A Sense of Community

p2
Progress. It is defined as forward or onward movement toward a destination, goal or higher stage. Since joining the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2013, I have witnessed many exciting and innovative forms of progress within our school. The 2018 Buffalo Pharmacy Magazine tells these stories.

The continued evolution of our research and research centers is evidenced by our many “Trailblazers,” who are advancing new discoveries in health care: drug delivery, antibiotic resistance, opioid addiction, medication literacy and integrated global medicine. These laboratory- and clinic-based programs are creating new scholarship which will inspire new models to address major health care challenges.

The growth and positive impact of community outreach has been led by Drs. Gina Prescott and Gene Morse, and their collective abilities to gain the trust of local, regional and global community members, create dynamic partnerships, and provide vulnerable populations access to health information and health resources. As a research-intensive public university, an important part of our mission is service. You can learn more about how we are realizing that mission in “Sense of Community.”

Providing students the opportunity to enrich their experiences in preparation to become future scientists, clinicians and global citizens is essential. The Dean’s Ambassador Program, as well as our musical group the Pharmonics, give our students the opportunity to interact in interesting and dynamic ways, showcasing their unique abilities to prospective students as well as the school’s family at large.

Our progressive outlook is showcased throughout Buffalo Pharmacy Magazine. This new publication integrates our past newsletter and annual report and highlights the best of our school. I welcome you to peruse our Features, Departments, Support and Scholarship sections; learn more about our past year’s accomplishments and continued progress throughout all areas of the school. I hope you are as impressed as I am by what we have collectively achieved.

Warm regards,

James M. O’Donnell, PhD
Professor and Dean
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A Sense of Community

The world today is connected as much by an affinity for humanity as by geography.

To care for this new global community, the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SPPS) is preparing future practitioners and clinicians with a spectrum of servant leadership opportunities to learn experientially through work with traditionally underserved populations.

CLINICAL CARE FOR A GLOBAL POPULATION

“As our population becomes more diverse, our students really need to be able to understand that there are differences in access to and delivery of healthcare. Even to work in a city like Buffalo you need to understand there are cultural differences in how communities receive healthcare,” Clinical Associate Professor Gina Prescott, PharmD, says.

Kaitlin Landolf, ’18 (middle), at a refugee medication literacy clinic in 2017.

[ FEATURES ]

Highlighting some of the most meaningful achievements of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners. These accomplishments elevate our school and allow our positive impact to be realized at local, regional, national and international levels.
Servant leadership is about serving other people first, especially people from other countries where healthcare is not as developed,” says Prescott. “It leads you to think ‘I am going to be a servant at a level they can handle rather than deliver the healthcare the way I want to do it.’ It’s also about understanding that at the end of the day, people are going to proceed how they want.”

Prescott has long been at the forefront of SPPS initiatives to both equip PharmD candidates with the skills needed to optimize the delivery of pharmaceutical care to multicultural communities, and provide practical pharmacy support to the locally, nationally and internationally underserved.

Before earning her PharmD in 2002 from the University of Pittsburgh, completing a residency at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia in 2003 and joining the UB Pharmacy Practice faculty in 2004, she grew up in a small town in rural central Pennsylvania.

“Being from a small town is part of the reason for my focus on the underserved and global healthcare. I understand both the aspects of living in a city and, because of where I grew up, have seen healthcare disparities impact people in many different ways,” she says.

To address these disparities, cultural literacy training is now mandatory for completion of a SUNY PharmD degree; Prescott has instructed the SPPS lecture since 2014. SPPS also offers Global Health Outreach, which Prescott teaches, and Spanish for Pharmacists as electives to prepare students for practice and research leadership at home and abroad.

“Unless you work with populations who are different from you, you aren’t going to learn what questions to ask to learn how people take care of themselves and how they view healthcare,” says Prescott.

When not at the lectern, she assists the coordination of student involvement and optimization of pharmaceutical patient care at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) and other local free clinic sites that target the underserved.

“Unless you work with populations who are different from you, you aren’t going to learn what questions to ask to learn how people take care of themselves and how they view healthcare,” says Prescott.

I work with the Family Medicine practice at ECMC, which has been a key healthcare provider for refugees resettled in Buffalo. What we saw there was that many of the pharmacists weren’t comfortable using translator phones and interpreters, and that patients weren’t having medicine labels translated adequately and didn’t really know how to use the pharmacy here in the U.S.,” she explains.

With donor-based support from the University at Buffalo President’s Circle funding, SPPS launched its innovative Sustainable Medication Literacy Program in 2015. Prescott is principal investigator for the...
community-driven outreach initiative, which provides international refugees resettled in Western New York with culturally sensitive, pharmacy-focused patient education. Classroom presentations and print materials in 14 different languages give them a better understanding of how, when and why medications have been prescribed for them and how to best utilize a U.S. pharmacy.

The program is novel in its focus on newly arrived refugees, Prescott says—the average participant has been in the U.S. for eight months to two years, and speaks very little English. To date, the Sustainable Medication Literacy Program has served approximately 300 refugees from Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, the Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, Nepal, Somalia and Yemen.

"Only one other school nationally, Ohio State University, had a similar program, but didn’t use interpreters or translators. With this grant we were able to secure translators and interpreters, which allowed us to develop a patient education program in partnership with the International Institute of Buffalo and Buffalo City Schools’ English as a Second Language program," Prescott says.

"Students self-select and sign up and we give them four hours of training on how to interact with the refugees. In the classroom, we talk about how to read a medication label, correct dosing tools and how a pharmacist can help them find the right OTC medications," says Prescott.

Prescott is also the faculty advisor for the UB International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF). A recent affiliate of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), IPSF serves as a feeder organization for students who want to gain pre-graduation local, regional, national and international pharmacy outreach experience with underserved populations.

Third-year PharmD students Rachel Klosko and Syed Samad both are IPSF members: Klosko is its first president. Under Prescott’s guidance, they currently serve as student leads for the Sustainable Medication Literacy Program, where they learn how to provide culturally competent counseling as well as how to analyze the data being collected during these encounters for future research and publication.

"It’s an amazing experience," Klosko says. "After each session, the refugees fill out a medication evaluation form asking them what they learned. We’re keeping track of that data and will use it to evaluate the efficacy of the project, and determine where we can make changes."

According to Prescott, monitoring and assessing this information also allows SPPS to continually improve the program—this helps with securing outside funding to cover expenses including retaining interpreters and on-site supplies.

EXPANDING SERVANT LEADERSHIP BEYOND WESTERN NEW YORK

Samad and Klosko have also volunteered for other SPPS global health servant learning experiences, including medical mission trips.

Since 2013, UB interdisciplinary health professional teams have taken seven- to 10-day mission trips providing patient care in Caribbean countries including Haiti, the Democratic Republic, Jamaica and Belize. In January 2018, students participated in mission trips to Ghana in connection with the UB School of Management dual MBA-MD degree program. In addition to SPPS PharmD students and faculty, the teams include nursing, medical, dental and physical therapy degree students who pay their own travel expenses and receive an elective credit for participation.

"This generation of students seems a bit more altruistic to me; they pursue these trips because they are empathetic, want to help people and are interested in diversity in general," Prescott says.

"These experiences set them apart from other students too, because they don’t come back the same person they were when they left. They come back with a lot of appreciation for the healthcare system here in the United States, and a better understanding of how other populations receive healthcare."

Samad agrees—most students volunteer for servant learning opportunities for the chance to hone skills for communicating with underserved patients rather than for curricular credit. In January 2017 he was part of a large UB inter-professional medical mission team that traveled to Haiti. While there, he observed and helped treat two cases of phimosis, a serious condition in males that prevents urination.

"One gentleman’s bladder was so distended it was bulging. The other case was a child who had been complaining that he hadn’t urinated in three days. One case was treated surgically and one at the clinic site. My role was to help the medical students determine what we could use as a local anesthetic," Samad explains.

