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FALL/WINTER 2011

Showglobe

The Official Newsletter of the
West Virginia University
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



Menighan Receives Honorary Degree

*M*ay 14 marked the graduation for the Class of 2011, but it also honored one very special alumnus. West Virginia University recognized **Thomas E. Menighan, '74**, executive vice president and CEO of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), with an honorary doctorate of science degree.

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Thomas Menighan (left)
and WVU President James P. Clements

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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 three times a year. It is also available online at www.pharmacy.hsc.wvu.edu under the Alumni tab.

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Message from the Dean



I truly enjoy getting ready for the fall semester! There is always a little bit of sadness (mixed with great pride for our graduating students) as the spring semester comes to a close, but with the start of each academic year comes such great promise. President John F. Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." I think everyone at the WVU School of Pharmacy can attest to this statement, as we strive to make changes each year to provide the best possible education and environment for our students, faculty, and staff.

Let's take a look at some of the changes that have occurred so far: Our Class of 2011 has changed to become our newest alumni and with that, they are going on to fill positions in community pharmacies, hospitals, and complete residencies with the promise to improve the health and quality of life for their patients (pages 10 and 13).

Our Class of 2015 was welcomed into the School and changed their course in life with the promise to dedicate themselves to becoming caring and knowledgeable health care professionals, and signed the Honor Code to signify their commitment to uphold the values of the School and profession of pharmacy (page 12).

We're making changes in our rotation offerings for P-4 students in that, for the past two years, we have students who have traveled to South Africa to experience healthcare practices in global settings (page 18).

Advancements in technology that have taken place at the Health Sciences Center have enabled us to provide real-life patient-care simulations using state-of-the-art equipment and mannequins to prepare our students for situations they may encounter in pharmacy practice (page 4). Our faculty is changing with new members on board and changes in position (page 19).

Most importantly, the School has charted its course for change by finalizing our 2012-2016 strategic plan. Countless hours were spent creating this plan and plotting our course for the next four years, and I extend my thanks to all faculty, staff, students, and alumni who gave of their time to think strategically about what we as a School need to do in order to achieve our goals (page 8).

President Kennedy was correct in his statement about change being the law of life. We must embrace change and adapt with the world that is changing around us for if you stay stagnant, the world will pass you by. The faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the School are not ones to rest on their laurels. Let's get out there and continue to make changes for a better future!

Patricia Chase, Ph.D.

The Gates Wigner Dean for the WVU School of Pharmacy

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W.Va. Rotations Connect Students *with* Community

By Drew Barnhart, *Public Relations Intern*

Rotations provide our fourth-year students immeasurable real-life experience. Our students have traveled all across the U.S.—and have even gone global—in order to experience different aspects of the profession of pharmacy and the settings in which they could practice. But our students are also in West Virginia, helping the population of our state who are in need of improved health care.

The Pharmacy Eastern Division Experiential Learning (PEDEL) and Pharmacy Southern Experiential Learning (PSEL) programs—established by the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Learning (OEL)—are programs designed to provide student pharmacists with rotation opportunities throughout the state.

“When it was time for me to make my rotation choices, I automatically signed up to be in the PSEL program,” **P-4 Scott Wade** said. “With the exception of my one international rotation experience, my rotations allow me to stay close to friends and family while also giving me the opportunity to learn more about the health care needs of West Virginians.”

P-4 Cassandra Clevenger completed a rotation through the PEDEL program in Harper’s Ferry where she worked with **Jonathan Kline, Pharm.D., assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy-Eastern Division**. Clevenger worked at Harper’s Ferry Family Medicine and also spent time at Jefferson Memorial Hospital and the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy Eastern Division.

“My rotation with Dr. Kline could not have been a better start to my APPE year,” Clevenger said. “This rotation was a wonderful learning experience. I have learned that the field of pharmacy is a very rewarding career. I left my rotation every day excited to become a pharmacist.”

“We want every student to get the most out of their rotations,” **Lena Maynor, Pharm.D., BCPS, director of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE)** said. “We want to be able to provide high caliber rotations for all of our students. The PEDEL and PSEL programs are a way to provide students with a good experience and also help communities in our home state.”

Depending on class size, typically ten to twelve students are enrolled in the PEDEL program and complete their rotations in one of nine West Virginia counties: Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Mineral, Grant, Hardy, Pendleton, or Tucker.

Approximately one third of the class is enrolled in the PSEL program and completes their rotations in fourteen West Virginia counties: Boone, Clay, Cabell, Fayette, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Wayne, or Wyoming.

P-4s Shannon Beatty and Holly Kirk completed their rotation in Beckley at Colony Drug & Wellness Center as part of the PSEL program.

Beatty took advantage of the PSEL program because it allowed her to complete her rotation in an area close to her family who lives in southern West Virginia. She completed an ambulatory

rotation and primarily saw patients from the PEIA Face-to-Face Program. The program is offered by pharmacists to ensure that patients with diabetes are up to date on all recommended testing and treatment, know how to properly take their prescribed medications, and have a physical activity and nutrition plan to assist them in managing and maintaining their health. She typically saw two to seven patients in the program a day.

Kirk did not originally plan to participate in the PSEL program and is happy with the way things turned out. She completed a community pharmacy rotation, which included counseling patients, assisting in PEIA Face-to-Face appointments, helping in the pharmacy, and researching any drug information questions.

The PEDEL and PSEL programs also help students see the significance of rural health and the impact they can have on communities.

P-4 Kayla Cline completed her PSEL rotation at Raleigh General Hospital. While Cline has lived in southern West Virginia for most of her life and is familiar with the needs of rural areas, her rotation gave her new insight.

“I was already aware of the large number of patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and congestive heart failure,” Cline said. “However, after working in a rural hospital, I am able to see all the severe complications that come along with these chronic diseases. I have always been interested in pursuing a career path in rural health, but this rotation has definitely reinforced this decision.”

Like Cline, Clevenger’s rotation has opened her eyes to the importance of rural medicine. Prior to her rotation, she had hoped to practice in a more urban area.

