Class of 2011 is welcomed to pharmacy profession

The class of 2011 was officially welcomed to the profession during the White Coat Ceremony held Aug. 27 in Denison Auditorium. The annual ceremony is a meaningful tradition in which the school welcomes first-year students as colleagues dedicated to patient care. During this special event, students are presented with a white coat, the symbol of clinical service and care. After donning their white coats, the students signed the pledge of professionalism and then recited the pledge together.

After the ceremony, students, faculty and family celebrated the start of a new academic year at a barbecue held on the west lawn.

The incoming class of 146 students was selected from 1,874 applicants. There are 101 residents and 45 non-residents; 85 females and 61 males. The average age is 26 and the age range is 20 to 54.

Diversity numbers:
- 64 percent white
- 9 percent African American
- 13 percent Asian/Pacific Islander
- 9 percent Hispanic
- 1 percent Native American
- 1 percent Native Hawaiian
- 2 percent foreign national

Getting started in a new location

Nov. 6 marked a momentous occasion — P1 students’ first day of classes in the new Education 2 building on the Anschutz Medical Campus, kicked off by a welcome from School of Pharmacy Dean Ralph Altiere. Pharmacy students have the distinction of being the first students to attend classes in the new building. Layout of the campus groups buildings into zones devoted to education, research and clinical care.

P1 pioneers orient themselves on the Anschutz Campus

They may not have traveled to the Anschutz Medical Campus by covered wagon, but 146 first-year pharmacy students are pioneers nonetheless. They navigated construction obstruction and cone zones to tour the campus and new buildings during orientation on Oct. 17.
Alumni John and Barbara Shell transform lives through innovation and generosity

By Kenna Bruner

Academics and industry are two different worlds and they didn’t understand each other. I saw the need to bridge that gap and create communication between the two worlds, because only good things can occur when the two start cooperating.

John Shell, BS ’53, PhD ’54

Not only are John and Barbara Shell enthusiastic alumni of the School of Pharmacy, they also are devoted donors to the school.

John, BS ’53, PhD ’54, and his wife, Barbara, BS ’51, established the Shell Prize for Excellence in Research and Graduate Education. This prestigious prize is awarded annually to a pharmacy school faculty member.

The Shells also spearheaded a successful endowment campaign for pharmaceutical research and graduate education named in honor of former School of Pharmacy Dean Harold Heim, who had encouraged and inspired John when he was in school.

The couple lives in Hillsborough, Calif., just south of San Francisco, which Money magazine named in 2007 as one of the best places in the country to live.

John was awarded a University of Colorado Medal at commencement ceremonies in 2003. As a senior scientist in several major pharmaceutical firms, an executive leader in the biopharmaceutical industry and an acclaimed researcher and developer of drug products and drug delivery devices, John, through his scientific discoveries and their applications, has improved and extended the lives of countless patients.

John is currently retired — again. He has worked for, and retired from, Johnson & Johnson, Alza Corp., and Depomed Inc., an oral drug delivery system company he founded in 1995. It didn’t take long after retiring from Alza Corp., for him to get restless. When a friend offered him lab space where he could putter around with polymers, John jumped at the opportunity. He finally had the time and the space to work out a way of using polymers to protect the stomach lining from irritating drugs.

In the process he made another pharmaceutical discovery with the same substance. The type of polymer he was experimenting with not only protected the stomach, but the substance also expanded when it came in contact with stomach acids. The result was timed-release medications that allow for extended, controlled release into the upper gastrointestinal tract.

“I just thought up the concept and when the patents were allowed I knew I should commercialize the new technology,” said John.

Suddenly out of retirement again, John founded Depomed Inc., to prove the safety and efficacy of the product. In 2000, he retired as chairman and chief executive officer of Depomed but keeps a hand in the company’s activities by attending board meetings.

John chose pharmacy as a career because of his interest in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and the drug delivery process. He also has been interested in overcoming what he sees as a wide gap between the pharmaceutical industry and academic pharmacy. While an adjunct professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy, John realized he was the only faculty member with industrial experience.

“Academics and industry are two different worlds, and they didn’t understand each other,” he said. “I saw the need to bridge that gap and create communication between the two worlds because only good things can occur when the two start cooperating.”

When he’s not making bio-pharmaceutical discoveries, John spends his free time painting landscapes and writing.

After graduating in 1951, Barbara worked in hospital and retail pharmacies during a time when not many women were pharmacists.

Barbara is active in her church and with PEO International, a philanthropic organization that promotes educational opportunities for women. She also likes to garden and read. Regarding their philanthropy, John and Barbara agree that they enjoy giving something back to the school that gave them an outstanding pharmacy education.

