

ShowGlobe

Winter 2009/Spring 2010

The Leaders of Tomorrow

By Adrienne Hendon, Public Relations Intern

The WVU School of Pharmacy has the highest caliber of students. They are dedicated and have a strong drive to learn and succeed.

This determination to succeed is visible even before our students become part of the School of Pharmacy family. Each year, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy compiles admissions data for the previous year. The WVU School of Pharmacy has been in the top 15 of the admission data list for the past 10 years in terms of entering student GPA for schools that do not admit right out of high school. For 2008-2009, the WVU School of Pharmacy was in the top 10.

The students who aspire to succeed in the Pharm.D. program bring all of their skills, traits, and professionalism into the program. Students are detail-oriented and academically focused, which directly relates to the graduation rate of 95%. Job placement for the School of Pharmacy is 100%. Students may also further their training after

graduation by completing general and specialized residency programs.

"I'm very proud of our program. Seeing our students in action at events just shows the level of professionalism they have," said Jennifer Clutter, program coordinator in the Office of Student Services.

The application process for the future School of Pharmacy students is competitive. The School of Pharmacy Admissions Committee reviews the students' applications, containing their overall grade point averages along with their PCAT scores and letters of recommendations. The applicant must also interview with the Committee.

The WVU School of Pharmacy Pharm.D. program fosters the professionalism and drive that is present in today's pharmacists. The School, parents, alumni, and the community should all be proud of the students who help illustrate to the nation what caliber of students come from the WVU School of Pharmacy.

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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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It is always a joy to be able to report on the wonderful things that are taking place at the School of Pharmacy. The theme of our winter/spring issue is "New Beginnings" because we have had so many new and exciting programs, advancements, and administrative and faculty additions take place.

Dr. Rae Matsumoto, associate dean for Research and Graduate Programs, has implemented a new community outreach program (page 3), we have new faculty in the Departments of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy (page 10), our students are excelling in both academics (page 12) and service (pages 13 and 15), and much more.

It's also exciting to report that the School has been growing in research funding. Our National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding has tripled since 2006. In fact, the School of Pharmacy ranks second at WVU for research dollars per faculty member and is number one at the Health Sciences Center. I like to think this is a new beginning for research and that we will continue this upward mobility in our funding and projects.

The University and Health Sciences Center have also started new beginnings under the leadership of University President Dr. James P. Clements and HSC Chancellor Dr. Christopher Colenda (pages 8-9). We look forward to working with Drs. Clements and Colenda in advancing the School and the profession of pharmacy.

Last, but certainly not least, is a new beginning you can help support. The School will be welcoming the Class of 2014 in August 2010 with the White Coat Ceremony. You can help a student start a new chapter in her/his life by donating to the ceremony. Please see page 11 for more details on how you can get involved.

As the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." The School has taken its first step toward a new year and new accomplishments. We hope that you will join us on our journey.

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



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Community Learns “More About...” Health Issues

By Kristen Wishon, Public Relations Intern



Dr. Christy Fields educates program attendees on managing their diabetes through proper nutrition and portion control.

Living with a health condition can fill your mind with questions about its treatment and management. With the launch of the “More About...” community health outreach program, citizens of West Virginia are able to learn more about health conditions, research, and technology topics related to medications and health management.

“The goal of the program is to take experts on specific health conditions out into our community to answer questions and educate our local residents,” said **Rae Matsumoto, Ph.D.**, professor and associate dean for Research and Graduate Programs in the WVU School of Pharmacy. “Patients may be confused about the information they receive regarding their health condition or medication, or they may be newly diagnosed and have many ‘what’s going to happen to me,’ ‘what’s this going to do to me’ questions. We want to provide a comfortable setting that will allow them to interact with and learn from topic experts.”

The free, hour-long programs take place on the second Thursday of each month in Morgantown. Each month, a specific topic is highlighted while a panel of clinicians and scientists share their insights with audience members. There is also an opportunity for audience members to interact with the experts during a question and answer session at the end of each program.

