



A L U M N I N E W S

## Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy Holds Grand Opening

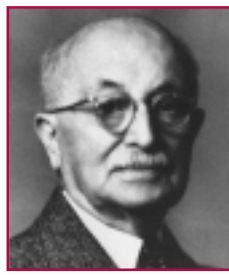
*October 1, 1878*

The Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy was officially inaugurated during a gala event held in the Western University of Pennsylvania building on Diamond Street. The opening night event included addresses by George A. Kelly, Esq. president of the College; W.D. Moore, Esq.; and Western University of Pennsylvania Chancellor George Woods. The evening also included several selections performed by the Robinson Band, directed by T. F. Kirk, and several songs performed by a quartette composed of Messrs. Cain, Ross, Rinehart, and Balph.

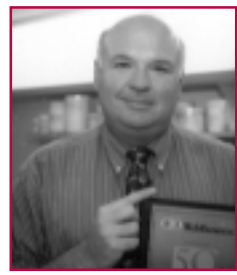
The College was organized by the druggists and apothecaries of Pittsburgh and Allegheny to improve their ability to meet the health needs of their respective communities. They received a

charter from the Commonwealth to incorporate the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy “for the purpose of cultivating, improving and disseminating the knowledge of pharmacy and its collateral branches of science.”

President Kelly, owner of George A. Kelly Co., the prominent Pittsburgh drug wholesale house, said the college will offer a two-year course of study resulting in the awarding of the Ph.G. degree. The only prerequisite for attendance is a desire to gain additional knowledge to advance one’s self in a chosen profession. Courses include “Materia Medica and Botany Chemistry,” “Pharmacy Chemistry,” and “Materia Medica and Botany Pharmacy.” Twenty students have enrolled for the first class.



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## Corrections

In the last issue of the *School of Pharmacy Alumni News*, we mistakenly reported that **Maria Croyle, BS '92, PhD**, received a PharmD from Pitt. Croyle received her BS from Pitt and her PhD in pharmaceuticals from the University of Michigan in October 1997.

We also mistakenly stated that **Robert Alan Heiser, MS '58, PhD '63**, received his PhD in 1964 from Pitt instead of the correct date of 1963.

We sincerely apologize for the errors.

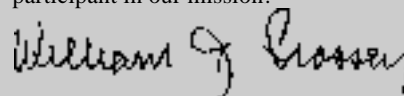
# President's Message: Meeting the Challenge!

The mission of a professional society is to support, promote, and advance the goals of the profession it serves. Goals must expand as the environment changes. Our challenge in the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Alumni Society is to grow with changes and mold our own future. As we approach the next century, the Alumni Society will expand its presence through increased committee activity and alumni involvement.

During the coming year, the Executive Board will be discussing various new ideas to promote the profession of pharmacy to students and alumni. In addition to rewarding excellence, ideas will be explored to reward students for outstanding efforts in organizational endeavors. New avenues for networking within the profession will be offered, in addition to educational programs meeting the needs of our practitioners. Efforts to increase funding to students and the University for scholarships and special projects will be pursued through new channels. A project to preserve memorabilia for the future

the guiding light that will lead pharmacy into the 21st century.

Our lifeline is our members and their commitment to education. Through involvement in the University, alumni are a part of the process that offers a promising future in pharmacy to all pharmacists. We invite *you* to be an active participant in our mission!



William Crossey '76, KGSB '91  
President  
Pharmacy Alumni Association

To volunteer for the Pharmacy Alumni Society Board, contact Richard A. Lithgow, special assistant to the Dean for Alumni Affairs, at (412) 242-4525 E-mail: Lithgow+@pitt.edu by Jan. 15, 1999.

## Board Establishes Scholarship

Past and current members of the Pharmacy Alumni Society Board have established an endowed scholarship for School of Pharmacy students. Leading the effort to establish the scholarship was 1997-1998 Alumni Board President Kathleen Bartony '76. Criteria for the scholarship are currently under discussion, and the first scholarship will be awarded for the 2000-2001 academic year. The School of Pharmacy and all its students sincerely thank the Board for establishing the scholarship.

If you are a past Board member and would like to make a contribution to the scholarship, please mail your gift to: University of Pittsburgh Pharmacy Alumni Board Scholarship, attn: Renée Pekor, School of Pharmacy Development Office, 1104 Salk Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15261; phone: (412) 383-7434; fax: (412) 648-1086.



will accompany other activities which promote the participation of alumni. Communication between the Board and students will improve through our involvement in student programs and activities.

The Alumni Society is dedicated to serving the needs of students and alumni. Our service and experience provide guidance and direction to the pharmacists of tomorrow and help the pharmacists of today adapt to change. Professionals who offer service to the School will be

# A Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past



**T**he Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum offers School of Pharmacy students, faculty, and alumni a chance to step back to a bygone era in pharmacy. "A Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past" is an ongoing newsletter feature that provides alumni who cannot visit the museum (located on the fourth floor of Salk Hall) an opportunity to see some of the valuable and historic items on display there. Alumni and friends of the school can also view the museum on line by visiting the School of Pharmacy's Web page

at <http://www.pitt.edu/~rxschool> and then clicking on The Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum.

Pictured here are two hand-carved finials, or crowning ornaments, dating back to the 1920s. The winged serpents curving out of the bowl of Hygeia are based on the legend of the Greek goddess of health, Hygeia, who is typically depicted carrying a serpent and a bowl. Donated by Harry Bonchosky '40 from Blumenschein's Pharmacy in Hopwood, Pennsylvania, near Uniontown, the finials are

typical of many ornaments found in old-time pharmacies. "Often, you would find these over the door or partition that separated the main part of the pharmacy from the back room where the pharmacist did most of his 'mysterious' work," says Dick Lithgow '50, special assistant to the dean for alumni affairs.



