

DAWG SCRIPTS

Pharmacy Alumni Association & School of Pharmacy News

SPRING 2010



Making a Mark
in Washington, D.C.
Page 4

W

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

6 Professors Take
Outreach to Africa



12 Alumni & Friends
Out & About



16 Symposium to
Honor Dr. Levy



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Pharmacy Alumni Association
Box 354699
Seattle, WA 98195
T: (206) 221-2465
F: (206) 221-2689
rxalumni@uw.edu
depts.washington.edu/rxalumni

PAA OFFICERS

President: Jenny Arnold, '06
President-Elect: Jennifer Glasco, '09
Past President: Ben Michaels, '97

PAA COMMITTEE LEADERS

Katterman: Don Downing, '75
WSPA: Jeff Rochon, '99

DAWG SCRIPTS

Editor: Melinda Young
Contributors: Jenny Arnold, Thomas A. Baillie, Claire Forster, Nancy Hart, Maria Tran
Designers: Cathy Schwartz, Melinda Young

CONTACT US

rxalumni@uw.edu
(206) 221-2465

COMMENTS AND UPDATES

We are always interested in your comments, updates, photos and story ideas. Please e-mail us at rxalumni@uw.edu.

School of Pharmacy
www.pharmacy.washington.edu

University of Washington
www.washington.edu

This paper was made with 30-percent post-consumer waste and manufactured in the Pacific Northwest.

ON THE COVER:

UW pharmacy students, advisers and alumni had an excellent showing at the American Pharmacists Association convention in Washington, D.C. in March. Read more about how the School of Pharmacy made its mark in the nation's capital on Page 4.



I am very excited to be your new Pharmacy Alumni Association President! The School has given me so much since I graduated in 2006, and this is a valuable way to give back.

While I am president, I would like to strengthen the relationship between the PAA and the student organizations at the School to allow for more opportunities for mentorship and alumni involvement. Further, as director of pharmacy practice development at the Washington State Pharmacy Association, I see opportunities to combine resources of the PAA and WSPA in reaching

out to pharmacists — in particular to new practitioners.

And speaking of opportunities, this is the time of year when prospective students are receiving their letters of acceptance — with a warm “Congratulations!” on the top line — into the UW School of Pharmacy.

As part of this year's admissions committee, I enjoyed when candidates interviewed us. A common question we heard was, “What are the strengths of your program?” I boiled my answer down to two parts. First, I'd tell them how the flexibility of Washington's Pharmacy Practice Act allows pharmacists to partner with other health providers to manage patients in any setting, making Washington (and, by extension, the UW) a progressive place to learn and practice.

Second, I'd tell the students that many of the pharmacists responsible for making Washington state so innovative are also dedicated to giving back to the university. They support their peers, inspire students and faculty members, and continue to engage in efforts to push practice farther.

I myself feel so fortunate to be inspired by these mentors! This is why I am a member of the PAA. I enjoy all the opportunities the PAA provides to network and hear about the great work of other UW alumni and faculty members.

The Katterman Lecture in April was a perfect example of this. More than 90 people attended the event. It was headlined by School of Pharmacy faculty members Lingtak-Neander Chan and Don Downing, both of whom are also alumni. They each talked about where pharmacy practice has been and where it is going. Chan implored pharmacists to publish their work and to critically analyze trials to see if their patients would benefit from the outcomes. Downing discussed the importance of pharmacists being paid for patient care services, as allowed by the Every Category of Provider law.

Attendees left the lecture re-energized to be innovators in their profession and to lead change. As one attendee wrote in the evaluation: “I'm fired up!”

So to sum up, if you're looking for ways to be re-energized in your work, here are some recommendations: inspire a student, renew your PAA membership, and think about ways to do something new and innovative in your practice. Oh, and don't forget to memorize the Husky Fight Song! After all, the Northwest Pharmacy Convention is right around the corner.

Jenny Arnold, '06
President, Pharmacy Alumni Association

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



IN the months leading up to the passage of the health care reform bill, the discourse across the political spectrum was heated, to say the least. But throughout that time, as discussions about health care became ubiquitous, something positive started to emerge for the pharmacy profession: pharmacists started to get some long-overdue recognition.

Consider, for example, just a few recent headlines. The *L.A. Times* ran a three-part series highlighting the contributions pharmacists make to health care, with one headline proclaiming “Pharmacists are a vital, if under-used, part of healthcare.” The *Washington Post* ran a piece with a title that summed it up quite well: “Pharmacists dispense pills, counsel patients, screen for illness, give vaccines.” *Modern Medicine* featured an illuminating story about how pharmacists improve health outcomes.

And closer to home, two of our faculty members, Don Downing and Peggy Odegard, had an opinion piece featured in the *Bellingham Herald* touting the important role pharmacists play in health care. Downing later discussed the same topic as a featured guest on a National Public Radio affiliate talk show.

Not bad publicity for a group of providers often overlooked in conversations about health care and underestimated for the extent of their capabilities.

Our faculty’s commitment to highlighting the extensive capabilities of pharmacists is longstanding. Through their innovative educational offerings, groundbreaking research and public health outreach efforts, these educators are first-rate ambassadors for their profession.

So, too, are the pharmacy students they mentor.

As a case in point, students have recently received a handful of national awards for exceptional programming, advocacy and leadership. These include a chapter achievement award for the UW chapter of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacists, an APhA Student Leadership Award for student Jonathan Chenoweth, and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Student Advocacy Award for student Brent Leithausser. [Read more about these student awards on Page 4.]

These Pharm.D. candidates are part of a student body committed to leadership, engagement, and academic and scientific achievement. They regularly organize health clinics and workshops, stay actively involved in industry associations, engage in drug-safety and advocacy campaigns, and more.

