

PITT Pharmacy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

FALL 2008



EXCELLENCE • PHARMACISTS • INSIGHT
HEALTH • CURRICULUM • RESEARCH
ENTREPRENEUR • PASSION • BUSINESS
CONSULTATION • MENTORS • FINANCE
LEADERSHIP • DISCOVERY • SUCCESS
INVESTMENT • PATIENTS • INNOVATION

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

The 18th-century British statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke is known for his famous statement, "Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." Many of you have had an important role in teaching me about the history of our School of Pharmacy—often as you shared fond memories of your time at the University of Pittsburgh. Among those memories are repeating themes of your great Pitt education and our wonderful history of teaching the business of pharmacy. I have also heard your laments that the intensity of the business focus had diminished over time. And so, like any good student, I "studied" the situation with our "study group" (leadership team) and realized that the need for expertise in the business of pharmacy is as great as it has ever been.

As you turn the pages of this issue of *PITTPharmacy*, you will be able to read much about our progress. What you will also see is that we are addressing the need for expertise in the business of pharmacy ... not as a repeat of history, but by building a curriculum for business with a fresh new twist. We have more than a great start, but we know there is more room for us to grow in the area of business. Because we have taken a new twist on history, maybe the more accurate statement was made by Mark Twain, who said, "History doesn't repeat itself, (but) it sometimes rhymes."

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Our students were well represented at the American Pharmaceutical Association annual meeting in San Diego, Calif., with 24 students attending. Front row, left to right: Christopher Miller (PharmD '08), Gregory Wolfe (P4), Matthew Sapko (P4), Gretchen Kreckel (P4), and Jovonne Jones (P4). Back row, left to right: Ashley Craig (P3) and Catherine Andrews (P3).

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On the Cover: Left: A happy group of PharmD graduates poses at Commencement 2008. Left to right: Jasmine Talameh, Forrest Moore, and Helen Chan. Right: Graduate student Shashi Sriram (right) discusses his research project with Umesh Desai, professor of medicinal chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University, at the third annual Great Lakes Symposium.

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Getting Down to Business

Curriculum changes incorporate management skills



Diane Holder, executive vice president of UPMC and president and chief executive officer of UPMC Health Plan, shares her expertise in health care management with pharmacy students and Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business students during an Executive Boardroom Series class. Seated, left to right: Michelle Bopp (P4); Brooke Lowry (P4); Nina Sonbolian (P4); Chronis Manolis (BS '80), vice president of pharmacy, UPMC Health Plan; and Matthew Sapko (P4). Standing, left to right: Carrington Carter; Chunli Tao; Holder; Robert Snyder (P4); Associate Dean Gordon Vanscoy (BS '84), course coordinator; Douglas Gebhard (P4); Nirut Desai (P4); and Danielle Brandt.

Imagine getting a promotion that required entire skill sets for which you had never been formally trained, completed little to no class work, and had no supervised experience.

For many pharmacists, that's the reality they face as they climb the career ladder, regardless of where they practice. They are expected to use management skills more commonly found in a business school curriculum than at a pharmacy school: human resources, inventory management, and financial performance metrics, for example.

Working off feedback from both alumni and employers, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy decided about three years ago to beef up its management curriculum so graduates would be better prepared to handle such curveballs. The upshot is a menu of options designed to allow students to choose as much management training as they feel

will be applicable to their interests and goals.

Entrepreneurial roots

From the early days when pharmacists not only dispensed medicine but also ran a soda fountain and general retail operation, the line between pharmacy and business has been fuzzy.

"Some of the most successful entrepreneurs were the founders of pharmacy," notes Gordon Vanscoy (BS '84), associate dean for business innovation, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, and himself an MBA and entrepreneur.

Vanscoy, a previous Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year semifinalist, was an executive vice president for CVS ProCare, Bergen Brunswig Specialty Company, and Stadlander Operating Company. He is now the chair and chief executive officer of University Pharmacotherapy Associates, LLC, which provides nationwide continuing pharmaceutical education and

health plan consulting services. Vanscoy also is involved in a variety of nonpharmacy business ventures in South Florida, where he resides most of the year.

As the retail industry moves toward consolidation into chains, pharmacy technicians have assumed more distributive support roles while pharmacists have taken a breadth of diverse responsibilities, including management. On the community side, some individual owners are still successfully competing with large chains and operating as entrepreneurs, Vanscoy says.

"In order to compete in this environment, you've got to have tremendous business acumen," he says. "You have to understand how to position your business and focus on products and services outside of prescription drugs because of dramatically reduced profits due to managed care and insurance." Pharmacists also are expected to flex their entrepreneurial muscles to succeed in an increasingly competitive market: Vanscoy speaks of one who opened a RadioShack in his community store to complement his core business.

Also at play are business forces within the industry. In 2007, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the lowest number of new drugs in 25 years. With fewer novel molecules and more stringent regulation, there is a dramatic paradigm shift in how drugs are marketed and sold, as well as customer relations.

That means more pharmaceutical companies are looking for clinical professionals who can combine a working knowledge of drugs with a business focus. The end result is a large investment in pharmacists as clinical liaisons and medical affairs professionals.

Providing a variety of options

From years one through four in today's PharmD curriculum, students are exposed to lectures designed to familiarize them with management concepts. If they think they might have a greater interest in the subject, they can choose to follow a management track championed by Assistant Professor and Vice Chair of Pharmacy Systems Scott Mark, who also serves as the director of pharmacy operations for UPMC and director of the pharmacy management residency program at Pitt.

The track involves taking six additional credit hours of electives in management, as well as two rotations and one project. Courses cover topics ranging from corporate management to human resources and finance.

"Students now have lots of

"You have to understand how to position your business and focus on products and services."

—Gordon Vanscoy

choices that enable them to experience learning opportunities that mesh with their interests and passion," Mark says. "Aligning student passions with skill development while guided by successful mentors will help create new leaders for the business of pharmacy."

Rotations include several sites at UPMC, some at health plans, and others at various community partners such as Rite Aid and CVS. Students may choose from a list of available preceptors to help them with their projects.

One example illustrating the depth of research was a project that involved redesigning the process flow for UPMC's HIV clinic.

According to Mark, the student met representatives and mapped out the current process design, looking at how patients are seen from a pharmacy standpoint, how they are processed, and how they transition to the outpatient pharmacy for ongoing care. Ultimately, the student developed and helped to implement solutions.

For students with a serious interest in pharmacy management, a two-year residency is available, as is a master's degree in pharmacy administration or master's degree in public health with an area of concentration in pharmacy administration. An MBA with a concentration in pharmacy business administration offers yet another option as part of a partnership, led by Vanscoy, with the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

Although the track was created through the School of Pharmacy, students take courses that count toward an MPH or MBA, even though the degree comes from other schools within the University.

"[For] folks who develop a progressive interest in management, all this counts toward the terminal degree," Mark says. "We're getting a huge amount of interest from students in this program."

The growth of the business curriculum was planned carefully so that each new component would be added as resources and demand permitted, Vanscoy says.

"Obviously we need more faculty and investment to grow the program," he notes. "We had to get the basic blocking and tackling done without additional resources before we could add finesse."

Pitt pharmacy students created a Web site for students and others interested in the business of pharmacy. Pharmacy Insights provides access to personal thoughts, experiences, and advice of leaders in fields directly and indirectly related to pharmacy.

The first edition, at www.pharmacyinsights.org, presents audio interviews with influential leaders discussing strategic decision-making skill, the outlook for the profession, and advice for students.

The project was accepted for presentation at the 2008 World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Basel, Switzerland, in the summer of 2008.

The members of the editorial board for 2007–08:

Chris Antypas (P4)
Eric Gardner (P2)
Derek Hinds (P2)
Rachel Louik (P3)
Brooke Lowry (P4)
Erin Schultz (P4)
Robert Snyder (P4)
Erica Trimble (P3)
Steve Zona (P2)

Getting Down to Business (continued)

Curriculum changes incorporate management skills

Next steps

In the future, community partners may link with the School of Pharmacy, combining a master's program and a residency to train people for community pharmacy management positions.

Additionally, more PharmD students are clamoring to take management-related electives, Mark says.

"Every semester that we've offered one of the four management electives, we get petitioned by the students to increase that cap size," he says. This fall, the cap will have expanded to 15, up from 10 the first year. "At some point, we're going to have to be a little firmer about the cap. But that gives you a sense of the interest."

Vanscoy is putting the final touches on a course for the winter of 2009 that will serve as the second phase of an existing executive leadership elective series.

"Aligning student passions with skill development while guided by successful mentors will help create new leaders for the business of pharmacy."

—Scott Mark

In the new phase, which focuses on entrepreneurship, six nationally recognized innovators will share their experiences and teach School of Pharmacy students about the factors that contributed to their success.

