The El Paso Cooperative Program celebrated the tenth anniversary of its first graduates at May 2013 Commencement. Read more about this program on page 10.

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Dear alumni and friends,

We enter a new academic year relishing the successes of the past and looking forward to the future with optimism. Many students and faculty achievements during the past year are showcased in this issue of Longhorn Pharmacy Focus. This spring we graduated the first Pharm.D. class from a new curriculum that emphasizes science based problem solving and the development of practice skills. These graduates demonstrated leadership inside and outside of the classroom are well prepared to address pharmacy patient care needs of society.

Spring 2013 marked the 10th anniversary of the first Pharm.D. graduating class (and the 100th graduate) from the Cooperative Pharmacy Program with UT El Paso. The UTEP program and the UT Pan American program demonstrate the success that comes from creativity and collaboration. More than 70% of these graduates remain in the underserved border areas of Texas.

We are always proud of the outstanding instruction provided by our faculty, and we are delighted with recognition for teaching excellence that several faculty have received from UT Austin and UT System. The college is taking teaching excellence into the world of massive open online courses (MOOCs) through a grant that Dr. Janet Walkow received from UT System. Her course, “Take Your Medicine” explores drug development and consumer education and has garnered more than 15,000 registrations worldwide. The course launched in mid-September, and can be accessed at www.edx.org.

The recession has been challenging, both in terms of our instructional budget as well as efforts for extramural research grants. Our faculty, however, continue to earn grants and recognition in an increasingly competitive environment. The articles in this issue outlining successes in cancer and alcoholism research are examples of our exemplary research and graduate education programs. The opening of UT Advance reflects a major milestone. Since 2008, we have been laying the building blocks to advance our university’s ability to address major challenges in preclinical drug development. With the opening of this GLP laboratory, the college has the capability to develop new therapeutic molecules, take them through preclinical drug development, and ready them for IND submission to the FDA.

The advent of the Dell Medical School adds a new dimensions to health professions education and biomedical research at UT Austin. Interprofessional education will be an integral component of learning at the medical school from the day that students begin their education as health professionals. We plan to implement interprofessional team-based learning that will foster transformations in health care delivery. Capitalizing on the strength that UT Austin possesses in the biomedical and life sciences, synergistic research programs will be developed that bridge the gap between research bench to bedside. Pharmacy faculty are providing leadership in the development of the medical school, and we look forward to the interprofessional education and transdisciplinary research opportunities that will result.

We continue to make advances despite severe budget restraints. We have persevered through the greatest financial crisis in 70 years, as we navigate additional challenges anticipated over the next 2-4 years. Generous support from alumni and friends makes a tremendous difference during these precarious times. Many of you offer gifts of time in serving as preceptors and mentors. Others have been generous in your financial support. Philanthropy provides the difference in making our college great. Your financial gifts provide scholarships for Pharm.D. and graduate students as well as resources for student professional development. In addition, they allow us to recruit and retain an outstanding faculty.

One year remains in the university’s current capital campaign. I encourage you to give generously so that the college can assure excellence in educating pharmacists and researchers, conducting research, and providing service that benefits society. This issue features Barbara and George Polansky, one couple who is making a difference by making a planned gift to the college.

We invite you to support the College of Pharmacy and help assure that “What starts here changes the world!”

Hook em Horns!

M. Lynn Crismon, Dean
Dr. Robert O. Messing, a nationally recognized addiction science researcher, has a tall order in his new role at the university — get the process started to build a UT Austin medical school in time to welcome its first class of approximately 50 students in Fall 2016. Messing, a board certified neurologist, arrived in Austin in January 2013, joining the college’s faculty as the Henry M. Burlage Centennial Endowed Professor in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology. In addition, he serves as UT Austin’s vice provost for biomedical sciences. It is in his role as vice provost that Messing has hit the ground running. He and Dr. Susan Cox, Austin’s regional dean for UT Southwestern Medical Center, serve as co-chairs for the steering committee charged with overseeing the early development of the new school’s curriculum, research, clinical training, and community engagement programs. Messing also chairs the search committee to identify the school’s inaugural dean. It’s been a busy year.

“Being part of the team that is building the medical school is a fantastic, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Messing said. “We are all working very hard with the expectation that this school will spark a new wave of economic development and will transform health care in central Texas, moving it away from treating illness to promoting wellness for the benefit of everyone, especially those currently underserved.”

The medical school has evolved as a partnership between three institutions – the UT System, Seton Healthcare Family and Central Health. In addition, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation pledged $50 million to establish the new facility which will be named the Dell Medical School.

Architectural planning is underway for construction of the new school. At a May 2013 meeting of the UT System Regents, UT Austin President Bill Powers outlined a $334 million plan to construct research, educational and administrative facilities, as well as a medical office building and parking garage. The campus will be built on land currently owned by the university that is bound by Interstate 35, Trinity Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and 15th Street. The educational portion of the medical school will be built on what is now a parking lot directly across from the current University Medical Center Brackenridge. The new hospital will be constructed next to the educational facility, while the research and medical office buildings will be built adjacent to the new hospital along Trinity Street.

Phase I of the plan will not require removal of the Erwin Center, although the long-term plan calls for relocation of the venue in 6 to 15 years. The first phase, however, will require replacement of the university’s Penick-Allison Tennis Center.

As construction plans ramp up, the search is also underway to identify the inaugural dean of the medical school. The position posted in early summer is expected to yield a review of candidates in September. If all goes well, the top candidate will be identified and the new dean will assume office by early 2014. The list goes on and on.

The new facility promises opportunities for students in pharmacy, nursing and other health-related fields to gain valuable interprofessional training that will occur in simulation practice labs and in the patient care environment. Deans leading these programs are working to identify how their current programs can work with the medical school to provide greater collaborative opportunities in education and research.

“Creation of the Dell Medical School provides the UT College of Pharmacy a unique opportunity to provide leadership in the development of interprofessional learning opportunities for health professions students and the development of cutting edge interdisciplinary research programs in the biomedical and health sciences,” said Dean Lynn Crismon.

Crismon added that the college has hired a master planning consultant to develop a plan that may lead to the development of a new pharmacy academic building in the medical district sometime in the future. Learn more about the medical school at http://www.utexas.edu/dell-medical-school

Leslie steps down as provost

Dr. Steven Leslie, former dean of the College of Pharmacy, will step down as executive vice president and provost for UT Austin at the end of September. Beginning on October 1, he will serve as special assistant to the UT President Bill Powers, working with community partners involved in the Dell Medical School.

Dr. Greg Fenves, dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering since 2008, has been named as the new provost. During Leslie’s six years as provost, he played a key role in the creation of the Dell Medical School, fostering greater strategic planning and budgeting of academic programs, and developing innovative learning technologies.
Online learning brings classrooms to the world

College faculty member offers “Take Your Medicine” MOOC via edX

Imagine a scenario where the best teachers on the planet gather to offer students a free feast of learning from a plentiful buffet of subjects.

EdX, a non-profit consortium representing the world’s top programs of higher education including The University of Texas System, comes pretty close to that perfect academic world as it showcases online courses taught at no charge by world-class faculty members. The studies, known as massive open online courses (MOOCs), are available via the web to students anywhere in the world.

There are no prerequisites or application processes for edX courses, and registration is open to everyone. The virtual “classroom” is open 24/7 providing students the opportunity to view the learning modules at their convenience, any time of day.

Originally created in May 2012 by founding university partners Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), edX has grown to include participation by more than 25 leading public and private universities both within the United States and abroad. The most recent additions to the edX community of educational institutions include programs in Asia, Europe and Australia. An impressive list of courses span a variety of subjects from science and technology to the humanities. Registration is free and students may opt to audit the course or work toward a certificate of mastery. According to a news story in The Chronicle of Higher Education, edX has more than 900,000 people using its platform and currently offers approximately 50 courses.

This fall, Dr. Janet Walkow, clinical associate professor of pharmaceutics and executive director and chief technology office of the college’s Drug Dynamics Institute (DDI), joins this elite group of educators in offering her class, “Take Your Medicine – The Impact of Drug Development” (TYM). Other instructors for the course include Dr. Alan Watts, assistant director of the DDI, and Dr. Donna Kidwell, DDI project director. In addition to the three instructors, numerous guest presenters will be featured throughout the 13-week course, including other College of Pharmacy faculty and staff members as well as some alumni. Other guest speakers for the course include leaders in the pharmacy industry and government regulators who oversee drug development.

Walkow said that the course concept has been met with widespread enthusiasm from the college community, adding that the course material could possibly be reworked and offered as an elective for UT students at some time in the future.

According to the course plan, a new module is released each week during the duration of the course. A series of tools, videos and game-like labs help student measure their understanding of course material.

Walkow’s TYM is one of the first four courses offered via edX by the UT System. Others include "Ideas of the Twentieth Century" taught by Dr. Daniel Bonevac, professor of philosophy; “Energy 101” taught by Dr. Michael Webber, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; and “Age of Globalization” taught by Dr. John Hoberman, professor of Germanic studies. Like Walkow’s course, the three other UT Austin offerings are scheduled for Fall 2014. Within the first few days of the new UT Austin courses being posted in March, thousands of students around the world signed up for one or more of the offerings. Additional UT Austin courses are also planned to be available in Spring 2014.

In discussing the widespread appeal of her TYM course, Walkow explains that illness is a common denominator for everyone and medical innovations over the past 50 years have led to mitigation or cures for many diseases and conditions. These medications are often complex, she continued, and it’s important to understand how they were developed, how they work in the body, and how to determine best practices to assure positive outcomes.

“Our course is designed to answer some of the basic questions that consumers should consider,” she continued.

Some of the questions addressed in the course include:
- Why does it take so long for new research innovations to turn into therapeutic medicines?
- What happens if I miss a dose of my medication?
- Who’s in charge of making sure that medicines are safe?
- Should I take generics?
- What role do universities play in bringing new drug products to patients?

Learn more about edX at www.edx.org.
A college initiative that officially opened in Fall 2012 marks the launch of new critical services to Austin area researchers hoping to advance their projects close to home.