“I now see the need for health care in more rural areas and the extreme positive impact pharmacists can make for this population,” said Clevenger.

Having a rotation serving the population of West Virginia was also a good experience for Beatty and Kirk.

“Working [at Colony Drug & Wellness Center] has shown me that it is possible to make time for patient centered activities such as counseling, screening, wellness programs etc.,” said Kirk. “I have never worked in a more patient-centered pharmacy.”

“I feel much more comfortable counseling patients with diabetes now that I’ve seen diabetes at its many stages,” said Beatty who counseled patients through the PEIA Face to Face program. “Ultimately, diabetes is all about prevention. If diabetes progresses uncontrolled, its complications are inevitable.”

Through the PSEL and PEDEL programs, our students have the great opportunity to serve the community members of the southern and eastern parts of our state and help improve their health and quality of life.



WV STEPS:



The Future of Clinical Education

By Ashleigh Pollart,
Public Relations Intern

Since its opening in October 2009, the West Virginia Simulation Training & Education for Patient Safety (WV STEPS) Center has made an impact on the education of student pharmacists. The \$3 million addition to the Health Sciences Center—funded both privately and through federal money—is meant to enhance clinicians' education through customized simulation experiences.

The WV STEPS Center allows students in all health professions to practice what they learned in class in a life-like—but safe—environment, giving students the opportunity to practice what they will be doing after graduation. By incorporating simulation technology, WV STEPS gives students the opportunity to improve their analytical, diagnostic, communication, and crisis-intervention skills in an environment where a mistake is a learning experience rather than a real medical error that causes patient harm.

The Center features four simulation rooms that can be used to conduct situations typical of operating and emergency rooms and intensive care units, two classrooms and debriefing rooms, and state-of-the-art equipment. Mannequins — representing humans ranging in age from newborn to adult — permit simulations of childbirth, cardiac arrest, reactions to medications, and countless other scenarios.

“To [students], when they walk in, it may be just a mannequin, but during a scenario, they actually feel as if they are trying to save someone’s life,” explained WV STEPS Director Dan Summers, RN, BSN.

These unique scenarios— designed by instructors, but controlled by trainers behind a one-way mirror— allow students to perform the tasks they will be responsible for as health care practitioners. Recording equipment allows students and instructors to review scenarios later and critique student reactions to the clinical situation presented to them.

Our student pharmacists also learn how to obtain patient information and administer medications. In the WV STEPS Center, simulated drugs, both inhaled and intravenous, are identified with a barcode that informs the pre-programmed mannequin of the drug type and concentration, allowing the mannequin to react accordingly.

WV STEPS also provides a realistic environment that promotes interprofessional education.

“Historically, students in the health professions haven’t interacted together much during their education, but WV STEPS presents a real opportunity for students in different health professions to work together in a simulated patient care environment,” explained **Terry Schwinghammer, Pharm.D., professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy.** “Health professionals learning together can ultimately lead to fewer medical errors and better patient care.”

Other programs similar to WV STEPS are relatively new in pharmacy schools, but have been in schools of medicine since the 1980s. Dr. Schwinghammer believes it will be a distinguishing feature of the WVU Health Sciences Center and an excellent opportunity for student pharmacists.

“[The Center] provides a clinical picture of what they learned in textbooks,” added WV STEPS Simulation Specialist Rusty Doerr, NREMT-P.

The advanced technology is expected to make an impact not only in Morgantown, but throughout the state of West Virginia. There are even hopes of getting alumni involved in the future.

“WV STEPS is incredibly important, not only for training our students to be better communicators and better practitioners,” said Dr. Schwinghammer, “but also for reaching out to our alumni and offering them opportunities to return and learn additional skills. This should translate to better patient care for West Virginians.”



Coming HOME

Special Series

By Ashleigh Pollart, *Public Relations Intern*

Did you know that several faculty members at the School were once students here as well? This is the second installment of the special series that features alumni turned faculty.



Tara Whetsel
B.S. Pharm '94, Pharm.D. '98
Clinical Assistant Professor

A native of Philippi, West Virginia, **Dr. Tara Whetsel** knew Morgantown was where she wanted to be. “I went to my first football game when I was a freshman, and I was hooked. I never wanted to be anywhere else,” she said. This strong desire to stay in Morgantown lasted throughout her pre-pharmacy and pharmacy studies and even after completing an ambulatory care residency at the Louis Stokes V.A. Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

“I didn’t even apply for other jobs, I knew I wanted to stay here,” she said when explaining that her current position became available soon after she completed her residency.

As a professor at the WVU School of Pharmacy and a clinical pharmacist at Milan Puskar Health Right, Whetsel thrives in the constantly changing environment and loves interacting with the students. “I like feeling like I am contributing to the future of pharmacy,” she said. “I hope I’m teaching our students how to be good pharmacists.”

Whetsel has a passion for teaching her students about over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Since a community pharmacist may be the first medical professional a sick patient may speak with, Whetsel believes that the pharmacist needs to know how to assess the situation and the patient, and then make an appropriate recommendation.

“I think a lot of times there’s a perception that because it’s over-the-counter, that it’s safe. But it’s not safe if not used correctly,” she said. “There’s a lot of misuse and misunderstanding about OTC medications and I think pharmacists are in a good place to educate the public about them.”

Comparing how the curriculum has changed since she was a student, Whetsel states the early experiential learning additions to the curriculum as the biggest change. She believes that the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) program is helping broaden the horizons for student pharmacists because they are experiencing more than just community pharmacy.

“A lot of students come in thinking that they are going to be community pharmacists because that’s what they know,” she said. “But through IPPE, early on in their experience, they may learn that they like other practice settings as much, or more.”

Whetsel’s advice to students? To take advantage of the opportunities and enjoy their college experience. “Don’t wish away your college career, it’s really the most fun you will ever have. Become involved and have fun while you’re here,” she said.



