

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY *NEWS*



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

Class of 2011 is welcomed to pharmacy profession



The class of 2011 was officially welcomed to the profession during the White Coat Ceremony held Aug. 27 in Denison Auditorium. The annual ceremony is a meaningful tradition in which the school welcomes first-year students as colleagues dedicated to patient care. During this special event, students are presented with a white coat, the symbol of clinical service and care. After donning their white coats, the students signed the pledge of professionalism and then recited the pledge together.

After the ceremony, students, faculty and family celebrated the start of a new academic year at a barbecue held on the west lawn.

The incoming class of 146 students was selected from 1,874 applicants. There are 101 residents and 45 non-residents; 85 females and 61 males. The average age is 26 and the age range is 20 to 54.

Diversity numbers:

- 64 percent white
- 9 percent African American
- 13 percent Asian/Pacific Islander
- 9 percent Hispanic
- 1 percent Native American
- 1 percent Native Hawaiian
- 2 percent foreign national



Getting started in a new location

Nov. 6 marked a momentous occasion – P1 students' first day of classes in the new Education 2 building on the Anschutz Medical Campus, kicked off by a welcome from School of Pharmacy Dean Ralph Altieri. Pharmacy students have the distinction of being the first students to attend classes in the new building. Layout of the campus groups buildings into zones devoted to education, research and clinical care.



P1 pioneers orient themselves on the Anschutz Campus

They may not have traveled to the Anschutz Medical Campus by covered wagon, but 146 first-year pharmacy students are pioneers nonetheless. They navigated construction obstruction and cone zones to tour the campus and new buildings during orientation on Oct. 17.



Alumni John and Barbara Shell transform lives through innovation and generosity

By Kenna Bruner

Academics and industry are two different worlds and they didn't understand each other. I saw the need to bridge that gap and create communication between the two worlds, because only good things can occur when the two start cooperating.

John Shell, BS '53, PhD '54

Not only are John and Barbara Shell enthusiastic alumni of the School of Pharmacy, they also are devoted donors to the school.

John, BS '53, PhD '54, and his wife, Barbara, BS '51, established the Shell Prize for Excellence in Research and Graduate Education. This prestigious prize is awarded annually to a pharmacy school faculty member.

The Shells also spearheaded a successful endowment campaign for pharmaceutical research and graduate education named in honor of former School of Pharmacy Dean Harold Heim, who had encouraged and inspired John when he was in school.

The couple lives in Hillsborough, Calif., just south of San Francisco, which *Money* magazine named in 2007 as one of the best places in the country to live.

John was awarded a University of Colorado Medal at commencement ceremonies in 2003. As a senior scientist in several major pharmaceutical firms, an executive leader in the bio-pharmaceutical industry and an acclaimed researcher and developer of drug products and drug delivery devices, John, through his scientific discoveries and their applications, has improved and extended the lives of countless patients.

John is currently retired – again. He has worked for, and retired from, Johnson & Johnson, Alza Corp., and Depomed Inc., an oral drug delivery system company he founded in 1995.

It didn't take long after retiring from Alza Corp., for him to get restless. When a friend offered him lab space where he could putter around with polymers, John jumped at the opportunity. He finally had the time and the space to work out a way of using polymers to protect the stomach lining from irritating drugs.

In the process he made another pharmaceutical discovery with the same substance. The type of polymer he was experimenting with not only protected the stomach, but the substance also expanded when it came in contact with stomach acids. The result was timed-release medications that allow for extended, controlled release into the upper gastrointestinal tract.

"I just thought up the concept and when the patents were allowed I knew I should commercialize the new technology," said John.

Suddenly out of retirement again, John founded Depomed Inc., to prove the safety and efficacy of the product. In 2000, he retired as

When he's not making bio-pharmaceutical discoveries, John spends his free time painting landscapes and writing.

After graduating in 1951, Barbara worked in hospital and retail pharmacies during a time when not many women were pharmacists.



John and Barbara Shell and Karen and Lou Diamond visit in California.

chairman and chief executive officer of Depomed but keeps a hand in the company's activities by attending board meetings.

John chose pharmacy as a career because of his interest in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and the drug delivery process. He also has been interested in overcoming what he sees as a wide gap between the pharmaceutical industry and academic pharmacy. While an adjunct professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy, John realized he was the only faculty member with industrial experience.

"Academics and industry are two different worlds, and they didn't understand each other," he said. "I saw the need to bridge that gap and create communication between the two worlds because only good things can occur when the two start cooperating."

"This is such a great profession and I'm happy to see more women going into pharmacy," she said. "As a pharmacist, I enjoyed the contact with patients and felt like I was a part of the community. I enjoyed making tablets and capsules. That really dates me."

She and John married while he was still in graduate school, and then Barbara stopped working to raise their two children.

Barbara is active in her church and with PEO International, a philanthropic organization that promotes educational opportunities for women. She also likes to garden and read.

Regarding their philanthropy, John and Barbara agree that they enjoy giving something back to the school that gave them an outstanding pharmacy education.

"We both feel like we've gotten so much from the school," said Barbara. "It's about being grateful for our education and career opportunities."

Director's Corner

I welcome this opportunity to introduce myself as the Director of Communications and Alumni Affairs. In this role, I will be responsible for communications for the School of Pharmacy and for creating its first Alumni Association.

Three years as the communications specialist for the Office of Public Relations helped prepare me for this position with the School of Pharmacy. I served as the liaison for all the Health Sciences Center schools and produced articles for their newsletters and magazines. My byline has appeared on numerous articles in the School of Pharmacy's newsletter. During my tenure in the Office of Public Relations, I always enjoyed working with the School of Pharmacy and developed a strong relationship with its staff and faculty.

I also bring experience in communications and public relations from a former position with the CU Foundation's Communications Department. In addition, I developed and implemented an alumni association from the ground up at Butler County Community College in Kansas.

I am enthusiastic about tackling these dual roles for the School of Pharmacy. With such landmark projects as the school's move to the Anschutz Medical Campus, the fundraising effort to break ground on the new Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2008, and innovative plans for enhancing the educational excellence of the School of Pharmacy, an exciting new era for pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences is under way.

If you have ideas about how we can keep you connected to the school, I would love to hear from you. Your suggestions will help determine the future course of the Alumni Association, so stay tuned.

Sincerely,

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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS

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Professional Opportunities Fair

Students had an opportunity to see the variety of pharmacy career possibilities available to them during Professional Opportunities Day on Sept. 28.

