

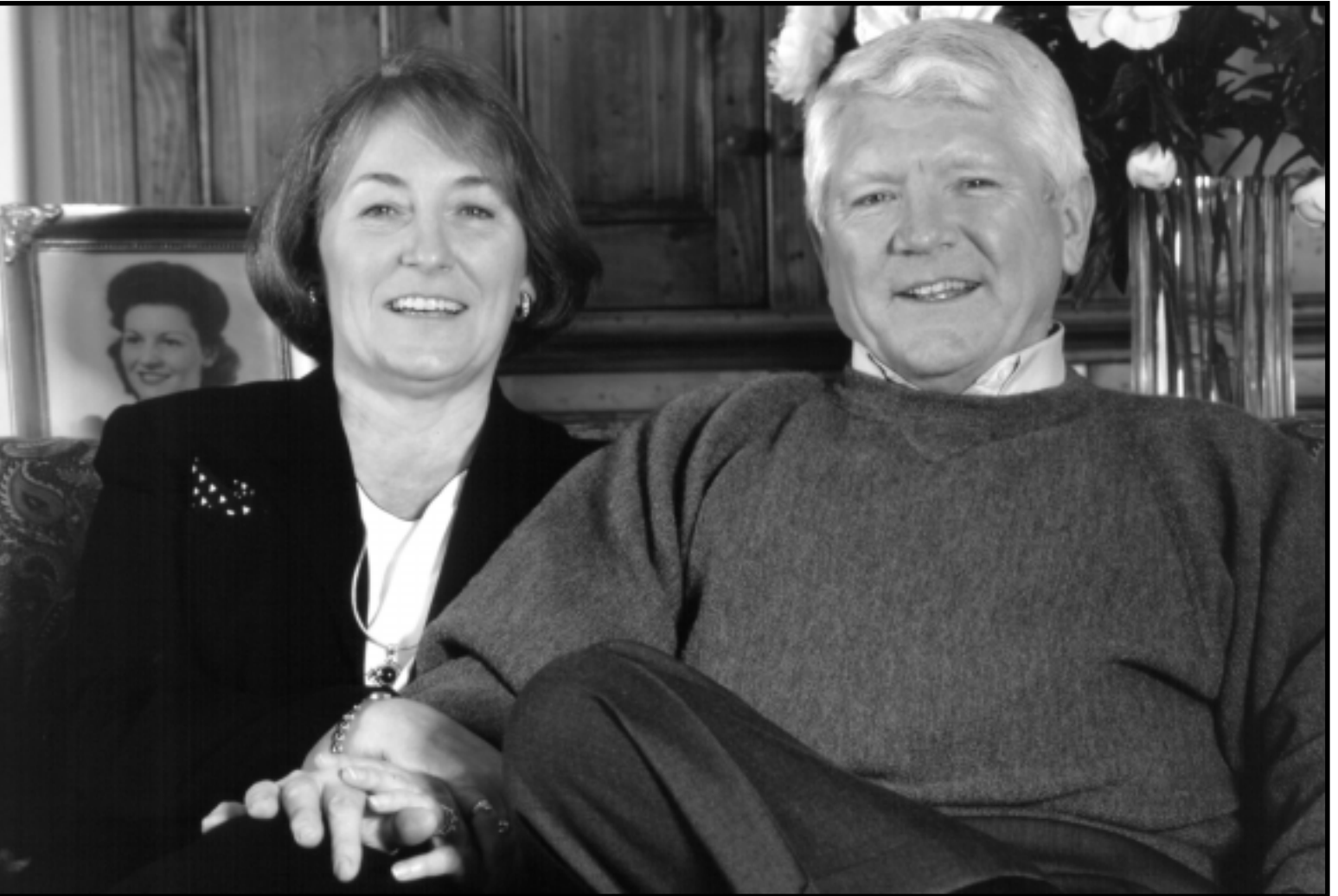
University of Pittsburgh
School of Pharmacy



Pharmacy

Spring 1999

A L U M N I N E W S



CELEBRATING
120 Years
1878-1998



New Student Learning Center Dedicated
page 10



Annual Career Roundtable
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Largest Scholarship Gift

Dr. John (MS '68, PhD '71) and Connie Curran have given the School of Pharmacy \$1 million, the largest scholarship gift in the school's history, to establish the John P. and Constance A. Curran Pharmacy Scholarship Fund. Read more about the Currans and their legacy on page 4.

Dean's Message: Where Are We? Where Are We Going?

If we knew the answers to these two questions in greater detail, we might feel a little more relaxed about life. On the other hand, it could make things boring, too. I would like to take a few of your minutes to reflect on these questions as they relate to our School and our profession.

During the past several years, the faculty, with considerable help from alumni, preceptors, students, and many other of our "customers," have engaged in planning and implementing our new curriculum. The most obvious change to those of us who are several years past graduation is that the name of the degree is different. However, upon closer inspection, the bigger change is in the process by which our educational product is delivered and the context in which our newly minted graduates will practice.

It is our fervent hope that the knowledge, skills, and beliefs that our students acquire on the path to their degrees will serve them as well as the education received by the more mature among us. We have attempted to add elements to our curriculum that will allow the next generation of Pitt graduates to compete successfully in the health care system regardless of the twists and turns it may take. In fact, we aspire to produce graduates that believe they can influence the direction of the profession.

We are fortunate to continue to attract the brightest students on campus. They absorb and assimilate information very rapidly. A trend that has developed in the past several years is the increased desire of students to interact with alumni and other practitioners. The range of choices available to pharmacy graduates today is much greater than it used to be and our students are very curious about what you do. Some of our most popular events are those that provide an interface between students and alumni: Career Roundtables in February, Alumni Day during homecoming weekend, Alumni Society activities, lectures, seminars, and accidental encounters.

It is difficult to be completely happy with our profession's current location. We often feel that we have little control over our practice, and those feelings are very real. It is evident that pharmacy will be different for the next generation, and we have every right to bemoan the loss of the soda fountain, the mom and pop store, and the cash paying customer. However, we need to take care when expressing those frustrations to students. A soliloquy about the good old days can be done in a way that demotivates them or given with a spirit that provides encouragement and guidance. Our future pharmacists benefit greatly from interactions with those who have had many experiences, both good and bad, but we need to take care not to stifle their creativity by assuming that things we haven't been able to fix can't ever be fixed. There remains a strong societal need for someone to help patients obtain maximum benefit from their medicines and our graduates believe they can fill that need.

There is an intriguing array of new and interesting opportunities. Bright young minds with boundless energy and enthusiasm can make a difference in the long run; and, even if you are skeptical, I hope you will wish them the best. If you could see what I see every day, you, too, would be optimistic.

The next generation of pharmacy leaders is bright and, I might add, well educated. Our profession is in good hands, and they owe a great debt to those of you who have walked the path before them and have willingly given of your time, money, and enthusiasm to ensure that your school and profession not only survive, but thrive.



Randy P. Juhl, PhD
Dean

A Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past

The 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" provides alumni who cannot visit the museum (located on the fourth floor of Salk Hall) an opportunity to see some of the valuable items on display there. The School's alumni and friends 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.

Frederick G. Banting and J.J.R. Macleod received the Nobel Prize in 1923 for their discovery of insulin. In 1923, Eli Lilly and Company was the first to make commercially available insulin made from animal pancreases (see photo). By 1925 Lilly demonstrated its commitment to the large-scale production of insulin, supplying more than 30,000 patients and 8,000 physicians. Pictured here are urine testing kits manufactured by Eli Lilly and Company circa 1940 and 1950. The test kits enabled physicians to determine the amount of sugar "spilling" into

the urine so they could adjust dosages or choose between the two types of insulin then available.