“We both feel like we’ve gotten so much from the school,” said Barbara. “It’s about being grateful for our education and career opportunities.”
School of Pharmacy News

Winter 2008

Professional Opportunities Fair

Students had an opportunity to see the variety of pharmacy career possibilities available to them during Professional Opportunities Day on Sept. 28. During this annual event, students who were in attendance to learn about employment opportunities and develop their networking skills talked with more than 31 career professionals. The school is grateful to the following employers who participated:

- Asereth
- Albertsons
- College Pharmacy
- Colorado Pharmacist Recovery Network
- Contact Pharmacist, Inc.
- Cook Children’s Med. Ctr.
- Covirien (formerly TYCO Healthcare)
- CVS Pharmacy
- Delta County Memorial Hospital
- Denver Health
- Good Day Pharmacy/RX Plus Pharmacies
- Kaiser Permanente
- King Soopers
- Knmart
- Longs Drugs
- MSN/Pharmstaff
- Northern Navajo Medical Center
- Rite Aid
- Rutgers University Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship
- RX Plus Pharmacies/Good Day Pharmacy
- Safeway
- Senior Med
- Target
- Thompson Healthcare (Micromedex)
- US Army Medical Recruiting
- US Navy
- Valley-Wide Health Systems
- Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Eastern Colorado Health Care System
- Walgreens
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- WellDyneRx

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- Walgreens
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- WellDyneRx

Two Wal-Mart scholars attend AACP meeting

For the second year, two SOP students were selected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) to receive Wal-Mart scholarships, which enabled them to attend the AACP annual meeting held July 14-18 in Orlando, Fla. Darcie Ryant and Jen Jorgenson were able to attend the AACP Teachers Seminar and the annual meeting, giving them some perspective on a career in academia. They also attended a variety of academic sessions.

“I found the meeting very eye-opening in regard to the opportunities in pharmacy education,” said Ryant. “I really enjoyed the entire meeting and honestly have to say the highlight for me was having so many people from our school attend. The SOP was well represented at the meeting. It really made the meeting that much better to attend some of the sessions with my classmates and discuss new ideas afterwards.”

CSSHP Clinical Skills Competition

Winners of the Colorado Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSSHP) 2007-2008 Clinical Skills Competition are:

- First Place: Jessica Morris and Tara Vlasimsky
- Second Place: Janessa Pedroza and Kassandra Bankovich
- Third Place: Gretchen Kunze and Melanie Bates

Four additional teams competed this year.

The other enthusiastic participants were:

- Brittany and Michele Hanselin
- Ashley Hall and Allison Garnhart
- Ashley Garcia and Stacey Schomberg
- Sara Stahl and Jamie Billotti
- Loretta Thorkeelson competed although her teammate withdrew.

CSSHP members and faculty who made the competition possible were Jody Adams, Jessica Bannon, Dan Corona, Shawna Vigil Kaciri and Angie Luetters as well as Drs. Laura Hansen, Robert Fuge and Joseph Saseen.

Walgreens gives $10,000 to school

School of Pharmacy Dean Ralph Altiere (center) accepts a $10,000 contribution from Walgreens in recognition of the school’s efforts in fostering the educational development of future pharmacy leaders. Walgreens representatives presenting the check were (left) Jason Gruzyński and Randy Knutsen.
New faculty members

After recently completing his specialty residency at the University of Colorado Denver, Joe Vande Griend, PharmD, joined the School of Pharmacy as assistant professor. Vande Griend graduated from the University of Iowa School of Pharmacy in 2005. He then completed a residency at the University of Colorado Hospital, working primarily in the inpatient setting. After completing his first residency, Vande Griend stayed on as the Family Medicine Specialty Resident at the SOP with Joe Saseen, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy.

He now teaches, primarily, the third-year pharmacy students coordinating their professional skills development class and filling in for other lecturers in the school. Vande Griend says he has enjoyed his experience so far. “It’s exciting to be here. I think it’s an exceptional university and an exceptional School of Pharmacy. I’m still learning what the students’ level of knowledge is and how I can best give them the information that they need to know. But since I was a student only a couple of years ago, it’s easier for me to identify with them.”

Vande Griend chose a career in pharmacy because of the extensive flexibility and changes that are taking place within the profession. Pharmacy runs in Vande Griend’s family. There are four pharmacists in his extended family, two of whom have owned pharmacies in Iowa. “I find it interesting because there is such variety in a life in pharmacy and that makes it challenging and rewarding. A career in academia provides significant intellectual freedom and different opportunities that I wouldn’t necessarily have with any other position. It also allows me to investigate areas of pharmacy that interest me, and I find that fascinating,” he said.

While new to the field of pharmacy, Krishna Mallela, PhD, comes to the school with experience in pharmaceutical related areas. He spent the past seven years as a biophysicist at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied protein folding, and is continuing his research here while applying it to the pharmaceutical field.

Proteins are essential components of every living cell. The process of protein folding must be successful for proteins to function properly. Misfolded proteins cause a number of diseases and afflictions, including cancer. They also can prevent pharmaceutical drugs from working. Mallela’s research relates to understanding the physical principles of proteins that can prevent them from misfolding. By developing a better understanding of protein folding principles, researchers can work to prevent the problems from occurring, which potentially can lead to cures for diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

In his spare time, Mallela spends time with his wife, who is a director at the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center, and his daughter, who started kindergarten this year.