In a course Vanscoy teaches to a combination of MBA and pharmacy students, student surveys revealed that most had decided to pursue business further, whether by earning a business degree or pursuing residencies.

"It creates a change in the students," Vanscoy says of the exposure to business principles. "They come in with a spark of

interest and leave with a burning desire to pursue this. ... Our goal is to create opportunities to keep our students and graduates highly regarded and competitive in a dynamic marketplace."



Pharmacy students listen intently to Assistant Professor Scott Mark during an Advanced Pharmacy Management class. Seated, left to right: Gretchen Kipp (P3), Nathan Hunnell (P3), and Joshua Clossin (P3).

Making a Difference

School of Pharmacy plays host to major symposia

What do pharmacy students, drug delivery experts, substance abuse prevention advocates, and members of the American Chemical Society have in common?

When each of these groups convened at a symposium to discuss their specialty in depth, they chose the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy as their host site.

Pitt was home to several major meetings during the past year, each of which contributes to the knowledge base of the profession from a different angle—education, disease treatment and prevention, and drug discovery, for example.

On the front lines

With a vision of making Pittsburgh the healthiest city in the country, the school in May 2008 welcomed several stakeholders in the war on drug and alcohol abuse for a symposium designed to address an alarming increase in drug overdose deaths, says Janice Pringle, research assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

The daylong symposium attracted some 140 participants from a variety of locations.

"We had folks who were from the criminal justice system, payers, Highmark, the University health plan, community care, drug and alcohol prevention providers, concerned parent groups," says Pringle, who coordinated the event along with her staff.

The School of Pharmacy was an ideal merge point for those groups because of the nature of age distribution and drugs that cause overdose-related deaths. For example, a surprising number of younger people are using prescription drugs, particularly opiates, Pringle says.



Speakers at the Addressing Overdoses in Allegheny County: How the Community Can Make a Difference symposium. First row (seated), left to right: Cynthia Holland, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and Donna Ferguson, Bridge to Hope Family Support Group. Second row (standing), left to right: Alice Bell, Prevention Point Pittsburgh; Neil Capretto, Gateway Rehabilitation Center; Janice Pringle, research assistant professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy; Mike Lowther, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; Deborah Beatty, Allegheny County Drug and Alcohol Planning Council; James Allen, director, Allegheny County Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services; Sharon Stancliff, Skills and Knowledge on Overdose Prevention Project (New York, N.Y.); Bruce Dixon, director, Allegheny County Health Department; Nabarun Dasgupta, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Project Lazarus; Scott Burris, Temple University Beasley School of Law; and Fred Brason, Wilkes Regional Medical Center.

"Pharmacists, at some point, are typically dispensing these drugs," she says. Legitimate prescriptions may be stolen by acquaintances of the rightful owners, or drug-seeking patients may shop around until they find a doctor willing to write a prescription. In some instances, pharmacists and doctors themselves are knowingly involved in diverting the drugs.

The school can help fight these problems by teaching future pharmacists how to screen patients at risk for diversion or overdose, such as a person who has been taking increased levels of opiates over a long period of time, or a person whose total prescription, if taken at once, could be lethal.

"You teach pharmacists to be on the lookout for that," Pringle says. "They might do a brief intervention, two to three minutes in which they tell the patient, 'You

might be at risk for an overdose.'" The pharmacist could then offer suggestions to reduce that risk or recommend evaluation for treatment.

Pharmacists are "a portal that the individual may use that may not exist anywhere else in health care," Pringle explains. "They are an untapped, but extremely important, member of [a] health care [team]."

The symposium produced an initiative, Every Life Is Worth Saving, based out of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services' Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services. Facilitated through the School of Pharmacy, the initiative is community based. Eventually, Pringle says, the school will connect with the Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy to cooperatively address overdose prevention.

Making a Difference (continued)

School of Pharmacy plays host to major symposia



Top: Richard Bertz (PhD '95), director of clinical discovery virology at Bristol-Myers Squibb, judges student research posters at the third annual Great Lakes Symposium. Right: Former faculty member Donald Abraham was one of the outstanding speakers at the 31st National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium.



Showcasing Pitt research

In June 2008, the American Chemical Society's Division of Medicinal Chemistry held its biannual meeting at the University of Pittsburgh for the first time. About 350 people attended the five-day event in Alumni Hall to discuss topics such as cancer, hepatitis C, the design and development of drugs, and the diagnosis of disease, says Professor Barry Gold, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"Obviously, the University of Pittsburgh is a major research university and has made significant investment in the Drug Discovery Institute," says Gold, who chaired the event. "When I put in our bid to host the meeting, I noted that there was a significant interest at Pitt in medicinal chemistry. It also showcased the University and the city as a very attractive place."

More than half of the attendees

"[The third annual Great Lakes Symposium] was an incredible experience. It brought us together in a dynamic way. The success of it was everyone working together and [being] passionately involved in it."

—Nisanne Ghonem

came from the pharmaceutical industry, and a number of them were given a tour of the institute, which is housed in the new Biomedical Science Tower 3.

"It was a way of getting people from the pharmaceutical industry to see what we have here in terms of the scientific expertise and facilities," Gold says. "That was really good exposure. These are people who are professionals in the development of drugs from the beginning of the process to the end."

Gold, a member of the American Chemical Society for 40 years, is eager to see the School of Pharmacy play host to more events. He stresses the importance of nurturing links between private industry and universities such as Pitt, where "we do more of the basic research that provides much of the fundamental understandings that can be used to design and synthesize drug models."

Gold notes, "There is a synergy between the pharmaceutical industry and academia; I think it's a healthy one."

Students and mentors

For five years, the School of Pharmacy has been home to a student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. In June 2007, the organization brought its third annual Great Lakes Symposium to Pitt, allowing students to network with their

peers from eight other universities as well as speakers from the pharmaceutical industry.

"It was an incredible experience," says PhD student Nisanne Ghonem, who chaired the event. "It brought us together in a dynamic way. The success of it was everyone working together and [being] passionately involved in it."

Student organizers were able to raise \$20,000 in external funds to finance the three-day program, which included panel speakers, poster sessions, podium presentations, and roundtable mentoring.

Topics included "A Day in the Life of a Pharmaceutical Scientist," "A Day in the Life of a Reviewer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration," and "Enhancing the Care of the Patient with Epilepsy Through Teaching, Research, and Service."

Several alumni also attended, Ghonem says.

"The familiarity among them created a very friendly and inviting environment," she says. "The students were genuinely interested and excited to be there."

Initially run at the University of Toronto, the symposium has since rotated host schools, so it's likely to return to Pitt.

"It was great visibility, and it just brings into reach what we're doing with day-to-day training, seeing those who have trained before us," Ghonem says. "You see their names in national and international

publications; to be sitting in a lecture room talking to them really brought it to a person-to-person level.”

Researchers brainstorm precise delivery

Drug delivery has become a hot topic in pharmaceutical research, with academia taking the lead in discovering new ways to get both traditional and new compounds to the body in the most efficient, effective way possible.

That was the thinking behind the Drug and Nucleic Acid Delivery Symposium in June 2008, when about 120 mostly local attendees

convened at the School of Pharmacy to discuss research progress and opportunities for collaboration.

“We feel that [drug] delivery will become a key issue in pharmacy,” says Dexi Liu, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and one of the organizers of the symposium along with fellow faculty members Song Li and Lisa Rohan (PhD '95). “The National Institutes of Health (NIH), especially, has started to pay attention to this area of research. So I thought it was necessary to get people together who shared this interest.”

The symposium marked the beginning of a continued effort to bring researchers together, Liu says. Because Pitt emphasizes translational research, there is a lot of potential for the discovery of

Drug delivery has become a hot topic, with academia taking the lead in discovering new ways to get both traditional and new compounds to the body.

critical compounds. But for those compounds to be beneficial in a clinical setting, their delivery must be on target, Liu explains.

Fewer side effects are one possible benefit of better drug delivery, “if you can deliver the substance precisely,” he notes. “Many drugs will work better because you can minimize the potential toxicity.”

It is not yet clear whether another drug delivery symposium is on the horizon; for now, Liu is satisfied that principal investigators with NIH funding are opening a dialogue and that the School of Pharmacy was the catalyst for that discussion.

By building its reputation as a University that is both receptive to conferences and home to a wealth of academic expertise, the School of Pharmacy is positioning itself as a leader in pharmaceutical research.

Megan Klamerus, research assistant, points out specifics of her research to Professor Robert Gibbs during the third annual Great Lakes Symposium poster session.

Great Teachers Honored



Left to right:
Kristine Schonder,
Frank Vitale,
Michael Shullo, and
Sandra Kane-Gill.

Schonder wins Stan Cohen Teacher of the Year Award

Kristine Schonder, a clinical faculty member in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, has been named the Stan Cohen Teacher of the Year for 2008.