In 1979-80, Lilly research scientists demonstrated the use of recombinant DNA methods for making human insulin. Today, Lilly's biosynthetic human insulin (made by recombinant DNA technology) allows for the

production of nearly unlimited quantities of human insulin and many different types of insulin to meet the needs of individual patients. Historic photos of the development of insulin, urine test kits, and other early Lilly products are currently on display at the museum. The School of Pharmacy wishes to thank Eli Lilly and Company and Lilly pharmaceutical sales representative Gary Garofoli, a 1984 School of Pharmacy graduate, for providing the School with these items.



Left: It took all of the cow pancreases glands in this photo to produce one vial of insulin.

Above: Eli Lilly, which was the first company to commercially produce insulin, also made diabetics' urine test kits like this one.

Above, left: Banting, associate Charles Best, and the dog Marjorie, who served as a "guinea pig" for testing the new found insulin.

Currans Make Largest Scholarship Gift in School's History

John (MS '68, PhD '71) and Connie Curran have donated \$1 million to the School of Pharmacy to establish the John P. and Constance A. Curran Pharmacy Scholarship Fund. Their gift is the largest scholarship endowment in the School of Pharmacy's history.

"Education is the number one key to success," says John, whose parents had four years of formal education between them. "My time at Pitt was invaluable; it helped me in every position I ever held. Pharmacy was a great springboard for me into two different careers, but more importantly I'll never forget how wonderful it was to own and work in a community pharmacy. It always made me feel terrific when I could counsel and help customers."

The Curran Scholarship will be awarded annually to the student or students who are academically qualified and demonstrate a financial need, with preference given to students from under-represented ethnic and minority groups.

"When John first started discussing the scholarship, I was all for it," says Connie. "Pharmacy is a great professional career, especially for women, and this scholarship will help them."

"The Currans' personal belief in and commitment to education is outstanding and exciting," says Dean Randy Juhl. "I can't thank them enough for their dedication to the School and its students."



John and Connie Curran have made the largest scholarship donation to the School of Pharmacy.

For the Currans, giving has become a way of life. And both say they are blessed to have the financial resources to pursue their philanthropy. Through the John P. & Constance A. Curran Charitable Foundation, they started a Communications Initiative Program for inner-city students. Currently, the

foundation provides the salaries and benefits for four full-time communications teachers in four different New York City high schools.

"If students can't communicate, they will have a difficult time succeeding," says John. "Several years ago I talked with a young man who was valedictorian at his inner-city high

Scholarships: Foundations for the Future

school and had a solid B average in college. He was looking to begin his business career and those credentials should have given him a head start. But his English was terrible; he couldn't communicate properly and never landed a job in the business world. That started me thinking that I'd like to do something about that situation some day."

After receiving his BS in Pharmacy from Fordham University, John studied pharmaceutical economics at Pitt. He paid for his undergraduate and graduate education by working in community and hospital pharmacies. Before graduating, he went to work for Pfizer, Inc., in New York, where he finished his PhD dissertation. He eventually became a Wall Street securities analyst specializing in pharmaceutical companies. He formed Curran Capital Management in 1986. Based in New York, John's one-man operation manages a hedge fund specializing in health care stocks. His fund over the past five years has averaged a 31 percent net compound annual rate of return, twelfth best in the country out of 997 stock funds, according to Nelson's Research. In 1998, he was sixth out of 1,268 equity funds.

The Currans, who met while John attended Pitt, have been married for 31 years and have two children. Although they both agree that Pharmacy has played a huge role in their lives, they place a somewhat different emphasis on what makes a successful marriage. True to his personal philosophy, John stresses communication between husband and wife. Connie, jokingly, says that her key to a successful marriage is to "always let him think he's right."

The Curran Scholarship will be awarded annually to the student or students who are academically qualified and demonstrate a financial need, with preference given to students from under-represented ethnic and minority groups. "It really is true that the 'more you give, the more you receive,'" say the Currans.

"What better or greater gift can we offer our republic than to teach and instruct our youth." —Cicero

What is the value of an education? According to Cicero, it is the very fabric of our society. The students of today are, in fact, our future. Through their dedication to science, they will improve countless lives. Through their artistic creations, they will enrich our souls.

"I am truly impressed with our students," says Dean Randy Juhl. "They are among the best and brightest in the nation, and they continually show an ardent devotion to education, the pharmacy profession, and the community."

Throughout the years, your support for scholarships has helped numerous students achieve their goals and, in doing so, enrich the lives of many. With the rising costs of education and dwindling governmental support for students in need, School of Pharmacy students need your support more than ever. According to John and Connie Curran, it is one of the reasons they established a \$1-million endowed scholarship at the School of Pharmacy (see accompanying story).

"It represents a 'hallmark of giving' that we hope will excite others to do more," say the Currans. "The cost of an education today is phenomenal, and there are many deserving students out there who need financial support. We urge other alumni to join us in supporting these students, whether they create an endowment or provide support to the School's General Scholarship Fund. It's incumbent upon those of us who have been successful in life to share. Besides that, it simply feels good to help."

Your gifts can further the school's ability to provide an educational opportunity to all qualified students. Not only will your generosity help deserving students, it will have an impact on generations to come.

For more information on how you can join the Currans in helping School of Pharmacy students by establishing your own named scholarship fund or contributing to the School of Pharmacy General Scholarship Fund, contact Renée Pekor, Director of Development, School of Pharmacy, (412) 383-7434, or e-mail: pekorm@msx.upmc.edu.

Students Create Pharmacy Care Centers with an Eye to the Future

Students' development of a Pharmacy Care Center as part of the Community Pharmacy Management course encompasses a key element of the new curriculum—collaborative learning. According to Scott R. Drab, RPh, CDE faculty member and class of '89 graduate, the course stresses active participation in the learning process.

"There are no right or wrong answers when students state their ideas for creating a center," says Drab. Well, almost. One student wanted to pay a technician \$4.25 an hour. "I had to point out that that's below the minimum wage," says Drab.

Designed to prepare pharmacists to manage their professional careers, the course integrates science with practice to identify, resolve, and manage problems unique to community pharmacy. Drab places a special emphasis on the students' efforts to create a Pharmacy Care Center. This course component, says Drab, provides students with an opportunity to seek out and apply knowledge while developing clear goals and realistic steps for creating an effective and profitable center.

"Since we've changed to the PharmD curriculum, there's been a tendency to view our future graduates as professionals who will work primarily in clinical settings, like hospitals," says Drab, who is also the School's experiential learning coordinator. "But we're actually training our students for a wide variety of settings, including taking a more active clinical role in the community."

During the current term, the students' "real-world" community project is to create an Asthma Pharmacy Care Center. The students, who work in groups, develop vision and mission statements and provide a detailed outline of the center's components. With a start-up budget of \$15,000, they must also address such areas as facility preparation, staffing, marketing, design, and construction.

"Another important component that students must address is quality assessment and outcomes," says Drab. "To assure continuous quality improvement in their

programs, students develop tools to assess and improve quality. Outcomes are also very important, especially as pharmacists are increasingly considered an important part of the health care team and a key player in keeping overall health care costs down."

At the end of the term each of the groups will present their pharmacy care clinic to the class, faculty, alumni, and any other practitioners who are interested and wish to be involved in the evaluation process.

tion to pay pharmacists who are credentialed and involved in disease management programs," says Drab. "The number of specialty care clinics has been growing over the past two to three years and will continue to grow in the future. It's all part of community pharmacy's efforts to devise new ways of practicing. By training our students in this area, they gain a better understanding of business and finance principals as well as being better prepared for future practice."



