Introductory Rotations Prepare Students for the Future

The Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Program at the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences endows students with a dynamic perspective that enlightens, informs and inspires their life path as a pharmacy professional.

“‘The idea of the IPPE program is really good. You can make it what you want it to be,’” P3 student Caitlin Turner says, adding that it’s a great way to help future practitioners find their professional niche. “I like that I get the opportunity to sample a lot of different fields.”

During her first year, Caitlin shadowed pharmacy professionals at the Dent Neurologic Institute, a retail pharmacy and a hospital in her hometown of Rochester, NY, among other locations. The celebrated UB SoPPS Poison Prevention Program – which takes new pharmacy students into local elementary schools – also is incorporated into the P1 year of the IPPE curriculum.

As a P2 student, Caitlin completed a rotation in the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units at Strong Memorial Hospital. “I really liked that. It was something I had never seen before,” she confides. “I actually got to see the cancer center while I was there as well. It was definitely different, more research based.”

“‘In keeping with the broader UB mission, the IPPE program provides quality education in a socially relevant environment where students are learning at a high level,’” UB SoPPS Dean Wayne Anderson says.

The APPE program is a full-time commitment during the P4 year during which students complete six 6-week rotations, or a minimum of 1440 hours of advanced activity.

“The intention is that the student gain exposure in all three introductory years before they get to that final year of advanced training. In our school’s history, it’s never been done like that until recently,” Peter Brody, PharmD, director of the UB SoPPS Office of Experiential Education, explains.

As primary architect of the IPPE/APPE curricula implemented in 2008, Brody has affected positive programmatic outcomes with regard to student knowledge base, attitude, motivation and professional and networking skills. Current P4 students represent the first UB SoPPS class that has been through the entire new experiential education curriculum. “We’ve already had positive feedback from preceptors who have noticed the difference. It’s a ‘win-win’ situation because the student can adapt their motivation, their learning style and their

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Message From the Dean

Preparing for the future is always foremost in the discussions and planning we engage in daily. We are preparing to launch an enhanced curriculum for our PharmD program which will better prepare P1 and P2 students for the advanced learning and training opportunities they will be experiencing in their P3 and P4 years. This enhanced curriculum will also allow all the design benefits of Kapoor Hall to be used to their full extent. We have been very fortunate to have secured support from alumni and partners for various spaces in Kapoor Hall. Their support allows this type of curricular innovation to take place on a much broader level, thus giving our students many advantages and opportunities.

Our research faculty have been moving forward in securing solid funding for many paths such as international AIDS outreach, proteomics, PK/PD, neurology and multiple sclerosis, oncology, pharmaceconomics and pharmacoinformatics. The scholarship and research produced by our faculty and students lays the future groundwork for improved health care and health outcomes for the many communities we serve.

We are beginning our self study examination for our upcoming ACPE accreditation review in the Fall of 2011. As I meet with our many committees and engage in dialogue with internal and external partners in preparation for our site visit, I am continually reminded of the dedication and forward thinking of our school’s faculty, staff and students. Their continued ability to ‘prepare for the future’ allows us to be the leaders amongst our peers and strengthens all we seek to accomplish…

Wayne K. Anderson, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor

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Buffalo Pharmacy Newsletter is an annual publication of the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

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WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE we will be celebrating our 125th ‘Sesquicentennial’ Anniversary in 2011!

We welcome you back

We welcome you back to the school to help us celebrate the many events being planned. Please mark your calendars for these scheduled events:

Thursday, September 15th:
- Gerhard Levy Distinguished Lectureship in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Friday, September 16th:
- Open House, Educational Programs, and Class Reunion activities

Saturday, September 17th:
- Morning Tours of South Campus and Kapoor Hall with Breakfast
- Evening Dinner Dance Gala & Reunion Activities: The Buffalo Club

Other educational and social programs will be occurring during 2011. We will notify all alumni and friends as to other upcoming activities.

We hope many of our alumni, friends and former faculty and staff will be able to join us for many of these events as we celebrate the history and accomplishments of our school over the last 125 years.

Please contact the Office of External Affairs for further information: phm-alumni@buffalo.edu or 716-645-3340.
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Introductory Rotations Prepare Students for the Future continued from page 1

attitude toward the type of pharmacy practice they want to pursue,” Brody says.

Supported by IPPE Program Coordinator Jean Costanzo and APPE Program Coordinator Kris Jordan, Brody’s office helps students define an individual diversity of experiential learning opportunities. Rotations range from participation in brown bag clinics and community health fairs to exposure to hospice, hospital, nuclear, retail and independent pharmacy practice to participation in clinical research.

“Students gain a better knowledge of what they’re walking in to,” Jordan says. “They are more confident and have a better understanding of where they might want to be professionally.”

To illustrate, Brody cites a recent commendation from a Roswell Park preceptor about a P4 student who had been on two IPPE rotations there since his P2 year, and who had just completed an APPE rotation. “The preceptor was so impressed with his motivation, knowledge, attitude and skills that she wants him to come back next semester because he’s such a great student,” he says.

Costanzo adds that the UB SoPPS IPPE structure produces well-rounded students prepared to tackle any pharmacy career option. “We had a student walk into Dr. Brody’s office, one of our local students, and he said, ‘My sister’s going to pharmacy school in another state, and we were comparing notes on our IPPE programs and I just want to thank you for your program that you’ve put together here. I feel like I’m going to have a much better experience walking out of UB pharmacy school than my sister will. She won’t see half the stuff that I’m gonna see,’” she says.

