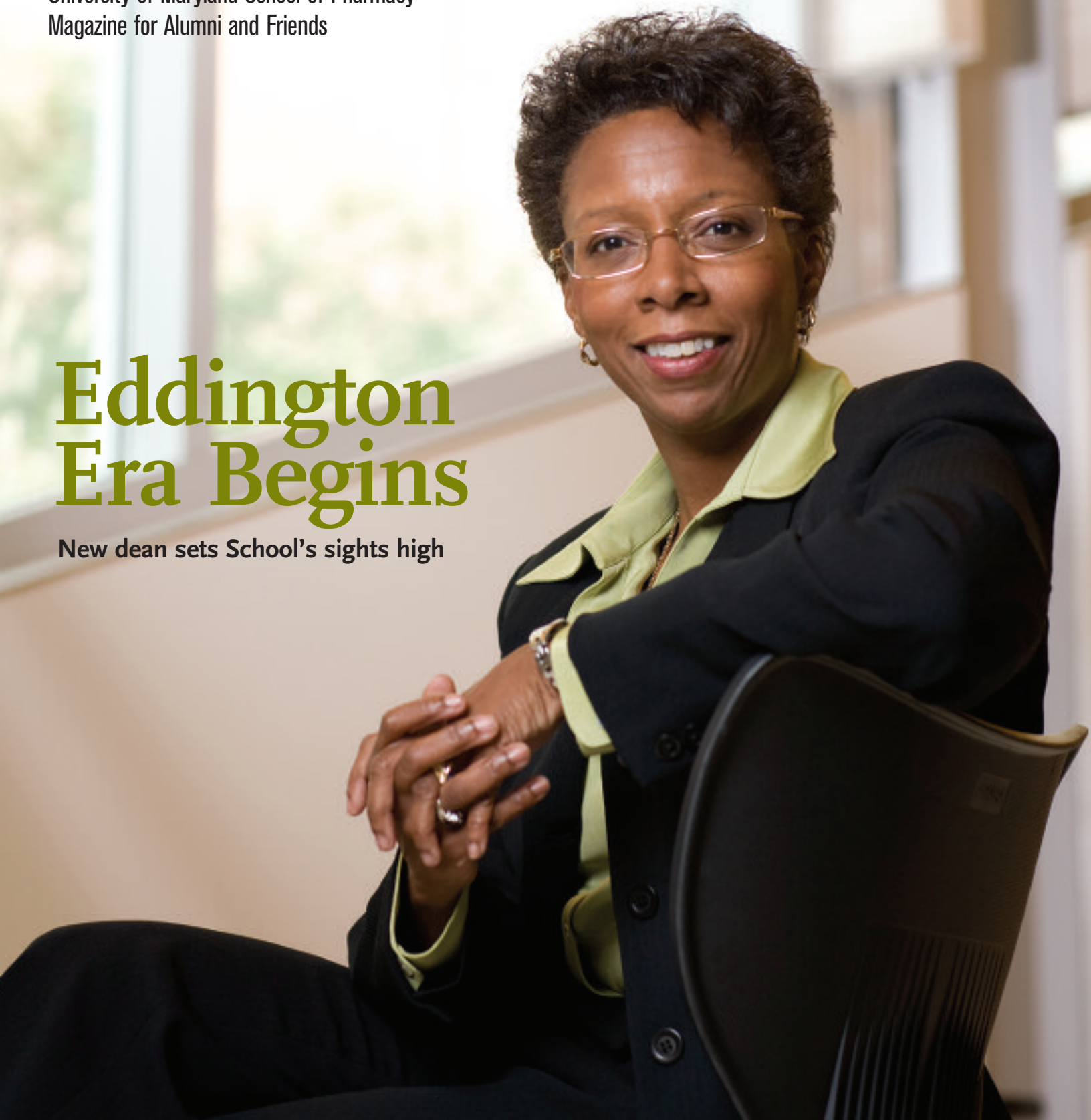


Capsule

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
Magazine for Alumni and Friends

Eddington Era Begins

New dean sets School's sights high



Dean's MESSAGE



As the new dean of the School of Pharmacy, I am delighted to welcome you to the Winter 2008 edition of the *Capsule*. As you know, our School has a long and illustrious history of excellence in its professional pharmacy program and leadership in the innovation of pharmacy practice. Our research programs have led the way in drug discovery, design, and delivery in areas such as nanomedicine. The contributions from the outcomes research of our faculty continue to provide valuable economic and policy data to the pharmaceutical health care profession.

It is my vision to build on this excellence with the revitalization of our pharmacy curriculum, innovations in pharmacy practice, and the enhancement of translational research in our science and clinical programs. Through these endeavors we will set new heights for our School—to continue our ascension as national leaders in the innovative delivery of pharmacy care and outstanding research centers for pharmaceutical research.

The practice of pharmacy is ever-evolving. It is my goal for our student pharmacists and faculty to continue to provide leadership in innovative practice models. Through the Center of Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, the home of the Maryland P3 (Patients, Pharmacists, Partnerships) Program, we will demonstrate, validate,

and enrich the ever-expanding role of pharmacists through pharmacist-patient partnerships in our local communities and throughout the state.

Our research program is multifaceted. It provides our pharmacy and graduate students access to cutting-edge research and provides a foundation for the innovation in pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical research that comes from being taught by faculty who are experts in their respective fields. This strong scientific foundation is integrated into the pharmacotherapeutic aspects of our program to provide our students with role models to stimulate and enhance active learning.

We are in the midst of an exciting time at the School. Our new satellite program at the Universities at Shady Grove has begun and all indicators are positive. We have completed the schematic design for the Pharmacy Hall addition, and the second round of planning funds has been requested from the state. The building will house state-of-the-art instructional technology, academic spaces, and research laboratories to facilitate the delivery of our curriculum, practice, and research programs.

However, we need your advocacy and support to ensure that the Pharmacy Hall addition truly becomes a reality. To ensure our future growth and excellence, we have initiated our most ambitious capital campaign ever, which is detailed later in the magazine.

We have embarked on a new era at the School of Pharmacy. I have met with many of our alumni and I am impressed with their leadership in professional practice and pharmaceutical research. The strength of a school is measured through the legacy of its graduates. With your unwavering support and engagement, the mission and vision of our School will exceed our expectations.

That's it for now.

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, BSP
Dean

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Andrew Coop

Coop Chairs Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Andrew Coop, PhD, has been named chair of the School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Coop has a record of scholarship in the department and has maintained an active research program focusing on the synthesis of morphine and other opioid analogs that are less likely to cause constipation than other compounds.

He received a PhD in chemistry from the University of Bristol and was awarded a postdoctoral position at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases as a Fogarty Fellow. He joined the School of Pharmacy faculty in 1999 and was recognized as the School's Teacher of the Year in 2001.

In his former position as vice chair, Coop spearheaded plans to implement instructional activities at the Universities at Shady Grove. As chair, he plans to enhance collaborations within the department and the School, and to develop partnerships with the schools of medicine and dentistry.



American Pharmacists Month

Dean Eddington, PhD, celebrated American Pharmacists Month with School of Pharmacy students and faculty outside the Health Sciences and Human Services Library in October. This year's theme, "Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacist," encouraged consumers to become more informed about their medications. The photo and banner were made possible through the efforts of Jannet Hseih, Class of 2009, president of the Student Government Association.

Dean Eddington Welcome Reception

Faculty, staff, alumni, and friends turned out to welcome and congratulate the new dean. The event was graciously hosted by University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, at the InterContinental Harbor Court Hotel.



From left: Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD '97, MBA, CGP, FASCP; Jo Ann Spearmon, PharmD '97; Jermaine Smith; and Dorcas Taylor, PharmD '97, JD



Both rows from left: Fred Magaziner, DDS, BSP '54, and Jerry Schwartz, DDS, BSP '49. Front: Deb Neels, JD; Judy Blackburn, PhD, MBA; and Mary Nichols



David Blake, PhD, BSP '63, and Marilyn Shangraw

Pharmacy Students Reach Public With Diabetes Message

Thanks to students from the School of Pharmacy chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), hundreds of families enjoyed a day designed to educate the public about diabetes and how to control its symptoms.

Guests who visited the Maryland Science Center at Baltimore's Inner Harbor on Saturday, Aug. 25, were treated to free pedometers and cooking demonstrations to encourage healthy meal choices as well as blood pressure screenings. Other displays included an eye-opening look at today's expanding meal portions and another showing the amount of sugar in common foods and beverages.

Though diabetes is a deadly and increasingly common problem in the United States, the spirit of Diabetes Awareness Day was upbeat and happy. Kids diagnosed with diabetes learned how other diabetics live active, fulfilling lives. Other kids learned simple ways to protect their health.

