



By the Numbers

Doctor of Pharmacy

121	degrees conferred
78	female students
43	male students
16	states represented, including Colorado
13	countries represented
12	Russian speaking students
80	percent are graduating with jobs in their field of choice
3	students are off to Hawaii for employment opportunities

Doctor of Pharmacy/Non-Traditional

23	degrees conferred
16	attended ceremony

Doctor of Philosophy

5	degrees conferred – 3 in August, 2008 2 in December 2009
3	attended ceremony

Pharmacy PERSPECTIVES

Summer 2009

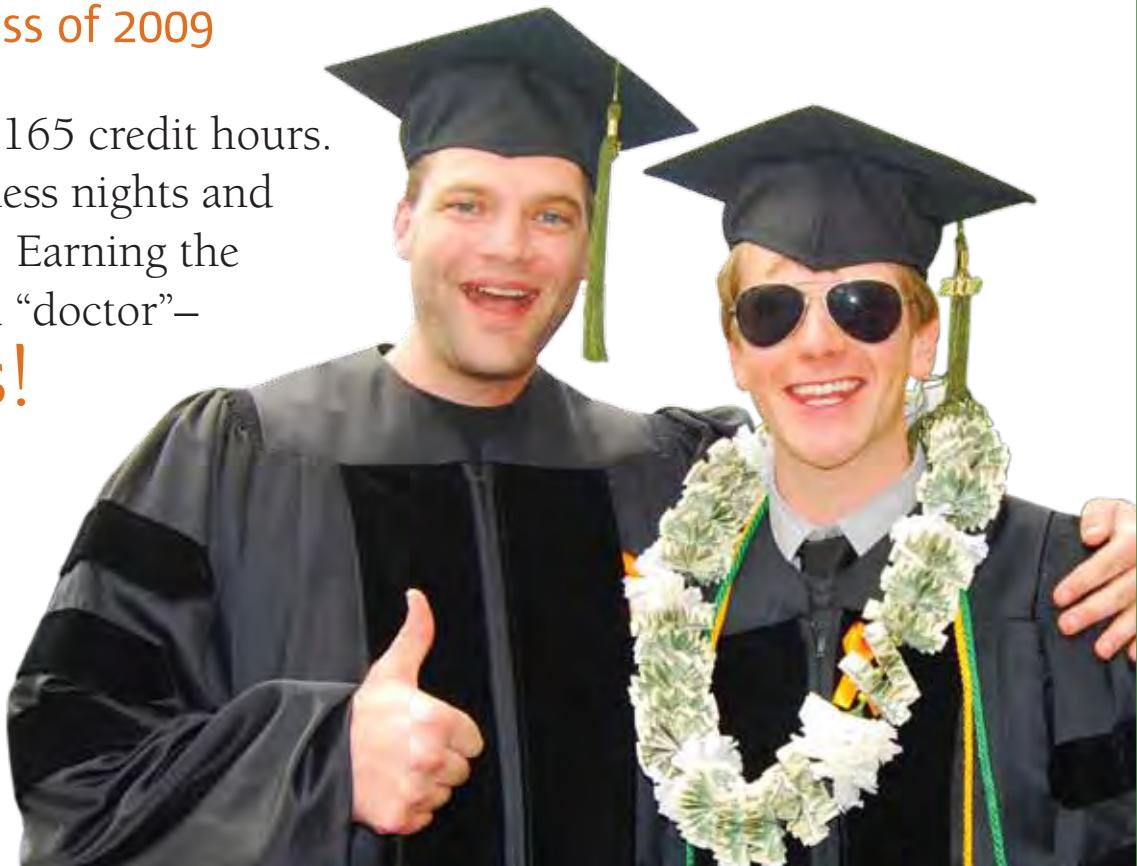
CONTENTS

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2 From Russia with Love
Russian heritage students comprise 10 percent of class | 2 Home Sweet Lab
For PhD graduate, the Lab is home | 3 All in the Family
Carrying on the family tradition | 6 Out of Africa
Ethiopian achieving the American dream | 7 Double Take
Twin minds, twin hearts, twin aspirations |
|--|--|--|--|---|

