A letter from the dean

Dear Longhorn Pharmacy Alumni and Friends,

As we enter 2020, I not only reflect on the events of the last year, but since 2007 when I became dean of the UT College of Pharmacy, it has been quite a ride, and I am both proud and humbled to have served as your dean. We saw our college, the university, and our entire country go through the worst recession that we have experienced in over 80 years. Although this was a challenging experience, in many respects we came through it determined to become stronger and continue to be among the best colleges of pharmacy. As discussed in an article in this issue, we have many accomplishments of which we can be proud, and we have worked arduently to overcome the challenges that we faced along the way.

Our college is now in search of a new dean, and Professor Bill Williams leads an advisory search committee that will present a list of finalists to Provost McInnis. I am confident that our university will hire a successor that will continue to advance our college’s vision “to be the leading college of pharmacy for innovative interdisciplinary education, research, and service, revolutionizing patient care and health outcomes in Texas and the world.” In the next issue of Focus I hope to have the honor of introducing you to our next dean.

As usual, this issue of Focus emphasizes the many accomplishments of our faculty and students. I wish to highlight one particular initiative that is of major societal significance – Project Naloxone. Project Naloxone, led by Pharmacy Practice Clinical Assistant Professor Lucas Hill, has brought together faculty leaders and students from across the UT Austin campus, including Dell Medical School, the Moody College of Communications, and the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, to address the opioid epidemic in the State of Texas. Similarly, Project Naloxone includes faculty and students in the Division of Pharmacotherapy on the UT Health San Antonio campus, led by Clinical Assistant Professor Kirk Evoy. Through statewide outreach and multiple publications, this project has earned national attention, highlighted by Dr. Hill recently serving as a member of a White House Roundtable on preventing overdoses on college campuses. These efforts were recently advanced by Hill receiving a $7.2 million contract from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission with the goal of providing opioid education statewide to health care professionals and first responders, helping make sure that naloxone is provided to high risk populations, and making buprenorphine more available for treatment of opioid use disorder.

Our college seeks to be a community in which all individuals are welcome, regardless of the color of their skin, religion or ethnicity, gender or sexuality, or political thought. We accomplished a long-term goal this year by hiring our inaugural Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Skyller Walkes. Dr. Walkes brings enormous energy and warmth to our college, and since her arrival at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester I have observed a transformation in our college in many respects we came through it determined to become stronger and continue to be among the best colleges of pharmacy. As discussed in an article in this issue, we have many accomplishments of which we can be proud, and we have worked arduently to overcome the challenges that we faced along the way.

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Congratulations
Class of 2019

Student pharmacists of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy removed the “student” from their title as the Class of 2019 graduated from the Doctor of Pharmacy program during the college’s commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 24, 2019 in the university’s Bass Concert Hall.

Commencement remarks were led by Class of 2019 President and graduating pharmacist Lubna Mazin, and the commencement speaker was Dean and Distinguished Professor from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D.

The festivities also featured remarks from Dean M. Lynn Crismon, announcement of college awards, the hooding of degree candidates, the recitation of the Oath of a Pharmacist, and a rousing rendition of “The Eyes of Texas.” The newly-hooded pharmacists poured out into the plaza and greenery around Bass Concert Hall to celebrate with friends, family, and well-wishers. All expressed high hopes for the future after graduating from one of the most prestigious pharmacy programs in the world.

Congratulations to the College of Pharmacy Class of 2019! The college knows you’ll go on to do tremendous things and truly change the world.

2019 Class Officers

President, Lubna Mazin – Lubna Mazin will complete a two-year Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership residency at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and will attend the Ohio State University to receive a Master of Science in Health-System Pharmacy Administration. During her time at the College of Pharmacy, she received the United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists CEO’s Award for Courageous Service for her leadership in Operation Naloxone. She completed her honors thesis investigating naloxone education in opioid overdose reduction under the mentorship of Dr. Lucas G. Hill. Some of her leadership roles within the college included College of Pharmacy Representative for The University of Texas at Austin Student Government, Operation Naloxone Student Director, and Fitness and Wellness Co-Chair.

Vice President, Melissa Lynn Kang – Melissa Kang was actively involved in multiple organizations at the local, state, and regional level, which culminated in her roles as President of Pharmacy Council and Region 6 Liaison of Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Honor Society. Additionally, she served on college-wide and faculty search committees alongside deans, faculty, and alumni. Melissa will start a new chapter in Boston, Massachusetts, as a Post-Doctoral Fellow with Biogen Worldwide Medical and adjunct faculty member with the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science.

Secretary/Treasurer, Lindsey Taylor Groff – Lindsey Groff had a variety of leadership responsibilities during her time in pharmacy school. Most notably, Lindsey served as the president of the Student College of Clinical Pharmacy, which won the Outstanding National Chapter of the Year under her leadership. In addition, Lindsey was heavily involved in research projects targeting naloxone access and antibiotic stewardship, and successfully published research findings (along with her research team) in JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association. Lindsey attributes much of her success to her mentors and family who have supported her throughout her pharmacy career. Lindsey will continue her training as a PGY1 resident at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio.

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Doctor of Pharmacy 2019 Graduates