The “More About...” program launch in November 2009 focused on diabetes in observance of American Diabetes Month. The first panel included School of Pharmacy faculty **Charles Ponte, Pharm.D.**, and **Jason Huber, Ph.D.**, with pharmacy resident **Christy Fields, Pharm.D., '08**. The program also included a health fair that provided free blood pressure and glucose screenings, as well as A1C testing.

Topics of future “More About...” programs include cardiovascular health, pain management, smoking cessation, cancer, stroke, arthritis, skin diseases, and immunizations. Some upcoming programs will include health fairs and medication review, or brown bag, sessions.

“I’ve organized similar community programs in two other cities and there definitely isn’t a shortage of topics to discuss,” said Matsumoto. “People always want to know more about their health and medications, and whether what they heard on the news, or from friends and relatives is true or just hype.”

If you are in the Morgantown area and would like to attend an event, or would like to provide your patients with more information, visit the WVU School of Pharmacy site at www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop and click on the More About button for a list of events.

Tying Yellow Ribbons

By Adrienne Hendon, Public Relations Intern



(l-r) Rachel Sankoff, Gwen Staud, Erin Marcum, Kelly Earls, Dao Luu, Ji-Hye Park, Amanda Shrewsberry, and Nathan Smith create yellow ribbons to show their support for families of soldiers.

Walking into a room filled with students, all talking and laughing with each other, it seems like the typical lunch crowd during classes. But during this particular December lunch hour, student pharmacists met to show support for the soldiers and families affected by the recent deployment action. The students gathered to show their support for these families and troops by creating yellow ribbon pins.

P-2 Leann Lease organized the ribbon crafting and had approximately 20 volunteers to help. Lease had the event approved through Assistant Dean of Student Services Clarke Ridgway so students could receive community service hours, but many of the students who participated—just like Lease—are affected by deployments in some way.

“I’m a veteran married to a veteran, so showing support for the soldiers is close to my heart,” said Lease.

The 175 handcrafted ribbons were given to Family Support Groups of locally deploying/deployed units with ribbons being sent to the West Virginia units of Grafton and Charleston first.

Materials to make the yellow ribbons were supplied by Lease and fellow **P-2 Gwendolinn Staud**. Lease set the project

in motion because she felt that families of soldiers need as much support as possible.

“I wanted to show local families that there are people who support them,” said Lease. “People are willing to help soldiers, but can forget how difficult a deployment can be on the soldier’s family. Yellow ribbons won’t change the hardship they’re enduring, but hopefully it will put smiles on their faces.”

Lease’s husband is approaching his third deployment and Staud’s son his first. Raising awareness with the ribbons about soldiers serving in combat helps give the families a sense of comfort. By creating the ribbons at the School of Pharmacy, it raised the awareness to everyone about what families of the deployed and deploying units undergo.

“Many in attendance have a loved one or friend serving, so this gathering allows them to see how others are handling their own situation with deployments,” said Lease.

Lease hopes to have more ribbon making projects in the future. If you would like to help support the activity, please contact Leann Lease at llease@sole.wvu.edu.

Students Celebrate *American Pharmacists Month*

By Carla Shoaf, 2012 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate



Mary Sammons (center) with pharmacy students (l-r) Leesa Shine, Cassandra Clevenger, Jeff Davis, and Erin Bailey.

October was American Pharmacists Month and the Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) took this as an occasion to offer opportunities for students to get involved and learn more about the profession of pharmacy. ASP kicked off the month with the annual Bagel Breakfast where faculty and students were able to eat and mingle before going to class. Continuing with tradition, ASP held the flag football championships between the pharmacy classes. The first-year students dominated the games with both the P-1 male and female teams winning the championship titles.

In addition to the fun and games, ASP sponsored a series of speakers to educate the community and members of the profession on the diverse role of pharmacists. **Michael Newton, Pharm.D., '97, '99**, assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, presented information on breast cancer treatment; **Patty Johnston, '77**, president of Colony Drug & Wellness Center in Beckley, West Virginia, spoke about independent pharmacy practice; Mary Sammons, CEO of the Rite Aid Corporation, presented

information about the new era of community pharmacy; and a panel from Mylan Pharmaceuticals spoke about potential careers in the pharmaceutical industry.

