

ShowGlobe

Fall 2009



Jessica Winter

Student Represents School on National Level

Fourth-year pharmacy student Jessica Winter was appointed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee (PSFEC) to join the ASHP Student Society and Leadership Development advisory group.

The mission of the ASHP PSFEC is to prepare the next generation of health-system pharmacists to be leaders in their schools and communities to advance the future of the pharmacy profession.

Winter will be involved on a national level in providing assistance to the PSFEC regarding outreach efforts to pharmacy student leaders, collecting and sharing fundraising ideas, assisting in the development of new ASHP student societies, making recommendations regarding tools and resources for student societies, and identifying and recruiting student leaders for national leadership positions.

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Message from the Dean

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The West Virginia University School of Pharmacy newsletter, *The ShowGlobe*, is printed and mailed to School of Pharmacy alumni and friends quarterly. It is also available online at www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop under Alumni Association.

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To quote the great Albert Einstein, “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

The WVU School of Pharmacy is making great advancements in research and service, so that is our focus for this issue of *The ShowGlobe*. The School contributes significantly to research being conducted at the Health Sciences Center, and our faculty members are currently principal or co-investigators on approximately 30 research projects to improve the health and well-being of our community members. Our NIH funding has tripled since 2007 thanks to the efforts of our researchers including Drs. Peter Gannett, Jason Huber, Suresh Madhavan, Rae Matsumoto, and Yon Rojanasakul. Our Ph.D. students, under faculty guidance, have taken part in exciting research collaborations and projects (see page 14).

You may remember that our focus of the spring/summer issue of *The ShowGlobe* was community service and highlighted our students giving back to the community. In this issue, our students continue to make us proud with their participation in community events and fundraising efforts (see pages 8 and 15).

Once again, we would like to thank our alumni and friends for your generous donations to the School. In these trying economic times, we are extremely thankful that so many of you continue to provide your support. I speak for the faculty, staff, and students of the School when I say thank you for providing us with the funds to provide our students and student organizations opportunities to continue their education and advance the profession of pharmacy.

Pat

Patricia Chase, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
WVU School of Pharmacy



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WV CoHORTS Center

Study of Health Disparities Continues

A grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will enable a research team led by faculty in the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy to continue to study health disparities in West Virginia.

Health disparities—inequalities in the prevalence of disease, health outcomes, or access to care in specific populations—are of particular importance in West Virginia, which has some of the highest prevalence and mortality rates for chronic diseases in the nation.

“Critical health care disparities exist in the state of West Virginia,” **S. Suresh Madhavan, Ph.D.**, chair of the WVU School of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy said. “West Virginians are afflicted with many chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. High smoking, obesity, and low physical activity rates add to the problem. We recognized that these problems had a great impact on members of our community and in 2006, established the WV CoHORTS Center to build infrastructure and increase capacity for health services and outcomes research.”



Suresh Madhavan

Under the direction of Dr. Madhavan, the interdisciplinary team of scientists in the West Virginia Collaborative Health Outcomes Research of Therapies and Services (WV CoHORTS) Center will utilize the grant funding—\$1.5 million over the next three years—to continue to study health disparities in West Virginia.

The Center will house a repository of state and federal health care data to help document existing disparities. The databases are essential for conducting state-of-the-art research on access, cost, quality, and outcomes of health services and treatments in West Virginia. The Center will also facilitate collaborative partnerships and projects that bring together health services researchers from a variety of disciplines. A mentoring program to increase the competitiveness of junior faculty for health services and health outcomes research federal grant funding is also a major goal of the Center.

“Our vision is to be recognized nationally for excellence in producing high-quality research in health services and health outcomes that will focus on addressing healthcare problems specific to the citizens of West Virginia and the Appalachian region,” Madhavan said.

The WV CoHORTS Center will involve faculty and researchers from all four schools of health care professions at the WVU Health Sciences Center. To date, junior faculty

participants and senior faculty mentors have been identified from the WVU Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. Currently, **Mr. Steve Small**, School of Pharmacy, and Drs. Anoop Shankar and Rachel Abraham, School of Medicine, are co-directors of the Center cores.

