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he 2001-2002 academic year was one of change, new beginnings, and accomplishment for the School of Pharmacy. After more than eight years as Dean of the School, Dr. Michael Gerald decided to return to the faculty at the end of June. We are all grateful to Dr. Gerald for his service and strong commitment to pharmacy in the state of Connecticut. I am honored that Chancellor Petersen has asked me to assume the role of Interim Dean in the upcoming year. Other administrative changes include the naming of Dr. Kenneth Speranza, Sr. as Associate Dean and Dr. John Morris as Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Our faculty continued to be recognized as leaders in research and the profession. Dr. Alexandros Makriyannis was named Distinguished University Professor. Dr. Diane Burgess was elected president of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). Dr. Michael Pikal received the Research Achievement Award from AAPS. Dr. Michael White’s fellowship in cardiovascular research became the only program of its kind to receive accreditation from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

The School graduated its second entry-level Pharm.D. class in May. Our graduates continue to excel on national licensure examinations and be highly sought for both post-graduate positions and opportunities in an array of practice areas. Applications for the professional class entering in fall 2002 were up over 40% from the previous year. With the experience of two graduating classes, our faculty began a process to critically evaluate and assess our professional program, an activity that will continue in the new academic year.

Our students received national recognition for both their professional and academic accomplishments. Lauren Aleksunes was selected for the prestigious Rho Chi-AFPE First Year Graduate Scholarship. Our APhA-ASP Chapter received several recognitions for their professional volunteerism, including most improved chapter.

The graduate programs of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences continue to provide Ph.D. students with high quality programs in the pharmaceutical sciences. Sixty graduate students and 23 post-doctoral fellows were enrolled during the 2001-2002 academic year. The number of post-Pharm.D. residencies and fellowships offered by the Department of Pharmacy Practice increased to seven; the number will total 10 in academic year 2002-2003 with the addition of programs in geriatrics and community pharmacy.

School of Pharmacy faculty continued to engage in important scholarship in the basic and clinical pharmaceutical sciences. Extramural funding of faculty research exceeded $3.4 million for the year, as faculty in both departments demonstrated their ability to successfully compete for funds from a variety of sources to support their scholarship.

Final plans were made for the 180,000-square-foot, $87 million building for the new home of the School of Pharmacy. Construction is slated to begin in early 2003; when completed early in 2005, it will provide one of the premier venues for professional and graduate pharmacy education and research in the United States.

A School of Pharmacy Advisory Board, comprising distinguished alumni and friends from across pharmacy, was established and will meet for the first time early in the new academic year. The Board will provide the School’s leadership with advice and counsel in areas ranging from programs to development. One of the Board’s first tasks will be a review of a draft the School’s updated strategic plan developed during a retreat late in the spring of 2002.

As can be seen by this brief summary, this has been an exciting year for the School of Pharmacy. The new leadership team is eager to embrace the many challenges that face us in the future, while always mindful of our distinguished past. I hope you enjoy reading this report as we share our year with you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
A Building for the 21st Century

Plans for the new School of Pharmacy are progressing rapidly with an anticipated groundbreaking early in 2003, and a completion date of mid-2005. Funding for the project was made possible through UCONN 2000. “When completed in 2005, our new building will be one of the premier venues of its kind in the nation, boasting high tech classrooms, state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories, and improved faculty offices and student spaces,” remarks Robert McCarthy, interim dean.

The new building, presently referred to as the Pharmacy-Biology building, will be located in the newly formed science quadrangle, and will be approximately 180,000-square-feet. As the name implies, the new building will house the School of Pharmacy, portions of Biology and a centralized animal facility under the direction of the University Office for Animal Research Services (OARS). Pharmacy laboratories, along with Biology lab spaces, will be featured in the north end of the building. The laboratories are designed to allow the faculty of both disciplines to utilize the technology required for modern research.

The location of the building and the sharing of laboratory space within the building will allow increased contact between pharmacy faculty members and scientists from varied scientific disciplines, which will help to stimulate the development of collaborative research projects.

The southern end of the new building will contain the administrative offices, faculty offices, staff offices, and teaching spaces of the School of Pharmacy. The entrance to the new building will open into a three-story glassed atrium, which directly connects to a spacious student lounge area, located outside the main classrooms in the Pharmacy School. The atrium will be a bright and welcoming area that will serve as a focal point for movement throughout the School.

