

Are you ready for some football?

A limited number of tickets are available through the School of Pharmacy for the October 20th homecoming game at Rentschler Field. Join us at the School of Pharmacy tailgate tent and the game. **Don't delay! Hurry before they're gone! First come ~ first served!**

Tailgate Tent & Ticket # _____ x \$65.00 = _____ Tailgate Tent Only # _____ x \$30.00 = _____

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Make checks payable to the UConn Pharmacy Alumni Association and mail to:

University of Connecticut
Pharmacy Alumni Association
69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092
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Tickets and tailgate passes will be mailed to you. Prices do not include parking at Rentschler Field.

Prescriptives

School of Pharmacy News

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Endows Nation's First Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology

By: Beth Krane ~ Reprinted from *The UConn Advance*

The School of Pharmacy has received a \$1.25 million gift from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. to establish an endowed chair in mechanistic drug toxicology, the first such chair in the nation. The gift, announced on Feb. 24, will allow the school to attract a nationally recognized researcher who has made significant contributions to the field.

Mechanistic toxicology is the study of the processes and mechanisms underlying the toxicity of chemicals. It explains how foreign compounds such as drugs, environmental pollutants, and industrial chemicals exert their potentially damaging effects on cells and tissues. The field is widely regarded as the next frontier for drug development and medical breakthroughs because of its potential to greatly reduce the number of drugs that fail to meet U.S. Food and Drug Administration safety standards during the extensive clinical trial period.

The chair-holder will investigate new processes for evaluating experimental drugs and predictive methods for identifying compound toxicities, and educate students on how to successfully apply these techniques to develop potentially safer and more effective medications. "The cost of drug development is skyrocketing because so many drugs fail in pre-clinical and clinical studies as a result of safety concerns," said Dr. Peter Farina, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s senior vice president of development. "Boehringer Ingelheim's investment in UConn and in the field of mechanistic toxicology will help to accelerate the next round of medical breakthroughs and ultimately lower the cost of life-saving medications. This partnership between the state's flagship public research university and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. positions the state of Connecticut at the forefront of this dynamic and rapidly developing field," said Farina. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. selected UConn's School of Pharmacy as the recipient for its investment in the field of mechanistic toxicology because of the strong national reputation of its toxicology program and also because of existing collaborations between the company's scientists and faculty and students in the school, he added.

The announcement was made in the new 220,000-square-foot, \$94.6 million Pharmacy/Biology building on the Storrs campus, which was funded through the UConn 2000 building program. "Boehringer Ingelheim's generous gift to the School of Pharmacy demonstrates the return we are seeing on the state's investment in UConn and the momentum we have underway here at the school," said Robert McCarthy, dean of pharmacy. "The creation of this endowed chair in mechanistic toxicology – the first of its kind at any research institution nationwide – raises our national profile and cements our standing among this country's elite schools of pharmacy."

Continued On Page 4



A Message From the Dean

Dear Friends:

As I write this, we are experiencing the first truly warm days of summer. Although the University is a much quieter place during the summer months, there is still a great deal happening. For faculty and administration alike, this is a time to focus on our scholarly endeavors, reflect on the year past, and prepare for the upcoming academic year. Let me share some current projects with you.

The Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2010 has been admitted and is eager to join us in late August. As has been the case for a number of years, the new first year class is bright, energetic, diverse, and looking forward to joining our pharmacy family. Last fall, I charged the Admissions Committee with reviewing and revising the school's admissions policy for our professional program. After a year-long effort, the committee's recommendations, which have been widely discussed at faculty meetings and by the School's Advisory Board, were approved by the faculty in May. Key changes include the elimination of guaranteed admission and the incorporation of a required, on-site interview. It is our belief that such changes will help to ensure continued matriculation of the best students.

The School continued to make important strides this past year in celebrating a culture of diversity. Our chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), which represents the many minority pharmacists across the nation and is dedicated to the care of underserved populations, is a strong voice on our campus and nationally. The highlight of

Continued On Page 4

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Alumna Dr. Marie A. Smith '77 joined the School of Pharmacy in April as Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

What's Cooking in the Department of Pharmacy Practice? Dr. Marie Smith Takes the Helm.

She has been recognized as an international speaker, published author, received numerous professional awards and has served on advisory boards. She remains grounded through her family life, sharpens her sense of strategy on the golf course and expresses her creativity as a pastry chef. But only now, through her appointment as Department Head of Pharmacy Practice and clinical professor, is she able to harness her passion for academia back where it all began.

An honors graduate of the Class of 1977, Dr. Marie A. Smith credits the University for launching her career with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. Smith's career history encompasses many unique opportunities with a variety of companies, organizations, and universities that allowed her to pioneer such projects as e-Prescribing, electronic patient diaries, and patient dosing calculators. Prior to her appointment at the University of Connecticut, Dr. Smith served as Vice President of e-Strategy and Integration with Aventis Pharmaceuticals North American Commercial Operations where she led teams that collaborated with marketing, sales, medical affairs and managed care on diverse initiatives including e-trials, mediation compliance and persistency and remote monitoring.

After leaving Aventis, Dr. Smith took a year

off but never sat still. As an avid golfer, she was able to play at her leisure while dreaming of a professional career. She pursued another dream by enrolling in culinary school and training as a pastry chef and food writer, in addition to traveling extensively. When she realized it was time for the next challenge, she knew she was ready to return to academia.