Students gather in the new Learning Center, where they study Community Pharmacy Management.

"I'm taking the course because I heard so many good things about it," says Nicole DeAugustine (P3). "Ambulatory care is expanding and it's an area I'd like to pursue by opening my own specialty needs clinic. There's no doubt that the practice of pharmacy is changing, but I think there are a lot of opportunities in these changes."

Drab, a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE), sees specialty care clinics as an important asset in the community. "Some states, like Mississippi, have enacted legisla-

"I was a little wary about taking a course that focused on community practice because I plan to go into management in the managed care sector," says Denise Mervis (P3). "But the course really changed my point of view. I can see how community pharmacists are able to bridge gaps in patient care and improve clinical and economic outcomes."

Kuhn: A Pioneer in Pharmaceutical Care Centers

With his slight build, soft voice, and mild manners, the late Ralph S. Kuhn '52 did not fit the stereotypical image of a maverick. But he had a dream. Described by his son Karl as a “bit of radical,” Kuhn was ahead of his time when he decided to “extend the range of his professional services beyond the mere concept of drug dispensing.”

Kuhn's grandfather, Charles L. Kuhn, opened his own drug store in Mount Pleasant shortly after graduating in 1880 from the Western University of Pennsylvania's College of Pharmacy (the current School's predecessor); he operated it for the next 40 years. Kuhn's father, Ralph A. Kuhn, a 1920 School of Pharmacy graduate, also owned and operated a store for nearly 40 years in Vandergrift.

Although he worked for his father for nearly six years, was married, and had three children, the younger Ralph decided in 1962 to embark on a new adventure: to become one of the few early pioneers of the private practice concept in pharmacy.

Packing up his family, he headed east to find a suitable environment for his bold concept of a practice that focused on the “profession” of pharmacy, leaving behind the traditional “commercial” pharmacy practice of his dad and grandfather. He finally settled on Doylestown, Pennsylvania to test his vision.

Operating in the shadow of the Bucks County Court House, Kuhn's Apothecary was a quaint shop, keeping with Doylestown's character. The shop had no displays; and, once inside, patrons found themselves in a comfortable room complete with fireplace.

“...[A] Private Practice should project warmth and devotion, the crux of this concept,” Kuhn once wrote, describing his idea of pharmacy practice. “The professional is concerned about the condition in which he leaves his profession to posterity.”

Today, the profession of pharmacy is undergoing many radical changes that Kuhn pioneered nearly 40 years ago.

“The pharmacist today must extend the range of his professional services beyond the mere concept of drug dispensing,” Kuhn said in an interview in the January 7, 1963 issue of the *American Druggist*.

A firm believer that the pharmacist dealt with information in addition to drug products, he developed “The Physicians Orders” folder, which he gave patients to take with them on doctor visits. His patrons used



Ralph Kuhn in 1940 (right) and shortly before retirement in 1992.

these forms to note what they wanted to tell or ask their doctor, as well as a page to note special orders given them during visits. His “Information for Baby Sitter” folder had space to write special instructions, messages, calls received, and detailed information such as phone numbers of physicians, hospitals, and the police and fire departments. He also let all his patrons know that he maintained a family Rx file that they could access for tax or insurance purposes.

“Dad would come into the office in the middle of the night and on weekends for his patients' emergencies,” says Kuhn's son, Karl. “My brother and I spent our childhood

delivering medications to elderly patrons who found it difficult to travel to the pharmacy.”

“I started my own practice...in an area that was zoned for residential and professional offices only,” Kuhn once wrote, recalling the uphill battle he was to fight for the next twenty years. “I received a letter to cease and desist what I was doing. I had to appear in court

before the Zoning Board and prove to them that pharmacy was a profession. I [credit] the patient profile as a big help in gaining approval. This was the first zoning case of its kind in the United States.”

Kuhn's patient profile was adopted by the American College of Apothecaries for its

membership. In the late 1960s, he became an adjunct clinical instructor for pharmacy students at Temple University, bringing students to his shop to teach them about patient profiles and counseling. In 1971, Kuhn and his early mentor, Eugene V. White of Berryville, Virginia, became “Founding Charter Diplomates” of the American Board of Diplomates in Pharmacy for their work with patient profiles and advancing the professional image of pharmacy.

After moving his shop due to building renovations, Kuhn operated the Apothecary until 1980, when he could no longer compete and closed shop. He completed his career working for hospital and chain pharmacies.

“I don't think Dad liked to follow any trends or dogmas,” says Kuhn's son, Karl. “He wanted to do what he believed was right.”

Ralph S. Kuhn died in December 1998.



School of Pharmacy Scholarships

ACADEMIC YEAR 1998-1999

For the 1998-1999 academic year, 147 pharmacy students received \$135,040 in financial aid and scholarships from resources provided by alumni and friends of the School of Pharmacy. In addition to their monetary value, these scholarships provide students with much deserved recognition for their hard work and academic achievements. We thank the many donors who made these scholarships possible.

Albert J. Bauer, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Angela Lacher
Patrik Pellegrino
Erin Tarcha

Don Bell Memorial Scholarship

Virginia Schad

Louis Bischoff and Mary V. Bischoff Scholarship

John Evans
John Kim
Jill Kleeman
Thanh Lee
James Masterson
John O'Donnell
Joy Spoljaric
Jainine Zebroski

William L. Blockstein Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Martyak

Frank Miller Coad Memorial Scholarship

Jennifer Cain
Jennifer Campbell
Timothy Davis
Karen Epstein
Erika Felix
Jessica Sheasley

CVS Scholarship

Jennifer Cappola
Mary Sue Grassinger
Diane McIntyre
Danielle Probst
George White

Darbaker Scholarship

Susan Byrne
Kevin Chakos
Nicole DeAugustine
Daisha Ellis
Ryan Fedor
Michelle Gremani-Helt
Clare Gustin
Thuy Hoang
Thuy Tang
Julie Wagner
Laurette Wong

Ronald S. Getz Memorial Scholarship

Jason Kessinger

William W. Goode, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Camille Stuart

Reuben Helfant Pharmaceutical Scholarship

Debbie Burkland
Michelle LoPresti

Philip Hoffman Memorial Scholarship

James Coons

Scott Horton Memorial (Rite Aid) Scholarship

Billie-Jo Kiskadden
Hong-Diep Nguyen

Howard W. Jeffreys Memorial Scholarship

Greg Bender
Annette Boscan
Kristopher Getzik
Jennifer Hrutkay
Terri Mele

Evelyn and Milton Judd Scholarship

Douglas Landy

Ralph R. Kartub "Mr. Ralph" Scholarship

Matthew Hruska

Jama Urbanski Key Memorial (Giant Eagle) Scholarship

Paula Hyskell

The Klingensmith Scholarship

Natalie Boulos
Natalie Ciliberto
Paula Hyskell
Timothy Rhinehart
Stacey Shaffer

Joseph Koslow Scholarship

Carmen Demain
Angela Lacher

Herman R. Leven Memorial Scholarship

Scott Borkenhagen

Maurice Mervis Scholarship

Tracy Peles

Daniel T. Mosse Memorial Scholarship

Melissa Oehling
John Zarra

Pennsylvania Chain Drug Endowment Fund for the School of Pharmacy

Erin Conley
Andrew Grimone
Chris Lacey

Angela Mancini
Virginia Schad
Erin Totleben
Brenda Vehovic

Phar-Mor Scholarship

Adam Andrew
Jodi Bauer
Angela Mancini

School of Pharmacy Scholarship

Amy Amond
Melissa Baranko
Lance Barber
Jodi Bauer
Simone Blackman
Susan Byrne
Erin Conley
Suzanne Cunning
Nicole DeAugustine
Joseph Emanuele
John Evans
Ryan Fedor
Patricia Gelatko
Scott Groner
Amy Hopkins
John Kim
Billie-Jo Kiskadden
Kristian Kobrynick
Chris Lacey
Douglas Landy
Thanh Le
James Masterson
Lindsay McAdams
Kevin McCaffrey
Lynn Messick
Hiep Nguyen
Hong-Diep Nguyen
Dean Nguyen
Melissa Oehling
Karen Ott
Tracy Peles
Luat Phan
Nikki Schneider
Denise Sika
Joy Spoljaric
Katie Stamm
Jeffrey Steiner
Cathy Stevenson
Stephanie Stine
Heather Thomas