Michael Newton
B.S. Pharm '97, Pharm.D. '99
Clinical Assistant Professor

Michael Newton has always had an interest in cancer. His mother, a nurse, worked in an oncology office and his stepfather was not only an oncologist, but was also Dr. Newton’s first role model; providing him with information and a model of a patient-oriented oncology practice.

During his studies at the School, many programs around the country— including WVU—began making the Doctor of Pharmacy degree a requirement. Wanting to further his education beyond the B.S. degree, Newton applied to take the additional two years he needed to earn his Pharm.D. and entered the program. After graduating and completing a residency in internal medicine, he moved to Florida to serve as a Clinical Pharmacist in the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute.

[continued on page 6]

Coming HOME

[continued from page 5]

After nearly eight years in Tampa, Newton heard of an opening at WVU for an oncology clinical pharmacy specialist. "This was a great opportunity for me," he explained. "It was a combination of a great position and being able to come back home."

Newton says that his favorite part of his job is changing lives; whether that of a patient through clinical care, a student through working in the classroom, or in some cases, both.

"It's interesting because, since I'm a faculty member, now I work more closely with students, and you can translate that effect on a patient's life into an impact on the student's life," he said. "It's actually kind of nice, by affecting one, I impact the other."

Newton does have some words of wisdom to share with students: education does not stop when the diploma is in your hands.

"No matter what your path is after you graduate, you need to dedicate yourself to being lifelong learners; become an expert in something and increase your depth of knowledge," he said.



Betsy Elswick, Pharm.D., '01
Clinical Associate Professor

Betsy Elswick has always been passionate about the profession of pharmacy. As a student, she was involved in numerous organizations including the ASP Operation

Immunization campaign, which inspired her interest in public health initiatives and what pharmacists, like herself, could do to make a difference.

"It made sense to me that I could merge some of my interests in thinking a little bit outside of the box, using my creativity, working with some public health issues, and merging that with pharmacy in a way that I could serve the greater community," she explained.

Elswick completed a residency at Virginia Commonwealth University after graduation, and then returned to Morgantown to pursue a faculty position at the School. She is still a great advocate for her profession and dedicates her time to help mold and change the future of pharmacy: our student pharmacists.

"My favorite part of my job is being able to help motivate our students to care about their profession and be passionate about the patient care services they provide," she said.

In the years to come, Elswick said that she hopes to continue doing the work she loves here at WVU.



Times (and places)

are a changin'



OFFICE OF THE DEAN



OFFICE OF DEAN RECEPTION



DEAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM

In 2009, the School's Office of the Dean, Student Services, a portion of the Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy, and the Cook-Hayman Pharmacy museum were moved to begin renovations to the space to make room for growth.

In January 2011, the Office of the Dean and main Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy Office were completed.

Ed. Note — Alumni, we welcome you to come back and visit to see all the changes taking place at the School. We hope to have an update for you soon on the status of the Cook-Hayman Pharmacy Museum and Office of Student Services renovation.

Recognition Dinner

2011

The Fifth Annual Faculty Staff and Recognition Dinner was held in October. The event, sponsored by the SoP Visiting Committee, honors three full-time WVU faculty members and one full-time staff member who exemplify the mission and vision of the WVU School of Pharmacy.



Outstanding Accomplishments in Service
Marie Abate, Professor,
Department of Clinical Pharmacy

Marie has served as Director of the statewide WV Center for Drug and Health Information (CDHI) for the past 22 years. In the research arena, Marie has served primarily as Principal or Co-principal Investigator on over 20 funded research and educational projects totaling almost \$1.4 million. One service-based research initiative is the Health-Tailored Information for Patients program, or H-TiP, which involves over 800 web site recommendations directly to patients. At the

national level, Marie devotes considerable effort as a member of the North American Pharmacists Licensing Examination (NAPLEX) National Review Committee and also participates in NAPLEX Item Writing Workshops during which she writes exam questions and assists others in developing questions. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board Panel on Bioinformatics for The Annals of Pharmacotherapy and has served as a Panel Chair for the AACP New Investigators Program. In 2006, she was one of 16 women selected by the WVU Health Sciences Center for contributions to the profession of pharmacy in West Virginia.

Outstanding Accomplishments in Research/Scholarship

Rae Matsumoto, Associate Dean,
Office of Research and Graduate Programs

As a result of her own research program and her development of the research activities in the School, Rae has significantly improved the overall research environment. Her personal research program is focused on the development of drugs that could be used to treat persons who are addicted to cocaine or other stimulants. Since the time she joined the School, she has obtained (as the Principal or Co-principal Investigator) grants totaling over \$1 million, and has applied for over \$11 million to fund collaborative research programs with faculty in all departments of the HSC. Since 2007, she has published over 25 papers in her area of expertise and in high-quality journals. Rae has worked tirelessly to promote research and to develop the research culture within the School of Pharmacy at WVU. She has done this in her own research program through grant applications and awards, publications, training of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, and by providing an elective course for Pharm.D. students. Programmatically, she has restructured the School's primary graduate program and helped to build it such that it is now the largest graduate program within the Health Sciences Center. She has also submitted training grants for graduate students to further build the School's graduate programs, simultaneously aiding in increasing the prestige of the program.



Outstanding Staff Member
Angie Frame, Office Administrator,
Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy

The Outstanding Staff Member award criteria states that the award is to recognize "...full-time staff members who have gone beyond the call of duty, who offer ideas for improvement, who are always ready to lend an extra hand, and who willingly take on challenging responsibilities." Angie epitomizes the spirit of the award in every possible way. Angie started her 23-year career at WVU in our Department

of Clinical Pharmacy. She left to pursue opportunities in other WVU departments, but then returned to the SoP to join the Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy four years ago. She is a self-starter and an internally motivated person. Angie's greatest strengths are her strong, positive attitude and tremendous communication and interpersonal skills. She has developed great work relationships with everyone in the School and within the University. As the Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy has grown, Angie has exhibited a remarkable capacity to assume an ever-increasing workload and does so with grace and competence. She is a beacon of positive energy and friendly support for our faculty and students.

