

# GATOR<sub>x</sub>



Dean  
**Julie A.  
Johnson**

**A TENURE DEFINED  
BY EXCELLENCE**

## FROM THE DEAN

Dear colleagues, alumni and friends,

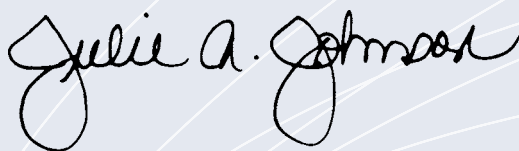
In this, my final GATORx column as dean of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to lead the college for the past nine years. It has been the most rewarding and challenging experience of my career, and I will always cherish the memories and the friendships established during my time as dean. It's a gift to have met so many amazing people who have wide-ranging professional and personal stories, including many loyal and dedicated alumni.

I leave this position in awe of the many ways our alumni support our college. You lift us up with your time, talents and financial support, and you celebrate with us when good things happen. As preceptors, career coaches, mentors and general cheerleaders for our students, you are influencing the next generation of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists in many positive ways. You are leaders in every sense of the word, and I'm grateful to have had your support as dean.

In the same way, I would encourage you to show the same level of support for the next dean. They will inherit a college that has never been stronger. With a top 5 national ranking, a fully accredited Pharm.D. program through 2029, a research program that continues to set new funding records every year and a dedicated team of faculty, staff, students and alumni, there are no limits to what can be achieved.

There are many exciting opportunities on the horizon for the next dean to seize upon and carry the momentum forward. In 2023, the college will celebrate its centennial year and our data science faculty will move into the new state-of-the-art Malachowsky Hall for Data Science & Information Technology. New research, clinical and educational opportunities will arise with UF Health's continued expansion, and the college is in a great position to strategically impact the university's artificial intelligence initiative through the contributions of new and existing faculty. There will also be new opportunities for collaboration and impact in drug discovery with UF Scripps Biomedical Research and others.

The momentum built over the past nine years will continue well into the future, and I'm excited to contribute in new ways when I return to the faculty. Thank you for believing in me and allowing me to serve as dean of the UF College of Pharmacy. It has been an honor of a lifetime.



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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## AN EXPECTATION FOR

# Greatness

JULIE JOHNSON PREPARES TO STEP AWAY  
AFTER NINE YEARS AS DEAN

When Julie Johnson stands before a new class of Gator pharmacists at orientation every fall, she starts her welcome message with a story — how a farm girl from Delaware, Ohio, who had dreams of owning her own pharmacy, followed an unexpected career path to become an accomplished researcher and dean of one of the nation's top-ranked pharmacy colleges. She shares her story, not for personal satisfaction, but to remind the newly minted pharmacy students to keep an open mind and seize every opportunity that comes before them. It's advice that has served Johnson well during her more than 40 years in pharmacy, with the last nine years spent as dean of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. As she prepares to step away from the position on Aug. 1 and start the next chapter of her career, it's important to look back on her tenure as dean and how this visionary leader took the college to new heights.

### THE OPENING CHAPTER

There was no honeymoon phase when Johnson assumed the deanship on Aug 1, 2013, as the college faced several difficult decisions in the opening months of her tenure. A year earlier, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, or ACPE, had raised several concerns during a site visit, including the college's 17-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio that was well outside acceptable standards. The accrediting body gave the college two years to address the issue or risk losing accreditation. There were also external forces weighing on the college, including a declining applicant pool and a tightening job market for pharmacists.

"We had to acknowledge that our student body was too big, and we needed to make some bold moves to get our student-to-faculty ratio in line with our peers, which was around 7-to-1," Johnson said. "If we could grow the faculty and reduce the class size, then we could provide students a better education and a better experience because they would have more faculty to serve them."

With support from new hiring initiatives at UF and new clinical practice models, the college aggressively recruited dozens of new research and clinical faculty. In Johnson's tenure as dean, the full-time faculty grew from 72 to more than 130. Among the hires were 10 preeminence faculty who were at the top of their fields in areas such as drug discovery and development and cancer research. The influx of talent built upon a strong foundation of outstanding work led by faculty who already called the College of Pharmacy home.

In addition, the college created models where faculty who were practicing pharmacists were compensated — either through collaborative practice models with physicians or shared faculty practice models with hospitals. The new practice models allowed clinical faculty to better balance their time between practice, teaching and scholarly activities.

"One of my early goals was to amplify the level to which our clinical faculty were engaging in meaningful clinical practice," Johnson said. "By saying that we're not going to give away clinical practice for free anymore, we really changed the

**“I SET THE BAR REALLY HIGH. IF WE WERE GOING TO BE GREAT, WE HAD TO EXPECT TO BE GREAT. WHAT IS REMARKABLE IS THAT EVERYONE BOUGHT INTO THAT BELIEF AND COLLECTIVELY, WE ACHIEVED SOME AMAZING THINGS.”** — Dean Julie Johnson

momentum of our college. We now have more than 40 clinical faculty engaged in the practice and a high percentage are compensated for their efforts. Our faculty now have more diverse responsibilities, and their clinical experiences are helping inform their teaching.”

Under Johnson’s leadership, the college also made strategic moves to reduce its class size by 20%. In 2013, the college was admitting 300 Pharm.D. students annually at four campuses in Florida. With a curriculum overhaul on the horizon and infrastructure challenges ahead, the college made the difficult decision to close its St. Petersburg campus and refocus its education and training efforts in Gainesville, Jacksonville and Orlando, with a class size of 230 to 240 students.

## **BOLD MOVES, BIG RESULTS**

With the faculty growth, class size reduction and a campus closure came another bold move early in Johnson’s tenure — the adoption of a new Pharm.D. curriculum. In her first month as dean, Johnson appointed a task force to examine the curriculum and recommend any changes. She was concerned that many aspects of the curriculum had been largely unchanged for decades and the second year was too intense for students. After several months, the task force returned with the recommendation to overhaul the entire curriculum and modernize pharmacy education through a team-based learning approach.

“A lot of programs have revamped their curriculum, and they spent 2 to 3 years talking about it and planning it,” Johnson said. “Our faculty did it in nine months — from the formation of the task force to the approved curriculum by the faculty. It was a really extraordinary pace and a testament to our faculty, who were willing to be bold at a time when few colleges of pharmacy were overhauling their curriculum.”

At the same time, the college’s research program was expanding rapidly with the recruitment of many top scientists and new collaborations were developing within the college and UF Health. Johnson drew from her research experience to help

elevate the program, as new centers were developed and staff support teams were established to help faculty be successful. When Johnson started as dean in 2013, the college had 17 grant-funded faculty and generated \$8.5 million in annual research funding. By 2021, the college employed 57 grant-funded faculty and secured more than \$32 million in annual research awards.

“The college’s remarkable research growth is a direct result of Dean Johnson’s leadership style,” said Maureen Keller-Wood, Ph.D., associate dean for research and graduate education and a professor of pharmacodynamics in the UF College of Pharmacy. “She was able to use opportunities at the university level, such as the preeminence initiative, to grow the faculty and hire some amazing scientists. More importantly, she has established a culture where faculty feel appreciated and celebrated for their success.”

The influx of new research funding spread across the college’s five departments and propelled the college up several national research rankings. In 2021, the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research ranked the college No. 3 nationally in National Institutes of Health, or NIH, award funding, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy ranked the college No. 3 in NIH, federal and total research funding among colleges of pharmacy. In addition, UF College of Pharmacy faculty became more engaged in national organizations and assumed leadership roles that brought greater visibility to the college.

Johnson also oversaw efforts within the college to diversify the Pharm.D. student body and open new opportunities for minority and first-generation students to seek a pharmacy degree. By the end of her tenure, the UF College of Pharmacy had the highest percentage (34%) of underrepresented minority Pharm.D. students among the top 40 pharmacy colleges ranked by U.S. News & World Report and was one of three pharmacy colleges nationally to receive a Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine.





Dean Julie Johnson was the first female dean in the 99-year history of the UF College of Pharmacy.

Around the country, other pharmacy colleges took notice. When the U.S. News & World Report rankings of the best pharmacy colleges were released in 2020, the UF College of Pharmacy achieved its highest ranking ever at No. 5. The rankings rely heavily on peer perceptions and reaffirmed that the bold moves made during Johnson's tenure were viewed positively by the pharmacy academy.

### A TENURE OF FIRSTS

In nearly a century of existence, the dean position at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy has been defined by steady and respected leadership. Until 2013, only six deans had held the position — all men. With Johnson's appointment, she became the first female dean and the first dean to hold a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

"I have had a lot of female firsts in my career, and it feels like I'm a little too young to have had so many," Johnson said. "More than 50 percent of our students are female, and I think

it's important for people to see role models in leadership that look like them."

Johnson embraced her trailblazing role. She used her leadership position to talk openly about balancing a highly demanding professional career with being the mother of two girls. No matter the venue, she never shied away from sharing how women can be successful in their careers and share responsibilities at home. At times, she challenged men to talk more openly about how they support their wives in dual-career families.

As a licensed pharmacist, Johnson brought a new perspective to the dean's office, as someone who has practiced and understood the profession. She also maintained an active research program throughout her nine-year tenure, something few pharmacy deans have done nationally. In 2018, she secured the college's first postdoctoral federal training grant, with a focus on training the next generation of scientists in genomic medicine. She also mentored eight graduate students who finished their Ph.D. during her deanship.



Dean Johnson credits the relationships she has built with alumni and friends of the college, such as Bob Crisafi, pictured left, and the DuBow family, pictured right, as one of the most rewarding aspects of the job.

**“I HAVE HAD A LOT OF FEMALE FIRSTS IN MY CAREER, AND IT FEELS LIKE I’M A LITTLE TOO YOUNG TO HAVE HAD SO MANY. MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF OUR STUDENTS ARE FEMALE, AND I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO SEE ROLE MODELS IN LEADERSHIP THAT LOOK LIKE THEM.”**

— Dean Julie Johnson

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

When Johnson began her deanship, she was familiar with many aspects of the college. She was a clinical pharmacist, a federally funded researcher, a classroom teacher, and she trained clinical and research postdocs, but there was one gap in her resume — fundraising and alumni relations. In her 15 years on faculty in the UF College of Pharmacy, she had rarely crossed paths with the college’s top donors.

With the assistance of Elizabeth Zipper, executive director of development and alumni affairs, Johnson set out to meet many alumni and friends at networking events, pharmacy meetings and alumni gatherings. Along the way, she outlined her vision and began building relationships that would become vital to ensuring the college’s success.

“I have so much respect for the vision Dean Johnson outlined for the college and her attention to detail in achieving that vision,” said Ed Hamilton, Pharm.D., FAPhA, ’75 and ’00, former president of the Dean’s Leadership Council and former president of the American Pharmacists Association. “She has made us all proud as alumni and worked every day to make our degrees more valuable.”

UF embarked on an eight-year, \$3 billion fundraising campaign early in Johnson’s tenure. The Go Greater campaign helped position the university and the College of Pharmacy as a guidepost that the state, nation and world looked to for leadership and innovation. The college agreed to a \$25 million goal, which was later increased to \$35 million after an anonymous donor committed to a \$10 million gift — the largest donation ever received by the College of Pharmacy.

In December 2020, the \$35 million fundraising goal was achieved 22 months ahead of schedule and has since surpassed \$40 million. Under her leadership, the college has established innovative student recruitment and diversity scholarships, created new professorships to recruit and retain





Throughout her deanship, Dean Johnson maintained an active research program. She is pictured here with members of the UF Health Precision Medicine program in 2018.

top faculty and secured key leadership gifts to support the construction of Malachowsky Hall for Data Science & Information Technology, which will be the new home for data scientists in the college.

“This part of the job was more incredible than I ever imagined,” Johnson said. “It really provided me an opportunity to meet a number of amazing people who have wide-ranging professional and personal stories. I consider the relationships and friendships established as one of the greatest gifts of being dean.”

#### A LASTING IMPACT

Johnson is a firm believer that leadership has a natural arc. With her departure on Aug. 1 comes the conclusion of her arc as dean. The decision to step away did not come easily, but as she reflects upon her original goals, the college has accomplished all of them and more.

“I set the bar really high,” Johnson said. “If we were going to be great, we had to expect to be great. What is remarkable is that everyone bought into that belief, and collectively, we achieved some amazing things.”

With several major UF and UF Health initiatives in the early stages, Johnson felt the timing was right to step aside now and let a new dean build a legacy. She plans to take a year-long sabbatical and return to the faculty in August 2023.

As this chapter in her career comes to a close, the farm girl turned pharmacist from Delaware, Ohio, reflects on her time leading the college. She appreciates that she was pushed to take on the challenge of being dean and takes satisfaction in never shying away from being bold and seizing the opportunity to leave a long-lasting legacy of leadership with the UF College of Pharmacy.

## MILESTONES

### DURING DEAN JOHNSON'S TENURE

#### AUGUST 2013

Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., begins her tenure as the college's first female dean

#### AUGUST 2015

The college implements a new curriculum for Pharm.D. students

#### MARCH 2016

UF College of Pharmacy climbs from No. 14 to No. 9 in the U.S. News & World Report pharmacy rankings

#### MARCH 2017

The college's APHA-ASP chapter wins National Chapter of the Year

#### MAY 2019

UF College of Pharmacy lands in the top 5 of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy research rankings for total funding, NIH funding and federal funding

#### MARCH 2020

UF College of Pharmacy moves from No. 9 to No. 5 in the U.S. News & World Report pharmacy rankings

#### DECEMBER 2020

UF College of Pharmacy achieves its \$35 million fundraising goal during the Go Greater fundraising campaign (2014-2022)

#### JANUARY 2021

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education awards reaccreditation through 2029 and cites the college as “a model for 21st-century pharmacy education”

#### DECEMBER 2021

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine awards a 2021 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award to the college

#### APRIL 2022

For the sixth time in seven years, the UF College of Pharmacy leads the nation in total number of graduates matching with a pharmacy residency

#### JUNE 2022

UF College of Pharmacy surpasses the \$32 million mark in research funding, a new record for the college

# BUILDING *Trust* THROUGH TELEHEALTH



Anita Battaglia maintains a flower garden at the Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers.

