Continued from Page 1

Two important events, in addition to the move, highlighted our summer. Dr. Kenneth Spernazza retired after 36 years of dedicated service to our School, the last three as associate dean. We will all miss Ken’s commitment to our students and his ever pleasant smile and wish him all the best in his retirement. Our Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) chapter, which didn’t even exist three years ago, won several awards and nearly the national presidency at the group’s annual meeting in Florida.

As you might expect, we’ve had a wonderful start to the new academic year. Our first year students are bright and eager to learn and our returning second and third year students are enjoying all of the amenities that come with their new home. In only its second year, Pharmacy Student Government (PSG) has already emerged as the uniting student organization it was intended to be. Under the leadership of President Katie Myers, PSG lead a successful fundraising effort to provide a donation to the Xavier University College of Pharmacy in New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

We are all very proud of this charitable act by our students and our faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who supported their efforts.

Our faculty also received some good news as the year began. Drs. Jose M. Maatouk and Brian A. Neksiyevich received their first R01 funding, the NIH’s most prestigious research grant.

Dr. Craig Coleman and M. Chiell White received national attention for their research findings on the benefits of an antihypertensive drug in the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

I have touched on but a few highlights; these pages contain much more, so please read on. We hope you enjoy the new School of Pharmacy newsletter!”

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first issue of the School of Pharmacy Newsletter! With our move into the new Pharmacy/Biology Building, it seemed like an appropriate time to launch our latest communication vehicle to our alumni and friends. The newsletter will be published semi-annually in the fall and spring and replace our alumni newsletter, which will be incorporated into this new publication. Unlike our annual report that highlights the previous year, the School newsletter will provide more current news and information about our students, faculty, staff, and alumni and upcoming events of interest. We believe when combined with the annual report, experimental education newsletter, and web site (soon to be revised), friends of the School of Pharmacy will be more fully informed about what’s happening.

A s write this column, we have been in our new home for nearly four months. I am very grateful for the dedicated efforts and cooperation of our faculty, staff, and graduate students this summer who ensured that we had a very smooth move. Our move in June was expected to take three to four weeks, but because of the commitment of all involved took only two. The building dedication has been everything we hoped for. Both the dedication events begin with a joint, School of Pharmacy/Department of Biology Symposium with nationally acclaimed speakers. Dr. Bert Hölldobler, Foundation Professor of Life Sciences at Arizona State University will present a lecture entitled “In Riddler’s Chase: Communication and Cooperation in Ant Societies.” Dr. Paul Talalay, John Jacob Abel Distinguished Service Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine will present “ChemoPrevention against Neoplastic and Chronic Degenerative Diseases.” Dr. John Daly, Scientist Emeritus, Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health will discuss “Natural Products: Impact on Biomedical Research.” The symposium will begin at 9:00 AM on October 21st in the Chemistry Building, Room A 20.

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In July 2005, the UConn Chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) attended the organization’s annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. Our chapter, which didn’t exist three years ago, made quite a splash on the national scene! We received their first R01 funding, the NIH’s preclinical and clinical research grant, that will allow us to continue our research on the regulation of the JAK-STAT pathway in diabetes mellitus. In addition, Dr. Coleman received national attention for their research on the benefits of an early diagnosis of diabetes mellitus. He was also nominated for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPSS) Award for Outstanding Contributions to Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Clarion Project is sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and is supported by the Student National Pharmaceutical Association. This year, the Clarion Project was held in Orlando, Florida. Our chapter presented their findings to judge on Saturday, April 9, 2005. According to Dr. Gould, “These students did a miraculous job. They have gained skills they did not have by applying their knowledge to a realistic situation. The UConn faculty should be very proud of the caliber of our students.”

The winning team of the competition, University of M issouri received a $5,000 team scholarship and will also be recognized at the national meeting of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in December 2005. The University of Minnesota, University of M issouri, and University of Chicago presented their results on Saturday, April 9, 2005.

By giving outstanding and bright students the opportunity to apply their practical knowledge to realistic situations, more can be accomplished in medicine. “The Clarion Project is worked at as a pilot or incubator for innovative ways of teaching critical issues in healthcare delivery. This is the future of the updated Clarion,” said Brooks.

