

PITTPHARMACY

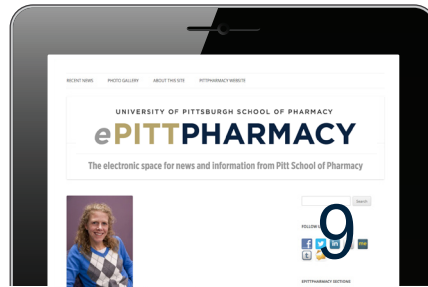
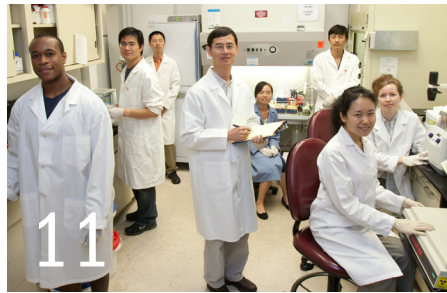
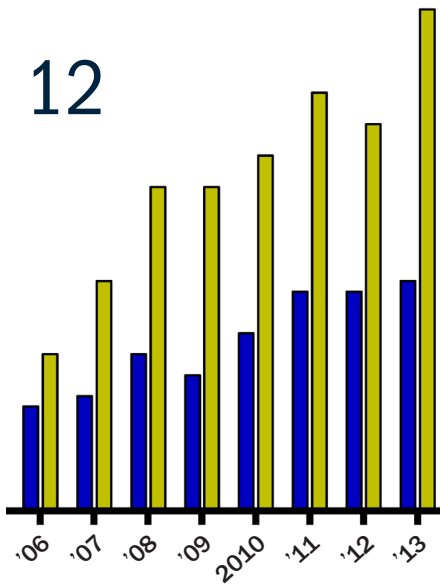
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | 2013





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Pharmacy meets art through the interpretation of the symbol of pharmacy representing the foundation and future of the profession.

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Published in cooperation with the Department of University Marketing Communications.



Dear Friends,

Take a moment and read this quote and then pause to think: "... the time that was continues to tick inside the time that is."

Latin American author Eduardo Galeano's quote appears in the opening pages of Colum McCann's book *TransAtlantic*. When I read it, I stopped. Those 12 words capture a truth about each of us as a person, each with his own history. I also realized that it captures the essence of our School of Pharmacy and how we celebrate the time that was, even as we build and invent the future of our School. We chose the phrases "Honor Our Past, and Shape Our Future" precisely because we want our past to tick within our future and we can only realize the fullness of our past with your help.

You must have already noticed the exciting changes we have introduced to the look of *Pitt Pharmacy*, this news magazine. Our new design and layout, alongside color printing, evoke a similar sensation that audiences must have experienced when the color television was introduced. Suddenly, the wonderful achievements we continue to accumulate in the School can be shared in a visually stimulating format that reflects our enthusiasm and bold approaches to education and research. The faces of our people and our facilities are displayed with a view that captures the vitality and vibrancy emanating from the School. Additionally, our new format offers a multitude of opportunities to share the exhilarating news and achievements of our alums, students, faculty, and administration. Each year, the School's rankings continue to climb, our grant funding and the research we are empowered to do increases, and our faculty gains new leaders in research and clinical practice. Indeed, we have many reasons to feel proud and our new look captures this steady, brilliant trajectory into the future.

A few final thoughts about how our past lives inside our present. This year we celebrate 135 years as a school of pharmacy. Each of you has memories from the School that tick inside you. Share those on our Web site. Celebrate with us at RxTravaganza in the Cathedral of Learning Commons in October. And enjoy our new *Pitt Pharmacy* starting with the cover, where the mortar and pestle of old ticks with us today.

Together, let's "Honor Our Past, and Shape Our Future."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Kroboth". The script is elegant and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and 'K'.

Patricia D. Kroboth, Dean

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

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PITTPHARMACY

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Graphic Designer: **Jon Young**

Writers: **Niki Kapsambelis, Shannon Young**

Contributing Photographers: **Harry Bloomberg, Rebecca Bailey Kirschman, Jan K. Shaw**

Awards & Accolades

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

APhA Annual Meeting - Pitt Students Shine

Pitt's School of Pharmacy celebrated a fantastic showing at this year's APhA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.

Major winners included **Pam Lyons** Class of 2014, who was first runner up in the National Patient Counseling Competition and **Indrani Kar** Class of 2013, who was one of just 12 students nationally to receive a scholarship from the APhA Foundation Student Scholarship Program. She was named the APhA Foundation/APhA Auxiliary Scholar for her exceptional demonstration of leadership skills in the APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists.

Pitt School of Pharmacy student groups also performed well. APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter was awarded Region 2 Generation RX Award, which recognizes students' efforts to raise awareness of prescription drug abuse in the Pittsburgh Community.

Pitt's Rho Chi Society Chapter received a Rho Chi chapter award for their project "Posters, Professors, and Progress" that connected students and faculty in a student-hosted poster session. **Emily Mallit** Class of 2014 accepted the award.

Pitt students, led by **Joshua Niznik** Class of 2015, won the APhA Make Your Mark T-Shirt Competition with their winning design and phrase, "Keep Calm and Counsel On". Proceeds from the Pitt Shirt sales were donated to Paws for Veterans.

Pitt student pharmacists shared their research in a strong turnout of five separate posters, including the work of **Kyle McGrath** Class of 2015, **Lucas Berenbrok** Class of 2013, **Andy Menard** Class of 2014, **Derek Sampey** Class of 2014, **Natalie Pratte** Class of 2014, **Brandon Antinopoulos** Class of 2014, **Kerry Yurchick** Class of 2014, and **Michelle Bucci** Class of 2014.



Top clockwise: Pam Lyons, right, at APhA for National Patient Counseling Competition

Below clockwise: Emily Mallit with Rho Chi Chapter Award, Poster Presenters Michelle Bucci and Kerry Yurchick, Pharmacy t-shirt competition





URAC Gold Quality Improvement Award

CE City and the Pennsylvania Collaborative, a strategic consortium that includes Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Rite Aid Corporation, the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA), Gateway Health Plan, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, have received URAC's prestigious Gold Award for *Best Practices in Health Care Consumer Empowerment*



Philip Empey

and Protection. The team was recognized for their ASPIRE (Advancing Safety and Performance Improvement for Pharmacy Excellence) Program that integrated quality metrics with focused interventions to improve adherence. CE City is led by Pitt Alumni **Simone Karp** BS '86 and **Lloyd Myers** BS '84. Pitt Alum **Annette Boyer** BS '81, Vice President at CE City, was the project leader.

Philip Empey Wins Society of Critical Care Medicine New Investigator Award

Philip Empey PharmD, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics won the Critical Care Medicine New Investigator Award at the Society for Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico in January, 2013 for his work titled, *Phenytoin concentrations are elevated in children receiving therapeutic hypothermia following traumatic brain injury*. This award is given to one member of the Society each year. Phil is one of the first pharmacists in recent history to receive the SCCM new investigator award.



Fr. Sean O. Sheridan (PharmD '85, Law '90)

Father Sean O. Sheridan Named President of Franciscan University

Father Sean O. Sheridan PharmD '85, Law '90, TOR is appointed the sixth president of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. After working as a training pharmacy manager, Sheridan earned his juris doctor degree in 1990 from Pitt and worked for the next decade as a healthcare litigation lawyer in Sacramento and Pittsburgh. In 2000, Sheridan, entered the Franciscan Third Order Regular, made his solemn profession of vows in 2005 and was ordained into the priesthood in 2006. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 2007 and his juris canonici doctor degree in 2009. He served as Assistant Professor in the School of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC from 2009 until his appointment as Professor of Theology at the Franciscan University in 2012. He has also served on the Board of Directors of St Francis University in Loretto, PA since 2010.



Regis Vollmer

Samuel Poloyac Inducted as a Fellow

Samuel Poloyac BS '93, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences was inducted as a Fellow of Critical Care Medicine by the American College of Critical Care Medicine at the 25th Anniversary Meeting in January, 2013. Selection of a Fellow honors those who have made outstanding contributions to the collaborative field of critical care.

Regis Vollmer Awarded Distinguished Teaching Award

Regis Vollmer professor of pharmaceutical sciences was one of five winners of the 2013 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. He was recognized for the innovative teaching initiatives he has implemented throughout his academic career.



Samuel Poloyac (BS '93)

Shilpa Sant Selected as Rising Star

Shilpa Sant assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and bioengineering received the "Rising Star/Fellow Award" from the Cellular & Molecular Bioengineering Section of the Biomedical Engineering Society.

Alumnus Margie Snyder Awarded NIH Grant

Margie Snyder PharmD '06, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, network director for Rx-SafeNet, and director of community pharmacy programs at Purdue University was recently awarded a K08 grant by the National Institutes of Health. Her grant title is "Optimizing Medication Therapy Management for Chronically Ill Medicare Part D Beneficiaries."

Snyder is a 2006 graduate of the School of Pharmacy and completed a community pharmacy residency with Melissa S. McGivney, PharmD in 2007. She then completed a pharmacy research fellowship with Randall Smith, PhD and her MPH at the University of Pittsburgh in 2009 before accepting her current position at Purdue University.



Shilpa Sant

David Cippel Chairs NACDS Regional Chain Conference

David Cippel BS '86, president of Klingensmith's Drug Stores, Inc., chaired the annual NACDS Regional Chain Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL in February 2013. During the conference, the best and the brightest chain drugstore executives examined the future of their profession and the business of pharmacy.

