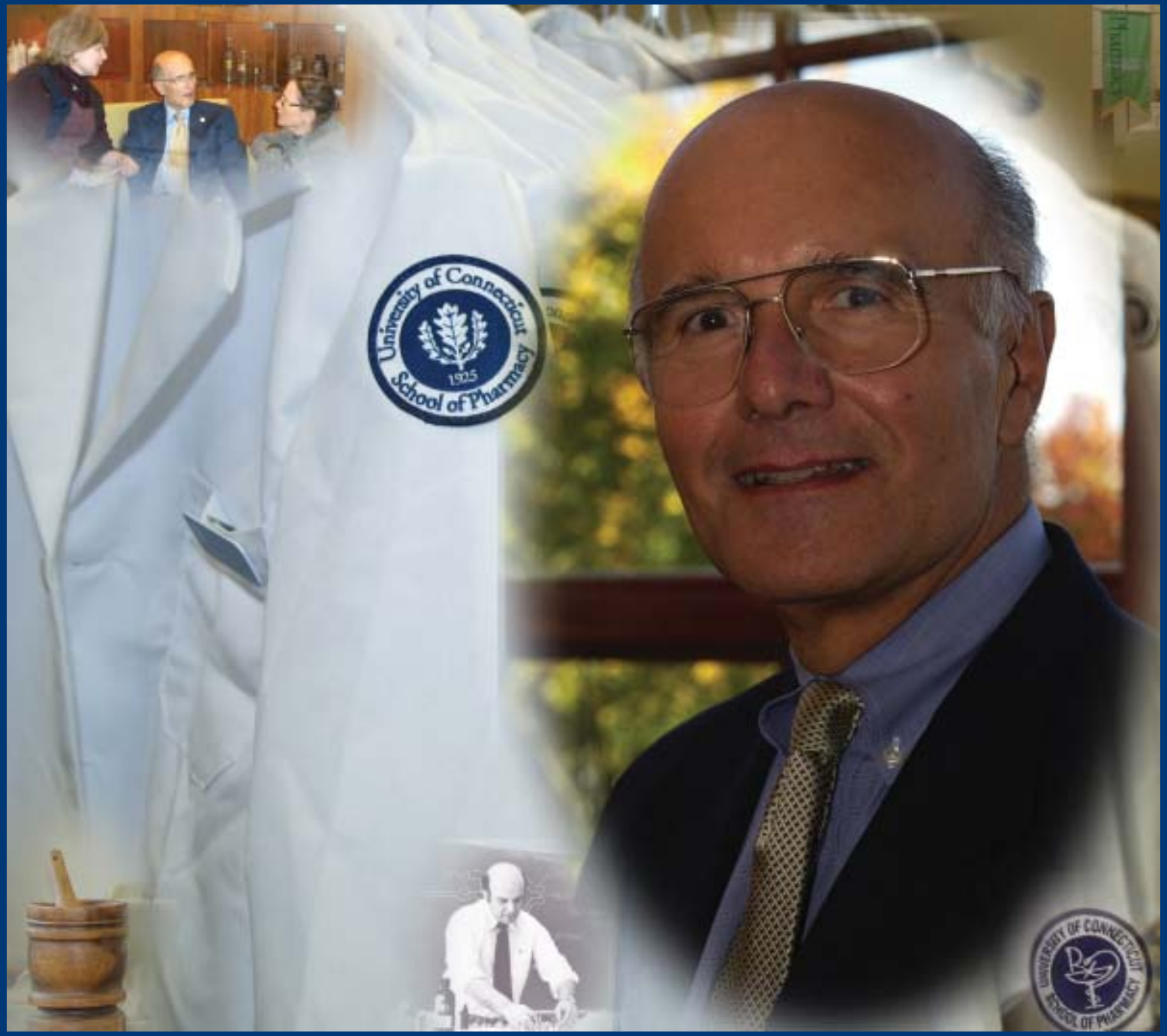

School of Pharmacy

Annual Report 2008 - 2009

University of Connecticut

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On the Cover:

Beloved teacher, mentor, and friend, Hank Palmer, was honored when the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees established the Dr. Henry A. Palmer Endowed Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice, a lasting legacy to his contributions to the School of Pharmacy.

On the Back:

School of Pharmacy staff get cooking at their staff development day; Students enjoy the Welcome Back Picnic sponsored by CVS; Students take blood pressure readings at Gampel Pavilion; Abdullah Wardak and Dr. José Manautou at the Commencement Awards Banquet.

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UConn's School of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Pharmacy Education.

The University of Connecticut is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Special thanks to all of those who contributed their time and talents to the publication of this annual report:

Danyel Adams, Elizabeth Anderson, William Anctil, Mark Armati, Laura Blackburn, Lisa Blanchette, Lisa Brown, Dan Buttrey, Jill Charette, Jason Corbo, Tina Covensky, Mohammed Faisel, Craig Freyer, Leslie LeBel, Daniel Leone, Michael Li, Karen Logan, Robert McCarthy, Deborah Milvae, Barbara Murawski, Sajal Patel, Charlotte Scherr, Lauren Silber, Colleen Teevan, Reem Telmesani, and Rachelle Thermora.

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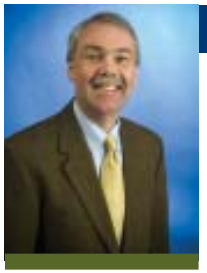

A Message from the Dean

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.

The 2008-2009 academic year marks the end of the first year of my second term as dean. The School of Pharmacy looks much different than it did in July 2002 and I am proud of the progress we have made thanks to our exceptional students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

This year, our faculty and staff retreat focused on the development of our new three-year strategic plan, the third such plan developed during my tenure as dean. In preparation for the retreat, the School of Pharmacy Advisory Board prepared a SWOT analysis at their semi-annual meeting. The new strategic plan, developed consistent with the University Academic Plan, including metrics, was approved by the faculty in February.

The School made excellent progress in implementing our assessment plan this past year. We have purchased state-of-the-art assessment software that not only allows us to track assessment of curriculum outcomes, but also maintains portfolios for all students, faculty, and staff. The assessment program was phased in for first-year pharmacy students and final year students completing advanced pharmacy practice rotations. We also made substantial progress in the development of so-called "milepost" exams and in assessing co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

We are exceptionally proud of the progress we are making in the area of diversity. Under the leadership of our outreach coordinator, Peter Tyczkowski, who chairs our school Diversity Committee, we have updated our diversity plan and continued to expand many of our outreach efforts. We have continued our liaison work and visits to our regional campuses, including offering an abbreviated pre-pharmacy First Year Experience (FYE) program. Towards enriching the cultural diversity of potential future pharmacy students, our school has increased efforts to interact with urban high schools to increase awareness of the profession of pharmacy and the educational opportunities available in our school.

Our school has also built upon a tradition of service through its growing work towards engaging our students in learning opportunities in a number of culturally diverse environments. We have a cohort of students active in the university's Urban Service Track program, augmenting their professional education by helping to meet the medical needs of patients experiencing health disparities through team work with students in other health disciplines. Our students, in the course of their introductory pharmacy practice experiences, have been active in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, migrant farm camps, and other culturally rich venues.

The 2008-2009 academic year marked the implementation of our new professional curriculum. During the academic year, the faculty developed and offered 12 new professional electives in order to assist students in meeting the new requirements. The newly approved Pharm.D./M.B.A. program became available to students beginning last fall, allowing professional students to complete both degrees in seven years. This spring, the faculty approved the new Pharm.D./M.P.H. program, which will begin in 2010.

Following two-years of planning, we successfully implemented our new admission criteria, including required interviews, for the class entering in fall 2009. We employed a three-on-three format with three candidates meeting with a current student, a faculty member, and an alumnus/preceptor.

Both our professional and graduate students continue to garner national awards. The school's graduate program, for example, boasted two USP Awards; three Parenteral Drug Association Fellowships; three American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Fellowships, a Schering-Plough Award, and a Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Fellowship.

This seventh year of our participation in the FYE program, under the stewardship of Pharmacy Librarian Sharon Giovenale, continues to be exceptionally successful. We continue to offer multiple pre-pharmacy sections involving pharmacy faculty, staff, and students. Consistent with our new strategic plan, we intend to establish an honors section.

Our faculty also continue to shine. The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees named Dr. Diane Burgess, professor of pharmaceutics, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor. This is the highest honor that the university bestows on a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and service; Dr. Burgess also received the 2009 School of Pharmacy Faculty Service Award for her leadership of the school's study abroad initiatives.

The school had its most successful year to-date in study abroad. Not only did we continue to offer our professional students advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE) in both France (University of Rennes) and Spain (University of Barcelona), but this spring, our first final year students completed APPEs in China. The students spent two months completing various specialty rotations at Third Hospital in Beijing. This summer, we sent our second cohort of professional students to Beijing for a 5-week course in traditional Chinese medicine.

