

GATORx

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY | 2014

From Scholarship to LEADERSHIP

*Dean Julie A. Johnson is leading
the way to preeminence in
research, education and practice.*



Dear colleagues, alumni & friends,

I am honored to serve as the seventh dean of the UF College of Pharmacy, and I have much confidence that together we will build on our 90 years of success to raise our college to even higher national rankings among the top pharmacy colleges in the nation. Last August, I identified our challenges and proposed a road map, endorsed by our faculty, that will allow us to build on our excellence in research, education and practice. Moving forward, these are the key elements of our shared mission:

- Increase our faculty size while enhancing our research productivity
- Enrich the quality of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program
- Improve practice models for our faculty through increased collaboration with UF Health Shands pharmacy, and UF health professions colleges

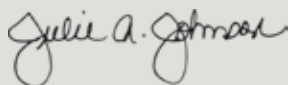
The University of Florida, through its preeminence initiative to become a top-10 public research university, has set its sights on hiring accomplished faculty based on research priorities, not departmental vacancies. Our college is positioned very well with UF's targeted opportunities. With approved state funding, we are now actively recruiting faculty with well-developed programs in drug discovery and development, metabolomics, and genomic medicine.

Early this year, I also appointed a curriculum review task force to recommend improvements to our Pharm.D. education that will prepare us for new accreditation standards that go into effect in 2016. The task force presented an educational model that was wholly supported by our faculty and welcomed by our student pharmacists. The aim of enriching our program is to prepare our students to become patient-centered care practitioners who are strong, evidence-based problem-solvers, self-directed learners who work as interprofessional team members with strong professional ethics and interpersonal communication skills. We will be sharing more exciting news about our curriculum development this summer.

As the first dean of our college to have a Pharm.D. degree, I also see an opportunity to advance the practice of our clinical faculty and create models that can be adopted throughout the state. Our health science center campus provides an excellent setting for developing collaborative practice models that will help extend our focus on new practice specialties for our clinical pharmacy faculty.

In addition to the key initiatives I have outlined, I am also working to support and advance our strengths in the college's successful distance and working professional education programs. The WPPD program, established 20 years ago, along with advancing educational technologies, enabled our college to further develop nationally recognized online master's programs in specialized fields of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. Our college is uniquely positioned to assist our colleagues in other health science colleges who wish to develop new programs and we look forward to this being a major initiative in the coming year.

I think our alumni and supporters will recognize what a great time this is for our college! It was their advocacy and support over many years that have helped to position us so well today, and we plan to build on that strength moving forward. In closing, I'd like to thank our many friends and supporters, and look forward to new partnerships as we work to catapult to elite status among the nation's colleges of pharmacy.



Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D.
Dean and Distinguished Professor



GATORx

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy publishes the *GATORx* magazine annually to share its news and achievements in research, education and service.

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4

Building a Leadership Team

Meet the college's mission-based administration.



12

Patient Safety

Pharmacy researchers look at best practices for hospitals, and best treatment options for children and pregnant women.

18

Endowed Professorships

Meet our faculty scholars whose research is changing the future of health care.



22

Disparities & Therapies

A look at how two research programs are making a difference to black patients.

2 College News

Introducing Dean Johnson and her journey from researcher to leader

6 Outstanding Awards

Recognizing pharmacy leaders who are making a difference

8 Annual Report in Brief

See the big picture, from publications to patents

11 Innovation

Online master's program in medication therapy management

16 Philanthropy

Dean's Circle donors

20 Faculty News

Pharmacy faculty receive honors, merit and awards

24 Student News

Student pharmacists are striving to make a difference

26 Alumni News

So many ways to connect, mark your calendar!

from SCHOLARSHIP to LEADERSHIP

By Linda Homewood

“We are
implementing
changes now
that we hope will
prepare student
pharmacists
entering in 2015
for a pharmacy
career that may
project as far
as 2060.”

The past year has brought a renewed burst of activities to the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, with one of the college's top researchers accepting the leadership baton. Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D., last August became the seventh dean and the first woman to hold the appointment in the college's 90-year history. She also holds the distinction of being the first Pharm.D. to lead the Doctor of Pharmacy education program at UF.

A faculty member of the UF College of Pharmacy since 1998, Johnson served for nine years as chairwoman of the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research and established its Center for Pharmacogenomics. She has built an internationally recognized research program in personalized medicine, receiving over \$35 million in NIH funding.

“I look forward to working with our faculty, staff and students to elevate our research productivity, enhance our educational programs and extend our relationships with practicing pharmacists across the state,” Johnson said.

Johnson received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 1987. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pharmacokinetics/clinical pharmacology at The Ohio State University, where she had earlier earned a bachelor's of pharmacy.

Serving as chair for the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute Genomic Medicine “IGNITE” network, Johnson last year was awarded \$3.7 million by the institute to continue the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program at the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

A 2013 UF Research Foundation Professor and distinguished professor of pharmacy and medicine in cardiovascular medicine, Johnson's experience in research and administration have positioned her to build networks across UF Health. She looks forward to strong collaborations with UF Health Shands Hospital pharmacy and other health sciences colleges to improve faculty practice models. She also seeks new opportunities to strengthen the college's research programs through its relationships with the UF Cancer Center and UF's institutes for Genetics and Clinical and Translational Science.

Dean Johnson has begun a multifaceted approach that will build on the college's years of success in research and education.

Increasing faculty numbers and enhancing research productivity are high on her priority list. Through the University of Florida UF Rising campaign, preeminence funding is helping Dean Johnson to recruit nationally recognized researchers with well-developed programs, like Larisa Cavallari, Pharm.D. Cavallari joined UF in April from the University of Illinois at Chicago to serve as the new director of the Center for Pharmacogenomics. A member of the International Warfarin Pharmacogenetics Consortium, Cavallari was also member of the UIC Institute of Human Genetics.



Dean Julie A. Johnson

Enriching the quality of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program is another important goal Johnson has set. She established a task force to conduct a curriculum review and assessment for the Pharm.D. program and make recommendations to the college faculty membership this spring — which were unanimously supported by the faculty.

“We have a responsibility to prepare our students with the best curriculum, patient skills and experiences in a variety of settings,” Johnson said. “We are implementing changes now that we hope will prepare student pharmacists entering in 2015 for a pharmacy career that may project as far as 2060.”

Johnson also has plans to continue building on the college’s national leadership and success of its online master’s and working professional education programs.

To balance her new demands as dean and her ongoing research responsibilities, Johnson created a new position in the college. In January, Gailine McCaslin joined the dean’s office as chief of staff and assistant director of research and administration. She helps to oversee administration of the

dean’s office, manage staff and serve as the dean’s strategic liaison with university and community constituencies. She is also charged with other special projects to support the dean’s personal research program.

Another addition to the dean’s office is a new position of chief financial officer. Joining the college this May, Eric Peipelman, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Medical Service is moving to Florida from Bethesda, Maryland. Peipelman’s education uniquely qualifies him as a CFO in UF’s health science setting. He has an undergraduate degree in biology, and went on to earn master’s degrees in business administration and an MPH in health services administration from universities in Oklahoma.

With less than a year at the helm, Johnson has charted a course, and the college is sailing smoothly with support from UF Preeminence funding and a faculty leadership team eager to take on new challenges to continue building strong programs and initiatives.

It's Academic Mission-based Leadership

Setting the bar high to achieve recognition as one of the top U.S. pharmacy colleges requires an administration dedicated to the college's vision and goals. The new leadership team is mission-based to move the college forward in achieving excellence in research, education and practice.

Diane Beck, Pharm.D.

Associate Dean for Curriculum and Accreditation



Diane Beck is providing leadership in curriculum design, delivery and monitoring to ensure pharmacy graduates achieve established educational outcomes and

have opportunities to explore professional areas of interest. Her responsibilities include guiding faculty in using instructional methods that actively engage learners, promote student responsibility for learning and foster collaborative learning. She also offers faculty guidance in using assessment methods that measure student knowledge and performance. Her duties encompass maintaining accreditation of all educational programs sanctioned by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, which include the entry-level Pharm.D., Working Professional Pharm.D. and continuing pharmacy education programs. Additionally, Beck oversees international affairs related to student education, continuing pharmacy education and leadership for interprofessional education.

John Gums, Pharm.D.

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs



John Gums is leading the college's efforts to develop innovative practice models for pharmacists, and is working with health care institutions to develop faculty practice opportunities.

He is also working to ensure the quality of experiential education for our Pharm.D. students, and related activities that advance our clinical practice mission. A professor in pharmacotherapy and translational research, Gums has been with UF since 1985, working with physicians in the Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, where he is a member of the residency training program. To further strengthen the college's curriculum and experiential programs, **Karen Whalen, Pharm.D.**, has taken a new role as assistant dean for clinical education. She will review outcomes data and refine the Pharm.D. curriculum to ensure compliance with accreditation standards related to clinical education. As the new director of the Office of Experiential Programs, **Denise Klinker, Pharm.D., M.B.A.**, also supports these efforts.