During this annual event, students who were in

attendance to learn about employment opportunities and develop their networking skills talked with more than 31 career professionals. The school is grateful to the following employers who participated:

Asereth
 Albertsons
 College Pharmacy
 Colorado Pharmacist Recovery Network/
 Peer Assistance Services
 Contact Pharmacist, Inc.
 Cook Children's Med. Ctr.
 Covidien (formerly TYCO Healthcare)
 CVS Pharmacy
 Delta County Memorial Hospital
 Denver Health
 Good Day Pharmacy/RX Plus Pharmacies
 Kaiser Permanente
 King Soopers
 Kmart

Longs Drugs
 MSN/Pharmstaff
 Northern Navajo Medical Center
 Rite Aid
 Rutgers University Pharmaceutical
 Industry Fellowship
 RX Plus Pharmacies/Good Day Pharmacy
 Safeway
 Senior Med
 Target
 Thompson Healthcare (Micromedex)
 US Army Medical Recruiting
 US Navy
 Valley-Wide Health Systems
 Veterans Administration Medical Center,
 Eastern Colorado Health Care System
 Walgreens
 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
 WellDyneRx



Walgreens gives \$10,000 to school



School of Pharmacy Dean Ralph Altieri (center) accepts a \$10,000 contribution from Walgreens in recognition of the school's efforts in fostering the educational development of future pharmacy leaders. Walgreens representatives presenting the check were (left) Jason Gruszynski and Randy Knutsen.

Two Wal-Mart scholars attend AACP meeting

For the second year, two SOP students were selected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) to receive Wal-Mart scholarships, which enabled them to attend the AACP annual meeting held July 14-18 in Orlando, Fla. Darcie Ryant and Jen Jorgenson were able to attend the AACP Teachers Seminar and the annual meeting, giving them some perspective on a career in academia. They also attended a variety of academic sessions.

"I found the meeting very eye-opening in regard to the opportunities in pharmacy education," said Ryant. "I really enjoyed the entire meeting and honestly have to say the highlight for me was having so many people from our school attend. The SOP was well represented at the meeting. It really made the meeting that much better to attend some of the sessions with my classmates and discuss new ideas afterwards."

CSSHP Clinical Skills Competition

Winners of the Colorado Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSSHP) 2007-2008 Clinical Skills Competition are:

- First Place: Jessica Morris and Tara Vlasimsky
- Second Place: Janessa Pedroza and Cassandra Bankovich
- Third Place: Gretchen Kunze and Melanie Bates

Four additional teams competed this year.

The other enthusiastic participants were:
 Brittany and Michele Hanselin
 Ashley Hall and Allison Garnhart
 Ashley Garcia and Stacey Schomberg
 Sara Stahle and Jamie Billotti

Loretta Thorkelson competed although her teammate withdrew.

CSSHP members and faculty who made the competition possible were Jody Adams, Jessica Bannon, Dan Corona, Shawna Vigil Kaciri and Angie Luetters as well as Drs. Laura Hansen, Robert Page and Joseph Saseen.

New faculty members

After recently completing his specialty residency at the University of Colorado Denver, **Joe Vande Griend**, PharmD, joined the School of Pharmacy as assistant professor.

Vande Griend graduated from the University of Iowa School of Pharmacy in 2005. He then completed a residency at the University of Colorado Hospital, working primarily in the inpatient setting. After completing his first residency, Vande Griend stayed on as the Family Medicine Specialty Resident at the SOP with Joe Saseen, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy.

He now teaches, primarily, the third-year pharmacy students coordinating their professional skills development class and filling in for other lecturers in the school. Vande

Griend says he has enjoyed his experience so far.

"It's exciting to be here. I think it's an exceptional university and an exceptional School of Pharmacy. I'm still learning what the students' level of knowledge is and how I can best give them the information that they need to know. But since I was a student only a couple of years ago, it's easier for me to identify with them."

Vande Griend chose a career in pharmacy because of the extensive flexibility and changes that are taking place within the profession.

Pharmacy runs in Vande Griend's family. There are four pharmacists in his extended family, two of whom have owned pharmacies in Iowa.

"I find it interesting because there is such variety in a life in

pharmacy and that makes it challenging and rewarding. A career in academia provides significant intellectual freedom and different opportunities that I wouldn't necessarily have with any other position. It also allows me to investigate areas of pharmacy that interest me, and I find that fascinating," he said.

While new to the field of pharmacy, **Krishna Mallela, PhD**, comes to the school with experience in pharmaceutical related areas.

He spent the past seven years as a biophysicist at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied protein folding, and is continuing his research here while applying it to the pharmaceutical field.

Proteins are essential components of every living cell. The process of protein folding must be

successful for proteins to function properly. Misfolded proteins cause a number of diseases and afflictions, including cancer. They also can prevent pharmaceutical drugs from working. Mallela's research relates to understanding the physical principles of proteins that can prevent them from misfolding.

By developing a better understanding of protein folding principles, researchers can work to prevent the problems from occurring, which potentially can lead to cures for diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

In his spare time, Mallela spends time with his wife, who is a director at the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center, and his daughter, who started kindergarten this year.

Faculty News

Rajesh Agarwal, PhD, professor, has been named a member of the editorial boards for *Clinical Medicine: Oncology*; *International Journal in Medical Engineering and Informatics*; *Clinical Medicine: Urology*; and *Clinical Medicine: Dermatology*.

Christina Aquilante, PharmD, assistant professor, has been awarded the 2007 Kenneth F. Finger Fellow Alumni Lecture for Sustained Excellence in the Clinical Sciences from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

Laura Hansen has been elected to serve on the board of the Colorado Pharmacists Society.

Cindy O'Bryant, PharmD, BCOP, assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, has been elected president-elect of the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. HOPA has more than 900 members and is a professional organization dedicated to helping hematology/oncology pharmacy practitioners provide quality cancer care.

Robert Page, PharmD, associate professor of clinical pharmacy, has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, a Fellow of the Society of Geriatric Cardiology and a Fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA) Council of Clinical Cardiology. Page is one of only two pharmacists on the AHA Council; all other members are cardiologists.

Manisha Patel, PhD, associate professor, has been named to the editorial board of *Membership: Free Radicals in Biology and Medicine*.

John Carpenter received AAPS Research Achievement Award in Biotechnology

The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) presented the AAPS Research Achievement Award in Biotechnology to John Carpenter, PhD, of the School of Pharmacy. The award was presented on Nov. 11, during the opening session of the association's 2007 Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, Calif.

Carpenter is recognized for his ground-breaking contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences, specifically his research on the mechanisms of protein stabilization during freeze-drying. His research into protein stabilization has helped researchers gain understanding of critical stability issues for therapeutic proteins, resulting in the development of approaches to improve the safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical drugs.

"I am honored to receive this award from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists," said Carpenter, professor of Pharma-



ceutical Sciences at the UC Denver School of Pharmacy and co-director of the University of Colorado Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology. "The research recognized by this award is the result of collaborations with scores of outstanding graduate students, postdoctoral research associates and senior colleagues from academia and industry."

AAPS is a professional, scientific society of more than 13,000 members employed in academia, industry, government and other research institutes worldwide. Founded in 1986, AAPS provides a dynamic international forum for the exchange of knowledge among scientists to enhance their contributions to health. AAPS offers timely scientific programs, on-going education, information resources and opportunities for networking and professional development.

School hosts reception for pharmacy deans

SOP Dean **Ralph Altieri** (left) chats with deans from pharmacy schools from around the country during a reception Oct. 15. The school hosted the reception and tour of the Anschutz Medical Campus for pharmacy deans attending the American College of Clinical Pharmacy conference held in Denver.



Winter 2008

Health Sciences Library benefits from alumnus' vision & generosity

By Kenna Bruner

There's a limited amount of money, but an infinite amount of material in the world. Most of these books will never be put on a database.... You have to physically go to some of these places to find books. I worry that after I go, there won't be anybody around who will explore the frontiers for books.