Along with dozens of volunteers from the School of Pharmacy, students Seferina Kim-Walsh and Shirley Lee, both of the Class of



Young visitors at the Maryland Science Center act out the digestion process for someone with diabetes.

2009, led the event, along with Christine Lee, PharmD '07, coordinator of the School's Maryland P3 diabetes counseling project. Sponsors included Accu-Chek and Roche Diagnostics, along with Novo Nordisk and Shoppers Pharmacy.

—Jeffrey Raymond

Pharmacists Urged to Advocate for Their Profession



Bruce Canaday accepts a plaque of appreciation from Dean Natalie D. Eddington.

Bruce Canaday, BCPS, PharmD, FASHP, FAPhA, began the 2007 Francis S. Balassone Memorial Lecture on Oct. 30 with a pair of questions: What is the contribution of pharmacists to health care? And, what system of

incentives supports their contribution to health care?

The answers are troubling. Filling prescription orders is almost certainly a path to oblivion, as automation and outsourcing show the ability to handle those duties. Pharmacists want to shift their focus to patient care, where they can potentially do more good and make more money, but they find the system that reimburses them is not set up to reward patient care.

That brought Canaday, clinical professor and vice chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Experiential Education at the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy in Chapel

Hill, N.C., and director of the Department of Pharmacotherapy at the Coastal Area Health Education Center in Wilmington, N.C., to his third question: Will the pharmacists themselves step up to make sure the systems—in terms of money, time, and facilities—are in place to support patient care? "We have to change how the game is played," he said.

While some programs have demonstrated the value of getting pharmacists more directly involved in patient care, other projects have fallen short because pharmacists didn't take full advantage of the opportunity, Canaday said. He urged faculty and students to become leaders in their evolving field. "Somebody is going to make decisions about pharmacy practice," he said. "It ought to be you."

Pharmacists must be superb clinicians and constantly update their credentials, he said, but also need to be "entrepreneurially aware" of the economic influences on their industry. Finally, he added, pharmacists must join their professional associations and advocate for industry and regulatory reform "because that's what changes things."

—Jeffrey Raymond

Laurels



Robert Beardsley, PhD, RPh, has been elected to serve on the board of directors of

the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. This 10-member board determines the accreditation status of the nation's schools and colleges of pharmacy.

Andrew Coop, PhD, has been elected by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) as the secretary treasurer of the Drug, Design and Discovery Section. His term began immediately following the 2007 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition in November in San Diego, Calif.

Thomas Dowling, PharmD, PhD, was awarded an \$81,763 National Institutes of Health grant titled "Ribavirin Pharmacokinetics, Race and HCV Treatment." This two-year project will involve liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry assay development and evaluation of ribavirin pharmacokinetics in approximately 300 patients with hepatitis C. Dowling also published "Prevalence, Etiology, and Consequences of Anemia and Clinical and Economic Benefits of Anemia Correction in Patients

with Chronic Kidney Disease: An Overview" in the July issue of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*.

Bryan Hayes, PhD, James Polli, PhD, and Wendy Klein-Schwartz, PharmD, MPH, received the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology 2007 Research Award in July. Their study, "Elucidation of the Basis of Oral Iron Toxicity," will be presented at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology meeting in September 2008 in Toronto.

Wendy Klein-Schwartz, PharmD, MPH, Thomas Dowling, PharmD, PhD, and Suzanne Doyon, MD, received the Frontier Research Award for their proposal titled "Evaluation of a Novel Charcoal Cookie" and shared an award of \$20,162.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD '00, has been named 2007 Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) Distinguished Young Pharmacist. The award was presented at the LKS annual meeting in August in Philadelphia.

Raymond Love, PharmD '77, was recognized with the Maryland



Pharmacists Association's 2007 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award, sponsored by Elan Pharmaceuticals, during the June convention in Ocean City, Md. Established in 1993, this award recognizes forward-thinking pharmacists who have expanded their practices into new areas.

Alexander MacKerell, PhD, has been appointed the School's first Grollman-Glick Professor. MacKerell is an internationally recognized scholar on theoretical approaches to understanding complex biological systems. The professorship honors the memory of Evelyn Grollman-Glick and her brother, Dr. Ellis Grollman, a 1926 pharmacy graduate.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD '83, BCPS, CDE, has been elected vice president of the Maryland Pharmacists Association. As vice president she is currently serving as president-elect and will be installed as president during the summer convention scheduled for June in Ocean City, Md.

Sheila Weiss Smith, PhD, is principal investigator on a grant to the School of Pharmacy's Center on Drugs and Public Policy from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America to study data mining, the use of automated statistical methods to find drug safety problems. The research includes an evaluation of the adverse event reporting

system and implementation of automated signal detection.

Bruce Stuart, PhD, professor and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was appointed to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission by David Walker, comptroller general and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The 17-member commission advises Congress on issues affecting Medicare.

Deborah Sturpe, PharmD, BCPS, and Ilene Zuckerman, PharmD '05, BSP '81, along with PharmD students **Ellina Max** and **Jose Hernandez**, published "Prophylaxis for Opioid-Induced Constipation in Elderly Long-Term Care Residents: A Cross-Sectional Study of Medicare Beneficiaries" in *The American Journal of Geriatric Pharmacology*, June 2007.

Kristin Watson, PharmD, BCPS, was co-author of an article titled "A Comparison of Outcomes for Patients Receiving Bivalirudin and Unfractionated Heparin in Percutaneous Coronary Intervention" published in the May 2007 issue of *Pharmacotherapy*.

Finding the Value of Pharmaceuticals

The School of Pharmacy is playing a role in helping the industry—and government—determine the value of pharmaceuticals.

It's an important consideration. Health care spending is rising faster than inflation. Spending on pharmaceuticals is rising faster than the rest of health care. And people are living longer, only to find themselves needing even more drugs as they age.

Now, in the Medicare Part D era, the federal government is on the verge of joining private insurers and state Medicaid agencies in assessing—based on patient data as well as price—the value of these drugs. The idea of these value assessments is to know not just how much drugs cost, but how much they help the people who take them. Then health professionals, patients, and insurers can know that they're getting the best value.

The School of Pharmacy Center on Drugs and Public Policy and Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research held a Capitol Hill symposium on Sept. 24 to elicit ideas on the best ways to make these value decisions. At "The Value of Pharmaceuticals: Coverage and Evidence Considerations," representatives of private insurance companies joined congressional staff members to discuss developments in the field.

"Since the passage of Medicare Part D, payers, providers, patients, and others have become even more sensitive" to the issues surrounding drugs, costs, and value assessments, wrote

Francis Palumbo, PhD, JD, executive director of the center, and Daniel Mullins, PhD, department chair.

Panelists Helen Lee, PharmD '02, MBA, a clinical pharmacist at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in Baltimore, David Yoder, PharmD '98, MBA, divisional vice president of pharmacy for Elder Health in Baltimore, and Terence Shea, PharmD, director of pharmacy management for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, mentioned that while they use dry data to make effective, efficient decisions regarding drugs, they also keep clinicians involved. "Make sound clinical decisions that make good business sense," Yoder advised.

Shea also noted that there is not yet a lot of data from the Medicare Part D experience. Yoder and Lee added that drug value assessments among elderly patients are made more difficult because of those patients' tendency not to comply rigorously with their medication regimen.

Susan Lexer, MPA, senior legislative assistant to Rep. Tom Allen, D-Maine, and Josh Martin, legislative director to Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Texas, discussed proposals before Congress to address pharmaceutical value assessments. Despite their partisan differences, both said they expected to avoid a "one size fits all" piece of legislation. Lexer said the successful proposal would include room for patient groups and clinicians to be included in the value assessment process.

—Jeffrey Raymond



JEFFREY RAYMOND

New Campus Opens at Shady Grove

In August, the School of Pharmacy welcomed 40 students to its new location at the Universities at Shady Grove in Montgomery County.

Heather Brennan Congdon, PharmD, CACP, CDE, the School of Pharmacy's assistant dean for Shady Grove, commented: "I am elated to be a part of this innovative endeavor. This is a great opportunity both to expand the outstanding pharmacy program at the University of Maryland and to address the growing need for pharmacists in our state and across the country. Montgomery County serves as an excellent foundation for our faculty and students, given the wealth of hospitals, community pharmacies, federal agencies, and research companies in the area."



Eddington Sets Ambitious Agenda

BY ROBYN FIESER

There was one clear goal for the 17 members of the national search committee when they met last spring to identify candidates to succeed the retiring David A. Knapp, PhD, as dean of the School of Pharmacy: To find an established leader with a vision for the School's future. Judging by the reaction to the committee's choice, they found exactly the right match. From administrative assistants to department heads, the praise for Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, has been effusive and constant, and confidence in the new dean runs deep.