Alejandro Alfonso Acuna
Eli Afua Aggor
Uzma Ahmed
Ayeshaa Anne Araya
Austin M. Arzaga
Noor Samir Atiyah
Suman Augsteen
Karen Elizabeth Ayma
Rebecca Ann Belmontes
Kanika Bhandari
Marlena Birkel
Randi Lee Braak
Kiersten Marie Brasch
Sydney Anne Brausch
Jacquelyn K. Brondo
Melissa Jean Brumbalow
Hannah Millado Bustillos
Christian Clark Carlson
Cali Michele Cerami
Melanie Anne Chang
James Anthony Cong
Stephany D. Crawford
Ashley Noel Cubley
Daniel Alan Davis Jr.
Jon Ross C. Del Rosario
Andrew Anh-Tuan Doan
Simone Donnelly
Madeline Marie Droog
Victor G. Encarnacion
Korbin Patrick Evans
Melissa Peacock Evens
Zhou Fang
Brian Emmanuel Frescas
Kaillee Autumn Gaines
Damian Michael Garcia
Daryl Kevin S. Gaspar
Hannah Elizabeth Gaylord
Michael Stephen Gin
Christine Rene Goertz
Hailey Suzanne Gray
Austin Lee Green
Celeste Laraine Green
Geannette Green
Lindsey Taylor Groff
Emma Louise Gugala
John Maged Hakim
Stephanie V. Hernandez
Kyuwon Hwang
Sarah Nelly Jallad
Brian James Jermain
Meghan Kamath
Melissa Lynn Kang
Carmen G. Kerstiens
Daniel En-Guang Kiang
Kelli Lynne Kimble
Claire Virginia Klimko
Jennifer Ngoc La
Sarah Jo Labus
Lindsay E. Lamp
Amy Nhachi Le
Samantha Anh Tu Le
Kelsey Marie Leer
William Yifeng Lin
Ke Ting Liu
Maxine Liu
Richard Allen Lopez
Elijah Lee Martin
Mark Junifer De Peralta Martinez
Sherry Sara Mathew
Cassidy Jo Mayo
Lubna Mazin
Mulhih Amin Mohammad
Kathryn Uhl Murphy
Daniel Aaron Naranjo
Hanh Kimberly Nguyen
Mary Thi Nguyen
Sarah Mai Nguyen
Steven T. Nguyen
Teresa Kha-Y Nguyen
Carmela Hassan Noche
Audrey Jaewon Oh
Brian Ramsey Olivares
Bhuvinskumar H. Patel
Maitri Girish Patel
Satya Jai Patel
Yi Rui Lye
Jonathan Davis Patterson
Devin James Pesek
Megan Crystal Phimmasone
Sarah Rose Piccuirro
Yi Kee Poon
Iraq M. Pourjavaheri
Huda A. Razzaq
Judith Munoz Rendon
Ashion Fayelynn Rhea
Shannon Dionne Richard
Laura Roccograndi
Erick Alonso Romero
Andrew Y. Rubio
Diana Naurois Sagiroi
Ana Cristina Sarol
Emily Isabel Sartain
Samrat Shrestha
Yulia Sobolevsky
Elizabeth Tamara Spears
Hannah Katharine Spencer
Robert Barnett Stewart
Nancy Tang
Michael A. Terrell
Stephan Guthrie Tomasek
Tin Duc Tran
Shelby Ann Trlicek
So Jung Ulhm
Elwyn Wayne Welch
Rachel Kristine Willauer
Jeanelle Denae Wolf
Tiffany Wu
Courtney Lesley Yeung
Jeong Eun Yum
Nural Farhana Zabidi

Summer Graduates
August 20, 2019

Jessica Jamie Casaday
Elizabeth Dong
Ralph S. Galega

John H. Richburg, Ph.D. and commencement speaker Julie A. Johnson, Ph.D.
Crismon to step down as College of Pharmacy dean

M. Lynn Crismon, James T. Doluisio Regents Chair and Behrens Centennial Professor, has announced his plans to step down as dean of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy and return to the faculty. His transition will come after two accomplished terms and 13 years of distinguished leadership in the college. Dean Crismon will continue in his role until August 31, 2020. During that time the college and the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost will oversee an advisory search committee to find a suitable successor.

“For over a decade as dean, Lynn Crismon provided extraordinary leadership to the College of Pharmacy at The University of Texas,” says Gregory L. Fenves, president of The University of Texas at Austin. “He elevated every aspect of the college by recruiting world-class faculty members and creating a culture that deeply supported both exemplary teaching and groundbreaking faculty- and graduate student-led research. He will continue to make vital contributions as a faculty member and his expertise will help guide the College of Pharmacy forward for many years to come.”

Since becoming dean in 2007, the UT Austin College of Pharmacy has seen the creation of an infrastructure to support graduate education and research and the expansion of wet lab research space. Accomplishments include major advances in grant funding, research, Pharm.D. education, collaboration, outreach, and academic achievement. The college maintains a 94.4% four-year graduation rate, 97% pass rate for the National Pharmacy Licensure Exam (NAPLEX), and 99% pass rate on the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE). The college currently ranks as the third best pharmacy school in the country according to U.S. News & World Report.

From 2006 to 2018, the UT Austin College of Pharmacy saw total one-year competitive grant awards more than double and one-year research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) nearly triple. The number of graduate student endowed fellowships has doubled, and the dean has overseen the creation of 19 new Doctor of Pharmacy scholarship endowments, which this year awarded UT student pharmacists with more than $440,000 in college based scholarship funds to support their academic efforts.

White Coat Ceremony

Incoming first year student pharmacists gathered in the LBJ Auditorium on August 24, 2019 for the annual College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. P1s were cloaked by faculty and pharmacist family members.

The keynote address came from alumnus Dr. Rannon Ching (Pharm.D. ’14). Dr. Ching, the Pharmacist In Charge at Tarrytown Pharmacy, spoke to the incoming Pharm.D. students. Dean M. Lynn Crismon also presented Dr. Ching with this year’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award, since Dr. Ching was unable to attend the Alumni Reception and Awards Ceremony.

After the Class of 2023 was cloaked by faculty and pharmacist family members, they recited the Oath of the Pharmacist and participated in a rousing rendition of “The Eyes of Texas.” Congratulations to the entire Class of 2023 on the start of their professional journey to becoming premier pharmacists and health care providers.

Crismon to step down as College of Pharmacy dean
A message from the college’s new Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion

Greetings College of Pharmacy Family,

My name is Dr. Skyller Walkes, and it is with great enthusiasm that I introduce myself to the outstanding community of the College of Pharmacy. I am thrilled to begin this year at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy as the Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion and Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Division of Pharmacy Practice.

Informed by our collective vision, I endeavor to advance our commitment and demonstration to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in the College of Pharmacy. Through the mediums of intentional engagement, open and authentic dialogue, and an integrated curriculum, we will inspire, prepare, and empower our 21st century learners to be the innovative and culturally competent pharmacy leaders of tomorrow.