Henry Strauss, BS '51

1975 – a year of achievement and turmoil. The city of Saigon surrenders, ending the Vietnam War; Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft lift off; 35 nations sign the Helsinki Accords; and pharmacy alumnus Henry Strauss makes the first of many trips to China where he discovers a treasure trove of medical therapies almost unheard of in the West.

Strauss, BS '51, became fascinated by Chinese practices such as acupuncture, moxabustion and the use of natural tinctures, and realized there was an entrepreneurial opportunity to introduce herbal medicines in the United States. He became the exclusive distributor of Bijen Pian cold tablets, but was too far ahead of his time for the U.S. market. Pharmaceutical distributors weren't interested in something as radical as Chinese herbal medicines 35 years ago, so Strauss ended up abandoning the effort.

But his interest in oriental therapies did not wane. He continued traveling to China, and during the mid-1980s, he was instrumental in cultivating a sister state relationship between Colorado and the Hunan Province. As he continued to explore the country, it was the passion Strauss developed for rare and obscure books on Chinese traditional medicine that would become his journey's most lasting legacy. He be-

gan collecting the tomes and bringing them back home.

"I was hooked. There was nothing about Chinese medicine in any of the libraries at the time and it came to me that this was a missing element in the practice of medicine in this country," he said.

Rather than keep his treasured books to himself, Strauss made them available to the medical community and the public. He recognized their value in promoting health and fighting disease.

In 1987, Strauss made his first donation of 20 books to Denison Library. Strauss and his second wife, Joan, enlarged and endowed the collection in memory of his first wife. Today the Florence G. Strauss Complementary and Indigenous Medicine Collection, located in the new Health Sciences Library on the Anschutz Medical Campus, has grown to more than 1,100 books, four journal subscriptions, and several databases on complementary health practices and alternative therapies from around the world.

Strauss credits Lilian Hoffecker, reference and education librarian for the Health Sciences Library, with taking his ragtag bunch of books and developing them into a cohesive and remarkable collection.

Distinct from and occasionally at odds with conventional Western medicine, the resources in this special collection provide an opportunity to learn about herbal treatments, alternative medicine, Ayurvedic medicine and folk remedies from around the world.

Titles include Esoteric Anatomy, Vibrational Medicine, Bach Flower Therapy, Folk Medicine of Southern Appalachia, Zulu Medicinal Plants, and The Way of Qigong. The collection boasts one of the rare few Chinese pharmacopeias in the U.S. And its copy of Tibetan Medical Thangka of the Four Medical Tantras is one of only two or three library copies in this country.



Pharmacy alumnus Henry Strauss and Lilian Hoffecker, reference and education librarian for the Health Sciences Library, check out a new addition to the Florence G. Strauss Complementary and Indigenous Medicine Collection.

More than 350 of the books are on Chinese medicine, which barely scratches the surface of the subject. In China, more than 3,200 herbs, 300 minerals and numerous animal extracts are used in over 400 formulas to restore balance of energy, body and spirit for health.

The Strauss collection is open to faculty, staff and students. Library patrons outside of the university system may obtain a library card or they can check out the books through inter-library loan in the metro area.

Books for the collection are chosen by a selection committee comprised of health care practitioners, researchers and educators from the Health Sciences Center and the community.

The impetus for increasing the collection is the fascination and potential usefulness of the topic, no matter how humble or obscure. Strauss constantly trolls through online book venues looking for pos-

sibilities. It's a sure bet he'll have at least a couple of books tucked into his luggage when he returns from trips to an exotic locale. He recently returned from Vietnam juggling 50 pounds of books through customs.

His wife Joan, is executive director of International Adoption Net, a nonprofit child placement agency, which affords Strauss additional opportunities for overseas travel to search for books.

"There's a limited amount of money but an infinite amount of material in the world," he said. "Most of these books will never be put on a database. You're not going to find South African Medicinal Plants on a data base any time soon. You have to physically go to some of these places to find books. I worry that after I go, there won't be anybody around who will explore the frontiers for books."

One may well wonder which of those events in 1975 will end up having the most lasting impact – the U.S.-Soviet link-up in space or Strauss's seeding of ancient, alternative ideas into the canon of Western medicine.

For more information on the Florence G. Strauss Complementary and Indigenous Medicine Collection, visit the web site at <http://hsclibrary.uchsc.edu/strauss>

NTPD student receives national award for political activism

Jennifer Fix, RPh, MBA, of Bursleson, Texas, received the American Pharmacists Association Good Government Pharmacist-of-the-Year Award. Fix is a student in the Non-Traditional PharmD program.

Established in 1990, the award recognizes an individual pharmacist who actively contributes to the community through his or her voluntary involvement in the political process. It is presented to an individual who has raised the profession's awareness of the political process and worked to achieve legislative objectives that will improve the ability of pharmacists to provide care to patients.

Former president of the Texas Pharmacy Association, Fix was selected in recognition of her activities on behalf of the pharmacy profession including her initiation of legislation in Texas for prompt payment by all third party providers. The legislation called for payments within 21 days of a clean claim of submission. The bill, which was passed and signed into law in May 2003, has benefited pharmacies, pharmacists and patients across the state of Texas.

Fix has testified numerous times in front of legislative committees on unfair third party Medicaid audits, mail order parity, PBM regulation and transparency. During her presidency at the Texas Pharmacy Association, Fix was instrumental in leading the opposition to prescription drug importation, emphasizing its dangers while urging patients to seek advice from their local pharmacists before considering importing their drugs.

Fix received her bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1985 from Drake University and she earned her master's degree in business administration from Drake in 1986. Fix is president of Jen-Rx, Inc. and owner of the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Haltom City, Texas.

Correction: The photo in the summer issue accompanying the announcement of Shari Bohn receiving the school's annual Leadership Award for the outgoing president of the Colorado Pharmacists Society was that of Reanna Nerpel.

Colorado program puts pharmacy students face-to-face with patients

By Dan Hurley

(re-printed with permission from *Pharmacy Practice News*)

Not even the Rocky Mountains are high enough to keep pharmacy students at the University of Colorado from getting out of the classrooms and into the far corners of the state to work face-to-face with patients.

Not satisfied with students safely standing at the shoulders of preceptors and passively watching them interact with patients, the Colorado program places fourth-year students in hospitals, community health centers and retail pharmacies to offer direct patient services.

"The students are actually responsible for the existence of the program and the management of the patients," said Christopher Turner, BPharm, PhD, professor and director of the Experiential Program at the School of Pharmacy. "They're still being supervised, but the preceptor does not run the program. If our students were withdrawn, the majority of the programs would disappear because they would not have the necessary manpower to operate."

As described in a recent paper in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2007;71(3):46) and in a podium presentation by Turner at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP), the Colorado program offers a strategy for delivering advanced pharmacy practice experience that is drawing plaudits from pharmacy educators and others who have long called for more intensive clinical training.

"It should serve as a template for the types of experiences that students should routinely receive during their final year in pharmacy school," said Michael Maddux, PharmD, FCCP, executive director of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. "This type of hands-on education is what we believe all schools should deliver."