The new building will have two large classrooms, which will each accommodate 110-120 students. One classroom will have a sloped floor with fixed seating. This classroom will be enhanced with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, and will have the capability for students to connect their personal computers to either a school computer network or to the internet. The other large classroom will have a flat floor with moveable seating that will allow for varied methods of instruction.

The Pharmacy Library and Dosage Form Laboratory will be located on the second floor of the Pharmacy wing of the new building. The Dosage Form Lab will instruct students in the latest techniques for creating pharmacist-made drug products, customized for individual patient needs. The new, multifaceted Library will be double the size of the present Pharmacy Library and will have an increased number of networked computers and a hands-on computer classroom to teach drug information research skills. It will also feature group study rooms that will support student team assignments and projects.

The third floor will contain the administrative offices of the School and the office of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. The Pharmacist Care Laboratory, a multipurpose facility with videotaping and presentation technology throughout, will also be located on this floor. It will feature 18 networked computer workstations, small conference rooms, and a classroom area to instruct pharmacy students in contemporary patient counseling practices.

Faculty offices for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences will be on the top three floors of the pharmacy wing. John Morris, Pharmaceutical Sciences department head, believes the end result is surely worth all of the work going into the details. “There is a lot of planning involved with the new building and it’s not just where the plugs are and where the new refrigerator is going to go, but amongst the planning is the assignment of lab space to try to match up with the needs of the faculty. You have to give thought to how to enhance interaction, deciding whose lab is where, and how to use the new building as a way to enhance the overall efforts of the Department, and the School as a whole.”

When completed, the new building will promote the development of the professional and graduate programs in Pharmacy. In addition, ASP president Annik Carrier believes “the new building will provide a better learning environment and common areas that will serve to improve professional and social interactions among students, faculty, and staff in the School of Pharmacy,” which can only enhance and promote the School’s goal to become one of the premier programs in Pharmacy education and research. For additional information on named gift opportunities available within the new building, please contact Brian J. Lachapelle, Director of Development, at blachapelle@foundation.uconn.edu, or (860) 486-6945.
Devra K. Dang, Pharm. D. has joined the School of Pharmacy as assistant clinical professor in ambulatory care in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. She comes to UConn with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and biology from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where she received honors in her double major. After receiving her Pharm.D., she completed post-doctoral training as a pharmacy practice resident at the University of Virginia Health System and as a specialized resident in primary care at the National Institutes of Health. Currently, she is focusing on developing a pharmacotherapy clinic at the Burgdorf/Fleet Health Center of St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, where she will be providing drug therapy and disease state management for patients with various disease states such as hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and hyperlipidemia, as well as serving as a drug information resource for other members of the health care team. Dr. Dang is a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Spiro Pavlopoulos has been named an assistant professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the School of Pharmacy. A recent post-doctoral fellow at the School, he received his Ph.D. from and had been a research assistant at Monash University’s Victorian College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, Australia, where he employed Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy to study the potential of certain molecules to bind to DNA. The ability to target specific genes in the genome using such molecules has important implications for development of more specific and effective drugs for genetic-based diseases. Dr. Pavlopoulos brings deep experience and a range of techniques in the use of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy to the study of Drug-Membrane and Drug-Receptor Interactions. He has expanded his activities to include the expression, purification, and subsequent characterization of membrane protein receptors. The elucidation of such molecular details enables a better understanding of drug action and the potential for the design of improved or novel drugs. Currently, Dr. Pavlopoulos is engaged in the study of new, non-psychotropic cannabinoid compounds that have shown potential in a range of therapeutic areas such as analgesia, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, and vascular disease.
Dr. Alexandros Makriyannis

Some describe him as a “gem.” Others as, “one of the premier pharmaceutical researchers in the United States.” Within the University of Connecticut community he is also known as a “Distinguished Professor,” an honor awarded by the Board of Trustees last spring to Dr. Alexandros Makriyannis, a 30-year veteran of the School of Pharmacy.

“Dr. Makriyannis has set a standard of excellence that is unparalleled,” says School of Pharmacy Interim Dean Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D. “He’s well respected by his peers both within the University and outside.”