With healthcare reform in the United States being of national interest, the WVU School of Pharmacy ASP and NCPA chapters held a joint meeting and discussion on healthcare reform issues. In addition to this extremely well-attended session, ASP students wrote proposals to submit to the APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting. By taking part in these sessions, students were given the chance to express their ideas to help shape the future of their profession.

The biggest event for the month was the Health Expo at the Morgantown Mall with approximately 400 community members in attendance. Operation Diabetes conducted over 200 glucose screenings and A1C testings; the Tobacco



P-4 Carrie Sechler performs a blood pressure screening at a community health expo.

Awareness campaign distributed over 75 quit kits to smokers and non-smoking tobacco users; the Heartburn Awareness campaign educated 45 people by performing heartburn screenings and educating patients on managing symptoms; and ASP in conjunction with the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP) distributed Pharmacy Month balloons, medication record keepers, and provided medication therapy management and medication reviews.

The events that took place during American Pharmacists Month allowed students to practice the skills and to use the knowledge they have gained at the School of Pharmacy while learning through patient interactions and service to their community. American Pharmacists Month is about learning and furthering the profession of pharmacy, and ASP has helped fellow student pharmacists do just that.



P-3 Mandy Carpenter performs a blood glucose test at a community health expo.

Ph.D Student News



Nidhi Kaushal, pharmaceutical and pharmacological sciences pathway, was the recipient of the 2009 Robert E. Stitzel Graduate Student Support Fund.



Kimberly Blake, Ph.D. Health Outcomes student, received an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) pre-doctoral fellowship. The goal of the AFPE fellowship is to provide support for outstanding advanced Ph.D. candidates.

The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) student organization hosted its annual fall potluck luncheon. The organization raised \$535 for student travel.

Alumni News

Marlana Kay (Matheny) Burnside, '04, and her husband, Stephen, had their first child, Leah Grace Burnside, on August 18, 2009.

Lisa Cassis, '80, was the guest lecturer for the second annual Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center Stitzel Lecture. The Stitzel Lectureship is in honor of Dr. Robert E. Stitzel, a renowned pharmacologist and former Director of University Graduate Studies at WVU. Dr. Cassis presented, "Angiotensin: A Link Between Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease."

Tanna Cooper, '06, was a recipient of the ASHP Best Practices Award in Health-System Pharmacy. Her team's project was, "Safety and Efficacy Analysis of an Inpatient Collaborative Drug Therapy Management Service for Direct Thrombin Inhibitors." The award, sponsored in partnership with Amgen, recognizes pharmacists who demonstrate leadership in enhancing patient care and other areas of pharmacy practice.

Niesha Griffith, '89, was granted FASHP designation by ASHP. This designation recognizes sustained excellence in pharmacy practice and promotes public awareness of pharmacists who have distinguished themselves in pharmacy practice.

Jeremy L. Jones, '07, married Cynthia Elizabeth King on March 21, 2009, at Calvary Baptist Church in War, West Virginia.

Douglas E. Miller, '65, was the recipient of the ASHP Board of Directors Award for Distinguished Leadership in Health-System Pharmacy Practice. The award, established in 2001, recognizes individuals who have achieved excellence in health-system pharmacy practice leadership. The award was presented during the ASHP 44th Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas in December.

Kelli (McKinney) Myers, '06, and husband, Patrick, welcomed their son, Timothy Joseph, into the world on October 30, 2009.

Debra (Heller) Pereira, '91, director, Pfizer Global Research & Development, was asked to present an Industry perspective on the challenges and opportunities in developing pediatric formulations to the Pediatric Oncology Subcommittee of the Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee. The presentation and subsequent discussions were held on December 15, 2009.

Rebecca Ann Adair Rogers, '07, and her husband, Josh Rogers, welcomed their son, Zackary Scott Rogers, on October 18, 2009.

Amanda Jo (Preston) Ward, '08, married Rodney Ward July 11, 2009. Rodney is a Clinical Pharmacist at Three Rivers Medical Center in Louisa, Kentucky, where the couple now resides.

Future Pharmacists

A Proud grandfather, **Vince Anido, '75**, shares a photo of his Future Pharmacist, Chloe Nicole Anido.