The grant, initially funded as a planning grant by AHRQ, has now been funded as a larger award and will include three research projects in addition to infrastructure funding. The first project will be headed by Dr. Madhavan who will work with Pat Colsher, Ph.D., director of the West Virginia Cancer Registry, to build a Medicare-Medicaid-WV Cancer Registry linked dataset to determine the burden of breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers in West Virginia.



Steve Small

Cindy Tworek, Ph.D., assistant professor in the WVU School of Pharmacy, and Jame Abraham, M.D., medical director of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, will address the critical need to develop and implement smoking cessation interventions for cancer patients following diagnosis and engage health providers to assist with cessation efforts.



Cindy Tworek

The third project is a pilot study headed by Dina Jones, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of orthopaedics in the WVU School of Medicine. The project will test an activity-focused intervention to determine appropriate activity expectations for patients undergoing total hip or knee replacement due to arthritis.

“The WV CoHORTS Center and WVU School of Pharmacy are excited to have received AHRQ funding,” Madhavan said. “This research will continue to provide critical information that will help design strategies to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of our citizens.”

“The WV CoHORTS Center will become a model for other rural and medically underserved states in the conduct of research that reduces health disparities, enhances the use of cost-effective health services, and improves the quality of health care,” Patricia Chase, Ph.D., dean of the WVU School of Pharmacy said. “The mission of the WVU School of Pharmacy is to improve the health and well-being of West Virginians, and the research projects being conducted through the WV CoHORTS Center will enable us to uphold our mission.”

Scholarships and Awards Convocation

Making a Difference

for our Students

The School extends its deepest gratitude to our alumni and friends who graciously donated scholarships and awards for the 2009 Scholarships and Awards Convocation. Below is a listing of all scholarships and awards, and the 2009 recipients.

The Academy of Student Pharmacists Scholarships

Jenna Merandi & Lindsay Zatezalo



Jenna Merandi accepts an Academy of Student Pharmacists Scholarship from Ms. Jennifer Clutter

The American Institute of History and Pharmacy Award

Scott Bragg

The Bernabei Independent Pharmacy Scholarships

Christopher Gianni, Michelle Gianni, Brandy Hukill, Stacey Means & Lindsay Zatezalo

The Cardinal Health Scholarships

Hannah Chambers & Heather Stocking

The Patricia and Jim Chase Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship

Daphne O'Hara

The Clutter-Rhoades Scholarship

Gwendolinn Staud

The CVS Scholarships

Holly Evans, Leah Glasgow, Marissa Poorman, Melissa Surbaugh & Zachary Workman

The Ann Dinardi Scholarships

Lauren Boyle & Amanda Hawse

The Don E. Eaglehouse R.Ph. Pharmacy Scholarship

Ashley Lewis

The Fruth Scholarships

Brianna Darrow & Natalie Heckathorn

The Anthony S. and Mary D. Guido Family Scholarship

Kathleen Burda

The Nona Fay & CM Hamlett Scholarships

Matthew Bailey, Luke Cecil, Mark Crist, Stephen Chambers, Valerie Dannals, Beti Dubale, Kolby Keister, Desiree Lucas, Mark Medina & Nathan Wilson

The Joseph and Edna Hudachek Family Scholarships

Erin Bailey, Matthew Hirkala & Sarah Rizzo

The Ralph S. Johnson Scholarships

Noreen Ghani, Adam Kalalau, Jared Lapkowicz & T.J. Ravis

The Harold M. Johnston School of Pharmacy Scholarships

Stephanie Field, Leslie Lagowski, Courtney Rappold, Krissandra Vance & Matthew Wriston

The Dr. Carl J. Malanga Pharmacy Scholarship

Jessica Winter

The James A. Mauro Family Memorial Scholarship

Mary Vincent

The Merck Awards

Christopher Hale & Hannah McCullough

The Angelo Monaco Scholarship

Mitchell Cunningham



Mitchell Cunningham accepts the Angelo Monaco Scholarship from Dr. Yon Rojanasakul

