Advocacy in Action

Alumna Lisa Scholz Inspires Students, Health Providers in Pharmacy Collaborative
Indian philosopher Krishnamurti once said, “As the captain of a ship establishes the destination of his vessel and by the compass is able to guide his course through stormy nights and dark waters, so the man who has knowledge of his goal can guide his life by that compass of understanding.” This quote has special meaning for our UHCOP as we begin to set a new course by developing a new strategic plan that we are calling “Vision 2020.” We are in the process of seeking input from all of our internal and external constituents as we develop our new strategic plan. We hope to complete our Vision 2020 planning process by the end of the year. Our new strategic plan will indeed need to guide our College through “stormy nights and dark waters” as the infrastructure of higher education is being challenged by the continuing predictions of diminishing state support in the coming years. Despite these challenges, this is truly an exciting time for the UH College of Pharmacy.

We have also been working diligently upon our Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) self-study in preparation for our current reaccreditation process. Our College of Pharmacy team, with tremendous support from the University administration, has been working carefully over the past 22 months to address our self-study and find ways to continuously improve our program. There are three important phases associated with our current accreditation process:

1) ACPE Self-Study submission – Fall 2010
2) ACPE Accreditation site visit – March 2011
3) ACPE Board of Directors Decision – Summer 2011

This is the first time that our program has been assessed under the recently adopted ACPE Standards 2007. This new protocol will require that accredited Pharmacy Programs meet greatly expanded standards and guidelines. We are committed to ensuring that our entire program adequately addresses each of these standards. I look forward to communicating the results of our reaccreditation process as determined by the ACPE Board of Directors.

ACPE states, “The essential purpose of the accreditation process is to provide a professional judgment of the quality of a college or school of pharmacy’s professional program(s) and to encourage continued improvement thereof.” The self-study process and the subsequent ACPE accreditation site visit will allow the UH College of Pharmacy to assess and ultimately improve upon the quality of our College. This will provide a terrific foundation for our program as we embark upon our new “Vision 2020 journey.”

F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Pritchard Appoints PPS Faculty to Chair, Director Positions for Department, College Programs

UH College of Pharmacy Dean Lamar Pritchard recently announced new staff appointments for Associate Professor of Pharmacology Douglas C. Eikenburg, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmacology Brian Knoll, Ph.D., and Instructional Assistant Professor Lindsay Schwarz, Ph.D.

After serving in an interim capacity since last fall, Eikenburg has been named full-time Chair of the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A faculty member and researcher at the college since 1991, Eikenburg previously chaired the department from 1995 to 2005. He succeeds Professor Yuen-Sum (Vincent) Lau, Ph.D., who recently departed the college to accept the newly created position of Vice President Research & Graduate Education and Chief Science Officer at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Knoll will oversee recruitment and other student services for the Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics doctoral programs as Director of Graduate Education. A UHCoP faculty member and researcher since 2000, Knoll served as director from 2006 to 2010. He has been reappointed on an interim basis following the exit of Associate Professor and DGE Tahir Hussain, Ph.D., who recently accepted a chairmanship and faculty post at Auburn University.

Schwarz will oversee faculty development programs as Director of Faculty Development at the college. One of her primary roles in the new position will be to help develop the UHCoP Faculty College, which will serve as a resource for promoting teaching excellence and innovation through workshops and instructional seminars, junior-senior faculty mentorship, and adoption of performance partnership plans.

Past, Present Coworkers and Friends Wish Mitchell Best at TMC Retirement Celebration

The University of Houston and UH College of Pharmacy said a fond farewell to beloved CSA Department Business Administrator Shirley Mitchell, who retired from the university after more than 40 years of service (during which time she was among the finalists for the UH Staff Excellence Award). Right, CSA department chairs spanning four decades – James McCarty, Mark Stratton, Carl Driever, Dennis Helling, Randall Prince, Kevin Garey and Russell Lewis – were among Mitchell’s well-wishers. Below left, Mitchell received cards signed by dozens of well-wishers. Below right, CSA’s Lynn Simpson presents Mitchell with a crystal apple in recognition of her years as an unofficial, but wise and resourceful teacher to faculty, staff and students.

UH Moves Online Application to Centralized PharmCAS Site

UH College of Pharmacy has joined almost all other pharmacy schools in Texas by migrating its online application process for the Pharm.D. program to the nationwide PharmCAS system.

The PharmCAS system offers applicants the opportunity to apply to more than one school and upload transcripts and other materials through one centralized site.

UHCoP also will benefit by reduced administrative expenses associated with maintaining its previous in-house online application system.

Although PharmCAS offers a standardized application format, UHCoP – like many other schools using the system – is requiring a supplemental application to collect additional information from prospective students.
GRADUATION 2011

With a total of 180 students in May and August, UH College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2011 was the largest graduating class in the college’s history. The college graduated 124 Pharm.D. students, seven Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics students, 22 M.S. in Pharmacy Administration students (including members of the first M.S./Residency program class), and 25 B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences graduates (the last class of the program). This year’s Commencement Ceremony was the 61st graduation of the college since the first one was held in 1950.

MAY-AUGUST 2011 GRADUATES

Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutics
Roland Ako
Sadhishtha Bhatt
Fady Makram Louiz Ibrahim
Anita Mohite
Rifat Sabuhi
Kastuv Saha
Manish Tanuja

Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration
Ruchika Agrawal
Rituparna Bhattacharya
Prajakta Bhosne
Posha Anil Chopra
Rudyard Cox
Brian Fane
Linda Ann Haines
Aditi Rajesh Kadakia
Anthony Luparello
Sonam Mehta
Cody Muehth
Shivani Mhatre
Becky Jane Natali
Ayush Patel
Dhaval Patel
Shahana Quadri
Ankit Shah
Jihi Dwiyang Shah
Wan-Yu Tseng
I-Hsuan Wu
Yuping Yu
Phillip Jon Zweifel

Doctor of Pharmacy
Sibyl Philip Abraham
Jigar Nihal Amin
Bennadette De Leon Asia
Remya Susan Babu
Mar Elvin D. Barao
Krist Marie Bagger
Tiffany Lynn Barrios
Kristin Ashley Beard
Jana Lynn Bittlebrun
Brandon Wayne Blake
John David Adam Blee
Aaron F. Bohn
Christopher Aaron Bransford
Mary B. Brinkman
Brian Michael Butler
Mary Helena Pominisodani Chaplin
William Chau
Ramesh Chandra Chervu
Eileen Jin Lu
Nancy Chung
Stephanie Nicole Cozine
Brian Cogan Dish
Adefolokan Oluwadesi
Elizabeth Jean Engel
Christopher Stephen Feller
Julia Helen Fraser
Amaris Fuentes
Esteban R. Gallardo
Amanda B. Garcia
Jeremy James Garcia
Jose Luis Garza Jr.
Mallory Elaine Gesner
Ashley Roberson Gilroy
Susan Tessa Graham
Meredith Lynn Grant
Barbara L. Gratzkowski
Stephanie J. Gryzmal
Kimberly Ann Haeberlen
Kimberly Tran Hoang
Jason Wayne Holub
Jessica Kyiyoung Kim
Amber Renee King
Lei Jean Kruschtschy
Julie Lam
Wai-Ying Maria Lam
Juan Fabian Lozano

B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Venice Krystel Anana
Brian Atencio
Vi Thuy Bui
Jessica Cerda
Romanya Fong Fossob
Sylvia Zulema Gonzalez
Reid Michael Grobe
Basant Gyawali
Stephen Clyde Hickerson
Michelle Renee Hogan
Edward Tawon Um
Elena Corina Vivian
Dominic Thong Vu
Amanda Paula Walker
Grace Wang
Jarod Geoffrey Watson
Chase Miles Waxter
Hsiung-Chun Wen
Jennifer K. Welch
Laura Kay Wheeler
James Wiernas
W. Scott Wilkie
Sarah Elizabeth Wisecup
Christine Wong
Teresa Yu-Wun Yang
Saad M. Youssufuddin

¹ Summa Cum Laude
² Magna Cum Laude
³ Cum Laude

² Cum Laude
³ Summa Cum Laude
⁴ Summa Cum Laude
⁵ Summa Cum Laude
⁶ Summa Cum Laude
⁷ Summa Cum Laude

Top: Pharmacy Administration and M.S./Residency graduates.
1: Pharm.D. graduate Saad Youssufuddin and Associate Professor Douglas Eikenburg.
2: Associate Vice Chancellor for UH System at Sugar Land and UH System at Cinco Ranch Richard Phillips, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Member and UH College of Optometry alumnus Dennis Golden, UHCOOP Dean Lamar Pritchard, UH Vice President for Community Relations and Institutional Access Elwin Lee, and UH Student Regent Andrew Cobos.
3: Dennis Golden addresses the Class of 2011.

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First Class Completes TMC-based M.S./Residency Program

The concurrent M.S./Residency in Pharmacy Administration program – a collaboration between UH College of Pharmacy and five Texas Medical Center healthcare institutions (with a sixth organization scheduled to officially join next year) – recently graduated its first class of graduate students/residents.

With its third year now under way, the 24-month program immerses participants in the various components of health-system pharmacy management, leadership and business operations in conjunction with advanced skills and tools for planning, initiating and analyzing quality, efficiency and patient outcome improvement projects.

UHCOP’s partners in the program, which was launched in 2009, are Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Harris County Hospital District, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, The Methodist Hospital and St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital. The latest addition, Texas Children’s Hospital, will accept its first participant with the 2012 class.

“I think that my knowledge base in pharmacy management and my leadership capabilities increased immensely over the past two years, with the majority of this growth due to the residency practice side,” said Brian Fase, Pharm.D., M.S. ’(11), who now serves as pharmacoeconomist and Health-System Pharmacy Administration Residency coordinator at DeBakey VAMC. “However, the academic side exposed me to new ideas and provided a forum to discuss with my co-residents how our very different institutions deal with similar management issues.

“For me, the greatest strength of the academic side was the almost daily interaction with residents and current pharmacy administration leaders from the various health systems in the TMC, which is a microcosm of nearly every different type of hospital organizational structure and patient mix.”

Fase’s classmate, Rodney Cox, Pharm.D., M.S. ’(11), said the experience strengthened his interest in pursuing a doctorate in Pharmacy Administration or a related discipline.

“The academic portion of the program definitely improved over the past two years,” said Cox, who is now pharmacy manager at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center. “The UH group was very responsive to our concerns. In order to get added value from the didactic work and its application to practice, we would delve deeper into certain topics and bring real-world examples from our hospitals into the classroom. An example would be applying some of the QA techniques (LEAN, 6 Sigma, etc.) to a troublesome process being managed in one of our hospitals.”

Divya Varkey, Pharm.D., M.S., SLEH pharmacy operations manager and chair of the program’s steering committee, said she could not be more pleased with the performance of the inaugural class.

“As we progressed through the first two years of the program, both the student-residents and the institutions were focused on ensuring it continued to improve,” Varkey said. “This required all participants to be honest and flexible. The purpose of the program is to train pharmacy leaders and, as demonstrated through the positions that our student-residents have accepted, I feel confident that we are meeting that goal.”

The other members of the inaugural class also have joined prestigious health systems: Linda Haines, Pharm.D., M.S. ’(11), is an Administrative Specialist I-Informatics at Methodist; Becky Natali, Pharm.D. ’(09), M.S. ’(11), is a Pharmacy Operations Supervisor, UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, Calif.; and Shahana Quadri, Pharm.D. ’(09), M.S. ’(11), is a Quality Specialist with the Clinical Effectiveness Department at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Pharm.D. Students Earn National, State Honors in Final Semester

Two May Pharm.D. graduates closed out their final semester at UH College of Pharmacy with national and state awards in recognition of their leadership and volunteer activities within professional pharmacy organizations.