UT Advance, which was celebrated in a fall dedication program, is a good laboratory practices (GLP) facility. GLP labs offer practices and facilities to test potential drugs for effectiveness and safety based upon rigorous conditions set down by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Potential drugs must pass the FDA testing processes before they move into clinical trials. The tests could also aid in filing for patents and reaching commercialization agreements for pharmaceuticals and biomedical technology.

The new facility is located at the Dell Pediatric Research Institute (DPRI) near the Dell Children’s Medical Center and will fall under the oversight of the College of Pharmacy’s Drug Dynamics Institute (DDI). The facility will be available to researchers beyond the university, but university teams are busy developing many potential compounds for the facility to test. UT researchers have developed approximately 60 drug and drug-delivery technologies that have been commercialized or are available for commercialization including products to treat lung transplant recipients and people suffering from cancers, viruses and other diseases, according to the university’s Office of Technology Commercialization.

“We have outstanding preclinical research programs in drug development and targeted drug delivery,” said Dean Lynn Crismon. “This facility will help our researchers in these areas move more efficiently and effectively to get their discoveries into human trials.”

The lab could also play a role in the Central Texas biomedical community. It will be open for use by biotech companies and other entities outside of the university.

“The new laboratory space at DPRI is another example of the tremendous health, medicine and research assets that we have in Central Texas,” said State Senator Kirk Watson, who spoke at the dedication. “This is a critical resource not only for our university researchers, but also for the larger community that will benefit from its discoveries. And it demonstrates the potential of this region to grow our economy by investing in these kinds of resources.”

The $1 million cost to set up and operate the facility is being funded by the university.

“Studies in this type of lab are the pivotal studies that the FDA will review before it allows these drugs into human trials,” said Janet Walkow, executive director and chief technology officer of the DDI.

She added that having GLP capabilities at the university will reduce costs and time that researchers spend on such tests in commercial facilities.

UT Advance will focus on inhaled drug products, a field in which several university researchers are working. This specialization is significant since there are few GLP facilities in the country that test inhaled drugs.

One of the first potential drug the university’s GLP will test comes from a collaboration between Dr. William O. “Bill” Williams, professor of pharmaceutics, and Dr. Jay I. Peters, a professor at the UT Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. The two are developing an inhaled immune suppressing drug capable of treating patients who have had a lung transplant.

With the GLP facility, the DDI has three complementary facilities that help researchers through the drug development process. At the TherapUTex lab, researchers can test the proof of concept for potential drugs. The UTech Dorm Room provides wet lab space, tools and other resources to fledgling biotech companies for further development, and GLP studies are the final testing stage before human trials.

Learn more at http://www.utexas.edu/pharmacy/research/interdis/ddi/utadvance/advooverview.html
The UT College of Pharmacy maintained its position among the top four programs of pharmacy education in the country as U.S. News and World Report released its rankings of the 2013 and 2014 Best Graduate Schools.

The rankings indicate a slight score difference of three-tenths of a point between top ranked University of California - San Francisco (4.6) and the fourth place University of Texas at Austin program (4.3). Others in the top four of pharmacy include University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, second place (4.5); and University of Minnesota, third place (4.4).

The UT Austin Pharm.D. program has consistently remained among the top programs with each new ranking from the news organization. The second highest-ranking pharmacy program within the state was Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with a ranking of 32 and a score of 3.2.

“The U.S. News rankings reaffirm our commitment to be among the top providers of pharmacy education in the country, and we work every day to make it even better,” remarked Dean Lynn Crismon.

Other UT Austin graduate programs ranking among the top ten in their field include

- College of Education, No. 4
- School of Information Science, No. 6
- Cockrell School of Engineering, No. 11
- McCombs School of Business, No. 17
- LBJ School of Public Affairs, No. 16
- School of Social Work, No. 7
- Law School, No. 15

UT Austin itself has been named the 25th best university in the world (Times Higher Education), the 46th best overall university in the United States (U.S. News & World Report) and the 27th best value among public colleges (Kiplinger).

What’s an IPPE?

Introductory practice experience provides students a first glance at hospital pharmacy

By Donna Burkett, clinical associate professor

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) has increased emphasis on experiential education of pharmacy students in recent years. ACPE requires an introductory experience in the hospital or institutional setting as part of the continuum of required and elective pharmacy practice experiences throughout the curriculum.

The college offered its Institutional Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) program for the first time in summer 2011. Prior to this, most students had no exposure to a hospital pharmacy until their fourth professional year (P4). The institutional IPPE is a required two weeks or 80 hour course in the P2 year and students must complete and pass it before progressing to the P3 year. A total of three sessions were offered over a six week period, involving approximately 42 students during each two-week rotation. Placements were in hospitals in Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, and the Rio Grande Valley.

Three major objectives of the institutional IPPE include:

- To provide students with an activity-based experience in an institutional/health system-based pharmacy practice setting;
- To integrate basic clinical and scientific knowledge in the care of patients in actual practice settings; and
- To prepare student interns for advanced pharmacy practice experiences in the P4 year.

Student interns are expected to demonstrate a basic understanding of:

- Medication use evaluation and monitoring
- Drug information
- Medication distribution systems
- Medication reconciliation
- Obtaining information from patient’s medical records
- Medication administration
- Pharmacy computer systems.

To achieve the learning objectives, preceptors had students participate in activities including observing a pharmacist perform clinical interventions such as therapeutic drug monitoring and calculating doses, reviewing patient medical records and recommending a switch from an intravenous medication to an oral medication, making medication recommendations to prescribers, reviewing adverse drug reaction reports, researching and presenting a report on a new drug, attending hospital meetings with other pharmacists, and shadowing a

Continued on page 18.
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<td>Mecca Ashley Willman</td>
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<td>Lily Yan***</td>
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<td>Maynor Alain Zapata</td>
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<td>Paulina Anna Zelenay*</td>
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<td>Carrie Zhao</td>
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**Graduation Date:**

August 19, 2013

Linda Oguchi Ahiaraha
Christine E. Hortillosa*
Christina Lola Lajide
Katherine Lynn Lee

***Highest Honors***
Top 4% of class

**High Honors***
Next 6% of class

*Honors***
Next 10% of class
2013 honors and awards

Highest Grade Point Average in Required Doctor of Pharmacy Courses
................................................................. Joy Martindale

Second Highest Grade Point Average in Required Doctor of Pharmacy Courses
............................................................. Melissa Hartman

College of Pharmacy Award for Outstanding Research
....................................................... Ross Phan, Juliana Taliaferro

College of Pharmacy Award for Excellence in Patient Care
........................................................ Angela Chen, Chris Hernandez, Barbara Lucke

College of Pharmacy Award for Dedicated Service
....................................................... Jose Barrera, Jessica Gomez, Justin Gonzalez, Juliann Horne

College of Pharmacy Award for Exemplary Leadership
.................................................... Grace Mbagwu, Chris Perling, Pearl Rajan, Sumon Sen

College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Award
Mortar and Pestle Award for Leadership, Service, Patient Care, and Research
........................................... Athena Hobbs, Jobby John, Anne Nguyen

College of Pharmacy 2012 Class Officers
President ................................................................. Jobby John
Vice President .............................................................. Pearl Rajan
Secretary/Treasurer ....................................................... Anne Nguyen

Barbara Lucke, Chris Hernandez, Angela Chen

Juliann Horne, Justin Gonzalez, Jessica Gomez, Jose Barrera

Sumon Sen, Pearl Rajan, Chris Perling, Grace Mbagwu

Anne Nguyen, Athena Hobbs, Jobby John
Graduation marks many milestones for graduates and families – the completion of a rigorous program of study, the start of a new career, perhaps even the first in the family to graduate.

This year’s College of Pharmacy commencement exercise marked another milestone – a community-shared event. The 2013 exercises marked the tenth anniversary of the first graduates of a program designed to address a critical shortage of health care providers in far West Texas, the El Paso Cooperative Pharmacy Program. The program also celebrated as its 100th graduate completed study.

In Spring 2003, the first class of the Cooperative Pharmacy Program concluded their study. Eleven El Paso residents began their pharmacy education in Fall 1999 through a program that saw The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas at El Paso combine energies to address acute shortage of health care personnel including pharmacists in West Texas. The university partnership enabled qualifying students to complete a majority of their education in El Paso, with only two years of the six-year degree program completed in Austin. The goal was for these newly educated pharmacists to return to the region to serve their hometown communities. Including this year’s class, a total of 107 students have completed the program.

Dr. José Rivera, assistant dean for the El Paso Cooperative Program, has directed the program since January 2001 and has attended each graduation. The program, he says, has absolutely made an impact on the community’s health provider needs.

“Our students are from our community,” he said. “Since 2003, more than 75 percent of our graduates are practicing in the El Paso region. We also graduate culturally and linguistically-capable pharmacists.”

Dr. Amanda Loya is a member of the 2003 graduating class. After completing the program herself, she joined the El Paso faculty and, as a clinical assistant professor, helps direct some of the studies of most of the students who have followed her.

“It has been an honor to be a part of the UTEP/UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program, first as a pharmacy student and now as a faculty member,” she said. “This program allowed me to obtain a world-class pharmacy education in my hometown where I could work and learn alongside providers, patients, and colleagues who shared with me the same commitment and dedication to this community.”

“I am grateful to have had the opportunity to mentor and guide pharmacy students and residents in order to prepare innovative and competent pharmacy clinicians and leaders who can practice in diverse populations and settings,” she continued. “As I reflect back on the last 10 years, I am so proud of the program and what it has been able to accomplish. The program’s mission to advance the practice of pharmacy on the U.S.-Mexico border has become a reality due to the hard work and dedication of faculty, staff, students and administration.”
The newest class of El Paso graduates includes Michael Elias, Clarissa Enriquez, Jessica Gomez, Grecia Heredia, Catherine Ho, Alejandra Juarez, Julian McCrery, Stephanie Ramirez, Francisco Roman, Varun Sharma, Daniel Stubbermann, and Oscar Tapia.