John Carpenter received AAPS Research Achievement Award in Biotechnology

The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) presented the AAPS Research Achievement Award in Biotechnology to John Carpenter, PhD, of the School of Pharmacy. The award was presented on Nov. 11, during the opening session of the association’s 2007 Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, Calif.

Carpenter is recognized for his groundbreaking contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences, specifically his research on the mechanisms of protein stabilization during freeze-drying. His research into protein stabilization has helped researchers gain understanding of critical stability issues for therapeutic proteins, resulting in the development of approaches to improve the safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical drugs.

“I am honored to receive this award from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists,” said Carpenter, professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the UC Denver School of Pharmacy and codirector of the University of Colorado Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology. “The research recognized by this award is the result of collaborations with scores of outstanding graduate students, postdoctoral research associates and senior colleagues from academia and industry.”

AAPS is a professional, scientific society of more than 13,000 members employed in academia, industry, government and other research institutes worldwide. Founded in 1986, AAPS provides a dynamic international forum for the exchange of knowledge among scientists to enhance their contributions to health. AAPS offers timely scientific programs, ongoing education, information resources and opportunities for networking and professional development.
There’s a limited amount of money, but an infinite amount of material in the world. Most of these books will never be put on a database... You have to physically go to some of these places to find books. I worry that after I go, there won’t be anybody around who will explore the frontiers for books.

Henry Strauss, BS ’51

1975 — a year of achievement and turmoil. The city of Saigon surrendered, ending the Vietnam War. Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft lift off; 35 nations sign the Helsinki Accords; and pharmacy alumnus Henry Strauss makes the first of many trips to China where he discovers a treasure trove of medical therapies almost unheard of in the West.

Strauss, BS ’51, became fascinated by Chinese practices such as acupuncture, moxibustion and the use of natural tinctures, and realized there was an entrepreneurial opportunity to introduce herbal medicines in the United States. He became the exclusive distributor of Bijen Pian cold tablets, but was too far ahead of his time for the U.S. market. Pharmaceutical distributors weren’t interested in something as radical as Chinese herbal medicines 35 years ago, so Strauss ended up abandoning the effort.

But his interest in oriental therapies did not wane. He continued traveling to China, and during the mid-1980s, he was instrumental in cultivating a sister state relationship between Colorado and the Hunan Province. As he continued to explore the country, it was the passion Strauss developed for rare and obscure books on Chinese traditional medicine that would become his journey’s most lasting legacy. He began collecting the tomes and bringing them back home.

“I was hooked. There was nothing about Chinese medicine in any of the libraries at the time and it came to me that this was a missing element in the practice of medicine in this country,” he said.

Rather than keep his treasured books to himself, Strauss made them available to the medical community and the public. He recognized their value in promoting health and fighting disease.

In 1987, Strauss made his first donation of 20 books to Denison Library. Strauss and his second wife, Joan, enlarged and endowed the collection in memory of his first wife. Today the Florence G. Strauss Complementary and Indigenous Medicine Collection, located in the new Health Sciences Library on the Anschutz Medical Campus, includes more than 1,100 books, four journal subscriptions, and several databases on complementary health practices and alternative therapies from around the world.

Strauss credits Lilian Hoffecker, reference and education librarian for the Health Sciences Library, with taking his ragtag bunch of books and developing them into a cohesive and remarkable collection.

Distinct from and occasionally at odds with conventional Western medicine, the resources in this special collection provide an opportunity to learn about herbal treatments, alternative medicine, Ayurvedic medicine and folk remedies from around the world.

Titles include Esoteric Anatomy, Vibrational Medicine, Bach Flower Therapy, Folk Medicine of Southern Appalachia, Zulu Medicinal Plants, and The Way of Qi gong.

The collection boasts one of the rare few Chinese pharmacoeas in the U.S. And its copy of Tibetan Medical Thangka of the Four Medical Tantras is one of only two or three library copies in this country.

More than 330 of the books are on Chinese medicine, which barely scratches the surface of the subject. In China, more than 3,200 herbs, 300 minerals and numerous animal extracts are used in over 400 formulas to restore balance of energy, body and spirit for health.

The Strauss collection is open to faculty, staff and students. Library patrons outside of the university system may obtain a library card or they can check out the books through interlibrary loan in the metro area.

Books for the collection are chosen by a selection committee comprised of health care practitioners, researchers and educators from the Health Sciences Center and the community.

The impetus for increasing the collection is the fascination and potential usefulness of the topic — no matter how humble or obscure. Strauss constantly trolls through online book venues looking for possibilities. It’s a sure bet he’ll have at least a couple of books tucked into his luggage when he returns from trips to an exotic locale. He recently returned from Vietnam juggling 50 pounds of books through customs.

“Who has raised the profession’s awareness of the political process and worked to achieve legislative objectives that will improve the health of pharmacists to provide care to patients.