The Clarion Project has been able to achieve its goal of integrating this type of activity into the present curriculum. The students that participated spoke with faculty regarding their experience and offered advice on how to integrate some of the content of their experience into the curricula of the various schools.

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Dr. Kenneth A. Speranza, Sr. Retires After 36 Years of Service

September 1, 2005, the official retirement date for Professor and A. Associate Dean Kenneth A. Speranza, Sr., Ph.D., marked the end of an era for the School of Pharmacy. The pharmacy icon took his 36-year career at the University of Connecticut at a reception and dinner held in his honor on August 25, 2005. “My role as professor and associate dean have been the most gratifying part of my career. I love to teach and share my knowledge to the students’ knowledge and help the associate dean have been a wonderful culmination of my career. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students on a daily basis and being able to help them solve academic and professional problems. It is the close relationships I have with the students that have made me feel that I will miss the most,” said Dr. Speranza.

Dr. Speranza noted that the development of the Doctor of Pharmacy program was the most significant event he participated in during his career in pharmacy education. The Pharm.D. has definitively changed the stature of the pharmacist in the community and in all health care environments. Additionally, he cited his pride in the construction of the new Pharmacy/Biology Building - building on the opportunity to work with health care professionals and the opportunity to appropriately prepare senior faculty for leadership roles at their home institution.

Looking ahead, Speranza plans to spend time with his wife, Jeanne, on their sailboat, “Soulmate,” relaxing and enjoying a well deserved break. “Bon Voyage, Dr. Speranza, we wish you smooth sailing”

Dr. Kenneth A. Speranza, Sr. and his wife, Jeanne, enjoy the celebration.

2 7
Focus on Faculty

Dr. Andrea Hubbard Named Associate Dean

In August 2005, Dean Robert M. Carey announced the appointment of Dr. Andrea Hubbard, Ph.D. as a Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Hubbard will fill the position vacated by retiring Associate Dean Kenneth A. Spurana, Sr., who accompanied teacher and researcher. Dr. Hubbard has published numerous articles and books in the areas of pharmacology and immunology. More recently, she has served as Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee, which was charged by the Dean with reviewing and re-structuring the curriculum of the professional degree program. The leadership and consensus building skills required in this capacity will serve her in her new role as Associate Dean.

As a college senior, at a time when many of her peers were wrapping up their academic pursuits and preparing for a life beyond the ivory tower, Dr. Hubbard took one look through the microscope lens and discovered a world of questions yet to be answered. “When I enrolled in microbiology my senior year, I was captivated by the world beneath the lens and I knew right away that I wanted to learn more.” She enrolled in the Microbiology/Immunology graduate program at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences and embarked upon a journey that would lead her to a career of scholarship and teaching, and, eventually, to the Office of the Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut.

A look at Dr. Hubbard’s activities and accomplishments proves to be a study in contrasts: she has been both teacher and researcher. As the new academic year begins, Dr. Hubbard looks forward to the challenges that lie ahead. The School of Pharmacy will be facing many critical issues, including addressing admissions standards, accommodating general education requirements, and implementing the new curriculum, in addition to preparing for the re-accreditation process. Dr. Hubbard holds a vision for the future of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy that embraces and accommodates the talents and qualities of each of her students. As the new academic year begins, Dr. Hubbard is ready to face these challenges, and will be a springboard to a formal program that would allow students interested in pharmacy ownership to select appropriate elective coursework and be mentored by successful pharmacy entrepreneurs.

Dr. Andrea K. Hubbard
Associate Dean

Dr. Hubbard’s busy schedule balanced and re-charges her creative batteries by gardening – particularly perennial flowers – and working with undergraduate and graduate students. The imagination and zeal for which she has been so honored, a tribute to our outstanding faculty and the quality of the graduate students they attract.

Pharmacy Student
Elected as USG Officer

In April 2005, pharmacy student, Aaron Burton was elected Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Senate for the 2005-2006 academic year. We commend Aaron for his past representation and congratulate him on his achievements.