B **Donna (Barron) Baldwin, '02**, and husband, John, are the proud parents of Future Pharmacist Connor Patrick Baldwin.



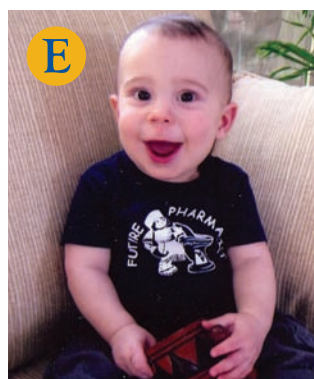
C **Chad Dober, '04**, and wife, Lisa, are proud to present their Future Pharmacist, Cecily Paige Dober.



D **Brianne Lykins Fairchild, '03**, and husband, Shane, share a photo of their Future Pharmacist, Shelby Grace Fairchild.



E **Ann (Sullivan) Lambert, '01**, and husband, Joseph, get a big smile from their Future Pharmacist, Elliot Franklin Lambert.



F **Jeremy Nestor, '06**, and wife, Kristin, share a photo of their Future Pharmacist, Harper Quinn Nestor.



G **Phoebe Nichols, '99**, and husband, Jason, present Lainey Micah Nichols. Lainey is their third child and follows her Future Pharmacist brothers, Landon and Malachi.



H **Travis Skinner, '06**, and wife, Melissa, get a smile from their Future Pharmacist, Brody Cole Skinner.



I **Shannon Thornhill, '98**, and husband, Andy, are proud to present their Future Pharmacist, Emma Thornhill.



J **Casey Watts, '08**, and wife, Kendra, are the proud parents of Future Pharmacist Lucy Carolina Watts



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 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*.



University President James P. Clements

University President Takes Office

James P. Clements, Ph.D., West Virginia University's 23rd president, has a positive outlook and great enthusiasm for the future of the University.

Dr. Clements, who took office on June 30, 2009, envisions WVU as a 21st century land-grant institution providing innovative academic programs, technologically advanced research, and community service that benefits West Virginians.

Clements is also focused on advancing health care education and research at the University. He places emphasis on intensifying research efforts and helping WVU become a national and international leader in the health sciences, education and other fields, and positioning WVU on the leading edge of technology.

Other priorities include: continuing to offer world-class health care and increasing research and outreach in the health sciences; recruiting and retaining the best faculty and staff; and developing a broad global focus to better prepare students for new and emerging international opportunities.

The School of Pharmacy is excited about working with Dr. Clements and shares his belief that schools and universities can engage local residents for the betterment of the



community. We know, by educating our students to be leaders in the profession of pharmacy — and evidenced by the amazing work of our alumni — we must work with the community in order to improve the health of our citizens.

For more information about Dr. Clements and a shared vision for West Virginia University, visit <http://president.wvu.edu>.



Chancellor for Health Sciences Appointed

Christopher C. Colenda, M.D., M.P.H., was appointed Chancellor for Health Sciences in November 2009. Before his appointment, Dr. Colenda served as the Jean and Thomas McMullin Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President for Clinical Affairs of Texas A&M Health Science Center. Colenda earned his medical degree at the

Medical College of Virginia of Virginia Commonwealth University, and a master's in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

"West Virginia University has a responsibility to play the leading role in educating the next generation of health professionals, advancing scientific discovery and translating discovery into practice, and raising the health status of citizens of our state," Colenda said. "The School of Pharmacy is moving forward on several fronts to do this work better."

Colenda says he's encouraged by the dedication, loyalty, and enthusiasm of the students and faculty of the school, the sharp increase in external research funding won by Pharmacy faculty, and the continuing involvement of students and faculty in national and state professional activities. "The health needs of this state are substantial, and the School's leadership team is addressing these challenges head-on," he said.

For more information about Dr. Colenda, please visit <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/chancellor/>.



Chancellor of Health Sciences Christopher C. Colenda

New faculty 2009-2010



Amber (Price) Chiplinski, Pharm.D., '08, is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy-Eastern Division. After graduating from the WVU School of Pharmacy, she completed a general practice residency at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in June of 2009.