Former president of the Texas Pharmacy Association, Fix was selected in recognition of her activities on behalf of the pharmacy profession including her initiation of legislation in Texas for prompt payment by all third party providers. The legislation called for prompt payments within 21 days of a clean claim of submission. The bill, which was passed and signed into law in May 2003, has benefited pharmacists, patients and pharmacies across the state of Texas.

Fix has testified numerous times in front of legislative committees on unfair third party Medicaid audits, mail order parity, PBM regulation and transparency. During her presidency at the Texas Pharmacy Association, Fix was instrumental in leading the opposition to prescription drug importation, emphasizing its dangers while urging patients to seek advice from their local pharmacists before considering importing their drugs.

Fix received her bachelor’s degree in pharmacy in 1985 from Drake University and she earned her master’s degree in business administration from Drake in 1986. Fix is president of Jen-Rx, Inc. and owner of the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Haltom City, Texas.

Correction: The photo in the summer issue accompanying the announcement of Shari Bohn receiving the school’s annual Leadership Award for the outstanding president of the Colorado Pharmacists Society was that of Reanna Nerpel.
Beginning in 2001, the program graduate.” of this program: it permits them to tem Pharmacists. “That’s the beauty Accreditation Services Division of we believe all schools should deliver. who have long called for more inten tor does not run the program. If our students were withdrawn, the major- ory of the programs would disappear because they would not have the nec- essary manpower to operate.”

As described in a recent paper in the American Journal of Pharma- ceutical Education (2007;71(3):46) and in a podium presentation by Turner at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), the Colorado program offers a strategy for delivering advanced pharmacy practice experience that is drawingplaints from pharmacy educators and others who have long called for more intensive clinical training.

With a class size of 130 students, that experience offerings.”

If you’re expecting students to perform at a certain level in their fourth year, you have to be sure they spent the three years preparing for that…Traditionally, students have been sent out to practice sites to learn from a practitioner, to stand by the shoulder and see how it’s done. The expectation in our program is that they’ll be functioning at the level of the licensed practitioner, understanding that the preceptor is nearby.

Although Colorado’s emphasis on experiential learning may seem cutting edge today, it’s really a case of going back to the future.

“Years ago, pharmacy training was done purely as an apprenticeship,” said Turner. “You were under the hands of a licensed practicing pharmacist and learned on the job.” But by the 1960s, when he attended pharmacy school in England, “I got my degree without ever setting foot in a pharmacy. It was all classroom-based. So the pendu- lum has swung from extreme to extreme, and now it’s hov- ering in the mid-dle, trying to find a balance between knowl-edge and prac-tical skills.”

Boye called the Colorado program a win-win for all in-volved. “It’s a very useful demon-stration of developing part-nerships where everyone gains,” he said. “The students have real-life experiences to develop abilities and enhance their understanding of career options. The pharmacies get to provide new services and gain access to potential residents or employees. And the school of pharmacy is able to ex-pand its advanced pharmacy practice experience offerings.”

Despite the trepidation some stu-dents might feel upon dealing directly with patients in a one-on-one setting, “They generally thrive in these programs,” Turner said. “They appreciate the responsibility being given to them. While it’s potentially outside their comfort zone, they recognize that as being good for their learning.”

“We were told, ‘You have to be good enough for pharmacy.’
School of Pharmacy News

SOP Toxicology Program hosts 25th annual meeting

The 25th annual meeting of the Mountain West Society of Toxicology held Sept. 6-7 in Breckenridge was organized by Vasillis Vasiliou, PhD, director of the SOP Toxicology Program.

The theme of the meeting was Metabolomics and Animal Models in Toxicology. Keynote speakers were Jeffrey Idle, PhD, a professor at the University of Bern, Switzerland; Robert Murphy, PhD, a joint professor at the SOP; Daniel Gustafson, PhD, an associate professor at the Colorado State University; and Greg Thomas, PhD, with Lilly Research Laboratory.

The three students from the school’s Toxicology Program were recognized for their work.

Michael Holt received first place for his oral presentation titled Investigation of the Potential Anti-Inflammatory Role of Infiltrating Macrophages in Acetaminophen Induced Liver Injury. Holt and his colleagues are investigating how acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, affects the liver after drug-induced liver injury. After dosing mice with acetaminophen, they discovered a population of macrophages that infiltrate the liver, and they are now investigating the potential role of these cells in repairing or regenerating the liver.

The award for Holt’s presentation on his research project “The Role of Hepatic Macrophages in Drug-Induced Liver Injury,” which is advised by Cynthia Ju, PhD, assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy, included a $100 monetary gift.

Also receiving awards from the SOP:

• Benjamin Stewart, third place for his oral presentation: 4Hydroxynonenal and 4-Oxononenal may contribute to hepatotoxicity by disrupting cellular microtubules

• Renee Good, second place for her poster presentation: Methamphetamine exposure: is it the intensity or the age that matters?