Bernadette Asias, Pharm.D. ’(11), earned the 2011 Mary Louise Andersen Scholarship from the APhA Auxiliary/APhA Foundation Student Pharmacist Scholarship Program at the March 2011 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition in Seattle.

“When we received the awards, I met the other scholarship winners and I felt elated to be surrounded by such accomplished individuals,” said Asias, who is currently a PGY1 resident at the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System in Temple, Texas. “My involvement in APhA helped me learn how much effort the organization puts forth to protect and advance the profession, and that inspires me to want to be involved with it.”

Amy Moss, Pharm.D. ’(11), was honored with the Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists’ 2011 Glenda Lawson McRee Pharmacy Student Award.

Now a PGY1 resident at the Harris County Hospital District, Moss was recognized for her service as UH student liaison for the Gulf Coast Society of Health-system Pharmacy and her enthusiastic leadership of the UH Chapter of the Student Society of Health-system Pharmacy, included her work coordinating the annual Residency Showcase for fourth-year pharmacy students and residency program directors across Texas and nearby states.

“The recognition was very fulfilling to me; I felt it acknowledged all of my work and involvement with SSHP, GCSHP and TSHP,” Moss said. “I have always believed that professional organizations are a necessary part of a student’s education. Now that I am in the profession, these organizations seem even more important in order to keep pharmacy progressive.”
College Honors Preceptors for Experiential Training Excellence

Although UH College of Pharmacy recognizes the pivotal role played by more than 700 clinical and community preceptors, each year the college is proud to commend the commitment to excellence demonstrated by individuals and sites in the transformation of pharmacy students into highly skilled, highly qualified pharmacy practitioners.

Kroger Pharmacy’s Shawn Gautreaux, R.Ph., was recognized as the college’s 2011 Community Preceptor of the Year.

Feedback from students ranged from unabashed appreciation (“he’s the best that I could ever ask for a retail rotation”) to pleasant surprise (“a lot of ambulatory-care experiences in retail: immunization, lipid/cholesterol screening, etc.”).

“I always encourage that they incorporate the best things from each of their preceptors into their future practice in order to continue to move our profession forward,” Gautreaux said. “Precepting students also gives me a chance to further my knowledge and keep up to date with our ever-changing profession. It really is a win-win situation for both the students and myself. I also enjoy showing students that clinical aspects of pharmacy practice can be incorporated into any pharmacy setting, including community pharmacy practice.”

Students of Clinical Preceptor of the Year Tami Johnson, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCM, clinical pharmacy specialist-Emergency Medicine, said “she was great at explaining topics” and “I would love to stay for six more weeks.”

Johnson said she enjoys students when they become comfortable in the ER and start to dig into patients’ problems and look up answers to challenging clinical pharmacy questions for themselves.

“This is the point when I feel that the student has figured out what pharmacy is about,” Johnson said. “They have figured out that it is not about pill counting, delivering medications to bedside, or asking the preceptor for the answers or what to do next. They find out that it is all about the patient, and they can make a difference in their lives.”

Houston Northwest Medical Center – under the leadership of alumnus Marshall Steglich, R.Ph. (’77), Pharmacy Manager – received its second Health-system Site Award this year.

“The site was very welcoming, helpful and educated me well” and “the great staff were always available for questions” were among the students’ comments from about their HNMC experiential.

“By the end of their time here, we see them leave with a very positive impression of the pharmacist contribution to patient care, as well as an appreciation of the pharmacy technicians to the overall operation of the department,” said Steglich, who solicited feedback about the students from his staff. “Our students comment about the teamwork that is evident in daily operations, and we include them in the interdepartmental teaching and patient monitoring activities. All of this feedback makes the time we put into the rotation very worthwhile.

“We get a sense of satisfaction seeing the students expand their capabilities in evaluating medication-therapy options and enriching their knowledge of the medications used in the inpatient settings. Our pharmacists also enjoy sharing pharmacy information technology with the students as well as hearing about their experiences at other rotations.”

UHCP Clinical Assistant Professor Jessica Cottreau, Pharm.D., BCPS, who precepts students through St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital’s Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Epidemiology, was honored as the Faculty Preceptor of the Year.

“My favorite part about precepting is watching their confidence increase over the six-week block,” Cottreau said. “Half of the students take the rotation because they’ve identified infectious diseases as a weak area for them that they would like to improve on and many are nervous when they begin. As a preceptor, it’s exciting for me to see them realize how much they can do.”

This year’s top preceptors all praised the preparation and professionalism of UHCP students.

“Everyone responded very positively about the interns we have assigned to HNMC,” Steglich said. “The interns are professional, knowledgeable and mature in their approach to the assigned tasks. They arrive at the rotation with a desire to learn, and are enthusiastic and hard working. My impression is the UH interns are much better prepared to enter the workforce than we used to see when the B.S. program was the only degree offered.”

“The students are well prepared for my rotation any time of the year,” Johnson said. “They may be nervous the first day or two, but once we set in motion their goals for the rotation, they work hard and make it an excellent learning experience. Overall, the student’s character coming out of UH is rewarding. The most striking characteristic is that they’re caring towards their colleagues, preceptors, team and patients.”

“I hold the students from UH College of Pharmacy in the highest regard,” Gautreaux said. “Their professionalism is also something that strikes me as impressive. I give a lot of credit to the faculty and staff for preparing these students so well.”
Bond's Beta-blocker Therapy for Airway Diseases Secures International Commendation

UHCOP Professor and two-time alumnus Richard A. Bond, Ph.D. ('88), B.S. ('83), was the only researcher from the U.S. to be recognized at the June 2011 Medical Futures Innovation Awards (MFIA) ceremony in London. Each year, the not-for-profit organization invites scientific and medical innovators to submit proposals for the opportunity to earn the MFIA's critical recognition and endorsement, assistance in articulating their ideas and securing funding, and gaining introductions to professional and commercial contacts vital to taking their ideas to the next level.

From hundreds of entries from around the world, only a handful is invited to present their proposals in person and undergo a rigorous interview by experts in given fields for each category. Of the 12 entries that were presented to the respiratory panel of judges this year, just four were selected for an award, and one commendation was made to Bond and Inverseon, which is the company he founded that holds the patent for a proprietary formulation of the inverse agonist beta blocker nadolol.

For the past decade, Bond and his UH, Baylor College of Medicine and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center collaborators have been investigating the once-controversial use of a class of compounds called inverse agonist beta blockers to treat mild, chronic asthma. Their research has shown that while this type of medication triggers an initial short-term negative effect of increased airway constriction, the effect appears to reverse with long-term use. Successful introduction of inverse agonist beta blockers into the marketplace could result in an improved quality of life for millions of patients who suffer from a host of airway diseases, including asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and chronic bronchitis.

“Innovation is the lifeblood for any organization, especially in current frugal times of economic uncertainty,” said orthopedic surgeon Dr. Andy Goldberg, founder and chair of MFIA. “The Medical Futures judges were blown away by the sheer volume and quality of brilliant ideas that have the potential to change people’s lives. The judges were encouraged by Dr. Bond’s ‘out-of-the-box’ thinking on using beta blockers in COPD, an area of huge unmet need and, historically, where such drugs have deliberately been avoided.”

After years of being rejected by scientific journals and publicly funded national research agencies, the tide has begun to turn in the past two years, with Bond’s work being published and reviewed in such journals as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and The Lancet, as well as being awarded a U.S. Patent and receiving nearly $1 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Susan Abughosh, Ph.D., assistant professor, has been appointed to the editorial board of Epidemiology: Current Research.

Karim A. Alkadhi, Ph.D., professor, has been appointed to the editorial boards of Pharmacie Globale, Current Neuropharmacology, Advances in Pharmacological Sciences, World Journal of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology-Current Research.

Kimberly Birtcher, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, clinical associate professor, has been appointed to the American College of Cardiology’s Best Practice and Quality Improvement Subcommittee.

E. James Essien, M.D., Dr.P.H., has been appointed to the editorial boards of the Journal of Clinical Toxicology and Advances in Sexual Medicine, as well as a reviewer for Social Science and Medicine, the Croatian Medical Journal and the Journal of Community Psychology. He recently was listed among the top 50 graduates of the University of Calabar of contemporary times by the National UNICAL Alumni Association. Essien also has been promoted to full Professor at the college.

Russell E. Lewis, Pharm.D., BCPS, recently began a 12-month research sabbatical in the Institute of Infectious Diseases at Sant’Orsola-Malpighi Hospital, affiliated with the University of Bologna, Italy. Lewis, who married and welcomed his first son over the summer, has been promoted to full Professor.

Claire Mach, Pharm.D., assistant professor, has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Toxicology.

Aditi Marwaha, Ph.D. ('05), has received a $15,000 UH Student Success Award for an early intervention/interactivity project aimed at reducing the “drop/withdrawal” rate in an interdepartmental science course offered through the college.

Santhi Masilamani, Pharm.D., CDE, MBA, clinical assistant professor, has been appointed as a reviewer for the Journal of General Internal Medicine. Masilamani also has been elected Chair of the Texas Pharmacy Association’s Academy of Clinical Pharmacists.

Ke-He Ruan, Ph.D., M.D., professor, has been appointed inaugural Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Pharmaceutical Research (BJPR), a new peer-reviewed open-access publication launched in January.

Maria V. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D., M.Ed. ('07), assistant professor, served as a judge for the 2011 National Student Research Forum at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Louis Williams, Ph.D., associate professor and advisor for the UH chapter of Kappa Psi chapter, was elected Province VII’s 2011 Alternate Grand Council Convention Delegate.
Szilagyi Announces Candidacy for AACP Leadership Position

Julianna Szilagyi, Ph.D., UHCOP associate professor and director of the college’s Center for Assessment, has announced her candidacy for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s office of President-elect.

If elected, Szilagyi would be installed in her one-year term as President-Elect at the 2012 AACP Annual Meeting, followed by one-year terms as President and Immediate Past President.

Szilagyi has served in numerous leadership and scholarship positions within AACP since joining the organization in 1997, including immediate past chair of the 2011 Annual Meeting Program Committee; past chair of the Council of Faculties (and past chair of its Nominating Committee); and past chair of the Academic Section of Teachers of Biological Sciences (and past chair of its Curricular Assessment and Nominating committees). Szilagyi also served member of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education editorial board for six years before recently rotating off.

“It’s an honor to be selected as a candidate for President-elect and a wonderful vote of confidence from my peers and AACP,” Szilagyi said. “I hope to advance the culture of academia by developing and gathering tools useful for pharmacy faculty in all disciplines. These tools will enhance what we, as educators, do from classroom to practice and basic science to clinical science, so that our students are prepared for the challenges facing pharmacy and health care.”

Szilagyi said her diverse and longtime experience within AACP has provided her with in-depth knowledge of the challenges facing the organization, its members and pharmacy education in general.

“Among the critical issues identified by AACP are faculty recruitment and retention; schools struggling with obligations and expectations, especially in the areas of assessment and accreditation; and integrating pharmacists into a dynamic health care environment,” Szilagyi said. “AACP has been, and will continue to be, a resource and advocate of colleges/schools of pharmacy as they confront these, and other, challenges. This is an opportunity to positively impact health care.”

A UHCOP faculty member since 1985 and director of Assessment since 1999, Szilagyi is a past recipient of the UH Research Excellence Award and the UH Alumni Association’s Outstanding Faculty Award, as well as a two-time recipient of the UH Rho Chi Society Teaching Excellence Award. She is a member of Sigma Xi, Rho Chi Society and Phi Lambda Sigma, and a fellow of the American Heart Association Council on High Blood Pressure. Szilagyi earned her Ph.D. in Physiology from The Ohio State University.