## A NEW COLLABORATION WITH SHELL POINT RETIREMENT COMMUNITY EXPANDS THE UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY'S FOOTPRINT IN FLORIDA

*A*nita Battaglia is maximizing her retirement years. She fills her days at the Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers with exercise and balance classes, volunteer work at the local art library and tending to her outdoor flower garden. Along with her husband, Robert, they moved to Shell Point in 2018 and enjoy the tropical setting and many activities available to this community of 2,600 situated along the Caloosahatchee River in Southwest Florida.

"There is beautiful landscaping, wonderful people, good health care and so much to do, you can't possibly do it all," Battaglia said. "It's everything you can ask for in a retirement community."

The retired 79-year-old schoolteacher from Chicago maintains her good health by regularly exercising, watching her diet and following the advice of her health care team — including pharmacist Brad Phillips, Pharm.D., BCACP, a clinical assistant professor from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

"Brad is so knowledgeable and talking to him makes me so much more aware of my diet and health," Battaglia said. "It's been a wonderful experience working with him because he can answer all my questions."

For more than two decades, Battaglia has been taking the blood-thinning medication warfarin to manage an irregular heart rhythm and prevent blood clots. While warfarin



reduces the risk of these blood clots, it requires constant management, and she regularly undergoes blood tests to make sure the medication is working appropriately to keep her safe. Once a month she meets with Phillips to review lab results, discuss changes in diet and catch up on life.

While the pair have only known each other for seven months, they have formed a unique friendship and will engage in meaningful conversation during each visit — talking about Phillips' infant daughter, Chloe, and Battaglia's flower garden, among other topics.

"As an outpatient pharmacist, it's in our nature to get to know our patients and ask a lot of questions," Phillips said. "Mrs. Battaglia is so engaged in her health, and we have great conversations around ensuring she maintains a happy, healthy and long life. I feel blessed to be a pharmacist and be in a position to have those conversations with her."

## FACE TIME WITH THE PHARMACIST

Phillips has become Battaglia's trusted health advisor, despite never meeting physically face-to-face. Their conversations and consultations take place via telehealth, with Phillips sitting in front of a computer screen in Orlando, and Battaglia doing the same in Fort Myers. A state-of-the-art videoconferencing system helps to overcome the 200 miles of separation.

"It's like he is right there in the room with me," Battaglia said. "Sometimes we get lost in conversation, and I forget he is three hours away."

Phillips is one of four faculty from the UF College of Pharmacy's Orlando campus who are participating in a new telehealth anticoagulation consultation service between the college and Shell Point. Three mornings a week, a UF clinical pharmacist provides medication consultations with Shell Point residents via videoconferencing. The pharmacists have access to a patient's medical records and can record notes in real-time. They also work closely with the four physicians and five nurse practitioners who provide on-site care at the retirement community.

"To have real-time communication with the provider allows us to be an extension of the health care team and helps determine the best therapeutic plan for the patient," Phillips said. "When patients realize what we [pharmacists] can contribute via telehealth, they become receptive to the service and appreciate the individualized care they receive."

Since anticoagulation medications require careful and constant management, Phillips and the team of UF College of Pharmacy pharmacists have immediately demonstrated the value they bring to Shell Point's health care offerings, and in doing so, built a level of trust through telehealth.



At the Orlando campus, Clinical Assistant Professor Brad Phillips, Pharm.D., BCACP, conducts telehealth consultations with Shell Point residents taking anticoagulation medications.

## INNOVATION AND NEW IDEAS

The UF College of Pharmacy began exploring new ways to deliver pharmaceutical services through telehealth after the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in spring 2020. With health care clinics shuttered and many people staying home early in the pandemic, videoconferencing became a lifeline between pharmacists and their patients. College leadership saw an opportunity to test the telehealth pharmacy idea with Shell Point.

"To have a pharmacist embedded with a medical team in a retirement community is an innovative approach to health care," said John Gums, Pharm.D., FCCP, associate dean for clinical and administrative affairs and a professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research in the UF College of Pharmacy. "If the concept proves successful, we can look at providing similar services to other patient populations in the state."

The anticoagulation clinic first launched in September 2021, and the college is adding a polypharmacy service in summer 2022. The polypharmacy service will help patients taking multiple medications to reduce their side effects, costs and likelihood of a drug-induced emergency room or hospital admission.

"Pharmacists look at health care through a different lens than our traditional providers and having this extra layer of service makes our patients healthier and improves clinical outcomes," said Christy Skinner, vice president of health care at the Shell Point Retirement Community."

About 40 Shell Point residents receive pharmacy consultations for their blood-thinning medications, and many more patients will seek care once the polypharmacy service begins. As the clinical services are poised to expand, residents like Anita Battaglia are grateful for the conversations and medical support UF pharmacists are providing from afar.

"Every morning I wake up and say 'thank goodness I'm here,'" Battaglia said. "Shell Point is such a wonderful community, and I'm grateful that Brad is my pharmacist to keep me healthy, so I can enjoy life to the fullest."





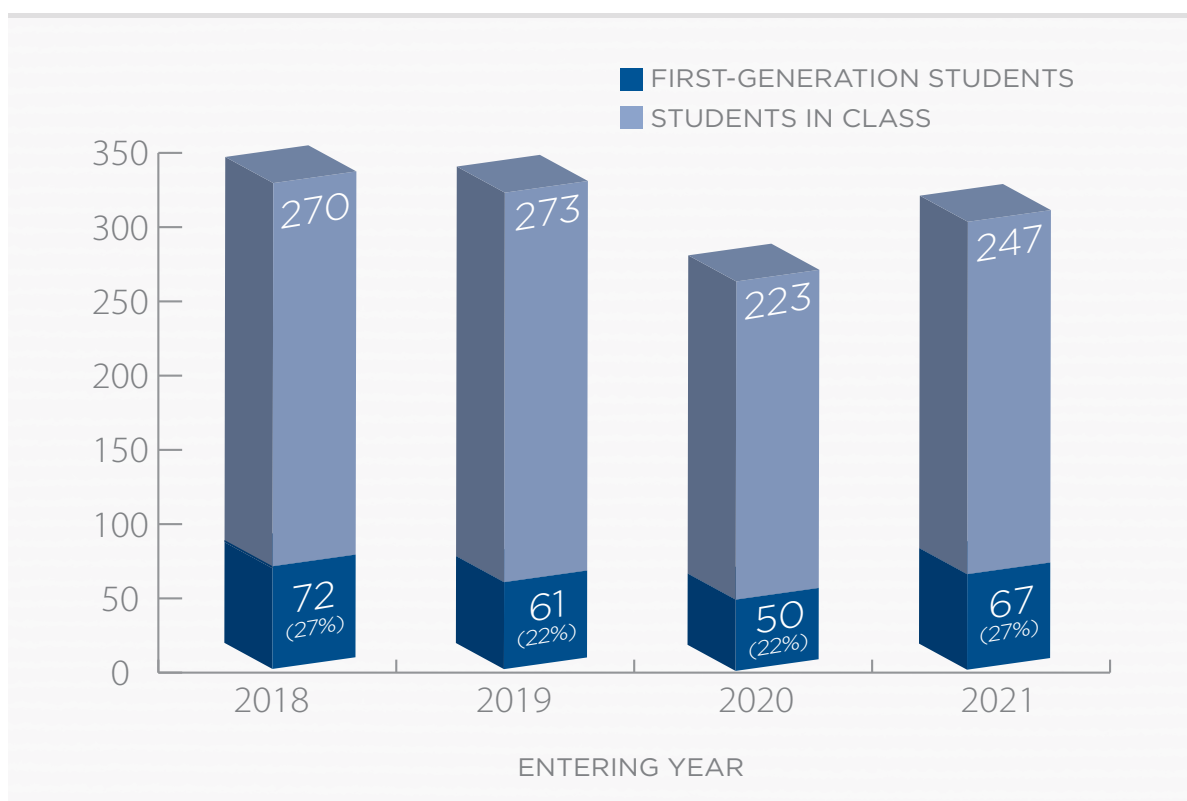
# FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY



**NEARLY 1 IN 4 STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE.**

Full of optimism and resilience, these first-generation college students are chasing their hopes and dreams while serving as role models for family and friends. They are poised to rewrite their family history, but in doing so, they face inherent challenges in cracking the complex codes of college.

These are the stories of first-generation Gator student pharmacists who are uplifting their families and forging a new path forward in pharmacy.



“First-generation students bring unique perspectives and different life experiences to our college. When we think about our student pharmacists going out into the world and interacting with various communities, it’s helpful to have multiple perspectives in order to promote good health and health equity.”

— John Allen, Pharm.D.  
Associate Dean for Diversity,  
Inclusion and Health Equity



# JESSICA AGALLIU

**A**s a first-generation student, Jessica Agalliu has proven to be exceptional in the classroom, and her strong work ethic is contributing to her family's legacy of success.

Agalliu was born in Milwaukee to a family of immigrants. Her father, mother and brother came to the U.S. from Albania before she was born. Her parents grew up under communism in Albania and did not have the option to attend college.

"Seeing my family **turn nothing into everything** they have is very inspiring."

"No one had a say in their future, they just worked at the jobs they were assigned," Agalliu said.

Without higher education, her parents found work in entry-level jobs. Her father started a trucking business, and her mother worked as a cashier.

Agalliu saw her family overcome adversities and create a fruitful life in America. Her parents' strong work ethic made a huge impression and encouraged her to reach higher goals for her own future.

"Seeing my family turn nothing into everything they have is very inspiring," Agalliu said. She saw this as an example of being rewarded for hard work.

Having immigrant parents came with its challenges, yet it helped mold Agalliu into the person she is today. As a young girl in Milwaukee, she remembers translating English for her father to help with his trucking business. These moments were very valuable to Agalliu and pushed her to be independent and step out of her comfort zone. Although her parents never went to college, they always encouraged Agalliu and her brother to do well in school. Agalliu's family remained supportive throughout her education and relocated to Tampa when she began her undergraduate studies at the University of South Florida.



Jessica with her parents and brother at the college's White Coat Ceremony on April 2.

Despite their encouragement, Agalliu's parents did not have the ability to help her navigate the processes of higher education. Agalliu noted this is a common barrier for first-generation students. Her brother, who is seven years older, was a huge help when she started college.

"I leaned on my brother a lot, he's like a third parent to me," Agalliu said.

Agalliu did not always know she wanted to go into pharmacy. She majored in health care administration before switching to a pre-pharmacy track. The health care administration major left her unchallenged, and she sought out real-world experience in health care. When Agalliu began shadowing in a hospital setting, she saw the impact pharmacy had on patient care and she was hooked.

Agalliu will graduate with her Pharm.D. degree in 2023. She aspires to complete her degree not only for herself but to contribute to her family's achievements.



# HEMITA BHAGWANDASS



**A**s a young girl growing up in rural Guyana, Hemita Bhagwandass faced long odds in going to college. Education was difficult to access in the poor South American country and neither of her parents finished high school. Her tiny village was surrounded by rice fields and featured only one road — but it was from that pathway that she started a two-decade journey toward becoming a graduate of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy.

In 2003, Bhagwandass moved with her family to the British Virgin Islands. A few years later, they moved to the United States Virgin Islands, where she landed a technician job working in a local pharmacy. She learned to process medication orders and became a trusted source of information for customers. Multiple pharmacists encouraged her to move to the U.S. for training, but the thought of attending college in a new country seemed overwhelming.

“As a first-generation student living in the Virgin Islands, I had no idea how to apply to college,” Bhagwandass said. “It was scary at times and challenging to understand the admissions and financial aid process without having someone to rely upon for support.”

Bhagwandass spent several years researching college admissions online and saving her money. In 2015, she enrolled in Florida Southwestern State College in Fort Myers to begin her

pre-pharmacy course requisites. She printed off the college requirements to attend the UF College of Pharmacy and would check a course off the list every time she completed a class.

A dean at Florida Southwestern State College eventually referred her to Debbie Robinson, coordinator of admissions, recruitment and diversity at the UF College of Pharmacy. The connection proved beneficial almost immediately, as Bhagwandass now had an ally to help her navigate the admissions process at UF.

“Debbie was instrumental in making sure I was on the right path,” Bhagwandass said. “I may have been a step behind when I enrolled in the UF College of Pharmacy, but I quickly caught up thanks to all the resources the college provides.”

During her four years as a pharmacy student, Bhagwandass immersed herself in the pharmacy college experience. She served as a student ambassador, worked at the UF Center for Quality Medication Management, participated in career fairs and the Student Organization Annual Retreat and volunteered at multiple college events, including white coat ceremonies and commencement. Along every

step of her journey, Bhagwandass demonstrated how a first-generation student from rural Guyana can overcome long odds to become a pharmacy college graduate.

“There were times when I didn’t know if I could fulfill this dream,” Bhagwandass said. “I wanted to come to UF, and I wanted to be a pharmacist more than anything else. Graduating from the UF College of Pharmacy is the highlight of my life.”

“There were times when I didn’t know if I could fulfill this dream ... **Graduating from the UF College of Pharmacy is the highlight of my life.**”



Hemita with her mother, Sheila Baychu



## JUSTIN CRESPO

Justin Crespo grew up in Miami with Cuban-born parents. They never went to college and instead joined the military. He did not come from an affluent family, and he remembers moving around many times during his childhood. Despite growing up less fortunate, he always knew he wanted to go into the medical field and had a dream of becoming a doctor.

"I remember watching the television show ER with my mom as a young kid," Crespo said. "I saw those characters and knew I wanted to become a doctor."