While all pharmacy schools require IPPE / APPE hours to earn a doctoral degree, Dean Anderson maintains that UB SoPPS programs are set apart by diverse and rewarding rotational experiences. These opportunities take place from Alaska to Hawaii to international sites in Canada; in the development of health care policy via rotations at federal, state and professional sites; and in unique clinical experiences in mental health, nuclear medicine, geriatrics, infectious disease, cancer treatment, pain management and palliative care.

“We rely on the good graces of our preceptors, who are volunteers,” Anderson says. “We truly appreciate the core of knowledge and experience they bring to the students.”

UB SoPPS has nearly 700 preceptors throughout New York State and across the country, according to Brody – alumni and other pharmacy professionals who serve as vocational mentors.

“The IPPE program is really a great way of exposing students to different areas of practice early in their education. The program also helps define the relationship between pharmacist and patient from the P1 year,” says preceptor Joe Rutowski, a Class of 1984 alumnus whose family-owned Tile Pharmacy has branches in Warsaw, Elma, Hamburg and Cheektowaga, NY. “The students really gain a better appreciation of all that goes on behind the scenes. They don’t realize that we spend so much time counseling patients on medications and disease states.”

Dean Trzewieczynski, who has been a preceptor since earning his B.S. in pharmacy from UB in 1998, wishes the current program had been in place when he was a student. He now mentors students at VascuScript, his uniquely-modeled independent pharmacy which offers in-home consultations, prescription mail order and delivery and a wide range of clinical services.

“The past year or two the [IPPE] program has evolved to provide students with exposure to pharmacy practice areas they may never see again in their lives,” he says. “It’s also challenging for the preceptors. We are at least 15 years removed from intense didactic work. Having students challenge us is refreshing.”

P2 student Nicholas Filk was so inspired by his IPPE rotation at Trzewieczynski’s site that he is rethinking his pharmacy career path. Before going to VascuScript, he was considering hospital pharmacy or clinical research, but is now thinking about what owning an independent pharmacy may be like.

“IPPE is like the greatest thing that ever happened,” says Filk, adding that the program also facilitates the networking opportunities critical to professional advancement. “You get to see what goes on. Whether or not you like what’s going on you get the experience.”

Filk, Trzewieczynski and Rutowski laud Brody’s office for providing solid support for all IPPE / APPE participants. Brody and his staff say the program is defined by feedback from all involved.

“We’re really looking at the economics of healthcare in concert with quality outcomes. The students will have to, as part of this process, learn how to function as change agents, to change behavior.”
"We go through student activities and what’s working and what’s not," Brody explains. “We always try to adapt our curriculum to improve students’ knowledge, to increase their skills and help them develop a positive professional attitude.”

Turner advises students to use their journal to define their APPE rotations. “Use your journal as a memory of your experiences, rather than just a school requirement,” she says. “Go back and see what you like, what you don’t like.”

In the near future, UB SoPPS students will have an opportunity to gain experience in the novel area of pharmacoconomics through a unique initiative with the State of New York and the Department of Health to enhance services to the New York State Medicaid Program.

With the collaboration of SUNY medical center partners Upstate, Downstate and Stony Brook, students will have new experiential education opportunities.

“As we build this program forward we will assist with improving medication therapy management for the many people participating in the New York State Medicaid program,” Anderson explains. “We’re really looking at the economics of healthcare in concert with quality outcomes. The students will have to, as part of this process, learn how to function as change agents, to change behavior.”

Justine Kirsch, now a P4 student, was among the first class of PharmD candidates to come through the IPPE program after it became mandatory. During her first three years she completed rotations in retail and hospital pharmacies and in the psychiatric center at Niagara Hospital; and recently completed an APPE rotation in clinical research pharmacy at the Dent Neurologic Institute.

“You can really tell when someone loves what they’re doing. They make your experience with them the best it can be,” Kirsch says in credit to the IPPE preceptors who helped her to define her professional path.

“I like retail pharmacy, the outpatient setting,” she announces. “I enjoy the interaction with the patients.” So in January 2011 Kirsch is off to an APPE rotation at a Walgreens community pharmacy in Wasilla, Alaska.

“The IPPE program had to work out its kinks, but I think it has become wonderful,” she says. “I’m happy I was able to have this experience. I am sticking with the retail, and it’s good to know that’s the right spot for me. I think that’s priceless.”

-- Jessica Thorpe, Outside the Box
In 1982, Dr. Levy was the recipient of the distinguished Volwiler Award from which he received a monetary gift that was used as start up funds for the Graduate Scholar Award. This donation from Dr. Levy was to recognize his 25th anniversary as a faculty member at UB and as a tangible expression of the high regard with which he held graduate students. Dr. Levy established the award to be given annually to a pharmaceutical science graduate student in recognition of outstanding scholarship, as reflected by research accomplishments and course work performance, as well as commendable personal qualities. Potential applicants must also have completed two years of full-time study to be eligible.

A faculty review committee receives letters and other supporting documentation from faculty, staff, graduate students and post doctoral students. The review committee then meets and makes a decision as to the annual recipient after review of all appropriate documentation.