TPA Cheers Malacoff for Efforts in Raising Scholarship Support Through Annual Silent Auction

At its 2011 Rxperts Annual Meeting & Expo, the Texas Pharmacy Association bestowed one of its highest honors – the Distinguished Service Award – to UHCOP adjunct faculty member Lena Malacoff, R.Ph., and husband Marc Malacoff.

The Malacoffs were recognized for nearly a decade of work ensuring the success of the Texas Pharmacy Foundation’s annual silent auction, which is one of the primary fund-raisers for the organization’s scholarship fund for pharmacy students.

Lena has been involved in all facets of collecting items, setting up bid displays, selling tickets, closing the auction and helping distribute the items after the auction closes. Sacrificing several vacation days at his information technology job at Halliburton each year, Marc typically helps TPA staffer Joy Kovar with record keeping, cash-handling for both the auction and raffle, and assisting with auction operations. The couple even donates a weeklong stay at their timeshare – packaged with airfare donated by another TPF supporter – as an auction item.

“There is a fabulous circle of people who donate items and their time to make this a happening event each year,” Marc Malacoff said. “Our recognition is shared with these other individuals that are committed to the profession. For me, it is truly an honor each year to donate my time and talent to assist the foundation in providing scholarships for these up and coming professionals in the field of pharmacy.”

Members of the college’s Mading Society, the Malacoffs are longtime supporters of pharmacy education in everything from establishing scholarship endowments at UHCOP and Lena’s University of Texas alma mater Members of the college’s Mading Society of benefactors to opening their home to pharmacy students in need.

“(Becoming a pharmacist) is a tough and expensive road,” Marc said. “Every little bit helps as we prepare the next generation of pharmacists.”
Lewis, Schwarz Join Ranks of UH’s Top Teachers, Scholars

For the second consecutive year, two UH College of Pharmacy faculty members have been recognized for excellence in teaching scholarship and research.

This year’s recipients are Russell E. Lewis, Pharm.D., BCPS, who was one of only two faculty members campuswide to earn the Research & Scholarship Excellence Award at the Associate Professor level, and Lindsay Schwarz, Ph.D., who received one of three awards campuswide for Teaching Excellence in the Instructor/Clinical faculty category.

With $1 million in research funds, 16 book chapters and nearly 150 peer-reviewed publications to his credit, Lewis has served as a UHCOP faculty member and infectious diseases research since 1999.

“My motivation for research comes from the multitude of problems we encounter on the Infectious Diseases Consultation Service at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center,” Lewis said. “Pharmacy students are often surprised how little medical evidence is available to guide decisions regarding the treatment of multidrug resistant bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens, especially in the immunocompromised host.

“Because I had laboratory space across the street in the College of Pharmacy and a number of great collaborators within walking distance, it was very easy to stop by their office and tell them about interesting cases, which stimulated research ideas and the grants and papers that follow.”

His research program has historically focused on understanding how antifungal therapies can be used more effectively to battle life threatening invasive fungal infections in immunocompromised patients.

“More recently, we have begun to focus on how antimicrobial resistance changes the host immune response against microbes, as this certainly is an important part of the equation of why resistance is so problematic with some bug/drug combinations and less problematic with others,” Lewis said.

Schwarz has championed the integration of technology into the classroom as a means toward improving student comprehension and retention of coursework.

“I love discovering new ways to present the same material,” said Schwarz, who joined the college in 1995. “I think we have to expand our outlook and approaches to teaching because technology is so much a part of how students learn and interact today. When you get an award like this, you feel like it’s a bit of license to pushing teaching in a new direction.

“When you get a Ph.D. in whatever discipline, you usually don’t get any training in teaching. There’s a concept called the ‘curse of knowledge,’ which says that once you get to the point where you’re considered an expert in your field, you don’t remember the time when you didn’t know something. Part of being a good teacher is being able to go back to that time.”

Schwarz pioneered the use of classroom response systems (aka “clickers”) within the college as an interactive tool, instead of simply an easy way to take attendance.

“I'll ask questions about the material presented in class, then include one of the questions on the exam,” she said. “If they were in class the day I asked the question and get it right on the exam, they have can make extra points to improve their grade. So, if they don't understand something, I know right away; I don't have to wait until they do poorly on an exam.”

Schwarz also took the lead in using virtual classrooms – online classes with audio and text chat functions – for regular weekend discussion-and-review sessions that can run up to two hours.

“The students who are there want to be there,” Schwarz said. “If they run out of questions, I’ll ask questions. Even those who don’t ask questions benefit from the discussion and interaction.”

Houston Dietitians Honor Tucker for Patient Nutrition Support Work

UH College of Pharmacy Clinical Associate Professor Anne Tucker, Pharm.D., BCNSP, was honored with the Houston Area Dietetics Association’s 2011 Bluebonnet Award, which recognizes an individual who is not a dietitian but who has contributed significantly to the advancement of nutrition and dietetics in Texas.

Ann Priest, R.D., L.D., CNSD, clinical dietitian at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, nominated Tucker for the award based on her activities in professional organizations, work on institutional committees and scholarship, including coauthor of a study recognized with an Abstract of Distinction Award from the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

In addition, Tucker recently was installed as the 2011 President of the Texas Gulf Coast Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition and previously served as Secretary and President-elect. She also has served as co-chair of the ASPEN Education and Professional Development Committee.

“The future of Registered Dietitians and the dietetic profession will continue to succeed with leaders like Anne,” Priest said. “Her advocacy to an interdisciplinary approach to care involving pharmacists with nutrition support professionals provides great promise to the field of nutrition.”

Board certified as a Nutrition Support Pharmacist, Tucker precepts pharmacy students through her clinical site at Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
Focused Investigator Training Through ACCP Puts Crutchley on New Research, Career Path

UH College of Pharmacy Clinical Assistant Professor Rustin D. Crutchley, Pharm.D., AAHIVE, recently completed the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute’s 2011 Focused Investigator Training (FIT) Program, which assists mid-career pharmacist researchers in securing major funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources.

Established in 2008, the FIT Program is an intensive one-week, hands-on program for up to 25 experienced pharmacist investigators who have not yet been awarded significant peer-reviewed extramural funding as principal investigators. To date, FIT attendees have received more than $2 million in new grants.

“My intentions in going to the program were to improve my grant-writing skills, establish collaboration opportunities, and gather sufficient wisdom and understanding to create a better NIH proposal for re-submission,” he said. “I discovered that just because the literature says it is one way does not necessarily mean that it is the ‘absolute truth.’ Another set of eyes helped me to see what I was proposing in a different light. Having received these thought-provoking suggestions, I completely changed the focus of my proposal, which eventually pushed me into a different direction and career path.”

With a clinical site at Therapeutic Concepts Inc., a private practice HIV/AIDS clinic in Houston, Crutchley is studying the mechanisms behind vitamin D metabolism in HIV-infected patients and if therapeutics could improve their quality of life and extend their lifespan.

Infectious Diseases Residency with SLEH, Cardinal Receives $40K Pfizer Award from SIDP

UH College of Pharmacy’s PGY2 Infectious Disease Pharmacotherapy Residency program in collaboration with St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital and Cardinal Health Pharmacy Solutions has received its second funding award from the Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists.

SIDP recently recognized the program with the Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Residency Award, which provides $40,000 in resident support. In its inaugural year in 2009, the program also received support through SIDP’s Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Residency Award. The program is directed by UHCoP Clinical Associate Professor and M.D. Anderson Clinician Elizabeth Coyle, Pharm.D., FCCM, BCPS; Cardinal’s Kristi Kuper, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical director, Infectious Diseases Quality Service; UHCoP faculty and SLEH clinicians Jessica Cotteau, Pharm.D., BCPS, and Kevin Garey, Pharm.D., M.S.; and SLEH clinician Hannah Palmer, Pharm.D., BCPS.

Through required and elective rotations, the residency is designed to develop expertise and clinical competence in pharmacotherapeutic, technological and stewardship aspects of infectious diseases in various practice settings. Coupled with didactic training in the basic science of infectious diseases, the clinical experience is structured to prepare the resident to evaluate therapeutic questions related to infections in a multitude of patient populations. The resident also serves as an integral part of the Houston Infectious Disease Network.

Nigeria Recruits Essien, ICH to Help Establish Center of Excellence

UH College of Pharmacy Professor E. James Essien, M.D., Dr.P.H., and the college’s Institute of Community Health (ICH), for which Essien serves as Director, have received a $325,000 award in a multi-year project to assist in the development of a Center of Excellence in Infectious Diseases at the University of Calabar in Nigeria.

The two institutions are part of an international consortium with the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria; Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool, U.K.; and Datadyme Corp. in Washington, D.C. With $7 million in funding from the World Bank, the overall project will be managed by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education.

The primary goals for the new center are to increase the number of qualified science, technology and biomedical graduates in existing and new programs – such as public health and clinical trials – at the high school and collegiate level, as well as produce higher quality, more relevant research. Within the broad field of infectious diseases, areas of specialization will include HIV/AIDS, malaria and maternal/reproductive health.

The initial roles of Essien and ICH members include providing technical assistance on personnel training; establishing state-of-the-art research laboratories; improving capabilities in the areas of information and communications technology, financial management and institutional review board issues; research design and data management; and dissemination of research outcomes.

The project also calls for the development of an infectious diseases journal as well as educational and research externship programs, possibly in partnership with such institutions as UH.

“The intent is to establish a center that conducts research which is comparable to what is being done anywhere else in the world,” said Essien, who received his medical degree from UC’s College of Medicine and serves as a Senior Fellow for the new center’s Council on Infectious Diseases.
Tejada-Simon Examines Link Between Protein, Neurons as Target in Cognitive Diseases

In her work unraveling the mysteries of the inherited genetic disease known as Fragile X Syndrome, UH College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Maria V. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D., M.Ed. (’07), is investigating the morphology of neuronal dendritic spines – and the proteins that influence their development – as a potential target for reducing or even reversing impairment in Fragile X Syndrome (FXS) and other cognitive diseases.

Much like radio or TV antennae, dendritic spines are structural components of neural cells that receive transmissions by chemical signals or electrical impulses and play an important role in cognitive capabilities. One of the key building blocks in the structure and shape of dendritic spines is the presence of the Rac1 protein, which is produced by the RAC1 gene. Tejada-Simon began looking at levels of the Rac1 protein in relationship to receptors known to be involved in learning and memory functions.

“Fragile X Syndrome, Down’s Syndrome, Alzheimer’s disease and even schizophrenia have problems with the way those neurons are formed: the dendrites are abnormal and the spines are abnormal,” Tejada-Simon said. “Through our experiments, we found that if you activate those receptors that are known to be involved in learning and memory, the Rac1 protein is activated.”

For example, Tejada-Simon’s lab conducted experiments that indicated higher levels of the Rac1 protein in mice who learned to perform specific tasks versus mice who did not learn to perform the tasks.

With research funding from the Jerome Lejeune Foundation and the Fragile X Research Foundation (FRAXA), Tejada-Simon is now pursuing separate but parallel investigative paths – knockout mice in which the Rac1 gene is not present and pharmacologically inhibiting Rac1 expression – to effectively remove the suspect protein and study the impact on dendritic spine development and cognitive function.

As Tejada-Simon delved deeper into the processes that influence the production or suppression of the Rac1 protein (and by extension, influence the morphology of dendritic spines and ultimately impact cognitive function), she was drawn to the role of a protein called fragile x mental retardation protein (FMRP). The absence of this protein is known to be the cause of Fragile X Syndrome, which is the most common type of inherited mental impairment and the most common known cause of autism.

