

# SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS



University of Colorado at Denver  
and Health Sciences Center

## Polished social skills can help pharmacy careers

By Kenna Bruner  
Office of Public Relations

In her school-wide presentation, Arcelia Johnson-Fannin, PharmD, RPh, stressed to students the importance of having polished social skills in furthering their pharmacy careers.

For nearly 30 years Johnson-Fannin has devoted herself to effecting change in the industry and empowering students to take control of their lives through academic and professional excellence.

Johnson-Fannin, who received her pharmacy degree from Mercer University, is the only black woman to have founded a school of pharmacy and the only woman to have started two schools of pharmacy at the University of Incarnate Word in Texas and Hampton University in Virginia. In 1999, Johnson-Fannin was named one of the 50 most influential pharmacists in America.

"Your credentials will get you in the door," she told the audience. "What will set you apart from other pharmacy graduates vying for the same residency position is you, the person. Socializing successfully is vital to your career."



**Arcelia Johnson-Fannin, PharmD, RPh, left, advises students on the fine art of networking and socializing.**

Her strategies for socializing successfully started with the admonition that students should hone their social skills early in their school careers in order to attend professional functions and job interviews with poise.

Her tips ran the gamut from how to enter a room – confidently – to demonstrating how to shake hands – firmly. Every conversation is an opportunity for success. Stick to "safe" topics of conversation, such as the weather, sports, travel or food. Avoid conversation killers like controversial current affairs and never tell jokes.

She stressed following what she called the "10-5 rule" when attending a professional or social gathering.

"If you come within 10 feet of someone, you should make contact of some kind, such as eye contact, a nod of the head," she explained. "If you come within five feet, you should interact with them and introduce yourself."

She advised students to be sure their body language is relaxed and to give their undivided attention when engaging with another person.

In the hierarchy of making introductions, a colleague gets introduced to a person of higher rank such as the company president, and a younger person is introduced to an older person.

"You need to be able to socialize successfully to impact your life and career," she said, "but you've got to prepare."

### Variations on a theme of macrophages

## Pharmacy student's art in Art in Science/Science in Art exhibit

Art and science have long been considered to be opposite extremes with little in common.

In the Art in Science/Science in Art exhibit, the line between science and art is blurred, with visually and artistically stunning results.

The 66 images in the exhibition can be seen in a Web gallery at <http://ArtSci.uchsc.edu>.

Elizabeth Redente, a fourth year PhD student, had one of the images from her research accepted for display in this juried exhibition of images by University of Colorado-affiliated scientists. Her art piece shows colorful clusters of macrophages present around human lung cancer tumors. For the exhibit, she used Photoshop to manipulate the colors of the macrophages to produce dazzling images.

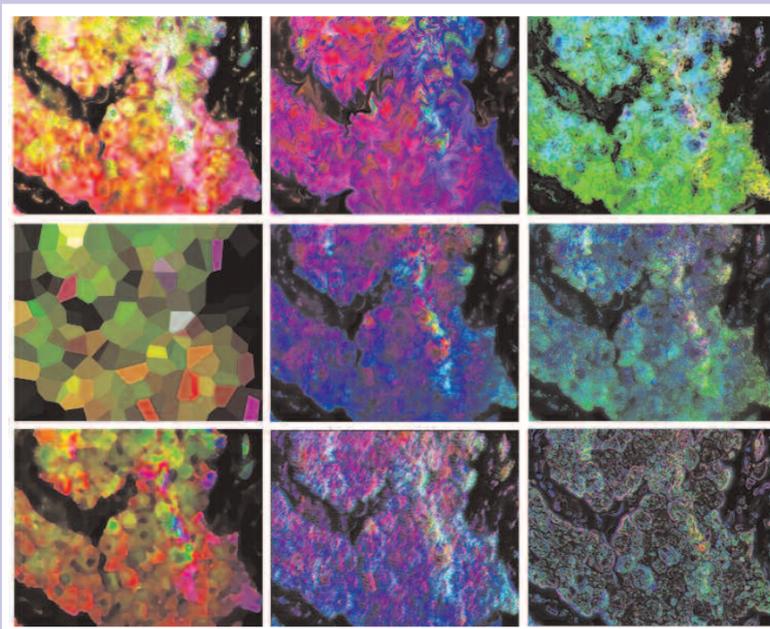


**Elizabeth Redente**

"In science you have to be very careful to not manipulate your data or alter the colors," she said. "This exhibit was an expressive and fun way to take something that's very factual and move into the art realm where you can make changes to the images and the colors."

Redente is studying lung cancer progression in mice. What she's seeing are changes in the lungs that have been altered by the tumor. The alternations are also happening in the bone marrow, so the changes are not just localized around the site of the tumor.

"This tells us that tumors are really powerful and they are actually influencing the bone marrow to alter the macrophages before they even leave the bone marrow," she said. "They're being altered before they get



**This image by Elizabeth Redente, PhD student in the School of Pharmacy, shows clusters of macrophages, a type of immune cell, present around human lung tumors, showing the many faces that may influence cancer development.**

to the lungs. This is a global effect on the body."

In the 20th Annual Student Research Forum held last year, Redente received a top overall award for her poster project titled *Temporal Changes in Macrophage Activation May Mediate Lung Tumor Progression*. As an award winner, she was invited to give presentations to both the CU Retired Faculty Association and the Health Sciences Center Retired Faculty Association.

## Providing aid in a state of emergency

By Kenna Bruner  
Office of Public Relations

After spending three weeks last summer helping hurricane victims in Louisiana, Jeffrey Bratberg, PharmD, BCPS, saw first hand just how tenuous the health care system in the United States can be in the face of cascading disasters.

At the annual Mont Gutke Lecture, supported by a gift from the ALSAM Foundation, Bratberg spoke about his experiences and what pharmacists' roles should be in a disaster. His talk, titled State of Emergency: A First-Hand Account of Providing Pharmacy Services Following

**“What happens when your hospitals don't work and your clinics shut down after a disaster?”**

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, was highlighted by a poignant video that put into stark relief the hurricanes' devastation and the toll on residents.

Bratberg, a clinical assistant professor at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, was part of a 35-member Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) deployed to Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The DMAT team spent two weeks in New Orleans, La., in August 2005, and one week in September in Lafayette, La.

He described conditions there as “austere,” with no electricity or running water, 100 degree temperatures and with a limited supply of medications to dispense.

“What happens when your hospitals don't work and your clinics shut down (after a disaster)?” he asked the audience of pharmacy students and



**Jeffrey Bratberg, PharmD, BCPS, (left) is thanked by Chris Turner, PhD, director of experiential programs, for his presentation on providing pharmacy services after Hurricane Katrina.**

faculty. “What happens when you can't treat people who take medications for chronic illnesses? People die. We don't understand just how fragile our health care system is.”

His team focused on providing primary medical care for storm-related illnesses and injuries, and for individuals with chronic conditions who had gone days without their medication. Bratberg's duties included dispensing medications, and administering vaccinations for diseases caused by the unsanitary living conditions, such as hepatitis and tetanus.

A DMAT is a group of professional medical personnel who provide medical care during a disaster. When teams are deployed to a disaster site, they typically take three days worth of supplies that include a medicine cache and a written agreement that allows them to get pharmaceuticals from area pharmacies. Bratberg discovered that the pharmaceutical cache was inadequate for treating the bacterial infections from contaminated water they encountered and so focused on educating residents about how to prevent infection.

“Preventing infectious diseases is the best way to treat infectious diseases; not antibiotics,” he said, “especially when you have a limited and unknown number of antibiotics. In an emergency situation you have to be flexible. (For example) what do you do with insulin when it is 110 degrees and you've got no refrigeration?”

Bratberg encouraged pharmacy students to consider serving with a DMAT chapter. For information about the Colorado DMAT chapter, visit the web site at [www.coloradodmat.com](http://www.coloradodmat.com).

## \$2.7 million awarded to study treatment for mustard gas exposure

Rajesh Agarwal, PhD, a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the School of Pharmacy, has been awarded a \$2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct research that may lead to a treatment for those exposed to mustard gas.

A common over-the-counter dietary supplement may help treat burns caused by mustard gas – a toxic, chemical warfare agent that causes the skin to break out in large blisters, and if inhaled, may cause blistering or bleeding in the lungs, as well as in other internal organs, potentially causing death.