The experience, he adds, gave him a renewed appreciation for SPPS curricular focus on the importance of understanding drug classifications.

"If you know the class of a medication and you know what it’s supposed to do, you can troubleshoot effective therapies. When you’re working with donated medications, which is often the case when treating the underserved, you have to use what you’ve got," he says.

"If you can treat 90 percent of the patient population but can’t treat the other 10 percent, that’s a large portion that you’re not helping.

Mercede Siu, '20 (right), at a medical clinic in Haiti in 2017.
And it’s being able to treat that 10 percent population that makes you a good practitioner vs. a great practitioner.”

Domestically, Samad and Klosko participated in the annual UB outreach trip to Wise County, Virginia in 2017. Organized by Remote Area Medical (RAM), the mission takes student teams to provide free clinic services to low-income Appalachian Mountain communities.

Samad views the diverse servant leadership outreach opportunities provided by SPPS as the perfect venue for helping PharmD students learn how to treat non-traditional patients. Klosko feels they help acclimate students to working with international population they might serve when they graduate.

“I personally love community outreach, so I think that’s a big part of it too. Being able to use what you’ve learned in school to help people before you graduate makes students feel useful,” she says.

**COLLABORATIONS IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION: TACKLING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES**

Under the direction of SUNY Distinguished Professor Gene Morse, BS ’80 & PharmD ’83, the SPPS is also recognized as an international leader in global health-centered clinical and translational research. His more than 20 years of work in HIV pharmacology research with Dr. Charles Chiedza Maponga at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and its Center of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Innovation has paved the way for international, multidisciplinary research partnerships focused on drug development, antiretroviral therapies and medication management.

In collaboration with SUNY Distinguished Professor Paras N. Prasad, executive director of the UB Institute for Lasers, Photonics and Biophotonics, Morse and Maponga guided development of the HIV Research Training Program, the UZ HIV Pharmacology Specialty Laboratory and the Zimbabwe International Nanotechnology Center (ZINC). These provide SPPS students with opportunities for six-week experiential education rotations in drug development research, traditional medicine use and nanomedicine, and biosensor research.

Morse also co-directs the SUNY Global Health Institute (GHI), formed to synergize system-wide SUNY global health initiatives and foster corporate, economic and international partnerships with innovative leaders in education, training and research in resource-limited countries. In 2015, UB launched the Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences (CIGBS)—as UB’s first multidisciplinary, global biomedical sciences research center, CIGBS coordinates administration of the SUNY-GHI. CIGBS also creates international partnerships to further advance global health education, training and research, and foster public-private partnerships focused on innovation in design and manufacture of drug products and services for the global health market.

“The vision on the part of the University at Buffalo to establish the Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences has already had important effects in the global community,” Morse says.

“Partnerships with low-to-middle income countries that promote team science in drug development, pharmaceutical innovation, patient safety and laboratory sciences are well aligned with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and position UB and SPPS to continue as global leaders.”

As co-chair of the SUNY-University of the West Indies (UWI) Health Research Task Force (HRTF), which was also launched in 2015, Morse is focused on building a collaborative clinical and translational research center, infectious diseases research center and research programs in diabetes, cancer, autoimmune disease and liver and kidney disease. The HRTF is also establishing new collaborations in natural product development, cannabinoid sciences and nanomedicine—the initiative continues to prioritize research and education opportunities to establish Jamaica and UWI, which has campuses in Barbados and Trinidad, as the regional hub for the health research, population data analytics and sustainable development goals.

Prescott also is involved in SUNY-HRTF, and is helping UWI develop its first PharmD curriculum.

“We’ve been integrating UB students there so that they can get the short-term experience in the global health areas we are talking about. This summer they spent some time doing research on non-communicable diseases in Jamaica. Next year we are going to expand the program to six weeks so students can spend the summer there and study those non-communicable diseases within the population,” she says.

SPPS servant leadership opportunities provide its PharmD candidates with the ability to apply what they are learning in the classroom and gain experience with the real world, diverse communities they will ultimately serve before they graduate. And Prescott says the school’s focused commitment to broadening student perspectives is creating a growing sense of community.

“Training students to be flexible with regard to patients they treat is important, because there is no one-size-fits-all,” she says. “UB is at the forefront of this modern training—we are fostering culturally aware students who have the unique ability to understand things from different and global perspectives.”

Maxine Gossell-Williams, professor at the University at the UWI; Craig Hall, project supervisor at the UWI; Terrence Forrester, professor at the UWI; Gene Morse, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Pharmacy Practice; Carmel Wilson-Clarke, professor at the UWI; John Lindo, professor at the UWI; and Beverley Morrison, executive director of the Jamaican and American Association of Buffalo

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The Power of Research: Young Trailblazers

Everyone loves the idea of a superhero with special powers to resolve crises that ordinary people cannot.

At the UB SPPS, young faculty members Juliane Nguyen, PharmD, PhD; Dhaval Shah, PhD ’10, and Brian Tsuji, PharmD, are individually deploying their extraordinary powers of bench and bedside investigation to create new knowledge for exiling cancers, bacterial superbugs and other evil human maladies.

Such breakthroughs are made possible at UB SPPS because of its internationally renowned faculty, collegial camaraderie and ready access to cutting-edge technology and trendsetters at nearby Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the UB Clinical and Translational Science Research Center and the NYS Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

ENGINEERING PROTEINS AND CODES TO COMBAT CANCER: PK/PD ON THE MOVE

“The collaborative spirit among faculty that we have here is unparalleled and makes you feel like you have people around you that you can rely on,” says Shah, assistant professor, pharmaceutical sciences.

“I think the quality of science at SPPS is also determined by the quality of students here. You cannot create quality science without quality students. We have been lucky enough to attract high caliber students who are as passionate as the faculty about pharmaceutical research, and they help us to generate these breakthrough discoveries for the future.”

In his Kapoor Hall lab, Shah and his 15-member team are advancing the field of PK/PD knowledge and drug discovery by engineering novel antibody-drug Conjugates (ADCs) into drug delivery systems that target and treat a range of cancers with greater efficacy and less toxicity than traditional chemotherapy. With projects driven largely by the UB SPPS Center for Protein Therapeutics, his bench work is supported by a $1.5M NIH grant and a portion of the $1M awarded to Oncolinx, Inc. through 43North.

In addition to his research with ADCs, Shah is using engineered proteins, nanoparticle technology and gene-based mechanisms to discover better cancer therapies and to address obesity as a treatable disease. He is internationally respected for his ability to create novel mathematical models that accurately translate pre-clinical findings to human PK/PD outcomes, and is pursuing novel therapies using gene manipulation, which he sees as the future of drug discovery and delivery.

“SPPS has always been at the forefront of developing novel PK/PD models that can be used for drug development purposes. Mathematical models give us a sense of what will work in the clinic and what will not. If the models suggest it is a good idea, then we can go on to the drawing board and engineer novel proteins,” says Shah, who earned his PhD at UB and worked in the Shah Lab Staff.
pharmaceutical industry for several years before returning to SPPS to join the pharmaceutical sciences faculty at the invitation of his mentors, SUNY Distinguished Professor William Jusko and Professor Joseph Balthasar.

“I feel like we can revolutionize this process of administering antibodies. I envision that one day our PharmD and pharmaceutical sciences students will be able to use our PK/PD models to decide which patient should be given which medicine at which time. I am hoping that one day we will be able to influence hospitals around this area and help them make decisions that are clinically better and individualized for each patient.”

Juliane Nguyen joined the pharmaceutical sciences faculty in 2013, the same year as Shah, and is also creating breakthrough knowledge to advance drug delivery. She is principal investigator on a $1.58M NIH RO1 grant awarded in August 2017 for the development of exosome “zip-coding” that will potentially prevent cancer cells from telling each other how and where to metastasize. Her research is also supported by two smaller National Institute of Genetics grants totaling $150,000.