That respect has grown since Dr. Makriyannis joined the University as an assistant professor of medicinal chemistry and molecular and cell biology in 1974. Over the years, he has not only lectured, but mentored more than 150 postdoctoral, graduate and undergraduate students — many of whom have gone on to prestigious careers — all the while conducting leading-edge research in the fields of membranes, cannabinoids and drug discovery. He has researched how drugs, hormones and neurotransmitters interact with cellular membranes. His work has led to the development of models about the role of membranes in modulating the functions of the cell, as well as to the discovery of a new biochemical system that transports the hormone anandamide into the cell.

Dr. Makriyannis was instrumental in founding the Center for Drug Discovery at UConn in 1997, based on an effort by the state of Connecticut to promote the development of interactions between academia and the drug industry. Now, well funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Center is growing under the directorship of Makriyannis and becoming a substantial presence not only within the University, but also within the burgeoning biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries in the state.

“The work we’re doing here now is very exciting,” says Makriyannis, who points out that the Center will be key to educating students and other senior scientists in the science and art of discovering medications. “I can say we have our hands full with a number of grants from the NIH and a continuous influx of new ideas and new things going on.”

Currently, Makriyannis and others in his lab are working on the development of new medications for neuropathic pain and inflammatory pain, and have synthesized several compounds that are candidates for treating these often intractable conditions.

They’re also working on developing medications that can be used to reduce or enhance appetite; and in the area of addictions, working with molecules to treat conditions of nicotine, alcohol and cocaine abuse.

So, what keeps him going after 30 years?

“Besides interacting with the new, young people coming in? Discovery,” he says. “Of new things, new ideas, new structures, new molecules. In itself, this whole voyage to discovery is a very exciting way to live. Also the possibility that some of these discoveries we make may have some impact on the health of citizens of the world.”

“Dr. Makriyannis has set a standard of excellence that is unparalleled,” says School of Pharmacy Interim Dean Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D. “He’s well respected by his peers both within the University and outside.”
In the fall of 2000, UConn APhA-ASP was on the brink of extinction with three active members. Since then it has come a long way with over 114 members — and still climbing — in the fall of 2002. With a lot of hard work and dedication, UConn APhA-ASP has proven to be a successful chapter and earned national recognition at last year’s APhA Annual in Philadelphia in March. UConn ASP has been most successful with increasing membership and continuing to build upon activities/events from the year before. Many activities are turning out to be annual events and UConn continues to strengthen relationships with many organizations in the community.

Awards won at the APhA Annual 2002 in Philadelphia include:

- National Recognition for participating in Operation Diabetes, a program designed to increase awareness of diabetes and the dangers associated with the disease, provide glucose screening and monitoring, and promote pharmaceutical care in the community.

1st Place

Operation Immunization (Region One)

3rd Place

Membership Achievement Award (National Award)

Most Improved Chapter Award (National Award)

“Having immediate success after being a faltering ASP chapter only two years ago is a reflection of the enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work of all our chapter members,” remarks 2001-2002 ASP President, Christopher Fortier, a 4th year Pharm.D. student. “These APhA-ASP awards have given us recognition as one of the top ASP chapters in the country. More importantly, awards aside, we have established a chapter through which we are now able to use our knowledge and talents to promote pharmacy outside of the classroom.”

Last March, UConn ASP also took part in Pharmacy Day at the Capital, sponsored by CPA, and performed blood pressure screenings. This day is intended to communicate with legislators about issues that are affecting pharmacy in this state and provide legislators and their staff with health screenings.

A Year of Great Achievements

1st Place

Operation Immunization (Region One)

3rd Place

Membership Achievement Award (National Award)

Most Improved Chapter Award (National Award)
New Residency in Geriatric Pharmacy Practice

In 2002, the School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Connecticut VA Healthcare System, American Society of Consultant Pharmacist Research and Education Foundation (www.ascpfoundation.org), and The Medicine Centre Pharmacy, started a new specialized residency in geriatric pharmacy practice. The overall goal of this residency is to develop an excellent clinician/teacher in geriatrics. Residents will interact with nationally recognized leaders in geriatrics.

Primary training sites include the West Haven VAMC, the Hebrew Home and Hospital in West Hartford, CT as well as traditional LTC and ALFs served by the Medicine Centre Long-term Care Pharmacy. Educational opportunities include both monthly and longitudinal exposure to inpatient geriatric evaluation and management, outpatient geriatric clinic, geropsychiatry clinic, spinal cord injury clinic, home-based primary care, community-based medication safety outreach programs, and LTC/ALFs.