Agarwal's research will focus on the toxicity of sulfur mustard to exposed skin cells and skin tissues and then test the efficacy of silibinin as a protective agent. Silibinin is a common dietary supplement derived from milk thistle and used in the treatment and prevention of liver toxicity. A member of the daisy family, milk thistle grows wild throughout Europe, North America and Australia, and has been used for 2,000 years to treat a range of liver and gallbladder diseases.

Agarwal's most recent research with milk thistle at UCDHSC found the compounds in the extract to be effective in the prevention and treatment of skin and prostate cancer. His new research will utilize the compound through both topical application and dietary ingestion to determine if silibinin prevents and/or treats sulfur mustard damage to the skin.

“Sulfur mustard is a continued military threat, and also has grown to become a chemical-terrorism threat against civilians in the post 9/11 era,” said Agarwal. “This new research will allow us to test a new potential cure for patients affected by mustard gas.”

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS

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**Susan Saunders**  
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Spring 2007

## Following in a family's footsteps to a pharmacy career

By Kenna Bruner  
Office of Public Relations

When he was 18, Darryl Leopold wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father and an uncle to become a pharmacist. The year was 1970 and the country was embroiled in the Vietnam War, so Darryl postponed college to join the Navy.



**Darryl Leopold**

He was accepted into the Naval Academy Preparatory School and received an appointment to the Naval Academy where he studied engineering, since pharmacy was not available. After leaving the Navy four years later, he finished his engineering degree at the University of Colorado, later receiving a master's degree in environmental engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

Fast forward 37 years. Darryl, a P4 in the School of Pharmacy, is just weeks away from realizing his dream of being a pharmacist, like his father, Gerald Leopold, BS '56, MS; and his uncle, Robert Leopold, BS '48.

Both Gerald and Robert, who were themselves influenced by an uncle who owned an independent pharmacy, are still hard at work dispensing medications, counseling patients and enjoying their so-called retirement years.

In January, Darryl was in a rotation at Wardenburg Health Center's pharmacy, a health facility for students, faculty and staff on the CU-Boulder campus.

During an average day when school is in session, the pharmacy dispenses between 150 and 200 prescriptions, primarily for contraceptives, antibiotics and attention deficit disorder medication.

Although a full-time student, Darryl is working part-time as a mechanical engineer at Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation where he is helping

construct the mirror for the second generation Hubble Space Telescope.

Since Darryl grew up observing the pharmacy careers of his father and uncle, he developed a good understanding of how much the community relies on pharmacists. He fondly recalls his uncle's Rexall Pharmacy in Chappell, Neb. Located on the town's main street, the pharmacy served as a focal point because it was where the bus dropped off passengers. While his uncle took care of the medication needs of folks who came from miles around, his aunt tended the old-fashioned soda fountain and made him coke floats.

"It's been a long and circuitous path to getting my pharmacy degree, but I'm looking forward to finally graduating this May and starting what I postponed in 1970," Darryl said.

### **Robert Leopold, BS '48**

After serving in the Navy Air Corps for 19 months, 1944 to 1945, Robert enrolled at CU. His classes were held on the Boulder campus and he hitchhiked back and forth to Loveland where he worked in an independent pharmacy on weekends. After graduation, Robert worked in his uncle's drugstore in Lexington, Neb., and then in a pharmacy in Longmont for seven years.

In 1959, Robert bought his own drugstore in Chappell, Neb., for \$21,000, with no money down and 2 percent interest. Monthly payments on the building were \$125. Chappell Pharmacy was open seven days a week, until 9 p.m. Mondays - Saturdays and 4 p.m. on Sundays. As the only pharmacist in the only drug store in town for 31 years, Robert worked long hours and was always on call, although he took the time to get involved in community activities.



**Robert Leopold**

He was a consultant to the local hospital for several years and served on the city council and the hospital board of directors, also he was a member of Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.



**Gerald Leopold**

"Working in an independent pharmacy in a small town for so many years, you get to know everybody and you're a part of the community," he said.

Thinking he was ready to retire 15 years ago, Robert sold the business. Three months later he realized he really wasn't quite ready to give it all up.

"I went back begging for a job," he joked.

Today, Robert works two days a week for the people who bought his business. He also works one day a week at a pharmacy in Oshkosh, Neb., about 30 miles up the road from Chappell, and a couple of days a month at a pharmacy in Sidney, to the west.

"I enjoy the interaction with people," he said. "I get to fill prescriptions for people from every walk of life."

### **Gerald Leopold, BS '56, MS (hospital administration)**

After his discharge from the Army, Gerald followed in his older brother's footsteps by enrolling in the School of Pharmacy. He was president and the honor graduate of the class of 1956. His ensuing career has been eclectic.

After graduation in 1956, he worked at Hodel's Drug Store in Boulder from 1956 to 1959.

From 1959 to 1960, Gerald worked for Skaggs Drug Center in Denver after being recruited by Mont Gutke, a former faculty member for whom a lecture series at the school is named.

Gerald joined the Air Force where he was commissioned as pharmacy officer. During his 17-year military career, Gerald was sta-

tioned in a variety of posts, from San Antonio to Puerto Rico, and held numerous positions, including pharmacy advisor for a medical fundamentals course, squadron commander, pharmacy supervisor, a hospital business officer and hospital administrator at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo. He also served as the course supervisor of the program for indoctrination of newly commissioned Medical Service Corps officers at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas.

In 1965, he received a master's degree in hospital administration from the University of California at Berkeley. Gerald retired from the military in 1976 and was an assistant administrator at Wichita General Hospital in Wichita Falls until 1982. For the next 23 years he worked in numerous pharmacies for such companies as Safeway, Eckerd, CVS, as well as an independent pharmacy. Since 1985, he has served as a consulting pharmacist with the Wichita Falls-Wichita County Health Department.



**Gerald Leopold in 1957**

Gerald now works 15 hours a week in a United Supermarkets pharmacy in Wichita Falls. This past summer he returned to the SOP to attend his 50-year reunion.

"Why do I work? I can't play golf every day," he quipped. "But seriously, I would miss the people if I didn't work."

Gerald and Robert are pleased that Darryl is continuing the pharmacy tradition. The careers of the three Leopolds show the variety of options available in the pharmacy profession. Their paths may differ, but they agree that pharmacy can be a satisfying long-term career.

"Pharmacy is a great profession," said Gerald. "With the increased demand for pharmacists, you can go almost anywhere and name your price."

## Dr. Karl Maluf joins Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

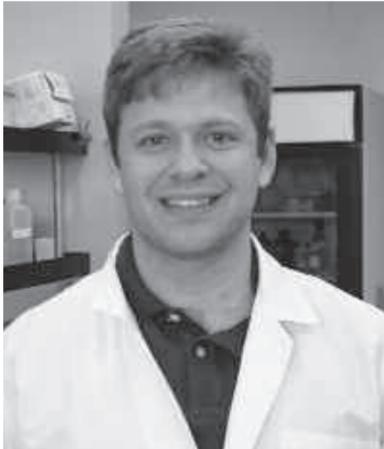
By Kenna Bruner  
Office of Public Relations

Nasib Karl Maluf, PhD, has come full circle. In Dec. 2006, he joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences as an assistant professor ~ the same department where he was a postdoctoral research fellow from 2003 to 2005, working for Professor Carlos Catalano, PharmD, PhD.

His research interest is the molecular mechanisms of genome packaging in the adenovirus, a linear, double-stranded DNA virus that causes respiratory tract infections, and is a particular threat to individuals with weakened immune systems, such as organ transplant recipients and AIDS patients. When he starts talking about his research, the conversation quickly veers into the arcane scientific terminology and abstruse vocabulary of molecular biology.

From his early days in graduate school, Maluf has been interested in understanding how motor proteins, which literally are little molecular motors, are able to perform mechanical work on other biological molecules, such as DNA and microtubules. The prototypical example of a motor protein is the kinesin protein, which transports cargo along a filament from one part of the cell to the next. This process looks like a gigantic bag of cargo being hauled around the cell by a little speck of a protein, much like a small tugboat towing an ocean liner out to sea.

While conducting research with Catalano, Maluf became interested in



Nasib Karl Maluf, PhD

how another motor protein is able to stuff the DNA genome into the interior of a virus.

"Imagine punching a hole in your car tire, and trying to seal the hole with your thumb," he said. "Now multiply this force by 10, and you've got the amount of pressure this viral motor has to work against to stuff the DNA into the virus. This is the most powerful molecular motor discovered to date, and it would be pretty cool to figure out its engineering. It's a remarkable process."