So how gratifying to note that this year’s graduating class will join the profession at a time when the public is starting to better understand pharmacists’ contributions — as well as at a time when academic institutions and health care facilities alike are placing a greater emphasis on the importance of collaboration between the health professions.

As these students enter a drastically changing health care system, they are sure to rise to the occasion. I suspect they will continue to serve as excellent ambassadors for their profession in the years to come.

In so doing, they will be carrying on a long tradition of UW School of Pharmacy graduates who have gone on to excel in their field — showing just how essential pharmacists really are to health care.

Thomas A. Baillie, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Dean, UW School of Pharmacy

Upcoming School of Pharmacy and Industry Events

June 3-6
Northwest Pharmacy Convention
Coeur d’Alene Resort
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
Visit www.wsparx.org for more information and to register

June 13
Dr. Levy Tribute Symposium
Bell Harbor International Conference Center
Seattle
Contact: Dima Long
(206) 616-4218
dimalong@uw.edu

July 10-14
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Seattle
Visit www.aacp.org for more information and to register

July 21
Dean’s Club Night at the Mariners
Mariners vs. Chicago White Sox
Safeco Field, Seattle
Contact: Nancy Hart
(206) 616-7613
rxevents@uw.edu

August 14
Bill Trager Memorial Golf Tournament
The Golf Club at Echo Falls
Snohomish, Wash.
Contact: Maria Tran
(206) 221-2465
mgonz@uw.edu

Making a Big Impression *In Washington, D.C.*

Students, advisers and alumni recently descended on the nation's capital. Their goal? To lobby government officials on behalf of the profession and to accept some honors at two national pharmacy-association events

Several University of Washington pharmacy students traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to attend two national pharmacy-association events. They came home with multiple national awards and some new-found government connections.

Three awards they received were especially noteworthy. At the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) annual meeting, the UW's APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter received the Chapter Achievement Award in their division. Pharmacy student Jonathan Chenoweth received an APhA Student Leadership Award. And student Brent Leithauser picked up a Pharmacy Student Advocacy Award at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Rx Impact event.

The APhA outstanding chapter award recognized the UW students for outstanding accomplishments during the 2008-2009 school year. It honors groups that set new standards of leadership, professionalism and patient care.

The UW chapter was praised specifically for superior outreach activities and advocacy efforts. Just a few of the many activities the chapter organized that year were hypertension screenings at Seattle Seahawks games and health fairs for underserved populations.

For their advocacy efforts, mem-



From left: UW pharmacy student Brent Leithauser, U.S. Rep. Marion Berry from Arkansas, and WSU pharmacy student Andrew Helm. Leithauser and Helm met met Berry — the only licensed pharmacist in Congress — after receiving Student Advocacy Awards from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. (Photo courtesy of NACDS/Rx Impact)

bers organized a voter-registration drive during the 2008 elections and held an information session on health-care-related issues. The chapter also collaborated with the Washington State Pharmacy Associa-

tion on a letter-writing campaign that ultimately helped protect Medicaid patients' access to pharmacy services.

More than 20 student members represented the UW's APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter at the convention in Washington, D.C. Second-year student (and chapter president-elect) Sara McElroy accepted the award.

"I am so proud of our students and of their continued involvement in programs aimed at improving the health of their communities," said Associate Dean of Academic and Student Programs and chapter co-adviser Nanci Murphy, who was also

Continued on next page

To learn about more student highlights from the APhA convention and about other recent student accomplishments, be sure to check out the "Student News" on Page 9.

at the convention. “As a pharmacist myself, it means so much to me to see how devoted they are to helping others and to see the impact of their activities on a local, national, and international level.”

For individual leadership and academic achievement, third-year pharmacy student Jonathan Chenoweth accepted a prestigious Student Leadership Award from APhA. One of only four awards given nationally, it came with a \$500 scholarship prize.

Chenoweth is the president of the School of Pharmacy’s Bridges to Health Patient Advocacy Center, which seeks to reduce health disparities and increase student pharmacist involvement in the community. Under his guidance, the organization has supported events such as a Nisqually Tribe flu clinic, a children’s health fair in Snohomish, and a continuing-education session on community outreach and patient care projects at the Northwest Pharmacy Convention.

He is also on the School of Pharmacy’s Student Advisory Committee on Professionalism. Previously, he served as the director of the student political advocacy network for the UW APhA Academy of Student



Jonathan Chenoweth, middle, holds up his American Pharmacists Association Student Leadership Award. Standing with him are two past recipients of the award — UW School of Pharmacy alumni Jeff Rochon, '99, (left) and Collin Conway, '05.

inspire others to take action through legislative outreach.

Brent Leithauser’s award also honored legislative-outreach efforts. He and pharmacy student Andrew Helm from Washington State University received an NACDS Student Advocacy Award for organizing Pharmacy

pharmacists and multiple UW and WSU faculty members to the state capitol. They coordinated meetings with Washington state legislators and government officials and organized health screenings and other activities. They were advocating for pro-pharmacy, pro-patient legislative actions.

When receiving their award from NACDS in Washington, D.C., Leithauser and Helm were invited to take their legislative outreach to the next level. Through the association’s Rx Impact event, they met with Congressional representatives to talk about topics ranging from medication-therapy-management services to vaccination coverage.

All told, they met with officials in the offices of more than nine legislators from Washington and Oregon, including U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

UW students and alumni also organized some of their own meetings with legislative representatives while they were in Washington, D.C. They wanted to build on their momentum from the Olympia event and advocate for their future profession.

As it turned out, they were in the capitol just weeks before the historic health care reform legislation passed.