James McAuley Promoted to Professor at The Ohio State University

James McAuley BS '87, PhD '93 was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration at Ohio State University School of Pharmacy. Jim specializes in pharmacotherapy of epilepsy and is the Director of Teaching and Learning in the Department.



Peter Kreckel (BS '81)

Peter Kreckel Wins 2012 PPA Preceptor of the Year Award

Nominated for the award by **Nick Wytiaz** PharmD '12, **Kreckel** BS '81 is the Pharmacist Manager at Broad Avenue Pharmacy in Altoona, PA. He also teaches a pharmacology class at St. Francis University. The Pennsylvania Pharmacy Association (PPA) Preceptor of the Year award is presented to a preceptor who demonstrates outstanding interaction, knowledge sharing and who is an exceptional pharmacy role model for students.

Melissa McGivney Elected President of PPA Educational Foundation

Melissa Somma McGivney PharmD '98, associate professor and assistant dean, was recently elected as President of PPA Educational Foundation Board of Directors and will be charged with setting the strategic direction for the Foundation. McGivney has been an active member of PPA and has engaged many colleagues and students to participate in PPA activities and advocacy for the profession of pharmacy.



James Pschirer (BS '76)

APPRISE Award Highlights Community Partnership

Along with **James J. Pschirer**, BS '76, director of experiential learning and continuing professional development, the School of Pharmacy is honored to receive an award from the Allegheny County APPRISE program. This award recognizes both Pschirer and the School for a partnership which established APPRISE as an experiential site for P1 and P4 students. Pitt Pharmacy School was the only educational institution to receive the award, highlighting our strengths as a community partner and leader in higher learning.

The presence of Pitt student pharmacists has allowed APPRISE to greatly increase their community outreach in helping senior citizens navigate Medicare Part D prescription drug programs, as well as other medication assistance programs offered through government and private entities. In turn, our students benefit by gaining an in-depth working knowledge of these programs and how each one is managed. The skills learned at APPRISE will be directly applicable to situations students will encounter when they enter practice as pharmacists.

APPRISE is Pennsylvania's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The Pennsylvania Department of Aging created APPRISE to help Pennsylvania residents understand their Medicare and other health insurance benefits, and assist citizens in making informed decisions about their health care options. APPRISE works with clients to determine their individual health care needs and preferences, compare health insurance options, plan ahead for long term living, and obtain Medicare and supplemental coverage that fits their lifestyle and their budget. In Allegheny County, the APPRISE program is operated by Family Services of Western Pennsylvania in partnership with the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging.

Pschirer received the award and shared remarks at an APPRISE banquet in Pittsburgh on June 27, 2013.



University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate Captain Robert J. Tosatto, (BS '90), with current pharmacy students, back row, left to right: Anthony Boyd, Kyle McCormick, Trey Draude, Joshua Niznik; front row: Christine Jordan and Kathryn Wersosky during the Homecoming 2012 recognition activities.

BY THE
NUMBERS

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The School's reputation continues to rise, moving up in U.S. News and World Report rankings to **#14** in 2012, an increase from **#19** in 2009 and **#23** in 2006. The rankings, which are based on our PharmD program only, are the result of subjective survey data only and are therefore circumspect.

University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate

The University of Pittsburgh named **Captain Robert Tosatto** BS '90 as one of the 13 Legacy Laureates for 2012. Launched in 2000, the Legacy Laureate program honors alumni who demonstrate the pinnacle of achievement in professional and civic leadership.

Captain Robert Tosatto serves as director of the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, which is sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States. A University Scholar in 1989 and 1990, Tosatto earned his Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude in 1990 from Pitt's School of Pharmacy. Tosatto joined the U.S. Public Health Service in 1988 and has completed tours of duty with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and what was then the Office of Global Health Affairs. He was deployed on several response missions, including the 2001 anthrax mailings and Hurricane Katrina. Tosatto also coordinated the United States Biotechnology Engagement Program, aimed at redirecting former Soviet scientists to develop research skills instead of bioweapons.

A sought-after expert in his field, Tosatto has published numerous articles and made hundreds of presentations, increasing public knowledge about critical health issues. He has received many awards, commendations, and honors, including the U.S. Public Health Service Pharmacist of the Year award, the U.S. Public Health Service Meritorious Service Medal, and the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal.

Tosatto's generosity includes providing financial support to the Francis L. Tosatto Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg in memory of his father, who served as Pitt-Greensburg's director of plant maintenance.

In the News

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

Faculty Members Advise Project Lifeline



Michael Zemaitis (BS '69)



Janice Pringle

Congratulations to **Michael Zemaitis** BS '69 and **Janice Pringle** in partnership with Everett James of the Health Policy Institute for undertaking one of the most pressing public health crises in the country—prescription drug monitoring and the rising number of drug overdose fatalities involving a mixture of opiates and prescription drugs. One initiative will affect the lives of people in Allegheny County; the other will affect people throughout the Commonwealth.

Zemaitis, Pringle, and their collaborators advise a new Allegheny County program, Project Lifeline, which aims to bring new and effective overdose prevention and treatment strategies to the region. Project Lifeline is managed by the Allegheny County Overdose Prevention Coalition (ACOPC), in which 22 local health-care agencies participate. The most innovative strategy proposed by Project Lifeline involves the home use of the prescription drug naloxone (Narcan®) to counteract the effect of an opiate overdose. An alarming rate of drug-related deaths in Allegheny County involve a combination of two or more drugs, including opioids; the administration of prescription drug naloxone (Narcan®) can have a life-saving impact. When used properly, this drug begins to counteract overdose effects within a matter of minutes and can be administered by anyone who is properly trained. Project Lifeline will offer training to pharmacists and other health care providers in the hope of reaching individuals at high risk of drug overdose and their loved ones. If pharmacists, in their role as an accessible health-care provider, can flag those at risk, they can provide information about and sometimes prescribe naloxone to those who may benefit most.

A separate body of work focuses on the development of a prescription drug monitoring program in the Commonwealth. The trio received a grant from the Commonwealth to make targeted policy recommendations and identify a “best practice” model for a Pennsylvania prescription drug program. This work has been years in the making and followed on the heels of a November 2012 meeting in which Zemaitis, Pringle, and James hosted staff from the Office of the Governor, the Attorney General from Florida, and others to discuss this problem and potential future directions for Pennsylvania. One strategy to better track opioid users and abusers who seek multiple prescriptions from different doctors and pharmacies is to aggressively develop the state-wide prescription drug monitoring system. The enhanced system would offer a database accessible to pharmacists, physicians, and law enforcement and government agencies. State house and senate bills to support a Pharmaceutical Accountability Monitoring System, are likely to be introduced and have a high probability of being passed. Other related initiatives are underway.



ePittPharmacy

Keep up to date with the School of Pharmacy news from anywhere at anytime by visiting the school's new ePittPharmacy, a digital news and information site connected to the school's website.

Get the most recent news about alumni, students, and the School of Pharmacy. See photo slide shows, access links for more information, and leave comments for others to read, from mobile devices like smartphones, tablets as well as your computer.

If you have alumni news to share with the school, email it to rxalumni@pitt.edu so we can include it.

www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/enews

In Memory Fund

To establish an award in memory of an alumnus, family or friend that will provide a deserving pharmacy student needed funds please contact Maurissa Vergari, 412-648-0185 mmv20@pitt.edu

IN MEMORIAM

RECENTLY DECEASED SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ALUMNI

Jean Littlewood Brooks, BS '52
 Merle R. Byerle, BS '54
 Gabriella R. Cappelli, BS '53
 Abraham Glasser, BS '44
 John P. Iaderosa, BS '77
 Robert Bernard Margolis, BS '55
 Richard A. Rhone, BS '36
 James E. Rupp, BS '50
 John Russo Jr., BS '56
 Alvin L. Solomon, BS '50
 Melvin Weiss, BS '56

Traditional Hat Toss at School of Pharmacy Graduation April 2013



Balwant N. Dixit, PhD
Distinguished Career
Honored



Dr. Gordon J.
Vanscoy White Coat
Ceremony 2013



Rear Admiral Scott F.
Giberson, guest speaker,
Nicholas C. Tucci Lecture
Series 2013



Homecoming 2013
Celebration



Larry J. Merlo (PHARM
'78), University of
Pittsburgh 225 Years
Awardee

Wen Xie, MD, PhD

Appointed the Joseph Koslow Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences



Wen Xie, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacology and director of the center for pharmacogenetics has been appointed the Joseph Koslow Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Xie is recognized internationally for his pioneering research program in metabolism and nuclear receptors.

Since joining the School of Pharmacy in 2002, Xie has focused his research on factors that affect metabolism of endogenous and exogenous compounds. He is a leading expert in the characterization of xenobiotic response and its regulation by hepatic nuclear receptors PXR, CAR, LXR, and FXR. For each of these receptors, he has developed cutting edge techniques and research tools to identify their functions and made ground-breaking discoveries. He has shown how the activation of the CAR receptor can alter the development of obesity, a discovery that may provide a new target for drug development. He has also shown unanticipated effects of the cholesterol receptor (LXR), the bile acid receptor (FXR), and the vitamin D receptor (VDR) on drug metabolism.