The Society of Toxicology is an international organization of scientists from academic institutions, government and industry. It works to improve human, animal and environmental health through a better understanding of the mechanisms of toxicity of the environment.
Preceptors acknowledged for their work with students

By Jenni Prosser

The real-world application of skills learned in the classroom is a crucial part of any degree. After three years of studying the field with increasing levels of practical experience, pharmacy students are immersed in the practice during their fourth year with the help of their preceptors. These experienced pharmacists help the students integrate their classroom knowledge into actual practice by exposing them to the practice and allowing them to participate in the pharmacy experience. The students are assigned to a variety of pharmaceutical settings and, with the help of their preceptors, hone the skills to handle a range of environments and experiences.

This year, Josi Snyder, PharmD, Tisha Silva, PharmD, and Grant Bray, PharmD, were recognized for their role in educating future pharmacists, when they were selected by the students as Preceptors of the Year.

Within a year after completing her degree at the School of Pharmacy, Josi Snyder, PharmD, ’02, was precepting pharmacy students in their rotations at Legacy Health in Portland, Ore., where she was completing a residency. She returned to Colorado to work as a clinical pharmacist for Littleton Hospital. Now she precepts students during their rotations at St. Anthony Central Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit in Denver.

Snyder received the 2007 Roche Preceptor of the Year award for her work with the School of Pharmacy. She says she is honored to receive the award, “I enjoy interacting with the students and it is gratifying to know that there is a mutual benefit. It makes all the difference when the student is invested in the experience and believes in the benefit of a different perspective. At the same time, students push me to continuously strive to learn.” During their time at St. Anthony’s, students are responsible for making interventions on a small number of patients during rounds. The primary goal of their rotation is to build the confidence of the students as part of a multidisciplinary team and to use classroom material in a real-world environment. Snyder also uses the rotations to determine what further learning the students may need to prepare as pharmacists.

In addition to their work with patients, the students submit projects that include presenting patient cases and disease state reviews, giving presentations to hospital personnel in other disciplines and evaluating articles.

Snyder tries to immerse the students in real pharmacy work, which she believes is an important part of their rotation. “Application of the skills the students have been taught is more valuable to them than simply observing my work day,” Tisha Silva, PharmD, ’00, has worked as a preceptor since 2002. She received the preceptor of the year award for ambulatory services, recognizing her work at the Stout Street Clinic.

The clinic is provided through the clinic’s becoming a registered pharmacy clinic is provided through the School of Pharmacy, she worked at a pharmacy specializing in HIV care. When that clinic closed, she went to work for Kaiser Permanente in an outpatient pharmacy. She then transferred to their travel clinic before moving to the Stout Street Clinic, where she has been for three and a half years. As the pharmacy supervisor, Silva was instrumental in the clinic’s becoming a registered prescription drug outlet in 2005.

Grant Bray, PharmD, the recipient of this year’s Outstanding Institutional Preceptor award, says he is grateful for the recognition but does not feel he is solely responsible.

“The award reflects more on the hospital and the quality of the education that is provided here at Denver Health than on me as a preceptor,” said Bray. Bray is the pharmacy clinical coordinator at Denver Health Medical Center and supervises the residents who have rotations at the center. He meets with students a few times a week between their sessions with other pharmacy preceptors, medical students and other hospital staff.

Bray says it is these people that make Denver Health an excellent site for rotations. “Denver Health is a nice place to have an educational experience for pharmaceutical work. If the students come in with a positive attitude and a general interest in learning, they will make it a good rotation for themselves.”

Students participate either in an institutional or hospital rotation. For the institutional rotation, Bray exposes students to areas that are unfamiliar to them. Examples of satellite locations where the students may work include medical intensive care unit, internal medicine, hematology and pediatrics.

During the hospital rotation, students assume the care of patients after being assigned to a medical team. They learn the workings of a health care team while learning to care for an actual patient.

Bray says that the system has benefited both the students and the people working at the hospital, “I routinely get positive feedback from the teams that pharmacy students work with. The pharmacists who work with the students also find it stimulating because the students are always bringing in new ideas and challenges that keep the preceptors sharp.”
Student National Pharmaceutical Association wins big in Vegas

By Lindsy Moore

The School of Pharmacy chapter of Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) was started in 2003 and since that time has grown tremendously. With the support of dedicated members, the organization has made a significant impact in underserved communities throughout Colorado. The efforts of the school’s SNPhA chapter have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by the numerous awards presented to the chapter at the 2007 SNPhA National Convention in Las Vegas, July 20-23.

Record numbers of SOP students attended the convention and Colorado’s large presence was recognized with the award for most registrants from a large chapter. Two of the school’s SNPhA members, Gretchen Kunze and Melanie Bates, won the clinical skills competition. During the competition, teams were given patient cases to prepare and then had a limited amount of time to counsel a mock patient. Gretchen and Melanie competed against 13 teams from all over the country and were announced the winners at the SNPhA National awards banquet.