Dr. Chiplinski is a primary preceptor involved in the education of student pharmacists on APPE rotations and in the classroom. She also participates in the PharmStep program through Shepherd University and the training of other health-professional students through the WVU School of Medicine at the Health Sciences Center Eastern Division. Dr. Chiplinski's primary practice site is in Internal Medicine at the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center working with the medical, surgical, and intensive care unit teams. Her areas of interest include infectious diseases, substance abuse, and nutrition.



Amanda Geist, Pharm.D., is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy-Charleston Division. She earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of Pittsburgh

Medical Center Mercy and then a pediatric specialty residency at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Geist's current position is a joint appointment with Charleston Area Medical Center Women and Children's Hospital, where she serves as a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Specialist. In addition, she serves as a preceptor for a pediatric rotation for fourth-year pharmacy students in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) program. Her other practice areas of interest include cystic fibrosis, neonatal intensive care, and infectious diseases.



Kimberly Kelly, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy and the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. She received her master's and doctorate degrees in social and health psychology from Rutgers University, her master's degree in genetic counseling from Indiana University, and

completed a post-doctoral fellowship in cancer control and behavioral science at the University of Kentucky. Before joining the WVU School of Pharmacy, Dr. Kelly was a member of the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology, and Medical Genetics, and was also affiliated with the Department of Psychology, Health Behavior and Health Promotion in the College of Public Health, the Primary Care Research Institute, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Ohio State University.

Three overlapping themes emerge from Dr. Kelly's research: (1) cancer risk perception/communication, (2) health behavior, and (3) elevated risk populations. Through her research, Dr. Kelly hopes to understand how best to enhance appropriate decision-making about health behaviors in elevated risk populations to accomplish optimal health outcomes.



Usha Sambamoorthi, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy. She received her master's and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Madras, India.

Prior to joining the WVU School of Pharmacy, Dr. Sambamoorthi was the

Professor and Director of Women's Health and Population-based Mental Health Disparities in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts. Her areas of research interest include health economics, global health, women's health, healthcare in individuals with co-occurring physical and mental illnesses and healthcare disparities by gender, race/ethnicity, age, and disability.

Would You Like to Become a *White Coat Sponsor?*



In August 2010, the School of Pharmacy will welcome the Class of 2014 to the pharmacy profession with the School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony will formally recognize the students' entrance into the profession and will be held in conjunction with new student

orientation. To help commemorate this special occasion, you are invited to become a White Coat Sponsor.

Your name will be placed in the pocket of the student's white coat to personally welcome them into their chosen profession.

In addition to the coat and name badge, your \$60 donation will also help support the White Coat reception.

If you would like to sponsor a particular student—a son or daughter, neighbor or special friend—please indicate the student name(s) on the gift form.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A WHITE COAT SPONSOR!

Enclosed is my gift to the 2010 White Coat Ceremony in the amount of \$ _____ (\$60 sponsorship per student). Please make check payable to the WVU Foundation or make your gift by credit card.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If you wish to sponsor a particular student, please print the student's name below:

Sponsorship Payment Options

- ☐ Check made payable to the WVU Foundation (please write "White Coat" on the memo line of your check)
- ☐ To make your sponsorship gift by Credit Card, please visit the School of Pharmacy online giving page at <https://www.mountaineerconnection.com/SSLPage.aspx?pid=269>

**Please send the completed gift form
no later than June 25 to:**

White Coat Ceremony
Patricia Chase, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Pharmacy
PO Box 9500
Morgantown, WV 26506-9500

*For your convenience, the form can also
be found on the School of Pharmacy Web
site under Alumni and Development, then
choose Alumni Association.
www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop*

Students Sharpen Clinical Skills in Competition

By Adrienne Hendon, Public Relations Intern

Ten third- and fourth-year student pharmacists participated in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Clinical Skills Competition held in October. The purpose of the competition is to foster clinical skill development by encouraging cooperation and teamwork.