The Rebecca Smith Monti Memorial Scholarship

Kayla Cline

The NACDS Education Foundation Scholarships

Jessica Bee & Lori Hill

The NCPA Outstanding Student Member Awards

Stephanie Field, Jeremy Prunty & Leesa Shine

The Ohio/Marshall Counties Pharmaceutical Association Scholarships

Ryan Bane, Mareesa Cunningham, Cindy Kinder & Chelsea Rexroad

The Mary Ann Pavlick and Helen Pavlech Scholarships

Shannon Beatty, Megan Bodge, Samantha Keefover & Shari Sandor

The Perrigo Award

Marissa Poorman

The Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award

Erin Bailey



Erin Bailey accepts the Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award from Commander Cassandra White

The Romeo & Elizabeth M. Rega Memorial Scholarship

Crystal Mayles

The Rite Aid Scholarship/James K. Harman Memorial Scholarships

Meena Agarwal, Dawn Burr, Ying Yin Chen, Janelle Durany, David Eplin, Kasey Fields, Kenney Hamrick III, Shaun Huseman, Vanessa Law, Todd Lemley, Zachary Metheny, Marc Phillips, Derek Rhodes, Brooks Spolarich & Justin Williams

The Edward W. Rockis Memorial Scholarships

Brian Britton & Jacob Lilly

The Robert and Stephany Ruffolo School of Pharmacy Scholarships

Cassandra Clevenger, Jessica Kreger, Kathleen Maloney, Brad Newell & Amanda Thiry



Dr. Robert Ruffolo stands with award recipients (front row l-r) Brad Newell, Jessica Kreger, Amada Thiry, (back row l-r) Cassandra Clevenger and Kathleen Maloney

The Harry D. Schiff Scholarship

Ryan Hardesty

The Southern Appalachian Pharmacists Association Scholarships

Kristina Clyburn & Arwa Ghabra

The Yvonne Stanley Memorial Scholarships

Amanda Bailey, Andrew DeMotto, Christopher Hale, Ka Lok Hong & Julie Hull

The Kenneth Stollings Memorial Scholarship

Hollie Burdette

The Charles Stump Community Service Award

Leesa Shine

The Edward A. Toompas Memorial Scholarship

John Dolan

The George A. & Lurania K. Topakas Pharmacy Scholarship

Erin Bailey

The Frank W. Vigneault Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Ault

The Walgreens Scholarship

Bettina Mason



Bettina Mason accepts the Walgreens Scholarship from Ms. Carla See

The Wal-Mart Scholarships

Hannah McCullough, Caitlyn Nutt & Daniel True

The West Virginia Pharmacists Association Scholarship

Brian Schellhaus

The WVU Alumni Association Loyalty Permanent Endowment Scholarships

Shelley Calvert & Shana Campbell

The WVU School of Pharmacy Alumni Association Scholarships

James Neal Ford, Dao Luu, Joshua Petrunger & Lisa Plude

The West Virginia University School of Pharmacy Dean's Scholarships

Scott Bragg, Randy Junkins, Evan Lantz, Ji Hye Park & Kelsey Slanina

The WVU School of Pharmacy Loyalty Scholarships

Kellyn Cole, Phylisia Hammond, Jeremy McCourt, Erin Price, Ashley Shaw, Cody Smarr, Jessica Valentine & Alex Winans

The John & Edna Witten Scholarship

Amy Tingler

Ph.D. *Student News*

Nidhi Kaushal, a third-year Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences graduate student in the School of Pharmacy, received two competitive travel awards for her research. She presented her findings at the Behavioral, Biology and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction meeting in San Antonio, Texas, and in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the annual meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics—the premier scientific society for conducting basic and clinical pharmacological research. Kaushal reported the ability of new compounds developed by the research team to counteract the effects of cocaine and methamphetamine.



Nidhi Kaushal



Neel Shah

Neel Shah, a second-year Ph.D. student in the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences graduate program, was selected as a recipient of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) student travel grant. The travel grant allowed Shah to attend and present research at the ISPOR 12th Annual European Congress in October in Paris, France. Shah presented his research, “Rural-Urban Differences in Colorectal Cancer Hospitalizations in West Virginia, USA.”

The application process for the travel grant was highly competitive, and Shah was one of only five students world-wide to receive this award.

