We broke ground for the new School of Pharmacy!

Now we need your help to make this vision a reality! Your commitment to help fund the construction of the new building, future home of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, will help assure the school’s key role as the focal point for pharmacy education, professional practice and scientific discovery programs. Naming opportunities are available.

Please join us!

Checks may be made payable to the University of Colorado Foundation and noted for the School of Pharmacy Building Fund.

Name __________________________________________________________
Mailing address ___________________________________________________
E-mail_________________________ Phone_____________________________

Mail your check with this form to:

Sheldon Steinhauser
Director of Development
University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy
C238-L15
P.O. Box 6511
Aurora, CO 80045

If you wish to use a credit card or if you’d like to make a multi-year pledge, please call Sheldon Steinhauser at 303-724-2632 (phone); 303-596-9062 (cell); or e-mail at sheldon.steinhauser@cufund.org.

Thank you for your commitment to the School of Pharmacy!
As drug therapies become more complex, as our understanding of disease pathology grows and as health care evolves, the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy is preparing future pharmacists for a profession that is changing dramatically. These realities point to the increasing demand for pharmacists who are highly skilled and well prepared to manage complex drug-therapy regimens and to provide direct patient care for a wide variety of medical conditions. To meet the increasing health care needs of a changing and rapidly aging society, the School of Pharmacy is constructing a new $59.5 million, 165,000 square-foot building.

The new building will be a sustainably-built, collaborative center of learning, preparing students for their roles as pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. The site of the new building is located to the west of the campus library across a beautiful and inviting quadrangle that will serve as the north entrance to the academic campus.

It is projected to be ready for occupancy in late 2010 and will allow the school to increase faculty size by 60 percent and class size by 25 percent, to 160 students a year. The contractor is Mortenson Construction Company and the architects are Root Rosenman Architects in association with HOK.

“The prospect of a new building to house the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences begins an exciting new era for pharmacy education, research and patient care in Colorado,” said School of Pharmacy Dean Ralph Altiere. “With a state-of-the-art facility to take us into the future, we can build upon our tradition of excellence and strengthen our position as one of the nation’s top pharmacy schools.”

Three floors of the four-story building will be dedicated to research, allowing the school to expand its pharmaceutical biotechnology program and create a drug-development center to focus on new medications. Both programs are already under way but there is currently no room to expand.

When the new facility is completed, the school will be renamed the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in recognition of the Skaggs family and The ALSAM Foundation for their long-standing support of the school. In late 2006, the Foundation committed $10 million for the construction of the new building – the largest gift in the school’s history. This was followed by a grant of $1 million in 2008.

Sam Skaggs and the Skaggs family are nationally recognized as pioneers in the retail drug and grocery business and as generous philanthropists.

“As the school looks forward to many great accomplishments in the future, accomplishments that to a large extent will be facilitated by this new building, we will stay true to our mission and focus on who we are and what we will bring to health care in the 21st century—discovering new knowledge, breaking new ground in clinical care and preparing students for lives of purpose and service who will make a difference for all of us,” said Dean Altiere.

School of Pharmacy breaks ground on 165,000 sq. ft. building
New building will help prepare pharmacists for a changing society
A defining characteristic of the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy’s alumni, faculty and students is a desire and ability to make a positive difference in the world. The results of the school’s education, research and community service have a significant impact and often drive progress in important ways.

This inclination toward meaningful achievement is highlighted in the stories you will find in the redesigned issue of Pharmacy Perspectives. The articles presented here represent just a few examples of achievement by alumni, faculty and students. We hope you will enjoy this new publication and we thank you for your interest and support of the School of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Perspectives is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy. We welcome your comments, news and story ideas.

University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy
Academic Office 1, C238-L15
12631 E. 17th Ave.
P.O. Box 6511
Aurora, CO 80045
SOPalumni@uchsc.edu
www.uchsc.edu/sop

The School of Pharmacy’s students, staff and faculty collected more than 560 items for a food drive to benefit The Gathering Place, a daytime shelter for women and their children experiencing homelessness or poverty. Charlotte Klaus organized the faculty and student collections and third-year pharmacy student Kelli Frame chaired the student collections. Winner of the food drive was the P3 class.

Students and faculty attend APhA reception

Kassandra Bankovich, Lam Nguyen, Greg O’Malley, Catherine Jarvis, PharmD, and Vanessa Rogers are all smiles at the breakfast reception co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy and the Colorado Pharmacists Society. The reception, held March 16, was for pharmacists and pharmacy students who attended the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego. This event provides Colorado APhA meeting attendees a chance to connect with fellow Coloradans.

These past few months have marked an exciting time in the 97-year history of the School of Pharmacy. In May, the first pharmacy class to graduate on the new Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) received their diplomas in a ceremony held on the front lawn of the campus. The school awarded 174 PharmD degrees this year to graduates of both the traditional PharmD and the nontraditional PharmD programs representing the largest PharmD class in the school’s history.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 10 for a building that will be the future home of the school. The new building will be our fifth home since our founding at the University of Colorado Boulder where we spent our first 81 years. The school then moved to the Ninth Avenue campus in 1992, and now we are located in temporary quarters at AMC until our new building is completed. We look forward to a long and prosperous era at AMC when we open the new building under the school’s new name—The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in recognition of the Skaggs family and The ALSAM Foundation for their generosity and support of the school. The site of the new building is just west of the campus library, across to what will be a beautiful and inviting quadrangle formed between the two buildings that will serve as the north entrance to the academic campus.

The new building will be a sustainably-built, collaborative center of learning and preparing students for their roles as pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. The building is projected to be ready for occupancy in late 2010, prior to the school’s 100th anniversary in 2011. In late 2006, The ALSAM Foundation committed $10 million for construction of the new building—the largest gift in the school’s history. This was followed by a grant of $1 million in 2008. The ALSAM Foundation is named after Aline and Sam Skaggs who have been longtime benefactors of the school. Mr. Skaggs and the Skaggs family are nationally recognized as pioneers in the retail drug and grocery business and as generous philanthropists.

Soon we will be launching the school’s first official alumni association. More information will be forthcoming. The class of 2008 made the decision to give something back to the School of Pharmacy that would have a lasting impact. Their gift to the school will establish a fund to purchase medical equipment for future pharmacy students to use at community health clinics and fairs. This gift will support the community health care activities that their class helped to make such an integral part of their education at the school. Their goal is to have 100 percent participation by the class and to start a tradition of giving back to support the school that they feel gave them great opportunities for learning and experiential training. To recognize the legacy that the 2008 class is leaving for future pharmacy students, a plaque honoring them as the founding class of the new University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy. Alumni Association was presented to them at the annual awards banquet.

To receive additional information or to share your ideas about the alumni association, send us an e-mail at SOP.alumni@uchsc.edu.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Ralph J. Altiere, PhD
Dean, School of Pharmacy
Pharmacy’s road to success is under construction

By Kenna Bruner

During a schoolwide seminar, Tom Temple, RPh, MS, vice president and CEO of the Iowa Pharmacists Association, presented his roadmap for navigating the potholes and cone zones on the road to a successful pharmacy career.

Temple explained what he considers to be significant challenges to health care in this country. He stressed that it’s imperative for pharmacists to be part of the solution because the dynamics occurring in health care are beginning to shape the pharmacy profession.

“Our profession can’t survive in a meaningful way and will never achieve its full potential unless we reject the status quo,” said Temple. “We talk about what has to change, but we do it in isolation from the rest of the health care system. We are part of the health care system, but it’s a broken model and it’s no longer sustainable for consumers, payers or providers.”

Pharmacists must focus on improving quality, according to Temple. Studies indicate that for every dollar spent on drug therapy, another dollar is spent on correcting the problems that those drugs cause. Drugs are not being used effectively and appropriately enough, but pharmacists have the expertise to change that.

Reimbursement is a worn-out policy that needs to change—in its current form it is not a survival strategy for the profession. Pharmacists must be paid for the expertise they bring to the health care system.