In fact, he pointed out, "From ACCP's standpoint, what they are doing is really mandatory. It should be the rule, not the exception."

Although all schools of pharmacy offer experiential learning, "at so many of the experiential sites, students are just observing," said Janet Teeters, RPh, MS, director of the Accreditation Services Division of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. "That's the beauty of this program: it permits them to actively engage with the patients. It really is preparing them to be independent practitioners when they graduate."

Beginning in 2001, the program established 22 partnerships with

health-care facilities spread out across Colorado to offer specialized pharmacy services, all but one of them not previously provided. Ten of the sites are in rural areas, 12 in urban areas. Nine sites focus on the care of patients with diabetes, hypertension and lipid disorders. At four sites, students run anticoagulation clinics focused on maintaining patients' INR values within accepted target ranges

I'm not aware of any hospital anywhere in the United States that says it has enough pharmacists.

We give them a resource to expand their services.

Christopher Turner, BPharm, PhD

for their medical conditions. At three other health systems, students run a medication reconciliation program in which they first interview each newly admitted patient to ascertain their current home therapies, then review all in-hospital and discharge medication offers for appropriateness and, when necessary, bring discrepancies and recommendations to the attention of each patient's physician.

At Southwest Memorial Hospital in the town of Cortez, students operate a vaccination program. At Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, they support an established pharmacy-run perioperative beta-blocker program in which they screen non-cardiac surgical patients for cardiovascular risk and bring moderate and high-risk patients to the attention of their surgeons or anesthesiologists for beta-blocker initiation. At other health systems they round with a multidisciplinary healthcare team, provide drug information to patients, review drug-related problems and monitor pharmacokinetics.

In the latest academic year, the program provided a total of 213 advanced pharmacy practice experiences, each one lasting six weeks. With a class size of 130 students, that meant that, on average, each student completed 1.5 APPE courses during the 2006-2007 academic calendar at partnership sites.

A key to the program's success in convincing health systems to participate is that it guarantees that at least one student will be assigned to each facility for 48 weeks of each year. When one student's six-week stint is completed, another's begins.

"The administrative challenge is to find the retailers and health systems willing to take the students," Turner said. "I'm not aware of any hospital anywhere in the United States that says it has enough pharmacists. We give them a resource to expand their services."

Assuring the continuity of services offered to health systems would be crucial to any other programs seeking to emulate the Colorado model, Teeters said. "The fact that they provide students year-round is a real benefit to the institutions," she said. "If they have one student for six weeks and

then nothing for six months, they have no continuity."

The Colorado program's efforts to increase face-to-face patient interactions during the four years of pharmacy school dovetails nicely with the national movement to increase residencies, Ms. Teeters said. She noted that the ASHP House of Delegates passed a resolution in June calling for all new pharmacy graduates to have completed an ASHP-accredited residency by 2020.

The program director of a PGY2 program in oncology said she believes that students coming out of the Colorado program are likely to be better prepared for either residencies or work.

"The students were actually able to cover services for which no pharmacists were previously covering," said Amy Hatfield, PharmD, BCOP, clinical specialist in Hematologic Malignancies and program director of the Oncology Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. "That's huge. When they get to residency or their first job, the students are already used to being responsible and independent."

Even in a specialty area like oncology, Hatfield said she could picture students offering helpful, vital services. "Definitely taking patient medication histories is very doable for students, and it really works on their skills, talking to the patients and gathering information," she said. "Pharmacy students could also offer counseling on antibiotics, chemotherapy or supportive care medications."

One question she had about giving students a freer hand in working directly with patients is how to guarantee quality of care. "I don't know how much supervision or mentoring the Colorado students have for dealing with difficult patients or other difficult experiences," Hatfield said.

Similar concerns were raised by Eric Boyce, PharmD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif. But, he said, "assuring an adequate quality and consistent quantity of service can be managed through appropriate orientation, training and scheduling."

Turner emphasized that students in his program are not set off as free

agents without supervision or prior preparation. "If you're expecting students to perform at a certain level in their fourth year, you have to be sure they spend the three years before preparing for that," he said. "The philosophical difference here is that students are expected to arrive on site competent to do what's necessary on the site. Traditionally, students have been sent out to practice sites to learn from a practitioner, to stand by the shoulder and see how it's done. The expectation in our program is that they'll be functioning at the level of the licensed practitioner, understanding that the preceptor is nearby."

Although Colorado's emphasis on experiential learning may seem cutting edge today, it's really a case of going back to the future.

"Years ago, pharmacy training was done purely as an apprenticeship," said Turner. "You were placed under the hands of a licensed practicing pharmacist and learned on the job."

But by the 1960s, when he attended pharmacy school in England, "I got my degree without ever setting foot in a pharmacy. It was all classroom-based. So the pendulum has swung

from extreme to extreme, and now it's hovering in the middle, trying to find a balance between knowledge and practical skills."

Boyce called the Colorado program a win-win for all involved. "It's a very useful demonstration of developing partnerships where everyone gains," he said. "The students have

real-life experiences to develop abilities and enhance their understanding of career options. The pharmacies get to provide new services and gain access to potential residents or employees. And the school of pharmacy is able to expand its advanced pharmacy practice experience offerings."

Despite the trepidation some students might feel upon dealing directly with patients in a one-on-one setting, "They generally thrive in these programs," Turner said. "They appreciate the responsibility being given to them. While it's potentially outside their comfort zone, they recognize that as being good for their learning."

And, he pointed out, it's no different than the kind of direct patient care already given by students in medical and dental schools. "If it's good enough for medicine and dentistry," he said, "it should be good enough for pharmacy."

If you're expecting students to perform at a certain level in their fourth year, you have to be sure they spend the three years before preparing for that... Traditionally, students have been sent out to practice sites to learn from a practitioner, to stand by the shoulder and see how it's done. The expectation in our program is that they'll be functioning at the level of the licensed practitioner, understanding that the preceptor is nearby.

Christopher Turner, BPharm, PhD

SOP Toxicology Program hosts 25th annual meeting

The 25th annual meeting of the Mountain West Society of Toxicology held Sept. 6-7 in Breckenridge was organized by Vasilis Vasiliou, PhD, director of the SOP Toxicology Program.

The theme of the meeting was *Metabolomics and Animal Models in Toxicology*. Keynote speakers were Jeffrey Idle, PhD, a professor at the University of Bern, Switzerland; Robert Murphy, PhD, a joint professor at the SOP; Daniel Gustafson, PhD, an associate professor at the Colorado State University; and Greg Thomas, PhD, with Lilly Research Laboratory.

Three students from the school's Toxicology Program were recognized for their work.

Michael Holt received first place for his oral presentation titled *Investigation of the Potential Anti-Inflammatory Role of Infiltrating Macrophages in Acetaminophen-Induced Liver Injury*.

Holt and his colleagues are investigating how acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, affects the liver after drug-induced liver injury. After dosing mice with acetaminophen, they discovered a popu-

lation of macrophages that infiltrate the liver, and they are now investigating the potential role of these cells in repairing or regenerating the liver.