For the record, Catherine Ho is the official 100th graduate of the program. Her mother, Dr. Kim Ho, a pharmacist who is the program’s hospital coordinator, hooded Catherine during the graduation service. In the audience, proudly cheering them on was her father, Dr. Hoi Ho, a preceptor for the program and a physician and educator with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Most of this year’s graduates said they learned about the program through family members, friends, and classmates. At least one heard about it through former graduates, and Clarissa Enriquez didn’t become acquainted with the program until she met the students in the El Paso Cooperative Program as a first-year pharmacy student.

“It was always my goal to return to El Paso, and having rotations in El Paso would be a great way to start networking and to learn more about working with the community,” Enriquez said. She approached college administrators and officially transferred into the cooperative program soon after. This fall she begins a position as a staff pharmacist at an El Paso area hospital. After she gains experience, she said she would like to serve as a preceptor and hopefully, some day, as a clinical associate professor.

Graduates from the Class of 2013 had the opportunity to reflect on their experiences as pharmacy students training in El Paso.

Graduates from the Class of 2013 had the opportunity to reflect on their experiences as pharmacy students training in El Paso.

Dr. Rivera congratulations all El Paso graduates as they cross the stage.

““The pinnacle moment of my academic career was the first time I explained the importance of taking HIV medications and the methods of resistance to a patient,” said Grecia Heredia. “After becoming resistant to several regimens, he (the patient) was really concerned and inconvenienced by the fact that he had to take several pills many times a day. I was able to explain how the virus evolves and develops resistant. The look of dawning comprehension (on the patient’s face) will forever remind me why I love this profession so much. Everything I have learned and will continue learning will help me educate and empower patients to take charge of their lives and improve their health.”

Francisco Roman described his most memorable moment as a student when he said he made a life-saving intervention while on rounds with Dr. Loya. “Her mentorship style taught me how to methodically assess patient-specific problems and to address them in an effective and evidence-based way,” he said.

This year’s graduates will go on to a variety of pharmacy practice settings and opportunities. Five members of the class will complete pharmacy practice residencies, two of which will do their training in El Paso. “My plans after graduation include completing a residency (PGY1) at Centro De Salud Familiar La Fe (in El Paso) and giving back to the community that I know and love,” said Grecia Heredia. Oscar Tapia also has his sights set on a residency program at the local veterans’ affairs clinic with the possibility of a government job afterwards. He is interested in expanding his education and skills in the area of ambulatory care. Other students in this class plan to remain in El Paso and practice in community or hospital pharmacy settings in efforts to continue the Cooperative Pharmacy Program’s mission to serve the El Paso community.

Learn more at http://chs.utep.edu/cpp/
The college recognizes the accomplishments of pharmacy graduate students at receptions each May following ceremonies of the Graduate School. The annual recognition event, honors graduate students who have complete their program of study in fall, spring or summer. Many, but not all, students who complete studies before spring return to campus to participate in spring graduation exercises. Those recently completed their graduate studies within the college include:

Ahmed Alshehri, M.S. - Fall 2012 - (Barner)
Nicole Beinborn, Ph.D. - Fall 2011 (Williams)
Thiago Carvalho, Ph.D. - Fall 2011 (McConville)
Wei-chen Chang, Ph.D. - Summer 2011 (Liu)
Jin Huk Choi, Ph.D. - Fall 2012 (Croyole)
Anandaroop Dasgupta, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (Lawson)
Martin Donovan, Ph.D. - Summer 2011 (Smyth)
Justin Hughey, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (McGinity)
Shih Fan Jang, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (McConville/Williams)
Tamer Kaoud, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (Dalby)
Dawn Kim-Romo, M.S. - Spring 2012 (Barner/Brown)

Jeannie Li, Ph.D. - Summer 2011 (Liu)
Yichen Lin, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (Richburg)
Lindsay McCracken, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (Harris)
Esther Maier, Ph.D. - Summer 2011, (Duauchelle)
Teresa Mann, Ph.D. - Spring 2012 (Rascati)
Shayna McGill, Ph.D. - Fall 2011 (Smyth)
Javier Morales, Ph.D. - Fall 2012 (Williams)
Arpita Nag, Ph.D. - Fall 2011 (Lawson)
Poorna Nemlekar, M.S. - Spring 2012 (Shepherd)
Kevin O’Donnell, Ph.D. - Fall 2011 (Williams)
Busuyi Olotu, M.S. - Spring 2012 (Brown)
Haesuk Park, Ph.D. - Spring 2013 (Rascati)
Milli Reddy, Ph.D., - Fall 2011, (Rascati)
Ivan Reveles, M.S. - Spring 2013 (Koeller)
Bertha (Letty) Rodriguez, Ph.D. - Fall 2012 (Cui)
Christina Schier, Ph.D. - Fall 2012 (Gonzales)
Amber Smith, M.S. - Spring 2013 (Koeller)
Kangho Suh, M.S. - Spring 2013 (Rascati)
Sumalee Thitinan, Ph.D. - Fall 2011 (McConville)
John Yang, Ph.D. - Fall 2012 (Stavchansky)

Some of the graduates with Dean Crimson and Associate Dean Carl Erickson at the May 2012 reception.

Some of the graduates and their families with Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice faculty at the May 2013 reception.
Graduate student news

Oladapo wins Livingston Award

Pharmacy graduate student Abiola Oladapo has been named recipient of the 2013 William S. Livingston Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant. The announcement was made in April at the Graduate School Awards Reception.

The Livingston Award recognizes an outstanding teaching assistant, assistant instructor and graduate research assistant. Oladapo and the other two awardees each received a $1,500 award. He works in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice under the supervision of faculty member Dr. Jamie Barner.

The honoree’s research aims to evaluate medication use patterns of rheumatoid arthritis patients on biologic agents and the impact of these patterns on patients’ healthcare utilization costs using Texas Medicaid data.

The information can be used to promote better medication use behavior, improve treatment outcomes and optimize treatment costs among RA patients. It may also influence how physicians prescribe these medications in RA management.

Two named to Powers Fellowships

Two pharmacy graduate students have recently been selected to Powers Graduate Fellowships, the most prestigious fellowships awarded by the UT Graduate School.

Abiola Oladapo, a student in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice, was one of 29 graduate students to be named as a 2012-2013 Powers Fellow while Sara Nowinski, a student in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was named as a 2013-2014 Powers Fellow.

Oladapo studies with Dr. Jamie Barner, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice. His research aims to evaluate medication use patterns of rheumatoid arthritis patients on biologic agents and its impact on patients’ healthcare utilization costs using Texas Medicaid data.

Nowinski studies with Dr. Ted Mills where she works to understand the relationship between changes in mitochondrial metabolism and carcinogenesis.

The fellowships are among the most prestigious fellowships awarded by the Graduate School, providing a financial incentive package totaling $36,000 over a twelve-month period. Students recipients are considered to be among the most academically competitive scholars on our campus.

Perfect Score on NRSA Predoctoral Fellowship

John Valenta, a graduate student in the lab of Dr. Rueben Gonzales, has been selected to receive a two-year Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) predoctoral fellowship from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Gonzales serves as sponsor for Valenta’s project, “Monocyte chemotactic protein–1 modulation of ethanol self-administration,” which tests the ability of the brain’s immune system to regulate alcohol consumption. Dr. Adron Harris, director of the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research, is co-sponsor.

This project will help develop insights into the transition from healthy to unhealthy drinking behavior and help develop treatment options for alcoholics. Valenta’s application received a perfect score of 10, a positive reflection not only of the applicant and the research proposal, but also of the sponsors and their commitment to training.

PhRMA Fellowship

Pharmacy graduate student Dawn Kim-Romo has been selected by the PhRMA Foundation to receive a $25,000 predoctoral fellowship.

She was selected to receive the award by the Health Outcomes Advisory Committee.

The fellowship began in Summer 2013 for one year with a potential for a second year of funding.

The award recipient is a Ph.D. candidate studying under the direction of Dr. Karen L. Rascati, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice.

The Pre Doctoral Fellowship Program is designed for candidates who expect to complete the requirements for the Ph.D. in the field of health outcomes in two years or less. The PhRMA Foundation fellowship aims to support promising students during their research by providing a stipend and funds to cover costs incidental to their training. For almost 50 years, the PhRMA Foundation has helped thousands of scientists advance their careers and has inspired new generations to enter biopharmaceutical research.
Student news

Trio to represent UT at ACCP competition
A three-person team including Mary Karr, Jennifer Scott and Kristen Thomas took top honors at the local round of the Clinical Pharmacy Challenge competition sponsored by the American Colleges of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP). They will represent the college in subsequent online rounds of this national competition in hopes of advancing to the final round that will occur during ACCP’s annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Second place honors went to Nicole Casciello, Molly Curran and Tony Vu who trailed the winning team by only one question. Third place went to Ravi Davuluri, Justine Wang, and Philip Dolin. Dr. Chris Frei coordinated the local faculty liaison for the competition. UT faculty members who served as hosts for the event including Drs. Frei, Rania Kattura, Debbie Lopez, Holli Temple, and Yasar Tasnif.

TPF scholarship recipient
Marguerite Monogue is recipient of a Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship of $1,000. P2 and P3 students who are student members of the Texas Pharmacy Association are eligible to apply for the scholarships.

ASP Awards
The UT-ASP chapter won the National Immunization Award at the American Pharmaceutical Association’s Spring 2012 Annual Meeting. Operation Immunization consists of a promotional campaign designed to increase community awareness of immunization information and advise patients where they can obtain immunizations. The campaign also promoted the implementation of immunization services in pharmacisties. The chapter was chosen to receive the Region VI Heartburn Awareness Challenge Award for partnering with Proctor and Gamble to help Americans “Get Heartburn Smart.”

Pan Am students participate in health fair
Students from the Pan Am Cooperative Program participated in a celebration of Pharmacy Month/Health Fair at Med-Aid Pharmacy in Edinburg. Blood pressure screenings, glucose and cholesterol screenings, cancer screening materials, brown bag medication reviews, and flu shots were provided free of charge to attendees. More than 80 students representing UT College of Pharmacy as well as University of Houston and Bronc Pre Pharmacy Association students. Area pharmacists participated in the event. The Cooperative Pharmacy Program held a drawing for donated prizes from local pharmacies. Geneva Padron chaired the Health Fair Organizing Planning Committee and Sharon Thomas chaired the Halloween Safety Tips project for the Bronc Pre-Pharmacy Association.