The Outstanding Teacher - Last Lecture Award
Betsy Elswick, Associate Professor,
Department of Clinical Pharmacy

Note: The Last Lecture Award is not for a faculty member who is actually giving his or her last lecture. It is the opportunity for an outstanding teacher to reflect on the joy he or she has experienced as a teacher.

Betsy's teaching methods and measures of success in educating student pharmacists about community pharmacy and patient care related subjects is evidenced through her preceptorship on rotations, residencies, and advocacy activities with her students. In 2009, Betsy developed an elective course, Pharmacy Advocacy and Leadership. She has spent countless hours with her students advocating the advancement of the profession of pharmacy and improving patient care. Betsy is passionate about improving the health of her fellow community members and educating our future pharmacists to be leaders in the profession. While that may be a laundry list of just some of the things Betsy has accomplished over the course of her time here at the School, she said it best in her Last Lecture, "What you do everyday matters. Never forget that. What you say every day matters. Personal attention matters. Always remember that. Take the time to get to know your students and colleagues. Show that you care and have respect for each other. Others will soon begin to emulate your actions."



Crossing the globe to help improve research



(l-r) Dr. Yon Rojanasakul; Dean Patricia Chase; Mrs. Euaporn Ratnabhanu, acting executive director of NANOTEC; and Dr. Sirasak Teparkum, deputy executive director of NANOTEC.

The vast world of research has been brought a little closer in order to focus on improving health care. The WVU School of Pharmacy and Thailand's National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC) have signed an agreement to work together on pharmaceutical and health-related research ventures.

The five-year agreement between the School and NANOTEC will allow researchers from both organizations to not only work together to share and develop research that will improve the health of the population, but will also create new—or improve existing—methods and ways of conducting research. Scientists will be able to work together and build on research opportunities in areas related to biosafety, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic research.

“The main goal of the agreement with NANOTEC is to work together and share research for the benefit of health

care,” Patricia Chase, Ph.D., dean of the WVU School of Pharmacy, said. “If you want to change the world and make everyone healthier by providing quality healthcare and treatments, you must start with research.”

The partnership will also open a pathway of communication between researchers to share information about other research projects, thereby reducing the potential of duplicate research efforts. The School and NANOTEC have worked together sharing research information in the past informally, but the agreement now makes the work between the two organizations part of a formal partnership and opens the doors to new opportunities.

Yon Rojanasakul, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences will be the School's chief liaison with NANOTEC.

Plotting our Course



During the Spring 2011 semester and over the summer, the School worked on developing a strategic plan to chart our course for 2012-2016. We mapped our future to align with the overarching goals of the University and Health Sciences Center.

To view the School's full strategic plan, visit <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/hsc2020/> and click on “HSC Plans” in the top navigation bar. From there, you can view all HSC plans and also select the School of Pharmacy's.

The School would like to thank all our faculty and staff, as well as our students and alumni who provided feedback during the planning process. We would also like to thank those who were parts of the committees that drafted our initial plans.



Future

Pharmacists

Chanda Saucerman-Adkins, '05, and her husband, Brian, are the proud parents of Future Pharmacist Mason Neal Adkins, pictured with big sister, Leah Noel Adkins.

A



Allison Elizabeth Amsden is the Future Pharmacist of **Carrie (Brelsford) Amsden, '03**, and **Jarrett Amsden, '01**.

B



Maura Rose Baldwin is the Future Pharmacist of **Donna (Barron) Baldwin, '02**. Maura joins big brothers Colin, 4, and Connor, 2.

C

D

Gina Baugh, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, and her husband, Andrew, present their Future Pharmacist, Mia Grace Baugh.



E

Sharon Burnette Boyer, '72, presents her "cousin" Future Pharmacists, Austin Carter Boyer (left) and Lilian Grace Boyer (right).

F

Ethan Donley Elswick, is the Future Pharmacist of **Betsy (Meredith) Elswick, '01**, and her husband, Dan.

G

Courtney Strawser Hohman, '07, and **Greg Hohman, '05**, are the proud parents of their little Future Pharmacist, Olivia.

H

Paige Autumn Kennedy is the Future Pharmacist of **Michelle (Larew) Kennedy, '09**, and her husband, Chris. Paige joins big brother Ethan.

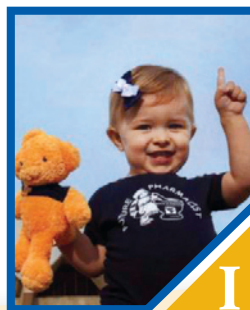


I

Future Pharmacist Grace Elizabeth Taylor, daughter of **Class of 2005 graduates John Taylor and Amanda (Criner) Taylor**, strikes a pose with her Mountaineer bear.

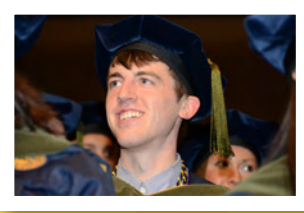
J

Casey Watts, '08, and his wife, Kendra, present their Future Pharmacist, Emma Catherine Watts. Emma joins big sisters Allie and Lucy.



Calling all new moms, dads, and grandparents!

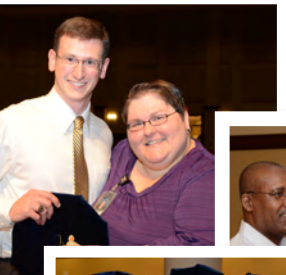
Have you recently had a little bundle of joy arrive at your home? The School of Pharmacy wants to know! Please send an e-mail with news about your baby or grandchild to Dean Patricia Chase at pachase@hsc.wvu.edu to receive a "Future Pharmacist" baby shirt (shirt is only available in size 6 months). In exchange, Dean Chase asks that you send a photo of your new "Future Pharmacist" to include in the next issue of *The Showglobe*.