The award for Holt's presentation on his research project "The Role of Hepatic Macrophages in Drug-Induced Liver Injury," which is advised by Cynthia Ju, PhD, assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy, included a \$100 monetary gift.

Also receiving awards from the SOP:

- Benjamin Stewart, third place for his oral presentation: *4-Hydroxynonenal and 4-Oxononenal may contribute to hepatosteatosis by disrupting cellular microtubules*
- Renee Good, second place for her poster presentation: *Methamphetamine exposure: is it the toxicity or the age that matters?*

The Society of Toxicology is an international organization of scientists from academic institutions, government and industry. It works to improve human, animal and environmental health through a better

Learning about addiction as a disease

Pharmacy students Jamela Urban and Dimtri Cohen attended the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies in June. They participated in workshops on the pathophysiology of addiction, chemical dependency and diversion among health care professionals, treatment and counseling, pharmacy ethics and law, group therapy experience, the 12-step recovery program and a case study of a recovering pharmacist.

During the week-long school, they had the opportunity to hear stories about pharmacists and other health professionals who have battled the disease of addiction and to learn how to effectively help a colleague in need.

A hurdle the two students faced while at the school was overcoming their misconceptions about the terms "abuse" and "addiction." Abuse refers to intentional misuse,

while addiction refers to pathological dependence, which is a true medical disease.

The school provided information on how to assist pharmacists in their recovery process and ways to educate pharmacists, pharmacy students and other health care providers about chemical dependence.

Urban and Cohen will be sharing their new knowledge with the incoming P1 students. They want students to understand what chemical dependency is, how to recognize the symptoms and that there is help available.

"We learned about the physiological processes of addiction as a disease," said Urban. "Some people have a predisposition to becoming an addict. Nobody chooses to get a disease. The skills I learned there gave me the support to help my patients with drug and alcohol addiction

New name for state's premier research university

A simpler name has been given to the state's largest research and professional education university: University of Colorado Denver. A vote in October by the CU Board of Regents set a permanent name for the institution that includes the Downtown Campus in Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

The university has used a temporary name – University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center – since the Regents combined the two campuses in 2004.

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences welcomes new students

Filipp Mirzakhanov is from Baku, Azerbaijan. He earned a BA in business management from the University of Nebraska and an MS in biochemistry from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He has been working in the lab of Tom Anchordoquy, PhD, for the past year. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his daughter, gathering edible wild mushrooms, reading and hiking.

Gaurav Mehta comes to Colorado from India where he had been teaching veterinary pharmacology. He has a BS in veterinary science and an MS in veterinary pharmacology. He finds the reversal of his role from that of teacher to student is a challenge, but looks forward to the program and making friends.

Tyson Smyth is a native of Colorado and recently graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder. Although he loved Boulder, he says it's time to "join the real world" and "get some real work in" and is excited to start the DOPS program. In his spare time he likes to play volleyball, camp in the summer and ski in the winter.

Rebecca "Becky" Smathers is from Douglas, Wyo. She attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where she earned a BS degree in biology and chemistry with a specialization in forensic science. She enjoys a variety of outdoor activities,

from biking and hiking to camping and volleyball.

Sangeeta Shrotriya is from Nepal. She received her bachelor's degree in Bangladesh and her master's degree in pharmacology in South Korea. This is her first time in Colorado. She's looking forward to experiencing the four distinct seasons she has "heard a lot about," although she's apprehensive about winter. When not studying or traveling, she likes to cook.

Swetha Inturi comes to Colorado by way of Khammam, India. She received her bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the Oxford College of Pharmacy in Bangalore. Last year she got married and moved to Denver. Her favorite pastime is driving through the Rocky Mountains with her husband.

Justine Molas is from Clearwater, Fla., and has seen snow only a handful of times. She received her BS in chemical engineering from the University of South Florida in Tampa. After learning about the DOPS program, she left the beaches of Florida for the mountains of Colorado. She enjoys playing tennis, biking, playing the piano and watching football.

Nicole Payton grew up in Albuquerque, NM, where she graduated from the University of New Mexico summa cum laude with a BS in biology and chemistry. She misses the

green and red chile of her home, but is eager to be a part of the DOPS program. Besides watching football and baseball, she likes to ski, read and jog with her dog.

Jun Yang grew up in Eastern China and went to South-Central China for his bachelor's degree in chemistry. He studied polymer engineering in South Korea as an exchange student and earned a master's degree in organic chemistry from Michigan State University.

He's looking for someone who will play tennis with him.

James Barnard moved to Colorado two years ago to work for a biotech company and go snowboarding. He got married just a week before school started.

Julia Slejko has lived in Colorado for most of her life. After gradu-

ating from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2000, she worked at Array BioPharma in Boulder as an information specialist. She loves cycling and racing. Last summer, she took her bike to Italy. Winters find her on the slopes skiing – both alpine and telemark.

Maria Timoshik attended Moscow M.V. Lomonosov State University for BS and MS degrees in chemistry. In 1997 and '98, she received an award from the International Science Education Program in Belgium.

Regina Hutchings was born in Guam, but has lived in Colorado for most of her life. She received a BS in chemical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. She plays volleyball "obsessively" and enjoys reading, snowboarding and biking.

Phi Lambda Sigma inductees for 2007-2008

The following members were inducted into the Alpha Xi chapter in ceremonies on Sept. 24:

Melissa Sanz
Allison Garnhart
Caleb Burkitt
Dimtri Cohen
John Teel
Kathleen Simons
Laura Anderson
Meghan Gerlach

Adrian Larkin
Angela Luetters
Emily Arndt
Michelle Wolke
Mick Burgeson
Rachel Lowe
Zanette Kanani

University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy & Colorado Pharmacists Society

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- **Update on legislation & practice trends** — how recent legislation in Colorado will affect pharmacy practice

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Preceptors acknowledged for their work with students

By Jenni Prosser

The real-world application of skills learned in the classroom is a crucial part of any degree.

After three years of studying the field with increasing levels of practical experience, pharmacy students are immersed in the practice during their fourth year with the help of their preceptors.

These experienced pharmacists help the students integrate their classroom knowledge into actual practice by exposing them to the practice and allowing them to participate in the pharmacy experience. The students are assigned to a variety of pharmaceutical settings and, with the help of their preceptors, hone the skills to handle a range of environments and experiences.

This year, **Josi Snyder**, PharmD, **Tisha Silva**, PharmD, and **Grant Bray**, PharmD, were recognized for their role in educating future pharmacists, when they were selected by the students as Preceptors of the Year.

Within a year after completing her degree at the School of Pharmacy, Josi Snyder, PharmD, '02, was precepting pharmacy students in their rotations at Legacy Health in Portland, Ore., where she was completing a residency. She returned to Colorado to work as a clinical pharmacist for Littleton Hospital. Now she precepts students during their rotations at St. Anthony Central Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in Denver.

Snyder received the 2007 Roche Preceptor of the Year award for her work with the School of Pharmacy.

She says she is honored to receive the award, "I enjoy interacting with the students and it is gratifying to know that there is a mutual benefit. It makes all the difference when the student is invested in the experience and believes in the benefit of a different perspective. At the same time, students push me to continually strive to learn."