Other awards and honors presented to the chapter included an appreciation plaque for hosting the Regions 2, 4, and 5 meeting in March, a participation certificate for Operation Immunization with APhA, the Best Scrapbook Award and recognition for each of six posters presented by SOP students. UC Denver SNPhA also was the recipient of the United States Public Health Service’s Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. This award is presented to a select group of pharmacy student organizations who succeed in promoting public health causes.

Throughout the convention, students had the opportunity to attend continuing education seminars, poster presentations, the awards banquet, corporate exhibit fair, and business meetings. Students also enjoyed networking with SNPhA members from all over the country at several social events.

Olivia Rapacchietta, a fourth year pharmacy student, was induct ed as the SNPhA national president. She appointed Thu Tran and Stephanie Cho to her cabinet of national officers. Tran will serve as the membership benefits chair and Cho as chair of the Power to End Stroke Initiative. Olivia promises to bring more diversity to SNPhA at the national level and is honored to lead such an inspired group of individuals.

Connie Valdez, PharmD, was honored with two awards that recognize her commitment to underserved communities. The James N. Tyson Award “recognizes outstanding performance and achievements of an individual for contributions made to the National Pharmaceutical Association as well as to the profession of pharmacy.” She also received acknowledgement for her contributions to the 2007 Regional Meeting held in Denver. As one of three SNPhA advisors at the school, she has been key to the motivation, inspiration and success of the chapter. After receiving so many honors, the SNPhA chapter looks forward to an exciting 2007-08 year filled with many activities focused on serving underserved communities. They will strive to reach even further and are looking forward to what the 2008 SNPhA National Convention holds in store.

SNPhA AIDS Walk

More than 25 SNPhA members gathered early on Sept. 9 to participate in the 20th Annual 5K AIDS Walk at Cheesman Park in Denver. The majority of the students walked, but a few brave souls, including Connie Valdez, PharmD, participated in the 5K run.

The SOP chapter raised nearly $675, acquiring donations from students and a generous donation of $325 made on behalf of Colin and Elizabeth Weekes of Greenwood Village. Thanks to everyone who participated, including Ryan Lowe and Jennifer Hamner, adjoint faculty members from Kaiser and The Children’s Hospital.

Nationally, SNPhA has an initiative project that concentrates on HIV awareness, education and prevention for communities at risk.

SNPhA/PDC Third Annual Field Day

To start the year with a bang, SNPhA partnered with Phi Delta Chi and held its third annual field day recruiting event at Lindalyn Park on Sept. 6. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, filled with great BBQ and fun. Nearly 100 students participated in various games from volleyball to kickball, but the real challenge came down in a vicious game of dodgeball. In order to retain their imaging rights as dodgeball champions, the P3 class methodically obliterated the P1s and P2s. Don’t underestimate the P2’s though; they played a strong game as well, defeating the P1s. It was all in fun, and all look forward to seeing who can become the new champions next year. Thanks to everyone who came out, including P4s and faculty members Dr. Valdez, Namdar and Reiter (adjoint).

Feasting for a cause

Students, faculty and staff enjoy a global feast at SNPhA’s annual Multicultural Food Festival held Oct. 10 in celebration of Pharmacy Month. Donations benefit Denver Indian Health and Family Services and help cover immunization costs.
Alumni Briefs

Mark Montoya, 1985, has a new address in Colorado. You can contact him at 1501 N. Bowen Drive, Pueblo West, CO 81007 or montm@msn.com.

David Pfannstiel, 1985, and Lauri (Engellhart), 1992, were married and now live in Dayton, WY. They can be reached at PO Box 577, Dayton, WY, 82836 or LaurilDave@msn.com.

Stacy (Lake) Dannels, 1991, is now at home in Texas. You can reach her at tkstacy@hotmail.com or 1408 Hampton Rd, Grapevine, Texas, 76051.

Doug 1995 and Susie 1997 Miller announced the birth of their third child, John Douglas, on Aug. 14, 2007. He shares his birthday with big sister Michaela (five yrs) and also is welcomed by big sister ally (even yrs). The family lives in Vero Beach, Fla. Doug and Susie own Miller's Health Mart Pharmacy and can be reached at healthmartvb@yahoo.com.

Karen Cameron Boyle, 1996, had her third child – Elena Brooke Boyle – on Oct. 5, 2007. Big brothers John (five years) and Daniel (three years) welcomed their sister and will help Karen celebrate!

Sister and will help Karen celebrate.

got lost. She and Alex still live in Longmont where she is a staff and immunizing pharmacist for Waldgreens. She can be reached at kym@rxpost.net.

Antoinette (Heble) Hill, PharmD 2003, and her husband Adam announce the birth of their first child, Evan Charles Hill. Evan was born Sept. 27, 2007, in Gilbert, Ariz. Antoinette can be contacted at antoinette@pharmacyatvalleymarkets.com or 133 E. Canyon Creek Dr., Gilbert, AZ, 85295.