Blood, sweat and tears

**The University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy
Graduating Class of 2009**

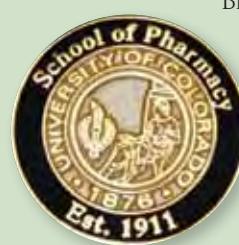
Four-plus years. 165 credit hours. Numerous sleepless nights and untold sacrifices. Earning the right to be called “doctor”—
priceless!



Drs. Joseph Drahak and Caleb Burkitt celebrate at graduation

If you did not receive your official UC Denver School of Pharmacy lapel pin and would like to wear one, now's your chance. Contact Dana

Brandorff at 303.724.4618 or dana.brandorff@ucdenver.edu and provide your name, year of graduation, phone number and address to which you'd like the pin to be mailed. We'll promptly send you one that you can wear with pride!



Keep in Touch

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to lose touch? Life just has a way of getting in the way. With a **FACEBOOK** page, a bi-monthly electronic **NEWSLETTER**, semi-annual **PRINT** newsletter, events and more, we are making it easier to keep in touch. Just **E-MAIL** us at SOPalumni@ucdenver.edu and we'll put you on the list to receive these informative communiqués. Be sure to update us about your comings and goings as we are always looking to share details with classmates, alumni, students, faculty and friends.



Hurray! ПОЗДРАВЛЯЕМ!

The majority of the Russian contingent is pursuing local retail pharmacy positions with Wal-Mart, King Soopers, Safeway and Kaiser Permanente. One classmate will complete a residency at Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. Since 2003, he is the second Russian heritage student to achieve this status. The following lists classmates and their respective employment opportunities.

Kaiser Permanente Sergey Simonovich

King Soopers Yelena Filatov
 Raisa Katanova
 Artem Muradyan

Safeway Galina Chesnokov

Wal-Mart Stella Abramova

**Pharmacy Residency –
Brookdale University Hospital** Dmitri Cohen

Undecided Ester Borukhova
 Hana Duwaik
 Tatiana Makarova

Central
Siberian
Plateau
GRADUATION 2009

Russia From RUSSIA with love

It's an anomaly. Did you know that 10 percent of this year's graduating class of PharmD students is of Russian heritage? In fact, 12 students speak the language, and 10 hail from the former Soviet Union.

So, when this unique situation came to light, and the growing need for health care services within Denver's Russian-speaking community became apparent, pharmacy student Dmitri Cohen harnessed this natural resource and in 2007 organized a community health fair specifically geared toward the Russian geriatric community. Almost non-existent in the early 1970's, the Denver Russian community has mushroomed to almost 50,000 people in the last ten years. With such tremendous growth, the need to provide health care and translation services has increased considerably.

"One of the essential ingredients for the success of the fair and subsequent brown bag session was the ability to speak Russian. This skill set was vital in establishing a bridge of communication," says Cohen. Of the 26 students who assisted with the fair, 10 were Russian-speaking. In addition to providing 33 participants with screening services including osteoporosis testing, blood pressure and blood

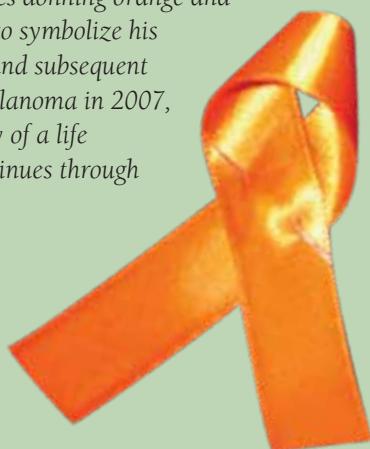
glucose monitoring, students provided advice and education on a variety of topics through brown bag and lecture sessions. And, in recognition for filling a need in this underserved and often overlooked community, Cohen received the Chancellor's Diversity Recognition Award.

