Calendar

April
8 Honors Day
11 Research Day
19 Advisory Council meeting
20 Advisory Council meeting
28 TSHP meeting begins

May
5 Last class day
19 Pharmacy convocation
20 University commencement
29 Memorial Day Holiday

June
1 Classes begin for summer

July
4 Independence day holiday

Campus closed

Pharmacy Council President Chris Medlin administers a flu shot to UT President Greg Fenvez.

College Quick Reference

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Dear UT Pharmacy Longhorn alumni and friends,

As we head into spring in Central Texas, it is time to reflect on the ongoing outstanding contributions of our college’s students and faculty. Be it winning the national championship for the NCPA 13th Annual Good Neighbor Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition, Dr. Jim McGinity being named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, or our faculty and student leadership in Operation Naloxone, the UT College of Pharmacy is truly a very special place. The October 26 UT Tower lighting to honor our NCPA team was the first time (at least in my memory) that the Tower has been lit in honor of the College of Pharmacy.

Many of you were taught by Dr. McGinity and are aware of the major contributions that he has made to product formulation design and drug development. In 2015, he was named as UT’s Inventor of the Year, and it is fitting that in fall 2016 he was named as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Please join me in congratulating him.

As a college of pharmacy at a leading state university, we have a responsibility to improve health – for the UT campus and for society at large. The leadership shown by faculty members Drs. Lucas Hill and Nile Barnes and student pharmacist leaders Andrea Laguado and JP Sanchez in developing and implementing Operation Naloxone is to be commended. They have led training of more than 100 UT faculty, staff, and students in the appropriate use of naloxone rescue, and they are continuing to expand their efforts. Through the campus’ Forty Acres Pharmacy, we also think that we may have implemented Texas’ first standing order for pharmacist provision of naloxone. Hats off to these outstanding students and faculty.

Michael Lester’s success as an entrepreneur is just one example of the many successes of UT College of Pharmacy alumni. Mike has graciously decided to give back to the college so that we can produce future generations of entrepreneurs in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, and healthcare at large. We are extremely excited about the Lester Entrepreneurial Scholars Program. We have completed the first year of piloting the program, and we are busily planning for the future.

These are only examples of the many accomplishments and activities discussed in this issue of the Longhorn Pharmacy Focus. We hope that you will read them all, and that you will take pride from being affiliated with the UT College of Pharmacy.

We are not perfect, and we never will be. However, we come to work each and every day with the goal of improving and ultimately achieving our vision “to be the leading college of pharmacy for innovative interdisciplinary education, research, and service, revolutionizing patient care and health outcomes in Texas and the world.”

Hook em’ Horns!

M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D.
Orange tower honors student NCPA victory

A team of UT pharmacy students took first place at a national competition designed to showcase business plans for independent pharmacies. The university community celebrated the win by lighting the tower orange in the team’s honor on October 26.

The 13th Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition included teams representing 46 schools and colleges of pharmacy across the United States. Each team was invited to submit a written business plan for either buying an existing independent pharmacy or establishing a new one. Earlier competition narrowed the number of competing teams to three. The final presentations were made October 15 before a panel of judges and an audience of attendees at the annual meeting of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) in New Orleans, La. Results were announced Sunday, October 16 at the NCPA Opening General Session.

The first-place UT student team includes Brittany Corbell, Taylor Dean, Jennifer Ma, Heather Rozea, and Jigar Satasia. The team was supported by faculty advisor Dr. Nathan Pope, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, and Dean M. Lynn Crisman.

“The success of our student team at the recent NCPA pharmacy business plan competition is the most recent example of the excellence that exemplifies our student pharmacists,” said Dean Crisman. “The team did an outstanding job of examining the factors necessary to put together a successful business plan for an independent pharmacy, and they presented that plan with polish and professionalism.”

Dr. Nathan Pope, who has been advisor to the college’s NCPA student chapter since 2012, said, “I am proud of each member of the NCPA chapter every day, and I am especially proud today. The five members of the competition team put in countless hours of work on the written plan and additional preparation time leading up to the live competition. They created innovative and sustainable pharmacy services to make their business incredibly successful, and the judges agreed.”

The Longhorn students’ plan was for the fictional Piney Woods Apothecary in Nacogdoches, Texas. The presentation included specifics such as the com-

Continued on page 5.
New college brand

New look aligns college brand with university

The College of Pharmacy has a brand new look. Effective with the start of the fall semester, the college adopted a new brand initiative. The new look is in line with the visual guidelines of The University of Texas at Austin.

The new brand, centered around the words TEXAS Pharmacy, reflects the state-wide scope of our program with portions of our campus family in all areas of the state.

It also firmly aligns the college to its academic home - The University of Texas at Austin.

The university website addresses the brand in stating, “Our global brand is most effective when we project a single, clear, consistent image that positions the university as the leading public research university in the nation.”

The brand will be helpful in correctly aligning the college as a sister academic unit with nursing, social work and medicine as we move toward greater collaborations through interprofessional education.

Secondary versions of the brand include two more formal versions pictured below.

The former stylized mortar and pestle will remain as a secondary, spirit mark for the college in that it is a symbol of the profession.

Tower lights for NCPA team

Continued from page 4.

pany’s vision and mission statements, description of new products and services, a marketing plan, a financial plan, and location analysis, as well as broader demographic studies of the region.

The UT chapter received a cash award of $3,000 for their victory while an additional $3,000 will be contributed to the college in the dean’s name to promote independent community pharmacy. The team members will also receive complimentary registration, travel, and lodging to NCPA’s 2017 Multiple Locations Conference to continue fostering their entrepreneurial spirit and education.

“We commend all the participating teams, but ultimately one team stood out above the rest and was declared the winner – The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy,” said Bradley J. Arthur, president of NCPA. “With approximately half of small businesses failing within their first five years, these teams of pharmacy students received invaluable experience that increases their chances of being successful pharmacy owners. If these well-thought-out business plans are any indication of the future of independent community pharmacies, then the future is in good hands.”

There are approximately 23,000 independent pharmacies in the United States.
Fall saw not only new faces in the student body, but in the faculty as well. Five new faculty members joined the college including three in Austin’s Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division and two in San Antonio’s Pharmacotherapy Division.

Lydia Chen - Pharmacotherapy

Lydia Chen, Pharm.D., BCPS, begins her service with the college as a clinical assistant professor of pharmacotherapy. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of California San Francisco in 2013 before completing a PGY1 residency in pharmacy practice and a PGY2 residency in pharmacy in cardiology at the University of California Davis Medical Center (UCDMC).

After residency, she continued to work as a clinical pharmacist at UCDMC covering a variety of services including cardiac surgery, cardiology, renal transplant, and internal medicine.

Her clinical research includes inpatient glucose control, treatment of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, and use of recombinant factor VII in heart surgery.

Molly Curren - Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice

Molly Curran, Pharm.D., is a clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice and is a clinical pharmacy specialist in adult medicine at The University Medical Center Brackenridge. She received her Pharm.D. with honors from UT Austin in 2014. She also completed two years of clinical pharmacy residency training at University Health System in San Antonio specializing in critical care.

Her research interests include cardiology, infectious disease, quality improvement projects, and interprofessional education models.