Erin Totleben
 Jason Turba
 Jennifer Uphold
 Brenda Vehovic
 Michele Vichr
 Jaime White
 Dana Whittingham
 John Zarra

Rite Aid Scholarship
 Kristian Kobrynich
 Denise Mervis

**J. Howard Semple
 Memorial Scholarship**
 Amy Amond
 Daniel Calvert
 Debra Davis
 Erika Felix
 Holly Lingenfelter
 Shane Lorenzo
 Lindsay Pell
 Tu Tran
 Chris Wheeler

**Ardella V. Sidehamer and
 Charles J. Sidehamer
 Scholarship**
 Heather Thomas
 Dana Whittingham

**The Robert C. Smith
 Scholarship
 for Minority Students
 in Pharmacy**
 Camille Price
 Camille Stuart
 Ha N. Vu

Walgreens Scholarship
 Jill Bryfogle
 Jody Fordyce
 Frances Lam
 Thang Nguyen
 Rachel Reichert

Wal-Mart Scholarship
 Jody Fordyce

**Louis Weinberger
 Endowed Fund**
 Suzanne Cunning
 Joseph Emanuele
 Jeremy Fredell
 Joshua Fredell
 Andrew Grimone
 Scott Groner
 Lindsay McAdams

Development Update

Corporations Provide Scholarship Support

Rite Aid

The Rite Aid Corporation donated \$5,000 to the School of Pharmacy for the Rite Aid and Scott Horton Memorial Scholarships. Pictured are (from left to right): Michele Belsey, Rite Aid director of college and professional recruitment; students (P3, Class of 2000) Hong-Diep Nguyen, Denise Mervis, and Billie-Jo Kiskadden; and Gary Stoehr '73, associate dean for student and academic affairs.



CVS

CVS presented five scholarships of \$1,000 each to School of Pharmacy students for the 1998-99 academic year. Pictured above (from left to right) are scholarship recipients Mary Sue Grassinger (P3, Class of 2000), Danielle Probst (5th Year, Class of 1999), Diane

McIntyre (P3, Class of 2000), Jennifer Cappola (5th Year, Class of 1999), and George White (5th Year, Class of 1999) with Dean Randy Juhl and Mic Calli, pharmacy human resources manager for CVS.

Walgreens

Kent Taylor, pharmacy supervisor Tucson District, and other representatives of Walgreens, present Gary Stoehr '73, associate dean for student and academic affairs, with a \$5,000 check for five student scholarships.



School Dedicates New Student Learning Center

To recognize the generous donors who helped make the new Pharmaceutical Care Learning Center a reality, the School of Pharmacy hosted a special dedication and reception this past December 10, 1998. In addition to funds from the University of Pittsburgh, the School received donations totaling \$210,000 from CVS, Eckerd Corporation Foundation, Walgreens, and Giant Eagle Foundation.

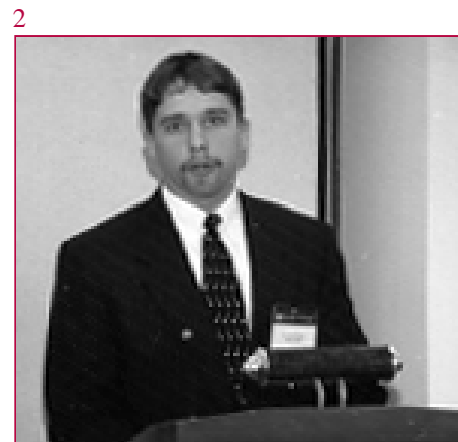
"It is very gratifying to see companies, although they are competitors in the marketplace, work together on a goal that they share," said Dean Randy Juhl of the company representatives on hand for the dedication. "Thank you for helping to develop the next generation of pharma-

located on the second floor of Salk Hall, features three conference rooms, a lounge where students can relax, and a computer facility with new personal computers for students to access the latest pharmaceuti-



cists."

Student Billie-Jo Kiskadden presented the four representatives—Ralph Progar '71 (Eckerd), Michael Calli (CVS), Randy Heiser '83 (Giant Eagle), and Kent Taylor (Walgreens)—with oversized, framed thank-you cards signed by all the students in honor of the companies' donations. The new facility,



cal databases, the World Wide Web, and E-mail. The Center includes vending machines, a campus phone, and ports for lap-top computer modem hookups.

"The center is designed to emphasize collaborative learning," said Gary Stoehr '73, associate dean. "It's ideal for students to work together in small groups, which is an emphasis of our changing





curriculum. The design also allows for the space to be easily reconfigured.”

“The center shows the importance of partnerships between the University and corporate America, which help us to provide high-quality educational programs,” pointed out Cochran, who once served as the School of Pharmacy’s interim dean. “While the gifts to establish



this center are representative of generosity itself, I also ask that you look at the center as an investment that will pay dividends to the school and students while enhancing the opportunity to develop the School’s new curriculum.”

“It’s a great flexible space for learning and for socializing,” said Alex Pytlarz, president of the Academy of Students of Pharmacy. “It’s convenient and necessary.”

1. Students enjoy the new lounge, constructed in part with gifts from corporate donors.
2. Alexander Pytlarz, president of the ASP, thanks the donors from CVS, Eckerd, Giant Eagle, and Walgreens on behalf of the School.
3. Student Billie-Jo Kiskadden (left), presents a framed thank-you card to Kent Taylor of Walgreens.
4. Students enjoy the reception in the new lounge: (front, left to right) Billie-Jo Kiskadden and Jody Fordyce; (back, left to right) Iny Marks, Nikki Schneider, and Michele Vicher.
5. Billie-Jo Kiskadden (left), offers a thank you to Ralph Progar of Eckerd.
6. Dean Juhl (right) accepts a \$75,000 donation from Giant Eagle’s Randy Heiser.
7. Students Brian Olender (left) and Brian Bobby, who helped out with the dedication, relax in the conference room.
8. Billie-Jo Kiskadden (right) presents a thank you to Michael Calli of CVS.
9. Kent Taylor speaks on behalf of Walgreens.
10. Billie-Jo Kiskadden (left) gives a certificate of thanks to Randy Heiser of Giant Eagle.

William Gatti

Reaching New Heights

Like many western Pennsylvanians, Bill Gatti's heritage includes a strong work ethic bolstered by a determination to build a better life. His grandfather, William, was a coal miner who went on to work in the company store. His father, Louis, graduated from Pitt in 1930 with a Pharmacy degree and opened a drug store in Indiana, Pennsylvania, struggling through the midst of the Great Depression. Gatti recalls working in his father's pharmacy as a soda fountain boy and serving locals like Jimmy Stewart's father, who owned the hardware store down the street.