In Memoriam

Doris Kite Warren, 1946, passed away Aug. 12, 2007, in Aurora, Colo. Doris was the only daughter of Elmer Kite and Reva Warren. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse and had attended the University of Colorado School of Nursing. She was married to her high school sweetheart, Ralph, an Air Force veteran, in July 1946. They lived in several places, including El Paso, Texas, and San Diego, Calif., before settling in Denver where they were married and raised their daughter, Diane.

Doris was a natural leader and enjoyed teaching, playing the piano, and cooking. She was known for her warm and loving personality.

Doris was a graduate of Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, and the University of Colorado School of Nursing. She worked for several years as a nurse in Denver before starting her own business, Doris Kite Warren Home Health Care.

She was a devoted wife and mother, and always put the needs of her family first. She will be deeply missed by her daughter, Diane, and her granddaughter, Kathleen.

Kym (Smolak) McColl, BS 2001/PharmD 2002, let us know she was married in May 2006, but the notice

2007 Distinguished Coloradan Award recipients honored

During convocation activities on May 4, Elizabeth Pace, MSM, RN, CEAP, and Donna Lindsey, RN, CARN, CEAP, with Peer Assistance Service, Inc., and Terrie Smith, PharmD, with Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., were acknowledged for their influential roles in the health of Colorado communities. Elizabeth Pace is chief executive officer for Peer Assistance Service, Inc. She received her master’s degree in management with a specialization in substance abuse services and employee assistance programs at Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass. She received her associate degree in nursing from Lasell Junior College in Boston, Mass., and her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Metropolitan State College in Denver.

Donna Lindsey, alternative programs director, received her nursing diploma from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Evansville, Ind. She is certified as an employee assistance professional, psychiatric/mental health nurse, addictions registered nurse, prevention generalist and addictions counselor in Colorado. She is registered as a professional nurse in Colorado.

Peer Assistance Services was founded in 1983 when a group of nurses met to discuss the problems faced by their colleagues with drug or alcohol challenges. These challenges included limited treatment options, public licensure sanction and lack of professional and peer support.

In 1984, a partnership with the Colorado Pharmacist Association led to the establishment of the Colorado Pharmacist Recovery Network, a voluntary recovery support program with provisions for intervention, monitoring and peer assistance. The program serves an alternative to the traditional disciplinary process for pharmacists experiencing impaired practice and alleviates the fear of probation, suspension or revocation of license.

In addition to working with pharmacists in crisis, the network is dedicated to educating health professionals about substance abuse and addiction, providing information about recognizing behavior in individuals who abuse substances and providing guidance for intervention. Network staff members make annual presentations at the School of Pharmacy to maintain student and practitioner awareness.

Pace and Lindsey are unceasingly dedicated to this cause. They are credited with saving lives and facilitating dramatic positive life transitions.

Torrie Smith is director of pharmacy at Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., a network of rural-based, ambulatory care clinics in Colorado’s San Luis Valley. Its primary mission is to provide quality health care to medically underserved patients who contend with a variety of challenges including poverty, geographic isolation and lack of accessibility to basic services.

Smith was the first practitioner in Colorado to enter into an academic-practice partnership with the school to develop a pharmacist-operated disease state management program in a community health center pharmacy. In 2001, she partnered with the school on grant initiatives with Caring for Colorado Foundation to implement and foster a pharmacist-operated anticoagulation clinic and has begun working with the school to implement a diabetes management program.

The anticoagulation program, which serves about 100 patients each month, was cited as a best practice model when the joint commission accreditation team visited Valley-Wide in 2003. With Smith’s participation and encouragement, Valley-Wide has served as an advanced pharmacy practice experiential training site for 74 of the school’s PharmD students since 2001.

In 1950, he graduated in a community health center pharmacy. In 2001, she partnered with the school on grant initiatives with Caring for Colorado Foundation to implement and foster a pharmacist-operated anticoagulation clinic and has begun working with the school to implement a diabetes management program.
My first three years (of 22) in Alaska

By David W. Heimke, ’63

David Heimke, BS ’63, is a staff pharmacist at Walgreens in Pueblo, Colo. He is in his 45th year as a pharmacist; 12 of those years were in a hospital pharmacy and 33 have been in retail chain drugstores. He has been married for 40 years and has two daughters and five grandchildren.

How did I get to Alaska?

I had been a Greeley, Colo., lad since preschool and then attended the School of Pharmacy. The full-time student designation, 2-S, kept me from the draft, and in June 1963, I was offered a commission in the U.S. Public Health Service. My first assignment was a hospital pharmacy residency at the Marine Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. This gave me an appreciation for institutional pharmacy. Within two years I was asked to take an assignment in the Indian Health Division. Being single and perhaps looking for a less urban setting, Bethel, Alaska, seemed a good location.

