JOIN US FOR A DAY AT THE RACES!

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association invites you to join us at Oaklawn Park on Sunday, April 4th for a Day at the Races. The gates open at 11:00 a.m. with the first race going at 1:30 p.m. Thanks to Tommy O’Donnell ('59) for sponsoring the UAMS College of Pharmacy race that afternoon and for all of his work in making this event possible.

Our group will meet in the Arkansas Room and a buffet will be served. Dress will be jackets (no tie) for gentlemen and pantsuits or dresses for the ladies.

Reservations are $20 per person and are due Friday, March 26th. Mail your check, payable to COP Alumni Association to:
UAMS College of Pharmacy
Attn: Dean's Office, Day at the Races
4301 W. Markham, #522
Little Rock AR 72205
Call Paulette Williams at (501)686-5558 for more information. We look forward to a good time and hope that everyone attends.

Alumni Tailgate Party

The Alumni Tailgate Party at the Florida-Arkansas football game in Fayetteville last fall was a huge success. Thanks to Kristen ('97) and Jeremy ('99) Veto for all of their hard work in planning this fun event. Plans are already underway for the coming football season’s parties.
I am very excited to see the rate at which our Alumni Association is growing! It is overwhelming to think that in six short months we have 279 members, an active and enthusiastic group of officers, and our second official Newsletter. In addition, the officers have a planned a number of upcoming opportunities that we hope will pique your interest, whether it is through golfing, football, or a day at Oaklawn.

As you peruse this issue of our newsletter, you will encounter a variety of topics. We have attempted to share many activities taking place within our College. We have highlighted the research of two faculty members, Dr. Bill Gurley and Dr. Howell Foster. We have also introduced one of our newest faculty members, Dr. John Kirtley. We’re always pleased with the success of our faculty and have included information regarding new achievements by both Dr. Natalie Ellis and Dr. Rob Richardson.

You will also see pictures of our latest student-sponsored activity, the Hillbilly Chili Cook-Off. I served as one of the judges of this event and can now boast not only of our students’ academic success, but also of their outstanding culinary skills! (On the other hand, I’m encouraging our students to ask Dr. Charles Born to be a judge next year to prevent him from resubmitting his “Litter box Chili” recipe!)

The College plans to mail the first three issues of our Newsletter to all alumni, whether they have joined or not. If you haven’t already joined, please send in your application to ensure that you don’t miss a later issue. In a few more weeks, we hope to have our Alumni Association webpage operational. Dr. Ross Vanderbush has already worked numerous hours to make this possible. Once he is done, we can all stay in closer touch.

We hope our next Newsletter issues will include more information about you -- our alumni members. Please let us know what’s going on in your practice setting and tell us about your personal successes. We love hearing about upcoming marriages, births, and promotions. We also want you to share the service and recreational activities that make you such a rich and diverse group of friends. This association will only meet its primary mission when it regularly brings our alumni members closer together.

Stephanie Gardner, PharmD, EdD

Charles Ronald Gordon, son of Michael and Angela Stafford Gordon (’93) was born August 6, 2003 and weighted 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Lyndsey Claire Gardner, daughter of Trey (’98) and Sheri Cross Gardner (’97) was born December 10, 2003 and weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

Lauren Camille Petty, daughter of Allen and Julie Lepine Petty (’01) was born December 22, 2003 and weighed 5 pounds and 15 ounces.

Rachel Anne Rossi, daughter of Michael and Pamela Peachey Rossi (’95) was born February 26, 2004 and weighed 7 pounds and 13 1/2 ounces.
Spring is almost here! We have enjoyed a hectic but productive winter. Our association is rapidly taking shape and we are looking forward to a very bright future.

We have several new members listed in the newsletter. Look over the list and you may find a former graduate and friend you have not seen or heard from in years. Our total membership is 279 as of this printing, but more are being added every week. After the graduation commencement is held, our totals will swell by eighty more fellow alumni. Our goal of 500 total members by this summer is well within reach. With the many exciting events we have planned, our potential to interact with new and existing members will be great.

A huge word of thanks to all the students and faculty for their hard work in the Annual College of Pharmacy PhoneATHon! And of course thanks to everyone who made pledges and contributions.

Tommy O’Donnel has spent many hours working to plan a successful Alumni Oaklawn Day. This event is planned for Sunday, April 4th, in Hot Springs and be sure make plans to catch all the excitement and interaction with friends and family.