The highlight of the year was the establishment of the Henry A. Palmer Endowed Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice by the university's Board of Trustees. More than 175 donors contributed to creating the professorship that honors Dr. Palmer for over 40 years of distinguished service to the university and the School of Pharmacy as a beloved teacher, scholar, and mentor. We were saddened that just weeks after celebrating this milestone, Hank passed away. His passion for the profession of pharmacy, for his students, and for the school, leaves an indelible mark on those he has touched. In memory of his decades of service, we dedicate this year's annual report to him.

Warmly,

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor

School of Pharmacy Rolls Out New Curriculum

Big changes are under way in the School of Pharmacy with the introduction of a new curriculum that seeks to improve the overall quality of education. Dean McCarthy explains, "We hope this new curriculum will better prepare students for real world experience." Students will complete a rigorous curriculum and experience an array of different learning techniques.

The large-scale change came about because of enhanced ACPE standards which require schools of pharmacy to instill in their students a sense of professionalism and real-world preparedness. Also, feedback from student and faculty assessments indicated the need to fix some "holes" in the curriculum and improve certain areas in the classroom, like the way in which students learn and apply their knowledge.

One of the largest and most exciting changes to the curriculum so far is the introduction of modular-based learning. This new adaption allows students to learn entire organ systems and how they function within the body. Expanding on pharmacy knowledge, students will learn these organ systems from a variety of perspectives including pharmacologic and therapeutic points of view, which ensures a holistic sense of learning and speaks to different areas of interest within the discipline.

The new curriculum also allows room for students to pull together the vast amount of knowledge they accumulate over the course of their P1-P3 years through an integrative program called Correlative Pharmacy Problem Solving. This teaching strategy takes material learned longitudinally over three years and pulls it together in a case-based approach to help students think like field professionals. Dean McCarthy hopes this will ensure real-world preparedness, as students are able to apply their extensive knowledge before venturing into the field.

In keeping with these changes, the move to a new curriculum will be an on-going process with constant tweaking. The curriculum a student follows depends on the year in which they entered the school—students entering the school in fall 2009 were the first to start classes based on the new curriculum. The old curriculum will be taught through spring 2010 when it will be completely phased out. Currently, the School of Pharmacy is working with both curricula, a situation that poses its own unique challenges. "This is the toughest year," says Dean McCarthy, as faculty try to handle the demands of teaching two sets of courses. There are changes to both the old and new curriculum, however, to ensure that students following the old curriculum do not get short-changed on the quality of their education.

As for the student response, "They seem to be adapting well to the program so far," says Dean McCarthy. Despite an increased workload, the new curriculum keeps students in mind and provides them with well-rounded opportunities for learning. The most marked change in the courses is the use of multiple pedagogies—among them role-playing, lectures, and case-studies. This appeal to many different ways of learning allows the instructor to best tailor his or her class to suit the demands of the subject as well as the varied learning style of the students. Students have the opportunity to learn from field professionals— one of these opportunities is the new human anatomy and physiology courses (PHAR 2002 & 2003), which are now taught by medical field professionals. Students will have the opportunity for a hands-on experience in the classroom and will learn from each other as well.

Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) have been enhanced during the P1-P3 years as students are now responsible for 100 hours per year of practical experience in a professional setting. The new curriculum incorporates active learning components for students so that the information they learn can be applied to these in-field experiences. The change to the IPPE will better prepare students for their P4 year, in which they complete nine experiential rotations as part of the rigorous Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience program.

During their P1-P3 years, pharmacy students acquire an abundance of knowledge and the goal of the new curriculum is to make sure this information is useful and applicable as students venture out into the field. Although there will most likely be changes as problems arise, the new curriculum ensures that the School of Pharmacy's high standard of education will be advanced and upheld well into the future.

The Palmer family would like to express their sincere appreciation for all of the contributions and expressions of sympathy that they received from the Pharmacy community both during his illness and at the time of his death. The outpouring of support has been and continues to be overwhelming and we are deeply appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

As many of you know, Hank's passion for the profession of Pharmacy was as strong at the end of his days as it was at the beginning of his career - a career that spanned over 50 years. When the continuing eduation program was named for him a few years ago, he was both honored and humbled by this recognition. He was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the Henry A. Palmer Endowed Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice.

Thank You,

Janice Palmer and Family

Scholarship Convocation

As the sun set on the Lewis B. Rome Commons Ballroom pharmacy students, professionals, alumni, family, and friends gathered for the School of Pharmacy Scholarship Convocation. The event, sponsored by Rite Aid Corporation, brought recipients and donors together for a night focused on giving.

The ceremony began with congratulations from Rite Aid Corporation representatives, Jermaine Smith, R.Ph. and Kathy Santora, R.Ph. They shared how proud their company was to sponsor an event that creates "a special time for students to meet their donors and talk with them." Dean Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D., provided a warm welcome for all who attended the convocation. Dean McCarthy added perspective to the importance of the night as he explained how proud he "is of our students" and glad to see that the "scholarship support has been absolutely terrific" though the economy has suffered. He thanked the sponsors and the recipients before introducing the keynote speakers for the night: Sherman Gershman '51 and Allan Viner '59. Both of the speakers are scholarship donors, alumni of the School of Pharmacy, and are adjuncts on the School of Pharmacy faculty.

Sherman Gershman began the keynote address with lighthearted jokes, following Dean McCarthy's lead. Quickly, however, his speech focused on the importance of giving back. He insisted that if students "practice with their heads and hearts, there is a lot they can do." He spoke of his focus on three main areas when giving back: "community, profession, and education."

Allan Viner outlined his progress from teen, to school of pharmacy student, to pharmacist, to where he is today. As he shared his story, audience members laughed hearing about his term as president of AZO. Viner insisted that the fraternity threw the "best parties on campus, but not the wildest." He told students what he paid to attend the University of Connecticut. It cost Viner just under six hundred dollars for tuition, room, and board. His details captured the audience's attention as he explained how every male had to take ROTC, how there were only seven or ten women in his class, and how he took 18-21 credits every semester. He ended his remarks by describing his first job working in a pharmacy in a small Connecticut town. He insisted that though he made syrup for the fountain soda machine and picked up some veterinary medical skills, "the basics were the same. I took care of patients with dignity and concern for their good health."

The keynote speakers created a warm atmosphere of support and advice for the audience. As their words sunk in, the inception of five new scholarships took place: the Kinney Drug Employee Owners Scholarship, Raymond T. McMullen Scholarship, Raymond T. & Josephine D. McMullen Scholarship, Robert & Joyce Pinco Scholarship, and William H. Silver Memorial Scholarship. Associate Dean Andrea K. Hubbard expressed her appreciation for such incredible generosity considering the economic state of the country, and shared how "blessed and fortunate" she felt.

Dr. Hubbard announced the names of the recipients of the scholarships. Each student was called to the stage to receive their award and stand with either Dean McCarthy or their scholarship donor. As each student and donor walked to and from the stage, the close camaraderie in the School of Pharmacy was apparent.

After recognizing the students and donors, the reception began. Guests quickly dispersed to get plates filled with delicious food. As people emerged from the buffet line, students and donors had the opportunity to get to know one another. Brian Bachyrycz, winner of the Ralph and Diana Stanzione Scholarship, described how wonderful it was "to meet the scholarship donors and thank them for supporting my studies in the School of Pharmacy. I got to talk with each donor individually and personally thank them for the honor. I discovered that we had a great deal in common and I really enjoyed hearing about how pharmacy had played an important part in each of their lives." His donors, Ralph Stanzione '72 and his wife Diana, explained how happy they were to be at an event that put the "people who are giving the award and those who are getting the award face to face."

Ralph Stanzione '72 [left] and his wife Diana [right] present Brian Bachyrycz with their scholarship.

Rho Chi Tutors

Academic excellence is difficult to achieve, especially in a highly competitive realm. Every year UConn's School of Pharmacy accepts only one-hundred applicants into their rigorous academic program. By the time these students are in their second year of pharmacy (P2s), they become eligible to apply for one of the most prestigious academic fraternities, Rho Chi.

Begun in 1908 by students from the Pharmacy Department of the University of Michigan, Rho Chi was originally known as the "Aristolochite Society." An honor society focused on excelling in academia, the Aristolochite Society eventually merged with another national pharmacy fraternity, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. This new fraternity was established in 1930 and led to greater expansion. The Alpha Gamma, or UConn, Chapter of Rho Chi was formed in 1932.

Students inducted into the Rho Chi fraternity are required to have a minimum GPA of 3.00 and must be in the top ten percent of their class. For students enrolled in the UConn School of Pharmacy, this means that only ten of them will be inducted annually. These ten students join the fraternity in the spring semester of their second year in pharmacy school.

Due to the members' academic merit, former president of Rho Chi,

Danielle Pierce, believed it would be beneficial to have them participate in a mentoring program for underclass pharmacy school students. When the program began, students in their third year (P3s) took first-year students (P1s) under their wings. Whether the younger students were being faced with academic and/or social problems, the older students were there to lend a helping hand.