“To be there while all of this was going on was a rare opportunity,” said Leithauser, “and I was proud that we could help make our collective voice as pharmacists heard.” 🗣️



U.S. Capitol image courtesy of Destination D.C. (Jake McGuire, photographer)

“It means so much to me to see how devoted our students are to helping others and to see the impact of their activities on a local, national and international level,”
said Associate Dean Nanci Murphy.

Pharmacists. In that role, he educated students about legislation and its impact on the School and profession.

In the nomination letters for his award, fellow UW pharmacy students praised Chenoweth for his ability to

Legislative Day in Olympia, Wash., this past February.

The two third-year pharmacy students worked several months to help organize the event, which brought 141 student pharmacists, 20

Toward a New Model of Pharmacy Care in Ethiopia

As Peggy Odegard and Don Downing gave their presentation in the bright classroom in Jimma University in Ethiopia, they didn't expect the Ethiopian pharmacy students, faculty and practitioners in the audience to be so rapt. The UW professors of pharmacy were just giving a basic overview of pharmaceutical care and pharmacy practice in other nations.

Specifically, they were explaining that Japan and Micronesia, like Ethiopia, are trying to move their pharmaceutical care model into one that focuses more on patient care, rather than primarily on dispensing medicines.

The Ethiopians leaned forward in their chairs. Many of their faces lit up.

"It turned out a lot of them were self-conscious over the belief that their country's pharmacy practice system was behind others in the world," said Downing. "We didn't realize how important it would be for them to understand that they weren't so far behind other nations."

Odegard and Downing were in Jimma, Ethiopia, with professor of public health Andy Stergachis in November, training the Ethiopians on patient-focused pharmaceutical care and pharmacovigilance.

Their weeklong trip was funded by the Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems (SPS) project. Stergachis is a principal investigator on the UW's SPS project, which is part of Management Sciences for Health — an international nonprofit that helps developing nations strengthen their health systems.

Stergachis, who is also an adjunct professor of pharmacy, is collaborating with colleagues from the UW and other institutions to implement various pharmaceutical care programs in multiple developing nations.

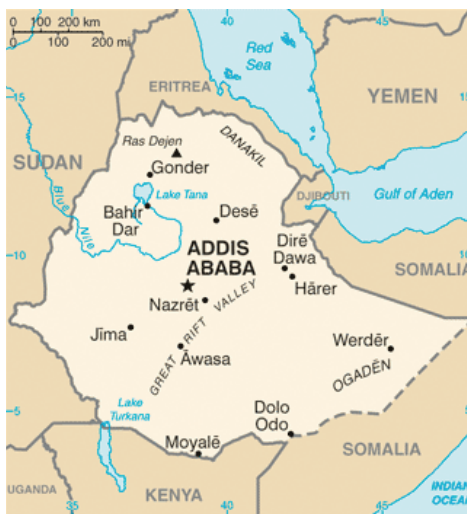
Odegard and Downing joined him in Ethiopia because of their expertise in



Ethiopian pharmacy trainees show off textbooks that Peggy Odegard, second from left, and Don Downing, third from left, delivered on behalf of UW pharmacy students, who raised funds to donate the books.

implementing patient-focused pharmaceutical care models in community and hospital practices in the United States.

While in Ethiopia, they trained almost 40 pharmacy and health care representatives. They also donated \$1,100 worth of textbooks to the Ethiopian pharmacy students, thanks to a fundraiser coordinated back at home by UW pharmacy students with matching funds from the School's Bridges to



The World Health Organization estimates that there were 119 hospitals and 412 health centers in Ethiopia in 2005. The country has a population of more than 80 million people. (Image courtesy of the Central Intelligence Agency)

Health Patient Advocacy Center.

"Throughout the week, we could sense the Ethiopians' eagerness to learn about how they could move forward," said Stergachis. "I think the trainees started to feel this sense of obligation that they're the people who will bring forward an improved level of pharmacy practice in their country."

The pharmacy system in Ethiopia looks a lot like the U.S. system looked in the years following mass production of medicines — when pharmacists for a time became primarily dispensers of medications, rather than more integrated health care providers.

In Ethiopia, a number of government regulations prevent pharmacists from providing basic services such as blood pressure tests or vaccinations. Given the limited health care resources in this east African nation, pharmacists could ease the burden on the system if they were allowed to do more. If they could provide the patient-care services that U.S. pharmacists provide, they could improve the population's access to care.

As a first step toward making this

Continued on next page

Pharmacy Care in Ethiopia (Continued from previous page)

happen, the Ethiopian trainees and UW professors were invited to meet with administrators and physicians at Jimma University Medical Center. While there, the group made a case to the leadership for increasing pharmacists' responsibilities within the hospitals.

The officials listened to their suggestions. In a country that has only 2.6 doctors per 100,000 people and an average life expectancy of 55 years, viable ideas for improving care were welcomed.

At a minimum, the professors wanted to suggest to the officials that pharmacists should be out on the wards and clinics of the hospitals.

The pitch proved successful. The medical center cleared pharmacists to start providing pharmaceutical care in hospital wards as of December.

Given the limited health care resources in this East African nation, pharmacists could ease the burden on the system if they were allowed to do more.

The UW professors also had a handful of successful meetings with Ethiopian public health officials. By the time they left Ethiopia, they felt hopeful that they had helped set in motion a movement toward positive change.

Since their return, the constant

and enthusiastic flow of e-mails they've received from the Ethiopians they trained has confirmed that that's exactly what's happening.

Proposals for improving Ethiopia's pharmacy system are moving forward. Most recently, Jimma University School of Pharmacy helped update a Parliament proclamation on the role pharmacy students should play in residencies.