"I have to admit that, if it weren't for my father and the family's expectation that at least one of his children would follow him in the field, I might not have become a pharmacist," says Gatti. "I was more interested in business. But, fortunately, a degree in pharmacy proved to be a perfect background for building a pharmaceutical business."

After receiving his pharmacy degree from Pitt in 1966, Gatti went back to Indiana to work for his father. But just as his grandfather and father had improved the family fortunes, he set his sites on expanding the family business. By the late 1970s, Gatti had started a medical supply company, focusing on providing services to non-hospital institutions. Then, in the early 1980s, he recognized a new niche in the market.

"Providing pharmacy services to long-term care homes was just starting to become a specialty," recalls Gatti. "Gatti employees literally went door-to-door to market our new service."

By emphasizing service on a timely basis, Gatti built a 200-employee business. Gatti LTC Services, now owned by Omnicare Corporation, services long-term care homes and operates pharmacies throughout Pennsylvania. Although Gatti is in the process of selling the two Gatti pharmacies in Indiana to a Pitt pharmacy graduate, he continues to operate the medical supply company with one of his four children.

Married to his wife Mary Jane for 34

years, Gatti says the School of Pharmacy and former Dean Joseph Bianculli, in particular, were important influences in his life. "I transferred to Pitt from another school, but I did not have enough credits to be accepted in the pharmacy school," recalls Gatti, whose Aunt, Lena Gatti Raimonds '30, also graduated from the School of Pharmacy. "Dean Bianculli told me to take an extra year to earn the credits and then reapply to the pharmacy school. He said that, in ten years, I would never think about that year. He was absolutely right; but, at the time, I was devastated."

Still, Gatti was willing to put forth the effort, carrying on the Gatti legacy. "People in my family always took what they were given and made the best of it," he says.



Gattis Establish Scholarship

Bill ('66) and Mary Jane Gatti have donated \$100,000 to the School of Pharmacy to endow the Gatti Family Scholarship. Bill Gatti says they established the scholarship to help others who want to build a new life and to honor his hard working parents and grandparents, who were his role models (see accompanying story).

"I wanted to give something back to the profession, and the scholarship made a lot of sense," says Gatti, who took his father's pharmacy and expanded it into a medical supply business and, later, a business focusing on pharmacy services for long-term care homes. "I think the scholarship captures the essence of my family's heritage. My grandmother, Theresa, was an immigrant who could barely speak a word of English when she came here. She was determined that her sons and daughters would all be educated, preferably to become doctors or pharmacists."

The scholarship will assist pharmacy students who lack the finances to complete their education or are coping with extraordinary life circumstances, such as the loss of a parent. As for future pharmacy students, Gatti believes they will find success as long as they stick to the basics. Says Gatti, "Hard work and customer service will take you a long way."

Distinguished Alumni Nominations Sought

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Society invites alumni to nominate a fellow alumnus for the 2000 School of Pharmacy's Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is presented annually to one or more alumni based on outstanding professional achievements. Over the years, the award has been given to alumni with a wide range of interests and accomplishments. Alumni can help carry on this tradition through their nominations, which will ensure that deserving alumni are recognized for their achievements.

The Alumni Society board members will make the final selection(s) based on several criteria, including contributions to the profession of pharmacy, professional recognition and awards, promotion of the pharmacy profession at the community and/or institutional level, and innovative discoveries in the field of pharmacy. Alumni will also be considered for their achievements in enhancing alumni volunteering, student recruitment, and the School of Pharmacy's reputation.

The Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented at the Pharmacy Alumni Society's Alumni Weekend, June 2-4, 2000. All nominations are due by Friday, July 2, 1999.

For more information on the award and its criteria, please contact Richard A. Lithgow, special assistant to the dean for alumni affairs, at (412) 242-4525 or, to nominate someone, fill out the ballot on this page.

NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF NOMINEE:

CLASS YEAR:

HOME ADDRESS:

REASON FOR NOMINATION:

(CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY)

NAME OF NOMINATOR:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL:

RETURN NOMINATIONS TO:

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ALUMNI SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

1104 SALK HALL

PITTSBURGH, PA 15213-3405

FAX: (412) 648-1086

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JULY 2, 1999.

Annual Career Roundtable

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Society held its Sixth Annual Career Roundtable in Salk Hall on February 10, 1999. Several alumni spoke to students on a wide range of career opportunities, from community and hospital pharmacy to research, law, and government service. The following is a list of presenters who shared their valuable experience and insights with students, their places of employment, and the topics they discussed.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Kathleen Bartony '76
Eckerd
Randy Heiser '83
Giant Eagle
Philip Freehling '92
Wal-Mart

INDUSTRY

Nikki Rebich '90
Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Pharmaceuticals

MANAGED CARE/MAIL SERVICE

Jeff Fink '95
Merck-Medco
Steven Wolf '94
Stadtlanders Pharmacy

INVESTIGATIONAL DRUG SERVICE

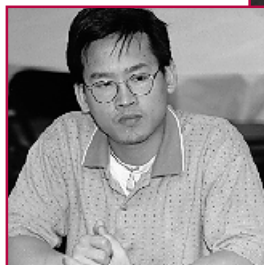
Janet Kerfonta '87
UPMC Health System

NUCLEAR PHARMACY

Dennis Swanson
School of Pharmacy

MBA/LAW SCHOOL

Monica Martyak '95
Pitt MBA/MHA Program
Michael Danek '94
Pitt Law School



RESEARCH

Holly Lassila '86
UPCI & Behavioral Medicine
Rae Ann Maxwell '87, '97
WPIC/UPMC Health System
William Zamboni '92, '94
UPCI/UPMC Health System



HOSPITAL PHARMACY MANAGEMENT

William Crossey '76
VA Medical Center
Lisa Hanlon '94
Hershey Medical Center

BUSINESS

Paul Ferraro '86
Pitt Student Health Service
Robert Monte '79
VA Medical Center

CONSULTING PHARMACY

Annette Boyer '81
William M. Mercer Consulting Firm
Raymond Stierer '79
Interactive Information



CLINICAL PHARMACY

Jill Slimick-Ponzetto '92, '96
VA Medical Center
Janet Traynor '87, '95
Magee-Womens Hospital

GOVERNMENT

Ellen Frank '92
Public Health Service (FDA)
Michael Lilla
Federal Corrections Institute, Loretto, Pennsylvania

COMMUNITY PHARMACY-INDEPENDENT

Josie Neiswenter '94
Evans City Drugs & Evans City Apothecary
Dick Lithgow '50
Phil's Pharmacy

EXECUTIVE PHARMACY

RECRUITMENT

Samuel Skeegan '62
Roth Young Personnel Service of Detroit, Inc.



**To volunteer for the Year 2000
Career Roundtable, contact:**

Laraine Kuchma
Administrative Assistant
School of Pharmacy Alumni Society
(412) 648-3304
e-mail: Kuchma@msx.upmc.edu

Robert Gibbs: Maintaining Brain Function in the Aged

By the time he reached the fourth grade, Robert Gibbs, PhD, was already fascinated by the brain and destined for a career in the neurosciences. He went on to receive his BS from the University of Rochester and his PhD from the University of California, Irvine. But when he neared completion of his postdoctoral work at Rockefeller University, his career path took an unexpected turn.

“I was applying for different positions, including one offered by the School of Pharmacy,” says Gibbs. “I’m not a pharmacist so I was somewhat skeptical about how I would fit in.”

Impressed with the School’s faculty and the University of Pittsburgh research environment, Gibbs accepted the school’s offer and joined the faculty in 1993. An associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Gibbs is studying the effects of gonadal hormones on brain aging and cognition. His primary focus is on the role of estrogen replacement in enhancing brain functioning and in protecting specific neurons from functional declines associated with aging and hormone deprivation.

