Dr. Martin Hauer-Jensen leads new division of Radiation Health.
During November our faculty reviewed and revised the college’s Mission Statement to read: “The UAMS College of Pharmacy mission is to improve the health of culturally diverse populations by educating pharmacy leaders to address community health needs, advancing scientific discovery to produce innovations in healthcare and fostering progressive pharmacy practice through service to the profession.”

I’m pleased that the Mission Statement now emphasizes three enterprises -- education, research and practice -- that are essential to accomplish our goals. This issue of the magazine shows how research – creating new knowledge in our field – is a growing part of the work we do.

Dr. Martin Hauer-Jensen’s appointment as Associate Dean for Research and Director, Division of Radiation Health will enhance the growth of research within our college. Martin is already an internationally-recognized researcher, whose leadership can foster cross-campus collaboration and creative relationships with other research universities.

Active scientists have proven to make exceptional teachers, discovering new knowledge that enriches classroom presentations. Dr. Bill Gurley demonstrates how professors bring their research findings into the classroom. His herb-drug interaction studies focusing on genetic differences among patients enrich his teaching of pharmacogenetics. Dr. Russ Melchert’s exploration of models of cardiac disease informs and broadens his students’ understanding of cardiovascular pharmacology. Many other examples exist among our faculty.

In addition to basic science research, the active research program in our Pharmacy Practice Department generates significant student-faculty collaboration.

Today, research at the College of Pharmacy moves beyond traditional disciplines focused on the discovery and development of medicines to incorporate economics and social sciences to improve the use of proven drugs. Research guards our profession from becoming static, enhancing our ability to meet the changing needs of patients. I hope you enjoy learning more about some of our newest research endeavors in this issue.
INVESTIGATES DRUGS
To Mitigate and Prevent Adverse Effects of Radiation

Do you know which presently-marketed drugs may potentially reverse the effects of radiation on normal tissue?

The question is important for two distinct reasons – to protect patients receiving radiation therapy and to protect Americans exposed to radiation by terrorist actions or accidents.

Radiation protection forms the core of investigations currently underway in the laboratories of Martin Hauer-Jensen, M.D., Ph.D., the first researcher in Arkansas to receive the coveted MERIT Award from National Cancer Institute. This past fall Dr. Hauer-Jensen joined the College of Pharmacy as Associate Dean for Research and Director, Division of Radiation Health.

"In the case of cancer survivors, pharmaceuticals can prevent side effects without changing the effect on the tumor," said Dr. Hauer-Jensen. "For victims of a radiation accident or terrorism, drugs can mitigate injury and prevent death."

Dr. Hauer-Jensen also is investigating the treatment of patients wounded by radiation combined with a bomb blast. "That's a significant concern because up to 70 percent of those in a radiological terrorism event would be casualties with both radiation and other injuries," he said.

A surgeon whose clinical interests include gastrointestinal surgery, endoscopy and surgical oncology, Dr. Hauer-Jensen received both his medical and graduate degrees from the University of Oslo, and completed post-doctoral training in Radiation Biology at the University of Iowa.

The intestine suffers most from radiation exposure. As both a gastrointestinal surgeon and a radiation biologist, he is uniquely qualified to investigate drugs for the prevention of radiation damage to normal tissue, as well as to develop countermeasures for combined injury.

"Dr. Hauer-Jensen's internationally recognized work will foster the growth of research throughout the College and all of UAMS. He'll be building research infrastructure that will include cross-campus collaboration, as well as collaboration with other institutions," said Dean Stephanie Gardner. "The College of Pharmacy historically has been the home for the Division of Radiation Health, and the impact of drugs on radiation health is at the heart of this research."

"Team science is where research is going and Dr. Hauer-Jensen's approach epitomizes team science," said Peter D. Emanuel, M.D., Director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Research Institute at UAMS. "Dr. Hauer-Jensen is not one scientist working on one area of a problem. Rather, he leads a diverse group across many fields coming together to attack the problem of radiation injury to normal tissues."

Louis M. Fink, M.D., Director of Core Laboratory Services at the Nevada Cancer Institute, who previously worked with Dr. Hauer-Jensen at UAMS, said this research is important today for several reasons. "For defense, the research helps us understand the consequences of radiation effects and how to prevent them," said Dr. Fink. "Civilian or military accidents can cause nuclear consequences and there are unstable places like Korea and Iran with nuclear weapons. Dr. Hauer-Jensen's work could save thousands of lives."

Dr. Fink said the work in understanding how to prevent normal tissue from being damaged by irradiation is critically important for employing radiation in cancer therapy. "Dr. Hauer-Jensen is the world's expert on radiological injury to the intestinal tract. No one knows more about basic physiology and biochemistry of intestinal radiation."

In June 2008 Dr. Hauer-Jensen received a MERIT award from the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, a grant that will provide funding for up to 10 years of research. The emphasis of Dr. Hauer-Jensen's research program is to determine the mechanisms underlying radiation-induced side effects in the intestine and make radiation therapy more tolerable and effective.
A Rich History in Radiation Health

Though Dr. Hauer-Jensen’s basic science research in the Division of Radiation Health is new to the College of Pharmacy, UAMS research in radiation health and a specialty in radiation health education reach back for decades.

Max L. Baker, Ph.D., a member of the Radiology Sciences faculty at UAMS, currently teaches a course for senior medical students which allows them to design and conduct experiments in specific areas of radiation. Dr. Baker recalled the old Division of Radiological Health was founded in 1964 by Stanley G. Mittelstaedt, Ph.D., the first Dean of the College of Pharmacy.

“I was in the second group of students,” said Dr. Baker. “The College had received a grant from the federal government to set up the program which was one of six programs in the country.”

Dr. Charles Breckenridge and Dr. Claude Epperson served as faculty for the program, conducting laboratory classes on the top floor of what is now the William H. Bowen School of Law at UALR. The educational experience was accomplished through classroom instruction aided by practical laboratory experiences, student research and mentoring.

“At the time, there was an increased interest in radiological issues,” said Dr. Baker. “We were trained in the use of radioactive material and radiation safety, the discipline now called Health Physics.”

Arkansas was one of the original sites funded by what was then the Atomic Energy Commission (now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) to begin a Master’s Degree in Health Physics from the College of Pharmacy. UAMS is one of the few colleges to have a nuclear pharmacy program according to Nicki L. Hilliard ’83/’96.

After graduation, Dr. Hilliard managed the local nuclear pharmacy until 1991, when she returned as a faculty member at the College of Pharmacy. She began the Nuclear Education Online program in 2001, and since that time more than 600 authorized users of radioactivity have received nuclear education online resulting in $3.5 million in tuition revenues.

Radioactive materials are being used in treatment and diagnosis of an increasing number of diseases. The College of Pharmacy trains healthcare professionals all over the U.S. and in other countries to help meet the demand for pharmacists, physicians, technicians, cyclotron operators and other professionals with specialty education and training required to handle radioactive materials.

“There’s definitely a history here,” said Dr. Hilliard. “We’ve been teaching in the field for years and now with Dr. Hauer-Jensen we’ll have significant research on radiation health in the College of Pharmacy. UAMS has a history of resources in radiation health and this is another feather in our cap nationally.”

Dr. Hauer Jensen is presently investigating how specific interactions among the nervous system, immune system and coagulation system influence the development of acute and chronic intestinal radiation injury. These studies will provide insight into the cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for regulating the development of intestinal radiation mucositis and radiation fibrosis, then identifying and assessing drug intervention that may eventually have clinical use. In addition to the MERIT Award, Dr. Hauer-Jensen has seven other grants, about half of which concern cancer survivorship and the other half countermeasures for radiation exposure through terrorism or accident.