Recently, under President Craig Freyer, the program has undergone some changes. It has become more of a tutoring program than a mentoring program. Now, P3 students take the time to help both P1 and P2 students with their challenging class work. As a tutor himself, Craig admits that, "The P3 students are more than happy to help. It is, however, the responsibility of the student to come to us if they are struggling." Students can easily do this by contacting the Rho Chi president or the advisor, Dr. Jeffrey Aeschlimann.

The program is helpful to the tutors as well as the underclassmen. As stated by President Freyer, "The Rho Chi Tutoring Program is wonderful. Tutors have the chance to hone their coaching and communications skills and underclassmen benefit from the experience and advanced knowledge of the tutors."

The members of Rho Chi make outstanding tutors. By providing others with help, they not only assist students in raising their grades, but they also offer inspiration and motivation to pharmacy students.

Dual Pharm.D./MBA Program Enrolls First Student

The School of Pharmacy extended an exciting challenge to its most ambitious students this past fall—the opportunity to pursue a dual Pharm.D./MBA degree. "We are incredibly excited about the opportunity to provide pharmacy students options within their education," Dean Robert L. McCarthy said about the new program.

Lindsy Murphy is the first student to enroll in the program. "I had originally planned to get my MBA after completing the Pharm.D. program, so when the opportunity to pursue both degrees jointly presented itself I couldn't pass it up. I am really enjoying the program so far," says Lindsy of her first semester in the School of Business. She will attend business classes for the next two semesters and will return to the School of Pharmacy for her P3 and P4 years, when she hopes to fit in business classes at night or during intersession.

The Pharm.D./MBA program offers highly motivated students the opportunity to condense the total time needed to earn both degrees. Pharmacy students apply during their P2 year and if accepted, leave the School of Pharmacy for the School of Business and attend business classes for the year. They return to the School of Pharmacy for their P3 year and take both business and pharmacy classes for their P3 and P4 years. The program is extremely challenging since it requires that a student meet all of the requirements in both degrees, which typically means a heavier course load. Students, however, will ultimately be able to graduate in seven years with three degrees, a B.S. in Pharmacy Studies, an MBA, and a Pharm.D., which will give them unique and diverse opportunities after graduating.

Before the national transition to a six-year Pharm.D. program, the School of Pharmacy offered a combined B.S. in Pharmacy/MBA degree, which provided similar opportunities for its students as the current program. After the transition, however, the School of Pharmacy was without such a degree program, offering only a combined Pharm.D./Ph.D. The new degree will give students the ability to explore many options within their field of study.

Lindsy foresees many advantages to having a dual degree. She said, "I believe that graduating with a dual degree will open a lot of doors for me in the near future. With the ever-increasing costs of healthcare, professionals with an understanding of general business principles as well as direct patient care activities are going to be crucial to the development of new policies that will allow for more affordable care." A strong knowledge of business will allow graduates to pursue jobs on the administrative end of the health care industry, such as medical management positions in hospitals, and provides students the ability to balance their developing management skills with a patient-centered approach.

The hope for the program is that the combination of professional degrees will spark a more interdisciplinary approach to pharmacy, allowing students to incorporate their business knowledge in their experiential rotations during their P4 year. Lindsy plans to work with Dr. Hubbard and others at the School of Pharmacy in the near future to find rotations that will use both her business and pharmacy backgrounds. She said after graduating she would like to "work within the pharmacy industry on some level. My interests include research and development and clinical trial management."

Ultimately, this new and exciting degree opportunity is a prelude to other combined degree programs that will be introduced in the future, which seek to unify interrelated professions. Dean McCarthy expressed his enthusiasm for two new programs currently in the works—a Pharm.D./MPH (Master of Public Health) and a Pharm.D./MSW (Master of Social Work) that will provide exceptional opportunities for students.

Lindsy Murphy is the first professional program student to undertake the dual Pharm.D./MBA degree. After receiving her BS in Pharmacy Studies in 2008, Lindsy spent the 2008-2009 academic year completing coursework in the School of Business.

In a rapidly shifting industry, these combined programs assert the necessity for an interdisciplinary patient-centered approach that incorporates multiple perspectives. A diverse array of health care knowledge will serve to advance the industry as a whole and provide patients with better care while also allowing pharmacy students to incorporate other scholastic interests into their practice. Linsdy showed her excitement at this amazing new opportunity saying, "This program has given me the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone and experience something new at UConn. In just a few months the program has helped me grow academically in tremendous ways. I highly recommend the program to those who may be considering it. It is a lot of fun and a great opportunity to develop new skills and learn about the business world."

Honor Roll of Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the alumni, corporations, foundations, friends, and parents who made gifts to the School between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Your continued commitment provides very important resources to our students and faculty.

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Suzanne Tamer [left] and Jonah Tyler [right] present Ana Martinez [center] with the Walgreens Scholarship at the School of Pharmacy Scholarship Convocation. Rite Aid sponsors this wonderful event where the donors and recipients have a chance to meet. The generosity of our donors made it possible to award over $130,000 in scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year.

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~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Dr. Amit Mitra was inadvertently omitted from our last annual report. We thank him for his gift during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Celebrating

Chineye "Chi Chi" Anyanwu, recipient of the University of Connecticut Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award, the Alfred D. Ford Diversity Award, and the US Public Health Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award, celebrates with her mother at the School of Pharmacy Awards Banquet. [far right top] Over 40 students received awards including for professionalism, service, and academics.

White Coat Ceremony

In keeping with the historic tune of Inauguration Day this past January 20, 2009, the Class of 2010 made history by receiving their white coats in anticipation of their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotations beginning in June. The 7th annual event symbolizes pharmacy students' transition from the academic to the professional world where they will encounter unique and exciting challenges. Associate Dean Andrea Hubbard, Ph.D., served as the master of ceremonies for the event and introduced students to their new role as medical professionals.

The ritual of receiving the white coat is a symbol of professionalism and signifies a commitment to balancing excellence in science and compassion in patient care. Hubbard added that the purpose of the ceremony was to "identify the characteristics of a true Pharm.D." and to help students transition smoothly into the professional world. Dean Robert L. McCarthy welcomed students to their new roles and elaborated upon what professionalism means to the School of Pharmacy. In this, McCarthy highlighted three key attributes of a successful pharmacy professional—hard working, honest, and universally caring—all of which are emphasized during first year pharmacy education and are carried through until graduation and finally into the profession.

Lucrezia Finegan, a representative from Rite Aid Corporation, then took the stage to commend students for their hard work leading up to this momentous occasion. Rite Aid sponsored the event and provided students with their symbolic white coats, name badges, and laboratory accessories needed by the students in the pharmacy practice laboratory.

Dr. Hubbard then introduced keynote speaker Thomas E. Buckley, MPH, whose speech entitled "Making History and a Witness to History" served to inspire and motivate P3 students. He carried on the theme of the historic change and opportunity of Inauguration Day, seizing the moment to look back upon several life-defining moments that ultimately influenced the passion behind his work in pharmacy.

Buckley told students to recognize the white coat as a call to inspiration and to better the lives of those around us.

Though this sense of inspiration may manifest itself differently in each student, he suggested that passion and devotion is what should define the role of a pharmacist. In the words of Ghandi, he offered advice to students: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Donning the white coat, then, can be a call to correcting social injustice and extending care to those who desperately need it.

With the values and duties of a pharmacy professional fresh in their minds, the P3 students received their white coats. Dr. Robin Bogner, Dr. Bodhi Chaudhuri, Dr. Jill Fitzgerald, and Dr. Philip Hritcko handed out white coats to students as each name was called and took time to allow family members and friends to share in the moment of symbolic professionalism.

With almost 400 people in attendance, the room was pulsing with excitement and anticipation, culminating in the Oath of a Pharmacist led by Dean McCarthy. The P3 students stood to repeat the Oath of a Pharmacist, which stresses professionalism, compassion, integrity, and responsibility.