Commenting on what he and his fellow students learned from the experience, Cohen says, "Now as a pharmacist and active members of the Russian community we are more than ever obligated to keep our community in good health. We shall never forget where we came from because it will help us grow into better individuals in the future."

**Solidarity.
Camaraderie.
Community.
Three words that sum up
the class of 2009.**

In Memory

Mark Mester embodied the spirit of a life well lived. Well-loved and well-missed, Mester's presence was felt strongly during the 2009 graduation ceremonies. With classmates donning orange and black ribbons to symbolize his struggle with and subsequent death from melanoma in 2007, Mester's legacy of a life well-lived continues through his classmates.



"The lab just feels 'right'...it's where I belong."

Elizabeth Redente with fellow PhD graduate Heather Brechbuhl

Home Sweet Lab

Some people are at home in an office; others in a courtroom or classroom. Others, still, in a laboratory. Just ask Elizabeth Redente, PhD '08, which appeals to her and she'll say, "The lab just feels 'right.' Any other setting would feel a bit uncomfortable."

Where fluorescent lights flicker, refrigerators and centrifuges hum and scientists make exciting breakthroughs, the lab is familiar ground. It's where she feels challenged, excited, creative and encouraged. Dr. Redente muses, "It's where I belong."

And for the past five years, she's thrived in this environment – studying different aspects of lung disease while pursuing her PhD in Toxicology through the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences program. She's successfully transferred her knowledge and passion for all things

All in the FAMILY

For **Marita Valdez** pharmacy school was almost pre-ordained. Her father, Joseph, and brother, David graduated from the school of pharmacy in 1976 and 2001 respectively. "We have quite the legacy of pharmacists in the family," says Valdez.

But a career in pharmacy wasn't always in the cards for Valdez. Having worked in her father's pharmacy in La Jara – a small town located in the San Luis Valley – since middle school, Valdez was not interested in following her father's footsteps. In fact she says, "Pharmacy did not appeal to me. Funnily enough I had the same misconceptions as many 'outsiders.' I thought it was all about counting pills."

That all changed when as a high school senior she was promoted to pharmacy tech and got her first real taste of what it means to be a retail pharmacist. "I saw how crucial the role of a pharmacist is in a small town. The customers truly depend on my father to help them manage their disease while providing information, education and a sympathetic ear." She discovered that she thoroughly enjoyed the consultation aspect and dealing with the customers and their needs. "I found it challenging, but also extremely rewarding," says Valdez.

So, after completing the pre-requisite courses at Adams State College, she enrolled at the UC Denver School of Pharmacy in 2004. "I did not anticipate how rigorous the program would be," says Valdez. In addition to the normal stresses of school, Valdez was married with a pre-schooler and another child on the way. Following the birth of her second child, she took a sabbatical and returned the following year to continue her studies. "It's been challenging, but I feel invigorated. I couldn't have done it without my husband and family. They have been tremendously supportive," says Valdez.

When asked about plans for the future, Valdez responds, "Eventually we'll probably move back to La Jara, but right now we're enjoying having weekends back!" Currently, Valdez is looking for a full-time position in retail pharmacy and is spending a lot of time with her family. "They sacrificed a lot for me. Now it's their time," says Valdez.

Marita Valdez – pictured with her father, Joseph – is carrying on the family legacy

respiratory to a post-doctoral position at National Jewish Health, the top-ranked respiratory hospital in the United States. "It was with some apprehension that I left the world of being a graduate student, but as I have moved on, I have found it to be a seamless transition. Due in large part to the skills and knowledge I gained as a graduate student at UC Denver," shares Redente.