## McConnell and Faigen: Providing Students with Valuable Real-World Insights

**F**red W. McConnell '80 can attest to the profound effects of hearing a simple message presented by the right person at the right place and right time. Expecting a straightforward talk about the postgraduate educational needs of pharmacists, McConnell says he felt a chill as he learned the secret of success...not only in pharmacy, but in any endeavor.

"It was a speech many years ago by the President of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Dr. Philip Gerbino," recalls McConnell, who was recently elected Preceptor of the Year by Pitt School of Pharmacy students. "In a ten word sentence, with no word being more than two letters, he really hit home. He said, 'If it is to be, it is up to me.' He also told us to learn something every day. I try to pass these simple but important messages on to our students."

**...preceptors today must be more than teachers who provide a practical experience. They should also motivate thought and creativity, and instill professional values.**

With the advent of the entry level Doctor of Pharmacy program at the School of Pharmacy and its emphasis on experiential learning, preceptors have become an even more valuable part of the students' learning experience.

According to Scott Drab '89, experiential learning coordinator for the school, preceptors today must be more than teachers who provide a practical experience. They should also motivate students, stimulate thought and creativity, and instill professional values.

As director of pharmacy at Nason Hospital in Roaring Springs, Pennsylvania, McConnell provides students with their first look at hospital pharmacy. But with a background that also entails community, clinical, and long-term care pharmacy, as well as running a pharmacy consultant firm with his brother James M. McConnell '87, he also knows what it takes to establish a successful career in many pharmacy arenas.

"One of the primary lessons is that it's important to learn how to manage people and work as a team," says McConnell, pointing out that students who do a rotation at Nason Hospital gain a wide range of inter-departmental experience, from human resources and finance to surgery and lab work. "I also stress the need to continuously keep up with the explosion of information in the field. One way I do this is by having students go to the library to do research. For example, student research helped develop and update our 'chemo cards,' which highlight many aspects of chemotherapy administration. Our nurses utilize these as a quick reference before they administer all chemotherapy."



*Fred W. McConnell*

Married and the father of four, McConnell says he loves teaching. "Whether I'm coaching little league or precepting students, my goal is to teach something new and to have people learn how to do it well."

For Susan Faigen '81, being a preceptor also means stressing the positive aspects of pharmacy while allowing the students to see for themselves the pros and cons. A community pharmacist in the Squirrel Hill CVS Pharmacy, Faigen says one

of the real positives is the trust you build with customers. "Some customers will come to see you before they go to their doctor," says Faigen. "But community pharmacy isn't for everyone. I had one student who eventually realized that she wanted to specialize in pharmacology research."

A single mother of three, Faigen keeps a hectic schedule that includes working 12 hours a day for four days a week and volunteering at the Jewish Community Center. Previously having taught English as a second



*Susan Faigen*

## Experiential Learning

Over the past several years, the pharmacist's role has undergone many changes. The new entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy program trains students to meet those challenges. The program is configured in a course of study that requires two years of pre-professional credits and four years of professional credits. The experiential learning course is carried throughout the four professional years and consists of a progressive set of practice-based experiences that prepare students as generalists, competent to provide primary pharmaceutical care. This integration allows constant interplay between theoretical and practical knowledge, affording students the opportunity to generate insights and questions about pharmacy practice to take back to the classroom. The specific focus of experiential learning changes each year based on a combination of factors.

language to older Russian immigrants, Faigen has moved on to working with younger individuals. She assists in the leadership of her son's Cub Scout pack and is just beginning to teach a seventh grade Judaic Studies class at Temple David in Monroeville.

"If you want something done, ask a busy person," says Faigen, laughing. "But I think it's important to give something back, and for me that involves both pharmacy and my religion."

Faigen says that as a preceptor she has focused primarily on helping first- and second-year students learn the importance of service to patients within the community and on the many resources available to help them answer their questions. "The students are all hard working and willing to do whatever it takes," says Faigen. "Sometimes they get frustrated, so it's important to remind them that we were all there once and that it takes time to gain knowledge."

Through the increased emphasis on experiential learning, students in the PharmD program not only gain hands-on experience in the practice of pharmacy, but also a broader perspective which helps them make decisions about their careers. "If you really enjoy what you're doing, you're successful," says McConnell, who chose hospital pharmacy partly so he could have more time with his family. "I was making a lot more money in pharmaceutical marketing in long-term care, but I have to say I'm equally fulfilled as a hospital pharmacist."

According to experiential learning coordinator Drab, preceptors are valuable assets to the School and its students. "All of this experiential learning would not be possible without their exemplary efforts," says Drab.