Pharmacy students have participated in the competition since it began in 2001. Students work in teams of two to analyze a clinical case scenario designed to help patients make the best use of their medications. Winners of the School competition then compete on a national level at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

The competing teams were provided a sealed packet of information, opened only when the competition formally started, containing information of a patient's hypothetical case, complete with charts and test values. The same case is used nationwide and the pharmacy students had a maximum of two hours to develop their own care plan.

This year's case, created by a team of experts including **Lena Maynor, Pharm.D., '05**, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, dealt with pneumonia, alcohol withdrawal, and pain management. Not only did the students have to develop a written care plan for the patient, they also had to validate their plan before two judges with a two minute verbal presentation. At the end of the presentation, the students were questioned by the judges about their reasoning.



Julie Hull

Jessica Winter

"A lot of students walk out of the competition feeling a little overwhelmed," said **Douglas Slain, Pharm.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. "The students only have two hours to complete their case. They are allowed to use select reference materials to research elements of their plan, so it is a tedious process for them, but in the end, the competition helps them strengthen their clinical skills."

Teams this year included **P-4s Tessa Rife and Erin Bailey, Laurel Kessel and Stephen Chambers, Jessica Winter and Julie Hull**, and **P-3s Sarah Rizzo and David Seitzinger, and Justin Williams and Scott Bragg**. Judges for the competition were **Drs. Ashley (Reed) Ross, '08**, and Jay Martello.

Hull and Winter were the first-place winners in the School of Pharmacy and attended the semi-final round at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, in December. Second-place winners were Erin Bailey and Tessa Rife, and third-place winners were Sarah Rizzo and Dave Seitzinger.

SSHP, ASHP, and the WVU School of Pharmacy sponsored the School competition and the trip to semi-finals.

Pharm.D. Student News



Ka Lok Hong

Leesa Shine

Congratulations to **P-3s Ka Lok Hong and Leesa Shine** for their winning entries in the SoP Pumpkin Carving Contest sponsored by the SoP Alumni Association. Ka won first place and he and his charity, APhA-ASP, each

received a check for \$50. Leesa won second place and she and her charity, Relay for Life, each received a check for \$25.

NCPA held a medication disposal event Saturday, November 21, at Nicholas Pharmacy in Nicholas County, West Virginia.

The **APhA-ASP Heartburn Awareness Campaign** hosted a guest speaker in November in observance of Heartburn Awareness Month. Dr. Ehab Akkary, director of Bariatric Surgery, director of

Minimally Invasive Surgery, and assistant professor in the WVU School of Medicine Department of Surgery, presented "Recent Advances in the Treatment of GERD."

Ten student pharmacists were recognized as recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Awards for providing an exceptional level of community service in 2009. **P-4 Todd Lemley** and **P-3 Scott Bragg** were the recipients of the Gold Award for over 250 hours of service, and **P-2 Megan McCluskey** received the Silver Award for over 175 hours of service. **P-4s Erin Bailey and Renee Chieco** and **P-3s Jeremy Prunty, Leesa Shine, Daphne O'Hara, Ying Yin Chen, and Julie Gegg** were the recipients of the Bronze Award for over 100 hours of service.

The Second Annual Awesome Auction raised over \$1,800 to support student travel to regional and national meetings. Thanks to all the donors and those who took part in the bidding!



Alum Honored as NCPA National Preceptor of the Year

(l-r) Holly Whitcomb Henry, R.Ph., 2008-2009 NCPA President, presents the National Preceptor of the Year award to Patty Johnston.

Patty Johnston, '77, was named the 2009 National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) National Preceptor of the Year during the 111th Annual Convention and Trade Exposition held in October in New Orleans, Louisiana. The award honors a pharmacist who has made significant contributions to the education of pharmacy students by devoting time, talent, and effort as a preceptor.

Johnston, owner of Colony Drug & Wellness Center in Beckley, West Virginia, has been a preceptor with the WVU School of

Pharmacy since 1979. She is preceptor to approximately 24 WVU pharmacy students each year. Johnston makes sure that her students receive practical and informative experiences on her rotation and involves them in many patient-oriented programs that are offered in her pharmacy.

The School of Pharmacy is fortunate to have preceptors like Johnston who are committed to helping shape the lives of our students, and we are proud that our alumni are recognized on a national level for the work that they do. Congratulations, Patty!