In April 2013, he was awarded a new 5-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grant “The perinatal Pharmacology of the Nuclear Receptor FXR.” The grant is funded through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). His work has also been supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), Department of Defense (DOD), Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and American Heart Association (AHA). The author or coauthor of more than 100 journal articles and book chapters, Xie has also given over 120 invited lectures at conferences and universities and edited the book “Nuclear Receptors in Drug Metabolism” (Wiley, 2008). He has been awarded the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award (2008), the James R. Gillette International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (ISSX) North American New Investigator Award (2008), and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Division for Drug Metabolism Early Career Achievement Award (2009). Xie joined the faculty at Pitt after obtaining his MD degree from Peking University Health Science Center in 1991 and PhD in Cell Biology from University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1997.

Since joining the School of Pharmacy in 2002, Xie has focused his research on factors that affect metabolism of endogenous and exogenous compounds. He is a leading expert in the characterization of xenobiotic response and its regulation by hepatic nuclear receptors PXR, CAR, LXR, and FXR.

THE REST OF THE STORY

An ongoing series of stories that highlights the development of strategic areas of the school. This is the second of the series. The first was “Evolution of Knowledge” about the graduate program, Fall 2011.

Extra Credit

Residencies gain momentum as patient care and drug therapies grow more complex

Written by Niki Kapsambelis | Photos by Rebecca Bailey Kirschman

Of all the moments that can shape a pharmacy resident’s future, Pamela Smithburger PharmD ’07 has a favorite: being able to show how a critically ill patient on a mechanical ventilator can get up and walk, thanks to the guidelines she developed for managing sedation, delirium, and pain.

“I think the first time a resident sees the patient walking down the hall on a ventilator is definitely the highlight of the rotation,” she says. “It’s definitely not, by any means, a normal thing.”

Such an achievement can only happen when the entire team – pharmacist, physical therapist, nurse, and physician – coordinate a multidisciplinary approach toward the single common goal of helping a person walk down the hall.

“Residencies don’t only provide you with the knowledge and the experience with taking care of patients; it also helps you foster your critical thinking skills,” she explains. “People are living longer. We’re coming up with more and more drugs to help prolong life. To be able to use those drugs correctly and effectively in the right patient population is of the utmost importance.”

Residency programs provide invaluable experience for pharmacy graduates through intensive postgraduate training that can be one year or two years if specialty expertise is desired. In the residency program, learners receive collaborative mentoring and advanced patient-care skills. As the pharmacy profession has evolved toward a greater role in patient care, and drug therapies become increasingly complex, residencies such as the

one Smithburger describes have become more common. In specialized hospital settings, they’re almost a pre-requisite.

Pitt’s School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with patient-care provider institutions, has become a major national player and leader in residency education. Over the past 20 years, Pitt’s associated residency programs have become one of the largest—if not the largest—in the nation. The phenomenal growth in the number of Pitt residents parallels the shifting role of the pharmacist from dispenser of medicine to direct patient-care provider and along with that, the increased demand for more specialized training. So how did this happen?

Let’s turn the clock back to 1990, as illustrated in the timeline below. With our PharmD program in its developmental stages, the School of Pharmacy established its first



Pamela Smithburger (PharmD '07)

residency program—a residency in oncology—with one resident. Dean Patricia Kroboth '80, '83 remembers that time well, as she was chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics during those years. “It was an exciting time for the School as we built our first residencies and designed the curriculum for the post-baccalaureate PharmD program.”

Fast forward to 2013. The PharmD program is one of the finest in the country and the School will boast 48 residents in July 2013, the result of a targeted strategy to develop

at partner institutions, who provide the stage for the learning experiences and who hold the accreditation in collaboration with Pitt.

The initial 1991 residency program in oncology was soon followed in 1992 with the accreditation of programs in pharmacy practice, critical care, and drug information. Over time, the number of residents in each program increased. Additionally, new residency programs grew around existing areas of patient care and research excellence, as well as in response to the needs of the region. With

The phenomenal growth in the number of Pitt residents parallels the shifting role of the pharmacist from dispenser of medicine to direct patient-care provider and along with that, the increased demand for more specialized training.

quality programs and train the best and the brightest pharmacy graduates to become the leaders of today and tomorrow. Associate Professor and Department Chair of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Amy Seybert shares, “Our residency programs continue to innovate and push the envelope on advancing patient care on a daily basis. We are exceptionally proud of these training programs and everyone involved who continues the tradition of excellence worldwide.” Our newest class of 48 residents hails from 26 different universities across 13 states. They will train in 13 different types of residency programs in 12 locations.

Building a program of this scale required active involvement from many players, including the School, the faculty, and partner entities. The School of Pharmacy is an educational institution, rather than a patient-care provider entity. However, our faculty members have served as catalysts to lead or sometimes stimulate the development of new residency programs and expansion of existing programs with our partners. They facilitate innovations and accreditation of residencies

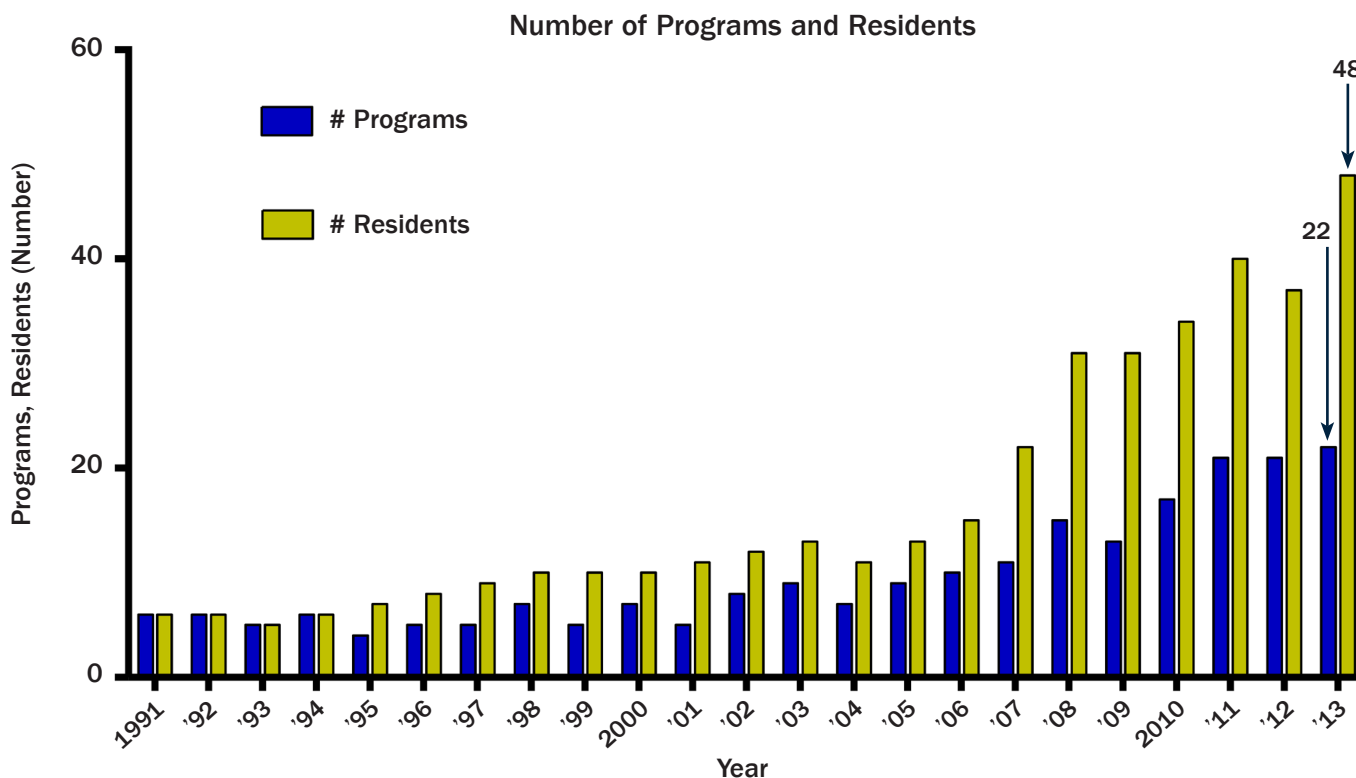
continued growth, the School added residencies in ambulatory care (1996), geriatric medicine (1997), and transplantation/organ care (2009). Applicants express particularly high interest in the intensive care residency, a program which has gained momentum from the region’s rich environment of high quality ICUs. As the variety of our programs has grown, the School adapted to meet the demands of a global world. The underserved care/global health program allows residents to have training experiences in a global setting. Opportunities exist to work in Honduras, Malawi, Mozambique, and/or the Philippines during the residency year.

The specialized residency programs allow learners to focus on a specific area of health-care and prepare a new generation for leadership within the specialty area of the pharmacy profession. In essence, the knowledge and skills gleaned from one year of a residency experience would take approximately three years to acquire in the workplace. This kind of high-return training offers residents a competitive edge in the job market. “There is de-



Amy Seybert (BS '94, PharmD '96)

Amy Seybert, PharmD has been committed to excellence in residency training since beginning her faculty career at Pitt in 1997. Amy’s residents consistently move on to make significant contributions to pharmacy care and have helped to establish Pitt as one of the best residency training programs in the country. Amy was awarded the 2009 ASHP Foundation Pharmacy Excellence Preceptor of the Year Award for her outstanding contributions to resident training. This award honors merit and leadership in the training and mentoring of pharmacy residents—training which sets quality standards for the highest levels of pharmacy practice. In 2011, she was elected fellow of the American Society of Health System Pharmacy. As Department Chair of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Amy continues to support the development and growth of Pitt’s residency program. She was the recipient of an ASHP Residency Expansion Grant in 2012, which supports the program’s expansion into much needed focus areas, such as oncology. It is the commitment of faculty members like Amy that fosters distinction in Pitt’s residency training program.