A seasoned pharmacy educator, health care strategist, and leadership development executive with experience across diverse practice arenas, Dr. Smith has led a distinctive professional life that has brought her full circle --- back to the UConn School of Pharmacy classroom where she started. Her role as instructor of e-health allows Dr. Smith to interact with students, while her status as department head provides her with the challenge of functional leadership. Realizing the potential of the pharmacy program, Smith envisions her co-workers and students as members of a team that will combine their efforts to maximize success. As an exceptional educator and innovative leader, she brings a wealth of academic and business experience to her new position, along with energy, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to enhancing the appropriate use of medications in society.

SNPhA Students Represent the School

Thursday, January 19, 2006 marked the first Science, Engineering and Health Professions Collaborative Symposium for University of Connecticut undergraduate students in populations that are historically underrepresented in the areas of science, engineering, technology and mathematics. This project, partnered with the National Science Foundation funded Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, was developed through the Office of the Vice Provost for Multicultural & International Affairs and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as the Office of the Provost.

The symposium, held in the Lewis B. Rome Commons Ballroom, boasted panel discussions, career services workshops, representatives from graduate schools, professional schools, and corporations such as General Dynamics and Pfizer. Additionally, there were plenty of opportunities for socializing over dinner, dessert, and table discussion groups. Participants included biological sciences, pharmacy, and the UConn Health Center schools of medicine and dental medicine. Student attendees had access to applications to specific schools and programs, pamphlets, binders of workshop materials, and interaction with real-world professionals who offered inspirational advice.

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) represented the School of Pharmacy. SNPhA, founded in 1972, is a student organization for pre-pharmacy and pharmacy students to "serve the underserved community." The UConn chapter was formed in 2004 to mentor pre-pharmacy students, develop professional networks, and participate in community outreach efforts to improve the health, educational, and social environment of minority communities. In addition to its participation in the Pharmacy Student Government-sponsored fundraiser to benefit Xavier University pharmacy students, SNPhA also held a Diabetes Clinic in the Student Union this past fall. Currently, members are mentoring minority high school students interested in studying pharmacy through the New Haven Initiative project.



SNPhA members Temilola Odesina, Payal Vachhani, Ngozika Uyanwune, and Ketsya Amboise at the Science, Engineering, and Health Professions Collaborative Symposium

Overseen by the Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy, Dr. Andrea Hubbard, SNPhA's table was complete with a display on diabetes awareness, pamphlets on UConn's chapter, national chapters, and giveaways such as weekly pill sorters, pens, key-chains, and candies in prescription vials boasting "Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacist. Talk to Your Pharmacist Today."

While students received valuable information from the symposium, their greatest resource seems to be each other. SNPhA Vice President Chinenye Anyanwu said that she joined as a pre-pharmacy student seeking mentoring to make her transition into pharmacy a smooth one. Nwaka Ifundu, treasurer of SNPhA, agreed that the support students give one another is an important benefit. Former President Ketsya Amboise, led a workshop entitled, "Successful Navigation Through the Pharmacy Application Process," designed to instruct pre-pharmacy students on the basics of applying to the School of Pharmacy. Her biggest words of advice were not to give up or get discouraged, and many of her fellow SNPhA members agreed.

The Science, Engineering and Health Professions Collaborative Symposium offered invaluable resources for the many students completing degrees in these areas. Particularly important was the sense of community that the African American, Latino/a, Native American, and other minority students felt while in attendance as well as within their own specific organizations. SNPhA students enjoyed networking with professionals and meeting their peers, while representing the School.

For more information on membership in the University of Connecticut chapter, e-mail Edith.Owusu@uconn.edu.

Professional Students

Amelia Arnold was named Community Assistant of the Year for her role in the prepharmacy living-learning community. This award is a real tribute to the hard work and dedication Amelia has put into her responsibilities this year, while handling the challenges of our professional curriculum.

Taylor Devens has been awarded a UConn 2006 Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) Fellowship. This fellowship will allow Taylor to conduct a project in the lab of Dr. Brian Aneskievich. Taylor joined Dr. Aneskievich's pharmacology research group during the fall 2003 semester and has continually demonstrated his attention to details, inquisitive nature and good humor.

Michael Nowicki is the recipient of the Pharm.D. Research award. Michael is working with Dr. José Manautou on a project entitled "Modulation of Renal Transporter Expression in Type II Diabetes."

Sarah McCabe has accepted a drug development fellowship at the University of Buffalo/Novartis.

Graduate Students

Kristyn Greco was awarded one of five Parenteral Drug Association [PDA] fellowships for the coming academic year. PDA fellowships "encourage outstanding pre-doctoral students to continue their studies and earn the Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science or a related field and to promote applied research in areas of study relevant to the scientific foundations of pharmaceutical product development, drug manufacturing and quality assurance technologies."

Doctoral student **Lauren Aleksunes**, Pharm.D. was presented with the Women in Toxicology Specialty Section Student Achievement Award which is given to a student member who has demonstrated academic achievement in the field of toxicology and who has provided leadership and service in their chosen field and/or their community.

Cruise News



Keep watching our website for news about the cruise. Plans are in the works for CE cruise to Alaska in the summer of 2007. E-mail us at pharmacymco@uconn.edu to let us know if you want to receive information as it becomes available. Please put "cruise" in the subject line. If we have enough interest, we'll see you on the high seas!

Contributors:

Elizabeth Anderson, Arielle Begin, Daniel Buttrey, Dennis Chapron, Jennifer Glazer, Kaitlin Hurd, Beth Krane, Daniel Leone, Karen Logan, Robert McCarthy, Michael Moore, Kathryn Myers, Cindy Weiss

Prescriptives, the official newsletter for the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy and the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, is published semiannually. Please send comments, news and story ideas to: Elizabeth Anderson, Director of Marketing & Communications, at (860) 486-0847 or via e-mail: liz.anderson@uconn.edu.