She is a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Austin Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Society of Critical Care Medicine, Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society, and Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society.
Tyler Gums - Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice

Tyler Gums, Pharm.D., M.S., is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice and health outcomes. He received his Pharm.D. from the University of Florida in 2012. He completed an ambulatory care residency at Auburn University (2013) and a family medicine fellowship at the University at Iowa (2016). Gums received his M.S. in translational biomecine from the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Iowa.

He has been an investigator on three NHLBI-funded studies that have evaluated physician-pharmacist collaborative models (PPCM). His long term goal is to build an NIH-funded center of research with a focus on optimizing PPCM models in primary care to effectively manage patients who suffer from chronic cardiovascular diseases.

Grace Lee - Pharmacotherapy

Grace C. Lee, Pharm. D., Ph.D., BCPS, is an assistant professor of pharmacotherapy. She received her doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of the Pacific College of Pharmacy, California in 2006. Lee completed her PGY1 residency at Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center in California. Following her residency, she worked as an infectious diseases pharmacist and a clinical coordinator at Kaiser Permanente Antioch Medical Center, CA. In 2011, she joined the graduate program at UT Austin where she earned her Ph.D. in translational sciences.

Lee’s research focuses on studying the molecular epidemiology and pathogenesis of S. aureus infections. Her long term goal is to develop new diagnostic tools and preventative therapeutics that can improve the care for people with S. aureus infections.

Leticia Moczygemba - Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice

Leticia Moczygemba, Pharm.D., Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division. Her research program focuses on working with communities and health-systems to mitigate health disparities by developing patient-centered interventions to optimize medication-related health outcomes.

She has worked to advance health care of homeless individuals, older adults, and those living in rural areas. Her research has been funded by the NIH, CMS Innovation Center, HRSA, United States Pharmacopeia and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation. Moczygemba was a Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Blick Scholar and a NIH KL2 Scholar. She was a 2008 United States Pharmacopeia and American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Fellow. In 2008, she received The University of Texas College of Pharmacy Distinguished Young Alumnus Award.

She received her Pharm.D. and Ph.D. from UT in 2004 and 2008, and was a faculty member at the VCU School of Pharmacy from 2008-2016.
Operation Naloxone

Student driven initiative seeks to save lives

Operation Naloxone is a local program devoted to combatting the opioid overdose epidemic in Texas.

Launched in the fall of 2016 by faculty and students from the UT College of Pharmacy, Operation Naloxone has garnered local media attention for its innovative community training sessions.

Andrea Laguado and JP Sanchez, presidents of the Student Pharmacist Recovery Network (SPRN) and Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP), respectively, developed the community training program in collaboration with Dr. Lucas Hill, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice. In addition to reducing opioid overdoses, they hoped to provide pharmacy students with an opportunity to become spokespersons for public health and harm reduction.

SPRN and SCCP targeted the UT student population, starting with those at the College of Pharmacy. The organizations worked with faculty leaders to train 90 pharmacy students about opioid harm reduction and naloxone. The students were then given the opportunity to lead community training events to teach UT students and other individuals about the opioid problem and the naloxone solution. In the fall, SCCP and SPRN held eight Operation Naloxone training sessions at various co-ops and residential on-campus dorms, training over one hundred individuals to respond to opioid overdoses and administer naloxone.

These community training sessions are unique in that they are student led. Third-year pharmacy students plan events, schedule preceptors, and present to the audience in a large group lecture format. Then, students of all years lead small group discussions and answer questions posed by their smaller audience. The preceptor circulates to verify information and answer questions out of the scope of the students’ knowledge.

With the support of faculty experts including Lucas and Dr. Nile Barnes, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice; Dr. Lori Holleran Steiker from the School of Social Work, and Mark Kinzly from the Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative, Operation Naloxone continues to expand. This fall, the team successfully collaborated with UT administration to get naloxone rescue kits stocked in residence halls and provided overdose training to UT Austin Police officers in how to administer Naloxone.

Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States.
response training to residential assistants. They also secured a donation of naloxone to supply every UTPD officer with a dose and recently completed their overdose training series.

To date, Operation Naloxone has accepted donations of naloxone from the Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative, Adapt Pharma, and Kaleo Pharmaceuticals totaling $295,200.

Operation Naloxone hopes to reach out further and expand to include social work, nursing, and medical students at outreach events in Spring 2017. Other future initiatives include working with the university’s Greek community and reading out to community organizations. Faculty leaders will be developing continuing education programs for health professional at OperationNaloxone.org.

SIDEBAR

The Opioid Epidemic

In the United States,
- 259 million prescriptions are written annually for opioids
- 47,000 people die from drug poisonings each year, and the majority of these are opioid-related.
- Prescription pain killers are implicated in nearly twice as many deaths as heroin
- 75% of individuals with opioid use disorder in the 2000s say that their first regular opioid was a prescription drug

Opioid addiction drives the epidemic with almost 29,000 deaths per year

Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily stop the effects of opioid overdose, creating a window during which a person can receive emergency care. The product is also known by its brand name, Narcan.

Texas Law

In March 2015, Texas SB1462 was enacted to combat opioid overdoses. This legislation increases access to naloxone and removes barriers to its use. A key provision is the allowance for pharmacists to enter into standing orders with physicians and dispense naloxone at their discretion. The Texas Pharmacy Association has a standing order available online that can be obtained by completing a one-hour continuing education program developed by UT pharmacy professors Drs. Lucas Hill and Nile Barnes. Many retail pharmacy chains have their own standing orders including CVS, Walgreen, and HEB, although naloxone availability is dependent on the individual store. The Forty Acres Pharmacy on campus has a standing order and stocks naloxone for those near campus.
Editor’s Note: This article first appeared as a blog written by Ike Evans for the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Benita Bamgbade, a pharmacy doctoral student, is a 2016 recipient of the Frances Fowler Wallace Award for Dissertation Research from the Hogg Foundation.


Bamgbade described her research and what questions she hopes to answer from her work.

“There is a disparity in the prevalence of African Americans who receive treatment for mental health conditions. The most recent estimates show that 70 percent of African American adults living with mental illness receive no treatment compared to 53 percent of white adults. Moreover, lack of help-seeking among young African American adults is higher with 81 percent receiving no treatment compared to 66 percent of young white adults,” she writes.

“Studies have explored this disparity by trying to understand and describe the factors that impact help-seeking,” she continues, adding, “Through this research, we have learned that unique cultural variables, such as self-reliance and cultural mistrust, may impact help seeking in ways that are different from other populations.”

“Presently there are interventions that have successfully improved mental health help-seeking such as Mental Health First Aid, which is recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as an evidenced-based program. Yet, there is no evidence that these interventions are successful in African American populations. Furthermore, these evidenced-based interventions do not incorporate cultural variables into their programs,” she said.

“The goal of this project is to fill this gap. We would like to know if a culturally tailored evidence-based intervention is more successful at improving help seeking among African Americans when compared to the original untailored intervention.”

Bamgbade is of Nigerian descent and was born and raised in Houston. She earned her Pharm.D. degree from UT Austin in 2011. Her graduate study work is under the direction of Dr. Jamie Barner with input from Dr. Carolyn Brown and Dr. Kentya Ford, all from the college’s Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice.

Frances Fowler Wallace, the award’s namesake, was married to John Forsythe Wallace, who served as a member of the Texas House of Representatives and the State Board of Control. She died in 1972 at age 80. As a directive of her will, the Wallace Award provides partial support for doctoral students’ dissertation research on “the cause, treatment, cure, and prevention of mental disease, mental illness, and mental disorders.” The award provides up to $1,500 for research-related expenses.