Alumni News

Joseph Dasta, '74, has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 American College of Critical Care Medicine (ACCM) Distinguished Investigator Award. The award will be presented at the 2010 Annual Congress in Miami. This is the first time a pharmacist has received this award. The ACCM is a unit of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, a 14,000 member multiprofessional organization dedicated to the care of the critically ill patient.

Davonna (Bowles) Foley, '02, and husband, Chris, welcomed their first child, Morgan Elise Foley, on July 24, 2007.

Caity Frail, '09, was selected to complete a distinguished executive residency at the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) in Alexandria, Virginia.

Randy Gum, '78, retired from over 30 years as pharmacist in charge/owner of the Prescription Shop in Bridgeport, W.Va. Long-time pharmacy partner **Adam J. Starkey, '99**, purchased the business February 5, 2009.

Susan (Heilmann) Holsclaw, '98 and '99, and her husband, Greg, announce the birth of their first child, Elliott Charles Holsclaw, on July 12, 2009. Even though they are living in Colorado, they plan to raise a proud Mountaineer.

Todd Kreitzer, '95, graduated from the Case Western Reserve/University Hospitals Program in June 2009 and will begin dermatology practice in Charleston, West Virginia, in July 2009.

Brian Lawson, '08, assumed the position of Senior Manager, Governance, in the Executive Offices division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) effective July 1, 2009. In this role, Lawson will serve as the staff liaison to the APhA Board of Trustees managing the day-to-day activities, meeting agenda development and preparation, and assigned Board committees; serve as staff person responsible for assigned APhA awards selection processes, as well as the Board of Trustee election implementation; provide expertise in selected practice and policy issues; and serve as the primary staff person responsible for oversight of the APhA House of Delegates operations and policy development processes.

Emily Miller Lynch, '88, is living in Michigan with her husband and two children. She is the compounding pharmacist with a local company that, along with two retail stores, serves about 8,000 nursing home patients throughout the state.

Lydia Main, '56, owner and operator of Main Pharmacy in Masontown, West Virginia, was selected as the recipient of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) 2009 Honorary President Award. Main received the award at the NABP annual meeting in May.

Travis Skinner, '06, and his wife announce the birth of their first child, Brody Cole, April 16, 2009.

Susan (Cunha) Villegas, '01, and her husband, Matthew, announce the birth of their son, Charles Edward. Charles joins big sisters RoseMarie, 5, and Isabell, 3.

Future Pharmacists

A **Leslie (Lewis) Behrens, '04**, and husband, Michael, are proud of their little Future Pharmacist, Audrey Grace Behrens.



B Mariah Lauren Overstreet is the daughter of Ryan and **Robyn (Bawden) Overstreet (P-3)**.

C **George, '94 and Denise (Fletcher) Sokos, '96**, are the proud parents of Elizabeth Sokos.



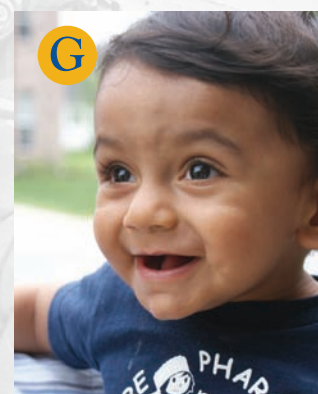
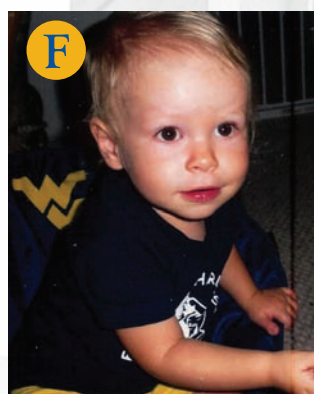
D Evan James Knight is the happy Future Pharmacist of **Sara (Michels) Knight, '02**, and husband, Jared Knight.

E **Amanda (Rennix) Smith, '97**, and husband, Adam, present their Future Pharmacist, Emily Kate Smith.



F **Stephen Andrew Cross, '96**, and wife, Stephanie, present their Future Pharmacist, Lauren Addison Cross.

G **Ifti Kalsekar, '04**, and wife, Anu, share a photo of their Future Pharmacist, Ayaan.



Calling all new moms, dads and grandparents!