This observation has lead Tejada-Simon to hypothesize that FMRP plays an important role in the regulation of the Rac1 protein, with optimal levels of Rac1 allowing normal neuronal development through mature dendritic spines and abnormal (high or low) levels of Rac1 being responsible for impaired cognitive capability due to immature dendritic spines.

“The problem with the dendritic spines in Fragile X is not a deficiency in the number of spines, which are present in the hundreds and thousands in both normal and abnormal dendrites, but in the maturity of the spines,” Tejada-Simon said. “Mature spines are believed to play an important role in a process known as long-term potentiation, which is a function of how synapses communicate with each other and ultimately influence the development of long-term memory and learning.”

Although it may never be possible – in light of the moral, ethical and legal implications of genetic manipulation in humans – to attempt to modify the FMRP’s regulatory function, Tejada-Simon is investigating whether therapeutic interventions could reduce or reverse cognitive impairment in a range of disorders.

“If we can help people to become better learners and retain memory function, we could go a long way in improving their quality of life by not only enhancing their cognitive capability but also potentially reducing behavioral problems that can occur as a result of their frustration over not being able to do something,” she said. “Every time that you have an experience and learn something, your brain is changing through a process known as plasticity. If the plasticity – the ability of the brain to change and learn – is impaired by Rac1 expression, then we may be able to improve cognitive ability by finding a way to modify this expression.”
UHCOP Researchers Capture Presentation, Abstract Awards

UH College of Pharmacy faculty and student researchers continue to earn top awards at international and national research conferences for their investigations.

Pharmacy Administration faculty members, students and a recent graduate were among the top award-winners at the 16th International Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research in May. In the Best Student Poster Presentation competition, recent graduate Ravi Goyal, M.S. (’11), and faculty co-authors Suja Rajan, Ph.D., E. James Essien, M.D., Dr.P.H., and Sujit Sansgiry, Ph.D., received one of three awards for their project, “Effectiveness of FDAs new over-the-counter acetaminophen label warning requirements in improving consumer risk perception of liver damage.”

In the ISPOR Best Podium Presentation competition, faculty member Michael Johnson, Ph.D., and pharmacy administration doctoral students Sandhya Mehta, Abhishek Chitnis, Debajyoti Bhowmik, Nilanjana Dwibedi, and Pravin Kamble earned one of three awards for their project, “Performance of different comorbidity measures in predicting healthcare expenditure in patients with dementia.”

Wichai Santimaleeworagun, a Ph.D. student from Prince of Songkla University in Thailand, recently won an international award for his abstract based on his work during a spring internship in the lab of UHCOP Associate Professor Kevin Garey, Pharm.D., M.S.

He received the International Society of Chemotherapy’s 2011 Tom Bergan Memorial Award for the abstract presented at the 21st European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases/27th International Congress of Chemotherapy, a joint meeting of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and the ISC.

Coauthors of the study, entitled “The molecular epidemiology of Clostridium difficile and prevalence of the NAP-1 strain among patients admitted to a general and a private hospital in Houston, Texas,” were Healix Pharmaceuticals’ Jennifer Christensen, Pharm.D. (’05); postdoctoral fellow Vandana Singh; then-UHCOP/St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital Infectious Disease Fellow Dhara Shah, Pharm.D. (’08); UH lab technician Kai-Tai Chang; and faculty members Vincent Tam and Garey.

Clinical Associate Professor Anne M. Tucker, Pharm.D., BCNSP, and her M.D. Anderson Cancer Center coauthors Shrala Tajchman, Jorge Rodriguez, Marylou Cardenas, Clarence Finch and Joseph Nates received the Abstract of Distinction at the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition’s 2011 Nutrition Support Week for their project, “Current Nutrition Guidelines Underestimate Energy Requirements in Critically Ill Obese Cancer Patients.”

Mach Explores micro-RNA as Potential Target for Uterine Cancer

UH College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Claire M. Mach, Pharm.D. (’06), is venturing through the brave new world of molecular genetics to shed light on – and potentially develop new therapeutics for – a rare, but aggressive type of endometrial cancer called uterine papillary serous carcinoma (UPSC) which accounts for more than 40 percent of endometrial cancer deaths in the United States each year.

Mach and her Baylor College of Medicine collaborator, Matthew Anderson, M.D., Ph.D., are investigating the role of microRNAs (miRNAs), which are small, non-coding RNA transcripts that bind to complementary sequences in the three prime untranslated regions of target messenger RNA (mRNA). MiRNAs, which were first characterized as recently as the early 1990s, function by “silencing” genes through target degradation or translational repression.

Research by Mach and her colleagues has indicated that a specific miRNA, known as miR-143, is a prime suspect for regulating the growth and spread of UPSC.

“In our previous analysis comparing UPSC tissue samples to normal proliferating endometrium, we found that expression of miR-143 is one of the most highly expressed miRNAs in both UPSC and in endometrium,” said Mach, who also has a gynecologic oncology clinical site at Ben Taub General Hospital. “However, the expression of this miRNA is decreased four-fold in UPSC, which tells us miR-143 plays a key role in this cancer.”

The investigators are studying the function of miR-143 using established UPSC cell lines and xenograft models to dissect the pathways by which altered miR-143 expression promotes UPSC growth and metastasis. They also are attempting to determine whether altering miR-143 expression can increase the effectiveness of chemotherapies currently used to treat UPSC.

“Our preliminary results indicate that miR-143 likely functions as a tumor suppressor regulating proliferation early in the natural history of UPSC,” Mach said. “Future work aims to dissect the molecular mechanisms by which this miRNA contributes to the malignant transformation of endometrium and how this insight can be used to improve outcomes for women with this deadly type of uterine cancer.”

At the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists’ 42nd Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancer in Orlando, Fla., earlier this year, Mach was awarded the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (now the Foundation for Women’s Cancer)/Carol’s Cause Endometrial Cancer Research Grant for $25,000 in support of the project.
Eriksen Earns NIH Support for Nanoparticle to Detect, Treat Hemorrhagic Stroke Precursor

UH College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Jason Eriksen, Ph.D., has received a three-year, $369,000 R15 award from the National Institute on Aging for his project using nanoparticles to target and treat cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), a major cause of hemorrhagic stroke in western patient populations.

CAA is associated with at least 30 percent of bleeding strokes, and affecting as many as one third of all people over the age of 75. Methods for diagnosing or selectively treating CAA are currently not available and only detectable by postmortem tissue examination.

The goal of Eriksen’s research is to develop amyloid-binding liposomal nanoparticles with a mixture of contrast agents and therapeutic molecules. The nanoparticle’s development will establish the base for a smart nanotechnology platform to deliver visualization of CAA in living patients at a resolution that far exceeds current agents, while also allowing for the selective delivery of therapeutics at pathologically affected vascular sites.

“Similar to the treatment of heart disease in which arterial plaque deposits are broken up, our nanoparticles are designed to target the amyloid deposits in locally high concentrations, releasing agents over time that will break up these protein aggregates in the blood vessels,” he said. “By targeting and treating amyloid deposition, we believe that this approach may eventually be used to diagnose and treat this important source of stroke in patients.”

Garey Draws Merck Support to Analyze Dosing Regimens for New Class of Antifungals

UH College of Pharmacy Associate Professor Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., has launched a retrospective analysis of dosing regimens and combination therapies for echinocandins, a new class of antifungal agents whose use has increased sharply due to its safety profile and broad spectrum of activity against the most common pathogen in fungal bloodstream infections.

Three echinocandins — caspofungin, micafungin and anidulafungin – are recommended as initial therapy for moderately severe to severe candidemia, which is responsible for one-third to one-half of the cases in intensive care units with mortality rates as high as 71 percent. With the support of a two-year, $94,015 grant from Merck, Garey’s study will include evaluations of dose, route, schedule and duration of echinocandin therapy and categorization of use indications.

“We believe this project will be the largest assessment of echinocandin use ever undertaken,” Garey said. “Our study supports the principles of antimicrobial stewardship by providing a clearer picture of the use and outcomes associated with these agents, which should help guide practitioners in determining the most appropriate therapeutic strategy for their patients.”

BENCH NOTES

Susan Abughosh, Ph.D., assistant professor, has been awarded $6,000 UH New Faculty Research Program grant for her project, “Predictors of waterpipe smoking among University of Houston students.”

Karim Alkadhi, Ph.D., professor, has received a $3,000 UH Small Grants Program award for his project entitled “Sleep deprivation-induced anxiety and cognitive impairment: Prevention by regular exercise.” Alkadhi and alumnus Karim Alzhoubi, Ph.D. (’05), recently collaborated on a chapter entitled “Synaptic Plasticity of Autonomic Ganglia: Role of Chronic Stress and Implication in Cardiovascular Diseases and Sudden Death” in the book “Sudden Death in Epilepsy: Forensic and Clinical Issues,” published by CRC Press. In addition, Alkadhi’s research was noted in online and print versions of Scientific American and Scientific American-Mind, respectively.

Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., associate professor, has received a one-year, $76,010 grant from Merck & Co. for his project entitled “Inhibition of Host Inflammatory Response of C. difficile Toxins by Monoclonal Antibodies to Toxins A and B.”

Sujit Sansgiry, Ph.D., associate professor, has received a $11,000 grant from the Texas Pharmacy Association for a project entitled “The Role of Collaborative Team Approach to Managing Patients with Diabetes to Improve Economic and Health Outcomes,” and a $13,600 grant from St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital for a project entitled “A Randomized Controlled Study to Identify Workflow Factors.” Sansgiry also contributed to a report on the feasibility of a “behind-the-counter (BTC)” class of drugs in the January/February 2011 issue of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (JAPhA).

Meghna Trivedi, Pharm.D. (’03), Ph.D. (’04), clinical assistant professor, has been awarded a $6,000 UH New Faculty Research Program grant for a project entitled “Development of a humanized 3D in-vitro model in breast cancer”; a $3,000 UH Small Grants Program award for a project entitled “Clinical Association Between Dermatologic Toxicity and Treatment Response to Lapatinib in Breast Cancer”; and a $15,000 UH/UHCP Grants to Enhance and Advance Research Program award for a project entitled “Isolation and propagation of Circulating Breast Cancer Cells from primary xenograft-bearing Severe Combined Immunodeficiency/Beige mice.”
After reporting the first confirmed cases of a multidrug-resistant bacterium’s appearance in Texas earlier this year, a team of translational researchers from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy (UHCOP) and St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital (SLEH) are working to develop a reliable screening method for more rapid detection of this “superbug”, in order to prevent its spread.

This multidrug-resistant “superbug” results from the acquisition of an enzyme that is able to inactivate most types of commonly used antibiotics. The enzyme, known as Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase (KPC), took its name from the first bacterium in which it was first identified almost 10 years ago.

Although the Klebsiella pneumoniae (Kp.) bacterium itself is relatively harmless to healthy individuals and naturally found in the intestinal tract, once it produces the KPC enzyme, it can lead to potentially deadly infections in patients with weakened immune systems or those which the body’s natural barriers are bypassed by surgery or medical devices (such as IVs or ventilators). Since it was first reported in Kp., the gene responsible for the enzyme has spread to other types of bacteria, challenging healthcare providers across Europe, Asia and the northeastern U.S.

In a report published in the February 2011 issue of Diagnostic Microbiology & Infectious Disease, the UHCOP-SLEH team – led by former UHCOP faculty member Elizabeth B. Hirsch, Pharm.D., BCPS, and Associate Professor and SLEH clinician Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., BCPS – confirmed KPC-Kp infection in three patients hospitalized between May 2009 and January 2010. The SLEH cases were identified against control isolates provided by colleagues at a hospital in New York State, one of several northeastern states where KPC infections are considered endemic.

Although it’s virtually impossible to pinpoint when or how KPC arrived in Texas, researchers are working to determine its prevalence here and to develop strategies to deal with potential outbreaks. KPC-producing bacteria can cause an array of infections, including pneumonia, bloodstream and urinary tract infections.