"She has great vision."

"She knows what the School needs."

"She has universal support from faculty. It was a popular decision."

Eddington will need that support as she looks to build on the successes of her predecessor and shape new programs that could change pharmacy within the School's walls and beyond.

In replacing Knapp, who held the post for 18 years, Eddington became the first female African-American full-time dean in the School's history. But the goals she set for her tenure as dean run far beyond breaking barriers.

Eddington, who graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 1989, has an ambitious plan to lead the School forward and, in the process, help change the role pharmacists play in the health care system.

"Discovering new knowledge, that is our role," Eddington says. "With innovation, we can change the perception and expectations of pharmacists."

To do so, Eddington has a multipronged approach that includes developing existing programs and identifying areas where new programs can be started. Key to instituting her ideas,

School leaders say, is Eddington's ability to guide.

"She's a great mentor and a natural leader," says Andrew Coop, PhD, who worked under Eddington in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences when she was chair from 2003 until being appointed dean in July.

"She has an understanding of the clinical side of being a pharmacist and has the ability to facilitate collaborative research," says Coop, now chair of the department.

LOOKING FOR PARTNERS

It is Eddington's proven ability to work across schools that will allow her to develop programs that branch out from the School of Pharmacy, says Lynette Bradley-Baker, PhD '99, BSP '92, manager of professional and college relations for CVS Caremark and president of the Alumni Association.

"She takes an interdisciplinary approach to research, not having the School of Pharmacy isolated, but instead partnering with other schools," says Bradley-Baker, a member of the search committee. "She sees the opportunities there."

As one example of partnering, Eddington can point to the development of the School of Pharmacy Center for Nanomedicine and Cellular Delivery.

"The School always had an active role in drug delivery," says Eddington about the center's formation. "The next step was adding to that expertise by incorporating the use of nanosystems to help with drug development."

The center was revolutionary in its mission because it created a multidisciplinary research environment that allows research and expertise to be shared across University System of Maryland campuses. Using such collaborative methods, researchers can

“Discovering new knowledge, that is our role. With innovation, we can change the perception and expectations of pharmacists.”

—Natalie D. Eddington

develop nanosystems for therapy and diagnosis.

The importance of such collaborative methods was highlighted again last year when Eddington negotiated a partnership between the center and Rexahn Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a clinical stage drug development company. Under the collaboration, the partners are developing drugs to fight cancer and therapies that work with the central nervous system.

Bradley-Baker says the center is an example of Eddington's ability to leverage the people and resources around her.

“Even though she has a particular area of research with which she's familiar, she knows what's going on outside of that area,” Bradley-Baker says.

It's that wide-ranging array of talents that University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, emphasized in announcing Eddington's appointment.

“The School of Pharmacy is deepening its commitment to leadership in education and research,” Ramsay says, “and Natalie has proven herself as a first-rate teacher, researcher, and administrator.”

MOVING FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE

Although she has spent the majority of her career in the public sector, Eddington began her career in drug development at Pfizer Inc., where she served as assistant director of new drug development from 1988 to 1991.

As dean, Eddington will lead the School in a direction that would allow it to bring more drugs from the development stage to the market. In the industry, it is called bench to bedside, meaning that the School has some piece in bringing a formula from a researcher's test tubes to a patient.

“The challenge for academic research is that it stays at the bench-side and cannot affect patient care,” Eddington says. “We want to enhance translational capability in the School.”

The School of Pharmacy, with Eddington's help, has some

success in the translational arena to build upon. In addition to the collaboration with Rexahn, a researcher at the school established A&G Pharmaceutical, Inc., a company that, among other things, is developing a breast cancer testing kit that would help patients with treatment options.

Ginette Serrero, PhD, DSc, discovered a cancer growth factor that is present in about 80 percent of breast cancer cases. Serrero formed A&G, based in Columbia, Md., using the research.

Eddington says the School needs to foster more transfer of research to the marketplace. To do so, Eddington is considering creating a center that would work across campuses for translational research. The center, she says, would rely on connections with other departments and on support from outside the School of Pharmacy.

“We have the advantage of the BioPark,” says Eddington, referring to the University of Maryland, Baltimore's biotechnology park being developed just west of the main campus. Two buildings are open and eight more are planned. “That gives us a level of expertise from people who know how to go through the process.”

EXPANDING PHARMACIST'S ROLE

In growing the School's presence, Eddington is not simply looking at outside sources. She also believes that within the University setting the role of pharmacists can be broadened.

Highly educated and well-paid, with an average annual salary topping \$100,000, pharmacists are more than dispensers of medication. If perceptions can be changed and their skills can be used more effectively in the marketplace, pharmacists can help drive down the rising cost of health care while making the profession more rewarding, Eddington says.

The idea is simple: pharmacists are some of the most accessible health care professionals in the United States, available



with little more than a drive to the local pharmacy. But, instead of just filling prescriptions, Eddington believes pharmacists should be taking a greater role in patient care, providing everything from drug management to delivery of vaccinations.

“If you show that it can be done, their role will change,” she says. “If pharmacists can help reduce health care costs, that idea could be embraced nationally.”

The Maryland P3 (Patients, Pharmacists, Partnerships) Program, which began in August 2006 in Western Maryland and was coordinated through the School of Pharmacy, 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 program is modeled after a project in Asheville, N.C., where average patient health care costs dropped by \$2,000 a year as a result of the program.

Expanding the role of the pharmacist also can make the profession more desirable, Eddington says, which could help attract more students and fill a nationwide shortage. A total of 420,000 pharmacists will be needed by 2020, up from the current 173,000, according to a recent study by the American Pharmacists Association.

“There needs to be an interest in the profession other than the high pay,” she says. “The best way is job satisfaction. How do you keep them happy? Expand the role of the pharmacist.”

MAKING ROOM

But expanding the role of the pharmacist and the reach of the School raises an old question: How to house the additional students?

Knapp’s dedication to growing the School’s physical presence resulted in an initial round of funding for the planned

92,635-square-foot expansion at the Baltimore campus, as well as the opening of a satellite campus at the Universities at Shady Grove in Montgomery County.

Eddington plans to pursue both ideas, paying particular attention to the progress at Shady Grove, where 40 students began classes last August.

“It’s a great opportunity for meeting not only the needs of the pharmacy industry but also for using a new approach through teaching by distance education,” Eddington says.

Her enthusiasm for Shady Grove is another example of Eddington’s forward-looking perspective, Coop says.

“It’s a unique opportunity that we didn’t really have before,” he says. “It effectively uses technology to allow professors to collaborate more with students.”

By incorporating technology, students can watch lectures by video, which allows professors to spend time teaching students in a one-on-one setting.

“We’re so used to just standing there and pointing, but what do we lose?” says Eddington. “Distance education is the way of the future. Our challenge will be to develop new approaches to delivering our curriculum in a distance manner.”

She plans to hire a consultant to help in the effort and foresees both expanding the program at Shady Grove and also developing a site in rural Maryland where students can be taught through distance learning.

From distance education to collaboration with other campuses to expanding the role of the pharmacist, there is one common theme running through Eddington’s plans for the School’s future.

“She has a great vision for where she wants to go,” says Coop.



School's Future Vision is 20/20

BY JEFFREY RAYMOND

It is a simple, direct vision for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, which has been among the best of its kind since its founding in 1841 as the nation's fourth pharmacy school.

As the only training ground for pharmacists in the state, the School remains enormously influential throughout the region. And in 2007, it reconfirmed its commitment to meeting the growing need for pharmacists locally and nationally by adding 40 new students at an off-campus location at the Universities at Shady Grove.

But as new Dean Natalie D. Eddington,

PhD, sees it, the School is just getting started. Over the next four years, goals for the School include:

- Completing a \$30 million capital campaign that will more than double the size of the current endowment while also funding professorships and Centers of Excellence in research
- Making the long-awaited Pharmacy Hall addition a reality
- Growing student enrollment and a commensurate increase in faculty ranks

“I want to get people energized about what we’re doing at the School of Pharmacy,” says Eddington, “and show them that their help is so important to really continuing the excellence of the School.”

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Although the \$60 million, 92,635-square-foot building is being called an “addition,” it might more accurately be called the “foundation” of the School’s future. The Pharmacy Hall addition is the key to unlocking more space for faculty offices, laboratories, clinics, classes, and communications technology.

Recent enrollment expansions have strained staff and facilities alike, says William Cooper, MBA, associate dean for administration and finance and CFO of the School of Pharmacy. “We’re

already in five buildings on campus,” he says. “We’re spread out.”