USP Awards Fellowships

This year, six graduate students were chosen to receive $20,000 research fellowships from the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Board of Trustees. Upkar Bhardwaj and Aul Saluja from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, and four other students from North Carolina, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Houston were selected to receive these fellowships from a very competitive pool of candidates. This is the third consecutive year that at least one of our students has been honored, a tribute to our outstanding faculty and the quality of the graduate students they attract.

Students Chosen as ACCP Spring Forum Poster Competition Finalists

M. Ishaq Karsad and Kaitlin Zaslows, both Doctor of Pharmacy candidates, and Dr. Effie Gillespie, a pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research fellow, were chosen as finalists in the 2005 American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Spring Forum poster competition. The students presented their research at the ACCP meeting in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina on April 2nd, 2005.

M. Ishaq Karsad’s project entitled, “Use of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEI) or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) for the prevention of diabetes melitus” is a meta-analysis of the current body of literature regarding the use of an ACEI inhibitor or a RB and new-onset diabetes. Since previous studies have showed an increased risk of new-onset diabetes patients on an ACEI or ARB as a secondary endpoint, M. Ishaq chose to investigate D trials involving 60, 982 patients to determine if there was a connection. In the end, he resolved that the use of ACEIs or ARBs reduced the risk of developing diabetes mellitus compared with placebo or conventional therapy.

Kaitlin Zaslows’ project, “Echinacea for the prevention and treatment of the common cold: a meta-analysis” explored 25 published trials on echinacea and its role of prevention and treatment of the common cold. Kaitlin, with the assistance of Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Craig Coleman, conducted research during her clinical rotation at Hartford Hospital in November 2004. Kaitlin concluded that more research is required to determine if echinacea should be recommended for widespread use.

Dr. Effie Gillespie’s project, entitled “The Impact of Aprotinin on the Incidence of Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation,” investigated aprotinin’s capabilities for reducing the occurrence of atrial fibrillation, a common side effect of open-heart surgery. Dr. Gillespie determined that the utilization of aprotinin did not significantly reduce postoperative atrial fibrillation and that additional studies of aprotinin are needed to confirm or refute these findings. She received the distinction of runner-up in the best student, resident, fellow award category during the competition in North Carolina.

NCPA Student Chapter Hosts Entrepreneurship Roundtable

On April 26, 2005, the School of Pharmacy sponsored an Entrepreneurship Roundtable. The goal of the event was to increase student awareness of ownership of a community pharmacy is a viable career choice and that there are resources available to help them achieve the goal of pharmacy ownership. Additionally, the session was aimed at helping the students develop programs aimed at students and recent graduates to foster pharmacy ownership interests. The non-time forum, moderated by Peter Tyczkowski, Coordinator of Educational Outreach, featured an opening address by Dr. Robert M. Carey, Dean of the school. Participants in the roundtable, utilizing their differing areas of expertise were invited to offer their insight into pharmacy ownership and highlight what resources they have available to help interested students realize their ownership ambitions. Speakers included: Connecticut Pharmacists Association Executive Vice President M argheta Giuliano, Cardinal Health Regional Leader M anger, Joshua Bourke, Karen Hekeler, Pharmacy Service Consultant from NorthEast Pharmacy Services Corporation, M ichael Piscitelli, Director of Comprehensive Planning and Brenda Burton- Seldon, Deputy Director and Loan Officer for the City of New Haven, former community pharmacy owner Ralph Stanalone, and Robert Wollenberg, owner of Beacon Prescriptions in Bristol, Connecticut.

The session was sponsored by the School’s newly formed NCPA chapter, led by President J ill L oser. Following brief presentations by each participant, a lively question and answer period allowed interested students to interact with the expert panel. It is hoped that this event will serve as a springboard to a formal program that would allow students interested in pharmacy ownership to select appropriate elective coursework and be mentored by successful pharmacy entrepreneurs.
Alumni Association News

From the Executive Secretary ~ Daniel C. Leone ’53

Welcome back! It's a new school year in a new building! Even on the periphery, I can feel the excitement; I can only imagine how I would feel being on campus every day. I had the privilege of touring the new building recently - and wow! The main lecture hall was nothing like our old room 350. And, lockers and a lounge for students? It makes me proud to have graduated from the school, while at the same time very jealous of the current students. Congratulations to the Dean, the faculty and staff, the alumni, and of course, the students.