Have you recently had a little bundle of joy arrive at your home? The School of Pharmacy wants to know! Please send an e-mail with news about your baby or grandchild to Dean Patricia Chase at pachase@hsc.wvu.edu to receive a "Future Pharmacist" baby shirt (shirt is only available in size 12 months). In exchange, Dean Chase asks that you send a photo of your new "Future Pharmacist" to include in the next issue of *The ShowGlobe*.

Service Learning

Bridges Students and Community

The Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) portion of the curriculum connects second-year pharmacy students with community members to provide information on managing their health and making healthy choices. The students are partnered with community organizations through the WVU Center for Civic Engagement, and implemented unique activities to help educate that a healthy lifestyle can be achieved at any age. This article highlights just a few of the amazing service learning projects our students have created.

An Ounce of Prevention

To raise awareness about poison prevention, the pharmacy students working with **Elizabeth Scharman, Pharm.D.**, professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and director of the West Virginia Poison Center (WVPC), implemented a poster contest for West Virginia children ages six–eleven. The theme of the poster contest was, “Poisoned? Not Sure?,” to alert community members that they can call the WVPC about possible exposures to all types of poisons.



Katy Petros with Governor Joe Manchin

The WVPC service learning group received approximately 100 entries depicting poisonous and potentially poisonous items such as plants, mushrooms, insects, and household chemicals. Katy Petros, daughter of **Bill and Karen Petros, both '83**, was selected as the first-place winner, and her poster was unveiled at the West Virginia State Capitol during Poison Prevention Week. Governor Joe Manchin presented Katy with a \$300 savings bond and a framed copy of her artwork. Her poster will be used on billboards throughout West Virginia to promote the WVPC message of poison safety.

Putting Fun in Exercise

A second group of students partnered with local Boy Scout troops to help them obtain their physical fitness merit badges. Obtaining physical fitness merit badges is an important step for Boy Scouts as the badges are needed in order to advance to Eagle Scout level. Troop members met the students at the WVU Recreation Center over the course of three months to gauge their progress in running, completing sit-ups and push-ups, and other activities. The pharmacy students monitored the progress of the troop members, but they also provided moral support for the troops by discussing results and participating in the fitness tests.



Jeremy Prunty (left) runs with Boy Scout Austin Satterfield

The Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) group hosted a “Health and Fitness Field Day” at the WVU Recreation Center. The goal of the event was to teach children that healthier choices will lead to a healthier future. The pharmacy students combined exercise with fun through the Dance Dance Revolution game. The students also determined that a great way to teach children about fitness would be to have athletes at the event. The students invited WVU Mountaineer football players to teach BBBS participants about exercise through an old-fashioned beanbag toss game, and WVU cheerleaders stressed the importance of stretching before exercise.

The pharmacy students also collaborated with dentistry students to promote oral care and nutrition students to discuss healthy food choices. The group hopes that the activities and information discussed during the Field Day stayed with the children and will help them make better choices in their eating and exercising habits.

Caring for Caregivers

Recognizing the hardships that caregivers and families of patients with Alzheimer's disease endure, the pharmacy students working with the Alzheimer's Association created information packets designed to highlight the many services the Association offers.

The student pharmacists chose this particular project because of the great personal investment of caregivers and their need for resources. The group provided the information packets to pharmacists and physicians in the Morgantown area to distribute to the caregivers of patients afflicted with Alzheimer's disease when they came in for a prescription refill or appointment.

Education about OTC Medications

Another project designed by our students was to help patients select an over-the-counter medication by creating an OTC guide. The 35-page guide, in flip chart form, highlighted common medical ailments, such as cold, allergies, constipation, and body pain. Each laminated page explained a key OTC medication ingredient, its uses, and in which brand name or store brand medication it is found. Ailment symptoms served as quick reference tabs, creating easy navigation through the manual.

"The intent of the guide was to educate the community about over-the-counter medications that they may not know can treat a particular ailment," explained second-year student **Alex Winans**. "With many brand and generic names, as well as store brand OTC medications, choosing the right medication can be a difficult and overwhelming experience."

The guide was designed to be a tool to aid in better health care, and patients were encouraged to still speak with the pharmacist with any questions they had.