ASHP poster presentations
Several UT students were selected to present posters at the December 2012 ASHP-Mid-year meeting. “Retrospective analysis of catheter-associated urinary tract infections in a university medical center setting,” was presented by Catherine Ho (P-4), Julian McCreary, Ogechika Alozie, Jose Rivera and Shannon Jordan. The second poster, “Assessing cultural perspectives and barriers toward immunizations in a Hispanic population,” was presented by Jessica Gomez and Margie Padilla.
**Student news**

**John inducted to Friar Society**

John inducted to Friar Society, the oldest honor society at UT Austin. John served previously as president of Pharmacy Council, the student government group within the college.

John joins a list of previous pharmacy students to be inducted into the society, beginning with Harrison Pollard in 1933. The most recent pharmacy inductee before John was Lea Swanson inducted in 2001. The intent of the organization is to honor and offer membership to students who have made significant contributions to the betterment of the university. Members of the Friar Society have been among the most active and visible students on campus, even though the organization itself historically has maintained a low profile in a tradition similar to that of its namesakes, the friars. Six students founded the Friar Society at UT Austin in 1911 as an all-male organization, but in 1973 inducted six women into its ranks and became the first all-male campus organization to do so.

**NCQA named nation’s top chapter**

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCQA) student chapter was named the top NCQA student chapter in the country for 2012. Announcement was made at NCQA’s 114th Annual Convention and Trade Exposition in San Diego, California in October.

The chapters are the most integral part of the NCQA Student Outreach Program that is underwritten by the NCQA Foundation and is designed to increase student awareness of pharmacy ownership and the entrepreneurial opportunities in pharmacy. NCQA has approximately 3,700 student members and 102 chapters in the 124 U.S. pharmacy schools.

“Outstanding pharmacy students demonstrate excellence across multiple domains of performance,” said Dean Lynn Crismon. “In particular, they perform in an outstanding manner in their projects to promote patient adherence and in advancing advocacy efforts.”

Several students also received individual recognitions. Sherman Kuan, a P3 student, was named outstanding student chapter member of the year for UT Austin. The treasurer of the UT Austin chapter, Kuan was among 26 nationally honored with the award after being nominated by their peers and faculty at each of their respective schools. Rima Bouajram received the Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship while Chris Perling, president of the UT chapter, was awarded the Presidential Scholarship. Both are P4 students.

**Students vs. faculty in San Antonio food drive**

The San Antonio Food Bank was the big winner when San Antonio area faculty and students competed in the second annual SASPA Food Bank Challenge. Students surpassed faculty in the 10-day challenge. Collectively the competition garnered 680 pounds of food and $250 in cash.

**Davuluri awarded NCPA scholarship**

Ravi Davuluri, a P4 student, is one of 34 students selected nationally to receive a scholarship from the National Community Pharmacists Association’s Foundation and Partners in Pharmacy. The program recognizes students with demonstrated leadership qualities, academic achievement, and an interest in pharmacy management.

**Student organization changes name**

The Mexican-American Association of Pharmacy Students has a new name. The organization, which is one of the largest student organizations within the college, has received permission from the Dean of Students’ Office to change its name to the Hispanic Association of Pharmacists (HAP). Members of the student organization voted in favor of the name change earlier this year in an effort to more fully mirror the population it serves. With the name change, the incoming executive board has decided to try to make the group a statewide organization and is working with their counterparts at the University of Houston to develop a modified constitution that could be used by new chapters across Texas.
Colors for causes

Austin area students and faculty participating in the Austin Race for the Cure, above, and Go Pink Day (pictured are members of the P1 class).

MAAPS Go Blue for Diabetes Awareness

Earth Day at UT El Paso

Students, faculty and staff in San Antonio support the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women

What’s an IPPE?

Continued from page 7.

nurse or respiratory therapist to observe medication administration to a patient.

The students are required to write a weekly reflection or short essay about their experiences. Most of the reflections were very positive. The following are some direct quotes from some of the essays that were received.

“So far, the IPPE has been the highlight of pharmacy school.”

“I was surprised at how much information I had retained from PT (pharmacotherapy) and PK (pharmacokinetics) lectures. The experience itself was priceless.”

“The IPPE has been a great learning experience and I feel like I have a better understanding of hospital pharmacy. I did not really consider hospital pharmacy as a career choice at first but now that I know a little bit more about it, I am very interested in a hospital pharmacy career.”

“To say the least, the institutional IPPE has been one of the greatest experiences thus far in the curriculum. It not only prepares us for our P4 rotations but also takes away some of the anxiety.”

“The IPPE experience brought the textbook to life. I have been encouraged by this experience and I am confident that I will be prepared for my rotations during my P4 year.”

The common theme from the feedback was that the students had the ability to understand how the didactic information learned in class applied to real practice. They were able to walk away with a basic understanding of hospital pharmacy.

Overall, the institutional IPPE experience was very positive for most students, opening their eyes to consider hospital pharmacy, or, for others, confirming their desire to work in a community setting. Both conclusions speak to the goal of the program – to expose students early to both hospital and community practice so that they could make informed decisions about future career paths.
Scholarship awards

NACDS Foundation supports scholarship fund

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) has awarded $30,000 in scholarship funds to benefit Pharm.D. students at the UT College of Pharmacy. Announcement of the award was made at the association’s annual meeting in April.

The scholarship is supported by a gift by Walgreens to the NACDS Foundation. Kermit Crawford, R.Ph., president for pharmacy services at Walgreens, presented the award to Dean Lynn Crismon at the meeting. The award was based upon a competitive scholarship assistance proposal authored by Dr. Nathan Pope, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, and Dean Crismon. In all, NACDS Foundation presented a total of $230,000 in scholarship funding to 12 accredited pharmacy schools and colleges. This year, the Foundation’s scholarship program was restructured to reflect a merit-based approach in its awards. The new process is designed to recognize schools and colleges of pharmacy that emphasize advancing and improving patient care through community pharmacy and have implemented innovative programs to prepare students for these new roles.

In announcing the award, NACDS cited the college’s emphasis on medication therapy management (MTM) including a strong MTM research focus within the health outcomes faculty. In addition, all graduates earn MTM certification as part of their education. Texas also is deemed a leader in community pharmacy residencies with nine positions in community pharmacies throughout Texas.”

Crismon credited the work of college faculty in discussing the award.

“It is our faculty who receive the credit for this scholarship award,” he said. “They designed our current Pharm.D. curriculum, and implemented and taught it. They are faculty members who conducted the research examining patient care outcomes with innovative community pharmacy services, and several are the faculty who supervise graduate students and community pharmacy residents who conducted cutting edge research in community pharmacy practice.”

Crismon said that the $30,000 award will go into the NACDS Endowed Presidential Scholarship fund where it will benefit UT student pharmacists in perpetuity.

Graduate students awarded prestigious AFPE fellowships

The American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education works to advance pharmaceutical sciences education at U.S. schools of pharmacy. One way the organization supports education is through awarding fellowships and grants to support graduate study.

Four graduate students, Kelly Daniels, Christine Dao, Michael Sandoval, and Neha Thakore, were among the 42 selected nationally to hold the fellowships for 2012-2013 from a field of 119 applicants. In addition, Grace Lee was selected to receive one of the fellowships for 2013-2014 while Christine Dao was awarded a one-year renewal of her pre-doctoral fellowship.

“It is outstanding that our college’s graduate students won these national awards,” said Dean Lynn Crismon. “I congratulate these outstanding students for their accomplishments.”

Kelly Daniels works with Dr. Chris Frei, assistant professor of pharmacotherapy in San Antonio. She began studies in Fall 2012 as one of the first students in the new translational science Ph.D. program.

Christine Dao works with Dr. Ted Mills, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology. She entered candidacy in Spring 2012.

Michael Sandoval worked with Dr. Zhengrong Cui, associate professor of pharmaceutics.

Neha Thakore began the college’s Ph.D. program in Fall 2012 after earning her Pharm.D. in May. She studies under direction of Dr. Christine Duvachelle, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

Grace Lee will begin the translational science Ph.D. program beginning this fall under the direction of Dr. Frei.

The program encourages outstanding pre-doctoral students to continue their studies and earn the Ph.D. in the pharmaceutical sciences at a U.S. school or college of pharmacy. Each of the AFPE fellowship awards provides $6,500 in funding. The fellowship stipend may be used for a purpose decided by the awardee and college that will enable the student to make progress in their pursuit of their degree.
Medical mission

Learning challenges of delivering short supply products in high traffic clinic

By Kristin Lutek and Juliann Horn

In Summer 2012, we left for a 9-day medical mission trip to a rural area located near a volcano outside of the city of San Salvador. The clinic was set up at the Amigos Del Volcan School (Friends of the Volcano) on the side of the volcano. Each day of the clinic, villagers traveled from miles around to receive medical care. Patients also received prayer and spiritual counseling in order to meet their needs holistically.

Our team consisted of four doctors, a dentist, a nursing student, a medical student, and many other volunteers. Juliann and I served as the pharmacy team. The trip leader was Dr. Dwain Illman, and the trip was organized through Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA) in affiliation with Global Health Outreach (GHO).

One of our biggest challenges on the trip was the small supply of medications. Although our team had individually packed many boxes of medications to bring into the country, customs would not clear the medications and supplies until the second day of clinic.

Despite these challenges, we were able to see 943 medical patients; 188 dental patients, and give out 285 pairs of glasses during the week.

As fourth year pharmacy students, Juliann and I acted as pharmacists in managing our supply of medications. We set up an empty classroom to be our pharmacy, using one door as the “intake” for prescriptions, and one door as the counseling window. We trained members of our team as well as students from the local Christian high school who were there to serve as translators to be pharmacy technicians.