Michael McKenzie, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs



Mike McKenzie is responsible for many activities in student affairs from recruitment to commencement. He directs college financial aid and awards selection and processing, and

advises students on academic progression and professional development. He upholds UF policies and procedures that impact student life. He also reports student enrollment and progression to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and coordinates student events, such as Orientation, Open House, Professional Coating and Commencement ceremonies. In the area of academic affairs, McKenzie serves as ex-officio to the college's curriculum and assessment committees. He assists in the coordination of examinations, academic performance monitoring and processing of petitions, and monitors student performance on NAPLEX and MPJE exams. He communicates policies and procedures affecting academic standards to students and faculty. He also coordinates with the Experiential Program, and chairs the Admissions, Academic and Professional Standards, and Financial Aid and Awards committees.

William J. Millard, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Administration and Research Affairs



Bill Millard serves as an advisor to the dean on matters related to academic, budgetary, development and all office, research and

support space within the college. He is also involved in the development of college-wide policies as the ex-officio member of the Faculty Governance Council. He coordinates all research and graduate education matters and serves as the liaison between the College of Pharmacy and the University's Office for Research and Graduate Programs. Millard is responsible for the promotion, coordination and improvement of research activities within the college, and assists departmental graduate coordinators and graduate educators in recruiting new graduate students. He also serves as chair of the college's graduate studies committee, advisor to the graduate student council, and graduate student ombudsman. Millard joined the college in 1986 as an associate professor of pharmacodynamics, and began his service in the dean's office in 1995.

Ian Tebbett, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Entrepreneurial Programs and IT



Ian Tebbett is leading the college's online master's and professional programs' efforts through efficient use of resources in program

development, management and marketing. He is identifying best practices for distance education models internally and to share with other members of UF Health, who may be interested in expanding their programs. He is also leading the college's IT department to provide academic technology for all educational programs in the college and computer support for faculty, staff and students. Tebbett is the director of UF's online programs in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Forensic Science, which he developed in 2000. He also serves as president and CEO for the American Distance Education Consortium, made up of U.S. state universities and land-grant colleges seeking to provide high-quality, economical distance education programs.

Outstanding Leaders in Pharmacy Education

Outstanding Pharmacy Alumnus Award

This award recognizes an alumnus whose lifetime contributions have been truly extraordinary with lasting benefits to the profession.



2013 Michele Weizer

Michele Weizer, Pharm.D., received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from UF in 1990 and then completed an ASHP-accredited residency at UF Health Shands Hospital. She is the pharmacy automation manager at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Florida. Specialty board-certified, she has held many leadership positions in pharmacy organizations. Weizer, serves as an adjunct associate professor at UF and holds faculty appointments at all of the Florida pharmacy colleges. She is a member of the Florida Board of Pharmacy and served as chair in 2010. A past president of the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Weizer received its Pharmacist of the Year award. She has chaired the Educational Affairs and Workforce Development Council for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. She has been an active member of the Florida Pharmacy Council, and served on the continuing education committee for the Florida Board of Pharmacy for 11 years. A member of the college's National Advisory Board for more than 12 years, Weizer also served a term as its chair. She has received the college's Working Professional Pharm.D. program's Faculty Service Award for outstanding contributions and the college's Distinguished Pharmacy Service Alumna Award. She also has received Preceptor of the Year recognitions from Nova Southeastern University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, and the University of Florida colleges of pharmacy.



2014 Indra Reddy

Indra Reddy, Ph.D., is a professor and founding dean for the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy at the Texas A&M Health Science Center. Before his 2004 appointment, he was a professor and co-chair of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He received a bachelor's in pharmacy from the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Kakatiya University in India and a master's in pharmaceuticals at Dr. Harisingh Gour University in India. He received a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences in 1989 from the UF, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the UF Center for Drug Design and Delivery under Nicholas Bodor, Ph.D. Reddy's research interests included the design of novel ocular drugs and delivery systems, development of cell culture models as alternatives to animal testing, and student-centered learning strategies and outcomes assessment. He serves on editorial boards for five international pharmacy journals and as a reviewer for more than a dozen scientific/pharmacy journals. He has published more than 100 research and review articles. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and the American Pharmacists Association and a recipient of the APHA Research Achievement Award. He is serving as an international commissioner for the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education for 2013-16, through their International Service Program. He also serves as chair-elect for the National AAPS Fellows Committee.

Outstanding Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award

This award is presented each year to an alumnus who has made significant contributions to the pharmacy profession.



2013 Mark Haumschild

Mark Haumschild began his pharmacy career in 1976 in a large community acute care hospital after receiving his bachelor's degrees in chemistry and pharmacy from the University of Florida. In 1978, he went to the Medical University of South Carolina, received his board certification in nuclear pharmacy and began providing the service to a six-hospital consortium. After receiving a Florida Consultant Pharmacist License, he began a post-acute care consultant business for long-term care and assisted living facilities, as well as for outpatient surgery centers. Haumschild earned a master's degree in management from the University of South Florida and a Pharm.D. degree from Mercer University. After completing a drug information/clinical pharmacy residency in 1985, he became the general manager for a home-infusion business. He also received board certifications in nutritional support and geriatric pharmacy. Since 1998, he has worked in the pharmaceutical industry, and is a national outcomes liaison director for Sanofi, specializing in senior health for the Veteran's Administration and the Department of Defense. Haumschild and his wife, Mary, have served for four years as National Advisory Board Members for the college.



2014 Roger Accardi

Roger Accardi, Pharm.D., a third generation pharmacist, graduated from the UF College of Pharmacy in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. In 1999, he earned the Pharm.D. degree through the college's Working Professional Pharm.D. program. He is the primary clinical pharmacist and president of Accardi Clinical Pharmacy. He also has served as a clinical assistant professor in the college since 2000 and serves as a preceptor for UF and for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. He currently serves on the Florida Hospital/Fish Memorial Foundation board and executive committee, and has served for many years on the college's National Advisory Board. He also has served as an expert witness on pharmacology and pharmacotherapy ethics and law, and is a Certified Diabetic Educator. Accardi has received the Florida Pharmacy Association's Jean Lamberti Mentorship Award, and was recently awarded Good Neighbor Pharmacy/Amerisource Bergen's Pharmacist of the Year nationwide for delivering exceptional patient care and leadership in his local community. He was also recognized at Orange County's Citizen of the Year and Drug Topics magazine's Pharmacist of the Year. Following in the footsteps of his pharmacist father, Mike Accardi, he has developed his practice with a focus on the patient rather than the prescription.

Outstanding Pharmacy Service Award

This award is presented each year to a non-alumnus who has made significant contributions to the UF College of Pharmacy and to the pharmacy profession.



2013 Daniel E. Buffington

A faculty at the University of South Florida College of Medicine and Pharmacy, Daniel Buffington, Pharm.D., MBA, studied biology and biochemistry at USF, and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy and a Master of Business Administration from Mercer University. He also completed a residency and clinical pharmacology fellowship at Emory University. As a clinical pharmacology specialist, he provides medication therapy management consulting, serves as a principal investigator for Phase II and III clinical trials, and manages a national drug information service that provides clinical support for medical practices, health systems and health plans. His consultant service helps patients taking chronic or high-risk medications achieve improved health outcomes and patient safety, and includes forensic pharmacology that supports medical examiners, law enforcement and attorneys. He is on the board of trustees of the American Pharmacists Association and represents pharmacists on the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology panel.



2014 Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson serves as executive vice president and CEO of the Florida Pharmacy Association. His dedication to the pharmacy profession through his FPA leadership and his service as a pharmacist during his career are exemplary. He has represented the UF College of Pharmacy as a leader in Florida pharmacy and as a member of the college's National Advisory Board over many years. Jackson earned a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the College of Pharmacy at Florida A&M University in 1976, and began his career as an assistant manager at Peoples Drugs Company (now CVS Pharmacy) in Alexandria, Virginia. He has been a licensed pharmacist in Florida and Alabama for more than 30 years with practice experience in independent and chain pharmacy, and hospital and veterinary hospital pharmacy. His management experience included more than 58 pharmacies in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. He has served on state councils and boards, including the Drug Utilization Review Board for Florida Medicaid, Collaborative Drug Therapy Management Task Force, ePrescribe Florida Advisory Council, Florida Governor's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board, and the Florida Agency for Health Administration Electronic Prescribing Advisory Panel. He also served three years in academia as coordinator of the professional experiential learning program at Florida A&M University, and in teaching and pharmacy practice at Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He also serves on the executive committee of the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, and served as its past president.



Robin Moorman Li and Karen Whalen

Teachers of the Year

The Teacher of the Year award each year recognizes a faculty member whose dedication to excellence in teaching represents the highest standards of the university and the College of Pharmacy.

2013 Karen Whalen, Pharm.D.

Karen Whalen, assistant dean for clinical education and a clinical associate professor, was named the 2013 Teacher of the Year. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree with highest honors from the University of Florida. She then completed a pharmacy practice residency at the Moses Cone Health System in Greensboro, North Carolina, and a primary care residency at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida. She was a faculty member in pharmacy practice at Nova Southeastern University for 12 years and was an eight-time recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence.