The UW faculty members will continue to work with the Ethiopians via teleconferencing and conference calls during the next two years of the SPS grant. They hope to help them implement more changes, thereby improving health outcomes for Ethiopians. ☺

School and Faculty News

School News

The Departments of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutics have teamed up to create the new Pharmacological Sciences Summer Diversity Program. This program provides research opportunities for two undergraduate students to perform hands-on research in drug metabolism, pharmacokinetics and more.

Faculty News

An award from the Life Sciences Discovery Fund has provided support for a new biophysical characterization laboratory directed by **Bill Atkins** and **Carlos Catalano**, professors of medicinal chemistry.

Dean **Thomas Baillie** has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. This prestigious fellowship honors distinguished chemical scientists whose activities have made a significant contribution to the chemical sciences or have been of significant benefit to the chemical community.

Research Associate Professor of Pharmacy **Beth Devine** was the lead author on an "Editor's Choice" article in the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* — "The impact of computerized provider order entry on medication errors in a multispecialty group practice." Co-authors included faculty members **Dave Blough** and **Sean Sullivan** and graduate student **Ryan Hansen** from the School's Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program.

Professor of Pharmaceutics **Shiu-Lok Hu** is part of a five-year, multi-institution \$15.5 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases under the HIV Vaccine Research and Design Program. Hu's portion of the grant, totaling \$4.06 million, will develop an animal model to study how such antibodies against HIV are generated.

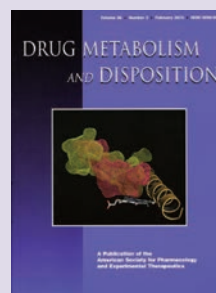
Peggy Odegard, associate professor of pharmacy, received the Outstanding Leadership Award for 2009 from the American Dia-

betes Association of Washington. Odegard currently is the organization's board president.

Isabelle Ragueneau-Majlessi has joined the Department of Pharmaceutics faculty as a clinical associate professor. She also became director of the School of Pharmacy's Metabolism and Transport Drug Interaction Database.

Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry **Rheem Totah's** illustration (pictured at left) graced the cover of the February 2010 issue of *Drug Metabolism and Disposition*. Totah was a co-author of the article, "Identification of Novel Substrates for Human Cytochrome P450 2J2."

Jashvant Unadkat, professor of pharmaceutics, received grant awards from Simcyp and Pfizer Inc. to support basic research on pharmacokinetic modeling and transporter biology.



Scholarships Make A Big Impact, One Student at a Time

Each student comes to the School with a story — about why they picked this profession, why they chose the UW, what kind of difference they hope to make in the future. This year, thanks to the School's generous donors, more than 100 students received scholarships to help them in their endeavors. Here, a few such students share their stories.

Michael Ayres, '11
Class of 1969
Endowed Scholarship



I take quite a lot of pride in attending the University of Washington School of Pharmacy. I believe it is a special place. And so I have really enjoyed learning about the School through many of my scholarship donors as well as learning from them about the history of our profession in general.

In order to remain connected to pharmacy history and education, I am working on completing the teaching certificate in pharmacy education. I would love to have the opportunity to teach at some point in my career, hopefully even at the UW School of Pharmacy!

Elise Fields, '12

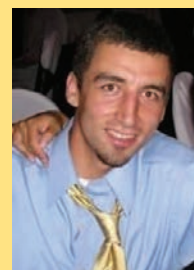
Albertsons, Pharmacy Leadership
and Professional Excellence
Scholarships



From my experiences in pharmacy school, I have been extremely encouraged that I can make a large impact on health as a pharmacist. Last summer, I traveled to Ghana and worked with Ghanaian pharmacy students and faculty on their National Drug Safety Campaign. We spoke to people in remote villages about rational drug use and chronic conditions, and I could tell that these people took our advice to heart.

I have also been involved with the technical and political aspects of environmental pharmacy and making sure that unused medications are safely disposed. These have been only two of my activities in my first year, and I am working now to deepen my involvement in both areas.

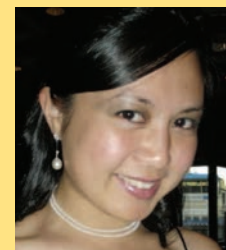
Joseph Finley, '12
Walter & Hazel Hinman
Family Foundation Scholarship



The idea of becoming a hospital pharmacist is exciting to me. I would like to practice in a place where I can provide a positive impact on the community. I will do my best to provide exemplary care and gain the trust of the individuals that I serve.

Having grown up on a reservation in northeast Washington, I want to return home and show everyone just what I am capable of. What we are all capable of. That's part of why I'm at the University of Washington School of Pharmacy — to break down barriers.

Victoria Wong, '11
Wal-Mart Scholarship



My dream of becoming a pharmacist stems from my grandmother. When she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and moved into a nursing home, she was already prescribed over a dozen medications. Her diagnosis only extended the medication list. The new medications caused severe side effects.

My parents relied on me to decide which drugs were appropriate for my grandma. Unfortunately, I had no familiarity with the drugs, and the busy doctors and nurses didn't ease my worries. I wished there was a pharmacist who could have answered my questions.

My family is not the only family who has gone through this, and that is why I want to become a nursing home pharmacist.

Student News

Rafael Alfonso, Ph.D. student in the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program (PORPP), was keynote speaker at the Congress of the Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery of Colombia.

PORPP graduate students **Rafael Alfonso**, **Lisa Bloudek**, **Patrick Gillard**, **Bernardo Goulart**, **Katie Gries**, **Ryan Hansen**, **Norio Kasahara**, **Kyle Ross**, **Josh Roth**, and PORPP postdoctoral fellow **Rahber Thariani** presented posters at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research International Annual Meeting.