Welcoming our Newest Alumni:

Class of 2011

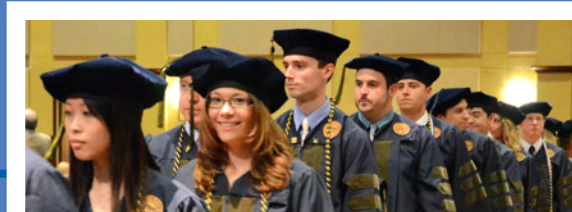
51% stayed in West Virginia



PRACTICE TYPE:
 59% Community Pharmacy
 31% Residencies
 5% Hospital Pharmacy
 4% Government
 1% Industry



OTHER STATES WHERE OUR NEW ALUMNI HAVE RELOCATED: North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Texas, Georgia, Oregon, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah





Menighan Honorary [Continued from cover]

The honorary degree recognizes individuals for their outstanding scholarly, creative, or public service contributions that are important to WVU, to the people of the State of West Virginia, or to the nation. These individuals have achieved the highest standards of excellence which advance, ease, and inspire the human condition.

The criteria for the honorary degree fit Menighan down to the letter. His contributions as a prominent pharmacist have positively impacted the health care industry in America.

“There is nothing better than being able to recognize one of our alumni for their outstanding accomplishments,” said Dean Patricia Chase. “I always say that the WVU School of Pharmacy is one big family, and when you are able to recognize a former student for what they have achieved in their profession, it really makes you feel like a proud parent.”

Throughout his career, Menighan has served volunteer roles within the profession of pharmacy, including president of APhA from 2001 to 2002 and a member of the APhA Board of Trustees between 1995 and 2003. He was a senior staff member of APhA from 1987 to 1992. He has also been actively involved with the School and has been a member and chair of the School’s Visiting Committee—a committee that discusses strategic planning, advocacy, philanthropy, and the general advancement of the School’s mission and goals—for over a decade.

“As a young graduate of the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy, Tom made it his business to get to know me and many of my classmates to help us navigate our role as new pharmacists,” **Elizabeth Kniska Keyes, ’92**, stated in a speech she presented acknowledging Menighan’s honorary degree. “He was an inspiration because he was successful in building opportunities for pharmacists in our state and across the country. He shared his talent and expertise freely and built relationships that steered the profession of pharmacy in new directions. Tom Menighan has made the state of West Virginia, the University, and the citizens of the Mountain State his priority throughout his career.”





White Coat Ceremony



Thank You to all of our alumni, donors, and friends who supported the Class of 2015 White Coat Ceremony held on August 20.

Your contributions helped make this special milestone a truly memorable event!



The White Coat Ceremony is an annual commemorative event welcoming our new students into the profession of pharmacy. If you would like to receive information about sponsoring the Class of 2016 White Coat Ceremony, please contact Lori Mugnano in the HSC Development Office at 877-766-4438 or by e-mail at lmugnano@hsc.wvu.edu.



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Dr. Marie A. Abate
Dr. Zarin Ahmed
Mrs. Stephanie Wallen Akers
Mr. Scot Anderson
Dr. Mandy Bailey
Dr. Louis A. Barker
Mr. Zon Barker
Dr. Gina M. Baugh
Dr. David P. Bell
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Mr. Troy David Biery
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|---|--|--|

Growth *through* Residencies



*K*ristina Clyburn knew from a very young age what she wanted to be when she grew up—she wanted to be a pharmacist. She achieved her goal this May and became a member of the WVU School of Pharmacy **Class of 2011**.

“My path to pharmacy started when I was around twelve years old,” Dr. Clyburn said. The defining moment to Clyburn’s choosing a health profession career was when her then eight-year old brother was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. At first, she had been interested in veterinary medicine, but made a decision that would change her path in life. “I saw how vital my brother’s medications were to his life and daily routine,” she said. “It was soon after that I decided I wanted to pursue a career in some sort of health science. Pharmacy seemed the perfect fit to balance my love of helping others, chemistry, biology, and research.”

For Clyburn, a native of Kellysville, West Virginia, completing a pharmacy practice residency was the ideal next step to furthering her education so she can better serve her patients. “A residency, to me, gives you such an opportunity to challenge yourself as a young professional while under the watchful eyes of experienced clinicians,” Clyburn said. “In this experience, you not only gain a sense of making informed clinical decisions, but a sense of competence that comes only after many years of practicing on your own.”

Clyburn is completing her residency at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. “When I first heard about residencies as a first-year student, I knew I was very interested. By my third year in the Pharm.D. program, I was 99 percent sure I wanted to do a PGY-1 residency,” Clyburn said. “When I got to see pharmacists’ role at my rotations at Cabell Huntington Hospital, I knew it was absolutely the path for me. The decisions you make on a day to day basis, the rapport you establish with other health care professionals and the involvement in advancement of pharmacy practice were direct reflections of why I applied to pharmacy school to begin with.”

Clyburn had completed two rotations at Cabell Huntington Hospital as a P-4, and after thorough consideration of other residency opportunities, she chose to pursue a residency at CHH.

“All the pharmacists there were so helpful and nice and did their best to ensure that I, as well as other students, had a great educational experience. I knew the residency program would do just the same,” she said. “After researching PGY-1 programs across the state and country, I recognized what a unique opportunity the CHH residency program offered, especially in the state of West Virginia.” Clyburn also realizes that residency opportunities not only provide professional experience, but can provide personal growth and satisfaction as well.

“From a professional standpoint, I would love to enhance and sharpen my skills in several areas of pharmacy practice. My goal is to pursue a PGY-2 residency or fellowship, depending upon my final area of interest,” she said. “Currently, my areas of interest lie in critical care/emergency medicine, oncology, and research. Personally, I hope to take away a sense of competence that I can apply to many applicable scenarios. I hope to have a well-rounded experience with room to grow in areas of interest that will undoubtedly capture my interest as the year progresses.”

Through all the hours of study and hard work Clyburn has completed in order to achieve her Pharm.D. degree and provide a solid foundation for her to pursue a residency, she states it would not have been possible without the support of the School and University.

