may be useful against other common cancers as well, including colon and lung.

Silymarin and its main biological ingredient, silybin, have been used in Europe for decades to treat liver diseases. In terms of safety, silymarin and silybin are generally well tolerated and have no toxic effects. Silymarin is sold as a dietary supplement on the Internet and in the United States and Europe.

In a project funded by NCI, Agarwal and his colleagues are now investigating the anti-tumor promoting effects of silybin at the cellular, biochemical, and molecular levels. “Our goal is to understand the mechanisms that help protect against the development of tumors,” said Agarwal.

Agarwal also plans to conduct future studies on whether silybin may also increase the efficacy of chemotherapy drugs and counteract some of the toxicity associated with these drugs.


Dean speaks at FDA centennial

Dean Louis Diamond was invited to speak at the local centennial celebration of the Food and Drug Administration.

Addressing a few hundred employees of FDA’s Denver District Office, Diamond congratulated the agency on 100 years of exemplary service in protecting and promoting the health of all the citizens of the United States.

He remarked on the comfort that health care practitioners enjoy knowing of FDA’s stringent drug manufacturing standards and rigorous requirements for proof of efficacy and safety prior to the marketing of new pharmaceuticals.

The dean drew from his personal experiences of testifying before FDA committees and conducting clinical trials when he spoke of the immensely important work of the agency and applauded it for its adherence to strict scientific principles in all of its regulatory endeavors.
New faculty - Wesley Nuffer

Wesley Nuffer, ’99, PharmD, has returned to pharmacy school, but this time around as a research assistant professor.

With a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Education, Nuffer will be setting up diabetes self-management clinics in six sites around Colorado during the next three years. The goal is to assist the local pharmacists at these sites in establishing self-management education programs for patients with diabetes, and then to have pharmacy students train and essentially run the various sites.

The first clinics will be established at pharmacies in Limon and at the Stout Street Clinic in Denver, with more to follow.

“This diabetes project stems from the fact that with a PharmD curriculum, we should provide more clinical rotation sites to challenge our students,” said Nuffer. “From a retail and clinical perspective, diabetes is the most comprehensive type of disease management. With diabetes care, you could see a patient every week for a year and not touch on the same information twice.”

Nuffer most recently hails from Albertsons in Denver where he was a regional leader of the Diabetes Care Team, as well as acting as regional leader for Dallas, Texas.

He has spent the breadth of his career in diabetes care and feels strongly that pharmacists are the most qualified health care professionals to provide medical management therapy.

“With more than 20.8 million people in the United States who have diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association, pharmacists have an opportunity to make a significant impact on patient care, as well as directing the future of their profession, he said. "Pharmacists have the most training of any profession in managing drug therapy and we’re the most accessible health care providers available," said Nuffer. "Pharmacists have to redefine themselves as more service-oriented rather than product-oriented where we’re actually doing the patient counseling that we’ve been trained to do. If we don’t step up and say, ‘we’re trained to do this; we have the knowledge and skills to do it,’ then other health professionals will step in.

“The problem we face, however, is that our time has always been given away for free,” he said. "Every professional, from the lawyer to the plumber, charges for their time, but we never have. It’s time we did.”

Nuffer chose to come to the school because of the great opportunities here for clinical collaboration. His wife Monika is a 2003 PharmD graduate and is a clinical pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente call center. They met when he was a pharmacist at Spice of Life Pharmacy and she was on rotation there. They are expecting their first child in May 2007.

“I’m very proud of the education I got here and feel strongly that it’s one of the top pharmacy schools,” he explained. “It’s nice to be back here where I have so many good memories.”

Promotion and tenure announcement

We are pleased to announce the following promotions effective July 1, 2006:

Robert MacLaren, PharmD, to associate professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy

Daniel Gustafson, PhD, to associate professor with tenure in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Mont H. Gutke
March 28, 1919 – June 16, 2006

The University of Colorado School of Pharmacy mourns the loss of a great friend and former faculty member, Mont H. Gutke. Gutke was born in southeastern Idaho and spent most of his life in the Rockies. Following high school, he worked for Safeway in Idaho and Washington State until the outbreak of World War II. Gutke served in the Army throughout the war years and then returned to Idaho to begin working for Payless, a company founded by Mr. Sam Skaggs, Sr.

Not long afterwards, he enrolled in and was graduated (1951) from the Montana State University School of Pharmacy. Gutke then took a teaching fellowship with the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy while he pursued masters degrees in both Pharmacy and Business. He taught at the school from 1951 to 1957.

Mont Gutke enjoyed a long and highly successful career in the retail drug industry. In 1958 he took a position with the Skaggs Drug Centers in Denver and quickly moved up the corporate ladder. He managed several different stores in the western United States before being named vice president for Professional Relations at the company’s home office in Salt Lake City. After the Skaggs organization acquired the Katz Drugstore chain in Kansas City, Gutke was named its President and served in this capacity for five years. He subsequently returned to a management position in the home office in Salt Lake City. Later, when the Skaggs organization acquired the Harts Super Store chain, Gutke returned to Denver as District Manager. He retired in 1985.

Gutke’s pharmacy career included a great deal of professional and public service. He served two terms on the Utah Board of Pharmacy and was chairman of the National Association of Chain Drugstore’s Pharmacy Council. He assisted the pharmacy schools at the universities of Arizona, Colorado and Utah with their new building fund raising campaigns and was the first chairman of the University of Colorado’s Development Council. A classroom and an annual lecture in the School of Pharmacy are named in his honor. Gutke was the recipient of the school’s first Distinguished Colophon Award in 1988. He was a member of Kappa Psi, Phi Delta Chi, Rho Chi and Phi Lambda Sigma.

Gutke was an outstanding teacher, an astute business man and a dear and trusted friend. His dedication to his family and profession and his warm and endearing personality will forever be remembered. Gutke is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elizabeth Bedson Gutke; a sister, a daughter, Shellagh Gutke-Kennedy and her husband Bevis, of Salt Lake City, and a son, Mark, his wife Carol, and their son, Michael, of Arvada, Colorado.
The Class of 2010

Also Inside:
White Coat Ceremony!

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Also Inside:
- Rajesh Agarwal, PhD, is investigating the anti-tumor promoting effects of silibinin at the cellular, biochemical and molecular levels.
- Students make the rounds of potential employers during Professional Opportunity Day.
- In the tropical paradise of Hawaii, alumnus Kevin Kam, RPh, CDE, found his calling.

Diversity numbers are similar to last year with a slight increase:
- 62 percent are white
- 9 percent are African American
- 24 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4 percent are Hispanic/Latino
- 1 percent are Native American

The school had another record number of applicants this year with a record high of 1,636 applications. Students make up 69 percent of those applicants.

- 85 non-residents make up 49 percent of the incoming class, but only 2.6 percent of those non-residents.
- 86 residents make up 51 percent of the incoming class.

The final class size is 131.

Students make the rounds of potential employers during Professional Opportunity Day.

The Class of 2010

White Coat Ceremony!