For more information about Dr. Bamgbade’s work, go to https://hogg.utexas.edu/mental-health-african-americans
Project Collaborate

Student initiative making a difference in communities throughout Texas

Project Collaborate is a student-led initiative to provide quality health screenings and health education services to underserved communities in Austin, San Antonio, the Rio Grande Valley, and El Paso.

“Project Collaborate health screenings provide opportunities for student pharmacists to enhance their patient interaction and clinical skills as well as advance the profession of pharmacy,” said Professor Sharon Rush, who serves as the faculty advisor for the initiative.

Since 2012, Project Collaborate has screened 7,179 patients, performed 30,028 assessments, and referred 1,950 patients.

Screenings include height, weight, waist circumference, blood pressure, body fat percentage, blood glucose, total cholesterol, hemoglobin A1c for selected patients, diabetic foot screenings, and vision/hearing tests. Pharmacist preceptors and student pharmacists interact with patients through the health screenings, by discussing the patients’ health concerns, and by providing education regarding important health topics.

Student pharmacists are trained every academic semester by the faculty advisor and the program’s student leadership team. Students must demonstrate their skills in proficiently screening patients’ blood pressure, blood glucose level, cholesterol level, waist circumference, and body fat percentage.

Since 2012, Project Collaborate has participated in the Promiseland Health Screening. Approximately 50 to 100 patients participated in the fall 2016 screening. In addition, Project Collaborate partnered with Know Your Medicine, another UT student initiative, to provide medication review services for the patients.

This year, the event was held during National Pharmacy month in October. With 25 student pharmacists and a pharmacy preceptor, a total of 52 patients were screened. Patient assessment of the event indicate that 96% found the event “very helpful” while 79% said that they “learned a lot”.

“Some things I already knew, but it was good to get updates in between my regular doctor visits,” one patient commented. Another patient encouraged us by saying, “My overall experience was very positive. This was a good free service, please continue to do this.”

From the students’ perspectives, Project Collaborate events are more than just gaining clinical experience. Through interactions with patients, students recognize that their long nights studying are worth the effort when they see how appreciative people are. Many students participants in Project Collaborate events find health screenings informative as they relate to their application of pharmacy-related material. Students enjoy “learning how to talk to patients and sharing health information”. Events are rewarding experiences that demonstrate how their work can impact a person.

“I enjoyed gaining experience interacting with patients because I felt that it gives me more security in my ability,” said one student. “I enjoyed getting to know the patients because I felt that it allowed me to get a better idea of some of the demographics of people I may be working with someday.”

For more information about Project Collaborate, go to http://sites.utexas.edu/pc-kym/
I arrived in Lisbon, Portugal in May 2015 for the first rotation of my P4 year – a Pharmobility rotation – knowing little about Portuguese history, politics, or cuisine. I would spend two months learning how pharmacy is conducted in another country and culture: one month observing hospital pharmacy, and one month observing the retail environment.

Experiencing Portuguese pharmacy practice and healthcare is inextricable from Portuguese politics. In order to remain a part of the Eurozone, Portugal was pressured in 2011 to adopt a variety of “austerity measures” to address debt with other European countries. When these measures went into effect, hospital budgets and government employee salaries plummeted. Current pharmacy school graduates expect to make less money per year than some pharmacy technicians made pre-2011, assuming they can find jobs. At the same time, local hospitals banded together into meta-institutions and divide up the services to be able to function within their new monetary limits.

While I learned about the institutional struggles, I gained fascinating insights into hospital care through the experiences of my Portuguese roommate who had recently undergone an emergency appendectomy. He explained that he had initially visited the hospital with flank pain and paid a standard 30 euro (~32 dollar) fee to see a physician. Once a diagnosis of appendicitis was made, all necessary surgery and associated care was covered under the 30 euro fee. I was impressed by the reassurance that Portuguese citizens felt in receiving care without the stress and uncertainty of encountering the insurance industry or of courting massive financial debt.

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In the midst of a profound recession, Portuguese life marched on. Accustomed to being let down by their public officials, citizens focus on simpler things in life: a beautiful sunny climate, frequent shots of espresso with pastries, fresh local wine and seafood, historical architecture, and an endless series of traditional festivals and celebrations.

A year and a half later, my wife, Esme, and I talk often about the time we spent in Portugal and remain in contact with a number of friends and colleagues there. If the economic outlook there was not so dire, we might consider relocating to Lisbon. I would whole-heartedly recommend that any student with any interest in travel and global affairs consider submitting an application. For the learning, for the perspective on pharmacy practice and alternative health systems, for the friendships, and overall for the adventure, it is an incomparable pharmacy experience that one is unlikely to ever come across again.

Mark Myers, PharmD works as a PGY-1 resident for the VA Black Hills Health Care System in Ft Meade, SD.
Focus

Student news briefs

Top 10 in ASHP clinical skills competition
Pharm.D. students Brittny Medenwald and Sarah Rumbellow were named among the top ten best teams in the clinical skills competition sponsored by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The competition, conducted at ASHP’s mid-year meeting, included 131 teams competing against other student teams from colleges of pharmacy across the country. Teams were given two hours to work up a complex patient case and develop a detailed pharmacotherapeutic patient care plan.

IPE team presents education programs
In Fall 2016, the college partnered with Dell Medical School, the School of Nursing, and the School of Social Work to launch an interprofessional class consisting of students in all four disciplines. Our entire P-1 class participated as did the entering class of the medical school. The students were placed in teams of approximately 8 students representing each discipline who, along with a faculty mentor from one of the disciplines, sat together through all class sessions. As a term project, each team developed a video promoting a health awareness initiative. A faculty team selected the video finalists which were shown at the last class meeting. Students then used smartphones to cast their ballot for the winning video. Pictured are members of team 11 who produced a winning video based on a program on adolescent sexuality.

Lagado named research finalist
Pharm.D. student Andrea Laguado has been named a finalist in a competition sponsored by the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP). Laguado was named a CPNP research award finalist in the category of research trainee. She will present her project, “Operation Naloxone: Overdose Prevention Service Learning for Student Pharmacists” at the group’s April meeting. In recognition of her work, she was awarded a travel stipend from the college’s Endowment for Excellence in Psychiatric Pharmacy and Clinical Neuroscience. Her faculty mentors include Drs. Nile Barnes and Lucas Hill.

Wise named ASP regional delegate
Pharm.D. student Caitlin Wise has been elected as a regional delegate for the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists. As a regional officer, she will be responsible for promoting policy and advocacy activities in the region. She was elected at APhA-ASP’s midyear regional meeting in December.

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Dean Lynn Crismon and students in the Rio Grande Valley during a fall visit.
McGinity honored among inventors
National organization names him to fellow status

Dr. James W. McGinity has been named as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).

He was one of three faculty members at the university to be inducted as a NAI fellow. Joining him in the honor are Sidigata V. Sreenivasan and John Goodenough, both from the Cockerel School of Engineering.

The 2016 fellows will be inducted in April as part of the Conference of the National Academy of Inventors at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in Boston. McGinity holds the Johnson & Johnson Centennial Chair Emeritus in Pharmacy. He is focused on materials science, pharmaceutical processing and controlled and targeted drug delivery systems.