**"Take it upon yourself to navigate higher education — don't let the unknown paralyze you. You may surprise yourself with what you can achieve."**

pharmacy taught him about the profession and encouraged him to study different medications.

"I started reading about all the different medications, and I had a shoebox full of prescription monographs I collected from that job," Crespo said.

He eventually joined the army reserves and worked for five years as a paramedic. Despite having a stable occupation, he could not shake the desire to become a pharmacist, so he went back to school. Crespo excelled in college, getting straight-A grades, and his previous supervisor at the pharmacy wrote him a recommendation letter for pharmacy school 15 years later.

Crespo had big dreams, but he wasn't sure how to get there. He admits he wasn't the best student in high school, and he had little guidance with higher education. In high school, Crespo worked at a local pharmacy, before taking a pharmacy tech job at a hospital. His brief tenure in pharmacy would be a pivotal moment in Crespo's career, though he didn't know it at the time. His supervisor at the local



Justin and his wife, Lauren

"My advice for first-generation students is: Take it upon yourself to navigate higher education — don't let the unknown paralyze you. You may surprise yourself with what you can achieve," Crespo said.

Crespo adopted a growth mindset that has never stopped even into adulthood. Today, at 32, he is poised to become the first college graduate in his family, when he graduates with a Pharm.D. in 2025.

# BENNY ZHANG



**B**enny Zhang, a rising third-year Pharm.D. student at the Orlando campus, shares his family's adversities, so other first-generation students can find motivation for success. Zhang's parents moved from Kai Ping, China, to Miami before he was born. Despite having cultural and language barriers, his parents worked hard to make ends meet and raise their family in South Florida.

"My parents were motivated to have a better life and became very work-driven," Zhang said.

His parents also prioritized education and its importance, but school was not always seamless for Zhang. Because Cantonese is Zhang's first language, he started school later and was enrolled in Florida's English for Speakers of Other Languages program. Zhang didn't let this set him back,



instead, he became motivated to succeed in school. He describes his path to pharmacy as "a calling" because of multiple anecdotes throughout his life.

Zhang first gained a career interest in health care from observing his mother's adversity with her own health. When he was young, a pharmacist treated his mom with extra care while she was in the hospital.

"It was the pharmacist who noticed my mom was having a drug-induced hypersensitivity reaction to phenytoin and that was impactful for me," Zhang said.

Zhang attended the University of Central Florida as an undergraduate and joined the UCF Pre-Pharmacy Society. This experience amplified his interest and involvement in pharmacy. He began working as a pharmacy technician after graduation, and seeing patients on a day-to-day basis and listening to their questions, implored Zhang to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Acquiring a degree as a first-generation student makes Zhang reflect on his parents who immigrated from China.

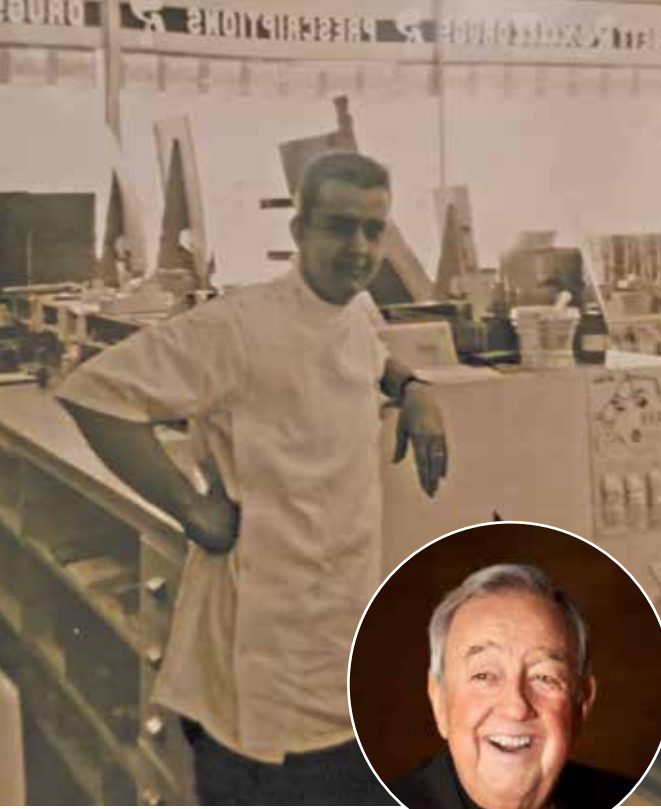
"When I think about being a first-generation student, I think of the opportunities I have that my parents didn't have, and I don't want to waste that opportunity," he said.

After graduation, he wants to pursue a residency to further his skill set and knowledge to provide the best care possible for his future patients.

"My biggest advice for a first-generation student interested in pharmacy is don't let obstacles stand in your way — take the leap of faith when it is presented to you."

**"Don't let obstacles stand in your way — take the leap of faith when it is presented to you."**





# LARRY HAYES

## REMEMBERING DR. BOB'S FIRST RECRUIT IN PHARMACY

Larry Hayes was a lonely teenager in the summer of 1955. The 15-year-old had just moved from Aiken, South Carolina, to Gainesville with his parents — the three of them living in a small apartment on the northeast side of town. Too young to drive, he would take daily walks to the Baird hardware store downtown for exercise and to lose weight. He would also play golf whenever he had the chance. Still, it was a struggle to find friends and activities to fill his days — until he crossed paths with a young graduate student named Bob Crisafi.

Bob, and his new wife, Barbara, lived in the same apartment complex. Bob and Larry became friends and shared an interest in playing chess. Larry was an inquisitive teenager who enjoyed science, while Bob was pursuing his Ph.D. in pharmacy at the University of Florida. They would sit for hours outside their apartments and talk about anything that came to mind, including pharmacy.

“Larry may have been Bob Crisafi’s first recruit in pharmacy,” said Rebecca, Larry’s wife of 61 years. “The things that Bob Crisafi told him did not fall on deaf ears. He listened, took it all in, and set a goal for what he wanted in life.”

With Bob’s encouragement, Larry enrolled in the UF College of Pharmacy. His five years as a pharmacy student were transformative, both personally and professionally. He and Rebecca, his high school sweetheart, married and welcomed their first child, Laura. He thrived in school and worked part-time in the pharmacy at Alachua General Hospital.

Larry’s pharmacy education culminated with a B.S. in Pharmacy degree in 1962. After a brief stint in retail pharmacy, he transitioned to pharmaceutical sales with Eli Lilly and Company, where he worked for 12 years and rose to a government sales position in San Antonio, Texas. In 1977, he fulfilled his dream of becoming an attorney, earning a J.D. from St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio and going to work for a Dallas law firm. Using his background in pharmacy, he specialized in medical malpractice defense and enjoyed arguing his cases before a jury. After a career spanning more than four decades, during which he was named a Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine, he retired in 2005.

Not lost on Larry was the influence Bob Crisafi had on his career. While the two went their separate ways after college and lost touch with each other, Larry often talked fondly of his first friend in Gainesville.

“You don’t always know the impact you might have on someone’s life,” said Larry’s son, Bruce. “You might feel that you are only passing through their life, but Bob Crisafi was someone who had a profound impact on my dad’s life, and he never forgot it.”

In late 2020, Larry passed away at his mountain home in Georgia. As his family looked for ways to celebrate his life, an email nine months later caught Rebecca’s attention.

The email was a fundraising appeal for the Crisafi Challenge — a campaign Bob Crisafi started in 2015 to provide recruitment scholarships to incoming UF College of Pharmacy students. Every October, the college hosts a 10-day challenge where alumni and friends are encouraged to raise \$50,000 for student scholarships. Dr. Bob, as he is affectionally known around the college, matches every donation up to that amount.

“I read the email and immediately thought this was the perfect way to honor Larry,” Rebecca said. “Bob Crisafi was such a part of the narrative of Larry’s life. He credits Bob with putting him on a career trajectory that proved to be very fulfilling for him.”

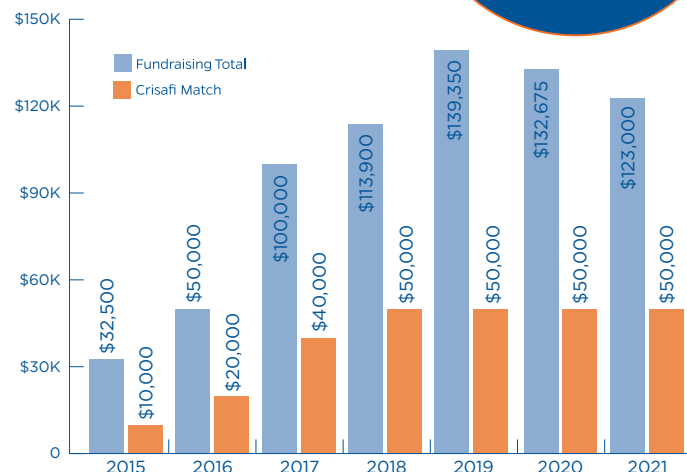
In October, the Hayes family made a gift to the Crisafi Challenge in Larry’s honor. The challenge happened to coincide with Larry’s birthday on Oct. 4. It was a fitting tribute to celebrate two men forever connected by a friendship established in 1955 and their lifelong connection to pharmacy.

# 7TH ANNUAL CRISAFI CHALLENGE RAISES \$123,000 FOR INCOMING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

**2022 CRISAFI CHALLENGE**  
**OCTOBER 6-15**  
**GIVE TO THE CRISAFI CHALLENGE AT:**  
**PHARMACY.UFL.EDU/CRISAFICHALLENGE**

**A**nother successful year of the Crisafi Challenge has yielded \$123,000 in student scholarships for the incoming class in fall 2022. Alumni and friends of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy stepped up during the 10-day challenge in October to raise \$73,000. Bob Crisafi, Ph.D., '56, matched all the gifts up to \$50,000, which helped push the fundraising total over \$100,000 for the fifth year in a row.

Dr. Bob created the challenge in 2015 to help the UF College of Pharmacy recruit the best and brightest students from across the nation. In seven years, the challenge has raised \$688,000 for student scholarships and helped to elevate the college's national profile. Every dollar given during the challenge is provided as scholarships to entering Pharm.D. students.



## 2021 CRISAFI CHALLENGE DONORS (Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021)

Paul & Charity Ackerman  
Iyabode Adewale  
Michael & Colleen Adkins  
Rotimi & Celestina Akhigbe  
Maryam Qazizada Alikhil  
John Allen  
Carl & Joan Allison  
Paula & Carlos Alvarez  
Bryan Amick  
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Kathy Baldwin  
Kimberly & Matthew Balencie  
Connie Barrett  
Donna Barrio  
Kenneth & Judith Bates  
Diane Beck  
Dawn Bell & Riley Vann  
Phyllis Bennett-Mobley  
Todd Bernacil  
Vincent Bilotti  
Kathryn & John Blake  
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Jennifer Burnette  
Roslyn S. Burrtram  
Gary & Anh Cacciatore  
Wendy Carofano  
Emily Carter  
Larisa & Andrew Cavallari  
Teresa Cavanaugh  
Lindsey Childs-Kean & Joseph Kean  
Angela & Michael Chin  
Gregory Clark

Marfreeia Clarke  
Brittany Colbert  
Sabina Conroy  
Emma and Mike Coscia  
Lisa Cox  
David Crane  
Robert & Barbara Crisafi  
Deborah Crumb  
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Jeffrey Delafuente  
Eduardo Diaz  
Judith & Steven DiOrio  
Kevin & Alyssa Duane  
DuBow Family Foundation Inc.  
Youssef Elaffy  
Shaimaa El-Gendy  
Linda Ewing  
Osita Ezenwa  
Linyi Fan  
Randall & Theresa Ferreter  
Debra & Robert Flanagan  
Jenna Foster  
Julie & Sean Foster  
Renee Gadsden  
John & Ann Garcia  
Jean & Joseph Geber  
Gerald & Vicki Geist  
JoAnn George-Swartz  
Marian Georgi  
Francis & Nancy Giglio  
Matthew Goldstein  
Cassandra & Daniel Goodson  
Nicole Gordon  
Valerie Griffith  
John & Ivey Gums  
Ed & Ann Hamilton  
Marta & Phillip Hamilton  
John & Carolyn Harlowe  
Gina Harper

Mina Harrouff  
Gerald Hart  
Dennis Haskell  
Mark, Mary, Ryan & Angel Haumschild  
Thomas Hawthorne  
Larry Hayes Family  
Jacob Henson  
Cecilia & Robert Hines  
Mark & Kim Hobbs  
Thanh & Jonathan Hogan  
Connie & Gary Hogrefe  
Karen Holly  
Danielle Honein  
Max Hurley  
Brynn Huysman  
Caitlin Jackson  
Casey Jackson  
Lisa & Mike Jackson  
Margaret James  
Mark Allan Jaochico  
Frankie & Charlene Jefferson  
Julie Johnson  
Shelia Johnson  
April Johnston  
Sayeedah Juman  
Jayaraj & Shaila Kalmat  
Adonice & Jennifer Khoury  
Beth King  
Matthew Kirchoff  
Sophia Kontraris Azarian & Taj Azarian  
Susan Koontz  
Steven Kress  
Ashlan Kunz Coyne & Jason Coyne  
Luis & Clara Lamela  
Bruce Laughrey  
Michele & Kenneth Lennox  
Gary Levin & Toya Bowles  
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Charleen Lopez  
Patricia Louzon  
Wing & Rosina Lun  
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Albert Marshall  
Roxanne Marshall-Frank  
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Leslie Miller & Tony D'Huyvetter  
Vanessa Miller  
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Laura Perkins

Anuradha Permashwar  
Heather Petrie  
Katherine & Arthur Petsos  
Michelle & Michael Pettit  
Marjorie & William Phillips  
Nicholas Piccicacco  
Garland & Cynthia Pobletts  
Tony Prosser  
Elvie & Oliver Ramoso  
William & Stephanie Ratner  
Andrea Redman & Mark Kiefer  
Carol Reeder  
Robert Renna  
Julia Retureta  
Mary Lou Roberts (In memory of Don Roberts)  
Ronald & Elaine Rohaus  
Linda & Brian Rolston  
Marie & William Rosenthal  
Jared Roth  
Caitrin Rowe  
Rich Royster  
Steven & Dora Rubin  
Ashley Ruffier  
Bethany Sands  
Thomas & Janet Schmittgen  
Michael Schneider  
John Schriner  
David & Karan Schwartz  
Nicole Scovis  
Rich & Rhonda Segal  
Mohamed Shahin  
Kelly Sharp  
Won Ji Shin  
Craig & Donna Shipley  
Allan Silverman  
Jeanna Singleton  
Carol & Frank Smith  
Steven & Caroline Smith  
Kristy Marie Sowerby

Marshall & Lianhui Spearman  
Matt Splett  
Roy & Linda Sturgeon  
Nicholas & Jaime Tambone  
Anthony & Lydia Tamer  
Anne & Stephen Tarallo  
Philip Tarallo  
Robert & Anne Tarallo  
John & Kay Taylor  
Michael & Jill Taylor  
George & Christine Tereniyi  
Anita Thompson  
Lindsey & Peter Tincher  
Norman & Terry Tomaka  
Helen & Andrew Triemer  
Joseph & Catherine Vargas  
Latoy Waite  
Robert Walker  
David Wallace  
Anne Wells  
Deborah & David Wiener  
Kristin Wiisanen  
Karen & John Wilson  
Almut Winterstein  
Benjamin & Nancy Wong  
Zhixing Wu  
Chengguo Xing & Hua Yu  
Alexander Yewtuck & Jan Stenhouse  
Dhoha Zekri  
Guangrong Zheng  
Daohong Zhou  
Elizabeth & Adam Zipper

Thank you also to our Crisafi Challenge donors who chose not to be recognized.

# UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY 2021-22

## NATIONAL RANKINGS

#1

**College of Pharmacy**  
*American Society  
of Health-System  
Pharmacists Residency  
Placements*

#3

**NIH and Total  
Research Funding**  
*As Ranked by the  
American Association of  
Colleges of Pharmacy*

#5

**College of Pharmacy**  
*As Ranked by  
U.S. News &  
World Report*

#5

**Public University (UF)**  
*As Ranked by  
U.S. News &  
World Report*

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

\$1.02M

Awarded in  
2021-22

\$222K

Awarded to newly  
admitted students

199

Total scholarships  
awarded

## ALUMNI & GIVING (JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH MAY 1, 2022)

14,412

Living alumni

479

Living alumni  
donating to the  
College of Pharmacy

3.3%

Alumni  
participation rate

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT (FALL 2021)

987

Pharm.D.

981

Online

136

Residential  
Ph.D. and M.S.

## FY2022 REVENUES (JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022)

Research	38%	\$27M
State funding and tuition	33%	\$23.5M
Online programs	18%	\$12.7M
Foundation	2.5%	\$1.9M
Other	8.5%	\$6.2M
<b>COLLEGE TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$71.3M</b>

\*These are projected revenues as of June 1, 2022.

\$32.3M

Annual Research  
Funding  
Source: AACP

57

Grant-funded  
faculty  
Source: AACP

21

Faculty in  
compensated  
clinical  
practice

92.5%

Tenure-track  
faculty  
with grant  
funding\*

\*includes  
tenured-faculty  
in dean's office

492

Faculty  
publications in  
PubMed\*\*  
(06/21-05/22)

\*\*does not include  
books, chapters or  
other publications



# ANNUAL REPORT & STATISTICS

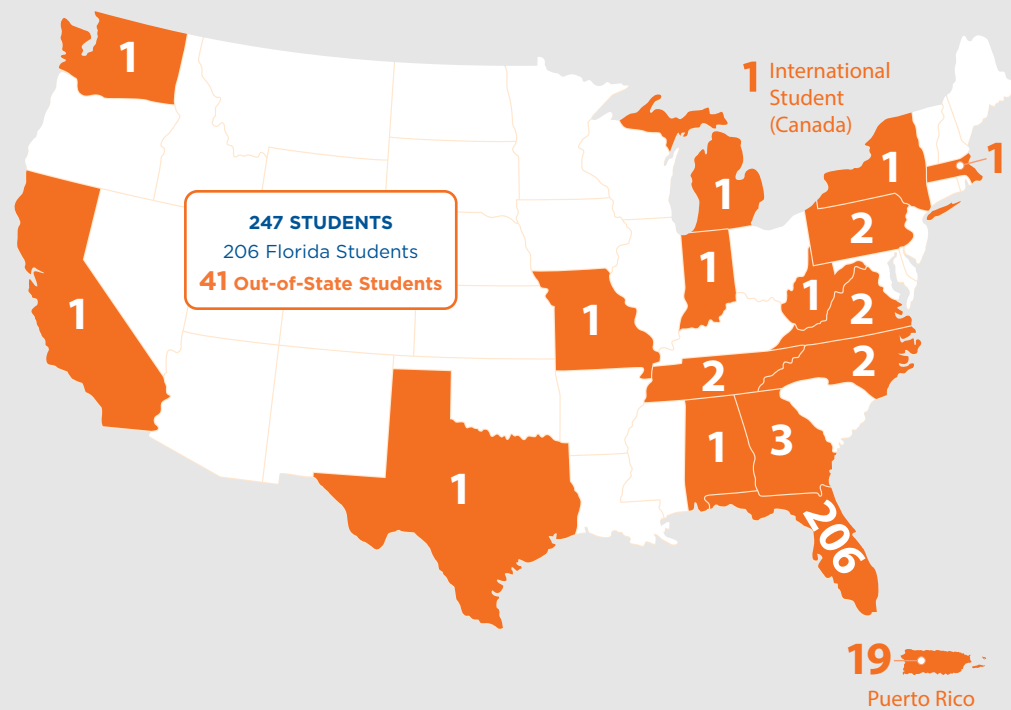
## PHARM.D. CLASS OF 2025 PROFILE

**NEW PH.D. STUDENTS**  
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22)

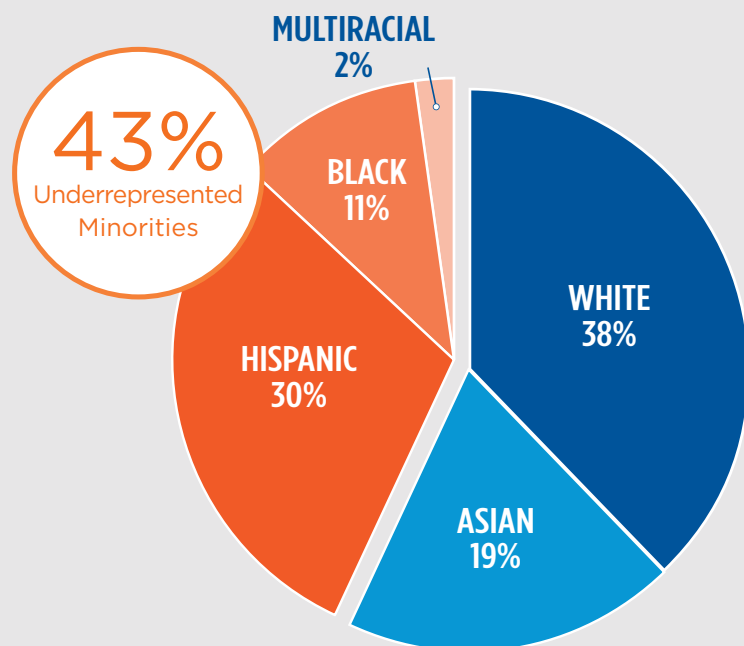
**12**  
U.S. STUDENTS

**22**  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

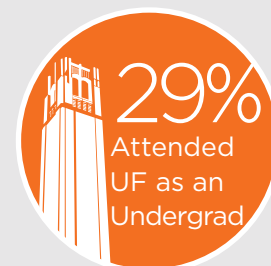
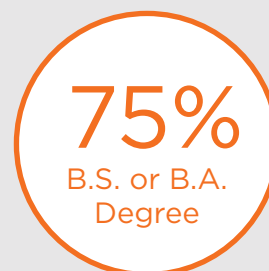
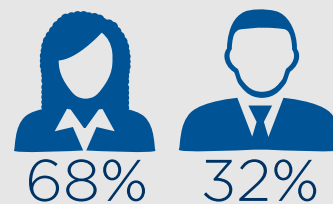
Albania  
Bangladesh  
Brazil  
China (7)  
Egypt  
India (2)  
Iran  
Jordan (2)  
Nigeria  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
South Korea  
Taiwan (2)



## PHARM.D. CLASS OF 2025 RACE/ETHNICITY



## GENDER



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY STUDENTS TAKE HOME MULTIPLE HONORS AT APHA ANNUAL MEETING



UF's APhA-ASP chapter won the National Chapter Achievement Award for Division A.

**T**he American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition was held in person for the first time in three years, and students from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy made their presence known by winning multiple national awards in San Antonio, March 18-21.

- The 2020-21 UF American Pharmacist Association — Academy of Student Pharmacists, or APhA-ASP, chapter won the National Chapter Achievement Award for Division A. The Chapter Achievement Awards Program recognizes outstanding activities of APhA-ASP chapters at colleges of pharmacy in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- **SHIRLY LY**, a fourth-year student pharmacist and president of the UF APhA-ASP chapter, was one of four national recipients of the 2022 APhA-ASP Student Leadership Award.
- **RONALD LEVINSON**, a fourth-year student pharmacist, was elected as the APhA-ASP National Speaker of the House. As speaker, he will guide student

pharmacists through the policy process and work with national, regional and chapter officers to ensure student pharmacists are prepared to write effective resolutions and policies.

- **MEGAN BACKUS**, a fourth-year student pharmacist, finished second runner-up in the APhA-ASP National Patient Counseling Competition, which encourages student pharmacists to become better patient educators.
- **THERESA TOLLE**, a 1988 graduate of the UF College of Pharmacy, was sworn in as president of the APhA. The owner of Bay Street Pharmacy in Sebastian, Florida, will serve a one-year term leading the largest association of pharmacists in the U.S.

## JACKSONVILLE STUDENTS PLACE SECOND NATIONALLY IN NCODA COMPETITION



**CHARLES BURKE** and **LUCY PHIPPS**, fourth-year pharmacy students from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's Jacksonville campus, placed second in the inaugural National Community Oncology Dispensing Association, or NCODA, Professional Student Organization Positive Quality Interventions Competition. Nearly 40 teams from pharmacy schools in the United States and Canada participated in the contest.



The competition was online and had two phases. The first phase required Burke and Phipps to develop a positive quality intervention on the management of hypertension associated with vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitors. The top 5 scoring teams advanced to the final round, where they created a short clinical educational video focused on patient counseling.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ZACHARY GREENBERG WINS AAPS BEST ABSTRACT AND POSTER AWARDS



**ZACHARY GREENBERG**, a rising third-year graduate student in the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's department of pharmaceuticals, earned two national honors at PharmSci 360, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, or AAPS, annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Greenberg won the 2021 AAPS Best Abstract Award by scoring in the top 10% of all submissions. He also received the 2021 AAPS Best Poster Award for his innovative research and contribution to the pharmaceutical sciences.

Greenberg's research used artificial intelligence to identify novel molecules capable of directing exosomal traffic towards any specific cell or tissue in vivo. These AI-deduced molecules were evaluated against other experimentally well-known molecules and determined to be superior in their directing efficacy.



## CHRIS HALL SELECTED AS ONE OF 12 ASHP STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

**CHRIS HALL**, Pharm.D., a 2022 graduate of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, was one of 12 recipients of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacy, or ASHP, Student Leadership Award. The national award recognizes student pharmacists who have demonstrated leadership and represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members.

As a UF student pharmacist, Hall held multiple leadership roles while participating in 10 different student organizations as well as completing internships at UF Health in Gainesville and Jacksonville. After graduation, Hall moved to Kansas City to begin a combined PGY1/PGY2 health-system pharmacy administration and leadership residency with the University of Kansas Health System.





## SEVEN UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY TRAINEES WIN ASCPT PRESIDENTIAL TRAINEE AWARD

Seven trainees from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy were awarded Presidential Trainee Awards from the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, or ASCPT, during the organization's annual meeting in March.

The awards are given annually to the top-scoring abstracts submitted by clinical pharmacologists and translational scientists in training. UF College of Pharmacy trainees won 7 of the 21 awards presented this year, which is the most among any college or university nationally. It is the sixth time in the last seven years that the UF College of Pharmacy led the nation in Presidential Trainee Award winners.

**NAM NGUYEN**, Pharm.D., a graduate student in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational science, won the 2022 David J. Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D., Presidential Trainee Award — which is given annually to the top-scoring abstract. It's the fifth time in the last eight years, that a UF College of Pharmacy trainee has won the Goldstein award.

In addition to Nguyen, the following trainees from the UF College of Pharmacy also won Presidential Trainee Awards:

- **MONICA BENNETT**, Pharm.D., a 2022 graduate and former student at the Jacksonville campus.
- **JOSEPH COLLINS**, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research.
- **NOOR A. NAHID**, M.S., a graduate student in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research.
- **TRANG NGUYEN**, Pharm.D., a graduate student in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research.
- **VIVEK SHASTRI**, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research.
- **CAMERON THOMAS**, Pharm.D., a graduate student in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research.

For Thomas, this is the third time he has won the award, while the other recipients were first-time winners. Since 2016, the UF College of Pharmacy has won 35 ASCPT Presidential Trainee Awards, the most earned by any college or university.