School of Pharmacy Community Rallies for a Common Cause

By Kristen Wishon, Public Relations Intern

WVU School of Pharmacy students, faculty, and staff have been dedicated to relieving the financial stresses involved with cancer diagnosis and treatment by donating their time and money to the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center Comfort Fund.

The Comfort Fund was established to help hematology/oncology patients actively being treated at the Cancer Center or in limited situations, at WVU Hospitals. The Comfort Fund provides short-term financial assistance for patients until they can be linked with community, state, or national resources. All monies in the Comfort Fund come solely from donations.

The School's involvement began in 2005 when **Betsy Elswick, Pharm.D., '01**, clinical associate professor in the WVU School of Pharmacy, and her husband, Daniel Elswick, M.D., a psychiatrist for the Psycho-Oncology Program at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, founded the Comfort Music Fest to benefit the Comfort Fund. The Comfort Music Fest raised approximately \$15,000 in its first three years and in 2009, raised \$6,000.

School of Pharmacy faculty and students have also become involved in raising awareness of the Comfort Fund. In April 2009, current fourth-year students **John Crowley** and **Mark Medina** planned a School of Pharmacy variety show and donated all proceeds to the Comfort Fund.

"It's kind of been a grass roots effort across the pharmacy school to raise money for the fund that my husband and I have been so invested in," said Betsy Elswick. "I became



(l-r) ASP organization president Ying Yin Chen, Justin Williams, and Kappa Psi president Nicole Shumiloff present Dr. Jame Abraham, medical director of the MBRCC, with the Comfort Fund donation.

involved on personal interest, so it's a neat thing to see the School of Pharmacy get involved unofficially. The Fund is something that really gears to a lot of people's hearts."

Crowley and Medina organized the first variety show with the Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) organization to showcase talents while raising money for the Fund. The show's performances included musical acts, comedy sketches, and a poetry reading, and raised approximately \$1,226.

This January, students continued the show's tradition under the guidance of third-year pharmacy student, **Justin Williams**. The Second Annual School of Pharmacy Variety Show, co-sponsored by ASP and Kappa Psi, raised an additional \$1,059 for the Comfort Fund.

"The Comfort Fund was chosen again this year because it is a unique way to help patients with cancer," Williams said. "While we may not be able to counsel or help patients with their treatments now, we can make a difference by easing their financial worries by donating the show's proceeds to the Fund."

President's Message



Elizabeth Keyes, '92

The Alumni Association continues to be active at many School events. The annual SoP Pumpkin Carving contest was a fun break in studies for the students. Congratulations to Ka Lok Hong and Leesa Shine for their award-winning entries (see page 12). Our students not only excel in academics, but they are also very creative!

I'd also like to extend thanks to our alumni who donated items for the Third Annual Awesome Auction. Proceeds of the event benefited student travel, and as you are well aware, it is important for our future leaders in pharmacy to be able to attend local and national meetings.

Please also be sure to read the great accomplishments and latest news from our fellow alumni on pages six and thirteen. If you have news you would like to share, or need to update your contact information, please visit the School's Web site at www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop, click on Alumni Association, and the Update/News Form. Be sure to include/update your e-mail address as many notifications and invitations are sent via e-mail.

Remember to check the Upcoming Events portion of the Web site for the latest activities, events, and CE programs that are being hosted by the School or Alumni Association. These events are great ways to reconnect with the School and with classmates you may not have seen in a while.

Elizabeth K. Keyes

Development Corner

There are several endowments at the School of Pharmacy that need additional funding. If you are interested in donating to these endowments, please contact Patty Showers Ryan, director of development, at 304.293.1868 or psryan@hsc.wvu.edu.

Dr. Calvin C. Brister School of Pharmacy Scholarship

– Dr. Brister passed away in December 2008 shortly after his retirement of 37 years of service to the WVU School of Pharmacy. Fundraising efforts are underway to raise \$25,000 to endow a permanent scholarship in Dr. Brister's memory that will provide tuition assistance for pharmacy students. Approximately \$4,000 has been donated to this fund.