With the addition of 40 students per year at Shady Grove, plus another 20 per year to the 480-student Baltimore campus beginning in 2011, the School’s leadership is committed to increasing the faculty ranks by nearly 40 percent over four years. That will allow the School to maintain the current faculty/student ratio. “Past increases in enrollment have not done that,” Cooper acknowledges.

But, he adds, the commitment to hiring so many more faculty also means that “right now, the building will be overcrowded

when it opens,” according to a study by the project architects. Most of the funding for the building will come from the state’s capital budget, not from the School’s capital campaign.

Favorable discussions have taken place with state officials about expanding the size of the addition, Cooper says. The footprint of the addition will consume a courtyard and small parking lot on the north



Getting students and faculty “energized about what we’re doing at the School of Pharmacy” is one of the dean’s goals.

side of Pharmacy Hall. Once that land is gone, Cooper notes, there will be no space on campus that the School could use for more construction.

That makes it even more critical that the School gets the building that it needs the first time. “With the increase in faculty members,” says Cooper, “we need a place to put them.”

Other projects that coincide with the addition include construction of a model pharmacy at the Shady Grove campus in Montgomery County, outfitting new patient evaluation suites in Pharmacy Hall, and adding more facilities that have the

technology to allow for real-time, two-way audio and visual transmission. As students enroll at off-campus locations, Cooper notes, they need to communicate not only with their professors in Baltimore but also with fellow members of some of the 17 School of Pharmacy student groups.

A little further out, School officials are trying to anticipate the demand to produce even more pharmacists. “There is pressure

on us to establish another site,” says Cooper, listing Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, and even Cecil County among possible future campus locations.

But growth takes money, and that makes the \$30 million capital campaign all the more essential.

“We’re at a really exciting time for the School,” says Michele Ewing, who as executive director of development and alumni affairs is the point person for the largest fundraiser—by far—

in its history. “This campaign will really transform the School.”

The School just revisited its curriculum with an eye toward keeping it rigorous and relevant to the pharmacy industry. With about 15 new schools of pharmacy opening nationwide in the last decade or so, University of Maryland officials want to make certain their School continues to set standards for academia.

The state will ultimately play its role in how quickly and effectively the School is able to grow. But with less than 12 percent of the School’s revenue coming from Annapolis (\$4.7 million toward the

\$41 million total funding in the 2005-06 school year), much more of the ongoing price of excellence is being borne by the School itself. And that's why the fundraising campaign is—at five times the size of the last campaign that ended in 2004—the dawn of a new fiscal reality.

“As state dollars get smaller,” says Ewing, “we need to get more resourceful and creative.”

GIFT OF GIVING

The capital campaign will target potential corporate and institutional donors for large gifts, the kind that lead to a building being named for a person or corporate entity. It will target friends of the School, individuals who have an affiliation with the School, including faculty and staff.

And, of course, it will target alumni. That will mean a change for graduates who may not be used to answering a request for a donation. And it will mean a change for a School that does not have a long history of nurturing students into becoming generous alumni. Those changes promise to benefit the School as well as its students, who are expected to be its future benefactors.

“There's a culture that exists at private institutions that is just starting to exist here,” Ewing says.

Jacqueline (Henry) Kostick of Falls Church, Va., PharmD '00, contributes

in the memory of classmate and friend Yvette Beakes, PharmD, who was killed in a 2001 robbery. “I was told that a certain amount was needed each year to maintain her scholarship, and it seemed like an appropriate amount,” says Kostick. “I liked the idea that the money will help a student with their tuition.”

The scholarship fund established in Beakes' memory supports students who qualify for the award. But essentially all contributions to the School financially support students. Ewing reminds alumni that their generosity makes the School more affordable for future generations of pharmacists. “Tuition is a dangerous thing to try to address costs with,” she says.

But alumni shouldn't think they're being asked to do it all. Cooper says research funding is becoming a larger piece of the School's revenue stream. Last year contracts and grants reached a record level of \$15.7 million, up 20 percent over the prior year. The fact that this increase occurred while most other pharmacy schools are showing declines “is a strong indicator of how the caliber of our faculty has risen,” he says. Private funding also has accounted for the School's increase and accounts for 40 percent of its funding.

“We need to take our place on the map,” Ewing says, “and this campaign is going to mark it for us.”



John Balch, BSP, RPh

Balch Heads \$30 Million Campaign

An extraordinary effort takes an extraordinary individual to lead it. That's why the School of Pharmacy considers itself so fortunate to have John Balch, BSP '68, RPh, as the chair of its \$30 million capital campaign, its largest fundraising effort ever.

Balch, president of the PharmaCare Network in Cumberland and Frostburg, has a personal commitment to his chosen profession of pharmacy. This dedication is evident in his effective advocacy for and proven success in building and sustaining safe and quality pharmacy health care for Maryland's citizens. He has served on the Maryland Board of Pharmacy as president (2005-2006) and commissioner (1998-2005).

To succeed in today's pharmaceutical environment, it takes more than knowledge of issues and also prompt and precise responsiveness to state legislators, government representatives, and the consumers themselves. Balch has excelled in all these endeavors.

A humble man who has made pharmacy his life and his passion, Balch has a special gift for bringing visionary leadership to his community, and evoking the same in his peers. The respect and admiration that he has earned in the 40 years since graduating from the School of Pharmacy are proof of his tremendous success—both personally and professionally.

And it's not just the University of Maryland that sings his praises. In 2007, the Maryland Pharmacists Association named Balch the recipient of its Bowl of Hygeia Award, the highest honor given in recognition of outstanding community service.



Technology is playing a growing role in the education of today's pharmacy students.



A Prescription for Involvement

Research, discovery, outreach, and practice all play a role

BY RANDOLPH FILLMORE

As the second decade of the 21st century approaches, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is assuming a greater role in improving the health and welfare of the citizens of Maryland through continuing research and discovery. Extending efforts to translate those advancements into clinical practices and outreach programs that improve health care will be the focus of the next several years, says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, new dean of the School of Pharmacy.

“We are making great and significant strides in our research programs from new nanomedicine therapeutics that image and treat cancer tumors simultaneously, to the emerging area of evidence-based assessment of pharmaceuticals to determine preventable mortality and morbidity,” Eddington says.

The Fight Against Microbes

According to Angela Wilks, PhD, vice chair of research in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, basic science carried out at the School identifies promising new compounds that may become the next generation of antibiotics. Current research efforts are focused on moving discoveries aimed at serious health problems from the bench to the bedside.

“The high level of antibiotic drug resistance in the hospital and community setting is a huge problem,” Wilks says. “Making new versions of older drugs is not going to solve the problem because they become obsolete very quickly. Instead, we are developing new compounds with new pathways and protein targets that will lead to novel drugs with broad spectrum effectiveness.”

Much of this work is being carried out in the School’s Computer-Aided Drug Design (CADD) Center. Here, computational and theoretical studies on the three-dimensional structure of molecules and proteins provide better understanding of how compounds bind to targets and how proteins function and inter-

act with each other. This knowledge can lead to the development of novel therapeutics.

Under Director Alexander MacKerell, PhD, and the School’s first Grollman-Glick Professor, the CADD Center is working on many projects, including studies related to cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, antibiotics, and the treatment of pain.

“The CADD Center can build on research discoveries in the basic sciences by School of Pharmacy faculty,” explains MacKerell, “leading to the identification of chemical compounds with the potential to be developed into novel therapeutic agents. The use of computers greatly speeds up the discovery process and lowers costs significantly.”

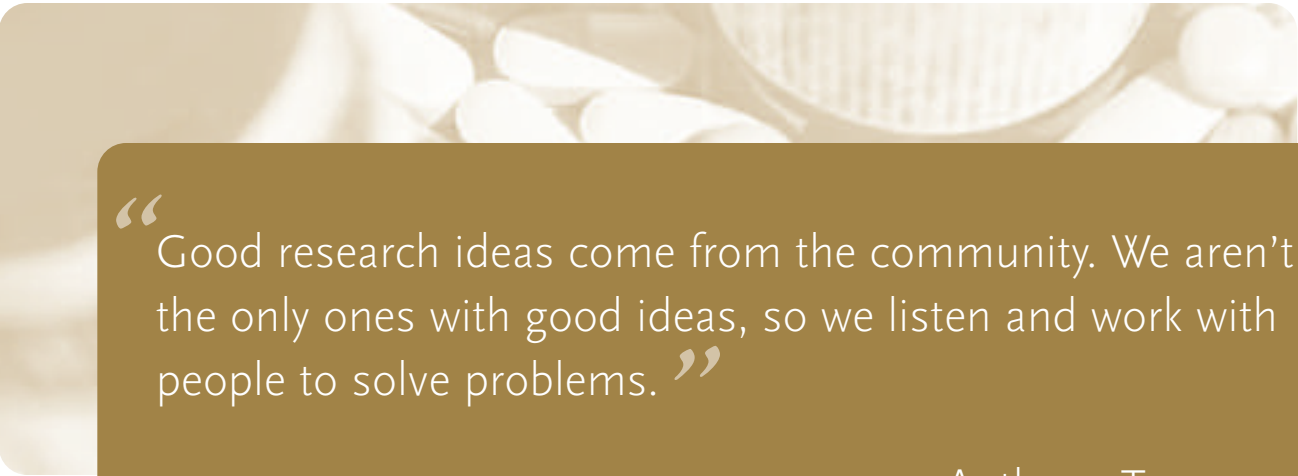
Researchers are especially interested in developing a new anti-microbial to use in the fight against hospital-acquired infections, called “nosocomial infections.” Individuals with compromised immune systems, especially people with cystic fibrosis, are especially susceptible to nosocomial infections. Researchers also are looking at developing compounds to create new antibiotics to battle meningitis, cholera, and dysentery.