Upon receiving a prescription in the pharmacy, we used our clinical skills to evaluate the prescriptions for accuracy in dosing, drug interactions, and appropriateness for the patient. We counseled each and every patient who came through the pharmacy on their medication – instructions, side effects, and any other precautions.

Though we gave of ourselves to serve the people of El Salvador in rural villages with high medical need, the people of El Salvador gave so much to us. Their warm smiles, their calm and satisfied demeanors, and their deep appreciation left a mark on our lives.

I remember one lady in particular who I visited with during a patient counseling session. As I explained to her that we did not have the medication to cure her condition, she responded in a confident yet peaceful way, “It is God’s will.”

The need is great in El Salvador, and countless citizens do not have access to adequate medical care. We would like to go back someday to minister to these people again – it was an unforgettable experience.

Editor’s Note: Kristin Lutek and Juliann Horn completed a medical mission trip to San Salvador in Summer 2012, just prior to the start of their fourth year of pharmacy school. Both graduated in May 2013.
Dr. Patrick Davis, senior associate dean for academic affairs, is among 12 outstanding educators inducted into the inaugural class of The University of Texas System Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Davis is one of six educators from UT Austin named to the honor. The Austin faculty members, along with six educators from other UT System institutions, make up the academy’s first class.

The UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers was created to recognize outstanding educators at the system’s nine academic institutions. Members of the academy will serve as a system-level advocacy group dedicated to enhancing teaching, fostering innovation in the classroom and promoting interdisciplinary perspectives on education.

“Great teachers are so critical to the success of students, and we are fortunate that the best teachers in the world work for University of Texas institutions,” said Pedro Reyes, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and a professor in the College of Education.

The recognized professors have won numerous teaching awards at UT Austin and are members of the university’s own Academy of Distinguished Teachers that was established in 1995.

Crouch recognized by university graduate program

Stephanie W. Crouch, graduate coordinator in the college, was named recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Coordinator Award at the Graduate School Awards Reception in April. Honorees are presented a $3,000 award.

Crouch has served as graduate coordinator for the college since 2010. “We were able to recruit her to our college in the summer of 2010, making her eligible for this award in our college for the first time,” said Carlton K. Erickson, associate dean for research and graduate studies within the college. She previously served as graduate coordinator in the departments of astronomy (2003–2007) and radio-television-film (2007–2010).

She exhibits a love for students and a keen knowledge of Graduate School procedures, possesses an extensive knowledge of UT history, and is willing to help wherever needed, Erickson said. “She is uncanny in her common sense, attention to detail, and her incredible knowledge of student needs,” he continued.

Crouch collaborated in developing a database that follows the graduate students’ progress, while making pieces of this information available to others in the college according to their need. This project is in its final testing phase and once introduced it should lead to more student satisfaction and maybe shorter time to graduation in some cases.

Crouch said she especially enjoys working one-on-one with students. “I work with, and coach, our international students to help them with their English,” she said. “My language coaching often starts because they are preparing for the ITA exam, but we continue on even after they have passed the test. I love talking to my students and finding out what they consider valuable, and what their goals are.”
Alcoholism is complicated. Investigators have studied it for decades, making steady progress concerning its various causes and treatment protocols. Even so, much is yet to be understood about the disease that affects approximately 76 million people.

Researchers at The University of Texas at Austin have studied the disease from numerous perspectives ranging from pharmacology to clinical psychology, from cellular and molecular biology to behavioral neuroscience and neuroscience. While their research efforts have proven productive, a program that has been viewed in a supporting role in these investigations may well lead to the greatest advancement in the fight against this disease – NIH training grants to support a new generation of researchers.

It was more than 25 years ago when Dr. Steven Leslie, a pharmacology professor with an active research lab focused on alcoholism, secured a grant from the National Institutes of Health that was designed, not to directly support investigations in Leslie’s lab, but rather to support pre-doctoral and postdoctoral investigators in both his lab and the labs of some of his colleagues. The grant provided stipends to the student researchers allowing them to focus on the work of battling alcoholism.

The NIH has continued to renew funding to the university for the alcohol-training grant via five-year allocations. Now in its 27th year, the UT grant has survived federal belt tightening that led to diminished funding for significant numbers of NIH grant applications as well as a change of leadership in the UT training program when Dr. Ruenen Gonzales assumed leadership of the program in 1998. In those 27 years, more than 30 postdoctoral researchers and almost 60 pre-doctoral students have received stipends under the grant to support their research into causes and treatment for alcoholism. Many have gone on to establish their own research programs to investigate various aspects of alcoholism.

“The science and knowledge of what we know about alcoholism is constantly changing,” said Gonzales recently. “What we learn today helps build for the necessary advances in our understanding of alcoholism tomorrow so we are constantly needing to train and prepare a new generation of researchers in this field.

“Training grants provide stipends for young researchers enabling them to gain a broad foundation of research skills before having to develop their own independent research questions.”
Acosta, Lawson, Karboski honored for teaching

Three members of the college faculty have received Regents Outstanding Teaching awards from the University of Texas System.

James Karboski, clinical professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, is among the 26 faculty members from UT Austin selected to receive the award for 2013. He was chosen to address members of the Board of Regents on behalf of the more than 60 educators honored with 2013 awards.

He joins Renee Acosta, a clinical associate professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, and Ken Lawson, a professor and head of the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division, who were among 65 faculty members from the system’s institutions to be honored for 2012 awards. A total of 27 faculty members from UT Austin received the 2012 awards.

Dr. Patrick Davis, senior associate dean and a medicinal chemistry faculty member, and Arlyn Kloesel, distinguished senior lecturer of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, are previous recipients of the award.

“Professors Acosta, Lawson and Karboski are outstanding teachers and valuable members of our college faculty,” said M. Lynn Crismon, dean. “It is an exceptional honor that our college now has five faculty members chosen for this award from a college the size of the UT College of Pharmacy.”

Barner cited for new college teaching award

Barner, who holds the Abbott Centennial Fellowship in Pharmacy, was cited by student nominees for her ability to make information in her classroom relevant and interesting. “Her success is truly a testament to her passion and dedication to teaching and research,” wrote one student nominee.

The award recipient was also cited for her efforts to encourage students to leadership. “She challenges me to push the boundaries of convention; she is an inspiration,” wrote another student.

This is the first year for the college to present the Distinguished Educator of the Year Award. It was established to honor a distinguished educator selected from nominations from P4 students as the best instructor from their pharmacy education. The selection team looked for demonstration of student pharmacist learning, commitment to professional development and teaching, positive student-faculty interactions, and excellent communication skills. The event was coordinated and sponsored by Pharmacy Council. Other nominees for the distinguished educator award included Prof. Renee Acosta, Dr. Patrick Davis, Dr. Walter Fast, Dr. Ken Lawson and Dr. Ted Mills. Each was presented with a certificate of recognition.

Other highlights of the evening included presentation of Class Teaching Excellence Awards. A faculty recipient was named for each of the first three years of the academic program. Award recipients include:

- P1 Teaching Excellence Award – Dr. Christian Whitman, division head and professor of medicinal chemistry.
- P2 Teaching Excellence Award – Marcia Kiger, clinical instructor in health outcomes and pharmacy practice.
- P3 Teaching Excellence Award – Dr. Stephen Saklad, clinical associate professor of pharmacotherapy.
- Teaching Assistant Teaching Excellence Award – Ashkan Yazdi.
- IPPE Preceptor of the Year Award – Neesha Thakkar, preceptor at St. David’s Hospital.
Dalby optimistic regarding cancer fight

There are so many ways for cells to go bad and become cancerous that anti-cancer therapies will need to include customized agents to modify various cancer-causing targets. Dalby, a professor of medicinal chemistry, is working to identify and create some of these agents. Specifically, he is working to create inhibitors of pathways that go awry in cancer cells.

Dalby's research focuses on protein kinases, which modify other proteins and regulate communication pathways in cells. When cell signals behave as they're supposed to behave, the cell functions properly. When the signals go off track, changes multiply down the line and cause disease.

“In cancer, many protein kinases have been found to be deregulated through mutations in the genome of a cancer cell,” he says. “So, their activity is not regulated in the way they would be in a normal, healthy cell.”

Dalby is researching how these proteins work in normal cells and how they don't work properly in diseased cells. He hopes that “by working with the proteins we can establish routes to identify inhibitors of their abnormal activity.” Down the road, specific genes involved with each individual's cancer could be identified through genetic testing, Dalby says.

He hopes that these advances in diagnoses will couple with the advances in therapeutics to allow a more tailored approach to cancer care. “We'd say we need to inhibit the product of this gene, this gene and this gene,” he says. “And we would take inhibitors off the shelf that correspond to those targets.”

“Dr. Dalby's research exploring these mechanisms as well as developing inhibitors of protein kinases not only provides us with greater understanding regarding the mechanisms involved in the proliferation of cancer cells, it will hopefully produce new more effective medications for the treatment of cancer,” said Dean Lynn Crisman.

Dalby says he has been interested in the “why” of chemical reactions since he was a university student in his native England.

As a student, he struggled with lectures in which chemical reactions were thrown up on the blackboard without explaining why they happened. “I got interested in understanding why things went the way they did – understanding mechanisms.”

This curiosity led Dalby to wonder about the complex processes of cell signaling and ultimately to cancer research.

He collaborates with researchers at the university as well as those at medical institutions, such as the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In the past two years, he has received nearly $5 million in research grants from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and the National Institutes of Health.

He is the principal investigator on a $2.3 million CPRIT grant for a program that gives scientists in Texas access to resources for drug discovery research. Using large collections of molecules that are usually available only to researchers in large pharmaceutical companies, academic scientists can now screen for potential drug therapies and test the efficacy of candidates.

A library of these molecules is housed at the Texas Institute for Drug and Diagnostic Development (T13D). With the CPRIT grant, Dalby says, researchers can efficiently study these molecules as potential drug therapies against almost any specific cellular target. The project is part of a CPRIT-sponsored $12.6 million Throughput Screening Program.

“Such an unprecedented level of research coordination across the state of Texas is an innovation in itself, one that will lead to a very fertile foundation for many breakthroughs in our fight against cancer,” says Brent Iverson, former director of T13D.