Whalen, who directs two of the college's online master's programs and serves as chair of the college's curriculum committee, joined the faculty of the UF College of Pharmacy in 2008. She teaches an elective on women's health, and in the pharmacotherapy courses for the Pharm.D. education and provides instruction in the Medication Therapy Management graduate and the Working Professional Pharm.D. programs.

Active in local, state and national pharmacy organizations, she is a past president of the Florida Pharmacy Association and a recipient of its Jean Lamberti Mentorship Award. She also received the National Community Pharmacists Association Pharmacy Leadership Award.

2014 Robin Moorman Li, Pharm.D.

Robin Moorman Li, Pharm.D., a clinical assistant professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research, is a lecturer and facilitator in many pharmacy courses at the college's Jacksonville campus including the Pharmacotherapy, Dosage Forms and Dose Optimization courses. She also teaches Principles of Pharmacology, Introduction to Pharmacy Health Care, and elective courses on pain and palliative care, and critical thinking skills.

Her teaching style incorporates demonstration, facilitation, and inspiration as unique ways to help improve understanding and retention of complex material. By sharing her love for the pharmacy profession and dedication she has for every patient, she hopes to inspire her students to become great pharmacists, dedicated to lifelong learning.

Moorman Li, who also serves as the assistant director of the college's Jacksonville campus, was a pharmacy practitioner at UF Health Shands Jacksonville for seven years until joining the college in 2008. She received a bachelor's in life science from Kansas State University in 1996 and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Kansas in 2000. She completed a primary care residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2001.

FY 2012–13 Annual Report in Brief

Scholarship and Research

Publications & Invited Presentations

Department	Refereed	Non-refereed	Books	Abstracts	In Press	Presentations
Medicinal Chemistry	14	0	1	16	6	6
Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy	23	23	4	27	15	18
Pharmaceutics	32	0	3	6	3	44
Pharmacodynamics	14	0	0	24	2	3
Pharmacotherapy & Translational Research	79	11	8	54	51	109
TOTAL	162	34	16	127	77	180

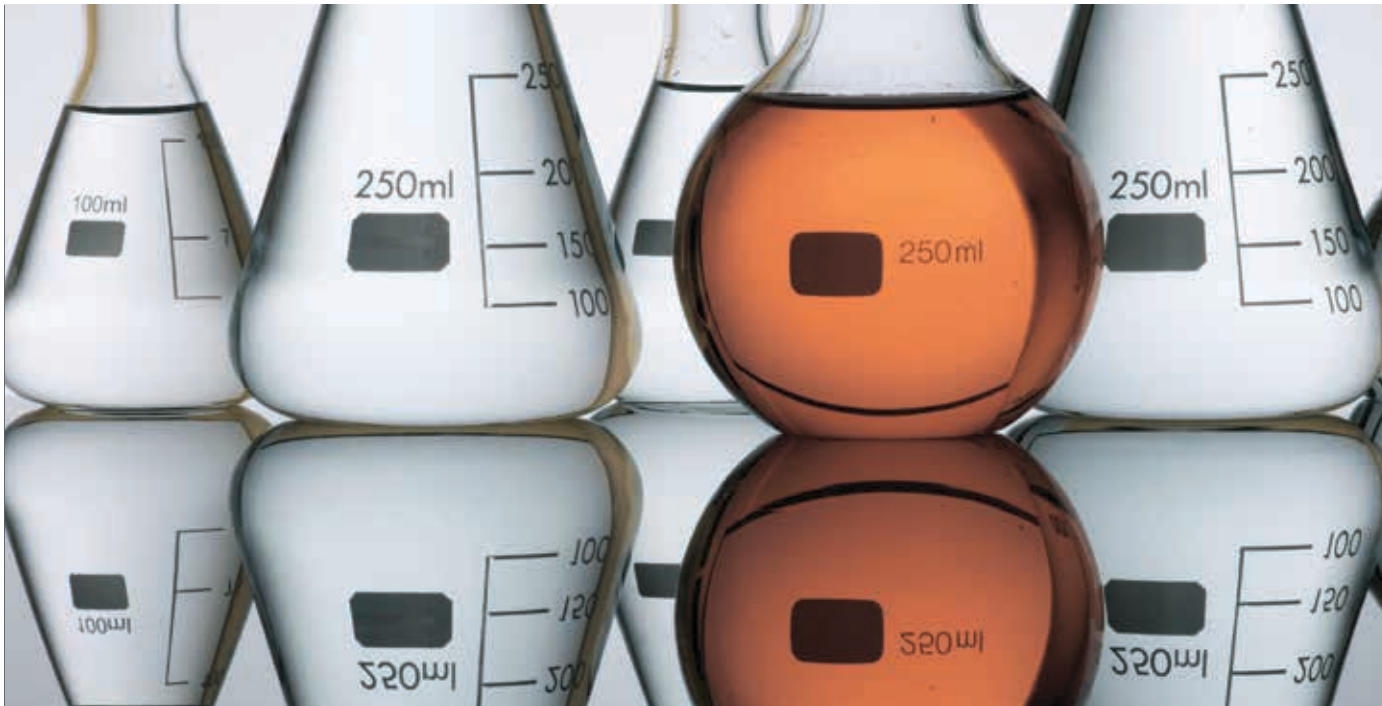


Corporate Awards

Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	2	\$77,500
AstraZeneca	2	\$121,866
Boeringer Ingelheim International GMBH	1	\$100,000
Clinical Research GMBH	1	\$14,034
Compleware Corp.	4	\$75,358
Daiichi Sankyo Pharma Dev.	1	\$150,000
Denali Biotechnologies, LLC	1	\$2,500
Eli Lilly & Co.	1	\$40,000
Golin-Harris International, Inc.	1	\$5,000
Jacobus Pharmaceuticals	1	\$54,450
Parexel International Corporation	1	\$2,500
Pfizer, Inc.	1	\$100,000
Sun Biopharma	1	\$49,024
Watson Pharmaceuticals	1	\$5,728
TOTAL	19	\$797,960

Awards from Foundations & Societies

American Cancer Society	2	\$41,492
American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education	5	\$20,500
American Heart Association	1	\$22,180
American Society of Health System Pharmacists Foundation	1	\$235,463
Calspan-University Buffalo Research Center	5	\$117,188
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	1	\$1,500
Natl Fdtn Centers Disease Control & Prevention	1	\$8,9137
Oak Ridge Association Universities	1	\$800
Schlumberger Foundation	1	\$50,000
TOTAL	18	\$578,260



Federal Agencies

AHRQ	1	\$26,212
CDC & Prevention	1	\$18,200
Med Quality Assurance	1	\$571,548
NIH	47	\$6,796,425
TOTAL	50	\$7,412,385



FL State Agencies

Department of Citrus	1	\$225,000
Department of Health	3	\$210,658
TOTAL	4	\$435,658

Other

Embassy Arab Rep Egypt	1	\$10,000
Miscellaneous Donors	1	\$134
Multiple Sponsors	6	\$26,352
University of Lisbon	1	\$20,000
TOTAL	9	\$56,486

Funding by Department

Medicinal Chemistry	\$2,129,065	23%
Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy	\$995,881	11%
Pharmaceutics	\$1,048,137	11%
Pharmacodynamics	\$913,737	10%
Pharmacotherapy & Translational Research	\$4,193,929	45%
COLLEGE TOTAL	\$9,280,749	100%

Funding by Category

Federal Agencies	50	\$7,412,385
Florida State Agencies	4	\$435,658
Corporations and Companies	20	\$797,960
Foundations & Societies	18	\$578,260
Other	9	\$56,486
TOTAL	101	\$9,280,749

Patent Activity

Department/Center	Apps. Filed	Patents Issued
Medicinal Chemistry	13	1
Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy	0	0
Pharmaceutics	1	0
Pharmacodynamics	1	0
Pharmacotherapy & Translational Research	3	0
TOTAL	18	1

FACULTY HONORS FY 2012–13



YAN GONG, PH.D.

Open Access Award, University of Florida, 2012



KAREN SANDO, PHARM.D.

Innovations in Teaching Award, AACP, July 2012
APhA-APPM Presentation Merit Award, APhA, March 2013



JULIE JOHNSON, PHARM.D.

University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship, 2013-15



STEPHAN SCHMIDT, PH.D.

University of Florida Excellence Award for Assistant Professors, May 2013
University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute Junior Faculty Pilot Program Award, "Personalizing Antiplatelet Therapy: Development of a CYP2C19 Genotype-Directed Dosing Algorithm for Clopidogrel," December 2012



CAROL KIMBERLIN, PH.D.

APhA Wiederholt Prize for best ESAS paper in JAPhA for previous two years, March 2013



W. THOMAS SMITH, PHARM.D., J.D.

St. Louis College of Pharmacy Outstanding Achievement Distinguished Alumni Award, 2012
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Academic Leadership Fellows Program, 2013-14



ROBIN MOORMAN LI, PHARM.D.