“We look at how cancer cells communicate with one another, and how they manipulate their environment to promote tumor growth and induce metastatic spread in the body. We are set on finding therapeutic drug carriers to stop this communication,” explains Nguyen, assistant professor, pharmaceutical sciences.

“Over the last few years, it has become clear that cancer cross-talk is mediated by exosomes, tiny lipid vesicles secreted by cells. We have discovered biomaterials in the lab that are capable of repackaging and disarming these exosomes. By loading these exosomes with anti-metastatic drugs we hope to be able to stop tumor growth.”

The biomaterials developed by Nguyen and her research team are called exo-codes, and are zip code-like sequences for tagging the exosomes, lipid vesicles that do the talking in cells. Once reprogrammed with exo-codes, the exosomes can be loaded with anti-cancer drugs that will be delivered directly to tumors, prevent pathogenic chatter and result in less toxicity to other parts of the body.

“If you want to make therapies better, you really have to think about how to better deliver drugs, make them safer, more effective and more specific.”

Her groundbreaking scientific discovery also has therapeutic potential for heart disease and autoimmune disorders, says Nguyen, who has received a provisional patent for her work. Her collaborators include faculty and researchers in the UB Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, UB Center for Translational Research and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences here is at the cutting edge of exosome research. I have a great group of students and each day we are figuring out how to make drugs better and safer. Aside from exosomes, we work on protein therapeutics and other types of nanocarriers. Students in my lab are co-chairs of the Gordon Research Seminar on Extracellular Vesicles, a new conference addressing the latest advances in exosome biology and therapeutics. They are outstanding students who push the boundaries of research, and that is exciting to see,” Nguyen says.

“We are also editing a special issue featuring exosomes and their therapeutic and diagnostic applications for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Journal.”

ATTACKING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE ONE COMBINATION DOSE AT A TIME

From bench to bedside, Brian Tsuji, PharmD, associate professor, pharmacy practice, is leading innovations to fight new antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

He is the principal investigator on a $4.4M NIH grant awarded in 2014 to develop new dosing strategies for polymyxin antibiotics that maximize bacterial eradication, suppress bacterial resistance and minimize adverse side effects.

In May 2017, Tsuji and his team of researchers identified antibiotic cocktails effective in eradicating two of the six pathogens in ESKAPE. ESKAPE is a group of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria that cause most of the U.S. hospital infections, resulting in more than two million infections and nearly 23,000 deaths a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In August 2017, Tsuji led the identification of a novel three-drug combination dosing regimen effective against a new strain of deadly E. coli bacterium resistant to last-resort antibiotics.

“This is a massive public health problem because the emergence of these new highly resistant strains has been coupled with a dwindling pipeline of development and approval for new drugs,” says Tsuji, a leading international expert on antimicrobial pharmacometrics.

“We are creating new guidelines for dosing to provide to the medical and scientific community guidance on how to optimally use the polymyxin antibiotics.”
The chief architects of UB SPPS Opioid Prescriber Training Program estimate that as of November 2017, SPPS reached 38,000 of the 100,000 NYS licensed prescribers. This impressive number allowed them to meet legislatively-mandated educational training to combat the national opioid epidemic.

“We feel really good about that,” says Edward M. Bednarczyk, BS ’84, PharmD, clinical associate professor and director of the SPPS Center for Health Outcomes, Pharmacoinformatics and Epidemiology (cHOPE).

SPPS provides its Opioid Prescriber Training Program free to prescribers with a DEA number and to medical residents prescribing under a facility DEA number.

“We also made it available to other health care providers, including pharmacists, for a nominal fee because we wanted them to have the opportunity for the same level of training,” Bednarczyk says.

Made possible through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH), it expands on an existing SPPS initiative providing prescribers with opioid education through the SUNY/NYS DOH Medicaid Prescriber Education Program. The program is also part of the New York State Prescription Drug Overdose Program, intended to advance and evaluate comprehensive state-level interventions for preventing prescription drug overuse, misuse, abuse and overdose.

The SPPS training program is a two-pronged, four-hour curriculum covering the eight modules of mandatory opioid education created by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration for prescriber compliance. Content areas include pain management, appropriate prescribing, managing acute pain, state and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances; prevention, screening and signs of addiction, response to abuse and addiction, palliative medicine and end-of-life care.

Program content was developed with the NYS DOH by an inter-professional team of UB SPPS and UB Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences faculty experts in pain management, opioid dependence, NYS law and palliative care, explains Marsha Nelson, Department of Pharmacy Practice program director and administrator for the UB SPPS Office of Continuing Pharmacy Education.

“In putting together the curriculum, the content experts strived to provide the tools, the practical knowledge, and other takeaways the prescribers could apply to their practices,” says Nelson.

Pre- and post-testing allows measurement of program efficacy, and successful completion of the training supports prescriber certification by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

While multiple other entities offered similar training to New York prescribers, (the only state in which it is mandatory), the SPPS course is novel in that is free for most and can be accessed online.

“Our was done on our continuing education platform, so it’s knowledge-based, enduring training that can be accessed regardless of where the prescriber is across the state,” says Clinical Assistant Professor Terry E. Dunn, PharmD, who coordinated the development of the program.

Even though prescribers have completed the mandated training, they are required to repeat this training at license renewal (typically every three years). Further, new physician graduates and other prescribers will also be required to complete opioid prescribing training – and Dunn anticipates the SPPS Opioid Prescriber Training Program will continue to provide this innovative support.

Bednarczyk advises that the program is not a magic bullet for resolving the current opioid epidemic, but rather a vitally important part of the solution.

“Our aim is to compare opioid use in New York State before the program and after the program. Because it is an ongoing process, it will be interesting to see if this undertaking is making a difference,” he says.

Based on the success of this program, Nelson believes there are future opportunities to bring this training program to other areas.

“There have been inquiries with regard to expanding this program to a national audience. We had a number of very positive responses by pain management specialists who participated in the training and whose feedback included ‘well presented and very thorough on each topic, excellent program’,” she says.
From Humble Beginnings to a Team of Hundreds: The Dean’s Ambassador Program

Of her myriad responsibilities, oversight of the Dean’s Ambassador Program is Jennifer Rosenberg’s favorite.

“We started with 65 ambassadors and now we have almost 400. I’m very proud of this,” says Rosenberg, associate dean and director of admissions, enrollment planning and pre-pharmacy advising.

When Rosenberg joined the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2007, she noticed a need for UB pharmacy champions to share positive experiences with prospective SPPS students. So she developed and nurtured a small group of 15 students and 40 alumni ambassadors who would show applicants why UB was right for them.

Today, Rosenberg and Christine Stumm, associate director of admissions and advisement, oversee a program with over 160 alumni and hundreds of student ambassadors representing all four PharmD classes and pharmaceutical sciences programs. These emissaries support recruitment, application review, academic events and onsite interviews by sharing positive insights and candid perspectives on the UB experience. Dean’s Student Ambassadors also contribute to SPPS web postings about life as an SPPS student, places to live and things to do in Western New York.

“For the students, there is no class credit involved. Participation is mainly to show the student has contributed, been involved. Students think the program is fun and a great way to develop leadership skills. And there’s a natural thread that connects the academic experience into the alumni experience,” states Rosenberg.

The ability to foster a sense of involvement, connection and community has created a strong and vibrant culture and experience for students and alumni alike.

Fourth-year PharmD student and current DSA Justin Bui remembers why he wanted to become a DSA: “Out of the eight schools I applied to, UB was the only school where I received a personal email from a current student/DSA. That meant a lot to me and gave me insight into the type of camaraderie UB was able to cultivate.”

Alumnae Karen Brim, BS ’82, is a clinical disease management pharmacist with Independent Health and was a preceptor before becoming a DAA. As a student of color, she was also a single mother who lived off campus while earning her degree, and often felt isolated.