The bacteria have become increasingly worrisome for clinicians for many reasons, primarily because of their resistance to the carbapenems, which are among the antimicrobials of last resort for this type of bacterial infection. Clinicians managing KPC infections are left with few options but to employ more toxic drugs that pose an increased risk of damage to the kidneys or other organs.

“Originally KPC-Kp infections were believed to be confined to hospital-acquired infections, but in recent years we’ve been seeing more cases reported in long-term care facilities,” said Hirsch, who recently departed the college to accept a tenure-track position at Northeastern University.

“We also know that the gene encoding KPC has been found in other bacterial species, including Escherichia coli,” Hirsch said. “These developments effectively expand the opportunities for multidrug-resistant infections.”

Automated systems used in clinical microbiology laboratories can misclassify these isolates as susceptible to carbapenems, potentially leading to inappropriate treatment and unfavorable patient outcomes. More accurate methods for identifying the isolates are time- and labor-intensive processes and are typically only available in research laboratories outside of the clinical setting, such as the Centers for Diseases Control and academic research institutions like UHCOP.

“The key to effective therapy is to identify the causative bacteria quickly and accurately, so you can initiate the appropriate countermeasures that will benefit the patient, prevent it from spreading and discourage the development of resistance,” said Tam, coauthor/investigator of the study. “The current methods of detection are far from perfect, but following national and international resistance trends, we are being proactive in anticipating problems so we can deal with them when they’re in the initial, ‘budding’ stage.”

With funding from the Roderick D. MacDonald Research Fund at SLEH, Hirsch, Tam and their collaborators are currently working to determine the prevalence of KPC-producing isolates and to employ promising techniques for rapid and accurate detection of these bacteria in the clinical setting.
Research Abstracts Secure Travel Awards for Student Scholars

For the first time in UH College of Pharmacy history, students representing all three doctorate and professional programs at the college received travel awards in a single semester to present their research at national and international conferences.

The competitive travel awards were granted based on the high quality of the abstracts submitted by the students ahead of the conferences.

Recent pharmacology graduate Quaisar Ali, Ph.D. (‘11), received a Gordon Research Conferences travel award to present “Role of AT2 receptor in oxidative stress and inflammation: Opposing effects in lean and obese Zucker rats” at the Gordon-Kenan Research Seminar on Oxidative Stress & Disease in Ventura, Calif. Recent pharmacology graduate Rifat Sabuhi, Ph.D. (‘11), and former faculty member Tahir Hussain were coauthors of the study.

Pharmacology graduate student Odelia Bongmba received a Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship to present her project, “Genetic manipulation of the small GTPase Rac1 influences dendrite development and hippocampus-dependent learning,” at the Gordon Research Seminar on Dendrites: Molecules, Structure & Function in Ventura, Calif.

Bongmba also received a travel award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Minority Access to Research Careers (FASEB-MARC) Program to present her poster entitled “Evidence of impaired neuronal plasticity in response to inactivation of the small GTPase Rac1” at the 2011 Experimental Biology meeting in Washington, D.C.

Bongmba also received a second FASEB-MARC travel award to present her research on the “Role of Rac1-GTPase in dendritic spine and plasticity abnormalities: A possible link to Fragile X syndrome pathology,” at the FASEB Summer Research Conference in Saxton’s River, Vt., in June.

Bongmba’s coauthors on all three studies were pharmacology graduate student Luis Martinez, B.S.P.S. graduate Karlis Butler (‘10), UH undergraduate biology alumna and former lab staffer Mary Elhardt (‘09), and assistant professor Maria V. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D.

Pharmacy Administration Ph.D. student and M.S. program graduate Satabdi Chatterjee (‘10) received a scholarship consisting of complementary attendance and course fees, membership and travel assistance to orally present her abstract, entitled “comparative risk of cerebrovascular adverse events among older adults using risperidone, olanzapine and quetiapine,” at the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology’s 27th International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management Aug. 14-17 in Chicago. Coauthors of the study were faculty members Rajender Aparasu, Ph.D., Hua Chen, Ph.D., M.D., and Michael Johnson, Ph.D.

Pharmacy Administration Ph.D. student and M.S. program graduate Nilanjana Dwibedi (‘09) was one of only 10 students among 40 chapters spanning the U.S., Canada and Europe to receive a travel award to present her abstract, “Impact of 2005 Measles outbreak in the United States on immunization rate against measles,” at the 16th Annual International Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research in Baltimore, Md., in May. Dwibedi worked with UH political science faculty member Jeronimo Cortina, Ph.D., on the project.

Pharmacology graduate student Ashley Guillory earned a FASEB-MARC/American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) travel award to present a poster entitled “Analysis of β-Adrenergic receptor signaling in Gravin (AKAP12) knockout mice after chronic Isoproterenol stimulation” at the 2011 Experimental Biology meeting. UH alumnus and research technician Cori S. Wijaya, pharmacology graduate student Abeer Rababah, research associate fellow Xing Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and assistant professor Bradley K. McConnell, Ph.D.

Pharm.D. student Natalie Lee earned a travel award from the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) to deliver a poster presentation at HOPA’s 7th Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Lee’s presentation was entitled “Evaluation of cisplatin related toxicities in cervical cancer patients with renal dysfunction.” The abstract was coauthored by Judith Smith, Pharm.D., M.D. Anderson Cancer Center associate professor and director of pharmacology research and UH adjunct faculty member.

Recent pharmacology graduate Manish Taneja, Ph.D. (‘11), received an ASPET travel award to present his poster entitled, “Sustained separation of rats into stress-susceptible and stress-resilient groups by repeated exposure to inescapable unpredictable stress,” at the 2011 Experimental Biology meeting. Taneja’s presentation was among the finalists for the Student Research Poster Award in the Behavior Pharmacology division. The project was coauthored by recent pharmacology graduates Kaustuv Saha, Ph.D. (‘11), and Gaurav Patki, Ph.D. (‘10), former faculty member Yuen-sum (Vincent) Lau, Ph.D., and associate professor Douglas Eikenburg, Ph.D.
STUDENT NEWS

UH Captures ISPOR Chapter Crown at International Meeting

Less than a decade after its establishment, the UH chapter of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) has accomplished two remarkable achievements in the same year: the Outstanding Student Chapter Award and the election of its local leader – Pharmacy Administration doctoral student Abhishek Chitnis – to Student Network Chair international leadership position.

The UH chapter and individual investigators also secured accolades at ISPOR’s 16th Annual International Meeting in Baltimore, Md., for their research, with the chapter bringing home second place in the Research Competition and project teams earning awards for their podium and poster presentations (see page 12 for details).

Established in 2002, the 30-plus member UH chapter hit its stride during the 2010-11 academic year with more than 40 podium and poster presentations at local, national and international scientific/professional meetings, including the ISPOR, the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. In addition, the chapter hosted local presentations and lectures by speakers from such organizations as US Oncology, Bayer Pharmaceuticals and The University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, as well as secured UH and ISPOR funding for members to attend meetings.

A student in the Pharmacy Administration doctoral program after completing the M.S. program in 2009, Chitnis said the chairmanship offers the unique opportunity to contribute to the advancement of ISPOR members around the world as well as enhance his own leadership skills.

“Being the Student Network Chair is a great way to reach out to the students within and outside of the U.S. interested in this field and help them with a huge array of benefits the network has to offer, including the monthly educational teleconferences, chapter activity grants, and student travel grants,” Chitnis said. “I see this position as an opportunity to not only significantly contribute to the network, but also toward my professional development.

“All this was possible only because I led a fantastic team of executive student members – who received timely guidance from our advisors – and set up UH ISPOR goals at the beginning of the year,” he said. “Our team met monthly to provide updates and discuss issues related to various activities, both academic and social. I always believe that we need to raise the bar and will be amazed at what we can achieve and are capable of.”

Delta Delta Chapter Earns Consecutive Titles in Kappa Psi Province

UH College of Pharmacy’s Delta Delta chapter of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity took home its second consecutive Province VII Chapter of the Year Award at their regional meeting earlier this year.

With the latest win, Delta Delta has brought home the top award in its province for three out of the past four years. The UHCOP chapter served as site host for the Kappa Psi Province VII Spring Assembly in Houston this year, which drew nearly 300 members from 25 collegiate and graduate chapters across eight states.

Delta Delta members Jennifer Doan and Lawrence Moore also were elected Province Secretary and Webmaster, respectively. In total, current and graduate members of the chapter hold five of the 11 officer positions in Province VII.

In addition to achieving the highest cumulative score to snare the top chapter recognition, Delta Delta also collected the most points in individual categories based upon the chapter’s philanthropic events, professional activities, and overall membership involvement.

The chapter’s professional and community outreach activities over the prior year included spreading awareness of the importance of personal medical records; volunteering with organizations that provide food to needy families and the homeless as well as literacy support to children of refugees from nations where human rights abuses are commonplace; and providing immunizations and health screenings at several community events. In addition, the organization raised $2,000 for a national breast cancer awareness and research foundation.
Medina Rockets to National Leadership Post on NCPA Council

Within only a few months of being elected to the Student Leadership Council of the National Community Pharmacists Association, P3 Pharm.D. student Ezequiel “Zeke” Medina has been catapulted to serve in a higher capacity with his election to National President-elect.

The past president of the UH student chapter of NCPA, Medina credits Methodist Hospital’s Pharmacy Operations Manager and UHCOP alumnus Alex Varkey, Pharm.D. (’05), M.S., who served as National President/President-elect of the American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Student Pharmacists while in pharmacy school.

“When I talked to Alex about serving at a higher level, he told me that one of the best ways to prepare yourself to be a leader in the profession is to challenge yourself while in school,” he said.

Although pharmacy wasn’t the career Medina originally intended to pursue, his perception of the profession changed while stationed at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio during his five years of service in the U.S. Army.

“I was impressed by how much the physicians deferred to the pharmacists when it came to questions about medications and drug therapies,” Medina said. “I also came to realize that pharmacists have a closer relationship with their patients, more than physicians or even physician assistants,” he said. “I work in a grocery store, so I get to see them all the time – you don’t need an appointment to see a pharmacist.”

Medina said he’s optimistic about the future of independent pharmacy in Texas, despite the proliferation of chain pharmacies in the state’s larger markets.

“At least in Texas, independents are still the majority,” said Medina, who is finalizing a business plan that he hopes will be advanced to the NCPA National Business Plan Competition. “NCPA is committed to keeping the tradition alive, with resources available to help you through the pre-buy search, the sale and making your business succeed.”

Medina is the second consecutive UH College of Pharmacy student to be elected to NCPA’s SLC, which involves consecutive one-year terms as a “junior member” and a “senior member.” Medina joins fellow SLC member Heath Goins, a P4 student who is now serving in his second-year term. Medina’s installation as National President will coincide with the transition to his senior term.

As an SLC officer, Medina travels from state to state as a regional supervisor/liaison between local chapters and the national office to promote organization-wide initiatives and provide outreach to new chapters and members. In addition, SLC officers are the primary planners and coordinators of the annual student convention that immediately precedes the NCPA professional meeting.

Alpha Tau Among Top 3 PDC Chapters in Nation for Third Year

For the third consecutive year, the UH Alpha Tau chapter of the Phi Delta Chi professional pharmacy fraternity has finished among the top three chapters nationwide for the national organization’s coveted Thurston Cup Award.

Alpha Tau came in third nationwide this year and in 2009, while finishing second in 2010. The Thurston Cup Award is determined by the cumulative points scored in six individual award categories. Among Alpha Tau’s high-scoring categories were second in Leadership and Chapter Window Display and third in Scholarship and Chapter Publication.

