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Student Spotlight
Six years ago, Lauren Johnson was at a low point. Barely making above minimum wage, divorced, and raising two young children on her own, Lauren wondered what her future would hold. “I realized that this was not how I wanted to live. I really didn’t want my kids to watch me struggle and say to themselves - ‘that’s how life is,’” recalls Lauren. Today, Lauren is a P2 student, juggling studies, motherhood and work. Recently interviewed by CBS4 regarding her life changes, Lauren is a role model for her sons and well on her way to achieving her goal of becoming a pharmacist. Look for Lauren on CBS4 in March. To read more about Lauren, click here.

Tech Transfer Office Honors John Carpenter
During its annual awards, CU's technology transfer office recently honored John Carpenter, together with Theodore Randolph, as Distinguished Interdepartmental Inventors for their collaborative research in stabilizing vaccines during freeze-drying and storage. Because of the lack of medical storage facilities in Third-World countries, the research is of particular significance for developing nations.

Alumni Corner - Where are they now?
Having given birth to her first child - Alek - in December, 2008 graduate Tara Vlasimsky has had a very productive few months post-graduation! Currently, Tara is enjoying a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital, which is allowing her to expand her clinical knowledge while working with other healthcare professionals in the hospital setting. "Now that I'm in the field, I absolutely love it!" Next year, Tara anticipates applying for a PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency. Should you wish to connect with Tara, e-mail her at taravlasimsky@yahoo.com.

New Additions
Daniel V. LaBarbera, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, earned his BS in biochemistry and PhD in organic chemistry from Arizona State University. Before coming to the School of Pharmacy he was a NIH/NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow, Marine Natural Products and Multidisciplinary Cancer Research at the University of Utah and the Huntsman Cancer Institute. LaBarbera's research is focusing on the discovery and development of anti-cancer agents for the treatment of metastatic disease.

Research Night
Approximately 50 students and 15 faculty members attended the first-ever Research Networking Night. The event, organized and sponsored by Rho Chi, provided a chance to network and learn about research opportunities at the SOP. Due to overwhelming interest, plans are underway to hold a similar event next year.

Construction Zone
They've moved in the big guns and are getting down to business! With the help of bulldozers, oversize drills, cranes and backhoes, excavation for the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is progressing. No longer just a desolate patch of land between the parking garage and the library, our soon-to-be new home is beginning to look like a "real" construction zone.