“If my mere presence helps a candidate to initially identify with me as a minority, it may alleviate potential feelings of isolation or inadequacy and help them in making a decision to attend UB SPPS,” she says of her contribution as a Dean’s Alumni Ambassador. Personally, the role keeps her connected to the next generation of pharmacists – and to her alma mater, she adds.

In addition to reviewing electronic applications, Brim conducts one-on-one candidate interviews, which allows her to promote her hometown, talk about pharmacy career options – and support recruitment of non-traditional students.

“Looking through a different lens, I might see something unique about an essay that someone else can’t really see. And I think I offer a unique perspective by helping to identify students that are not just academically qualified but those who can make meaningful contributions to the profession, especially with the rapid demographic changes occurring in our society,” she explains.

“We must identify future pharmacists who are willing and able to work with a diverse patient population that spans many races and ethnic groups. Assessing online applications helps to identify, early, candidates who understand this and are ready to train as a pharmacist who can meet this need,” says Brim.

Bui also believes a strong Ambassador Program is a key to the success of the PharmD program and the school. “Students value other students’ opinions and the more available we are able to make ourselves, the more informed our prospects will be. We, as students, can do our part in shaping the future of pharmacy,” he says.
Dr. Gerhard Levy (1928–2017) was an inspirational role model, colleague, friend and mentor. Widely considered a pioneer in the fields of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics (PK/PD), he was among the first pharmacists named to the prestigious Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, in 1980. The principles developed by Dr. Levy and his students and colleagues in PK/PD laid the groundwork for modern drug development and rational drug dosing.

Dr. Levy attended the University of California at San Francisco, earning his BS in Pharmacy in 1955 and PharmD in 1958. Nearly his entire career was spent at the University at Buffalo, having joined as assistant professor of pharmacy in 1958 and retiring as university distinguished professor of pharmaceutics in 2000.

He received many national and international awards including the Høst Madsen Medal from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) in 1978; Oscar Hunter Award in Experimental Therapeutics in 1982 from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics; Volwiler Award in 1982 from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy; and the Takeru Higuchi Research Prize in 1983 from the American Pharmaceutical Association. He was also the recipient of 20 honorary lectureships at various universities and venues and six Doctor Honoris Causae Awards.

Memorial donations can be made to the Gerhard Levy Endowment Fund at pharmacy.buffalo.edu/levy
At the 2017 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting, a memorial reception was held in Dr. Levy’s honor. Over 60 former colleagues, students and friends attended, several of whom made poignant remarks about Dr. Levy’s impact on them both personally and professionally.

“I am still fascinated by the elegance, the clarity and the beauty of the scientific concepts that he...developed over the years.”
-Dr. Meindert Danhof, Professor of Pharmacology, Leiden University; mentored by Dr. Levy as post-doctoral research fellow, 1980-1983

“In addition to the exceptional scientific training we received, I came to appreciate that discipline, respect for others, confidence, toughness and focus were essential ingredients of a successful career—elements that are very difficult to teach, but that he instilled in each of us.”
-Dr. Mario Rocci, Senior Vice President, ICON Development Solutions; BS and PhD student of Dr. Levy at the University at Buffalo in the 1970s

“Our [pharmaceutical sciences] department has maintained worldwide recognition in academic research in PK/PD and pharmaceutics in large part owing to Dr. Levy’s seminal developments in biopharmaceutics and PK/PD, his teaching innovations, his collegial interactions, his attention to evolving professional and scientific needs, and his role in attracting and recruiting synergistic faculty members and outstanding graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.”
-Dr. William J. Jusko, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; graduate student in Dr. Levy’s laboratory in the 1960s

Pharmacy Practice Faculty Members Elected to AACP Special Interest Groups

Three University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty members were elected to American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Special Interest Groups (SIG). The SIG terms began in July 2017 and are for a duration of two years.

William Prescott, PharmD ’02, interim chair and clinical associate professor, pharmacy practice, was elected chair-elect of the Pediatric Pharmacy SIG.

Nicholas Fusco, PharmD ’10, clinical assistant professor, pharmacy practice, was elected secretary of the Pediatric Pharmacy SIG.

The Pediatric Pharmacy SIG facilitates pediatric faculty collaboration and communication of ideas and innovations in teaching, research, practice, and service activities related to neonatal and pediatric pharmacotherapy that will positively impact student learning.

Fred Doloresco, director of assessment, clinical associate professor, and research assistant professor, pharmacy practice, was elected secretary of the Technology in Pharmacy Education and Learning Special Interest Group (TiPEL SIG). The TiPEL SIG maintains a focus on learners, learning strategies and informatics while identifying, promoting, developing, and facilitating the use of educational technology grounded in sound pedagogical practices for the purposes of teaching, learning and assessment throughout pharmacy education.

AACP is a national organization representing pharmacy education in the United States. Its mission is to lead and partner with its members in advancing pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice and service to improve societal health.
In recognition of his strong and unwavering leadership of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Wayne Anderson, PhD, dean emeritus, was honored with the 2017 Philip B. Wels Outstanding Service Award by the University at Buffalo Alumni Association. UB President Satish K. Tripathi presented the award to Anderson at the Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony.

The Philip B. Wels Outstanding Service Award is given to individuals and groups whose achievements, contributions or volunteer service advance the University at Buffalo. Anderson was a vigorous UB advocate in his 40-plus years as an SPPS faculty member, with almost 20 of those years serving as dean. He joined the faculty in 1968 as an assistant professor, became dean in 1997, and served in this capacity until 2013. He then rejoined the faculty until his retirement in 2016.

Under his tenure, the school established an Office of Philanthropy, which resulted in some of the largest philanthropic contributions ever received by UB during that time period: a $5 million gift from John Kapoor, PhD ’72, for the naming of John and Editha Kapoor Hall; a $2 million Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant for the creation of research equipment core facilities; establishment of the Willis G. Gregory Giving Society; and creation of the Dean’s Advisory Council.

As dean, he leveraged UB to become the first school in New York State to offer the doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) degree. He also worked to incorporate dual degree programs, allowing the university to recruit and retain some of the brightest and most highly motivated students into these inter-professional initiatives.

Regionally, Anderson’s work helped UB remain a key partner in statewide wellness and health care through the establishment of collaborative programs with the New York State Department of Health for medication therapy management, physician prescriber education programs and Medicaid formulary development. These partnerships resulted in reduced healthcare costs and improved healthcare outcomes and continue to make a positive impact on the health and wellness of New Yorkers.

Through his highly distinguished career, Wayne Anderson’s campus endeavors, research initiatives and educational leadership have advanced global healthcare as well as scientific knowledge locally, regionally and nationally.

2017 SUNY Honorary Doctorate: Margaret Hempling McGlynn

Margaret Hempling McGlynn, BS ’82, was the recipient of 2017 State University of New York honorary doctorate of science at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences’ commencement ceremony on May 20.

McGlynn is a global leader in the pharmaceutical industry, and in research and advocacy for an HIV vaccine, as well as for a rare genetic disease that affected her family. She serves as founder of the Hempling Foundation for Homocystinuria Research and was a former chief executive officer of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and former president of the Global Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division at Merck.

McGlynn has focused her efforts on improving the lives of people around the world through advocacy, support for research and her efforts to ensure access to Merck’s pharmaceuticals and vaccines, including an innovative access program to prevent rotavirus disease and a historic campaign aimed at protecting women from cervical cancer.

She currently serves on the boards of three companies involved in treatments for rare diseases and chairs the board of HCU Network America, a patient support organization she founded that serves patients with homocystinuria, the genetic disease which impacted her family. She also serves on Buffalo Bio-Network, an advisory board that supports life science startups from Western New York, and is an adviser to Abcombi Biosciences, a vaccine startup spun off from UB research.