### Year Emphasis

P1	<b>SERVICE LEARNING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Foster a sense of community involvement</li><li>* Enhance social awareness of unmet medical needs</li><li>* Develop communication skills</li></ul>
P2	<b>COMMUNITY PHARMACY PRACTICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Acclimate to the role of community pharmacist</li><li>* Develop dispensing and counseling skills</li><li>* Emphasize practicing pharmaceutical care</li></ul>
P3	<b>HOSPITAL/INSTITUTIONAL PHARMACY PRACTICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Acclimate to the role of hospital pharmacist</li></ul>
P4	<b>CLINICAL ROTATIONS</b> <p>Seven full-time rotations of four weeks each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Provide intensive practice of the pharmaceutical care process at the generalist level with increasingly complex pharmacotherapeutic problems</li><li>* <u>Proposed Rotations</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Ambulatory Care</li><li>2 Electives (e.g., nursing home consulting, FDA)</li><li>2 Acute Care</li><li>1 Advanced Institutional Pharmacy Practice</li><li>1 Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice</li></ul></li></ul>

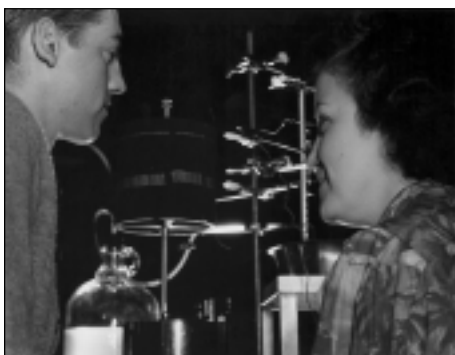
*For more information on experiential learning at the School of Pharmacy or on how to become a preceptor, please contact:*

Scott R. Drab  
908 Salk Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
  
(412) 383-7340  
Fax: (412) 624-1850  
E-mail: drabsr@msx.upmc.edu

*Or visit our Web site at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~rxschool>.*

# Celebrating 120 Years of Advancing Pharmacy: A Brief History

“From a single room to the house on the Bluff, to historic Salk Hall located in the midst of a world class medical center, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy has followed a long and steady path to national prominence.”—From “Visions Beyond the Bluff,” a video history of the School.



*Robert Rutter '41 and Thelma Coleman '41 in a School laboratory circa 1940.*



*Students study in the School's library at its former home on Bluff Street.*

**O**n September 23, 1878, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted a charter to the pharmacists of Pittsburgh and Allegheny to establish the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy. Beginning as a one-room school, the College not only fulfilled the dreams of the founders to increase the ability of local pharmacists to the community's health needs, it went on to become instrumental in establishing national standards for pharmacy education and made substantial contributions to the profession's scientific base. In 1930, the College's pharmacy degree was changed to a bachelor of science and the curriculum was extended from three to four years. The College formally merged with the University of Pittsburgh in 1948 to



*Edward C. Reif (left), dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1945-1958, watches as a student prepares a prescription.*

become the School of Pharmacy. Ten years later, Joseph A. Bianculli, PHA '35, was appointed dean, a position he held until his retirement in 1976. During “Dr. B’s” tenure as dean, the School of



*Julius A. Koch, dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1891-1932, oversaw many changes in the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, including its formal affiliation with the Western University of Pennsylvania (which later became the University of Pittsburgh) in 1896.*





*The Pitt Capsule*

Pharmacy initiated its five-year bachelor of science degree program and became firmly established as one of the leading schools of pharmacy in the country.

Occupying nearly 42,000 square feet in Salk Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus, the School of Pharmacy currently offers a six-year PharmD degree program with more than 250 community-based practice sites and 20 clinical sites. In addition to its mission of training future pharmacists (the placement rate for graduates is 100 percent), the school

conducts a wide range of programs, including the National Smoking Cessation Certification Program for Pharmacists and the Pharmaceutical Care for Underserved Populations Program. The School's faculty also conduct a wide range of research programs, from investigations into immunosuppressants for transplantation to the study of "DHEA and GABA-Receptor Mediated Responses in



*The School's current home is Salk Hall, named after Jonas Salk, who led the discovery of a vaccine for polio in the building, formerly the Municipal Hospital.*

Aged Adults," a research program funded through a \$1 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

For more detailed information on the School of Pharmacy's past, visit the School's Web site (<http://www.pitt.edu/~rxschool>), where "A Contribution to Western Pennsylvania Pharmacy" by Edward C. and Thelma C.

Reif (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1959) is available on-line. The following photographs provide a brief "snapshot" of the School's 120-year history.



*The class of '65. Dean Joseph Bianculli is third from right in the front row.*

## Pharmacy College Celebrates 50th Anniversary

May 29, 1928

The Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy held a special banquet yesterday for the college's graduating class and faculty and for members of the College Corporation. Focusing on the school's 50-year history, the evening's program included several speakers who played a key role in the College's development, including Dean Julius A. Koch and University of Pittsburgh Chancellor John G. Bowman. With 185 people in attendance, the banquet was such a resounding success that Leonard O'Connell, chairman of the College's Board of Directors, has recommended making the dinner an annual affair for the Senior Class.

## Diamond Jubilee Culminates with Alumni Dinner

June 9, 1953

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy capped off its year-long celebration of its Diamond Jubilee with its Annual Alumni Dinner and Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Held at the Hotel Schenley, the affair was attended by 300 alumni, graduating seniors, and friends of the School, who gathered to mark the School's 75th anniversary. The gala affair featured speeches by several of the School's past graduates, including Edward C. Nied '17, past president of School's General Alumni Association. Graduating students also presented oil portraits of Dean Edward C. Reif '06 and the late Dr. John H. Wurdack '09.

# 1998 Distinguished Alumni Awards

## Dick Lithgow: Bridging Generations

As a 14-year-old drug store “soda jerk,” Dick Lithgow ’50 earned about 25 cents an hour and wasn’t paid for the extra hour he spent cleaning up after the store closed. The money might not have been great, but the experience was priceless. “I wanted to be just like ‘Doc,’” he says of the store’s owner Donald C. Hartsock. “He was respected and loved by all his patrons, and I thought that was wonderful.”