Highlights of the chapter’s activities include “Brothers for Better Grades” program in which members anonymously submit exam grades for some of the tougher courses to compare against the class average so performance can be monitored and improved through individual or group study sessions; group review sessions for such courses as Calculations, Pharmaceutics and Medicinal Chemistry; and a three-part series on internships.

For its Window Display project, the chapter provided education and outreach to expectant mothers – many of whom were teenagers or otherwise considered “at-risk” – on the dangers and safety of over-the-counter medications during pregnancy.

With the aid of large table displays, brochures and “paper rattles” adorned with safety reminders and distributed to moms-to-be, PDC members contributed more than 350 man-hours of preparation and presentation of the information to expectant mothers at women’s shelters, pregnancy centers, and community and campus events.
Program Tackles Elder Care Issues in Interdisciplinary Teams

Seven Pharm.D. students from UH College of Pharmacy recently engaged in a unique program combining the experience of collaborating with other students in more than a dozen disciplines with the awareness of the variety of physical and mental health issues in the geriatric care environment.

Offered by the Houston Geriatric Education Center, the Interdisciplinary Student Team Competition places teams of students within Houston-area long-term care facilities to assess the facilities and issues important to residents’ quality of life as well as develop recommendations for managing and resolving problems they’ve identified.

The teams then produce creative presentations, which are evaluated by panels of interdisciplinary judges. All students completing the program are certified as Long-Term Care Ombudsmen in Harris County. This year’s competition featured more 50 students representing a record 14 disciplines from UH, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Texas Women’s University.

UHCOP Pharm.D. student Lea Garcia said being immersed in the world of geriatric care was an enlightening experience.

“I learned to drop the stigma I had regarding the geriatric population.”

— Lea Garcia, Interdisciplinary Student Team Member

UHCOP Clinical Associate Professor J. David Hayes, Pharm.D., BCPS, an HGEC member and competition judge, said ensuring pharmacy students’ familiarity with the team approach and knowledge of elder-care issues is an essential part of their education due to the rapid expansion of this segment of the population.

“It gives them a broader understanding and appreciation for the issues — medication related or otherwise — that elders face when institutionalized and provides them with an opportunity for professional volunteer service to our community,” Hayes said.

SNPhA, Target Team to Promote Wellness to Houstonians at Community Health Fair

With the support of a $2,500 grant from Target Pharmacy, the UH chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association provided free wellness screenings and health information at a community fair at Lilly Grove Missionary Baptist Church near the UH campus. Under the supervision of Target preceptors, several dozen SNPhA members offered blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol screenings as well as diabetes foot exams to hundreds of area residents attending the fair. SNPhA members also presented educational outreach on a variety of health topics, including stroke, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, safe medication disposal and the role of the pharmacist.
Scholz Takes Cougar, County Experience to National Stage

UH College of Pharmacy alumna Lisa Scholz, Pharm.D. ('99), MBA, has taken her experience as a Houston Cougar and leader of the Harris County Hospital District’s pharmacy operations to the national level in a ground-breaking private-public partnership aimed at helping community health organizations improve patient outcomes in cost-effective pharmacy practice models.

Scholz serves in a dual capacity between the Health Resources Services Administration and the American Pharmacists Association. Her primary role with HRSA involves providing free technical assistance to 340B sites across the U.S. to improve their operations while ensuring 340B federal guidance is met. Her other role is the APhA leadership team with such strategic business operations as the IQ Institute, which promotes collaboration among healthcare providers and stakeholders to connect with the safety-net community through 340B contract pharmacy relationships, strategic planning, and training/educational programs.

“My mission is engaging pharmacists and students at a much higher level to encourage innovation, embrace medication therapy management, team with physicians and other professionals and demonstrate how you are uniquely qualified to contribute to improving patient care, and explore opportunities in healthcare reform,” she said.

While back on the UH campus this spring to present the Phi Lambda Sigma James McCarty Lecture, Scholz challenged pharmacy students to continually seek ways opportunities to collaborate and lead within their communities, professional organizations and patient-care settings.

Scholz said the pharmacy profession was mostly absent in the discussion, debate and negotiations over healthcare reform, but as much of the future of health care is “unwritten,” pharmacists still have the opportunity to influence how reform is ultimately implemented.

“Healthcare reform was an awakening for pharmacy,” she said. “This is the opportunity of a lifetime for our profession: Choose your path or your path will be chosen for you. Like it or not, healthcare reform is here. For too long, we’ve been splintered when we need to be one group. Why are physicians so strong? The American Medical Association. We need to reinvent and market ourselves and our profession.

“You hear a lot about having ‘a voice,’ but you have to speak up to have ‘a voice.’ Pharmacists must realize and always remember that there are people out there – physicians, nurses, etc. – who want to do our job.”

A pharmacy technician for 12 years before attending UH, Scholz joined the Harris County Hospital District in 2000 and rose to the position of administrative director of Pharmacy Operations. In that position, she was responsible for a $120 million budget that included more than 700 beds in three inpatient hospitals, 12 ambulatory health center pharmacies, and Department of Public Health and Environment pharmacies.

Scholz said she got the “political bug” through her involvement in student, alumni and professional organizations. A turning point in her career came after speaking before a state health agency, which led to invitations from APhA to become a consultant/faculty member of PSSC, serve in the House of Delegates and eventually oversee the new HRSA-APhA initiative.

“I discovered that if you have good data and the background in the subject matter, you can talk with the decision-makers and influence changes in policies which may have far-reaching impacts in patient care,” she said.

Although Scholz was transplanted to Washington, D.C. in 2008, her roots in Texas and pharmacy run deep. The self-described “Army brat” and Killeen native is married to fellow UHCOP alumus and Vice President of Field Services for McKesson’s Pharmacy Optimization group Robert Scholz, M.S. (’88), MBA, R.Ph. (B.S. ’77), whose daughter Katie Scholz, Pharm.D. (’07), M.S., is pharmacy manager at Texas Children’s Hospital.

“We set out on this adventure to see where it would take us, but Texas will always be home,” Scholz said. “It’s been very rewarding to see the amazing work being done by pharmacists around the country for their communities as well as being able serve as both a resource for healthcare providers and an advocate for pharmacy as an integral part of the process.”
Lott Champions New Texas Chapter for Consultant Pharmacists

Concerned about the threats to pharmacy’s rights and authority, F. Paul Lott, R.Ph. (‘84), FASCP, owner of LLW Consulting Inc., recently spearheaded the initiative to establish a Texas chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.

Lott is serving as the inaugural president of the Texas chapter, along with alumna Heather Lewandowski, R.Ph. (‘91), FIACP, owner of Consulting Matters Inc., who is serving on the chapter’s board of directors.

“Many of our members also are members of the Texas Pharmacy Association’s Academy of Consultant Pharmacists, but we felt that the ongoing attempts to limit the rights and authority of the profession at both the national and state level means we have to take a stand and make ourselves heard at every opportunity,” said Lott, who also serves on the UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council.

The chapter has grown to about 400 professional and student members in less than a year, with discussions under way for an ASCP student chapter at UH. Lott said he hopes to continue educating students about the opportunities available in consultant pharmacy, an underappreciated and relatively overlooked career field among pharmacy students.

“The field is more visible today than when I was in pharmacy school, but I think it’s important for us to continue our outreach to students,” Lott said. “The end-users of our services – geriatric and long-term care patients – are a rapidly growing segment of the population, with baby boomers becoming ‘AARP eligible’ at the same time that lifespans continue to be extended.”

ALUMNI MAILBOX

Jeb Ballentine, R.Ph. (B.S. ’89), has joined the faculty of Cedarville University College of Pharmacy in Ohio, where he will serve as Vice-Chair of Experiential Education. For the past 18 years, he has worked at Kettering Medical Center in Ohio and as assistant professor of Clinical Pharmacy for Ohio Northern College of Pharmacy in Ada, Ohio. Jeb and his wife, April (Baker) Ballentine, (B.S. ’90), recently celebrated their 20th anniversary.

Bruce V. Biundo, R.Ph. (B.S. ’61), pharmacy consultant at PCCA, has been invited to serve as Hormones and Hormone Antagonists section editor for the 22nd edition of “Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy” (Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins).

Kenneth C. Jackson II, Pharm.D. (’02), R.Ph., has been promoted to associate dean at the Pacific University Oregon School of Pharmacy. An associate professor at the institution since 2007, Jackson previously served as assistant dean for Program Development. Jackson also recently completed the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Academic Leadership Fellows Program.

Ricky Lenz, R.Ph. (B.S. ’75), staff pharmacist at Citizens Medical Center in Victoria, Texas, and consultant pharmacist for the South Texas Eye Surgicenter in Victoria, has been appointed as an adjunct assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Texas A&M Health Science Center Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy in Kingsville, Texas.

Brice Labruzzo Mohundro, Pharm.D. (’02), R.Ph., assistant professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and her husband, Michael Mohundro, Pharm.D., welcomed Abigail Mohundro into the world on Nov. 29, 2010, in Louisiana.

Janis Parsley, R.Ph. (B.S. ‘82), has been promoted to Assistant Vice President of Constituent Development in the University of Houston Division of Advancement.

Kyana Stewart, M.S., Pharm.D. (’10), has joined the Texas Tech University’s School of Pharmacy in Abilene as an Assistant Professor in the Pediatrics Division after completing a PGY1 residency at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children in Huntsville, Ala.

Bree Watzak, Pharm.D. (’08), BCPS, has joined the Texas A&M Health Science Center Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice. Watzak’s practice site is at St. Joseph’s Hospital in College Station.

Please e-mail interactions@uh.edu to contribute to the alumni mailbox! Photos are also welcome and appreciated!
TPA Salutes Service, Practice Innovation by UHCOP Alumni

Three UH College of Pharmacy alumni – Dee Downing-Hollis, R.Ph. (’94), and Jenny (Downing) Yoakum, R.Ph. (’97), and Leonard Lynskey, R.Ph. (’85) – were recognized by the Texas Pharmacy Association for their pharmacy practice innovation and community service work.

Sisters Downing-Hollis and Yoakum were honored with TPA’s Excellence in Innovation Award for their respective and collective contributions to advancing pharmacy practice through their compounding specialties and patient care activities. Coworkers at Med Shop Total Care in Longview, Texas, Downing-Hollis and Yoakum spent several years honing their skills and knowledge base at PCCA before returning home to East Texas.

Downing-Hollis was recognized for her work in educating physicians and patients about the benefits of hormone replacement therapy as the treatment option was just beginning to gain acceptance in the medical community. Downing-Hollis also was credited for her contributions to the interdisciplinary team at a local hospice, where the residents’ complex health issues call for creative approaches.

“Many times when the team feels like they have exhausted all ideas, Dee will provide a fresh perspective, something different to try,” wrote a nurse at the hospice.

A member of the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists, Yoakum has found her niche in compounding consultancy for veterinarians, breeders and ranchers working with animals large and small, domestic and exotic – from dogs and horses to reptiles and gorillas. Her therapeutic accomplishments range from developing antibiotic formulations to treat a rhino’s hoof infection to implantable pellets used for birth control in birds.

The siblings are part of a proud legacy of Cougar pharmacists: Father and Med Shop owner Pat Downing is a 1970 alumnus of the college, and younger sibling Jana Downing is in her fourth year of pharmacy school at UH.

Alumna Hardin-Oliver Wins At-large Director Seat on TPA Board

UH College of Pharmacy alumna and Dean’s Advisory Council member Carole Hardin-Oliver, R.Ph. (’83), has been elected Director At-large of the Texas Pharmacy Association Board of Directors.

Currently serving as chair of TPA’s Academy of Chain Pharmacists, Hardin-Oliver also serves on the UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council and chairs its Mission committee. She is immediate past president of the Lake Houston Pharmacy Association, and previously served on the UH Pharmacy Alumni Association board of directors.