Maluf received his BS in biochemistry from the University of Arizona and his PhD in molecular biophysics from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo. Immediately prior to joining the School of Pharmacy faculty, he was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Iowa.

His wife, Katrina Maluf, PhD, has a faculty position in the Department of Physical Therapy at UCDHSC. They have a six-year-old son, Sean, and are expecting a second child.

Maluf returned to the School of Pharmacy because of the many opportunities for research collaboration.

"This is a fantastic department," he said. "You see the whole spectrum here, from developing drugs to delivering them to the patients. It's great being surrounded by colleagues who, when you have an idea or are conducting research, can help you take it to the next level."

## Faculty productivity update



Babies in order of "appearance" -- Emile Ndikum, Leif Hansen, Evan Linnebur, Victor Bonhan Cai and Maggie and Rowan Ulrich.

## DOPS faculty honors and notices

LaToya Jones, PhD, (with Dr. Wenchang Ji from Amgen), co-chaired the ACS ProSpectives Meeting Successful Protein Therapeutics: The Interconnection of Formulation, Processing Development and Manufacturing. The meeting was held in San Diego, Calif., July 23-25.

In September, Christina Aquilante, PharmD, was appointed as a voting member of the University of Colorado General Clinical Research Center Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

Dan Gustafson, PhD, and Dawn Duval, PhD, left the department in January and have accepted positions at Colorado State University.

## DOPS Grants

**Rajesh Agarwal, PhD**  
Develop CEES-Induced Skin Toxicity Models and Evaluate Silibinin Efficacy U54  
(PI: Carl White)  
National Jewish subcontract  
Total Costs: \$2,015,088 ~ 9/15/06-9/14/11

**Tom Anchoroquy, PhD**  
State of Colorado CUTTO Proof of Concept Award  
(Co-PI with Karen Stevens)  
A New Treatment for Ineffectively Treated Schizophrenia Patients: Pre-clinical Validation for Centrally Administered Clozapine  
\$200,000 ~ 1/1/07-6/30/07

CUTTO Proof of Concept Award  
A New Treatment for Schizophrenia  
\$25,000 ~ 4/1/06-10/31/06

**Peter Anderson, PharmD**  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Genetic Determinants of protease inhibitor pharmacology  
\$46,352 ~ 09/01/06-08/30/08  
NIH/NIAID  
(Co-PI, Chris Aquilante)  
Genetic determinants of protease inhibitor pharmacology  
\$100,000 ~ 08/01/06-07/31/08

**Christina Aquilante, PharmD**  
NIH/NIDDK  
Genetic Predictors of Thiazolidinedione Response  
\$556,556 ~ 07/01/06-06/30/11

**Manisha Patel, PhD**  
Epilepsy Foundation of America, Post-doctoral fellowship  
\$40,000 ~ 12/06-11/07

**David Ross, PhD**  
State of Colorado CUTTO Proof of Concept Award  
(Co-PI's Philip Reigan, David Siegal)  
HSP 90 Inhibitors  
\$200,000 ~ 1/07-12/07

## Interim positions

The School of Pharmacy is pleased to announce that the following faculty members are serving in interim administrative positions:

- Douglas Fish, PharmD, associate professor and interim chairman, Department of Clinical Pharmacy
- David Thompson, PhD, associate professor and interim associate dean.

**In his own words:****DOPS graduate student shares his experiences**

By Danny Chou, PharmD, MBA

The following article was taken from a recent issue of *DOPS Notes*.

Hello to all professors and students! My name is Danny Chou and I am a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (DOPS). I am currently in the process of completing my thesis under the guidance of my advisor Dr. John Carpenter, co-director of the Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at CU. Prior to joining the program I earned my PharmD and MBA degrees from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla. I have several years of experience as the manager of a community pharmacy and also had a stint as sales and marketing manager for a big pharmaceutical company on the East Coast.

After concluding that neither of these career options fulfilled me on a personal level, I decided to undertake additional training to earn the expertise that would give me an opportunity to work as a scientist in the exciting world of biotechnology. It was one of the best decisions of my life because under the tutelage of Dr. Carpenter, I have been exposed to the most cutting-edge knowledge on stabilization of protein pharmaceuticals. Protein-based drugs are becoming an integral part of our pharmaceutical



**After emigrating to the United States 24 years ago, Danny Chou visits Taiwan, the country of his birth.**

arsenal against a wide array of diseases, ranging from diabetes and inflammatory diseases to cancer.

With the support of a NIH training grant and Human Genome Sciences, a biotech firm in Maryland, I was able to devote most of my time to laboratory research, which involved characterization and development of strategy for stabilization of albumin-fusion proteins. These proteins are the result of genetic

fusion of the DNA sequences that encode for human serum albumin and a pharmacologically active protein molecule. This has been found to result in improvement of important characteristics like solubility, physical stability, as well as pharmacokinetic parameters such as serum half-life.

The exciting part for me is that the knowledge I have gained from my studies is directly applicable to the production and formulation of human therapeutics. I know this because for several months now I have been working in the department of Drug Product Process Development at Amgen in Thousand Oaks, Calif. My brief amount of time here has reinforced my belief that our program does a great job of preparing students for careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Now I am depended on by my colleagues for advice on how to safely produce biopharmaceuticals at the commercial scale, a responsibility that challenges and excites me at the same time.

So far my work has taken me to Puerto Rico, Germany, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic. I will probably accrue a few more frequent flyer miles before the year is over. Amgen has recently decided to invest about \$3 billion to build a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Ireland in the next four years and I am on the core team responsible for its successful implementation.

I am writing this article on a plane returning from a trip to Taiwan, the country where I was born. This a very special trip for me because it was my first time back after coming to the United States 24 years ago. On my mother's side of the family we have many relatives there, the oldest being my grandmother, who is almost 90 years old. I brought my mother with me and we had a wonderful reunion in a restaurant at the top of a mountain near Taipei. My family treated me as if I had never left; I was truly touched by the genuine love and affection I felt from everyone.

The cousins I used to play with are now parents of little kids and have their own careers. The most striking thing I noticed about Taiwan is how modern it is; it is very similar to what I saw in Japan two years ago when I attended the Global Pharmaceutical Education Network (GPEN) meeting in Kyoto. And of course the food is fabulous! For the first time in almost a quarter century I spoke almost no English for an entire week. I'm glad I still can read Chinese. The pictures you see here are some of the ones



**Chou visited the National Palace Museum in Taipei where some of China's 5,000-year-old treasures are displayed.**

taken by my uncle during our trips to various part of the country. The large building behind me is the National Palace Museum on the outskirts of Taipei. It displays some of China's most ancient treasure from its 5,000 year history. The leaders of Republic of China brought them to Taiwan when they fled mainland China after defeat by the communists in 1949.

The collection is so large that even though it is less than 10 percent of antiquities passed down from generations of Chinese emperors, it still would take 60 years of regular rotations to be shown in its entirety. Taipei 101 is currently the tallest building in the world and Taiwan has the longest mountain tunnel in Asia at 13 Km.

It took us almost 20 minutes to pass through it. Not bad for a nation of 23 million people. If any of you visit Asia in the future I highly recommend visiting Taiwan.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the wonderful people in the DOPS; to everyone, including professors, fellow students, and the administrative staff who have contributed to my positive experience in Colorado. Thank you very much! Specifically, I want to thank John Carpenter, Mark Manning, Ted Randolph, Tom Anchordoquy, and David Bain for serving on my thesis committee. No matter where I go in the future I will have fond memories of my time at the School of Pharmacy.

### ***Shell Prize and Heim Awards announced***

Dr. Rajesh Agarwal has been selected as the recipient of the 2006 *John and Barbara Shell Prize* for outstanding achievement in research and graduate education.

Natalie Lassen and Erica Pierce have been selected as the recipients of the 2006 *Heim Award* for outstanding achievement in research while pursuing a graduate degree or fellowship.

The three will be honored at a symposium this spring.

### **PhD student awarded *Ebert Prize***

Renuka Thirumangalathu, a PhD student in pharmaceutical sciences, has been selected as the recipient of the *Ebert Prize* for 2007 from the American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA) for her manuscript, Effects of pH, temperature and sucrose on Benzyl alcohol-induced aggregation of recombinant human granulocyte colony stimulating.