The more pharmacists align themselves with preventative services and wellness activities, the more they can capture that element of the marketplace. Do pharmacists need to own the drugs they sell? Maybe not, said Temple. Perhaps pharmacists only need to oversee the distribution of drugs, which would change reimbursement policies in a significant way.

“Probably more than any other health care profession, pharmacists have the ability to talk directly with patients and be a consumer advocate,” he said. “That’s one of our biggest strengths.”

Borrowing a line from Charles Dickens’ Tale of Two Cities, Temple said that this is the best of times and worst of times for the profession. “In my 30 years in pharmacy, I don’t think I’ve seen so much despair in pharmacists and yet so much optimism. It depends on who you’re talking to. Is it the best or worst of times? It’s probably in-between times.”

For pharmacists in the dispensing business, these are difficult times:

- Because of diminishing margins on prescription drugs and increasing influence of insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers on practice, 95 percent of prescription drugs today are paid by a third party, compared to the 25-30 percent when Temple started in the profession.
- There are dramatic increases in the number of prescriptions with the rising potential of medication errors.
- Consumers are going to Canada, Mexico or online to buy cheaper medications.
- Pharmacists are getting paid to conduct health screenings to identify diabetes, hypertension and asthma.
- “We’re not yet where we’re going, but we’re also not where we’ve been. That captures where pharmacy is right now,” said Temple. “We have to change our focus from product distribution to patient care; and change the marketplace from cheap drugs to value of services. If we’re to survive in the future, we’ve got to deal with these issues.”

Use of complimentary and alternative medicine on the rise

Statistics indicate that half of patients use complementary and alternative medicines and therapies, and many more have considered their use. Pharmacists can find it helpful to understand complementary medicine, according to Lisa Corbin, MD, medical director of the University of Colorado Hospital’s Center for Integrative Medicine.

The concept of optimizing wellness is the philosophy behind the services offered through the Center for Integrative Medicine, which Corbin helped establish. Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) therapies are not usually associated with medical schools or hospitals. Integrative medicine is the coordination of CAM therapies with conventional medical treatments.

“Pharmacists are viewed by the public as among the most trusted, accessible health care provider. Pharmacists report being asked more often about CAM therapies by patients,” Corbin told students and faculty in a lecture titled “Complementary/Alternative Medicine: What the Health?”

CAM’s potential benefits include symptom control, empowerment to the patient, lower cost and less risk. On the flip side are CAM’s potential risks: being a directly harmful treatment, being an indirectly harmful treatment by reducing efficacy of conventional treatment and replacing curative conventional care, and having high costs.

Considerations for pharmacists when answering patients’ questions about CAM: avoid harmful practices, use evidence-based, safe therapies and consider plausible, safe modalities.

CORBIN’S RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Ask your patients if they are taking any supplements or using alternative therapies. If you don’t ask, they probably won’t volunteer the information.
- Steer patients away from potentially harmful therapies and treatments, such as colonic enemas, megavitamins, chelation therapies, IV therapies, restrictive diets and anything used in lieu of proven, curative conventional treatments.
- Encourage patients to use therapies that promote wellness, such as herbs/supplements, stress management techniques, chiropractic, massage and acupuncture.
School of Pharmacy Dean’s List for Fall 2007

P1 Class
Ahata, Anita
Adams, Matthew
Bannon, Jessica
Beckett, Cynthia
Benzing, Carol
Block, Alexander
Caughran, Jonathan
Chacon, Candido
Clark, Jeffrey
Cox, William
Desta, Mariamawit
Dietrich, Scott
Elders, Morgan
Finnegan, Kimberly
French, Thomas
Grafius, Jeremy
Graves, Gara
Hammond, Kyle
Henderson, Kevin
Hofer, Gregory
Johns, Ria
Kanack, Alexander
Knapp, Kathryn
Kohlman, Lauren
Lee, Aaron
Lintz, Lashell
Le Sordo, Steven
Money, Amanda
Opferman, Renee
Papasoglo, Adam
Park, Guile
Puszka, Joanna
Reynolds, Paul
Schwab, Jennifer
Sedillo, Samantha
Smith, Emily
Smith, Stacey
Strah, Sarah
Thoresdale, Karen
Turner, Shane
Tyler, Rebecca
Vaughn, Jessica
Walton, Christopher
Weiss, Aaron
Xia, Emil
Zielenski, Christopher

P2 Class
Alquist, Elizabeth
Blunt, Nenene
Calvert, Paul
Carlstrom, Kelley
Crona, Daniel
Frame, Kelli
Goldrey, Maria
Johnson, Steven
Kanani, Zanette
Kim, Miron
Kril, Jill

P3 Class
Ahramova, Stella
Anderson, Laura
Attwood, Elyse
Azadegan, Mana
Bankovich, Kassandra
Chen, Marcus
Dam, Vina
Eckley, Darla
Egeberg, Michael
Farab, Latma
Garnhart, Allison
Gergely, Zachary
Gerlach, Meghan
Hall, Ashley
Hamelin, Brittany
Hanselin, Michele
Harris, Jana
Hirahara, Lynne
Hollbrook, Ri
Johnson, Bryce
Jordan, Charles
Lamarr, Brandon
Le, Huong
Lindoll, Samantha
Makarova, Tatiana
Moore, Lindy
Moore, Valerie
Refaat, Momein
Simonovich, Sergey
Simons, Kathleen
Voinitchkivitch, Nikola
Warwick, Cynthia

SNPhA fundraiser
P3 student Dmitri Cohen wields a ladeful of fried rice and egg rolls during a fundraiser held by the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) to benefit UNICEF. Thanks to the students' cooking and organizational skills, $250 was raised for UNICEF, a United Nations' organization that helps provide basic needs to children in developing countries.

STEPHANIE CHO, PHARM’08, had an article printed in the National Pharmaceutical Association Newsletter which is distributed to pharmacists nationally. Titled “A Tale of Two Worlds,” her article featured two examples of stroke patients she saw on rotations while a P4 student. The two examples were different situations and had different outcomes.

The National Pharmaceutical Association and the Student National Pharmaceutical Association partnered with the American Stroke Association on the Power to End Stroke campaign to raise awareness and provide health screenings to help patients in underserved communities decrease their risk of stroke.

DANIEL CRONA was appointed vice-chair of the National Executive Committee of the ASHP Student Forum for the 2008-2009 school year. His appointment began at the ASHP Annual Meeting in Seattle last June and will continue through May of 2009.

He attended a regional delegates meeting in May in Chicago to help develop new ASHP policy issues that were discussed and voted on at the House of Delegates session in Seattle in June. He will also be the alternate voting member to the ASHP House of Delegates and will help represent the Student Forum at the Midyear Meeting and Residency Showcase in December. And he will chair one of the five Student Advisory Committees for the ASHP Student Forum.

P1 STUDENTS CRAFT A SUCCESSFUL EVENT AT THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
Twenty-two P1 students took time out from studying for their weekly Monday exam on April 3 to touch the lives of 30 young patients at The Children’s Hospital. The two-hour scheduled event finally ended after three hours while the P1s helped the youngsters make crafts at a table set up in the hospital’s atrium. Four different crafts were made available to the children and most spent over an hour with at least two students assisting them through the craft-building process. For sharing their time and artistic skills, the PharmD students were given a tour of the hospital and were treated to pizza, but most importantly, they got into the spirit of giving and would like to repeat the activity.

Special thanks to:
• Lindsey Ingraffia (vice president) for making the contacts and scheduling
• Tracey Thompson for purchasing the craft items
• Felipe Ballina, Thompson and Ingraffia for assembly of craft packages

Participants included: Myo Aung (treasurer), Jessica Bannon, Kevin Barnes, Tori Everhart, LaSheatra Henderson, Lindsey Ingraffia, Hannah Kraft, Aaron Lee, Ahone Musong, Hien Nguyen, Thuy Nguyen, Joana Puszka, Paul Reynolds, Nicole Sheldahl, Michelle Sherman, Tina Thai, Ella Thompson, Tracey Thompson, Brianna Toppel, Ban Trinh and Jessica Vaughn.