For cancer survivors, he is following two distinct lines of investigation. First is the role of endothelial dysfunction, damage to cells lining blood vessels. How does endothelial dysfunction play a role in acute and chronic side effects after radiation therapy and what can be done to prevent it? The second line of investigation centers on the neuroimmune enteric nervous system, how enteric neurons interact with mast cells and other immune cells to regulate the intestinal radiation response and how these interactions may be modified to mitigate intestinal radiation toxicity.

For the military, his focus is on developing countermeasures to administer to soldiers and others prior to radiation exposure. Soldiers sent into high risk duty for rescue and cleanup as first responders might be given the drugs to prevent harm from radiation. The research involves both pre-exposure compounds and post-exposure compounds to respond to mass casualties after a radiation disaster.

“We’re looking into countermeasures that may eventually be included in the Strategic National Stockpile and distributed everywhere – which is also important to the College of Pharmacy because the drugs would need to be distributed widely in some mass casualty situations.”

One pre-exposure compound for possible military use is Gamma Tocotrienol, an analog of Vitamin E. “If you irradiate mice, all die before 14 days,” said Dr. Hauer-Jensen. “But if you give them a dose of Gamma Tocotrienol, it converts 95 percent of mice or better to long-term survivors.” This pharmaceutical is made from rice bran oil, a byproduct of rice milling, that is plentiful in Arkansas. Investigation of Gamma Tocotrienol dovetails with the College of Pharmacy’s current examination of drugs made from natural products, he said.

The main post-radiation drug being investigated is a Somatostatin analog called Som230 that significantly reduces radiation induced-death. “Som230 is one of very, very few compounds that might affect lethality and morbidity after radiation,” said Dr. Hauer-Jensen.
“First we investigated Octreotide, which was originally developed to inhibit excessive growth. Octreotide has a short half life and needs infusion – it can be impractical. But Som230 has several times longer half life and is able to work with subcutaneous injection which would allow it to be used in most casualty situations.”

Other post-radiation drugs are Interleukin II, a multifunctional cytokine first isolated in 1990 from bone marrow-derived stromal cells and normally dosed by mouth.

“We have a way to deliver Interleukin II directly to the intestine and to protect the intestine,” said Dr. Hauer-Jensen. “Collaboration with pharmacists on drug formulations made it possible for the drug to pass unchanged through the stomach to where it is needed.” Interleukin II also works well after radiation, he said.

In addition to Dr. Hauer-Jensen, the new Division of Radiation Health will include five faculty members – one in Obstetrics and Gynecology and four in the College of Pharmacy – and about five post-doctoral and research associates and assistants.

“A big advantage for me in moving to the College of Pharmacy is the opportunity for recruitment,” said Dr. Hauer-Jensen. “With the people we have and those we are allowed to recruit, we will be a major force in research on the effects of radiation on normal tissue.”

Dr. Peter Emanuel and the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Research Institute are providing resources to recruit the four tenure-track faculty members.

Dr. Hauer-Jensen’s first priority in recruiting is a senior level radiation biologist specifically interested in normal tissue injury. Then, he wants to recruit researchers experienced and interested in mucosal immunology, vascular endothelial cell biology and connective tissue biology and fibrosis.

“Having most of these researchers under one roof in the College of Pharmacy will facilitate our efforts,” said Dr. Hauer-Jensen. “Together we can build a vibrant research program.”

### Some Current Research at the College of Pharmacy

**Ethanol and the Developing Cerebellum** – Dwight R. Pierce, Ph.D., and Dr. Kim E. Light, Ph.D., use developmental ethanol exposure in rats as a model of human ethanol exposure during the early third trimester of pregnancy. This exposure has been shown to produce significant loss of function in motor skills and learning similar to those seen in children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. They hypothesize that ethanol exposure in the early postnatal (developmental) stage harms surviving neuronal components of the cerebellum by altering synaptic connections of the Purkinje cells with climbing fibers. Neurons are not necessarily lost, but the harm from alcohol exposure produces irreversible damage.

**Human Phytochemical Disposition and Herb-Drug Interactions** – Bill Gurley, Ph.D., has been investigating pharmacological and toxicological aspects of dietary supplements for the past 12 years. During that time the bulk of the research has focused on clinical approaches to assess the magnitude and relevance of herb-drug interactions as well as their mechanism(s). The research has garnered considerable national and local media attention regarding the safety and efficacy of these products. The current focus is on characterization of the pharmacokinetics of phytochemicals that are known modulators of human cytochrome P450 enzymes, efflux transporters (e.g. P-glycoprotein) and influx transporters (e.g. organic cation transporters).

**Mechanisms of Cell Survival and Death** – S. Jesse Liu, Ph.D., is studying alterations in membrane transporters and metabolisms that tilt the balance within cellular mechanisms for cell survival or for cell death during endogenous and exogenous stimuli (for example, hormonal changes during aging and oxidative stress). Using multidisciplinary approaches and cell cultures, he identifies signaling pathways that could improve the survival of heart cells. His research also advances understanding of the death of cancer cells, thereby promoting drug treatment and discovery of new drugs from natural products.

**Mechanisms of Renal Injury and Repair** – Grazyna Nowak, Ph.D., is researching the kidney as a primary target for ischemia and toxins -- including drugs, chemicals and environmental pollutants. Long-term, the research goal is to elucidate mechanisms that regulate loss of kidney function caused by ischemia and certain toxins, in hope of repairing the damage done by these factors. The specific research goal is to determine how protein kinases regulate decreases in energy generation and affect the survival of Rabbit Proximal Tubular Cells (RPTC) following ischemia or exposure to toxins and drugs. Use of RPTC models will provide important information about possibly targeting protein kinases with new drugs that prevent kidney damage due to ischemia, or that improve kidney recovery after such damage has occurred.
Dean Gardner
Seeks Partnership with Universities in India and Ecuador

While others greeted 2009 with champagne and resolutions, Dean Stephanie Gardner began her year with international visits to three universities, seeking potential partners for UAMS College of Pharmacy.

“I was somewhere over the ocean on the way to India at midnight on New Year’s Eve,” recalled Dean Gardner. Her visits to MNR University and the University of Hyderabad in Hyderabad, India, and later to Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) in Loja, Ecuador, were sponsored by the universities she visited.

On her travels, she sought to build relationships with individuals in all three institutions to foster international exchange opportunities for our students, forge partnerships that may facilitate research opportunities and explore opportunities to work together through distance education.

“I spoke to the faculty and students at the College of Pharmacy at MNR about our pharmacy program at UAMS,” said Dean Gardner. Three faculty members shared research proposals that they believed might offer opportunities for collaboration between the two schools. Most questions from the students focused on differences in pharmacy practice between the two countries.

“The MNR students were interested in opportunities in the United States and wanted to know about graduate programs,” she said. “They were fascinated with how clinical teams work in
hospitals in the U.S. because most of them are trained to work in a more basic science environment with little clinical practice experience.”

In Hyderabad, she was accompanied by Dr. Curtis Lowery who was also speaking at the universities. They met with the Dean of College of Medicine and the Dean of the College of Pharmacy at MNR, and visited a laboratory that had an emphasis on pharmaceutical formulations.

Later in the trip, they visited the University of Hyderabad, the top life science school in India. “They don’t have a College of Pharmacy, but they do have courses on herbal medicines and other courses that would be of interest to pharmacy students,” said Dean Gardner. “I visited a new residence hall for international students that had just opened at the University of Hyderabad campus. The facility had a large dining area and was situated centrally on the university campus. It would provide convenient and comfortable housing for our students.”