The award, which is presented by the graduating class to a faculty member for outstanding teaching during the classroom portion of the professional curriculum, is named in honor of the late Cohen, a 1957 graduate of the School of Pharmacy who served on the faculty from 1979 to 1998.

"I am truly humbled to receive such recognition for doing something that I enjoy so much," Schonder says. "The opportunity to work with students and watch them grow in their knowledge and as professionals and people is the greatest reward for me."

Vitale honored with APhA-ASP faculty award

The executive board of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) has honored Frank Vitale, a senior lecturer of pharmaceutical sciences, as Faculty Member of the Year for 2008.

Vitale, who serves as director of the School of Pharmacy's international smoking cessation

specialist program, created a six-hour continuing education program designed to teach pharmacists how to conduct smoking cessation counseling. He also wrote the patient support booklets and all auxiliary materials that accompany the training. The program was presented throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

"My colleagues and I have been promoting the concept of pharmacists doing smoking cessation counseling for years," Vitale says. "It was great to see so many students embrace this aspect of their future professional life."

Rho Chi honors two faculty members

The Rho Chi Society, an academic honor organization for pharmacy students, has honored two faculty members for their contributions in the classroom and the field.

Michael Shullo (BS '95, PharmD '97), assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, was named the Rho Chi Outstanding Teacher. The award recognizes creativity in the classroom.

"Rho Chi represents excellence in pharmacy academics. Because of this, many of its members will have an important role in shaping the profession in the future,"

Shullo says. "I am honored to have been involved in their development."

Sandra Kane-Gill, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, won the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award, which honors a professor's contributions to peer-reviewed journals, essays, textbooks, or other works.

Kane-Gill uses economic and outcome research to enhance her course in Pharmacy, Health Care Outcomes, and Pharmacoeconomics. The idea is to help evoke interest in research.

"It illustrates to students one more of the endless career options that pharmacists have," she says.

Rho Chi chooses award recipients from nominations offered by students, faculty, alumni, and administrators. Rho Chi members then review the applications along with a panel of volunteer faculty members.



Ansani keeps toehold in faculty life as Preceptor of the Year

Although Nicole Ansani (BS '95, PharmD '98) now works in the pharmaceutical industry as a medical outcomes specialist for Pfizer, she never quite let go of her roots as an educator.

For 12 years, including a stint as a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, Ansani—who maintains adjunct faculty status at the school—has served as a preceptor. Widely admired for her dedication to the task, she is one of two winners of the 2008 Preceptor of the Year award.

The rotation she supervises is an industry elective, which departs somewhat from typical rotations in that students find out what it's like to work with Big Pharma from the inside.

"They learn a lot of what a pharmacist can do in a drug company," Ansani says.

She takes on three to four students a year, meeting with each up to four times a week to offer ample one-on-one teaching time. But independence is also a key characteristic of Ansani's rotation.

Wesley Hartman (PharmD '08), the student who nominated her for the award, calls Ansani "the single most influential person in my pharmacy career to date," adding, "she has never hesitated to go above and

beyond her boundaries for patients, students, [and] the profession."

"Rotations and the criteria that I set up will give them a full plate, but I love to encourage students without stressing them," she says. "They see, from a real-world setting, what their contributions can result in."

Although she would not trade her current job, Ansani says she is pleased to be able to continue working with students.

"It's really a win-win," she notes. "Students can have the opportunity to [step] outside the typical academic environment, and it allows somebody like me in an industry setting to keep my hands in education."

Preceptor of the Year winner wants students to learn by doing

From day one of a pharmacy student's rotation with Scott Drab (BS '89), hands-on patient care is the name of the game.

Drab, one of two winners of the 2008 Preceptor of the Year award, is an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics as well as director of University Diabetes Care Associates. To date, he has served as a preceptor for nearly 200 students, with no intention of slowing down.

That's good news for the students, who routinely praise

Drab's roll-up-the-sleeves approach to teaching. At his diabetes clinic, which has collaborative practice agreements with 39 physicians, students take full, supervised responsibility for patients so they can learn what it's like to be a practitioner.

Drab's mantra is that the practice of pharmaceutical care confers responsibility of the patients to the pharmacist.

"It's [the student's] responsibility to figure out what to do," Drab says. "Students are not sitting around. They have a pretty demanding patient load. Anyone who's looking for a cakewalk is not going to take this rotation."

Student response supports his approach.

"After three years of pharmacy school, I finally fully understood the definition of pharmaceutical care because I actively provided it every day," one student writes in an evaluation of Drab's rotation. "It was a great experience that showed me truly what a positive difference pharmaceutical care can make in disease state management."

For Drab, the prize is watching students move from theory to practice. "It's rewarding when students start to learn things and the light comes on, and they're an active participant in the overall process," he says.

Left to right:
Nicole Ansani
and Scott Drab

James Mastrian

Distinguished Alumnus 2008



Back when James P. Mastrian (BS '65) was in high school, one of his most respected teachers suggested a career in pharmacy. "Before that I was just like every student," he jokes. "I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up." He obviously made the right decision, because in the years since, Mastrian has climbed the pharmacy ladder with companies like Revco and Rite Aid, ultimately serving as Rite Aid's chief operating officer from 2005 to 2007.

Mastrian grew up in Farrell, near Sharon, Pa., about an hour away from what would become his future university. Beginning his prestigious career with an education at the University of Pittsburgh just made sense to Mastrian. "The School of Pharmacy has such a great reputation, and that quality education was exactly the foundation I needed as I advanced in my career," he explains. "Before my experiences at Pitt, I never even thought about the opportunities in retail pharmacy."

Mastrian originally was intrigued by opportunities in research, public health services, and large pharmaceutical companies. However, once he began to work in a community pharmacy while in school, he realized how much he liked it. "I enjoyed the interaction with patients and being such an important part of their lives," he recalls. Even before he received his pharmacy license, Mastrian knew that working within the community and creating a partnership between the pharmacist and his neighbors was the right place for him. He has never regretted changing his focus and continues to be passionate about community pharmacies and promoting the work that is done there.

Mastrian enjoyed everything about his days at the University of Pittsburgh and fondly remembers his professors. He smiles when he thinks about how hard he thought they were being on him, but always knew that they were providing him the best education possible. "I remember sitting in lectures and feeling as though I needed to use both hands to write everything that my professors were saying!" he says with a laugh. He also had a close relationship with legendary pharmacognosist Norman Farnsworth (PhD '59), the faculty advisor of Mastrian's fraternity.

Kenneth Liska, then a professor of medicinal chemistry at Pitt, also made an indelible imprint on this budding young pharmacist. "There were two of us who chose to take a special elective class with Dr. Liska during our fifth year of pharmacy school," Mastrian recalls. There Mastrian and his sole classmate enjoyed the intense hands-on experience they received in the lab and made some great discoveries, even if Liska only gave them a B. "He said we weren't serious enough!" Mastrian says with a laugh.

Mastrian also remembers enrolling in a life-changing biology class while at the University of Pittsburgh. It was there that he met the young woman who would one day become his wife, Nancy, when they were study partners. "We met at Pitt, dated all through school, got married, and have been married since," Mastrian happily explains. But, he makes sure to note, "She was always a much better pharmacist than I." Jim and Nancy (BS '65) have been married more than 40 years and have two children, daughter Noelle, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and son Shawn, in Austin, Texas.

While he has held various positions throughout his professional career, Mastrian feels that his greatest accomplishment has been being able to watch those around him achieve success. "I've always been proud to have brilliant and talented people working with me," he explains. "It's been wonderful to watch them learn and grow both personally and professionally over the years."

Mastrian wholeheartedly believes that the education he received at the University of Pittsburgh prepared him for the pharmacy path he has continued throughout his life. From providing a solid education, to helping him find his passion for working in community pharmacies, to being the place where he met his wife, Pitt has always been important to Mastrian. "Pitt offered me so many great opportunities and such a wonderful education," Mastrian says. "I'm always thankful that I chose Pitt. I can't imagine my life if I hadn't."



Nancy and Jim Mastrian

Gordon Vanscoy

Distinguished Alumnus 2008

Gordon J. Vanscoy (BS '84) grew up while the steel mills of Western Pennsylvania were bustling and saw many people his age choose to forge their futures there. But Vanscoy knew his parents had different aspirations for him. His parents always hoped to see at least one of their four children follow a professional career path. When he was in just the ninth grade, Gordon, the youngest, began applying to colleges—and the University of Pittsburgh was at the top of his list. “My dad had a special place in his heart for Pitt. He was passionate about my education,” Vanscoy recalls. Making his parents proud, he skipped his senior year of high school and started college at age 16.