Annual APhA-ASP Chapter Auction a Huge Success!

Where do Boston Red Sox playing cards go for \$35 and a batch of cookies sell for \$20? These were among the items auctioned off at the annual spring auction, held by the UConn Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy (APhA-ASP) to raise money for student attendance at the annual meeting, this year held in San Francisco, California. Each spring, approximately 6,000 attendees convene for the five day meeting to listen to speakers, network, and participate in educational programs. Attendees include pharmacy students, practitioners, scientists, technicians and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry. Student pharmacists can attend a variety of educational programs and find information regarding community pharmacy residencies.

This annual fundraiser involves students, faculty, and staff who donate various items

to be put up for auction. Items for sale range from the practical “spring break basket” full of snacks, hangover medicine and crossword puzzles, to hand-knitted scarves and fashion accessories. Arts and crafts were also popular as one student embroidered a picture of the school of pharmacy logo, and other students made picture boards to be auctioned. Some items donated were truly original pieces such as the framed prescriptions donated by Dr. Palmer which dated from 1988 and sold for \$140. One of the more popular items was a weekend stay at a Rhode Island Beach house which went for \$550.

Dr. Robin Bogner serving as auctioneer, incited spirited bidding competition among the attendees. This year the auction was even more successful than last, generating funds of over \$4,500 that helped to defray travel expenses for some 40 students who attended the meeting in San Francisco.

Special thanks to APhA-ASP members who organized the event and to their faculty advisor Dr. José Manautou.



Irv Kurtzman, an alumnus and volunteer pharmacist in our patient counseling lab, presents Meghan Scagliarini (P3) with a bowl that he handcrafted especially for the auction. After a losing bidder contacted Irv trying to purchase another bowl for a gift, Irv generously donated a second bowl on the condition that the purchaser make a donation to the School of Pharmacy. **THANKS IRV!**

Pharmacy Student Government wins ASHP Award

The UConn School of Pharmacy Student Government has been selected for an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Executive Vice President's Award for Courageous Service for their fundraising work to support the pharmacy students of Xavier University of New Orleans following last fall's hurricanes. The award recognizes individuals or groups of individuals in health-system pharmacy who go beyond the call or assignment of duty to serve patients or assist pharmacists in serving patients, such as under emergency conditions or in times of natural disasters or other cataclysmic events. The award is for specific incidents of inspiring, unselfish service under adverse conditions.

Pharmacy Student Government raised over \$7000 last fall with the help of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Special thanks to Pharmacy Student Government immediate past president Katie Myers and Dr. Lauren Schlesselman for leading this effort. The award is well deserved and all of us in the School of Pharmacy family are very proud of our students' commitment to this most worthwhile cause.

Faculty & Staff News Briefs

The following School of Pharmacy faculty have been elected to leadership positions in professional pharmacy organizations: **Dr. Charles Caley**, President-elect, College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists and Chair, BPS Specialty Council on Psychiatric Pharmacy; **Dr. Jennifer Ellis**, President, CSHP; **Dr. Sean Jeffery**, Director, ASCP Region I; and **Peter Tyczkowski**, President, CPA.

Dr. Kevin Chamberlin received the UConn Pride Council's PAWS award in May 2006. The PAWS award is a higher level of individual achievement for employees and/or volunteers for the person who consistently performs above and beyond the expectations of his or her duties. The individual is someone who time after time exhibits all of the following attributes: P - Part of a team; A - Awesome Attitude; W - Wonderful Work ethic; S - Superior Service. Employees and volunteers are nominated for these rewards by coworkers, managers, or supervisors.

Dennis Chapron, Associate Professor of Clinical Practice has been named the 2006 School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year. This award is presented annually to a faculty member selected by the graduating class in the professional program, in recognition of his/her knowledge and dedication to their learning.

Dr. Devra Dang has been named a runner up in the APhA Pharmacy Today One to One Counseling Recognition Program. The award recognizes clinicians for the exceptional care they provide their patients.

Anne Margaret Gaffney has joined the School of Pharmacy as Associate Director of Development. Ms. Gaffney has been serving as Director of the Annual Fund at the UConn Foundation. Previously, she was on the fundraising staff of Massachusetts Lt. Governor Healey. Ms. Gaffney holds a baccalaureate degree from Harvard University.

Drs. Andrea Hubbard and Sean Jeffery have been named recipients of the 2006 School of Pharmacy Faculty Service Award. This award is presented annually to that member of the School of Pharmacy faculty who is recognized as having

provided outstanding service. Drs. Hubbard and Jeffery led our curricular review effort that last spring culminated in the approval of new prepharmacy and professional curriculums. In the past year, both have worked to move the implementation process forward. Especially noteworthy has been their work in establishing university partnerships that have led to the School of Medicine faculty teaching our new anatomy and physiology course and the Department of Physics developing a pharmacy-specific physics course.

Dr. José Manautou has been appointed to the Xenobiotic and Nutrient Disposition and Action Study Section of the National Institute of Health.

Dr. John Morris has been reappointed to a three-year term as Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Morris has provided steady and strong leadership for the department, charting a course to ensure its place among the University's premier research units. His accomplishments are highlighted by two endowed chairs, the first in the school's history. While pursuing research excellence, the department has continued its strong commitment to outstanding teaching.

Dr. Marie A. Smith has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the DNA EpiCenter in New London, CT.