The Arkansas Pharmacists Association is hosting its first annual golf tournament at the Country Club of Arkansas in Maumelle on April 16th with a banquet to follow that evening. The proceeds will go to the Foundation Scholarship Fund for future students of the college of pharmacy.

Our first annual Alumni Golf Tournament will be held at Harbor Oakes in Pine Bluff on May 16th, the day after graduation. Trey Gardner always does an outstanding job in everything he does, and golf is a passion for him. Also, congratulations to Trey and Sheri for their new baby.

Dean Gardner and I are in the looking into the possibility of two Alumni Tailgate Parties for this fall. One will be in Fayetteville at the Georgia-Arkansas game and the second will be in Little Rock at the LSU-Arkansas game. Jeremy and Kristen Veteto made the Florida-Arkansas game tailgate party last year a HUGE success and we look forward to working with them many times in the future.

Please stay tuned for a special announcement coming in the future concerning another project in the works. I know you will be excited when you hear the details and hopefully many of you will be able come and enjoy some special times together.

Again, thanks to everyone at the college and all the alumni who have contributed so much of themselves and their valuable time. Let us hear from you and allow us to share your thoughts and news.

Michael Smith, PD, President
Class of ’78

Michael Smith, President
Pharmacy Alumni Association

Alumni Member Highlights
Richardson Family

Rob Richardson (BS ’81, MS ’93, PharmD ’95) and his family were named Alumni Family of the Year by the University of Arkansas Fayetteville Associated Student Government (ASG). The award was based on multiple criteria but primarily on an essay by his daughter Amanda, a student at UAF, detailing the family involvement with the University of Arkansas. Rob and his wife Mary both graduated from UAF, Mary with both a BA and MA and many other members of the family are also graduates or have been on faculty or staff at Fayetteville. The Richardson family was guests of Chancellor White for the Arkansas-Mississippi State football game on November 22, 2003 in Fayetteville. During halftime, Chancellor White escorted the family to the center of the field, where they were presented with a framed print of Old Main by the ASG President Stoney Rawlins and ASG Vice President Dan Oberste.
Dr. Bill Gurley, Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, recently received word that he and his research group have been granted $916,000 to study botanical product drug interactions. This grant will be received over three years and comes from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Gurley serves as Principal Investigator for the grant, and Dean Stephanie Gardner is a Collaborating Investigator.

The grant promises to apply good science to an area of great uncertainty. Dr. Gurley and his group will look at ten top-selling herbals to look for alterations of cytochrome P-450 enzyme function. Their goal is to define any alterations, and to assess whether use of particular botanicals can affect drug absorption and/or elimination.

Every pharmacist knows the prevalence of herbal supplementation among our patients. We all understand that patients do not always detail what products they use. Most of all, we know that supplements are not subject to the regulatory oversight fundamental to our safe supply of legend and over-the-counter drugs. The University of Arkansas promises through this grant to supply solid answers to guide our vigilance against adverse effects from combining herbal products with approved drugs.

The College is proud of Natalie Ellis, PharmD, who has been installed as President of the Arkansas Association of Health Systems Pharmacists. The installation banquet was held at the Little Rock Club on January 16, 2004. In her inaugural speech Dr. Ellis confirmed her commitment to serve the state’s hospital pharmacists. This year she plans to increase the continuing education opportunities to hospital pharmacists by increasing the number of state district meetings. In addition, she reaffirmed the Association’s goal to fund the AAHP College of Pharmacy Scholarship. The scholarship established in 2003 will be awarded in April to a qualified and deserving student in their second or third professional year. Please join the College in congratulating Dr. Ellis on her accomplishment.

Circle Sunday, May 16th on your calendar! The first annual Alumni Golf Tournament will be held at Harbor Oakes in Pine Bluff. Trey Gardner (’98) is doing his usual outstanding job in organizing this event. Plan to join us for the fun!
Pharmacy Informatics Lab Receives New Computers

The Pharmacy Student Informatics lab has been updated with seven high end PCs. These were installed in early February and students were lined up at the door waiting for the installation to be complete so they could use them. The student response to obtaining this new equipment has been very rewarding with comments from the students such as: “Awesome, Wow, Look at these!”

