

# Capsule

Summer 2008

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy  
Magazine for Alumni and Friends

## Perfectly Poised

A look at four students with  
great leadership potential



# Dean's MESSAGE



Visit the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy anytime soon and you'll quickly notice the transformation taking place. With \$62 million in funding from the Maryland General Assembly, ground is being torn up, fencing is being erected, and a foundation will soon be laid for our Pharmacy Hall Addition.

The construction of this building will help us educate and train even more students to meet the growing demand for our profession's unique services. Equipped with space for objective structured clinical examinations, which judge our students' ability to effectively conduct patient interviews and provide counseling, the building will help us to prepare our students for jobs as pharmacists, whose duties are much different now than they were even 20 years ago.

The addition also will include space designed to foster multidisciplinary research collaborations amongst our own faculty and graduate students, and will give them the sophisticated equipment and technology necessary to bring research from the "bench to the bedside."

Pharmacy Hall Addition is a structural sign of our School's preeminence and leadership in the field. That lofty status is achieved thanks to the people who will work within its walls, continuing to be leaders, innovators, and top-notch educators.

As an alumna of the School of Pharmacy, I continue to be inspired by the commitment each faculty and staff member brings to the job of educating student pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers. That commitment, evident in this issue of *Capsule*, can be seen in the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff.

During the past year, I have been privileged to meet with many of you—our alumni and friends. The dedication you bring to our profession and your enthusiasm for your alma mater is unparalleled. The School of Pharmacy's reach and influence is widespread, and I am proud to be at the helm at this monumental time in our School's history.

Moreover, I am greatly appreciative of your demonstrated commitment to our \$30 million fundraising campaign. Your advocacy and support is vital to our continued success, our ability to educate the general public about the diversity and importance of our profession, and the advancement of the pharmacist's role in the health care community.

As I look back on my first year as dean, I am grateful to each and every faculty and staff member, student, alumnus, donor, and friend who reached out to welcome and support me in my new role. While I am no stranger to the School, transitioning to dean posed a learning curve that I could not have mastered without this support.

I look forward to the upcoming academic year, providing construction updates on Pharmacy Hall Addition, and working with each of you to make our School of Pharmacy even more outstanding in its educational, clinical, research, and outreach endeavors.

That's it for now.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie D. Eddington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, BSP  
Dean

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University of Maryland  
School of Pharmacy  
Alumni Magazine

Summer 2008



Photograph by Bill Denison

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## Zito Receives USM Regents' Award



Julie Magno Zito

Julie Magno Zito, PhD, a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the School of Pharmacy and affiliate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, is one of four winners of the 2007-08 University System of Maryland (USM) Regents' Faculty Award for Research, Scholarship or Creative Acts. Zito was honored for

her pharmacoepidemiologic studies on medications for behavioral and psychiatric problems in children.

Zito's 2000 *Journal of the American Medical Association* study of preschoolers' use of psychotropic drugs resulted in major national and international media attention. Additionally, a \$10 million clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of methylphenidate in youth was designed in light of her pharmacoepidemiologic study findings.

She currently collaborates with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, responding to federal legislation mandating annual reporting on the frequency of use of pediatric medications to prioritize drugs for further scientific evaluation. The work is important because it identifies gaps in the efficacy and safety of marketed pediatric medications and promotes research models to fill in the gaps.

"I started as a practicing pharmacist and noticed that some patients with chronic conditions took their medications and got better and others took medicines and didn't get better," says Zito. "This experience motivated me to go to graduate school, get advanced training in epidemiology, and join others in the emerging scientific discipline of pharmacoepidemiology. This award is recognition of the field as an accepted scientific area."

Established in 1995, the Faculty Awards are the highest honors presented to USM faculty by the Board of Regents. Awardees are selected by the Council of University System Faculty and approved by the board.



Pharmacy Hall Addition rendering

## \$62 Million Secured for Pharmacy Hall Addition

On April 7, David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, announced the approval in the state budget of funding for an addition to Pharmacy Hall.

"In securing more than \$62 million for the construction of the Pharmacy Hall Addition, Gov. Martin O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly have recognized the need to educate more pharmacists, carry out more cutting-edge research, and deepen our commitment to serve the community," said Ramsay. "We are thankful for their leadership and their vision in helping us move forward with this desperately needed expansion."

The 112,565-square-foot, seven-story building will include lecture halls wired for computers and distance-learning technology, a new patient interaction laboratory, and four floors of space dedicated to clinical and translational research in pharmacogenetics, nanomedicine, and drug discovery. As an addition to 25-year-old Pharmacy Hall, it will be connected by a glass atrium.

The School of Pharmacy has spent almost two decades planning the addition. The target date for opening is fall 2010. The building designers plan to seek a silver LEED rating for the project. Energy-efficient lighting fixtures and heat-recovery air-handling system materials are among the environmentally sensitive features planned for the building.

The addition will do more than house education and research facilities. Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy, said, "The Pharmacy Hall Addition heralds a new era for the School of Pharmacy. The additional space, technology, and resources will ultimately help the next generation of students enter the professional world with all the interpersonal and scientific tools they will need."

## New Chair Announced for the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research



**Ilene Zuckerman**

**I**lene Zuckerman, PharmD, PhD, a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR) at the School of Pharmacy and its associate dean for research and graduate education, has been appointed chair of PHSR. She succeeds Professor C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, who served as the founding chair of the department and has stepped down to further

pursue his research on the cost-effectiveness of pharmaceuticals.

Zuckerman has been on faculty at the School of Pharmacy since 1983, and has served as an associate dean for approximately two years. In that role, she reinstated the School's Seed Grant Program and has expanded its utility by fostering cross-departmental collaboration.

She has instituted a number of policies to facilitate research-related activities in the School, including standardized training on HIPAA regulations, conflict of interest and research integrity issues, and the creation of a more efficient method of routing and processing grant applications. She is also founder and executive director of the School's Pharmaceutical Research Computing center, which provides computing and support (including data warehousing and data analysis) to faculty within and outside of the University.

Zuckerman's research focuses on improving drug therapy in

vulnerable populations. She is principal investigator on a career development grant funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging to examine risk factors for transitions to nursing homes among community-dwelling elderly. Her research also includes the study of anti-dementia drugs in elderly patients in community and institutional settings. In addition to her research on the pharmacoepidemiology of aging, she was principal investigator on a contract to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to provide analytic, clinical, and technical expertise for its Medicaid drug program.

"Ilene is an accomplished researcher, administrator, and mentor," says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "As chair of PHSR, Ilene will ably build upon the successes of her predecessor and focus on fostering the department's research portfolio, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research programs, curricular development, and the enhancement of federal funding."

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead PHSR as we continue to develop our health services research and educational programs," Zuckerman says. "We have an outstanding group of faculty, trainees, and staff with international recognition in areas including pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoconomics, health behavioral science, and drug policy. With such brilliant talent already in place, I plan to build on our strengths and expand our research and graduate programs as the department grows over the next few years."



**From left: C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and former chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research; the Hon. John F. Fader II, BSP '63, JD '68; and Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89.**

## Paul A. Pumpian Lecture

**O**n March 11, the Hon. John F. Fader II, a UMB dual graduate with a BSP '63 and JD '68, delivered the annual Paul A. Pumpian Lecture at the School of Pharmacy. His lecture was focused on the pharmacist's increasing legal responsibility for cognitive errors.

Pumpian, BSP '50, JD '53, a former professor at the School who created the first pharmacy administration department at a college of pharmacy in the nation, established the lectureship in 1993 to expose students to leaders in the profession. He died on April 6, less than a month after Fader's presentation. The School of Pharmacy is honored to continue to share Pumpian's tremendous contributions and legacy with the pharmacy community and offers its condolences to the Pumpian family.



**Paul A. Pumpian**

## Laurels

**Cynthia J. Boyle, PharmD '96, FAPhA**, has been named Good Government Pharmacist of the Year by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). The award, established in 1990, recognizes an individual pharmacist who actively contributes to the community through his or her involvement in the political process. Boyle received the award at the annual APhA meeting this spring in San Diego.

**Suzanne Doyon, MD, Bryan Hayes, PharmD, and Wendy Klein-Schwartz, PharmD '97, MPH**, published "Toxicity of Buprenorphine Overdoses in Children" in the April 2008 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

**Margaret Hayes, MS**, director of Student Educational Services and Outreach, received a 2008 University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Community Service Award for serving as the advisor for A Bridge to Academic Excellence, a program run by the School of Pharmacy that utilizes students from the

UMB campus to tutor local students on Saturdays.

**Robert "Buzz" Kerr, PharmD**, has been named a professor emeritus in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science. The appointment comes on the heels of Kerr's retirement in 2004 and recognizes his more than 30 years of service to the School and to the profession of pharmacy.

**Marie Mackowick, PharmD '99, BCPP**, received the W. Arthur Purdum Award from the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

**Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD '86, BCPS, CDE**, was named the 2007 Hospice Champion by the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland. McPherson also has been named the founding chair of the Board of the American Society of Pain Educators and was selected as Teacher of the Year by the graduating Class of 2008.

**Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD '86, BCPS, CDE, Sheila Weiss-Smith, PhD, and Ilene Zuckerman, PharmD '83, PhD**, published "Association Between Diabetes Patients' Knowledge About Medications and Their Blood Glucose Control" in the March 2008 issue of the journal *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*.

**Jason Noel, PharmD, BCPP**, has been named president-elect of the Maryland Pharmaceutical Society.

**Francoise Pradel, PhD, and Mona Tsoukleris, PharmD '87, BCPS**, along with PhD student **Nour Obeidat**, published "Factors Affecting Pharmacists' Pediatric Asthma Counseling" in the November/December 2007 issue of the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*.