Dr. C. Michael White has been named a University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow for the 2006-2007 academic year. This honor is accorded annually to the University's premier teachers and recognizes them for their commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom and, for Dr. White, at his practice site. Dr. White is a past recipient of the School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year award. Dr. White's commitment to teaching has not come at the expense of his research program, which has been nationally recognized on numerous occasions for its excellence. Dr. White also has been named a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology. This distinction is emblematic of significant contributions in clinical pharmacology.

Skip Copeland Named Building Services Manager

When the School of Pharmacy recognized the need for a Building Services Manager, **Francis “Skip” Copeland** was a natural choice. Having coordinated the School of Pharmacy's recent move, through his position at Diversified Project Management, Copeland is right at home on the Storrs campus. As the primary liaison for building occupants to report problems with building infrastructures, machinery, furniture, and security measures, Copeland's familiarity with the building occupants and the campus is an excellent asset.

His office walls are filled with bookcases holding rows of binders containing “owner's manuals” for each piece of machinery in the building. These color-coded handbooks instruct users in the techniques for operating and maintaining the equipment, a well as warranty information for each product. Copeland is responsible for making sure maintenance schedules are documented and followed.

Copeland's job also entails evaluating the operating condition of machinery within the building, as well as directing concerns of faculty, staff, and researchers to the proper maintenance personnel. He is also in charge of security systems; in addition to programming the cards and card readers throughout the facility, he makes sure that individuals who need access to the building are assigned pass cards. He handles requests for keys (for doors, desks, cabinets, etc.) rearrangement of furniture or lab equipment, and coordinates deliveries to the loading dock.

Before coming to the university, Copeland held a variety of positions. While he holds a degree in sociology, he got his start working at a bank for fifteen years. Following the dissolution of the bank, he acquired a job as a facilities manager at FDIC. This provided a nice transition into his role at Diversified Project Management, which ultimately led him to the Pharmacy-Biology Building where he has quickly become a valued member of the School of Pharmacy family.

Students Sponsor Fashion Faux Pas Fundraiser

This year, the newly-created student chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists [ASCP] sponsored a “What Not To Wear” fashion show. Nordstrom representatives brought clothes to dress students and faculty. The goal was to give students an idea of what is, and what is not, acceptable clothing for rotations during their P4 year. This fundraising event, held on April 27th, was great success as students, faculty, and staff nearly filled the Oscar & Julia Roth Classroom. Eleven students were able to attend the annual meeting for ASCP in Boston this past November, and proceeds from this event will help to send representatives to the 2006 annual in Phoenix, Arizona. Members of fellow student organization, SNPhA, provided a potluck dinner after the event.



The representatives from Nordstrom [pictured above] all agreed that Dean McCarthy should not wear this on rotation!



Incoming PSG President, Kristin Zimmerman, [at right] was also advised against this bold outfit!

Sneha Baxi, Pharm.D. will join the School of Pharmacy as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice/Clinical Specialist in Ambulatory Care upon completion of a Primary Care Specialty Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Baxi received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Rutgers University and completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency at UIC. Her teaching experience has focused on diabetes care, smoking cessation, asthma/COPD and she holds certificates in antithrombosis therapy management, tobacco treatment, and immunization delivery. She will be onsite at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, CT.

Meghan Jo Ehret, Pharm.D. will join us as an Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice/Clinical Specialist in Inpatient Psychiatry upon completion of a Clinical Psychopharmacology and Pharmacogenomics Fellowship at Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Ehret received a Doctor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degrees from University of Toledo College of Pharmacy and has completed a Psychiatric Practice Residency at the VA Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. Her teaching and research experience has focused on Alzheimer's disease, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and serotonin receptor pharmacogenomics. She will be onsite at the Institute of Living in Hartford, CT.

Effie Gillespie Kuti, Pharm.D. is joining us as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice/Clinical Specialist in Internal Medicine upon completion of a Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Fellowship at Hartford Hospital/UConn School of Pharmacy. Dr. Gillespie received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia, a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from James Madison University, and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Hartford Hospital. Her teaching and research experience has focused on pharmacoeconomics of a medication assistance program, internal medicine/cardiovascular pharmacotherapy, and cardiovascular clinical and economic outcomes. She holds a certificate in immunization delivery. Dr. Gillespie will be onsite at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT.

It's Gardening Time!

Dig up some of your memories about the old medicinal garden.

Our next issue will feature a story about the new medicinal garden. We are looking for your memories and photos to include.

Contact us at:

University of Connecticut
School of Pharmacy
Marketing & Communications Office
69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3092
(860) 486-0847
pharmacymco@uconn.edu

Endowed Chair...

Continued from Page 1

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s gift to the School of Pharmacy is the third significant donation the school has received from a major Connecticut-based pharmaceutical company in less than two years. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. previously donated \$250,000 to name a teaching laboratory in the new Pharmacy/Biology Building that specializes in dosage forms. In June 2004, New London-based Pfizer Global Research and Development, a division of Pfizer Inc., created a distinguished endowed chair in pharmaceutical technology at the school.

The School of Pharmacy also has attracted two of the nation's leading medicinal chemists and their research teams from Dartmouth University since its new high-tech home – with spacious classrooms and state-of-the-art lab spaces – was completed last summer. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. has previously endowed faculty positions at the UConn Health Center and Yale University. UConn has a total of 55 endowed chairs and 17 endowed professorships.

Dean's Message...

Continued from Page 1

their activities this year was Unity Week, a five-day period celebrating diversity in the health professions. SNPhA also played an integral role in the school's newly formed Diversity Committee, with several members serving on the committee and one member (Ketsya Amboise) serving as Co-Chair.