2013 Jacksonville Facilitator of the Year



KRISTEN WEITZEL, PHARM.D.

Tufts Information Mastery Change Agent Award, 2013
APhA-APPM Presentation Merit Award, 2013



MICHAEL McKENZIE, PH.D.

Alumnus Award, Phi Lambda Sigma Honorary Pharmacy Leadership Society, 2013



KAREN WHALEN, PHARM.D.

Teacher of the Year, University of Florida College of Pharmacy, 2013



XIN (CINDY) QI, PH.D.

Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research (ICBR) Agilent Microarray Program Award, November 2012



KATIE VOGEL ANDERSON, PHARM.D.

Board Certification, Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice (BCACP), October 2012
Faculty Recognition Award, Class of 2013

UF's Online MTM Master's Program:

Professionalism in Patient Drug Therapy Outcomes

In keeping with the University of Florida mission to promote the health and welfare of the citizens of Florida and the nation, the UF College of Pharmacy is preparing its graduates to take independent professional responsibility for the outcome of drug therapy in patients. Jennifer Miller, a recent graduate of the UF Online M.S. in Pharmacy Medication Therapy Management (MTM), is making this mission a reality.

Miller earned her bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1988 from Florida A & M University and has had 15 years of experience as a retail pharmacist. Living near Plant City, she has faced what many Americans are going through in today's economic environment; her place of employment closed and she was left with fewer options and rising competition of pharmacists with the doctor of pharmacy degree.

"The thought of pursuing another retail pharmacist job was not appealing, especially because I knew I was competing against other pharmacists with more credentials," said Miller. "I realized that having a B.S. in pharmacy was no longer enough."

In her job search, Miller found that employers who might have overlooked her résumé with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy became more interested when they learned she was working toward a master's degree in Medication Therapy Management to enhance her pharmacy education and experience.

For Miller, the UF master's program was the right fit because of the strong business knowledge and MTM focus it offered. Armed with determination and a new-found sense of purpose, she moved from seeking a job to pursuing the career she had dreamt of for years.

"Being out of work was terrifying, but I am thankful for the years of experience that I was able to earn and the knowledge gained from the MTM course work," Miller said. "These became my tools when I decided to venture into entrepreneurship and start my business."

The online Master of Science in Pharmacy with a concentration in Medication Therapy Management, in its fourth year, has more than 50 students enrolled. Students are immersed in this burgeoning industry and prepare to implement MTM in their practice while learning business and leadership essentials, said program director Karen Whalen, Pharm.D.

"It prepares pharmacists to expand their clinical and pharmaceutical knowledge adding business, networking and strategic skills to their already strong clinical practice," said Whalen, a clinical associate professor in the UF College of Pharmacy.

Miller, who promotes her self-owned business to self-pay individuals and provides services through OutcomesMTM, began developing a business plan during the first two foundation courses.

Miller graduated in December 2013 and plans to continue her practice while expanding with the physician network.

"I'm bringing the most value to my patients while making a living," she said, "and I guess I found my way...my purpose."

In the past 14 years, the college has developed online master's studies for working professionals in other specialized pharmacy areas too. The Forensic Science program offers graduate training in areas such as DNA and serology, toxicology, and drug chemistry. The Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy program focuses on areas of pharmaceutical regulation and policy, pharmacoeconomics, and patient safety and medication risk management. The Clinical Toxicology program was developed for health care professionals working in settings such as emergency rooms, hospitals, clinical drug trials and poison control centers. The Pharmaceutical Chemistry program, developed for professionals in pharmaceutical industry, offers an opportunity to study topics related to drug design and development.



Jennifer (Jeno) Miller, a 2013 UF MTM program graduate.

"I'm bringing
the most value
to my patients
while making
a living."

Anyone interested in learning more about the UF Online MTM master's or the college's other specialized programs, can visit <http://pharmacy.ufl.edu/education/online-ms-programs>.



Best Practices Better Outcomes

By Linda Homewood, Emily Miller

(l-r) UF Health research team members Tom Johns, Pharm.D., Gigi Lipori, MBA, Almut Winterstein, Ph.D., Babette Brumback, Ph.D. and Richard Segal, Ph.D. meet to discuss their work.

Safe and effective drug therapies, a national concern, are also a high research priority for Almut Winterstein, Ph.D., a professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, whose work for the past 15 years has focused on improved medication safety and best practices.

Serving a four-year term since 2011 on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration FDA Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee, Winterstein assumed a new role in 2013. She now chairs the committee, which advises the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in areas of risk management, risk communication and evaluation of reports on drugs or products for human use.

Her current research encompasses two major programs: development and application of measures to support quality improvement and patient safety initiatives; and assessment of the safety and effectiveness of medications, with emphasis on pediatric treatments of infectious and psychiatric diseases.

Reducing Hospital Patient Adverse Drug Events

Health care reform measures call for better quality and safer health care with lower costs. To meet new challenges, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, or ASHP, together with the ASHP Research and Education Foundation, has proposed a pharmacy practice model that emphasizes pharmacists' key role in medication therapy management.

To place pharmacists at the bedside of those patients who need their services the most, Winterstein is working with her colleagues at UF Health to identify hospital patients at greatest risk for preventable adverse drug events.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation last fall awarded her nearly \$500,000 to lead the research team in developing and

validating a complexity score to help hospitals determine the best pharmacist staffing to prevent adverse drug events and improve patient safety.

"Adverse events in health care have received increasing attention over the past two decades because many are preventable," said Winterstein, "Errors surrounding the selection or dosing of medications have been described as one of the most prominent areas in health care that result in preventable adverse events."

The complexity score will use automated information in patients' electronic health records to produce real-time predictions of which admitted patients are at greatest risk for having an adverse drug event and therefore need medication management services. Winterstein's research team envisions a daily report generated to alert pharmacists of the patients who have the highest scores based on their medical history and current health conditions.

Initially, the complexity score will be developed and tested at UF Health Shands Hospital and UF Health Jacksonville. The final tool will be an automated scoring system integrated into electronic health records that can be implemented nationwide.

Children's Therapies: Viral Respiratory Infection in Preterm Infants

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is the most common cause of lower respiratory infection in children under 1 year old, and 25 to 40 percent of those infected will go on to develop bronchiolitis or pneumonia. There is no vaccine to prevent the virus, which spreads through coughing, sneezing and direct contact with infected persons. Almost all children are infected by this common virus by age 2, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as 125,000 infants under age 1 are hospitalized in the U.S. each year during RSV season, which typically lasts from November until April.

Palivizumab, an antibody drug administered as monthly intramuscular injections, may be the only protection for babies at high risk of complications leading to hospitalization — with an effectiveness rate of about 50 percent. At a cost of \$2,000 per dose, the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases has set guidelines that define high-risk groups for preventive treatment, such as infants with lung disease or congenital heart disease. Until now, however, it lacked comprehensive data on one such group — babies born preterm.

Preterm babies catch up with their term counterparts over time, but it was unknown how long it takes for their respiratory and immune systems to reach the same defense abilities against RSV.

“Given the limited efficacy and the high cost of immunization, it is really important to direct palivizumab to infants with the weakest defense systems,” said Winterstein.

Because moderate preterm infants make up the largest potential risk group who would be eligible for palivizumab prevention, the cut-off age to receive the drug has been highly debated. In 2009, the AAP modified its treatment guidelines, which originally recommended that preterm babies younger than 6 months who have at least two qualifying risk factors receive either three doses of palivizumab or a monthly dose until they reach 3 months old, whichever comes first. Opponents to this change emphasized the lack of scientific evidence to support the decision.

Winterstein focused her study on Medicaid beneficiaries aged 0 to 12 months in Florida and Texas, two states with some of the highest numbers of births in the U.S. She analyzed more than 247,500 infants’ Medicaid billing and birth records to compare the RSV hospitalization risk of preterm and full-term infants. Through analysis of these records from 1999 through 2004, she was able to establish that healthy preterm infants’ risk of infection would remain elevated only until they reached 4.2 months of age in Florida and 4.5 months of age in Texas. Because the preventive effect of palivizumab lasts for one month and then tapers off, her findings provided scientific data to support the 2009 AAP recommendation to limit prophylaxis to the age of 3 months.

Combined Medications Prescribed for Children

The use of medications to treat mental health conditions in children is on the rise, bringing with it an increase in the combinations of those drugs, an area in which there has been very little research. Many parents and health care providers are concerned about the unknown effects of children taking multiple medications prescribed by various practitioners.

Winterstein is conducting a two-year study to identify potentially harmful combinations of psychotropic medications in children who receive Medicaid, and to help Medicaid discourage the use of those combinations. Psychotropic drugs are medications used to treat mental health conditions, including stimulants to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, antidepressants and antipsychotics.

“There are very few clinical studies that have been conducted really looking at the efficacy or safety of the use of combinations of psychotropic medications,” Winterstein said. “Yet many children do receive combinations, and we don’t know what that means.”