BOOK DRIVE
The International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), which is part of APhA, is coordinating an international book drive. The drive is year-round, and students are looking for any recent (or fairly recent) text and reference books. The books are sent somewhere in the world that needs them. They’ve collected six boxes of books, a few hundred journals and a gift card from the Tattered Cover Bookstore.
Pharmacists have dramatic impact on drug therapy results

By Kenna Bruner

The current state of health care in this country provides unparalleled opportunities for pharmacists to make critical contributions to patient care through patient education and scholarship. Kasey Thompson, PharmD, told students in his talk titled “National Initiative to Improve Medication Use Safety and Quality: Opportunities for Pharmacists.”

“When pharmacists are involved in patients’ care, medication therapy outcomes are improved and patients are safer.”

Thompson holds dual positions at the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists: the director for policy and planning and the director of the division of practice standards and equality. He is widely regarded as one of the nation’s experts in health care quality and safety.

“Every patient should have access to a pharmacist,” he said. “When pharmacists are involved in patients’ care, medication therapy outcomes are improved and patients are safer. Studies conducted over 60 years show this. No other health profession has been studied and scrutinized as much as pharmacy has, and we have the data that shows we improve patient care outcomes.”

Pharmacists have much to offer health professionals regarding medication-related issues. They can help improve the safety of drug use, recommend equivalent but lower cost treatment options and help identify the most effective medication therapies based on the most current and credible scientific evidence.

Data indicate that despite the availability of effective drugs, expected health outcomes are not being achieved in an unacceptably large number of patients. Under-utilization of medication is a problem with 50 percent of patients. Under-utilization of medication is a problem with 50 percent of patients. Under-utilization of medication is a problem with 50 percent of patients. Under-utilization of medication is a problem with 50 percent of patients.

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Two students present posters at ACCP research forum

Alyssa Walker, P3, and Charlie Foster, P2, presented posters at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Spring Practice and Research Forum in Phoenix, Ariz. Both Walker and Foster were selected as finalists in the Best Student Poster Competition and Walker was runner-up in the competition.

Posters were evaluated on 1) originality, rationale and significance; 2) methods; 3) results; 4) discussion/conclusions; and 5) contribution to the research and response to the judges’ questions.

The title of Walker’s poster was “Lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/RTV) pharmacokinetics in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected cytochrome P450 3A5 expressors versus nonexpressors.”

She compared pharmacokinetic parameters (such as: AUC, Cmax, Cmin and clearance) for lopinavir and ritonavir between HIV infected subjects who expressed the protein for CYP3A5 (expressors) and those who did not express the protein for CYP 3A5 (nonexpressors) to see if there were any differences. Lopinavir and ritonavir are metabolized by CYP 3A5 (along with other CYP enzymes).

“I wanted to know if subjects who are expressors (increased CYP 3A5 enzyme) had faster clearance of the drug and/or lower concentrations of the drug in the body compared to those who were nonexpressors (decreased CYP 3A5 enzyme),” said Walker.

The topic of Foster’s poster was “Interethnic comparison of SLC01B1 haplotype frequencies and the relevance to clinical pharmacokinetic-pharmacogenetic studies.”

SLC01B1 is a gene that encodes for a transporter protein in hepatocytes (liver cells). It is responsible for the uptake of many drugs into the liver from the blood for metabolism, or to have its pharmacological effect (if it’s a drug that works in the liver such as statins). His project was to genotype the DNA from a population of individuals, which included 100 African-Americans and 143 Caucasians. They determined the frequency of the polymorphisms in the DNA that they were studying.

“I reiterated that the most commonly studied variations in DNA that relate to function of this particular transporter protein are rare in African-Americans, which means that it is of little benefit to study them in this population,” he said. “There is likely to be other more common polymorphisms that need to be discovered in the genome of African-Americans in order to have more focused research in this area of pharmacogenomics.”

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Students serve communities at health fairs
An integral part of a pharmacist’s responsibility is counseling patients on drugs and drug interactions. Participating in health fairs enables student pharmacists to become skilled patient educators while providing communities with valuable health care screenings and counseling.

Students provide critical health care information & testing
By Daniel Crona, P2 student and chair of the Wellness Fair Committee
Sixty-six students and 10 faculty members from the School of Pharmacy participated in the 2008 9Health Fair, April 12-20. Responsibilities included osteoporosis screenings and education, blood glucose screenings and an Ask-the-Pharmacist booth that focused on proper medication management.

Students who participated in the osteoporosis screenings helped patients obtain a bone density “T-score,” explained the benefits of calcium and vitamin D supplementation and tailored exercise and diet regimens for patients to help improve their bone density to stave off the development of osteoporosis.

Students who participated in the blood glucose screenings administered finger-stick blood glucose tests to help identify patients at risk for developing diabetes. In some cases, students referred individuals who potentially suffered from uncontrolled diabetes.

Students at the Ask-A-Pharmacist booth answered patient inquiries on a myriad of subjects that most commonly pertained to analgesic medications, anti-hypertension regimens, dyslipidemia management, medication interactions and various vitamins/supplements.

According to preceptor Shari Bohn, student pharmacists helped administer tests and provided education to more than 1,400 patients throughout the 9Health Fair. More than 40 percent of the patients screened were referred to a primary care physician.

Without the participation of students and preceptors from the School of Pharmacy, many patients would not have been screened for various disease states, and they would be unaware of the need for follow-up and further diagnosis. By participating in the 9Health Fair this year, student pharmacists were able to influence patient outcomes in a positive way.

Students who participated in the diabetes health fair had not seen his primary care physician. He did not understand the need to take medications such as aspirin. He did not believe in their efficacy. A pharmacist and he did not understand the need to take medications such as aspirin. He had not seen his primary care physician for several years. The student and pharmacist were able to convince the patient to make an appointment with his physician and to keep an open mind about his health care. Lab results from the screening test served as leverage to convince the patient of the severity of his medical condition.

An elderly woman with dementia had a fasting glucose level of 298 mg/dL, taken twice. The students and the pharmacist tried to inform the patient of the troubling test result, but realized that she was unable to comprehend the information. The pharmacist wrote a letter to the patient’s daughter, in Russian, explaining the situation and recommending a referral to her primary care physician. The letter was given to the caregivers at the day care to deliver to the woman’s daughter.

The success of the health fair is attributed to the service and trust developed by the students. Russian speaking students also organized two lecture series. Topics in the first lecture were “Why Do We Need Medications?” and “Why We Should Not Share Medications.” The second lecture was on diabetes, dyslipidemia and brand/generic drug differences. Each presentation was translated into Russian.

The students plan to return to the day care center and present the concluding data and statistics. Patients will have an opportunity to compare their lab results with the group average. They will also discuss the follow-up care they received from their physicians as a result of the health fair screening.

Students participate in the National Western Stock Show Health Fair
Lindsey Moore checks blood glucose at the National Western Stock Show health fair held in Denver in January. As in previous years, SOP students checked blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose and pulmonary function tests for visitors to the health fair. In addition to running tests, students provided general lifestyle education about hypertension, high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes and tobacco addiction and cessation. Students also helped evaluate the data collected from the health fair to report on outcomes. The Student National Pharmaceutical Association at the SOP co-coordinated and co-sponsored this event with Area Health Education Center system whose mission is to enhance the delivery of health care services throughout the state.

Students reach out to Russian community
Students at the School of Pharmacy reached out for the first time to the Russian geriatric community in Denver. Organized by Dmitri Cohen, P5, and staffed by pharmacy students, a Russian community health fair was held in January at the Monaco Adult Day Care facility.

A variety of screening services were provided by the 26 students and four pharmacy preceptors including a full lipid panel, liver function tests, blood glucose monitoring, blood pressure monitoring, osteoporosis screening, diet/exercise education, alcohol education and smoking cessation education.

Ten of the students spoke Russian and were vital in establishing a bridge of communication. Preceptors were SOP faculty members Connie Valdez, PharmD, Brian Hemstreet, PharmD, Olga Gershovich, PharmD, a clinical pharmacist from Kaiser, and Ellen Narinsky, PharmD, a community pharmacist from Walgreen’s.