Lithgow went on to graduate from the School of Pharmacy and then serve as chief pharmacist for the Army’s Second Division in Korea from 1951 to 1953. After his discharge,



Dick Lithgow and Dean Randy Juhl

he became manager of Pullens Prescription Pharmacy in Turtle Creek. In 1960, like his mentor “Doc,” Lithgow became a partner, then owner/manager of a community pharmacy.

“I knew everyone, and everyone knew me,” says Lithgow of his 22 years as the proprietor of Edgewood Pharmacy. “I used to joke that I could go into ninety percent of the houses in Edgewood and use their bathrooms with no questions asked. The wife of George Anderson, who was columnist with the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, even wrote an article about me called ‘The Druggie’ for the local paper.”

For Lithgow, the next 22 years “couldn’t have been any better.” However, the man who was born in his grandmother’s home in Derry, and who so admired the old-time era of phar-

macy, eventually came to the realization that times had changed.

“I couldn’t compete anymore, especially with the local chain stores opening up in nearby neighborhoods,” says Lithgow. “I used to work 60 hours a week, but people came to want less of the service an independent drug-gist could offer, like making personalized visits in the middle of the night, which I was always glad to do.”

Lithgow closed his store in 1982, refusing to sell it because he knew the store would never be able to compete. He went on to work briefly for Stadtlander’s Pharmacy before joining the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Oakland, where he worked as a clinical, inpatient, and outpatient pharmacist.

Relying primarily on on-the-job training, Lithgow followed his new career path with equal zest. Active in several VA clinics, Lithgow also began to use his years of experience as an educator in continuing education classes. He also gave presentations to arthritis support groups about their medications and lectured VA dental residents on dental medications. In 1991, Lithgow was nominated for the Joe E. Smith Award, a statewide hospital pharmacy award presented by PSHP.

After retiring in 1994, Lithgow served on the School of Pharmacy’s Alumni Board and began to work closely with Dean Randy Juhl and others on what would eventually become the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum (see page 3). “Creating the museum was a lot of hard work, but the layout and design came easily to Jake [Grimm ’50] and me,” says Lithgow. “We knew what the old-time pharmacies looked like and what we wanted to put in it.”

In 1995, Lithgow was appointed special assistant to the dean for alumni affairs at the School of Pharmacy. “Randy asked me to play a game of golf and, during the round, he told me that a new position had been created to work with alumni,” says Lithgow. “He asked me if I’d take the job.”

Since joining the School, Lithgow has played a role in nearly every alumni event

and activity, including the School’s hugely successful Annual Alumni Weekend (see page 12). Despite suffering some medical problems, including quadruple bypass surgery, Lithgow continues to maintain a schedule that would put people half his age to shame. He works as a part-time pharmacist at Phil’s Pharmacy in Pitcairn, volunteers for the UPMC Health System Clinics for the Underserved and the Anticoagulation Clinic at the VA Hospital, and is a board member of the Edgewood Youth Activities Association and of the VA Hospital’s Credit Union. As a 58-year member of the St. James Roman Catholic Church, he served on the Parish Council, coordinates church ushers and greeters, is a pharmacist for the health ministry, and lectures senior citizens on medication use. This past year, Lithgow’s peers elected him president of the Allegheny County Pharmacists Association.

“I consider myself a very lucky person,” says Lithgow. “I’ve had a wonderful marriage and four great kids, all Pitt graduates. And when I started working with the School of Pharmacy, with people like Dean Juhl, Renée Pekor, and Laraine Kuchma, it was like finding another home.”

## Ralph Progar: Making Every Day a Good One

Despite almost being shot during the Johnstown flood of 1977, Ralph E. Progar ’71 realizes that, although a disaster for many, the flood actually had a positive effect on his career. “The flood changed area shopping patterns, which brought more people to my store, resulting in an increase in sales and profits,” says Progar.

As manager of a Thrift Drug store, Progar was driving home late one night after helping to staff an extended-hours pharmacy managed by a colleague when he saw someone in the road waving a light. Although hesitant, he stopped and peered through the darkness to





*Sherri and Ralph Progar with Dean Juhl*

find himself looking at a rifle pointed in his direction. "When questioned, the guardsman thought I might have been a looter taking advantage of the flood and was going to shoot if I didn't stop," says Progar. Not quite the reward one would expect for supporting the needs of local customers and a fellow pharmacist.

Although Progar initially planned to become a physician, he was unable to afford college after high school and enlisted in the Navy. He became a hospital corpsman and ran a dispensary, where he was able to write and fill prescriptions. After his discharge, Progar enrolled at Penn State University for two years, where he was a journalism and psychology major, before transferring to Pitt's School of Pharmacy.

Progar began working for Thrift Drug, Inc., as a student pharmacist in a Crafton store and was already a store assistant manager in Aliquippa by the time he finished his graduate internship. Shortly after receiving his pharmacist's license, he became a store manager in Johnstown. Six years later, Thrift appointed him district manager for the Pittsburgh Area, where he was responsible for the operation of 50 drug stores. In 1985 he became manager of stores coordination and productivity and, in 1988, vice president of stores administration.

Despite his successful, 28-year-plus career at Thrift, Progar admits that he didn't know if he would have a job when Eckerd Corporation merged with Thrift in 1997. Says Progar, now vice president of pharmacy relations for Eckerd, "I think Eckerd hired me for my contacts and ability to get things

done in the regulatory arena."

Progar, who served on the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy, is only the second chain pharmacist to be elected president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (1996-1997). "My platform included pushing for regulations that were flexible rather than restrictive," says Progar. "Laws should not be enacted that negatively effect the pharmacists who are doing the job

right. Through my association with NABP, every state Board of Pharmacy knows who I am and what I stand for."