Several studies have shown that estrogen replacement therapy helps decrease aging-related effects of cognition and memory impairment in post-menopausal women. It may also protect against the damaging effects of stroke, reduce cell death due to injury, and serve as an antioxidant. However, Gibbs points out that less than half of post-menopausal women take estrogen and that most of those who do receive estrogen discontinue treatment after symptoms disappear.

“There are certain risks involved with estrogen-replacement therapy, including breast and uterine cancer,” says Gibbs. “But, under the current health care system, estrogen therapy is not tailored to the individual. Standard dosages, for example, are given to women regardless of weight or size.”

In his lab on the 10th floor of Salk Hall, Gibbs is identifying the mechanisms by which estrogen influences basal forebrain cholinergic

neurons, which play an important role in learning, memory, and attentional process. The effects of Alzheimer’s disease on cholinergic neurons is believed to contribute to these patients’ cognitive decline.

Gibbs and colleagues hypothesize that ovarian steroid hormones play a role in the normal physiological regulation of cholinergic neurons in the brain. The loss of ovarian

Research conducted by Gibbs and others may lead the medical community to rethink the role and importance of estrogen-replacement therapy.

function in post-menopausal women may adversely affect these neurons, leading to an increased risk for Alzheimer’s disease and aging-related memory impairment. A growing body of evidence indicates that estrogen replacement can enhance functional status of cholinergic projections to the brain’s hippocampus and cortex regions.

Focusing on animal (rat) models and using high-tech imaging techniques, Gibbs is zeroing in on the physiological processes associated with estrogen and brain functioning. He has published his findings in *Brain Research*, *Hormones & Behavior*, and *Experimental Neurology*. Most recently, he has begun behavioral studies in older animals.

“The big question is: Are these biochemical changes behaviorally relevant?” explains Gibbs. “We are looking at how these changes affect areas like animals’ spatial memory and attentional processes.”

Research conducted by Gibbs and others may lead the medical community to rethink the role and importance of estrogen-replacement therapy. “For example, we may eventually be able to create new drugs that target the same tissue as estrogen, have the same beneficial effects, but can be tailored to the individual for increased safety,” says Dr. Gibbs.

As for his past six years at the School of Pharmacy, Gibbs believes he made the right choice. “It’s a very collegial and productive environment,” he says. “Dean Juhl and Dr. [Patricia] Kroboth have been very supportive. They realize that good research comes from within and not from external pressures. It’s an absolutely outstanding place to work.”

School Holds Annual Homecoming

The Pittsburgh Panther joins in the fun with School of Pharmacy Alumni during the School’s annual Homecoming this past October 17, 1998. Joining forces with the Department of Athletics, the School held a pre-game tailgate party prior to the Pittsburgh Panthers vs. Rutgers Scarlet Knights football game.



Pictured above are (seated) Kathy Bartony '76 and Dick Lithgow '50; (standing from left to right) Bill Gatti '66, Larry Hruska '73, Sherri Progar '77, and Jake Grimm '50.

Arthur S. Levine Named Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences

Arthur S. Levine, MD, has been named the University of Pittsburgh's senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine. Levine, who replaced recently retired Thomas Detre on November 1, oversees Pitt's six health sciences schools, including the School of Pharmacy. An internationally respected physician-scientist, Levine was previously the scientific director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. His own work most recently has focused on the causes of genetic disorders, birth defects, and cancer.

"The University of Pittsburgh faculty includes truly outstanding teachers and researchers, and its tradition of excellence in the health sciences provides a strong foundation for future progress," says Levine, who received his MD from the Chicago School of Medicine. "It seems clear the entire University is on the move, and I am pleased to be joining the leadership team that Chancellor Nordenberg has assembled."

In an interview with the *University Times*, Levine says that he was attracted by the opportunity to serve both as vice chancellor and dean of medicine. "...[B]ut as much as I see medicine and science as an integral, but not as an exclusive part, of scholarship into the human condition, at the same time I think all the health sciences are interrelated," added Levine. "And the job at Pittsburgh is an opportunity, in fact, to exhort and foster and further that integration."

"I was privileged to serve on the search committee that recruited Dr. Levine," says Dean Randy Juhl of his new boss. "I was impressed at the number and quality of individuals who wanted this job. It warms my heart to see that outsiders consider Pitt such an attractive place. But when it was all done, Dr. Levine was clearly the best person to lead the Health Sciences into the next century. He is very supportive of the School of Pharmacy, and we are lucky to have him."

Student

N E W S

Student Serves on ASHP Council

Erin L. Conley (P4) is the student member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Council on Educational Affairs. Conley recently attended the ASHP's five policy-recommending councils' annual meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, where the councils examined the future of health-system pharmacy and made policy recommendations to the ASHP Board of Directors.

Internship Leads to Published Paper and ACCP Poster

Sarah Middleton (P2) made her mark this past summer the old-fashioned way. She earned it. Although disappointed when she failed to obtain an American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) summer internship grant, Middleton learned that an internship might be available with David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, a member of Brown University's Center for Gerontology & Health Care Research.

"Basically, I harassed him until he said OK," Middleton told a group of her classmates at the first "Awareness Wednesday," an informal gathering for student presentations held at the Pharmaceutical Care Learning Center (see story on page 6). "But, by the end of the summer, he told me he was glad I came."

So was Middleton. Her efforts working with Gifford, Kate L. Lapane, PhD, and others at Brown led to her co-authoring the population-based observational study "The Sage Database: Medication Use in Elderly Nursing

Facility Residents," which appeared in the *Consultant Pharmacist* (December 1998). The American Colleges of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) also accepted Middleton's poster on SAGE for its 1998 Annual Meeting, which Middleton attended in Cincinnati this past



Sarah Middleton with her poster that she presented at the ACCP conference.

November.

Middleton's work with the Systematic Assessment of Geriatric drug use via Epidemiology (SAGE) database focused on patterns and outcomes for elderly nursing facility residents. "It was a unique experience," said Middleton, "especially the opportunity to work with programmers and go to nursing homes instead of being a research assistant in a lab."

In addition to the valuable real-world experience, the internship provided Middleton with networking opportunities. "At the ACCP conference, a couple of people gave me their cards, including a faculty member at the University of North Carolina," said Middleton. "He told me to call when it's time for me to do my residency."

Transcripts

1950s

Richard Lithgow '50 was recently honored at the 63rd Annual President's Recognition Dinner of the Allegheny County Pharmacists Association (ACPA). The 1998 ACPA president, Lithgow was lauded for his "background of professionalism, organization skills, leadership expertise, and the innate desire to do the best he can....he gives truth to the statement, 'Give a busy man a job to do and then watch what a good job he does with it.'"



Dick Lithgow

Wayne C. Miller '56 has been elected treasurer of the Ohio Parkinson Foundation and a board member of the Central Ohio Parkinson Society.

Zola P. Horovitz '55, MS '60, PhD '60 (Pharmacology), retired as vice president of business development at Bristol-Myers Squibb in 1994. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of 12 biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies and as chairman of Magainin Pharmaceutical, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania.

1960s

The University of Illinois-Chicago College of Pharmacy has bestowed its "Highest Honor," an endowed chair in pharmacognosy, upon Norman R. Farnsworth, PhD '60 for his distinguished career in pharmacognosy.