Paul Algeo, '11, was named Phi Lambda Sigma Chapter Member of the Year.

Michael Ayres, '11, **Katharine Chan**, '11, **Jonathan Chenoweth**, '11, **Sarah Craciun**, '11, **Abby Frye**, '10, **Michelle Kunita**, '11, **Kim Moody**, '10, and **Dara Uch**, '11, presented posters at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) annual meeting.

John Chapman, medicinal chemistry Ph.D. student, was named a Magnuson Scholar. This UW award goes



Pharmaceutics students accepted into the Institute of Translational Health Sciences predoctoral training program, from left: Ariel Topletz, Li Liu, Peng Hsiao

to graduate students on the basis of academic performance and potential contributions to research.

Jonathan Chenoweth, '11, was named to the national APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) Policy Standing Committee.

Karen Craddick, '11, received \$4,000 from the King County Public Health Tobacco Prevention Program to fund student training in the Washington State Pharmacy Association tobacco-cessation certificate program. Craddick was also named a Paul Ambrose Public Health Scholar.

Elise Fields, '12, received a Lamaréné Schweitzer Fellowship to work at the Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon this summer. She is the first ever pharmacy student to receive this honor.

Pharmaceutics graduate students **Peng Hsiao**, **Li Liu** and **Ariel Topletz** and medicinal chemistry graduate student **John Chapman** were accepted in the Institute of Translational Health Sciences Multidisciplinary Predoctoral Clinical Research Training Program.

Brent Leithauser, '11, got a certificate of recognition from the APhA-ASP Leadership Training Series.

Tahnee Marginean, '10, was named an APhA-ASP New Business Review Committee member.

Sara McElroy, '12, received an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)/Wal-Mart scholarship to attend the AACP annual meeting this July in Seattle.

Kim Moody, '10, received a RESPy (Respect, Excellence, and Service in Pharmacy) award from Wal-Mart and *Pharmacy Times*.

Luis Ramos, '10, served on the APhA-ASP Nominations Committee.

Lisa Rogers, '12, is helping with an educational program to help improve medication administration in child care settings, funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Students Again Place in National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Competition

Jonathan Chenoweth, '11, **Carly Fuhrman**, '11, **Shawn Hagland**, '12, and **Zsolt Hepp**, '12, placed second in the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) 10th Annual Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Competition in San Diego in April.

The competition challenges students to gain a real-world perspective of the formulary-management process. Essentially, student teams analyze a disease state and drug, present their findings and make recommendations to a mock P&T committee at the AMCP annual meeting.

The disease state students assessed this year was immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) — a bleeding condition in which the blood doesn't clot the way it should. The associated drugs they researched were Promacta and Nplate. Both of these agents increase platelet counts in patients with chronic ITP who have failed other first-line therapies.

Twenty-one schools of pharmacy originally submitted materials to the national P&T competition. The UW team ultimately competed against seven other schools in the finals,

including Purdue University, the University of California-San Francisco and Drake University.

For winning second place, the students received \$1,500 to go to School of Pharmacy scholarships. This is the second year in a row that a UW team has placed in the top two. Last year, which was the first year the UW competed, they took first place.

The team's faculty adviser was Associate Professor of Pharmacy **David Veenstra**, and their AMCP Chapter Diplomat/Adviser was **Fred Segó**, '82, R.Ph, J.D. 🍷

Remembering Emeritus Professor Bill Trager: A Brilliant Mind and a Kind Soul

Alumnus and Professor/Chair Emeritus William “Bill” Trager, Ph.D., '65, passed away this past November. He was 72 years old.

Bill received his Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry — focusing on conformational analysis and nuclear magnetic resonance — from the University of Washington in 1965 under the supervision of Professor Alain Huitric.

Bill went on to do his postdoctoral studies at the Chelsea School of Science and Technology in London, studying alkaloid structures with Sir Arnold Beckett.

In 1967, he joined the faculty of the University of California-San Francisco School of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of medicinal chemistry. While at UCSF, he acted as director of the high-resolution mass spectrometry center. That is where his interest in drug metabolism — which would be the focus of his life's research — began.

In 1972, Bill was recruited back to the University of Washington School of Pharmacy to be a professor of medicinal chemistry. He was the chair of that department from

1980 to 1983. He also served as an adjunct professor in the UW Department of Chemistry.

Bill was an outstanding, encouraging mentor to more than 20 graduate students and 12 postdoctoral fellows. During his career, he published more than 200 research papers and was a co-author of two books. He was internationally renowned for his work on warfarin metabolism and mechanisms of warfarin drug interactions.

He also was the principal investigator for nearly 20 years of a National Institutes of Health Program Project Grant which investigated drug interactions.

Bill received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the UW School of Pharmacy in 2001, and he remained on faculty with the University of Washington until his retirement in 2004. As an alumnus and emeritus faculty member, Bill stayed active with the School, its faculty and staff.

The School of Pharmacy and the wider research community have lost a brilliant mind and a kind soul. He will be sorely missed. 🙏

Bill Trager Memorial Golf Tournament



Bill Trager

To celebrate the life of Bill Trager, his children, Billy and Lisa, former student Shane Hendrickson, '96, and the School of Pharmacy invite you to a golf tournament in his honor.

Date: Saturday, August 14

Location: The Golf Club at Echo Falls; Snohomish, Wash.