He is best known for his work in developing technology that deters the abuse of orally delivered opioid medications. The popular and highly effective pain reliever Oxycontin was pulled from the market due to abuse and was reintroduced into the market around 2010 with a newly formulated abuse-deterrent composition based on a patent by McGinity and Dr. Feng Zhang. This abuse-deterrent technology is endorsed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

McGinity has been issued 27 patents by the U.S. Patent Office and has another patent pending. In addition, he has multiple foreign patents.

McGinity was honored in 2015 with the UT Austin Inventor of the Year Award.

“I am so appreciative to my good friend and colleague Dr. Nicholas Peppas, professor of engineering, who kindly nominated me to be a candidate for this prestigious award,” McGinity said.

Election to NAI Fellow status is a high professional distinction accorded to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society.

Lam teaching honors
San Antonio faculty member named to two prestigious teaching groups

Dr. Francis Lam, clinical associate professor of pharmacotherapy, has been cited for two prestigious teaching awards.

Lam was inducted in mid-February into the University of Texas System’s Kenneth I Shine, M.D. Academy of Health Science Education. The presentation was made at the Shine Academy’s 2017 Innovations Conference in Austin.

Established in 2005, the Shine Academy honors outstanding contributions and expertise as a premier leader in health science education. Specific categories of excellence considered are direct teaching, curriculum development, counseling and mentorship, educational administration and leadership, and educational scholarship and research.

Lam is one of four new members welcomed into the Academy of Master Teachers at UT Health San Antonio in December. The academy, run by the UT Health San Antonio faculty, promotes and sustains excellence in health science education by building value and recognition in educational leadership and the scholarship of teaching. Membership in the academy is granted to recipients of the Presidential Teaching Excellence Award. The academy now has more than 100 members.
Professor of the Semester

Pope draws university-wide honor

Dr. Nathan Pope, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, has been named to receive the Professor of the Semester Award by The University of Texas at Austin’s Senate of College Councils.

Pope, who also leads the college’s HEB/UT Community Pharmacy Residency Program, was officially recognized and received the award from the Senate’s Faculty Affairs Committee in December at the Council’s General Assembly. He also serves as faculty advisor for the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA).

Pope’s teaching and research interests focus on business development and sustainability of community pharmacy-based services including medication therapy management services, non-sterile compounding services, proper medication disposal, geriatric pharmacy, immunizations, complementary and alternative medications, and pharmacy quality measures.

Under Pope’s leadership, a UT NCPA team took top honors, besting teams from throughout the country, to win the national business plan competition in October.

“I am absolutely honored and humbled to be named Professor of the Semester,” said Pope. “I can’t think of anything else I would rather be doing than mentoring and educating students at The University of Texas at Austin. I never expect to be given an award or recognized for something that I love to do; however, it is wholeheartedly appreciated.”

Sarah Nguyen, a second year student pharmacist who is a member of NCPA nominated Pope for the honor.

“T I wholeheartedly believe that Dr. Nathan Pope deserves the award of professor of the semester,” she wrote. “He has his feet in just about everything, whether it be in serving the College of

Pharmacy as a wonderful professor, leading our student NCPA chapter to victory at national competitions, or simply being an encouraging mentor to me as I set out to implement various public health projects.”

“I send him idea after idea for feedback, but he has never once discouraged me, even when my ideas have fallen short of expectations,” she said, adding, “I still do not know the secret to his success, but I will always be grateful that despite all of his other obligations, he makes time to guide students like me.”

The Professor of the Semester Award is designed to honor outstanding UT faculty through college council nominations. Once a semester, instructors are chosen by the Faculty Affairs Committee. The committee looks to honor someone who demonstrates outstanding teaching ability and a commitment to students and the university.

Instructors are chosen based on the quality of student responses in the nomination form. Careful consideration is given to the character and professionalism of the nominee as well as in-class interactions between student and instructor.

TPA Bowl of Hygeia to Pope

Dr. Nathan Pope is recipient of the 2016 Bowl of Hygeia Award, one of the highest awards presented by Texas Pharmacy Association.

The award recognizes a pharmacist who continually demonstrates professional excellence and makes significant public service contributions to their communities. It was presented during TPA’s annual meeting in Austin.
Dr. Jamie Barner, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, has been named to lead the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice (HOPP) at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. The appointment was effective in September.

“Jamie is a distinguished academician, an excellent teacher, outstanding mentor and distinguished researcher and scholar,” said Dean Lynn Crismon in making the announcement. “I am confident that she will continue the legacy of excellent leadership that has been established by her predecessors.

Dr. Barner follows Dr. Ken Lawson, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, who served as head of the division for the past five years. Lawson requested to step down from the administrative position to focus his energies on his research and teaching.

The division has grown in stature and recognition under his (Lawson’s) guidance,” Crismon said. “I want to thank him for his exceptional service.”

Dr. Jim Karboski, clinical professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, will continue to serve as assistant division head for HOPP.

Dr. Barner earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in pharmacy administration at Purdue University after earning a B.S. in Pharmacy in 1991 from UT Austin. She is a registered pharmacist in Texas.

She joined the college in June 1998 as an assistant professor shortly after completing her Ph.D., rising through the academic ranks from assistant to associate professor before being named a full professor in September 2011.

Her research interests include examining the impact of pharmacy services (primarily medication therapy management) on patient outcomes; understanding factors that affect health care utilization and outcomes; and examining factors associated with medication adherence.

Dr. Bill Williams, professor of molecular pharmaceutics and drug delivery (formerly the Division of Pharmaceutics), and his graduate student Siyuan Huang are co-authors of a paper recently cited by the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences for being among the “most original and most significant scientific findings.”

The paper “Solubility Advantage (and Disadvantage) of Pharmaceutical Amorphous Solid Dispersions” outlines research conducted in the Williams lab that increases solubility and bioavailability of poorly water soluble drugs. The work is critical, says Williams, in allowing researchers to enhance the effectiveness of the drug in the body.

“Amorphous solid dispersions (ASD) are used to increase the solubility and bioavailability of poorly water soluble drugs,” he said, adding that the team developed a thermodynamic model to calculate the chemical potential of a drug in the multi-component, amorphous system.

This approach, he said, enables the estimation of the true solubility advantage of ASD and ultimately use it to predict improvement in drug performance.

Huang, a graduate student in the Williams lab, recently defended his dissertation and is employed by Eli Lilly & Co.
Drs. Kirk Evoy, Kentya Ford and Nathan Pope are the latest funding recipients from the Arlyn Kloesel Endowment for Excellence in Pharmacy Practice.

Drs. Evoy and Ford are partnering in a collaborative study regarding tobacco use. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the world and a major contributor in four of the five leading causes of death.

A 2016 study found that a lower rate of underserved smokers in Texas used smoking cessation medications (1%) than in any other state in the country. Their project aims to increase patients’ motivation to quit smoking and provide a call to action for patients already interested in quitting.

The study targets a low-income, largely Hispanic patient population, seeking to determine whether the chance of a monetary reward might enhanced individuals’ incentive to participate in a smoking cessation therapy program. Patients in two separate studies will receive the pharmacist-led intensive smoking cessation therapy. Members in one group will earn a chance for a single $1,000 reward if they successfully quit smoking with a specified time. The study will be conducted at a clinic in the San Antonio University Health System.