“The largest growth in ADHD diagnosis is attributed to pediatricians and not to psychiatrists,” Winterstein said. “So you actually have several providers now who prescribe psychotropic medications and

coordination between providers and understanding of the various intents when psychotropic drugs were prescribed may be suboptimal.”

Winterstein’s children’s studies in RSV and combined psychotropic medications are both part of a research contract from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Agency for Health Care Administration. Administered through the Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured at UF, the contract allowed Winterstein and her team to purchase Medicaid billing data from 29 states to complete their work.

Pregnancy & Diabetes

Working under Winterstein’s mentorship, UF College of Pharmacy doctoral student Caitlin Knox is investigating pre-existing diabetes and pregnancy. She is evaluating the comparative safety of the three most commonly used oral anti-diabetic drug classes in pregnant women with pre-existing diabetes.

Through a \$42,000 dissertation award from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, Knox is looking at how often women with pre-existing diabetes are getting pregnant and what anti-diabetic medications they are using before, during and after pregnancy.



Caitlin Knox

A rising concern: Type 2 diabetes in young women. Research is needed on medications prescribed during pregnancy.

Medicaid covers nearly 50 percent of all live births, Knox said. In her comparative safety study, she is looking to see if one oral anti-diabetic medication is safer than the other, with respect to the risk of the women having obstetric complications, such as cesarean section deliveries, preterm delivery, preeclampsia or deep vein thrombosis.

“It’s important for clinicians and mothers to know so that they can make an informed decision about which medication they are going to be prescribing and taking, Knox said.”

Nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes, with more than 90 percent of these cases attributed to Type 2 diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association. Although Type 2, which is linked to obesity and age, is typically diagnosed in patients over 40, more and more younger people are being diagnosed. The increasing prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in young adults is important, because more young women will be diagnosed with diabetes during their reproductive years.

“It’s something we didn’t have to deal with as a society 20 years ago, so there is not as much research on the different medications that are used to treat pre-existing diabetes during pregnancy,” Knox said. “I saw that gap and after speaking with my adviser, we decided that this would be a place that I could really make a difference.”



Dear Alumni and Friends,

This is a very exciting time at the College of Pharmacy. With Dean Johnson stepping up to take the lead, you can expect great things! She is already making strides in raising our college to an even higher ranking as a top pharmacy school in the nation. Some of you have had a chance to meet Dean Johnson at our hosted events last fall and this spring,

and we will have many more opportunities for others to get to know her at our events this coming summer and fall.

I am particularly pleased to share with you our Development & Alumni Affairs team updates. After a very busy transition, we are a full and strong team!

After serving the college as interim director for a year, I've had the pleasure of being appointed director of development and alumni affairs as of March 2014. I've been honored to become close with many of you, and I'm looking forward to continuing and strengthening our relationships. My role for the college includes leading our development and alumni affairs team efforts, and helping to raise philanthropic funds that are so crucial to our college's success.

In November 2013, we welcomed Brynn Huysman, as our assistant director of development and alumni affairs. Brynn's development background includes UF Performing Arts and the UF Health Cancer Center. Brynn will help lead our alumni efforts, which include

engaging and increasing our Dean's Circle of donors. The Dean's Circle is a critical charge, as these annual donors support the college in an unrestricted way that allows the dean flexibility to support programs and initiatives as they arise. Many of these programs directly affect our students' professional development.

Many of you know our alumni affairs coordinator, Jessalyn Karver-Fernandes, who has been with the college for nearly two years. Jessalyn is integral to communications with our alumni and friends via our Facebook page and new online, quarterly e-newsletter. She also coordinates the college's alumni events, such as our Alumni Reunion weekend and our pharmacy association receptions.

Norma Padgett has served as the executive assistant for our department for more than four years. As of March, her role has expanded to include aiding and furthering our development priorities. As many of you know, Norma is the friendly voice behind each phone call!

You can expect great things from your College of Pharmacy — and I hope you will continue to be a part of the momentum that is making a difference to our research, education, faculty, students, alumni, and to the future of the pharmacy profession.

Go Gator Pharmacists!

Elizabeth Zipper
Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

Class Giving Challenge

Each year at commencement, we recognize the graduating class as our newest alumni, who have committed to supporting college programs that benefit pharmacy students who follow behind them. Before graduation, these philanthropic senior students have made support pledges over a five-year period, with their first pledge payment being deferred for one year. Funds raised are used to support the Academy for Excellence, which provides resources that allow the college to initiate new processes and programs while strengthening the educational and outreach efforts.

We want to thank all of our newest student pharmacists who contributed in the past two years, and we want to recognize those students who served as Class Representatives for each of the four campuses.

Class of 2013: \$87,061

The Class of 2013 holds the Challenge fund-raising record since the Challenge began in 2006.

Class Reps: Richard Aramini, Doug Brown, Alan Byard, Eileen Case, Darius Faison, Juan Hincapie Castillo, Russell Findlay, Alyssa Gamba, Andrew Hendrickson, Kimberly Jackson, Paul Leonard, Jeremy Lund and Lindsay Munyon

Class of 2014: \$65,850

Class Reps: Jeanette Connelly, Richard Waithe, Shane Reilly-Rogers, Nick Piccicacco, Amber Hart, Petra Estep, Corey Robinson, Jennifer Bahnmler and Jon (JT) Fannin



Class of '13



Class of '14



Awards and Scholarships

Al and Belle Meyerson Scholarship

Abbey Leblanc

Blake and Cassidy Lawrence

Bridget Ngwa

Cardinal Health Community Pharmacy Scholarship

Amy Kinnunen

Cardinal Health Scholarship

Patrick Wieruszewski

Charlotte Liberty Scholarship

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CVS Scholarship

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DEAN'S CIRCLE

This report reflects donations made July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

The Dean's Circle recognizes our alumni and friends who support the college with an annual gift of \$500 or more. Private donations provide the college flexibility to offer leadership opportunities for students and faculty to develop new educational initiatives, and ensure the college's ceremonial traditions continue despite the economy or state allocation.

Your gift is the fuel that allows us to move forward and adapt to the ever-changing health care environment and keeps the Pharmacy Gator Nation in the top tier of colleges in the nation. Thank you!

You can give a gift online at: www.pharmacy.ufl.edu/alumni-friends/giving, or contact Elizabeth Zipper at 352.273.6605 or zipper@cop.ufl.edu.

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UF College of Pharmacy Professors Maureen Keller-Wood (l) and Hartmut Derendorf (r) are honored by Dean Julie Johnson at the 2013 Celebrating Distinction ceremony for UF Health Science Center faculty who were named as endowed professorships or chairs.

2013 Endowed Professorship Appointments

Three UF College of Pharmacy researchers representing the departments of pharmaceuticals, pharmacodynamics and medicinal chemistry were named in new professorships in October 2013. Appointment to a professorship or chair is one of the highest honors a college can bestow on a faculty member and is reserved for scholars of national and international acclaim. This honor would not be possible without the generosity of our donors who choose to invest in our faculty and their programs. We are eternally grateful to them, and we salute their vision for a better tomorrow.

Professors Derendorf and Keller-Wood were formally recognized at the 2013 Celebrating Distinction award ceremony for UF Health faculty. Hendrik Luesch will be recognized later this fall at the 2014 celebration.



HARTMUT DERENDORF, PH.D.

The V. Ravi Chandran, Ph.D. Professorship in Pharmaceutical Sciences

V. Ravi Chandran established a professorship to promote creative scientific projects, teaching and fellowships at the University of Florida. A UF alumnus, Chandran earned his master's in pharmacy in 1983 and his doctoral degree in pharmaceutical science in 1986. Chandran began his own pharmaceutical company, American Generics Inc., where he is involved in research for new drug development and also works as an independent pharmaceutical scientist. In 2004, he received a UF Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award.

Hartmut Derendorf, Ph.D., chairman and distinguished professor of pharmaceutics, was awarded this professorship. He has been teaching biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics and clinical pharmacokinetics at the college since 1983 and has supervised more than 40 Ph.D. students. His research interests include the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of corticosteroids, analgesics, antibiotics and drug interactions. He has served as president of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP) and the International Society of Anti-Infective Pharmacology. He was awarded the Research Achievement Award in Clinical Sciences of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, the Volwiler Award of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the ACCP Distinguished Investigator Award. He has published more than 400 scientific papers and eight textbooks.



MAUREEN KELLER-WOOD, PH.D.

CVS/Pharmacy Inc. Professorship

CVS/Pharmacy Inc. created this fund to support the College of Pharmacy's mission to help people live longer, healthier and happier lives. The company's values center on respect for individuals, integrity, teamwork and openness to new ideas, as well as a passion for extraordinary customer service.

Maureen Keller-Wood, Ph.D., a professor and chair of pharmacodynamics, was named in this professorship. Her overall research interest is the physiologic adaptations to pregnancy and effects of maternal physiology on fetal maturation and growth. Her laboratory is focusing on changes related to the effects of the adrenal hormone cortisol. There are two major areas of research. The first is to examine the interaction of cortisol and the placental hormone progesterone for regulation of blood pressure and blood volume in pregnancy. The second area of research examines the physiologic significance of increased cortisol on the fetus during pregnancy.