When he began his studies at Pitt, Vanscoy’s thoughts leaned toward medicine. During his second year at Pitt, he became fascinated with clinical therapeutics and pursued a career in pharmacy. “I realized that my local pharmacist was the person who provided primary health care for our entire family,” he says. “Being able to help families intrigued me.” Vanscoy completed his studies at Pitt, obtained his PharmD from Duquesne University, then returned to the University of Pittsburgh as a faculty member. He was thrilled to be back at his alma mater. “Pitt is one of the leading

academic institutions,” he explains, “and I am proud to be a part of its con-tinued success.”

“When I came back to Pitt, I began a practice at the VA,” Vanscoy recalls. There he developed one of the country’s first anticoagulation services and obtained prescribing privileges, creating one of the region’s first prescribing clinics. His academic career evolved and included becoming the founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Drug Information and Pharmacoepidemiology Center.

Vanscoy has decades of executive experience in the health care industry creating and leading successful medical/pharmaceutical service business ventures including University Pharmacotherapy Associates, LLC; CVS ProCare; Bergen Brunswig Specialty Company; and others. He credits his father with teaching him much of his business acumen. “He was much more than a plumber,” Vanscoy says. “He gave me a feel for what was important in creating a successful livelihood.” Vanscoy is forever grateful to both his father and mother for supporting him and giving him a drive to succeed.

Vanscoy believes that one of his greatest achievements is being able to give back to the school that gave him his start. “It is amazing to pass along our good fortune and provide opportunities for others,”

he explains. Providing for the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Pharmaceutical Endowment and creating the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Fund for the White Coat Ceremony, Vanscoy and his wife, Bethann, impact the lives of current and future pharmacy students. Their most recent philanthropic milestone was the generous contribution of the Dr. Vanscoy J. Vanscoy Endowed Chair in the School of Pharmacy. “No matter where I’ve gone in my life and my career, I always felt a special tie with the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Pharmacy,” he explains, “and giving back to it and the students just seemed natural.”

Vanscoy’s family always has been instrumental in his life. He has been with Bethann since the two were in high school. “She has always been my partner, and I have never been closer to any other person in my entire life,” he says, beaming. They have two sons. The oldest watched as his father attended pharmacy school and produced business ventures. “He really got into the business side of things,” Vanscoy explains. While Vanscoy’s son definitely has a special place in his heart for Pitt, he is attending the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University, within sight of Pitt’s Cathedral of Learning in Oakland. Vanscoy’s youngest son is in high school in Naples, Fla., where the Vanscoys reside.

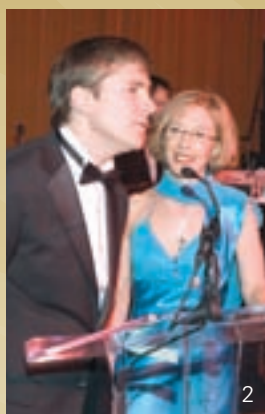
With Vanscoy’s parents instilling him with a drive to succeed, the University of Pittsburgh has benefited from his decision to pass along those life lessons to the students at Pitt. Through his and his family’s commitment to giving back, the future for hard-working, driven pharmacy students looks bright.



The Vanscoy family: Gannon, Bethann, Gordon, and Gordon Jr.

Photographic Memories

RxTravaganza Gala 2008: A Night on the Town



To see more photos from RxTravaganza Gala 2008, visit
www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/about/gala/about.html



See page 31 for captions.

Pennsylvania Project Secures Funding for Next Stage



Pennsylvania Project participants, standing, left to right: Elizabeth Coast-Senior, Duquesne University; Susan Meyer, University of Pittsburgh; Charles Ruchalski, Temple University; Adam Welch (PharmD '03), Wilkes University; Robert Maher Jr. (BS '93, PharmD '97), Duquesne University; Daniel Hummon, University of Pittsburgh; and Janice Pringle, University of Pittsburgh. Seated, left to right: Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98), University of Pittsburgh; Abby Kahaleh, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy; Katherine Koffer (BS '81), University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Pa.; Annette Boyer (BS '81), CECity.com, Inc.; and Cynthia Sanoski, Thomas Jefferson University.

In 2007, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy launched an ambitious initiative in collaboration with six other schools of pharmacy in Pennsylvania, titled the Pennsylvania Project. The goal of the Pennsylvania Project is to engage pharmacists, especially those serving as preceptors, in the provision of comprehensive medication therapy management (MTM) to patients across the commonwealth.

Many pharmacists are interested in providing advanced care to their patients but have questions about how to realistically initiate such a practice in their community. The Pennsylvania Project addresses this problem by training pharmacists to evaluate their current resources in their community. In doing so, they learn to engage both physicians and patients in

providing comprehensive evaluation, education, and management of drug therapy. The underlying goal is to enhance communication between pharmacists, physicians, and patients to ultimately enhance patient health outcomes.

The first phase of the Pennsylvania Project, development of the training, was made possible by a \$250,000 investment from the DSF Charitable Foundation. Now, thanks to additional support from several charitable foundations, pharmaceutical companies, and community pharmacies, the Pennsylvania Project will be able to deliver the training to pharmacists.

The fundraising drive for the Pennsylvania Project's second phase was sparked by an offer of \$125,000 from the DSF Charitable Foundation if the School of Pharmacy could match that

amount. To secure this generous gift, the school approached several of its partners in industry and the community for help. Two of the school's corporate partners, AstraZeneca and Pfizer Inc., made a tremendous impact by providing 80 percent of the matching funds. Two community residents, Stephanie Harriman (PharmD '07, resident '07-'08) and Gladys Garcia (resident '07-'08), received grant funding for their research projects from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation. The remainder was secured through the generosity of several community pharmacies.

Building upon this success, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy decided to seek additional funding to further the reach of the Pennsylvania Project. In June 2008, the Highmark Foundation made an incredibly generous pledge of more than \$175,000 to support the Pennsylvania Project. "We are so appreciative of the grant support from the Highmark Foundation," says Assistant Professor and Project Director Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98). "This grant support will allow us to reach pharmacists in the 49 counties in Pennsylvania where Highmark has coverage, an area that includes 1,720 community pharmacies and over 7,000 licensed pharmacists. This will greatly enhance our efforts to expand the capacity of pharmacists across our state to provide MTM to patients in need."



The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy welcomes the Class of 2012 (108 first-year professional students) to the PharmD program. The diverse class comes from eight states and 17 different undergraduate institutions, including 83 percent from the University of Pittsburgh.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy currently ranks first among the schools of the University in memberships to the Pitt Alumni Association and in alumni engagement. Of the 4,567 alumni, 40.38 percent (up 3.84 percent from last year) were engaged with the school in some way. The term "engagement" includes contributing to the University and participating in events.

Fifty of the school's preceptors attended the second annual preceptor program and dinner, which provided an opportunity to recognize preceptors for their valuable contributions to the school's educational program. A one-hour continuing education program, Promoting Learning Through Experience, was presented to orient the preceptors to the

school's experiential learning program and enhance their teaching skills. The event was held at the Twentieth Century Club in January 2008.

The School of Pharmacy has been nominated as one of the top three national finalists for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy inaugural award recognizing a college or school of pharmacy for transformative community service. The award recognizes commitment to addressing unmet community needs in ways that go well beyond the traditional service role of academic pharmacy. On-site visits and program summary reviews will be conducted during the fall, and the national winner will be announced in November 2008.

Thomas Waters, director of pharmacy informatics, received a Virtual Learning Prize from the New Media Consortium (NMC) for his proposal, "Measuring Heart Rate and How Medications Affect Heart Rate." The purpose of this project is to create a simulated body with a beating heart. The basics created with this simulation will be used by students taking the Acute Care Pharmacotherapy Simulation course, taught by Amy Seybert (BS '94, PharmD '96), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. Waters and Seybert have been collaborating on the development of virtual tools for pharmacy education. The NMC Virtual Learning Prize recognizes creative ideas for making optimal use of the virtual setting.

Our Faculty

New faculty members include **Donna Huryn**, research professor of pharmaceutical sciences; **Lauren Jonkman**, instructor of pharmacy and therapeutics; and **Thomas Nolin** (PharmD '99, PhD '03), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

Yong Tae Kwon and **Samuel Poloyac** (BS '93) were promoted to the rank of associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences with tenure. **Joanne Kowiatek** (BS '77), pharmacy manager of medication patient safety at UPMC Presbyterian, was promoted to adjunct assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

Billy Day, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a grant award from the National Institutes of Health for "HTS Assays for Microtubule Stabilizers." The goal of this project is to transfer a cell-based screening method that

provides rich data to a Molecular Library Screening Center.

Kim Coley (BS '87), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was a featured special guest at the University's Women in Medicine and Science Reception that was held in April 2008. The reception, which celebrated the outstanding achievements of women faculty in medicine and sciences, was sponsored by the University's Office of Academic Career Development, Health Sciences. Coley was recognized for being elected as a fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Kerry Empey, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received a two-year appointment as one of the University of Pittsburgh's multidisciplinary clinical research scholars, a prestigious group of scholars whose goal is to

develop new clinical and translational research. This career-development award program is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Empey is one of only two scholars to be named outside the School of Medicine.