The *Ebert Prize* is presented for the best original investigation published in the APhA journal each year. Thirumangalathu's doctoral work includes investigation into mechanisms of protein aggregation and oxidation, effect of solution conditions on protein stability and heterogeneous nucleation induced protein aggregation. The award includes a silver medal, an engraved certificate and complimentary registration and lodging for the spring annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

She received her BS degree in pharmacy from Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences in India. In 2000, Thirumangalathu came to the United States and received an MS degree in industrial pharmacy from the University of Toledo in Ohio. Her plans are to pursue a career in the biotechnology industry.

## New generation of leaders needed in next decade

A significant shortfall of pharmacy managers and directors is anticipated in the next 10 years. More troubling is that many clinical and staff pharmacists appear uninterested in stepping into leadership positions.

In her school-wide presentation last fall, Sara White, MS, FASHP, urged students to become leaders in their profession and to take charge of developing a satisfying pharmacy career.

"You are the future of the profession and whether or not you think of yourself as a leader, you need to be a leader in your practice," she said.

White has more than 30 years experience in pharmacy practice leadership. In 2003, she retired



**Sara White, right, talks with students at a reception held after her recent presentation on leadership skills.**

after 11 years as pharmacy director at Stanford Hospital and Clinics, and 20 years as associate director of pharmacy at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

She earned a BS degree in phar-

macy from Oregon State University, an MS in Hospital Pharmacy Management from Ohio State University, and completed an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited pharmacy residency at Ohio State University Hospitals and Clinics. White received health-system pharmacy's

highest honor in 2006 by being named the recipient of the ASHP Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award.

She conducted research into the shortage of young pharmacy leaders, the turnover of current leaders

and the need for more post-graduate training for potential managers, and came up with recommendations for addressing those issues. In 2005, the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy published her report, "Will There Be a Health-System Pharmacy Leadership Crisis?" White's research revealed that while most pharmacy directors and middle managers were satisfied with their positions, nearly 80 percent said they will leave their jobs in the next decade.

"To be truly successful in your profession, you need to take charge of your career," she said. "You need to be the chief executive officer of your own career. It's not too early

*Continued on page 14...*

## Post-Katrina business a struggle for independent pharmacists

By Kenna Bruner  
Office of Public Relations

When Jack, BS '54, and Edith Sassone returned to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, they were relieved to find their closed-door dispensing pharmacy had suffered little damage.

There had been no flooding from the breached levees in their Jefferson suburb, and other than some shingles blown off the roof, Alpha Pharmaceutical Company had received no direct damage from wind and floods. With the National Guard stationed in a nearby building, the couple's business stayed safe from looters.

As soon as electricity was restored to their neighborhood, the Sassones were able to get back to business and serve the institutions that were still open.

Indirectly, however, their 30-year-old business has suffered from a ripple effect of the storm. Their closed-door pharmacy specializes in providing prescription delivery services to patients in long-term care facilities, rehab centers and hospitals. Many of those institutions that were the Sassones' customers were severely damaged in the flood and have not reopened.

"We were fortunate in so many ways," said Edith, "but now we're just trying to hang on. It doesn't look like our business will get back to normal any time soon. It may take us 10 years to recover."

The Sassones weathered the storm in Vicksburg, Miss. When they returned two weeks later, they were shocked at the devastation to their city.

The damage from Hurricane



**Jack Sassone**

Katrina is still being tallied. More than a year after Katrina made landfall, on Aug. 29, 2005, New Orleans has become a place of quiet desperation, where thousands of damaged homes remain empty, businesses have been slow to reopen and city services haven't returned to normal. In some areas of New Orleans traffic lights still aren't working and trash removal is erratic at best. Before the storm, there were about 63 nursing homes in the New Orleans area. Today, there are 34. Only half of the city's hospitals have reopened.

A study by Louisiana State University showed that about 60 percent of the businesses within the city limits have not reopened. The LSU study also showed that the hurricane affected more businesses with fewer than 50 employees than any other business sector. Many of the independent businesses that are open are financially struggling to survive.

The Sassones currently employ four part-time pharmacists and three part-time pharmacy techni-

cians. Before Katrina, all employees worked full time.

It is predicted that New Orleans will probably not regain its pre-storm population. Residents are trickling back, although the city is well under half of its pre-hurricane population of 460,000, further contributing to the dramatic downturn in business.

"The economy has taken a nose dive. Half the people have left. Who's going to buy what? There aren't enough people living here who have the money to buy anything," said Edith. "A lot of our friends have left, walked away from their houses with no intention of coming back. The whole complexion of the city has changed. Aside from that, I am grateful for what we do have. As for our future, I can't even predict that now."

In October 2003, Jack and Edith visited Denver where Jack presented the first Mont Gutke lecture at the School of Pharmacy. His topic was Consulting Pharmacy. The lecture series is named in honor of Mont Gutke, a former executive with Skaggs Drugstores who served on the School of Pharmacy faculty from 1951 to 1955. Gutke was Jack's professor, advisor and mentor.

Jack's career has taken him through many facets of pharmacy which has included retail, hospital and institutional pharmacy. He believes that the consulting segment of institutional pharmacy is pharmacy at its purest since it involves reviewing patients' prescription records, conferring with a range of other health care providers and recommending changes in

drug therapy that can have direct effects on health outcomes.

"As long term care pharmacists, we provide and maintain an emergency medication supply, have one or more daily deliveries, and take 24-hour calls for emergencies," he said. "We conduct in-service education programs and participate in the infection control committee, in addition to many other committees and reviews on patient care issues."

Undaunted by the uncertainty of what the future holds in New Orleans, the Sassones retain a sense of pride and commitment in their community and the traditions that are a part of Louisiana's cultural fabric.

As a member of the Women's Guild of the New Orleans Opera Association, Edith happily announced that productions are resuming with the 2007-08 opera season, although at a temporary venue since storm damage repairs to the historic New Orleans Opera Guild Home are under way.

"Quarters are tighter and adjustments have to be made," said Edith, "but Faust and Il Trittico will open to the acclaim of a sold-out house and will delight both audiences and critics."

"We have a longing for life to return as it was," said Jack. "So much is still 'shuttered.' We are focusing most of our energy these days on rebuilding our business, since most of our clients have relocated and do not plan to return, and we are marketing in other areas with a new vision."

## Participation in school organizations provides richer experience for students

Recently the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences' College of Pharmacy magazine declared this "the Golden Age of student organizations." We find that to be the case in Colorado, too. Pharmacy students carry a heavy load of classes and experiential learning obligations, yet they still find time and energy to pour into several student organizations.

The leadership experience and the camaraderie gained from membership in these organizations can be immensely rewarding and round out each member's educational experience. At the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy, students can choose to join one or more of 10 organizations in addition to serving on Student Council. Previously, student professional organizations were divided by gender and focus. Currently membership is mixed in all organizations.

Those originally set up by minority groups for minorities have diverse memberships while their purpose remains to advance the health care services for minority populations. Quite often, students choose more than one, based on the different focus of each group; SNPhA alone has 179 members.

The stories on these pages highlight a few of the many service activities undertaken in the fall of 2006. Another busy semester is in progress and

will be covered in future issues.

### The 10 organizations include:

- Asian American Pharmacy Student Association (AAPSA)
- Academy of Students of Pharmacy/American Pharmaceutical Association (ASP/APhA)
- Colorado Student Society of Health-system Pharmacists (CSSHP)
- Kappa Epsilon (KE)
- National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)
- Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)
- Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS)
- Pharmacists for Christ
- Phi Delta Chi
- Rho Chi

## SNPhA chapter to host regional meeting in March

The SOP's Student National Pharmaceutical Association chapter (SNPhA) hosted this year's regional meeting, March 23-25. Jocelyn Elders, MD, former U.S. Surgeon General and the first African American woman to hold that post, gave the keynote address Saturday evening.

The meeting was held in downtown Denver and focused on current legislative issues related to health care and/or health disparities, such as Medication Therapy Management and Point of Care ACPE continuing education workshops, asthma continuing education session, cultural competency session, immunization training, career networking, educational exhibits, a recruitment fair, and a pipeline program to orient underserved pre-health students to career opportunities in pharmacy.

Elders was appointed surgeon general of the Public Health Services by President Clinton and served from Sept. 8, 1993, to Dec. 31, 1994. As surgeon general, Elders argued the case for universal health coverage, and was a spokesperson for President Clinton's health care reform effort. She was a strong advocate for comprehensive health education, including sex education, in schools.

SNPhA is an education and community service association of pharmacy students who are interested in providing pharmacy services to diverse and underserved communities. The SNPhA chapter at the school was created in 2003 to "accept the challenge of serving underserved and diverse communities."