“By using CADD to look at the 3-D crystal structure of a bacterial protein involved in iron metabolism, we can develop compounds that will cross the bacterial cell membrane and target proteins required for the utilization of heme [the iron-containing co-factor found in hemoglobin] as an iron source,” Wilks says.

This research already has been patented and will soon be available for licensing, a step that will facilitate clinical trials. Wilks and MacKerell published their research results in the July 2007 issue of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

Substance Abuse Outreach Critical

For more than 30 years, Anthony Tommasello, PhD, MS ’82, BSP ’73, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical



“Good research ideas come from the community. We aren’t the only ones with good ideas, so we listen and work with people to solve problems.”

—Anthony Tommasello

Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research

Health Services Research, has been involved in building community outreach programs designed to help curb substance abuse. One program, the Student Committee On Drug Abuse Education (SCODAE), trains pharmacy students to go into the community to talk to schoolchildren about the consequences of substance abuse.

“This program is a clear way to use science for community education,” says Tommasello, who also directs the School’s Office of Substance Abuse Studies. “Young people need to know why to say no to drugs and we present scientific evidence on the consequences of substance abuse.”

SCODAE has just published the 2007 version of its booklet “Know WHY to Say No” that School of Pharmacy students are taking into the community. Based on research, the booklet covers the physiological principles and medical consequences of drug addiction as it breaks down the dangers of cocaine, stimulants, alcohol, depressants, marijuana, and psychedelic drugs.

Research in other areas that overlap with substance abuse—such as HIV infection and homelessness—also is translating into programs to benefit the community. For example, research has led Tommasello and his colleagues to focus on efforts to improve the lives of homeless substance abusers.

“Alcohol abuse is very high among homeless persons,” Tommasello says. “And homeless persons also often have co-existing mental health disorders.”

Another issue on the research agenda has been community involvement in the effort to have buprenorphine, a new drug for treating opiate addiction, made available by physician’s prescription and for home use by recovering addicts. Methadone,

available only at clinics, was formerly the only pathway for treatment. Now, select patients can get buprenorphine by prescription for home use.

“This effort took a lot of work,” admits Tommasello, noting that buprenorphine is now available from certified physicians.

“Methadone clinics are limited by size and it can take months of waiting to get into clinics,” he points out. “Now, pharmacists can dispense buprenorphine.”

Tommasello says that research into substance abuse and its co-existing problems of homelessness and mental illness can only become “translational” through relationship building in the community.

“Good research ideas come from the community,” Tommasello says. “We aren’t the only ones with good ideas, so we listen and work with people to solve problems.”

Community Involvement

Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and associate director of the School’s Center on Drugs and Public Policy, agrees with Tommasello. Community inclusion, she says, assures that research will be translational with the potential to make a difference in real health problems and outcomes.

“We have a mandate to improve the health of people in the state of Maryland,” Shaya says. “No one knows more about medications than pharmacists and, at the end of the day, we know that people who are compliant with their medications fare better. So, we can have a great impact on health and quality of life by using our expertise when reaching out into the community.”

For Shaya, the success of collaborative research depends on developing “networks,” not only researchers from across the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus, but networks built with community and health system leaders as well.

“We aim to bring all the parties to the table,” Shaya emphasizes. “That includes faith-based organizations, community hospitals, clinics, educators, insurers, and social service organizations. These entities have their own infrastructure, resources, manpower, and intellectual engines.”

For Shaya, part of the School of Pharmacy’s responsibility in the research/outreach continuum is the evaluation of a program’s effectiveness. Currently, she is working on designing the network component for a campuswide grant that will increase the opportunities for translational research.

“Too often there is a gap between what we know scientifically and what we don’t know about how people fare after clinical interventions,” she points out. “For that reason, we are greatly concerned with building the right evaluation components into research, ones that involve community participation.”

A future, campuswide Center for Clinical Translation, the focus of a grant in-progress for UMB’s schools of dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and social work, will have 20 percent of its budget devoted to evaluation of what impact translational research has had in the community, says Shaya.

“Through these efforts, we will raise health awareness and improve health prospects for people in Baltimore and beyond,” she concludes.

Poison Center Steps Up Research

Not only does the Maryland Poison Center (MPC) serve the community by being there 24/7 for physicians, nurses, first responders, and anyone else who has a potential poisoning emergency in the home or workplace, but researchers in the center also turn data into life-saving information that poison center-certified specialists have at their fingertips when handling emergency calls.

“Our research is focused on how we can take better care of people in the community,” says Bruce Anderson, PharmD, MPC director and associate professor at the School of Pharmacy. “Based on research, we may change our management of any one of the almost 70,000 calls we get annually. Research may determine whether a patient can be managed at home or should go to an emergency room. The difference in knowing how we can do our job better can spell the difference between life and death or save health care dollars when treatment needs are clearer.”

The MPC’s coordinator of research and education, Wendy Klein-Schwartz, PharmD, MPH, emphasizes the real-world utility of their research.

“We can examine existing MPC call center data, request data

from other centers or get data from the national network of poison centers,” Klein-Schwartz says. “Analysis of that data often allows us to better serve the community as we may change response and treatment guidelines or generate new guidelines.”

A case in point is recent research carried out on buprenorphine, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2002 for home use as a treatment for opioid dependence. Having the drug available in home medicine cabinets increases the likelihood that children will accidentally ingest it. Research was needed about dose and toxicity in children.

“As reported to poison centers from November 2002 to December 2005, we examined data on unintentional buprenorphine overdoses in children age 6 and under who had been followed to a known medical outcome,” Klein-Schwartz says.

The study showed that drowsiness and lethargy were frequent, with serious toxicity with respiratory depression and coma less frequent. Data also showed that potentially serious respiratory depression could occur up to three hours after ingestion.

“With this finding, we were able to recommend that children ingesting 2 milligrams or more, and children under age 2 who ingest less, should go to an emergency department to be monitored for at least six hours,” Klein-Schwartz says. This new information quickly went to the MPC call staff.

Other MPC research projects currently under way include developing more palatable forms of activated charcoal, which is used after poison is ingested, and monitoring patients who have taken an overdose of the anti-depressant Wellbutrin.

Found In Translation

According to Wilks, the School of Pharmacy is in an advantageous position to engage in more translational research.

“We have made great strides working at the interfaces of basic science in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and computational and medicinal chemistry,” Wilks says. “We now have a critical mass of faculty and the potential to take research to the next step, which will put us in an excellent position to translate research into clinical practice.”

Among the goals of Eddington are to foster collaboration among disciplines and to commit resources and imagination to research that will ultimately provide innovative pharmaceutical treatments.

“It is clear that our research enterprise is focused on new discoveries, as well as the development and assessment of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology products,” Eddington says. “Our innovation, imagination, and talents will not only boost our research standing among pharmacy schools, but more importantly will transform our research to enhance health care in the state of Maryland and the nation.”

Laurels

The School of Pharmacy **Phi Delta Chi Chapter** was recognized for the following honors at the annual Grand Council:

- 100 Percent Achievement Cup for monthly reports
- Third place in the Norman H. Franke Scholarship Award, given to chapters with an outstanding chapter publication
- Second place in the chapter scrapbook category
- Eighth place for the fraternity's largest award, the Emory W. Thurston Grand President's Cup

Mark Borgman, Susan Mercer, Naissan Hussainzada, Ajinder Kaur, and Pablo Gonzalez recently received Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Fellowship Awards.

In celebration of American Pharmacists Month, members of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists were featured on the WJZ-TV morning news on Oct. 15. They presented the "Top 10 Things You Should Ask Your Pharmacist!" **Claire Leocha**, a second-year PharmD student and chapter president, organized the event.

Shekhar Mehta, a second-year PharmD student, completed a summer internship at Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Ridgefield, Conn.