Easing a Child's Worries

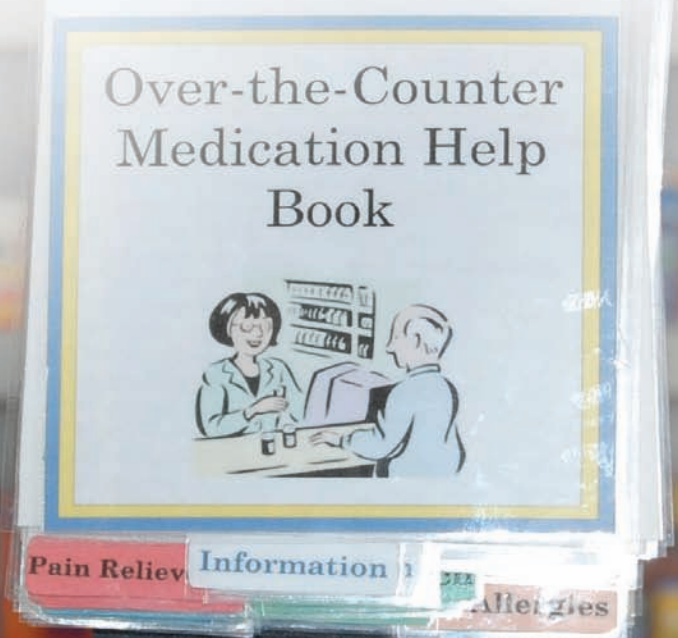
Pharmacy students working with Scott's Run Settlement House understood that a child's visit to their physician and first memorable immunization shot can be traumatic, so they took steps to make this experience less frightening. The group teamed with the WVU's Academy of Student Pharmacists "Operation Immunization" campaign to hold a "Day at the Doctor's Office."



David Eplin helps a Scott's Run student examine her "patient's" eyes

Children received a teddy bear as their patient and had the opportunity to practice typical check up procedures such as height measurement, weight and reflexes, heart and lung sounds, blood pressure, and temperature. The Operation Immunization campaign assisted the children in immunizing their bears using clean, empty syringes without needles.

The goal of the group was to teach children from an early age what vaccines are, how they help you, and to foster a trusting relationship between children and their doctors.



Third-year pharmacy student **Stephanie Field** was selected as a recipient of the National Community Pharmacists Association's (NCPA) Presidential Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to students with a demonstrated interest in independent pharmacy based on scholastic success, leadership qualities, and accomplishments.

Fourth-year pharmacy students **Julie Hull** and **Tessa Rife** were first-place winners in the inaugural National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Student Pharmacist Advocacy Competition. NACDS established the competition

to promote interest in pharmacy advocacy among student pharmacists as well as recognize student pharmacists who are making a positive impact on the pharmacy profession through advocacy. Hull and Rife led efforts that mobilized over 80 pharmacy students to participate in Pharmacy Day at the Legislature at the West Virginia State Capitol, developed education sessions, presentations, pamphlets, and other resources to educate students on how to be advocates for the pharmacy profession, and participated in numerous health events to educate the community about working with their pharmacists to manage their health.

Health Education Center Provides Student and Community Care

By Kristen Wishon, Public Relations Intern

The WVU School of Pharmacy Health Education Center (HEC) has only been in existence under the care and guidance of Director **Diana Vinh, Pharm.D.**, since August 2008, but it is already serving as an important part of pharmacy students' learning experiences. The HEC serves to teach students about a pharmacist's role in health promotion, disease prevention, and general patient wellness; and provide wellness education and patient care services to citizens of West Virginia and the University community.

"My goals for the first year were to create a strong curricular foundation and community outreach services for the center," said Dr. Vinh. "This year, I'd really like to continue to grow both the academic and community services of the HEC and to develop ambulatory care patient services."

The idea for the HEC came from Dean Patricia Chase, who originally instituted a similar center at Butler University. Vinh was hired to develop the HEC so WVU pharmacy students could have a similar experience. Currently, the



P-4 Shari Sandor and Dr. Diana Vinh check equipment at a health fair

HEC serves as an ambulatory care Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) site for third-year students. Students learn to check glucose and hemoglobin A1C levels, blood pressure, bone density, body composition analysis, and medication reviews.