Recent SNPhA activities include "Get on the Path to Wellness" health fairs, pre-collegiate summer pipeline programs, flu shot clinics, the Denver Indian Health and Family Services Chart Review, The GLBT Center Brown Bag and Education Session, the Black Church Diabetes Class, and a multicultural food fest. These programs support the purpose of the national SNPhA organization, which is to plan, organize, coordinate and execute programs geared toward the improvement of health, education and social environment of diverse and underserved communities.



## Kappa Epsilon promotes breast cancer awareness

By Amber Hodges

The members of Kappa Epsilon-Theta (KE) chapter, a professional pharmacy fraternity, are proud of our accomplishments in 2006 to promote breast cancer awareness. Together, the members of KE raised more than \$1,000 to support the Susan G. Komen Foundation and The Young Survivor's Coalition.

The money we raised came from three sources. First, a number of our members and guests participated in the Komen Race for the Cure in Denver in October. Second, a bake sale was sponsored to raise money and patrons were given pink ribbons to wear in honor of breast cancer awareness. Finally, a collection box was circulated among members of each pharmacy class to help raise money.

In addition to raising money to support breast cancer awareness and research, KE also is involved in other related projects. Each year, we participate in the Yoplait Save the Lids! campaign in which students save the pink lids from Yoplait yogurt containers. The lids are returned to Yoplait and the company makes a donation proportional to the number of lids to breast cancer awareness and research.

Every spring, KE members assemble baskets of gifts for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. These homemade baskets are delivered to patients starting chemotherapy at the Anschutz Cancer Pavilion. The gift baskets bring comfort and let these patients know that people care about them and are thinking about them during this difficult time.

Breast cancer awareness is an extremely important and valuable cause for both our chapter and our national organization. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our projects such a success.



Ralph Altieri, dean of the school, (third from right on back row) and members of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association's SOP chapter take a photo break at the luncheon honoring keynote speaker Joycelyn Elders.



## Putting a smile on children's faces

By Tara Vlasimsky

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) student chapter, Colorado Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSSHP), has been brightening the lives of children and their families at The Children's Hospital for the last several years through their annual Valentine's Day and Halloween events.

At Halloween, CSSHP members dress up in their costumes and help children decorate pumpkins and play a game of "pumpkin toss" (throwing a ball into an inflatable pumpkin). For Valentine's Day, CSSHP members take craft materials for the children to make Valentine's Day cards for loved ones.

At each visit, we hand out goodie bags to the children and their siblings filled with non-candy treats and age-appropriate toys. CSSHP's visits to The Children's Hospital have become an invaluable experience for our members. We all truly enjoy being able to put a smile on each child's face.

## Holiday Formal celebrates semester's end

The annual School of Pharmacy Holiday Formal was held Dec. 7 at the Phipps Mansion Tennis Pavilion. Students from all four classes and many of the professors dressed up for an evening of dancing, relaxing and celebrating the semester that was finally coming to an end. Food and beverages were served while the music played.

The DJ was required to wrap up the music prior to 10 p.m. in compliance with neighborhood rules, eliciting the only complaint: an early end to the party. Students were able to spend time with students from other classes and their professors talking about things unrelated to school. Students and professors alike enjoyed a night away from studying and school responsibilities to share and celebrate their accomplishments.



## The evolution of the Colorado SNPhA chapter

By Olivia Rapacchietta

The CU SNPhA chapter was busy this past summer participating in three pre-collegiate summer camps at the Health Sciences Center campus, preparing six posters to present at the national convention and preparing for the upcoming school year. We wanted to send as many CU SNPhA members to the national convention in Philadelphia, as possible. In order for our chapter to do this, we had to do some serious planning and fundraising!

Several P2, P3 and P4 members raised money for the convention by staffing the Office of Diversity's Pre-Collegiate summer programs for Denver area high school students June through July. Responsibilities included mentoring and teaching several topics of health disparities to students participating in the camps. Nick Pollard (P4), Reannon Castelleja (P4), Stephanie Cho (P3) and Gloria Mendez (P3) even chaperoned the students on an overnight trip to Balarat camp grounds.

These SNPhA members had the opportunity to really get close to the high school students and help answer questions about going into pharmacy school. I had the opportunity to teach several of the health disparities topics, but my favorite part of the pre-collegiate camps was being able to teach STDs and HIV/AIDs to the high school students. It was very challenging to keep their attention, but these lectures really engaged and educated them. They commented to me that nobody really talks to them about these things and they were surprised at how little they really knew.

After the camps ended, we worked to get ready for our national NPhA-SNPhA convention. We had submitted six abstracts in June to the national office and all were accepted for presentation. Two of the posters were research based; Stephanie Cho (P3) and Dr. Valdez had each prepared posters that reflected Native American Indian attitudes and beliefs regarding their health care. The other four posters were prepared by other CU SNPhA members and reflected the different chapter activities from last year; Operation Immunization, the Denver Indian Health Fair, the Pre-Collegiate programs and the Faith and Health Ministries Collaborative Health Fair.

The 2006 SNPhA national convention was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 29-31. Twenty

members from our chapter plus Dr. Valdez and Beverly Brunson experienced the city of brotherly love for the weekend and proudly represented the state of Colorado. Our chapter had a great presence and was recognized in several ways. We received two awards: *Largest Chapter Representation* at the convention and *Outstanding Community Service* for our health fairs. We also received three certificates of recognition for participation in Operation Immunization, The Scrapbook Competition and the most poster presentations.

Nick Pollard and I were recognized for our hard work and commitment to SNPhA and the profession of pharmacy and we were invited to run for national positions. I took advantage of this great opportunity and ran for the national president-elect position. I had to campaign, interview and undergo an open forum question and answer, but by the end of the weekend I was sworn in as the 2006-2007 president elect and Nick Pollard was

appointed as the Region IV facilitator. Our responsibilities in our respective offices began July 31. The new national executive board transition with the past officers will last until July at the 2007 national convention, where I take over as the SNPhA national president.

Some of my responsibilities as the president-elect include visiting other SNPhA chapters, representing SNPhA on the NPhA Board of Directors and presiding over the delegate business sessions at the regional and national conventions. I look forward to helping my CU chapter host the convention for regions two, four, and five in the spring of 2007 and know that we will represent our school proudly. My presidential goals are chapter development and expansion into schools of pharmacy without SNPhA chapters. Also, I am trying to extend opportunities to SNPhA members from other pharmacy schools by establishing Pharmacy Based Immunization Workshops at the conventions to allow certifica-

tion of immunizations for those students whose schools have no certification program. Although most states allow pharmacists to give immunizations, only a hand full of states allow pharmacy interns to give immunizations and offer the certification course at their school of pharmacy.

I was a bit overwhelmed by the whole weekend but very honored; and even two months into my term it still seems surreal. I am very committed to this organization and the communities that we target. I have always hoped to make a difference in the profession and know that these next two years give me the opportunities and tools that will make me a better pharmacist.

The CU SNPhA chapter was formed in 2003 with five members. The chapter has grown to 164, almost tripling in membership since last year. Our chapter is now the second largest chapter in the nation and we have representation at the national level.

### Students say 'thank you' at Faculty Appreciation Brunch

By Elyse Attwood

The Faculty Appreciation Brunch held in November has been an annual tradition hosted by Kappa Epsilon (KE) for the past several years. This year, the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, Phi Lambda Sigma, and the Colorado Student Society of Health Systems Pharmacists collaborated with KE to help sponsor the affair.

The Faculty Appreciation Brunch involved students providing food and refreshments for the faculty members of the School of Pharmacy to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. There was a great turnout of faculty in addition to the organizations' members, who were present to express their gratitude for the faculty's constant hard work. The commitment of our faculty members is what makes us successful students. This brunch is a small way that we can say thank you.

### Students lend comfort to soldiers in Iraq

In October 2006, the School of Pharmacy student council launched a drive that was a little different from the clothing or food drives they had conducted during past holiday seasons. It started with an email from a service member stationed in Iraq who had visited the Combat Surgical Hospital in the International Zone in which he wrote, "I was concerned to discover from the nurses that they do not have all the supplies they need. Our service members need various items and the Combat Surgical Hospital (CSH) is running very low."

This message sparked students to respond to the call for TLC: Together Lending Comfort. As members of the health care profession, pharmacy students wanted to do something to assist those serving their country overseas. TLC information explained that injured service members arrive at the CSH with no toiletries and only the clothing on their backs, which is often cut off to reach wounds for treatment. The students collected various goods ranging from t-

shirts, underwear and scrubs, to mouthwash, shaving cream and antibacterial gel.