A 1982 graduate of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with a BS in pharmacy and a 1983 MBA graduate of the School of Management, McGlynn has maintained a close relationship with her alma mater and has remained a strong supporter of UB through her generosity and service to both degree schools. She established the Edward J. Hempling Community Pharmacy Education Fund to honor her late father, Edward H. Hempling, BS ’50, as well as pay tribute to the neighborhood pharmacy where she began her career. McGlynn is also a proud member of the Dean’s Advisory Council for both the pharmacy and management schools.
Distinguished Fellows and Awardees

Faculty recognized with highly distinguished fellowships and international accolades

Dean James M. O’Donnell, PhD, was named a 2017 fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

O’Donnell, honored in the Section on Pharmaceutical Sciences, was recognized for his distinguished contributions to the field of molecular and translational neuroscience, particularly for using modern approaches to study allosteric modulators for psychiatric disorders.

“I have a longstanding interest in understanding the relationship between the neurochemical and behavioral effects of drugs used to treat psychiatric and neurological diseases, and have had the good fortune to work with many talented faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students,” says O’Donnell. “Recent collaborations with biotech companies have allowed us to advance our research toward clinical application. I’m honored that this work has been recognized by my appointment as an AAAS Fellow.”

Professor and vice chair in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Donald Mager, BS ’91, PharmD ’00 & PhD ’02, has been named a fellow of three prominent academic societies: the 2018 AAAS, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) and the International Society of Pharmacometrics (ISoP). Mager also received the 2017 ISoP Innovation Award.

Mager was commended by the AAAS for his contributions to the field of computational and systems pharmacology, particularly for using mechanistic and population-based pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic modelling approaches for diverse compounds. He was honored by the AAPS for his excellence in advancing the capacity of pharmaceutical scientists to develop products and therapies that improve global health.

The ISoP award and fellowship acknowledge individuals whose scientific and innovative contributions have advanced the field of pharmacometrics.

SUNY Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences William J. Jusko, BS ’65 & PhD ’70, was the 2017 awardee for the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) William B. Abrams Lecture.

Jusko presented his lecture, titled Equations of Life and Success: How Basic Modeling Principles Govern Diverse Aspects of Pharmacology, Pharmacodynamics, and Systems Pharmacology, at the FDA’s White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, MD, in May.

Jusko is internationally known for his research in pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics and pharmacogenomics. His research has contributed significantly to the understanding of the theoretical, basic and clinical aspects of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of immunosuppressive agents including corticosteroids, as well as drugs used to treat diabetes, inflammation, and cancer.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice Robert Wahler, PharmD ’00, was named to the Society of Palliative Care Pharmacists Board of Trustees, representing the specialty practice of hospice. He was also named a Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.

Wahler’s research focuses on identifying and reducing medication-related fall risk in the elderly. Using the Medication Therapy Management model, he develops clinical decision support tools to assess medication falls risk, medication cognition impairment and inappropriate medications in older populations.
Faculty and Staff Honored by the State University of New York and the University at Buffalo

At the 2017 University at Buffalo Celebration of Academic Excellence, the State University of New York and the University at Buffalo recognized faculty and staff members for their consistently superior professional achievement, encouraging the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

William Prescott, PharmD ’02, interim chair and clinical associate professor, pharmacy practice, received a 2017 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, for his innovative teaching techniques incorporating various educational technology applications such as flipped classrooms and blended learning environments.

Donald Mager, BS ’91, PharmD ’00 & PhD ’02, professor, pharmaceutical sciences, received a 2017 SUNY Chancellor’s Award in Scholarship and Creative Activity, in recognition of his outstanding research efforts in the areas of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics (PK/PD), pharmacometrics, and systems pharmacology, with special interest in the PK/PD of anti-cancer agents.

Jennifer Rosenberg, PhD, associate dean for admissions, enrollment planning and pre-pharmacy advising, received a 2017 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Professional Service, for her transformation of the school’s Early Assurance Program and the 2+4=6 option, creation of a summer camp program for high school students and the initiation of critical 3+4 and 2+4 affiliation agreements.

Robert Straubinger, PhD, professor, pharmaceutical sciences, was named a UB Distinguished Professor. Straubinger’s area of research focuses on delivery mechanisms to optimize treatment of difficult-to-access solid cancer tumors. Recently, he has concentrated his efforts on treatments impacting pancreatic cancer, where he obtained NIH and pharmaceutical industry support to lead a three-nation collaborative research project, “Tumor priming sequences combined with novel nanoparticle drug carriers for enhanced therapeutic efficacy in pancreatic cancer,” with overall funding of $4.8 million.

Sathy Balu-Iyer, PhD, professor, pharmaceutical sciences, received a 2017 EB Exceptional Scholar Award for Sustained Achievement. Balu-Iyer’s research has been transformative, especially in the development of protein drugs. He has produced seminal research on taxol-lipid interactions, the foundational formulation for life-saving cancer drugs. He has received consistent NIH funding, securing multiple $1 million+ NIH grants as a principal investigator or co-investigator.

Juliane Nguyen, PharmD, PhD, assistant professor, pharmaceutical sciences, received a 2017 UB Exceptional Scholar Award for Young Investigators. Nguyen’s research focuses broadly on nanoparticle delivery systems to understand how biological extracellular vesicles (exosomes) can be developed as targeted drug delivery mechanisms. She has brought forward unique contributions to the microRNA (miRNA) delivery field, synthesized and developed novel protein and lipid “nanoplex” delivery carriers for miRNA, and obtained two NIH R21 grants to support her miRNA delivery work.
Alumni Honored at Awards Ceremony

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was pleased to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of David C.K. Chu, PhD ’75 and Tricia Lee Wilkins, PharmD ’08 at our 13th Annual Awards Ceremony.

David C.K. Chu, PhD ’75, received the 2017 Willis G. Gregory Memorial Award. This award is the most prestigious given by the school, honoring an outstanding alumni who personifies the ideals of service, integrity and the profession of pharmacy in the eyes of his colleagues.

Chu is a Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences at the College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia (UGA). He obtained his PhD in medicinal chemistry from UB and was mentored by Professor Thomas Bardos. Chu has published more than 300 drug discovery-related scientific papers and has been awarded more than 50 U.S. patents. Several of his invented compounds are undergoing clinical trials in cancer therapeutics, hepatitis B virus, HIV and shingles. A member of American Association of Advancement of Science, Chu received a 2001 NIH MERIT Award, and the 2002 UGA Inventor of the Year Award.

Tricia Lee Wilkins, PharmD ’08, received the 2017 Orville C. Baxter Memorial Professional Practice Award, which recognizes an outstanding practicing alumni pharmacist who demonstrates high ideals of professionalism and whose practice demonstrates genuine concern for patients.

Dr. Wilkins is currently the director of pharmacy affairs for the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. Previously, she held multiple positions with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and was also an inpatient pharmacist at West Virginia University Hospitals. Wilkins received the 2015 Secretary for Health and Human Services (HHS) Distinguished Service Award, the highest award granted by HHS.
Teeing Off for Student Excellence

2017 SPPS Golf Tournament

Alumni and friends spent a bright June day at the Lockport Town and Country Club to enjoy a friendly round of golf and to raise funds for exceptional students at our 14th Annual Golf Tournament.

Since its inception in 2005, our Annual Golf Tournament has given financial awards to 72 students who have demonstrated superior leadership and involvement. The 2017 tournament raised over $21,000 for student support.