As a member of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), Progar works diligently to ensure the future of the pharmacy profession. "In my first speech as president of NABP, I suggested that pharmacy could suffer the blacksmith's fate if we didn't

change," says Progar. "Technology must be allowed to do a lot of what we used to do, but I still think the pharmacist's one-on-one relationship with the customer is vital. Pharmacists are accessible, knowledgeable, and well-thought of by the public and should be recognized for their important contribution to the patient-doctor-pharmacist triangle of care."

Progar's commitment to the profession has included working as a guest lecturer and adviser at the School of Pharmacy and as a member of the *Pharmacy Letter* editorial board. When asked if there is anything he would like to point out about his career and life, Progar, who has impersonated the pop star Elton John at charitable events, smiles and jokingly replies, "Tell everybody that I'm cute."

Progar, who is now married to 1977 School of Pharmacy graduate Sherri Fisher Progar, pauses, then adds, "I've always tried to mix fun with work. I learned after losing my first wife, Barbara, to cancer that it's important to make every day a good one. If your mental attitude is right, the day is right."

## Pharmacy School Names Three as First Distinguished Alumni

1962

**George D. Beal '07, PhD; Robert Ralson Gaw '14; and Frederick J. Blumenschein '02, '04,\*** have been named co-recipients of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's first Distinguished Alumni Awards. **Beal**, who received the 1941 Remington Medal, was recognized for his service as a member of the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy Corporation and then as a member of the College's Board of Trustees (1932). Born in Pittsburgh in 1893, **Gaw** served his apprenticeship with the first professional pharmacy in Pittsburgh, McKennan Pharmacy, and later became president of the firm. **Gaw** was a member of the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy Corporation and in 1937 was elected to the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees. He was also treasurer of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association and Chairman of the Pharmacy Division of the Cathedral of Learn-

ing Drive. **Blumenschein** was born in Pittsburgh in 1884, served as a professor at the College of Pharmacy, and was owner of the West End Drug Store in Uniontown, which became Blumenschein's Pharmacy. Blumenschein was Chairman of the State Board of Pharmacy of Pennsylvania from 1936 to 1942.

\*(Beal's father, James Hartley Beal, received the first the Remington Medal and was a professor of applied pharmacy at the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy. **Gaw's** son, Robert John Gaw, and daughter-in-law, Joyce Gillespie Gaw, are 1957 graduates of the School of Pharmacy. Frederick Blumenschein's daughters, Elsie Catherine '37 and Gertrude '41 (Med '50), son-in-law Harry Bonchosky '40, and grandson Fred Bonchosky '74 are also all graduates of the School.)

# Alumni Board Retreat

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Board met for a retreat on July 25, 1998, at the Lake Arthur Golf Course. Pictured above from left to right are: (front row) Nicole DiAugustine (student representative), Renée Pekor, Rae Ann Maxwell, Nikki Hudak, Dick Lithgow, Dean Randy Juhl; (back row) Kathleen Bartony, William Crossey, Robert Monte, Paul Ferraro, Michael Danek, Associate Dean Gary Stoehr. Not pictured are Assistant Dean Gary Haberle, Jacient Bray, Lisa Davinsizer, Timothy Gregorius, Anne Katz, Monica Martyak, Randall Novak, Nikki Rebich, Jill Slimick-Ponzetto, William Thompson III, Janet Traynor, Marcia Ungerman, Margaret Zak, Anne Ferri (student representative), and Iny Decker (student representative).



## Pharmacy School Forms Alumni Association

February 27, 1991

Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy graduates representing classes from 1895 to 1930 have established the Pharmacy Alumni Association. Initial plans for organizing the Association were held during a dinner yesterday at Webster Hall in Oakland. A vigorous campaign is currently being conducted to solicit members.



## CVS Presents Scholarship Support

*Michael Calli, RPh (right), Pharmacy Human Resource Manager at CVS, presents Dean Randy Juhl with a \$5,000 gift for scholarship support in the 1998-1999 academic year.*



## Wal-Mart Foundation Grants Scholarship

*Marc Roberson, RPh (left), pharmacy district manager, Wal-Mart, presents a \$1,000 gift from the Wal-Mart Foundation to grant a scholarship to a School of Pharmacy student.*

# Small Neighborhood Pharmacy Goes Global via the Internet

**D**avid O. Hairhoger '78 is standing outside of his store, Community Drug of Greenfield (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), explaining how a relatively small but successful neighborhood pharmacy created a Web site that has garnered a global business and international recognition with its recent designation as a Top 50 Web site by *CIO Magazine* (see side bar). He is just starting his story when someone in a passing car hollers, "Hey, Dave." Hairhoger stops and waves, then, a few seconds later, pats a customer on the back as he leaves the store.

"I've always enjoyed community pharmacy," says Hairhoger, who bought the then 63-year-old pharmacy in 1980. "You get to know everyone well and you end up doing much more than just filling prescriptions. You also provide an open ear and empathy."

Located in the small community of Greenfield (near Squirrel Hill), Hairhoger's pharmacy is the only game in town. Still, Hairhoger was looking for an edge to compete. He and his pharmacists began making custom-made prescriptions to match medicines prescribed in precise measures by doctors for individual patients, including prescriptions for skin disorders and hair loss. When one of Hairhoger's pharmacists, Aaron Kozol, saw the opportunity to do a global business via the Internet, Community Drug of Greenfield was on the road to becoming a worldwide enterprise.

Kozol set up the store's Web page several months ago, and e-mail requests started to come in almost immediately. Hairhoger estimates that, in addition to the 300 in-store prescriptions per day, his store fills at least 30 to 40 prescriptions per day via its Web site.