The students also collected money to purchase more items and to assist with shipping expenses. Approximately 20 boxes were mailed in late December to the CSH. Col. Jesse Deets, commander of the Joint Area Support Group, and Lt. Sharon Burns, the public affairs officer, notified students that the boxes arrived safely and sent them a certificate of appreciation. The TLC project was deemed a huge success.

An excerpt from the email in response to the gifts: "I got to finally meet Lt. Burns from the CSH last night and we were both overwhelmed with hugs and tears at the outpouring of support from everyone, and especially from the students at the School of Pharmacy. Lt. Burns said she received so many supplies she has been able to stock the hospital here in the International Zone and the outposts and even the CSH in Kuwait."

## Second graders get to play pharmacists for a day

Members of CSSHP, SNPhA, Rho Chi and KE combined forces to host 72 second graders from Denver area elementary schools at the School of Pharmacy. The visiting students were given a taste of professional practice in the learning center at four different stations.

Focusing on the need to use medications properly and on poison prevention, the students participated in exercises to compare the look-alike properties of common candies and real medications, such as purple Good and Plenty candies and Prilosec OTC as well as compounding exercises designed to demonstrate the consequences of following directions correctly or incorrectly.

The students also received a demonstration and actually practiced reading a prescription, filling and labeling it, and finally counseling a fellow student-patient on the proper use of the prescribed medication.

All were provided short white coats for the day and certificates of participation. It's never too early to introduce the idea of proper medication use or a future in health care.

Further outreach programs are being provided

by members of Phi Lambda Sigma. These students are taking pre-pharmacy advising information to university and college campuses in the area as a student-to-student expansion on the school's regular recruiting efforts.



**"The kids were fun to work with. We were pleasantly surprised at their interest and level of involvement throughout the day. By varying the style of the lessons, the children became more engaged in the activities and, hopefully, learned a lot about the pharmacy profession by the end of the day,"** said Darcie Ryant, P3.

## SNPhA provided health care outreach at annual stock show

By Baochau Nguyen  
SOP SNPhA Chapter Secretary

This semester has been busy and successful for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) chapter. We continue to accept the challenge of serving the underserved communities.

In collaboration with students from the medical school, the physician assistants program and the nursing school, we set up two booths at the National Western Stock Show. This exhibit, CU in Good Health, ran for the duration of the show, Jan. 6-21. Not only did

we provide risk assessments, but we also promoted health awareness and disease prevention. In addition, we provided education and encouragement about health career opportunities. This exhibit highlighted UCDHSC's commitment to rural health to more than 600,000 visitors during the event.

The health screening exhibit included several testing stations for blood pressure, cholesterol screening, pulmonary function testing using spirometry, Framingham risk assessment, and risk factor modification counseling. More than 75 pharmacy students participated during the Stock Show Health Fair (a mighty feat considering a majority of the event fell during winter break). Collectively, we worked with approximately 500 patients via blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose or lung function screenings. Pharmacy students and faculty staffed more than 130 hours.

The educational booth emphasized how the Health Sciences Center (HSC) is addressing the

needs of rural communities. Students served as friendly ambassadors for the HSC; directing visitors around our exhibit and answering questions regarding the health care education programs offered at the HSC, health care itself, and myriad health career opportunities available to them.

This interdisciplinary event was a huge success! Not only did we provide healthcare, promote awareness and disease prevention counseling, we also were able to reach a population with which we were previously unable to establish contact. This was a great opportunity for all involved; the students were able to build upon their classroom education with real-life experience.

Many of the participants were rural ranchers or small business owners who do not have access to health insurance. We hope to become an annual presence at the National Western Stock Show and continue our outreach to other underserved populations as well.

## Clinical Skills Competition winners



Congratulations to the 2006 Clinical Skills Competition winners for our school: 1st place, Kevin Flynn and Matt Marshal; 2nd place Jamie Billotti and Jessica Morris; 3rd place, Megan Eck and Stacy Shadburne.

The first place team went on to represent the school at the ASHP National Clinical Skills Competition at the ASHP Midyear in early December and placed in the top 10 out of 86 competing schools. Many thanks to our faculty evaluators, Drs. Robert Page, Laura Hansen and Joseph Saseen, for taking time out of their busy schedules to participate in this event.



**P2 Tracey Laessig provides health care to National Western Stock Show visitors.**

**Spring 2007**

## Rotation in Wales: An eye opening experience

By *Jordan Bendinelli*

Recently I had the opportunity to travel abroad and perform one of my P4 rotations in Wales, a part of the United Kingdom (UK). I studied in Cardiff, the capital of Wales, near the border with England.

I had arranged the rotation with the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, which is highly involved in pharmacy-related issues in Wales as well as student programs and training. The hospital (referred to locally as Heath Hospital) spearheads much of the development of pharmacy practice and research and leads pharmacy for all of Wales and much of the UK.

My goal in pursuing this rotation was to become acquainted with a health care system outside the United States and to be further integrated with other pharmacy practices with around the world. The staff at Heath Hospital went beyond my expectations of familiarizing me with the system of pharmacy and healthcare in the UK. I was able to work alongside Sarah Jones, who is in charge of student pharmacy development in Wales and arranged a specific program for me during my six week stay there.

The first four weeks of my rotation, I was at a different pharmacy site every day, which gave me a snapshot of nearly every facet of pharmacy practice. I attended many different pharmacy-run clinics including rheumatology, anticoagulation, pre-admit, Medical Admissions Unit, methadone, HIV, Parkinson's, Clonazapine, medical information, the poison unit, and mental illness wards. I also trained at Llandough Hospital and Whitchurch Hospital which handles acute mental illness cases.

Because my primary objective was to understand a foreign health care system, meetings were arranged for me with the chief executive of pharmacy for Wales, the vice president of the Welsh assembly government at the royal pharmacist society, and the pharmacy director for public health in Wales. I was consistently surprised by the access I was given to engage with highly posi-



tioned officers within the pharmacy community. It was evident everyone I interacted with was willing to give of their time and was interested in discussing the similarities and differences between the United States and the UK. It seemed as if I stood as the sole expert and liaison of the American health care system with the whole of Wales. It was exciting and very rewarding.

Wales, along with the rest of the UK (Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), uses a socialized health care system. The motto is "Free upon the point of admission." It was new for me and an informative rotation to be able to observe how this system operates and how it affects the practice of pharmacy. I did get to work in a community setting while I was there, but the majority of my training was spent in hospital pharmacy practices. I often heard comments regarding the cost of health care in America, but through direct observation, I was able to point out pros and cons to the differences in the reimbursement systems.

I found it an advantage that every person (regardless of class, citizenship, age) was eligible for completely free health care. This resulted in great access for the people in Wales. Patients

**"It seemed as if I stood as the sole expert and liaison of the American health care system with the whole of Wales. It was exiting and rewarding."**

could call for an ambulance, get admitted into intensive care, get treated with medications, get transferred to a ward, take up a bed, and then get released without the mere mention of cost or reimbursement.

It was actually a foreign concept for many people that a country could charge patients for treating their illnesses. No discrimination was made if you were a foreign citizen in need of treatment while in the UK. (Often these patients are asked to reimburse the hospital, but if they fail to pay, there would be no follow-up). This system also allowed elderly patients access to free

beds for as long as they were admitted, which, surprisingly, often was chronically. The hospital did not have the right to discharge an elderly patient unless arrangements were made for other means of care. Families often refuse to care for their mother/father and the result is that the hospital assumes the role of long term care facility for free.

Inpatient and outpatient medications are free as well. Currently, much of the UK places a 3-6 pound surcharge on each outpatient medication, but by next year, Wales is doing away with that charge and there will be no cost for medications whatsoever. The advantage of this system is apparent in that no patient is discriminated against for being uninsured or unable to afford medications.

Disadvantages of the system were apparent as well however. Two disadvantages that appeared to be the most evident: the use of hospital beds and excessive distribution of medications. Because no cost is imposed on patients or their families for using a hospital bed, you often find patients occupying beds for no apparent reason or because they had nowhere else to go. The result is a problem regarding vacancy rates at the hospitals, posing a disadvantage for patients in serious need of a bed.

Because there is no consideration of cost for medications, there appeared to be situations where patients would abuse this system receiving unneeded medications with no incentive to use them. Many patients would bring bags into the hospital, full of medications from prescriptions they had been filling and refilling without ever actually taking them!