Conscientious transformation is rarely easy, and less so, when tethered to rooted themes of identity, culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, ability, country of origin, and religion, as it challenges us to examine the depths of our acculturation and socialization processes. Furthermore, such critically-minded exploration encourages further meaning-making of our socially organized settings and how we might conjointly interact in those settings. Yet, it also encourages us to envision our unique selves as contributing members of a broader community in our plural world—a world in which we have a vocational purpose and commitment to serve.

As we foster professional and educational relationships in the College of Pharmacy through co-constructed knowledge production, we seek to design every aspect of our practices to speak to the collective consciousness of our faculty, staff, and student constituents—cultivating an experience of diverse thought, affirmed identity, and engaging praxis. Through this intentional and concerted effort modeled by our leadership and exemplified by our student community, the College of Pharmacy espouses to engender and activate researchers and practitioners who will engage the world with a civic mind and global perspective of diversity to support ALL members of community. This is not only our aspiration for the College of Pharmacy but a commitment to be intentionally inclusive in the culture, curriculum, and practices of the College of Pharmacy is resolute.

As we begin this academic year, I would like to extend my gratitude for your hospitality and commitment to our students and faculty of our diverse community with authentic appreciation for the differences that engineer our pluralistic ingenuity. Our commitment to building a visibly diverse and inclusive community, but our firm, collective charge as a premier College of Pharmacy.

Yours in Community,

Skyller Walkes, Ph.D.

National Academy of Inventors names Bill Williams 2019 Fellow

College of Pharmacy Professor and Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Head Robert O. (Bill) Williams, Ph.D. has been named one of the National Academy of Inventors Fellows for 2019, joining a prestigious list of 188 academic inventors from around the world. He is the only faculty member from UT Austin to be inducted into this year’s Fellows Program.

“This award is the culmination of dedicated work from over 50 graduate students, research scholars and faculty collaborators tirelessly working for more than 20 years,” Williams said. “Their efforts made a significant difference in drug delivery to positively impact patients’ lives.”

In addition to his work as professor and division head, Williams is the Johnson and Johnson Centennial Chair. His research interests include development of novel drug delivery systems for oral, pulmonary, nasal, injectable, buccal and topical administration; development of novel particle engineering technologies for low molecular weight drugs, peptides and proteins; and analytical technologies to characterize active excipients, polymers. His research devotes significant effort to enhance drug solubility and dissolution through particle engineering technologies, including thin film freezing and precipitation processes, and thermal processes such as hot melt extrusion.

“Williams’ being named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors is not only a prestigious recognition of his accomplishments, it is also a positive reflection on his collaborators and all of the graduate students and other trainees who have worked with him,” said College of Pharmacy Dean M. Lynn Crismon. “We are extremely proud of Bill and all of those with whom he has worked.”

Williams’ patents broadly covering inhaled dry powder drug delivery were approved in July 2018 and are currently in development by Austin-based TFP Pharmaceuticals, an early-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing innovative drug products for the treatment of lung diseases and conditions.

He has co-founded several pharmaceutical companies and was elected fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) in 2006 and fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering in 2008. He has published more than 400 peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, abstracts, and book chapters, and he has co-edited two books in the fields of pharmaceutical technology and drug delivery, including “Formulating Poorly Water Soluble Drugs” (AAPS Press and Springer). He has been the editor-in-chief of AAPS PharmSciTech since 2014 and was editor-in-chief of Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy (Taylor & Francis) from 2000 to 2014.

Williams will be formally inducted into the National Academy of Inventors Fellows program at the 2020 NAI Fellows Induction Ceremony on April 10, 2020.
New research from a lab within the College of Pharmacy may have discovered a way to repurpose an existing drug to fight the lethality of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infections. Somshuvra Mukhopadhyay, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, led research focused on stemming the spread of Shiga toxins released by E. coli bacteria, which are potentially fatal if they reach the kidneys. Currently, there are no treatments for STEC infections. Antibiotic therapy cannot be used because it increases release of Shiga toxins from the bacteria, and approved antidotes are not available to neutralize the effects of these toxins.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay’s research initially focused on understanding the means by which the Shiga toxins enter human cells and cause cell death. The research group discovered that the acidity of certain intracellular compartments played a critical role in allowing the toxins to successfully invade cells. The group then screened for drugs that may alter cellular acidity as a way to protect against the toxins. These studies led to the discovery that tamoxifen, an FDA approved drug for treatment of other diseases such as breast cancer, potently blocks the capability of the Shiga toxins to invade human cells and cause disease. Subsequent studies revealed that tamoxifen also protects mice against lethal Shiga toxicosis. If further research supports tamoxifen’s effectiveness in managing the spread of Shiga toxins, it may pave the way for treatment of humans with deadly E. coli. It may also be possible to combine tamoxifen with antibiotics to rapidly clear patients of STEC bacteria.

One significant advantage of these findings is since tamoxifen is an existing drug deemed safe by the FDA, its use as a treatment to fight E. coli may reach patients earlier than a brand-new medication. “The ability to repurpose an old drug to treat Shiga toxicity is exciting because it may be possible to advance this mode of therapy into clinical practice more rapidly than a new compound,” says Dr. Mukhopadhyay.

The research findings already have one interested party seeking to capitalize on the solution. “We hope to license Dr. Mukhopadhyay’s discovery and make it available to the public,” in the past year alone, the United States has experienced three major outbreaks of foodborne Shiga toxins, spanning 40 states,” said Dr. McHardy, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, led research focused on stemming the spread of Shiga toxins released by E. coli bacteria, which are potentially fatal if they reach the kidneys. Currently, there are no treatments for STEC infections. Antibiotic therapy cannot be used because it increases release of Shiga toxins from the bacteria, and approved antidotes are not available to neutralize the effects of these toxins.

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A conversation with Operation Naloxone's Lucas Hill

Lucas G. Hill, Pharm.D., is a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy. He is the director of Operation Naloxone.