The first recipient of the award in 1983 was Dr. Marilyn Morris ‘84, now a professor in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department and Associate Dean of UB’s Graduate School. Dr. Morris was recommended for the award by Dr. Gerhard Levy. Morris comments, “It was a great honor to receive this award. Dr. Levy has always been an inspiration to me, and the department has been fortunate to have his support and leadership through the years.”

The department has also been fortunate to have had other notable past and current faculty members receive this award when they were graduate students:

- **1985**: Dr. Gayle Brazeau ‘89 recommended by Dr. Leung Fung
- **1994**: Dr. Joseph P. Balthasar ‘91 & ‘96 recommended by Dr. Leung Fung
- **2001**: Dr. Donald E. Mager ‘91 & ‘00 recommended by Dr. William Jusko

Dr. William Jusko, Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, comments on the award, “Our faculty and students have long been grateful for Gary Levy’s leadership and accomplishments and his generous act in establishing this award. We look forward each year to reviewing our excellent group of graduate students and – the sometimes difficult task – of selecting just one awardee. Beginning in 1983, there have been 27 awards made to students who have gone on to have great success in their professional careers. Among them are four academic scientists who returned to our faculty to share their enthusiasm in pharmacy with new generations of graduate students. The award seems prophetic for career success.”

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**Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Scholar Awardees 1983 - 2009:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADVISOR</th>
<th>CURRENT POSITION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Morris, Marilyn</td>
<td>Dr. Levy</td>
<td>Professor, University of Buffalo, Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Pollack, Gary</td>
<td>Dr. Shen</td>
<td>Dean College of Pharmacy, Washington State University</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Brazeau, Gayle</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
<td>Dean College of Pharmacy, University of New England</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Wong, Bradley</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Amgen, Inc.</td>
</tr>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Salazar, Dan</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Daiichi-Sankyo, Co. LTD</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Jungbluth, Gail</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>UpJohn Inc.</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Haughey, David</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Prevalere Lifesciences, Inc.</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Tseng, Tsang-bin</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Chung, Sukjae</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
<td>Professor, Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Hansel, Steven</td>
<td>Dr. Morris</td>
<td>Pfizer, Inc.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Wald, Jeffrey</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Balthasar, Joseph</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Tabrizi, Mohammad</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Kamath, Amrita</td>
<td>Dr. Morris</td>
<td>Genentech, Inc.</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Sun, Tom Y.-N.</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Khanna, Ashish</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Mauer, Tristan</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Pfizer, Inc.</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Ramakrishnan, Rohini</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Merck &amp; Co., Inc.,</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Mager, Donald</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Associate Professor, University of Buffalo, Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Arnold, Robert</td>
<td>Dr. Straubinger</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Tran, Doanh</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
<td>Food &amp; Drug Administration</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Ramani, Karthik</td>
<td>Dr. Balu-Iyer</td>
<td>Biocon Inc.</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Samtani, Mahesh</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson Services, Inc</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Woo, Sukyung</td>
<td>Dr. Jusko</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Tsou, Pei-suen Eliza</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Student, University of Michigan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Krishmatry, Anu Shilpa</td>
<td>Dr. Fung</td>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Shah, Dhavalkumar</td>
<td>Dr. Balthasar</td>
<td>Pfizer, Inc.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
2010 Alumni Reunion


Classes of 1955 and 1960 had private class dinners Friday, September 24th at Chef’s Restaurant and all classes came together to celebrate reunion activities on Saturday, September 25th at the Embassy Suites, Buffalo. Attendees enjoyed comments from Dean Anderson and Margaret Quinn, Class of 1960.

Our 2011 Reunion will be held along with the 125th Anniversary activities. Our milestone anniversary classes from 1956, 1961, 1986 and 2001 are warmly invited to partake in reunion-focused activities on Friday evening, September 16th as well as during the Anniversary Gala Dinner on Saturday, September 17th. Reunion Committees are forming now and we encourage members of these milestone classes to contact Samantha Stagney, Director of Development at 716-645-6303 or sstagney@buffalo.edu for further information.

Donald Pritchard ’53 and Joseph Rutowksi ’84 Alumni Association 2010 Award Winners

The UB SoPPS Alumni Association was very pleased to recognize: **Donald Pritchard ’53**, the recipient of the Wills G. Gregory Award, the Alumni Association’s most prestigious award, recognizing an outstanding pharmacist who personifies the ideals of service, integrity and who dignifies the profession of pharmacy in the eyes of his or her associates. **Joseph Rutowksi ’84** was the recipient of the Orville C. Baxter Memorial Professional Practice Award, which recognizes an outstanding practicing pharmacist who demonstrates the high ideals of professionalism and whose practice demonstrates genuine concern for patients.

*See photo [page 8]*

Margaret McGlynn ’82 Recognized at the University’s 2010 Annual Alumni Achievement Awards Reception

Margaret was recognized as a 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient in recognition of her 26 year career at Merck and Company where she served as president of Merck’s global vaccine and infectious disease division as well as their hospital and specialty division.

Class of 1967 Grad’s Fifth Annual Fishing Trip

Class of 1967 classmates and Kappa Psi brothers Gordon Amidon, Dave Goldstein, Donald Goelz, Lou Kudla and Bob VanSlyke took part in their fifth annual fishing trip off the coast of Plymouth, Mass. The group chartered a boat and had a great time catching striped bass and bluefish. They are looking forward to their 2011 trip and hope their classmate, Reg Ameele, will be able to join them again.