CARY MOBLEY

TEACHER *of the* YEAR

Take a look around Cary Mobley's first-floor office at the UF College of Pharmacy and there are signs of gratitude everywhere. Thank you cards from former students fill his desk — he keeps every one of them. Gifts from Thailand, South Korea and other international destinations hang on his walls and file cabinets — a show of appreciation from former Pharm.D. and graduate students. Party hats are displayed as well — a reminder of when students arrived for an exam wearing the hats in his honor.

In nearly 30 years of teaching, Mobley has accumulated quite a collection of mementos and honors — including recognition as the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's 2021-22 Teacher of the Year. It's the third time he has won the award, a testament to him continuously striving to do his best for the students.

"It's an incredibly rewarding experience made possible by a loving family and years of continuous inspiration and gratitude from so many amazing colleagues and students," said Mobley, Ph.D., a clinical associate professor of pharmaceuticals. "I'm very grateful and honored the hard work put forth in teaching is recognized, valued and appreciated."

Mobley's impact on students can be seen throughout the curriculum. He teaches first-year drug delivery systems, skills lab, Putting Families First and patient care courses; second-year sterile compounding and patient care courses; third-year skills lab and patient care courses as well as an advanced compounding elective. He credits having a pharmacy background and Ph.D. for his ability and strong desire to bridge the gap between the basic and clinical sciences.

Mobley's approach to teaching is centered on the concepts of benevolence, integration and skill cultivation, particularly critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills. He is committed to respecting diverse talents and different learning styles. He regularly reads literature on education, philosophy and cognitive psychology and strives to integrate what he learns from the literature, with feedback from students and colleagues, to optimize the student learning experience.

"Being an educator includes a never-ending quest to improve the learning experiences of students," Mobley said.

He strives to create or contribute to learning experiences that recognize and respect the uniqueness of each student, encourages self-efficacy and teamwork and helps students further develop the knowledge, attitude and skills that can help them achieve their goals.

When Mobley steps into the classroom or lab with students, all other distractions "melt away," and a state of flow emerges, where he becomes immersed in the experience. He is working toward helping students also experience that state. Part of it includes projecting a welcoming aura where students feel uninhibited to express themselves and ask questions, and he tries to interact with them with a respectful and encouraging attitude.

It's an approach to teaching that was inspired decades ago while coaching youth sports.

"In coaching youth sports, you have to find the right words of encouragement and find unique ways for the kids to feel good about themselves," Mobley said. "It's very similar to teaching. You have to try to inspire students to reach their full potential."



*"It's an incredibly rewarding experience made possible by a loving family and years of continuous inspiration and gratitude from so many amazing colleagues and students."*

— CARY MOBLEY

When his family grew older, he found coaching his kids' soccer and basketball teams as a great escape from the rigors of academia and a way to further develop his teaching style.

As the recipient of the Teacher of the Year award, Mobley is bestowed with the Paul Doering Excellence in Teaching Professor award. He will receive discretionary funds from the endowment as well as an honorarium.

# RETIREMENTS



## Margaret James

When Professor Margaret James, Ph.D., looks back on her four decades of service to the UF College of Pharmacy, she can't help but appreciate all the students and trainees she has mentored and the collaborations she has made with colleagues across the college and university. The steady and supportive leader in the department of medicinal chemistry retired in June, following a career full of monumental achievements.

James joined the college in 1980 and was the longest-tenured faculty member at the time of her retirement. She was the college's first female department chair and led the department of medicinal chemistry from 1991 to 2015. More recently, she held the Jack C. Massey Professor of Pharmacy endowed professorship. During her career, she published 175 peer-reviewed publications and secured more than \$20 million in grant funding as a principal investigator. Her proudest achievements are the dozens of students and trainees she has mentored in her lab.

"Many of my students have moved on to successful positions at universities, corporations and governmental roles," James said. "The UF College of Pharmacy has been a great place to teach and do research, and I will miss the interactions with students, faculty and other researchers."

"The UF College of Pharmacy has been a great place to teach and do research, and I will miss the interactions with students, faculty and other researchers."

— Margaret James





# Ian Tebbett

Ian Tebbett, Ph.D., an associate dean for entrepreneurial programs and IT, and the founder of the University of Florida's Forensic Science Program, retired in May after nearly 30 years with the college. During his tenure, he helped build the world's largest forensic science graduate program, which has been ranked as the nation's No. 1 online program by multiple organizations.

The online forensic science program began as two courses in 2000 and quickly expanded into a 15-credit graduate certificate and 32-credit master's degree within a few years. The program attracted crime lab scientists from around the world who were interested in expanding their knowledge and boosting their credibility when testifying in court cases. Tebbett and Donna Wielbo, Ph.D., a clinical associate professor, along with two of the program's first students, Oliver Grundmann, Ph.D., and Nancy Toffolo, M.S., were instrumental in expanding the online offerings into four distinct master's degree programs with multiple graduate certificates.

In his associate dean role, Tebbett helped expand online education in the UF College of Pharmacy. More than 2,000 online graduates have matriculated through the college during his tenure, with many graduates moving on to assume leadership roles in the profession. Tebbett is especially proud that 30% of the students were underrepresented minorities and more than 70% were women, as these groups took advantage of the program's flexibility to enhance their education while still maintaining work and family commitments.

"I'm happy that I have been able to contribute to my discipline of forensic science and make quality education available to thousands of students around the world," Tebbett said. "I am also grateful to the many UF faculty who have supported and mentored me throughout my almost 30 years in Gainesville."

In retirement, Tebbett looks forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren, while splitting time between Minnesota and his native Scotland.



"I'm happy that I have been able to contribute to my discipline of forensic science and make quality education available to thousands of students around the world."

— Ian Tebbett

# FACULTY HONORS



**JULIE JOHNSON,**  
Pharm.D.

Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., dean and distinguished professor, was presented the 2021 Precision Medicine World Conference Luminary Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to accelerate precision medicine within the clinical setting and is regarded as one of the most prestigious in the precision medicine field.



**HENDRIK LUESCH,**  
Ph.D.

Hendrik Luesch, Ph.D., a professor and chair of medicinal chemistry and the Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Chair in Natural Products Drug Discovery and Development, earned a 2021 UF Innovation of the Year award for his discovery and complete chemical and pharmacological characterization of a novel marine natural product that can potentially fight cancer. UF Innovate selected Luesch's discovery from among nearly 300 inventions disclosed in fiscal year 2021.



**HAESUK PARK,**  
Ph.D.

Haesuk Park, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, was selected as the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's Doctoral Dissertation Mentoring Award winner for 2022. The award recognizes excellence, innovation and effectiveness in mentoring doctoral students throughout their dissertation project.



**KATIE VOGEL  
ANDERSON,**  
Pharm.D., BCACP

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy, or ACCP, has elected Katie Vogel Anderson, Pharm.D., BCACP, a clinical associate professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research, as an ACCP Fellow. The distinction is awarded to individuals who have made sustained contributions to ACCP and who have demonstrated exceptional performance in clinical pharmacy practice and/or research.



**SCOTT M. VOURI,**  
Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCGP

The American Geriatrics Society presented Scott M. Vouri, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCGP, an assistant professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, with a 2022 Health in Aging Foundation New Investigator Award. The honor recognizes individuals whose original research reflects new and relevant insights in geriatrics and who are committed to a career in aging research.



Dear alumni and friends,

As we reflect on the last eight years of the Go Greater campaign, there is enormous growth to celebrate. From increased scholarships to faculty endowments to new buildings, our donors have made amazing and generous contributions to the college that will last in perpetuity. And to you specifically, we say thank you.

Created in 2015, the Crisafi Challenge has grown into a hallmark fundraising program over the last seven years. Not only has this challenge transformed how the college views scholarships — creating an additional, annual stream of funding focused on recruitment — but this program will last forever thanks to the incredible \$1.5M legacy gift from Dr. Bob, '56, and Barbara Crisafi. Legacy giving to the college has increased considerably with innovative programs like the 10inTEN. In 2017, the college set a goal to reach 10 new legacy donors in 10 months. Twelve new donors joined the Legacy Society in 2017 with over \$2 million in deferred commitments to increase support for students, programs and research.

We've made exciting strides toward fundraising for Malachowsky Hall for Data Science and Information Technology. This new and innovative space will expand the college's footprint and be home to one of our five

departments, as well as other researchers and students. Thanks to the DuBow Family Foundation's leadership gift of \$500,000 in 2018, the UF College of Pharmacy received the university's first gift to support the new building. In 2021, Carl, '76, and Joan Allison also committed \$500,000 to name substantial space within the building.

Additionally, Debbie DeSantis, alumnae from the class of 1982, most recently committed to a multi-year pledge of \$750,000. Her pledge will transform precision medicine at the college as the first philanthropic gift benefiting this space. Through her gift, the college has established a new faculty endowment honoring a top-tier researcher, as well as a non-endowed fund to annually provide funding for graduate students seeking further training within precision medicine.

We are so grateful for these trailblazers who have consistently and increasingly supported the college through their philanthropy. And we are grateful to all donors of all sized gifts who have supported the college over the last eight years through our many programs and projects. The examples shared above are just a few of the numerous impact stories the college has had through philanthropy. The success of the Go Greater campaign is yours.

Go Gators ... and Go Greater!

Elizabeth Zipper

*Executive Director of Development and Alumni Affairs*  
zipper@cop.ufl.edu | 352-273-6605

## 2022 College Events

### Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists Annual Meeting (FSHP)

Aug. 5-7 — Orlando, FL  
Aug. 5 — Gator Reception

### Crisafi Challenge

Oct. 6-15

### Alumni BBQ

Oct. 15 — Pharmacy Courtyard, Gainesville, FL  
Buy tickets at: [pharmacy.ufl.edu/alumni-bbq](https://pharmacy.ufl.edu/alumni-bbq)

### Grand Guard

Nov. 3-5 — Gainesville, FL

### American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting (ASHP)

Dec. 4-8 — Las Vegas, NV  
TBA — Gator Reception



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[www.pharmacy.ufl.edu](https://www.pharmacy.ufl.edu)





# GO GREATER

Go Greater has been a rallying cry that has united us as Gators for the past eight years. The most ambitious and successful fundraising campaign in the University of Florida's history has made a profound impact on our college and will shape our campus for years to come. As the campaign nears its conclusion in October, we're grateful to all our alumni and friends who have supported us on this journey. **THANK YOU** for your philanthropic support — and for inspiring us to Go Greater and make the world a healthier place.

## CAMPAIGN MILESTONES | UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



**\$10 MILLION GIFT**  
The anonymous donation is the largest gift ever made to the college



**CAMPAIGN GOAL ACHIEVED**  
\$35 million campaign goal is achieved 22 months early

JULY **2014**

DEC. **2018**

OCT. **2022**

DEC. **2015**

DEC. **2020**

**GO GREATER BEGINS**  
\$25 million campaign goal established



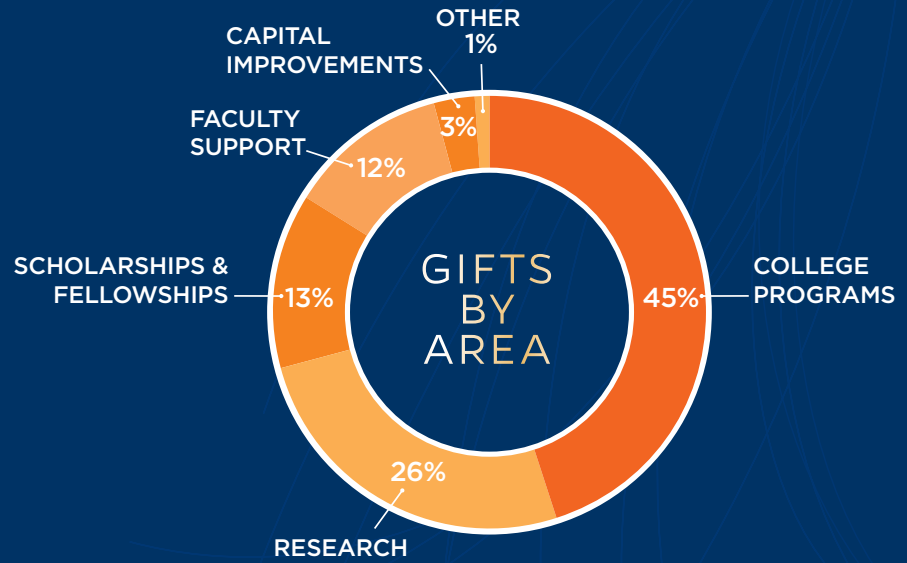
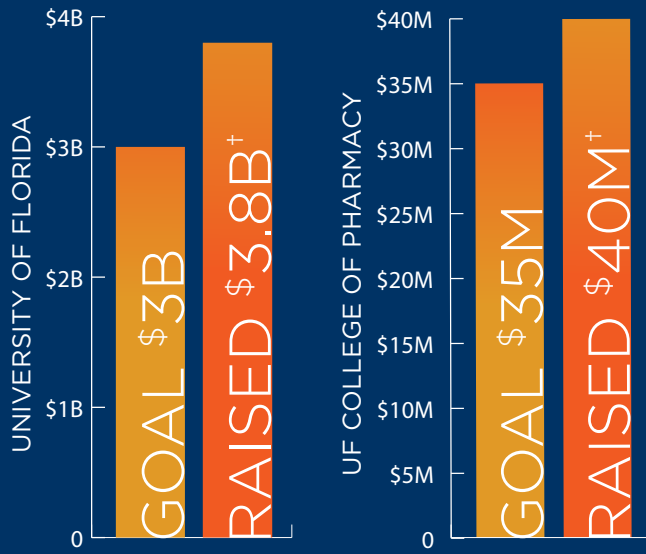
**CAMPAIGN GOAL INCREASED**  
The college's campaign goal increased from \$25 to \$35 million