Bonnie Falcione, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, and **Amy Seybert** (BS '94, PharmD '96), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, were recipients of two of the eight Innovation in Education awards from the University's Office of the Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence and will receive funding for their proposals. Falcione's proposal is titled "Development and Systematic Evaluation of Rubrics to Assess Value of Student Wiki Contributions in Collaborative Case-based Learning." The purpose of the project is to develop a method to evaluate individual

The Gary P. Stoehr Pharmacy Scholars Award

Gary P. Stoehr (BS '73), former associate dean for assessment and curricular outcomes, recently accepted a new position as the founding dean of D'Youville College School of Pharmacy in July 2008. Stoehr has left a lasting legacy at our school in so many ways as a student, faculty member, and donor. It is in honor of Stoehr's dedication and commitment to the School of Pharmacy, through his 29 years as a faculty member and his support of student scholarships through the Carl and Virginia Stoehr Scholarship fund, that the School of Pharmacy established the Gary P. Stoehr Pharmacy Scholars Award.

The purpose of this newly endowed fund is to support

projects that will enrich the learning and teaching experiences of students and faculty members through collaboration on educational projects. Each year, the dean or the dean's designee will grant the scholars awards from this fund to support collaborative work between faculty and students.

If you would like to make a donation to the Gary P. Stoehr Pharmacy Scholars Award or the Carl and Virginia Stoehr Scholarship Fund, please send contributions to the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, c/o Lawney Snyder, Director of Development, Suite 1100 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.



Gary P. Stoehr

Our Faculty

student contributions to group work using Wiki, an Internet-based document archiving program, for collaboration on patient care group projects. The goal of Seybert's project, "Simulation-based Learning and Online Learning to Enhance Problem-solving Skills in Acute Care Pharmacotherapy," is to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by using human-patient simulation.

Maggie Folan (PhD '03), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received funding from Novo Nordisk to develop a clinical research network focused on type 2 diabetes in the Pittsburgh area.

The community and ambulatory pharmacy group received a grant award from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores for "Analysis of Physician-identified Medication-related Needs in the Community: Opportunities for Pharmacist-provided Medication Therapy Management."

Stephanie Harriman (PharmD '07 and resident '07-'08) is the principal investigator; co-investigators are **Gladys Garcia** (resident '07-'08), **Randall Smith**, senior associate dean, **Janice Pringle**, research assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, and **Melissa Somma McGivney** (PharmD '98), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. This project will investigate how pharmacists can best work with physicians to integrate medication therapy management services into the community.

Randy Juhl, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, former dean of the School of Pharmacy, and senior vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance, has been honored by being named to the special faculty rank of Distinguished Service Professor of Pharmacy. This rank constitutes the highest honor that the University can accord a member of the professoriate and honors Juhl's distinctive contributions and outstanding service to the University community in support of its multifaceted teaching, research, and service mission.

Students of the school's Alpha Omicron chapter of the Rho Chi Society selected two faculty members as award recipients at the annual Rho Chi Society and Phi Lambda Sigma dinner and induction ceremony in March 2008.

Sandra Kane-Gill, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award.

Michael Shullo (BS '95, PharmD '97), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received the Innovation in Teaching Award.

Edward Krenzelok, professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received a five-year renewal of his board certification as a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology.

Patricia Kroboth (MS '80, PhD '83), dean, received the University at Buffalo (N.Y.) School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Alumni Association's 2008 Willis G. Gregory Memorial Award. The award recognized her as a pharmacy alumnus of the school who personifies the ideals of service and integrity as well as dignifies the profession of pharmacy in the eyes of her associates.

Yong Li, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a National Institutes of Health grant award for "Mechanistic Studies of Ligand-regulated Nuclear Receptor RXR Activity." This project addresses a critical need in current nuclear receptor research by providing three-dimensional structures of the multidomain retinoid X receptor bound to its target genes. Studies will reveal detailed insights on how drug specificity and affinity can be improved.

Dexi Liu, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a National Institutes of Health grant award for "Image-guided Hydrodynamic Gene Delivery" to develop new technology for safe, target-specific, efficient gene delivery for gene therapy. In the proposed study, hydrodynamic gene delivery will be combined with an image-guided catheter insertion technique to demonstrate site-specific gene delivery to validate the new injection device.

Susan Meyer, associate dean for education and professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, spoke on "Pioneering New Approaches in Interprofessional Education" at the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research annual conference in Austin, Texas, in February 2008.

Karen Pater, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, is one of eight pharmacists throughout the region to receive a Pharmacy Agents for Change Fellowship, supported by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, to show how expanding the role of clinical pharmacists in medication management and administration can improve safety

Our Faculty

and quality of care for patients and possibly reduce costs. Pater will attempt to prevent polypharmacy in patients at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Comprehensive Lung Center by ensuring that eligible patients receive medication therapy management services.

Brian Potoski (PharmD '99), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received added qualifications to his existing board certified pharmacotherapy specialist designation. Currently, there are fewer than 60 board-certified pharmacists in the nation who are recognized as having added qualifications in infectious diseases.

Ty Ridenour, research associate professor, was awarded a grant jointly supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. This project will create a personal digital assistant version of Ridenour's ALEXSA assessment for children, ages 8–13. This format will permit ALEXSA to be used in a broad range of applied settings, such as schools.

Susan Skledar (BS '88), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was named a fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

The team of **Randall Smith**, senior associate dean; **Karen Pater**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics; **Janice Pringle**, research assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics; and **Margie Snyder** (PharmD '06), community practice research fellow, has been chosen by the Health Resources and Services Administration as members of a team to participate in the Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative.

They join Broad Top Area Medical Center, McCahan's Pharmacy, and Saxton Station Pharmacy as the only team from Pennsylvania to participate in the collaborative, a national effort to bring together health care provider teams from throughout the United States to learn how to replicate and test best practices among organizations serving uninsured and underserved patients.

Gary Stoehr (BS '73), former associate dean for assessment and curricular outcomes, assumed the position of founding dean of the School of Pharmacy at D'Youville College, located in Buffalo, N.Y., on July 1, 2008.

Raman Venkataramanan, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is the chair-elect of the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Drug Metabolism (PPDM) Section of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. The PPDM Section provides an international forum to examine issues related to the biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug metabolism and transport of pharmaceutical products and therapies.



Wen Xie with Dean Patricia Kroboth

Wen Xie, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has recently received two prestigious awards: the 2008 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award in the junior scholar category and the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (ISSX) 2008 North American New Investigator Award. ISSX is an international society that facilitates and encourages the assemblage, acquaintanceship, and the association of scientists engaged in research in xenobiotic metabolism and other related disciplines.

Our Students

Graduate students **Jennifer Bonner** and **Nisanne Ghonem** received T32 predoctoral fellowships from the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The fellowships are funded by the National Institutes of Health. Bonner's fellowship was renewed for a second year, and her research focuses on the changes in intestinal first-pass metabolism of orally administered drugs after intestinal transplantation and how this correlates with intestinal CYP3A4/5 and transporter genotype and protein expression in the first six months after transplant. Ghonem will explore the ability of an investigational agent to protect against ischemic-induced hepatic injury.

Eric Gardner (P2) was selected to participate in the Carolina Summer Fellowship Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The program is designed to give students planning a career in the biomedical sciences the opportunity to conduct research under the direction of a research pharmacologist.

Several graduate students were presented with awards at the annual PhD dinner and awards banquet in spring 2008: **Nisanne Ghonem** received the Randy and Renée Juhl Pharmacy Graduate Scholar Award, **Jung Hoon Lee** received the Graduate Student Excellence Award, and **Shashikanth Sriram** received the Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award.

Jimmy Gill (P3) and **Zachary Snyder** (P2) received scholarships in recognition of their work with the Student National Pharmaceutical Association conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in

August 2008. Gill was awarded the Walgreens Student Pharmacist Excellence Scholarship, which recognizes student pharmacists who demonstrate patient care advocacy in their communities. Snyder received a book scholarship from the National Pharmaceutical Association Foundation.

Jennifer Hantz (P2) was selected for the summer aging research program offered by the University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging and the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy. This short-term training offers an opportunity to generate enthusiasm for a career in multidisciplinary aging research and learn the basics of research methods.

Kenya Kamimura, postdoctoral fellow who works in the lab of Dexi Liu, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was selected to receive the Excellence in Research and travel awards by the American Society of Gene Therapy (ASGT). His abstract, "Image-guided Hydrodynamic Gene Delivery to Pig Liver," was selected as one of the top seven submitted by a postdoctoral fellow or student for ASGT's 11th annual meeting in May 2008 in Boston, Mass.