The HEC also houses the My First Patient Program, which is a student learning program for P-1 and P-3 students. The program requires first-year students to serve as their own "first" patient while third-year students serve as the student pharmacist. P-1 students undergo a full health screening conducted by the P-3 student, supervised by Vinh. The P-3 students then counsel the first-year students about their test results and discuss general health behaviors and wellness information.

"The foundations of the My First Patient Program lie in the quote by Ghandi, 'Be the change you want to see in the world,'" said Vinh. "I really want students to experience the process of behavior change and understand what it's like to be in the patient's shoes. Pharmacists need to have empathy for their patients."



P-3 Emily French takes P-1 Timothy Pellegrin's blood pressure

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING 2008-2009

Thank you to the individuals, alumni, and friends who provided contributions to the School of Pharmacy for fiscal year 2008-2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). We had a stellar year of annual support. Nearly \$300,000 was provided in private support; annual giving increased by 23 percent over the previous fiscal year; individual giving increased by 11 percent (includes 112 new donors), and a 23 percent increase in the number of gifts.

Your contributions to the School of Pharmacy help meet the critical needs that are beyond the scope of our operating budgets and funding sources. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to another successful year of education, research, and service. You are with us every step of the way.

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President's Message



Elizabeth Keyes, '92

I am very excited to have been selected as the new president of the WVU School of Pharmacy Alumni Association. Chris and Debra Vaught did a wonderful job last year, I hope to build upon the amazing work they have done.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Association members, the Class of 2009. It was a pleasure speaking with you at your commencement ceremony, and I look forward to your participation in the Association.

I would like to thank Dean Chase and the School of Pharmacy for sponsoring many of the alumni events that have taken place so far this year. The football events and Master Tailgate Competition bring together many of our alumni, and it would not be possible without her help and support. Alumni, if you attended any home football games, I hope you were able to stop by the School of Pharmacy tent in the Light Blue Lot.

Dean Chase and the School of Pharmacy also sponsored the alumni receptions at the WVPA Annual Convention at the Stonewall Resort and Conference Center in Roanoke, West Virginia, and the ASHP Midyear Meeting at the Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. If you attended either of these conferences, I hope you were able to attend the receptions as well.

There are many opportunities for alumni to reconnect with the School. Please visit the alumni section of the SoP Web site (<http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/alumni/events.html>) for updates to the Upcoming Events section. The Third Annual Awesome Auction took place in November. The auction benefits the student travel fund, and alumni have donated items on which to bid. These items are usually the highest in demand! If you are interested in donating an item for future auctions, please contact Brenda Higa at bhiga@hsc.wvu.edu or 304.293.597 for more details.

I would also like to thank our past Association members for staying connected and to our newest members for becoming part of the Association. It's so important to keep in touch with each other. Pharmacists are great people, and together we can do wonderful things. If you would like to share information to publish in the next issue of *The ShowGlobe*, visit the School of Pharmacy's Web site at www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop, click on Alumni Association, and the Update/News Form. We'd love to hear from you and share your accomplishments.

Graduate Students Go Global: Summer Research in China

Through a grant funded by the National Science Foundation, three graduate students from the laboratory of **Peter Gannett, Ph.D.**, associate chair in the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, spent the summer working at Jilin University in Changchun, China.

All of the students traveled as part of the WVNano Initiative and collaborated on projects with investigators at the State Key Laboratory of Supramolecular Structure and Materials.

Lance Wollenberg, a fourth-year graduate student, worked with Dr. Lixin Wu, professor in the Department of Chemistry. The project resulted in the creation of Mn12-based ordered honeycomb structures and patterned films. These innovations have potential applications for high-density information storage and quantum computing applications.

Brian Train, a third-year graduate student, worked with Dr. Wenke Zhang, professor in the Department of Chemistry, to learn the technique of single molecule force spectroscopy (SMFS). Train will use the SMFS technique to measure and quantitate the mechanical properties of single DNA molecules during the B-to Z-DNA transition which is the focus of his research at WVU.

Nissa Thomsen, an M.D./Ph.D. student, worked on engineering a P450 CYP2C9 as a bi-functional enzyme platform.