Students and preceptors screened and provided health education to 53 patients. The extent of patient health concerns ranged from mild lifestyle changes to physician referrals for immediate follow up.

One of the elderly patients was non-compliant with his medications because he did not believe in their efficacy. A pharmacist and a student sat down with him to address his concerns. He believed that medications were harmful and he did not understand the need to take medications such as aspirin. He had not seen his primary care physician for several years. The student and pharmacist were able to convince the patient to make an appointment with his physician and to keep an open mind about his health care. Lab results from the screening test served as leverage to convince the patient of the severity of his medical condition.

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Get on the Path to Wellness Health Fair provided screenings to Native Americans
Pharmacy students at the School of Pharmacy provided health screenings and patient counseling at the Get on the Path to Wellness Annual Health Fair event held in Lakewood on April 19. The primary purpose of the event was to offer access to free medical screenings and education to the underserved population of Native Americans in the area.

For the third consecutive year, the School of Pharmacy and the school’s chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association provided the equipment to run a variety of health screenings and provide patient education.

Activities included free health screening services for blood pressure, BMI measurements, cholesterol and glucose testing, medication evaluation, education counseling on disease states management and recommendation for follow-up screenings with health care providers as necessary.

Zanette Kanani, PharmD candidate, organized the students’ activities at the health fair.
Practice makes perfect in patient counseling competition

The School of Pharmacy’s student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP-APhA) held its regional competition as part of the annual APHA National Patient Counseling Competition. As this year’s winner, Jason King represented the school at the APHA national meeting in San Diego in March.

The competition rates the students against each other on how well they give a consultation in five minutes or less to a pharmacy resident acting as a patient. Students must demonstrate proficiency in their knowledge of drugs prescribed and their effects on the patient, as well as how well they deal with patients on a personal level.

The top 10 SOP finishers: Jason King Dominique Minjarez Ashley Hall Kelly Carlsstrom Lam Nguyen Crystal Miller Caleb Burkitt Stacey Schomberg Michelle Wolke Janessa Pedrosa

Third-year pharmacy student Stacey Schomberg gives advice on how to use a prescribed medicine to Jenni Tobin, a pharmacy practice resident at the University of Colorado Hospital, who is playing a patient.
Congratulations, School of Pharmacy graduates!

Doctor of Pharmacy
May 2008

Oluseun Abolaji
Liza Ann Alarid
Derek Keith Altizer
Victoria Lee Anderson
Tracie Lee Andreas
Darya Anisimova
Timothy John Arnold
Melanie Rose Bates
Kathryn Diane Beavers
Savannah J. Bennett
Jamie Billotti
Christine Elizabeth Bobenick
Michelle Lynn Bowcutt
Jennifer Lynn Branam
Benjamin David Brunner
Sarah Elizabeth Carr
Sarah Kaitlin Carson
Stephanie Eunhee Cho
Lisa Marie Cicero
Joshua Lomax Cluff
Matthew Wesley Cummin
Krista Michelle Davies
Jarrett Danil DeHerrera
Amy Catherine Dixon
Tram V. Do
Andrew Julian Doniec
Amy Christine Easterday
Kenda Lee Fort
Joyce Susan Gallegos
Michele Irene Bastian Garcia
Gina Catherine Haug
Mandy J. Hemmert
Jessica Hoang
Nancy Quyen Hoang
Amber Kristin Hodges
Rebecca Jo Hoss
Natasha Marie Hounshell
Lily Hourshenas
Patrick Thomas Hughes
Daniel Seymour Iler
Tenesha Jacoba Jackson
Melissa Renee Johnson
Sara Kay Johnson
Jennifer Melody Jorgensen
Irina Kandinova
Jennifer Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Malgorzata Ewa Kozlowski
Gretchen Farrell Kunze
Rory Patrick Lambert
Loc Phuoc Le
Jaime Stephens Lee
Jessica Hale Leonard
Ashley K. LeTourneau
Timothy Pak Lun Leung
Kristen Lyn Lewis
Adrienne Lee Light
Joshua Onze Lock
Marlene Lopez
Katheryn Louise Lumsden
Amber Lee Majors
Eric Manchester
Chad Williams Martell
Jacquelyn Elizabeth Martin
Lia Ann Martire
Shannon Mane Matsko
Patrina Elaine McCauley
Stephen Charles McCrumb
Bradley Joe McGee
Edwin Franklin McRae
Lindsy Marie Meadowcroft
Gloria Margaret Mendez-Greene
Kelly Lynn Meyer
Katherine Anne Miller
Jenny Marie Mitchell
Jessica Lee Morris
Steven Charles Musielak
Baocauh Lisa Nguyen
Jenny Nguyen
Xoa Thi Nguyen
Xuan Nguyen
Adam Christopher Nielsen
Hodan Noor
Shauna Lynn Nordine
Veronica Nikeiruka Ohaya
Audra Nicole Patten
Vicki Lynn Pender
Heather Rachel Pentecost
Tiffani Truc Pham
Monika Joanna Piegzaik
Audrey-Carmel Porter
Jacqueline Puga
Michelle Ann Pulido
Mariya Rackman
Olivia Rapacchietta
Vanessa Rogers
Eryn Kay Roth
Christopher Casey Ryan
Dacie Renee Ryant
Michele Mahal Ordinario Sampayan
Jeri Ann Sandbach
Doctor of Philosophy
August 2007
Marion Del Carmen Molina Salinas, Pharmaceutical Sciences
December 2007
Chirag Kariya, Toxicology
Heather Pangburn, Toxicology
May 2008
Shujun Bai, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Srirupa Roy, Toxicology

Doctor of Pharmacy Nontraditional Program - 2008
Christopher Arendt
Linda Awdischu
Kimberly Boberschmidt
Jovana Budisin
Susan Cubelic
Deepali Gaitonde
Carole Goodine
John Hogge
DeeAnn Johnson
Nancy Junker
Kathleen Kenny
Michael Koloscha
Kori LeBlanc
Rebecca Liggon
Tracy Lovejoy
Peggy Lu
Suri Mayer
Julie Moeller
Johnny Nicely
Tejal Patel
Dwight Paulson
Susan Pfoertner
Dawn Renouf
Gwen Smith
Vida Stankus
Rei-Lan Tang
Kathy Vu
Lynn Wilson
Jo Ann Yacko
Deborah Yoong

Doctor of Pharmacy Nontraditional Program - December 2007
Khaloud Al-Silmi
Lisa Bishop
Brandee Butt
Agatha Ching
Hejon Chung
Kimberly Duggan
Deborah Forzese
Ashley Elizabeth Toombs
Hung Khanh Tran
Thu Suong Tran
Jennifer M. Trask
Jessica Ashley Trujillo
Trang Khanh Van
Tara Behring Vlasimsky
Steven Mark Weis Jr.
Tasheba Lara West
Colene Anne Wiese
James Mathew Wiezorek
Christopher Glen Wilson
Christy Lee Wilson

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Preceptors of the Year honored

ROCHE PRECEPTOR

John Flanigan, PharmD, B.CNSP, is the lead clinical pharmacist at Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette, Colo. He is a 2003 graduate of the School of Pharmacy.

Flanigan is the residency program director at Exempla as well as the chair of the Nutritional Support Committee. In addition to being the primary preceptor for P4 students on their institutional rotations, he also is a site preceptor for the P3 students and is a preceptor for the Nontraditional PharmD program. He provides educational materials and presentations for the Lafayette Seniors Center, answering medication questions of the elderly patients in the community.

INSTITUTIONAL PRECEPTOR

Claire Avante-Swartwood, PharmD, is a clinical specialist/medication use specialist at Denver Health Medical Center. She evaluates new drug additions to the formulary, coordinates medication-use evaluations and is involved in the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, staff development, clinical involvement in hospital rounds and as a preceptor to School of Pharmacy students.