James Buckley, ’53 is still practicing as a relief pharmacist for Dillon’s in Springfield, Mo.

Dennis Galluzzo, ’76 received the 2010 APhA Immunization Champion Award, Individual Practitioner Category.

David Pysz, ’76 received the 2010 Dr. Robert M. Cooper Memorial Award from the Western New York Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Stanley Kent, ’78 was elected president-elect of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. Stanley is vice president of pharmacy services at the North Shore University Health System in Evanston, Ill.

Bruce Kimelblatt, ’79 is the director of clinical research at Johnson and Johnson Global Development, Ortho Biotech Oncology Research and Development.

*continued on page 9*
Progress Continues on Kapoor Hall

The work on John and Editha Kapoor Hall during the past year saw the building develop from a framed outline to a remarkable structure, fully enclosed by a brilliant glass-wall exterior.

The focus for 2011 will be on completion of all internal spaces. Currently, PharmD teaching spaces—the patient assessment and counseling rooms, classrooms, model pharmacy and large laboratory spaces—are taking shape, offering a first glimpse at the innovative design of these areas. With the building scheduled to be completed by early 2012, the school will move in that spring and summer to prepare for the first classes to be held in August 2012.

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is proud to recognize the many donors who have helped to make our new home on the South Campus a reality. Their support and vision has allowed the school to create a truly cutting-edge facility to train the pharmacists and scientists of the future. To read their stories, please visit www.pharmacy.buffalo.edu Alumni/Giving.

Awards Ceremony

6th Annual SoPPS Awards Ceremony

Our 6th annual Awards Ceremony was held April 15, 2010 where more than 120 guests recognized the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, staff and students as they were honored for their contributions to the SoPPS and the profession of pharmacy.

The following awards were presented:

- Pfizer ASPIRE Young Investigator Antibacterial Research Award: Brian Tsuji, PharmD
- Willis G. Gregory Memorial Alumni Award: Donald Pritchard, BS ’53
- Orville C. Baxter Memorial Professional Practice Alumni Award: Joseph Rutowski, BS ’84
- Daniel H. Murray Memorial Professional Development Award: Charles Venuto ’10
- SoPPS Teacher of the Year Award Finalists: Peter Brody, PharmD ’02, Nicholas Norgard, PharmD, Murali Ramanathan, PhD
- SoPPS Staff Recognition Award Finalists: Jill Hochreiter, Sara Renzi
- SoPPS Staff Member of the Year: Elizabeth Rugg
- Respect, Excellence and Service in Pharmacy Student Award: Kristen Zeitler ’11
- U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award: Chris Daly ’12

The school’s student leaders, Gregory Society members, preceptors and Dean’s Ambassadors also were recognized. The SoPPS congratulates all our award recipients and special recognition attendees. We are proud to have you as members of the UB SoPPS family!
Pharmacy students, now husband and wife, wedded to giving back

Tom and Rachael Smith met as undergraduate students at UB, but it was a class they took as pharmacy students that truly brought them together.

“We lived in the same dorm—Goodyear Hall—on the same floor, but at opposite ends of the building. Rachel and I were only casual acquaintances until we entered into the pharmacy program,” Tom Smith recalled.

It was in a medicinal chemistry class where the chemistry between the future husband and wife became evident, according to Rachel.

The couple worked together on several student activities during their time at the school. Tom was a member of Kappa Psi and the student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), secretary for the state Student Pharmaceutical Society, and class president during their third year. Rachel was a member of Lambda Kappa Sigma, president of the student APhA and co-editor of the yearbook. They both graduated in 1984 and began their highly successful careers.

The couple crisscrossed in their first internships and jobs. Tom began his career as an intern at Children’s Hospital, then went to work for Erie County Medical Center (ECMC); Rachel interned at ECMC, then accepted a position at Children’s.

Tom went on to establish his own pharmacy consulting business.

In memoriam:
Pamela Emerson, ’52; Donald Nash, ’55; Thomas Foster ’70; James Bellari ’85; Guy Amsden, ’91
7th Annual Student Scholarship Golf Tournament Raises almost $29,000

**SoPPS Golfers had their best weather day** yet for the school’s annual Student Scholarship Golf Tournament held June 14, 2010.

Temperatures in the mid-70’s and a bright blue sky gave all our golfers a chance to enjoy themselves at the picturesque Lockport Town and Country Club course. 107 golfers participated in the tournament and helped us raise almost $29,000 for SoPPS student scholarships!

We are proud to announce the following student scholarship recipients. These students exemplify the best of their classmates in academics, leadership and support of the community: Samuel Aitken ’11, Esther Huang ’11, Christopher Daly ’12 and Sean Ordway ’13 – Congratulations!

**Tournament Prize Winners:**

1st Place Winning Foursome: Terry Bellnier, Chris Coyne, Tulio Ortega, and Robert Weisman

2nd Place Winning Foursome: Robert Wojton, John Sipowicz, Robert Phillips and Matthew Schnupp

3rd Place Winning Foursome: Marty Burruso, Larry DiGulio, Andy Burruso and Bob Fiorella

Longest Drive: Larry DiGulio and Deanna Stengel

Closest to the Pin: Chris Daly and Gayle Brazeau

Ring of Gold: Rob George, Chris Diehl, Bill Prescott, Mike Odre, Dick Klenk, Matt Woeltz and Larry DiGulio

We would like to thank our Tournament Sponsors for their support and partnership!