First, I must extend a heartfelt thank you to immediate past president Jennifer Osowiecki. Her shoes are especially difficult to fill; however, I will have the best support in officers: Jacques Murphy (vice president), Ellen K consore (secretary), and A ustin Bebyn (treasurer) - and of course, the officers. Thank you again for your continuing support of the school and its alumni activities, please free to contact me at daniel.leone@uconn.edu, or contact any of the others listed below.

In addition, the association also sponsors, in conjunction with the school, an annual alumni awards and reunion banquet. This year, the banquet has been postponed from its usual early May date, to coincide with the dedication building dedication festivities, scheduled for October 21 and 22. The annual alumni awards and reunion banquet is scheduled for October 22nd. I encourage everyone to attend the building dedication ceremony and reception. While touring the building, take note of the alumni wall of fame, which honors distinguished alumni award recipients.

As always, if you have ideas or wants, or are interested in participating in association activities, please free to contact me at (860) 657-4083 or farismissai@aol.com, contact Dan at daniel.leone@uconn.edu, or contact any of the others listed below. Thank you again for your continuing support of the school and the alumni association.

So, is what is the purpose of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association? To paraphrase from the website, (check it out at www.pharmacy.uconn.edu), the purpose of this association is to: promote effective communication between the school and its alumni; promote pharmacy education; promote the pharmacy profession; promote the development of post-graduate educational programs; promote projects to foster professional spirit and the advancement of the school; and promote social activities among alumni. Some of the ways the association meets these criteria include: having established an endowment fund for student scholarship awards, donating $35,000 to sponsor the Pharmacy Alumni Wall of Fame in the new building, and publishing an annual newsletter.

In addition, there are other ways the association meets these criteria: encouraging alumni to attend the building dedication festivities, scheduled for October 21 and 22. The annual alumni awards and reunion banquet is scheduled for October 22nd. I encourage everyone to attend the building dedication ceremony and reception. While touring the building, take note of the alumni wall of fame, which honors distinguished alumni award recipients.

As always, if you have ideas or wants, or are interested in participating in association activities, please free to contact me at (860) 657-4083 or farismissai@aol.com, contact Dan at daniel.leone@uconn.edu, or contact any of the others listed below. Thank you again for your continuing support of the school and the alumni association.

O ver the last few months, I have been working with Dean Robert M. McCarthy. A pril tiley from the University Events Office, Liz Anderson, the School's Marketing and Communications Director, and School's Development Office on arrangements for the upcoming Gala Celebration marking the dedication of the new building, the 80th anniversary of the school's founding and the 35th anniversary of the Pharmacy Alumni Association's annual awards and reunion banquet. A wonderful weekend has been planned with activities for everyone attending. The weekend is also Homecoming at the University, so the School will have a tent set up at Rentschler Field and make tickets available for the game with Rutgers University. If you have never attended an event before at the School, or even if you have, this is the weekend to join us! Your invitation will have a complete description of all the events. Let's make this event the largest and most successful event ever held here at the School.

As soon as the Gala event is over, we will begin work on the 2006 Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion banquet to be held in April of 2006. We will once again be seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Awards - one for an alumna in academia, one for an alumna in industry, and one for an alumnus in the general area of pharmacy practice. They are given for outstanding contributions to the profession or the School of Pharmacy. We are also seeking nominations for the Honorary Alumni Award which is given to a non-alumnus who has fulfilled the same criteria. Please send your nominations to me at daniel.leone@uconn.edu or to the address at left.

I continue to seek alumni who would be willing to serve on the association's Board of Directors. It would be nice to have a list available when vacancies occur. Participation requires attendance at 2 meetings a year, (usually held on a Thursday evening at the CPA office in Rocky Hill, Connecticut in April and October), and at the annual meeting and banquet. Let me know if you are interested.

Finally, I would like to thank all alumni who continue to support the association by payment of annual dues or lifetime membership. I join President Michael M. Core in thanking Past President Jennifer Osowiecki for her long service on the board and her contribution and support during her term as President. We will miss her wise counsel at board meetings.