First impressions of Alaska

I landed in Anchorage in July 1965. It was more than one year past the Great Alaska Earthquake (March 1964), and the devastation was still quite widespread. Anchorage had never been the same and its infrastructure would see vast differences. There was no direct flight to Bethel, so I connected through Dillingham. I remembered inquiring of a state trooper after landing why the ground crew was waving handkerchiefs in front of their faces. His answer: “To ward off swarms of mosquitoes emanating from the tundra.” The last leg of my trip landed in Bethel. First impression: Where are the trees? I knew from reading that it was a vast treeless area that it was a vast treeless tundra, dotted with small ponds and lakes.

What we didn’t cover

The surrounding villages were up or down the Kuskokwim River (the second largest river in Alaska at 550 river miles long) or its tributaries. Travel was by single engine plane, dog team, snowmobile, and river boat. I acquired a snowmobile and an 18-foot river boat soon after arrival. These were key to a variety of outdoor activities. They provided access to learning about village life, hunting/fishing and adventure trips to the mountains 35 miles distant. The Moravian church was a blessing and I was involved in some church plays and taught a teen bible study. I also assisted when possible with projects for a Moravian orphanage near Kwethluk, 20 miles from Bethel.

Professional life

I was the only pharmacist and my duties included outpatient dispensing, sending medicines from standard lists to village health aides, and of course, hospital pharmacy. Pharmacy service to inpatients meant stocking nursing stations and of course, hospital pharmacy. Pharmacy service to inpatients meant stocking nursing stations and of course, hospital pharmacy. Pharmacy service to inpatients meant stocking nursing stations and of course, hospital pharmacy. Pharmacy service to inpatients meant stocking nursing stations and of course, hospital pharmacy. Pharmacy service to inpatients meant stocking nursing stations and of course, hospital pharmacy.

Prevalent diseases

Tuberculosis was pretty well eradicated by the late 1950s, although respiratory diseases were still common due to the harsh climate. Low sanitation standards contributed to an array of problems. Impetigo, for instance, ran high in certain villages. Bacitracin ointment was the solution, but some households still used gentian violet. It wasn’t unusual to see dried purple dots on children’s faces in the villages. The most severe issue regarding sanitation was an outbreak of intestinal e.coli, which caused some mortality that summer. The oral antibiotic, Colistin Sulfate, seemed to arrest the infection if caught early. We were, however, caught in a supply/demand dilemma with this antibiotic and getting to the villages where it was needed. Lastly, as mentioned, T.B. was in control due mainly to prevention with oral Isoniazid (INS). INS was dispensed copiously and Rx bottles of it were in a lot of native household medicine cabinets. Some suicidal deaths occurred from overdosing INS, as a result of its prevalence.

Personal life

The surrounding villages were up or down the Kuskokwim River (the second largest river in Alaska at 550 river miles long) or its tributaries. Travel was by single engine plane, dog team, snowmobile, and river boat. I acquired a snowmobile and an 18-foot river boat soon after arrival. These were key to a variety of outdoor activities. They provided access to learning about village life, hunting/fishing and adventure trips to the mountains 35 miles distant. The Moravian church was a blessing and I was involved in some church plays and taught a teen bible study. I also assisted when possible with projects for a Moravian orphanage near Kwethluk, 20 miles from Bethel.

Well Remembered

Those three years in the bush of Alaska will be well remembered. It was rugged living, had weather extremes and was full of adventures. I met and married Donna, who was employed by Arctic Health Research, and we spent our first year of marriage in Bethel. Those three years laid a great foundation for who I became in later life.
School of Pharmacy

Winter 2008

Building the Future of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Future Home of:
University of Colorado Denver

School Launches Capital Campaign for New Building

And much more...

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The School of Pharmacy, a national leader in pharmacy education, research, clinical care and community service, has launched a capital campaign to raise $20 million for a new pharmacy building in addition to the $42 million already committed to the project. A $10 million lead gift from The ALSAM Foundation (a Skaggs family foundation) enabled the project to get under way and will lead to construction of the new research and education building to be located on the University of Colorado Denver’s Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colo. The ALSAM Foundation gift is the largest ever to the School of Pharmacy. In honor of the Skaggs family, the school will be renamed the “Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.” Construction is scheduled to begin October 2008 and occupancy is slated for July 2010. “The prospect of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences begins an exciting new era for pharmacy education, research and patient care in Colorado,” said SOP 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.” The new pharmacy building will house cutting-edge research laboratories; conference and seminar rooms; offices for faculty, staff and administrative personnel; and support spaces for student services, postgraduate professional education and experiential programs as well as providing enhanced opportunities for innovative and collaborative research between disciplines. The building’s location adjacent to the bioscience park also will enable close collaboration in drug development with emerging biotech companies. In phased moves between September 2007 and September 2008, the SOP will move from its current location at Ninth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard into temporary academic administrative and research spaces on the Anschutz Medical Campus until the building that will house the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is completed. As ambitious plans take shape for new facilities and opportunities for the School of Pharmacy, the success of the capital campaign is imperative. For more information on the campaign and on how you can become involved, contact Kenna Bruner at kenna.bruner@uchsc.edu.