“West Virginia University should be proud to house one of the best pharmacy schools in the country,” she said. “The faculty and staff at the WVU School of Pharmacy are second to none, and I couldn’t think of a better place to have attended college and pharmacy school. They have given a first-generation college kid from southern West Virginia opportunities that she couldn’t have imagined experiencing as a child. I wear my WVU alumni gear proudly because of the SoP and what they have inspired me to do.”



Conquering Diabetes

One of the most prevalent disease states in West Virginia is diabetes. According to the West Virginia Diabetes Prevention & Control Program, approximately 229,379 people in West Virginia have diabetes, and over 62,162 are undiagnosed.

Having to manage diabetes without health benefits or with limited access to healthcare can be difficult. **Tara Whetsel, Pharm.D., assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy**, has received a grant to implement a diabetes education team consisting of a pharmacist, a health educator, a nurse, and medical assistants at Morgantown's Milan Puskar Health Right. The focus of the grant is to improve access to



(left) Dr. Tara Whetsel

quality diabetes education for low-income, uninsured residents of North Central West Virginia receiving health care through the clinic.

This education is needed as a large population of the patients who visit the facility are living with diabetes. The goal of the program is to educate and support patients in order to improve their self-care of their disease state. By providing patients with diabetes self-care and management, Dr. Whetsel hopes to improve patients' blood glucose, cholesterol, and blood pressure, thereby improving their health and quality of life. Whetsel currently provides individual diabetes education and management by appointment at the clinic. Creating a diabetes education team will increase the number of patients receiving education and support for diabetes self-management.

"Diabetes is a health condition that requires patients to really actively manage their condition," Whetsel said. "Self-care can greatly reduce the risk of health complications from diabetes, so we hope that by providing patients with the information they need to maintain their health, they will be able to keep their diabetes in check."

ALUMNI News

Neelam Azad, Ph.D. graduate '07 and assistant professor at Hampton University School of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is the principal investigator on a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NIH/NHLBI). The funding will support the research project, "Impact of Oxidative Stress-Regulated Angiogenesis in Pulmonary Fibrosis."

Sharon Burnette Boyer, '72, recently retired from the University of Virginia after 39 years of service. Her husband, Locke, a 1971 VCU graduate, also retired from UVA after 40 years of service.

Abby Caplan, '07, was the recipient of the Pharmacy Times 2011 Next Generation Pharmacist Award in the Rising Star of the Year category.

Judie Charlton, '81, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of WVU Healthcare and Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs of the WVU School of Medicine.

Patricia Pecora Fulco, '93, coauthored an article, "Raltegravir dosage adjustment in HIV-infected patients receiving etravirine," in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists, Volume 68, Nov. 2011.

Dustin Hanchock, '06, was recently named District E Pharmacist of the Year for 2010 for the Kroger Co.

Pharmacy Manager Kenneth Houdyschell, '03, and his team at Rite Aid were voted "Best Pharmacy in Ironton, Ohio," by readers of the Ironton Tribune.

Steven Judy, '75, was posthumously nominated for the Pharmacy Times 2011 Next Generation Pharmacist Award in the Lifetime Achievement category. His children, Darin and Emily, '03, Judy accepted his recognition at the awards event.

Brittany (Jarvis) Keener, '07, achieved her Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) certification in October 2011.

Gretchen Peirce, M.S. '11, coauthored an article, "The Intersection of Job Satisfaction and Preceptor Development: Opportunities for Academic Pharmacy Programs," in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, Volume 75, Issue 9, Nov. 2011.

Jessica Robinson, '08, was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Class of 2012 at the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy in Charleston, West Virginia.

Erica (Rowley) Shelton, '05, was recently named the Kroger District F 2010 Pharmacist of the Year and the Kroger Mid-Atlantic 2010 Division Pharmacist of the Year.

Susan Cunha Villegas, '01, is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Long Island University.

In Memoriam

The Honorable Larry Willis Border, '75, passed away June 8, 2011.

James Calemine, '76, passed away December 25, 2011.

Alice "Peggy" (Mertz) Werkman, '60, passed away March 18, 2011.

Walter Dale Vance, '75, passed away November 25, 2011.

Pharm. D. Student and Organization News

P-4 Katie Kacmarik was the recipient of the NCPA Foundation Presidential Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

The **APhA-ASP Operation Heart** committee formed a team to participate in the American Heart Association's 2011 Greater Morgantown Heart Walk in October. The team braved the first snow of the season in Morgantown and raised over \$400 for the AHA.

The WVU School of Pharmacy team of **P-4s Kelly Earls, Doug Thornton, and Scott Wade** were the Annual Championship Winners in the NASPA-NMA Student Pharmacist Self-Care Championship held at the WVPA meeting in October.

P-4 Leann Lease, a member of **NCPA**, organized two bone marrow donor registry drives in November. Through her efforts, 87 community members will be added to the national bone marrow donor registry.

The **NCPA** chapter held a medication disposal event at Waterfront Family Pharmacy in Morgantown on October 29 in observance of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Lambda Kappa Sigma coordinated a Vera Bradley Bingo for the **WVU School of Pharmacy Relay for Life** team. Another Vera Bradley Bingo will be taking place March 18, so please come out and support LKS and the team to raise funds for the American Cancer Society!

P-4 Doug Thornton and PGY1 CAMC Pharmacy Practice Resident Christopher Andreason tied for first place for Best Poster at the Pediatric Acute and Critical Care Conference held in October for their poster, "Procalcitonin: Bacteria Beware".

P-2s Jason Hicks and Christopher Isabella authored a manuscript, "A critical analysis of the (near) legendary status of vitamin D," with Drs. Gerry Higa and Ashlee McMillan which was published in the Expert Review of Endocrinology & Metabolism, January 2012, Vol. 7, No. 1, Pages 103-119.