These PC’s are 2.8 GHz Pentium 4’s with a gigabyte of RAM, an 80 GB hard drive, an ultra sharp 17” flat panel, 64M of video ram plus three have DVD burners (DVD+RW/R and 48X CD-ROM and the other four computers have CD burners and DVD readers plus a 250M zip drive. The Chairman of the College of Pharmacy Computer Utilization Committee, Dr. Ross Vanderbush, feels that this equipment should have a useful life for three to five years.

There are numerous other computers in the Education II building for the students to use if this equipment is in use (which it frequently is) but the students identify with their College’s computer lab and the lab is heavily utilized.

Personal Information Change

To be listed in the Class Notes of Connections, you can use this form to send us your news.

Mail it to Connections, UAMS College of Pharmacy, Alumni Association, 4301 West Markham #522-1, Little Rock, AR 72205, or fax it to 501-686-8315. After January 5, 2004, you can email us your news at COPAlumniConnections@uams.edu.

☐ Enjoying retirement?  ☐ Take a trip recently?  ☐ New family member?  ☐ Special achievement?
☐ Career change?  ☐ Just married?  ☐ New address?

Last Name     First       Middle Initial

Maiden Name (If Applicable)  COP Year of Graduation/Degree Earned

Home Address     City       State
Zip

Work Telephone     Home Telephone     E-Mail Address
Department faculty have received many awards and accolades in the past six months. Dr. Rob Richardson, (see Alumni Member Highlights) and his family were named Alumni Family of the Year for UAF. In addition Dr. Richardson was recently appointed to the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy Board of Directors. Dr. Howell Foster, (BS ’91, PharmD ’99) Director of the Poison Control Center, recently received his American Boards of Applied Toxicology (ABAT) certification. Drs. Scott McConnell and Amy Franks (’01) received UAMS Medical Research Endowment Grants. These competitive grants are awarded to young faculty by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. Of the 17 applications the Board considered only seven proposals were funded. In addition, Dr. McConnell was chosen to present his proposal to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Holly Maples received a Children’s University Medical Group (CUMG) grant for $20,000. The CUMG grant is a competitive grant, and Dr. Maples’ proposal received outstanding reviews. In addition, Dr. Maples was recently honored as The Southern Society for Pediatric Research (SSPR) Young Faculty Award recipient. SSPR is an organization of approximately 800 clinical and basic scientists that provides a forum for pediatric researchers from the South to present their work. Congratulations to all on their achievements.

The Rho Chi initiation banquet took place in the Fred M. Darragh Center at the Central Arkansas Library System building in downtown Little Rock. The Fall initiation was done in order to enhance service activities by increasing the number of active Rho Chi members. The Beta Iota Chapter is looking ahead to 2005, the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

Dean Gardner was selected to deliver the Rho Chi Lecture at the installation banquet. She titled her presentation, “Achieving Excellence Through Purpose, Passion and Perseverance”, introducing her chief ideas about what elements will be most important in guiding the College of Pharmacy. The chapter sponsored two families in the Angel Tree project. Members have also provided “Shrunken Notes” for all Therapeutics courses and the “Peripheral Brain” pocket notebook. Also in the works is a service outreach project at the Ronald McDonald House near Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

This year’s initiates:
Alumni: Alvin Simmons, Ryan Keith McMurray, Charles Mitchell West. Faculty: Martha Hampton Carle

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Indra K. Reddy, Ph.D., Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Reddy has accepted the position of Dean of the Irma Rangel School of Pharmacy at Texas A&M University-Kingsville effective February 2, 2004. He joined the UAMS College of Pharmacy in the summer of 2001. During his tenure with us, he was instrumental in re-establishing the Southern Regional Discussion Group, the regional meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and he instituted a web-based curriculum for the Pharmaceutics course that receives high praise from first-year students. In addition, he served as college delegate to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and continued a productive research program as marked by the XX papers and books be published during his time in Arkansas. Dr. Reddy’s absence leaves a void in the College that will be difficult to fill. However, it is always a positive reflection on our school when one of our own moves into a leadership position in the profession. We congratulate Dr. Reddy on his new position and know that he will do an excellent job of developing this new school in southern Texas.
Student Activities

Students at the College of Pharmacy have been very busy of the last few months with various service projects as well as social events. In November, students from the APhA-ASP, NCPA, and SNPhA chapters collaborated their efforts for a food drive to benefit local families in need during the holiday season. Over 2,500 cans of food were collected and delivered to the Amboy Community Food Pantry in North Little Rock. The Amboy Pantry helped 4,575 people in 2003 including 2,178 children. The COP students were humbled by the opportunity to help those in need during the season of giving.