Yardlee Kauffman (P3) and **Julie Lauffenburger** (P3) received scholarships for the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, sponsored by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research. Through the program, they attended a three-day leadership symposium in June 2008 in Washington, D.C., with 48 other health professional students nationwide, which provided education in public health and health policy development.



Students and residents traveled to Harrisburg, Pa., to attend Legislative Day, an annual event promoting the profession of pharmacy to members of the state Senate and House of Representatives. Students met with legislators and staff to discuss critical issues for the profession. Seated, left to right: Amanda Simpson (P3), Jovonne Jones (P4), and Gregory Wolfe (P4). Standing, left to right: Gretchen Kreckel (P4), Paula Egyed (P4), Shannon McLaughlin (P4), Thomas Quinn (P4), Christopher Antypas (P4), Patrick Pugliese (P2), Stephanie Harriman (PharmD '07, resident '07-'08), and Gladys Garcia (resident '07-'08).

Julie Lauffenburger (P3) was selected as one of the 27 U.S. pharmacy students to participate in the 2008 International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Student Exchange Program. Through this program, she spent four weeks in May at the Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Hadera, Israel, directly observing and participating in clinical pharmacy practice and drug information services, along with Israeli pharmacy students and faculty.

Students **Gretchen Kreckel** (P4), **Amanda Simpson** (P3), and **Marilyn Torch** (P4) represented Pitt in the second annual National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations-Non-prescription Medicines Academy Student Pharmacist Self-care Championship. The competition was held during the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Midyear Conference in February 2008. The team placed second out of the six pharmacy colleges and schools in the competition.



Katherine Kingston (P3) accepts the Project CHANCE award presented to the school's American Pharmacists Association (APhA)-Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter at the APhA annual meeting in March 2008.

P1 = Class of 2012
P2 = Class of 2011
P3 = Class of 2010
P4 = Class of 2009

Our Students



Jeremy Stultz (P3),
Big East/Aeropostale
Male Scholar-Athlete
of the Year

All-America diver **Jeremy Stultz** (P3) was named the 2007–08 Big East/Aeropostale Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He also received the National Collegiate Athletic Association Winter Postgraduate Scholarship. Stultz, the captain of the Pitt men's swimming and diving team for the past two years, is a two-time Big East Diver of the Year and a four-time Big East champion.

Matthew Sapko (P4) was one of nine recipients nationwide to be awarded the American Pharmacists Association Foundation Boyle Family Scholarship for Region 2. He was recognized for his extracurricular activities,

evidence of leadership, commitment to community service, and academic achievements.

PhD candidate **Alexandra Sassi** received a scholarship from the Microbicides Conference to present her research at the 2008 biannual international Microbicides Conference in New Delhi, India, in February 2008. She presented two research projects: an oral presentation titled "RC-101 Characterization, Formulation, and Tissue Localization" and a poster presentation titled "Characterization of Potential Degradation Pathways for PSC-RANTES."

Robert Snyder (P4) won the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Outstanding Student Member Award for his dedication to the local NCPA chapter and independent community pharmacy practice.

Jasmine Talameh (PharmD '08) was selected to receive the 2008 Rho Chi, Schering Plough, American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education First-Year Graduate Scholarship for her high level of motivation for graduate study and her research productivity. One scholarship is awarded annually, and this is the second time in three years that one of Pitt's students has won.

Our Residents

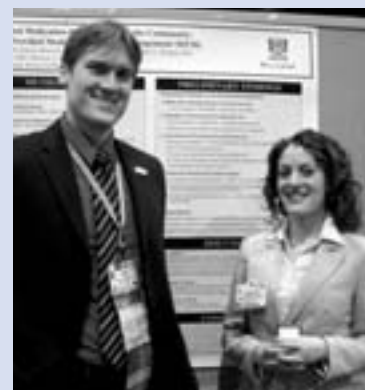
Erik Abel (resident '07–'08) received an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' grant for "A Clinical Outcomes Comparison Between Direct Thrombin Inhibitors (DTI) for the Management of Heparin-induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) in Patients Receiving Hemodialysis." The purpose of the study is to compare the triple composite endpoint (bleeding, thromboembolic event, and mortality) for DTIs and fondaparinux in hemodialysis patients with HIT/HITTS in a real-world setting. Abel was mentored by **Sandra Kane-Gill** and **Amy Seybert**, associate professors of pharmacy and therapeutics.

The community and ambulatory pharmacy group received a grant award from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores for "Analysis of Physician-identified Medication-related Needs in the Community: Opportunities for Pharmacist-provided Medication

Therapy Management (MTM)." **Stephanie Harriman** (PharmD '07, resident '07–'08) is the principal investigator. Co-investigators are **Gladys Garcia** (resident '07–'08); **Randall Smith**, senior associate dean; **Janice Pringle**, research assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics; and **Melissa Somma McGivney** (PharmD '98), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. This project will investigate how pharmacists can best work with physicians to integrate MTM services into the community.

Stacey Lavsa (PharmD '07), second-year resident with a specialty in drug information, won a \$5,000 scholarship for a postgraduate student from Wolters Kluwer Health. Lavsa was selected on the basis of academic achievement, scholarly activities, and professional attributes. Only one scholarship is given nationally each year.

Jeffrey Little, pharmacy practice management resident, was named to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists New Practitioners Forum as a member of the 2008–09 Communications and Public Affairs Advisory Group.



Adam Welch (PharmD '03), assistant professor at Wilkes University School of Pharmacy, and Stephanie Harriman (PharmD '07, resident '07–'08) discuss Harriman's research project at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Midyear Conference.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my honor and pleasure to serve our alumni as the president of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Alumni Society for the 2008–09 school year. I began my participation in the alumni society in 1997 as a student representative and have since served on both the Board at Large and the executive committee. Through my many interactions with our alumni, I have never seen a more active and supportive group. I'm not the only one who has noticed this. The University of Pittsburgh has again recognized the School of Pharmacy as having the most alumni engagement of any alumni society within the University. Congratulations to our alumni for this outstanding achievement.

I want to thank the alumni for not only sharing your professional talents with our students but also for your generous financial support. Whether teaching as a guest lecturer, participating in the career roundtables, or serving as a student preceptor, our alumni are such an integral part of the students' education. Each opportunity to network with alumni opens the door to new experiences for the students. Alumni financial support also has been key to the growth of the School of Pharmacy and for student financial support. A School of Pharmacy Alumni Society endowed scholarship fund has been created to provide much-needed support for students, allowing them to continue their studies at our school, as well as internationally. The alumni society, along with the students, would like to sincerely thank the alumni for providing both professional and financial support. It is your commitment and



Iny Marks (PharmD '00), Alumni Society board president

generosity that will ensure the continued success of the School of Pharmacy.

Please check the alumni Web site (www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni) for information on upcoming alumni society events. These events include the career expo, the career roundtable event, and the scholarship golf outing. Of course, make sure you mark your calendars now for the School of Pharmacy RxTravaganza Gala on Saturday, May 30, 2009, where you can reconnect with classmates and faculty and dance the night away.

Thank you also to the members of the alumni society board for their time, involvement, and dedication to the School of Pharmacy. If you have been thinking about getting more involved in the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society, then don't let another day go by. We have several opportunities for alumni to become involved with both the society and the school. We sincerely hope that you will join us and give back to the School of Pharmacy. Whether it be through time, talent, or financial support, we appreciate everything that you give. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events throughout the year.

Our Alumni



Top to bottom:
James McAuley,
Timothy Davis,
Kushal Shah, and
Manita Singh

Class of 1958



Standing, left to right: Ronald Macosko, Thomas Wajert, Anthony Geraci, Virginia Madden Dunst, Robert Halliday, Joel Roman, William Tranick, Richard Urbani, James Lamport, Harry Kerr, and James Himes. Seated, left to right: Henry Derewicz, Samuel Manuel, A. Leonard Bernstein, Adele Roman, Thelma Gill, Elizabeth Watters Kerr, Frank Stroker, and Robert Simpson. Present but not pictured: William C. Miller, Ethel Baran Ritzman, and George Morrell. The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy thanks the Class of 1958 for exceeding its goal by making a generous gift of \$3,200 to the Dr. Joseph A. Bianculli Pharmacy Award Fund.

James McAuley (BS '87, PhD '93) received the Preceptor of the Year Award at the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, where he is associate professor of pharmacy practice and neurology.

Timothy Davis (PharmD '00) was recognized by the Pitt Alumni Association as the 2008 recipient of the Ivan and Mary Novick Award for Young Alumni Leadership. Davis joined the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society board in 2003. He is a member of the golf outing committee, planning and fundraising for the event and playing the role of charity auctioneer. He also served on the fundraising committee for the school's RxTravaganza Gala 2008: A Night on the Town. Owner of Beaver Health Mart Pharmacy in Beaver, Pa., Davis has worked with

students to prepare them for community practice, sharing with them his extensive knowledge.