When not conducting research, the students enjoyed sampling the food, seeing the sights, and getting to know their Chinese colleagues.

"The trip to China was a tremendous opportunity to explore new scientific techniques in an international research environment," said Train. "The part of the trip that I enjoyed most was the ability to experience the science, culture, and history of China all at the same time."

The trip was made possible by a grant awarded to Dr. James Lewis, associate professor in the Department of Physics and member of the WVNano Initiative.

As a result of the program and research in partnership with scientists at Jilin University, the students at both schools provided scientific presentations in both countries and forged stronger working relationships.



Graduate student Brian Train near the entrance of China's Forbidden City

Students Walk for the Memory of Loved Ones

By Kristen Wishon, Public Relations Intern

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 47,000 people suffer from Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia alone, and it is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. But those afflicted with the disease are not the only people struggling to manage their health and emotions—their families and caregivers are as well. Third-year students **Jordan Legg** and **Kathleen Maloney** have family members with Alzheimer's disease. Last April, Legg and Maloney decided to organize a SoP team for the Alzheimer Association's Memory Walk, which took place at the WVU Coliseum, and were able to raise \$1,200 for the cause.

"I'm seeing the effects of the disease now on my grandmother," said Legg. "She is in the early stages of Alzheimer's. So I really wanted to raise money, spread awareness of Alzheimer's, and eventually find a cure."

The Memory Walk is held every year across the United States. Funds gained from the Walk support free programs and services provided by local Alzheimer's Associations, as well as research to find a cure for the disease. The 2009 event was the first year that the School of Pharmacy was involved in the Walk. Both Legg's and Maloney's personal goals are what initially prompted their involvement.



SoP Memory Walk team members included Jordan Legg, Kathleen Maloney, Hollie Burdette, Kolby Keister, Nicole Schartiger, Stephanie Arrington, Dave Seitzinger, Dr. Art Jacknowitz, Megan McCluskey, Ashley Wilhelm, and team family members

Legg's and Maloney's original goal for the School was to raise \$500, which they met and exceeded. They sold t-shirts and sent e-mails asking for donations and participation in the event. The SoP team consisted of 15 members, including **Dr. Art Jacknowitz**, professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy.



Jordan's dog, Morgan, the SoP Memory Walk team's mascot

"There was a real sense of community and team building during the walk throughout all the teams involved," said Legg. "People had pictures of who they were walking for and you could talk to anyone even if they were on a different team."

This year, Legg and Maloney plan on preparing a semester in advance for the Memory Walk to raise more money and recruit a larger team. Bake sales and more t-shirt sales are planned for the following months. Legg also wants to get more underclassmen involved.

"I'm a P-3 this year and I really want to get more people involved who can continue doing this when I'm gone," said Legg. "As pharmacists, we need to have an understanding of how Alzheimer's is affecting so many people and families."

Editor's Note: if you would like to help support Jordan's and Kathleen's efforts, please contact them at jlegg@sole.wvu.edu or kmaloney@sole.wvu.edu

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The Perfect **Holiday Gift**

From the Everyday to the Extraordinary: West Virginia Pharmacists' Stories by **Dr. Douglas Glover, '51**, is available for purchase through amazon.com.

For autographed copies, please contact Dr. Glover at dglover@hsc.wvu.edu.

In Memoriam

Frank Kalisz, '99, passed away June 22, 2009, in Hudson, Ohio. He was a pharmacist at Walmart Pharmacy in Bedford, Ohio.

Tamara McLaughlin Matthews, '87, passed away July 11, 2009, in Stephens City, Virginia. She is survived by her husband, Gary, '86, and her two children, Josiah and Kaitlyn. She began her career at Kroger in Marmet. She worked for many years at the Costco in Winchester, excluding a two-year hiatus in South Carolina, working with Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services. Those wishing to contact Gary may contact the editor for his address.

Upcoming **Events**

March 14, 2010

APhA2010 Annual Meeting
WVU School of Pharmacy Reception
Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Room TBA

March 2010

Dean's Society Banquet
Date, time, and location TBA

For Continuing Education programs, please visit
<http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/conted/programs.html>
or contact Adrienne Tucker at 304.293.5103