Advances in technology have enabled researchers to do more, do it faster and do it less expensively than they could before. “We can measure the activity of a target, such as a kinase in the laboratory, and we can add a small molecule to the assay to see whether it influences the potential target,” he says. “That gives us an idea of where to go next.”

Of course, there's still a long way to go until cancer is controlled. Dalby is quietly confident that day is coming, though. “Before, cancer was trapped in a black box,” he says. “Now one gets the sense that we're lifting the lid and letting some light through.”
DiGiovanni receives NCI grant

$2.2M supports research regarding cancer fighting plant extract

A UT team of researchers has been awarded a $2.2 million grant to help determine how compounds that occur naturally in a plant extract inhibit cancer development. Dr. John DiGiovanni, professor of pharmacology and toxicology and nutrition, and Dr. Thomas Slaga, professor of pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, are co-principal investigators of the study. The grant, awarded by the National Cancer Institute, supports their work over a five-year period. The project also includes Dr. Dionicio Siegel, assistant professor of chemistry at UT.

“Cancer is largely a preventable disease,” said DiGiovanni. “Despite significant advances in cancer treatment and early detection, overall cancer incidence has increased worldwide, cancer-associated morbidity is considerable, and overall cancer survival has remained relatively flat over the past several decades.”

The researchers are investigating the use of phytonutrients to inhibit, delay or reverse abnormal cell growth that occurs during cancer development in epithelial tissues. This process known as cancer chemoprevention involves examining synthetic or natural compounds and combinations of compounds that work to block the growth of early or premalignant cancer cells. This study is also connected to other ongoing research designed to unravel the link between obesity and cancer development through the identification of naturally occurring compounds that can mimic the effects of calorie restriction. Calorie restriction has been shown to inhibit tumor growth in many animal models of human cancer.

In this recently funded study, the team is focusing on ursolic acid (UA) and related pentacyclic triterpene compounds found naturally. UA is found in rosemary, apples, berries and other naturally occurring foods. UA is a candidate calorie restriction mimetic compound and in earlier studies UA and other triterpenoids have been shown to inhibit tumor development, including skin cancer.

“The compounds we are studying are also particularly abundant in Perilla frutescens, a member of the mint family,” DiGiovanni said. The extract and compounds under study come from the leaves of two varieties of this plant which are used extensively in Asian cuisines. “Red perilla is found most often in fish stews in China, while green perilla is more commonly found in both Korean and Japanese cuisines.” Perilla is also referred to as Japanese basil or Shiso.

“The long term goal of this research is to identify safe and effective naturally occurring chemopreventive compounds that can reduce the overall incidence of cancer,” said DiGiovanni.

San Antonio electives, service learning project garner recognitions, awards

Dr. Veronica Young, clinical assistant professor of pharmacotherapy, and students in her classes at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio have garnered several awards and recognitions recently.

A team of third-year pharmacy students were recognized for an outstanding community service learning (CLS) project. Student team members include Eva Chugh, Amanda Fowler, Katie Lee and Sumon Sen. Their project, “Interprofessional Collaboration Advancing Patient Safety Program: Needs Assessment for Community-Based Organization Serving Developmentally Disabled Adults” was one of only three projects recognized by the UTHSCSA Student Government Association. The recognition marks the first time that pharmacy student have received recognition at the Health Science Center Awards Ceremony. More than 30 CLS projects were reviewed. The project also was chosen as one of three outstanding CSL projects at the 5th Annual CSL Conference hosted at the Health Science Center last spring.

Two electives taught by Young have been cited to receive mini-grants from the Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics within the School of Medicine at the UTHSCSA. “Master your Meds: Are you controlling your HIV or is HIV controlling you?” was developed from Young’s Interprofessional HIV Care elective. Students Juliann Peterson (team leader), Joy Chou and Isaac Pan lead the program that includes interprofessional students from the San Antonio schools of medicine, public health, respiratory care, social work and pharmacy.

The second elective to receive a mini-grant is titled, “ICAPS Interprofessional Collaboration Advancing Patient Safety.” The program is student led by Amanda Fowler (team leader), Sumon Sen, Eva Chugh and Katherine Lee. Community partners in this initiative include Paula Winkler of the South Center Area Health Education Center and Pam Kelly of Reaching Maximum Independence.
Faculty news

Aguilera named to Collegiate Scholars

Dr. Lydia Aguilera, clinical assistant professor at Pan Am, was named a distinguished member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars of the University of Texas Pan American chapter. The induction ceremony was held in August. She was recognized for her dedicated support of UTPA students.

Cui addresses Canadian symposium

Dr. Zhengrong Cui, associate professor of pharmaceutics, was a guest speaker at the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences Symposium in Toronto, Canada. The theme for the symposium was Modern Therapeutics 2012: Advances in Physiology, Pharmacology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Cui’s presentation was titled, “Transcutaneous DNA Immunization: From Nanoparticles to Hair Follicles and Back to Nanoparticles.”

McGinity talks intellectual property to legislators

Dr. James McGinity, professor of pharmaceutics, addressed regarding developing intellectual property discovered on the university campus. He spoke to the House Committee on Economic and Small Business Development where members were studying ways to encourage Texas universities to convert their research into revenue via products, companies and jobs. McGinity has developed a drug-patented process that makes it difficult for someone to break up OxyContin, a product that is often abused by people who break up and snort the drug. Although his patent accounted for approximately $11 million of the $26 million in last year’s revenue for UT Austin’s Office of Technology and Commercialization, he contends that the university had the potential for greater profits by supporting a start up company rather than licensing the process to an existing company.

Guerra named secretary for Rio Grande chapter

Dr. Veronica Guerra, adjunct assistant professor at Pan Am, has been elected secretary for the Rio Grande Valley chapter of the Texas Pharmacy Association.

Gore receives SEBM award

Dr. Andrea Gore, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, has been named a recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Scientist Award presented by the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. The presentation was made at the SEBM annual meeting in April 2013.

She was one of three recipients of the award this year. Other recipients include Dr. George Gao of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Dr. Robert Mallet of the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

Gore is currently serving as editor-in-chief of Endocrinology, the publication of the Endocrine Society. The publication is seen as one of the most authoritative biomedical research journals in the world.

Rascati joins journal’s editorial team

Dr. Karen Rascati, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, has been named as one of three new assistant editors for the peer-reviewed Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy, the official journal of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

Rascati is the Eckerd/Turley Centennial Endowed Professor of Health Outcomes & Pharmacy Practice. She has conducted more than 50 funded research projects on economic and outcomes evaluations for disease states and pharmacy services. She has also authored or co-authored more than 200 publications and presentations. The second edition of her textbook, Essentials of Pharmacoconomics (2008), will be available in October.

Joining Rascati in the editorship are Dr. Laura Happe from Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy and Dr. Eleanor Perfetto of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

“With their extraordinary experience, qualifications and commitment, Drs. Happe, Rascati and Perfetto will boost JMCP’s reputation as a widely read and quoted journal describing cutting-edge research and practices in managed care today,” said Editor-in-Chief John Mackowiak.

In their brief time with JMCP, Happe, Rascati and Perfetto have already had an impact, Mackowiak said. Even though manuscript submissions are up 55 percent this year, the time a manuscript spends in JMCP’s high-quality review process has decreased significantly.
Dear Fellow Alumni,

It seems like just yesterday that I was surrounded by 130 new classmates at New Student Orientation and not quite sure what I had gotten myself into! In reality, it has been 10 years since I first stepped foot on campus. I remember being new to The University of Texas, sitting in an unfamiliar lecture hall, and listening to upper-classmen and pharmacists welcome us to the world of pharmacy. From that moment I knew that pharmacy was not only a degree but a lifelong brotherhood, and I was proud to know that I would one day be a part of it.

Today I consider those upperclassmen and pharmacists close friends and respected advisors. I love that I know pharmacists in different practice settings who can give me perspective and sound advice. Many of my classmates have moved on and we now have very different lives, but the one thing we will always have in common is that we graduated from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. In four short years we received a world class education which has given us the means to take on the world!

I greatly value the connections made during, and after, pharmacy school, which is why I opted to join the University of Texas College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. I enjoy being a member of the Alumni Association because it has kept me connected to my roots and the people who first made me fall in love with pharmacy. I no longer live in Austin, but Austin is close to my heart, and being a part of the Alumni Association has helped me feel like I am back on campus again.

I know that we get stuck in the everyday routine, but I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone. Whether you are single, married, divorced, widowed, with children (or grand-children), working full time, part time, or already retired, I encourage you to become a part of the Alumni Association. Your college gave you the means to your profession, and your profession has given you the means to touch numerous lives. We help patients every day – it’s what we do! But we should also remember to help those who got us to where we are. Even if you do not become a part of the Alumni Association, I sincerely hope you invest in our future pharmacists. The cost of a college education is not getting any cheaper, and there are many opportunities for you to give back to our beloved college!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alumni President this year! I have seen what the Alumni Association does for our students and alumni and am continually amazed as to what they are capable of. I hope that you all stay in touch with our Alumni Association because they would love to hear from YOU! Hook’em!