"We get a lot of physician referrals for our specialty compounds, which are meeting a unique demand," says Hairhoger. "For example, we're currently working with a local doctor on mixing a steroid in powder so that when it's sprayed into the mouth it adheres to the area that needs treatment."



*David O. Hairhoger with his CIO Magazine Top-50 Web Site award. Hairhoger runs Community Drug, in Pittsburgh, from which he operates a thriving business on the World Wide Web.*

Although e-mail and the telephone have replaced face-to-face contact with Internet customers, the personal touch is still maintained through longer written explanations and answering questions via e-mail. A ready-made order form enables customers to use certain codes to verify that the prescription was ordered by a physician. In addition to the specialty compounds, the store also fills ready-made prescriptions and offers added privacy for the sale of drugs like Viagra.

"We only see this segment of our business as expanding," says Hairhoger. "We're currently listed on several foreign Web pages."

For other community pharmacies thinking of setting up Web pages, Hairhoger cautions that they must be prepared to devote a lot of effort. "It's a continuously changing task, and you have to give it more than just a few hours a week," says Hairhoger. "As a matter of fact, we're changing schedules again today. Aaron, who was doing primarily traditional dispensing will now work 34 hours a week as our Web pharmacist."

## Community Drug Web Site Voted Among Top 50 World Wide

In addition to the growing business, an indicator of the Community Drug of Greenfield Web site's success is its recent naming as one of the Top 50 Internet Sites in the world in a poll of on-line sites taken by *CIO Magazine* for corporate chief information officers. Among the other top 50 Web sites are Amnesty International, Digital Equipment Corp., Office Depot, Samsung Electronics, Williams and Wilkins publishers, and the Weather Channel. Winners were judged on how impressively the site delivered on its business objectives and were a source of valuable information, how the site's design and attributes contributed to its success, and how well the blend of technology and design matched the needs of the site's target audience. You can surf Community Drug on-line at [www.communitydrug.com](http://www.communitydrug.com).



# Alumni Weekend

**T**he School of Pharmacy's Fourth Annual Alumni Weekend is evidence that the saying, "Nothing Succeeds Like Success" is true. Since the inaugural Alumni Weekend was held in 1995, the event has continued to grow, attracting more and more alumni each year. This year's Alumni Weekend, held May 29-31, 1998, was attended by 175 alumni and guests, who took the opportunity to catch up with former classmates and friends in the beautiful and relaxing atmosphere of the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains.

In addition to featuring class reunions for years ending in a three or an eight, the weekend featured the annual Alumni Dinner, five continuing education hours, and the awarding of the 1998 Distinguished Alumni Awards to Ralph E. Progar '71 and Dick Lithgow '50 (see profiles on pages 8 and 9). Alumni also participated in a golf outing and the optional trips to Fallingwater and Colonial Ligonier. In addition, Dean Randy Juhl presented his annual "State of the School" address and Ralph Progar gave an update on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy during a "Breakfast with the Dean."

The School of Pharmacy thanks all alumni, students, and faculty who worked so hard to make the Fourth Annual Alumni Weekend a success. We look forward to seeing even more alumni at the next Alumni Weekend (see side bar).

*The School of Pharmacy wishes to extend its appreciation to those alumni who helped organize their class reunions:*

*Ned Shipley (Class of '43); Dorothy Kriley (Class of '48); William Miller, Betty Ann and Harry Kerr, and Thelma Gill (Class of '58); Richard Zoltun (Class of '63); Gary Stoehr, Russ Allinson, and James Curcio (Class of '73); Dave Hairhoger, Lorraine Basil Horner, Renée Kubacka Juhl, Robin Freisleben Kolodziejczyk, Grace Matetich Popeck, Cheryl Buczkowski-Snyder, Donna Kuczma Tavoletti, and Bea Ross Venturi (Class of '78); Beverly Kroner, Mary Hayden, and Bernie Pitrone (Class of '83); Leona Liepack Fritsch, Nancy Gallo, and William Thompson III (Class of '88); and Elena Nelson (Class of '93).*



## REUNION PHOTOS BY CLASS



*Class of '48*



*Class of '58*



## Fifth Annual Alumni Weekend June 4-6, 1999

Get out your calendars, block out the first weekend in June, and start your summer by attending the School of Pharmacy's Fifth Annual Alumni Weekend. Held at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania, June 4-6, 1999, the Alumni Weekend program will feature class reunions for the years ending in four or a nine, continuing education credits, golf, and loads of fun. For more information about the weekend or to volunteer to help organize a class reunion, please contact:

Richard A. Lithgow '50  
Special Assistant to the  
Dean for Alumni Affairs  
(412) 242-4525  
E-mail: [Lithgow+@pitt.edu](mailto:Lithgow+@pitt.edu)



*Class of '73*



*Class of '78*



*Class of '88*

# Student

N E W S

## Students Receive National Awards

**Sangeeta Agarwala**, a PhD student, has received a \$15,000 United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) fellowship for 1998-1999. According to Jerome Halperin, executive vice president of USP, "The USP fellowships allow post graduate students to conduct research leading to safer, higher quality drugs and useful information about drugs, medicine, and health care technologies. Agarwala was awarded this fellowship for her research work on long term kidney function in liver transplant patients. She is a student of Raman Venkataramanan, PhD.