What is Operation Naloxone?

Operation Naloxone began shortly after I came to The University of Texas at Austin in the summer of 2015. I had recently completed a residency in Pittsburgh and developed naloxone distribution programs in three family health centers. I was looking for an opportunity to apply that experience in Texas and started on the UT Austin campus.

The program started by stocking naloxone in the dorms, training resident advisors, and equipping the campus police. Then we distributed naloxone for free to students around campus through a service learning program that engaged pharmacy students to lead peer trainings. We had great results in the first year with a total of three overdose reversals using naloxone distributed at peer trainings. We also found that training was a valuable learning experience for our pharmacy students. A description of our overdose preparedness model and an evaluation of our service learning outcomes have each been published in peer-reviewed journals.

When federal block grants became available to the states through the State-Targeted Opioid Response, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission saw the work we were doing and who was involved. They knew we could be major contributors to statewide efforts. Thanks to the funding they’ve provided since July 2017, we trained more than 30,000 Texans to respond to opioid overdoses and distributed more than 60,000 doses of naloxone. We have received reports of hundreds of successful overdose reversals, and we know that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Today, Operation Naloxone is increasingly focused on clinician education around overdose prevention and effective treatment of opioid use disorder. We want to make sure prescribers, pharmacists, and behavioral health professionals are prepared to provide naloxone and educate people on overdose prevention. We also want to improve data collection around overdoses and enhance evidence-based treatment access for opioid addiction in areas with the most need. We’re excited to build new collaborations with clinicians and researchers at Dell Medical School and the Center for Health Communication to achieve these goals.

What issues have you encountered regarding naloxone availability?

Operation Naloxone conducted a study last year, led by my colleague Dr. Kirk Evoy, in which student volunteers called more than 2,000 pharmacies in Texas that claimed to have naloxone in stock. The study found about two-thirds of the time you could walk in, ask for naloxone, and get it that day. It was actually in stock and the pharmacist was knowledgeable. That’s the best data I’ve ever seen from any experience or any same and similar audit.

That still means one-third of the time a patient could not get it. Even when a patient could, often the pharmacist would not process it through the person’s insurance unless they say “I’m getting this to help somebody else.”

After that response, many pharmacists worry they can’t process it through insurance and it becomes very expensive. That’s a big reason why community distribution programs of naloxone are so important. We have always emphasized the importance of getting it into the hands of friends, family, and other people who use drugs. They’re the real first responders in an overdose situation.

What other ways have UT students been involved in Operation Naloxone?

Students lead our overdose prevention trainings on campus. They are also very involved in expanding overdose training and naloxone distribution to other local organizations.

We conducted a pilot study where we identified pharmacies that were not knowledgeable about the standing order and not dispensing naloxone. Students would go into those pharmacies, do a brief academic detailed encounter, spend about five minutes talking to a pharmacist, leave a handout about naloxone, and then conduct follow up calls to see if their responses had changed.

The students found major improvement. A majority of those pharmacies were willing to dispense naloxone upon the next call. Student pharmacists have been very involved in not only educating peers and community members, but practicing pharmacists as well.

Operation Naloxone is an interprofessional collaboration. Aside from the College of Pharmacy, what other schools at The University of Texas at Austin are involved?

Dr. Lori Holleran Steiker, a professor in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, was instrumental in initiating campus-level efforts at UT Austin. She continues to be involved with social work students supporting both local training efforts and state-wide efforts. She also chairs the UT Opioid Response Consortium, which has been an extremely effective connector and facilitated a pending expansion...
of collaborations between Operation Naloxone and Dell Medical School.

We will soon receive state funding to collaborate with several Dell Med clinicians and researchers, including Dr. Kasey Claborn in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Claborn and her team at the Health Innovations Lab will develop a new electronic platform for overdose reporting that we hope will encourage harm reduction coalitions and people who use drugs to report more readily. With better data, we can see where the hot spots are and react in real time by increasing treatment and prevention and have that data feed into one location where the state can quickly access it.

We will also work more closely with Mr. Rich Bottner and Dr. Chris Morales in the Department of Internal Medicine. They lead a clinical group at the Dell Seton Medical Center called the B-team which expands access to buprenorphine in hospitals for opioid use disorder treatment. Operation Naloxone will support the B-team and expansion of its model to other Texas hospitals. We also have the opportunity to engage Dr. Michael Mackert and the Center for Health Communication to bring their experience promoting use of the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program and apply it to promoting the prescribing and dispensing of naloxone and buprenorphine.

How has Operation Naloxone’s mission and impact evolved over time?

We started on the UT Austin campus after identifying an opportunity to prevent student deaths while also enhancing pharmacy student education. We may have been the first campus in the country to implement this model of overdose preparedness. We’re very proud of those efforts, but to be honest, campus is not where the highest risk drug use occurs. To have a greater impact, we needed to get naloxone into communities of people who use drugs, who are disconnected from traditional health care, and empower them to take control of their health. We’ve been successful in that approach for the past two years, and we are looking forward to continuing this expansion through new collaborations.

What can the public do to help Operation Naloxone and its mission of opioid overdose treatment, prevention, and education?

If you encounter a health care professional who is not knowledgeable about this issue—for example, a pharmacist who makes an inaccurate statement about naloxone or is not willing to dispense it under a standing order—please refer them to OperationNaloxone.org so they can learn more and become a better resource in their community.

Two faculty members in The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy contributed an article to the prestigious magazine Science discussing exciting new findings in alcohol use disorder (AUD) research. Associate Professor and James T. Doluisio Centennial Fellow Kimberly Nixon, Ph.D. and Research Assistant Professor Regina Mangieri, Ph.D. write about the discoveries that show individual differences in the activity of neurons that comprise a newly described brain circuit in mice during early alcohol experience. Drs. Nixon and Mangieri work in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology and their research focuses pertain to alcohol’s effect on the brain with the goal of discovering new medications for treating AUDs.