Time: 2 p.m. modified golf start; 7 p.m. reception at Greenside Grill (If not playing golf, please arrive at 6:45 p.m. to attend reception)

Cost: Minimum donation of \$250 (all of the proceeds go to support the Trager Fellowship Fund)

For more info and to register:

Visit www.pharmacy.washington.edu/tragergolf or contact Maria Tran at mgonz@uw.edu, 206-221-2465

If you can't attend, please consider making a gift to the Drug Metabolism Fellowship in honor of Bill Trager. To make a gift, visit www.pharmacy.washington.edu/support or contact the School's Office of Advancement at (206) 221-2465 or rxgiving@uw.edu.

Plein Fund Supports Innovation and Research. Submit Your Proposal Now.

The Elmer M. Plein Endowed Research Fund is accepting proposals for pharmacy research projects.

The awards encourage, promote and support research and innovative practice in pharmacy. Previous Plein Fund research projects have focused on pharmacy intervention for patients with high drug usage and multiple providers, pharmacist-managed smoking-cessation programs, and osteoporosis screening in an Asian community.

School faculty, clinical and affiliate faculty, current

and former students, research and postdoctoral fellows, and current research assistants/associates may apply. Research areas to be supported include, but are not limited to: drug metabolism and transport, clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, pharmaceutical outcomes; and demonstration projects evaluating innovative practice models.

Proposals are due June 1st for consideration for one of three awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Find out more at: www.pharmacy.washington.edu/pleinfund.

Class Notes

1960-1979

Siri Childs, '67, retired from her role as pharmacy administrator for Washington Medicaid. She worked in that role for the last eleven years of her career. The rest of her career was spent in hospital pharmacy. Siri obtained her Pharm.D. degree in 1995 from Idaho State University.

Margaret Smith (Fowler), '74, married Donald Smith in May 2008. She retired in January of 2008 after 30 years working at Providence Portland Medical Center in IV Admit and the Metabolic Support Team.



Clement Chung (right), with wife, Emily, and daughter Deborah Grace in 2007

1990-1999

Clement Chung, '93, '01, recently obtained his board specialty certification in oncology pharmacy. He is already board certified in pharmacotherapy and is currently working as an oncology pharmacist specialist in Valley Medical Center in Renton. During his near five-year-tenure, he has initiated and developed pivotal collaboration with nursing and medical oncologists in Valley Medical and changed the fundamental ways that oncology is practiced there.

Ben Michaels, '97, and his wife, Darcey, welcomed their first

child, son Ian Patrick Michaels, this past September.

2000-present

Thanks to the efforts of seven alumni from the class of 2005 — **Harrison Aihara, Emily Cooper, Wendy Exely, Jessica Hilton, Helen Marshall, Hollye Powell** and **David Strider** — the muscle-relaxer Carisoprodol has been rescheduled to a Class IV controlled substance by the Washington State Board of Pharmacy. They proposed to reclassify the drug when they were students for a class project in Professor Tom Hazlet's Law and Ethics course.

Mayleen Panaligan Bulunggaya, '00, and her husband, Victor Bulunggaya, welcomed a baby girl in September — Mia Angeli Panaligan Bulunggaya.

Josh Carlson, former Pfizer postdoctoral fellow in the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program (PORPP) and current assistant professor of PORPP, and his wife, Amy, welcomed a baby boy, Owen, born in March.

Meg Melchiors, '09, (pictured at right) is participating in an Ironman triathlon in June to raise money for Uganda Village Project (UVP). UVP is



Owen Carlson



an international, nonprofit organization that works with people of the Iganga district of Uganda to promote public health and sustainable development. Melchiors conducted a rotation with UVP in 2008 while she was a pharmacy student. Follow Meg's efforts at www.ugandavillageproject.org/racing-for-relief.

Traci Mitchell (Wensel), '01, recently received her master's degree in health administration from the University of Washington School of Public Health, and she accepted a position as Quality Program Manager - Patient Satisfaction at Evergreen Hospital Medical Center in Kirkland, Wash.

Kelly Philopant, '08, was married in September 2009 to Kyle Hackney, a 2008 graduate from the UW School of Dentistry. Kelly now works for the Multicare Health System in Tacoma, Wash., as a clinical pharmacy oncology specialist.

Cathy Ward (Altermatt), '05, and **Jon Ward**, '05, proudly announced the birth and adoption of their son, Callum Hughes Ward, in February.

Let us know what's new in your life. Please e-mail us with your updates and photos at rxalumni@uw.edu.

And if you didn't see our Winter 2010 e-newsletter, you can find more "Class Notes" there. Read the School of Pharmacy e-newsletter online at www.washington.edu/alumni/partnerships/pharmacy/201002.

Pharmacy Alumni and Friends: Out and About

2nd Annual Scholarship Breakfast

Almost 150 students, faculty members and scholarship donors attended the School's 2nd Annual Scholarship Breakfast in February. The event brings together students and their generous scholarship partners.



LEFT: Donna Fey, '69, and Dick Ramsey, '55. **RIGHT:** From left: Geraldine Brady ('51, College of Education, and widow of professor emeritus Lynn Brady) and her scholarship recipient, student Abby Frye, '10.



LEFT: From left: Brian Beach, '00, Ryan Oftebro, '03, and their scholarship recipient, Brent Leithauser, '11. **RIGHT:** Steve Kushner, '74, center, with his scholarship recipients, Alan Kelley, '13, and Amanda McPeak, '13.

Our Alumni in Action

Recently, the owners of Key Pharmacy invited a School of Pharmacy Office of Advancement staff member to take a tour of their compounding-only facility in Kent, Wash. Five of the six pharmacists at Key are graduates of the School.

E-mail your photos and captions from alumni events and gatherings to: rxalumni@uw.edu

From left: Jim Seymour, '66, and Bill Corrison, '72, two of four co-owners of Key Pharmacy Compounding Center, show off their facility's compounding lab.