Commencement 2009

Commencement Speakers & Honorees

Brian J. Aneskievich, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Keynote Speaker
School of Pharmacy Awards Banquet
School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year 2009

Diane J. Burgess, Ph.D.
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Connecticut Board of Trustees
Distinguished Professor and School of Pharmacy
Faculty Service Award 2009

Jennifer A. Osowiecki, R.Ph., J.D.
Partner, Cox & Osowiecki, LLC
Keynote Speaker
Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies
Commencement Ceremony

Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of the School of Pharmacy
Virginia Commonwealth University
Keynote Speaker
Doctor of Pharmacy Commencement Ceremony

Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies Class of 2009

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Katherine Victoria Arlington
Laura Katherine Ash
Olusegun Joshua Awodele
Victoria Leigh Baczek
Jacob Michael Badura
Thomas Michael Baran
Kristine Anne Barbino
Tiffany Diane Battles
Dawn Elizabeth Belden
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Clifford Allen Wright, Jr.
Melissa Carolyn Yanurian
Linda Wen Zhang
Huawen Zheng
Elizabeth Sigi Zhu

Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2009

Lisa Acampora - No. Haven Pharm.
Susan Antar - CVS
Chinenye Anyanwu - MPH Prog.
Amelia Arnold - residency
Amber Au
Kevin Awugah - CVS/Hospice
Jagjit Bains - retail
Michael Baker - VA residency
Kristen Bielik - Hannaford
Christina Biondo - CAP Pharmacy
Scott Bonczek - US Public Health
Andrew Bzowyckyj - residency
Matthew Cantin
John Choi
Kyle Danis
Lindsey Desjardins - Rite Aid
Taylor Devens
Shannon Dugan - residency
Ryan Earls
Clayton English - residency
Teegan French - CVS
Michelle Gala
Shraddha Govani - residency
Dee Guo - Walgreens
Amy Harrington - Hannaford
Kate Haworth - Walgreens
Janna Hellandbrand - retail
Kevin Herkenham
Stephen Hintz - CVS
Meagan Hoffmann
Sarah Hooker - US Air Force
Jessica Hoover
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Brittany Kimball - VA
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Agnieszka Kolodziejczak - Windham Hosp.
Julian Koruni - Walgreens
Payal Kotadiya - residency
Dana Kruse - Walgreens
Paul Lagasse III
Jeffrey Lalama - residency
Nancy Lam - community
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Theodore Landroche II - Hannaford
Michael Lanosa - CVS
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Christopher Lee - hospital
Sinsook Ellen Lee
Michael Lettmoden
Jeffrey Li - CVS
Rui Liang
Jill Logan - residency
Chengyeng Lor - CVS
Stephen Mackowiak - Norwalk Hosp.
Kristen Magnuson
Sagar Makanji
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Jennifer Young - Walgreens
Michael Zemaitis
Andy Zhang

Master of Science & Doctor of Philosophy Class of 2009

Priyanka Sura
Master of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Thesis: Distribution and Expression of Soluble Epoxide Hydrolase in Human Brain
Major Advisor: Dr. David F. Grant

Liping Wu
Master of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Medicinal & Natural Products Chemistry
Thesis: Molecular Mechanisms of Integrin Outside-in-Signaling: Tyrosine-Phosphorylation and Cytoplasmic Face
Major Advisor: Dr. Olga Y. Vinogradova

Upkar Bhardwaj
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics
Doctoral Dissertation: Development of In Vitro Release Testing Methods for Modified Release Parenterals and Correlation with In Vivo Performance
Major Advisor: Dr. Diane J. Burgess

David Butler
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Doctoral Dissertation: Selective enhancement of lysosomol responses clears Alzheimer's disease protein deposits and concomitantly reduces synaptic and behavioral deficits
Major Advisor: Dr. Ben A. Bahr

Sarah Campion
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Doctoral Dissertation: Kupffer Cell-Mediated Regulation of Hepatobiliary Transporters during Drug-Induced Liver Injury
Major Advisor: Dr. José E. Manautou

Sandra L. Goss
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics
Doctoral Dissertation: The Role of Gastric pH and Bicarbonate Secretion in Intestinal Absorption of Calcium from Supplements
Major Advisor: Dr. Robin A. Bogner

Vineet Kumar
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics
Doctoral Dissertation: In Situ Precipitation and Vacuum Drying in the Presence of Interferon Alpha-2A: Development of a Single-Step Process for obtaining Dry Protein Formulations
Major Advisor: Dr. Devendra S. Kalonia

Hong Liu
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Medicinal & Natural Products Chemistry
Doctoral Dissertation: Adenoviral Protein-E3-19K and Immune System Evasion-The Relationship Between E3-19K and MHC Class I
Major Advisor: Dr. Amy C. Anderson

Jieying Liu
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Medicinal & Natural Products Chemistry
Doctoral Dissertation: Structured-based Drug Design for Dihydrofolate Reductase
Major Advisor: Dr. Amy C. Anderson

Beibei Luo
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Doctoral Dissertation: Mechanism of Peroxisomal Targeting of Human Soluble Epoxide Hydrolase (hsEH) and its Effect on hsEH Stability and Activity
Major Advisor: Dr. David Knecht

Xiaoyu Tian
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Medicinal & Natural Products Chemistry
Doctoral Dissertation: Solid State NMR Studies of Interactions of Cannabinergic Ligands with Membrane Systems
Major Advisor: Dr. Alexandros Makriyannis

Bingquan Wang
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics
Doctoral Dissertation: Impact of Stabilizer and Thermal History on the Storage Stability of Freeze-Dried Pharmaceuticals
Major Advisor: Dr. Michael J. Pikal

Student News

PSG

Pharmacy Student Government
Michael Li
President

Students welcomed the 2008-2009 academic year with the traditional "Get to Know Your Pharmacy Organizations" ice cream social with 12 unique organizations and over 200 students in attendance. In October, Pharmacy Student Government hosted the annual Halloween celebration with a costume competition, piñatas, and contests throughout the day. PSG also helped with the Pharmacy Library 70th Anniversary celebration with handmade bookmarks and cutouts of Sharon, the pharmacy librarian.

Just prior to Thanksgiving break, pharmacy students stormed the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hartford for the annual student-faculty formal. Students and faculty danced the night away with intermissions for limbo contests, musical chairs, and scavenger hunts. PSG helped end the semester with the traditional Holiday Party providing pizza, soda, and good conversation to help de-stress before finals.

Pharmacy Student Government kicked off the spring semester with pharmacy school pride by painting the UConn Spirit Rock with mortar and pestles. In March, PSG held the third annual campus-wide 4K Pharmacy Fun Run to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Keeping with tradition, PSG held an Open Forum in April as a venue for both students and faculty to come together to openly discuss issues and concerns. Through this event, mutual sharing brought about a better understanding of issues such as examinations, instructor feedback, attendance, and a multitude of other concerns.

Finally, PSG ended the 2008-2009 academic year with the distribution of the pharmacy yearbook "The Capsule." The full-color yearbook represented students in every year, faculty, organizations, events, and memories with a loving dedication to Dr. Henry Palmer.

AAPS

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists
Sajal Patel
President

This year the University of Connecticut AAPS student chapter hosted several events for the students and faculty. In August, new graduate students were welcomed to the program with a catered lunch followed by an introduction by Dean Robert McCarthy. This event gave students an opportunity to interact with students and faculty from all the pharmaceutical science disciplines within the School of Pharmacy. Potlucks were held in September and November, giving the graduate students and faculty another opportunity to socialize.

In October, Dr. Joseph Krzyzaniak from Pfizer was invited as the speaker for the AAPS Student Chapter Seminar Series. The graduate students were able to interact with Dr. Krzyzaniak during lunch and learn about the research and development (particularly polymorphism and assessing phase relationship) as well as employment opportunities at Pfizer. Dr. Krzyzaniak also learned about the research going on in different laboratories in the School of Pharmacy. Occasionally, discussions such as this one result in collaborative projects between the companies and the school. In December, the student chapter participated in two webinars sponsored by AAPS: "Accelerated Stability Assessment Program (ASAP): Using Science to Set Expiry Dating for Solid Drug Product," by Ken Waterman from Pfizer, Inc. and "Protein Aggregation: Causes, Control and Consequences," by Dr. John Carpenter from University of Colorado. The fall semester concluded with a holiday party, allowing students and faculty to socialize and celebrate the holiday season.

In the spring semester, Dr. Serguei Tchessalov from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals visited and shared his experience with Lyophilization process scale up, transfer and cycle robustness. In May, the student chapter participated in an AAPS webinar on "Characteristics of solids by Thermal Methods," by Dr. Yuchuan Gong from Abbott. The webinars are a great way to learn about the research work done by other people without traveling. Finally, we organized two social events for the graduate students and faculty: a bowling night and a picnic at Hopkinton State Park in Massachusetts. Everyone had a great time relaxing with colleagues and faculty outside the professional setting.

The year ended with the AAPS Student Chapter elections.

	2008 – 2009	2009 – 2010
Chair	Sajal Patel	Sandeep Yadav
Vice Chair	Xioming Xu	Kelly Forney
Secretary	Kelly Forney	Ekneet Sahni
Treasurer	Archana Rawat	Yan Wang

APhA-ASP

American Pharmacists Association - Academy of Student Pharmacists
Reem Telmesani
President

APhA-ASP started the year off with two trips. Students from our chapter represented UConn on Good Morning America to advocate American Pharmacists Month. In October, 17 of our students attended the APhA Midyear Regional Meeting in Boston. The meeting provided the opportunity to participate in various useful workshops, make valuable connections with people in the pharmacy world, and engage in the exciting policy process, enabling our students to voice their opinions about important issues affecting the profession. Sabina Alikhanov, a dedicated member of our organization, stepped into a leadership position as the Midyear Regional Meeting Coordinator for 2009 to plan what is sure to be an excellent MRM that will make our school proud.