Elderly women’s health issues are also emphasized. Participation in didactic, laboratory and clerkship experiences allows the resident to develop teaching skills. The resident also engages in scholarly activities.

In collaboration with the ASCP Research and Education Foundation, the geriatric pharmacy resident has the unique opportunity to spend one month at the headquarters for the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP, www.ascp.com) in Alexandria, VA. The resident will work with the Executive Director of the Research and Education Foundation, Kathleen A. Cameron, R.Ph., MPH, a UConn SOP graduate, on selected projects identified by the Research and Education Foundation. The ASCP Research and Education Foundation has also agreed to support the resident’s travel to both the ASCP annual and midyear meetings. This level of collaboration with a national pharmacy organization is unprecedented and represents both the vision and leadership of the Foundation in recognizing the importance of specialty geriatric residency training programs.

The first resident recruited by Dr. Sean Jeffery, Program Director, is Amy Huie-Li, Pharm.D., MPH. Dr. Huie-Li comes to the residency program from the Connecticut VA Healthcare System, where she was an outpatient staff pharmacist with over 20 years of experience. Dr. Huie-Li will complete her residency in June 2003.

Pharmaceutical Care I Course Adds Service Learning Component

Students in their first professional year of the pharmacy program enroll in PHRM 201 – Pharmaceutical Care I, the first of three introductory practice experience courses in the curriculum. These introductory practice experiences create the foundation for the nine-month long advanced practice experiences in the fourth professional year curriculum. PHRM 201 is designed to introduce the concepts of professionalism and pharmaceutical care. Traditionally, this goal has been met through review of current publications and shadowing practitioners. Because Dr. Jennifer James, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice, believes a service experience will help students understand the need for social support and care, she has added a service learning component as a course requirement.

In Fall 2001, all 92 students in this full year, one-credit course participated in 12 hours of volunteering with a human service organization. They were strongly encouraged to spend the majority of the experience in direct interaction with the clientele of the respective organization.

Organizations served included nursing homes, food banks, used clothing distributors, shelters, advocacy groups, and tutoring programs. In a follow-up survey, a majority of the students responded they agreed or strongly agreed service learning activities provided needed service to the community, helped them understand the concept of social support, and increased their awareness of community problems.

Reflection, a vital part of the service learning experience, was built into the course in a variety of ways. The students, grouped into teams of five students, shared reflections and questions with their team via electronic discussion journal on the web-based classroom site. They were encouraged to respond to statements posted by the other students on their team. Also, a service learning essay, a more formal written assignment that required considerable thought, was required after the completion of the service. During the final class session of the fall semester the class was divided into three sections to share and collect feedback about the service learning experience.

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2002-2003 Residents and Fellows
Department of Pharmacy Practice

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Cardiovascular-Fellow</td>
<td>C.M. White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian McBride</td>
<td>Hartford Hospital</td>
<td>Cardiovascular-Fellow</td>
<td>C.M. White</td>
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<td>Craig Coleman</td>
<td>Hartford Hospital</td>
<td>Pharmacoeconomics-Fellow</td>
<td>C.M. White</td>
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<td>Jana Carabino</td>
<td>Hartford Hospital</td>
<td>Ambulatory Care-Fellow</td>
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<td>Naomi Florea</td>
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<td>Infectious Disease-Fellow</td>
<td>G. Bartlett</td>
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<td>Pharmacy Practice-Resident</td>
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<td>Joel Boerth</td>
<td>Institute of Living</td>
<td>Psychiatric Pharmacy-Fellow</td>
<td>C. Caley</td>
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<td>Geriatrics-Resident</td>
<td>S. Jeffery</td>
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<td>Ivery &amp; Dudley Ph</td>
<td>Community Pharmacy-Res</td>
<td>J. James</td>
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COMMITMENT TO PATIENT CARE

Dr. C. Michael White

When anthrax made headlines last year, both the NBC and CBS network-affiliates in Connecticut relied on C. Michael White, Pharm.D. to provide different perspectives and insights on potential drug treatments. The media had reported on ciprofloxacin and doxycycline as potential anthrax therapies previously, but hadn’t reported on critical drug interactions between these drugs and milk, calcium or iron supplements, and a host of prescription drugs. Dr. White also noted that ciprofloxacin may cause bone deformities in children when taken by pregnant and lactating women, while doxycycline can permanently stain children’s teeth. He then suggested alternative drug therapy options to treat anthrax in these patients.