Ph.D. Student News



The International Drug Abuse Research Society (IDARS) meeting, held in Istanbul, Turkey, featured talks and presentations by renowned drug abuse researchers from around the world. Speaking among the leading scientists in the field was **Michael Seminerio, a fifth-year student in the Ph.D. Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences pathway.**

Seminerio was the only student invited to give an oral presentation at this prestigious meeting. His presentation, "An optimized sigma receptor ligand attenuates the behavioral effects of methamphetamine in mice," described the pharmacological characterization of a potential new drug. Additionally, he presented a poster on the effects of novel sigma receptor compounds developed by the research team on methamphetamine induced neurotoxicity. IDARS is a scientific organization that fosters research and collaborations among scientists around the world in the area of substances of abuse and addiction. The meeting was attended by 110 scientists from 20 countries and five continents.

him to conduct a summer internship in medicinal chemistry in the laboratory of Andrew Coop, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.



Ryan Williams, a fifth-year student in the Ph.D. Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences pathway, was awarded an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) 2011 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Science. The AFPE Fellowship is awarded to outstanding pre-doctoral students nationwide, who have completed at least three years of graduate study to encourage them to continue their pursuit of pharmaceutical sciences. The fellowship, in the amount of \$6,500, will enable Williams to fund his education in researching prostate cancer — more specifically, creating a mechanism for the targeted treatment and detection of the disease.

Williams also received a WVNano Initiative Graduate Education Fellowship in the amount of \$27,000. Only six fellowships are available each year. Williams will use the fellowship funds to continue his education on a second research project that focuses on detecting herbicides in waterways and blood samples. Herbicides can be found in waterways because crops or other vegetation are sprayed with the substance. It then washes away with rain and travels by the water runoff or through drainage systems. High exposure to these substances has the potential to cause hormonal cancers. The device, or sensor, Williams is researching would enable healthcare or environmental professionals to take water or blood samples and instantly see if traces of an herbicide are in it.



A diversity supplement from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was awarded to support the training of **third-year graduate student, Jason Healy.** The goal of Healy's project is to develop novel opioid analgesics with strong pain relieving properties similar to morphine, but with a reduced propensity for side effects such as constipation and tolerance. The award will support Healy's stipend and allowed

Honor Roll

of GIVING

The Honor Roll of Giving recognizes our alumni and friends who provided contributions to the WVU School of Pharmacy for fiscal year 2010-2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011).

Thank you for supporting our journey ... a journey of innovation and collaboration in education, research, and service that leads to a future of better health.

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Going Global and Changing Lives

By Drew Barnhart, *Public Relations Intern*



Rotations for a P-4 student pharmacist can be a challenging experience. They are stepping out of their comfort zones of the classroom, and they don't know what to expect or who they will encounter. They start the day with nervous expectations flying through their minds. Will I enjoy this? Will I be successful? Will I be overwhelmed?

A rotation for **Lauren Boyle**, **Phil Finley**, and **Scott Wade** started a little differently than what most students normally experience. In fact, in order to even start their rotation, they had to travel approximately 8,500 miles to their destination of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

This is the second year that WVU student pharmacists have had the opportunity to complete a rotation in South Africa. The rotation experience was coordinated by **Jon Wietholter, Pharm.D., BCPS, assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy.**

Wietholter had a similar experience when he was in school. He traveled to Africa in 2007 when he was invited to go as part of the International Scholar Laureate program, through the Golden Key Society.

"I gained so much experience from that trip that once I became a faculty member, I really wanted to make the opportunity available for students," he said.

Along with the Pharm.D. students was **Jessica Valentine, '11**, a resident at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. The group was introduced to a different culture, different language, and a very different healthcare system.

On a typical day, the students and Valentine would meet Renier Coetzee, M.Pharm., at Livingstone Hospital. Wietholter was only able to stay for a short period of time at the beginning of the rotation, but the students were in good hands as Coetzee acted as the pharmacy students' site liaison. Coetzee is a practicing clinical pharmacist and is currently studying to complete his Pharm.D. as the program is now being offered in South Africa. The students would update Coetzee on any work they had done the night before as well as discuss any changes in patient conditions. Then, they headed to the hospital ward where they were assigned.

Boyle, Finley, and Wade were responsible for a 45-bed, all male ward. They were expected to evaluate each patient's chart to make sure that they were receiving the right drug treatment. This involved evaluating treatment based on both South African and American guidelines and also checking dosage and dosage adjustments based on the patient's liver and kidney functions. Through these evaluations, the students spent a lot of time interacting with their patients and became comfortable using a translator to successfully communicate their health questions and updates.

In addition to their work at the hospital, the students provided weekly presentations to the NMMU pharmacy students. The presentations were used to discuss cases and treatments, and it was also an opportunity for the WVU students to expose the NMMU students to something new, as the NMMU students weren't used to using PowerPoint. Boyle, Finley, and Wade's experience is one that is hard to mimic inside the boundaries of our society.

"It is much more than clinical knowledge," Boyle said. "Interacting with people from different cultures is a skill not taught in the typical pharmacy curriculum, but it is vitally important."

"The students are kind of thrown in the deep end," said Wietholter. "They are put in a situation where they don't know the culture or many of the languages, and it forces them to adapt and learn and also decide how they want to practice pharmacy and how they want to conduct themselves."

The first year the rotation in South Africa was offered at the WVU School of Pharmacy, there were five applicants. This year Boyle, Finley and Wade were chosen from seven applicants. During their P-3 year, all students are encouraged to apply, especially those interested in infectious diseases and international medicine.

Wietholter wishes more students were able to apply, but he understands that the rotation is a major financial expense for students.

"I would love for every student to have this opportunity, but I realize that it is a little unrealistic. I wish everyone could do it," Wietholter said. "It would be great if down the road the University could establish a relationship with NMMU to create scholarships so that students who don't have the financial means to make the trip still have the opportunity."

Each student who went on this rotation said they would encourage every student interested in this opportunity to pursue it.

"The experience of working in public hospitals in South Africa was unlike any experience I will ever have in the United States," said Valentine. "I learned about, and saw firsthand, multiple disease states, such as tuberculosis, that are not as common in the United States."

"This rotation would likely be the single biggest learning experience, both as a pharmacist and as a person, for anyone who is willing to step outside their comfort zone," said Finley.