Nathan Pope’s study examines primary care providers’ perceived value of a pharmacist-led educational session about pharmacogenetics testing.

A residency project of Ashley Floyd, a pharmacy resident of the H-E-B/UT Community Pharmacy Residency Program, the study was designed to build collaborations between pharmacists and physicians, while providing education on the role that pharmacists can play in this testing.

Physicians will be invited to a dinner and presentation covering important topics about testing. Participants will be asked to complete pre- and post-session surveys to determine the willingness to use a community pharmacy for this service and to measure physicians’ general knowledge about the subject.

**Three named as Kloesel recipients**

**Evoy, Ford, Pope earn research support from excellence award**

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The **Kloesel Endowment**

The Kloesel Endowment was established with gifts honoring Arlyn Kloesel, a longtime faculty member. The endowment provides funding for initiatives that continue the care and dedication that Kloesel taught. Learn about this endowment at http://sites/utexas/edu/phralumni/giving/giving-priorities/

**Kuhn named HOPA Fellow**

Dr. John Kuhn, emeritus professor of pharmacotherapy, has been selected as a 2017 fellow in the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association.

The designation is given to recognized members who have made significant and outstanding contributions to the field of hematology/oncology pharmacy. As part of the second class to receive this designation, he will be recognized at the HOPA Annual Conference in March.
Prescription for success
Highly successful entrepreneur paves way for others

By Avrel Seale

The sun was setting that summer evening in 1975 as the Missouri-Pacific train slowly crossed Town Lake heading back to San Antonio from its daily run to Taylor. Aboard, an 18-year-old brakeman, who had graduated from high school early and spent a year on the rails considering his next move, stared down at the water. Mike Lester saw the flotilla of young people that was Austin’s Aqua Fest, a river parade in full swing. And he thought, “I’ve got to get out of this engine … and go to school.”

As soon as the train arrived in San Antonio, Lester quit and quickly enrolled at UT to study pharmacy. He had grown up in Pleasanton, Texas, where his father worked in the oil fields and his mother for the regional power company. “My dad had always pointed to the local pharmacist and told me I should consider it.” He remembers his words: “They do well, and they get to work for themselves. You ought to think about that.”

If he had built a career as a pharmacist, he indeed would have done well for himself, but it was following the entrepreneurial advice he received that propelled him into a career that would allow him eventually to give more than $10 million to his alma mater.

Though he wouldn’t change his small-town upbringing, Lester concedes it was “not the best education in the world. I remember at UT the calculus professor holding up the book on the first day. I could barely spell ‘calculus,’ and the students next to me from Alamo Heights were saying, ‘Hey, that’s the book we had in high school!’ ” Lester proved a quick study, and with the support of two mentors - Associate Dean Bill Sheffield and Professor Salomon Stavchansky - he succeeded.

After graduation in 1979, Lester landed a job as a staff pharmacist at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. He learned the business side of pharmacy, but says, “I very quickly realized there was no place to practice what I was taught at that time. There was no clinical role unless you went to an academic center setting. So I decided to seek a road less traveled and combine my business interest with my pharmacy education.”

Three years after graduation, Lester, then 26, and fellow pharmacist and friend Terry McCord launched an inpatient hospital pharmacy management company, Preferred Hospital Pharmacies. The youthful partners ended up with facilities in 10 hospitals across three states. When they sold it in 1988, the pattern was set that would escalate Lester into the business stratosphere.

His second business was an infusion therapy company that trained HIV/AIDS patients to self-administer intravenous medicine at home or in outpatient facilities. The sale of that company in 1996 was very successful, but his passion to build companies that both helped people and were profitable drove him forward.

Lester’s wife, Kay, also started as a practicing pharmacist, but after a couple of years she entered the medical device sales field. She worked for two startup companies for 20 years before following her passion to go back to school for a master’s degree in theology and biblical studies.

By the late ‘90s, the Lesters were restless for...
change and moved to the Seattle area, where he started networking and raising money for his next project. By 1998, he had raised $10 million to start Radiant Research, which conducted human clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies. He sold it in 2006 with another successful outcome.

He then created the outpatient wound care company Accelecare Wound Centers and grew it to 150 clinics in 37 states. Lester sold the company in 2015. He has since raised $250 million in private equity to start a behavioral health company focused on evidence-based treatment of patients suffering from addiction, substance abuse, and eating disorders in a variety of settings including residential treatment centers, outpatient clinics, and after-care settings.

How does he choose his next endeavor? For this one, he and his team sat down with a whiteboard and looked at three areas: pharmacy services (whose margins he concluded were too low), physical therapy (in which he says there were not enough new developments), and behavioral health. The new company, LifeStance Health, will begin with adolescent mental health. The other two divisions of the company will be adolescent alcohol and drug treatment and eating disorders.

Lester sees a lack of medically driven, evidence-based treatment in this field, which tends to focus on the addiction instead of the cause. “If we focus on the underlying cause of the addiction, such as depression, anxiety, bipolarism, et cetera, the patient will have a much better chance of recovery, particularly in adolescents.”

So why has the health care mogul chosen to support UT Pharmacy with a $10 million gift in his will? “While I haven’t practiced pharmacy, except for the first few years out of school, it was my degree in pharmacy that was the cornerstone that allowed me to start all these companies. My pharmacy education gave me clinical credibility with health care and investment professionals. This degree has afforded me to make great connections and given me amazing opportunities to venture into the journey of business and pharmacy.”

With the help of Dean Lynn Crismon, Lester is setting up a program for students to learn from his success — to create pharmaceutical entrepreneurs. UT already has the No. 3 pharmacy program in the nation, and with Lester’s help, it could well go even higher. “The Wharton, Harvard, and Stanford MBA schools really focus their students on the entrepreneurial side of the world,” Lester says, and he wants UT Austin to be in that company.

“I’d love to be a part of it,” he says of the program. In fact, he’s already helping five UT students brainstorm their business ideas. “A lot of times you get so passionate about something, you need somebody to say, ‘That might not be the best idea in the world, but it could sure be a means to an end, a stepping stone in your entrepreneurial career to get to the next level.’”

Most of all, Lester wants students to know that a degree in pharmacy can lead in many directions. “Though working in a retail pharmacy is a great job and could be perfect for many people, there are many other opportunities out there for people with degrees in pharmacy. I don’t want students to feel pigeonholed as retail or hospital pharmacists. The opportunities are vast with this education.”

Read more about the College of Pharmacy’s Lester Entrepreneurial Scholars Program on page 20 and 21.
Training tomorrow’s entrepreneurs

Lester Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurial Scholars Program

When Mike Lester, B.S. ’79, looked to give back to the UT College of Pharmacy, he reviewed his own career path, one that took his traditional pharmacy education and his innovative approach to pharmacy issues to mold a career in entrepreneurial health care.

His gift to the college has helped to establish the Lester Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurial Scholars Program to provide like thinking students an opportunity to gain experience and develop their own path less travelled.

The program development is led by faculty members Drs. Nathan Pope, Hugh Smyth and Janet Walkow. Susan Brown, assistant dean for development and alumni relations, is also on the program development team.

Students in the college Pharm.D. or Ph.D. programs are eligible to apply. Pharm.D. students must be in their first or second year of coursework. All applicants must have had some introductory entrepreneurial experience either through coursework, internship or employment.