Several students helped residents of the Arkansas Veterans Home get into the holiday spirit with help decorating their Christmas tree, room decorations and door wreaths. These students enjoyed the time they spent visiting with these brave men who sacrificed so much for our country.

Of course it hasn’t been all work and no play at the College of Pharmacy in the last couple of months. The APhA-ASP chapter started the semester off with the 1st Annual Hillbilly Chili Hoorah Chili Cook-off. Students and faculty showed that pharmacists can compound more than just your everyday prescription! Over 30 pots of chili were entered and judged by our expert panel of judges: Mark Riley, Executive Director of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, Dean Stephanie Gardner, Robyn Koeh of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, Dr. John Kirtley, and Dr. Hal Foster. Over 150 students, faculty, and guests were in attendance and we hope to make this an annual event.

Some upcoming events at the College include a Community Hypertension screening sponsored by the APhA-ASP chapter. Students will screen patients at 10 Little Rock area pharmacies and educate them about the importance of keeping their blood pressure under control. Also scheduled is the Pharmacy Advocacy Series, co-sponsored by APhA-ASP and NCPA. Featured speakers include Dr. Mark McGrew of USA Drug, Dr. Charles West, former Executive Vice-President of NCPA, and Dr. Scott Pace of NCPA. Students will undoubtedly gain insight to the importance of advocating for our profession from these speakers.

Trey Crumby, President
Academy of Students of Pharmacy

Kristi Whitmore presents P1 Robby Cavner with the trophy for best Chili! Not pictured is the sore loser -- Dr. Born.
The shocking and unprovoked attacks of September 11, 2001 have shaken every American's convictions about security. We acknowledge that determined enemies of our way of life can inflict damage on us and we know that there are no limits on the means that these adversaries may attempt to use. The College of Pharmacy is therefore particularly proud that Dr. Howell Foster (BS ’91, PharmD ’99), Director of the Poison Control Center, has played a lead role in preparing UAMS to assist all Arkansans in responding to potential future threats.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recently awarded a grant of $213,375 for the first year of a two-year grant period for his proposal, “Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum Development Program”. Dr. Foster will serve as Program Director and Principal Investigator.

The program will produce and teach a curriculum that prepares caregivers in our state to serve as leaders in responding to bioterrorist attacks. This will include threats from micro-organisms, chemicals, and radiation. The HRSA grant provides powerful recognition for pharmacists who have for long proven themselves as first-line providers. The award recognizes that in an emergency their community stature and scientific education fit them ideally to deal with both the actual hazards and the potential panic that bioterrorism can bring about.

Dr. John C. Kirtley has joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Kirtley will work with Dr. Jan Hastings (BS ’78, PharmD ’94) in coordinating the Community Clinical Experiential Education Program. Dr. Kirtley, an alumnus, received his PharmD from the College of Pharmacy in May 2002. As a student he was an active leader in APhA-ASP on the local, regional, and national level, as the APhA-ASP National President-elect, President, and as a member of the APhA Board-of-Trustees. During his tenure in these offices, John spoke at many colleges of pharmacy across the country and led numerous regional and national meetings. Upon graduation he practiced and was the Assistant Manager at Tanglewood Drug Store, in Little Rock. We are confident that John’s enthusiasm and passion for the practice of community pharmacy will augment and facilitate continued growth of our Community Clinical Program, to the benefit of our students. John is a native of Camden, he and his wife, Melanie (’00) live in Little Rock, and are proud parents of Allison who was born in October of 2003. Dr. Kirtley enjoys traveling, hiking and golf.
George Wimberly was already a representative of Arkansas Pharmacy before there was a college here, or any alumni. For decades his Buice Drug Store has been an essential presence in Stifft Station, and for patients all across the South Highland and Hillcrest neighborhoods. He still takes care of them, often as a friend and always as a pharmacist.

He recently included the College of Pharmacy in his generosity. George worked last semester with Dr. Jon Wolfe and with Nicholas Coe, a third year pharmacy student. He gave the college a significant collection of antique patent medicine and prescription containers that had been on display at Buice Drug Store. These have been catalogued, and many are on display now at the College.