**Trudy Robinson**, program administrative specialist I, was named UMB Employee of the Month for January 2008.

**Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH**, has been elected to the board of the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.

**Kelly Summers, PharmD, BCPS**, and fourth-year PharmD student **Jennifer Bailey** published "Dalbavancin: A New Lipoglycopeptide Antibiotic" in the April 2008 issue of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*.

**Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, BSP**, has been named director of the graduate program in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research.

**Anthony Tommasello, PhD, MS '82**, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and director of the Office of Substance Abuse Studies, has retired after 30 years of service to the School of Pharmacy. In his retirement, Tommasello will be developing new programs to assist individuals affected by substance abuse issues.



## Fred Abramson Appreciation Event

Students from the School of Pharmacy chapters of Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) honored Fred Abramson, BSP '56, RPh, at an appreciation event in April.

Abramson, director of the Pharmacy Practice Laboratory (also affectionately known as Fred Lab), serves as faculty advisor to both student organizations and was recognized for being an inspiration to so many students.

Shown at the event in their Fred Appreciation Day T-shirts are, from left, Louis Jones, Class of '09 and president of NCPA; Christine Lee, PharmD; Fred Abramson, BSP '56, RPh; John Watts, PharmD '07; and Lisa Wohl, Class of '09 and president of PLS.

## Grollman-Glick Endowment



A beaming Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, shows off his plaque between Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, and Andrew Coop, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, has been named the School of Pharmacy's first Grollman-Glick Endowed Professor in the Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The endowment was made possible by a bequest from the estate of the late Evelyn Grollman-Glick, the sister of Ellis S. Grollman, who graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 1926. It was created to recognize an outstanding member of the School of Pharmacy faculty who is a nationally and internationally recognized biomedical researcher in the pharmaceutical sciences or related basic sciences. MacKerell was presented with the endowed professorship at a ceremony in April hosted by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.



## First Semester at Shady Grove Celebrated

The School of Pharmacy family and friends gathered at the Universities at Shady Grove in January to celebrate the successful completion of the first semester at the campus in Montgomery County. Some 39 PharmD students completed the first academic year.

State Treasurer Nancy Kopp joins Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, at the celebration.

## Ellis S. Grollman Lecture

Jonathan Sessler, PhD, was welcomed in May to the School of Pharmacy, where he delivered the annual Ellis S. Grollman Lecture in the Pharmaceutical Sciences. Sessler is the Roland K. Pettit Centennial Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin.

He is a co-founder of Pharmacyclics, Inc., a publicly traded company dedicated to developing biomedical applications of expanded porphyrins, particularly for cancer therapeutics. Sessler is a pioneer in the field of macromolecular chemistry and is well-known for his work on biomedical applications of expanded porphyrins, which are molecules that can be used to target tumors as anti-cancer agents.



Guest speaker Jonathan Sessler, PhD, (right), enjoys a chat with David Roffman, PharmD '73, associate dean for academic affairs for the School of Pharmacy, at the post-lecture reception.



# Perfectly Poised

*Through the dedication of excellent faculty and preceptors, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is educating and training a class of pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers fully prepared to be leaders in their respective fields. Here is a look at four students with great leadership potential.*

**BY GWEN NEWMAN**

**m**onths before receiving her PhD from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy this summer, Susan Mercer already had an exciting job opportunity before her.

When Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., opens its College of Pharmacy this fall, Mercer will be among its founding faculty as an assistant professor of

medicinal chemistry.

As a chemistry undergraduate student at Seton Hall University, Mercer saw potential in the pharmaceutical and health care fields, perhaps developing new drugs or working in a hands-on capacity with patients—but she didn't initially have her sights set on academia.

That changed in 2007 when Mercer was approached by Lipscomb University

officials at a conference in San Diego.

She was excited by the rare opportunity to “develop a pharmacy curriculum and build a new college of pharmacy from the ground up,” Mercer recalls.

The prospect had immediate appeal—the opportunity to play a role in developing an academic program, resolving its initial challenges, and the long-term prospect of impacting lives



of future leaders in the profession is heady to any faculty member. “It’s really exciting, but a lot of work,” she readily acknowledges.

But Mercer isn’t one to shy away from challenges.

At the School of Pharmacy, she relished the opportunity to dedicate her time to various causes, including the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Association (PGSA), and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mercer served as a Maryland-ACS committee chair and student affiliate liaison, helped establish a PGSA-sponsored event to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, served as a tutor with the School of Pharmacy’s A Bridge to Academic Excellence program, as a mentor with the Exploration in Science Research Awareness program, and participated in the Chemistry in the Library program sponsored by the Maryland-ACS.



**SUSAN MERCER**

“Susan is a role model for other students and is a natural leader,” says Andrew Coop, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the School of Pharmacy and

Mercer’s advisor. “She’s been active in the local section of ACS and has made an outstanding impact in recruiting women into the chemical sciences.”

Mercer is the recipient of an ACS Leadership Development Award from the Younger Chemists Committee as well as a Pharmaceutical Sciences Competitive Departmental Merit Award from the School of Pharmacy. She also received funding from the Jerome and Mitzie Holen Schwartz Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences, which covered her graduate stipend for one academic year.

Mercer says her on-campus leadership experiences have helped her make invaluable contacts in the field, have opened her eyes to how others have progressed professionally, and have helped her to see the different opportunities that exist.

What is Mercer’s advice to other students who might be overwhelmed with the prospect of taking on more when they already are feeling stretched?

“You can always start small, even if it’s one hour a month or one hour a year. It’s easy to get caught up in the scholastic work,” Mercer says, “but to me it was important to do some kind of service that I was also passionate about. Students overall have a lot to offer and experience.”

## TRANSLATIONAL TITAN

Such is the case of Bart Rogers, PharmD ’04, a PhD candidate in Pharmacy Practice and Science at the School of Pharmacy. He has worked side by side with some of the world’s best cardiologists and has come face to face with the reality that medications that help one patient might be ineffective for another.

While earning his PharmD at the School of Pharmacy, he developed a keen interest in pharmacogenomics, what he



**BART ROGERS**

calls the future of medicine—individually tailored therapy made possible by genotyping and other technological advances in the field of medicine and pharmacology.

And it’s that combination of science and medicine, basic research and clinical research, laboratory science and hands-on patient care that has propelled Rogers in the direction of translational research. It’s a role that helps a physician make more tailored medication decisions for the treatment of patients taking into account the efficacy and safety of different drugs based on patient metabolism, differential response, allergies, and other anticipated reactions and/or side effects.

“It puts me in a unique position to be a conduit between two burgeoning areas of science,” says Rogers. “I knew I wanted to do medical research. And I like pharmacogenomics. It’s in the infancy of its development, and it’s going big places.”

He also likes the potential for identifying patients at risk for developing certain diseases and decreasing health care costs through earlier detection, intervention, and tailored therapy. For Rogers, pursuing his PhD was a natural.

“I’ve loved science from elementary school,” he explains. “All those questions about the natural world—and I’ve always been curious about how drugs work.”

On campus, Rogers has served as a graduate research assistant, a teaching assistant, and a research technician. He has developed an Institutional Review Board (IRB)-approved pharmacogenomics study in heart failure patients, analyzed urine and plasma samples, instructed students in various aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences, and undertaken a summer internship with the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Office of Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmaceutics.

Rogers says his enrollment in the PhD program at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has given him a rare opportunity to interact with top-notch doctors and cutting-edge researchers, to actively explore his interests, and to see firsthand the potential of the field.

His mentors commend his proactive approach.

“Three out of four of his experiential rotations were conducted in ICU settings, which is very courageous for a PharmD student,” says his PhD advisor, Thomas Dowling, PharmD, PhD, associate professor and vice chair for research and scholarship for the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the School of Pharmacy.

“After graduating from our PharmD program and entering graduate school, Bart has worked closely with cardiologists at the University of Maryland Medical Center to develop an important translational research project. He developed a pharmacogenomics protocol, obtained IRB approval, and is actively recruiting over 150 patients with heart failure into his clinical trial.

“This is by far the largest prospective clinical trial conducted by any student

in the history of our graduate program, and has further developed an essential collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine, already a unique strength of the program,” says Dowling.

Rogers, recipient of a Graduate Teaching Scholarship Award, currently works part time as a pharmacist at Wal-Mart. He has immersed himself in the academic pharmaceutical experience: presenting a paper at the 11th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Heart Failure Society of America, publishing his first scientific paper, and teaching in the classroom.

In short, he’s left no doubt that he’s pursuing his life’s dream.

Earning an advanced degree does take more time, but he views the achievement as a future investment.

“It’ll open up so many doors, and I would encourage any pharmacy student to consider pursuing a PhD,” he says. “There really are so many unique opportunities right in front of them.”

## INVOLVED TO THE MAX

One of Rogers’ graduating classmates, Jessica O’Kane, has served in a more highly visible capacity during her four years at the School of Pharmacy—as president of the University Student Government Association (USGA). In fact, she has been active with the USGA since her enrollment in the School’s PharmD program, also serving one year as senator and two as treasurer before taking over the presidency.

“My first year here, one of my friends in Pharmacy recommended I get involved in something. Something—I think that was a wise bit of advice,” O’Kane recalls. “Your experience at pharmacy school will be completely different based on the amount of involvement you choose. And you don’t have to be a leader in order to



JESSICA O’KANE

have a holistic experience. There really is a plethora of organizations for students, whatever their interests may be. And there’s so much to be done.”