**Tournament Sponsor:** Rite Aid  
**Platinum Sponsors:** Kinney Drugs, McKesson/Health Mart Pharmacy and Rochester Drug Cooperative  
**Gold Sponsor:** CVS Caremark  
**Silver Sponsor:** Niagara Hospice  
**Bronze Sponsors:** Family Medical Pharmacy Inc, Fillmore & Fisher Pharmacies, Forster’s Pharmacy, J. Rutowski Pharmacies Inc, Middleport Family Health and Omnicare

We thank everyone who participated in and supported our 7th annual tournament!

**Pharmacy students, now husband and wife, wedded to giving back** continued from page 9

ness, where he reviews current processes and makes recommendations to assist in the overall client strategy, sets up pharmacy information systems, and implements systems intended to improve patient safety and promote seamless medication integration. Rachel is now the pharmacy operations manager at Kaleida Health, where she oversees the pharmacy information system, automated technology and the electronic barcode point of care medication administration system. Despite Tom’s wish that she join him in his business, she is happy where she is.

The couple also has continued giving of their time and treasure to the UB pharmacy school since graduating. In 2006, Tom received the school’s Orville C. Baxter Award, which recognizes outstanding practicing pharmacists who demonstrate high ideals of professionalism and genuine concern for patients. Tom and Rachel also served on the committee for their 25th class reunion in 2009. They also have been members of the Willis G. Gregory Society—the school’s most prestigious giving society with annual fund gifts of $1,000 or more—since 2008.

Most recently, the Smiths have committed to funding a patient assessment and counseling room in Kapoor Hall.

“One of the reasons we have been involved with the pharmacy school is that we consider ourselves blessed to be able to do so,” Rachel said. “We feel the education we received at UB really prepared us to create careers that ultimately are unconventional compared to what most pharmacists do, and we want to share that with people. We want future pharmacists to be able to see and achieve opportunities beyond the traditional practice.”
PHC Graduate Students Take Top Honors at 2010 AAPS Graduate Student Symposia

Four UB pharmaceutical sciences graduate students were chosen as award winners at the 2010 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Graduate Student Symposium held during the 2010 International Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences Annual Meeting and Exposition.

In the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Drug Metabolism and Clinical Pharmacology and Translational Research Division, these University at Buffalo students were recognized:

Dhaval Shah: “Treating Ovarian Cancer Using a Combination of Antiangiogenic Therapy and Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy.” Mentor: Dr. Joseph Balthasar

Melanie Felmee: “Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid: Toxicokinetics and Toxicodynamics.” Mentor: by: Dr. Marilyn Morris

Anson Kunjachan Abraham: “Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Model of Allosteric Sensing Calcium Receptor Antagonists.” Mentor: by: Dr. Donald Mager

In the Biotechnology Division, graduate student Suray Bhansali was recognized for his work on “Lymphatic uptake and pharmacokinetics of the protein VEGFC-1565.” Mentor: by: Dr. Marilyn Morris

All student awardees received a commemorative plaque, cash award of $250, complimentary registration to the 2010 FIP PSWC/AAPS Annual Meeting and, in addition, will be reimbursed up to $1000 for travel expenses.

Students Host Western New York Legislators

The Student Pharmacist Association of Western New York held its annual PLAID (Pharmacy Legislative Advocacy Invitational Day) in October. New York State Assembly members Jane Corwin, Dennis Gabryszak, Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Mark Schroeder and Jack Quinn, and New York State Sen. Antoine Thompson attended the event. SPAWNY officers Chris Daly, '12; Danielle Joset, '12; Maria DiGuglielmo, '13; Christine Trezza, '13; Sarah Farr, '14; and Yi Yang, '14 organized this event in which legislators discuss health policy issues and students have the opportunity to pose questions to the legislative panel.

Students Research Showcased at Celebration of Academic Excellence

Congratulations to the following SoPPS students chosen to showcase their research at the 2010 University at Buffalo’s Celebration of Academic Excellence Outstanding Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Poster Displays:

Ryan Cummings, '10; Jorge Gallegos, '10; Sean Lee, ‘10; Carrie Sanborn, ‘14; Andrew Tong, ‘10; Charles Venuto, ‘10; Amy Zhou, ‘13; Jian Li Zhu, ‘12

2010 SoPPS Research Poster Day

The 2010 SoPPS Student Poster Day showcased student research for a school-wide audience. Faculty reviewers chose winning entries. Fifteen BS and BS/MS pharmaceutical sciences students and 16 PharmD students presented.

BS and BS/MS:
First place: Amy Doty, ‘10; Second place: Sean Lee, ‘10; Third place: Jian Li Zhu, ‘10

P3 PharmD Students:
First place: Gauri Rao, ‘11; Second-place tie: Angela Mwaura, ‘11; Second-place tie: Dung Ngo, ‘11

P4 PharmD Student:
First place: Katie Jaenecke, ‘10

AACP Wal-Mart scholars

Congratulations to student-faculty pairs: Samuel Aitken, ‘11 and former Associate Dean Gayle Brazeau and David Jacobs, ‘11 and Clinical Assistant Professor Peter Brody for their selection as recipients of the 2010 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Wal-Mart Scholars Program. Students and faculty members receive $1,000 travel scholarships to attend the annual meeting.