Xiao Tu, a second-year PharmD student, was awarded the 2007 American College of

Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Student Travel Award that allowed him free registration at the ACCP annual meeting in Denver.

Vijay Upreti, PhD '07, **Hazem Hassan**, **Cliff Mason**, and **Chris Cunningham** recently received Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Merit Awards.

Vijay Upreti, PhD '07, in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was awarded the prestigious Wayne A. Colburn Memorial Award for best Student Abstract at the annual meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.

Jamie Wilkins, a fourth-year PharmD student, was appointed

as chair of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Student Forum Executive Committee for 2007-2008.

Frances Wong and **Xiao Tu** were both appointed members of the 2007-2008 American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP) StuNet Advisory Committee. The StuNet committee advises ACCP members on developing programming for student sessions at the ACCP annual meeting, increasing awareness of the organization, and identifying areas in which student pharmacists can become involved with ACCP.



"Butterfly" Zhanita Perez, Class of '09, leads a group of students in the fine art of gourd decorating.



Diabetic Halloween

On Oct. 30, the Student Government Association of the School of Pharmacy along with the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter hosted the second annual Diabetic Halloween event in the Pharmacy Hall Lounge. Sixty third-grade students from a local school were invited to participate in the event that featured an educational session and physical demonstration on managing diabetes. The children were treated to entertainment and activities such as face painting, crafts, a haunted house, and trick-or-treating with faculty and staff. According to Yara Haddad, secretary of SGA and chair of the programming committee, "It was a great activity that brought the pharmacy students working together to create a successful event."

Leah Sera, Class of '10, collaborates with a student to create the scariest pumpkin.



SNPhA

Members received individual and chapter accolades at the 2007 National Pharmaceutical Association/Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) national conference held in Las Vegas in July. Pictured left to right: Richie Odigie, Class of '09; Latasha Weeks, PharmD '07, (recognition award for tenure as national secretary officer); Ramona Hawkins, RPh; Meron Tsigie, Class of '08, (Wal-Mart Region I Leadership Award); Alex Taylor, BSP '76, RPh, (founding member of the SNPhA chapter); Yndiana Tineo, Class of '08 (Operation Immunization National Chapter Award); Zhanita Perez, Class of '09, (Poster Presentation Award); Ashley Bivins, Class of '10; and Fernando Andrickson, Class of '08.

White Coat Ceremony

With Associate Dean for Student Affairs Jill Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, (top row, left), first-year PharmD candidates celebrated their entry into professional education at the White Coat Ceremony on Sept. 7. Guest speaker Felix Khin-Maung-Gyi, PharmD, MBA, BSP '93, CIP, founder and chief executive officer of Chesapeake Research Review, Inc., shared his experience with the PharmD candidates.





The group took a break after a team-building activity (creation of a costume with newspaper and a roll of tape in 15 minutes). From left: Lisa Wohl, Class of '09; Fernando Andrickson, Class of '08; A.J. Edman, Class of '09; Frances Wong, Class of '08; Amy Houtchens, Class of '10; Mathilda Fienkeng, Class of '10; Kevin Brady, Class of '09; and Kumail Shirazie, Class of '09.

SGA Retreat

The annual Student Government Association Leadership Retreat sponsored by the Partners in Pharmacy Education (CVS Caremark, Safeway Inc.) was held in August at the Harbortowne Golf Resort in St. Michael's, Md.



Fall Picnic

The Fall Picnic held in October served as a welcome hiatus from classes for students. Sponsored by Rite Aid Corp., attendees enjoyed an afternoon of games and a cookout at Centennial Park in Columbia.





Members of the Class of 2011 left to right: Grace Pak, Katie Watson, Peter Furgiuele, and Melissa Kim

Fall Formal

The World Trade Center proved to be the perfect venue for a wonderful evening at the Fall Formal in September. The event was sponsored by Rite Aid Corp.



Leadership Awards

Chapter President Lisa Wohl, Class of 2009, presented the Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Award to Jessica O'Kane, Class of 2008 (right), at the conclusion of the Francis S. Balassone Memorial Lecture in October. The award is given to one fourth-year student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership over his or her four years at the School.



Students recognized for outstanding leadership at the Balassone Lecture





John Scigliano

Conquering the Bumps in the Road

BY LYDIA LEVIS BLOCH

In 1941, John Scigliano arrived at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy eager to start his teaching assistantship in chemistry. He met B. Olive Cole, PhD, JD, the first female full professor at the School, who immediately informed him that the position had been filled, but that there was a job in bacteriology.

“I got an F in bacteriology,” he blurted out, “because I got a sty.”

His undergraduate bacteriology professor at Creighton University had announced that students who became infected with the bacteria they were studying would fail. Scigliano, who chalked up an A-plus the second semester of bacteriology, grabbed Cole’s offer.

“Every time you go down the road, there’s a little bump and you overcome it,” he says. Scigliano, PhD ’50, MS ’44, has overcome his share of bumps in an impressive pharmaceutical career.

A native of Omaha, Neb., and the first in his family to go to college, Scigliano arrived in Baltimore with no credit card or checking account and \$18 to his name. The first month’s rent took \$16, leaving him with \$2 to live on.

In those days, labs stocked milk, potatoes, and bouillon and sugar for preparing media. Until his first paycheck, Scigliano survived for one month on milk, boiled potatoes, and bouillon. When Cole, who would later become interim dean, found out, she invited Scigliano to breakfast every morning in her home. They were neighbors.

Eventually, he replaced the lab materials used for food. And then he went on to overcome some more “bumps.”

After earning his master’s degree in bacteriology in 1944, Scigliano joined the U.S. Navy. In 1950, after earning his PhD in pharmacy (analytical chemistry) from the School, he became the first pharmacist with a PhD recruited by the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS).

During his 32-year career with the U.S. Navy and USPHS, Scigliano conducted research for various branches of the National Institutes of Health. His entry rank was lieutenant senior and at retirement he was a Navy captain.

He pioneered new drugs to treat heart, cancer, mental health, and periodontal prob-

lems. He also designed ophthalmic preparations and established standards for pharmaceuticals, as well as for quality control and stability of drugs.

A significant part of his career was dedicated to researching the pharmacology, safety, and therapeutic potential of drugs of abuse, principally LSD and marijuana. For his career accomplishments in public health, he received the USPHS Meritorious Service Award in 1973.

Scigliano attributes much of his motivation to succeed to family. He was inspired by his mother, who made sandwiches for the occasional hobos who would come by his house; by his grandmother, a midwife and holistic healer; and his father, a laborer who taught him that "work is the bread of life." He credits his wife, Alice, a 1945 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Nursing, for her unstinting encouragement.

He is grateful to Gustav Cwalina, PhD, his undergraduate chemistry professor, for inspiring him and recommending him for the research scholarship.

Now 88, Scigliano finds pleasure in woodworking, gardening, and exercising on the treadmill. A modest man, he is reluctant to discuss his achievements. When pressed, he will quietly concede, "I have an internal feeling that I've accomplished something good."

In September 2006 he established the Dr. John A. Scigliano Scholarship Fund to support third- or fourth-year School of Pharmacy students pursuing advanced degrees with an interest in public health or research. The scholarship is dedicated to the USPHS.

He also honored his late wife by establishing the Alice Catherine Horine Scigliano Scholarship Fund at the School of Nursing in 2005.

"I wanted to pay back the University for my education through the graduate assistantship. The University of Maryland made me what I am," he says.

Recalling his early days as a graduate student at Maryland, Scigliano would like to help other students and offers some advice: "When you find a bump in the road, stop, examine, and proceed. Don't get discouraged, and never abandon your pursuit."



John Scigliano is pictured with his wife, Alice, who graduated from the School of Nursing in 1945.

Class Notes

1953

Andrew Bartilucci, PhD, dean emeritus of St. John's University, was honored by its College of Pharmacy in June with a building dedicated in his name.

1972

Michael E. Jones, BSP, has worked for Caremark Rx Services for 17 years. He and his spouse, Luba Hansin-Jones (MSW '77), who retired from the State of Texas Child Protective and Regulatory Services in 2006, plan to build on their property soon in the hill country near Boerne, Texas.

1978

Carolyn (Sanderson) Alperin, BSP, is a pharmacist at Walgreens in Asheville, N.C.

1980

Allan F. Novak, BSP, works as a senior pharmacy consultant for CardinalHealth/Alaris Products. He lives in Ashland, Va., with his two children, Christopher, 12, and Samantha, 6.

1983

Ralph E. Melson, BSP, and his wife, **Maria C. Melson, BSP '84**, announced the birth of their second grandchild, Nicholas Anthony Hartman, born July 14, 2007. He joins their other grandchild, Alexis Michelle Smith, who was born in July 2003. The grandchildren's proud mother is the Melsons' daughter Kristina, who is married to David Hartman.