O’Kane served as president and volunteer instructor with the Student Committee on Drug Awareness Education and was active with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), where she was an Operation Diabetes volunteer and co-chair of Operation Immunization—all while publishing, presenting, and completing practice rotations.

She gives to others the same advice that she received.

“Getting involved really helped me to see it’s not all that hard,” she says. “And it’s definitely not hard when you’ve got great people around you. We all have strengths and we all have weaknesses. When you work together, you can balance them out.”

Her hands-on experiences, says O’Kane, have helped her detect the potential in other people—a strength she says will be beneficial in the working world and better prepare her both professionally and personally.

“People like to get involved and sometimes they don’t know they can.

For you to see where people will do well, that's going to transition into real-life experiences," says O'Kane.

As spring arrived, O'Kane was anticipating graduation and looking forward to employment. She, too, already has a job, having accepted a position with Bayhealth Medical Center in Dover, Del., and is looking forward to direct patient care.

O'Kane earned the Student Government Association Annual Leadership Award and the Phi Lambda Sigma 4th Year Leadership Award. She received funding from the APhA Foundation Student Pharmacist Scholarship as its Boyle Family Scholar in addition to several pharmacy school scholarships. At graduation in May, she received the Frank J. Slama Award for excelling in extracurricular activities.

"It's been a great four years," she says of her PharmD experience. "It's probably the best decision, in terms of life decisions, that I've ever made. The education was top-notch. Faculty is very receptive to student concerns and suggestions for change."

O'Kane tells students to "pursue your interests, channel your energies, and set priorities. I think everyone is capable of time management," she says. "And no matter where you go in life, it's a skill you'll need to have."

## COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE

Julia Ju is another skilled member of the School of Pharmacy student body. In fact, she is one of the few students to earn both a PharmD (May 2005) and PhD (May 2008) from the School.

"What sets Julia apart from her peers is that she does not have many of them," says Ebere Onukwugha, PhD, research assistant professor with the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research.

"Only a few students are able to

commit at the outset to the PharmD and PhD program. Julia was able to make this commitment and follow through with it.

"She has also shown that it is possible to earn a PharmD and PhD from two top 10 programs and in record time. She has shown that it is possible to realize these professional goals without sacrificing her own personal goals—and she is a working mom! She has shown that it is advantageous to possess solid clinical knowledge in the conduct of applied pharmaceutical health services research and that the combination of clinical, economic, and data analysis skills gained from the School of Pharmacy opens doors."



JULIA JU

Ju applied herself academically and professionally. She worked as a part-time pharmacist at the University of Maryland Medical Center and chose to channel her volunteer energies into an arena that utilized a strength she could share with others. She served as Web master for the Rho Chi National Honorary Pharmaceutical Society and to Lambda Kappa Sigma, an international professional pharmacy fraternity.

She also participated in several other organizations, including the International

Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), the American Pharmacists Association, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

And, as a member of ASHP and ISPOR, she opted to attend their annual meetings—a decision she said was instrumental in building her confidence and sharpening her focus.

"Attending those meetings opened my eyes to what other people are doing and motivated me to set higher standards for myself," Ju says.

Her advice to other students is practical.

"Know yourself. What are your strengths and what areas do you want to improve? Most importantly, find a good mentor as I did. Dr. Mullins [C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and former chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research] has been my advisor and mentor for seven years and he has had a great influence on my academic and professional development. I seek and listen to his advice all the time. I wouldn't be here without his guidance and support."

Ju is the recipient of the Dr. Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship, the Lambda Kappa Sigma Award for Proficiency in Pharmacy Administration, and the American Foundation of Pharmaceutical Education Gateway to Research Scholarship.

Upon graduation, Ju intends to pursue her interest in pharmacoeconomics and health services research. Her sights are set on working for the FDA, but she says she also is open to opportunities that present themselves and avenues she hadn't considered.

"Julia is a hard worker, a dedicated student, and a thorough researcher," says Onukwugha. "Having said this, my hope is that she gains more 'peers' and that we see more and more students taking advantage of our joint PharmD/PhD program."



*“In the field of observation, chance favors only the prepared mind.”*

*—Louis Pasteur*

CHARMAINE ROCHESTER (LEFT) AND BETHANY DIPAULA  
OUTSIDE THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS  
AT OPEN GATES IN BALTIMORE

# Novel Approaches

Pair help the indigent with unique drug management programs

BY LYDIA LEVIS BLOCH

**C**all it serendipity. Two University of Maryland School of Pharmacy assistant professors were searching for new experiential sites in primary care for their students.

They not only established sites that offer unique learning experiences, but they ended up developing groundbreaking collaborative drug management programs.

Today they're helping indigent populations in urgent need of medical care, redefining the role of pharmacists, and, along the way, scoring numerous successes for the School of Pharmacy.

Charmaine Rochester, PharmD, BCPS, CDM, CDE, and Bethany DiPaula, PharmD '95, BCPP, of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, are the bold creators of these novel approaches to health care.

## LAW AND ORDER

Before Maryland passed the Drug Therapy Management Law in 2002, the state was lagging behind others that had already approved legislation permitting pharmacists to practice collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) with physicians.

Although pharmacists have long been working with physicians and other health care providers, this law has the potential to expand the pharmacists' role. However, because the law and its requirements are complex, pharmacists have not fully jumped on board.

In 2005, the School of Pharmacy won approval from the Board of Physicians Quality Assurance and the Maryland Board of Pharmacy to participate in CDTM in the areas of thrombosis,

and in 2006, in tobacco use and dependence, and metabolic syndrome management. School of Pharmacy protocols set forth which drugs, laboratory tests, counseling, and education pharmacists would be in charge of while working collaboratively with physicians.

“As part of the medical team in collaborative practice,” Rochester explains, “pharmacists will be able to order labs, perform limited physical exams, make drug recommendations, and initiate, continue or modify drug therapy because they have a legal document established and agreed upon by the physician and pharmacists.”

### THE PEOPLE’S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

In 2006, Rochester, whose research focus is in metabolic syndrome and tobacco use and dependence, established a smoking cessation program for the People’s Community Health Centers on Greenmount Avenue in Baltimore to help patients quit smoking. This site also was used to train fourth-year pharmacy students in the management of tobacco use and dependence.

The health center, which includes seven Maryland sites, began in 1970, around the same time as the famous Berkeley Free Clinic of California. Its mission is to provide “high-quality comprehensive medical, dental, and mental health care to all ... regardless of barriers to care such as ability to pay, insurance status, transportation barriers, language barriers, etc.”

Patients in Rochester’s smoking cessation program are burdened with financial, social, and emotional problems, as well as polysubstance abuse. Many have psychiatric disorders and only limited access to psychiatric care.

“Patients with psychiatric disorders didn’t understand their sickness, why they were taking medication or how the medicine could help them,” says Rochester. “There was nonadherence to medication, and the health care providers at the center needed help.”

So Rochester contacted colleague DiPaula, who specializes in psychiatry and substance abuse. DiPaula put together an interdisciplinary medication management program for psychiatric patients.

Unlike Rochester, DiPaula is not participating in a collaborative practice agreement at this time because psychiatric protocols she has submitted to the state have not yet won approval.

As of now, she can interview patients, complete medication histories, and develop a medication plan with the provider. Once the protocols are approved, she’ll be able to modify medication regimens under protocol guidelines.

### TOBACCO DEPENDENCE PROGRAM

Four students and two postgraduate pharmacy residents have completed their practice rotations with Rochester at the Greenmount Avenue clinic in the tobacco cessation program.

“Students love the experience because it’s different,” says

Rochester. “They’re identifying problems, developing plans, and putting them into use. They’re literally the ones who assess the patients, identify the problems, develop therapeutic plans, counsel and educate patients, and see if the therapeutic objectives are being met.”

### PSYCHIATRIC PROGRAM

DiPaula sees patients diagnosed with various psychiatric illnesses, including anxiety disorders, depression, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), at the People’s Community Health Centers at Open Gates. Four School of Pharmacy residents have rotated through her initiative.

A 10-minute drive from the School, Open Gates clinic sits on Washington Boulevard in Baltimore. The street is speckled with broken glass, empty liquor bottles, and weeds. Most of the nearby rowhouses are boarded up or scarred with peeling paint. The flashing blue light on the corner alerts drug dealers to police surveillance.

But amidst the desolation stands the spiffy, brick solid clinic. A shiny red gate welcomes visitors to the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building. Inside the spotless clinic, children romp in the play area. Signs are posted in Spanish and English. One reads, “You’re More Than a Prescription Number.”

“I don’t diagnose patients,” says DiPaula. “I make assessments and recommendations about medication based on information obtained directly from the patient, the medical providers, and psychiatric evaluations. I advise about the medications’ side effects, dosing, medication alternatives, and drug interactions.”

She meets patients individually, completes their medication history, then follows up with the prescriber to discuss changes to the medication regimen. She educates patients by providing routine adherence counseling. The extent of pharmacy resident involvement in her program depends on the residents’ training.

### PROGRAM GOALS

The aims for both the smoking cessation and psychiatric programs are to:

- Optimize therapy
- Enhance patient adherence
- Diminish the risk of adverse events
- Prevent drug-drug interactions
- Increase patient knowledge and skills
- Empower patients in utilizing different skills in dealing with stressors
- Improve overall patient care

DiPaula and her residents have set up an electronic database to track patients in this program, monitor types of intervention, and improve follow-up.

### A RESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Jody Lounsbury, PharmD, an ambulatory care resident in the School of Pharmacy, has worked in the tobacco cessation and psychiatric programs. "I enjoy working with a population that is underserved, in some ways that group has the greatest need of health care," she says. She had never been exposed to group sessions before, a form of therapy Rochester uses.