HENDRIK LUESCH, PH.D.

Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Chair in Natural Products, Drug Discovery and Development

As a UF pharmacy student, Debbie DeSantis was most influenced by a professor of medicinal chemistry, Dr. Koppaka V. Rao, who was known for his knowledge of medicinal plants and folk medicine. After her graduation in 1982, she built a successful career in the field of natural products. In 2001, Debbie and her mother, Sylvia DeSantis, established a professorship in natural products to help the college begin to rebuild programs in herbal medicine research and education. For more than a decade, that has allowed the college to expand its efforts in herbal medicine research and education to include drug discovery in natural products. In 2003, because of Debbie's continual support, the college was able to elevate the professorship to a chair.

Hendrik Luesch, Ph.D., an associate professor named to this chair, is carrying out natural product research in the medicinal chemistry department where Dr. Rao established his work more than 30 years ago. Luesch has a multidisciplinary research program that encompasses drug discovery from collection of marine organisms, mechanism-of-action studies and pharmacology, leading up to potential drug development to treat cancers and other diseases. He received his Diplom in chemistry at the University of Siegen in Germany in 1997, and went on to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he studied marine natural products chemistry. He further broadened his studies with three years of postdoctoral work in functional genomics and chemical biology as an Irving S. Sigal Fellow at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California.



"Endowed professorships and chairs are critical to our future. They create an enduring legacy that provides stability across generations in the academic pursuit of improving health care in our community and around the world."

— David S. Guzik, M.D., Ph.D.

Honors & Distinctions



Marcus Brewster, Nicholas Bodor and Hartmut Derendorf

Honoring Distinguished Service

Graduate Research Professor Emeritus (active) **Nicholas Bodor, Ph.D., D.Sc.**, was honored in February on his 75th birthday for more than 30 years of service to the UF College of Pharmacy. Bodor, executive director of the UF Center for Drug Discovery, joined the college in 1979 as a professor and chairman of medicinal chemistry, and became a graduate research professor in 1983. His life's work focused on the retrometabolic approach in which data gathered on the metabolic activation/deactivation of drugs is used in making crucial decisions in a very lengthy and costly drug design process. During his tenure, Bodor supervised the training of more than 50 doctoral students and more than 100 postdoctoral research associates and fellows.

Founder and CEO of Bodor Laboratories, Inc. since 2006, Bodor served previously as Chief Scientific Officer of the IVAX Corporation, and president of the IVAX Research Institute for five years.

Marcus Brewster, Ph.D., a former graduate student under Bodor, now vice president and Scientific Fellow at Janssen Research and Development in Belgium, made a special trip to UF as an invited speaker to honor the accomplishments of his mentor. In his presentation, "Improving Pharmacotherapy through Optimized Chemical Drug Delivery," Brewster highlighted Bodor's research contributions, numerous honors, international recognition and lasting friendships over the past three decades. His presentation demonstrated the significance of Bodor's research contribution using the retrometabolic approach to drug discovery.

"Drug development is increasingly difficult based on a variety of confluent challenges," said Brewster, "meaning that an ever-broadening tool kit is needed to impact productivity and probability of success."

Through his chemical design of loteprednol etabonate, Bodor achieved a dream shared by medicinal chemists worldwide — to have an FDA-approved drug fully developed and available for patients. His discovery, now on the market, is an active ingredient used in several ophthalmic prescription medicines to treat eye irritation or infection. And, through Bodor Laboratories, Inc., other new drugs designed by him are currently in clinical trials.

Following Brewster's presentation, Dean Julie Johnson presented Bodor with an engraved University of Florida chair. The college also hosted a dinner in his honor, attended by his family, friends, former students and colleagues.

Distinguished Achievement Award in Service



Kristin Weitzel, Pharm.D., a clinical associate professor in pharmacotherapy and translational research and associate director of the Personalized Medicine Program, received the 2014 American Pharmacist Association, Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) Distinguished Achievement

Award in Service in recognition of Kristin's impact on preceptor development with Pharmacist's Letter, APhA, and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology Fellow



Almut Winterstein, Ph.D., a professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy was among three worldwide who were named as a Fellow of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology for 2013-14. A nonprofit international professional membership organization, ISPE is dedicated to advancing the health

of the public through a forum for an open scientific exchange and for the development of policy; education; and advocacy for the field of pharmacoepidemiology, and related areas, such as outcomes and comparative effectiveness research, and therapeutic risk management.

International Society of Pharmacometrics Leadership Award



Hartmut Derendorf, Ph.D., a distinguished professor and chair of pharmaceuticals, received the International Society of Pharmacometrics Leadership Award for 2013 for outstanding sustained leadership, mentorship and outreach contributions to the field of pharmacometrics and to the development of

the strategic vision for the future direction of the field. The ISOP award recognizes those who enhance research, development, regulatory aspects of therapeutic products and have made major long term contributions and impact in pharmacometrics.

UF Research Foundation Professors in Pharmacy

"For nearly two decades, the UFRF Professorships have recognized the university's top faculty researchers," said David Norton, UF's vice president for research. "Key to the UFRF Professorship selection process is that it is based not only on what these individuals have done in the past, but what they are expected to achieve in the future. These are faculty who we anticipate will continue to generate cutting-edge research well into the future."

The three-year award includes a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a one-time \$3,000 grant. The professorships are funded from the university's share of royalty and licensing income on UF-generated products.



2014 UFRF Professor

The University of Florida Research Foundation names 30 or more UF faculty members as UFRF Professors each spring. The recognition goes to faculty who have a distinguished current record of research and

a strong research agenda that is likely to lead to continuing distinction in their fields.

In the UF College of Pharmacy **Charles A. Peloquin, Ph.D.**, a professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research, was chosen this year for a 2014-17 professorship.



2013 UFRF Professor

Last April, **Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D.**, a distinguished professor of pharmacy, and now dean, received the honor for 2013-16.

The UFRF Professors are recommended by their college deans based on nominations from their department chairs, a personal statement and an evaluation of their recent research accomplishments as evidenced by publications in scholarly journals, external funding, honors and awards, development of intellectual property and other measures appropriate to their field of expertise.

Pharmacy Educator Serves American Bar Association Health Law Council



UF Pharmacy law educator, **W. Thomas Smith, Pharm.D., J.D.**, last fall was appointed to the Health Law Section of the American Bar Association. Smith, a clinical associate professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, joined a 13-member governing council that represents more than 9,600 members nationally. Health Law Section members of the ABA broadly serve the

health care industry, pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers, academic and research institutions, and governmental health care agencies and programs.

Smith teaches the pharmaceutical law and ethics course to third-year UF pharmacy students, and directs the college's online master's programs in areas of regulatory pharmacy and patient safety. He also lends his expertise to national pharmacy organizations and academic institutions as a speaker and leader in areas of cultural competency, health disparities, bioethics and disability law.

The Health Law Section council oversees membership, budgetary matters and programs, and recommends policy to the ABA House of Delegates for sponsorship. The council meets at least 10 times each year, Smith said. There are four scheduled meetings at national conferences and additional meetings take place through teleconferencing.

The schedule and responsibilities of the ABA Health Law council are demanding, but Smith finds it rewarding to have an ear and a voice at the intersection of health, law and education.

"I am in a great position to share the most current trends and debates with my colleagues and students," Smith said. "When you can take issues happening right now in health care back to the classroom, students really engage and want to learn more."

The Science Behind Disparities & Health

Understanding Ethnic Differences in Prostate Cancer Experiences

By Lindy McCollum-Brounley

Black men have the highest incidence of prostate cancer and die more often of the disease than any other group of American men. Folakemi Odedina, Ph.D., a University of Florida professor of pharmacy is exploring differences among groups of culturally diverse black men with prostate cancer, in terms of quality of life and outcomes.

“We wanted to take a step back and do within-group comparisons of black men with prostate cancer who are native-born African-American, African immigrants and Caribbean immigrants,” said Odedina, who also serves as associate director of health disparities for the UF Shands Cancer Center.

Odedina’s three-year study, funded by a \$1.02 million Department of Defense grant, began in 2013. It is the first to compare differences in morbidity, quality of life and survival among diverse groups of black men, who face a 60 percent greater risk of developing prostate cancer than whites, according to the National Cancer Institute. That risk more than doubles for men with a father or brother who has had prostate cancer. Black men also are more likely to be diagnosed when their cancers are at an advanced stage, and they are more than twice as likely as white men to die of the disease.

“Our study looks at the broad continuum of prostate cancer care for these men in an effort to understand how to successfully deal with the disease through every phase, including prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and advocacy,” Odedina said.

Investigators randomly selected 2,000 black men from about 38,000 patients in the Florida Cancer Data System, verifying whether they are native-born African-American, African immigrant or Caribbean immigrant. Interviews conducted with the cancer survivors and their wives or caregivers explore their experiences, beliefs and feelings about the detection, treatment and survival of prostate cancer.