Christy Mathew headed our first patient care project, which was Operation Immunization. This project was made up of a series of events including the University's flu clinic in the Student Union. Student pharmacists helped people fill out their informed consent form and reinforced the importance of getting flu shots. They also monitored the patrons to watch for any adverse reactions. Students also participated in the City of Hartford's Multicultural Health Fair, an event that provides a variety of tests, information, and flu shots to a vast diversity of people in the city. Students passed out information cards and helped the patients fill out the cards as well as handing out the CDC's information sheet about the flu vaccine in many different languages.

Our second patient care project, Heartburn Awareness, was led by Janessa Nason. This event was held at a UConn football game. APhA students set up a table at "FanFest" to raise awareness about heartburn and how it can be prevented and managed. The event included posters about heartburn, Prilosec OTC samples, candy, and information pamphlets outlining different heartburn-friendly recipes as well as foods to avoid. We also promoted American Pharmacists Month and encouraged people to talk to their pharmacists about their medications.

Anisa Naka led IPSF's main project, which was AIDS week. Students participated by wearing red on World AIDS Day and manning informational tables at South and Towers dining halls during their busiest hours so that the maximum number of students could be reached.

APhA-ASP conducted its annual Red Dress Campaign, headed by Colleen Teevan, to educate the public about heart health. A blood pressure clinic was held at the men's basketball game vs. Syracuse. During the clinic, students took blood pressure readings and provided educational information.

Our last patient care project was Operation Diabetes. Students worked at a Windham Hospital health fair. Glucose monitors were raffled and information pamphlets were distributed.

APhA-ASP held a very successful auction this year. This money, along with generous donations from School of Pharmacy Alumni, allowed 20 of our members to travel to the annual convention. The meeting was an invaluable experience, made possible in part by the outstanding efforts of our treasurer, Carlie Hershgordon.

ASCP

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
Colleen Teevan
President

UConn's ASCP chapter was busy during the 2008-2009 year. We started the year by hosting a Lunch & Learn to increase our membership and educate other students about the field of consulting pharmacy. JoAnna Ceneri, a UConn graduate who is employed by Omnicare, spoke about consulting and her experiences as an ASCP member. Many students expressed interest in consulting after the presentation.

In November, five students were able to attend the ASCP Annual meeting in New Orleans. We had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with students and professors from other schools of pharmacy. We came back with many new ideas. In addition to attending educational sessions and meeting pharmacists from across the country, we made sure to tour the city and have some fun.

In April, we brought back our "What Not to Wear" program. Representatives from Nordstrom showed examples and talked about how to dress for rotations, interviews, and jobs. All who attended learned how to dress professionally on a budget.

Students continued to work closely with the CT ASCP chapter this year by attending Board of Directors meetings and Senior Symposium. At Senior Symposium, students announced speakers and helped with registration and various other tasks. The student chapter also had the opportunity to raise funds by printing and selling the handouts for the educational sessions. The many students in attendance were able to learn more about caring for the geriatric population, how to live to be 100, and much more.

ASCP accomplished a lot during the past year, and we hope to continue working with the geriatric population and expanding our membership during the upcoming year.

More Student News

AZO

Alpha Zeta Omega
Nu Chapter
Lisa Blanchette
President

The 2008-2009 semesters have marked another busy year for the Alpha Zeta Omega Nu Chapter. We were proud to welcome six new and energetic members to our fraternity this year. Maintaining the AZO tradition of scholarship, friendship, and brotherly love, the year was filled with both community and fraternity building events.

Throughout the fall and spring, we held regular fundraisers for the American Cancer Society by accepting donations for baked goods. In affiliation with ACS, AZO participated as volunteers and runners in the Susan J. Komen Pharmacy Fun Run as well as created a team to participate in UConn's annual Relay for Life event. The brothers of AZO were also active in becoming "blanketeers" to make homemade blankets for the Project Linus Foundation which donates homemade blankets from volunteers across the US to children in need.

Embracing the cornerstone of brotherly love, we have found time to bond as brothers by participating in campus events such as the annual spring weekend Oozeball tournament and campus clean events. Throughout the semester, we were able to get together for brother events such as bowling, home cooked dinners, movie and game nights as well.

As we wrapped up another year, the AZO Nu chapter began planning events for the coming year and looks forward to the continued success of the chapter.

CSHP

Connecticut Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists
Jason Corbo
President

CSHP had a very successful and productive 2008-2009 academic year. We had a great membership drive and welcomed many new student members from all four classes as we entered our first year as an ASHP-recognized Student Society. As the organization continues to grow, we are better equipped to become a more active group and provide our members more opportunities to develop professionally.

In the fall semester, we continued our relationship with Student Health Services and participated in Breast & Testicular Cancer Awareness Week, providing students information and handouts in various dining halls across campus. The fall also saw the expansion of our site visit program, which allows members to tour some of our clinical faculty members' off-campus practice sites. This is a great opportunity for members to gain some exposure to practice fields with which they may not be familiar, prior to experiential clinical rotations.

At the conclusion of the fall semester, CSHP once again sponsored a Toy Drive to benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The toy drive was a great success! The end of the fall semester also marked the first time CSHP provided stipends for active members attending the ASHP Midyear Meeting.

The spring semester saw the continuation of our successful Poison Prevention program in local elementary schools. This year, we have been invited to present in two area elementary schools in the towns of Tolland and Mansfield. Using information and materials from the Connecticut Poison Control Center, small groups of CSHP student members have presented to individual classes of local children. The program is greatly enjoyed by both our members and the students!

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. has recently seen its membership and involvement continue to strengthen and grow. Nu Chapter has about forty active brothers taking part in numerous chapter events ranging from philanthropic to social. In doing so, Nu Chapter hopes to be one of the top chapters in the fraternity for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years. Over the past year, brothers continued to volunteer a few Saturdays to talk with and assist members of the Mansfield Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center in weekly bingo contests.

"Care so deeply about
to spread it around. T
would have spent on a
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Kappa Psi

Nu Chapter
William Anctil
President

We are expanding our alumni connections and are planning to meet with Kappa Psi alums with the goal of establishing a stronger Graduate Chapter in our region. (Anyone interested can e-mail nu@kappapsi.org.) Kappa Psi has also expanded its social events for the chapter by continuing to play on chapter intramural teams (football, basketball, soccer) and hosting our second annual Spring Pig Roast. Several brothers are planning on traveling down to Clearwater Beach, Florida this August for Kappa Psi's 54th Grand Council Convention to take part in fraternal activities on the national level.

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e College of Pharmacy."

~ Victor Yanchick ~
from his address to the
onnecticut Pharm.D. Class of 2009

LKS

Lambda Kappa Sigma
Alpha Beta Chapter
Danyel Adams
President

During the 2008-2009, year the ladies of Alpha Beta Chapter of Lambda Kappa Sigma were busy as always. First and foremost, we were honored to be selected as the host chapter of the 2009 Regional Meeting which was held in Hartford, CT, and were all very excited. As this was a lot of work to organize, it was our major project during this time. The committee that was formed to help with the organization did a fabulous job.

In addition to preparing for the convention we continued with our usual activities and events. We continued to sell our pink ribbons to the School of Pharmacy in October, collect pink Yoplait lids, and participate in the Pharmacy Fun Run, all to benefit the Susan G. Komen fund to help cure breast cancer. We volunteered during recreation time at Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. A good game of BINGO always spices up an afternoon. Our members also continued to educate the UConn community about autism, safe sex, and various other topics through our involvement in Health Fairs, poster displays, and educational events. All proceeds from the Penny War Competition held at the School of Pharmacy and our Spaghetti Dinner fundraisers went to our philanthropy, Project HOPE, an organization that strives to bring healthcare to people around the world.

In addition to community service, we supported professionalism within the School of Pharmacy by holding events such as our popular, "How to Get Into Pharmacy School" seminar, as well as professional workshops for CV writing and interviewing.

We have continued to grow as a chapter. We initiated large orientation classes that consist of very motivated and enthusiastic young women who have been a great addition and will keep LKS thriving for years to come. We have continued to bond as a chapter and are nothing short of sisters. Being part of LKS has meant so much to me over the years, including a family away from home. My time as president for LKS is definitely one I will never forget. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to lead such a great group of young women.

Phi Lambda Sigma

Alpha Gamma Chapter
Colleen Teevan
President

PLS members worked hard this year to continue promoting leadership within the School of Pharmacy. Throughout the spring semester, PLS worked closely with the Office of Leadership Development and the School of Pharmacy to continue and improve the Future Pharmacy Leaders Program, now in its 2nd year.

Seven P1 students participated in the program. Each student attended workshops to develop their leadership skills and met with a PLS mentor throughout the semester. The PIs enjoyed their experience and are excited to get more involved and become leaders within the School of Pharmacy!

In March, PLS held its annual induction ceremony, sponsored by Walgreens. Eight new students members and 5 faculty members were inducted into PLS. Dr. C. Michael White and P4 Student, Andrew Bzowyckyj, spoke at the ceremony and encouraged all in attendance to utilize their leadership skills in all aspects of life.