"The expectation for new faculty is to develop new practice sites, so being involved has been beneficial—building relationships with patients and providers and observing how the collaboration in this setting works," Lounsbury adds.

As their programs evolve, Rochester's goal is to expand the pharmacy practice with future grants, so that more pharmacists will have the opportunity to work in collaborative practice for the underserved.

"Insights from this experience may help other pharmacists initiate innovative programs in similar settings," says Rochester. "This is important to pharmacy practice as data support better patient outcomes with an interdisciplinary team approach."

DiPaula's immediate goal is to have the psychiatric pharmacy protocols approved. Second, she will continue providing expertise to an underserved population and assist physicians or clinical providers in the management of psychiatric patients. Her third goal is to establish a collaborative buprenorphine program for the Anne Arundel Family Health Center site of People's Community Health Centers.

### CHANGING ROLES

Many people view the pharmacist as someone who works in a local drugstore, or perhaps a hospital. "Our program is changing the professional profile of pharmacists by having them work with health care providers and see patients in a primary care setting," says Rochester.

According to Lelin Chao, MD, chief medical officer of People's Community Health Centers, the School of Pharmacy programs have had a significant impact.

"The pharmacists are an equal and essential part of the medical team and provide a level of education and expertise," she says.

"If you think of the typical 15 minutes that a patient gets, that's not enough time. Add at least 15 more minutes with a pharmacist who can educate the patient; the patient really appreciates it. It's pretty powerful."

## TOBACCO STUDY

Over the past year in the tobacco cessation program at Greenmount Avenue, 32 patients, average age 53, who smoke an average of 17 cigarettes daily, were offered free nicotine patches and free nicotine inhalers, meeting twice monthly in group and individual therapy sessions. Twenty-four (75 percent) received nicotine replacement therapy and 25 percent refused, preferring to quit without medication.

Nineteen percent (six of the 32 patients) quit smoking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Surgeon General's Report, the average quit rate in smoking cessation programs in the United States is 2.5 to 7.5 percent. Many of the patients in the School of Pharmacy program have decreased their smoking from one pack a day to one to three cigarettes a day. Two of the six patients relapsed, but are still trying to quit.

Charmaine Rochester, PharmD, BCPS, CDM, CDE, conducted a similar smoking cessation program at the Helping Up Missions Agency involving 70 men who are confronting homelessness and various addictions. Approximately 11 percent quit over the same period, but figures are difficult to come by because of attrition.

## PSYCHIATRIC STUDY

According to preliminary data in the interdisciplinary medication management program for psychiatric patients, Bethany DiPaula, PharmD '95, BCPP, had 202 patient visits (combination of unique and follow-up appointments). A total of 141 interventions (changes in medication, dose, schedule, recommendations to order lab tests, patient education, referrals) were made and followed, or 70 percent.

*Editor's Note: Brian Grover, PharmD '03, clinical pharmacist specialist at the University of Maryland Medical Center, and Stuart Haines, PharmD, FCCP, FASHP, professor and vice chair for education in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the School of Pharmacy, developed the first official collaborative drug management practice in Maryland (thrombosis management) in 2005.*

*Haines and Charmaine Rochester, PharmD, BCPS, CDM, CDE, then established metabolic syndrome and tobacco use and dependence management, which was approved in 2006.*



SARAH MICHEL

# Researcher Unravels Biochemical Enigma

BY RANDOLPH FILLMORE

At the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, one of the nation's innovative leaders in drug discovery, development, and delivery, researchers are focusing on challenging questions about human health today, so they can translate their discoveries into new and better ways to fight disease tomorrow.

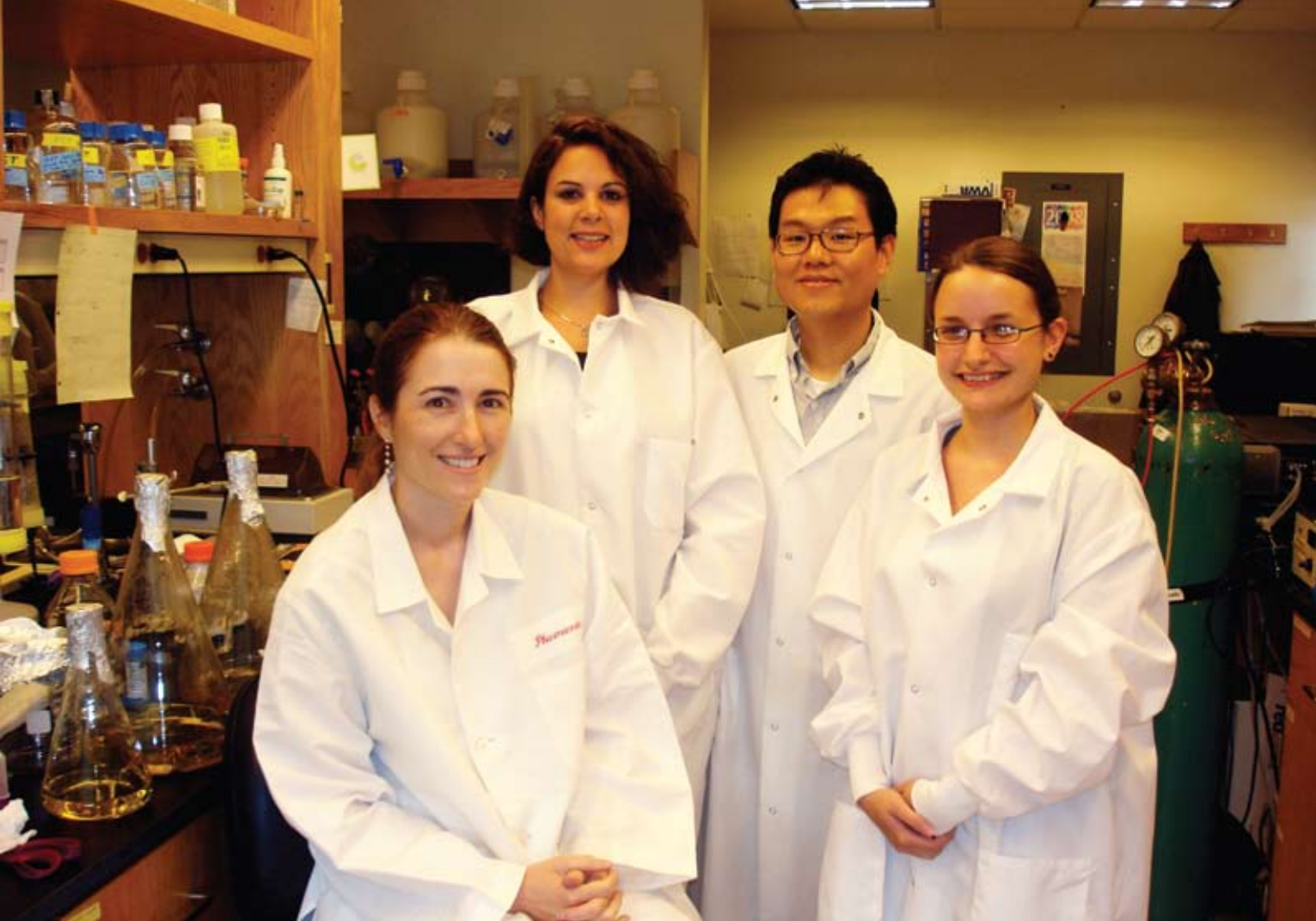
Critical, however, to the School's efforts in this area is the ability of the School's talented and top-level researchers to bring in the grants that facilitate such studies. In Fiscal Year 2007, the School received more than \$16 million in contract and grant awards.

In January 2008, Sarah Michel, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), received a prestigious five-year, CAREER award (Faculty Early Career

Development Program) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to investigate a biochemical enigma—what are the toxic consequences when iron, rather than zinc, binds to specific proteins in the body that control how different genes are expressed?

Michel was awarded the NSF grant for her work studying two zinc finger proteins, proteins that use zinc to regulate the expression of a wide range of human genes. Many of these genes encode proteins that are an integral part of the body's defense against infection. However, if not regulated effectively, these same proteins may be involved in chronic inflammation and may contribute to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, as well as to arthritis and cancer.

“Iron and zinc are the most abundant metals in the human body, and each metal ion binds to a specific protein, with zinc



From left: Sarah Michel, Abby West, Seung Jae Lee, and Angelique Besold

commonly binding to zinc finger proteins,” says Michel.

Work in Michel’s laboratory has shown that an abundance of iron in cells causes some zinc finger proteins to bind to iron instead of zinc. Identifying the physiological consequences of the iron substitution is an issue with ramifications in the development of some serious diseases, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, and, yet, may hold the key to preventing or treating those same diseases.

“This substitution with iron may disrupt proper gene regulation and lead to diseases such as cancer, arthritis, and neurodegenerative diseases,” explains Michel, who is assisted in the lab by graduate students Seung Jae Lee and Abby West, postdoctoral fellows Robert diTargiani and Nuvjeevan Dosanjh, lab tech Angelique Besold, and summer student Sarah Wasink. “If on the molecular level we can understand the role of iron in disrupting gene regulation, we can begin to design drugs to target the diseases associated with this disruption.”

In her groundbreaking work, Michel is looking at two specific zinc finger proteins; one that activates the cell’s

response to inflammation, called “TTP,” and another, “NZF 1,” that facilitates the proper development of nerve cells. She is particularly interested in the role that TTP might play in the development of serious diseases such as arthritis and various types of cancer.