Sixty of these men were asked to participate in in-depth interviews. Some of the volunteers will use a disposable camera to take photos over the course of a week to create a “photo voice” of people, places and objects that define his prostate cancer experience. The photos are printed and each man is asked to tell the stories behind the photos and their impact on his prostate cancer experience.

As part of the prostate cancer care and survivorship model for black men, the study also is producing a video documentary of 30 of the men and their caregivers talking about the full range of their prostate cancer experiences. The team also will explore the process of how men move from being prostate cancer patients to becoming prostate cancer advocates in their communities. Workshops throughout the state will take place during the final phase, to report findings back to African-American, African and Caribbean communities and to cultivate prostate cancer advocates in those communities.



DeCoria McCauley and Michael Dumas, Florida A&M University students, work together to reach out to communities for prostate cancer awareness and education through a summer program, Research Training Opportunities for Outstanding Leaders, or ReTOOL.

Differences

Uncovering a Genetic Key to Improved Therapy for African American Patients

By Linda Homewood

Researchers have discovered a way to make a common blood thinner safer for about 40 percent of African-Americans taking the drug by linking a common gene variation to the dose of the drug.

Warfarin, a highly effective blood thinner taken by many patients at risk for strokes caused by clotting, also contributes to nearly one-third of all hospital admissions for adverse drug events.

“Warfarin dose requirements vary substantially among all patients and the perfect dose is critical,” said Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., dean and a distinguished professor at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, “a little high might mean bleeding risk, a little low raises a danger of a clot that can cause pulmonary embolism or stroke.”

Also known as Coumadin, warfarin is a low-cost drug option that may be prescribed for short- or long-term blood-thinning therapy. The IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics reported that more than 33 million U.S. prescriptions for warfarin were filled in 2012.

Among all patients, warfarin daily doses range anywhere from 1 mg to 20 mg, and even a small miscalculation can lead to complications. It may take a couple of weeks to several months to determine the right dose without the use of genetics, leaving patients vulnerable in the process. By compiling genetic data along with other factors that affect dosing, such as patients’ weight, age and other drugs being taken, doctors can prescribe a more accurate dosage for any patient from the start. For African Americans, however, that wasn’t enough to predict the widely variable dose of warfarin, so the researchers began looking for additional factors. They discovered a difference in one part of the genome that strongly influences how people of African-American descent metabolize these drugs.

The findings, published June 2013, came from ongoing collaborative work by 42 researchers from 17 institutions in the International Warfarin Pharmacogenetics Consortium, led by Johnson, who also directs the UF Center for Pharmacogenomics.

After adding this genetic marker to dosing algorithms, co-author Minoli Perera, Pharm.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago, showed a 21 percent improved predictability of warfarin dosing for the at-risk population, who often require a higher dosage.

“This finding demonstrates the potential for genetic studies, especially those applied to minority groups, to make a substantial impact on both the population and the personal level,” Perera said. “Physicians will appreciate its impact on the management of this common and difficult-to-dose drug. Patients who carry this mutation will appreciate that their doctors can start them at a lower dose that is closer to what they really require.”

Studies conducted at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago identified novel genetic associations with warfarin dose requirements in African Americans. Study co-author Larisa H. Cavallari, Pharm.D., was an associate professor at UIC, but has joined UF this year to direct the college’s Center for Pharmacogenomics. She has been a member of the consortium since its early efforts to identify a dosing algorithm for warfarin.

For this study, the consortium obtained genetic samples African-American participants with an average age of 59. To compare their results of the new dosing predictions, researchers collected genetic samples from several clinical study sites. From the discovery group, 533 samples were analyzed and then compared to a 432-validation group of African-American adult volunteers — all taking maintenance dose of warfarin.

“Incorporating this gene variant into pharmacogenetic dosing algorithms could improve warfarin dose prediction in this population and help more patients arrive at their optimal dose more quickly,” said Nita Limdi, Pharm.D., Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of neurology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, and a co-author of the study.

The UAB, with a large demographic population at risk for health care disparities, enrolled the largest number of patients in the study.

The consortium researchers all hope to improve patients’ outcomes worldwide by taking the next steps to apply what they have learned.

UF Student Pharmacists Earn National Recognition



Ed Hamilton &
Jeanette Connelly

APhA-ASP Student Awards

More than 100 students from the UF College of Pharmacy's four campuses celebrated their achievements after the American Pharmacists Association awards ceremony on March 30 with Dean Johnson at her first "Dean's Night In with Students" dessert reception. Though the hour was late, the energy was strong. The group photo was captured by student pharmacist, and sometimes photographer, Bao Lam. Professors Tom Munyer and Karen Whalen were among the faculty who joined in the celebratory Gator Chomp.

The UF College of Pharmacy chapter of APhA-ASP received national awards for Chapter Professionalism, Operation Diabetes 1st Runner-Up — and for the third time won the National PAC Fundraising Award. For the Region 3 competition, UF won the Operation Heart Award and the Generation Rx Award.



Tom Munyer & Amy Kiskaddon

Student Leadership Award

Student Pharmacist Amy Kiskaddon, who just completed her third year and is past president of the APhA-ASP Gainesville Chapter, received the 2014 APhA Leadership Award. The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement and leadership ability in APhA-ASP at local, regional and national levels. Kiskaddon serves as vice-chair of the APhA-ASP National Awards Standing Committee, and executive liaison for the APhA-ASP chapters of all four college campuses. She is eager to continue her pharmacy training and work with other health care professionals in a pediatric clinical setting to help children receive optimal care.



Joseph Haley

APhA Foundation Scholarship Award

The APhA Foundation Charles C. Thomas Scholarship recognizes students who invest their time in their school's APhA-ASP chapter to help shape the future of the profession while managing the demands of a full-time pharmacy curriculum. Student pharmacist Joseph Haley, who just completed his third year of studies at the college's St. Petersburg campus, grew up in the Tampa Bay area. Haley also received his bachelor's in chemistry at UF. In 2013, he served as APhA-ASP chapter president for the St. Petersburg campus and as Phi Lambda Sigma vice president for the college. He also served as the FSHP Development Chair 2012, 2013, and has been a member of the UF College of Pharmacy Professionalism Committee since 2012.



A Student Experience:

Learning How to Manage Costs in a Reformed Health Care System and Beyond

Student pharmacist Maryam M. Khazraee, Pharm.D. candidate 2015, contributed this news about her Managed Care Internship experience. Beginning her fourth year of the UF Doctor of Pharmacy program, she served as the 2013-14 executive president of the UF AMCP Student Chapter, leading 15 officers in setting a strong foundation for managed care pharmacy.

I was one of seven pharmacy students, chosen nationally last summer for the AMCP/FMCP/Pfizer Managed Care Summer Internship Program, and one of the first University of Florida students chosen in the history of the program. My 10-week internship was with Prime Therapeutics, LLC, a pharmacy benefit manager in Bloomington, Minnesota, with my final week spent at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

A pharmacy benefit manager is dedicated to providing innovative, clinically based, cost-effective pharmacy solutions for clients and members. Prime Therapeutics has unique transparency in that their 14 Blue Cross Blue Shield clients own them. It is the largest privately held PBM in the United States that does not own any chain pharmacy stores, and it provides pharmacy services for over 21 million covered lives.

The concept of managed care pharmacy began about 25 years ago under pioneers like Robert Navarro, Pharm.D., a clinical professor at the UF College of Pharmacy. The vision was to control cost so that cost doesn't control the system. This new model considered safety, effectiveness and costs of drugs going to patients, clinicians, hospitals, retail pharmacies and practically every health care institute. But that was only the beginning; managed care pharmacists play a leading role in ensuring that patients get the right medications they need for improved health and quality of life at an affordable cost.

It was interesting to learn how clinically focused managed care pharmacists are in deciding whether or not to cover a drug on formulary for members. I would have never imagined how much clinical knowledge, practical experience and weeks of discussion it took, reviewing clinical trials, analyzing the practical use of the drug and applying the main principles of managed care pharmacy — effectiveness, safety and cost.

The advent of the health care reform also depends on pharmacists and clinicians in managed care fields to continue to control cost, create patient programs such as medication adherence for improved health outcomes, and assist new health care systems in creating self-sustaining models.

One of my primary assignments was focused on a health outcomes study that investigated medication adherence for patients who were prescribed certain anticoagulants. I helped to create an anticoagulant and antiplatelet business trends insight profile for medical directors,

clinicians and patients. I also developed a starter project creating a list of high-risk medications from the Beers Criteria, and alternative drugs covered on formulary. Lastly, I learned about negotiating drug pricing with industry companies.

Being in Minnesota, considered one of the best health care states in the country, my eyes were opened to the vast opportunities that exist in health care. I attended a health care reform leadership summit with leaders in the industry and met with other pharmacy interns and University of Minnesota student pharmacists to discuss the health care reform implementation.