**Bernie Komoroski '00**, a third year professional pharmacy student, has received a Merck Research Scholar program award given by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for the year 1998-99. The School of Pharmacy will receive \$ 7,000 for a stipend and supplies to support his research project, "Effect of cytokines on phase II metabolism of mycophenolic acid in primary cultures of human hepatocytes," which he is conducting with Raman Venkataramanan, PhD. Komoroski, along with nine others from all over the United States, was selected for this award from among 50 applicants.



*Melissa Somma, PharmD (front center) claps her hands in celebration with fellow School of Pharmacy students on graduation day.*

## Pharmacy Gift Shop Now Open

**H**ere's a chance to show your pride in the School of Pharmacy. The Pitt Pharmacy Gift Shop is now open and fully stocked with items that Pitt alumni and friends can purchase to show their support for the School. The "Gift Shop" features

"Visions Beyond the Bluff," a video history recounting the School's 125-year history. Also in stock are University of Pittsburgh apparel and a set of high-quality



## Canter Establishes Student Scholarship

*May 29, 1943*

Mr. Abraham R. Canter, an alumnus of the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, has established a \$25 yearly prize to be awarded to the student who achieves the highest standing in the Department of Pharmacy throughout the course. According to Mr. Canter, he established the scholarship because he wanted to create a keener competition among the students in the science and art of pharmacy.



note cards with full-color photographs of the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum. Each package contains eight cards (two each of four photos of some of the museum's most distinctive artifacts) and envelopes.



*(left) Clockwise from top are Creighton Moorehead, modeling the navy, men's golf shirt; Richard Lithgow, in the gray sweatshirt and white and navy ball cap; Erin Kirby in the light gray T-shirt; and Rae Ann Maxwell in the women's, white golf shirt.*

# PITT Pharmacy Gift Shop **order form**

*(Pharmacy proceeds benefit Pharmacy Alumni Society student programs.)*

To order, please fill out this form and mail with check payable to the University of Pittsburgh:\*

School of Pharmacy Alumni Society  
 Attn: Laraine Kuchma  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 1104 Salk Hall  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State/City/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

\*Or, for apparel only, order via credit card, call 1-800-833-7488 and mention the School of Pharmacy.

Item	Quantity	Cost Per	Total
Video	_____	\$14	_____
Note Cards	_____	\$8	_____
T-shirt (light gray): S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	\$13	_____
Men's Golf (navy): S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	\$50	_____
Ladies' Golf (white): S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	\$45	_____
Sweat Shirt (light gray): S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	\$45	_____
Cap	_____	\$18	_____
Shipping and Handling: \$1.50 for videos and notecards; \$3.95 for apparel.			_____
<b>Total</b>			_____

# Faculty

N E W S

**Jill Brufsky, PharmD**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was awarded a one-year contract with the new UPMC Health Plan for managed care pharmacy services.

Brufsky and **Jennifer Stoffel, PharmD**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, have passed the pharmacotherapy boards and were awarded Specialty Certification in Pharmacotherapy.

**Stanford Cohen, BS '57**, was chosen by students as School of Pharmacy teacher of the year for 1997-1998 academic year. Mr. Cohen passed away on March 2, 1998.

**Joseph Knapp, PhD**, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and **Pat Kroboth, MS '80, PhD '83**, professor and chairperson of pharmaceutical sciences, were inducted as American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) fellows.

**Beverly Kroner, PharmD, BS '83**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was primary coordinator and moderator at the 12th Annual Invitational Conference on Anticoagulation Therapy held in Atlanta in December 1997.

**Mary Beth Lang, BS '89**, instructor in pharmacy and therapeutics, has received the UPMC Health System President's Performance Improvement Award.

**Dexi Liu, PhD**, has been promoted to associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences with tenure.

**Rae Ann Maxwell, PhD '97, BS '87**, has been promoted to assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and appointed director of UPMC-Presbyterian and Western Psychiat-

ric Institute and Clinic Investigational Drug Services.

**Richard Ptachcinski, PharmD**, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was chosen as the United Way Community Champion for his work with the Rx Council of Western Pennsylvania.

**Michael Romano**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, is the faculty adviser for the school's Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) chapter, which was runner-up for pharmacy chapter achievement award.

**Meredith Rose, PharmD '91**, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, has received a UPMC Health System exemplary award for patient care.

**Susan Skledar, MPH '91, BS '88**, has been promoted to assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

**Gordon Vanscoy, PharmD, MBA '91, BS '84**, assistant dean, managed care and executive vice president, Managed Health Care, Stadtlanders Managed Pharmacy Services, was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Society of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Research.

**Michael Zemaitis, PhD, BS '69**, has been named vice chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

*(above) Jerome Siuda, right, presents Dean Randy Juhl with an autographed photo of Nobel laureate Victor Grignard.*

## Siuda Retires

**W**hen Jerome Siuda, PhD, attended his retirement party at the School of Pharmacy on August 21, he received the customary gift of appreciation. In this case, a brass lamp. But Dr. Siuda had a gift of his own for the school.



"About 25 years ago, somebody threw a photo of Victor Grignard, who won the 1912 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, into the trash," explains Siuda. "It was signed by Grignard and

given to his cousin, who later gave it to former Dean O'Connell. When I saw it, I knew it was important. I kept it in my office all these years and decided that it should go to the School."

A chemist by training, Siuda taught pharmacy students about drug interactions at the molecular and biochemical level. His 30-year career at the School of Pharmacy also encompassed a wide range of research projects, including a study of octopus ink as a model for melanin and melanoma.

"During my time here, I truly enjoyed teaching and research, as well as the camaraderie," says Siuda. "Actually I had four different parties for my retirement, and I was considering postponing it because I enjoyed them so much."