After 47 years in the business, **Salvatore Gaetano** (BS '54) sold his Bethel Park, Pa., pharmacy. **Adam Rice** (PharmD '00) and **Kevin McCaffrey** (PharmD '01) took over the reins from Gaetano in May 2008. Gaetano will continue to work at reduced hours for the new owners. Last year, Gaetano was named Pharmacist of the Year by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association and given the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Pitt School of Pharmacy.

Jeffrey Markovitz (BS '78) recently retired and sold his pharmacy (Dierkens Pharmacy in Monongahela, Pa.) after owning it for 25 years.

Kushal Shah (PharmD '04) is the clinical outreach coordinator for CVS/pharmacy in Locust Grove, Va., and is the liaison between the CVS/pharmacy corporate immunization program and the regional immunization network. Shah develops clinical outreach activities for the CVS/pharmacy summer intern program and provides health care education and screenings to several senior communities.

Manita Singh (PharmD '06), after completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship program at Sanofi-Aventis, transitioned to a medical science liaison position with Boehringer Ingelheim. She will be covering Southern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio in her new role.

Our Alumni

Jack Tighe (BS '78), president and chief executive officer of TMG Health, received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2008 Award in the Philadelphia, Pa., region. The award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs on a regional, national, and global level who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in areas such as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. TMG Health, located in suburban Philadelphia, provides a variety of administrative services to the Medicare and Medicaid health plan markets.

Krista Voytilla (PharmD '98) helped launch the medical oncology department at the Shaw Regional Cancer Center, located in the Vail Valley of Colorado, in 2005. She was awarded the Clinical Excellence Award in fall 2007 at the Vail Valley Medical Center. Voytilla became a board-certified oncology pharmacist in 2007.

The University of Pittsburgh African American Alumni Council has established a School of Pharmacy affiliate group. This group is dedicated to the needs of pharmacy alumni as well as the recruitment, scholarship, and retention of students belonging to the African diaspora. We ask all interested School of Pharmacy alumni to please contact **Iris Gill** (PharmD '01) at 703-327-6835 or gillrx@verizon.net.



Welcome to our newest alumni.



Vadim Gazarov, on behalf of the PharmD Class of 2008, presents Dean Patricia Kroboth with a painting for the School of Pharmacy titled, "Student of Chemistry and Pharmacy."

Donors Honor Those Who Have Touched Their Lives

Something unites the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's newest major scholarship donors, although what that is may be difficult to determine at first glance. A reasonable first guess would be to say that each of them worked at one time or another in the field of health care. Another would be to assume that they are either alumni of Pitt or related to an alumnus. While true, these facts are not what unite them.

What truly unites Sara Jane Goode, Bob and Sharon Ryan, Charles R. (BS '63) and Georgie Blackburn, and Loyal Moore (BS '53) is the way in which they chose to give back to the School of Pharmacy. All of these donors chose to establish a scholarship in honor of one or more people who had made a remarkable impact on their lives.

When Sharon Goode Ryan was a child growing up in Pittsburgh's Hill District, young African American pharmacists were not permitted to train in pharmacies owned by Whites. Racism in the lending industry only exacerbated the challenges these young pharmacists faced, as few African Americans were able to secure the financing necessary to open a pharmacy.

For these reasons, Goode's Pharmacy, owned and operated by Sharon's father, William Goode (BS '28), became a mecca for young African American men and women who were on the threshold of their pharmacy careers. "My father felt that it was the community that had given him his livelihood," Sharon recalls. "Helping these young men and women to achieve their goals was his way of giving back."

Upon William Goode's death in 1995 at the age of 88, Sharon's mother, Sara Jane Goode, established a scholarship in her husband's name here at the School of Pharmacy, his alma mater. In 2008, Sharon and her husband, Bob Ryan, a former chief financial officer of Medtronic, Inc., made an exceptionally generous gift to expand her family's scholarship. Their wish is to continue William Goode's legacy of helping aspiring young African American pharmacists to achieve their goals.

Like Sharon, Charles R. Blackburn's father owned a neighborhood pharmacy. Charles Edward Blackburn graduated from the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh on June 10, 1931. After three years of travel, Blackburn Sr. accepted a managerial position at Central Drug Store in Tarentum, Pa.

Betty Howard Brenneman Leaves \$1 Million to the School of Pharmacy



In June 2008, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy received a bequest in the amount of \$1 million. It was a gift from Betty Howard Brenneman (BS '42) who, sadly, had passed away in December 2006. Brenneman had been a supporter of the School of Pharmacy almost her entire life, but this time her generosity far exceeded everyone's expectations.

Upon graduating, Betty had moved with her sister to New York, N.Y., to work as a pharmacist. Not long after, on a train ride home to Emporium, Pa., she met a tall, handsome Penn State graduate and U.S. Marine named David

Elmer Brenneman. The two were soon married.

Betty and David traveled extensively throughout their lives. According to friend Carol Borman, "There were few places in the world they didn't visit." Today, David's nieces fondly remember the exotic gifts from faraway places and glamorous stores that their aunt and uncle would bring back for them.

Life may have taken Brenneman across the world, but her heart always remained at Pitt. Prior to Penn State's exit from the Big East, marriages between alumni from the two schools were always fraught with turmoil

during football season, and the Brennemans were no exception. David's godson, Gary Borman, recalls Betty being overjoyed when Pitt shut out Penn State in the final game of the series in 2000. "Betty could be heard cheering wildly," he said, "while Dave pouted."

Betty and David, who passed away in 2004, had long expressed their desire to establish a legacy at the School of Pharmacy. Their incredibly generous gift has made that possible. The David and Betty Brenneman Endowment will forever provide the support needed to ensure that our students always exceed expectations.



Left to right: Recent scholarship donors Bob and Sharon Ryan, Charles R. (BS '63) and Georgie Blackburn, and (below) Loyal Moore (BS '53).

He opened Blackburn's Physicians Pharmacy soon after Central Drug Store was destroyed during a devastating flood on St. Patrick's Day 1936. Since then it has been a neighborhood institution. Blackburn Sr. called it the Allegheny Valley's "first truly professional pharmacy." Throughout his career, Blackburn Sr. tried to distance his business from the image of the discount and chain stores that sold everything. At the time, his business model for a pharmacy was quite an exception. It was well into the '70s before independent pharmacies gravitated to a more professional image that included consultations and medical product departments.

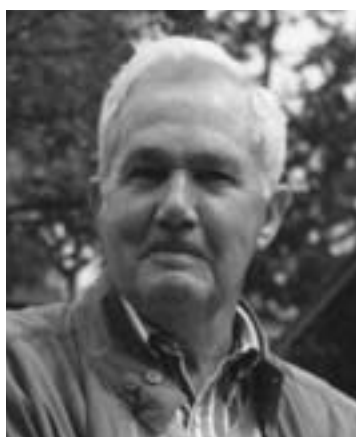
Today, Blackburn's has grown into a regional pharmaceutical and medical products company with operations in Cleveland, Ohio; Erie, Pa.; Pittsburgh; and Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y. This transformation began when Blackburn Sr.'s son, Charles R. Blackburn, and a new partner took over the management of the business. It continues today with Blackburn Sr.'s grandson, a third-generation pharmacist, as part of the management team.

The Charles Edward Blackburn Pharmacy Scholarship, established by his son, will stand as an enduring tribute to his father's sense of innovation and his commitment to serving the community.

Loyal Moore's scholarship is not named for a family member; he chose to honor a pair of dear friends. Bill Walther (BS '53) was Moore's roommate and closest friend during his time at the School of Pharmacy. Just prior to his fourth year, Walther married fellow pharmacy student Joann Gustafson (BS '53). Moore fondly remembers spending evenings with his wife, Marjorie, and the couple. "When we weren't studying, we were playing pinochle."

Sadly, both Bill and Joann Walther died young, in 1967 and 1970, respectively, leaving two young daughters. One of them, Kathleen Walther Cooley, eventually graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 1979.

Moore went on to work for Ciba (now Novartis), then Group Health Cooperative, a consumer-governed, nonprofit health care system based in Seattle, Wash. He is now enjoying retirement



at his homes on Puget Sound in Washington and in Tucson, Ariz. Still, the memory of his friends has stayed with him. He always knew he would want to make a gift in their name when it became possible. It finally did in June 2008, when he established the Loyal D. Moore Scholarship in Memory of William and Joann Walther.

If you are interested in learning more about scholarship support or other ways to give to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, contact Lawton Snyder at 412-624-3545 or las63@pitt.edu.