She received a bachelor of science in biology from the University of Denver in 1997, a bachelor of science in pharmacy in 2000 and a PharmD in 2001 from the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy. She completed a pharmacy practice residency and an infectious disease/critical care-specialty residency at the University of California-Davis Medical Center in 2002 and 2003.

AMBULATORY PRECEPTOR

A native of Colorado, Robert Beitschler, RPh, received his pharmacy degree from the University of Colorado in 1976. While he was in pharmacy school, he purchased his first house in Breckenridge, Colo., and in 1979 he and his wife Jeanne bought the Breckenridge Drug Store. He has owned and managed numerous businesses during his pharmacy career. In 1980, the couple opened their second store, Rarities and Remedies. They started a pharmacy temporary placement service, opened a third store, Essentials Food and Drug, in 1986 and in 1987, opened a consulting business.

Since 2005, Beitschler has been pharmacy manager at Kremmling Marcantile where he serves as a preceptor to numerous P4 students.

Celebrating at awards banquet

Awards were presented to pharmacy students, faculty and practitioners during the annual awards banquet held May 22. Students, faculty, friends and families were on hand to celebrate with award recipients who were honored for excellent performance in academics and service.

- Chancellor’s Teaching Award: Connie Valdez, PharmD
- President’s Excellence in Teaching Award: Doug Fish, PharmD
- Leadership Award recipient: Catherine Jarvis, PharmD
- Distinguished Coloradan Award: Mary Newell, RPh
- Roche Preceptor of the Year: John Flanigan, PharmD
- Institutional Preceptor of the Year: Claire Avante-Swartwood, PharmD
- Ambulatory Preceptor of the Year: Bob Beitschler, RPh
- Alumni Award: Sarah Carson on behalf of the Class of 2008

Distinguished Coloradan Award presented to Mary Newell

In addition to working full time in community pharmacy practice, Mary Newell is involved with numerous pharmacy related volunteer activities. A 1971 graduate of the School of Pharmacy, Newell is a member of the board of directors of Peer Assistance Services and the Colorado Pharmacists Recovery Network; serves as the leader of the King Soopers and Safeway pharmacists unions where she is a strong advocate for patient safety and pharmacists’ working conditions; organizes the free medication supply to Doctors Care, an indigent clinic for children in southwest Denver; and has been an active member of the Colorado Pharmacists Society Board of Directors for many years, serving as president in 2004-05.

Her commitment to the pharmacy profession, however, goes beyond the exemplary care she gives her patients on a daily basis and the extra time she contributes to pharmacy organizations. She increased the Colorado Pharmacists Society membership by nearly 20 percent after rolling the society’s membership dues into the union membership dues for each pharmacist. She established a program to provide medications for a pediatric indigent care clinic and coordinated with King Soopers to provide drugs at wholesale cost, which is paid by the union, as well as personally delivering the medications to the clinic. Affectionately known throughout the pharmacy community as Mama Mary, she nurtures, guides and is genuinely interested in the life, welfare and future of every pharmacist, pharmacy student and pharmacy technician she encounters, all while lovingly reminding them of their responsibility to be actively involved in their profession and holding them accountable by directly and unabashedly asking for some of their time, money or both.

The independent pharmacy where she worked while in high school in Wray, Colo., was purchased by her brother Joe Foltmer about 12 years ago. Newell occasionally works there to give her brother a few days off and she enjoys seeing the people she grew up with in Wray.

Newell touches many lives in the pharmacy community and beyond and is a role model for all pharmacists.
RAJESH AGARWAL, PHD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the School of Pharmacy, has been appointed associate editor of Cancer Research, the most prestigious journal for cancer-related research, published by the American Association for Cancer Research.

Cancer Research publishes significant, original studies in all areas of basic, clinical, translational, epidemiological and prevention research devoted to the study of cancer and cancer-related biomedical sciences. Its publication scope covers all subfields of cancer research. As associate editor, Agarwal will recruit peer reviewers and oversee the review process for the manuscripts in his area of expertise that report the results of novel, timely and significant research which meet high standards of scientific merit.

Agarwal has been appointed to the editorial board of Cancer Research for his distinguished contributions to the study of various natural products and agents in terms of their applications in treating and preventing several cancers. His basic research is funded by the National Institutes of Health. He discovered the compounds in the milk thistle extract to be effective in the prevention and treatment of skin and prostate cancers.

In his other NIH-funded research on milk thistle, Agarwal is studying how the extract helps treat burns caused by mustard gas—a toxic, chemical warfare agent.

“I am pleased and honored by this appointment. Cancer Research is the most frequently cited cancer journal in the world and papers submitted to it are stingently reviewed,” said Agarwal. The 2008 Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) Award of Excellence was awarded to Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Professional Education CAROL BALMER, PHARM.D. The award recognizes a HOPA member who has made a significant, sustained contribution to or provided excellent leadership in improving or supporting hematology/oncology pharmacy.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CINDY O’BRYANT, PHARM.D, was elected president-elect of the Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association.

VAISILIS VASILIOU, PHD, a professor at the UC Denver School of Pharmacy and director of the school’s toxicology graduate program, has been named editor of Human Genomics. DAVID ROSS, PHD, a professor of toxicology and chair of the school’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, serves as the publication’s associate editor.

Vasiliou received his PhD in biochemical pharmacology from the University of Ioannina, Greece, and then carried out his postdoctoral training in molecular toxicology and pharmacogenetics at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. His research interests include cellular responses to oxidative stress induced by physical agents and the metabolism of both endogenous and foreign chemicals, functional and comparative genomics, genetic polymorphisms and etiology of complex diseases and molecular evolution.

Ross received his PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry from the University of Aston in Birmingham, England, and did postdoctoral work at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and the University of California, Berkeley. His research interest focuses on understanding the mechanisms underlying toxicity, genetic polymorphisms, molecular pharmacology and antitumor drug development.

Human Genomics focuses on the application of genomic approaches to improve understanding of human disease, drug discovery and variable drug reaction. It brings together academics and industry practitioners who are actively interested in realizing the full potential of the ever-expanding Human Genome Project. The journal is published quarterly, fully peer reviewed and directed by a panel of leading experts acting as editors and referees.

DOUG FISH, PHARM.D, FCCM, FCCP, BCPS, has been appointed to the editorial board of the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists. He is a professor with the School of Pharmacy, a clinical associate professor of medicine and a clinical specialist in critical care/ infectious diseases at the University of Colorado Hospital.

For more than a decade he has served as director of an advanced residency program in critical care pharmacy. His research interests include antimicrobial pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, the use of antimicrobials in critically ill and immunocompromised patients and antimicrobial resistance.

LAURA HANSEN, PHARM.D, FCCP, BCPS, associate professor in the department of clinical pharmacy and family medicine, participated with the Vicks Comfort CAREVan team providing information on preventing and treating colds and flu in Thornton, Colo., on Jan. 14-16. She also was filmed for a segment on osteoporosis for WebMD.

SUNNY LINNEBUR, PHARM.D, assistant professor of clinical pharmacy, attended the international meeting of the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) in Istanbul, Turkey, last year. The title of the symposium was “Community and Hospital Settings: Sharing the Experience.” She attended lectures on such topics as “Clinical Pharmacy Practice: Experience from Different Countries,” “Pain in Acute and Chronic Cases” and “Chronic Kidney Disease as a Global Public Health Problem.”

While at the ESCP meeting, Linnebur met with members of the planning committee for the 2009 joint meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and ESCP (for the International Congress on Clinical Pharmacy). Linnebur is serving on the committee with members from the United States and Europe to plan the international meeting which will be held in Orlando, Fla. The theme will be “Placing Patients First: a Global Perspective on Making Medicines Safer.”

In May, she also participated in a falls-prevention screening program put together by the American Geriatrics Society and the Foundation for Health in Aging where more than 150 individuals were screened. The elderly folks were screened using the “Get Up and Go” test, a simple, validated assessment that can be used to measure fall risk.

Looking back as national president

In her state-of-the-society presentation at the Colorado Pharmacists Society’s annual meeting held in June, Catherine Jarvis, Pharm.D, assistant dean for the Office of Student Services, commented that it seemed like only five minutes ago that she was preparing to start the year as society president.