The Pharmacy Alumni Office is now situated in the new Pharmacy/Biology Building located at 69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3092. The phone number remains the same at 860-486-0244 but the fax number has been changed to 860-486-2076. The office is located on the fourth floor with a beautiful view of the imposing Chemistry building and the east campus. It is a pleasure to work in these new offices. Please stop in to visit us when you are on campus.

In Memoriam

Irwin L. Honigberg ’51 – March 2, 2005 (correction)

Robert C. Grieb ’59 – March 30, 2005

Harold N. Dineen ’41 – May 20, 2005

M ichael S. D’Andrea ’63 – July 28, 2005

Thomas H. Doyle ’59 – September 1, 2005

Lifetime Members

Welcome to the following alumni joining as Lifetime Members in 2005.

Sharon F. Demers, B.S., ’80
Robert A. Ernst, B.S., ’92, DMD
Capt. Syrena Gwatlow, B.S., ’79
Elaine M. Hill, B.S., ’79
Angela M. Nelson, B.S., ’92
Kathleen A. Patrick, B.S., ’85
George L. Romer III, B.S., ’67
William Saltzgiver, Ph.D., ’99
Lisa Fleury, B.S., ’91
Rita M. McGuire, B.S., ’82

A Alumni Update

Russell J. Leonard ’57 reports that he and Jeanne moved to the Georgia coast 6 years ago, that he works part time in a local pharmacy, and spends the rest of the time enjoying the beautiful coast.

Jeffrey D. Urmann M.D. ’67 has been reappointed Clinical Professor of Medicine at Stanford University Medical Center, Physician in Charge at Kaiser Permanente and practices Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. He and his wife of 35 years reside with their 2 sons in Palo Alto, CA.

Peter D. Merchant ’70 is relocating from Sacramento, CA to the southern coast of M. A. He retired from the USAF pharmacy in 2070 after 20 years of service and has now retired from Raley’s Bel Air store. He and his wife promote to the community pharmacy in Sacramento, CA. He is returning to family, friends, and his New England roots.

Robert Gunynn ’80 was awarded the Daniel C. Leone Pharmacist of the Year Award by the Connecticut Pharmacists Association for his efforts in educating and organizing the states pharmacists to prepare for and take part in disaster relief.

Shari Fite ’82 is currently working as a clinical pharmacist doing IV home infusion. She received a A 2006 National Meritorious Award this summer in Montreal, Canada.

Lisa M. Fleury ’91 is the Pharmacy Manager at D’Oro’s Pharmacy in Stratford, CT. She is organizing, with a few colleagues and DPM, a health screening clinic and is serving her second year as Treasurer at the Westport A. Roncology Society, Westport CT.

Lucas Cogrove ’95 was recently promoted to a Pharmacy Supervisor for Target. The promotion moved his family to Virginia. He and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Viviana, on July 30, 2004.

Megan Willcock ”03 was awarded the 2005 Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association.

Elected officers at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association were President: Peter Tyczkowski ’82 and 2nd Vice President Kimberly Walter ’97.

OFFICERS - 2005-2007
President: Michael T. More ’94
Vice President: Jacqueline Murph y ’87
Secretary: Ellen K consore ’79
Treasurer: Austin Bebyn ’86
Executive Secretary: Daniel C. Leone ’53

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TERM EXPIRES MAY 2006
Robert Dana ’63
Sherman R. Grisham ’51
Keith Lylee ’84
Edward Skilanka ’74
Peter Tyczkowski ’78
Elliot Tetter ’62
Christopher Winer ’94

TERM EXPIRES MAY 2007
Martha L. Sarris ’83
Jennifer Clayman ’04
Joyce Comer ’73
Margheena Guindani ’75
V. Michael Guertin ’66
Donald K. Zettervall ’79

TERM EXPIRES May 2008
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Robert J. Banch ’93
John Caspano ’73
Alicia A. Guadalis ’01
Mary Ryan Norbut ’92
George Perchak ’81
Kathleen Wozniak ’92

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Nicole M. Mantra ’98
Sarah M. McCabe ’06

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