In 2016, the program accepted its first two scholars – Austin Green and Christian Carlson, both Pharm.D. students.

“Entrepreneurial skills often are difficult to teach,” said Pope. “Until you go through the experience, especially failure, you think you understand it, but you rarely do, to no fault of your own. Students need to know that their ideas are not ‘stupid’. They need encouragement and mentorship from others who have done entrepreneurial projects in the past.”

The entrepreneurial program takes the faculty and scholars into uncharted ground working without a strict curriculum and from a varied menu of experiences custom selected for each scholar. The program’s first two scholars come from completely different backgrounds, experiences, entrepreneurial ideas and pace of completion, Pope explained.

“It really makes for almost two separate programs, but they have support of each other,” he said.

In addition, each scholar has the support of the full faculty team – Pope, Smyth and Walkow.

“We bring different experiences that we can share with the students, so we mentor as a team,” he continued.

“We tailor the experience to the individual’s needs and ideas,” Pope continued. “This can be hard for some to grasp, but it allows the greatest flexibility and most interesting experience.

The program, he said, also allows the possibility that ‘failure’ may be its own success.

“The outcome of the program for a student may be that their idea does not come to fruition – hence a failure of sort,” Pope continued. Should that be the case, the professor contends that the scholar still has gained tremendous experience that will help them succeed in future endeavors.

“I personally didn’t truly succeed at life until I failed,” Pope said.

Pope said that he and the faculty team are excited about the progress of the program thus far. Expansion, he said, is a work in progress and will be evaluated on an ongoing basis by Dean Lynn Crisman, benefactor Mike Lester, the three-member faculty team, and the current scholars.

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Nathan Pope Hugh Smyth Janet Walkow

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Lester Scholars

Christian Carlson

Christian Carlson is from San Antonio, Texas. He earned a B.A. in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama. He earned a minor in general business administration. In the Fall 2015, he began pharmacy studies at UT Austin.

Carlson plans to combine his knowledge in engineering and pharmacy to impact the pharmacy setting. By innovating current procedures in both retail and independent pharmacies, he plans to streamline operations to provide pharmacists more time for imperative tasks such as patient counseling, immunizations, and MTM.

In his own words:

I became interested in this program because it is oriented around many aspects of which I’m interested – innovation, entrepreneurship, and business.

Having graduated with a B.A. in mechanical engineering with a minor in general business administration, I feel the Lester Scholar’s Program is a perfect fit for me. My initial thoughts about the program was that it would allow me to utilize my knowledge in different arenas and apply it to a singular objective.

Since being accepted into this program, I have attended many of the Herb Kelleher Center for Entrepreneurship seminars about StartUps. In addition, to validate my ultimate goal, I interviewed many pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to see if my idea is valuable and applicable or if it needs to be transformed into something new.

Currently, I am creating a "story board" for my vision and am creating models and renderings for my initial mockups and designs.

He enjoys watching Alabama and Texas football as well as Spurs basketball, working out, running with his dog, and exploring Austin, Colorado and Wyoming. Roll Tide and Hook ‘Em!

Austin Green

Austin Green is from Midland, Texas. He received a bachelor of combined science in chemistry and biology from Texas Christian University, where he graduated cum laude. Additionally, he has completed an HIV Outpatient Pharmacy internship at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

His professional interests include HIV and Hepatitis C management, quality improvement, medication information management, patient and practitioner education, and advocating for the profession of pharmacy.

In his own words:

I applied to be a Lester Scholar because I have a strong interest in business and the intersection of the business realm and the pharmacy realm.

Pharmacy entrepreneurship can open up new doors within our profession. I believe that new ideas and concepts should be explored to further our profession and advance the potential for optimal patient care.

So far, I have pitched my initial idea for an entrepreneurial venture, completed a market validation for it, and started working independently on ways to tweak my idea in ways that could work best for all involved. I have worked most closely with Dr. Pope, whose guidance has been ever valuable throughout the process and helps me to work out my ideas to the best of my ability.

Austin enjoys trying new and exotic foods, traveling the world, learning new languages, and unapologetically rooting for the TCU Horned Frogs during football season.
Health Catalyst honors Croyle

Dr. Maria Croyle, professor of molecular pharmaceutics and drug delivery, is one of three researchers selected to receive funding from the Texas Health Catalyst.

The program is part of the university’s Dell Medical School in collaboration with the Cockrell School of Engineering, College of Natural Sciences, College of Pharmacy, and Office of Technology Commercialization.

Croyle and her team were cited for the project “Dissolvable Film for Storage, Transport, and Delivery of Thermolabile Therapeutics,” a study that led to technology to stabilize biological medications and vaccines in a dissolvable film.

The Texas Health Catalyst Program originated two years ago as a means to assist faculty who have developed novel, health-related technology. Funding awards from the program are designed to help move projects from technology in the research lab to products on the market.

At the final step in the three-step application process, applicants were provided a panel of three local advisors consisting of small business owners, representatives from biotech, and a M.B.A. student. A variety of activities were presented to assist team leaders in developing a 15-minute talk to pitch their technology to a 20-30 member advisory panel. Members of the panel included representatives of local law firms, small biotech companies, and UT faculty.

“While winning the award was great,” Croyle said, “I really enjoyed participating in the program as it made my team and me think a little differently about our film stabilization technology. This helped us consider and apply for funding from sources different than those we had previously contacted. It really helped us with developing a winning pitch presentation.”

Fighting Pandemics

Dr. Maria Croyle, professor of molecular pharmaceutics and drug delivery, was featured on the National Geographic Channel for a November showing of “The Future of Fighting Pandemics.”

NIIPTE update

Group partners in national biopharmaceutical manufacturing institute

The National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education, Inc. (NIIPTE) is part of the newly-created public-private partnership called National Institute for Innovation of Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL). Its formation was announced by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker in December 2016.

NIIMBL is led by the University of Delaware and includes some 150 private companies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations across the nation. It is supported with a $70 million grant from U.S. Department of Commerce and an initial investment of $129 million from participating organizations.

Its goal is to accelerate biopharmaceutical manufacturing innovation and educate and train a world-leading biopharmaceutical manufacturing workforce, fundamentally advancing U.S. competitiveness in this industry.

The participating NIIPTE team, currently comprised of six member institutions (Universities of Connecticut, Kentucky, Kansas, Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin), is a Tier 1 partner in NIIMBL.

It will hold a seat in the Institute’s Governance Board and will play a major role in its initiatives primarily focusing on biopharmaceutical formulations and product development, and FDA regulatory science. The team will work closely with three other NIIPTE member institutions, Purdue University, University of Maryland, and University of Minnesota, which are Tier 1 partners alongside NIIPTE.
The President’s Message

By Steven Knight, Pharmacy Alumni Association President

As spring gets underway, let’s all take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have. The UT Alumni Association continues to be an inspiring family, stretching across the state, nation, and even the world. The association has continued to grow as we welcomed many new members last year with the graduation of the Class of 2016.

Although we did not have a tremendous football and basketball season, there were several other things for us to collectively celebrate. For the first time, we had several representatives from the Alumni Association attend the White Coat ceremony to participate in cloaking of the incoming P1 class members. This gesture symbolized welcoming the new students into our family. It was a privilege to speak to the students and all of their family members.