It was just the sort of action that Dr. White, who is in his fifth year as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the School of Pharmacy, challenges students to make. Pharmacist care, Dr. White tells his students, is vital to assuring that patients and other health professionals have the knowledge needed to make critical decisions about drugs. Dr. White, who has authored over 100 peer reviewed articles since joining the University of Connecticut, gains much satisfaction from guiding students to become proactive, involved pharmacists of tomorrow.

“Teaching is the most important thing I do. The goal is to bring students up to a high standard of both drug knowledge, and active patient care participation,” he says.

Since research can be an important vehicle to help patients in need, Dr. White is committed to teaching undergraduate students important research skills. “Dr. White epitomizes what we hope our young clinical faculty will become: dedicated teachers and recognized scholars,” says Dr. Robert McCarthy, Interim Dean.

Each year, he mentors two students who then conduct their own studies at the School of Pharmacy. For example, his students have evaluated the blood pressure and EKG effects of herbal drugs, like ginkgo and ginseng, as well as common substances like caffeine. One student study on caffeine showed that increased coffee consumption, today’s 32-ounce servings vs. an 8-ounce serving typical in the past, does in fact result in an elevated blood pressure reading if health care practitioners are only waiting the recommended two hours after caffeine consumption. The students found that there was an increase in blood pressure of 10mmHg three hours after this increased dosing.

Dr. White and his research group are leading the way in research in the area of heart rhythm disturbances. Almost one-third of the 750,000 open-heart surgery patients in the U.S. each year develop these arrhythmias after surgery that can increase the risk of stroke. Their research program has led to a 50% reduction in the risk of arrhythmias and an 80% reduction in the risk of stroke. It was twice awarded the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Drug Therapy Award that is given annually for the best research publication. Although Dr. White is glad that the scientific community is embracing his pioneering work, the greatest satisfaction comes from knowing that the work has impacted patients here in Connecticut and around the world.

Pharmaceutical Care I Course

(continued from previous page)

Both teacher and students felt that it was a meaningful experience. Dr. James submitted an abstract about the service-learning course to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and was accepted for presentation at the national meeting in Kansas City in July 2002. The service component made quite an impression on the student participants.

“Through this experience I have a better understanding of how to directly help another person. As a pharmacy tech, I don’t interact with people. My goal is to improve health care and quality of life so this experience was important to me,” said Rachel Sykes. Tim Suarez agreed, “I spent time in an emergency family shelter and it opened my eyes. It was an experience connecting with people, a taste of reality that I would never get from a textbook.”

Excerpts from a UConn Community Service newsletter article, Spring 2001
On the behalf of the dean, faculty, staff, and students of the School of Pharmacy, we gratefully acknowledge the alumni, parents, friends, corporations, and foundations who made gifts to the School between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002. Your continued commitment provides very important resources to our students and faculty. It is greatly appreciated.

We have prepared the 2002 list of donors with great care. If, however, we have omitted, misprinted, or listed your name incorrectly in any way, please call in your corrections to Brian J. Lachapelle, UConn Foundation at (860) 486-6945. The School, however, may not yet have been notified of some matching gifts. If that is the case, your gifts will be recognized in future publications.

Thank you for your generous and continued support.