United Professional Pharmacy Associations of Washington (UPPOW) Auction



ABOVE: From left: Auctioneer (and professor) Doug Black, '81, '83, brandishes a hook while fake-mustachioed UPPOW president Paul Algeo, looks on. **RIGHT:** True to form, students really get into this year's theme.

The 13th annual UPPOW Auction took place in April with a "Pirates of the Caribbean" theme. More than 120 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends attended the student-run event. The live and silent auctions raised more than \$11,000. Proceeds provide financial support for students' professional development.



Steven Singer, '81, Named 2009 Distinguished Alumnus in Pharmacy Practice

The UW School of Pharmacy is proud to honor Steven Singer with its 2009 Distinguished Alumnus in Pharmacy Practice Award.

Upon graduation from the School in 1981, Steve worked as a pharmacist in a number of community pharmacies in Kirkland. He later held positions including vice president of operations at Evergreen Pharmaceutical and chief technology officer at Med-Manage Systems Inc. Currently, he is the chief operating officer of Bellegrove Pharmacy in Bellevue.

He devotes significant energy to mentoring UW pharmacy students. In fact, he is highly sought-after for pharmacy internships and clinical rotations. He has been a School affiliate faculty member since 1988.

The School has also benefitted from Singer's contributions as a member of the dean's advisory committee and pharmacy practice board. And he



provided his expertise during the creation of the Institute for Innovative Pharmacy Practice.

His research has focused on the areas of managed-care pharmacy, long-term care and technology. He has given multiple presentations on these topics at national industry conventions. Further, Singer has devoted much of his professional life to helping underserved populations. Most recently, he worked with his colleagues at Bellegrove to develop an on-site

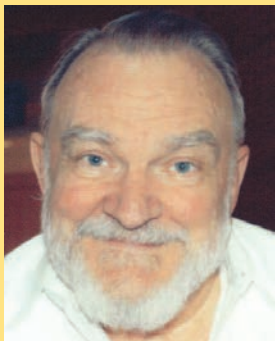
telepharmacy program for patients in the rural Central Washington communities of Royal City and Mattawa.

These telepharmacies followed a pilot program that Singer helped implement in 2006 at the clinic on the Stillaguamish Indian Reservation, near Arlington. Singer and his colleagues spent six months working with the state Board of Pharmacy to receive certification for that program.

The Washington State Pharmacy Association named Singer its Pharmacist of the Year in 1993. He was honored for outstanding achievement in the pharmacy profession by the Merck Human Health Division in 1997.

For his dedication to his alma mater, his commitment to future generations of pharmacists, his devotion to increasing access to care, and his tireless efforts to improve the profession, Steven Singer is the definition of a distinguished alumnus. 🐾

In Memoriam



Bob Lohr

Robert “Bob” Lohr, '48, age 86, died peacefully in January following surgery. Bob was born in Aberdeen, Wash. He spent his formative years in Seattle where he made lifelong friends.

After graduation from Hill Military School, Bob went to work on the Seattle docks. He enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II and was part of Company C, 82nd Armored Reconnaissance Division “Hell on Wheels” unit. He landed at Normandy on D-Day and was a decorated soldier, receiving two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre with bronze star.

Following the war, he enrolled in the School of Pharmacy. He married Bettie Barrett. Two daughters, Marla and Kerry, were added to the family. Bob and Bettie co-owned pharmacies in Bridgeport and Wenatchee, Wash. He was active in pharmacy and civic organizations.

In the 1960s, Bob began developing a unique contact lens cleaning solution. He decided to return to school to obtain his doctor of optometry.

After receiving his degree from Pacific University, he moved to San Jose, Calif., and established an optometry practice as well as Lobob Laboratories. Bob

established himself as an astute businessman, a caring practitioner, a mentor and an activist in local and state organizations. On the personal side, his wife passed away to cancer.

In 1975, he met and married Mary Kuchenbecker. He added Mary's daughter, Coty, and three granddaughters, Cori, Chantel and Tawny, to his life. Bob and Mary worked together to build the lab into a thriving facility.

They traveled the world and enjoyed their lives together. Mary died in 2001. Bob later moved to a retirement community.

He is survived by his children, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Grace LaBurt Thomke, '34, passed away this past August at The Hearthstone retirement center in Seattle. She was born in Everett, Wash., and graduated from Everett High School.

Upon her graduation from the University of Washington, Grace worked at Tozer's Prescription Pharmacy in Everett. She later went to Niemeyer's Pharmacy and to the General Hospital of Everett, where she stayed for twenty years. While at the General Hospital, she kept her hand in community practice, traveling one day a week to Hilton Pharmacy in Marysville.

She moved into The Hearthstone in 1988, while still continuing to work part-time at the Everett General Hospital.

At around the time that Grace moved to Hearthstone, Pharmacy Professor Joy Plein was starting the UW residency program there. It didn't take long for Plein to build what would become an

enduring relationship with Grace.

Grace became a hostess for UW students' site visits to Hearthstone. Countless students who have done the UW geriatric rotation at The Hearthstone since 1989 have a story about what Grace taught them.

She was officially appointed an affiliate instructor at the School of Pharmacy in the early 2000s. By that time, she had already contributed to the UW Hearthstone Program for more than a decade.

She was a member of the Washington State Pharmacy Association and the American Pharmacists Association.

Grace was an obsessive photographer. She was actively involved in the Philanthropic Educational Organization International, the American Guild of Organists and the Everett Baptist Church. And she was a loyal Husky alumna.