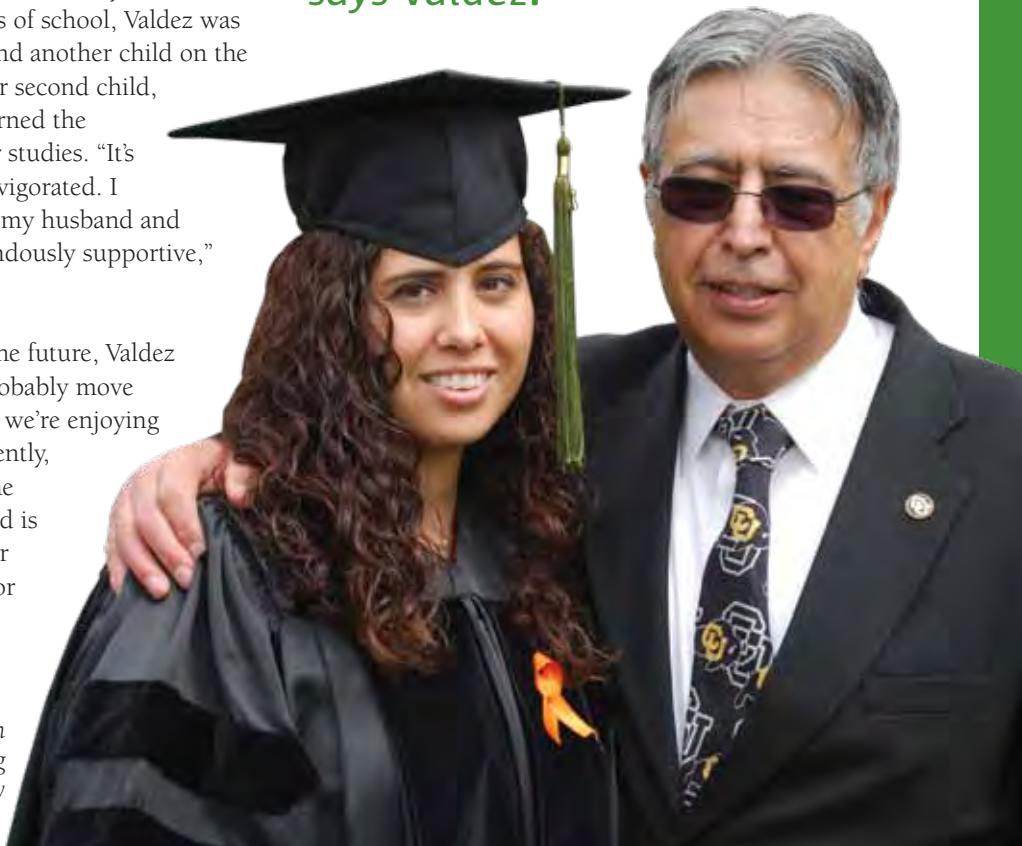
For Redente, graduate school was natural – a comfortable fit. Ever since she was a little girl she has had an affinity for science. You could say that her first mentor was her father who exposed her to this "fascinating world" where she fell in love. A scientist and former professor of restoration ecology at CSU, Redente's father encouraged her to embrace her scientific side. "It just felt like the right place for me," Redente reflects. After receiving her BS in biology from Baylor University, she came back to Colorado and started pursuing her PhD under the tutelage of Dr. Alvin

Malkinson and Dr. Lori Nield. "Al's lab was an excellent training ground. They were both tremendous mentors – exemplifying that one can have a productive career AND balance family life," says Redente. Future goals include establishing her own lab, teaching and staying in academia. "I was fortunate. I have been encouraged every step of the way."

Few people would equate a lab with the phrase "home away from home." But for Redente the pharmaceutical sciences program at the University of Colorado Denver's School of Pharmacy and its research laboratories are the "place she'd rather be."

Redente, together with two other PhD graduates – Heather Brechbuhl and Mary Cromwell – participated in the 2009 commencement and hooding ceremony.

"We have quite the legacy of pharmacists in the family," says Valdez.