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Elaine R. Kaplin ’54
Zigmund P. Karkowski ’58
Scott R. Karon ’87
Walter A. ’75 and Melinda S. ’75 Karwas
Daniel J. and Susan B. Karwas
Timothy J. Kearney
Katherine K. Kelley ’83
Robert L. Kiloran ’81
Robert F. Klacak ’57
Jay B. Kleinfield ’90
Pamela M. Koontz ’89
Barry N. Kopp ’70
Stanley J. ’65 and Ellen F. Kornacki
Allan A. ’59 and Judy Krasnow
Theresa A. Knauf ’85
John and Rita ’58 Krumins
Nancy Kula
Vivek Kumar ’97
David C. ’82 and Karen A. ’82 LaCasse
Donald ’55 and Nancy Lack
Andre A. LaCombe ’74
Jennifer K. Lagerbom ’96
Dolores A. Larrauente ’65
Doris M. Laspragta
Andrew J. and Dorothy J. Laudano
Janeille M. Lazzaro ’91
Cynthia B. Legassey ’71
G. Philip Lehrman ’50 ’56
Claudette S. Lennon
Karen C. Letourneau ’82
Molly S. Levin
Adel Leventhal ’53
Debra M. Leventhal ’83
Cyril Levine ’42
Nicole R. Lidke ’94
Nancy B. Lindsay ’80
Leonard A. and Rosalyn S. Liss
Thomas P. Lombardi ’83
David J. and Ann Marie ’86 Long
Clayton A. Lord, Jr. ’81 and Lori J. Lord ’82
Lynne A. Lorenzo ’80
Lai K. Louie ’93
Milton J. Lurie ’54
Keith D. ’92 and Suzanne M. ’89 Lyke
Joyce S. Lyman ’92
H. Ross Magnuson ’58
Frank D. Manfredi ’55
Sharon B. Mann ’66
Christine S. Manzi ’97
Stephen C. ’71 ’76 and Janice B. ’76 Marcham
Timothy V. Marcham ’66
Kevins and Ann Marsella
Nancy R. Martin ’71
Jame V. Mastrian ’54
Arleen Mathewson
Joseph M. and Margaret M. Mattei
Susan D. Mayer ’83
Carolyn M. Mazure
Charles L. Mcclester ’57
Elizabeth A. McConnell ’79
James F. ’91 and Dawn ’91 McGarry
Francis J. ’54 and Barbara E. McGrath
Zhaoxing Meng ’93
Roy A. Merrill, Jr. ’91 ’97 and
Sandra L. Merritt ’90
Philip E. and Doreen A. Mikan
Alan J. ’65 ’68 and Nancy K. ’67 ’77 Millbauer
Joyce M. Miller ’62
Charles E. ’93 and Karen C. ’92 Miller
Robert J. ’60 and Lynne E. ’63 Miller
Leonard M. and Ellen B. Milstone
Anne E. Morris
Beverly A. Morrow ’79
Janet L. Muro ’73
Alcide G. Naude ’61
Flora L. Rastelli
James V. Maschian ’54
Arleen Mathewson
Joseph M. and Margaret M. Mattei
Susan D. Mayer ’83
Carolyn M. Mazure
Charles L. Mcclester ’57
Elizabeth A. McConnell ’79
James F. ’91 and Dawn ’91 McGarry
Francis J. ’54 and Barbara E. McGrath
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Leonard M. and Ellen B. Milstone
Anne E. Morris
Beverly A. Morrow ’79
Janet L. Muro ’73
Alcide G. Naude ’61
Flora L. Rastelli
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It makes vision reality.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

A Look Back and a Look Ahead...

The School of Pharmacy and your Alumni Association are busy with another school year at Storrs. This year marks several changes on campus and within the school. We would like to thank former Dean Michael Gerald for his support of the School and the Pharmacy Alumni Association. His many accomplishments as Dean have moved the School into the future. Under his direction, we are moving to a new building on campus and have graduated the first Pharm.D. class at Storrs. We wish him the best in his new role within the School. We would also like to welcome Interim Dean Robert McCarthy to his new role and look forward to a great relationship between him and the alumni.

This past Spring, the Alumni Association presented a total of five scholarships to students at Storrs on March 25, 2002. The recipients of the Alumni Association scholarships were Amy Bachyrycz, Terry Chung, Judith Brightman, and Susan Bankowski. The Joseph D’Alessio Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Angel Maldonado. Congratulations to all these deserving students and best wishes to them in their studies.

This fall marked the last Homecoming Weekend at Storrs. The new football stadium in East Hartford will be ready for next fall and we look forward to planning a program for that venue. We hope that the more central location will draw out more of our alumni to attend and we will keep you informed about the event in the coming months. If you are interested in helping to plan the event, please don’t hesitate to contact the Pharmacy Alumni Association with your input.

In conclusion, I want you to know that the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association is your link to the Storrs campus. Please feel free to call any one of the board members or myself with questions or comments about what is going on with the School or the association. We want your input to make us a better organization.

Jill Fitzgerald ‘86

What’s New With You?