1985

Francis X. Muller, PhD '93, BSP, is director of pharmaceutical development at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals in King of Prussia, Pa. He is married to **Margaret Dorn-Muller, BSP '86**.

1986

Chip M. Johnson, BSP, and his family have been on the move, relocating from Baltimore to Tampa, Fla., to Anaheim, Calif., to Raleigh, N.C., then enjoying 1 1/2 years of commuting to St. Louis after five corporate mergers in an eight-year period. They finally landed in St. Augustine, Fla., in 2004 when Johnson joined PSS/World Medical, the nation's largest distributor of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to the physician market, as vice president of therapeutics and vendor relations. Despite the moves, Chip and his wife, Dawn, are still happily married. Their boys, now 10 and 14, have learned to thrive in times of change.

1988

Gary W. Cook, PharmD, is a pharmacy manager at Walgreens in Baltimore.

1990

Suzanne J. Paxton Pierson, BSP, is president of PhytRx, Inc., in Woodinville, Wash.

1993

Diana (Bard) Henzel, BSP, and her husband, Mark, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Clare Marie, on May 30, 2007.

1997

Terri (Thompson) Cathers, PharmD, has focused her career in the pharmacy benefits manager/managed care arena. She has worked as a staff pharmacist with Merck-Medco, clinical pharmacy manager for Keystone Health Plan Central, clinical account executive with Express Scripts, and director of pharmacy programs for the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Program for the last three years. She has been married for seven years to Frank Cathers, also a pharmacist, who works with Medco Health Solutions as a clinical services director. She lives in Camp Hill, Pa., and has two sons, Alex, 4, and Max, 6, and a stepdaughter, Courtney, who is 17. Cathers thinks of her pharmacy school classmates often and wonders where everyone is 10 years later.

William Knebel, PharmD, PhD, is a principal scientist with Metrum Research Group in Tariffville, Conn.

Jaye Wexler, PharmD, was hired as the new operations manager for Correct Rx Pharmacy Services, starting Oct. 8, 2007. This is an institutional pharmacy serving correctional facilities and nursing homes across the country.

1998

Rodney Taylor, PharmD, and **Nadine Taylor, PharmD**, welcomed their second daughter, Lexi Nicole Taylor, on June 27, 2007. Her older sister, Lauryn, is 3 1/2. Rodney is regional scientific associate director at

Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Nadine is a medical center representative with GlaxoSmithKline.

2000

Belinda (Adjabeng) Todjo, PharmD, gave birth to her second son, Kaden, on Oct. 8, 2006. Her first son, Kaleb, was 6 years old on Jan. 8, 2008.

2002

Jennifer Childress, PharmD, and her husband, Marc, welcomed the birth of their son, Isaac Christopher, on March 12, 2007. Isaac is also welcomed by his big sister, Sydney.

2003

Mark Sellers, PharmD, is a senior pharmacist with the U.S. Public Health Service in Springfield, Mo.

2005

Douglas Bradford, PharmD, is a clinical pharmacist at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air, Md.

Miranda (Billet) Ruenroeng, PharmD, is employed by the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor.

Tracie S. Stafford, PharmD, and her husband, Ron, celebrated the birth of twin girls, Sabrina Elizabeth and Alexia Rose, on June 7, 2007. Tracie works as a staff pharmacist at Giant Food in Annapolis, Md.

2006

Lawrence J. Krebs, PharmD, works with MedPark Pharmacy Inc. as a pharmacist in Annapolis, Md.

2007 – 2009 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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A Message from the Alumni President



Lynette Bradley-Baker

“A New Era” is a term that has followed our profession throughout the years. Whether it was the transition from typewriters to computers, from the Bachelor of Science Pharmacy degree to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree or from having few available practice settings to having many of them, our experience as modern pharmacists is more dynamic than ever.

A new era has even greater significance to us as alumni now that our School is under new leadership with the appointment of one of our own, Natalie D.

Eddington, PhD, as dean. Our Alumni Association is proud of Dean Eddington because she is a fellow alumna and is quite renowned in her area of practice, and we are supportive of her vision as she begins to shape a new era for the School of Pharmacy. As Alumni Association president, I look forward to working with Dean Eddington to expand our outreach with alumni and engaging them in the advancement of the profession.

With the academic year well under way, our Alumni Association has successfully hosted a Jazz Reunion Brunch, our Gifts of Time Reception, and receptions at the NCPA, AAPS, and ASHP annual meetings. We look forward to other upcoming events such as receptions at other national conferences in the spring, which include APhA and MPhA, Maryland Legislative Day, and the 2008 Graduation Banquet.

We have begun a new era for some of our events by changing the venue and format so that a greater number of preceptors, alumni, faculty, staff, and future alumni (our current University of Maryland pharmacy students) are able to participate. I personally invite you to take part in any and all of these activities. Please do not hesitate to contact me (LBBaker@cvs.com), any Alumni Association Executive Board member or our Office of Development for more information on any of these events.

You can create your own new era by increasing your involvement and reconnecting with the School. Please consider participating as a preceptor or expanding your current practice setting. I also encourage you to attend Office of External Affairs events and join your reunion planning or fundraising committee. As always, I welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions as to how our Alumni Association can build upon our new era!

Sincerely,

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

Giving Throughout the Decades

Graduates of the School of Pharmacy enjoy staying involved with the School and its students. That involvement takes many forms, from financial support and precepting and mentoring students, to taking on the challenges of planning class reunions or events for pharmacy professional organizations.

BY RANDOLPH FILLMORE



Edwin Balcerzak

EDWIN BALCERZAK, BSP '57

Like many young men, Baltimore-born Ed Balcerzak didn't know exactly what he wanted to do after graduating from Loyola High School. In the years following World War II, he saw military service as a duty. So he joined the Army.

He could not have known then that when he completed his military hitch he would spend much of the rest of his life serving veterans like himself by working in the pharmacies of Veterans Administration

and then Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals in and around Baltimore.

Growing up in Locust Point, he noticed that pharmacists in the community commanded respect.

"Then, our family had a close friend who enrolled in pharmacy school," he recalls. "So, pharmacy seemed like a good place to be."

When Balcerzak graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 1957, he went to work for Read's drugstores and some independent pharmacies. When Good Samaritan Hospital opened, he was one of the first pharmacists working there.

Looking for more direct patient contact, he started his long stint working for the VA at the hospital on Loch Raven Boulevard, then worked downtown at the Hopkins Plaza VA clinic.

"I loved working with patients," he says. "It was a joy. I made an excellent career choice."

He capped his career by working at the VA Medical Center on the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus where he worked with the School of Pharmacy's Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, now chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science.

"She was great to work with," says Balcerzak, who stays involved with pharmacy and the alumni by taking continuing education courses and being an active member of the Senior Pharmacists Association of Maryland and other pharmacy professional organizations.

Since retiring, he has become a member of the School's David Stewart Associates by financially supporting the School. He also recently chaired his class of 1957 reunion.

Balcerzak has been married to his wife, Patricia, for 40 years. They have four children and two grandchildren. He and Patricia live in Reisterstown, but winter on Marco Island, Fla., and spend most of the summer in Ocean City, Md., both places where Balcerzak can pursue his passion for golf.

He also has an entrepreneurial streak that led him to buy farms in 2000 where he now raises 350,000 chickens annually and sells them to major poultry houses. His goal is to raise 1.5 million birds each year. So, when you go to a Baltimore-area supermarket and buy one of the young, roasted chickens in the deli—

"Likely it's one of mine," says Balcerzak.



Thomas Brenner: Giving back

THOMAS BRENNER, BSP '72, FASHP

Thomas Brenner, Class of 1972 and now director of the pharmacy at York (Pa.) Hospital, has enjoyed precepting and mentoring students from the School since the mid-1980s.

“Today’s students are incredible. They keep me young and better educated,” he says with a chuckle. “Precepting gives the students a chance to learn from us and gives us a chance to learn from them. We can take their knowledge and apply it to practice.”

Just as the last several years have been a time of change for pharmacy, Brenner recalls that his years at the School were also years of transition.

“Ours was the first class to be offered a clinical track,” he recalls.

Brenner is grateful for the chance to have worked with Peter Lamy on a clinical project at the Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital. Brenner also helped to develop a neonatal IV nutrition fluid at University Hospital, which eventually became the University of Maryland Medical Center.

“We also helped develop a clinical pharmacy program and worked directly with the medical staff,” he recalls.

He likes to provide the students he precepts with similar clinical experiences. Born in York, Brenner returned there after his post-graduate work at University Hospital. In 1977 he started working at York Hospital, where he quickly became pharmacy director. He is currently working with a task force to develop a school of pharmacy at York College in the next four years.