Walter P. Severs, BS '60, MS '63, PhD '65, has recently retired from the Penn State College of Medicine as professor emeritus of

Pharmacology and Neuroscience. A faculty member for more than 30 years, Severs co-authored more than 120 peer-reviewed publications in diverse areas of cardiovascular, central nervous system, and ocular pharmacology focusing on hormonal control of neuronal circuits that regulate blood, cerebrospinal and intraocular pressures. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Medalion for Science from the University of Bel-

School. Dr. Severs, who is listed in *Who's Who in America*, says he may practice some community pharmacy, which he has done in the past, as well as some drug utilization review (DUR) and medical-legal consulting work.

Louis Williams '67, MS '70, PhD '74, was honored by more than 160 friends, students, alumni, and family members at a special dinner held during the annual meeting of the Texas Pharmacy Association. The dinner raised approximately \$5,000 to support the Louis Williams Endowment. Williams is professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Houston.

1970s

Mary Barto Andritz '73 has been appointed assistant dean for professional affairs and associate professor of pharmacy practice at the Albany College of Pharmacy, Union University, in Albany, New York. Her primary responsibility is for continuing and nontraditional educational programs. She will also assist in enrollment management and local,

state, and national governmental affairs. She was formerly chief executive officer of the New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists.

Richard F. Bergstrom '73, PhD, is president-elect of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.



Walter Severs

Gregg Montgomery '74 has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer of Arrow Pharmacy & Nutrition Centers. He will be responsible for strategic planning and daily management. Montgomery was most recently president of GMA Health Care and Business Consultants.

1980s

Hilary D. Mandler '83, PharmD, has been appointed Medical Science Manager, Infectious Diseases, in the Philadelphia area for Bristol-Myers Squibb. Previously, she was clinical coordinator and Residency Program director at Hahnemann University Hospital and clinical associate professor in pharmacy at the University of Sciences in Philadelphia (formerly Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science).

Joseph M. Uhrinek '88, a staff pharmacist at Weis Pharmacy in Harrisburg, is a consultant pharmacist to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Quality Management. Serving in this capacity since 1992, he reviews recipient history profiles to determine if all services are within medical assistance guidelines.

Faculty

N E W S

Michael DeYoung, PhD, has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. DeYoung was previously at the University of Toledo.



Mary Hess

Mary Hess, PharmD, assistant professor and director of Drug Use and Disease State Management at UPMC Health System, and Susan Skledar, RPh, MPH, assistant professor and assistant director of the same UPMC Health System program, received honorary mention for the Organon Leadership Awards in Hospital Pharmacy Program. Organon Inc., a pharmaceutical company located in West Orange, New Jersey, sponsors the program to recognize those individuals who have created and implemented a new means of improving both patient care and overall cost efficiencies. Hess and Skledar received honorable mention for their entry entitled "Balancing the Need to Both Improve Patient Care and Contain Costs." The award was presented at the American Society of Health Pharmacists Conference held on December 6, 1998, in Las Vegas.

Gilbert Burckart, PharmD, BS '72, professor, has been named vice chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics.

Edward Krenzelok, PharmD, professor, has recently completed his term as president of American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and is currently Past President.

William Zamboni, PharmD '94, BS '92, has returned to Pitt where he will be an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and work with the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

Stoehr Receives Distinguished Teaching Award

Gary P. Stoehr '73, associate dean of the School of Pharmacy, has received the 1999 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Stoehr was recognized for his leadership role in revising the School of Pharmacy's curriculum to incorporate an active, student-centered learning approach with inquiry-based courses that integrate science with practice to prepare students for the ever-changing health care field.

"Over the years you have studied new pedagogical methods, have designed innovative



Gary P. Stoehr

activities based on your learning and have shared your experiences in scholarly presentations and articles," wrote Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg in a letter notifying Stoehr of his selection. "Students and colleagues have great respect for your tireless efforts in organizing the leadership retreat for student leaders and incorporating active learning activities and collaborative learning in the Profession of Pharmacy courses you developed."

The award consists of a \$2,000 cash award and a \$3,000 grant to support Stoehr's teaching. Stoehr's name is also inscribed on the bronze plaque listing award winners on display in the William Pitt Union.

Schwinghammer Receives APhA Award

Terrence L. Schwinghammer, PharmD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) Distinguished Achievement Award in Clinical/Pharmacotherapeutic Practice. He was selected for his numerous contributions to clinical/pharmacotherapeutic practice, which include his leadership roles in pharmacy organizations, excellence in teaching pharmacy students, and numerous publications in pharmacy journals.

According to one of Schwinghammer's nominators, "He has enhanced pharmaceutical care through his impact on the larger institution in which he practiced, the professional organizations to which he belonged, students whom he taught, and the larger profession through his publications." Schwinghammer has directed two consensus conferences in Pennsylvania, and the proceedings have served as a "blueprint" for advancing pharmaceutical care in the state. He received the award during

the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition, held March 5-9, 1999, in San Antonio, Texas.

Schwinghammer was also named the Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) faculty member of the year and has received a Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmacy Leadership Award.

Major Grants and Other Funded Projects

Carlene Baum, PhD, Assistant Professor
Medication Compliance in Organ Transplant Recipients

NIH
7/97-6/00
\$107,072

Kerry Cholka, PharmD, Assistant Professor
(Co-Investigator)

Collaborative Quality Improvement of Pharmaceutical Care and Medical Discharge Counseling
Jewish HealthCare
1/99-3/00
\$17,573

Robert Gibbs, PhD, Associate Professor
Effects of Estrogen on NGF-Related Systems in Brain

NIH
9/97-5/00
\$659,970

Robert Gibbs, PhD
Effects of Estrogen on Cholinergic Activity and NGF Response in Brain

NSF
7/96-6/99
\$216,144

Robert Gibbs, PhD (Co-Investigator)
Center for Research in Reproductive Physiology Imaging Core D

NIH
4/98-3/99
\$86,597

Patricia Kroboth, PhD, Professor and Department Chair

DHEA & GABA-Receptor Mediated Responses in Aged Adults

NIH
\$1,020,804
1/97-12/99

Dexi Liu, PhD, Associate Professor
Target-Specific Emulsion for Systemic Gene Delivery

NIH
\$518,000
2/97-1/02

Dexi Liu, PhD
Identification of Biological Factors Controlling Cationic Lipid-Mediated Gene Delivery Targeted Genetics

\$400,000
10/96-9/20

Gordon Vanscoy, PharmD, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean

National Smoking Cessation Specialist Certificate Program
SmithKline Beecham Consumer Healthcare
\$899,753
1/99-12/99

Gordon Vanscoy, PharmD
AMI Pathways: Shifting the Formulary Paradigm and the Acute Brain Attack: Medication Pathways to Reducing Disability
Genentech

\$573,315
1/99-12/99

Raman Venkataramanan, PhD, Professor
Pharmacokinetics of Mycophenolic Acid and Clinical Outcome in Liver Transplant Patients
Roche

\$61,398
4/97-3/99

Regis Vollmer, PhD, Professor (Co-Investigator)

Diet, Aromatic Amino Acids and CNS Neurotransmitters

NIH
\$15,701
12/98-11/99

Margie Zak, PharmD, Assistant Professor
The Effect of Formulary Conversion from Ceftazidime to Cefepime on the In Vitro Sensitivities of Pseudomonas Aeruginosa, Enterobacter Cloacae and Klebsiella Pneumoniae to Selected Antibiotics
Bristol-Myers Squibb

\$19,986
10/98-9/99

Alumni News Sparks Memories

The past issue of the *School of Pharmacy Alumni News* prompted Robert Statler '42 to note how much he enjoys reading the newsletter and to recall his days as a student on the Bluff. "Dr. Joe Bianculli was our chemistry instructor, and we occasionally worked together at my uncle's pharmacy in Castle Shannon from '39 to '42," writes Mr. Statler to Dick Lithgow '50, special assistant to the dean for alumni affairs. "I remember Joe walking out on the floor to greet a customer and pretend he tripped and do a complete somersault in front of the customer, nearly scaring them to death."