The Mangieri laboratory studies how alcohol changes physiological processes and cell-to-cell communication in the brain, and is particularly interested in immune-nervous system interactions that drive excessive alcohol drinking. The Mangieri laboratory studies how alcohol changes physiological processes and cell-to-cell communication in the brain, and is particularly interested in immune-nervous system interactions that drive excessive alcohol drinking. In other words, some mice have a biological predisposition that made them susceptible to developing alcohol drinking behaviors that are similar to humans with AUD.

Nixon notes that “this work has important implications. For one, it has potential as a biomarker of propensity to develop severe AUD based on this electrical activity. Second, the discovery of this circuit’s role in compulsive drinking suggests that there may be novel pharmacological targets that could be identified and developed for the treatment of AUDs.”

The Nixon laboratory focuses on novel mechanisms of and drug discovery for alcoholic neuropathology. This two-prong approach of novel target identification coupled with drug discovery has allowed the lab to make seminal discoveries in new mechanisms that contribute to not only brain damage but also recovery mechanisms in AUDs, then use those discoveries to drive the development of novel approaches for the treatment of AUDs. Dr. Nixon’s lab is housed in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology and is a member of the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research.

The Mangieri laboratory studies how alcohol changes physiological processes and cell-to-cell communication in the brain, and is particularly interested in immune-nervous system interactions that drive excessive alcohol drinking. Dr. Mangieri’s lab is housed in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology and is a member of the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research and the Center for Molecular Carcinogenesis and Toxicology.
The 15th Annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day was April 17, 2019 during The University of Texas at Austin's Research Week. Undergraduates, Pharm.D. students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents presented their research in abstracts and poster presentations to see who would take top prizes. The event was hosted by the College of Pharmacy’s Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

The event began with the Keynote Scientific Lecture from Audra L. Stinchcomb, Ph.D., a professor in the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Her presentation addressed drug delivery research for accelerated transition and the impact of principal investigator-initiated public-private partnerships.

Dr. Stinchcomb’s talk was followed by the Distinguished Faculty Lecture from the UT College of Pharmacy’s own Hugh Smyth, Ph.D., a professor in the Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery. Dr. Smyth talked about engineering devices and designing carriers for drug delivery.

During the lunch break, students, postdocs, and residents presented their winning research abstracts and were presented awards by Dean M. Lynn Crismon and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Research Day Chair John H. Richburg, Ph.D.

The floor opened up for attendees and colleagues to learn more about the poster presentations and talk to presenters about their work.

A special thank you to all of the faculty, staff, and participants who all made Research Day possible, including its namesake Louis Littlefield.

Undergraduate Program
Katherine Asmis
“Identification of Synergistic Combinations of Natural Compounds for Prevention of Prostate Cancer”
Mentor: John DiGiovanni

Professional Program
Michelle Tran
“Naloxone Accessibility Under Standing Orders from Texas Community Pharmacies and the Efficacy of Brief Academic Detailing on Improving Accessibility”
Mentor: Kirk Evoy

Graduate Program
Hyeun Ah Kang
“Association Between Hydroxyurea Medication Adherence and Healthcare Expenditures (Both All Cause and Disease-Related) Among Texas Medicaid Enrollees with Sickle Cell Disease”
Mentor: Kenneth A. Lawson

Postdoctoral Program
Hunmin Jung, Ph.D.
“Kinetic and Structural Evaluation of the Mutagenic Replication of 7,8-Dihydro-8-Oxoadenine by Human DNA Polymerases”
Mentor: Seongmin Lee

Resident Program
Brittney A. Ramirez, Pharm.D.
“Analysis of Antimicrobial Prophylaxis Approaches in Allogeneic and Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant”
Mentor: Grace C. Lee
Kenneth Ramos wins Outstanding Alumni Award

Dr. Kenneth S. Ramos, M.D., Ph.D., currently serves as the Director of the Institute of Biosciences and Technology and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Pharmacology, to establish an endowment named for his graduate mentor, Dr. Acosta. The endowment seeks to support graduate students in the pharmaceutical sciences and demonstrates Dr. Ramos’ continued support for the college and university.

The College of Pharmacy’s excellence in education continues to shine bright with yet another mark of recognition. The Graduate School honored Dr. Ramos and the other award winners during a banquet on April 30, 2019, and recognized his accolade during the Doctoral Students Convocation on May 25, 2019. The school also administered a $5,000 graduate fellowship to an outstanding student in the college’s Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

The Graduate School’s professional and student awards, generously underwritten by the University Co-op, recognize excellence in graduate academics, teaching, and professional services. The awards highlight emerging and continued distinction incubated at the university and demonstrate by its current student body and staff, as well as accomplished alumni who go on to change the world.

In his nomination letter, Dean M. Lynn Crismon wrote that Dr. Ramos “provides leadership in navigating the changing landscape of medicine and health care,” adding that he leads “several translational, clinical research, and educational programs that integrate diverse approaches to elucidate genomic mechanisms of disease and novel therapies for several oncologic, pulmonary, and vascular diseases.”

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Ramos never hesitates to give back to his alma mater. He has worked with Dr. John Richburg, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Pharmacology, to establish an endowment named for his graduate mentor, Dr. Acosta. The endowment seeks to support graduate students in the pharmaceutical sciences and demonstrates Dr. Ramos’ continued support for the college and university.

Dr. Ramos currently serves at the Director of the Institute of Biosciences and Technology and Assistant Vice Chancellor at the Texas A&M University System. He recently served as Associate Vice President for Precision Health Sciences at the University of Arizona Health Sciences. He also served as Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, Director of the Center for Applied Genetics and Genomic Medicine, and Director of the M.D. and Ph.D. program at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson.

In 2008, Dr. Ramos become an associate of the National Academy of Sciences, and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2013. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his scientific excellence, including the Chester J. Reed Endowed Chair in Molecular Toxicology, Distinguished Scholar in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Achievement Award for Scientific Excellence in Toxicological Sciences, and Leading Physician of the World in Molecular Medicine and Distinguished Scientist.