PhD Graduates

PhD candidates graduate twice a year – in August and December. Three of the five PhD graduates participated in the 2009 commencement and hooding ceremony – Heather Brechbuhl, Mary Cromwell and Elizabeth Redente

Program	Name
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Danny Chou, Dec. '08
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Mary Cromwell, Dec. '08
Toxicology	Heather Brechbuhl, Dec. '08
Toxicology	Elizabeth Redente, Aug. '08
Toxicology	Benjamin Stewart, Dec. '08

2009 Awards Convocation

Student scholarships and recipients

<i>Burroughs Wellcome Endowment Scholarship</i>	Anna Tran & Jamela Urban
<i>Colorado Pharmacists Society Scholarships</i>	Patrick McDaneld
<i>Eckerd/CVS Scholarships</i>	Alexander Block, Nnenne Blunt, Adam Lewis, Sweta KC & Myhao Pham
<i>Erwin-Vincent Scholarship</i>	Bao Nhat Trinh & Aden Tsegay
<i>Sara Kwon Memorial Scholarship</i>	Nicole Sheldahl
<i>Robert and Rachael Kurita Scholarship</i>	Emil Zia
<i>Lesler Book Award</i>	Ana Delgado & Ofir Noah Nevo
<i>J.M. Long Foundation Scholarships</i>	Mia Ajekwu, Brook Henry, Hilary Ndifor & Basheer Yacoub
<i>James L. McDowell Memorial Scholarship</i>	Jill Krisl & Lana Nicolarsen
<i>National Association of Chain Drug Stores Scholarship</i>	Emily Calovich & Erin Samura
<i>Pharmacists Mutual Scholarships</i>	Abel Alvarez & Raymond Pechek
<i>RxPlus Scholarship</i>	Emily Calovich, Raymond Pechek & Brooke Glasmann
<i>Walgreens Scholarships</i>	Mariamawit Desta
<i>Kaiser Permanente Kent M. Nelson Clinical Pharmacy Scholarships</i>	Emily Arndt-Oien, Jessica Bannon, Daniel Crona, Kevin Henderson, Zanette Kanani, Kathryn Knapp, Rachel Lowe, Angela Luetters, Christopher Walton, Kennda Zoffka-Zimmerman
<i>King Soopers Scholarships</i>	Sarah Chen, Dain Clark, Leah Dannebohm, Hanna Gurara, Jennifer Kryskalla, Jennifer Langer, Jennifer Liles, Andrew Maurer, Jeremy Vandiver, Hailee Wilson, Aleksandra Wolanin
<i>Safeway Pharmacy Scholarships</i>	Felipe Ballina, Toshia Bowen, Mohammad Kalaaji & Janet Liang
<i>Teresa McMahan-Shulkin Memorial Scholarship</i>	Brenda Singer



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY • CLASS OF 2009



University of Colorado
School of Pharmacy
Doctor of Pharmacy
Class of 2009





GRADUATION 2009

Distinguished COLORADAN awards

The University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy presented **Paul Limberis**, RPh, director of Inpatient Pharmacy with Denver Health Center, and **Donna Lynne**, DrPH, president of Kaiser Permanente Colorado with Distinguished Coloradan Awards at its annual commencement award banquet on May 21, 2009. The awards are given each year to alumni and friends of the school who have made outstanding contributions to the school, the profession of pharmacy, and the health and welfare of the citizens of Colorado and the nation.

"The two recipients were selected because of their exceptional record of leadership in the fields of health care and pharmacy in Colorado and the nation," says Ralph Altieri, PhD, dean of the UC Denver School of Pharmacy.

Since graduating from the UC Denver School of Pharmacy in 1979, Paul Limberis, RPh, has established an extraordinary career in pharmacy at the local, state and national levels. Prior to his appointment as director of Inpatient Pharmacy Service at Denver Health in 2007, Limberis served as assistant director of Pharmacy at Denver Health from 2004-2007 and as director of Pharmacy at The Children's Hospital Home Care Pharmacy.