First Place Foursome (with a score of 62):
John Brown, Sam Smith, Mark Jaccarino, William Prescott, PharmD ’02

Second Place Foursome (with a score of 64) and winners of the Acura College Alumni Team Championship qualifier: Don Crosby, Steve Giroux, BS ’81, Dean Arthur, Don Arthur

Third Place Foursome RDC (with a score of 65): Gary Ritzmann, Chris Barry, Jason Smith, Jim Bernitt

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS:
Ray Laks Acura
Acura College Alumni Team Championship

CART SPONSORS:
2121 Main Street
Akrnon Pharmacy
Collegiate Village
Ellicottville Pharmacy
Embassy Suites
Holland Pharmacy
Larwood Pharmacy
Pharmacists Association of Western New York

GRAND SPONSOR:
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PLATINUM SPONSOR:
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McKesson, RX Health Mart

BRONZE SPONSORS:
Dean Salyer, BS ’85, and Brian Loucks, BS ’86
Independent Health
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GRAND SPONSOR:
Ray Laks Acura
Acura College Alumni Team Championship

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2121 Main Street
Akrnon Pharmacy
Collegiate Village
Ellicottville Pharmacy
Embassy Suites
Holland Pharmacy
Larwood Pharmacy
Pharmacists Association of Western New York

Longest Drive, Hole 16:
Dean Arthur

Closest to the Pin, Hole 6:
Paul Stockdill

Closest to the Pin, Hole 18:
Scott Williamson

Closest to the Line, Hole 4:
Marty Burruano, BS ’86
A pharmacists’ scientific training, medication expertise, clinical knowledge and patient focus positions them well for careers in industry.

To better represent career opportunities outside of the more traditional hospital and retail pharmacist roles, a UB student chapter of the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) was instituted in 2015. Through guest speakers and on-site visits, student members of IPhO acquire an excellent working knowledge of common industry pharmacist roles and key pharmaceutical industry driving forces, as well as an understanding of the skills and experiences necessary to become a successful industry pharmacist.

“The opportunities for pharmacists in industry are expanding and many students do not know about what is available,” says Jess Greger, ’19, current UB IPhO president. “We want to bring these options to light by inviting pharmacists and fellows to discuss their careers and experiences as well as share how they reached their goals and the path they took.”

In September, IPhO hosted Dr. James Alexander, IPhO executive director and founder. He spoke with students about IPhO’s efforts to help its members become better candidates for fellowships, as well as alternate paths to industry. Other guest speakers for the fall 2017 semester included William Bartz, PharmD/MBA ’17, a first-year fellow at Novo Nordisk, and Dr. Kassim Rahawi, a member of the Pharmacist Development Program at AbbVie.

IPhO board members also had the unique opportunity to attend Healthcare Professionals Day at Celgene, a global biopharmaceutical company where Dr. Peter Fendt, PharmD ’16, is a second-year Rutgers fellow.

SPPS alumni in industry are eager to share their wisdom with students, according to Greger. Thomas Platek, ’68, recently discussed his 45-year career in a variety of positions including government service, academia, the pharmaceutical industry, and contract research organizations. Mark Stramaglia, BS ’81, detailed his progression from pharmacy student to MBA student to director of process services and business development at Thermo Fisher Scientific, and offered students tips on marketing themselves to companies.

“I’ve always recommended that pharmacy students explore as many potential career options as possible during their time in the program,” Stramaglia says. “It is that exploration that helps each of us determine the right path that will provide us with the greatest amount of professional satisfaction.”
We were proud to welcome 131 PharmD students to our Buffalo Pharmacy family with a two-day orientation program including our highlight event, the UB SPPS Annual White Coat Ceremony, where students take their first public steps in fulfilling their commitment to becoming a pharmacist.

The White Coat Ceremony symbolizes passage into the initial stages of the profession of pharmacy practice and represents a contract for excellence in providing compassionate patient care. The event also highlights the importance of scientific scholarship and emphasizes the highest principles of moral, ethical and legal conduct. The keynote address was delivered by Matthew Schnupp, PharmD ’12, Lieutenant, U.S. Public Health Service consumer safety officer for the Food and Drug Administration.

Our orientation program included overviews of the school’s departments, programs and facilities, including information on our Scholars Program and research tracks and dual degree opportunities. Kristen Fodero, PharmD ’14, Nicole Cieri, PharmD ’14, Matthew Schnupp, PharmD ’12, and Jessica Isaac, PharmD ’14, participated in an alumni panel discussion about their careers in pharmacy and how their UB SPPS training prepared them to be pharmacy leaders. The annual Orientation Book Program chose “When Breath Becomes Air,” which detailed the experiences of a
young neurosurgeon diagnosed with terminal cancer and his quest to find out what makes life worth living. Meetings with student leaders from our over 25+ student organizations as well as a “Buffalove” luncheon with faculty advisors, featuring chicken wings and pizza, completed the orientation program.

**THANKS to our Orientation and White Coat Ceremony sponsors:**

Walgreens, Tops Friendly Markets, Rite Aid, Collegiate Village, Pharmacists Association of Western New York and the Pharmacy Society of Rochester.

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On May 20, the hard work and accomplishments of 149 PharmD, BS, BS/MS, MS and PhD students were recognized at the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences’ annual commencement ceremony.

Margaret Hempling McGlynn, BS ’82, was the commencement speaker. She discussed following in the pharmacy footsteps of her father, Edward J. Hempling, BS ’50, to find ways to make an impact on those in need of innovative pharmaceutical care, particularly her two sisters who suffered from a rare genetic disorder.

To the graduating class, she said, “My wish for each and every one of you is this: that your education will enable you and your passion will inspire you to dramatically improve people’s lives and to leave the world a better place for you having been a part of it.”

McGlynn was also bestowed a State University of New York honorary doctorate of science at the ceremony for her contributions to pharmacy and science over the course of her career.

Other speakers included Angeline Walker, president, PharmD Class of 2017, who offered comments and reflections to her classmates, and Mark Stramaglia, BS ’81, who spoke on behalf of the University at Buffalo Alumni Association about the importance of staying connected to UB and the SPPS.

Dean James O’Donnell and Professor Karl Fiebelkorn provided comments as well. The ceremony culminated with the official conferring of degrees and the announcement of achievement awards.
The school was pleased to welcome back all alumni from the classes of 1952 through 2012 for their fifth year reunion on October 6-7, 2017. The two day program included educational sessions, tours of Kapoor Hall, recognition dinner, tours of UB downtown initiatives and UB Homecoming.

The weekend kicked off with a continuing education program entitled “Hepatitis C(ured!): Advances in the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C,” led by Clinical Assistant Professor Joshua Sawyer, followed by a luncheon and tour of Kapoor Hall. A cocktail reception and dinner at the contemporary Buffalo Marriott HarborCenter wrapped up the first day. Alumni boarded a bus bright and early the next morning for a tour of downtown Buffalo that explored the role UB has played in our region’s growth. Summer-like afternoon weather for the UB Bulls tailgate party and football game was a perfect conclusion to the weekend’s festivities.

NEXT ALUMNI REUNION Weekend! Oct 5-6, 2018

Events Include:
- Continuing Education Program
- Tours of Kapoor Hall
- Reunion Dinner Reception
- UB Bulls Tailgate Party and Football Game
- SPPS Apothecary 25th Anniversary Celebration

60+ Years Strong!
The members of the Pharmacy Class of 1956 have been long-standing leaders in the profession of pharmacy and strong supporters of our school, demonstrated by their enthusiastic attendance at our 2016 reunion program. We thank them for paving the path to success for all School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences graduates!

Back row, L-R: Algirdas Gamziukas, James Coppola, Hugh Miller, Edgar Liberman, Ronald Isaacs, Harold Reiss, Harvey Podolsky

Front row, L-R: Helaine Hegedus Gamziukas, Diane Miednawski Lesinski
The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Alumni Association hosted its annual Farewell Celebration for the graduating PharmD Class of 2017. The event took place the evening before commencement at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery.

Ashley Woodruff, PharmD ’09, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, was chosen by the Class of 2017 to receive the Faculty Recognition Award, given annually to the faculty member who has made the most significant impact on the graduating class over the course of their educational path.

Class officers Angeline Walker, Connie Liu and Becca Martin handed out a few humorous awards of their own, including the Fashionista Award (Gabby Cozzi), the Bromance Award (Justin Osorio and Kevin Chilbert), the Late for NAPLEX Award (Jonathan Jager), Most Likely to be President of a Pharmacy Association (Ali Scrimenti), and Most Likely to Become a UB Faculty Member (Corey Wells).