While visiting Hyderabad, Dean Gardner toured the CARE Foundation Hospital with the Director of Hospital Pharmacy. “I followed their process from the time medicine is received at their facility until it is administered to the patients,” she said. “It was interesting to see both similarities and differences in our distribution systems. I was fascinated by their 24-hour outpatient pharmacy in the main lobby. The main lobby of the hospital was filled with patients waiting to be seen all hours of the day and night.”

Dean Gardner had only a few days to catch her breath before leaving for Loja, Ecuador, a trip that included UAMS colleagues Dr. Russell Melchert, Dr. Cesar Compadre and Dr. Cindy Stowe. They led a two-day seminar for the faculty and students at the UTPL Schools of Pharmacy and Medical Technology.

Dr. Gardner discussed UAMS, pharmacy practice in the U.S. and current issues facing the profession. Dr. Stowe presented a program on curriculum and assessment, while Dr. Melchert outlined the basic science curriculum and research initiatives underway in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Compadre’s program was about natural products research and his research program. He was joined on the program by a professor from UTPL who also discussed natural products research.

“We visited multiple pharmacies and a Federal hospital similar to our Veterans Administration hospitals. We saw very advanced community pharmacy models with distribution slightly different from ours,” said Dean Gardner. “UTPL may provide an excellent international location for our students to see a different kind of practice and to do student research.”

Hospitality in both India and Ecuador was extraordinary, according to Dean Gardner. The visitors were entertained at the homes of faculty members in India, with one outdoor reception that was particularly memorable. After her presentations, she received a colorful shawl in India, while Ecuador provided pottery from a ceramics factory and CDs of local music. The Arkansas visitors provided Arkansas photography books and Razorback Pharmacy T-shirts as gifts to their hosts.

In Hyderabad she saw Charminar, the gate to the city which was surrounded by a busy marketplace, and the Lotus Temple. The Podocarpus National Park, rich in biodiversity, was a destination in Ecuador.

As a result of her trip, exchange students from the universities already are scheduled to visit the UAMS College of Pharmacy; and MNR faculty members presented three proposals for research collaboration before she left their facility.

“We’ll be setting up teleconferences to further discuss opportunities between our institutions,” said Dean Gardner. “We hope to establish opportunities for our students in the coming year in experiential education in these countries, and possible opportunities for partnered research.”
Dr. Lois Coulter in January accepted the jointly funded faculty position as Associate Professor at the Northwest AHEC in Springdale. A 1990 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Pharmacy, she previously served as a clinical pharmacy specialist at Washington Regional Medical Center and also was on the faculty for nearly 14 years with the AHEC-Northwest Family Practice Residency Program. She is a board certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

Dr. Marsha Crader, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, had her poster, “Effect on Sepsis Mortality Rate at a Regional Acute Care Institution After Implementation of the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Sepsis Bundles,” featured on ASHP’s Quality Improvement Initiative Resource Center to be presented at the ASHP Midyear.

Dr. Renee DeHart, Professor at Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy in Birmingham, Ala., has been named Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs beginning in July 2009. She holds the Pharm.D. with High Honors from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

At the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada Annual Meeting and Seminars held in Chicago in July, the following presented a poster: Dr. Schwanda Flowers ’99 Assistant Dean of Experiential Education, Dean Stephanie Gardner, Dr. Catherine O’Brien ’05 Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Cindy Stowe, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Scott Warmack ’98 Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Kat Neill ’00 Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, also presented a poster.

Dr. Amy Franks ’01 and Dr. Melanie Reinhardt ’81 /’08 Assistant Professors of Pharmacy Practice, were awarded UAMS Chancellor’s Faculty Teaching Awards in September at a ceremony honoring 13 recipients.

Dr. Paul Gubbins, Department Chair and Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has completed the 2007-2008 AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program, and Dr. Schwanda Flowers ’99 has been accepted into the 2008-2009 program.

Dr. Bill Gurley, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was a featured speaker at the 27th Annual Dinner Meeting of the History of Medicine Associates in October, where he delivered a presentation on “Civil War Treasures in the History of Medicine Collection.”

Dr. Martin Hauer-Jensen, Professor and Division of Radiation Health Director, was an invited speaker and panelist at a conference arranged by the World Health Organization (WHO) entitled “Consultation on Harmonization of Medical Countermeasures for Radiation Emergencies,” held at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in March.
Dr. Chenghui Li, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Dr. Qayyim Said, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, presented posters at the Academy of Health's 25th Annual Research Meeting in Washington D.C. in June.

Dr. Keith McCain '00, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, completed the San Antonio Marathon in November in 3:45:31, a new personal record.

Dr. Brad Martin, Director of Pharmaceutical Evaluation and Policy, presented a four-hour Short Course at the International Society for Pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, in May. In addition, he presented a poster and was part of a Task Force Forum Presentation. Dr. Qayyim Said presented and co-authored two posters and gave one podium presentation.

Four faculty members received awards at the Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists (AAHP) meeting in Tunica, Miss. in October. Dr. Kat Neill '00, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Dr. Jill Johnson '93, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, won a Best Poster award for “The Impact of Implementation of Prior Authorization Criteria for Omalizumab (Xolair®) in a State Employees Prescription Drug Plan.” Dr. Marsha Crader, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was named 2008 New Practitioner of the Year, recognizing her leadership, professionalism, and dedication to the future of health-system pharmacy, covering the last 12 to 18 months.

Dr. Jason Derden '96, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was chosen as president-elect of AAHP.

Dr. Grazyna Nowak, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, submitted a proposal that was selected by the UAMS Medical Research Endowment for funding in 2009.

Dr. Anne Pace, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Dr. Schwanda Flowers '99, with P3 Cristina Easterling, appeared on KARK4 Today morning show in September to promote American Pharmacists Month. They performed health screenings on the on-air personalities.

Dr. Scott Warmack '98 passed his Pharmacotherapy Specialty Board Exam and has earned the title Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

---

**FACULTY PROFILE:**

**Jill Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS**

**Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice**


**Professional History:** I completed my residency in 1993-94. In 1994 I joined the UAMS College of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor, implementing and coordinating the UAMS Anticoagulation Clinic, 1995-2002. I am a member of Team 3A General Medicine. In 2002 I became tenured and was promoted to Associate Professor. Since 2004, I have worked with several formulary committees including the State of Arkansas Employee Benefit Division, the University of Arkansas System, and Arkansas Medicaid. I have taught pharmacy students on rotations, in Therapeutics classes, in Pharmacokinetics, and in Evidence-based Medicine. I received my Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy Specialty in 1997 and recertified in 2004.

**Reason you are an educator:** I enjoy teaching. I also find it challenging to keep up with all the new drugs and changes in pharmacy. I like having the opportunity to provide unbiased drug information to pharmacy students.

**Course(s) you teach:** Therapeutics I (7 hours) & II (10 hours), Pharmacokinetics (2 hours), EBM/Biostatistics/Pharmacoeconomics (12 hours)

**Best advice for your students:** Keep an open mind regarding which avenue you take with pharmacy. Learn what you can in every rotation and in every situation. You never know where you will end up or what you may be doing professionally.

**Mentors or role models:** Dr. Eric Schneider is my role model for being a good teacher.

**Family:** My husband is John Johnson, the chief deputy prosecuting attorney for Pulaski and Perry Counties. I have two wonderful kids, Ann Claire (11) and Eli Jacob (8), a dog, Bella, and a cat, Henry.

**Community activities/hobbies:** I enjoy running and cooking (and eating), not necessarily in that order. I ran in my first marathon in 2003 in Little Rock and have run other ½'s and other distances too. I ran in the New York Marathon with my husband in November 2008. It was spectacular.