**GO GREATER ENDS**  
Campaign concludes with more than \$40 million in gifts

## CAMPAIGN GOALS

†as of 6/24/22

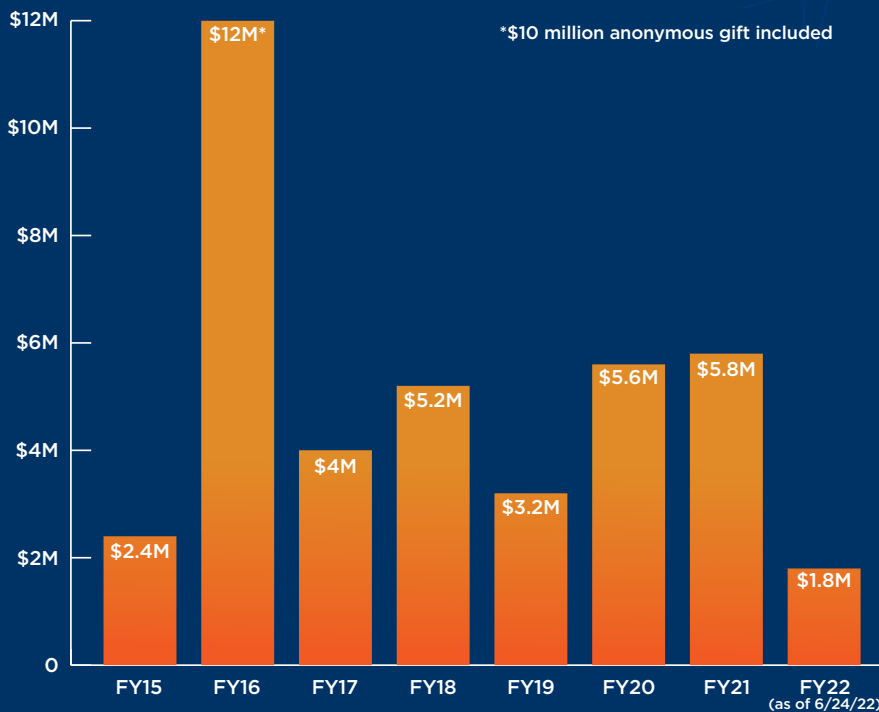


**8,086**  
TOTAL GIFTS

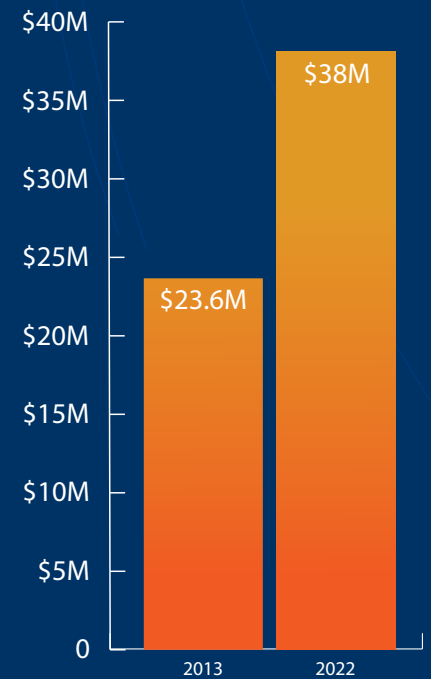
**33**  
PLANNED GIFTS

**18**  
ENDOWED GIFTS

## CAMPAIGN GIFTS BY YEAR (IN MILLIONS)



## ENDOWMENT SIZE





THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ANNUALLY RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI WITH ITS 40 GATORS UNDER 40 AWARDS. IN 2022, THREE UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY GRADUATES WERE HONORED BASED ON THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS PROFESSIONALLY AND TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.



**PATRICIA LOUZON**  
**PHARM.D. '07**

Patricia Louzon, Pharm.D., serves as a clinical manager in the critical care and emergency department at AdventHealth Central Florida in Orlando. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the UF College of Pharmacy in 2007 and completed PGY1 and PGY2 critical care residencies at Orlando Health. She joined AdventHealth in 2009 and has more recently been leading COVID-19 response efforts in the intensive care unit. As a clinical assistant professor in the UF College of Pharmacy, she provides lectures and facilitates an elective course in critical care. She regularly precepts pharmacy students and has been previously named Preceptor of the Year. Louzon serves as a committee chair for the Society of Critical Care Medicine, where she has received Presidential Citations for her contributions in various roles. In 2020, she was awarded Fellowship status in the American College of Critical Care Medicine for demonstrating significant contributions to the critical care profession at regional, state and national levels.



**DONNA RIVERA**  
**PHARM.D. '12, M.SC. '14**

Donna Rivera, Pharm.D., M.Sc., is the associate director for pharmacoepidemiology in the Oncology Center of Excellence at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She leads the Oncology Real World Evidence, or RWE, Program, focused on the use of real-world data and RWE for regulatory purposes, as well as management of the real-world data research portfolio strategy and development of regulatory policy to support the Oncology Center of Excellence mission. As a pharmacist and pharmacoepidemiologist, Rivera's interests include the use of real-world data to advance health equity, observational study designs and methodological approaches, and appropriate uses of real-world data for drug development to increase access to effective therapies for patients. She has published more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and presented at more than 45 scientific conferences. Rivera earned her Doctor of Pharmacy and a Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a concentration in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy from the UF College of Pharmacy.



**MOHAMED SHAHIN**  
**PH.D. '15, M.S. '18**

Mohamed Shahin, Ph.D., M.S., currently works as a clinical pharmacology lead in global product development at Pfizer. He completed a Ph.D. in clinical pharmaceutical sciences from the UF College of Pharmacy in 2015, followed by a three-year fellowship in cardiovascular pharmacogenomics and precision medicine at the UF College of Pharmacy and another fellowship in informatics at the UF Informatics Institute. He also holds a master's degree in Biomedical Informatics from the UF College of Medicine. Over the past 10 years, he led several research projects, both in academia and the pharmaceutical industry, to optimize drug response for patients with complex diseases and support drug development in different therapeutic areas. He has contributed to the field of clinical pharmacology and precision medicine by publishing several research articles in high-impact journals like *The Lancet*, *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, and *Hypertension* as well as chairing several workshops and symposiums in national and international scientific meetings.



# UF'S FIRST BLACK PH.D. GRADUATE

## HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Ira C. Robinson Sr., '66, has had a career nothing short of distinguished. He overcame racial tension and adversity to become the University of Florida's first Black Ph.D. graduate — earning a degree in industrial pharmacy. He was the first Black Ph.D. senior research scientist at Pfizer, and at the age of 28, he became the nation's youngest pharmacy college dean at his undergraduate alma mater Florida A&M University. Later in his career, he served as dean of the Howard University College of Pharmacy.

Robinson recently added to his list of accomplishments, as the recipient of UF's Distinguished Alumnus Award. The honor is the highest bestowed upon a UF graduate and only about 300 individuals have ever received the award. UF recognized Robinson during the university's Doctoral Recognition Ceremony on April 28.

"Throughout his career, Dr. Robinson has demonstrated being a trailblazer and pioneer in the profession of pharmacy,"

said John Allen, Pharm.D., associate dean of diversity, inclusion and health equity in the UF College of Pharmacy. "His exemplary career in the pharmaceutical industry and pharmacy education was grounded in knowledge, skills and attitudes obtained at the University of Florida, and were instrumental in his success. Being UF's first Black Ph.D. graduate took great endurance and courage, and his greatest legacy may be found in the generations of Black students who have followed in his footsteps and sought a more equitable education."

Robinson's time as a UF graduate student was challenging in many respects. He struggled to receive financial awards, was denied an assistantship to teach undergraduate pharmacy students and was not afforded on-campus student housing. Not to be deterred, he used them as motivation to make his mark in pharmacy.

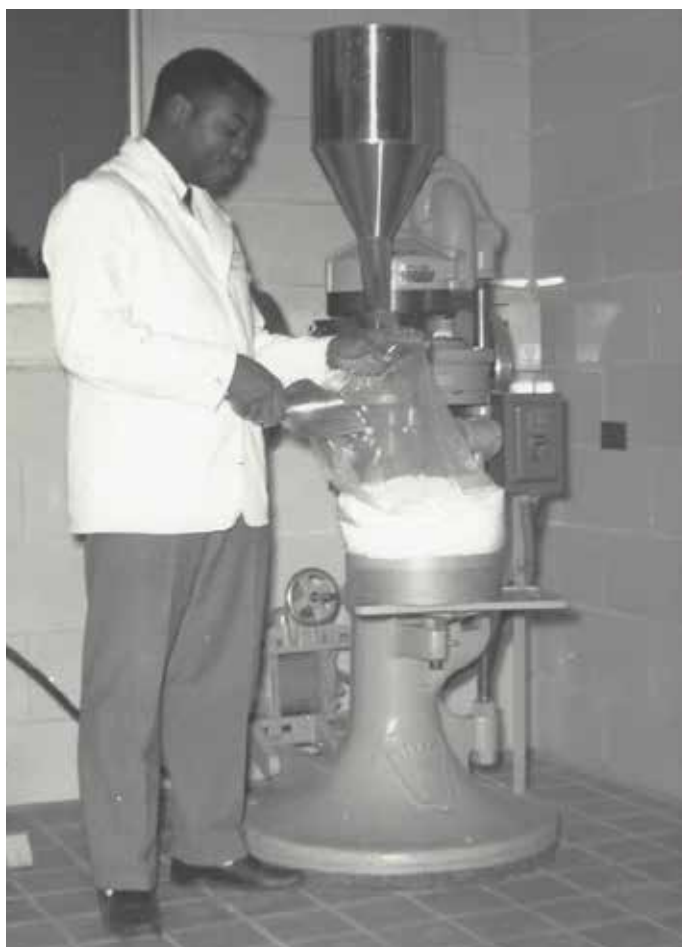
"When all is said and done, the University of Florida empowered me to be an activist pioneer in industrial pharmacy with the world's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer and hold deanship positions at two colleges of pharmacy," Robinson said during a 2021 interview. "UF gave me the tools, confidence and raw courage to venture into that vast technological and education world of the unknown, not just domestically but internationally as well."

Robinson used his industrial pharmacy education to establish his own international pharmaceutical health care consulting business. He would advise the U.S. government and Ministries of Health around the world on drug supply logistics as well as the importation, manufacturing and storage of medications. His devotion to advancing Blacks in pharmacy was evident through his service to the profession. He founded and served as executive director for the National Pharmaceutical Foundation for 17 years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, which is dedicated to the pharmacy profession and serving the underserved.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Robinson passed away on April 28, 2022, after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Robinson family during this difficult time.



Ira C. Robinson Sr., '66



Ira C. Robinson Sr., Ph.D., worked in the industrial and manufacturing lab at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in the 1960s.

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Ahrano Scholarship**  
Samantha DeMaris

**Cardinal Health Community Pharmacy Scholarship**  
Gloria Ugwu

**Cardinal Health Scholarship**  
Bozana Dragoljevic

**Charlotte Liberty Scholarship**  
Corey Aderholt, Annie Alexis, Sara Bell, Joshua Bilbrey, Breanna Brown, Amanda Cuello, John D'Achille, Shelby Figueroa, Lauren Finch, Kennedy Flynn, Caitlyn Frizzell, Valeria Garcia, Jackie Garcia Hernandez, Kimberly Germinal, Gisselle Halabi-Molli, Ulysses Harris III, Thalia Hernandez Gomez, Anthony Hightower, Carina Hornsby, Julia Hunter, Alyssa Jaiman, Alberto Jimenez Ybargollin, Yuliya Joseph, Marsha Keller, Daniel Khaytman, Hyeonjin Kim, Richard Lane, Logan Langley, Erwin Lanzas, Talia LaSpina, Joslyn Lucero, Roslyn Mays, Alexandra Milfort, Pedro Molina, Michael Morillo, Stephanie Mourino, Julia Nguyen, Lien Nguyen, Paras Patel, Patrick Pierre, Tasmiah Rahman, Nicole Rios Serrano, Rovere Sailsman, Sabrina Satchfield, Tanner Smith, Jerald Staret, Makenzie Steidl, Savannah Sweeten, Xiaomy Torres-Avila, Daniela Trejo, Abimael Velez, Ariel Williams, Eugenia Woods

**Community Pharmacy Business and Entrepreneurial Endowment**  
Anna Dostie, James Laurin

**Crisafi Challenge Admission Scholarship**  
Valerie Baez Tjonafoek, Ana Bhatti, Yazimel Chico, Jeffrey Crane, Ayanna Gooden, Regan Keenan, Robby Martinez Vazquez, Hanna Moser, Aicha Ndiaye, Nghi Nguyen, Marta Pigura, Emidelys Quintana Valentin, Makenzee Smith, Adriana Vilanova, Shunwen Wu

**CVS Health Foundation Scholarship (Spanish Speaking)**  
Giselle Amago, Elaine Altamura, Samantha Perez, Nayvel Cairo Pujadas, Dalyn Valentin

**CVS Health Foundation Standard Scholarship**  
William Chmely, Amanda DeLuca, Lauren Hoggarth

**Debbie DeSantis Endowment**  
Megan Backus, Austin Burnette, Eda Eken, Sophia Galvez

**Debbie Klapp Memorial Scholarship**  
Emily Perez

**Eckerd Pharmacy Scholarship**  
Grant Allen, Leila Becirevic, Bernadine Cabansay, Alexandra Chizmar, Darci Conklin, Kelli Corona, Aliese Dashiell, Zalina Delisi, Alyssa Dempsey, Lauren Dickson, James Eggleston, Kevin Fenter, Ashley Galbreath, Jade Gallahair, Julianna Harding, Ashley Harriott, Grace Hogan, Mahnoor Izhar, Dean Jacobs, Eli Jorgensen, Darla Khouri, Moo Kwon, Joshua Levine, Thomas Liu, Molly Lofy, Gerald Aldwin Loyola, Alexa Luboff, Evangelia Manias, Matthew Molk, Elizabeth Morgan, Nghi Nguyen, Jessica Ni, Jonathan Nocenti, Razanne Oueini, Marcellus Palacio, Anjali Patel, Maya Patel, Minh Phan, Peter Ramdhan, Sean Ramoso, Marilyn Rish, Ashley Sambenedetto, Christina Stacy, Rachael Weingarten, Benny Zhang, Andre Zibner