PharmD students gain vital skills when they take what they’ve learned in the classroom and laboratory and apply it to real-world settings. The Office of Experiential Education makes this possible through wide-ranging Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs).

Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences

IPPEs allow first- through third-year PharmD students the opportunity to observe and practice a variety of professional inpatient, outpatient and research activities.

Medication Education and Safety for Seniors (MISuSE)

Through MISuSE, students provide senior citizens with useful information on appropriate and safe use of prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and herbal products. The goal is to prevent medications from causing harm to seniors who are especially vulnerable to adverse effects.

Vial of Life

Students also promote the national Vial of Life project, which allows first responders to assess the medication needs of patients in an emergency situation via Vial of Life forms and patient information materials easily found and recognized in the patient’s home.
Medication Therapy Management Falls Risk Reduction (MTM FRR) and Interprofessional Falls Risk Reduction Program

The MTM FRR program provides individualized evaluation of a senior’s medications performed by PharmD students under the supervision of SPPS faculty. After the evaluation, the senior receives a personal medication record, a medication action plan and a medication falls risk report card.

IPPE Activities Coordinator Pam Coniglio says that the program benefits senior citizens just as much as SPPS students: “At a recent MTM clinic, one of the participants lived alone and said she felt so much better knowing that the first responders would know where to find a list of her medications and any other important information about her.”

Expanding upon the MTM program, Robert Wahler, PharmD ’00, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, is collaborating with Peter Brody, BS ’01, PharmD ’02, director of experiential education and clinical assistant professor in the department of pharmacy practice, and Patricia Ohtake, PT, PhD, associate professor of rehabilitation science in the School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP), on an Interprofessional Falls Risk Reduction Program.

Through the program, SPPS and SPHHP faculty and students provide senior citizens with balance assessments, evaluate their medication for fall risk-increasing drugs, and develop individualized action plans.

“Falls can be devastating to an older person,” says Wahler. “We hope that the development of this interprofessional clinic will be a model for future falls prevention programs.”

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences

Through the school’s APPEs, fourth-year PharmD students provide advanced clinical pharmacy services under the supervision of a pharmacy preceptor.

APPE rotations are required to include general medicine, health systems pharmacy, community pharmacy and ambulatory clinic. With over 1,000 preceptors at over 600 sites worldwide, including Zimbabwe, Brazil, Taiwan and India, students are able to customize their APPEs, resulting in an enriching and meaningful rotational experience.

While on rotations, students are not in a traditional classroom setting—preceptors serve as their primary educators, providing direct feedback and tailoring specific rotation activities and projects for the benefit of the students and the practice site.

“Over the past few years, the Office of Experiential Education has transformed its outreach efforts to further enhance the diversity of clinical activities available throughout both our introductory and advanced rotations,” says Brody. “Our MISuSE program, for example, has provided our students unique interprofessional opportunities, further preparing them for the wide range of domestic and international APPE activities we now offer.”
Pipette in One Hand, Trumpet in the Other

At the 2008 White Coat Ceremony, incoming PharmD students were serenaded by then-students Christopher Daly, PharmD/MBA '12, on trumpet and Carolyn Hempel, PharmD '11, on flute as they proceeded down the aisles of Slee Hall. By 2011, that duet had expanded to an octet.

That dynamic evolution led to the creation of what is now known as the Pharmonics, an orchestral ensemble of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences students with a deep passion for music.

“[Senior Associate Dean for Student, Professional and Community Affairs] Karl Fiebelkorn, BS ’78, ’88, and [former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs] Gayle Brazeau, PhD ’89, were instrumental in providing the motivation, venues and reason to assemble,” says Daly, who is presently a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Jamie Chin, PharmD/MS ’13, helped develop the Pharmonics after hearing the original duet perform at her White Coat Ceremony.

“We initially began as a band consisting of a trumpet (Daly), flute (Hempel), clarinet (myself), French horn (Chris Diehl, PharmD/MBA ’12) and trombone (Matthew Dailey, PharmD ’12). In my final year, when I was the coordinator, the group transformed into an orchestra, which was a nice new spin,” Chin recalls.

In addition to White Coat Ceremonies, the Pharmonics have also had the honor of performing at the school’s 125th anniversary celebration and were featured in the school’s 2015 winter holiday video.

Current Pharmonics violinist Howie Chang, ’18, has been a proud member since 2014, when he entered the school. He doesn’t hesitate to boast about the group’s artistic expansion in recent years: “One of my favorite performances was my collaboration with pianist David Essi, ’18, at the inaugural APhA Talent Show, where we performed a medley of ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ and Alicia Keys’ ‘If I Ain’t Got You.’”

Daly isn’t surprised that the group is still going strong today. “Many people of science are involved in music. It’s nice to see others wanting to express and show their talents,” he says.

2008: Carolyn Hempel, PharmD '11, Christopher Daly, PharmD/MBA '12

2009: Jamie Chin, PharmD/MS '13, Christopher Diehl, PharmD/MBA '12, Christopher Daly, Matthew Dailey, PharmD '12, Carolyn Hempel

2011: Jamie Chin, Amy Lee, PharmD '15, Flora Chuang, PharmD '13, Adam Urbanczyk, PharmD '12, Hyewon Lee, PharmD '14, Jennifer Adams, PharmD '13, Andrea Acker, PharmD '13, Stefanie Wiegand, PharmD '14

Meet our Pharmaceutical Sciences Students

Staying Connected

**Instagram**

Instagram is our most popular social media channel for engaging with students and prospective students!

**OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS**

180% IN 2017!

**FOLLOWERS**

**Most Liked**

Our graduates have bright futures ahead of them! Michelle Falcone, PharmD ’17, has been hired as a Staff Pharmacist for Highland South Wedge Pharmacy in Rochester, NY.

**Top Post ’17**

35,000+ people liked, commented on or shared our Facebook posts in 2017!

facebook.com/ubsopps

*UBSoPPS*

May 16, 2017

Our graduates have bright futures ahead of them! Michelle Falcone, PharmD ’17, has been hired as a Staff Pharmacist for Highland South Wedge Pharmacy in Rochester, NY.

**Twitter**

223 tweets were sent in 2017!

twitter.com/ubpharm

**UBPharmacy**

March 8, 2017

131 years ago today, faculty in the #UBuffalo Department of Pharmacy convened to form a School of Pharmacy. #pharmacy #history #tradition

**Most Viewed Video of 2017**

Meet our Pharmaceutical Sciences Students

*UBPharmacy*

University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

youtube.com/UBPharmacy

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!

180%

OUR INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

In 2017!
Your support for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science helps sustain our mission of education, discovery and service. Your gifts support our students, both one by one and as a student body; our researchers in their innovative endeavors; and our outreach to the community, locally and globally, to improve health care outcomes for individuals and populations.

These pages acknowledge gifts and pledges to the school made in 2016-17. We are pleased to report that, 95 new donors joined the ranks of our supporters. Of returning donors, 16 percent of those who made gifts to the school in 2015-16 made larger gifts in 2016-17. Commitments of future giving, largely through planned giving, totaled $2,750,000 in 2016-17, 11 percent above 2015-16 commitments.

Your investment in our future keeps the UB Pharmacy reputation strong and allows us to continue to serve as a leading pharmacy school for the next generation.

Thank you.

Fitting Honor

Thomas Bardos was a generous man.

He funded the Dr. Daniel H. Murray Memorial Professional Development Award at the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He also funded scholarships at the American Association for Cancer Research, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Illinois and in his native Hungary.

He helped countrymen emigrating from Hungary to the U.S. He helped international scientists and students find their way in Buffalo. He helped his graduate students with their careers.

So what could be more fitting to honor this large-hearted generosity than to enlist the generosity of others for a project he would have contributed to?

“Tom wanted to be a philanthropist,” says his widow Maria.

To that end, Joseph Dunn, BS ’75, PhD ’81, and Maria Bardos, BA ’62, PhD ’70, helped launch an effort in 2015 to establish a scholarship endowment in the Bardos name.