"We are very lucky because we now have the knowledge and skills to have a significant impact in people's lives."

~ Sagar Makanji, Valedictorian ~
from his address to the
University of Connecticut Pharm.D. Class of 2009

More Student News

Phi Delta Chi

Alpha Lambda Chapter
Charlotte Scherr
President

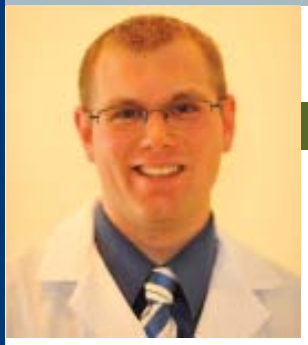
This year the brothers of Phi Delta Chi were eager to get moving. In the fall, we welcomed 7 new brothers after a semester of activities and events. To conclude 2008, we sent a box to the troops that arrived on Christmas Eve! Spring semester we got the ball rolling with Rotations Night, an event where a few P4 students came to share their personal and professional experiences while on rotations.

We then had great success with our letter writing event to raise money and support our philanthropic cause, Saint Jude Children's Hospital. Phi Delta Chi has pledged a 4 year, $200,000 commitment to help support the Phi Delta Chi pharmacy located in their hospital.

We also participated in Relay for Life in April with an 11-member team, and have raised money for both Relay and St. Jude with a UConn Pharmacy shirt/ sweatshirt fundraiser. This August, four of our members attended the Grand Council Meeting in Arizona, and look forward to using their new ideas for making next year even better!

Officers

Worthy Chief Counselor – Charlotte Scherr
Worthy Vice Counselor – Phuong Nguyen
Worthy Correspondent – Sabina Alikhanov
Worthy Alumni Liason – Jacyln Sanborn
Worthy Master at Arms – Ashley Underwood
Worthy Inner Guard – Daniel Kilcoyne
Worthy Keeper of Finance – Stephen Bendel
Worthy Keeper of Records and Seals – James Malaney
Worthy Prelate – Nicole Millar



Rho Chi

Alpha Gamma Chapter
Craig Freyer
President

The 2008-2009 scholastic year was a particularly productive year for UConn's Alpha Gamma Rho Chi Chapter. In October 2008, members of the society prepared a presentation entitled "HPV and You, The Gardasil Vaccine" for the University Health Fair. Members made poster boards and handouts answering a broad spectrum of questions on the topic with the aim to increase disease awareness, prevention, and vaccination options that our school offers to all students.

Continuing from last year's trend, participation in the Rho Chi tutoring program greatly increased with at least one tutor donating anywhere from 2 to 10 hours each week to helping fellow students. The Rho Chi president delivered a message to professors and students as well as posted flyers in the lobby, informing them to contact Rho Chi officers if any student felt they needed further assistance in any class. The president then found a member of the society who would be willing to meet privately with students to tutor the topic. The program continues to be a great success!

Twenty new members were also inducted into the Rho Chi society in the spring of 2009 in a delightful ceremony sponsored by Target Pharmacy. These students consisted of 10 students from the 2nd professional year, 5 students from the 3rd professional year, and 5 students from the 4th professional year. A formal induction ceremony and banquet followed, all of which were a great success. Extra funds from the Target grant were donated to the School of Pharmacy Scholarship committee to make the "Target Pharmacy/ Rho Chi Scholarship" to be awarded to a 3rd professional year Rho Chi member this year. In addition to these events, two of our members attended the regional and national Rho Chi meetings which were held in Albany, NY and San Diego, CA respectively. This year we are all looking forward to a year of similar successes and have plans for even more events.

Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) had a very successful year. Members participated in blood pressure screenings every month at the local Willimantic Walgreens site, providing customers with a chance to have their blood pressure screened and receive on the spot counseling. This doubled as a learning opportunity for pre-pharmacy students who had never provided such a service.

Another goal that our chapter strives to achieve is to promote diversity within the field of pharmacy. One of the ways SNPhA does this is through the Gear-Up program.

Gear-Up is a collaborative program between pharmacy students and inner city high school students from the New Haven school systems. Through this program, SNPhA members and faculty advisors take the opportunity to encourage the students to not only continue on with their studies but also to open their eyes to the opportunities associated with math and sciences.

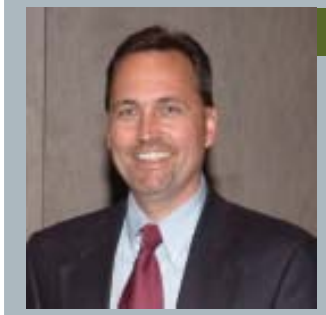
SNPhA

Student National Pharmaceutical Association
Rachelle Thermora
President

The week of March 30th through April 3rd, SNPhA also held their annual Unity Week with the theme of "A Pharmacist's Legacy- What's Yours?". Dean of Texas Southern University, Barbara E. Hayes, and our very own faculty member and alumnus, Thomas Buckley, MPH, spoke about their own personal legacies and inspired our future pharmacists to leave one of their own.

Members also organized a display board researching the background of pharmacy. It included the past deans of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy as well as the first minorities to graduate from Pharmacy School. These were organized so that students could test their knowledge and learn more about the legacy of pharmacists and our own pharmacy school. SNPhA closed the year with its annual banquet in April and is looking forward to another successful year.

Focus on Faculty



Psychiatric Pharmacy

Dr. Charles Caley
Associate Clinical Professor

Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Charles Caley, works passionately to spread awareness about mental illnesses. Dr. Caley's interest in psychiatric pharmacy has expanded from the classroom and found its way into many different places at the university.

Most often found at the Institute for Living, a psychiatric hospital in Hartford, Connecticut, Dr. Caley acts as a preceptor for as many as 18 fourth-year pharmacy students each year. As a clinical psychopharmacology consultant, Dr. Caley was hired by the School of Pharmacy to establish a psychiatric pharmacy practice at the Institute for Living. Dr. Caley works in outpatient hospital services, specifically with the schizophrenia rehabilitation program, the eating disorders program, and the Grace S. Webb School where he works with "high school students with emerging serious and persistent mental illnesses." Not only does Dr. Caley's work at the Institute for Living allow him to "engage in scholarship regarding schizophrenia and antipsychotic medications," but he is also able to provide his students with "in-depth exposure to this specific area of medication and to common and important issues." Dr. Caley hopes that when his students graduate, "they will recall their experience and not be afraid to work with people with mental illness."

Through his work with pharmacy students on campus, Dr. Caley has realized that his students could be affected by mental illness. "I became acutely sensitive to the fact that out of a class size of 100 students, perhaps, 5% of my students have depression or an anxiety disorder. This thought process led me to want to make a connection with Student Health Services."

Dr. Caley realized that "other than being physically located next to each other," the School of Pharmacy and Student Health Services had "no formal relationships." Dr. Caley saw this as a problem and took it upon himself to make a change. "Because of my work as a consultant for eating disorders, a nurse practitioner who went from the Institute of Living to UConn's Counseling and Mental Health Services became a contact. After giving her a few months to get settled, I contacted her to set up a meeting to discuss any questions regarding drug therapy that others had in Student Health Services and Counseling and Mental Health Services. The program, being a success, created a pilot program in the spring of 2007. We reported and presented our work to the School of Pharmacy and Student Health Services and the program has continued from there."

With the success of a formal relationship between the School of Pharmacy and Student Health Services, Dr. Caley provides individualized consultation to UConn students. He meets with students for an hour, interviews them, reviews their medical records, makes treatment recommendations, and then sends all information to the patient's doctor. Working at Counseling and Mental Health Services allows Dr. Caley the "opportunity to meet one on one with UConn students from across campus." This experience is extremely rewarding for Dr. Caley who feels, "Who more deserving of such services than students?".

Dr. Caley's collaboration with Student Health Services has given him the ability to continue spreading awareness about mental health illnesses to the UConn community. He has worked with students under the direction of John Sears, assistant director for Community Development and Residence Education, informing them about psychiatric medications. He has also given presentations to resident assistants on campus about psychiatric medications.

Dr. Caley's work at the University of Connecticut provides a "very important lesson [for his students] to learn. As a preceptor, I not only model behavior as a clinical psychopharmacology consultant, but I model behavior as a professional. My collaboration teaches students the importance of working with others to increase awareness about your topic of interest."

Outside of the university, Dr. Caley is actively involved with the College of Psychiatric and Neurological Pharmacists, an organization dedicated to serving and advocating for the psychiatric pharmacy specialty. Through his work as a board member at large, and elected president from July 2005 - June 2006, Dr. Caley has worked to establish and maintain a relationship with the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill.

When Dr. Caley is not connecting programs and collaborating, his research focuses on mental illness and medical outcomes. Specifically, he is researching the occurrence of metabolic syndrome in patients with mental illness.