During their time at St. Anthony's, students are responsible for making interventions on a small number of patients during rounds. The primary goal of their rotation is to build the confidence of the students as part of a multidisciplinary team and to use classroom material in a real-world environment. Snyder also uses the rotations to determine what further learning the students may need to prepare as pharmacists.

In addition to their work with patients, the students submit projects that include presenting patient cases and disease state reviews, giving presentations to hospital personnel in other disciplines and evaluating articles.

Snyder tries to immerse the students in real pharmacy work, which she believes is an important part of their rotation. "Application of the skills the students have been taught is more valuable to them than simply observing my work day."

Tisha Silva, PharmD, '00, has worked as a preceptor since 2002. She received the preceptor of the year award for ambulatory services, recognizing her work at the Stout Street Clinic.

The clinic is provided through the Colorado Coalition for the

Homeless. It supplies prescriptions, at no cost to the patients, for people in Denver with limited health insurance. The pharmacy gives SOP students exposure to a different client population, allowing them to see how the pharmaceutical practice differs when helping high-need patients.

At the clinic, Silva has students work in a range of areas including consultation and diabetes education. They also participate in providing classes offered at the clinic, including smoking cessation.

"I've been delighted with the quality of students who have come through the pharmacy program," Silva said. "It seems like each passing year they have improved. It is a great pleasure to work with them."

Silva has worked in a range of areas within pharmacy. After she received her PharmD from the School of Pharmacy, she worked at a pharmacy specializing in HIV care. When that clinic closed, she went to work for Kaiser Permanente in an outpatient pharmacy. She then transferred to their travel clinic before moving to the Stout Street Clinic, where she has been for three and a half years. As the pharmacy supervisor, Silva was instrumental in the clinic's becoming a registered prescription drug outlet in 2005.

Grant Bray, PharmD, the recipient of this year's Outstanding Institutional Preceptor award, says he is grateful for the recognition but does not feel he is solely responsible.

"The award reflects more on the hospital and the quality of the education that is provided here at

Denver Health than on me as a preceptor," said Bray.

Bray is the pharmacy clinical coordinator at Denver Health Medical Center and supervises the residents who have rotations at the center. He meets with students a few times a week between their sessions with other pharmacy preceptors, medical students and other hospital staff.

Bray says it is these people that make Denver Health an excellent site for rotations. "Denver Health is a nice place to have an educational experience for pharmaceutical work. If the students come in with a positive attitude and a general interest in learning, they will make it a good rotation for themselves."

Students participate either in an institutional or hospital rotation. For the institutional rotation, Bray exposes students to areas that are unfamiliar to them. Examples of satellites where the students may work include medical intensive care unit, internal medicine, hematology and pediatrics.

During the hospital rotation, students assume the care of patients after being assigned to a medical team. They learn the workings of a health care team while learning to care for an actual patient.

Bray says that the system has benefited both the students and the people working at the hospital, "I routinely get positive feedback from the teams that pharmacy students work with. The pharmacists who work with the students also find it stimulating because the students are always bringing in new ideas and challenges that keep the preceptors sharp."

Student National Pharmaceutical Association wins big in Vegas

By Lindsay Moore

The School of Pharmacy chapter of Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) was started in 2003 and since that time has grown tremendously. With the support of dedicated members, the organization has made a significant impact in underserved communities throughout Colorado. The efforts of the school's SNPhA chapter have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by the numerous awards presented to the chapter at the 2007 SNPhA National Convention in Las Vegas, July 20-23.

Record numbers of SOP students attended the convention and Colorado's large presence was recognized with the award for most registrants from a large chapter. Two of the school's SNPhA members, Gretchen Kunze and Melanie Bates, won the clinical skills competition.

During the competition, teams were given patient cases to prepare and then had a limited amount of time to counsel a mock patient. Gretchen and Melanie competed against 13 teams from all over the country and were announced the winners at the SNPhA National awards banquet.

Other awards and honors presented to the chapter included an appreciation plaque for hosting the Regions 2, 4 and 5 meeting in March, a participation certificate for Operation Immunization with APhA, the Best Scrapbook Award and recognition for each of six posters presented by SOP students. UC Denver SNPhA also was the recipient of the United States Public Health Service's Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. This award is presented to a select group of pharmacy student organi-

zations who succeed in promoting public health causes.

Throughout the convention, students had the opportunity to attend continuing education seminars, poster presentations, the awards banquet, corporate exhibition fair, and business meetings. Students also enjoyed networking with SNPhA members from all over the country at several social events.

Olivia Rapacchietta, a fourth year pharmacy student, was inducted as the SNPhA national president. She appointed Thu Tran and Stephanie Cho to her cabinet of national officers. Tran will serve as the membership benefits chair and Cho as chair of the Power to End Stroke Initiative. Olivia promises to bring more diversity to SNPhA at the national level and is honored to lead such an inspired group of individuals.

Connie Valdez, PharmD, was

honored with two awards that recognize her commitment to underserved communities. The James N. Tyson Award "recognizes outstanding performance and achievements of an individual for contributions made to the National Pharmaceutical Association as well as to the profession of pharmacy." She also received acknowledgement for her contributions to the 2007 Regional Meeting held in Denver. As one of three SNPhA advisors at the school, she has been key to the motivation, inspiration and success of the chapter.

After receiving so many honors, the SNPhA chapter looks forward to an exciting 2007-08 year filled with many activities focused on serving underserved communities. They will strive to reach even further and are looking forward to what the 2008 SNPhA National Convention holds in store.



SNPhA AIDS Walk

More than 25 SNPhA members gathered early on Sept. 9 to participate in the 20th Annual 5K AIDS Walk at Cheesman Park in Denver. The majority of the students walked, but a few brave souls, including Connie Valdez, PharmD, participated in the 5K run.

The SOP chapter raised nearly \$675, acquiring donations from students and a generous donation of \$525 made on behalf of Colin and Elizabeth Weekes of Greenwood Village. Thanks to everyone who participated, including Ryan Lowe and Jennifer Hamner, adjunct faculty members from Kaiser and The Children's Hospital.

Nationally, SNPhA has an initiative project that concentrates on HIV awareness, education and prevention for communities at risk.

SNPhA/PDC Third Annual Field Day

To start the year with a bang, SNPhA partnered with Phi Delta Chi and held its third annual field day recruiting event at Lindsly Park on Sept. 6. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, filled with great BBQ and fun. Nearly 100 students participated in various games from volleyball to kickball, but the real challenge came down in a vicious game of dodgeball. In order to retain their bragging rights as dodgeball champions, the P3 class methodically obliterated the P1s and P2s. Don't underestimate the P2's though; they played a strong game as well, defeating the P1s. It was all in fun, and all look forward to seeing who can become the new champions next year. Thanks to everyone who came out, including P4s and faculty members Drs. Valdez, Namdar and Reiter (adjoint).



Feasting for a cause

Students, faculty and staff enjoy a global feast at SNPhA's annual Multicultural Food Festival held Oct. 10 in celebration of Pharmacy Month. Donations benefit Denver Indian Health and Family Services and help cover immunization costs.