The school received a "commendation" on its curricular reform effort from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) in response to its interim report submitted last fall. Also last fall, I appointed a Self-Study Steering Committee, chaired by senior faculty member Dr. Ronald Langner, to direct the preparation of the school's self-study in advance of the re-accreditation team's visit October 3-5, 2006. The eight subcommittees have nearly completed their work; Dr. Langner will spend the summer synthesizing the document in time for submission to ACPE in late August.

Early this fall, the school will launch a newly designed web site. The site will not only provide an upscale presentation, consistent with the University's image as a premier institution, but will offer significantly easier navigation. Director of Marketing & Communications Elizabeth Anderson receives kudos for leading this effort.

Beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year, faculty and students will use e-portfolio school-wide. Training programs began this past spring and we believe that our increased use of WebCT will facilitate the incorporation of e-portfolio into our learning community.

We currently are involved in raising the funds for the establishment of a new medicinal garden adjacent to the new Pharmacy/Biology Building. Advisory Board member Joe DeLucia and Diana Stanzone, the spouse of alumnus Ralph and a master gardener, are leading this effort.

Finally, we hope that you will be able to join us on Friday evening, October 20th at Rentschler Field for a School of Pharmacy Football Tailgate prior to the Homecoming Game against West Virginia University. Our first Tailgate last fall was a resounding success and I urge you to attend this year to renew acquaintances with classmates and faculty while cheering the Huskies on to victory!



Pheeby, the frog, moves into the Pharmacy-Biology Building

By: Cindy Weiss ~ Reprinted from *The UConn Advance*

The new Pharmacy/Biology Building has a new permanent tenant for its glass-enclosed lobby: Pheeby, a 70-pound frog. Pheeby, who emerged last summer as one of 15 frogs decorating downtown Willimantic's Frogfest '05, was purchased at auction by faculty, staff, and students of the departments and school housed in the new building: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Physiology and Neurobiology, and the School of Pharmacy.

Pheeby resides atop a 1,000-pound granite slab for maximum security. He/she – the sex is indeterminate, the biologists say – was named last week at a "frog warming." The winning name was offered by Chris Martine, a graduate student in ecology and evolutionary biology, in honor of Pharmacy, Physiology and Neurobiology, and EEB. The runners-up, green with envy, were Karen Logan of the Pharmacy dean's office, for "The Frog Formerly Known as Prince," and Ben Bahr, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, for "T. Allen Kaloids, aka Al," a reference to alkaloids and toxins associated with frog skin.

The chairman of the naming committee, Kentwood Wells, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, is about to publish a book on frog behavior. In Willimantic, Pheeby was known as "Frogsong, Fable, & Fairytales" and was painted by artist Sally Sargent Markey of Granby.

Dr. José Manautou receives Achievement Award from the Society of Toxicology

The Society of Toxicology has named José Manautou, Associate Professor of Toxicology at the University of Connecticut, as the recipient of the 2006 Achievement Award for significant contributions to the field of toxicology. The Society of Toxicology, a professional and scholarly organization of scientists from academic institutions, government, and industry, represents scientists who practice toxicology in the U.S. and abroad. The Society promotes the acquisition and utilization of knowledge in toxicology, aids in the protection of public health, and facilitates disciplines. It has a strong commitment to education in toxicology and to the recruitment of students and new members into the profession. Every year the Society of Toxicology grants an achievement award to one of its members. This member must have less than 15 years experience since obtaining his/her highest degree earned, and must have made significant contributions to the field of toxicology. The candidate must show significant contribution to toxicology service as a profession, exemplify training and teaching in toxicology, and must have accomplishments as a scientist.

Dr. Manautou completed his undergraduate training in pharmacy at the University of Puerto Rico in 1985 and went on to complete graduate work at Purdue University. His Ph.D. research focused on the capacity of the lung to metabolize ethanol via oxidative, non-oxidative and conjugative pathways. After completing his graduate studies, he accepted a post-doctoral position in biochemical toxicology at the University of Connecticut in the laboratory of Dr. Steven Cohen; he then joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. For the past 10 years as an independent academic scientist, Dr. Manautou's research has been on early findings from his post-doctoral work on acetaminophen. His research interests focus on the study of acetaminophen and its effects on the liver. He has published a number of seminal articles focused on pathways involved in cytoprotection and is currently evaluating transcriptional regulation of hepatic transport proteins during liver injury.

Dr. Manautou's dedication to the training of young scientists is unmatched. His students speak proudly of his continued mentorship through daily problem solving, while allowing them the autonomy and flexibility needed for them to guide the path of their research projects. In addition to managing his research laboratory, Dr. Manautou participates on a number of committees including the National Research Council Committee on Human Health Risks of Trichloroethylene and the European Commission Sixth Framework Programme on Food Quality and Safety on Risk Assessment of Non-Dioxin-Like Polychlorinated Biphenyls.

Dr. Manautou has a strong commitment to the Society of Toxicology. He has been active on the Placement Committee, Mechanisms Specialty Section, and Minority Program where he has held a number of appointments. Most recently, he served as SOT Councilor and was active as the Council Liaison to the Specialty Sections, Education Subcommittee for Minority Programs, the NIH Funding Task Force, and the Special Interest Group Task Force. Dr. Manautou said the success of his lab and overall contribution to the field of toxicology would not have been possible without his past and present students who have run the lab and helped him reach this point in his career.



Dr. Louis A. Fragola '54 has a practice in dermatology in East Providence, RI and is a Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology at Brown University Medical School.