**Francene Trainor Memorial Scholarship**  
Nicole Donato

**Frank A. and Mary S. Dodge Endowed Scholarship**  
Joseph Washington

**Jack and Betty Jones Scholarship**  
Cheryl Wood

**Jared C. Allison Memorial Scholarship**  
Briana Williams

**Jeanne Scheibler Scholarship**  
Angela Bundy, Danna Djerma, Lucas Fisher, Monique Hook, Alexander Litvintchouk, Nikita Shahidapur

**John and Debbie Murphy Scholarship**  
Olga Ivanova

**Johnston Scholastic Achievement Scholarship**  
Savannah Nelson

**Joseph Lawrence and Amy Lugo Lawrence Scholarship**  
Kathryn Hauser

**Kazarian Family Scholarship**  
Thy Tran

**Lamar and Hilda Massey Scholarship**  
Shefa Ali

**Laura and Philip Dean Scholarship**  
India Auchey

**Maria and Maximino Moreno Pharmacy Scholarship**  
Joshua Godefoy

**McKesson Ownership and Management Endowment Scholarship**  
Sarah West

**Michael & Martha Stamitoles Endowment Scholarship**  
Ryan Thornton

**Morris and William Skor Family Scholarship**  
Paige Dorve-Lewis, Mikyle Kanarev, Stephanie Scuotto, Ivelisse Valdes

**Neal Family Scholarship**  
Hannah Davis

**Oscar Araujo Alumni Scholarship**  
Christine Budd, Luke Manda, Savannah Nelson, Sierra Walton, Danielle Wilson

**Oscar Marina Family Scholarship**  
Celine Wong

**Peter Field Memorial**  
Joshua Dadural

**Publix Charities Scholarship**  
Macy Boren, Joseph Brotherton, Steven D'Agostino, Danielle D'Silva, Haylee Hammond, Richard Hanak, Joan Hong, Jade Nanan

**Randolph Andrew Cone Memorial Scholarship**  
Ammar Bairagdar

**Robert Littler Scholarship**  
Dionna Shine

**Russ and Carol Blaser Memorial Scholarship**  
Hedieh Kouchak, Christopher Lorich, Blanca Luna, Dustin Maupin

**St. Petersburg Campus Legacy Scholarship**  
Zachary Gross

**Steve Reeder Legacy Scholarship**  
Morgan LaMarc

**Valerie Calkin Griffith Scholarship**  
Jonathan Castro

**Victor Micolucci Scholarship**  
Reginald Leandre

**Vogel Anderson Exceptional Leader Scholarship**  
Abigail Lipe

**Walgreens Multilingual Scholarship**  
Julie Al-Bahou

**Walter Van Munster Scholarship**  
Cristina Alberti

**William T. and Jackie C. Reid Scholarship**  
Maria Tsikerdanos

**Yachbes Family Scholarship**  
Alexander Rautio

## AWARDS

**Ambassador of the Year**  
Hannah Davis

**Clay Fischer Award**  
Samuel Marcollon

**Dean's Excellence Award**  
Hannah Davis, Victoria Grusauskas, Christopher Hall, Cameron Lee Leandre, Aubrey Murphy

**D.W. Ramsaur Distinguished Scholar Award**  
Garret Clayton, Haylee Hammond, Richard Hanak, Mikyle Kanarev

**Elizabeth Eaton Scholarship Award**  
Savannah Nelson

**Lilly Medal for Scholastic and Professional Achievement, Leadership and Ethical Conduct**  
Paige Dorve-Lewis

**Lydia Foote Service Award**  
Briana Williams

**Merck Award for Outstanding Research**  
Monica Bennett, Richard Lane, Julia Lessing, Razanne Oueini, Ivelisse Valdes

**Monteen Johnson Gold Merit Award**  
Emily Bennett

**Outstanding Ambassador Recognition Award**  
Hemita Bhagwandass, Hannah Davis, Maithi Tran

**Perry A. Foote Award**  
Austin Burnette

**Townes R. Leigh Award**  
Joseph Washington

**United States Publix Health Service Award**  
Hemita Bhagwandass

**Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award**  
Tychell Branchcomb

## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

**DuBow Family Graduate Student Education Fellowship**  
Shailina Keshwani

**Robert and Stephany Ruffolo Graduate Education & Research Fellowship**  
Brian Cicali

**Ronald J. and Sally G. Brenner Fellowship**  
Amir Sarayani

**Bonnie Avery Advancing Women in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Award**  
Brianna Costales

**Dr. Allen Spiegel Graduate Endowment in Pharmaceutical Research**  
Brian Cicali & Yesenia Franco





## AT 95, EDITH WARE PURSER REMAINS A ROLE MODEL FOR WOMEN IN PHARMACY

A pioneer of the pharmacy profession, Edith Ware Purser comes from a long line of pharmacists in her family and is one of the first female graduates of the UF College of Pharmacy. She, and her twin sister, Mary Catherine Vidal, were two of only five women to graduate in the class of 1948, and they are among the college's oldest living graduates today. Ware Purser owned multiple pharmacies throughout her career and has been a role model for generations of women who have followed in her footsteps.

"In striving to be a role model, I wanted to prove that a woman could be a businessperson, a professional woman and also a mother," said Ware Purser.

In November, the UF College of Pharmacy hosted a 95th birthday party in her honor. Dean Johnson surprised Ware Purser by presenting her with an official College of Pharmacy white coat.



Dean Julie Johnson and Carl Allison, '76, presented Ware with a white coat at her 95th birthday celebration.



## THERESA TOLLE INSTALLED AS APHA PRESIDENT

On March 21, the American Pharmacists Association, or APhA, installed Theresa Tolle as the organization's president. The 1988 graduate of the UF College of Pharmacy becomes only the third pharmacist from Florida to lead the nation's largest association of pharmacists in its 170-year history. Another proud Gator, Ed Hamilton, Pharm.D., '75 and '00, served as APhA president from 2009-10.



## GATOR NATION GIVING DAY RAISES

# \$55,000

## FOR THE UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Thank you to everyone who stood up and hollered for the University of Florida College of Pharmacy during Gator Nation Giving Day on Feb. 17. More than 175 donors contributed over \$55,000 to the college during the 24-hour campaign. Included in the total was a \$15,000 match gift from Carl, '76, and Joan Allison, who contributed to a new diversity excellence scholarship in the college, and a \$10,000 gift from Terry, '66, and Jackie Reid to their scholarship fund.

At the university level, more than 26,000 gifts were received from alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends and families. Every gift will add up to make an incredible impact across the university and help ensure UF remains a top 5 institution.





## DEAN'S CIRCLE

**This report reflects gifts and pledges  
April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022**

The Dean's Circle recognizes our alumni and friends who support the college with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more. Private donations provide the college with the flexibility to offer leadership opportunities for our students and educational initiatives for our faculty. Generous support also helps to ensure the college's ceremonial traditions continue despite the economy or state allocations.

Your gift fuels 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:**  
[pharmacy.ufl.edu/alumni-friends/giving](https://pharmacy.ufl.edu/alumni-friends/giving) or  
contact Elizabeth Zipper at 352-273-6605 or  
[zipper@cop.ufl.edu](mailto:zipper@cop.ufl.edu).

**\$250,000+**

V. Ravi Chandran

**\$100,000+**

Carl & Joan Allison  
American Cancer Society  
Debbie DeSantis  
DuBow Family Foundation Inc.  
GlaxoSmithKline  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Inc.  
UF Health Shands Hospital

## LEGACY LEADERS

Thank you to these generous donors  
who have recently included  
the college in their estate plans.

Ronald Dominguez  
Anita Pagnini Thompson

*Thank you also to the college's anonymous  
donors who choose not to be publicly recognized.*

## **\$50,000+**

Robert Attack — Novium LLC  
Robert & Barbara Crisafi  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Della Terra  
Frank & Mary Dodge  
Kelly Dunn — Leaf of Faith  
Pharvaris  
Jeremy & Tiffini Steding

## **\$20,000+**

Jane Aldrich  
Brain & Behavior Research Foundation  
George & Jeannine (d) Browning  
Kelly Dunn — Urban Ice Organics  
Natural Products Partners

## **\$10,000+**

Christopher Deaney  
Julie Johnson  
PhRMA  
Publix Super Markets Charities Inc.  
Terry & Jackie Reid  
Mary Roberts  
Alan Robins

## **\$5,000+**

CVS Health Foundation  
The Duckworth Charitable Foundation  
Duke University  
Cecil & Frankie Harrell  
John & Carolyn Harlowe  
Mark & Kim Hobbs  
Neil & Leanne MacKinnon  
Folakemi & Adebawale Odedina  
Karene Richards  
Dora & Steven Rubin  
Susan Sorrells  
Roy & Linda Sturgeon  
Anita Pagnini Thompson  
Walgreens Family of Companies  
Michele Weizer  
Albert & Joy Wright

## **\$1,000+**

Paul & Charity Ackerman  
John Allen  
Paula & Carlos Alvarez  
Oscar & Lillian Marina  
Dawn Bell & Riley Vann  
Kathryn Blake & John Oliver  
Carolyn & John Boyle  
Shauna Buring  
Gary & Anh Cacciatore  
John “Dolph” Cone III  
Logan Crews

Mark & Janice Crosby  
Stacey & Ryan Curtis  
Kevin & Alyssa Duane  
Jonathan & Jennifer Egger  
Carinda Feild & Jeffery Johnson  
Steven & Judith DiOrio  
JoAnn George-Swartz  
Francis & Nancy Giglio  
Navin Goyal  
John & Ivey Gums  
Ed & Ann Hamilton  
Connie & Gary Hogrefe  
Timothy & Courtney Ives  
Frankie & Charlene Jefferson  
April Johnston  
Raymond Jurgens Jr.  
Jack & Olivia Kalin  
David Kelemen  
Maureen Keller-Wood & Charles Wood  
Beth King  
Scott & Carrie Lagasse  
Luis & Clara Lamela  
Joseph Lawrence & Amy Lugo  
Yan Li  
Xinyue Liu  
Michael & Robin MacLeay  
John Markowitz  
Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville  
Christopher & Dana McCurdy  
Merck  
Ronald Morton  
Carol & Brent Motycka  
MUV  
Richard & Holly Neal  
David & Marian Newton  
Robert & Donna Pelot  
Katherine & Arthur Petsos  
Marjorie & William Phillips  
Philip & Melanie Powell  
Robert Renna  
Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative  
Janet & Thomas Schmittgen  
Michael & Karan Schwartz  
Danielle & Brian Sevier  
Donna & Craig Shipley  
Craig & Bessie Smith  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists  
Erin St. Onge  
Michael & Martha Stamitoles  
Xun Tao  
John & Kay Taylor  
Michael & Jill Taylor  
Norman & Terry Tomaka  
Benjamin & Nora Weber  
Robert & Carol Wilson  
Almut Winterstein  
Gerald & Una Yakatan  
Elizabeth & Adam Zipper

## **ALUMNI & FRIENDS REMEMBERED**

JAN. 1, 2021 – APRIL 15, 2022

Maynard Berggren '56  
Barbara “Bunny” Blood '58  
Jeannine Browning  
Joseph Cain '62  
Donald Carlton '63  
Katherine Castle '93  
Cynthia Cimino '88  
George Corripio '81  
Walter Donahue '62  
Donald Evans '58  
Joyce Glicksberg  
Roy Golden '52  
William Gray '77  
David Guritz '54  
Myrle Henry '61  
Robert Jones '52  
Edward Kerns '00 & '06  
Ginger Lanier '78  
John McDonald  
Barney McRae '51  
Vince Morisset '67  
John Myers '57  
Larry Pahigian  
Wilburn Peacock '65  
Donald Pearson '61  
Kelly Pendergraft '02  
Y. Raghunathan '68  
David Renaud '62  
George Ricketson  
Michael Roberts '03  
Bobbielee Rodgers '89  
Norma Sanchez '55  
Susan Sitko '74  
Jean Smith  
Robert Story '70  
Charles Syfrett '69  
Robert Taylor '60  
Roland Townsend '53  
Timothy Tucker '73  
Therese Tulley '05  
Alfred Ventrella '56  
Adelbert Wade '56 & '59  
Michael Wahl  
Paul Williams '69  
Terrell Yon '68  
Vam York

Names are listed as they appear on checks or correspondence. We have made every effort to acknowledge each donor giving \$1,000 or more. If your name is missing, please notify us so we may correct our records. We do apologize for any oversight and want to assure you it was unintentional.



## UF College of Pharmacy Receives INSIGHT Into Diversity 2021 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy received the 2021 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity, or HEED, Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. It marks the first time the college has received the award, which is presented annually by the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

As a recipient of the Health Professions HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. health colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — the UF College of Pharmacy was featured, along with 50 other recipients, in the December 2021 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine. The UF College of Pharmacy is one of only three pharmacy colleges nationally to receive the honor and joins the UF College of Dentistry as a recipient of this year's award.



## DIVERSITY WEEK CELEBRATIONS HIGHLIGHT EFFORTS TO “STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY”



Students at the Orlando campus decorated the building with flags representing their home countries.

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy celebrated the people, cultures and experiences that make the college unique during the second annual Diversity Week celebration, April 4-8. The theme of this year's event was “Strengthening Community Through Diversity,” and multiple events were held throughout the week with this theme in mind.

The festivities began on April 4, with a trivia contest and game night. Participants put their knowledge of diversity and health equity to the test, while they competed for prizes. In addition, several students brought games representing their cultural heritage to play. Other activities during the week included a Diversity Jam event, a presentation by Selena Webster Bass, M.P.H., about mental health in the BIPOC community and a documentary screening and discussion related to “The Healthcare Divide,” which was produced by PBS and NPR.