- 2001 – Residency Research Program
- 2004 – First Residency Research book
- 2007 – First Community Resident – Rite Aid
- 2008 – Teaching Mastery Program
- 2008 – Residency Council Chartered

mand from a many different areas,” explains Heather Johnson, assistant professor, chair of the Residency Program Council and director of the transplant pharmacy and the pharmacy practice residencies. “Certainly I think hospitals would like to hire residency-trained pharmacists.”

Associate Professor Michael A. Shullo BS '95, PharmD '97 believes residencies are critical to developing independence and the concept of what he calls “practical clinical interventions.” That, he explains, is the ability to resolve the difference between ideas that work on paper and how they function in practice. “Critical thinking is the biggest thing I push – individual responsibility for patient care and outcomes is the other thing I push,” Shullo says. As a clinical specialist in heart transplantation and the director of pharmacotherapy for UPMC’s artificial heart program, Shullo

has seen the benefits residency can confer on people who seek a high-level specialty practice area. Exposure to high-level preceptors on rotations can open residents to new interests, he adds. “A residency experience allows the pharmacist to find themselves and their direction,” he says. “It allows them to personalize their education.”

For many residents, a key feature to personalizing education is the opportunity to produce meaningful research. The requirement for research had long been a part of the School’s residency program. However, in 2003, faculty members, including Kim Coley, Randy Smith, and Dennis Swanson, began hosting an evening weekly series, known as “Resident Research Series,” which accelerated learning about how to conduct research and enabled residents to meet milestones for completing research projects. The program con-

tinues, and nearly 100% of our participating residents complete and present their research projects in regional or national meetings. A remarkable number of residents also go on to publish their results in peer-reviewed publications. Proudly, this research program has become one of the hallmarks of the quality of the residency experience at Pitt.

An additional hallmark is the Teaching Mastery track, which develops the skills and theory necessary to become a successful educator. Over half of each year’s residency class pursues the certificate. The appeal of the program is residents develop pedagogical skills that are applicable to a variety of professional environments, from managing and training staff in a clinic setting to working with students in academia. Ideally, teaching experience also prepares residents to become preceptors for future residents, as our graduates

“People are living longer. We’re coming up with more and more drugs to help prolong life. To be able to use those drugs correctly and effectively in the right patient population is of the utmost importance.”

—Pamela Smithburger (PharmD '07)

assume positions at other institutions. “An additional benefit,” notes Associate Professor Denise Howrie “is that completing the Teaching Mastery series broadens a resident’s horizons about professional pathways, including pursuing a faculty position.”

James Coons, PharmD '00, credits his second year of residency with showing him a career path he might not otherwise have considered. Though he knew he wanted to practice as a clinician, he hadn’t thought about specialization until he completed a cardiology rotation under Associate Professor Michael Shullo. “For me, I think it really opened up my eyes, certainly to a specialty track within cardiology pharmacy practice as well as academia,” Coons says. “It better prepared me not just for clinical practice, but for teaching and research.” After completing his second year of residency, Coons took a clinical specialist position and was the program director for first-year residents for about seven years. He joined the faculty at the School of Pharmacy in the fall of 2012 and now serves as a preceptor in cardiology.

Another of the School’s strengths in residency education is its unique role as a vanguard for program accreditation. Dean Kroboth chartered the Residency Program Council in 2008 as the School of Pharmacy entity to oversee and coordinate the residency programs affiliated with the School Founding

and current chair of the Residency Program Council, Johnson, shares, “Council members have worked to ensure quality standards and to make it easier for partners to establish new residencies and achieve accreditation.” The Council also provides a forum for shared learning among program directors and residents.

“The challenge for the pharmacy profession is to grow and establish new residency programs to meet the increasing demand among pharmacy graduates,” says Johnson. Last year, 3,706 pharmacy graduates entered the national match for residency positions when only 2,408 first-year pharmacy residency positions were available in the United States. To put those numbers in perspective, approximately 1,300 people didn’t place in residency positions. (Note: 100% of Pitt graduates who wanted a residency got one through the match or post-match processes.) The School of Pharmacy is doing its part to address the gap.

At all points in time since 1991, faculty and administration of the School of Pharmacy have rightfully taken pride in the quality and impact of its residency programs. Pitt residency graduates have gone on to become leaders in practice, in academia, and in the pharmaceutical industry. And Pitt residents learn from the best. Two School of Pharmacy faculty members have been awarded for their work as preceptors. Department Chair Amy

Seybert was honored as the ASHP Residency Preceptor of the Year and Assistant Dean Melissa Somma McGivney received the American Pharmacists Association Community Residency Preceptor Award.

The goal of faculty as pharmacy educators remains constant—to meet the challenge of the changing healthcare landscape with innovation, excellence, and sound philosophy and practice. Reflecting on the long view of the quality and the growth of the programs elicited a sincere comment from Dean Patricia Kroboth, “Congratulations to everyone who has been a part of building the residencies and partnerships with Pitt since 1991.” **PP**

Contributors:

James Coons, PharmD, BCPS
Associate Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Heather Johnson, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD
Dean, School of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Michael A. Shullo, PharmD
Associate Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

Pamela Smithburger, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics



The Stanford I. Cohen Teacher of the Year 2013 awardee Karen Pater



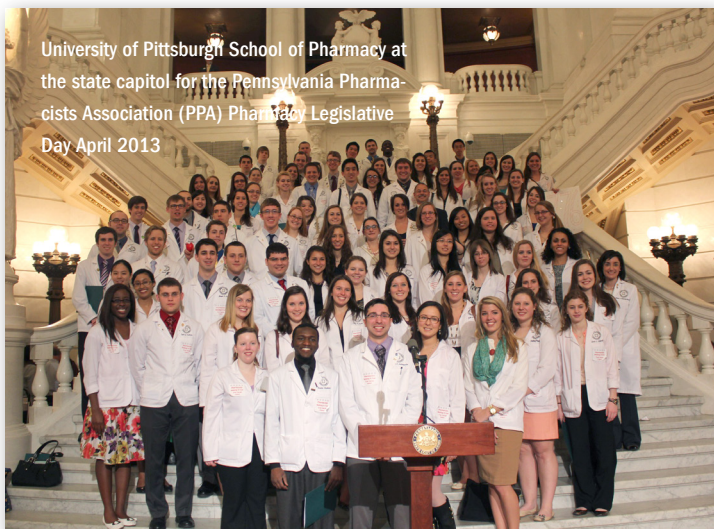
Faculty member Bonnie Falcione, center, 2013 recipient of the Rho Chi Innovation in Teaching award with students Deanna Rowe and Kinley Sepkovic class of 2014



The graduating class of 2013 made a pledge to the new media room in Salk Hall in memory of Timothy Cook



Faculty member Beth Minnigh, recipient of the Rho Chi Scholarly Contribution award 2013



University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy at the state capitol for the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) Pharmacy Legislative Day April 2013



Health Fair 2013, presented by Class of 2016

H20



HAIL TO PITT

Pharmacy embraces long tradition in Pitt Band

Written by Niki Kapsambelis | Photos by Harry Bloomberg

William Fisher BS '53 hasn't marched in the Pitt Band since 1952, but he remembers, as clear as day, the sound they made as they started "in the hole," or under the old Pitt Stadium.

"All of a sudden, you'd hear the echo under the whole structure. You were listening for about a minute before you saw anything, and then out came the drum section. It was very impressive," recalls Fisher, who played the B flat clarinet—"the old licorice stick"—in the band for three years.

For generations, the Pitt Band has been home to a sizeable cadre of pharmacy students, creating a small fraternity within one of the University's best-loved traditions. From alumni who have long since retired from practice to the current drum major, the Pitt Band has been a second home for aspiring pharmacists, spawning friendships and memories that endure for a lifetime.

In fact, two current faculty members—Melissa Somma McGivney PharmD '98, an asso-



Drum Major Paul Bowers

ciate professor in pharmacy and therapeutics, and Sam Poloyac BS '93, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences—are both Pitt Band alumni.

"I always enjoy talking to my pharmacy students about the band and try to make a point to stop by and say hello to the band members that I know when I am at a game," says Poloyac, who taught Paul Bowers, a P4 and the current drum major.

"Paul came up to me after the first class that I lectured," Poloyac says. Often, students who are in the band approach him for permission to miss Friday classes if they're attending an away game. With Bowers, Poloyac would discuss the band's current performance. Like Bowers, Poloyac also played on the drumline and was a section leader, so he was pleased to see Bowers become the first member of the drumline to take over as drum major.

"This was particularly a great leadership experience that will serve him well when he enters his career," Poloyac says.

Cultivating Leaders

Bowers, who has played in the band since his freshman year, calls the experience “one of the greatest things that ever happened to me.”

In the 250-piece band, fewer than five are music majors, meaning pharmacy students have the opportunity to connect with people from all over the University, allowing them to network and break free of the cocoon of the School of Pharmacy.

“I was pretty outgoing in high school, but it was hard for me in certain circumstances – say, public speaking – to control what I was going to say,” Bowers explains. “But being in band, I am now in charge of 250 people four nights a week. I’ve been able to really develop my skills as a leader.”

In the fall, they practice every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, two hours a night. The students themselves are given much administrative responsibility, acting as liaisons between the different sections and Director Jack Anderson. Bowers believes the experience of communicating and implementing ideas will be helpful when he enters the practice world.