**Major changes you've seen in your career and/or time at UAMS:** The main major change I have seen is the unbelievable increase in cost trends for drugs, especially specialty products. Other major changes are the fast improvement of the internet over the years, and the integration of technology with teaching. Online testing is a major change from paper tests.

**Guests at your fantasy dinner party:** My fantasy dinner party would include Jesus, my husband John, and my kids.

**Experience growing up that had a big impact on your life:** I think working in a 115 degree refrigerator factory during the summers between my college years had a big impact on my work ethic. Hard, hot work is motivating.
Faculty Student Research Collaborations Advance the Profession

Paul O. Gubbins, Pharm.D., Chairman, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Results of student and faculty collaboration on summer research projects have blossomed this spring as Department of Pharmacy Practice research results are being presented at national and international meetings.

Each year students participate in the Honors in Research Program including the A. Nelson Voldeng Fellowship, the Pharmaceutical Sciences Student Research Fellowship and the Pharmacy Practice Student Research Fellowship. These programs allow students to engage in original research.

For students the experiences are eye opening. When many students think of research they often associate it with white lab coats and mice, but in our department faculty are often performing research involving patients, data bases and pharmaco-economic information. Students are introduced to the research process through the summer research programs. During the experience they learn that there is never just one answer to a problem. They see that researchers often encounter steps during a study that need to be investigated further, which leads to additional research questions. This is ultimately how programs of research evolve. More importantly, students learn that in order for the work to be meaningful, it must be disseminated and publicized. What good is it if you answer a question but do not tell people “Here’s what we found.”

Faculty and students present the preliminary results of their research at scientific meetings. This forum provides an opportunity for them to discuss their findings with colleagues and scientists and ensure that they have analyzed their data accurately and completely. These presentations help faculty and students hone the interpretation of their results so that they can ultimately publish their findings as a manuscript in a journal where peers can review and evaluate the impact of their work. This is the peer review process and it is ultimately how our profession improves. Other professionals and practicing pharmacists read the journal containing our results. They analyze our research and evaluate how it relates to their understanding of the issue at hand. In doing so, they learn from our findings, and perhaps see a new way to think about a topic, or a new way to refresh their practice. That is the value of research - it generates new knowledge.

While there are many notable examples of our faculty working with students on research, several recent examples illustrate how rewarding the experience can be for students and faculty. Last summer Dr. Denise Ragland and fourth year student Erin Beth Hays performed a study titled “The Prevalence of Co-markers in Depression of Women with Diabetes during Pregnancy.” They submitted their findings to the Fifth International Symposium on Diabetes and Pregnancy, and in March they presented their work at the symposium, which was held in Sorrento, Italy!

Dr. Brad Martin and fourth year student Kevin Flannigan performed a study titled “A Natural Experiment to Estimate the Impact of a Preferred Drug List Policy for Long Acting Narcotic Analgesics on Cost and Utilization.” Their work was accepted at the ISPOR 11th Annual European Congress in Athens, Greece. At the Congress Kevin Flannigan presented their data and won an award, which was quite an honor, because the award goes only to one percent of the presentations that are accepted. The results are now being written as a manuscript that will be submitted to a leading journal with hopes that it will be published in the near future.

Dr. Holly Maples and two third-year students, Annie Inman and Debbie McAllister, presented their work at the Southern Society for Pediatric Research meeting in New Orleans. Dr. Maples worked with Inman on “Emergence of Linezolid Research on Staphylococcus aurens in Cystic Fibrosis” and with McAllister on “Cystic Fibrosis Colonization with the Human Plant Pathogen Rhizobium radiobacter.”

Faculty mentoring students in research helps develop new research professionals and allows students to learn what is possible within our profession. The summer research programs give students experiences they can draw on to make decisions that may guide their professional lives. Exposing students to research opportunities may help them recognize untapped skills and interests and motivate them to pursue a research career. It may help them realize that their passions and interests lie in other professional practice settings. Either way, the summer research programs provide the student the opportunity to explore interests prior to entering the profession.

In summary student and faculty research provides many benefits. The work generates new knowledge, which is an important part of our academic mission. In addition the faculty student research collaborations allow our students opportunities in research that can result in better patient care and more informed policy decisions. Finally, the collaborations provide students a valuable learning experience that can help them determine their future education and career directions.
Our three-pronged mission in the College of Pharmacy is to improve health by educating pharmacy leaders, advancing scientific discovery and fostering progressive practice. As important as research and practice support are to our mission, it is vital that our college continue to be innovative and creative in its approach to education of future pharmacists.

Additions and changes in the curriculum we utilize are important as we enhance and strengthen the education of each pharmacy student. To that end, the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences just completed a new curriculum and first year students will be the first to experience it.

Pharmacognosy, the study of botanical sources of drugs, is a new course planned for third-year students. The students will have a solid understanding of prescription of traditional medications before taking this course on alternative and complementary medicines that will take us back, literally, to the “roots” of pharmacy.

Though new to UAMS, Pharmacognosy is essentially the historical foundation of our profession. At first, all pharmacy was based on observation of the effects of plants on the health and recuperation of patients. Plants as medicine go back to the Egyptians who used castor oil for gastrointestinal problems. From aspirin derived from Salicylate-rich willow bark to Taxol made from the bark of Yew trees, drugs from botanical sources continue to be essential in the practice of pharmacy.

By the 1980s, the study of Pharmacognosy had fallen out of favor. The proliferation of chemical synthesis of drugs had ushered in a new era featuring the totally synthetic composition of drugs. But when Taxol first became widely used as a treatment for cancer, it could not be made synthetically – it had to be obtained from a plant source. Taxol’s discovery popularized anew the study of botanicals.

And just as curricula were changing to emphasize synthetics, a huge wave of botanical supplements was coming in to the market. With the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, Federal laws on herbs sold with medical claims changed. DSHEA amended previous statutes to encompass dietary supplement-specific provisions including product safety, nutritional statements and claims, ingredient and nutritional labeling and good manufacturing procedures.

The new Pharmacognosy course will tackle the question of whether alternative medicines are disruptive or helpful in treating patients. The teaching plan, directed by Dr. Cesar Compadre, includes providing to students the basics of herbal supplements, along with their potential safety and efficacy. The skills acquired in this course will help students understand plant supplements and critically evaluate their dangers and benefits. It will relate to Dr. Bill Gurley’s well publicized studies on the effects of herbal supplements on prescribed drugs.

Though the need to add back the study of botanic compounds is essential, it is also important that our students understand that we as humans create many compounds of medicinal value through innovative biotechnology. To allow for further exploration of man-made drugs, our old Biotechnology and Biochemistry courses have been renovated forming two courses, Biological & Cellular Chemistry and Molecular Biology & Biotechnology.

In these two courses we'll be teaching the cutting edge scientific discoveries that will mark the way we will practice pharmacy in 2025. Our students will examine man-made protein changes that result in useful medicines. For example, the very first biotech protein was human insulin. Before that, cow and pig insulin was used to treat diabetes in humans. But with biotechnology human insulin was cloned so that drug manufacturers can produce a purer drug for use by pharmacists. Today, we see more new products on the market resulting from genetic and immunologic engineering.

Molecular Biology and Biotechnology will be taught in the second year as a basic science foundation. More genetics will be taught in the in the reorganized and expanded Biotechnology course. We’ll teach how human proteins are made in the laboratory and used therapeutically. And we’ll prepare the students for more and more of these types of products. Then we’ll move to brand new technologies that have given us new ways to make enough of the needed medicines to meet worldwide needs.