Rite Aid Foundation Renews Support for Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program



Lauren Fields Jonkman (PharmD '06) and student Julian Hunt (P3) discuss prescription medication with a patient at the Grace Lamsam program located on Pittsburgh's South Side.

In June 2008, the Rite Aid Foundation generously renewed its support for the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program, which provides medication therapy management services to homeless and low-income individuals in the city of Pittsburgh. Thanks to the Rite Aid Foundation's support, Sharon Connor, the program's director, and her staff of pharmacy residents can continue to provide care for underserved patients living with hypertension and diabetes.

The Grace Lamsam Program serves approximately 5,500 patients and dispenses more than 4,000 prescriptions each year to people who would otherwise receive little or no care. Many of the patients are from minority populations, and at least 20 percent are Latino. Almost all of the program's patients are uninsured.

The impact of the program on the lives of these patients cannot be overstated. One Rite Aid community practice pharmacy resident recalls a woman who came to the clinic hoping to obtain

diabetes testing supplies. After speaking with her, the resident discovered that the woman was starting to lose her vision. Finally, through tears, the woman admitted that she had a daughter in her early 20s who was also diabetic but did not have health insurance. Unable to watch as her daughter's illness progressed, the woman had risked her own health by giving her insulin and testing supplies to her daughter. "We helped her to obtain her insulin, as well as testing supplies," the resident recalls, "and asked her to bring her daughter in so that we could help her, too. She was incredibly grateful and thankful for our help."

Connor says outcomes such as these are only possible because of the generous support the program receives from the Rite Aid Foundation and other donors. She hopes more people will become aware of the pressing need to support programs that treat the uninsured and underserved.

In Memory Fund

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy In Memory Award was established by the school in 2005 to provide a deserving pharmacy student with an award in memory of all alumni, families, or friends whose memorial gifts have come to the School of Pharmacy. Gifts have been made to this endowment in memory of:

Name	Year Gift Established
Kim Lawren Reighard (BS '76)	2006
Samuel P. Conte (BS '41)	2006
Eilene Strauchler Liepack (EDUC '57)	2006
Margaret Madarasz Gerson (BS '52)	2006
Fred G. Gatto	2007
Janet Ball	2007
Carmen Muro	2007
Matthew O. Pecht	2007
Brian Haugh (BS '98)	2007
James C. Meisner (BS '48)	2008
Gerald Paulice	2008
Ethel M. Ritzman (BS '58)	2008

Bowl of Hygeia Carved Wood Finials

SNAPSHOT FROM
PHARMACY'S PAST

Two carved wood finials of the Bowl of Hygeia were donated to the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum by the late Harry Bonchosky (BS '40). These finials, dating back to the 1920s, were in Blumenschein's Pharmacy in Hopwood, Pa., near Uniontown. They have rested atop the drugstore cabinets in the museum for 12 years, their beauty nearly hidden from sight.

That beauty had been long recognized, however, by Dean Patricia Kroboth. Since the remodeling of the 11th floor of the School of Pharmacy, each stands magnificently on a pedestal at an entrance to the deans' conference room.

The Bowl of Hygeia, universally depicted as a bowl with a serpent wrapped around it, has a storied history involving Greek mythology. The goddess Hygeia was the daughter of Aesculapius, the god of healing and medicine. She was responsible for maintaining the temples containing these serpents and often was pictured with a serpent around her arm and a bowl in her hand.

Having been used as an emblem during the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the founding of the University of Padua in 1922, the Bowl of Hygeia is believed to have been a symbol for

the apothecaries in Italy in 1222. As a symbol of the profession, finials often were found over the partitions separating the prescription area from the remainder of the drugstore.

Stan Jonas (BS '51), museum curator, noted that although they appear identical, on closer examination, the two finials in the deans' conference room have subtle differences between them.

Source: *PITTPharmacy* magazine, fall 1998



Finials donated by the late Harry Bonchosky (BS '40) enhance the decor of the deans' conference room.



Close-up of finial's detailed carvings

Upcoming Events

December 8, 2008

Reception for Alumni and Friends
at the American Society of
Health-System Pharmacists
Midyear Meeting

January 30, 2009

Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy
White Coat Ceremony

February 2009

Career Roundtable

March 18, 2009

The 53rd Annual
Julius A. Koch Lecture
Gary R. Matzke
"The Pharmacist Factor in
Health Promotion and Patient
Management"

April 2009

Scholarship Tea

April 14, 2009

Distinguished Lecture Series
Leona D. Samson
"Complex Biological Responses
to DNA Damaging Agents"

April 21, 2009

Distinguished Lecture Series
G. Robert Pettit
"From Naturally Occurring
Compounds to the Clinic"

April 26, 2009

Graduation and
Hooding Ceremony

May 30, 2009

RxTravaganza Gala 2009:
This Magic Moment

June 12, 2009

School of Pharmacy
Scholarship Golf Invitational

A full calendar of events can be found on the school's Web site:

www.pharmacy.pitt.edu



In the mid-1930s, a young Joseph Koslow was the beneficiary of an extraordinary act of kindness that afforded him the opportunity to attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. To pay it forward, Joseph (BS '38) and his wife, Joan, made a significant gift to the school through their will.

To date, their generosity has given 38 students that same educational opportunity and also provided funds to establish the first endowed chair in pharmacogenetics in a school of pharmacy.

**MAKE YOUR MARK AT THE
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**
Consider making a planned gift to the school

For information, please contact Lawton Snyder,
director of development, at 412-624-3545.
To read more about planned giving at the University of
Pittsburgh, go to www.pitt.planyourlegacy.org.

The School of Pharmacy Web site is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with all that is happening at the school.
We invite you to visit the Web site at **www.pharmacy.pitt.edu**.

TELL US ABOUT YOU!

Please send us information about your career advancements, papers presented, honors received, appointments, and further education. We'll include your news in the Alumni section as space allows. Photos are welcome. Please print clearly.

Name: _____

Degree and Year of Graduation: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: _____

Position(s): _____

News: _____

Let us know if you belonged to any of the following student organizations. Please check all that apply.

- Kappa Psi Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS)
 Phi Delta Chi (PDC) Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS)
 Rho Chi, Alpha Omicron Chapter

Please complete and return to:
University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy
PITTPharmacy, Attn.: Laraine Kuchma
Suite 1100 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261
Phone: 412-648-3304, E-mail: laraine@pitt.edu

Please let us know your e-mail address by sending an e-mail to Laraine Kuchma at laraine@pitt.edu.

Memories of RxTravaganza Gala 2008

1. *Gala goes check the score of the Penguins playoff game.*
2. *Pharmacy Alumni Society board President Samuel Poloyac (BS '93) with Dean Patricia Kroboth.*
3. *Young people enjoy a fun evening. Left to right: Alexa Ray (P2), Gretchen Kreckel (P4), Michael Smith (P2), Ashley Holzworth (P4), Lindsay Ferguson (P4), Gregory Wolfe (P4), Philip Weaver (P4), and John Prendergast.*
4. *Professor Xiangqun Xie and wife Yi Zhang.*
5. *The one and only Norman Farnsworth (PhD '59) with Dean Patricia Kroboth.*
6. *The sax player draws an enthusiastic crowd.*
7. *Anthony Mollica (BS '95); Lawton Snyder, director of development; Samuel Manuel (BS '58); and Randy Heiser (BS '83) enjoy a cordial moment.*
8. *Samuel Manuel (BS '58) and wife Barbara.*
9. *William Kennedy (BS '61) and wife Marg.*
10. *Timothy (PharmD '00) and Jamie Davis and family.*
11. *Our distinguished alumni awardees, past and present, with Vice Chancellor Randy Juhl, past distinguished service awardee. Left to right: William Kennedy (BS '61); Gordon Vanscoy (BS '84); Salvatore Gaetano Jr. (BS '59); Richard Lithgow (BS '50); Ralph Progar (BS '71); Maurice Mervis (BS '40); Juhl; James Kirkwood (BS '65); William Liepack (BS '52); Henry Derewicz (BS '58); Carl Gainer (BS '66, MS '69, PhD '72); Norman Farnsworth (PhD '59); and James Mastrian (BS '65).*
12. *Friends from the Class of '83 (left to right), Patricia Backeris, Nicolette Walsh, Kathy Huffman, and Joanne Bosilovic, enjoy time together.*

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished alumni are chosen on the basis of their educational, professional, and University-affiliated achievements. They are individuals who are renowned for their integrity and have exhibited the highest degree of passion, commitment, and diligence in their contributions to the profession of pharmacy.

To nominate a distinguished alumnus, please visit our Web site, **www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni**.
All School of Pharmacy alumni are eligible. You are welcome to nominate yourself or others.

This Magic Moment



University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

RXTRAVAGANZA GALA 2009

Hilton Hotel • Downtown Pittsburgh • May 30, 2009

www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/about/gala/about.html



University of Pittsburgh

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