This January he offered two particularly elegant antique items from his pharmacy for us to use in telling the history of the profession in Arkansas. The first is the soda fountain that has been in his store for many years. George and a few strong helpers rescued it from a drug store in Hot Springs, where the notorious Al Capone is said to have spent many hours. Now undergoing refurbishing, the soda fountain awaits the day it can be permanently installed for display. George has also given the college a beautiful 19th century brass cash register. This came originally from a grocery store in Hillcrest. Its thrifty past is shown clearly by the fact that it can ring up no higher than $3.00.

If you remember when a $3.00 prescription was a high-end item, or if you worked with George as a student or a new graduate, please let him know how very important these gifts are to the memory of Arkansas Pharmacy. When you do, remember that he has served not only in practice and as a leader in the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, he has also been Mayor of Little Rock and served with distinction as a voice for pharmacy in the Arkansas General Assembly. Contact George at (501) 663-4133 or c/o Buice Drug Store, 3013 W. Markham, Little Rock AR 72205.
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UAMS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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First Name ___________________  Middle ________  Last __________________  Maiden Name _________________________
E-mail Address __________________________________________
UAMS Class Year ____________________  Degree _____________________________________________________
Street Address _______________________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________  State___________  Zip/Postal Code ______________________
Home Phone Number   ______________________________  Fax Number ________________________________________

Practice Type
□ Community  □ Institutional  □ Clinical  □ Consultant  □ Other

I work at: __________________________________________________________________________________________

SELECT YOUR MEMBERSHIP OPTION

Annual Membership:  □ Active $25  □ Joint $40  □ Associate $25

If joint memberships please complete:
Joint Member Information:

First Name ___________________  Middle ________  Last __________________  Maiden Name _________________________
E-mail Address __________________________________________
UAMS Class Year(s) _________________________  Degree (s) _________________________________________
Practice Type:
□ Community  □ Institutional  □ Clinical  □ Consultant  □ Other

I work at: __________________________________________________________________________________________

• Active member is any graduate of the UAMS College of Pharmacy.
• Joint members are two active members living at the same address who receive one copy of each issue of the alumni
  magazine and Alumni Association, college and department mailings.
• Associate members are any persons associated with the practice of pharmacy in Arkansas and not a graduate of the
  UAMS College of Pharmacy.

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□ Check Enclosed  □ Credit Card Payment

Name as it appears on Card Statement: _____________________________________________________________

Credit Card Number _____________________________  Type of Card:  □ MasterCard  □ Visa  □ Discover
Signature ____________________________________________  Expiration Date _______/ _________

1. Please make payment by credit card or check
2. If credit card payment you may fax this form to: 501-686-8315
3. Make checks payable to:  UAMS College of Pharmacy Alumni Association
4. Mail to:
   UAMS College of Pharmacy Alumni Association
   Attention: Dean’s Office
   4301 West Markham, #522-1
   Little Rock, AR 72205-7199
5. For other inquiries please contact the Dean’s Office at: 501-686-5558
New Members
College of Pharmacy Alumni Association

Christi Amerson
Jon Arnold
Larry Autry
Gelene Bates
Kathy Bostic
Cheryl Bush
Bruce Campbell
Barry Coleman
Ronald Curran
Tony Dasher
Gary Denton
Brenda Dunham
Robert Dunham
Eddie Dunn
Louis Elzey
Tim Finley
Clovis Garnett
Gene Graves
Kendra Griffin
Denese Harris

Nicki Hilliard
Denise Hopkins
Robert Horn
Eric Horras
Loye Jones
Terence Kerr
David King
Richard Lieberman
Carol Long
Mary Catherine Long
Mark Luer
Bob Lyon
Pat McKamey
Kenneth Michael
Ed Montaldo III
Leslie Moore
Richard Moore
James Mulkey, Jr.
Kathryn Neill
Lenora Newsome

Jane Pigue
Larry Price
Pam Rossi
Ernest Rothrock
Randy Shinabery
David Stewart
Jennifer Tackett
Scott Walker
Charles West
Shelly White
Bill Wilkins
Royce Wilson
Gloria Jean Wong

Have you joined your Alunia Association yet? If not, please join us today. Mail in the Alumni Membership form in this newsletter. Contact us at:
email: COPAlumniConnections@uams.edu

Dr. Ross Vanderbush is working on the Alumni section of the College of Pharmacy Website. In a few weeks, look us up at: www.uams.edu/cop