All P-4s will remember their rotations. For Boyle, Finley, and Wade, this rotation won't be something they just look back on and remember. It will be what they talk about with every future employer, it will be in stories they tell their friends, and it will be the basis for how they choose to conduct themselves as pharmacists.

"This rotation was amazing," Wade said. "I don't think I've ever learned more or had more fun during any other month of my life. It was truly a life-changing experience."

Want to help support student travel to global rotation locations or national or international meetings? Give to the Pharmacy Student Professional Development Fund (2V954). You can donate conveniently online by visiting the School's website at pharmacy.hsc.wvu.edu and clicking on the "Make a Gift" button on the bottom left of the page. For more information, contact Anna Rittenhouse, our director of development, at 304.293.7731 or arittenhouse@hsc.wvu.edu.



Erik A. Bey, Ph.D.

Dr. Erik A. Bey has joined the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences as an Assistant Professor. He also has an Assistant Professor appointment with the

Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. Dr. Bey received his doctorate degree in regulatory biology from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland State University. He also completed advanced research fellowship training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. At WVU, Bey's lab will focus on understanding the role of oxidative stress regulators—or molecules that counteract the imbalance of oxygen in cells—in lung cancer. He will also research the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer with therapies utilizing a certain class of organic compounds—or quinone therapies—by targeting enzymes that are specifically related to these cancer cells. Approximately 85% of lung cancers diagnosed each year are classified as non-small-cell. Bey's research will have significant impact on the citizens of West Virginia because the Mountain State has among the highest rates in the nation for lung cancer and lung cancer-related deaths.



Lena M. Maynor, Pharm.D., BCPS

Dr. Lena Maynor has been named Director of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) at the WVU School of Pharmacy. Dr. Maynor was selected for the position following

a nationwide search for qualified candidates. She began her new responsibilities on July 1, 2011. Maynor has been a WVU faculty member since 2007 with a clinical practice in internal medicine at WVU Hospitals in Morgantown. In addition to serving as a preceptor for APPE rotations, she has co-coordinated the acute care practicum portion of IPPE for the past four years, taught various pharmacotherapy topics in the didactic curriculum, and served on numerous School and hospital committees. She is a residency preceptor for the PGY-1 and PGY-2 Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency Program. A native of Oceana, West Virginia, Maynor earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the WVU School of Pharmacy in 2005. She continued her training with a postgraduate Pharmacy Practice Residency at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, West Virginia, and then completed an Internal Medicine Pharmacy Residency at Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, in Richmond, Virginia. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Maynor to her new position in the WVU School of Pharmacy.

Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse

By Drew Barnhart, *Public Relations Intern*

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, prescription drug abuse and its consequences are the fastest growing drug problem in America. To help combat that trend, three second-year students in the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy have introduced a new patient-care project—GenerationRx. Developed by the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy and conducted in partnership with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), GenerationRx is a nationwide program that aims to educate communities about the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

WVU pharmacy students **Kayla Hetrick** of Fort Hill, Pennsylvania, **Kimberly Kimble** of Middlebourne, West Virginia, and **JoeMichael Fusco** of Clarksburg, West Virginia, learned about the program while attending the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Mid-year Regional Meeting last fall and felt it was important to implement the project in schools and community groups across the Mountain State.

“One of the statistics that we tell people is that in 2001, there were 91 drug-related deaths in the state of West Virginia,” Fusco said. “That number went up to 390 in 2008,” Hetrick added. “Actually putting numbers on it and showing people that it's a growing problem are impactful.”

Fusco and Hetrick are co-committee chairs of the WVU chapter's initiative and they, along with fellow student pharmacists and ASP members, plan to take the program into middle schools, high schools, parent meetings, church meetings and even nursing homes.

“Teenagers need to be taught that prescription drug abuse is illegal and that the side effects from them are serious and can be deadly,” Kimble said. “Parents and grandparents need to be taught how to properly store their medications and to recognize the signs that their children or grandchildren are abusing prescription drugs.”

Kimble had an opportunity to present the GenerationRx program to high school students in West Virginia. The reaction she got from the students was eye opening. “While at the high school, I had students who told me they knew people who were abusing prescription medication,” she said. “I was not expecting the students to open up to me. It just hit home how much of a problem prescription drug abuse is in this area.”

Fusco, Hetrick and Kimble feel it is important to educate everyone in the community—from adolescents to older adults—in order to prevent anyone from even starting to abuse prescription drugs and to also help guide people who are struggling with addiction.

“As future pharmacists, we need to realize and make other healthcare professionals and the community at large aware that prescription drug abuse is a huge problem, and I think education is the best way to help stop it from happening,” Hetrick said.

“[Pharmacists] are the only people in healthcare who are specifically trained in prescription medication,” Fusco added. “Being specialists and being the people who in the future will be dispensing these medications, it is our responsibility to let people know the risks that they are taking.”



(l-r) JoeMichael Fusco, Kimberly Kimble, and Kayla Hetrick



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Dr. Jacknowitz Retiring

After 38 years of loyal service to the School and University, our beloved Dr. Art Jacknowitz, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, has announced that he will be retiring in June 2012. If you would like to send a note of thanks, an anecdote about a class experience, or a letter to Dr. Jacknowitz to include in his retirement gift, please send it to adnewton@hsc.wvu.edu, or via mail at:

WVU School of Pharmacy
ATTN: Amy Newton, Public Relations
PO Box 9500
Morgantown, WV 26506-9500

KAPPA PSI

Alumni

Come support our Beta Eta chapter as they host the **Spring Province II Assembly on March 16-18** here in Morgantown. The students would love to meet more of their graduate brothers! Registration for the assembly includes a CE, meals, and a Kappa Psi favor. If you have any questions, please contact Keri Morgan (kmorgan@sole.wvu.edu).

We hope to see you there!

For more School of Pharmacy events and details, visit the Upcoming Events page on our website under the Alumni section.

For Continuing Education events, please visit <http://pharmacy.hsc.wvu.edu/ce/Live-Programs>

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