At AMCP headquarters I met with many pharmacy association residents from the American Pharmaceutical Association, National Association of Chain of Drug Stores and National Community Pharmacists Association. I also met with the Pharmacy Quality Alliance and discussed improvements to adherence measures from my research study. After attending hearings at the Capitol in Washington D.C., I learned more about the growing concerns of unsustainable health care costs and the increasing need of government legislation to counteract these concerns.

I also had a unique opportunity to visit Pfizer headquarters in New York City, where I learned more about pharmaceutical industry. Lastly, I met with directors at Target Corporate Headquarters in Minneapolis to discuss potential changes in integrating retail systems.

I truly enjoyed this internship experience; it has given me an opportunity to meet many great leaders, from physicians to economists, and learn about the business of health care. I highly encourage every UF student pharmacist to apply for this internship, or one of the many other internship opportunities AMCP offers. It not only provides an opportunity to network with key pharmacy opinion leaders nationally, it also reveals a myriad of career opportunities available upon graduation.



Maryam M. Khazraee



WELCOME TO

Grand Guard

The class of 1963 reunited in a big way November 2013 for their Grand Guard, 50-year reunion and celebration! Eight class members and their guests attended a private luncheon with Dean Julie Johnson in the dean's conference room — some meeting our new dean for the first time. Members of the class of 1962 also joined the special reunion. During their time together, the former classmates discussed their memories of pharmacy school in the sixties, caught up on stories about their lives and careers, and learned about the progress and changes the college has made since their graduation. UF College of Pharmacy student ambassadors concluded the afternoon with a tour of the HPNP pharmacy classrooms, skills lab and auditorium. Later that evening, the class of 1963 was officially inducted into the UF Alumni Association's Grand Guard at a reception where they dressed in traditional orange and blue graduation robes. And the rest of the evening was full of dancing to the best tunes of 1963.



Congratulations to our
Grand Guard Attendees!

Class of 1963

Dave and Suzanne Acton, Mary and Larry Fumea, Alan and Ellen Cohen, Ted and Marilyn Bond, Carol Swanson, David and Frances Ray, and Sandra Buck-Camp, Thomas Wisler.

Class of 1962

Carolyn Boyle and Valerie Griffith



2014 GATOR FOOTBALL

Aug 30 **Idaho**

Sept 6 **Kentucky***

Sept 20 **Alabama***

Oct 4 **Tennessee***

Oct 11 **LSU***

Oct 18 **Missouri***

Nov 1 **Georgia***

Nov 8 **Vanderbilt***

Nov 15 **South Carolina***

Nov 23 **Eastern Kentucky**

Nov 29 **Florida State**

BOLD indicates home games, *Conference Games

Visit our website for up-to date information: www.pharmacy.ufl.edu/alumni-friends/

20th Annual Ken Finger Memorial Golf Tournament



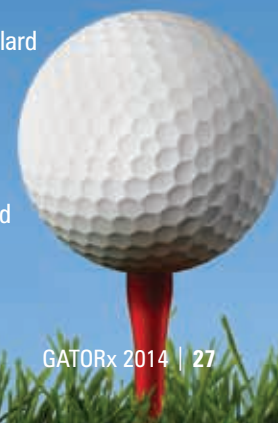
The beautiful and challenging Juliette Falls Golf Course was the perfect course to celebrate our 20th year of the annual Ken Finger Memorial Golf Tournament last October. Twelve teams competed at the event to support the Ken Finger Fellowship and the Academy for Excellence Endowment. We want to recognize and thank all our wonderful golf supporters, many of whom have been sponsors for numerous years: Paul and Charity Ackerman, CVS Caremark, Isse Song, K&M Drugs Lake Placid, Katie and Shawn Anderson, Steve Reeder, AmerisourceBergen, Bill Millard and Mike MacLeay. We also owe a special thanks to Harold O'Steen as our trophy and hole-in-one sponsor.

The Winners Circle

FIRST PLACE: Larry Lopez, Jason Millard, Bill Millard and CJ Smith

SECOND PLACE: Mark Hobbs, Alan Hamilton, Ed Hamilton and Tom Floyd

THIRD PLACE: Joseph Tully, Shawn Anderson and Eric Dietrich (not shown — William Beau Pender)



27th Annual Pharmacy Alumni Reunion Weekend

You could smell the barbecue smoking for our 27th annual Alumni BBQ “Brunch” reunion! Our November 2013 weekend gathering honored the classes of '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98 and '03. Friday night was a special Dean’s Welcome Reception, the first one hosted by our new dean — Julie Johnson. Due to the Gator homecoming football schedule, alumni and friends gathered earlier than usual for pre-game barbecue on Saturday morning. More than 400 alumni and their family members enjoyed perfect weather and photo ops with Albert and Alberta.

Thank you to our Class Reps:

- Class of 1963 Sandra Buck-Camp, Thomas Wisler
- Class of 1968 Mike Stamitoles
- Class of 1973 Michael Schneider
- Class of 1978 Art Cooley, Patty Kipp, JoAnn Nuccio
- Class of 1988 Theresa Tolle
- Class of 1998 Sean Klinker, Carol Motycka
- Class of 2003 John Gregg, Katherine Vogel Anderson





Friends Remembered

Miriam A. Alvarez ('78)
Robert C. Atkinson ('55)
Richard C. Brockman ('59)
Adieb E. Brown ('53)
Lonnie V. Cathey ('60)
Spurgeon Cheek, Jr. ('52)
Alfred B. Chiles, Jr. ('52)
Edward E. Civil, Sr. ('11)
Dale O. Clancy ('72)
Clay H. Clifton ('97)
Jane R. Daugherty ('63)
Allan L. Deloach ('52)
Janice M. Eaton ('68)
Robert C. Ferguson ('52)
Morrell S. Fox, Jr. ('54)
John P. Francisco ('53)
William W. Galt ('62)
Arthur J. Getzkin ('58)
Wilton F. Glover ('55)
Edward M. Gonzalez ('58)
Raymond A. Hall ('67)
Jay J. Herrmann ('53)

Michael K. Hintz ('96)
Joe B. Hooker ('52)
John R. Hurst ('66)
Carey E. Jones ('51)
William M. Jones ('81)
Harry K. Jowers ('61)
Jack Kichler ('58)
Michael A. Koval ('06)
Stephen G. Letchworth ('74)
George W. Little ('56)
William L. Lynn ('96)
Robert G. Lyon ('61)
Thomas J. Macek ('40)
Richard J. Magee ('60)
Michael W. Maloy ('58)
Charles M. Marshall ('56)
George D. McCallum ('54)
Kathy A. McGovern ('83)
Robert M. McGuire ('64)
James E. McNicholas ('53)
Fred L. Moree ('57)
Jack M. Myer ('74)

Thomas W. Nelson ('96)
Joseph P. Nicoletto ('51)
Noel O. Nuessle ('58)
Daniel B. Page, Sr. ('53)
Earl R. Quisenberry ('84)
Robert J. Reynolds ('59)
David L. Rice ('65)
Robert L. Romero ('62)
Bert Sanders ('65)
Earl H. Schmidt ('49)
James W. Shaw ('48)
William E. P. Shaw ('58)
Walter B. Sheppard ('50)
Brenda H. Simmons ('73)
James L. Spann, Sr. ('68)
Walter W. Spence, Jr. ('66)
James F. Standish, Jr. ('70)
Muni M. Staum ('61)
John W. Van Hoozer ('53)
Lucien W. Watson, Jr. ('49)
Judy K. Wu ('07)

In Memory of Robert A. Levitt, Ph.D.

11.9.38 – 3.22.14

Dr. Levitt, a friend and supporter of the college, was among the friends we sadly said goodbye to this spring. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Phyllis. A UF alumnus with a love of education and research, Bob received a bachelor of science in pharmacy in 1961, a master of science in psychology in 1963, and his doctorate in psychology in 1965.

After a very productive career in clinical psychology in South Florida, Bob and Phyllis moved back to Gainesville to be close to his alma mater. A true lifelong learner, he enjoyed coming to the Health Science Center to attend seminars in clinical psychology and pharmacy.

Avid supporters of the college's graduate programs since 1997, he and his wife established the Robert and Phyllis Levitt Award oral competition in support of the UF College of Pharmacy's annual Research Showcase.

Bob was a great friend of mine and of the college... he will be dearly missed.

— William J. Millard, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Administration & Research Affairs

2014 COLLEGE EVENTS

■ **FPA Annual Meeting – Gator Reception**

July 11 – Ft. Lauderdale

■ **FSHP Annual Meeting – Gator Reception**

August 8 – Orlando

■ **28th Annual Alumni BBQ Reunion**

October 17-18 – Gainesville

■ **Grand Guard 50th Reunion**

November 20-22 – Gainesville

■ **College of Pharmacy Career Days**

Orlando – November 13

St. Petersburg – November 14

Gainesville – November 20

Jacksonville – November 21

■ **ASHP Mid-Year Meeting Gator Reception**

December 7-11 – Anaheim, CA