It may seem like time went by quickly, but progress was made on all five initiatives she wanted to accomplish during her tenure. During the past year the society:

• sponsored emergency preparedness programming at annual meetings,
• signed a memorandum of understanding with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) that outlines how pharmacists will participate in an emergency situation and describes training that the CDPHE will provide to Colorado pharmacists,
• played a major role in working with the government staff person to outline and set the structure, policies and procedure for the program on reimbursement for cognitive pharmacy services. The society also played a big role in recruiting pharmacists to participate in the program. This initiative is related to House Bill 1021 that was passed by the Colorado legislature in 2007.
• increased participation of pharmacists from outside of the Denver metropolitan area.
• worked on a plan to keep past presidents more involved in the society and they outlined a strategy to keep not only past presidents, but also past board members, involved after their official terms end.

While attending an international conference in Turkey, Sunny Linnebur, third from right, takes time for sightseeing with members of the College of Clinical Pharmacy and ESCP (for the International Congress on Clinical Pharmacy).
New Faculty:

UDAY KOMPELLA, PHD, is a professor in the Department of Pharmacuetical Sciences and holds a courtesy appointment with the Department of Ophthalmology. Prior to joining UC Denver, he served as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Auburn University, for 14 years. Kompella’s research interests are in the area of nanotechnology for drug and gene delivery. His research is advancing novel delivery systems and therapeutic agents for treating various disorders including diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and cancers.

GINA MOORE, PHARM.D, MBA, joined the School of Pharmacy’s faculty as director of clinical affairs. She received her PharmD from the University of the Pacific Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Stockton, Calif., and her masters in business administration in 2002 from the University of Colorado Denver. She began her career in critical care and nutrition support and completed a nutrition support specialty residency at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, becoming a board certified nutrition support pharmacist in 1992.

In 1996, she joined the Health Care Division of Thomson Reuters (at that time, Micromedex) first serving in an editorial capacity, and then in various positions of increasing responsibility including director of product management and director of clinical solutions support. At Thomson Reuters, she led several new product development teams and consulted with a variety of health care organizations across the country on decision support initiatives.

A graduate of the School of Pharmacy, ROCANNA NAMDAR, PHARM.D, BCPS, joined the Department of Clinical Pharmacy as an assistant professor. She is teaching professional skills development courses. Prior to coming to the school, she worked in the internal medicine service and the hepatitis C clinic at the University of New Mexico Hospital.

An interest in promoting clinical pharmacy skills globally has taken her to Iran, where she established the country’s first clinics for anticoagulation and diabetes ambulatory care practice and trained local pharmacists to work in the clinics. She also is developing a formal patient education program for patients with diabetes.

EMIN TAFLAN, MA, joined the staff at the School of Pharmacy as a profession-al research assistant to Robert Valuck and Anne Libby. He is currently work-ing on a study of diabetes treatment and a study of antidepressant treatment in primary care.

He received a BA in economics from Karadeniz Technical University and an MA from the University of Colorado Denver Downtown Campus. Last sum-mer he participated in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing summer internship program.

SUNIR N. SINGH, PHD, is a mem-ber of the research staff for Krishna Mallela, PhD. He is conducting research in elucidation of protein fold-ing mechanisms using various biophysi-cal techniques.

He earned his master’s degree in biotechnology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, and received a PhD in the field of high throughput recombinant proteins pro-duction at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, India.

JENNIFER TRUJILLO, PHARM.D, is an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. She earned her doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and completed a pharmacy practice residency at Boston Medical Center.

She is a board certified pharmacother-a-py specialist and is a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Society of Health System Pharmacists and American Associa-tion of Colleges of Pharmacy. Prior to joining the SOP faculty, Trujillo was a faculty member at Northeastern University where she practiced in the area of adult internal medicine. She currently practices at the University of Colorado Hospital diabetes clinic.

Her areas of interest include inpatient and outpatient diabetes management, curricular development and assessment and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

TOBY TRUJILLO, PHARM.D, BCPS, has joined the SOP faculty as associate professor of clinical pharmacy and is a clinical coordinator at the University of Colorado Hospital.

He comes to SOP from Northeastern University School of Pharmacy in Bos-ton where he was clinical associate pro-fessor in pharmacy practice and clinical coordinator for residency training and academic affairs, as well as a clinical specialist in cardiology and anticoagula-tion at Boston Medical Center.

He received his PharmD from the University of California-San Francisco.

He and his wife Jennifer, fellow new faculty, have two fabulous kids: Anna (5) and Evan (2).

Software takes pharmacists to next level in diabetes research

By Jenni Prosser

Sam Ellis, PharmD, an assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy, presented results from research on patient-specific insulin guidance software for patients with type 1 diabetes at the American Diabetes Association (ADA) meeting in Chicago and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) meeting in Amsterdam.

Presenting the results in a platform and poster presentation at the ADA conference last summer was a unique opportunity for Ellis—of the roughly 2,800 research projects submitted to the meeting, only 60 were selected for presentation. The meeting is attended primarily by endocrinologists and diabetologists, and it is rare for pharma-cists to be invited.

While insulin guidance software is already factored into diabetes treat-ment, programs monitoring how indi-vidual lifestyles affect insulin needs are a new concept.

“The national average for blood glucose levels has stayed the same for the better part of a decade,” said Ellis, “which indicates to me that it’s more of a sys-tem problem relating to the fact that the management of diabetes is far behind research and technology. This software should really help diabetics control their disease.”

To improve the technology deficiency in diabetes research, Roche pharmaceuti-cals developed patient-specific guidance software that Ellis and his colleagues researched at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes. They assessed several parameters, including HbA1c, testing frequency and glucose values.

The mean change in HbA1c in the experimental group was -0.8 percent compared to -0.1 percent in the control group during the first six month period. HbA1c is a test that measures the amount of glycosylated hemoglobin circulating in the blood. Glycosylated hemoglobin is a molecule that is formed when glucose freely passes into the red blood cell. This glycosylated product persists throughout the entire lifespan of the red blood cell, which is about three months. The A1c value provides an average blood glucose value over that three month period. Therefore, the higher the glycosylated hemoglobin value, the greater glucose exposure the patients has encountered.

The software is given to patients on a personal digital assistant (PDA) that they carry with them at all times. The physician programs the PDA with the patient’s insulin doses and when and how the dose should be changed. The patient then records informa-tion on the device throughout the day, which alters the prescription to give a more accurate insulin dosage for the patient.

Results from the study have indicated that building aware-ness about vari-ables that affect a patient’s insulin intake and managing the disease with the help of technology does improve the patient’s baseline blood glucose level.
Stay in Touch

Share your comings and goings, career updates, honors, marriages, births and retirements. We welcome your comments, news and suggestions for articles. Send your news to SOPalumni@uchsc.edu.

We received word that AVINOAM DAFNI, BS ’52, turned 80 on Jan. 25 and has Alzheimer’s disease. He owned a pharmacy in Denver, complete with a soda fountain. He later sold the pharmacy to use his chemistry background in a career with Martin Marietta, where he worked through retirement. He has three children: two boys and one girl. He and his wife Nancy live in Littleton, Colo.

SETH COMPTON JR., BS ’56, retired in 2007 and reports he is still in good health. His new address is 391 Autumn Creek Dr., Apt. G, Manchester, MO 63088.

“Kevin Kam, Shannon Sundita and Kevin’s mother, Georgiana Kam, at the Kam’s family pharmacy in Hawaii.”

KEVIN KAM, RP ’95, CDE, is a certified diabetes educator and pharmacist with his family’s pharmacy, City Pharmacy and Diabetes Learning Center, in Honolulu, Hawaii. In February, Kevin finished a community rotation with the pharmacy’s first SOP student — SHANNON SUNDITA, who graduated in May. She helped teach the group diabetes education program and was responsible for presenting to a group of patients the current pharmacological agents for the management of diabetics. She also created a power point presentation and a patient brochure for attendees. On a daily basis, she taught patients about home blood glucose monitoring and was involved in training for insulin starts with various brands of insulin and pen delivery devices.