Personally, last year was a challenging, yet fulfilling year. Last spring, my family was elated to learn that my sister was expecting fraternal twins, a boy and a girl. As much as can be expected, everything was progressing as usual for the first several months. Then things quickly changed. My sister gave birth to the twins at just 26 weeks gestational age. At birth, the girl weighed 2.3 pounds and the boy just 2.15 pounds. After three and a half months in the NICU, my niece finally came home. A week and a half later, my nephew made his way home by Christmas just in time to welcome Santa and his eight tiny reindeer!

Here’s where the Longhorn Pharmacy family comes in. The twins were born in the same hospital in which I had rotations when I was a P4 student. After they were born, I reached out to my previous preceptors and fellow Longhorns that currently work there to make sure they could keep a close eye on the babies’ and my sister’s medication regimens. Knowing that my former classmates, preceptors, and friends I have made through professional organizations were watching over my new niece and nephew was reassuring that they were receiving optimal care.

At the Alumni Association awards dinner in the Fall, we celebrated many amazing accomplishments by three special alumni. Our immediate past president, Dr. Eric Ho, was the recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award for his work in advocacy and service to the Alumni Association. Ms. Gay Dodson was the very deserving recipient of the Legends of Pharmacy Award for her lifetime of contributions to the practice of pharmacy through her work as executive director of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Lastly, we were pleased to acknowledge Dr. Daniel Acosta, Jr. for all of his incredible achievements in pharma-

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Austin, Texas
Homecoming 2016

Three cited for top honors

Pharmacy recognized three of its own to kick off Homecoming Weekend 2016 as Eric Ho, Gay Dodson and Dan Acosta were cited to receive honors at the Alumni Reception and Awards Ceremony on October 28.

Distinguished Young Alumnus

Eric Ho, Pharm.D. ’12, serves as vice president for Specialty Pharmacy & Industry Affairs for Paragon Healthcare, a multispecialty healthcare corporation headquartered in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. In this role, he is responsible for the operational success of the Paragon specialty pharmacy portfolio and serves as Paragon’s liaison to industry and government stakeholders.

Previously, he worked for RxWiki Inc. a venture-backed digital media startup in Austin, and was a co-founder at JunoRx, a remote prescription fulfillment technology developer.

Eric is active in pharmacy leadership having served as a board member of the Texas Pharmacy Association, the Texas PharmPAC, and the Texas Exes. He is a member of the National Home Infusion Association Standards & Accreditation Committee, Innovatix Legislative and Regulatory Advisory Board, and URAC Pharmacy Advisory Group.

Legends of Pharmacy Award

Gay Dodson, B.S. ’69, worked as a community pharmacist in the Dallas area for her first 13 years as a pharmacist. While working as a community pharmacist, she was an active member of the local, state, and national pharmacy associations.

Alumni Association honorees from left Eric Ho, Gay Dodson, and Daniel Acosta.

Gay has been an employee of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy since November 1982, serving for two years as field compliance officer in the Houston area, three years as senior compliance officer in the Austin office, and almost 10 years as director of compliance before being appointed to her present position as executive director in June 1997. As executive director, she serves as the chief executive officer of the agency and an ex-officio member and secretary of the Board of Pharmacy.

She has received numerous awards including the 2012 State Agency Council to the Governor’s Commission for Womens, Outstanding Women in Texas Government; 2010 Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists’ Distinguished Service Award; 2007 National Association of Boards of Pharmacy’s Lester E. Hosto Distinguished Service Award; 2006

Continued on page 26.
Homecoming 2016

Halloween theme marks annual alumni gathering

Pharmacy alumni kept the party alive by gathering again on Saturday morning for a free continuing event followed by the annual tailgate party with a Halloween twist. Participants had opportunity to take a group picture in the photo booth, play carnival-type games, buy assorted Longhorn pharmacy swag at student driven tables, and enjoy a BBQ lunch while reuniting with former classmates. Anniversary reunion classes from 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006 also found time for unique class gatherings.
Homecoming award recipients

Continued from page 24.

Texas Pharmacy Association’s Distinguished Service Award; 2000 University of Texas College of Pharmacy William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award.

She is a past-president of the UT College of Pharmacy Alumni Association and is an active member of the University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band.

Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award

Daniel Acosta, Jr. Ph.D., B.S. ’68, graduated first in his class in 1968. He pursued a graduate degree in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Kansas and was awarded a four-year National Science Foundation Traineeship.

Before he could begin graduate school however, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in South Korea. He received his Ph.D. in pharmacology/toxicology from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. He and his wife, Patricia, have three daughters: Anna, Elise, and Dani.

He served as the fourth dean of the University of Cincinnati’s James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy (1996-2011) and a member of the faculty from 2012-2013.

Under his leadership, Winkle implemented one of the nation’s first Master’s degrees in drug development. He was the first and only Hispanic dean at the University of Cincinnati. Acosta established the college’s first Council on Diversity and promoted the recruitment of qualified minority students into pharmacy. He also helped attract a distinguished alumni to help in naming the college. He was appointed the Joseph W. Carl Chair of Pharmacy.

His high school (Austin High School in El Paso) honored him as its Outstanding Ex in 2008.

He was a member of the UT College of Pharmacy faculty (1974-1996) where he helped develop a nationally-ranked program in toxicology as the founding director of the Graduate Toxicology Training Program. He was the first professor at UT Austin to receive an NIH graduate training grant, one of the first toxicology training grants in the state. He was honored for his work with student organizations by being named Outstanding Faculty Advisor in 1996 and received the Burroughs Wellcome Toxicology Scholar Award.

Dr. Acosta was selected as the Deputy Director for Research at the FDA’s National Center for Toxicological Research in 2014. He helps manage a research budget of nearly $100 million and supervises over 200 scientists at NCTR. At the Winkle College of Pharmacy, he implemented an entry level Pharm.D. Program and saw faculty research program funding increase from $350,000 to $3.5 million.

President’s Message

Continued from page 23

ceutical research and education as recipient of the Wm. J. Sheffield Award.

So as we look fondly back on the many memories from 2016, I encourage you reach out to fellow alumni with whom you may have lost contact. Encourage them to join the Alumni Association.

We hope to have more local alumni events over the course of 2017 to rekindle the incredible Longhorn spirit in your neck of the woods. Lastly, I ask that you consider donating to the Alumni Association to help support the many ways we give back to the college and our future colleagues. The 40 hours for the Forty Acres donation campaign on April 12th and 13th is a great way to make a donation.

Thanks very much for all that you do to represent the College. Hook ‘Em Horns!
Alumni news briefs

Marsha Raebel, Pharm.D. ’79, was cited among winners of the best poster award at the fall meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Raebel is with the Institute for Health Research, Kaiser Permanente Colorado out of Denver. Her poster was entitled, ““Relationships Between Antihypertensive Medication Adherence, Age, Comorbidities, and Blood Pressure Control in Elderly Patients with Diabetes.”

Jimmy Lee Medley, B.S. ’56, passed away in June 2016.

Faustino “Tino” Garza, B.S. ’66, died on Nov. 9, 2016. He had been the owner/operator of Tino’s Prescription Shop in Brownsville since 1991. One of his children, Rene Garza, is also a graduate of our program.

Isidro, Pharm.D. ’03, and Valerie, Pharm.D. ‘10, Ramirez announce the arrival of Isidro Ramirez III, born on March 14, 2017 weighing 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 20.5 inches long.