Students Lead 2010 PSSNY Summer Convention

PharmD students Chris Daly, ‘12, Danielle Joset, ‘12, Maria DiGuglielmo, ‘13, and Christine Trezza, ‘13 attended the annual Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY) convention and represented the school at Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY) meeting. The following were inducted as incoming SPSSNY officers:

Danielle Joset, ‘12: President; Maria DiGuglielmo, ‘13: President-Elect; Christine Trezza, ‘13: Treasurer

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Partnering with Medicaid to Improve Drug Therapy

A NEWLY-EXPANDED STATE-WIDE PARTNERSHIP among the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, New York State Department of Health (DOH), and SUNY Academic Health Centers, has a clear mission: assist Medicaid in optimizing drug therapy for New York State patients.

Per legislative directives, the Medicaid initiative provided support to the NY State Department of Health (DOH) to partner with an academic institution and provide evidence-based recommendations to various committees.

In explaining the NYS DOH Medicaid Initiative, Dr. Edward Bednarczyk, Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice, notes three main components, which also involves SUNY partners Upstate Medical University in Syracuse and Stony Brook University, among others: Drug Utilization Review, and Pharmacy & Therapeutics Advisement; Medication Therapy Management; and the Prescriber Education Program.

The Drug Utilization Review phase looks for inappropriate use of medications, such as overutilization or non-compliance. The second component is a pilot Medication Therapy Management project in the Bronx, using community pharmacists to promote drug therapy optimization in asthma patients.

“This could set the stage for a state-wide roll-out of a Medicaid-funded MTM program,” says Dr. Bednarczyk. “It would allow for improvement in pharmacotherapy for Medicaid patients throughout the state, and for reimbursement of these services by Medicaid for community pharmacists.”

Phase three – Prescriber Education Program, under the direction of Dr. David Lehmann, PharmD, MD of Syracuse – seeks to optimize drug therapy by providing educational material to physicians and other prescribers serving the NYS Medicaid population – applying evidence-based guidelines to prescribing habits.

Student participation in the Initiative is strong. “Students have been involved in the drug utilization review and P&T part almost from the get-go,” notes Dr. Bednarczyk. “We’re in the process of establishing an experiential rotation at the DOH in Albany.” Next year, he foresees, UB SoPPS students will be gaining first-hand experience in Albany. Students will get a chance to see the application of some of the public policy measures through the eyes of how this is delivered to Medicaid patients,” Dr. Bednarczyk explains.

He cites an example of the power of drug therapy optimization. Working with American Academy of Pediatrics and FDA guidelines, the appropriate use of the drug Palivizumab (“Synagis”) was examined, and an educational campaign launched, asking physicians to determine whether their patients met certain criteria. In a single year, Dr. Bednarczyk reports, inappropriate use of the drug was significantly reduced. “This wasn’t accomplished through regulation,” he says. “We’re doing this through education."

The education of UB pharmacy students, and expanded research capabilities, are uppermost in the mind of clinical assistant professor Dr. Fred Doloresco, leadership member of the UB team. He views aspects of the Initiative as “opportunities for students to participate in real-world scenarios, where they can have a profound impact on the way patients are cared for – not only in Buffalo, but throughout the state.”

Another team leader is Dr. Linda Catanzaro, clinical assistant professor. Part of her role, along with Dr. Doloresco, is to “present findings from claims data analysis to the DUR Board, as well as to prepare similar reports for presentation to the Medicaid Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee,” Dr. Catanzaro notes. “Our reviews and recommendations help the DURB and P&TC make policy decisions to promote appropriate use of these drugs among Medicaid beneficiaries across the state. We have a very dynamic team of talented individuals dedicated to improving cost-effective patient care across the state. It’s very exciting to be a part of such a collaboration.”
PAWNY Student Scholarships
Congratulations to Chris Daly, ’12, recipient of the 2010 Pharmacists Association of Western New York Owl Drug Scholarship and Danielle Joset, ’12, recipient of 2010 Howard and Bee Carpenter Student Scholarship.

Rho Chi Inducts New Members
The following Class of 2012 students were inducted into the Rho Chi Academic Honor Society during their 2010 Annual Induction Dinner: Nadia Aboley, Geraldene Agbasionwe, Uzoamaka Atuegwu, Jeffrey Balsam, Christina Behney, Gertrude Chimhungwe, Kristen Della Penna, Michael Drozdowicz, Kristina Geiger, Julie Graf, Daniel Graves, Kristina Grove, Kyle Hacker, Jenna Hendershot, Heather Johnson, Eric Kanouse, Danille Joset, Tsz Man Hu, Kerri O'Connor, Katherine Olson, Marie San Roman, Caroline Symes, Kristen Woelfel, Amy Wojciechowski.

2010 Halfway Dance
The 2010 Halfway Dance and Charity Gala was held in the Buffalo Hyatt Regency on March 20. The 2012 Class Officers Committee—Matthew Schnupp, ’12, Daniellle Joset, ’12, Della Penna, ’12, and Elyse Jackson, ’12—planned the event that raised $5,000 for the Children’s Growth Foundation of Western New York.

ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge Competition
Congratulations to P4 students Calvin Meaney, ’11; Andrew Stivers, ’11; and Carolyn Hempel, ’11 for participating in the first annual American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Clinical Pharmacy Challenge. Ninety-three student teams representing 74 schools participated, and our UB team, along with 48 other schools, reached the second round of online competition!

Jessica Gonzalez, ’13 is 2010 Rxportfolio National Achievement Award Winner
Congratulations to PharmD student Jessica Gonzalez, ’13, one of 14 winners of the 2010 Rxportfolio National Achievement Award. More than 9,000 applications were received for this award.

SPAWNY 2010 Update
The Student Pharmacists Association of Western New York has been conducting wellness clinics, programming meetings, as well as submitting papers to PSSNY and PAWNY.

SPAWNY partnered with the National Community Pharmacists Association for their first annual meeting. Dennis Galluzzo, SPAWNY Executive Director and/Family Medical Pharmacy owner, and Dean Trzewieczynski, pharmacist and co-owner of Vascuscript Pharmacy, discussed the opportunities and challenges of running independent pharmacies.

APhA – ASP 2010 Update
Refugee Assistance: A health fair for female Burmese refugees was hosted by the International Institute. The students conveyed a basic understanding of pharmacy principles such as counseling, vaccines, Rx label interpretation as well as segments on improving general health.

‘Operation Diabetes’ Programs: The UB chapter participated in the American Diabetes Association’s StepOut Walk to Fight Diabetes; 22 participants consisting of students, family, friends and faculty raised more than $1,000! APhA-ASP also participated in wellness clinics focusing on diabetes prevention.

‘Operation Immunization’ Programs: The UB chapter organized a patient care project focusing on providing education on the importance of receiving vaccines. Wellness clinics were held in which students providing information on the flu vaccine referred patients to pharmacists immunizations and took blood pressures.

Cultural Night A Huge Success: More than 100 people attended the 2nd annual Student Cultural Night and more than $1,000 was raised to support the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation. The APhA-ASP chapter at UB will host the ASP Mid-Year Regional Meeting in Buffalo in November 2011.

World AIDS Day: The Chapter sold t-shirts, took part in the Facing AIDS Campaign, accepted donations for Family and Youth Services and held an all-school conference where donations of toiletry items were collected and $200 was raised.

Anson Abraham, ’10, Pharmaceutical Sciences PhD candidate, was nominated for Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 2010.


Gertrude Chimhungwe, ’12 presented the poster “Bioanalysis of Antiretrovirals in Breast Milk Samples from Re-lactation Protocols” at the first annual Center for AIDS Research Scientific Symposium, Developmental Center for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Research.

Samuel Aitken, ’11 was appointed to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Credentialing Committee.

Lisa Kurczewski, ’11 presented “Clopidogrel Enhances Platelet Responsiveness to Aspirin” at the annual American College of Clinical Pharmacology meeting. This abstract also was published in the September 2010 issue of The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.

Gauri Rao, ’11 has been appointed a 2009-10 national officer of the American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Student Pharmacists/International Pharmaceutical Students Federation.

Katherine DiPaloto, ’11 has been accepted into the Veterans Administration VALOR Program at the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Emily Chan, ’12 has been elected as American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists Region 1 mid-year regional coordinator.

Cierra Treu, ’13 has been chosen to participate in the highly competitive Johns Hopkins Hospital 2010 Pharmacy Summer Internship program in Baltimore, Maryland.


Stephanie Weigand, ’14 received the 2010 National Community Pharmacists Association Summer Internship. Only one student nationally is chosen for this internship.
FOR THE 2010 – 2011 ACADEMIC YEAR
the school proudly welcomed 125 new P1 students to begin their PharmD training.

Orientation programming provided informational sessions to both parents and students about the many opportunities students can experience while they are here at the SoPPS. Students met with representatives from various student clubs and organizations, had Q&A sessions with current students and attended an alumni panel discussion where alum discussed their career paths and took questions from students.

Over 400 people attended the White Coat Ceremony, where our P1 students receive their lab coats and are officially inducted into the profession.

We would like to thank our Orientation and White Coat Sponsors:

- Pharmacists Association of Western New York
- Pharmacy Society of Rochester
- Rite Aid
- Target
- Tops Markets
- Walgreens
2010 AAPS Annual Meeting: UB Faculty Well Recognized

The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences was well recognized at the 2010 FIP World Congress and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Meeting.

2010 Distinguished Service Award: Leung Fung. This honor was bestowed to Leung in recognition of his 40 years of sustained contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences as well as over 20 years of service to the AAPS.

2010 AAPS fellow: Joseph Balthasar.

2010 Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism Section Distinguished Service Award: Marilyn Morris

Jerry Schentag Receives UB Faculty Entrepreneur Award

Jerry Schentag, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and founder of TheraSyn Sensors, Inc. received the UB Faculty Entrepreneur Award at the 2010 UB Partners Day. This award recognizes the important role of translating the inventions and discoveries of UB Scientists and scholars in ways that benefit society. Jerry, a serial entrepreneur, co-invented and contributed to the initial patents and technology that formed companies Gastrotarget and SmartPill Corporation and TheraSyn Sensors.