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On September 14, 2019, College of Pharmacy alumni, faculty, students, staff, and well-wishers met at Dover’s Dining Room at the DoubleTree Austin to honor accomplished alumni at the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony and Reception. The Alumni Awards Ceremony and Reception was presented in conjunction with the 67th Annual Pharmacy Practice Seminar (PPS).

The Distinguished Young Alumnus Award went to two deserving recipients: Rannon Ching (Pharm.D. ’14) and Kelly Reveles (Pharm.D. ’10, Ph.D. ’14).

Health Outcomes Associate Professor Leticia Moczygemba presented the award for Rannon. Rannon currently serves as Pharmacist In Charge at Austin’s Tarrytown Pharmacy. He was unable to attend the ceremony, but fortunately his parents, Chris Ching and Roxanna Ching, were in attendance and accepted the award on Rannon’s behalf. Rannon also gave the keynote address during August’s White Coat Ceremony, and Dean Crismon was able to take a photo with Rannon accepting the award.

The Distinguished Young Alumnus Award also went to Kelly Reveles, not only a two-time graduate of the College of Pharmacy but an Assistant Professor at the College of Pharmacy and Adjoint Assistant Professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine. Associate Dean for Healthcare Partnerships Diane Ginsburg presented Kelly with the award.

Steven Knight (Pharm.D. ’09) presented the Legend of Pharmacy Award to Leamon Blanton (B.S. ’68), who talked about his extensive experience as a hospital pharmacist.

The Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award went to Todd Canada (Pharm.D. ’93). Dean Crismon and Assistant Dean for Experiential and Professional Affairs Jennifer Ridings-Myhra presented the award.

Finally, the much deserved Best Friend Award went to Lydia Aguilera. Lydia formerly served as director of the Cooperative Pharmacy Program between The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. She is currently the Executive Director of UT RGV’s College of Health Professions. Dean Crismon warmly presented the award.

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Toward a team based future

By Lauren El-Assad, LCSW
Center for Health Interprofessional Practice and Education, UT Austin

A 78-year old whose family is trying to determine whether she can live independently after presenting in a hospital with a broken hip and signs of cognitive impairment.

A pediatric patient who is developmentally-delayed presents in an ER with breathing issues due to severe asthma.

A man who suddenly starts slurring his words, reports feeling numbness in his arm, and has blurred vision during a work meeting.

These situations require a team of health care experts to leverage their respective strengths and perspectives to provide optimal patient care. Unfortunately, this does not happen as often as it should.

In 2017, in recognition of the need to make it happen much more often and more effectively, the University of Texas at Austin brought together its four health professions schools and colleges to launch the Center for Health Interprofessional Practice and Education (IPE). The center, which is dedicated to improving the lives of patients and practitioners by improving team-based care, draws on faculty and resources from the College of Pharmacy, the School of Nursing, the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, and Dell Medical School.

"The mission aligns with UT Austin's core purpose of transforming lives for the benefit of society," said Dean M. Lynn Crismon.

The guiding framework for the center’s programming and resources comes from the Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice, a nationally-recognized model developed by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative. The center’s work also aligns with the Quadruple Aim, which encompasses the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Triple Aim, an approach to optimizing health system performance by improving the patient experience of care, improving the health of populations, and reducing the per capita cost of health care, as well as improving the well-being of practitioners and staff.

The larger goal is to train health professions students, faculty, and practitioners to be collaborative health care leaders so that they can improve patient-centered care and population-oriented health.

"Working in teams sounds great to everyone in principle," said Veronica Young, Pharm.D., MPH, who is the inaugural director of the Center for Health IPE and one of the members of the founding steering committee. "In practice, IPE can only flourish in the context of a larger culture of interprofessional collaboration in an optimal clinical learning environment. People have been building that culture at UT Austin for a long time. The center is dedicated to supporting, expanding, and amplifying their efforts."

In the last two years this work has occurred on multiple fronts, under the direction of Young and her steering committee colleagues Barbara Jones, Ph.D., MSW, Steve Hicks School of Social Work; John Luk, M.D., Dell Medical School; and Gayle Timmerman, Ph.D., RN, School of Nursing.

The center has hosted a mixer to bring stakeholders from campus and the community together in small and large group discussions to get to know each other, better understand each other’s disciplinary strengths and limitations, and think through what cross-training health professionals should look like in practice.

In May 2019 it launched its inaugural Interprofessional Health Showcases, which was held at Dell Medical School’s Health Discovery Building. More than 400 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended to see and engage with more than 65 health-related abstracts from students in nursing, medicine, fine arts, pharmacy, education, athletic training, audiology, business, social work, public health, and engineering.

Faculty teams also led workshops which engaged with one of five health-related topics through an interprofessional lens. The workshops looked at the language of addiction, stroke care, disordered eating in athletes, a complex pediatrics case, and a simulation on geriatric care. Faculty champions from athletic training, audiology, medicine, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, speech language pathology, and social work collaborated to develop these innovative training.

TeamSTEPPS®

David Farmer, Director for IPE at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, and Veronica Young trained medical and nursing graduate students in TeamSTEPPS®, an evidence-based framework to improve communication and teamwork among health care workers.

The Center for Health IPE has also led efforts to develop and implement a range of courses and trainings in interprofessional collaborative practice. For the past three academic years, cohorts of medicine, social work, nursing, and pharmacy students have met six times per semester for two semesters on Friday afternoons as part of the Foundations of Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (FICP) course. The course consists of interprofessional teams of facilitators guiding students through active learning experiences, small group discussions, and patient simulations.

The university received the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s 2018 Innovation in Professional Nursing Education Award for this course sequence.

Another innovative interprofessional curricular opportunity is offered online. Medicine, graduate-level nursing, and pharmacy students convene over a two-week period in the fall and spring semesters to address topics related to quality improvement and patient safety. Concurrently, they complete related coursework and earn the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Basic Certificate at the end of the experience.

Over the summer the center provided a TeamSTEPPS® training for residents in the Dell Medical School’s Distinction Program and graduate nursing students.