“The profession of pharmacy has one overall statewide organization in Texas: that voice is the TPA,” said Hardin-Oliver, who has been a district pharmacy supervisor for 12 of the 30 years she has been with Walgreens. “We have had a very active legislative year and many important healthcare issues have been decided by our senators and representatives. I am very pleased to be part of that voice.”

Hardin-Oliver said that because pharmacists “are the advocates that tirelessly work to get patients the medications they need: correctly, therapeutically and timely,” TPA members must stay active year-round – not just during legislative sessions – to protect the profession and patients.

“The challenge between active sessions is to communicate with each entity that interprets and implements these changes,” she said. “We continue to actively give feedback and activate our profession when direction needs to be given to the interpretation and implementation roll-outs. An example would be the new Managed Care structure for Texas Medicaid. The TPA must be very close to this to ensure access to care for our Texas Medicaid patients.”

Lynskey, owner of Complete Care Pharmacy in Rowlett, Texas, was recognized with the Bowl of Hygeia for his far-reaching service activities, including donating medical supplies and participating in annual mission trips for international humanitarian organizations.

It was the adoption of a child from Guatemala by Lynskey and his wife, Debra, that compelled him to travel to the country for 10-day mission trips each year as part of an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals that provides desperately needed treatment to indigent women and children. On the past trip alone, Lynskey and his team of pharmacists filled more than 4,200 prescriptions in a period of only five days.

“We fell in love with the country and the people, but there is virtually nothing in the way of even basic health care,” he said.

Lynskey’s business, which specializes in pharmacy services for mental health patients, has been ranked among the fastest-growing small businesses in the U.S. for several years on the INC5000 list. The Lynskeys have a total of six children, including daughter Amy Guinan, who manages the pharmacy’s day-to-day operations.
Cuellar’s Service, Mentorship Draw ABHP Pharmacist of Year

Alumna Lourdes M. Cuellar, R.Ph. (B.S. ’73), M.S. (’79), FASHP, administrative director of pharmacy and clinical support services at Memorial Hermann TIRR, has been named 2011 Pharmacist of the Year by the Association of Black Health-system Pharmacists.

Her longtime professional interests are in the areas of pharmacy practice management, leadership development, healthcare policy, alleviation of health disparities, health literacy and cultural competency.

“Lou has been a great advocate for not only the pharmacy profession but also for ABHP,” said Monica Robinson Green, Pharm.D., R.Ph., BCPS, clinical pharmacist at the Harris County Hospital District and ABHP board member. “She has shown her support by her dedication to the needs of the organization. She has been a mentor to me for over five years, and still takes the time to share her experiences.”

An adjunct faculty member at UHCOP, the University of Texas and the University of the Incarnate Word, Cuellar serves as an editor and contributor to the Preceptor’s Handbook for Pharmacists (ASHP) and section editor of PharmPrep Online, ASHP’s NAPLEX Review.

Cuellar is a past president of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the TSHP Research & Education Foundation and the Gulf Coast Society of Health System Pharmacists.

She recently was reappointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council, which evaluates the state’s long-term health needs to develop workforce goals for health professionals. During her first term, Cuellar served as co-chair of the Access to Healthcare section.

In addition, Cuellar is one of only two Texans appointed to the 23-member National Quality Forum’s National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Healthcare Disparities and Cultural Competency project, which seeks to expand on NQF’s previous work where a set of criteria to evaluate disparities-sensitive measures was identified and 35 disparity-sensitive measures for the ambulatory care setting were endorsed.

Alumni Passages in 2010

The College of Pharmacy and the University of Houston express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of alumni who passed in 2010.

Mr. Edward Lee Baker, Jr. (’59), July 22, 2010
Ms. F. Kathleen Boulte (’66)*
Mr. Daniel Thomas Bohan (’90), June 5, 2010
Mr. Gary Edward Brownlow (’64)*
Mr. Eugene Pierson Camp (’58), April 14, 2010
Dr. Abraham P. Cano (’67), Aug. 21, 2010
Mr. Charles G. Eberhardt (’65), Aug. 1, 2010
Mr. Hoyt C. Fort (’53), Dec. 21, 2010
Mr. Jerry Bascom Gibson (’62)*
Mr. Allen Clay Gwinn (’68)*
Mr. Francis J. Halphen, Sr. (’53), Nov. 18, 2010
Dr. Arturo Hidalgo, Jr. (’72), July 8, 2010
Mr. Robert B. Holley (’61), Aug. 20, 2010
Mr. William C. Hull (’66)*
Mr. Donald P. Landry (’63), Aug. 9, 2010
Mr. Jimmie W. Lott (’60), July 26, 2010
Ms. Susan R. Mathis-Crites (’82), Nov. 4, 2010
Mr. Carl G. Miller (’77)*
Mr. Lyman Emmett Mizell (’54), March 18, 2010
Mr. Roy John Morrell (’59), Jan. 1, 2010
Mr. Charles Joel Reich (’60)*
Mr. Bill Addie Rhodes (’51), Dec. 9, 2010
Mr. Billy Carrol Roland (’65), Jan. 5, 2010
Mr. Paul Judson Romans (’76), March 22, 2010
Mr. Benito Glen Romo, II (’69)*
Mrs. Susan D. Saueressig (’80), Aug. 2, 2010
Mr. Andrew Clark Urban (’51), Dec. 20, 2010
Mr. Fred V. Wedegartner, Jr. (’92), Sept. 11, 2010
Mrs. Shirley C. Wheelock (’64), Oct. 1, 2010
Mr. Michael O. Wright (’76), Aug. 14, 2010

*Exact date of passage unavailable
Skyline View, Good Company on Tap for Alumni-Student Mixer in Houston

UH Pharmacy alumni attending the TPA Meeting & Expo in Fort Worth took a break from the day’s sessions to relax in each other’s company. Left, Dale Kirkland (’77) shows off his spirited fashion sense; Carole Hardin-Oliver (’83) and Ziad Ghanem (’04) rehydrate with Texas-sized glasses of iced tea; Dean Lamar Pritchard welcomes May Woo (’91), Ben Fry (’72), Bruce (’61) and Ann Biundo; and Woo and Candice Bailey (’08) get to know student Jessica Preston.

TSHP Seminar in ‘Alamo City’ Finds Alumni on Mission for Camaraderie

UHCP graduates, students and family members of all ages turned out for the alumni dinner at the TSHP 2011 Annual Seminar in San Antonio. Clockwise, Marissa Escalante Chapa (’09) and Joseph Chapa (’08) keep their son entertained with the help of Kevin Kratz (’10); Pritchard catches up with Sarah Lake-Wallace (’00), Dave Wallace (’98), and Jeena (’06) and Todd Connor (’07); James Lovering (’75) tries on Pritchard’s UH-themed tie for size; and Joe Ickes (’73) chats with Rita English (’89).

Pharmacy Coogs Round Up Fellowship in Fort Worth for Alumni Dinner at TPA

UH Pharmacy alumni attending the TPA Meeting & Expo in Fort Worth took a break from the day’s sessions to relax in each other’s company. Left, Dale Kirkland (’77) shows off his spirited fashion sense; Carole Hardin-Oliver (’83) and Ziad Ghanem (’04) rehydrate with Texas-sized glasses of iced tea; Dean Lamar Pritchard welcomes May Woo (’91), Ben Fry (’72), Bruce (’61) and Ann Biundo; and Woo and Candice Bailey (’08) get to know student Jessica Preston.

TSHP photos courtesy of Nancy Ordonez (’98)

TPA photos courtesy of May Woo (’91)
Members of the Pharm.D. Class of 2011 are “paying it forward” by establishing a Student Leadership Development Fund to help support travel to professional meetings and other activities.

Approximately one-half of the entire Pharm.D. Class of 2011 – 63 students – have made pledges or gifts of $100, bringing the total fund up to $6,300 (two additional students have made “exit” gifts, but preferred the funds be applied directly to the Dean’s Scholarship Fund).

Reimbursement of student expenses for traveling to and attending professional (but not fraternity/sorority) meetings is one of the latest casualties of the budget reductions at the college. Prior to the suspension of the previous program, eligible students could receive up to $300 in reimbursement per academic year for professional meeting travel, registration, lodging and meals (except alcohol) expenses.

The campaign began like so many grassroots (or, in this case, “classroots”) efforts with a few fourth-year students mulling over how to give something back to the college. Drawing on his experience and interest in alumni relations during his undergraduate years and into his professional education, Class of 2011’s Dominic Vu volunteered to lead the charge. “We felt it was important to give something back immediately before everyone left and became consumed with residencies, new jobs or starting families,” Vu said. “Even though many of us have loans to repay, $100 didn’t seem like a burden, but it can add up quickly.”

Vu said he hopes his classmates – as well as future classes – will consider continuing to support new fund, which will be administered by the college according to the existing travel fund policy, or other programs at the college in need of assistance. “From my own perspective, attending professional meetings as a student really broadened my horizons,” said Vu, who is currently a PGY1 resident with Kelsey Seybold Managed Care Pharmacy in Houston. “Thanks to the contacts I’ve made at the meetings, I know people all across the country who will be great resources throughout my career and vice versa.”

In light of continuing budget constraints and long-standing scheduling challenges, UH College of Pharmacy has canceled the annual Scholarship Luncheon for donors and their student recipients. Intended as an opportunity for students and donors to get to know each other, the event also has been logistically challenging due to the experiential practice schedules of fourth-year students, who often receive many of the scholarships to help offset the limited opportunities they have to earn income outside of their educational obligations. The college will continue publicizing the scholarship awards in the newsletter, however, as well as seeking new opportunities for donor recognition. “We’re facing vastly different economic conditions than when we started the event, but we are committed to finding budget-conscious ways to thank donors for their support,” said Shara Zatopek, R.Ph. (’74), M.A., associate dean of operations.
Despite longer work days and struggling economy, UH College of Pharmacy supporters still showed their strong commitment to pharmacy education through the 32nd Annual UH Pharmacy Alumni & Friends Scholarship Golf Tournament at Spring’s Augusta Pines Golf Club in June.

Thanks to their support, the 2011 tournament’s corporate and alumni sponsors, teams and individual players raised $13,000 in financial assistance to students.

This year’s sponsors were: Gold ($2,500) – Walgreens; Silver ($1,000) – Johnny Benitez ('86), Brookshire Bros., Marshall Clouser ('66), LLW Consulting Inc., and PCCA; Red & White ($500) – Bruce Biundo ('61), Donald Lackey ('81), Javier Manzano ('01) and Memorial Hermann; Cougar ($100) – Robert Dean Brown, Consulting Matters, Inc., W.C. Grier, McClaugherty Consulting Services, Chi Ngo-Chen ('02), Randall Prince, R. Louis Rumsey ('79), and Shara Zatopek ('74) & Porter Everts; and In-Kind Donations & Other Gifts – Applebees, Houston Astros, Clear Creek Golf Club, Cheesecake Factory, Outback Steakhouse, PF Changs, Randalls, Julianna Szilagyi, UH College of Pharmacy and Wild Cat Golf Club.

The first-place teams were: Low Gross (top photo) – Larry Jones, Brian Parrish, Jeff Hall ('02) and Joe Murillo; and Low Net (bottom photo) – Mike Pede, Abel Figueroa, Matt Murphy and J.P. Monteverde.

Mading Inductees Illustrate Diverse Options for Aiding College

The 2011 Mading Society inductees represents one of the most diverse groups in its history, in terms of the areas of need for which its members have chosen to support.