All these curricular changes are critical to our success. Education is our number one mission and we constantly try to improve our approach to prepare tomorrow’s pharmacists for the challenges ahead.
Development efforts proving successful

The college recently held its fourth annual dinner to honor Dean’s Society members and other top donors to the College. This year, nearly 100 guests gathered at the Country Club of Little Rock to celebrate the most successful fund raising year in our history, with a record breaking $482,000.

“We are proud of the growth of our program and the advances made because many more alumni and friends have stepped forward to support the College and Dean Gardner’s vision.” said Ann Turney, Director of Development. Donors have sponsored student events, given to endowed funds and named the College in their Estate Plans.

“We were happy to be able to recognize the members of our Dean’s Society, who, since the first gift to the fund was made by Margie and Mike ’77 Smith in 2005, have consistently provided funds to advance and strengthen the college,” she added. Membership currently stands at 83 households, including 17 faculty and staff members.

To see more photos, go to www.uams.edu/cop/alumdev/dean/default.asp
Also celebrated was the amount the college has raised for our UAMS Imagine Campaign, chaired by alumni Vicki ’74 and Karrol Fowlkes ’74/’75. With their help and leadership, the college has raised $2.13 million toward our goal of $3 million, or 71 percent! They also were our lead donors for the Dean’s Endowed Chair, the total of which is now $272,000, toward a goal of $1 million.

**College receives $100,000 for Dean’s Endowed Chair**

The College has received a gift of $100,000 from Steve and Sharon Bryant of Batesville for the Dean’s Chair Endowment Fund. Income from the fund will be used for new academic programs, faculty recruitment and retention and student leadership activities.

“We are pleased with the advances made by the college and want to support current and future deans in continuing this trajectory to excellence,” said Steve Bryant. “We want the college’s leaders to have the resources they need to assure that our students have the highest quality education possible. With this gift, we endorse Dean Gardner’s vision for the future and ensure that generations of students will benefit from this Dean’s Chair Endowment.”

**Larkin Family Scholarship established**

Dr. Keith ’96 Larkin, his wife Cindy Larkin, and their son Blake of Fort Smith have established the Larkin Family Pharmacy Scholarship. It will be awarded annually to a first year student from the counties of Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Scott, or Sebastian, who plans to enter community pharmacy. At least a 2.5 grade point average and exhibited financial need are required.

“We are happy to be able to contribute and build an endowment that will help students from our area fund their college educations. We want to help the college meet the need for pharmacists,” said Keith Larkin.

The Larkins’ gift has been matched by the donation from an anonymous foundation and includes a gift from Dr. Joe O. Larkin ’66/’96 and Jo Ann Larkin. The endowment will produce a scholarship grant of $1,000 or more annually. Interested students, who meet the criteria in the fall of 2009, may apply for the scholarship by contacting: Dr. Jan Hastings at 501 686-6472 or jkhastings@uams.edu.

**Class of 2003 establishes Doug Eoff Memorial Scholarship**

A fundraising effort spearheaded by Eric Horras ’03 this year has resulted in the establishment of the Class of 2003 Doug Eoff Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The leadership group comprising 2003 graduates Horras, Justin Bintliff, Shane Greene, Todd Herriman, Jeff Reinert, Brenda and Mark Riley ’76 and ’91 graduate Michael A. Smith, started the fund. These ’03 alumni also have donated: Shannon Haywood, Bridget Johnson, Lisa Kurczek, Brian Oholendt, Terry Perkins, and Douglas Wright.

“Doug was involved in retail pharmacy and we want the recipients to be students planning to enter retail practice,” said Horras. Preference also will be given to students with financial need and who are not recipients of other awards. To donate or for more information, contact Eric Horras at eric.horras@baptist-health.org.

**Anonymous Donor makes challenge gift to Northwest Arkansas Campus**

An anonymous donor in Northwest Arkansas has made a $50,000 challenge grant to stimulate giving for the Pharmacy College at the Northwest Arkansas satellite campus. The funds will be used to match new funds raised for the campus.

Efforts are underway to meet the challenge and help pay for continued renovations and work to prepare the former Washington Regional Medical Center. Located in Fayetteville, the campus is intended to address growing health care work force shortages by allowing UAMS to increase enrollment. The campus will include students in the UAMS colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Related Professions and will provide facilities for students, resident physicians, faculty and patients. It will have 250 to 300 students along with resident physicians when full enrollment is reached. For more information about the challenge grant, contact Tim Hudson, Director of Development, 479-684-5124, twudson@uams.edu, and for information about the campus, go to http://www.uams.edu/nw/about.asp

**Phillips County Pharmacy Scholarship established**

The Phillips County Pharmacy Scholarship has been established at the College to promote the study of pharmacy by students from Phillips County. The fund was initiated with $15,000 challenge grant (matching 1:1) from an anonymous foundation and gifts were made by Dr. John Gray, Dr. Robert Wright ’66, Drs. Betsy ’94 and Ed Pat ’93 Wright, and the Helena Health Foundation, bringing the total raised to $25,000 on a goal of $30,000. Efforts are underway to reach that amount.

When the total is committed, the Phillips County Pharmacy Scholarship will begin awarding grants of $1,500 to an entering freshman from Phillips County each year. For information about this scholarship or to make a gift, contact: Ann L. Turney at 501-686-6391 or annturney@uams.edu.

**Walgreen Support for PCAT Preparation Summer Course**

A $10,000 grant from Walgreen is helping the College promote enrollment of students from historically underrepresented minority groups. The funds were designated to advance diversity initiatives at the College. At least $2,000 were earmarked for a scholarship, which will be awarded to P3 Nicholas Tinsley, President of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association chapter.
After consulting with Ms. Vivian Flowers, the UAMS Director of Recruitment for Diversity, Dean Stephanie Gardner designated the remaining $8,000 to assist in funding a Summer Pharmacy College Admittance Test (PCAT) preparation course. This course will be offered to underrepresented minority students, as well as financially disadvantaged students, whose previous scores would hinder their admission. Students will pay part of the cost.

“We are grateful for this generous gift from Walgreens because it allows us to achieve our diversity goals in creative ways,” said Gardner.

**Wilson donate to Dean’s Chair**

The College has received a gift of $25,000 from Rita and Royce Wilson of Batesville for the Dean’s Chair Endowment Fund. Income from the fund will be used for new academic programs, faculty recruitment and retention and student leadership activities.

“We are so pleased that Rita and Royce have shown their support for the College in this way. I truly appreciate their generous spirit and endorsement of our plan for the College,” said Dean Stephanie Gardner. Wilson and his son, Lee Wilson ’08, own Wilson Wil-Sav Pharmacy in Batesville.

**On-line gifts may now be made at:** [www.uams.edu/giving/online_giving/giving.asp](http://www.uams.edu/giving/online_giving/giving.asp)

---

**Parents Club NEWS**

The Parents Club has had an active year. In the fall, Ginny and Jack Bell, parents of P2 Lauren Bell, were named chairs of the Club. They have provided advice on programming for the Club and spoke during the Family Open House in November. He is a retired school psychological specialist and is the assistant to the Mayor for the City of Conway, and she is a registered nurse for Conway Regional Medical Center.

The Club, comprising 50 families, was established last year to inform and involve parents and family members about activities and events at the college, so they will be better able to help support their students during their college careers. Members receive PHARMACY, the magazine for alumni and friends, as well as updates and invitations from the college. In addition, a site for parents has been included on the College’s web site at [http://www.uams.edu/cop/alumdev/parents/](http://www.uams.edu/cop/alumdev/parents/).