Please use this form to tell us about new happenings in your life that we can use for the Alumni Update column. Happenings regarding your personal and professional lives and honors received, or just every-day events that are important to you and your family. You can also notify us of address changes using this form. We want to hear from you! Please mail this information to the University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, 372 Fairfield Road, Unit 2092, Storrs, CT 06269-2092.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Other

Name________________________Class Year__________________

Maiden/Former Name________________________Spouse Name________________________

Address________________________

City________________________State________________________Zip________________________

Home Phone (___)________________________Work Phone (___)________________________

Email Address________________________

Employer/Business Name________________________

Title________________________

Business Address________________________

City________________________State________________________Zip________________________

News________________________

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Alumni Update

George Cocolas ’52 has been honored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy upon his retirement as editor of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education after 22 years in the position.

Tom Collins, Jr. ’54 joined his son, Jack Collins ’74 at a celebration of the 70th anniversary of Collin’s Pharmacy which was founded in 1931 by Tom Collins, Sr. in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. The pharmacy was moved once and has been remodeled several times. The pharmacy is the only one remaining of 5 pharmacies in an eight-block radius when it was founded. Over 200 guests attended the celebration. Tom Jr. now resides in Florida with his wife, Jeanne.

Regina Seliga ’57 has received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

Gail Homer ’59 and her husband have moved to Williamsburg, VA. She loves the beauty of the area, but misses Connecticut and practicing pharmacy.

Samuel Kalmanowitz ’61 received the Elan Biopharmaceuticals Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award at the annual CPA convention.

Members of the class of 1942, Martin Aroian, Edward Carton and Cyril Levine celebrate their 60th reunion at the Alumni Banquet this past spring.

Stephen Piechota ’62, a ’98 graduate of the Idaho State School of Pharmacy Pharm.D. program, is the owner of Medical Arts Health and Nutrition Center in Bristol, CT and hosts an “Alternative Health Matters” program on WATR-1320 every Wednesday from 6-7 pm.

Frank J. Bachyrycz ’71, Director of Pharmacy at New Milford Hospital, was honored by the Southwestern Chapter of the American Cancer Society for his compassion, service, volunteerism, and for the hope that he offers everyone whose life he touches in the fight against cancer. In addition to the award, he received a proclamation from the Mayor of Danbury in recognition of his many contributions. He was nominated for the award by his daughter, Amy, who is a student at the UConn School of Pharmacy. His son, Frank Bachyrycz, Jr. ’94 is a hospital pharmacist in Middletown, NY.

Alan Traster ’71 announces the opening of Comfort Care Hospice in Pompton Plains, NJ. He is the former co-owner with his brother, Larry Traster ’74, of Pompton Nursing Home Suppliers, which was acquired by OmniCare.

Joseph DiPiro ’78 has received the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award presented by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He has also been named the new editor of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, replacing retired editor and UConn alumnus George Cocolas ’52.

Charlene G. Polino ’81 has been elected to the Board of Directors of the UConn Foundation.

Barbara Giacomelli ’83 has been promoted to Vice President, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, at Lankenau Hospital, Wynnewood, PA.

Elizabeth Simonetti ’83 earned a Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) from the University of Georgia Institute of Higher Education May 2002. She serves as Vice President of Education Market Planning in the Office of Distance Learning, Mercer University.

Angelo DeFazio ’85 was named the Daniel C. Leone Pharmacist of the Year by the Connecticut Pharmacists Association at the annual convention in June.

Stephen Durrenberger ’85 and his wife, Christine, added to their family by adopting a son, Nathan Tae Reed, from South Korea in 2001. Their 8-year-old daughter, Meredith, is a big sister to their new son. Stephen left pharmacy practice in 1991 to enter medical school, completed training in psychiatry at the University of Kentucky in 1999, and joined the faculty at Marshall University. In 2002, he left Marshall University to become the Medical Director of Presetera Center for Mental Health in Huntington, WV.

Jennifer A. Osowiecki ’85 has become a partner at Pepe and Hazard, a business law firm in Hartford.

Jane Blauvelt ’89 and her husband announce the birth of their second child, Daniel Jon, born April 10, 2002. Daniel Jon joins daughter, Sarah, who was 3 years old in July.

James Czarzasty ’93 Capt, USAF, earned a Masters Degree in Management Information from the University of Maryland in December 2001. He also received two awards in 2001, the USAF in Europe Fried Coleman Company Grade Pharmacist of the Year and the 48th Group Medical Company Grade Officer of the Year. He has been selected for the Air Force Medical Service CIO Fellowship and will be transferring to Washington, D.C. from England.