Meredith Hager '59 writes that she and her husband, Alan, have permanently relocated to Florida, but will be visiting Connecticut in the summertime.

Robert Dana '63 retired from Bristol Myers Squibb in 2001 after a 34-year career with that company. He worked in Product Development Research and Corporate Regulatory Compliance during his career with BMS, retiring as Senior Director, Compliance Assurance Services. He formed a consulting company, Elkhorn Associates Inc. and, for over 4 years, provided consulting services to the pharmaceutical industry on quality and regulatory compliance. He is currently working for the Parenteral Drug Association in Bethesda, MD as Vice President, Quality and Regulatory Affairs. He and his wife of 43 years, Claire (Millington '63), reside in the Syracuse, NY area and have 2 children and 6 grandchildren.

Diana F. Thompson '66 Pharm.D. has completed a drug patent – antiviral and enhances to the immune system - that is now at the FDA for testing.

Joseph W. Crane '67 (Ph.D. UMich '72) is celebrating his 25th anniversary with the American Medical Association where he is the Director, Science, Research and Technology.

Harry Eudowe '69 has sold his endodontic practice located in Madison, CT and Old Saybrook, CT and is now enjoying semi-retirement watching the beautiful sunrises on the Milford, CT shore. He sends best wishes to all his '69 classmates.

Gregory Gousse '71 has retired from Hartford Hospital after 27 years of service, 19 as Director of Pharmacy, and has joined VHA Inc. as a consultant for hospital pharmacy services. VHA Inc. is the largest national network of hospitals in the country, with approximately 2100 hospitals.

John Parisi '71 was featured on the cover of the June 2006 issue of America's Pharmacist, the journal of the National Community Pharmacists Association. The Lifeskills® services that he provides to patients was described in a 2-page article in the magazine.

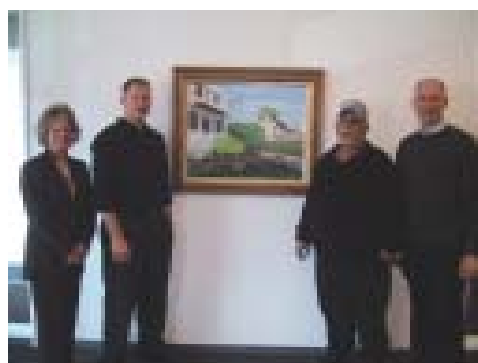
Sergio Toni '80 was chosen by his co-workers to receive Yale-New Haven Hospital's outstanding employee award for his demonstrated teamwork. He has been a pharmacist at Yale-New Haven for 20 years. He lives in Bridgeport, CT with his wife and daughter.

Karen Ward Ragonese '83 who became owner and chief pharmacist at Towne Pharmacy in Branford, CT when her father, William Ward '56, passed away two and one-half years ago is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the pharmacy's service to the people of Branford and the surrounding area. The pharmacy is the sole independent pharmacy in Branford, CT. The anniversary was noted in an extensive article in the Branford Review newspaper.

Lori Rostel St. John '94 and **Doug St. John '95** announce the birth of a son, Colin Joseph on August 26, 2005. Colin joins brother Noah David, age 2. Lori is a clinical pharmacist at Christiana Hospital in Newark, DE and Doug is a clinical pharmacist at Capital Health System in Trenton, NJ. The family lives in Hamilton, NJ.



Pharmacy Commissioner Edith G. Goodmaster [pictured above] generously donated this framed painting to the School of Pharmacy. The work graces the Pharmacy Library. Family members [pictured below] of the artist, Paul Braun, visited the work on display this past spring.



What's New With You?

We want to hear from you! Please use this form to tell us about address changes, personal and professional honors, or everyday events that we can use for the Alumni Update column. Mail To: University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, 69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092 ~ Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3092, or e-mail us at: daniel.leone@uconn.edu

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other _____

Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Maiden/Former Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Employer/Business Name: _____

Title: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

News: _____

Neuroscience at Storrs 2006

As the keynote speaker for the 2006 Neuroscience at Storrs Symposium in April, Dr. Stanley Parsons of the University of California, Santa Barbara presented his work in neurotoxicology, as well as an open seminar on the development of a rapid test for the date-rape drug GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate).

A prominent neuroscientist, Dr. Parsons received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1971 and completed postdoctoral study at UC Berkeley. He has served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at UC Santa Barbara and has well over a hundred peer-reviewed publications, along with ten patents. In addition to being the founder and chair of the FASEB Summer Research Conference on Neurotransmitters, Dr. Parsons is a Javits Neuroscience Investigator and an editor of the "Journal of Neurochemistry."

GHB, also known as "G" and "Liquid X," is one of the fastest growing drugs used by college students. In 2000-2002 there were about 225 GHB deaths. However there could have been more because many times the drug impairs the victim's memory so they are unaware of the attack. Dr. Parsons spoke about efforts to develop a sensitive and rapid test kit for GHB in physiological fluids and alcoholic beverages. Presently, there is a lack of sensitive testing capability for detecting the presence of GHB within a person's body at the time of autopsy because the drug does not remain in the body for very long. However, innovative research conducted by Dr. Parsons is paving the way for the production of effective GHB tests that can be performed by the average bartender or patron who suspects a drink has been tampered with. He is proposing new tests to check GHB levels that involve a dye that can be detected in florescent light to determine if the beverage is safe to drink.