On a statewide level, UT Austin is one of five founding members of the Texas IPE Consortium, which was formally established in May 2019. The consortium fosters cross-institutional collaboration to expand learning opportunities and reinforce IPE as a critical aspect of health professions education. The Texas consortium model to accelerate the growth of IPE received honorable mention from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.

Initiatives in the pipeline include training medical residents and graduate students in health programs in the IPE core competencies and TeamSTEPPS®, piloting a peer consulting training model with Dell Medical School, the McCombs School of Business, and the College of Pharmacy; and providing IPE trainings for faculty and practitioners.

"At each step of this process, we have found an incredible eagerness among our students, staff and faculty to work together to improve the health of individuals and the community through interprofessional collaborations," said Young. "It’s truly inspiring."

About the Center for Health IPE

The Center for Health IPE is housed out of the UT School of Nursing at 1730 Red River Street in Austin. Texas. Veronica Young, Director, may be reached at youngv@austin.utexas.edu and (512) 475-9755. Lauren El-Assad, Program Manager, may be reached at lauren.el-assad@austin.utexas.edu and (512) 475-9606. Learn more at https://healthipe.utexas.edu.
Accolades

Distinguished accomplishments and news from College of Pharmacy students, faculty, and staff.

College offers in-house counseling to students

The UT College of Pharmacy, in partnership with the Counseling and Mental Health Center, now has a CARE counselor located on site. Gretchen Rees, LCSW-S, offices on the second floor of the pharmacy building to offer counseling services to students in need of support in several ways. Students may be referred by a staff or faculty member or self refer. Gretchen assesses student needs and offer appropriate services (e.g. short-term counseling, case management and referral, crisis intervention, or groups). Some examples of issues Gretchen may address include self-care, test anxiety, mindfulness, assisting students in distress, and stress reduction. Services are confidential and never shared without written consent.

Dean Crismon contributes to NAM report on clinician burnout

Dean M. Lynn Crismon participated in a committee report from the National Academy of Medicine regarding clinician burnout and methods to improve professional well-being. The report, Taking Action Against Clinician Burnout: A Systems Approach to Supporting Professional Well-Being, calls upon leaders in health care organizations, health professions educational institutions, and within the government and industry to prioritize major improvements in clinical work and learning environments in all settings, and for all disciplines to prevent and mitigate clinician burnout and foster professional well-being for the overall health of clinicians, patients, and the nation.

Evoy wins UT Health San Antonio award

Clinical Assistant Professor Kirk E. Evoy, Pharm.D., BCACP, BC-ADM, CTTS was selected to receive a Community Engagement Hero Award from the Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS) for the category of Outstanding Community Researcher. The IIMS Community Engagement Hero Awards program recognizes individuals who have worked as part of a community-campus partnership built on a foundation of reciprocal learning and trust for the improved health and well-being of communities. The Outstanding Researcher category recognizes research faculty, staff, and/or trainees who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment for collaboratively developing research projects that promote leadership and shared learning to address community health concerns. IIMS's mission is to integrate clinical and translational research and career development across all University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio schools and among diverse public and private partners in South Texas.

Hill invited to White House roundtable

Clinical Assistant Professor Lucas G. Hill, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCACP was invited to speak on a roundtable discussion at the White House by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The discussion pertained to preventing overdose on college campuses and the invitation came from Director of National Drug Control Policy James Carroll. Dr. Hill is the director of Operation Naloxone and works extensively on training, education, and prevention methods pertaining to opioids and opioid overdose.

Moczygemba earns ASHP award

Division of Health Outcomes Associate Professor Leticia Moczygemba, Pharm.D. is the co-recipient of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation 2019 Pharmacy Practice Research Award for the article “Impact of a pharmacist-physician collaborative care model on patient outcomes and health services utilization.” Dr. Moczygemba's co-authors include Gary R. Matzke, B.S.Pharm., Pharm.D, Karen J. Williams, Pharm.D., Michael J. Caar, B.S.Pharm., Ph.D., and William T. Lee, B.S.Pharm., M.P.A.

Zhang wins NIPTE Rising Star Award

Division of Pharmaceutics Assistant Professor Feng Zhang, Ph.D. earned the 2019 Rising Star Award from the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology & Education (NIPTE) for outstanding scientific achievements in pharmaceutical science and technology.

Grad student wins Silver at AMCP Nexus

Graduate student in the Division of Health Outcomes Chris LaVallee, M.S. took home a silver medal at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy's (AMCP) annual meeting. The abstract, “Antihypertensive Agent Utilization Among Uncontrolled Hypertension Patients with Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease in the United States,” earned the prestigious prize among peers from across the world.

AMCP Nexus 2019 took place October 29 – November 1, 2019 at the Gaylord National Harbor, just outside the Nation's Capital in National Harbor, Maryland.
**UT student pharmacists finalists in NCPA competition**

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) announced that three teams of student pharmacists were named finalists in the 2019 Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition. A team from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy was one of those finalists.

The College of Pharmacy’s team includes student pharmacists Chelsea Griffin, Brooke Allison, Omar Fuentes, and Alex Cantu. The first place team will receive $3,000 to its NCPA student chapter and $5,000 contributed to the school in the dean’s name to promote independent pharmacy. The other two finalist teams hail from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy and the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy.

The UT College of Pharmacy team presented its business plan during a live competition on October 26, 2019, at the NCPA Annual Convention in San Diego.

**Grad student’s abstract earns ACT fellowship**

Graduate student Songyeon Ahn’s abstract “Obesity and prostate cancer progression: Role of the chemokine CXCL12” earned her the North American Graduate Fellowship for two years from the American College of Toxicology (ACT).

**UT College of Pharmacy shines at TPA annual meeting**

Faculty, alumni, and student pharmacists from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy went to Irving, Texas, for the Texas Pharmacy Association’s annual conference and expo. UT’s student TPA chapter received the Student Advisory Award for its tireless efforts as student advocates for the profession.