Limberis is a board member of the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists serving as the Colorado delegate for twelve years. He is past president of the Colorado Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, past president of the Colorado Pharmacists Society and currently serves as the 2009 president of the State Board of Pharmacy. Limberis has been the recipient of numerous awards including the 1984 Hospital Pharmacist of the Year by the Colorado Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the 2005 Pharmacist of the Year by the Colorado Pharmacists Society, and the 1995 Preceptor of the Year by the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy.

In addition to being an enthusiastic supporter of the school, Limberis' commitment to pharmacy and the school is evidenced by his superb service as a preceptor, mentor and friend to many students and faculty members during the past thirty years.

Since 2005, Donna Lynne has led Kaiser Permanente Colorado, the 480,000-member health care provider. As its president, she has been instrumental in continuing the collaborative relationship that has existed between Kaiser Permanente Colorado and the School of Pharmacy by supporting the school with scholarships and student mentoring programs. "Each year, our pharmacists train and mentor more than 50 UC Denver pharmacy students," said Dr. Lynne. And most recently, Kaiser Permanente provided \$100,000 in scholarships to pharmacy students in memory of Kent M. Nelson, PharmD, who at the time of his death was director of Clinical Pharmacy Services at Kaiser Permanente Colorado.

Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente, Lynne was president of Group Health Inc. of New York and worked in senior management for New York City's Health and Hospitals Corp., the city's safety net provider, under former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. She also served as the mayor's operations director.

During the course of her career, Lynne has received numerous awards and recognition including the President's Award from Women in Health Management, the Health Care Leadership Award from the New York Business Group on Health, the Denver Business Journal's 2008 Outstanding Women in Business Award, and the 2006 Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of America Mile Hi Council. She currently serves on the boards of Colorado Concern, Colorado Forum, Colorado Regional Health Information Organization, Colorado Succeeds, Denver Public Schools Foundation, Mountain States Employers Council, Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation, and U.S. Bank Denver. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, and recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Out of Africa

Originally from Ethiopia, **Muna Nuredin** came to the U.S. in August of 1999 and began her studies at Arapahoe Community College where she obtained the pre-requisites to enter the UC Denver School of Pharmacy.

Cheered on by 19 family members, some of whom traveled from Ethiopia for the big day, Nuredin plans to work for Walgreens post graduation.

With dreams of owning her own pharmacy in her homeland one day, Nuredin is currently living the American Dream.



Muna Nuredin

Student awards

presented at the 2009 Awards
Convocation on May 1

NCPA Outstanding Student Member Award	Emily Calovich & Brooke Glasman
Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Spirit Award	John Michael Burgeson
Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Award	Rachel Lowe
Rho Chi Outstanding Student Award	Jill Krisl
Roche Pharmacy Communications Award	Kelley Carlstrom
School of Pharmacy Clinical Practice Award	Michele Hanselin
GlaxoSmithKline Patient Care Award	Mana Azadegan
Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy Award	Darla Eckley
Colorado Pharmacists Society – Academy of Health System Pharmacists Student of the Year Award	Angela Luetters
Wolters Kluwer Health Facts and Comparisons Award	Michele Hanselin
Pharmacists Mutual Award	Melanie Sauerman
Merck Award	Amanda Stahl, Karen Thoresdale & Anna Tran
Harold Bober Memorial Scholarships	Renee Opferman, Angela Stephan & Heather Woodward
McKesson Leadership Award	Kelli Frame
School of Pharmacy Valedictorian Award	Ri Holbrook
TEVA Outstanding Student Award	Momein Refaat
School of Pharmacy Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award	Jamela Urban
School of Pharmacy Scholastic Achievement Award	Aaron Lee
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Awards	Jessica Bannon & Kyle Hammond
School of Pharmacy Professional Achievement Awards	Monica Evans, Christopher Walton, Jill Krisl & Brittany Hanselin
Lilly Achievement Award	Angela Luetters
Student Council Presidential Award	Kelli Frame
Dean's Distinguished Student Award	Kassandra Bankovich
Holden Community Service Award	Student National Pharmaceutical Association