In addition to the GHB seminar, Dr. Parsons presented his work on Neurotoxicology at the 2006 Neuroscience at Storrs symposium. This program unites several departments including Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physiology and Neurobiology, and Psychology. Organized by the current steering committee of Drs. Salamone, Bahr, and Rubio, the symposium provides an opportunity for members of the University's Neurosciences Program to come together and share research ideas and progress. Dr. Parsons presented a seminar on "The Art of Presynaptic Neurochemistry and Toxicology," that addressed the understanding of toxic actions in neurons, as exhibited by the use of toxins as research tools to understand neuronal mechanisms within the body. Following the seminar attendees had the opportunity to peruse presentation posters and enjoy a catered reception in the lobby of the Pharmacy/Biology Building.

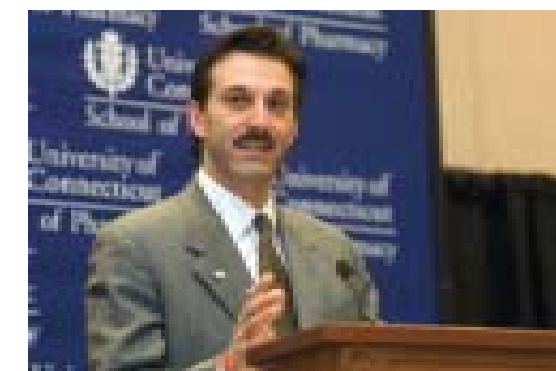
Pharmacy Entrepreneur Speaks at White Coat Ceremony

The School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony, sponsored by Brooks/Eckerd, was held in Rome Ballroom on January 17, 2006. This ceremony is a turning point for all Pharmacy Students, marking their completion of 2 ½ years of Pharmacy School leaving them with only one more semester of classes until their rotations begin.

White coat candidates took their seats at the front row while family and friends filled in the rows behind. The room fell silent as the Dean Robert McCarthy kicked off the ceremony with a speech on student responsibilities in the profession of pharmacy. The dean stressed that as professional pharmacists their main responsibility is to their patients. Dr. McCarthy also reminded pharmacy students of their main goal and purpose, the service of humankind through the profession of pharmacy. A sense of pride filled the room as students receiving their white coats were told that pharmacists are considered to be the most trusted professionals in the nation.

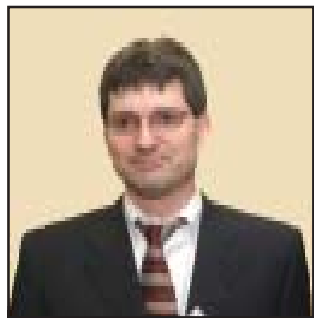
The keynote speaker was Angelo DeFazio, a UConn graduate of the School of Pharmacy from 1985 who now owns four Arrow Prescription Centers in Hartford, CT. DeFazio discussed the various career options that pharmacy students might chose. In a lighthearted speech, he discussed the rewards and challenges of entrepreneurship in pharmacy and "the spirit of owning your own store," encouraging all pharmacy students to take a risk and enter the world of entrepreneurship. Having bought his first store at age 25, DeFazio explained the benefits of owning a pharmacy. He filled the room with laughter as he told anecdotes and recounted fond memories from his education at UConn, and especially of Dr. Henry A. Palmer.

After DeFazio's speech, Dr. McCarthy led the students in the "Oath of a Pharmacist", a pledge from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy that reinforces the main concerns of a pharmacist such as considering the welfare of humanity and maintaining principals of moral, ethical and legal conduct. Once the oath was administered the P3 students were individually called to the stage where they were given a white lab coat and bag of essentials for their practice lab donated by Brooks/Eckerd. Students and family were encouraged to stay for refreshments where they discussed their future plans and took pictures to mark this special moment.



Alumnus and School of Pharmacy Advisory Board member, Angelo DeFazio '85, [above] addressed the P3 class at the White Coat Ceremony in January. The class receives their coat and takes the Oath of a Pharmacist [below] before beginning their practice lab.





One school year has come to a close and another fast approaches. Members of the class of 2006 have attained their degrees and have moved on to a new chapter in their lives, while a new class enters the school to begin their own quest for pharmacy degrees. Although it is the middle of summer as I write this, there is little 'time off' at the School of Pharmacy – there is always something happening or some event to be planned...such as next year's Annual Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet. The event this year was held in April at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. I send a sincere thank you to the school and all those who had a hand in the planning of the annual banquet and awards ceremony. The time and resources needed to pull off an event like this can easily go unnoticed – a special thanks to the School of Pharmacy staff and Events staff for their energies – Great job! In addition, I want to thank the attendees – alumni and students for their participation ... your attendance also contributed to the success of the evening. Although this event followed closely on the heels of last year's event due to combined anniversary ceremonies, it was no less exciting. We had over three hundred attendees! This year, students outnumbered alumni – I hope that next year, we as alumni can tip the scales in the other direction.

This past spring I had the opportunity to attend the annual scholarship ceremony and the graduation "hooding" ceremony. I never realized the number of scholarships awarded to our undergraduate and graduate students -- approximately 125! Even more impressive, the total dollar value was over \$100k!!! It is so nice to see that kind of support from alumni and businesses alike. It was truly a privilege to have the opportunity to attend. And just a few weeks later, I had the pleasure of attending the hooding ceremony. The last time I spoke in front of an audience that size was at an Academy of

Students of Pharmacy National convention – and at that time all I did was to tell a joke! While I was nervous, I was also so proud to be amongst graduates, faculty, family and friends – who had shared with each other their successes and challenges over the last four years, culminating in this graduation day.