“These are very basic skills that sometimes are overlooked when you talk about job positions,” he says.

Like many others, Bowers credits Anderson, who has announced his retirement after this year, with teaching him many life skills.

“His character is infectious; he’s treated me like a son,” Bowers says. “He really guided me in this organization, not only as a person, but also as a leader.”

Bowers plans to continue as drum major in the fall of 2013, having worked out a rotation schedule in conjunction with Anderson and some of the band alumni in the school.

Musical Professors

That kind of time management was a lesson Poloyac also took from the band, motivating him to work harder Sunday through Friday so he would be free for games on weekends.

“There was always enough time to do everything, as long as I made good use of the time I had to study,” he says.

For McGivney, who played clarinet in the band from 1992 through 1994 and 1995-96, band practice at Pitt Stadium was a welcome break from long days of studying.



Pharmacy Students Paul Bowers and Pamela Lyons

“Being outdoors with so many friends helped me to keep my professional work and life in balance,” she says.

The very first person McGivney met at band camp in 1992 was Kris Kobrynick Miley PharmD ’99, who remains one of her closest friends. Miley, who played the flute in high school, was thrilled to make the Pitt Band, especially since they got to travel. She also found that balancing practices with school kept her more organized because it forced her to learn how to manage her time.

The first week of school, she also met her future husband, Jeffrey Miley BS ’95, a pharmacy upperclassman who played drums and mentored her in her studies.

“He got me on track with the core courses I needed to focus on,” Kris recalls. “Our first dates were in the library. A little nerdy, but it was fun.”

Jeff Miley, who grew up near Carbondale, Pennsylvania and is a lifelong Steelers fan, remembers playing at a Steelers home game his first week in the band.

“Here I am—I wasn’t even 18 yet—and I was standing in the middle of the Steelers symbol in the middle of Three Rivers Stadium, and I just got goosebumps,” he says.

The drumline, where he played, was especially tight. Now the director of pharmacy at Florida Hospital at Connerton, a long term acute care facility, Miley still makes time to

get together with his old friends from the band, Poloyac among them. They meet each year for one road game – Notre Dame, Louisville, Rutgers, the University of South Florida, Syracuse, North Carolina State, and Virginia Tech have all been on their itineraries.

With two sons and Kris still working part-time as a clinical pharmacist at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point in Hudson, Florida, travel is trickier to arrange than it used to be. But to the Mileys, it’s worth it.

“Pharmacy is a small world, and so is the band,” Jeff Miley says.

Jack Anderson has been the Pitt Band director since 1995, and was an assistant dating back to 1986. He marched in the band in the 1960s, and his father was the assistant director from 1948 to 1970. So Anderson has known pharmacists who marched in the band dating back more than a half century.

Anderson views the band as a family. To the hundreds of students and alumni whose lives he has touched, he is the father figure. The first time he addresses the incoming freshmen, he always tells them: “Look around this room. Your spouse may be standing in this room.”

In fact, Anderson met his own wife, Peggy, through the Pitt Band, and their daughter, Carrie, was a roommate of McGivney and Kris Miley. He’s attended many such weddings over the years.

Jeff Miley recalls how Anderson introduced both him and Kris to the late James Kirkwood, BS ’65, who worked for Rite Aid and often hired pharmacy students who were band members to work in the store on Atwood Street. It was known unofficially as the Pitt Band pharmacy, and both Mileys worked there.

Kirkwood helped them understand expectations and offered advice on different career path choices, Jeff Miley says.

Evolution of a Bandwagon

Frances Martin BS ’79, a saxophonist who was one of the first women to march in the Pitt Band under Title IX, keeps a picture on her office wall: an aerial shot of the alumni band on the Pitt Stadium field for one last hurrah before its demolition in 1999.

“It was just a really fabulous experience – the pharmacy school and the band. Both have served me well in my career,” says Mar-

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE PITT BAND MEMBERS? (SEE INSIDE BACK COVER)



“It was just a really fabulous experience – the pharmacy school and the band. Both have served me well in my career.”

– Frances Martin (BS '79)

tin, who now works for a small company that makes a respiratory device after practicing pharmacy for a decade, then spending more than 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry.

“The band was a great way to get a broader base of people and friendships and diversity,” she adds. “It was a fraternity, right off the bat.”

As one of just five women entering the 120-piece band in 1973, Martin ran into some initial resistance from a few of the male members. Having attended a private girls’ high school, she also had to adjust to the band’s military-style discipline. Back then, everyone was called by their last name, asked permission to speak, and addressed adults as “sir” and “ma’am.”

But gradually she felt accepted and grew particularly close to the other four women in the band, one of whom was in her wedding when she married Paul Lobur, who played the cymbals. Though they have since divorced, fond memories remain.

“When I was in the band, I don’t think we

had any music majors. It was all engineers, pharmacy, and pre-med. It was really interesting,” Martin says.

Fisher, also remembers the band’s military style. He considers the late Robert “Ace” Arthur, who was the director then, to be “one of the finest men I’ve ever known in my lifetime. He was a tremendous individual – fair, but strict.”

He remembers how, if opponents did not bring a band to Pitt games, Arthur had them learn the opposing team’s fight song. After they played Pitt’s alma mater, they did an about face and played the other team’s song.

After graduating, Fisher fulfilled his dream of owning his own pharmacy, Park Hill Drug Store in Cambria County, Pennsylvania. He operated it for 40 years before selling it in 1996.

“Going to professional school and being in the band is a lot of work,” he says. “I admire all the students who have heavy schedules and any extracurricular activity.”

Challenges and inspiration

Pam Lyons, a P4 who just finished her third year playing trumpet in the Pitt Band, is living that challenge now. As an undergraduate at Notre Dame, she played in that university’s band and had not planned to repeat the experience when she started the School of Pharmacy. But her high school band director contacted Anderson, who emailed her and encouraged her to try it.

“I figured it wouldn’t hurt to just look at the program,” she says. “When I walked in the band room, Jack told me that I was in. I didn’t even really audition. He asked me to play the Notre Dame fight song and gave me informa-

tion about when to show up for band camp.”

Little did she know what she was in for. Although she already developed good time management skills as an undergraduate, she had to fit graduate studies around such obstacles as a 16-hour bus ride to Birmingham, Alabama, each of the past three football seasons.

“I almost can’t imagine what it’s like to have free time in the fall semester,” she says. “I can’t remember the last time I watched TV. I don’t even know if my TV is plugged in ... or how to turn it on.”

It was Lyons who suggested to Bowers that he become the first pharmacy student to serve as drum major. He credits her with helping him develop both as a leader in the band and as a student.

He says sharing the band experience with other pharmacy students and alumni, particularly those who went on to become faculty members at the school, has helped to motivate him to excel.

“It’s really inspiring to know that they have been in my shoes,” he says. “You can see that at times it may be tough, but look how these guys turned out.” PP

Contributors:

- Jack Anderson, Retired Pitt Band Director
- Paul Bowers, Class of 2014 and the current drum major
- William Fisher, BS '53
- Pam Lyons, Class of 2014
- Frances Martin, BS '79
- Melissa Somma McGivney, PharmD '98
- Jeffrey Miley, BS '95
- Kris Kobrynick Miley, PharmD '99
- Samuel Poloyac, BS '93

Investing in the Future



Dean Patricia Kroboth discusses the new and improved 402 Salk Hall to faculty and staff.

The Novo Nordisk Learning Center

The School is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new state-of-the-art learning center in Salk Hall—a tale of turning misfortune into opportunity. The former Salk 402 classroom—destroyed by fire nearly a year ago—has been transformed into the Novo Nordisk Learning Center, an innovative teaching and learning environment that boasts small group learning in a large group setting. A space for up to 20 groups of six students, each group with its own video monitor, seemed impossible only a few years ago. Today, the vision for this learning environment is realized with combined support from the University and a generous gift from Novo Nordisk.

“Novo Nordisk is proud to see this Learning Center come to life,” said Diana Blankman, director of Corporate Giving and Social Impact, Novo Nordisk Inc. “Knowing the critical role that pharmacists play in the management of diabetes, this gift is both an investment in

“Novo Nordisk is proud to see this Learning Center come to life. Knowing the critical role that pharmacists play in the management of diabetes, this gift is both an investment in the school and in the future well-being of our patients.”

—Diana Blankman, director of Corporate Giving and Social Impact, Novo Nordisk Inc.

the school and in the future wellbeing of our patients.”

The new Learning Center has outstanding acoustics and the latest technology that allows the instructor to project to the monitors, the students to connect their PCs for individual small group work, and for one group to share their work with the entire class through the central media system. We are excited by the opportunity the Novo Nordisk Learning Center offers faculty and students for active learning, group problem solving, and peer learning. The modification of this space helps maintain

School of Pharmacy Receives NACDS Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship Award

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy was awarded the \$30,000 Lilly USA, LLC Scholarship by the National Association of Chain Drug Store (NACDS) Foundation. Pitt received the second highest award among the 12 accredited pharmacy schools that received awards. Pitt was recognized for its leadership in developing new and innovative community-based programs, community-based research initiatives, patient-centered learning experiences for students, and improving care of patients in the community.

The NACDS Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship Program provides awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000 to a pharmacy school’s scholarship fund to assist high-caliber pharmacy students working to achieve their professional Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. Schools must apply for the awards and are selected based on their contribution to the advancement of community pharmacy practice.