Teaching Excellence Award Recipients

During commencement activities on May 21 and 22, a number of School of Pharmacy faculty received awards for their outstanding contributions to education, research and community health care. Recipients of teaching excellence awards – Drs. Ty Kiser and Doug Fish – respectively received the Chancellor's Teaching Recognition Award and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. Congratulations to both Dr. Kiser and Dr. Fish who embody the best of the best.

DOUBLE DOUBLE TAKE

Yes, Michele and Brittany Hanselin are twins. They look alike. They sound alike. They have even pursued the same degree – Doctor of Pharmacy – and same career choice. But that's where the similarities end.

Michele and Brittany are definitely two distinct people with two distinct personalities pursuing two distinct careers. Brittany prefers oncology, critical care and ambulatory care, while Michele's interests lie in cardiology, internal medicine and critical care.

Inspired by their parents to pursue a pharmacy career, the two had intentions of opening their own pharmacy – together. But all that changed midway through their second year of pharmacy school when they realized, "Clinical pharmacy allows you to utilize the knowledge you have gained throughout the curriculum and creates many opportunities for life-long learning," says Brittany.

After receiving their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees, they will be parting ways. "It is exciting to be moving into two different career paths," contemplates Michele. Still mirroring each other's footsteps, both will be doing PGY1 residencies, but at different Colorado hospitals (University of Colorado Hospital and Exempla Lutheran Medical Center). And within two weeks of graduation, Brittany Hanselin will become Brittany Todd.

Despite sometimes being perceived as "one person," the two view their university experience as positive. "There are distinct advantages to being twins. We have the ability to push each other to work harder and more efficiently. We challenge each other. And, if one of us doesn't hear something important in class, the other one probably did!" says Michele.

Brittany and Michele Hanselin – twin minds, twin hearts, twin aspirations – separate paths.



Michele and Brittany Hanselin

University of Colorado Denver
School of Pharmacy
Mail Stop C-238-L15
12631 E. 17th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80045

Address service requested

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit NO.2378



Agatha Nwagwu and family share the big day

How to reach us

Pharmacy Perspectives – Volume 1, Issue 2 is published three times a year by the University of Colorado Denver for alumni and friends of the School of Pharmacy. Written, edited and photographed by Dana Brandorff. We welcome your comments, news and story ideas.

University of Colorado Denver, School of Pharmacy • C238-L15
12631 E. 17th Avenue, Aurora, CO 80045

SOPalumni@ucdenver.edu • 303.724.4618

Nothing Traditional About this **NON-TRADITIONAL** student

Most parents are bombarded by the familiar refrain, “Are we there yet?” Not so for **Agatha Nwagwu**, recent graduate of the school of pharmacy’s non-traditional program. For years, Nwagwu has heard a different question from her four children, ages 5 through 13, “When is school going to be over with, Mom?”

Unlike most kids, they are not referring to their school. But instead are talking about their mom’s schooling. For the past four years, Nwagwu juggled school, work, married life, and motherhood. “My youngest was in diapers when I started,” says Nwagwu.

With the support of her husband, children and family, she’s obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Despite the long hours Nwagwu says, “This was the best thing I’ve ever done. I loved the program and would do it all over again. The non-traditional program really worked for me.”

But as the saying goes – all good things must come to an end. And for Nwagwu, her degree is a beginning, not an end. Armed with a new sense of confidence and new outlook on career and life, Nwagwu is set to apply her recently acquired knowledge and skills and is ready to take on new challenges in the profession of pharmacy.

“This was the best thing I’ve ever done. I loved the program and would do it all over again. The non-traditional program really worked for me.”