Pat and Jim Chase Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship

– Dr. Chase became Dean of the WVU School of Pharmacy in 2006 and started her scholarship the following year. Fundraising efforts are underway to raise \$25,000 to endow a permanent fund that will provide scholarships to any students at the School of Pharmacy who demonstrate academic promise and financial need. To date, approximately \$8,500 has been donated to this fund.

The D. Stephen Crawford Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy

– Mr. Crawford was a 1967 graduate of the WVU School of Pharmacy. He passed away in May 2007. Fundraising efforts are underway to raise \$25,000 to endow a permanent scholarship in D. Stephen Crawford's memory that will provide tuition assistance for pharmacy students. Nearly \$5,000 has been donated to this fund.

Louis A. Luzzi Lectureship

– Dr. Luzzi was Dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1974–1981 and passed away in 2007. Fundraising efforts are underway to establish a permanent \$100,000 endowment in Dr. Luzzi's memory that will be used to host an outstanding researcher in pharmaceuticals to give presentations annually to our students and faculty. More than \$50,000 has been donated to this fund.

George R. and Lynne B. Spratto Pharmacy Scholarship

– Dr. Spratto was Dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1995–2006. Fundraising efforts are underway to establish a permanent \$25,000 scholarship for students enrolled in the Pharm.D. professional program. Nearly \$12,000 has been donated to this fund.

Raising Funds for a Cure

By Adrienne Hendon, Public Relations Intern



The SoP Relay for Life Team.

The Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) Alpha Omicron Chapter at the WVU School of Pharmacy is committed to the professional development of women in pharmacy and reinforcing the importance of service to others. The pharmacy fraternity coordinates the SoP Relay for Life team, and chapter members have proven their commitment to the cause and the community by being named the top fundraiser for the event for the fifth year in a row during the 2009 Relay for Life for WVU.

Relay for Life is an awareness and fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Participating teams walk or run around a track, with a representative from each team on the track at all times. The events begin in the evening and last overnight to signify that cancer never sleeps.

While being named the top fundraiser is a great honor for their work, it is not really a goal to the fraternity.

“Every year it is a challenge,” said **Leesa Shine**, third-year student and 2009 co-captain of the SoP/LKS Relay for Life team. “But knowing how much we raise means that we have been able to give so much to the American Cancer Society.”

“Many people know at least one person who has been diagnosed with [cancer],” said **Renee Chieco**, fourth-year student and 2009 co-captain of the SoP/LKS Relay for Life team. “The purpose of the relay is to celebrate, remember, and to fight back. It is a celebration for those who have survived, remembrance of those who have not, and a continued fight against the disease and to find a cure.”

Participating in the event also drives home classroom studies of cancer treatments, inspiring students to continue to raise

funds for research and seek the cure for the disease.

“As we learn about cancer in school, it is amazing to see the advancements in cancer treatments,” said Shine. “So much progress is being made, and it’s nice to know that we are helping find a cure.”

Once the Relay for Life donation period starts, LKS does not worry about the end goal, but rather enjoys the events the organization hosts. All money raised by the SoP/LKS team is donated to the American Cancer Society.

“In all honesty, we do not even focus on the goal,” said Chieco. “We were just enthusiastic, got many people involved early, and reaching the goal seemed to happen effortlessly.”

Editor’s Note: We will have the results of the 2010 WVU Relay for Life event in our next issue.



P-3s Scott Bragg, Daphne O’Hara, Ashley Shaw, Betewoin Dubale Bettina Mason, and Marc Phillips.

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Stay Connected

Make sure that you stay informed of the accomplishments and events taking place at the WVU School of Pharmacy by updating your contact information at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/alumni/updateform.html>.

Please be sure to include your e-mail address as many of our announcements are sent electronically.

Missed an issue? To view past issues of *The ShowGlobe*, please visit <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/sop/alumni/showglobe/index.html>.

In Memoriam

William “Bill” E. Ford, '51, of Ona, West Virginia, passed away December 5, 2009.

Mark Douglas McIntyre, '81, of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away December 7, 2009.

Jeremy Stoltzfus, P-3, of Lititz, Pennsylvania, passed away January 8, 2010.

Upcoming Events

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