Pitt Pharmacy as a leader in pharmacy education and has heightened our enthusiasm for further transformation of Salk Hall through renovation—with the help of our alumni and friends. If you are interested in being a catalyst for change with a gift to support Salk Hall Renovations please contact Maurissa Vergari, director of development, mmv20@pitt.edu or 412-648-0185.

A Generous Gift at the Golf Invitational 2013

On May 17, 2013, at the Joseph A. Gatto Scholarship Golf Invitational, Joe Gatto's family ensured that his legacy and his dreams of supporting student travel would live on. Joe's wife, Toni, accompanied by their three children, Joey Lynn, Nicki, and John, presented a \$25,000 gift to the school.

While Joe was mainly recognized for his work with the Golf Invitational, one of his main passions was ensuring that all students had the opportunity to travel, either during their rotations or to conferences, during their time with the School of Pharmacy.

The \$25,000 student travel gift presented by his family in his honor will guarantee just that.

Dean Patricia Kroboth accepts the gift from John Gatto, in memory of his father Joseph A. Gatto.



WHY I GAVE: DENISE AND PETER KRECKEL

"Back when I was your age, things were different!" Oh how we would cringe when the older generation started out with that phrase. When Denise and I graduated in 1981 from Pitt's Pharmacy School our tuition cracked the \$1,000/semester level. Tuition has increased at least 12 fold since then, but wages have not even kept close. To keep up with the tuition, my summer paper mill job should now be paying \$60.00 per hour and Denise's cashier job should be paying \$26.00. Things were BETTER when we attended Pitt, than the current generation of student pharmacists are experiencing, at least financially.

Denise and I have decided to endow a scholarship at Pitt, due to our desire to give students additional opportunities to have experiences beyond the classroom. Our daughter Gretchen (2009) opened our eyes to the numerous opportunities that didn't even exist back in the 1980's. Experiential learning opportunities overseas, attending a myriad of conferences, and yes, even tuition assistance are all needs of our student pharmacists. When we see all that students can experience, we want to assist those to take advantage of those opportunities that they might otherwise not be able to afford. There are numerous needs for our student pharma-

cists and we pharmacists who have benefited so much from this wonderful profession can do so much to assist them. We can mentor these students by being preceptors and provide much needed financial assistance. We have precepted students and provided them with housing during rotations. Their enthusiasm is contagious and it is rewarding to make a difference in their lives. Now that our three kids have completed their educations, we are financially able to give back, we want to make a positive impact on our future generations of pharmacists.

By being involved in this profession by serving as a preceptor, and by being a member of the alumni association opens one eyes to the needs of these outstanding student pharmacists. Yes, "Back when I was their age, things were a lot different." Denise and I hope to share the blessings of this profession with students so they may enjoy a career as rewarding as the profession of pharmacy.



Denise Kubitsky Kreckel (BS '81) and Peter Kreckel (BS '81)

To read more Why I Gave Stories go to:
shape.pharmacy.pitt.edu/#/donorstories

Where We Are Going

INSIDE SALK HALL

Firuz G. Feturi Accepts Patient Care Fellowship

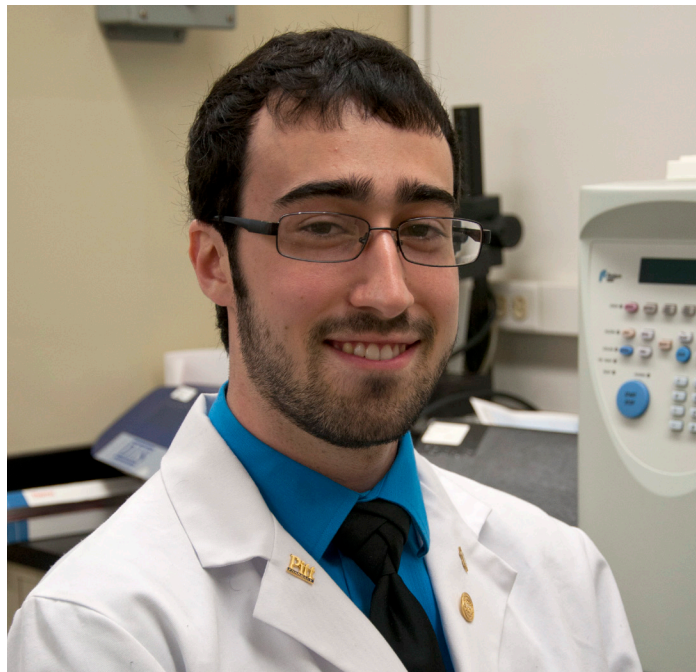
Graduate student **Firuz G. Feturi** has been accepted to participate in Patient Safety Fellowship – Jewish Healthcare Foundation 2013. The goals of the fellowship this year are to study systemic problems through observations at the point of patient care; refine interdisciplinary team-based approaches to addressing observed problems; redesign work based on a systems perspective and analyze improvement opportunities for educational value. Professor Raman Venkataramanan, PhD is Firuz Feturi's faculty advisor.



Graduate student Firuz Feturi with faculty advisor professor Raman Venkataramanan

Vincent Netto Awarded American Heart Association Fellowship

Vincent Netto, class of 2016, was awarded a fellowship from the American Heart Association to do summer research. He was one of five recipients from a pool of 18 applicants. Netto will be conducting research on pediatric cardiac arrest project. The fellowship is funded from the University of Pittsburgh Research and Investigation Summer Experience (PRISE), and by the American Heart Association Great Rivers Affiliate Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program. Associate Professor Samuel M. Poloyac, PharmD, PhD is Netto's faculty advisor.



Vincent Netto
(Class of 2016)

APTR and ODPHP Selects Jessa Koch as 2013 Paul Ambrose Scholar

Jessa Koch, Class of 2014 has been selected as a 2013 Paul Ambrose Scholar on behalf of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP). Koch will be among 40 health professions students from across the country with similar interests in prevention and public health for the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program Symposium in Washington, DC.



Jessa Koch (Class of 2014)

ASHP Student Leadership Award Recognizes Anna Bondar

Anna Bondar, Class of 2015, is one of twelve 2013 American Society of Hospital System Pharmacists Student Leadership Award recipients nationally. The ASHP Student Leadership Award Program recognizes students with an interest in pharmacy practice in health-systems who have demonstrated leadership ability. This program recognizes and celebrates the contributions of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members. Pharmacy students in the second through fourth professional years are eligible to apply.



Anna Bondar (Class of 2015)

GRANTS

Amy Donihi and **Kim Coley** BS '87 received the ASHP Foundation Multidose Medication Dispensing for Discharge Research (MMDD) Grant of \$25,000.

Levent Kirisci has been awarded a second phase of the SBIRT grant from NIDA. This is a 3-year grant starting September 2012. Drs. Reynolds, Vanyukov and Ridenour are Co-Investigators.

Pamela Smithburger PharmD '07 has been named a 2012 recipient of the ASHP Research and Education Foundation's New Investigator Research Grant of \$20,000.

Melissa McGivney PharmD '98 received a \$1000 grant award from The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation for 2013 Heart to Heart Community Health Fairs. McGivney also received the "David and Betty Brennenman Award" which is accompanied by funding in the amount of \$40,000.

University of Pittsburgh researchers are moving forward with projects improving the detection and prevention of HIV using four grants that total almost \$11.5 million from the



Pitt Pharmacy is **#9** among schools of pharmacy in National Institutes of Health grants. The compilation by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy includes grants with Pitt Pharmacy faculty as principal investigator, co-principal investigator and co-investigator. Pitt ranked #10 on all grants (\$11.7 million total), #10 in non-federal grants, and #14 in other federal grants.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project, with \$758,000 for 15 months, is led by **Lisa Cencia Rohan** PhD '95 School of Pharmacy associate professor and Magee investigator, to assess the feasibility of using thin-film dosage forms for vaginal delivery of either contraceptive or HIV-prevention drugs.

NEW FACES



Christopher Ensor



Sean HJ Kim



Meghan Osborne

Faculty

Christopher Ensor, PharmD, BCPS-CV has a clinical practice with the thoracic transplantation programs at UPMC Presbyterian. Ensor earned his PharmD at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and completed pharmacy practice and critical care pharmacy residencies at the Virginia Commonwealth University - Medical College of Virginia Hospitals. Prior to joining Pitt, Ensor was at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he was a clinical pharmacy specialist with the lung transplantation, heart transplantation and mechanical circulatory support, and vascularized composite tissue allotransplantation programs. He also served as Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. He is board certified in Pharmacotherapy with Added Qualifications in Cardiology.

Sean HJ Kim, PhD, received his BA in Computer Science and Mathematics, and his doctoral degree in Bioengineering from the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco. He also completed postdoctoral training at UCSF where he conducted research in the areas of computational systems biology and model-based drug development. His current research focuses on developing novel translational approaches that will accelerate drug development and enable therapeutic advances, optimization, and individualization, as well as advance discovery of useful new biological knowledge.

Staff

Meghan Osborne graduated from Pitt in 2008 with a BA in Corporate and Community Relations. While working for a small production and syndication company in downtown Pittsburgh, she earned her master's degree in Higher Education Administration and Student Development and Affairs from Drexel University where she wrote a thesis entitled, "Exploring Best Practices in Alumni Relations". Prior to assuming the responsibilities of Alumni Coordinator at the School of Pharmacy, she was an alumni relations intern with Pitt's Alumni Association and worked in the admissions and financial aid office at Pitt Bradford. Her education and experiences give her solid grounding for her position as alumni coordinator.