Odette O. Sousa ’94 is happily married with 2 children, Alex (5 yrs.) and Callie (3-1/2 yrs.). She specializes in pediatric pharmacy at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Scottish Rite.

Michelle Koe Page ’94 was recently elected 1st Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association.

In Memoriam

Arnold Siciliano ’49 1/15/02
Sidney Greenspan ’34 2/17/02
Yale Laites ’38 2/17/02
Stephen E. Prigodich ’49 3/1/02
Alan G. Ford ’63 3/21/02
Philip Amarante ’39 4/18/02
Ralph A. Stabile ’34 5/25/02
Mary T. Simonetti ’53 7/25/02
Congratulations to 2002 Distinguished Alumni

Three School of Pharmacy alumni were selected to receive Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni awards for the year 2002. As in previous years, alumni were selected in three fields of pharmacy—academia, the general area of pharmacy practice, and industry. The awards were presented at the annual Awards and Reunion Banquet on Saturday, May 4, 2002.

Academia

Joseph T. DiPiro, Pharm.D.
Class of 1978 (B.S.)
Head, Department of Clinical and Administrative Services and Assistant Dean of the U. of Georgia School of Pharmacy and Assistant Dean for Pharmacy Programs at the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine.

General Area of Pharmacy Practice

William P. Ward, M.S.
Class of 1966 (B.S.)
Chief of Enforcement Operations for the Department of Consumer Protection

Industry

Marlene L. Cohen, Ph.D.
Class of 1968 (B.S.)
Lilly Research Fellow at Eli Lilly Co. and Adjunct Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Indiana University School of Medicine.

New Lifetime Members

Welcome to the following alumni joining as new Lifetime Members in 2002.

Dr. Amy S. Antipas, B.S. ’89
Dr. Sean Jeffery, B.S. ’95
Dr. Bruce Sill Jr., B.S. ’92
Martha J. Brooks, B.S. ’87
Rosemary Kovelesky, B.S. ’92
Kenneth Soltiz, B.S. ’92
Lorraine F. Buerhaus, B.S. ’76
Sharon B. Mann, B.S. ’89
David St. Germaine, B.S. ’72
Kathleen A. Cameron, B.S. ’87
Stephen C. Marcham, B.S. ’76
Mary Elizabeth Stanton, B.S. ’81
Robert I. Cohn, B.S. ’63
Lydia Mis, B.S. ’82
Jeannette Y. Wick, B.S. ’79
Patricia B. Conry, B.S. ’80
Dr. Amit K. Mitra, Ph.D. ’81
James J. Wojnar, B.S. ’68
Raymond A. DaDalt, B.S. ’70
Charles W. Page, B.S. ’93
Donald K. Zettervall, B.S. ’79
Anita P. Denly, B.S. ’66
Michelle K. Page, B.S. ’94
Joseph Turi, Hon. ’99
Stefanie D. Ferreri, B.S. ’97
Joseph C. Papa, B.S. ’78
Deborah H. Rudolph, B.S. ’83
Peter J. Griffin, B.S. ’69

372 Fairfield Road Unit 2092
Storrs, CT 06269-2092
Phone: (860) 486-0244
Fax: (860) 486-1553
E-Mail: daniel.leone@uconn.edu
Deanne J. Burgess
Faculty Publications (continued)


Stand by, you’re on!

Four School of Pharmacy faculty members are turning to television to reach an audience they rarely, if ever, have access to. Working with NBC-30 News, the UConn team is presenting a segment twice a month on the 10 a.m. newscast called “Ask the Pharmacist.”

Viewers are encouraged to submit their medication questions through e-mail and members of the pharmacy practice department, Marla Campbell, Jon Folstad, Michael White, and Robert McCarthy, the new department head, take turns responding. The questions are answered live on the air, with the responses also posted to the NBC-30 website.

“This kind of commitment does two things,” says McCarthy. “It provides community service — fulfilling the mission of the University — and it gives our pharmacists an opportunity to share their knowledge and insights from their practice and research with a wider audience within the state.”

Excerpts taken from an article which originally appeared in the UConn Advance, written by Janice Palmer, University Communications.