While welcoming the graduates to the alumni association, I discussed their benefits and obligations as new alumni. It is something that we all easily tend to forget as we move on with our personal and professional lives after we graduate. For example, we each, as alumni, benefit by holding a degree from a school with such a respected reputation. But for the school to maintain such a reputation requires the professional, political, or financial support of its alumni. Please look for ways to give back, by supporting the school professionally and politically, giving to annual or special fund raising activities and by participating in school sponsored events. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Homecoming football game in the fall – and the annual awards banquet in the spring.

As always, if you have ideas or wants, or you are interested in participating in association activities, please free to contact me at (860) 657-4083 or farmassist@aol.com, or contact Dan Leone or any of the officers. Thank you again for your continuing support of the School of Pharmacy and the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association.

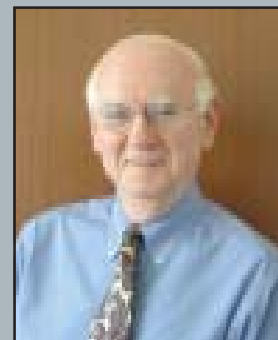
**Go
Huskies!**

Don't forget the football game on Friday, October 20th!

Have an idea for an alumni event? Let us know!

**Mark Your Calendar
for the Annual Alumni Awards and
Reunion Banquet at the Crowne Plaza
in Cromwell, Connecticut.**

April 14, 2007



HELP!! We need your help. One of the most difficult tasks is maintaining an accurate, up-to-date database of alumni. We want you to receive all the mailings and invitations for school and alumni events. It is very disappointing when we hear that an alumnus/a did not know about a reunion or other event, or did not receive a newsletter or annual report. You can help us. Please use the **What's New With You** form to let us know about a change of address or a change in name. You will continue to receive all mailings and we will feel a lot better knowing that our database is accurate. You can also use the same form to give us information for the **Alumni Update** column.

At the annual meeting held during the Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet in April, the following were elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors: Robert Dana '63, Sherman R. Gershman '51, Keith Lyke '92, Edward Sklanka '74, Peter Tyczkowski '78, Elliott Tertes '62 and Christopher Weimer '94. Also elected to complete terms to which they were appointed by President Moore to fill vacancies were: Robert J. Bianchi '61, Alicia A. Gaudaitis '01 and George Perchak '81 for terms ending in 2008 and Thomas Buckley '82 for a term ending in 2007. If you are interested in serving on the board, please e-mail your name to me. The next election will take place in April 2007 but we also need names for any vacancies that may occur.

Over 300 attended the 36th Annual Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet that was held at the Cromwell Crowne Plaza Hotel on April 8th, including nearly 200 students. A wonderful and enjoyable time was had by all. Distinguished Alumni awards were presented to Dr. Charles E. Inturrisi '62, Joseph D. Palo '73 and John Parisi '71. An Honorary Alumnus Award was presented to Dr. Timothy A. Hagen. Classes celebrating reunions included 1946, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996. Celebrating their 50th reunion were members of the class of 1956. The class was represented by Harry Egazarian, who spoke of the changes in pharmacy over the past 50 years. The earliest graduates in attendance were Naomi Bernard and Jennie Rickert who were celebrating the 60th reunion of the class of 1946.

The 37th annual banquet will be held again at the Cromwell Crowne Plaza Hotel on April 14, 2007. The class of 1957 will be celebrating its 50th reunion and the class of 1982 its 25th reunion. Also celebrating reunions will be the classes of 1947, 1967, 1977, 1987, and 1997. If you are a member of any of these classes, write the date in your calendar and plan to attend. If you would like to help in planning the reunion of your class, e-mail me at: daniel.leone@uconn.edu.

Homecoming is scheduled for the week of October 16th with the highlight being a football game at Rentschler Field on Friday evening, October 20th, against West Virginia. We are making plans to have a School of Pharmacy tailgate tent where alumni can gather before the game. A limited number of tickets will be available for the game!

As I write this column, classes are over, graduation has taken place and the campus is very quiet. But, we are looking forward to a more active alumni association in the future and promise that we will continue to work to earn your approval of our activities.

In Memoriam

Timothy P. Foley '87 ~ August 9, 2005

Edward Scolnik '51 ~ September 16, 2005

Gladys Wunsch Wolfson '51 ~ March 1, 2006

Ida B. Garofalo '35 ~ March 27, 2006

Henry Aldi '33 ~ April 1, 2006

George R. Cion '62 ~ June 26, 2006

Nancy J. Gustafson '81 ~ July 8, 2006

Albert M. White '48 ~ July 29, 2006

Donald M. Skauen, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2006 at the age of 89. Dr. Skauen retired from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1979 after 32 years of service. A native of Massachusetts, he earned a baccalaureate in pharmacy at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy where he also received a Master of Science degree. In 1948, he earned a Ph.D. from Purdue University.

His major research interests were in drug absorption, product formulation and the use of high frequency sound in pharmaceutical systems. Other research, conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Water Resources and the Marine Research Laboratory, dealt with the detection and the effects of radioactive wastes on aquatic organisms. He authored forty articles in scientific journals on these subjects and was the author of five chapters in textbooks used in undergraduate teaching in pharmaceutical sciences.

As a teacher, among other responsibilities, he developed graduate and undergraduate courses in the use of radioisotopes in medical and pharmaceutical practice. A number of his many graduate students have achieved distinction for their scientific contributions, as well as for their productivity and leadership in pharmaceutical education and in the pharmaceutical industry.

A memorial service was held on May 20, 2006 in Storrs, CT.

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Offices:
69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3092
Phone 860-486-0244 ~ Fax 860-486-2076