Larry Kobulinski

Larry Kobulinski joins the School as our Instructional Development Specialist. Larry will be assisting faculty with implementation of simulation throughout the curriculum, training programs and research programs. He comes to us from the Peter M. Winter Institute of Simulation, Education and Research with extensive experience in the area of simulation and is an alumnus of Pitt. Larry has experience working within multiple healthcare disciplines including critical care, transplant, emergency medicine, pediatrics, respiratory, nursing and pharmacy. He also has experience with in-situ training within UPMC. He is excited about the future of high and low-fidelity simulation at the School, especially our potential to have a simulation space that is dedicated to the pharmacist.



Kelly Coker

Kelly Coker is the new Center Administrator for the School of Pharmacy. Kelly earned her B.S. in Education and Human Development from University of Minnesota. She has worked as an International Coordinator, Foreign Expert, and Graduate Intern at Clemson University, Sias University, and University of Northern Iowa. She looks forward to contributing her leadership and teamwork skills to her work with the faculty in the Departments of Pharmaceutical Science and Pharmacy and Therapeutics.



Shannon Young

Shannon Young is the new Executive Assistant to Dean Kroboth. Shannon earned her M.A. in English from Pitt and her B.A. in English and Cultural Studies from Chatham University. She has worked as an advisor, teacher, and administrator at Carnegie Mellon University, New York University, Northwestern University, and Chatham University. Most recently, she comes to the School from Carnegie Mellon where she was a graduate affairs administrator in the Carnegie Institute of Technology. She also continues her work as an adjunct professor in writing at Chatham University. She is excited to join the Dean's Office and contribute her organizational, writing, and communication skills to the exciting projects brewing in the School.

Exit Interviews

2013 GRADUATES



TONY B. AMOS

Graduating with which Pitt degree(s): PharmD '13, BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences '11
Hometown: Houston, TX
Favorite Pitt memory: Big East basketball in the Peterson Events Center!
Six words to sum up your Pitt experience: Welcoming, exciting, adventurous, life-changing, rewarding, memorable
Where do you go from here: 2-year Health Economics and Outcomes Research Fellowship with Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and Janssen Scientific Affairs, concurrent with a Master of Science program in Applied Health Economics and Outcomes Research at TJU



LINDSAY MCCARTNEY

Graduating with which Pitt degree(s): PharmD '13, BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences '11
Hometown: Hadley, PA
Favorite Pitt memory: Competing in Las Vegas as the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Delegate for the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition
Six words to sum up your Pitt experience: Pride, Friendship, Leadership, Passion, Fun, Life-Changing
Where do you go from here: PGY-1 Residency at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System



NATALIE Y. CAPOZZOLO

Graduating with which Pitt degree(s): PharmD '13, BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences '11
Hometown: Bangor, PA
Favorite Pitt memory: Having the opportunity to travel to Amsterdam, Holland on behalf of the university to present a poster on a qualitative research project I initiated in Brazil at the annual International Federation of Pharmacy (FIP) World Congress
Six words to sum up your Pitt experience: It's been too unbelievable for words!
Where do you go from here: CVS/Pharmacy in Myrtle Beach



RYAN M. RIVOSECCHI

Graduating with which Pitt degree(s): PharmD '13, BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences '11
Hometown: Indiana, PA
Favorite Pitt memory: Being a member of the Pitt Club Baseball team for three years, especially winning the school's first conference championship
Six words to sum up your Pitt experience: Inspiring, humbling, exciting, friendships, entertaining, H2P!
Where do you go from here: PGY-1 Residency at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital

Q&A

AMEER ALI (PHARMD '09)

Executive Presenter and Director of Content at the Center for Connected Medicine (CCM), Discussion Leader with global partners around the current state of health care and possible transformations required for a patient-centered future.

Questions were presented by students as part of the Pharmacy Innovation class Spring 2013

What class prepared you the most for your pharmacy career?

There's no particular class, because you don't know where you'll end up once you graduate. The highest value rests with the professors who provide preparation for the "PharmD life". Quick evolution, finding success where failure is imminent, and knowing when to ask for help—these are all "lessons" taught in parallel to the pharmacy curriculum by a highly gifted and trained faculty. The overarching value lies in the people that teach us from their own experience.

What one item was drilled into you as a pharmacy student that you still use on a day to day basis now?

My father always says, "Understanding what you know can lead to success, but it's worthless without understanding what you don't know." It's a hard message to fully grasp but Pitt's Pharmacy School gave me a simple rule to fulfill my father's recommendation; it taught me to say, "I don't know, but I can find that out."

What was the hardest decision you have made as a pharmacist?

Leaving pharmacy on a daily basis. In July 2009, I was a clinical pharmacist at UPMC Braddock and by December, I was offered a position as a Corporate Improvement Specialist at system level within UPMC's Donald D. Wolff, Jr. Center for Quality, Safety, and Innovation. It was a difficult choice, but what guided my decision is my desire to make pharmacy better than it is now, even if it requires personal sacrifice and perseverance at a different level of health care.

What was the best decision you made as a pharmacist?

I traveled to the Middle East often in the pursuit of business opportunities, but my best decision to date was getting married to my beautiful wife Zahraa. Sometimes you have to go out of your comfort zone for work; otherwise I would not have travelled so far to meet someone who I would have otherwise never known existed.

Did your view of a pharmacy change much from being a student to alumnus?

As an alumnus, I was suddenly plunged into a world of responsibility, where some people's lives rested in my hands and other people's vacations depended on my availability. Suddenly the words "yes Sir/Ma'am" were no longer my only option. My colleagues and patients suddenly looked up to me for guidance and saying "no," no matter how difficult it might be, was now an option.

Is your job fun?

YES... but you never know what tomorrow brings. However, if I don't enjoy my job, don't expect me to be there for long. The only decision more important in your daily comfort than your job is your spouse, so choose both carefully!

What would you change from the past in pharmacy or from your pharmacy days at the school?

The item on the top of my list is already happening—to have a Pharmacy Innovation Lab run by the school. Randy Smith and I are developing an original Pharmacy "think tank" run by a pharmacy school for the purpose of developing innovative solutions for the full pharmacy vertical.

What change would you like to see in the future of pharmacy?

It's not what I would like to see, it's what the world needs to see. Pharmacy isn't the brightest spotlight anymore; it's the totality of the health care system in the United States and the World. There has been limitless expansion of health care expenditures without justifiable reasoning behind it, and now the entirety of the world is asking us to stop and look internally. Change is coming whether we like it or not. We can't pay for health care the same way we have in the past, so the question is, who will step up to the plate? Will it be hospitals or insurance companies? Or will it be physicians, nurses, or pharmacists? One thing is for sure, whether a single entity or a multidisciplinary team does this, it will happen and it will shift the balance of how we run our world.



Check It Out

BY THE
NUMBERS

2

As of July 2, The School of Pharmacy **ranked second** among all Pitt schools in number of annual donors. This is an amazing accomplishment. In the spirit of competition for the #1 spot, the School of Pharmacy would need each donor from 2013 plus 141 additional alumni to make a gift. We slipped to the #5 spot in number of e-mail addresses on file as only 65.9% of our alumni have shared their current e-mail address. Help us stay connected! Send your updated mailing address and e-mail to rxalumni@pitt.edu. Do your part to make Pharmacy the #1 Pitt school again!

Pitt Pharmacy Graduate Formally Recognized as Inventor of Banana Split

Many people and towns across the country claim to have invented the world's first banana split, but in December of 2012, that recognition was formally given to **David Strickler** of Latrobe, a 1906 graduate of the School of Pharmacy.

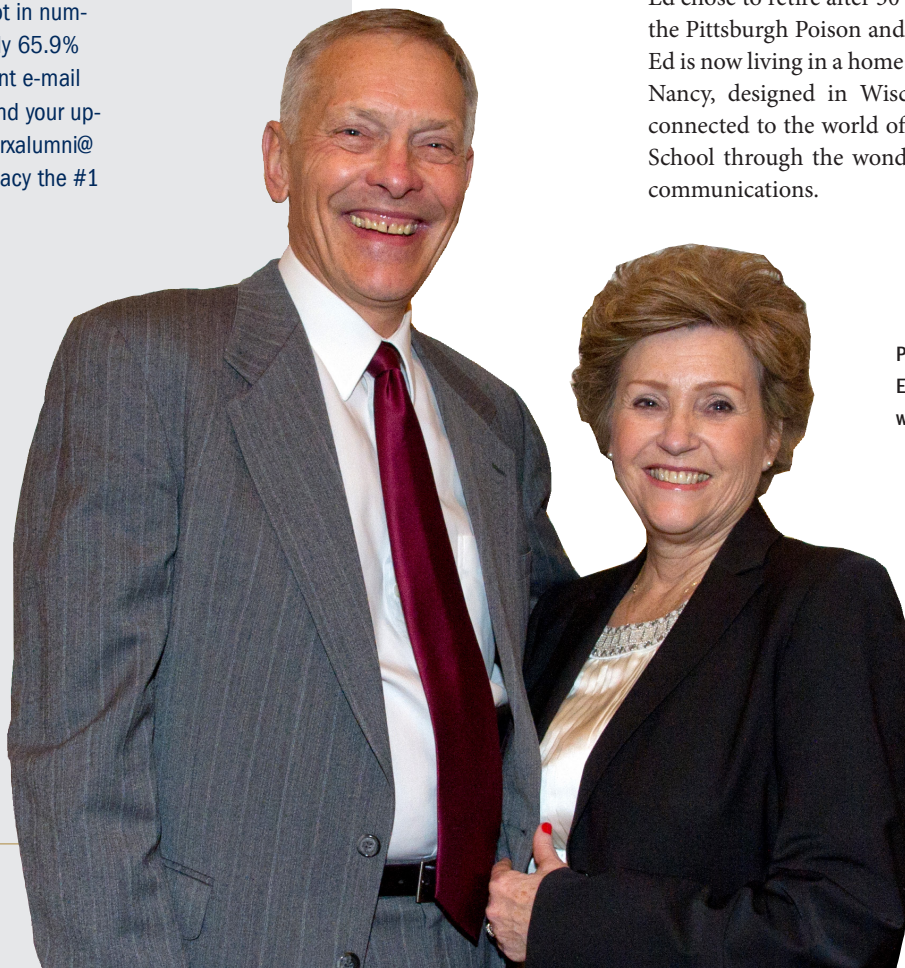
In 1904, Strickler, 23, was working as an apprentice pharmacist at Tassell Pharmacy when he created the now-famous sundae. Strickler's first ever sundae consisted of scoops of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream topped with pineapple, strawberry, and chocolate sauces, covered with whipped cream, chopped nuts, and maraschino cherries all resting on a banana that had been cut lengthwise.