Alumni Briefs

Mark Montoya, 1985, has a new address in Colorado. You can reach him at 1501 N. Bowen Drive, Pueblo West, CO 81007 or montn@msn.com.

David Pfannenstiel, 1985, and **Lauri (Engelhart)**, 1992, were married and now live in Dayton, WY. They can be reached at PO Box 377, Dayton, WY, 82836 or laurildave@msn.com.

Stacy (Lake) Dannels, 1991, is now at home in Texas. You can reach her at festacy@hotmail.com or 1408 Hampton Rd., Grapevine, Texas, 76051.

Doug 1995 and **Susie** 1997 **Miller** announced the birth of their third child, John Douglas, on Aug. 14, 2007. He shares his birthday with big sister Michaela (five yrs) and also is welcomed by big sister Ally (seven yrs). The family lives in Vero Beach, Fla. Doug and Susie own Miller's Health Mart Pharmacy and can be reached at healthmartvb@yahoo.com.

Karen Cameron Boyle, 1996, had her third child – Elena Brooke Boyle – on Oct. 5, 2007. Big brothers John (five years) and Daniel (three years) welcomed their sister and will help Karen celebrate the awarding of her non-traditional PharmD degree in December

through Virginia Commonwealth University. She is currently working at the Veterans Administration in Lexington, Ken., and can be reached at kjc.boyle@gmail.com.

Pat Takenishi, 1998, has a new address in Hawaii. You can reach him at 91-1017 Kai Weke St, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, 96706 or makule1957@yahoo.com.

Steph Campbell, BS 2000/PharmD 2001, and her husband Alan, announce the birth of Samuel Alan Campbell. He was born July 1, 2007, weighed 7 lb 3 oz and was 19 inches long.



Kym (Smola) McColl, BS 2001/PharmD 2002, let us know she was married in May 2006, but the notice

got lost. She and Alex still live in Longmont where she is a staff and immunizing pharmacist for Walgreens. She can be reached at kym@rxpost.net.

Antoinette (Heble) Hill, PharmD 2003, and her husband Adam announce the birth of their first child, Evan Charles Hill. Evan was born Sept. 27, 2007, in Gilbert, Ariz. Antoinette can be contacted at antoinettepharmd@hotmail.com or 133 E. Canyon Creek Dr., Gilbert, AZ, 85295.

In Memoriam

Doris Kite Warren, 1946, passed away according to a notice from her family in Nebraska.

We received notice that **Sharon Kae (Smith) Silkey**, Class of 1972, passed away Aug. 29, 2007, in Aurora, Colo.

Charlene Camphouse and Lansin Carmean notified us of the passing of **Charles Beltzer, Jr.**, 1958, of Lafayette, Colo., who died Jan. 5, 2007, in Louisville, Colo.

Charlie was born in 1927 in Red Lodge, Mont. After graduating from high school, Charlie joined the United States Navy and served two years until his honorable discharge in 1947.

In 1950, he graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in forestry. He later attended the University of Colorado to become a pharmacist. Lansin Carmean recalls Charlie's stories of playing poker during pharmacy school with Mont Gutke and possibly Dean Heim. After graduation in 1958, Charlie worked several years as a pharmacist, but according to Carmean, he grew restless and became a detail man with Upjohn and Squibb so he could move around. In 1972, he was appointed to the State of Colorado Pharmacy Regulatory Board, the same summer Carmean became an inspector and began their friendship. Charlie was a State Pharmaceutical Inspector until his retirement in 1987.

Charlie was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed trapshooting, hunting and fishing. His hunting trips with the Gale family were especially memorable, hunting for doves and hunting for elk with his muzzleloader rifle during black powder season. He was also a big fan of the Denver Broncos. Most of all, he enjoyed his grandchildren.



2007 Distinguished Coloradan Award recipients honored

During convocation activities on May 4, Elizabeth Pace, MSM, RN, CEAP, and Donna Lindsey, RN, CARN, CEAP, with Peer Assistance Service, Inc., and Torrie Smith, PharmD, with Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., were acknowledged for their influential roles in the health of Colorado communities.

Elizabeth Pace is chief executive officer for Peer Assistance Service, Inc. She received her master's degree in management with a specialization in substance abuse services and employee assistance programs at Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass. She received her associate degree in nursing from Lasell Junior College in Boston, Mass., and her bachelor's degree in nursing from Metropolitan State College in Denver.

Donna Lindsey, alternative programs director, received her nursing diploma from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Evansville, Ind. She is certified as an employee assistance profes-

sional, psychiatric/mental health nurse, addictions registered nurse, prevention generalist and addictions counselor in Colorado. She is registered as a professional nurse in Colorado.

Peer Assistance Services was founded in 1983 when a group of nurses met to discuss the problems faced by their colleagues with drug or alcohol challenges. These challenges included limited treatment options, public licensure sanction and lack of professional and peer support.

In 1984, a partnership with the Colorado Pharmacist Association led to the establishment of the Colorado Pharmacist Recovery Network, a voluntary recovery support program with provisions for intervention, monitoring and peer assistance. The program serves an alternative to the traditional disciplinary process for pharmacists experiencing impaired practice and alleviates the fear of probation, suspension or revocation of license.

In addition to working with pharmacists in crisis, the network is dedicated to educating health professionals about substance abuse and addiction, providing information about recognizing behavior in individuals who abuse substances and providing guidance for intervention. Network staff members make annual presentations at the School of Pharmacy to maintain student and practitioner awareness.

Pace and Lindsey are unceasingly dedicated to this cause. They are credited with saving lives and facilitating dramatic positive life transitions.

Torrie Smith is director of pharmacy at Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., a network of rurally-based, ambulatory care clinics in Colorado's San Luis Valley. Its primary mission is to provide quality health care to medically underserved patients who contend with a variety of challenges including poverty, geographic isolation and lack of accessibility to basic services.

Smith was the first practitioner in Colorado to enter into an academic-practice partnership with the school to develop a pharmacist-operated disease state management program in a community health center pharmacy. In 2001, she partnered with the school on grant initiatives with Caring for Colorado Foundation to implement and foster a pharmacist-operated anticoagulation clinic and has begun working with the school to implement a pharmacist-run diabetes management program.

The anticoagulation program, which serves about 100 patients each month, was cited as a best practice model when the joint commission accreditation team visited Valley-Wide in 2003. With Smith's participation and encouragement, Valley-Wide has served as an advanced pharmacy practice experiential training site for 74 of the school's PharmD students since 2001.

My first three years (of 22) in Alaska

By David W. Heimke, '63

David Heimke, BS '63, is a staff pharmacist at Walgreens in Pueblo, Colo. He is in his 45th year as a pharmacist; 12 of those years were in a hospital pharmacy and 33 have been in retail chain drugstores. He has been married for 40 years and has two daughters and five grandchildren.

How did I get to Alaska?

I had been a Greeley, Colo., lad since preschool and then attended the School of Pharmacy. The full-time student designation, 2-S, kept me from the draft, and in June 1963, I was offered a commission in the U.S. Public Health Service. My first assignment was a hospital pharmacy residency at the Marine hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. This gave me an appreciation for institutional pharmacy. Within two years I was asked to take an assignment in the Indian Health Division. Being single and perhaps looking for a less urban setting, Bethel, Alaska, seemed a good location.