According to Michel, if iron—the wrong metal—rather than zinc—the right metal—binds to the zinc finger protein TTP, for example, the result can be cellular inflammation not only related to the serious diseases mentioned, but also septic shock, which can be fatal.

Her studies demonstrate that iron can bind to TTP and that these iron-substituted proteins selectively recognize a physiologically relevant RNA [ribonucleic acid] sequence with “affinities” similar to the zinc-bound form of TTP.

Direct translation of these findings to health care may be a few years away, but a “target” may have emerged.

“TTP is a therapeutic target for the development of novel anti-inflammatory drugs to treat other diseases, such as arthritis and cancer,” Michel says. “By understanding the role of iron in TTP’s function, we will be better positioned to iden-



“If on the molecular level we can understand the role of iron in disrupting gene regulation, we can begin to design drugs to target the diseases associated with this disruption.”

—Sarah Michel

tify potential drugs that target this protein and the diseases associated with its function.

“Although zinc is presumed to be the correct metal ion for zinc finger proteins to properly regulate genes in the body,” explains Michel, “we want to understand the consequences of this substitution. Our studies not only teach us new fundamentals of inorganic chemistry and help us better understand the roles of iron and zinc in gene regulation, but will provide us with new drugs to combat many serious diseases.”

When she says “we” she is referring not only to herself and her School of Pharmacy colleagues, but also to undergraduate chemistry students at Morgan State University, who, through their chemistry department, will be collaborating with her in the Spring Into Maryland Science (SIMSI) Program. This program allows chemistry students a first glimpse at how their education can lead to a career in health sciences research and practice.

SIMSI, due to kick off in January 2009, is a weeklong graduate school immersion program that also provides additional short- and long-term research opportunities for Morgan State undergraduates in their freshman year. The goal is to inspire undergraduates from underrepresented groups to follow science careers at the very beginning of their college experience.

The research and the relationship will be mutually beneficial, says Holly Cymet, PhD, the assistant professor in the Morgan State Department of Chemistry who is serving as the SIMSI coordinator.

“We have a number of undergraduate chemistry students interested in pursuing the pharmacological sciences,” says Cymet. “SIMSI will provide an excellent opportunity to connect these students with the field early in their college careers.”

Alvin Kennedy, PhD, professor and chair of Morgan State’s Department of Chemistry, concurs.

“This partnership will greatly enhance our efforts to

support undergraduate research here at Morgan,” says Kennedy. “It is especially important to note that the experience for the undergraduates is during their first year, when they are enrolled in general chemistry.”

A goal of SIMSI is to expose undergraduate students to PhD-level research and offer them the opportunity to connect with PSC graduate students who will serve as mentors. Cymet’s lab has had an ongoing interest in NZF 1.

Michel has been collaborating with Cymet for two years, and further collaboration through SIMSI will help the chemistry students at Morgan State and also enhance the training of Michel’s graduate students who will serve as mentors.

“Both sets of students will get great experiences at the interface of inorganic chemistry and biology,” says Michel. “Students are learning the techniques and gaining the skills required for scientific research, including how to ask the right questions, design the right experiments, and develop ideas based on experimental results.”

Finally, Michel promises that students also will learn to communicate their results, both via publications in scientific journals and by presenting their data at scientific conferences.

During collaborative research, additional questions will be posed and answers unraveled by the graduate student mentors working with the Morgan State undergraduate chemistry students. Then the Morgan State undergraduates will actually perform cutting-edge research, far beyond what they would normally encounter in a general chemistry course.

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, raves, “The outstanding basic research performed in Sarah’s lab coupled with the training of undergraduates from Morgan State lays the foundation for new therapeutic agents for numerous disease states and trains the next generation of scientists, with the aim of discovering new medications for improvement of public health.”

## MAINSTAYS

*... an occasional look at long-serving faculty and staff*



Michaeline and Donald Fedder

# Model Behavior

Donald Fedder has researched the role of behavior in reducing disease for 40 years.

BY LYDIA LEVIS BLOCH

Donald Fedder, DrPH, MPH, BSP '50, FAPhA, quickly sketches a mortality curve derived from the Framingham Heart Study that shows similar increases in mortality with age for men and women.

"The goal of public health is to flatten that curve by better control of chronic illness, thus slowing disease exacerbations," he says. "To the degree this is successful, people should live longer with an improved quality of life."

At 81, Fedder is as passionate as ever about health care.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Fedder, a professor at the School of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine, has had a distinguished career since joining the faculty in 1974.

He sits in his tidy office in the School of Pharmacy's Peter Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging surrounded by awards, degree certificates, books, and papers—lots of them—and some of his haunting photographs of trees.

For more than 40 years, the focus of Fedder's research has been on the role of modifiable behaviors in reducing disease risk,

increasing patient compliance with medication, and improving relationships between the patient and health practitioner.

"Compliance is a deviant behavior. It's not normal for people to follow instructions of others," he says. "Health care providers, patients, and caregivers need to understand and tolerate that."

Over the years, the pharmacy curriculum has become much more clinical, he says. Students gain important knowledge and skills, but would benefit from a better understanding of how people function and how difficult it is to follow regimens, he adds.

"Medication Therapy Management is one of the challenges facing pharmacy," Fedder says of new programs designed to ensure the appropriate use of medications and optimal patient outcomes. He knows this from personal experience. For more than 20 years, he operated a pharmacy, the first in Maryland to carry orthotics and home health medical equipment.

Later, in his 50s and while teaching at the School of Pharmacy, Fedder earned master's and doctoral degrees from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

One of his proudest moments occurred when he received the 2005 Martin Luther King Diversity Award from the University of Maryland, Baltimore for his ENABLE-MD: The Center for Community Outreach initiative. The successful program, lasting nearly 20 years, trained local community health workers to aid high-risk populations with chronic disease to maintain control of their illness.

"The program ended in 2007 because of a lack of funding, but there's still a huge need," he says.

A longtime School of Pharmacy colleague, Fred Abramson, BSP '56, RPh, says such acts as spearheading ENABLE-MD are not unusual for Fedder, who he describes as "a person who always cares about other people, someone of high integrity."

Fedder is also president emeritus of the Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification. Until 2006, he led this international organization that establishes standard requirements for certification in these fields. He holds fellow positions on national and local associations including the American Pharmacists Association and the Society for Public Health Education.

In his spare time, the professor enjoys reading and traveling near and far to be with his family, which includes his wife, Michaeline Fedder, MA, director of advocacy for Maryland with the American Heart Association, Mid-Atlantic Affiliate.

Says Abramson: "Dr. Fedder has been committed to pharmacy for many years and is certainly an asset to the profession."



# Don't Count Her Out

34 years later, 'temp' Mary Jo Ivins is still keeping the foundation books straight.

BY LYDIA LEVIS BLOCH

In 1974, Mary Jo Ivins, a young secretary, eagerly accepted her first assignment with a temp agency—a job at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She never imagined that placement would change her life.

At the time, the School was in Dunning Hall on Lombard Street. The building no longer exists and although 34 years have flown by, Ivins still works at the School of Pharmacy.

Actually, she worked there for 30 years until her “retirement” in 2004. By then she was supervising six people and had become administrator for the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) and the Dean’s Office.

“After she retired, we found we couldn’t get along without her, so we called her back,” says former Dean David A. Knapp, PhD. Ivins returned. These days she handles foundation accounts on a part-time basis for Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD ’89.

Back in 1974, nobody at the School of Pharmacy worried about foundation accounts. The School boasted about 20 faculty, a few grants, and a lack of space and record keeping.

After temping for only two weeks, Ivins landed a part-time job with then-Dean William J. Kinnard, PhD. It became full time once her two sons started school. Her office—which doubled as the lunch area—was a table in “the back room,” piled high with financial records. Kinnard’s first request was for Ivins to establish an accounting system for the School of Pharmacy.

“I panicked,” she recalls. Then, in her typically efficient way, Ivins took an accounting class. Six months later, her accounting system was operating smoothly.

“Mary Jo stepped right in and kept adding to her skills,” says Kinnard. “Saturdays she’d bring her sons in to work. She was very dedicated—still is.”

Once the School moved to its current location in Pharmacy

Hall on Pine Street in 1982, the faculty increased. As did the number of grants, departments, budgets, and Ivins’ responsibilities—more reports for the campus, the state, and accrediting bodies.

“When I’d ask for help, I’d get promoted,” she says with a laugh.

With the advent of computers, Ivins designed databases to track the School’s accounts, including endowments, trust funds, grants, and complicated records with University offices. She became the School’s chief financial officer.

“For many years, Mary Jo was my right hand, as far as finances were concerned,” says Knapp, who succeeded Kinnard as dean in 1989.

A former PPS colleague, Susan Szekely, who now is manager of fiscal and personnel affairs for the Dental School, also is full of praise. “Mary Jo is savvy, knows how things work at the University, and is always able to solve problems,” Szekely says.

Other employers and job offers beckoned, but Ivins turned them down.

“The School of Pharmacy is filled with wonderful people,” she says. “When you have a work environment that gives you autonomy to set up the systems I wanted, plenty of opportunities to grow, and flexibility, why would I go elsewhere?”

Ivins retired to initially spend time with her ailing mother and mother-in-law. However, to the relief of many, she was soon back on the job. Part-time retirement means enjoying time with her family and relaxing in Ocean City, Md.

“The School is a very important part of my life,” says Ivins. “There were growing pains, but they were always there to listen to me. It’s been a wonderful partnership.”

## Laurels

The **Beta Lambda Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma** at the School of Pharmacy was named Chapter of the Year for the second consecutive year. The award was given at the American Pharmacists Association's annual meeting in San Diego in March 2008.