While others argue that they were the first inventors of the supersized sweet treat, The National Ice Cream Retailers Association and countless others agree that Latrobe has the documentation to back it up. Strickler even created a special glass dish, or "banana boat" to accommodate the unique size and shape of the dessert.

Now Pennsylvania is recognizing this sweet accomplishment by approving a historical marker in honor of Strickler and his iconic treat. Upon installation, the plaque will likely reside at the location of the first banana split; 805 Ligoneer Street in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Faculty Member Retires

Edward Krenzelok, the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Chair, has a new title: Professor Emeritus. Ed chose to retire after 30 years as Director of the Pittsburgh Poison and Drug Information. Ed is now living in a home that he and his wife Nancy, designed in Wisconsin; he remains connected to the world of poisoning and our School through the wonders of modern day communications.



Professor Emeritus
Edward Krenzelok
with wife Nancy

Balwant N. Dixit Distinguished Career Honored

The School of Pharmacy hosted a reception at the William Pitt Union on May 16, 2013 to celebrate the distinguished career of faculty member **Balwant N. Dixit**. Dixit has devoted more than five decades to the School of Pharmacy in teaching and in leadership roles.

Cippel Serves as NACDS Regional Chain Conference Chairman

David Cippel BS '86 served as chairman of this year's NACDS Regional Chain Conference. To kick off the three day event, Cippel, president of Klingensmith's Drug Stores, Inc., spoke to the way in which the NACDS has continually re-invented the Regional Chain Conference to ensure that member service is at the forefront.

Pitt Alumnus In Action

John Cherry PharmD '05 sprang into action after seeing an unconscious woman in her car on January 14, 2013. Cherry, a Pharmacy Team Leader at the Eastgate Giant Eagle in Hempfield, performed what was likely life-saving CPR on a woman in the store's parking lot. After a former EMT helped Cherry move the woman from her car to the ground, Cherry then performed chest compressions for eight minutes. He also shocked the woman with an automated external defibrillator three times before paramedics arrived.

Cherry used his CPR training, a necessity for all pharmacists, for the first time. "After my experience," Cherry said, "I think everyone should have the training."

Timothy Davis Testifies on Behalf of NCPA

On April 25, **Timothy Davis** PharmD '00 should have been the keynote speaker at the School of Pharmacy's graduation ceremony. He was testifying on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) instead. Davis lobbied for the need for more uniform pharmaceutical standards at the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. During the hearing on track-and-trace legislation, Davis also expressed concerns about potentially stifling legislative requirements on small community pharmacies and highlighted the ways to which pharmacies are currently addressing the issue.

PHARMACY PERSPECTIVE

This is an opportunity for School of Pharmacy, alumni, faculty, students and friends to share their viewpoint about pharmacy related subjects. Submit your Pharmacy Perspective to shawj@pitt.edu. The School of Pharmacy reserves the right to edit and post all submissions.

CAMERON NINOS: BROTHERHOOD REPORT

Upon entering pharmacy school, I was unsure what to expect in terms of friendship. By my third year of college, I was content with my group of friends, and did not necessarily welcome any changes. However, I decided to pledge the Phi Delta Chi Fraternity. On the first night of pledging, I thought Brother James Montgomery spoke in hyperbole when he told us, "Congratulations men. You have just made one of the best decisions of your life."

The building of our brotherhood started slowly. When walking the foreign halls of the pharmacy building, I found comfort in seeing my brothers between classes or in the gym and the small ways in which they aided me. Whether they taught me what teachers emphasized on tests or recommended a formerly unknown restaurant, each tidbit served as a building block. Every experience with my brothers served to chisel away at the mountain of stress that any pharmacy student naturally experiences. The

Phi Delta Chi Fraternity helped me to attend class each day, to stay at the library an extra hour, or to go through four exams in four days, because I always knew my brothers were in the same environment. The fraternity made each day of my life more manageable and enjoyable through a shared experience, amazing conversations, and spectacular times.

I am now proud to say that I am a brother of Phi Delta Chi. Never in my life have I been happier to admit that I was wrong, because Brother James Montgomery's statement on that first night was not a hyperbole. When I pledged, I made one of the best decisions of my life and I am ecstatic to be a part of the Mu Chapter brotherhood.

Excerpt from Cameron Ninos (Class of 2016) Brotherhood Report

Alumni Society Message

Message from the President of the Alumni Society 2013



As a proud graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy class of 2000, I am now privileged to serve as president of the Alumni Society for the 2013-2014 academic year.

On behalf of the Alumni Society, I would like to thank each of you for your support and commitment to the next generation of pharmacists. Pitt Pharmacy alumni have a robust history of giving back. Strong alumni engagement, for example, serving as preceptors and mentors, volunteering time, teaching, participating in alumni events, and financial contributions have provided opportunities, scholarships, and enriched the experiences of our students.

Every year, the Alumni Society hosts several events that promote interaction between students and alumni. I encourage you to consider joining us for the Career Roundtable, The Gordon Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony, The Joseph A. Gatto Scholarship Golf Invitational, Homecoming Reception and the RxTravaganza.

Stay connected to the Pitt School of Pharmacy through Facebook, LinkedIn, Tumblr and Twitter. Visit the school's website at www.pharmacy.pitt.edu to reconnect with old friends, share a story about your experiences at Pitt and watch the progress of the new Salk Pavilion.

The faculty and administration at the school are committed to delivering an unparalleled experience for the students that prepares them to advance the profession of pharmacy forward. Their dedication and the enthusiasm and gratitude of the students have made my time on the Alumni Society Board greatly rewarding.

I would like to thank Dean Kroboth, Meghan Osborne, our new alumni coordinator and all of the members of the Alumni Society board for their dedication to the students and look forward to a fulfilling year!

Hail to Pitt,
Nicole DeAugustine Butteri (PharmD '00)



Brett Eckstrom with his mother Nicole DeAugustine Butteri (PharmD '00) at the Joseph A. Gatto Golf Invitational 2013

PHARMACY ALUMNI SOCIETY BOARD 2013-2014

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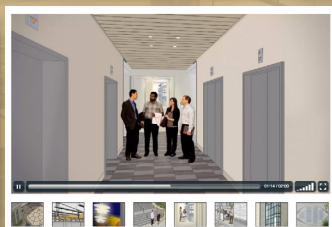
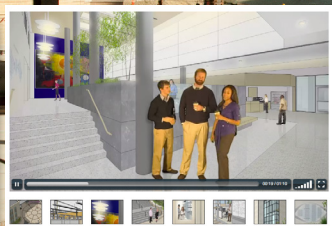
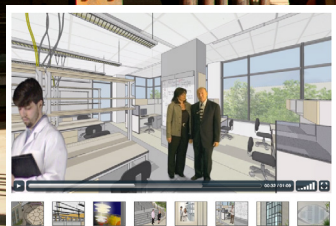
Dean
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Director of Development
Maurissa Vergari

Alumni Coordinator
Meg Osborne



HONOR OUR PAST SHAPE OUR FUTURE



“The videos are an exciting way to keep in touch with what’s happening with our new building. The faculty and students do such a great job that I can’t wait to see who will be the next ‘stars’”.

—Irene Hilinski-Damratoski '63, '66

Learn more: shape.pharmacy.pitt.edu



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KEEP IN TOUCH

rxalumni@pitt.edu



HOME BASE

www.pharmacy.pitt.edu



LAMBDA KAPPA SIGMA IS SEEKING ALUMI CONNECTIONS

In our efforts to build alumni relations, we are asking that all LKS alumni send updated contact information, including name (maiden and married, if applicable), email address, mailing address, phone number, and current area of practice to LKSPittAlumni@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Answer to Band Photo Question:

Left photo: Jeffrey Miley (BS '95) and Samuel Poloyac (BS '93)

Right photo: Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98)

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HOMECOMING
SEPT. 27, 2013

The School of Pharmacy invites alumni and friends to a pre-fireworks reception in the William Pitt Union. Meet the dean and spend an evening reconnecting with faculty, staff, friends and students.

For more information please contact Meg Osborne at 412-648-8186 or e-mail omeghan@pitt.edu

RxTRAVAGANZA

*We have something
in Commons*

OCTOBER 26, 2013

www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/gala

135
Years