Membership funds provide snacks and meals to students during exams, and helped to co-sponsor the Family Open House with Kappa Epsilon (see article and photos in this issue.)
College Hosts First Family OPEN HOUSE

The College held its first Family Open House on Saturday, November 22, co-sponsored by Kappa Epsilon and the Parents Club. After an opening reception, including a student organizational fair, a program was presented by Dean Stephanie Gardner, Parents Club Chairs Ginny and Jack Bell of Conway, and P3 Sarah Griffin, president of Kappa Epsilon.

Faculty members presented sessions to provide information about the academic program of each class. The closing session was held in the new I. Dodd Wilson Education Building, where Dean Gardner and Dr. Schwanda Flowers ’99 presented an overview of the fourth year experience. Finally, Kappa Epsilon treated family members to a program of photos depicting life as a pharmacy student at UAMS.

To see more photos, go to www.uams.edu/cop/alumdev/parents
**P3 Cristina Easterling**, President of American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) wrote an article on the chapter’s efforts to educate the public on diabetes that was published in the November/December 2008 issue of *Student Pharmacist*. It detailed the steps that led to the chapter’s recognition as the 2007 Operation Diabetes winner at the APhA 2008 convention.

**Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International** (CPFI) students collected 108 shoe boxes of gifts and toiletries bound for children in need in December in conjunction with the national CPFI chapter and Samaritans’ Purse. They more than doubled the number of boxes collected last year.

North Little Rock High School has become the founding member of **Student National Pharmacists Association’s** (SNPhA) High School Affiliate Chapter. In September, members of SNPhA along with chapter sponsor, Dr. Crystal Henderson, attended the school’s MedPro pharmacy tech classes, comprising senior pharmacy tech students. Students are taught basic patient care skills, and have the opportunity to become Certified Nursing Assistants and obtain Pharmacy Technician Assistant Certification. The UAMS Chapter of SNPhA is the first nationally to have a high school affiliate chapter.

**P4 Kevin Flannagin**, along with Dr. Brad Martin, Associate Professor and Director of Pharmaceutical Evaluation and Policy, participated in the Student Presented Poster division at the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 11th Annual European Congress held in November in Athens, Greece. His poster titled “A Natural Experiment to Estimate the Impact of a Preferred Drug List Policy for Long Acting Narcotic Analgesics on Costs and Utilization,” was among the top three in the division.

U.S. Rep. Mike Ross spoke to more than 200 students and faculty members in October, sponsored by APhA-ASP. “When you leave this institution, leave here by being more than just a pharmacist,” Ross said. “Leave here ready to get involved in your communities and in the political process and help make this a better nation in which to live.”

The Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) and APhA-ASP provided 250 flu vaccinations for legislators and legislative employees in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building in November. The vaccines were provided by USA Drug, a family-owned retail drug store chain and distributor with corporate headquarters in Pine Bluff.

**Kappa Epsilon**, along with the Parents Club, hosted the first Family Open House in November. Vice president **P3 Pam West**, with the help of others, prepared a slide show presentation that was shown during the last session (see article and photos in Parents Club.) They have participated for the last two years in the Race for the Cure as well as the Angel Tree program at Christmas.

**P3 Clint Boone** has been appointed to the APhA-ASP Education Standing Committee, to evaluate the educational needs of the Association, and to promote Professionalism Initiatives and Patient Care Programs to APhA-ASP Chapters.
Dr. Justin Wilson, of Valu-Med Pharmacy in Midwest City, Okla., presented the third annual Heartland Lecture, sponsored by the Heartland Pharmacy Alliance Entrepreneurship Lecture Series and coordinated by the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association. Dr. Wilson spoke about growing his pharmacy and developing new services for his patients, including travel medicine, a diabetes education program, and medication therapy management services.

A tree donated and decorated by APhA-ASP, with the theme “There’s Something About the Green Ones,” garnered the top price of $2,500 and was the first tree purchased during the Festival of Trees fund raiser for CARTI in December.

Three students and one staff member were honored during the Arkansas Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association’s annual gala in August. P3 Nick Tinsley from Forest City, P3 Evelyn Abhulimen from Little Rock, and P2 Sharliese Kendrick from Pine Bluff received scholarships, and Mr. Otis Tyler, Assistant Dean of Diversity, was awarded Outstanding Community Service Award.

P2 Megan Wilson recently won the APhA-ASP 2008 Chapter Patient Counseling Competition. She will represent the College at the National Competition at the APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio in April. The other top 10 finalists were P1 Sara Benfer, P1 Jordan Brazeal, P3 Lauren Davis, P3 Jill Hernandez, P2 Sharliese Kendrick, P3 Pilar Murphy, P3 Boon Nouanesengsy, and P3 Pam West.

P3 Marty Lute has been selected to be the APhA-ASP’s International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) National Contact Person. She will maintain communications on behalf of the APhA-ASP with all other member countries. Acting locally to make a difference globally, Lute will assist local chapters in project development to promote the global health initiatives, which include HIV/AIDS Awareness, Tobacco Awareness Campaign, and Stop TB, initiatives chosen by IPSF in collaboration with the World Health Organization. She, along with the APhA-ASP Student Exchange Officer, will represent the USA as the two delegates at the IPSF World Congress, in Bali, Indonesia, in August.

P3 Cristina Easterling will serve as the regional member of the Editorial Advisory Board for APhA-ASP’s Student Pharmacist Magazine.

APhA-ASP members, one from each region, are appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of Student Pharmacist.

P3s Ann Inman and Debbie McCastlain presented their summer research fellowship projects in New Orleans at the Southern Society for Pediatric Research Conference in February.

The Battle of the Greeks contest, a friendly competition among College of Pharmacy Fraternities and Faculty sponsored by Kappa Epsilon, Phi Delta Chi, and Kappa Psi, was held in March with games including volleyball, dodge ball, four square, three-legged race, free throw competition, H.O.R.S.E., and bag-o. The proceeds went to support the upcoming Pharmacy Camp.
Dr. Mike Peerson Senior Director, Talent Acquisitions and Dr. Ami Bhat, Sr. Manager of Health and Wellness Recruitment at Walmart Stores Inc. visit with Dr. Jon Wolfe, prior to Peerson’s lecture to the P3 Management class in March.

P3 Cristina Easterling, President of APhA-ASP, and Dr. Paul Holifield ’84/’95, President of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association Board, visit with Ben Ponder and Dr. Stephen Carroll ’05, of Allcare Pharmacies, Inc. at the March APhA-ASP lunch, sponsored by Allcare.

Steve Bryant ’77 meets with P3s Clint Boone, Beth Ann Davenport, Zack Goldman, and Eric Wright to discuss their business plan that will be submitted to the National Community Pharmacists Association’s Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan competition in May.

P3 Kandace Baldwin consults with a patient during the Legislative Health Screenings at the State Capitol in February.

The College recently won the second annual Get Healthy UAMS Battle of the Colleges, a five week contest to determine which college has the most physically fit students. The College took top honors with 3350 group points, followed by the College of Medicine with 1340, and the College of Public Health with 130. P3 Ben Willis was the overall individual Male winner, and P3 Jason Blake came in second. In the Female individual category, P3s Kristen Mazanec and Cristina Easterling won first and third places respectfully.

Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP) members volunteered at the Autumn Lights Gala, hosted by the Alzheimer’s Association in November. Pictured here are P3s Lauren Davis, Courtney Fowler, Erik Swafford, and Tiffany Harrison with actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, who co-chaired the event.
**Students PAINT the Town RED for American Pharmacists Month**

APhA-ASP students coordinated activities during October to celebrate American Pharmacists Month, including a Paint the Town Red campaign in Central Arkansas, health screenings, and an APA District Meeting campaign. The climax of the month was an airplane banner flying high over the Razorback – Ole Miss football game in Fayetteville, held at the Reynolds Razorback Stadium.