**Mary Bradbury**, a third-year PharmD student, **Jessie Lish**, a fourth-year PharmD student, and **Frances Wong**, a third-year PharmD student, were selected as 2008 Wal-Mart Scholars.

**Marishka Brown**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, won a travel award to attend the RIKEN Brain Science Institute summer program in Japan. Forty-five international students are accepted to attend the intensive 11-day course for advanced training in brain function.

**Emily Dotter**, a first-year PharmD student, served on the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Student Forum Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisory Group. Dotter

also received a 10-week summer internship with the ASHP. She will be working at its headquarters in Bethesda.

**Damon Douglas**, a third-year PharmD student, published "Using Option-Based Contracts to Improve Health Outcomes" in a recent issue of the journal *Managed Care*.

**Rita Kasliwal**, a second-year PharmD student, was awarded the Howard Sternheim Summer Internship at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

Her sister, **Tina Kasliwal**, a fourth-year PharmD student, received the 2008 Phi Lambda Sigma/American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education/GlaxoSmithKline First Year Graduate Scholarship. Tina will receive \$7,500 toward the pursuit of a graduate degree in experimental and clinical pharmacology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

**Tina Kasliwal** and **Frances Wong** were recipients of American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Student Travel Awards for the ACCP's spring 2008 meeting in Phoenix.

**Jeanne Lim**, a third-year PharmD student, received a 12-week Walgreens Health Initiatives Managed Care Summer Internship, which she will complete at the company's headquarters in Deerfield, Ill.

**Susan Mercer**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a Leadership Development Award from the American Chemical Society.

**Vikas Moolchandani**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been appointed as a student representative on the executive board of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists' Pharmaceutical Drug Delivery section.

**Kerrick Nevels**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, won a travel award from the Biophysical Society.

**Jacob Wesley**, a first-year PharmD student, was awarded a bioprocess research internship at Pfizer's Global Research and Development lab in St. Louis.



School of Pharmacy students on the steps of the State House

Students and faculty from the School of Pharmacy received the "Community Pharmacy Great Communicators" honor from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) for their visit to the Maryland General Assembly in February to persuade legislators to approve funding for the long-sought Pharmacy Hall Addition.



## Rho Chi Honor Society Initiates 42 New Members

The Omicron Chapter of the Rho Chi Honor Society at the School of Pharmacy initiated 42 new members at its annual banquet in April. Membership in the honor society is open to PharmD and graduate students in the top 20 percent of their class in the second semester of their second year. The evening's guest speaker was Ellen Yankellow, PharmD '96, BS '73, founder, president, and managing partner of Correct Rx Pharmacy Services, Inc. Yankellow was surprised with an honorary Rho Chi membership at the evening's festivities.

Shown from left are Rho Chi officers Amy Vu, treasurer, Class of '09; Tiffany Russell, vice president, Class of '09; Allison Chilipko, historian, Class of '09; and Erin Elwood, secretary, Class of '09.

## Phi Lambda Sigma Honor and Initiation Ceremony

At right, School of Pharmacy students and faculty associated with the Beta Lambda Chapter of the Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Honor Society proudly show off their award for being named Chapter of the Year for the second consecutive year at the American Pharmacists Association's annual meeting in San Diego in March.



Shown from left are Connie Yoon, Class of '10; Callie Same, Class of '10; Lakshmi Potti, Class of '09; Ganesh Kumarachandran, Class of '09; Erica Swanson, Class of '10; and Sophia Park, Class of '10.

In April, PLS held its annual banquet and initiation ceremony at Gertrude's at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Thirty-three new "brothers" were inducted into the leadership honor society along with School of Pharmacy Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, and Jermaine Smith, RPh, of the Rite Aid Corp., which sponsored the event.

## Backpack to Briefcase: Pharmacy Students Learn Etiquette Skills to Help Them Land Jobs

Fifty students from the School of Pharmacy got a lesson in etiquette in April as part of a yearlong series on developing professional skills such as networking, leadership, and interviewing. The School's student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy organized the dinner in an effort to improve and hone skills the students will need as they venture into the professional world. During dinner, which was held at La Scala Ristorante in Baltimore's Little Italy, an etiquette expert reviewed dining dos and don'ts, along with greeting and conversational techniques. The dinner was sponsored by the Target Corp.



Enjoying the event from left are Christina Dang, Class of '11; Kenzie Biggins of Target; Chris Channing, Class of '11; Fedelyne Dieujuste, Class of '08; Andrew York, Class of '11; and Brandon Shannon, Class of '11.

## SGA Spring Picnic

More than 150 students, faculty, and family members attended the Student Government Association's Spring Picnic in April at Centennial Park in Ellicott City. There was a pie eating contest, other food and beverages, basketball, tennis, football, and volleyball.



Shown at the picnic from left are Lisa Derby, Class of '09; Melanie Belcher, Class of '08; Nicole Cammarata, Class of '09; Lisa Bonk, Class of '09; and Mary Chung, Class of '09.



Postdoctoral fellow Deva Priyakumar, PhD, (left) and Rohit Kolhatkar, PhD, research assistant professor, discuss a presentation at Student Research Day.

## Student Research Day Highlights Wide Range of Exciting Projects

More than 165 graduate and professional students and residents and postdoctoral fellows at the School of Pharmacy gathered in the Medical School Teaching Facility Atrium on April 8 for the School's annual Student Research Day. Their posters were displayed at the event, which provided an opportunity for students to discuss their work with judges, other students, faculty, and potential collaborators. There were three first-place winners and numerous honorable mentions.



John Lee (left) and Jack Kakar



Fernando Andrickson, Martha Anderson, and Afua Addo-Abedi

## 2008 Convocation and Graduation

The 2008 School of Pharmacy Graduation Convocation was held the morning of May 16 at Goucher College in Towson. More than 130 students received Doctor of Pharmacy and PhD degrees.

Dorothy Smith, PharmD, founder and president of Consumer Health Information Corp., was chosen by the Class of 2008 as the keynote speaker. Smith's organization has more than 20 years of clinical experience in counseling patients about their medications, and she is an internationally recognized expert in patient education, patient compliance, and behavior modification programs.

The Academic Excellence Award was presented to Honghong La for graduating with the highest GPA in the class. Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD '86, BCPS, CDE, professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was chosen by the Class of 2008 as its Teacher of the Year.

Preceptors recognized at the ceremony for their contributions to the education of student pharmacists included: Jeffrey Cywinski, BSP, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience New Preceptor of the Year; Jennifer Thompson, PharmD, Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience New Preceptor of the Year; Carol Stevenson, PharmD '02, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year; and Frank Pucino, PharmD, Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year.



## Corporate Partners

Three more businesses join the School scholarship team, helping students and themselves

BY CHRISTINE STUTZ

**T**he School of Pharmacy receives generous support from its corporate partners. This cooperation with the business community has benefited the School and its students enormously, in terms of both clinical learning opportunities and philanthropy.

Scholarships continue to play a significant role in the School's ability to provide an excellent education for its students, and the business community is a key ingredient in this formula. Recently, three corporations—Kaiser Permanente, EPIC Pharmacies, and Catalyst Rx—established scholarships at the School, creating a “win-win-win” situation. They are helping students with the financial burden of graduate education, promoting opportunities in specific areas of practice, and honoring the people and corporations who have been committed to excellence in the profession.

“Scholarships have always been

transformational, providing education, access, and opportunity,” says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, dean of the School of Pharmacy. “These gifts have a multifaceted effect on the donor, the recipient, and on the patients that students will eventually care for or impact through research. The importance of scholarships should never be underestimated as they have the ability to dramatically change lives.”



Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest health maintenance organization, has established an annual scholarship to honor the memory of one of its employees who was especially devoted to helping students.

Jacqueline Moore, RPh, who retired from teaching at the Howard University School of Pharmacy before joining the

Kaiser Permanente team, was a beloved co-worker who lived in Maryland and was an excellent mentor, says Kimberly Rains, PharmD, pharmacy academic affairs coordinator for Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States.

“She had not worked with Maryland students, but she loved her students and had a great philosophy of working with them,” says Rains.

In Moore's honor, Kaiser Permanente will provide \$8,000 in scholarships for second- and third-year School of Pharmacy students for the 2008-09 academic year. Four \$1,000 awards will be made based on financial need, and another four \$1,000 awards will be made based on academic merit, with consideration given only to those in the top 20 percent of their class. The School of Pharmacy will determine the criteria for the need-based awards, Rains says.

The company created the scholarships

as a means of donating back to the School the preceptor honorariums it pays to Kaiser employees. Kaiser Permanente is holding the preceptor fees in a separate account and returning them to the School in the form of scholarships, according to Rains.

The School of Pharmacy's relationship with Kaiser Permanente has grown since August 2007, when the School opened a satellite campus at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Md., near the insurer's regional office. "A degree in pharmacy is so versatile that it's important to make students aware of different career choices, like managed care," says Michele Ewing, executive director of development and alumni affairs at the School.



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A dedicated teacher inspired EPIC Pharmacies to establish an endowed scholarship for School of Pharmacy students. EPIC President and CEO Angelo Voxakis, BSP '71, says he and his management team wished to honor the memory of their friend, and longest-serving board member, with the EPIC Pharmacies' Leslie Feldman Memorial Scholarship.

Feldman, RPh, who died in October 2007, owned three pharmacies in Howard County and was an excellent example of a community pharmacist, Voxakis says. He was also generous with his time and knowledge.

"Charitable work was important to Leslie, so we thought this scholarship would be a great way to honor his memory," Voxakis says.