American Society of Clinical Oncology Features Blanco Research

Javier Blanco’s research study, “Anthracycline-related cardiomyopathy in childhood cancer survivors and association with polymorphisms in the carbonyl reductase genes: A Children’s Oncology Group study,” was chosen by ASCO for presentation at its 46th annual meeting. Only 1 percent of ASCO annual meeting abstracts are chosen for this distinction.

Murali Ramanathan Leads Department of Defense $600K Grant Studying Environmental Impacts on Multiple Sclerosis

A two year research project headed by Murali Ramanathan will allow researchers to investigate a trio of environmental factors and their influence on the progression of multiple sclerosis. The $634,000 grant from the Department of Defense will support research which aims to identify gene-environmental interactions between key molecules in the vitamin D pathway, anti Epstein-Barr virus antibodies, cigarette smoking and key genetic variants that are implicated in the conversion of patients with clinically isolated syndrome (CIS) and definite MS.

SoPPS Faculty Take Honors at Western New York Residency Preceptor Development Conference

Three faculty members were recognized at the Western New York Residency Preceptor Development Conference. Bob Wahler received the Western New York Residency Preceptor Award and Gina Prescott and Erin Slazak received the Western New York Best Practices in Residency Training Award for their recent publication: “Practice-based learning experience to develop residents as clinical faculty members.”

Angela Bosinski received Board Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy.

Dan Brazeau, recipient of a 2010 University at Buffalo Teaching Innovation Award.

Peter Brody, recipient of the 2010 UB SoPPS Teacher of the Year Award. Brody was also the recipient of the “2010 Grand Council Deputy Certificate of Excellence” by Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity Inc. for being one of the top ten collegiate chapter faculty advisers in the country.

Alice Ceacareanu has been appointed to the board of directors of the NY State Council of Health-system Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation. Ceacareanu also was awarded the Clinical Pharmacy Services Research Award by the NY State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP).

Alan Forrest received the Oncology One Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Jill Hochreiter, award finalist, 2010 UB SoPPS Staff Member of the Year Award.

Donald Mager, co-investigator in a $283,010 National Institutes of Health grant for the study “Population Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics in Nonablative Stem Cell Recipients.”

Marilyn Morris received the Faculty Service Award from the SoPPS Pharmacy Leadership Society, Beta Omicron Chapter.

Gene Morse has been appointed at-large laboratory director to serve on the executive committee of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group. Morse also was appointed to the steering committee of the NY State Research Centers Consortium and was the recipient of the UB 2010 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education.

Nicholas Norgard, award finalist, 2010 UB SoPPS Teacher of the Year Award.

Jun Qu participated in five poster presentations/meeting abstracts at the 58th American Academy of Mass Spectrometry Annual Conference. Jun also presented “Large-scale Label-free Profiling of Proteomes of Colon Cancer Patients” at 2010 Pittcon Conference and Exposition as well as was an Invited Lecturer at Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China and Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China.

Murali Ramanathan, award finalist, 2010 UB SoPPS Teacher of the Year Award.

Alfred Reiman received the 2010 SoPPS SIGNA Yearbook dedication.

Sara Renzi, award finalist, 2010 UB SoPPS Staff Member of the Year Award.

Elizabeth Rugg, recipient of the 2010 UB SoPPS Pharmacy Practice Preceptor of the Year.


Christine Stumm presented “ABC’s of NYSCAC and NACAC” at the 2010 NY State Association for College Admissions Counseling Annual Conference. Stumm was also the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence, State University of NY College Admission Professionals

Kathleen Tornatore made two presentations at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Transplant Congress.

Brian Tsuji, recipient of the Pfizer 2009 ASPiRE Young Investigator Award in Anti-bacterial Research.

Robert Wahler has been named section leader of the National Council of Hospice and Palliative Care Professionals.


In Memorium, Fred Bennes, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy, May 4, 1950 – August 4, 2010

The University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was deeply saddened to learn of the death of our longtime colleague and friend from a sudden illness this past summer. Professor Bennes recently retired from his work here at the school after over 30 years of service and will be remembered for his love and commitment to teaching, as well as his mentorship of hundreds of students, faculty and staff. He will be missed by all who knew him.
Faculty, staff and alumni assisted with various programs held throughout 2010 with the premier program being the ‘National Take Back Initiative’ held in September. The national program, offering over 15 drop off sites locally, allowed community members from all areas of WNY the opportunity to dispose of any and all unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications.

These programs assist the community by addressing environmental concerns as people dispose of medications by flushing them down the toilet resulting in pollution of drinking water impacting communities and wildlife. Drug Take Back Programs improve these concerns as well as have positive impact on the health and welfare of the community by removing unwanted and expired medications from households thus protecting:

- young children (< 6 years) with concerns for poison prevention
- adolescents who sometime intentionally abuse medications
- the elderly who inadvertently take medications no longer intended for them.

Karl Fiebelkorn, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Professional Relations, states “More than 64,000 doses of controlled substances worth an estimated $242,000 were taken off the streets and incinerated through a process approved by the EPA. More than 80 pharmacy students from our school were involved, led by P4 PharmD Candidate Brian Badgley, who helped to organize the event. Brian is a member of our WNY Drug Disposal Committee, and since 2008 has been involved with the program.