



**Skaggs School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

E SCRIPTS

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Commencement 2016

With commencement right around the corner, excitement is in the air. Starting at 10:30 a.m. May 27, the school's hooding ceremony and convocation kicks off at the Denver Center for Performing Arts Complex in Boettcher Concert Hall. Please plan to arrive at 9:30 a.m. This year, students, faculty, staff and friends

can join the celebration and share memories by tagging @CUPharmacy and @CUAnschutz on Twitter and Instagram, using the tag #CUPharmGrad. In the meantime, be sure to check out the special edition of [Pharmacy Perspectives](#) highlighting a few of our graduating students!

Commencement Banquet

In honor of the graduating pharmacy Class of 2016, the school is hosting its annual commencement banquet at 6 p.m. May 26 at the Doubletree Hotel Grand Ballroom. Filled with food, drinking and exciting entertainment, the event is sure to send off our graduates with pomp and circumstance. This year, the ceremony features a toast to the Class of 2016 from Class President Kelsey Schwander, award recognition, and entertainment chosen by the graduating-4 class.

True Grit

Determined to land a residency after not matching in 2015, Michael Cobretti (PharmD) reached out to DOPS faculty member Christina Aquilante, PharmD, in search of research opportunities. Through a new unpaid internship Aquilante had created, Cobretti was able to gain clinical research experience that would ultimately help him secure a residency during the 2016 match process. [Read Cobretti's story now.](#)

In the News

The school has seen quite a bit of news coverage recently with two news stories on 9NEWS, as well as a drug disposal takeback piece in the [Loveland Reporter-Herald](#), and faculty member Kari Franson, PharmD, PhD, interviewed by [The Today Show](#) and [NBC Nightly News](#) on the increasing popularity of marijuana topicals among women. The stories that recently ran on 9NEWS included a piece about Drs. Jonathan Shannahan and Jared Brown mentoring high school sophomore [Hari Sowrirajan](#), and another that ran about a [5th grader who requested admission to our pharmacy program](#). P-4 Kelsey Schwander presented Natalia Zielinski (5th grade student) with her white coat, Future CU Pharmacy pin and medallion, encouraging Natalia to pursue her dreams of becoming a pharmacist.

Curriculum Receives National Recognition

Faculty members Allison Blackmer, Joe Saseen and Megan Thompson (PharmD) will be receiving the Innovations in Teaching Award at the AACP annual meeting in July for the Intercession course. These achievements validate the hard work, creativity and deliberate efforts of our faculty in developing and delivering the renewed curriculum. In addition to this award, faculty members Joe Vande Griend, PharmD, and Wes Nuffer, PharmD, together with alumna Melissa Rodgers (Safeway/Albertsons) won the Pharmacy Quality Alliance Poster award for their presentation titled "The impact of an advanced pharmacy practice experience on the delivery of medication therapy management services in a centralized retail pharmacy system." Congratulations!

Congratulations

DOPS faculty member Jared Brown, PhD, was selected as one of this year's Graduate School Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring award recipients. The award was created by the Graduate School to recognize and honor excellence in mentoring by the graduate faculty. DOCP faculty members Scott Mueller, PharmD, and Robert Page II, PharmD, recently received the Chancellor's Teaching Recognition Award and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, respectively.