I was amazed at how much of the health care system I was able to learn in my six weeks in Wales. I increased my interest and knowledge of international health care affairs as well as gaining greater appreciation for the advanced health research and technology that the United States offers. My experience in Wales was rewarding and informative... one that I will remember throughout my pharmacy career.

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Every effort has been made to produce an accurate listing of donors who made a gift to the School of Pharmacy from January through December 2006. We apologize for any incorrect listings, spellings or omissions. Please let us know. Direct your comments or inquiries to Susan Saunders at 303-315-7359, by e-mail to: SOP.alumni@uchsc.edu or School of Pharmacy C-238, UCHSC, 4200 E. Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80262.

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In recognition of alumni and friends who have made contributions of \$25,000 or more:

John A. Biles	Eugene C. McMahan
V. Gene Erwin	John & Barbara Shell
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### Gift Dedication

Richard C. Lym, Class of 1953, made a generous contribution to scholarships in honor of Dr. Louis Diamond's twenty years of service as dean and in memory of Dr. Mont H. Gutke, a friend and Practical Pharmacy instructor.

Spring 2007

## School of Pharmacy prepares to move

The Skaggs Pharmacy Building at the corner of Eighth Ave. and Colorado Blvd. in Denver was first occupied in August of 1992, becoming the home of the consolidated programs of the School of Pharmacy in Denver. Fifteen short years have brought the school to the brink of another series of moves. In the fall of 2007, with the opening of the education and office buildings at the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC), the PharmD students, the administration and faculty members of the

Department of Clinical Pharmacy will move to a temporary home on the first floor of Academic Office West. In the fall of 2008, with the opening of the second research building at the AMC, faculty members and administrators of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences will move into a separate temporary home on the third and fourth floors of Research Complex II. Construction of a new home for the School of Pharmacy is expected to begin at the AMC in the fall of 2008.

## \$10 million gift from ALSAM Foundation will support construction of new SOP building

The School of Pharmacy will receive a \$10 million gift from The ALSAM Foundation, a Utah Trust, to assist with the construction of a new, 105,000 square foot building to be located on the UCDHSC Anschutz Medical Campus.

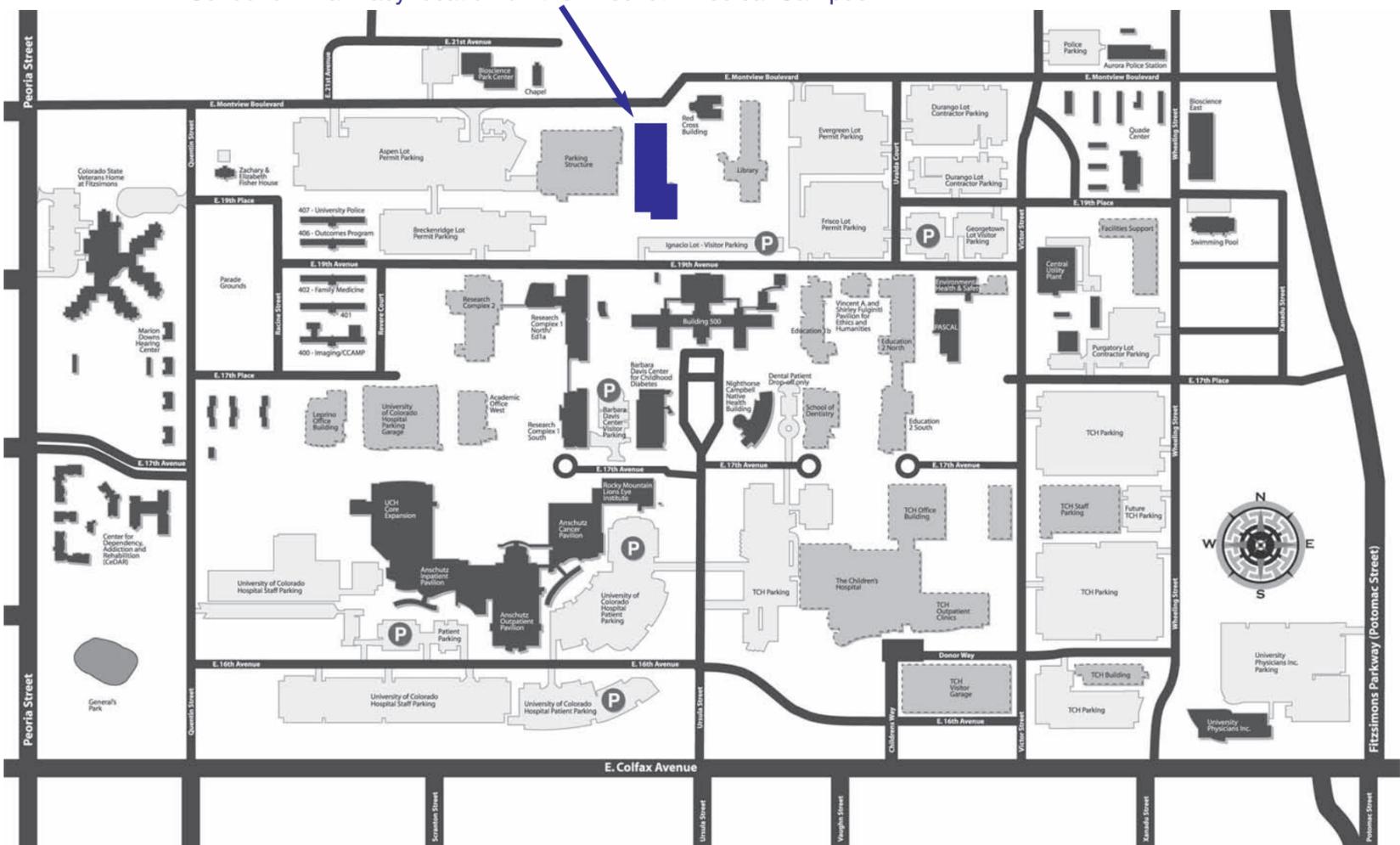
The School of Pharmacy is one of the top-ranked pharmacy schools in the nation and is committed to excellence in pharmaceutical education, research and patient care. The school consistently ranks at or near the top of the nearly 100 schools of pharmacy in the United States in terms of National Institutes of Health research grants per faculty member and has been widely acclaimed as having one of the country's most diverse pharmacy student bodies.

The ALSAM Foundation gift is the largest ever to the School of Pharmacy and one of the most substantial ever to the Health Sciences Center. To honor and memorialize the Skaggs family, the school will be renamed the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. L.S. Skaggs and his family are nationally recognized as pioneers in the retail drug and grocery business and as generous philanthropists. In appreciation of their earlier financial support, the current pharmacy building at Eighth Ave. and Colorado Blvd. in Denver is named for the Skaggs family. The University of Colorado awarded Skaggs a doctor of science degree, *Honoris Causa*, in 1992.



The current Skaggs School of Pharmacy building on the Ninth Ave. and Colorado Blvd. campus

School of Pharmacy location on the Anschutz Medical Campus.



## Good news for donors!

As of Aug. 17, 2006, a special window for charitable giving opened with the signing of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Until Dec. 31, 2007, alumni and friends, at least 70.5 years old, can make a charitable gift by rolling over a part of their IRA directly to the University of Colorado Foundation to benefit the School of Pharmacy. This is great news for those of you who care deeply about the School of Pharmacy and wish to provide immediate support for our students, faculty, research pro-

grams and other projects.

Using IRA assets for the charitable portion of your estate planning has always been a good way to maximize your ability to provide for your heirs and the organizations in which you believe strongly. If you leave IRA assets to your favorite tax-exempt charitable organization, the full amount of your gift will go for your intended purposes. Then you can leave your family and friends other estate assets like cash, stock and real estate that are income tax-free. While this new law is in place,

IRAs also make sense for immediate charitable giving, so you can witness the benefits of your generosity in your lifetime.

We at the School of Pharmacy would be delighted to speak with you about the details of such an arrangement to benefit the school. Here are some key points about the new law:

- The provision remains effective only for tax year 2007 and you must have reached the age of 70.5 by the time the gift is made.
  - The charitable rollover allows charitable gifts of up to \$100,000 for each individual's IRA (which could mean \$200,000 for husband and wife).
  - The rollover must be a direct payout from the IRA to the University of Colorado Foundation and the rollover cannot be used to fund a life-income gift.
  - The rollover may be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution in 2007, in full or in part.
  - The rollover amount will not be included in your adjusted gross income, nor will you receive a deduction for the gift, so the rollover gift can be made in addition to other charitable gifts you have planned.
- If you are interested in supporting the School of Pharmacy by making a gift from your IRA, please contact Shelly Steinhauser, School of Pharmacy director of development (303-315-0983; sheldon.stein-

hauser@cufund.org) or Marsha Dawe, Foundation director of gift planning (303-813-7925; marsha.dawe@cufund.org).