Kam says, “While at our pharmacy, we wanted to expose her to the diabetes education and care that we provide. We enjoyed having her here, and it’s nice to be able to put a bit more time and effort in for a CU PharmD student!”

JEFF MEYER, PHD PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES ’01, and CANDICE (CADWELL) MEYER, PHARM D ’00, recently had a new addition to the family. Ryan David Meyer was born March 15, and joins big sister Alexis, age two. Jeff is a principal scientist at Zymogenetics biotech in Seattle and Candice is a hospital pharmacist.

MISTY (EHMANN) MEISTER, PHARM D ’01, Colorado Springs, announces the birth of a baby girl, Whitney Lillian, born Feb. 2. Whitney’s big brother, Nathan, is 2 ½ years old.

JENNIFER CARNELL, PHARM D ’05, and her husband Gaylen welcomed their first child, Aidan Ryan Carnell, on Sept. 15, 2007, Jennifer is working at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She can be reached at gaylenandjen@gmail.com.

MECIA (PACELLO) GABRIEL, PHARM D ’05, informed us that she and Lucas Gabriel were married Sept. 1, 2007.

Davy TO, PHARM D ’06, is working as a floater for Walgreen’s in Phoenix, Ariz. Classmates can contact her at to.davy@gmail.com.

SHEILA SCOTT, PHARM D ’07, and her husband Eric announce the birth of their second child. Levi Washington Scott was born Jan. 4. He weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 inches long. Big sister Dara is proud of her new brother. Congratulations may be sent to Sheila at Junebug717@comcast.net.

HEATHER CARYOFLIES, PHARM D ’05, and her husband Matthew welcomed their son, Hayden Scott, on Sept. 3, 2006, and are expecting another baby in October. Heather reports that she loves working at Kaiser Permanente in the Westminster Clinic. They live in Broomfield and classmates can contact her at heathercaryofliles@msn.com.

ELAINE RIPPLINGER, PHARM D ’05, and BRIAN RIPPLINGER, PHARM D ’05, wanted to share a photo of their three-year twins, Sean and Aiden. The family has moved to Billings, Mont.
This headache is a winner

Luis G. Valerio Jr., PhD ’98, a toxicologist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, didn’t envision himself as an advocate for the public at the onset of his career.

While Valerio’s early research career centered on basic science, his desire to more directly impact people’s lives with the science of toxicology eventually led him to focus his work in public policy. As a pharmacology/toxicology reviewer for the FDA, he assesses the safety and efficacy of new therapeutic drugs for gastroenterology, specifically ulcerative colitis, autoimmune hepatitis and Crohn’s disease.

“I wanted to get closer to the science that goes directly to the public.”

This fall, Valerio will share his knowledge with School of Pharmacy students as an adjunct professor for special projects in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. “I like where I work now and want to stay there, but I also want to stay connected with the school,” he said. “I want to give back to the school that had such an impact on my career, so this arrangement is perfect.”

Valerio received his doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences from the School of Pharmacy in 1998. While at SOP, he received two predoctoral fellowships to work with Dennis Petersen, PhD, professor of pharmacogenetics and pharmacology, and John Thompson, PhD, professor of medicinal chemistry. In 2000, he completed his postdoctoral research as a gastroenterology fellow with the School of Medicine. He earned a postdoctoral research fellowship from the National Science Foundation to work in Barcelona, Spain, where he focused on the enzymology and role of oxidative and reductive enzymes in metabolism.

Upon returning to the United States, Valerio wanted to change from basic research and try applied science. He had developed an interest in consumer product safety and took a position as senior scientist in product safety at Mary Kay Inc., a skin care and cosmetics company based in Dallas, Texas.

After three years of safety testing dermatological products in a business-driven environment, Valerio was ready to return to a more science-based atmosphere, which led him to the FDA.

“I wanted to get closer to the science that goes directly to the public,” he said. “I wanted to work at the FDA because it’s a place where science and policy come together. There, I could use scientific rationale with regulatory laws to approve or permit products that consumers are exposed to. I felt that was closer to the real world.”

In 2005, he joined the FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in College Park, Md., as a toxicology reviewer for the premarket safety assessment of food additives, such as flavoring agents, GRAS ingredients (“generally recognized as safe” by the Food and Drug Administration) and super sweeteners. He then moved to the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Office of New Drugs as a pharmacology/toxicology reviewer assessing the safety and efficacy of new medical drugs.

He recently accepted a position as toxicologist with the CDER Office of Pharmaceutical Science, Informatics and Computational Safety Analysis Staff (ICSAS). ICSAS is an applied regulatory research unit that performs predictive toxicity screening of drugs for human adverse health effects and critical endpoints in the safety evaluation and regulatory approval of drugs such as carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and reproductive toxicity—endpoints that cannot be tested in humans.

Valerio develops the predictions in silico using advanced computer software and complex quantitative structure-activity relationship modeling of drugs.

Valerio has served as an expert for the United Nations World Health Organization/Food and Agriculture Organization Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives. He has served as an FDA expert toxicology witness in federal government criminal cases involving unapproved food additives and drugs supporting the agency’s enforcement efforts to protect the public’s health.

He was awarded a lifetime visiting professor appointment at a private medical university in Lima, Peru, has authored more than 50 publications and has served on the editorial board of Toxicological Reviews. He is associate editor of Toxicology, Mechanisms and Methods and was chosen to appear on a national multicast television broadcast for the Department of Health and Human Services as a role model encouraging Hispanics to work in U.S. government positions.

His professional interests include xenobiotic metabolism and predictive modeling of the carcinogenicity, hepatotoxicity and reproductive toxicity of drugs. In his free time, Valerio enjoys traveling with his family, learning about other languages and cultures and outdoor activities such as fresh water fishing. Valerio, who grew up in Rye, Colo., lives with his wife, Carmen, and their two children in Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C.

This headache is a winner

P1 students are pictured with the poster that won them a pizza lunch and praise. The class poster competition focused on producing educational material that might be posted in a community pharmacy setting. Standing from left are Natasha Popowczak, Travis Huckabee, Experiential Programs Director Christopher Turner, PhD, Tyler Walthall, Julius Agwe, Lauren Kuhlman, Tisha Bowen, Petya Hooper, (front row) Myo Aung and Jonathan Caughran. Not pictured is Petra Lechner.

Advances in Pharmacy Practice: 2008 CD available for purchase!

If you were unable to attend the Advances in Pharmacy Practice educational symposium on February 23, you can still hear the program and receive continuing education credit as a home study program.

Topics include: legislative and practice trend update, cardiovascular updates — acute and chronic (2 programs), treatment of insomnia, infectious disease update, and new drug highlights.

The CD will provide a maximum of 6 contact hours of ACPE-accredited CE credit. The lectures will be provided as audio files with all educational materials that were distributed at the program. The CD will sell for $65 plus $2.85 shipping and handling.

For further information, please visit the CE section of our website: www.uchsc.edu/sop/conted/3.UpcomingPrograms.html

Or call 303-315-5228 (option 3).

ALUMNI NOTES

Gathering evidence for the public good

Gathering evidence for the public good

By Kenni Bruner

Pharmacy in 1998. While at SOP, he said. “I want to give back to the school that had such an impact on my career, specifically ulcerative colitis, autoimmune hepatitis and Crohn’s disease.

This fall, Valerio will share his knowledge with School of Pharmacy students as an adjunct professor for special projects in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. “I like where I work now and want to stay there, but I also want to stay connected with the school,” he said. “I want to give back to the school that had such an impact on my career, so this arrangement is perfect.”

Valerio received his doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences from the School of Pharmacy in 1998. While at SOP, he received two predoctoral fellowships to work with Dennis Petersen, PhD, professor of pharmacogenetics and pharmacology, and John Thompson, PhD, professor of medicinal chemistry. In 2000, he completed his postdoctoral research as a gastroenterology fellow with the School of Medicine. He earned a postdoctoral research fellowship from the National Science Foundation to work in Barcelona, Spain, where he focused on the enzymology and role of oxidative and reductive enzymes in metabolism.