Statler spent four years in the Army and Air Corps following his graduation and then went to work for Dickson's Drug store in Dormont. He also worked as chief pharmacist at the Aspinwall Veteran's Affairs Hospital and at VACO in Washington, DC, where he helped develop its Pharmacy Residency Program and was Director of Pharmacy Service from 1968 to 1971, when he retired.



Robert Statler

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 note cards with full color photographs of the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum.



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 _____

Phone (Home) _____

Phone (Work) _____

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.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Cost Per</i>	<i>Total</i>
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.			_____
Total			_____

Baxter Sponsors Student Visit

Between his fourth and fifth year as a student at the School of Pharmacy, Rich Kruzynski '77 received a National Pharmaceutical Council internship. "It was a great," says Kruzynski. "I spent the summer working at a drug company, which was not a typical internship experience, especially at that time."

Although he first worked as a hospital and community pharmacist after graduation, Kruzynski eventually went on to earn his MBA from the University of Chicago and joined Baxter Healthcare Corporation in 1981. This past November, he provided two current School of Pharmacy students their own unique view of the pharmaceutical industry.

Students Anne C. Ferri and Brian A. Potoski spent a day-and-a-half in Chicago learning about pharmacy careers in industry, courtesy of Baxter Healthcare and Kruzynski, vice president/general manager of Baxter COM-PASS, I.V. Systems Division. According to the students, the trip's highlight was their meetings with Baxter employees.

"I was impressed with one thing in particular," says Ferri. "Everyone at Baxter truly seemed to love their job, from the factory workers to the president of I.V. systems. It was amazing how many employees we met who had 10, 15, 20 years of service or more."

According to Kruzynski, the students met with several Baxter employees who received degrees in pharmacy and who now work in such areas as marketing, quality management, anesthesia, and pharmaceutical wholesaling. "The students were great," says Kruzynski. "I thought they would be more interested in learning about career paths that had led pharmacists to their current positions here rather than in what they actually did. But I was wrong; everyone was impressed by the students' keen interest in their roles at Baxter."

"As with most pharmacy students, I was unaware of exactly what opportunities were available to pharmacists at companies such as Baxter," says Potoski. "What little I did know came from my experience as a pharmacy student in the hospital and community settings.

Annie and I were quite overwhelmed with the many career options available there."

The students learned about many aspects of Baxter's operations, including the COMPASS Program, which provides outsourcing services to hospitals for a portion of their IV admixture programs. They also toured a Baxter manufacturing facility and the Healthcare Environment Room, a facility designed like a hospital environment to display Baxter Healthcare products and technologies in an "actual" clinical setting.

"Mr. Kruzynski and everyone at Baxter went well out of their way to make sure that our visit was extremely enjoyable and educational," says Ferri.

"Pharmacy students should pursue careers in community and clinical pharmacy," adds Kruzynski, who has maintained close ties with his alma mater and served for three years on the School's Alumni Board. "But they should also be aware that their education provides numerous opportunities."

Alumni Society Hosts Annual Alumni Day

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Society hosted several alumni guest speakers to visit their alma mater and talk to pharmacy students about their career paths during the 1998 Alumni Day, held on Friday, October 16, 1998. Pictured are (from left to right): Dean Randy Juhl, Ralph Progar '71, Kathy Bartony '76, Vic Delimata '87, Richard Lithgow '50, and Larry Bursick '82



Smoking Cessation Program Going Strong

Since 1997, the School of Pharmacy's Smoking Cessation Specialist Certificate Program has held nearly 150 training sessions throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, training nearly 4,000 pharmacists as smoking cessation counselors.

"We've held training sessions at 15 other pharmacy schools, in the community pharmacy setting, and at hospitals and pharmacy associations," says Frank Vitale, MA, the program's director. "We are also considering presenting programs throughout Europe in cooperation with several European universities and SmithKline Beecham. And we've also conducted two sessions in the Canary Islands."

According to a survey of patients who have received smoking cessation counseling from pharmacists certified through the program, 61 percent found the counseling "very useful" and 34 percent rated it "useful." In addition, School faculty and Saul Shiffman, PhD, professor of psychology at Pitt, are reviewing how the training affects the sales of smoking cessation products. Vitale says that the numbers show an increase in consumer utilization of cessation products in stores where pharmacists have been trained.

"Based on the feedback, the fact that we conduct sessions all over the country, and that we likely will be holding them in Europe, I'd say the program's been a great success," says Vitale. "I think everyone benefits. The pharmacist by enhancing his or her practice and the patients by increasing their chances to quit smoking."

"Our goals are simple," says Gordon J. Vanscoy, PharmD, MBA, assistant dean for managed care. "We want to help smokers quit, train pharmacists for a renewed role as smoking cessation specialists, and position pharmacists as major wellness advocates in the managed-care environment."

Vanscoy developed the program along with Dean Randy Juhl through a series of unrestricted educational grants from

SmithKline Beecham Consumer Healthcare. "SmithKline Beecham has made a tremendous investment in the School of Pharmacy and in the profession of pharmacy by funding this program for over \$3 million," says Dean Juhl. "And now we are seeing a payoff through pharmacists' having a measurable impact on the public health."

For more information on the Smoking Cessation Specialist Certification Program, please contact

Frank Vitale at
412-383-7206;
or toll-free
888-412-5821
fax: 412-648-2116.



Upcoming Smoking Cessation Certificate Programs

For more information on the following scheduled training programs, please contact Frank Vitale at the toll-free number: 888-412-5821.

Richmond, Virginia
July 10, 1999

Las Vegas, Nevada
July 22, 1999

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 11, 1999

Atlantic City, New Jersey
August 21, 1999

Charleston, West Virginia
September 19, 1999

Santa Fe, New Mexico
September 25, 1999

In Memoriam

Isadore Browarsky '36

John G. Campbell '35

Edward M. Donley '28

Pearl G. Herer '31

William J. Hill '31, '32

Ralph S. Kuhn '52

Fred S. Mandler '49

Lester E. McGeary, MD, '41

Vernon R. Moore '49

James Murtland '50

Robert W. Newcomer '37

Jo Claire Novak '55

John W. Sapida Jr., '49

Henry Stern '37

Inez Terrill '34

Ben Weiss '32

Edward C. Ifft Sr. '26

The late Edward C. Ifft Sr. was a dynamic pharmacist who ran two drugstores in the city's East End and gave generously to charities. In 1927, He opened an Ifft's Pharmacy on Baum Boulevard in Oakland and then another on South St. Clair Street in East Liberty. He closed his independent pharmacies in 1960 and worked as a pharmacist for Sun Drug at a Highland Park drugstore. He then managed Ford and Loch, a pharmacy in East Liberty. Mr. Ifft was also past president of the Allegheny County Retail Druggist Association and past chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy. In addition to serving as a board member of the Edward J. Kelly Foundation, which grants funds in education and health care, he donated to the Harmarville Rehabilitation Center, where he received therapy for Guillain-Barré syndrome, and to numerous other organizations. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Norma Hofbauer Ifft; his son, Edward Ifft Jr.; his daughters Lois Burwinkel and Elizabeth Jacob; and a sister, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please 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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Business Telephone:

Position(s):

News:

Please complete and return to:

Pharmacy Alumni News

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