They can provide you with sample gift letters and letters of instruction for your IRA custodian to initiate the transfer.

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### Meet Elizabeth Oser

Elizabeth Oser, joined the School of Pharmacy last October as an administrative assistant in the school's experiential program.

Her position entails managing the plethora of paperwork generated by students, preceptors and faculty in the program, which includes tracking mechanisms to provide accurate program data for a variety of activities, such as final grades and evaluations.

Wanting to make a lifestyle change to pursue the outdoor activities she enjoys, Oser left Boston where she had been a computer instructor for seven years at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory. But you won't detect much of a Bostonian accent because she's originally from Ohio. When not in the office, Oser likes snowboarding, hiking, rock climbing and power yoga.

"I really enjoy working with the pharmacy students and seeing them progress in their classes," she said.

## Making a gift to the School of Pharmacy

When making a gift to the School of Pharmacy, please make your checks payable to the University of Colorado Foundation. The foundation has been designated by the CU Board of Regents as the organization to receive and deposit private gifts to the university.

If your check is made payable to the School of Pharmacy, we are prohibited by law from depositing it in the foundation. This means we cannot deposit the check in our growing endowment fund where it will benefit the school in perpetuity. To allay concerns about proper crediting to the School of Pharmacy, you may note us in the memo line of your check; attach a simple signed note saying "enclosed is my gift for the School of Pharmacy," or enclose your pledge card when responding to a solicitation.

To further ensure proper crediting upon receipt of your gift, mail your contribution to:

Director of Development  
School of Pharmacy C-238  
4200 E. Ninth Avenue  
Denver, CO 80262-0238

### Supporting the school's educational programs



Don Johnson, Ralph Altieri, Louis Diamond, Cheryl Chamberlain and Wayne Gold (class of '97) pose outside the School of Pharmacy following a presentation of a check by the three Walgreens executives. Walgreens has consistently and generously supported the school's educational programs.

### New Generation

*Continued from page 6*

to start thinking about that."

**She suggested students should:**

- Invest in their future with continuing education, such as a master's degree, residency or a fellowship
- Develop a relationship with a mentor
- Work well with others; be fair
- Be a self-starter – don't wait to be discovered
- Work effectively to get results
- Be careful when sending e-mails
- Balance work with personal time

Her final words of advice were to "boldly go where there is no trail and make your own."

"Look at your career as a life-long self-development project," White said. "Whether or not you go on to assume formal leadership positions, don't ever forget that as a pharmacist, you're in charge."

## Alumni News

**Richard L. Clark, class of '61**, writes to let his classmates know he moved to California's wine country in 2000. His wife, Charlene, passed away in 2003. He manages a Safeway store, plays golf and keeps very active in civic affairs.

He can be reached at 707-256-3210 or 3210 von Uhlit Ranch Rd., Napa, Calif. 94558.



**Miles Doane, class of 2000**, wrote to announce that he and his wife, Lisa, introduced Audrey Yu-Ying Doane to the world

on Oct. 1, 2006.

Audrey's middle name means moon bright in Chinese.

**James R. Hertel, BPharm '72, MBA '74**, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Colorado Health & Hospital Association as its Volunteer Trustee member. He is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Platte Valley Medical Center in Brighton. He is

publisher and president of HCCA, a Denver-based firm that publishes the *Arizona and Colorado Managed Care* newsletters. He recently served on the search committee for the new dean of the School of Pharmacy and is a member of the school's Development Council.

**A. Wayne Gold, class of '97**, has been promoted to Mountain West district pharmacy supervisor for Walgreens. He joined the company in 1997 as a pharmacy intern and was most recently pharmacy manager at 1601 W. 84th Ave. in Federal Heights, Colo.

### In Memoriam

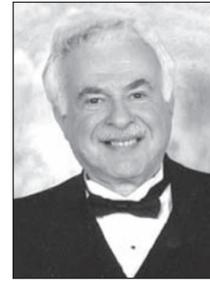
**Dorothy M. Snyder, class of '73**, passed away at the age of 87 on November 12, 2006. The news was sent to us by her son, who noted that he graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine the same week that his mother graduated from the School of Pharmacy.

On Dec. 19, 2006, the School of Pharmacy held a memorial celebration and reception honoring the life of **Harold L. Bober, MS, PhD**, who passed away on Oct. 22, 2006. Dr. Bober's two daughters, Simone and Melanie, attended the celebration and shared a personal perspective and a photographic recollection of their father's life. Former dean, Dr. Louis Diamond, recalled many facets of Dr. Bober's career with the School of Pharmacy. Several other guests spoke of their love and respect for Dr. Bober and of the many wonderful ways he had touched their lives.

Dr. Diamond concluded the event by leading the group in recitation of the mourners' Kaddish, a Jewish prayer for the departed.

Dr. Bober began his long association with the School of Pharmacy in 1987 as an adjunct associate professor of law and pharmacy administration. In 1991, he became an associate dean and from 1994 to 1995 he served as the interim chairman of the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Dr. Bober continued to serve the school until his retirement in 1997. As an associate professor emeritus, Dr. Bober maintained his ties with pharmacy education through appointments at Arapahoe Community College and Front



R a n g e Community College, directing pharmacy technician programs for both colleges.

He graciously mentored students in these programs, counseling the best of them to apply to the school.

Dr. Bober's pharmacy education began with a bachelor's degree from the University of Manitoba in 1960 followed by a master's degree in Pharmacy Administration and Business from the University of Colorado in 1967. After finishing a PhD degree in Educational Administration and Business at the University of New Mexico in 1977, Dr. Bober went on to become the vice-president or president of several drug information companies until starting on the faculty of the University of Colorado. He also had faculty experience at the University of New Mexico as an assistant professor from 1968-1972, as an assistant dean from 1972-1975 and as an assistant professor at North Dakota State University from 1976-1979.

Interspersed between his educational training and faculty appointments were positions with Gurvey's Pharmacies, Ltd. of Winnipeg, Eli Lilly Company, Ltd., of Toronto and Pharmaco Nuclear, Inc. of Kansas City. His breadth of business and teaching experience brought a wealth of knowledge to Colorado's pharmacy community.

Dr. Bober earned many honors and awards including *Pharmacist of the Year* in New Mexico, the *President's Excellence in Teaching Award* in 1993 and 1995 at the University of Colorado and the School of Pharmacy's *Distinguished Coloradan Award* in 1998. He served on the board of directors of the Colorado Prevention Center and the Colorado Pharmacist Recovery Network. Dr. Bober's congeniality, generosity, pleasant manner and constant hard work on behalf of the pharmacy profession created a proud legacy that will be long remembered.

## ASHP mid-year reception



Drs. Catherine Jarvis, Laura Hansen and Joseph Saseen hosted the School of Pharmacy reception for alumni and friends during the ASHP mid-year conference in early December. The Colorado Pharmacists Society co-sponsored this year's event, with Dr. Norman Kwong co-hosting. Many alumni, faculty and students who were attending the conference dropped in at the reception in the Anaheim Sheraton Resort.

**Top Photo:** Danielle Cassidy (P4), left, and Sarah Anderson (P4). **Right Photo:** Angela Schuman, seated, a resident at The Children's Hospital, with Danielle Cassidy (P4).



# Tell us your news

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Degrees/Year \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Spring 2007**

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS



University of Colorado at Denver  
and Health Sciences Center

### 13 is a lucky number for annual food drive



#### Also Inside:

Pharmacy runs in the Leopold family – [page 3](#)

Sassones weathered the storm in New Orleans – [page 6](#)

Special student section – [page 7](#)

Honor roll of donors – [page 12](#)

SOP prepares to move – [page 13](#)

For the 13th consecutive year, the School of Pharmacy's students and employees collected more than 800 items for a food drive to benefit The Gathering Place, a daytime shelter for homeless women and children. Chad Martell and Jackie Martin (pictured) were the student organizers and Charlotte Klaus coordinated the employee participation for the drive. Student organizations are thriving at the School of Pharmacy. A special section has been dedicated to their activities, starting on page 7.