Upon returning to the United States, Valerio wanted to change from basic research and try applied science. He had developed an interest in consumer product safety and took a position as senior scientist in product safety at Mary Kay Inc., a skin care and cosmetics company based in Dallas, Texas.

After three years of safety testing dermatological products in a business-driven environment, Valerio was ready to return to a more science-based atmosphere, which led him to the FDA.

“I wanted to get closer to the science that goes directly to the public,” he said. “I wanted to work at the FDA because it’s a place where science and policy come together. There, I could use scientific rationale with regulatory laws to approve or permit products that consumers are exposed to. I felt that was closer to the real world.”

In 2005, he joined the FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in College Park, Md., as a toxicology reviewer for the premarket safety assessment of food additives, such as flavoring agents, GRAS ingredients (“generally recognized as safe” by the Food and Drug Administration) and super sweeteners. He then moved to the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Office of New Drugs as a pharmacology/toxicology reviewer assessing the safety and efficacy of new medical drugs.

He recently accepted a position as toxicologist with the CDER Office of Pharmaceutical Science, Informatics and Computational Safety Analysis Staff (ICSAS). ICSAS is an applied regulatory research unit that performs predictive toxicity screening of drugs for human adverse health effects and critical endpoints in the safety evaluation and regulatory approval of drugs such as carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and reproductive toxicity—endpoints that cannot be tested in humans.

Valerio develops the predictions in silico using advanced computer software and complex quantitative structure-activity relationship modeling of drugs.

Valerio has served as an expert for the United Nations World Health Organization/Food and Agriculture Organization Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives. He has served as an FDA expert toxicology witness in federal government criminal cases involving unapproved food additives and drugs supporting the agency’s enforcement efforts to protect the public’s health.

He was awarded a lifetime visiting professor appointment at a private medical university in Lima, Peru, has authored more than 50 publications and has served on the editorial board of Toxicological Reviews. He is associate editor of Toxicology, Mechanisms and Methods and was chosen to appear on a national multicast television broadcast for the Department of Health and Human Services as a role model encouraging Hispanics to work in U.S. government positions.

His professional interests include xenobiotic metabolism and predictive modeling of the carcinogenicity, hepatotoxicity and reproductive toxicity of drugs. In his free time, Valerio enjoys traveling with his family, learning about other languages and cultures and outdoor activities such as fresh water fishing. Valerio, who grew up in Rye, Colo., lives with his wife, Carmen, and their two children in Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C.
By Kenna Bruner

When Eugene McMahan wanted to honor the memory of his daughter, a 1976 graduate of the School of Pharmacy, he knew that by establishing the Teresa McMahan Shulkin Scholarship with the CU Foundation to benefit the School of Pharmacy, his daughter’s generous spirit would live on. She died in 1993 from complications of lupus, an autoimmune disease that causes the body’s immune system to attack healthy cells and tissues.

Shulkin was quick to extend a helping hand to friends, colleagues and patients, making a marked difference in numerous lives. Despite her difficult 13-year battle with lupus, Shulkin remained optimistic and caring, McMahan said.

“She was always thinking of others,” said McMahan, a retired geophysicist with Shell Oil Company. “Even in her final days in the hospital, she was more concerned about the comfort of her family than herself.”

The scholarship in his daughter’s memory provides full tuition for a fourth-year pharmacy student to help realize his/her academic goals. Last year’s scholarship recipient was Kathleen Simons. She plans to pursue a residency and to work as an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist.

“To receive an award of such magnitude has changed my life dramatically,” said Simons. “Receiving the scholarship made me want to become a better person. To live up to this honor, I have been volunteering at health fairs and mentoring high school students to give back to the community. The generosity of Mr. McMahan has inspired me to give back now and in the future. Scholarships (like this one) give students the opportunity to focus on their studies and community service and are much appreciated by those who receive them.”

Brittany Hanselin, current recipient of the scholarship, stated, “This scholarship means more to me and my family than we can express, and I am so grateful for his kindness, generosity and devotion to furthering education.”

Shulkin’s grandfather, Floy McMahan, was a pharmacist and owned a drug store at the intersection of Third and Elati in Denver. It was the kind of establishment where vanilla cokes and chocolate milkshakes were dispensed along with prescription medication and health care advice.

A few months after graduation, Shulkin married Randy Shulkin, a classmate who also graduated in 1976. In 1979, they were expecting their first child when Shulkin became ill and was eventually diagnosed with lupus. Since she couldn’t be treated for the disease while pregnant because of the health risk to the baby, and doctors didn’t want her to wait to start treatment, the next best alternative was to deliver the baby prematurely.

Born weighing 2 pounds, 3 ounces, McMahan’s tiny grandchild, Erin, grew and thrived and is now married and has a child of her own.

“At the heart of giving — Honoring a daughter’s life with a scholarship for fourth-year students

Alumna recognized for her pioneering service in the Navy

Ret. Captain Katherine “Kay” Keating, B.S ’48, of Beulah, Colo., was inducted into the 2008 Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame on March 11, in honor of her significant contributions helping elevate the status of women veterans.

Keating, who grew up in Pueblo, Colo., was attending the School of Pharmacy when World War II began. She enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and was among the first women inducted into the WAVES, the women’s branch of the Navy at the time. Because she could type, Keating was trained to be a radio operator and served in Hawaii listening to radio signals and typing code translations.

“There was a war on. It was my duty to serve,” she said.

After the war, she returned to pharmacy school, graduating in 1948. When she was offered the chance to join the reserves, Keating transferred to the Navy’s Medical Service Corps to become the Navy’s first woman pharmacist and was assigned to head up the Navy’s pharmacist technicians’ school. She served during three wars, becoming the first woman to rise from the rank of seaman to captain.

One of her assignments in the Navy was being assigned to a hospital ship off Korea transporting wounded soldiers to U.S. military hospitals in Japan. Assigned to the USS Haven, Keating became one of the first women officers to relieve a man at sea. In 1963, when the USS Haven was chosen to host a prisoner of war exchange, United Nations officials chose Keating to be an official witness.

In 1964, her ship carried wounded French paratroopers home from Vietnam after the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu. During the Vietnam War, she worked in U.S. Naval hospitals in Japan, helping treat the wounded American soldiers.

After serving 30 years in the Navy, Keating retired in 1972, returning to her Colorado home in Beulah.

In the 1990s, she answered the call to duty again when a group of women veterans began working to establish the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Nontraditional PharmD program alumna

Stacy LaClaire, senior clinical content specialist for Thomson Reuters and School of Pharmacy graduate, is an accomplished pharmacist in Colorado and a PharmD alumna to be proud of. Not only does she contribute to the daily success of her colleagues across the nation through her position at Thomson Healthcare, she’s helping future pharmacists and alumni through her efforts in the nontraditional PharmD online program through the School of Pharmacy.

LaClaire earned her bachelor of pharmacy degree from the Albany College of Pharmacy in New York where she went on to work as a hospital staff pharmacist. A move to Colorado allowed her the opportunity to work at Boulder Community Hospital and Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center. During that time she was accepted into the nontraditional postbaccalaureate doctor of pharmacy program, where she was awarded the Clinical Practice Achievement award at graduation. This award is given by the faculty to a graduating PharmD student who best exemplifies the attributes of an ideal clinical pharmacy practitioner.

She remained at the school to pursue an oncology pharmacy residency program. Following the completion of the residency, LaClaire accepted a position at the University of Colorado Hospital as a clinical oncology pharmacist.

A few years later, she made a career move to Micromedex (Thomson Healthcare) as a senior clinical content specialist. This unique opportunity provided her with a professional environment, challenging work and a chance to help other clinicians through the various Thomson products.

LaClaire maintains a strong relationship with the School of Pharmacy as adjunct faculty for the nontraditional PharmD program and corresponds with alumni at various continuing education programs.

For more information about a clinical pharmacy career with Thomson Reuters, visit their website at www.thomsoncareers.com.