Voxakis recalls that the School of

Pharmacy's tuition was about \$300 per year when he was a student there, and even less when his brother George, a retired pharmacist who sits on the School's Board of Visitors, attended. Now, with annual tuition in the tens of thousands of dollars, every little bit of assistance helps, adds Voxakis.

Education was always very important in the Voxakis home. In 2005, the Voxakis brothers established a scholarship in memory of their parents, Christopher and Smaragde Voxakis. (*See Capsule, Spring 2006.*)

EPIC's endowment will make it possible to help students with an interest in working in the independent pharmacy environment. Eight percent of the School's 2007 graduates went on to work in independent pharmacies, and Voxakis would like to see that number increase. "All innovation in pharmacy comes from the independents," he says. "The day the independent pharmacy dies, God help the consumer and God help the profession."



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Since winning the contract to provide pharmacy benefit management services for state of Maryland employees in July 2007, Catalyst Rx has sought to strengthen its relationship with the state, says Trinh Le, PharmD '02, a clinical manager with Catalyst Rx. One of the ways it has chosen to do so is by establishing an annual scholarship program at the School of Pharmacy.

Each year, two students who have named managed care as their chosen field will receive awards. Le, who helps oversee the scholarship program for Catalyst Rx,

says the company would like students to know more about the opportunities available for pharmacists in managed care, such as disease management.

"Not a lot of students know that managed care combines both the clinical and the business sides," Le says. "This career provides a nice meld of both."

Rockville-based Catalyst Rx is not well-known to Marylanders, but it participates in a pilot program through the School's Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions called Maryland P3 (Patients, Pharmacists, Partnerships). This program engages pharmacists as providers of diagnostic testing, counseling, and disease management, as well as being a patient's primary contact on how to use diabetes medication.

The counseling sessions are free, and co-pays for medication and supplies are waived as well.

Le cites the P3 program as an example of how pharmacists can play an active role in improving patient outcomes, and, on a larger scale, how Catalyst Rx wishes to partner with others to improve health care in Maryland.

Peter Orlaskey, PharmD '04, also a clinical manager with Catalyst Rx, believes it makes sense for managed care companies to support the training of young people who will enter the field. Both he and Le support the School's student chapter of AMCP, the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

As a Maryland alumnus, Orlaskey is proud to be involved in facilitating the commitment of funds for the Catalyst Rx scholarships. "I think it's great. I think there's not enough industry involvement in supporting scholarships," he says. "Anybody who employs pharmacists should want to support its feeder system."



## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy thanks the many corporations, foundations, organizations, and private sponsors who, throughout the year, have so generously contributed to the enrichment of the student experience and ongoing professional development by supporting numerous student events.

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Michael Beatrice and his wife, Kim.

## Prophetic U-Turn

A broken-down car put Michael Beatrice on his career path.

BY GWEN NEWMAN

A chance encounter initiated an interesting career for Michael Beatrice, PhD '01, MS, a corporate vice president with Abbott Laboratories in Illinois.

Opportunity first knocked for Beatrice when he graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1971 with a BS in pharmacy. He was ready to move from his job at a hospital in New Mexico to retail pharmacy in Virginia when his car broke down in Oklahoma City. The needed repairs gave him time to wander onto the Oklahoma University campus, and conversations he enjoyed there led him to reconsider his options. Beatrice completed a two-year residency at Norman Municipal Hospital and graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy with a master's degree in 1974.

He then became a staff analytical pharmacist with the National Institutes of Health and joined a recreational basketball team that played with nearby colleagues from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Those contacts

led to an entry-level job, and he ultimately advanced to deputy director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

"It's amazing how life works," says Beatrice, who has also served as admiral and assistant surgeon general in the U.S. Public Health Service. "You have to be open to opportunity."

He enrolled at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 1988 to pursue a PhD, juggling academics with his professional responsibilities first with the FDA, where he rose to numerous high-profile positions, and later with Abbott. By the time he concluded the PhD program in 2001, Beatrice had spent decades in his profession, had taken on top leadership posts, and fulfilled a lifelong dream.

"I had always wanted to complete a PhD in pharmaceuticals," explains Beatrice, who since 1999 has served as corporate vice president for regulatory and quality science for Abbott Laboratories.

Abbott employs more than 65,000 people with locations in the United States and 130 other countries, and Beatrice is

one of 52 corporate officers collectively responsible for operations of the total health care company. He is charged with oversight of Abbott's global quality and regulatory compliance operations, which are assured by adoption of robust standards, including current good manufacturing practice requirements as applied locally and regionally.

Although not the typical student, Beatrice personifies the strength and depth of experience, knowledge, and diversity that students bring to a program long renowned for training future leaders based on the strength of its faculty. "The University of Maryland was clearly a leading institution with regard to the level of complexity that they taught—and taught very well," he says. He studied under R. Gary Hollenbeck, PhD, "my main advisor and very patient mentor, to whom I owe a lot."

"It was truly a privilege to be Mike's advisor, although I think he advised me as much as I did him," says Hollenbeck, who is now chief scientific officer at UPM Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

"His case is a great example of the 'win-win' that can happen when an employer invests in furthering the education of an employee. Of course, it helps if the employee is as talented and ambitious as Mike was. His is a story of personal and professional growth and accomplishment."

Beatrice describes the pharmaceutical profession as fluid, broad-ranging, and ever-changing with rigorous legal and technical requirements in which one needs to stay abreast of constant change and development. He has spent much of his career helping to streamline regulatory procedures and to demystify the process. While a graduate student, he proved instrumental in helping the University of Maryland secure a \$4 million grant. Currently an advisor to James Madison University in Virginia and the Advanced Centre for Biochemical Engineering in London, he is often sought out for his expertise and practical guidance.

"Never limit yourself," Beatrice advises, "and be open to opportunities."

He certainly speaks from experience.

"As a student, I would never have imagined that anyone would consider me for a position in higher education or a highly technical career," he says. "Pharmacy has a wide range of opportunities, and I encourage others to never put themselves in a limited situation where they have no other options—but to be open to opportunity and receptive to the unexpected."

## In Memoriam

*This section is dedicated to School of Pharmacy alumni who passed away between Nov. 1, 2007, and June 1, 2008. As the Maryland pharmacy profession is a close-knit community, we are honored to share the names of recently deceased alumni who have in some way impacted the profession and practice of pharmacy.*

James M. Chaney, PHG '20  
James F. Clark, MS '69  
John H. Dougherty, BSP '49  
Roland P. Galley, BSP '38  
James T. Geraghty, BSP '57  
Morton A. Greene, PHG '25  
Alvin D. Groman, BSP '67  
Frederick Robert Haase, MD, BSP '43  
Jacob S. Hanker, PHD '69  
Irving Hantman, MD, PHG '28  
Ursula E. Heyer, MS '58  
Gilbert Hillman, PHG '33  
Morris E. Jaslow, BSP '44  
George A. Kohlhepp Jr., BSP '52  
William H. Leonard, BSP '56  
Virginia P. Luecke, PHG '31  
Jerome Mask, BSP '39  
Cornelia S. Mays, PHG '19  
Maurice W. Mercier, BSP '47  
Irving Millenson, PHG '18  
John J. O'Hara Jr., BSP '47  
John L. O'Neal, BSP '51  
Paul A. Pumpian, BSP '50, JD  
Howard E. Rofsky, BSP '56  
Harry Rosen, MS '33  
David H. Rosenberg, MD, PHG '28  
Aaron Rosenstadt, BSP '48  
Sylvan I. Rubin, PHG '31  
Oscar Rudoff, BSP '41  
Raymond Sachs, BSP '44  
Norman L. Schenker, BSP '48  
June H. Shaw, MS '75, BSP '49  
Irving E. Shochet, BSP '48  
Jack M. Siegel, BSP '69  
Joseph J. Waldsachs, BSP '49  
Leroy D. Werley Jr., BSP '49  
Arthur Winakur, BSP '36  
Kaye Wolf, BSP '70  
Max M. Zervitz, PHG '29

*If you would like to make a memorial gift, please use the enclosed envelope or call 410-706-5893.*

## A Message from the Alumni President



**Lynette Bradley-Baker**

It is hard to believe that I am at the halfway point of my presidency for our Alumni Association! It has been a year of great growth toward my three goals for our association:

- to foster communication between the School and alumni
- to provide social and educational avenues by which alumni can network with one another and other pharmacy professionals
- to build vital relationships with student pharmacists, faculty, and staff at both our Baltimore and Shady Grove campuses

Your association has extended its outreach by hosting the Gifts of Time Reception, the Jazz Reunion Brunch, and numerous receptions at pharmacy professional association meetings.

We also participated in the annual Maryland Legislative Day and in open houses for prospective students held at the School of Pharmacy, and served on admissions interviews. To assist in bridging our current alumni with future alumni, we have a student representative from the Class of 2008 and Class of 2009 on the Executive Board. This collaboration also will assist us in ensuring the best occasion possible for our premier event, the annual Graduation Banquet!

While your Alumni Association has made many strides this year, we still have areas of opportunity for the upcoming year and beyond. This includes more effective communication with our alumni and current students as well as defining the role of our association as part of our School's functioning and operations. We will use our annual summer retreat to devise strategies to build on the momentum that has begun.

Please do not hesitate to contact me ([lrb92@aol.com](mailto:lrb92@aol.com)) about becoming more involved with our Alumni Association. Your voice and/or presence will only strengthen our purpose and our impact now and in the future!