The alumni president’s message

By Alexis Balko

Friends we will miss

Carolyn Tally Hutchinson, B.S. ’41, died Sept. 25, 2012
John Vacek, B.S. ‘42, died March 30, 2013
William J. Edwards, B.S. ‘49, died April 4, 2013
Robert Brooke, B.S. ‘58, died Dec. 27, 2012
J.D. Harper, B.S. ’60, died May 11, 2012
Domingo Martinez, B.S. ’63, died May 6, 2013
O.C. Houston, B.S. ’69, died Jan. 28, 2013
Susan Goodrum Safahi, B.S. ’85, died May 4, 2013

2012-2013 College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Executive Council

President
Alexis Balko
Corpus Christi, Texas
Immediate Past-President
Katy Toale
Houston, Texas
President-Elect
Connie Gelineau
Richardson, Texas
Secretary-Treasurer
Jacque Borel
Rowlett, Texas
Member-at-Large
Kris Klein-Bradham
Austin, Texas
Member-at-Large
Mark Zamutt
Lakeway, Texas
J. Nile Barnes
Bethany Boyd
Lori Evans
Jenny Splane

Lance Ray
James Cox
Isidro Ramirez Jr.
Jose Cervantes
2012 Student Body President
Eric Ho
Dallas, Texas
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
Susan Brown
Austin, Texas
Assistant Director for Development and Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
Lauren McIlwain
Austin, Texas
Development Associate (ex-officio)
Meagan Smith
Austin, Texas
Alumni Association honors four

Zamutt, Tiemann, Barnes, Knight recognized for service

Honorees of the 2012 College of Pharmacy Alumni Association annual awards include:

- Mark Zamutt, recipient, William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award;
- Kenneth Tiemann, recipient, Legend of Pharmacy Award;
- Nile Barnes, recipient, Distinguished Young Alumnus Award; and
- Steven Knight, recipient, Wm. Arlyn Kloesel Preceptor of the Year Award

Wm. J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus - Mark Zamutt

Mark Zamutt, B.S. ’80, has built a solid pharmacy career and has been a strong advocate for the profession. He has more than 30 years of experience in pharmacy practice and management and currently works with HEB and Northwest Hills Pharmacy. He has twice served as president of the Capital Area Pharmacy Association and has held a variety of leadership positions with Texas Pharmacy Association. He enjoys educating students and has been a UT preceptor for more than 22 years. He has served on the UT College of Pharmacy Admissions Committee and on the UT College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Executive Council. Zamutt served many years as coordinator of the College of Pharmacy’s annual Legend of Pharmacy Golf Tournament, an event that raised money for the Student Professional Development Endowment.

Legend of Pharmacy Award honoree - Ken Tiemann

Kenneth Tiemann’s legendary pharmacy career spans almost 60 years. He received both of his pharmacy degrees from UT Austin, B.S. ‘52, M.S. ‘59. In addition, he holds a Ph.D. in health services management from Century University in California. Tiemann served as chief pharmacist of the University’s Student Health Center from 1955 until 1961, after which he went into community pharmacy practice. He owned and operated an independent pharmacy, directed pharmacy services at Brown Schools for Exceptional Children and at Westminster Hospital, and served as a consultant to various nursing homes and extended-care facilities. He recently retired from American Pharmaceutical Services, a division of Omnicare Inc. He served as an adjunct professor within the college and was an early member of the UT Pharmaceutical Foundation Advisory Council. Tiemann played a crucial role in developing early regulations of consultant pharmacy practice. He has received many awards for his work in pharmacy.

Distinguished Young Alumnus - J. Nile Barnes

J. Nile Barnes, Pharm.D., is a clinical assistant professor in the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. Prior to returning to his alma mater, Barnes taught at the University of Incarnate Word and at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He graduated with his Pharm.D. from the UT College of Pharmacy in 2005 and completed a residency in internal medicine in 2006. He has had extensive experience in hospital pharmacy practice, including work at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Hospital and at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Austin. Prior to becoming a pharmacist, he received his B.S. in zoology from UT Austin and worked as an emergency medical technician. Barnes is a member of the Pharmacy Alumni Association where he has served on its executive council since graduation. In addition to teaching in a classroom, he maintains a practice site at University Medical Center – Brackenridge where he serves as a preceptor.

Wm. Arlyn Kloesel Preceptor of the Year - Steven Knight

Steven Knight, Pharm.D. ’09, is a transplant staff pharmacist at Methodist Dallas Medical Center in Dallas where he developed transplant clinical rounding services with nephrology and hepatology teams. In addition to precepting P3 and P4 students, he mentors postgraduate pharmacy residents. Knight is an active member of Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Metroplex Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and Methodist Dallas Medical Center Residency Advisory Committee. According to one nominator, he is supportive and encourages his students to “see the big picture” when examining patients. Knight is known to set an example for students to respect patient privacy, to show great attention to detail, and to invest time with patients. He is dedicated to educating students, and encouraging them to join professional organizations and to stay connected.

Current Alumni Association president Alexis Balko, left, with immediate past president Katy Toale.
Alumni news

Daniel Acosta, B.S. ’68 and former college faculty member, returns to his faculty position at the University of Cincinnati after a year-long administrative sabbatical. During his sabbatical, he worked on pharmacy and toxicology projects. During the year, he also visited several countries during his term as president of the International Union of Toxicology.

Siobhan Atchley, B.S. ’88, was recognized in January on the floors of the Texas House and Senate as the pharmacy she owns, Strickland Drugs was celebrated as a Texas Treasure by the Texas Historical Commission. The designation recognizes businesses than have been in existence for more than 50 years. The program was created in 2005 by Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, B.S. ’79, to recognize well-established Texas companies and their exceptional historical contributions to the state’s economic growth and prosperity.

D. Lance King, B.S. ’92, has been named vice president for donor resources for the Gill Foundation located in Denver, Colorado. He will lead the foundation’s work with other institutional and individual donors, both in Colorado and nationally and will lead the group’s OutGiving program. He has more than 20 years of experience as a development professional including a term as director of development for the UT College of Pharmacy.

Stacy Behrendt Harrington, B.S. ’97, lives in Spokane, Wash. where she works part-time for Medication Review in Washington State providing clinical telepharmacy services to rural hospitals in the Northwestern U.S. She and her husband Dennis Harrington have three children: Daniel (6), Gianna (5), and Claire (2).

Danny Carroll, Pharm.D. ’01, has been named director of pharmacy at University Medical Center Brackenridge.

Kelley Walters Garcia, Pharm.D. ’06, was highlighted in the Fall/Winter 2012 edition of Cosmopolitan. Born in San Benito, Tx and a graduate of the college’s UT Austin/UT Pan American Cooperative Pharmacy Program, Kelley was included in a segment featuring top careers for women. She identified determination, compassion and patience as keys to her success. She owns Laredo Pharmacy.

Millidhashni Reddy, M.S. ’09 and Ph.D. ’11, has been honored by her undergraduate alma mater, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University of South Africa, as recipient of a Rising Star Award. The awards were presented in November to Reddy and five others. Reddy serves as drug access program manager for the Clinton Health Access Initiative in South Africa.

TSHP honors

Alumni honored at the 2013 annual seminar of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists include:

• Jennifer Ridings-Myhra, B.S. ’78, the college’s assistant dean for experiential and professional affairs, recipient of the Pharmacy Leadership Award.

• Feibi Chi, Pharm.D. ’06 who works at Methodist Hospital in Houston, recipient of Lewis S. Smith Pharmacy Practitioner Award.

Brian Cohen, Pharm.D. ’99, pharmacist at Saint Paul Hospital in Dallas, recipient, Larry C. Nesmith Pharmacist Award.

The TSHP Practitioner Recognition Program recognizes excellence in health-system pharmacy practice and promotes public awareness of pharmacists who have distinguished themselves in practice. Those selected for the 2013 honor include Linda Albrecht, regional internship director, Dallas; Todd Canada, Pharm.D. ’93, MD Anderson Hospital Pharmacy of Houston; Tricia Meyer, B.S. ’73, Scott & White Memorial Hospital of Temple; Julie Nelson, B.S. ’74 and M.S. ’76, I.V. Specialty, Ltd. of Austin.

In addition, Albrecht received the society’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

Pharmacists sharing a trip to Africa include from left: Gilbert Salinas, ’77; Sandy and Jeff Warnken, ’85; Baldomar Vela, ’77; Johnette DeLeon, ’75; and Larry Luebke.
1962 - It was a very good year

1962 was a year of big events – the Cuban missile crisis, John Glenn orbiting the earth, first administered of the polio vaccine, and the Beatles first single “Love Me Do.” It was also the year that an extraordinary class of students completed their studies at the College of Pharmacy. Spring 2012 saw the return of some of these former classmates for their 50th class reunion. Arlyn Kloesel, B.S. ’62, helped coordinate the reunion for his class. With his assistance Focus polled four class members concerning change, career satisfaction, and the future of pharmacy.

Ron Gieser
Burleson, Texas

Focus: What do you see as the greatest advancement or change in the practice of pharmacy?
“The great advancement is the availability of drugs today that were not on the market in 1962 to better treat the patient and the understanding of the mechanism of action. We had no computers upon graduation to monitor patient activity, side effects and allow the patient to go online to gain knowledge of their drug action and disease state. Our ability to attend CE lectures to advance our understanding of drug action is also important. We were educated as well as technology could afford at that time.”

Focus: What would you say was the most satisfying aspect of your career?
“Being able to interact with the patients’ needs and their understanding of drug treatment in relation to their anomaly and condition. We were respected in the community as experts on drug action and what it was for and side effects. Pharmacy was the most respected profession and we were always available for consultation. Many in our class became leaders in our communities, churches, and schools allowing us greater exposure and further promotion of our profession.
I am proud that I chose the profession of pharmacy and it has certainly allowed me opportunities that may not have been available to me if I had chosen another path.”

Focus: What excites you most about the future of pharmacy?
“After monitoring two classes, I see that students today have greater one on one with the professor and other students. We were pencil and paper students copying notes as the professor lectured. There was certainly no interaction during class period and very little, if any, time to ask questions. The fact that each student has a laptop, can log into the lecture and follow along, ask questions and stop for class discussion are all good. One of the classes had a female patient phone in concerning a drug she was taking and wondered why she was having a reaction. The moderator asked the class to provide an answer and they were able to satisfy. They also discussed their ability to meet patients in pharmacies and discuss OTC products including which one was best suited for the individual. We never heard of making rounds with physicians in hospital settings.
We could not label the bottle with a drug name nor discuss the drug openly with the patient for fear of infringing in the physicians territory. Today the student is educated in that field. As we continued in our practice settings, we were allowed greater leeway to be a part of and recognized as knowledgeable participants on the patients’ behalf.
We had to continue our education today to keep up with the profession and be able to compete with these new graduates.”
Arlyn Kloesel  
_Austin, Texas_  
Focus: What do you see as the greatest advancement or change in the practice of pharmacy?  
“The use of technology in every aspect of practice and business, and the development of a more direct patient care role for pharmacists in the community practice environments, as well as the evolution of the role of pharmacists in healthcare institutions.”