Walter McCarthy

Walter C. McCarthy, professor emeritus of medicinal chemistry, died in March in Bremerton, Wash. Born in New York City in 1922, McCarthy grew up in Queens, but attended Brooklyn Technical High School, a math and science magnet school. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1943 with a degree in chemistry. Because he was in ROTC, McCarthy was commissioned

Continued on next page

In Memoriam (continued)

as an officer in the Army and served for two years during World War II. He was a researcher in chemical warfare.

McCarthy married his first wife, Mary Cooley, in 1945 and both pursued graduate studies at Indiana University. In 1949, he earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry; then the McCarthys moved to Seattle where he began his 34-year career as a professor at the UW.

In 1968, he married his second wife, Virginia McCracken Seitz, and helped raise her two children. McCarthy retired in 1982. After an invigorating academic career, he pursued a life of leisure and recreation.

He enjoyed spending time with his wife, traveling, swimming, crabbing, and exercising his mind with crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

In retirement, they lived in Seattle, Paradise Valley, Ariz., and on the Hood Canal. McCarthy is survived by his wife, Virginia; son, Tim, daughter, Diantha; step-daughter, Kathleen; step-son Donald; and grandchildren from his blended family. (*Seattle Times*)

Gail Pound (Anderson), '65, passed away in her home surrounded by immediate family in December, peacefully succumbing to an aggressive form of melanoma.

She was born in Powell River, British Columbia in 1942. Gail spent her childhood on Burnaby Mountain in a home built by her parents. An only child, she and her parents relocated to the United States in 1957, eventually settling in the Ballard neigh-

borhood of Seattle. Gail graduated from Ballard High School and entered the UW School of Pharmacy in 1960, where she met her husband, Thad Pound, '65. They married in 1965.



Gail Pound

Gail served as a pharmacist in the Kirkland area for 40 years, retiring from Bartell Drugs in 2005. In addition to working full time and raising three children, Gail served as PTA president at Lake Washington High School and sat on the board of the local Planned Parenthood.

In retirement, she volunteered as an usher at the Northshore Performing Arts Center and attended her grandson's soccer and baseball games, sharing homemade cookies and ice cream sandwiches.

Gail enjoyed cooking, bird watching, gardening, crossword puzzles, reading, hiking, interior decorating, and walking her recently adopted dog, Nikki. She and Thad traveled together throughout the United States, and the world. In recent years, Gail and Thad divided their time between a residence at the Kirkland Cannery and their winter home in Catalina, Arizona.

Gail is survived by her husband, her children Michael, Cindy, and Tracy, and her grandson, Ryan. (*Seattle Times*)

Who Was Your Favorite Preceptor?

The moment of truth for UW pharmacy students often arrives in the fourth year of pharmacy school — on the first day of that first rotation.

They get to apply everything they've learned in school in real-life pharmacies, working alongside experienced pharmacists and researchers.

Overall, each student must complete nine one-month-long rotations. (This is in addition to the eight credits of introductory pharmacy practice experience they gain before their fourth year.) They must learn a plethora of specific tasks, from public health activities to compounding.

This annual rite of passage gives students a first-hand understanding of the challenges and benefits of their chosen profession. And they consistently report that, through their rotations, they gain an enhanced ability to think on the spot, solve problems and make tough decisions.

None of this would be possible without our preceptors.

The School has a vast network of pharmacies that provide the sites and services to precept our students. Each provides students with a rich and diverse learning experience.

So many of our alumni talk about experiences they had during a rotation as seminal points that shaped their career. In some cases, preceptors have not only offered students opportunities for growth; they have also offered them their first job out of school.

We want to hear about a UW preceptor who shaped *your* life and career. E-mail us at rxalumni@uw.edu (subject line: Favorite Preceptor) with your story about how that preceptor impacted your life. We'd like to profile these important members of our community in future alumni publications. 📧



UW School of Pharmacy
 Pharmacy Alumni Association
 Box 354699
 Seattle, WA 98195-4699

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Seattle, WA
 Permit #62



June Symposium to Honor Dr. Rene Levy's Influential Career

This past December, professor of pharmaceuticals Rene Levy retired after nearly four decades with the School.

"Rene helped create our Department of Pharmaceuticals and led its faculty as chair for 26 years," said department Chair Ken Thummel. "He helped make us one of the premier educational and research programs in the world."

He also was a professor of neurological surgery and helped establish the UW's Epilepsy Center — which is now housed in Harborview Medical Center. He is world-renowned for his research in pharmacokinetics, specifically the development and optimization of treatments for epilepsy.

His most recent contribution to the School of Pharmacy was the creation of the Metabolism and Transport Drug Interaction Database, a research tool used widely by the pharmaceutical in-



Rene Levy (photo by Team Photogenic)

dustry, academicians and the FDA.

In honor of his illustrious career, the pharmaceuticals faculty will host a special scientific symposium on Sunday, June 13th, in Seattle. It is being held in conjunction with the Seattle Drug-Drug Interaction Meeting that Levy helped organize for many years.

The event will highlight the many impacts that Levy had on the profession

and on his colleagues — within and outside of the university. The theme of the symposium is "Pharmacokinetics — From Bench to Bedside."

Presenters will include his Ph.D. mentor, Dr. Malcolm Rowland, colleagues and past trainees representing FDA, Pfizer and the University of Sheffield, as well as School of Pharmacy Dean Thomas Baillie and faculty members Gail Anderson and Kent Kunze.

To register for the event, contact Dima Long, department of pharmaceuticals administrator, at (206) 616-4218 or dimalong@uw.edu.

To make a gift to the Levy Endowed Fellowship in Pharmaceuticals in honor of Dr. Levy's retirement, visit www.pharmacy.washington.edu/support or contact the School's Office of Advancement at (206) 221-2465 or rxgiving@uw.edu.