Department of Pharmacy Practice - Faculty Publications for Academic Year 20

CHARLES F. CALEY

Goethe JW, Szarek BL, Caley CF. Metabolic syndrome in psychiatric inpatients treated for depression in Thakore J, Leonard BE (eds): Metabolic Effects of Psychotropic Drugs. *Mod Trends Pharmacopsychiatry.* Basel, Karger, 2009, vol 26, pp 90–104.

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KEVIN W. CHAMBERLIN

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CRAIG I. COLEMAN

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Sood N, Baker WL, Coleman CI. The Effect of Glucomannan on Plasma Lipid and Glucose Concentrations, Body Weight and Blood Pressure: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis American Journal of Clinical Nutrition 2008;88(4):1167-75

Reinhart KM, Coleman CI, Teevan C, Vachhani P, White CM. Effects of garlic on blood pressure in patients with and without systolic hypertension: a meta-analysis. Ann Pharmacother. 2008 Dec;42(12):1766-71

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Focus on Faculty

Structural Biology

Dr. Olga Vinogradova
Assistant Professor

Olga Vinogradova always had a deeply rooted passion for understanding how things work on a molecular level. She explained, "I am mostly interested in studying life." Structural biology seemed like the natural path to follow. After all, it is her desire to understand living organisms and the way in which their cells interact that motivates her continued research. With the expansion of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) technology in the mid 1990s, Vinogradova was able to look more closely at the molecular details of cellular machinery than she had ever imagined, giving her the ability to see many 3D conformations of proteins that had never before been understood or even seen in detail.

Having just graduated from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology with a Masters in Applied Physics and Mathematics, Vinogradova came to the United States looking for a Ph.D. program that would incorporate her desire to study life. Weighing different options, she ended up at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio, where she earned her Ph.D. in Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering. Vinogradova then received an NIH fellowship and completed her post-doctoral training at the Cleveland Clinic. It was with this fellowship that she began to specialize in structural biology, especially given the opportunities NMR technology afforded for the development of her research. She maintains that she has always had a more quantitative approach to research, something that dovetails nicely with NMR technology and her strong background in mathematics and science. She also wanted to work in a field that would allow her to collect her own data and obtain a visual understanding of processes that occur on the cellular level.

It was her interest in NMR technology, a major technique at the time, that brought Vinogradova to the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut. She was offered the position of assistant professor of medicinal chemistry in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, an opportunity she could not refuse; at that time UConn had just obtained brand new, state-of-the-art NMR machines. So this "was a very attractive package," says Vinogradova.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) is a technique used by interdisciplinary structural biology researchers. According to Lucinda Weiss, the instrument works by "magnetizing the nuclei of atoms that have spin, a physical property that makes them behave like tiny bar magnets. Scientists can deduce their properties based on interactions in the strong magnetic field provided by the NMR instrument." (UConn Advance Nov. 15, 2004) This technique, thus, allows Vinogradova to look at 3D folds of macromolecules that have never been studied in detail and to glean information about how they interact.

UConn is also known for its excellent structural biology program, which is composed of several interdepartmental disciplines including pharmaceutical sciences. NMR techniques are fundamental to this field of study, so coming to UConn was an obvious choice for Vinogradova who finds the technique crucial to her research.

Continued on Page 22

Olga Vinogradova - Structural Biology

~ Continued from Page 21 ~

Since she has joined the School of Pharmacy, UConn has added one more higher field 800MHz spectrometer with a cryoprobe and has plans for future developments, which is good news for Vinogradova's research. "Over the next five years," she says, "I want to see my lab growing."

One of the highlights of Vinogradova's career so far has been receiving a four-year Scientist Development Grant from the American Heart Association (AHA), which significantly helps in funding her research. According to the AHA website, the grants fund research broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke and are designed to support highly promising researchers by encouraging and adequately funding research projects. Vinogradova received this grant at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and brought it with her to UConn. Recently, she has received another three year grant, the Grant-in-Help, from the same foundation. She says these grants "allowed us to define certain details of protein complexes and answer specific biological questions based upon newly acquired knowledge." Because of the high expenses that go into maintaining the NMR magnets and purchasing isotopically labeled materials, Vinogradova articulates that her research would not be possible without such generous and supportive grants.

The AHA grant has funded the bulk of Vinogradova's current research endeavors, including her studies into and publication of "Structural Insight into the Interaction between Platelet Integrin á$_{IIb}$â$_3$ and Cytoskeletal Protein Skelemin" (2007). The paper explored the interaction between skelemin, a large cytoskeletal protein critical for cell morphology, and integrins, cell surface receptors that mediate various intracellular signals. Using NMR, she and her team of researchers "have undertaken detailed structural characterization of the skelemin/integrin interaction" and have come to a new understanding of the early stages of cell spreading as a result of the interaction.

The AHA funding has enabled her to continue publishing her research and further push the uses of NMR technology. In a paper published in 2008 entitled, "Characterization of the Neuron-Specific L1-CAM Cytoplasmic Tail: Naturally Disordered in Solution It Exercises Different Binding Modes for Different Adaptor Proteins," Vinogradova explored "the biophysical characterization and the binding properties of the least structurally defined part of the [L1] receptor—its cytoplasmic tail (CT)." Again, using NMR technology and other biophysical methods she and her team of researchers were able to define "the molecular details of L1-CT binding to two major targets: a membrane-cytoskeletal linker ezrin and an endocytosis mediator AP2." They also found a third binding target for L1—another MCL called ankyrin. Through this discovery, Vinogradova concluded that L1-CT belongs "to the class of intrinsically disordered proteins" as it is largely monomeric and unstructured in aqueous solution. She also suggested that the "ability of cytoplasmic tails (CT) to accommodate different targets has the potential to fine-tune scientific transduction via surface cell receptors."

With developing NMR technology, Vinogradova hopes to break new ground in her field. She is currently looking at protein-protein interactions and the optimization of small molecules binding. Vinogradova said she is constantly applying for grants in order to get the support she needs to continue her work.

When she first came to UConn, Vinogradova's biggest challenge was learning new roles. Now that she had taken a faculty position, she was required to teach classes, which was an initial challenge with her heavy Russian accent. Not only was she now an educator and a mentor, but she was also the manager of her new high-tech laboratory, directing her graduate students and postdocs. A lot of hard work goes into "making a working enterprise," she said.

To this day, however, one of the proudest moments of her career has been the publication of her research on integrins in the prestigious **Cell Magazine** in 2002. In the future, she hopes to secure enough funding from NIH grants to continue moving forward with her current research. As graduate students are the major working force in the lab and bring fresh ideas to the table, she also would like to see an increasingly competitive pool of Ph.D. candidates applying to the School of Pharmacy. "My studies are more basic than you usually expect for medicinal chemistry, this is why I hope to see more students with strong quantitative skills and wide biological interest applying to our Ph.D. program," said Vinogradova. With the help of NMR technology, she has been able to explore the 3D folds of fundamental cell proteins. As this technology rapidly improves over time, it will allow researchers like Vinogradova to push the boundaries on what we thought was possible to investigate, ultimately leading to new discoveries in science.

Thomas E. Buckley received his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1982, and his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Prior to joining the School of Pharmacy as an assistant clinical professor, he was a clinical education consultant for Pfizer. Pharmacist Buckley was a clinical pharmacist at New Britain General Hospital in New Britain, Connecticut and at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington. In both positions, he served on various hospital committees including pharmacy and therapeutics, patient education, and cardiac rehabilitation, and authored numerous disease management protocols and patient education materials.

As a clinical education consultant, he worked with health care professionals in a variety of practice settings to assist with patient outcomes research,

Pharmacy Practice

Thomas E. Buckley, MPH
Assistant Clinical Professor

professional and patient education needs and other clinical projects. He has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles on a diverse number of disease states and practice issues.

Pharmacist Buckley has been very active with professional pharmacy organizations, serving as chair of the Connecticut Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists' legislative committee for over a decade, championing collaborative practice legislation and numerous other pharmacy legislative initiatives.

He served as a Global Health Fellow with Pfizer and the International Rescue Committee at the Mae Tao Clinic in Thailand, improving pharmacy and medical services for the Burmese migrant community along the Thai / Burma border.

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. M. Kyle Hadden
Assistant Professor

Kyle Hadden, Ph.D., has recently joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences as an assistant professor of medicinal chemistry. After receiving his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Wofford College, Dr. Hadden completed his Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Pursuing a keen interest in his chosen field, Dr. Hadden completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Kansas. At the University of Kansas, Dr. Hadden researched HSP90, working to discover the uses HSP90 has within cancerous cells.

Now at the University of Connecticut, his lab will focus on researching the Hedgehog Pathway, an emerging pathway in present research. The Hedgehog pathway may be disrupted during tumor development and Dr. Hadden's lab will focus on the Hedgehog pathway's relationship to cancer and neurologically degenerative diseases. Along with his excitement about staying connected and working with students, Dr. Hadden is "excited to make a contribution to [the field of] medicinal chemistry" with the "start [of his] own research."

Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Michael D. Nailor
Assistant Clinical Professor

Michael D. Nailor, Pharm.D. joined the School of Pharmacy from Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he served as an infectious diseases clinical specialist. He completed residency training at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan and UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California.

Dr. Nailor received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of California in San Francisco and a bachelor's degree from California State University in Bakersfield, California.

Dr. Nailor holds a faculty appointment as a clinical assistant professor at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. His practice site is at Hartford Hospital where he is an infectious diseases clinical specialist. In this role, Dr. Nailor will work closely with physicians in the prevention of infections and the treatment of infectious diseases. Such diseases include the H1N1 influenza (Swine Flu), seasonal influenza, HIV / AIDS and MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant *Staphyloccous aureus*).

He has authored numerous national publications and abstracts pertaining to the treatment of infectious diseases.

Alumni Association Awardees 2009

The Pharmacy Alumni Association honored three alumni in academia, industry and pharmacy practice who have distinguished themselves in our profession. The awards were presented at the 39th Annual Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet.

Dennis J. Chapron, awardee in the field of academia, received his B.S. in pharmacy from the University of Connecticut in 1971 with distinction. From 1971 to 1972, he was a staff pharmacist at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford CT. In 1974, he earned an M.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, following which he completed an ASHP Residency at the North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill. He joined the University of Connecticut as an assistant clinical professor in 1974 and was promoted to associate clinical professor in 1979. In 1984, he was named an associate professor. He was appointed a core faculty member of the Travelers Center on Aging at the University of Connecticut Health Center in 1988. Following his retirement from the university in 2008, he accepted the position as medication safety officer at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford CT.

In his academic career, he specialized in clinical pharmacology with emphasis on pharmacogenetics, the influence of disease on drug disposition kinetics, drug-drug interactions, adverse drug-disease interactions and use of drugs in the elderly.

He has served as Associate Editor, *Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation* and on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy* and *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. From 1996 until 2004, he was the coordinator and preceptor for the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Disease Pharmacotherapy Traineeship program. He has also serves on the Connecticut Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Program.

Pharmacist Chapron is a member of the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. He is a member of Rho Chi and Phi Kappa Phi and received the Practical Pharmacy Award – Spalding Pharmaceutical Corporation in 1971. He has received many honors during his academic career including the Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year Award in 1977, the Paul G. Pierpaoli Hospital Pharmacist of the Year Award in 1999, the ASCP-CT Chapter Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2001, and the Experiential Teacher of the Year Award in 2001. He was named the UConn School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year in 1993, 1995, 2003 and 2006. In 2008, the Connecticut Pharmacist Association presented him with a Special Recognition Award for his extraordinary ability as a teacher of pharmacy students and as a teacher of pharmacists at continuing education programs.

Kathleen A. Cameron, awardee in the field of pharmacy practice, received a B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1987. From 1987 to 1992, she was a licensed pharmacist at Laverdiere's Super Drug Store in Brunswick, ME. She then served a Somers Aging and Long-Term Care Internship at the National Academy of Social Insurance, Washington, DC from May to August 1993. She earned a Masters Degree in Public Health from Yale University School of Medicine in 1994. From June 1994 to January 1995, she was a public policy and research associate at the United Seniors Health Cooperative, Washington, DC where she conducted research funded by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation examining international and domestic programs providing benefits for long term care services for persons with disabilities. In February 1995, she joined the National Council on Aging (NCOA) as Senior Program Manager where she continues her research into long term care issues. She was named deputy director, Independent Choices at NCOA in October 1995 where she oversaw a $3 million national demonstration and research grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and was named health education director, NCOA in February 1997. She served in both positions until 1998.

Pharmacist Cameron joined the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation Alexandria, VA in February 1998 as program officer, became the associate executive director in June 1999 and the executive director designate in February 2000. In January 2001, she was named executive director of the association responsible for all aspects of the Foundation's research and education programs and initiatives focusing on the appropriate, effective, and safe use of medications among the geriatric population. She served in that position until December 2004 when she formed her own consulting company, Cameron Senior Care Services, LLC. As president and CEO, she provides consulting to national pharmacy and geriatric-related organizations and corporations on issues related to medication use and aging, Medicaid, Medicare and the long term care continuum.

She holds membership in several pharmacy and geriatric-oriented organizations including the American Geriatric Association, ASCP, APhA, Gerontological Society of America, the National Council on Aging Inc. and the Virginia Pharmacists Association. Among her other professional and volunteer activities are chair, Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living; vice chair and board member, Center for Excellence in Assisted Living; Board Member, MedStar Research Institute and secretary, Northern Virginia Independent Living Foundation.

Dr. Kerry T. Blanchard, awardee in the field of industry, received his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1994. His academic research includes serving as a research assistant at the School of Medicine, Department of Surgery, UConn Health Center from 1988-1989; a medical research technician at the Newington Veterans Administration Medical Center from 1989-1990; a predoctoral trainee in environmental toxicology at the UConn School of Pharmacy from 1991-1994 and a postdoctoral fellow in Environmental Pathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Brown University 1994-1996.

He began his career at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. in 1996 as a senior scientist, became a principal scientist in 2000, a senior principal scientist in 2002 and associate director/acting director of toxicology in 2003. In 2004, he was named director of toxicology and safety assessment

where his duties included scientific oversight and operational control of all pathology, regulatory toxicology, mechanistic toxicology and genotoxicity activities. In 2005, Dr. Blanchard was named vice president, Toxicology and Safety Assessment at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. His duties include strategic oversight and operational control of non-clinical safety for North America, operational oversight of all laboratory animal resources at the Ridgefield R&D site and accountability for the budget and personnel in his department.

Dr. Blanchard has had many honors and memberships including Best Paper by a Postdoctoral Trainee, Reproductive and Developmental Specialty Section, Society of Toxicology 35th Annual Meeting; co-chair, Gene Expression and Genomics Platform Session, Society of Toxicology 39th Annual Meeting; member, Editorial Board, *Clinical Proteomics* 2003; invited guest, US-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program, Okinawa, sponsored by the National Center for Toxicogenomics, NIH 2001; Boehringer Ingelheim President's Award 2003; adjunct professor, University of Connecticut Graduate School 2004; international assignment, BI Corporate Headquarters 2006; PhRMA Preclinical Safety Leadership Committee, member at large 2007; and PhRMA Preclinical Safety Leadership Committee, secretary 2009. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, reviews and abstracts.

Dr. Paul A. Kramer was honored with the Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Award. He received his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from the University of Wisconsin in 1968. He was an NIH Predoctoral Fellow at the university from 1966-1968. Following the award of his degree, he served as a research biochemist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research from 1968-1971 and as an instructor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, Washington, DC from 1970-1971. He then joined Purdue University as assistant professor of Physical Pharmacy in 1971 and also served as a visiting professor at Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, IL in 1975. He joined the University of Connecticut in 1976 as professor of pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, as associate professor of laboratory medicine, UConn School of Medicine and as director, Pharmacokinetics Laboratory at the UConn Health Center. From 1978 to 1980 he also was the director, Drug Analysis Division, Department of Laboratory Medicine at the UConn Health Center.

Dr. Kramer holds membership in Phi Lambda Upsilon (Chemistry Honorary), Rho Chi (Pharmacy Honorary), Sigma Xi (Science Honorary) and Tau Beta Phi (Engineering Honorary.) He is also a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He is listed in American Men and Women of Science. He has served on the editorial boards of *Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* 1978-1984 and *Drug Intelligence Clinical Pharmacy* 1982-1985. Throughout his career, he served as a consultant to many companies and as a reviewer for several journals. His service to the School of Pharmacy included membership on committees involved with promotion and tenure, best teacher awards, merit review and admissions. He has been the author and co-author of many journal articles, abstracts and book reviews.

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PGY1 - Resident
Hartford Hospital
Preceptor - Fei Wang

Joshua Courter
Pediatric Infectious Disease - Fellow
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Preceptor - Jennifer Girotto

Marina Grgas
Psychiatric - Resident
Institute of Living
Preceptor - Charles Caley

Jenny Lipeika
Primary Care Fellow
Burgdorf Primary Care Clinic
Preceptor - Devra Dang

Olivia Phung
Outcomes - Fellow
Hartford Hospital
Preceptor - C. Michael White

Kurt Reinhart
Outcomes - Fellow
Hartford Hospital
Preceptor - C. Michael White

Ripple Talati
Outcomes - Fellow
Hartford Hospital
Preceptor - Craig Coleman

Jennifer Voisine
Geriatric Specialty PGY2 - Resident
VA Connecticut Healthcare System
Preceptor - Sean Jeffery

Nina Yen
Pharmacy Practice PGY2- Resident
Burgdorf Primary Care Clinic
Preceptor - Devra Dang

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Advisor - Devendra Kalonia

Norman Chieng
Advisor - Michael Pikal

Jacqueline Morais
Advisor - Diane Burgess

Pharmacology / Toxicology
Xinsheng Gu
Advisor - José Manautou

Chin-ju Hsiao
Advisor - Urs Boelsterli

Vijay Kale
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