The School of Pharmacy's faculty, staff, and students extend their best wishes for Dr. Siuda in his retirement.

# Transcripts

## Venkataramanan Receives Foundation Award

**R**aman Venkataramanan, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and pathology, has received a Ranbaxy Research Award. Presented by the Ranbaxy Science Foundation, which represents Ranbaxy, India's largest indigenous pharmaceutical company, the award goes to an Indian scientist in recognition of excellence in original work in medical and pharmaceutical sciences. Venkataramanan received the award for his work with Indian kidney transplant patients during a sabbatical. He made the observation that the average bioavailability of cyclosporine in Indian transplant patients is twice that in caucasian patients. According to Venkataramanan, this finding is likely due to differences in gut metabolism and/or p-glycoprotein efflux that may be modified due to dietary factors. Venkataramanan hopes the award will help him extend his clinical research in Indian transplant patients.

### 1940s

**Alex Bigman, BS '49, MS (Pharmacology), PhD**, has retired. Bigman, who owned two pharmacies (one in Pittsburgh and one in Annandale, Virginia), studied pharmacology at the University of Maryland and holistic medicine at La Salle University. He worked in holistic and homeopathic medicine for 25 years.

### 1950s

**R. Paul Baumgartner, BS '56**, writes that "the time arrived last August to jump to full-time retirement." During his long career, Baumgartner was special consultant to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (1993-1997), manager of pharmacy affairs for Merck Human Health Division (formerly Merck Sharp and Dohme) (1980-1993); assistant dean and associate professor at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy (1976-1980); and director of pharmacy services for the Appalachian Regional Hospital (1964-1976). Baumgartner, who received the School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1974, also served as president of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (1974). He and his wife, Sandy, are currently "satisfying the travel bug," including a trip to Alaska.

### 1960s

**Anthony N. Civello, BS '67**, chairman, president, and CEO of Kerr Drug, Inc., headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, has been elected to the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Board of Directors.

**John M. Fris, BS '68**, has successfully completed the exam for board certification in psychiatric pharmacy (BCPP). Director of Pharmacy at the Ebensburg Center in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, Fris is one of three pharmacists to receive BCPP certification in Pennsylvania.

**I. Glenn Sipes, PhD '69**, professor and head of the Department of Pharmacology (College of Medicine) and Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology (College of Pharmacy) at the University of Arizona, received the Robert J. DeSalvo Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy this past June. In July, 1998, he was elected president of the International Union of Toxicology, which represents over 40 countries and 22,000 toxicologists.

### 1980s

**Edward C. Seidl, BS '89, PharmD**, has received the Joe E. Smith Award, presented by the Pennsylvania Society of Health System Pharmacists and sponsored by the Bayer Corporation.



*Edward Seidl (center) poses with the Joe E. Smith Award with his wife, Cheryl Seidl, and Ron Schulte, RPh, scientific affairs liaison for the Bayer Corporation.*

### 1990s

**Robertta Skoronski, PharmD '97**, has been appointed assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.



# Honor Roll of Donors

1997 - 1998

## College of Pharmacy Receives Donation for Building Improvements

February 12, 1895

Thanks to the generosity of the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy's alumni and friends, the College is purchasing a new home on the corner of Pride and Bluff Streets. In addition to many individual donors, the W. J. Gilmore Drug Co. has donated a sum of \$1,000 to help purchase the new building. According to Dean Julius Koch, increasing enrollment necessitates the need for more space and modern facilities. The College will sign its lease for a building on Pride and Bluff Streets this coming April and expects to move into its new building at the same location by 1905.

### Donors 1997-1998\*

We deeply appreciate the generous contributions from alumni, friends, faculty, and staff. **\*These gifts totaled \$535,980 and were received during fiscal year 1998 (July 1, 1997 – June 30, 1998).** In addition to a significant number of gifts designated for scholarships, the Brick Walkway (renovation), the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum, and unrestricted use, the School received a generous bequest from the estate of Doris Jean Koslow (more on this gift in future issues).

Special thanks to fund-raising volunteers Ralph Progar, PHA '71, Sherri Progar, PHA '77, Kathleen Bartony, PHA '76, Anne Katz PHA '81, members of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society Board, and to those donors who enhanced their gifts with matching gift support from their employers.

We apologize for any omissions or errors in the list of donors. Please contact Renée M. Pekor, director of development, at (412) 383-7434 regarding corrections to the donor honor roll.

Thank you.

#### July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998 Categorized by Gift Allocation

Unrestricted	\$404,160
Scholarship	\$ 63,547
Brick Walkway and Renovation	\$ 49,477
Other	\$ 11,796
Research	\$ 7,000
Total Gifts	\$535,980

#### Cathedral of Learning Society Donors of \$1,000,000+ Cumulative Lifetime

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1997 - 1998

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The late Lawrence Rehanek was a lifelong donor and friend to the School of Pharmacy and the University of Pittsburgh. An avid football fan, he attended every Pitt home football game. The one-time owner of a prescription drug store in Mount Pleasant, Rehanek had to sell the store due to health complications after being struck by lightning on a golf course. Rehanek went into the banking business and eventually became president of Mount Pleasant State Bank. Dedicated to his community, he was chairman of the Finance Committee of the Westmoreland County Mental Health and Retardation Board and director of the Jacob Justice Free Dispensary, the Rehabilitation Center and Workshop of Western Pennsylvania, and the Westmoreland County Children's Home. In 1994 the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg dedicated the Ronnie Andrews Fitness Center in recognition of Mr. Rehanek's generosity. Mr. Rehanek was Andrew's uncle.

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

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