"Students PAINT the Town RED for American Pharmacists Month"

---

**New Students receive White Coats**

At the College’s White Coat Ceremony in August more than 650 family members, faculty and staff watched as 120 new students received their white coats. They took the Pharmacy Student Oath and were inducted into the Class of 2012. Dean Stephanie F. Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., gave the address. Dr. Mark Riley, executive vice president of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association and Dr. Justin Boyd, president of the Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists, both alumni, welcomed the students to the College. The ceremony was sponsored by Walgreens.

"New Students receive White Coats"

---

---

"Students PAINT the Town RED for American Pharmacists Month"

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---
Message from the Alumni Association President

Spring is here and I could not be more ready for warm weather!

The UAMS College of Pharmacy Alumni Association has been hard at work over the past few months. During our fall Executive Committee Meeting we adopted a service project for the 2009-10 year. We are working with Arkansas Children's Hospital to provide family packs. Family packs are simply ziploc bags of small toiletry items. These are greatly appreciated by families who are in financial hardship or who may just not have had time to pack essentials before a child is admitted to Children's Hospital. Your Area Representative has more information regarding these packs and will serve as your point of contact should you have any questions or suggestions. Everyone has been touched by Arkansas Children's Hospital at some point in their life and this project provides an opportunity to give back.

The UAMS College of Pharmacy annual Phonathon was held in early February. Even in the midst of a weak economy, you guys came through and provided much-needed funds for student scholarships. Our profession is based on a commitment to serving others, and through your contribution to the College of Pharmacy you are building on that commitment.

The Alumni Association recently worked with the Arkansas Pharmacist Association to sponsor a Day at the Races. I have received very positive feedback on the event and appreciate the opportunity to work the APA staff. I haven't heard of anyone hitting big bucks, but the food and fellowship were a hit. I would like to thank John Vinson '04 for serving as the Alumni Association representative at the event and for providing a continuing education lecture.

Our most recent event was a Night at the Travs, held Saturday April 25 at Dickey-Stephens ballpark, with more than 80 alumni, family and friends attending. I would like to thank Dr. Rob Christian '00, Dr. Brandy Owen '00, Ann Turney, and Leigh Austin for helping coordinate this event.

It is never too early to start talking about Razorback Football! We will hold our Annual Tailgate Party on November 21. This year's event will continue in the tradition of fun and fellowship with the added bonus this year of NO CHARGE. Pencil in the event now and plan on joining us to celebrate a Razorback victory.

The Association website has had a makeover and is much more user-friendly. You will find upcoming events and news on fellow alumni. In response to our survey, an online directory is available as a tool for alumni to stay connected to one another. Please take a moment to log-on and look around at http://www.uams.edu/cop/alumdev/association/default.asp.

I would like to thank our Area Representatives for going above and beyond by serving as points of contact throughout the state and region. They do a great job of coordinating events, speaking in local schools, and communicating up-to-date information to and from the College of Pharmacy. Please let them know of any ideas you may have to continually improve our Alumni Association.

Again, I look forward continuing this year with the Association. Thank your for this opportunity to serve you. Please contact me if you have any comments or suggestions at Jason.Hawkins@va.gov

Have you wanted to get in contact with an alum, but didn’t know where to begin?

Visit our new Alumni Directory! Go to www.uams.edu/cop/classroster/Login.aspx

Barry Coleman ’57 has been married to his wife Barbara for 50 years, and they have five children and 11 grandchildren. He served as president of the Texas Pharmacists Association from 1994 to 1995.
Whitney Shoup '58/’98 has served for 25 years on the Foundation Board at Western New Mexico University. An article about his role in the development of the Foundation Board was published in the Oct. 8, 2008, issue of the Silver City/Las Cruces Sun-News.

Julian Southerland ’65 became the first Informatics Pharmacist at Kingman Regional Medical Center in 2008, a 240 bed acute care hospital in Kingman, Ariz. He and his wife have six children, 15 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Brenda Martinez ’66 retired in 2002 after 20 years as a staff pharmacist at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Birmingham, Ala. She and her husband, Dr. Domingo Martinez, live in the Sun City retirement community in Georgetown, Texas. They will celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary this year.

Suzanne Lahr ’70 was awarded Employee of the Year at Wilcox Hospital located in Lihue, Hawaii. She anticipates a move back to Minnesota in the near future.

Boscoe Godfrey ’79 and his wife Vicki have a daughter Brigham Elise, a Senior Nursing Student at University of Alabama, and a son Graham, a pitcher for the Oakland A’s Minor League system.

Jon Wolfe ’76, curator for the Historic Pharmacy display at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, will be the Heritage Month Program Speaker, May 9. His lecture will be about herbal remedies and home remedies using Arkansas native species.

Daphyne VanDevender ’84 and her husband Mark, who own McDaniel Pharmacy in Port Gibson, Miss., share five children, ages 22-28, and a ten-month-old granddaughter.

Kim D. Young ’87 is the Special Projects Coordinator at Plott Healthcare Management in Ontario, Calif.

Kathryn Allen ’88 is enjoying her recent promotion to pharmacist in charge at an independent nuclear pharmacy in Grand Junction, Colo.

Brian Koesy ’88/’08 was one of the last alumni to earn a Non-Traditional PharmD degree from the College’s program before it was closed July, 2008.

Renee McCafferty ’88 is an Associate Professor at the University of Charleston, W. Va.

Kenny Sanders ’89 has been elected to serve on the Alabama Board of Pharmacy and will began a five year term in January.

Karen Evans ’91 of Little Rock was awarded the Women of Color Technology All-Star Award at the 15th National Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Conference in October.

James Bethea ’93, owner of Coker Hampton Drug Store and Gift Co. in Stuttgart, has launched a new website www.cokerhampton.com/index.html, detailing the history of the drug store.

Lisa Miller ’94 of Rowayton, Conn. has earned her Master of Business Administration degree in Pharmaceutical Business from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Penn.

Sharon Vire ’94 of Jacksonville has been awarded the 2008 AAHP Clinician of the Year by the Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists.

Randy Davidson ’95 passed his Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist exam and is now a Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist practicing in Tyler, Texas.

Kenny Harrison ’96 of Little Rock has served as the Arkansas Pharmacist Association District 1 President since 2007. He was named UAMS College of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year in 2007, and his business Cornerstone Pharmacy was voted runner-up in the Arkansas Times’ Best Pharmacies in Arkansas.

Cyndi Vilayvanh ’98 of St. Louis, Mo. and her husband Nam are happily married with three children.

Susan Carr-McGruder ’99 was awarded Pharmacist of the Year at St. Jude’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. She is a member of Memphis Area Pharmacist’s Society and the Memphis Area HIV Treaters Group.

Miriam Klein ’00 spoke in a workshop titled “Safer Delivery IV Medication” in the United Kingdom in 2007. Her presentation was on safer methods for IV medication for adults and children. An article about the meeting was published in the January/February 2008 edition of Hospital Pharmacy Europe. She is a Medication Safety Fellow with the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Vaiyapuri Subramaniam ’00 was a speaker at the 2008 International Pharmaceutical Federation’s World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference at Basel, Switzerland, where he also co-chaired the Administrative Pharmacy

Drs. Melissa Christopher ’88, Jeff Reinert ’03, Andrea Puyear ’04, and Nick Alsbrook ’07 pharmacy managers with Cardinal Health, return to campus in November to interview students for jobs and internships.
Section program on “Patient Safety, Risk Assessment and Risk Management.” He is Associate Chief Consultant Pharmacy Benefits Management at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

John Vinson ’04 of Van Buren, climbed Mt. Whitney in California, the highest summit in the contiguous United States with an elevation of 14,505 feet, in June 2008, with Matt Steed and Tim Spradlin, both COM faculty.