# PHARMACY-BASED TEST-AND-TREAT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



## UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY & APhA OFFERING TEST-AND-TREAT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy and the American Pharmacists Association, or APhA, announced a new partnership in April that will allow pharmacists to test patients for several non-emergency health issues.

The two organizations will leverage their expertise to offer one of the first national pharmacy-based test-and-treat certificate programs. APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States, while the UF College of Pharmacy ranks among the nation's top 5 pharmacy colleges, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The training will expand a pharmacist's ability to provide on-the-spot testing services at their local pharmacy.

Pharmacists will be able to test and initiate therapy for influenza, strep throat, urinary tract infections and other minor, noncomplicated health conditions in accordance with their state practice. This expansion of pharmacy-led services will significantly improve a patient's access to care.

Pharmacists seeking to enroll in the test-and-treat certificate training program will complete 20 hours of self-study and live training. The comprehensive curriculum was designed to meet the credentialing requirements in every state — allowing pharmacists from coast to coast an opportunity to earn the certificate.

**REGISTER AT:**  
[pharmacy.ufl.edu/test-and-treat](https://pharmacy.ufl.edu/test-and-treat)



First-year student Kevin Lewin celebrates after walking across the stage.

# WHITE COAT MOMENT FINALLY ARRIVES

On April 2, second- and third-year pharmacy students joined their peers from the first-year class in walking across the stage to ceremoniously receive their white coats. The coating ceremonies were the first hosted by the UF College of Pharmacy since April 2019, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced the postponement of the 2020 and 2021 events.

More than 600 students participated across the three classes, with the first-year students being coated in the morning, followed by afternoon ceremonies for the second- and third-year students at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center in Gainesville.

In acknowledging the unusual circumstances surrounding the delayed white coat ceremonies, Dean Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., applauded all the students who persisted through difficult times to finally enjoy their moment on the stage.

"Making the transition into pharmacy school and navigating through the curriculum is challenging under the best of circumstances, but these students have worked incredibly hard and persevered through exceptionally challenging times," Johnson said. "The white coat is symbolic of the highest ideals of the practice of pharmacy, and it was especially meaningful to finally present white coats to our students."

Each ceremony featured a keynote speaker and remarks from a senior UF College of Pharmacy student. Michael Jackson, B.Pharm., executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Florida Pharmacy Association, spoke to the first- and second-year cohorts, while Theresa Tolle, B.Pharm., FAPhA, a 1988 graduate of the UF College of Pharmacy and president of the American Pharmacists Association, delivered the keynote remarks to the third-year students.



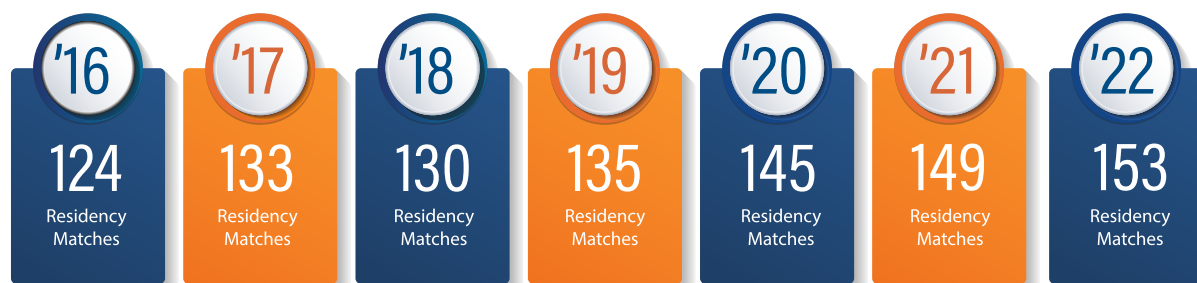
[Top] Members of the class of 2024 recite their class creed.

[Bottom] Third-year student Nefertari Charles is coated by Drs. Stacey Curtis, left, and Karen Whalen.



Drs. Stacey Curtis, Joshua Pullo and Teresa Cavanaugh join the class of 2025 in a selfie photo.

# UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY **NO. 1** IN THE NATION AGAIN FOR PHARMACY RESIDENCY PLACEMENTS



The University of Florida College of Pharmacy finds itself in a familiar position atop the national pharmacy match rankings after a record 153 fourth-year students and graduates secured residency positions in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, or ASHP, match in 2022.

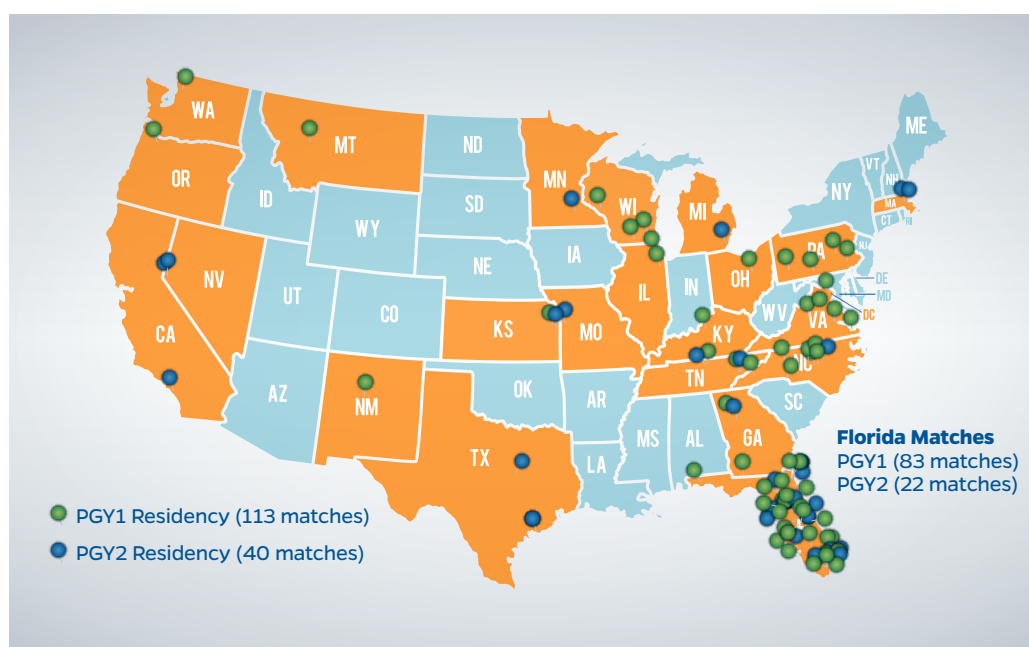
It's the sixth time in seven years that the UF College of Pharmacy led the nation in total residency placements.

ASHP's match program pairs thousands of student pharmacists across the country with a variety of pharmacy practice settings, including hospitals and community pharmacies. Nearly 5,800 postgraduate year one, or PGY1, and postgraduate year two, or PGY2, residency positions were available this year.

UF's 153 residency matches included 113 PGY1 and 40 PGY2 placements.

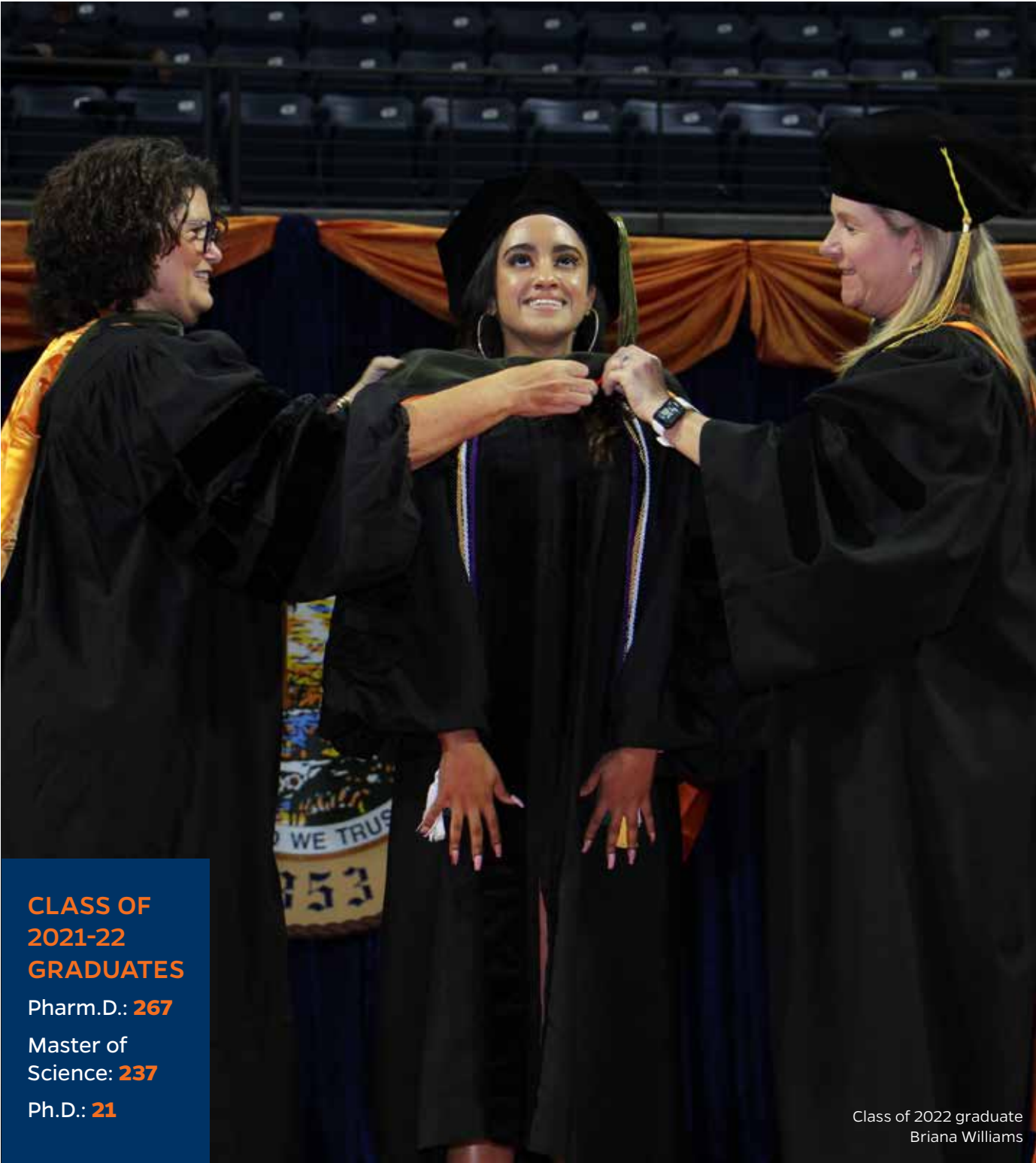
"To consistently lead the nation in residency matches year after year reflects upon the outstanding pharmacy education that our students receive in the UF College of Pharmacy, and more importantly is an indicator of our outstanding students," said Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., dean and distinguished professor in the UF College of Pharmacy. "We congratulate all those Gator pharmacy students and graduates who matched this year, and we can't wait to see the impact they will have on patient care in their residency positions and in the years to come."

Residency programs from coast to coast will welcome Gator pharmacy students and graduates this summer. UF's matches featured programs in 22 states and Washington, D.C. Most pharmacy students and graduates will continue their training in Florida, with 105 matching in the Sunshine State.





# BRIGHT FUTURE AWAITS CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES



CLASS OF  
2021-22  
GRADUATES

Pharm.D.: 267  
Master of  
Science: 237  
Ph.D.: 21

Class of 2022 graduate  
Briana Williams

Under the bright lights of the Stephen C. O'Connell Center, nearly 270 Doctor of Pharmacy students donning caps and gowns walked across the stage and boldly entered the pharmacy profession as graduates of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy on May 14.

The college's annual commencement ceremony marked the completion of a rigorous four years of training in the Pharm.D. program. During the two-hour ceremony, several commencement speakers offered their words of wisdom to the class of 2022, while each graduate was individually hooded and recognized on the stage.

As names were called, cheers would erupt from family and friends who filled the lower section of the arena. The celebratory ending offered a fitting tribute to the class of 2022, who endured more than two years of a global pandemic during their pharmacy school training.

"There were times when it seemed like there was no light at the end of the tunnel, but from where I'm standing now, that light is pretty bright," said Paige Dorvé-Lewis, Pharm.D., the senior class representative chosen to speak at the



Dawn Bell, Pharm.D., '92, was presented the college's Outstanding Alumnus Award by Dean Julie Johnson.

ceremony. "No matter where you end up, we are tied together by the common thread that is the University of Florida, and there is no better way to be tied together."

During the ceremony, Dawn Bell, Pharm.D., '92, was presented the college's Outstanding Alumnus Award. As the vice president and global development head of strategic partnerships at Novartis, she leads business development and portfolio strategy for white space opportunities and has enjoyed a

highly successful career in the pharmaceutical industry. Bell has served as a biopharmaceutical executive, a board director, a general manager and a start-up CEO at some of the world's top pharmaceutical companies. In addition, she is a drug development and commercialization expert, having developed and launched more than 12 innovative medicines across eight therapeutic areas.

In her commencement address, Bell told the class of 2022 that joy, courage and faith are the compasses that direct her journey every day. She encouraged them to find a place in life where their deep gladness fits the greatest need.

"You have the tools to craft the most amazing map of life your imagination can come up with — the most amazing career you can desire," Bell said. "You are graduating today from one of the best colleges of pharmacy in the country, if not in the world, and your degree will take you wherever your life is telling you where to go."

Also recognized as members of the UF College of Pharmacy's class of 2022 were 10 Ph.D. and 98 Master of Science in Pharmacy graduates. Their degrees were conferred at university-wide ceremonies on April 28 and 29.





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