Friends we will miss
Charles Aubrey “Mickey” LeMaistre, M.D., past president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center died on Jan. 28, 2017 in Houston. He was 92. He was a pioneering crusader against the harmful effects of tobacco use and a catalyst of the field of cancer prevention. LeMaistre came to MD Anderson as president in 1978 after serving seven years as chancellor of The University of Texas System.

“Mickey was one of the great icons of 20th century medicine who pushed boundaries, drove innovation and positioned MD Anderson to be the world’s most impactful cancer center,” said Ronald A. DePinho, M.D., president of MD Anderson.

During 18 years as the second full-time president of MD Anderson, LeMaistre led the institution through a period of substantial growth in programs, personnel, facilities, private philanthropy and reputation. One of his early decisions as MD Anderson president was to establish a cancer prevention program, which developed into an international model of research and service initiatives that advanced the science and application of cancer prevention and population sciences. He also pioneered multidisciplinary care.

As a young physician, LeMaistre served on the first U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health which in 1964 issued its landmark report identifying cigarettes as a major health hazard. Smoking control was an important part of his cancer prevention message when he was national president of the American Cancer Society in 1986. He chaired the 1981 National Conference on Smoking OR Health, a coalition of 21 organizations, and the 1985 International Summit of Smoking Control. From 1979 to 1983, he was president of the Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Fund.
He came to Texas in the early 1970s at the invitation of then Dean James T. Doluisio to partner with his mentor Dr. Ken Kirk in creating something completely different in pharmacy education.

Almost 40 years later, Dr. Marv Shepherd met again with Kirk in a rare opportunity to review their success as approximately 70 former students and colleagues gathered to celebrate Shepherd and his vision for pharmacy administration education.

The event was coordinated by former students led by Marissa Schlaifer and Mike Johnsrud as a reunion for graduate students from the former Division of Pharmacy Administration and as a salute to their mentor who retired from the college in 2015.

It features continuing education presentations for four former students including

• Dr. Rahul Sasane of Novartis discussing “Innovation & Disruption in the Oncology HE&OR Space”;
• Dr. Ryan Leslie with Seton Healthcare presenting “The Move to Pay for Value in Healthcare”;
• Dr. Mike Johnsrud with Avalere Health speaking about “Evolving Health Policies & Implications for Health Services Research”; and
• Dr. Milli Reddy with the Center for Aids Programme of Research, South Africa, discussing “Strengthening Health Systems for Improved Access to Life-Saving Medicines.”

In his noon remarks, Kirk spoke of how the two partnered to build the new program.

“We told one another that we were going to build a strong program, and if we did, we’ll attract strong graduate students to build an even stronger graduate program,” he said. “It worked!”

Kirk also praised Shepherd for his skills in the classroom. “The classroom was for Marv Shepherd what the telephone booth was to Clark Kent,” he said, describing how the classroom environment, complete with the exchange of ideas, invigorated Shepherd into a skilled teacher.

Kirk and Shepherd were pioneers in examining the emerging role of women in the pharmacy profession.
Later, Shepherd broadened his research energies to several areas including looking at importation of pharmaceuticals specifically counterfeit medications. That work led him and his graduate students to visit pharmacies along the Texas-Mexico border. Shepherd became a frequent expert witness before several congressional committees and hearings regarding counterfeit drugs and was instrumental in drawing attention to Rohypnol, known as the date rape drug, and to draw attention to the potential hazards of purchasing medications via unsecured websites or across international borders.

Kirk, who left Texas after a few years, recalled the close relationships between the Kirk and Shepherd families, and elaborated on the Shepherd's embracing of Texas traditions.

“When I heard that Marv and Valerie had bought a longhorn, I told my wife, 'I think we got out of Texas at the right time,'” he said, smiling.

Speaking to the current grad students attending the gathering, Kirk said, “This is your academic grandfather.”

Schlaifer led the group in a sharing of stories from participants’ time in graduate school and interaction with Dr. Shepherd.

At the conclusion of the day, Shepherd himself took the microphone marveling at the wonderful turnout. “As faculty, we’ve talked about doing something like this for more than ten years, but it took former graduate students to pull it together,” Shepherd said.

Support the College. Learn more about honoring a loved one or a favorite professor by making a gift to the college. Contact Susan Brown, assistant dean for development and alumni relations at skbrown@austin.utexas.edu.
Upcoming CPE Programs

HOSPITAL PHARMACY PRACTICE SEMINAR

VISIT THE WEBSITE: http://sites.UTexas.edu/CPE-PPS/

Marriott Texas Medical Center Houston • Friday & Saturday • June 9 & 10, 2017

Addressing Today’s Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice Topics
Join more than 500 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians for our annual hospital-focused CPE seminar. Content focuses on hospital updates including Texas Pharmacy Law and Sterile Compounding. The seminar offers up to 12 contact hours of ACPE accredited pharmacy continuing education.

PHARMACY PRACTICE SEMINAR

VISIT THE WEBSITE: http://sites.UTexas.edu/CPE-PPS/

DoubleTree North Hotel • Austin • Saturday & Sunday • September 16 & 17, 2017

Addressing Today’s Pharmacy Practice Topics
Join more than 500 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians for our annual CPE seminar. This program provides tools and knowledge that can be immediately applied upon return to practice. The seminar offers up to 15 contact hours of ACPE accredited pharmacy continuing education.

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACOTHERAPY UPDATE

VISIT THE WEBSITE: http://sites.UTexas.edu/CPE-PPU/

DoubleTree North Hotel • Austin • Thursday & Friday • October 19 & 20, 2017

Addressing Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy Topics for Today’s Practice
This conference’s goal is to improve the quality of care delivered to people with mental health problems by providing timely and clinically-useful information for the practicing clinician. Conference speakers focus on the practical application of neuroscience principles and evidence-based approaches for the treatment of serious and persistent major psychiatric and neurologic disorders including depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and dementias. The seminar offers up to 15 contact hours of ACPE accredited pharmacy continuing education.

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In February, national and international leaders gathered in Austin for the 57th annual International Conference on Drug Development. The conference, hosted by the college’s Office of Continuing Pharmacy Education, featured this year’s theme “Listening to the Patient: Patient Centricity – Impact on Drug Development and the Drug Regulatory Approval Process.”

Kicking off this year’s conference was Robert Califf, M.D., recent former director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), providing insights and updates on the challenges and goals of the FDA. Dr. Salomon Stavchansky, professor of molecular pharmaceutics and drug development, served again as conference chair. He and the conference planning committee worked to bring together industry drug development leaders from Otsuka, Novartis, IONIS, GlaxoSmithKline, Coynoe, AbbVie, Pfizer, Merck, Johnson & Johnson, and other companies to discuss issues facing new drug innovation with FDA.

Presentations and discussions focused on topics on drug development including digital technologies, law, clinical trials, and patient centricity throughout.

For the 57th year, the College of Pharmacy has utilized this conference format to host drug industry and regulatory leaders to induce discussion and dialogue around the challenges around new drug development with a goal of improving communication and ultimately to stimulate innovation to help patients. This platform of offering an informal forum for the exchange of ideas concerning the drug discovery and drug development process is a unique role for the university to play. The 2018 International Conference on Drug Development is tentatively set for February 19-21 in Austin.

Learn more about Pharmacy Continuing Education opportunities at http://sites.utexas.edu/cpe/