Jerry Dubberly ’05 of Powder Springs, Ga., has been named chief of Medical Assistance Plans and the state Medicaid Director for the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH). He most recently served as the deputy director of DCH’s Medical Assistance Policy Section.

Dale Rutledge ’08 of Benton has written an article with the ACCP Student Advisory Committee titled the “Tenets of Professionalism for Pharmacy Students” that will be published in Pharmacotherapy in the next year. He is completing a residency at Allcare Pharmacy in Arkadelphia.

Richard and Amanda Morris ’06 are enjoying life on the beach in South Carolina, where he has been a pharmacy manager for two years, and she is a Clinical Pharmacist for the Medical University of South Carolina.

In Memoriam

Coye Dotson ’52
December 29, 2006

Oliver Walters ’54
November 9, 2008

Charles Roland ’63
June 3, 2003

Randy Montgomery ’81
March 5, 2009

Think of the College when making Memorial and Honor Gifts

Honor and Memorial Gifts are a fitting way to mark important events in the lives of College of Pharmacy alumni and friends.

Honor gifts may be made to celebrate weddings, graduations, and births. Memorial gifts are meaningful ways alumni and friends of the College can honor deceased family members and professional associates.

To make honor or memorial gifts, please send them to: UAMS College of Pharmacy
4301 West Markham Street #522-1a
Little Rock, AR 72205

All gifts will be acknowledged from the Dean’s Office, including a specific reference to your honor or memorial purpose.

Brandon Cooper ’02

Pharmacy practice information: Soo’s Drug and Compounding Center, Jonesboro, Ark.

Number of years in practice: Seven

Reason you are a pharmacist: I was always interested in a healthcare related field, and being a pharmacist allows me to take an active role in helping people live healthier and more productive lives.

What you like most about being a pharmacist: Being able to talk with patients and help them with a variety of issues, and being part of the most trusted profession.

What you like least about being a pharmacist: Issues with patient’s insurance carriers, PBM’s, $4 Rx’s, and other things you’d probably be unable to print.

Your best advice for aspiring pharmacists: Your quality of life means a great deal; make sure you are happy with your career choices and enjoy it.

Mentors or role models in your life and pharmacy practice: Albert Soo and Mike Miller – they taught me everything I know about retail pharmacy. Both of my grandfathers – they taught me everything I need to know about life.

Your best memory/favorite faculty member at UAMS: It’s a toss up between my senior year rotation in Alaska and trying to figure out if Dr. Stafford and Shania Twain were the same person!

Church/Hobby/Community interests: Golf; traveling; everything Razorback football and St. Louis Cardinal baseball; government and politics; active member of the Nettleton Church of Christ, APA, NCPA, and the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce.
The Alumni Association and the College hosted Alumni and Friend events during the Arkansas Pharmacist Association District Meetings, and meetings of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists (AAHP), and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Dr. Vaiyapuri Subramaniam '00 and Dr. Ross Vanderbush, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, at the Association of Health-System Pharmacists Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Jennifer Priest '04, AAHP Board Member at Large; Dr. Brandy Owen '00 Fall Seminar Co-Chair; Dr. Kimberly Watson '01, Fall Seminar Co-Chair; and Dr. Rob Christian '00 at the AAHP Meeting in Tunica, Miss.

Dr. Anne Pace, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Tom Murray '01, and Dr. Paul Holifield '84/’95 at the National Community Pharmacists Association Convention in Tampa, Fla.

Dr. Anne Pace, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, P3s Bryant Sizemore and Zach Holderfield, Dean Gardner, and P3 Clint Boone at the NCPA Convention in Tampa, Fla.

Drs. Jim Rankin ’62, Gene Graves ’69, and Charles West ’63 at the National Community Pharmacists Association Convention in Tampa, Fla.

Dr. Vaiyapuri Subramaniam ’00 and Dr. Ross Vanderbush, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, at the Association of Health-System Pharmacists Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Dean Gardner with Area Representative Dr. Robna Wiles-Pfeifler ’81/’95 and her brother Dr. Gary Wiles at the AAHP Meeting.

Think of the College when making Memorial and Honor Gifts.
NEW ARRIVALS

Cameron, December 29, 2005, and Sydney Carolynn, July 6, 2007, to Christopher and Terry Bosen ’97

Carter Nicholas to Christopher and Carissia Gilmer ’97, August 8, 2008

Olivia Faith to Rick and Marion Berry ’99, February 29, 2008

Connor Lucas to Shawnna and Chris Allbritton ’00, July 31, 2008

James and Jordan to Jennifer Dunn ’00 and Justin Rodgers, May 23, 2007

Miles Earl to Bert and Jennifer Mayo ’00, July 28, 2008

Samuel Ray to Donnie and Brandy Owen ’00, November 20, 2008

Andrew David to Cory and Katy Bostic ’02, July 30, 2008

Lucy Grace to Elizabeth and Michael Thames ’02, February 28, 2008

Payton Blake to Blake and Jennifer Day ’03, January 29, 2008

Lauren Elizabeth to Jeffrey and Leslie Kurczek ’03, September 11, 2008

Izabella Carol to Kevin and Charity Pumphrey ’03, September 12, 2008


Savannah to Natalie and Eric Shelley ’04, September 14, 2007

Cooper Brian to Justin and Jaime Hill ’05, September 30, 2008

Ava Ryan to Chad and Brittany Sanders ’05, November 28, 2008

Clayton Andrew to Katy and Randy Shipp ’05, January 11, 2009

Tucker John to Cheri and John Wirges ’05, June 2, 2008

Zane Thomas to Matt and Sarah Bell ’06, December 27, 2008

Reagan Emeri to Terry Keith ’00 and Laura Faulkner ’06, June 6, 2008

Avery Reid to Kurt and Leslie Johnson ’06, June 22, 2008

Hannah Marie to Paola and James Martaindale ’07, August 15, 2008

Hudson Brooks to Colorado and Megan Barnard ’08, July 3, 2008

Noah, 2, and Kathryn, 6, children of Rebecca Boyd-Totty ’96 and Wade Totty

Alumni Baby T’s

To get a Future Pharmacist t-shirt for your baby, call the Alumni Office at 501-686-6497 or send your information on-line http://www.uams.edu/cop/alumni/signup.asp.

MARRIAGES

Ron Curran ’74 to Shelley Pinkerton, October 3, 2008

Allison Perdue ’04 to Michael Houlihan, July 12, 2008

Jenny Boone ’05 to Todd Treece, May 24, 2008
Sue Frank ’74 recently retired after a successful 30-year career with Merck. She is grateful to the College of Pharmacy for giving her the strong foundation she needed to have a successful career. Because of this, she had made a decision that will deeply affect the lives of future pharmacy students.

In making her estate plans, she learned that any remaining portion of her 401(k) retirement plan would be subject to taxation, but that she could avoid those taxes by leaving the balance to charitable organizations. She generously chose the UAMS College of Pharmacy, St. James United Methodist Church, and Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

To designate the College of Pharmacy in your estate plans, contact your financial planner or Dr. Jon Wolfe, 501-686-6498.
UAMS Students named APhA-ASP Chapter of the Year - At the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists convention in San Antonio in April, College of Pharmacy students competed with all colleges nationwide to be named Chapter of the Year. This is the second time UAMS has one the coveted award since it was created in 2002. More details and photos will appear in the next magazine.
For a video, go to www.uams.edu/cop/default.asp