A UT student pharmacist team came in first in the self-care competition, and a UT College of Pharmacy student team came in second place in the patient counseling competition.

Alumnus Rannon Ching received the Excellence in Innovation Award, and alumnus Catherine Parra received the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award.

**Ghosh earns CRS award**

Division of Pharmaceutics Assistant Professor Debadyuti (Rana) Ghosh, Ph.D, won the Young Investigator’s Award from the Controlled Release Society (CRS) during its annual meeting and exposition in Valenica, Spain.

**We Remember**

Fernando Fuentes was born June 27, 1921 and passed away on September 4, 2018. He served proudly in World War II from December 1942 to December 1945; his tour of duty included France, Belgium and Germany. In February 2016, Fernando was honored by the Library of Congress to be part of the Veterans History Project.

Fernando graduated from The University of Texas in 1943 with a degree in pharmacy, worked for Sommers Drug Stores for over 20 years before opening his own pharmacy and eventually retired in 1990. Even though he retired in 1990, he pursued his online continuing education courses, renewed his professional license up to and including 2010. His granddaughter Dana Boeck Foster also graduated from The University of Texas in 2015 with a Pharm.D. degree. She is now a Critical Care Pharmacist at University Hospital in San Antonio.

Fernando enjoyed playing bingo, working on jigsaw and Sudoku puzzles, and listening to and singing along with music. He had a beautiful singing voice and was an avid Longhorn fan. “Hook’ em Horns.”

Ken Melvin Kwan was born on February 27, 1919 in San Antonio, Texas, and passed away on March 4, 2019 after a brief illness, surrounded by his family. Ken was the first-born son to loving parents who left their homeland of Canton, China to seek a better life in the United States. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1939 and then went on to graduate from The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy in 1941 shortly after his brother Roy Kwan (B.S. ’42) and before his brother Ronald Kwan (B.S. ’43).

Ken took his degree back to his hometown of San Antonio and eventually bought Empire Pharmacy No. 1 on South Zarzamora Street. He served the community of southwest San Antonio for over 50 years with his wife Betty at his side, working 14-hour days followed by an hour of prescription deliveries. Along the way, he made many lifelong friends and served several generations of families. It seems like everyone knew Ken, the Chinese- and Spanish-speaking friendly neighborhood pharmacist, who delivered advice, friendship, and empathy with every prescription.

Ken enjoyed family meals, dancing with his wife, Spur games, tennis, bowling, Mahjong, crooking, wine, fishing, camping, and vacations. He is survived by his wife of almost 54 years, 5 children and their spouses, 19 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mae Sue Helen Riley, a.k.a. Helen Sue Riley, passed away on June 16, 2018 in Abilene. She was born August 8, 1922, in Dallas, Texas. Her mother, Sallie Atterbury Riley, predeceased her and her father, Robert Lee Riley, predeceased her; her father served in the Navy in World War I. Helen graduated from Abilene High School in 1940 and earned a B.S. in Pharmacy from The University of Texas in 1943. She lived in Game, Marta, Midland, and in Abilene since 1950. She was a pharmacist at Barnes & Williams Drugstore, River Oaks Pharmacy, and Riley Pharmacy with her mother Sallie “where they worked as hard as two men for half the pay.” She was survived by many cousins. The family thanks Dawn Rabas for her long-term love, devotion, and assistance for Helen.

Virginia Blanche Wolfe was born June 29, 1929 in Los Angeles, Texas, to Elmer and Edna Fuchs and passed away on July 15, 2019 shortly after her 91st birthday. Virginia graduated from Austin High School in 1941 at the age of 16 and entered The University of Texas College of Pharmacy on the advice of a mentor. This was during World War II and the pharmacy class dwindled to five by graduation in 1945.

She was 19 years old upon graduation and had to wait two years to obtain a State of Texas Pharmacy License. In the interim she taught pharmacy at the university. She went on to practice Pharmacy at Parkview Hospital, Medical Arts Pharmacy, and the Southeast Memorial Hospital System in Houston, Texas. Virginia was preceded in death by her parents Elmer and Edna Fuchs her sister Anabel Rose Fuchs Morton and husband, Dave, and her own husband, Frank Wolfe, Jr. They celebrate 63 years of marriage prior to his death in 2015.
The University of Texas at Austin’s College of Pharmacy is small but dynamic. To reflect the significant impact the college has on our students and the health of Texas, we are launching a campaign to encourage 12 planned gifts to the college over the next 12 months.

Pharmacy alum George and his wife Barbara know what they want their legacy to be. They are leaving a gift to UT in their estate plan to support future Longhorns. "We want to make sure that the next generation of Longhorns get the same feeling of community and the tools for a successful career that I received."

George Polansky, B.S. ’71 and Barbara Polansky

To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact on students, faculty and to the world of pharmacy, visit giving.utexas.edu/twelveintwelve or call 512-475-9758.

Calendar

December 2019
- 8-12 ASHP mid-year meeting
- 9 Last class day
- 16 PI Internship Interview Day
- 18 Last possible final day
- 23 Winter break begins

January 2020
- 3 Winter break ends
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (University Holiday)
- 21 Spring classes begin
- 25 Pharm.D. Interviews

February 2020
- 1 Pharm.D. Interviews

March 2020
- 7 Explore UT
- 10-21 Spring Break

April 2020
- 4 Honors Day
- 7 Teaching Excellence Awards
- 17-20 TSHP

May 2020
- 6 P2 Sendoff
- 8 Last class day
- 22 Commencement
- 23 University commencement
- 29-30 CE Hospital Practice Seminar

Giving to the college

If you wish to learn more about giving back to the college, honoring a loved one with a gift, or establishing an endowment, contact Susan Brown, Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations at skbrown@austin.utexas.edu or go to https://sites.utexas.edu/phralumni/giving to learn more.

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Continuing Education

Save the Dates

Hospital Practice Seminar
May 29-30, 2020

Pharmacy Practice Seminar
September 26-27, 2020

Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy Update
October 15-16, 2020

Visit http://sites.utexas.edu/cpe for more information.

Dates subject to change.