Sincerely,

Lynette R. Bradley-Baker, PhD '99, BSP '92  
*President*

**2007 – 2009**

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### OFFICERS

**Lynette Bradley-Baker, PhD '99, BSP '92**  
*President*

**Doris Voigt, PharmD '04**  
*President-Elect*

**Hoai An Truong, PharmD '05**  
*Vice President*

**Capt. James Bresette, PharmD '97**  
*Co-Treasurer*

**Cynthia Boyle, PharmD '96**  
*Co-Treasurer*

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Brian Hose '06**  
*Chair, Graduation Banquet*

**Wayne Dyke, BSP '68**  
*Co-Chair, Reunion*

**Terry Gyi, PharmD '06, BSP '83**  
*Co-Chair, Reunion*

**George Voxakis, PharmD '96, BSP '58**  
*Chair, 50th Year Reunion*

**Joseph DeMino, BSP '84**  
*Past-President*

**David A. Knapp, PhD**  
*Honorary President*

## David Stewart Associates Dinner April 17, 2008 - Hidden Waters

The newest members of the David Stewart Associates, the School of Pharmacy's premier giving society, turned out for a memorable evening at Hidden Waters, the residence of University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. Kirwan, PhD.



Left to right front: Associate Professor Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH; Elias Shaya; Jean Cohen; Gilbert Cohen, BSP '54; Julie Schuetz, MS '82, BSN '85; Eric Schuetz, BSP '86. Back row: Professor C. Daniel Mullins, PhD; Bruce Roffe, MS '78; and Roberta Roffe.



Host William E. Kirwan (left) enjoys a conversation with University President David J. Ramsay (right) and School of Pharmacy campaign chair John Balch, BSP '68.



Professor Robert Beardsley, PhD, and his wife, Katherine Beardsley, PhD, enjoy a moment with Claire Leocha, Class of '09, recipient of the Beardsley Scholarship.



Amy Horsley, Class of 2009, recipient of the Silverstein Scholarship, pauses for a photo with her sponsors, Harriet and Morton Silverstein, BSP '54.



Angelo Voxakis, BSP '71, receives the Key to Pharmacy Hall from Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89.



David Stewart Associates from the Class of 2006 Tom Williams Jr., PharmD, (left) and Brian Hose, PharmD, are joined by their wives, Alice and Stacey.

## Dean's Hall of Fame

Martin Mintz, BSP '65, was inducted into the Dean's Hall of Fame of Distinguished Community Pharmacists during the National Community Pharmacists Association's Banquet held in April at the BWI Marriott. Mintz, owner of Northern Pharmacy and Medical Equipment, was recognized by Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, for his dedication and contributions to the pharmacy community.



## Class Notes

### 1995

**Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca DeCastro, BSP**, and her husband, Noriel, announced the birth of their second child, Jaden Matthew, on Dec. 13, 2007. Jaden joins big brother Ethan (11, below). Rebecca is employed as a pharmacist with the U.S. Public Health Service and the family resides in Parkville, Md.



### 1999

**Seth Cohen, PharmD**, and his wife, Karen, celebrated the birth of triplets—Samuel, Eliana, and Abigail—on Sept. 19, 2007. The triplets were welcomed home by big brother Julian, who turned 4 on Sept. 16. In addition to their

growing family, the couple celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on Nov. 3, 2007, along with Seth's five-year anniversary with the University of Maryland Medical Center, where he is employed as pharmacy operations manager for technology.

### 2001

**Cara Specht-McDaniel, PharmD, BCPS**, is an advanced practice pharmacist in neurology and director of the PGY-2 critical care residency program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

### 2002

**Anthony Ishak, PharmD**, resides in Brookline, Mass., and is employed by Boston Medical Center as an ambulatory clinical pharmacist.

### 2005

**Miranda Billet-Ruenroeng, PharmD**, is employed by the University of Michigan

Comprehensive Cancer Center as an oncology infusion pharmacist.

### 2006

**Aisha Chaudhry, PharmD**, is a pharmacy technician with CVS Caremark in Baltimore.

**Annette Gbemudu, PharmD, MBA**, has been named regional scientific services manager for Allergan Medical Affairs. She is responsible for establishing and maintaining professional relationships with key medical and research leaders by providing complex medical and scientific information for selected therapeutic areas related to Allergan products. Annette also serves as a liaison between industry and medical research for clinical, preclinical, and post-marketing studies.

## Do You Have Great News to Share?

Please send us information about your personal and professional life. Have you changed jobs, had a recent promotion, received an honor or appointment? Did you recently get married or celebrate the birth of a child? Do you have an interesting hobby or participate in community service projects?

Please let us know by completing the School of Pharmacy's online class notes form at [www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/alumni](http://www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/alumni).

## 2007 APhA Conference in San Diego



Alison Davitt, director of major gifts; Sally Van Doren, PharmD '85; Joseph Fannella, BSP '73; Karen Nishi, BSP '80; Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89; and Michele Ewing, executive director of development and alumni affairs, gather for dinner following the School of Pharmacy reception.



Matt Shimoda, PharmD '84; Howard Schiff, BSP '56, executive director of the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPHA); his wife, Barbara; and MPHA chairwoman Ginger Apyar, PD, BSP, pose for a photo at the School of Pharmacy reception.



School of Pharmacy Board of Visitor members David Miller, BSP '85; Sally Van Doren, PharmD '85; and former board chairman Richard Penna, PharmD, join Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89.

## American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Alumni and Friends Reception in Las Vegas in December 2007

Co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy and Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists



Adam Bress, Class of '09, with his dad, Barry Bress, BSP '79



Jeffrey Brewer, PharmD, BCPS '98, and Lisa French, PharmD '07, catch up on the latest news from the School.



From left: Joseph LaRochelle, PharmD '06; Kristin Rapan, PharmD '05; Professor Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD '83; and Taher Sheybani, PharmD '84



From left: Bryan Hayes, PharmD, of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS); Heather Hurley; Brian Grover, PharmD '03; Carla Williams; and PPS' Melissa Badowski, PharmD

## Graduation Banquet

On May 14, 2008, the Alumni Association held its annual Graduation Banquet honoring the classes of 2008 and 1958. Thanks to the many corporate sponsors, it was a spectacular evening celebrating the newest practitioners and the achievements of our legacy alumni.



Women from the Class of 2008 pause from demonstrating their dancing skill for a celebratory hug commemorating this special evening.



Catherine Chew, PharmD '99, presented the 2008 U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award to Mavis Mbi, PharmD '08, (left) for her demonstrated leadership and commitment to public health and pharmacy practice.



Smiles abound from Class of 2008 officers (from left) Yndiana Tineo, Sejal Patel, and Carla Gonzalez (far right), with classmate Julie Hahn.



Conrad Dorn, PhD '63, MS '61, BSP '58, and his wife, Clarice, are happy they made the trip from New Jersey to reconnect with former classmates and friends.



From left: 1958 classmates George Voxakis, PharmD '96, BSP; David Oken, BSP; and Michael Rodell, PhD, BSP, share a laugh as they recount their glory days of pharmacy school.



From Florida to New York, members of the Class of 1958 came out to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from the School of Pharmacy.



Busy graduates and their families are all smiles as they enjoy the opportunity to relax at the start of the evening.



It's a great night to mark friendships that started in pharmacy school. From left, 2008 graduates Jagjit Dhaliwal, Scott Wern, Matt Casciano, Ndubisi Ndukwe, and John Lee savor the moment.





## Message from Development

### *Help Us Shape The Future*

Dear Alumni and Friends:

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy embodies all the elements that constitute a first-class school of pharmacy—talented students, innovative faculty, novel research, compassionate clinical care, and significant outreach programs. We continually improve our curriculum to educate the next generation of pharmacists and researchers.

We are one of the few schools of pharmacy working on all points of the pharmacy spectrum, from breakthroughs on the nanoscale to national health care policy. We discover drugs that treat cancer, infections, and pain. At the state and federal level, we provide data that affect which drugs will make it to the marketplace and inform policymakers' decisions on health care issues that affect millions. Our goal is to remain a preeminent school of pharmacy—one that will transform lives through education and research of the highest quality and impact.

We have launched a \$30 million capital campaign that is unprecedented in its magnitude, one that will transform the School and further elevate our leadership position in all areas of pharmacy and pharmaceutical research. Although we are a state institution, state support that once constituted 60 percent of our budget has slipped to less than 20 percent in recent years. We must rely more on private and corporate support to continue our important missions of education, research, and care.

This ambitious campaign will expand our expertise, programs, and infrastructure. With the opening of Pharmacy Hall Addition in 2010, the size of our research, teaching, and practice facilities will be doubled, allowing for the seamless integration of technological advances into our challenging curriculum. Ultimately, the campaign will enable the School and our graduates to be better prepared to lead the profession and make a significant impact on many more lives.

The campaign priorities are simple, but fundamental to advancing the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's legacy.

- Increase student financial aid to educate future pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to be leaders
- Enhance faculty development to attract and retain the highest caliber of talented academicians, practitioners, and scientists
- Enrich our research programs to discover new knowledge, ideas, and inventions that improve health
- Expand our outreach programs to implement practice models, expand direct patient care, and obtain reimbursement services

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy will solidify its position among the nation's great schools of pharmacy. We have broad strength, momentum, and unmatched strategic advantages. We enjoy a record of being innovative, entrepreneurial, and collaborative. Our legacy of alumni achievements and academic prominence is significant as is the impact of our goals in this unprecedented campaign.

We will succeed only if our alumni and friends invest in us with their spirit and resources. We invite you to join us in our important mission of shaping the profession of pharmacy and carrying on the tradition of excellence at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. With your involvement, we can continue to achieve great success!

Sincerely,

Michele Y. Ewing  
*Executive Director*  
*Development and Alumni Affairs*

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