Focus: What would you say was the most satisfying aspect of your career?  
“Participating in two environments of pharmacy – community pharmacy (enjoyed the interaction with patients) and academia (enjoyed interacting with students, faculty and alumni) – both of which I thoroughly enjoyed.”

Focus: What excites you most about the future of pharmacy?  
“The caliber of pharmacy students (they are very intelligent and have great interpersonal and communication skills) and advancements in the curriculum (MTM, Immunization, and IV certifications; patient assessment, and a required OTC course which includes classroom sessions combined with practical experience in a community pharmacy).”

Oren Peacock  
_Sachse, Texas_  
Focus: What do you see as the greatest advancement or change in the practice of pharmacy?  
“In the old days your opportunity as a pharmacist was behind the counter counting pills. Today the opportunities are as wide as you can dream. I am positive that some of the students today will find new avenues to practice their profession in the future.

Focus: What would you say was the most satisfying aspect of your career?  
“My pharmacy degree gave me the opportunity to be a respected member of my community. Being known back then as Doc and helping people as they made their way through life was exciting and rewarding. Sharing in their trials and their successes was a blessing. Getting the opportunity to work with staff and seeing their growth from a typist to a technician to becoming a pharmacist was very special. The degree gave me an opportunity for growth also. From pharmacist to store manager, district manager, vice president of operations, and one of the owners of a major chain of pharmacies. Some of the highlights was serving on the Board of Pharmacy in Texas, being elected president of the National Boards of Pharmacy and two very special awards, William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award and the Harold W. Pratt Award.”

Focus: After visiting the college and speaking with some of our current students, what excites you most about the future of pharmacy?  
“The opportunities they have to make a difference. They will find new ways of serving in the health care team. They will make a difference in the lives of their patients. They can help change the direction of health care through the political system by becoming involved.”

Sandra Zimmerman Stephens  
_Brenham, Texas_  
Focus: What do you see as the greatest advancement or change in the practice of pharmacy?  
“The scope of study and training for pharmacist has grown immensely in the past 50 years. It was a four year study 50 years ago and calculus, public inoculation, and drug interactions are much more complicated and diverse than in our day.

Focus: What would you say was the most satisfying aspect of your career?  
“The most satisfying aspect of my career as a pharmacist was to be a part of the system that cared for others in a meaningful way. Most of my time was spent as a hospital pharmacist and I enjoyed being a health care professional who contributed to others.”

Focus: What excites you most about the future of pharmacy?  
“The student guides and classes I saw informed me about the excellence of the students, their dedication, and their education. It is very encouraging to see these young people so ably carrying on the profession.”
Wayward ring returned to owner

Afternoon amusement yields returned treasure

Donnie Gordon was getting a little fresh air, strolling around the backyard with a metal detector at his parent’s home in Commerce, Texas last December when the device began clicking to indicate that it had found metal.

With a little digging, Gordon found a University of Texas at Austin ring from the College of Pharmacy Class of 1968. Engraved on the inside of the ring, he saw engraved the initials R.A.L.

The discovery occurred during the campus semester break. By early January when the campus reopened, Donnie was determined to find the ring’s owner. He telephoned the college alumni office and was matched with Susan Brown, assistant dean for development and alumni relations.

Brown initiated a search through campus records. On her first search, she discovered no member of the Class of 1968 with those initials. She did, however, find a class member with the initials R.K.L. Gordon spoke with that class member by telephone and learned that, although this was not the rightful owner, the class member did recall a classmate with the R.A.L. initials.

Another search found Ronald Alton Lee, Class of 1968 now living in Crndall, Texas. Turns out the Lee family years ago lived in the home now owned by Donnie’s parents. Lee said he was in the yard one winter day playing with the family dog and throwing snowballs when the ring flew off his hand. He and his family searched for the missing treasure but were unable to find it even after the snow melted. He was delighted to hear from Gordon.

Meanwhile, Gordon was equally delighted to realize a happy conclusion of the ring story and began to look for a fun way to mail it back to its owner. He remembered a tiny bear enclosed in a fabric football that he had received not long before. The ring fit perfectly on the bear’s arm and was ready for mail.

Within days, the ring arrived at its destination and was once again safely on Lee’s ringfinger.

All in a day’s work.

Got a story?

Got your own story about a Longhorn encounter?
Run into a classmate on the other side of the world?
Strike up a conversation on an airplane, sharing a taxi, waiting in line, and discover you are both Longhorns?

Send us your stories and we’ll share.
You picked us and, in return,
received one of the best pharmacy educations in the world.
Now that you’re out there changing the world,
we want to stay connected.

It’s easy. Just send us your current email address. We’ll take care of the rest.

You’ll get e-communications about ground breaking college activities, the new online alumni directory, upcoming events, continuing education program, and volunteer opportunities in your own community.

Send your email address to lauren.mcilwain@austin.utexas.edu

Another great way to stay connected - Join the Pharmacy Alumni Association

Membership year is September 2013 through August 2014.

Title: □ Mr. □ Mrs. □ Ms. □ Dr. □ Other
Name: __________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City:__________ State:_____ Zip:__________
Email: __________________________________________
Class Year:_____________________________________

Membership Level
□ Life member...................................................$350
□ Recent graduate life member
   (Class of 2010, 2011, 2012 only)......................$175
□ Annual member.............................................$35
□ Associate member (non-alums only)..................$25
MTM Registration Now Open:
http://www.utexas.edu/pharmacy/ce/conferences/mtm/

The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is a licensed instructional partner of APhA’s Delivering Medication Therapy Management Services Certificate Training Program (MTM). The College is now offering MTM programs in two locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Instructors</th>
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| Austin, Texas     | Saturday, November 9, 2013   | Nathan D. Pope, Pharm.D.  <br>Residency Program Director for Community Pharmacy Residencies  
|                   | Saturday, January 25, 2014   | Sharon Rush, R.Ph.  <br>Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Outcomes & Pharmacy Practice |
|                   |                              | The University of Texas at Austin • College of Pharmacy                     |
| El Paso, Texas    | Sunday, November 10, 2013    | Margie E. Padilla, Pharm.D., CDE  <br>Clinical Assistant Professor  
|                   |                              | Residency Program Director of PGY-1 Community Practice Residency  
|                   |                              | UTEP/UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program                                |
|                   |                              | Jacquelyn P. Navarrete, Pharm.D.  <br>Clinical Assistant Professor  
|                   |                              | UTEP/UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program                                |

* Note: Must Complete Self-Study Program prior to live seminar. Recommended to register at least two weeks prior to the seminar. 

UT College of Pharmacy
Now offering Online CPE

The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy now offers CPE educational activities online. Now you can take quality CPE programs facilitated by top ranked UT Austin faculty whenever you like.

Check out our current CPE online listings at: http://www.utexas.edu/pharmacy/ce/

The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education.
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is proud to be hosting the 25th Annual Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy Update, October 24 & 25, 2013 in Austin, Texas.

Addressing Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy Topics Important 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. Participants are provided with treatment advances in the psychiatric pharmacotherapy of children, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, and an update on new psychotherapeutic uses of existing agents and new psychotropic agents that will impact your practice in the next year.

"The UT Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy Update began 25 years ago to address an unmet need for high quality continuing education for psychiatric pharmacy specialists. Since this it has grown to a regional interprofessional educational meeting that addresses the psychiatric pharmacotherapy needs for a variety of mental health professionals in Texas as well as from other states. We are proud that the UT College of Pharmacy has been able to provide leadership in providing high quality pharmacotherapy education for mental health professionals."

M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D., Dean & James T. Doluisio Regents Chair and Behrens Centennial Professor, The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy

Who Should Attend • Interprofessional Program

Pharmacists, psychiatrists, physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers who specialize in or have an interest in neuropsychiatric disorders and wish to enhance their awareness and knowledge of the most recent advances impacting contemporary practice.

The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education.
The Campaign for Texas

Seven years ago, The University of Texas at Austin launched The Campaign for Texas, the most ambitious capital campaign in its history. The $3 billion goal was three times larger than any capital campaign ever before attempted. Within weeks of the announcement, the U.S. economy began to unravel throwing the nation, and by extension much of the world, head first into the most serious economic recession since the Great Depression. Despite the challenges, The University prevailed and its friends and supporters stepped forward with record-breaking generosity to help the university raise $2.2 billion of a $3 billion goal with one year remaining in the campaign.

During this time the College of Pharmacy has directed its own portion of the campaign. As a result, the college has benefited greatly from the generosity of its friends and alumni who have stepped forward with donations to fund 25 new endowments with a combined value of more than $2.1 million. In addition, 12 estate gifts have been made with an estimated total value of more than $5.6 million. These gifts are gratefully received and will provide lasting support to our college, its faculty, and students.

At the same time, many much smaller annual and one time gifts have been made to the dean’s discretionary fund providing resources that enable the dean to send students to state and national meetings, to handle emergency operation costs, and to maintain the staffing necessary to meet the needs of our students.

All gifts, large and small, combine to make the difference in keeping our college in the top five of pharmacy schools in the nation. They make the difference to the 198 Pharm.D. students and the 17 graduate students who received a scholarship for 2013-14. They make a difference to the more than 100 students who traveled to national, state and international learning opportunities this past year. They make the difference to the more 8,000 low-income individuals who received sometimes life saving health screenings from our students.

We invite you to join the cause to help the College and the University surpass this momentous goals, not for the sake of boasting of money in hand, but rather to join us in assuring that The University of Texas at Austin and its nationally-recognized College of Pharmacy will be able to maintain its reputation as a leader in pharmacy education, research, and innovation.

We can do this. Let’s make history together.
Members of the entering Class of 2017 reviewed the college Honor Code during the first day of Fall 2013 classes and made history by becoming the first class to collectively sign a copy of the Honor Code that will be displayed in the hallways at college facilities in Austin, Edinburg, El Paso, and San Antonio.
Members of the Class of 2017 begin their career as pharmacy students by signing the Student Honor Code.