Brenner also is head of his church fundraising committee. “Being involved has made me realize how important philanthropic activities are,” says Brenner. “It is important for us all to give back and to leave a living legacy.”

He and his wife of 36 years, Nancy, have a son and three grandsons.

TERRI CLAYMAN, PHARMD '98, BSP '77

“I had a Gilbert Chemistry Set,” recalls Terri Clayman. “I always liked science. My mother was a nurse at Sinai Hospital. She introduced me to two women who were pharmacists. Right away, I thought pharmacy was for me.”

Clayman attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s pre-pharmacy program and then came to the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy as part of the class of 1977. Two decades after receiving her BSP in 1977, she earned her PharmD through the School’s Nontraditional PharmD Pathway.

After working at several Baltimore-area hospital pharmacies, Clayman became a clinical pharmacist at Mercy Medical Center.

Even prior to getting the PharmD,

Clayman had been an active, 15-year supporter of the School of Pharmacy’s Annual Fund and a mentor to School students whom she precepts at the Mercy Medical Center pharmacy.

Giving money and time to important causes has always been important to her, she says. It started with volunteering at Baltimore County General Hospital the summer before she graduated from Randallstown High School in 1971.

Since then, her giving has taken many forms, including membership with the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists (an organization that named her Pharmacist of the Year in 2005), by helping to chair annual meetings and seminars, and line up speakers and continuing education courses. She also participates in a Mercy program by knitting hats for homeless children for Christmas. “I enjoy knitting,” she says.

As busy as ever, Clayman is serving as chair of her class reunion, is an active supporter of the Hippodrome Theatre, and serves as president of her neighborhood association in Columbia.



Terri Clayman (center bottom row) and friends at the 2007 Alumni Jazz Reunion Brunch.

2007 AAPS Alumni and Friends Reception in San Diego, Calif.



Former classmates Varsha Chavan, PhD '01, (left) and Susan Kopelman, PhD '01, (center) exchanged smiles and good cheer with Andrew Coop, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Albert Brzezcko, PhD '90, (center) and Francis Muller, PhD '93, BSP '85, (right) discuss the finer points of big pharma with Andrew Coop.



From left: Friends Mark Fletcher, PhD '83, BSP '78; Larry Small, PhD '80, MS '76; Joseph Johnson, MS '76, BSP '73; and Associate Professor Esmail Tabibi, PhD, reminisce about their School of Pharmacy days.

NCPA Alumni and Friends Reception



Bonnie and Steve Hospodavis, owners of Steve's Pharmacy in Cumberland, Md.



Angelo Voxakis, BSP '71, with Bruce Greenberg, BSP '88



From left: Jeffrey Sherr, BSP '78; Mark Barwig; and Bill Popomaronis, BSP '78

Alumni Jazz Reunion Brunch

A crowd turned out at the Rusty Scupper Restaurant by the harbor on Oct. 21 to reminisce and celebrate the milestone classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002.



Members of the Class of 1987 savor the beautiful view and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends.



Mary Card, BSP '77, and husband John, enjoy flipping through nostalgic photos in the *Terra Maria*.



Alumni from the Class of 1977 pose for a photo with their former professor, Ralph Blomster, PhD (center).



The classes of 1957 and 1967 share a table and great memories of their time spent at the School.



Forest Howell (left) and Timir Patel, both from the Class of 1987, take some time to catch up with each other.



Tony Guerra, PharmD '97, chair of the Alumni Association Reunion Committee, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, for all of his hard work and dedication to the reunion event.

Founders Week Gala 2007

The School of Pharmacy was well represented at the black-tie gala at the historic Hippodrome Theatre in October.



University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, and his wife, Anne (middle), with School of Pharmacy Board of Visitors member Harold Chappelle, DSC (hon.) '98, and his wife, Billie (left)



From left: Capital campaign honorary chair John Gregory, DPS; Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89; and the School's student speaker Jessica O'Kane, Class of '08

Gifts of Time Reception

At the annual Gifts of Time Reception, Gilbert Cohen, BSP '54, and Larry Siegel, PharmD '02, were named Honored Alumni of the Year. The event attracted approximately 100 alumni and friends to the School of Pharmacy's new campus at the Universities at Shady Grove on Oct. 23.



Alumni President Lynette Bradley-Baker, PhD '99, BSP '92, and Larry Siegel, PharmD '02



Preceptors of the Year John Ness, PharmD '93, and Capt. James Bresette, PharmD '97, (far right) along with Cynthia Boyle, PharmD '96, FAPhA, director of the Experiential Learning Program. (Kelly Gable, PharmD, who was recognized as New Preceptor of the Year, is not shown.)



Dean Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, congratulates recipients of the 2007 Honorary Alumni Award, former School of Pharmacy deans William J. Kinnard Jr., PhD (left), and David A. Knapp, PhD



From left: Tony Chite, BSP '77; Kimberly Compton, BSP '94; and Laura Governale, PharmD '99



The Cohen family

Maryland Pharmacist Association Convention

Brian Hose, PharmD '06, accepted the Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award from Dave Geoghegan in June at the Maryland Pharmacists Association Convention in Ocean City, Md. This annual award recognizes a young pharmacist who has graduated within the past 10 years and has made a significant contribution to the profession through service to a local, state or national pharmacy organization.



In Memoriam*

Alfred I. Aaronson, BSP '38
 Nathan H. Abrahams, BSP '58
 Alfred L. Davis, BSP '50
 Daniel M. Gold, BSP '68
 Jeannette R. Heghinian, BSP '33
 Edward H. Henderson, PHG '30
 Elmer Klavens, PHG '31
 M. Marc Lachman, BSP '50
 Emanuel W. Massing, BSP '44
 Ruth M. Pape, BSP '38
 Morton L. Pollack, BSP '47
 Joseph W. Shook Sr., BSP '40
 Eugene C. Weinbach, BSP '42
 Stanley J. Yaffe, BSP '50

* For the period 4/1/07 to 10/31/07



Message from Development

\$30 Million Starts With You

Dear Alumni and Friends:

During the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Founders Week in October, the campus announced the launch of a \$650 million capital campaign. The School of Pharmacy's objective is to raise \$30 million of that total by June 30, 2011. As ambitious as the goal may seem, this effort has the potential to transform our renowned institution into a world-class collaborative model of exceptional pharmacy practice and scientific research.

Throughout its history, the School of Pharmacy has enjoyed an illustrious reputation. As a cornerstone in pharmacy education since 1841, the School proudly stands among the nation's foremost forces in advancing the profession. With our rich tradition of producing industry leaders and our commitment to research, pharmacy practice, and service, we continue to anticipate the complexities of health care and the evolving dynamics of the profession.

From creating advanced practice models to addressing quality-of-life issues for the underserved, the School of Pharmacy paves the way in bringing relevance of drug discovery and research to the community. As a top-10 research school, we apply an integrative understanding of drug discovery, development, and utilization in conducting groundbreaking and translational research. We are a formidable influence in shaping drug policy and pharmaceutical practice.

The campaign priorities are simple and focused:

- **Educate:** Increase our endowment for scholarships, professorships, and facilities to continue to attract and retain top students and faculty.
- **Innovate:** Invest in novel and fundamental research through the establishment of Centers of Excellence such as Nanomedicine and Cellular Delivery, Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, and Clinical and Translational Research.

- **Collaborate:** Enhance programmatic support for outreach efforts by garnering additional resources through partnerships with state agencies, national associations, and corporations.

With the capital campaign as a catalyst, everyone can impact the School's success. Many people have the misconception that big gifts are the goal, but actually *participation* is equally important. High alumni participation demonstrates pride and commitment to external stakeholders and encourages them to invest in our priorities. While unrestricted funds provide the most flexibility to address the School's immediate operational requirements, every gift—regardless of amount or designation—counts toward increasing alumni participation and helping the School achieve its goals.

I look forward to providing campaign updates via the Web site (www.giving.umaryland.edu) and this publication over the next four years. As the School of Pharmacy continues to significantly impact pharmacy education and pharmaceutical research at both the community and national level, please consider how you can advance your alma mater and contribute to its success.

Thank you for considering this important request. I look forward to counting you as part of this successful campaign.

Sincerely,

Michele Y. Ewing
Executive Director
Development and Alumni Affairs

SAVE THE DATE!

*2008 Alumni Association
Graduation Banquet
and
50-Year Reunion Class of 1958*

Wednesday, May 14
7 - 11 p.m.

Martin's Valley Mansion
594 Cranbrook Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

*Visit www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu
for more information.*

Interested in placing a congratulatory message
in the banquet program? Call 410-706-8019
or visit the Alumni Association Web site
www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/alumni.



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