This year’s 12 inductees and the initiatives for which they have directed their gifts are:

Patrick Healy (B.S. ’98) – Lau Family Growth Fund;
Thurman “Joe” (B.S. ’73) and Marsha Ickes (Bauer B.B.A. ’80) – the Student Lounge Renovation project and general support;
Robert (B.S. ’64) and Linda de Lachica – Pharmacy Care Lab Renovation project;
Harry Melnick (B.S. ’58) – Pharmacy Care Lab Renovation project;
Michael (B.S. ’70) and Jeannie Pemberton – Pharmacy Care Lab Renovation project;
MaryBob Smith – Dean’s Advisory Council Scholarship Endowment and general program support;
John (B.S. ’68) and Linda Stephenson – the Wayne Mae Stephenson Memorial Scholarship Endowment; and
Francisco “Frank” Torres (Pharm.D. ’06) – annual scholarships.

Dean Lamar Pritchard welcomes 2011 inductees Linda and John Stephenson, Marybob Smith, and Joe and Marsha Ickes into the UHCOP Mading Society.

The Mading Society recognizes individual donors for lifetime giving of $10,000 or more and corporate and foundation donors for cumulative giving of $25,000 or more. Established in 1997, the Mading Society now numbers more than 125 alumni and friends of the college.

Alumni, Friends Help Students Through Financial ‘Rough’ with Golf Tournament Scholarships

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Donor Roll Call (Jan. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2010)

$50,000 +
American Heart Association National Center
Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Merck & Dohme IA Corp.
Mr. Marshall Clouser
PhRMA Foundation
American Heart Association - South Central
Cure Alzheimer's Now Fdn
Ortho-McNeil Janssen Sci. Affairs LLC

$49,999 - $25,000
Achogen, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. John Pung Gee
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.

$24,999 - $10,000
Advanced Pharma, Inc.
Briargrove Pharmacy
Dr. Diana Chow
Mr. Celso Cuellar, Jr.
CVS Corporation
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Martin Gentsch
Los Ebanos Pharmacy LLC
Medwell Foods, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Neill
Mr. & Mrs. E. Michael Pemberton
Prescriptions, Inc.
Christopher & Dana Reeve Fdn.
Walgreens
WalMart Stores Inc.

$9,999 - $5,000
Dr. Lydia Aguilera
C & G Pharmacy
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Pablo Fonseca
The Methodist Hospital System
Safeway, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Smith
Southern Slope Trust
Mr. John P. Stephenson

$4,999 - $1,000
Academy of Students of Pharmacy
ACBL Charity Foundation Corp.
Albertsons LLC
Dr. Ann L. Bradgon &
Dr. Karim A. Alkadhi
B2TF LTC Pharmacy, LLC
Mr. Ken A. Breda
Brookshire Brothers
Mrs. Shirley S. Buckley
Cardinal Health Foundation
Mr. Marshall Clouser
Ms. Rita A. English
Mr. John A. Espinoza &
Mrs. Mary G. Espinoza
Mr. & Mrs. James Leslie Fulenwider
Mr. Patrick J. Healy
H-E-B Grocery Company
Dr. & Mrs. James G. Hesbrook
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Joseph Webber & Assoc., Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Alton G. Kanak
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Ms. Susan G. Lerma
Linden Drug Co., Inc.
LLW Consulting, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Andrew Lomax
Mr. & Mrs. John Lovoi
Luparello's Corner Pharmacy
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas J. Martino
Mr. & Mrs. James T. McCarty
McKesson Corporation
The Med-Shop Total Care
Mom's Pharmacy
Mr. & Mrs. George Keith Moseley
NACDS Education Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Napoli
PCCA
Pharmacists Mutual Insurance
Pharmacy Plus, Inc.
Pharmcare LLC
Drs. Bryan R. & Renee Prescott
Prime Therapeutics Corporation
Dr. Niranjani S. Rao
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kevin Rice
Mr. Ronald Louis Rumsey
Mrs. Carrie McClain Sack
Stephenson Pharmacy
Mr. Eddie C. Talley
Tanglewood Pharmacy
Mrs. Joyce A. Tipton
Mr. David Tollar
Dr. Francisco Ledesma Torres
UH College of Pharmacy
Alumni Association
Dr. Sarah & David Wallace
Ms. May J. Woo
Ms. Shara Zatopek &
Mr. H. Porter Everts

$999 - $500
Ms. Mary Wing Sze Au &
Mr. Victor Kientung Liu
Ms. & Mrs. Bruce V. Biundo
Ms. Vicki S. Blythe
Mr. & Mrs. Gary G. Cacciatore
Dr. Kathy L. Chang
Mr. Ronald Dasher
Mr. Ronald B. Dowell
Mr. W. Benjamin Fry
Mr. Ramiro Ricardo Garcia
Mrs. Elizabeth George-Refello &
Mr. Savio J. Re bullpen
Drs. Jeffrey & Jennifer Harrison
Mr. Clay Hawkins
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Mr. Donald W. Lackey
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Laegeler
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Lemke
Mr. James Henry Livingston, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Mustafa F.
Lokhandwala
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Malacoff
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Marshall
McClougherty Consulting Svcs.
Mr. J.P. Monteverde
Dr. Thuy F. Nguyen
Mr. Jesus A. Saenz &
Mrs. Elvia Saenz
Sav-More Drug Inc.
Dr. Lynn A. Simpson
Target Corporation
Mr. George Edward Teel
Mr. & Mrs. Robby D. Timberlake
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Trahan
Val-Med LLC
Drs. Alex & Divya Varkey
Mr. & Mrs. James Washburn
Mrs. Sandra Evans Webb

Up to $499
Mr. Carl Vincent Accardo
Dr. Stanley Walter Adamski
Mr. Christy Adesanya
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Thomas Alexander, IV
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Keith Armstrong
Mr. Frank G. Arredondo
Mr. Aemad A. Aslam
Mr. Horace Richard Aslin
Dr. & Mrs. Bob Barr
Dr. Simrit Kaur Bassett
Ms. Stephanie Lane Beall
Mr. Melvin Thomas Beddoo
Mr. & Mrs. Juan E. Benitez
Ms. Evelyn P. Berkowitz
Mr. & Mrs. Homer Lee Bishop
Dr. Tara N. Bolden
Ms. Judy Lynn Boynton &
Mr. Joseph W. Knobloch
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Brannan
Ms. Roxanne Braswell
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Breitenberg
Mr. Bobby G. Brooks
Dr. Stacy Lynn Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dean Brown
Mr. Charles Martin Buchanan
Mr. Jorge Canales
Dr. Marco Carranza
Ms. Sonya Lisa Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Mills Cason
Mr. Joe Castillo, Jr.
Mr. Manuel M. Caudillo, Jr.
Dr. Martha Chamberlain-Durham
Dr. Thelma Mae Lee Chan
Mr. Sui-Hoi Francis Chan
Dr. Priya Cheeran
Mr. Thomas Chen
Dr. Chang-Jian Chen
Ms. Jean L. Cheung-Erter
Ms. Ling-Hui Chow-Chiang
Dr. Monica Chang Chuong
Dr. William J. Coffey, II
Mr. Heriberto Contreras
Ms. Elizabeth A. Coyle
Ms. Lourdes M. Cuellar
Mr. Harold F. Cunningham, Jr.
Dr. Stacie Sack Dacus
Mr. William Howard Dahlquist
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Daniel
Ms. Sonia De La Rosa
Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Jesus Deanda
Mr. Christopher Dembny
Dr. Ngoc-Giao T. Dinh
Mrs. Cristina C. Dixon
Mr. Charles R. East
Ms. Doris C. Ebo
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas C. Eikenburg
Mr. Robert Francis Erstine
Mr. Jose M. Falcon, Jr.
Mr. Juan Raul Falcon
Dr. Maryam Fath
Mr. Ira B. Fontenot
Mr. Edward A. Forbes
Dr. Julie C. Forcum
Mr. Charles E. Forrest
Mr. William Todd Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Furlich
Mr. Jorge Garcia
Mrs. Cheryl Etvette Gay
Dr. Ziad M. Ghanem
Mr. & Mrs. William Michael Gleason
Global Impact for Pitney Bowes
Mr. Heath Goinns
Mr. Gilberto Gonzalez, Jr.
Dr. Meghan Elizabeth Goodson
Mrs. Melissa N. Grantham
Mr. Wallace C. Grier
Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Grilley
Dr. Rod Gunter
Dr. Jeffrey B. Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Hamilton
Ms. Elizabeth K. Hanson-Nelson
& Mr. Robert W. Nelson
Ms. Carole E. Hardin-Oliver &
Mr. James W. Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny L. Hargroue, Jr.
Dr. Sharathcha S. Hegde
Ms. Cindy K. Heinze
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Brent Hodges
Mr. & Mrs. Rickey A. Holderrieth
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ray Houchin
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chao-Hui Huang
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hunter
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Johnigan
Mr. Paul Kenneth Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas C. Jones
Dr. Kimberly R. Kaminski
Mrs. Fehmida A. Karachwala
Mr. Wallace C. Kittman
Mr. Charles F. Kneip
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bernard Koi
Mr. & Mrs. Kip S. Lackey
Dr. Michelle Lai
Mr. Wing Wah Lam

$1,000 +
Top 25 Classes in Total Gifts*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>33,499.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>18,410.00</td>
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<td>15,085.00</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>11,550.00</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>10,624.27</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>8,580.00</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>5,941.65</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>4,960.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>4,900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>4,225.00</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>2,855.00</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>2,795.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>2,529.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>2,485.00</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>2,350.00</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>2,150.00</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>2,150.00</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>1,805.00</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>1,760.00</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>1,475.00</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>1,450.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,400.00</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>1,325.00</td>
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Top 25 Classes by Percent Participation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>18% (2/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>15% (11/71)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>13% (7/54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>12% (5/42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>11% (2/18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>9% (7/76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>9% (2/22)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>9% (10/110)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>9% (10/112)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>9% (3/34)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>9% (11/126)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>9% (3/35)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>8% (5/60)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>8% (7/87)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>8% (8/105)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>8% (3/40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>7% (6/81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>7% (11/149)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>7% (9/129)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>7% (5/72)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>7% (2/29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>6% (1/16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>6% (2/33)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>6% (7/119)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>5% (5/91)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Totals do not include unpaid pledges.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 29
UHCOP Fall Convocations
Times/locations vary; visit www.uh.edu/pharmacy
Contact: Barbara Lewis, tatum@uh.edu, 713-743-1651

Oct. 22
Fall Preceptor CE Conference
TMC Campus, 1441 Moursund, 77030
Registration deadline: Oct. 17
www.uh.edu/pharmacy/about-us/administration/experiential-programs/index.php
Contact: Nancy Ordonez, nordonez@uh.edu, 713-795-8366

Nov. 2-4
P1 Internship Networking Social: 5 - 7 p.m. Nov. 2,
UH University Center, Houston Room
P4 Placement Conference: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nov. 3,
UH University Center, Houston Room
Residency Showcase: 1 - 4 p.m. Nov. 4, Trevisio,
Texas Medical Center Commons
Contact: Betty Hassell, ehassell@uh.edu, 713-743-1651

Top left, UHCOP current and retired faculty members Ken Euler, Louis Williams, Joydip Das and Tom Lemke are pictured with University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill’s Hal Kohn, who delivered the 24th Annual Voldeg Lecture at the 2011 MALTO meeting hosted by UH. Top right, the Pharm.D. Class of 2014 team took the trophy and a $400 prize for the charity of their choice at the student-run Pharmacy Olympics. Bottom left, the UHCOP team raised $2,800 at the 2011 UH March of Dimes campaign/walk. Bottom right, Dean’s Advisory Council members Paul Lott, John and Paula Lovoi, Michael O’Neill and Ed Talley get in the spirit of the Cajun-Hawaiian theme for a recent DAC dinner.