First impressions of Alaska

I landed in Anchorage in July 1965. It was more than one year past the Great Alaska Earthquake (March 1964), and the devastation was still quite widespread. Anchorage would never be the same and its infrastructure would see vast differences. There was no direct flight to Bethel, so I connected through Dillingham. I remembered inquiring of a state trooper after landing why the ground crew was waving handkerchiefs in front of their faces. His answer: "To ward off swarms of mosquitoes emanating from the tundra ponds surrounding the runway." The last leg of my trip landed in Bethel. First impression: Where are the trees? I knew from reading about this area that it was a vast treeless tundra, dotted with small ponds and lakes.



Dave Heimke, BS '63, working in the Bethel Alaska Native Hospital pharmacy in 1965.

Hospital a haven

Bethel Alaska Native Hospital claimed it was "a haven for the affiliated on the tundra" and "the largest field hospital in Alaska, serving 70 villages and more than 12,000 widely scattered people." The hospital was a 50-bed facility, with an emergency room, a large clinic and a staff of 85. It was built on permafrost.

Professional life

I was the only pharmacist and my duties included outpatient dispensing, sending medicines from standard lists to village health aides, and of course, hospital pharmacy. Pharmacy service to inpatients meant stocking nursing stations (remember, this is about five to eight years before the advent of unit dose and I.V. additive programs), and collaborating with nurses on drug

delivery and information. Clinic pharmacy was tough from a communication aspect. A frequent "eee" (meaning "yes" in the Yupik language) was an answer to many an open-ended question. The village



When he wasn't hard at work, Dave Heimke worked hard at enjoying his time in Alaska. From left; Dave and Joel Henkelman, a well-known guide, fishing in the Kuskokwim River. Dave enjoying the day off.

dots on children's faces in the villages. The most severe issue regarding sanitation was an outbreak of intestinal *e.coli*, which caused some mortality that summer. The oral antibiotic, Colistin Sulfate, seemed to arrest the infection if caught early. We were, however, caught in a supply/demand dilemma with this antibiotic and getting it to the villages where it was needed. Lastly, as mentioned, T.B. was in control due mainly to prevention with oral Isoniazid (INS). INS was dispensed copiously and Rx bottles of it were in a lot of native household medicine cabinets. Some suicidal deaths occurred from overdosing INS, as a result of its prevalence.

Personal life

The surrounding villages were up or down the Kuskokwim River (the second largest river in Alaska at 550 river miles long) or its tributaries. Travel was by single engine plane, dog team, snowmobile, and river boat. I acquired a snowmobile and an 18-foot river boat soon after

DOPS Retreat

The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences retreat was held June 7-8 at the Lakeshore Lodge in Estes Park. Winners were announced for students' oral and poster presentations and the best postdoctoral/PRA research presentation in any category.

Student oral presentations

- Keith Connaghan-Jones: Thermodynamic Comparison of the Two Progesterone Receptor Isoforms: Residues Unique to the B-Isoform Modulate Response Element Occupancy
- Derek Drechsel: Redox cycling agents and Parkinson's disease: a novel role for mitochondria in the generation of reactive oxygen species

Student poster presentations

- Michael Holt: Investigation of the potential anti-inflammatory role of infiltrating macrophages in Acetaminophen-induced liver injury
- James Roede: Analysis of lipid aldehyde modification of peroxiredoxin 6 using mass spectrometry and molecular modeling

Post-doctoral award

Gagan Deep, PhD, for his talk Isosilybin B mediated degradation of androgen receptor in prostate cancer cells

health aide program was unique. The aide had daily two-way radio contact with a hospital doctor and dispensed medicines as advised or administered I.M. antibiotics. Since compliance with oral regimes was challenging, a lot of Bicillin L.A. was used for infections. For acute medical problems, patients would be transported to the hospital, usually by bush plane.

Prevalent diseases

Tuberculosis was pretty well eradicated by the late 1950s, although respiratory diseases were still common due to the harsh climate. Low sanitation standards contributed to an array of problems. Impetigo, for instance, ran high in certain villages. Bacitracin ointment was the solution, but some households still used gentian violet. It wasn't unusual to see dried purple

arrival. These were key to a variety of outdoor activities. They provided access to learning about village life, hunting/fishing and adventure trips to the mountains 35 miles distant. The Moravian church was a blessing and I was involved in some church plays and taught a teen bible study. I also assisted when possible with projects for a Moravian orphanage near Kwethluk, 20 miles from Bethel.

Well Remembered

Those three years in the bush of Alaska will be well remembered. It was rugged living, had weather extremes and was full of adventures. I met and married Donna, who was employed by Arctic Health Research, and we spent our first year of marriage in Bethel. Those three years laid a great foundation for who I became in later life.

We'd like to hear from you

Comings, goings, marriages, births, retirements, honors, accolades and other events that are important to you are important to us, too. Tell us your news and we'll share it with classmates, alumni, students, faculty and friends. Use the form below to send a class note OR send an e-mail to SOP.alumni@uchsc.edu

Please mail to: School of Pharmacy, C238-L15

University of Colorado Denver
P.O. Box 6511
Aurora, CO 80045

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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

Winter 2008

Building the Future of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences School launches capital campaign for new building

The School of Pharmacy, a national leader in pharmacy education, research, clinical care and community service, has launched a capital campaign to raise \$20 million for a new pharmacy building in addition to the \$42 million already committed to the project.

A \$10 million lead gift from The ALSAM Foundation (a Skaggs family foundation) enabled the project to get under way and will lead to construction of

the new research and education building to be located on the University of Colorado Denver's Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colo. The ALSAM Foundation gift is the largest ever to the School of Pharmacy. In honor of the Skaggs family, the school will be renamed the "Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences."

Construction is scheduled to begin October 2008 and occupancy is slated for July 2010.

"The prospect of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences begins an exciting new era for pharmacy education, research and patient care in

Colorado," said SOP Dean Ralph Altieri. "With a state-of-the-art facility to take us into the future, we can build upon our tradition of excellence and strengthen our position as one of the nation's top pharmacy schools."

The new pharmacy building will house cutting-edge research laboratories;

Future Home of:



University of Colorado Denver
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Scheduled Completion Date:
July, 2010

conference and seminar rooms; offices for faculty, staff and administrative personnel; and support spaces for student services, postgraduate professional education and experiential programs as well as providing enhanced opportunities for innovative and collaborative research between

disciplines. The building's location adjacent to the bioscience park also will enable close collaboration in drug development with emerging biotech companies.

In phased moves between September 2007 and September 2008, the SOP will move from its

current location at Ninth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard into temporary academic administrative and research spaces on the Anschutz Medical Campus until the building that will house the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is completed.

As ambitious plans take shape for new facilities and opportunities for the School of Pharmacy, the success of the capital campaign is imperative. For more information on the campaign and on how you can become involved, contact Kenna Bruner at kenna.bruner@uchsc.edu.

Also Inside

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Page 11: David W. Heimke describes his life as a pharmacist in Alaska

And much more.