In 2017, Dunn was happy to report to contributors that the fund had reached the $50,000 threshold needed to create the endowed scholarship. By the end of the year, the Thomas J. Bardos Scholarship fund stood at $56,000 and growing.

Bardos arrived in the U.S. from Budapest, Hungary, in 1946 with nothing but a silver cigarette case in his pocket. He’d grown up in a privileged world, the son of a celebrated theater director, studied engineering and begun a career before World War II.

Once in the U.S., he was awarded an Eli Lilly fellowship for doctoral work in chemistry at Notre Dame. As a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Texas Medical School, Bardos identified the structure of folinic acid. He joined the department of medicinal chemistry in the School of Pharmacy in 1960.

During the next 33 years, Bardos coauthored more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and chapters on cancer chemotherapy. He directed the thesis research of 32 PhD candidates and 38 postdoctoral associates before retiring and taking the title of emeritus professor in 1993.

He also conducted seminars, lectured around the world and was honored by several learned and professional societies including the American Pharmaceutical Association and the New York Academy of Science for his cancer chemotherapy research.

Since the Thomas J. Bardos Scholarship has been endowed and named, and the first scholarship awarded, the scholarship will always support at least one SPPS student. But that’s just a start. With additional gifts, the fund can support more than one student.

You can make that day come sooner with your gift. See buffalo.edu/giving/bardos for more information.
Stock Boy to Benefactor

For the first ten years after he graduated, Ron Isaacs, BS ’56, whose name now adorns one of the school’s two lecture halls, did not look back wistfully on his four years at the School of Pharmacy.

“I got the heebie-jeebies just thinking about it,” he says, from a distance of 60 years.

Issacs made good friends, enjoyed fraternal camaraderie in Rho Pi Phi and earned a degree that qualified him for a rewarding and successful career. But the combination of school and jobs he worked to pay his way through was more stressful than he wanted to remember—at least when he could help it.

“After graduation, I used to have a nightmare that the school lost all my records and I’d have to come back and do it all over again,” he says with laugh.

Issacs lived at home in Buffalo’s Riverside neighborhood and rode the Kenmore Ave. bus to what is now UB’s South Campus. The pharmacy school was in Foster Hall, now home to the dental school’s oral biology department.

He worked weeknights and Saturdays in a neighborhood pharmacy; he earned $5 for his nine-hour shift on Saturdays. He started pharmacy school in 1952 in a class of 100; four years later, 39 finished.

Issacs passed his boards and enlisted in the Army Reserve. After six months of active duty, he came home and started a restless stretch of moving from job to job—he thinks the string reached five—before joining with two partners to open Lake Shore Pharmacy. He spent the rest of his professional life there, selling the business in 1996.

But Issacs had a larger profile in the Western New York pharmacy profession than successful drugstore proprietor. His work for and with fellow pharmacists led him back to pharmacy school after all, this time as a colleague and eventually a major supporter.

As it happened, Issacs also had interest in further elevating pharmacy through professional organizations.

He served multiple terms as international president of the pharmacy fraternity Rho Pi Phi. More significantly for both Western New York and the pharmacy school, he was one of the leaders in turning the Erie County Pharmacists Society into the Pharmacists Association of Western New York. PAWNY, as the association is known in the community, grew into a force for pharmacists across New York.

The association was a natural ally of the school, and Isaacs, who’d once wanted to forget it, was now in regular contact, talking with students, faculty and deans.

During the drive to raise funds for a pharmacy museum at the school in the 1990s, he gave $1,000, becoming a charter member of the Willis G. Gregory Society. Other donors stepped forward and the museum—which continues to fascinate students and visitors—came to be.

When the school started a capital campaign to support its new building, Issacs made a major gift to renovate and equip one of the primary lecture halls.

And he wasn’t finished. In 2017, Issacs, who now divides his time between Tucson, Arizona, and Ocean Hills, California, pledged a significant sum from his estate to endow a fund for scholarships. With his pledge, he’s found his way back to where he started.

“I worked really hard to get myself through school,” he says. “When I had my business, I put money away every week to pay for my kids’ college and then my grandkids’ and now I’m putting money aside for a great-grandchild!”

He was determined that his children and their children wouldn’t experience the financial stress he’d lived with in school.

Now he’s doing the same for generations of pharmacy students to come, extending his generosity to students he’ll never meet. He’s doing this because he wants to help. And he knows from experience what that help can mean.

At 83, Issacs still has a young man’s enthusiasm for the profession he practiced and promoted.

“The future of pharmacy is huge,” Isaacs says. “The opportunities for pharmacists today are huge. Their impact on the medical field will be phenomenal.”

With his gift, he’ll push open the door to that future a little wider for the students his generosity touches.
The Hayes Society

The Hayes Society honors individuals who have made legacy gifts to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences through a bequest or other method of deferred giving.

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Xinning Yang ’09 and Hongwu Shen
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To learn more or notify the school of a legacy gift that you have planned, please call the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement at (716) 645-3432 or visit our web site at pharmacy.buffalo.edu.
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YOUR GIFT matters
"With the support of alumni, I have been able to take advantage of many IPPE and APPE opportunities that I couldn’t have anywhere else."

- Lukas Brightman, ’19
[ SUPPORT ]

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YOUR GIFT MATTERS

Alumni contributions facilitated my professional training here at the school and within our community.

- Ahmed Saeed, ’18

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“Alumni contributions facilitated my professional training here at the school and within our community.”

- Ahmed Saeed, ’18
Counseling is central to pharmacy practice. Kristen Russo is good at it. She won UB’s American Pharmacists Association student counseling competition and went on to San Francisco to compete against the winners from 130 other U.S. pharmacy schools. Though she didn’t win there, she’s still considered among the best student pharmacist counselors in the nation. The UB Fund provided support so Russo could make it to the competition. An intern at Walgreens for five years, Russo chose pharmacy practice because it’s a profession on the front lines in medicine. Competition sharpens the skills she’ll need there.

“As going to conferences supplements our education. We make connections with students from around the country, hand around our business cards. These will be our professional peers. Without the UB Fund, I couldn’t be there.”

—Kristen Russo, ’18
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YOUR GIFT matters

“Alumni support has allowed me to participate in international rotations to pursue global health pharmacy.”

- Nabila Ismail, ’19
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Melissa McGowan

A Gift for Care
Kaitlin Landolf has been to the Dominican Republic, to Chicago and the mountains of Virginia, all on mission trips with medical and dental students bringing care to underserved populations. She and her fellow PharmD members of Student Pharmacists for Global Outreach travel light and pay their own way, as a mark of commitment to the mission. So when the UB Fund picks up even a small part of an opportunity like this, it helps. Kaitlin, who plans to be a clinical pharmacist, says these experiences give students a perspective they can’t get in class and on rotations, one that shows them firsthand the barriers that stand between people and the care they need.

“I’m grateful for funding from the school because that’s made it easier for me to focus on my studies and my professional development.”

—Kaitlin Landolf, ’18

In 2016-17, we awarded over $500,000 in scholarships

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

$308,200

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

$197,833
An important part of our scholarly pursuits is securing competitive grants and producing peer reviewed articles for publication in preeminent journals.

In academic year 2016-17, our faculty secured over 60 grants from leading federal, industry-based and private sector organizations, allowing conceptual paradigms to move through the research pipeline, laying the framework for future important scientific and healthcare discoveries.

Our faculty also published over 180 peer-reviewed articles allowing for the creation of new ideas as to how we enhance education, how we approach research and how we evaluate new ideas.
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Physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling of IgG
Center for Protein Therapeutics
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BLANCO, JAVIER
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
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Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Epigenetic Regulation of FcRn Expression in Human Lung and its Role in the Disposition of Monoclonal Antibody Drugs

JUSKO, WILLIAM
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KUTSCHER, DR. HILLIARD L.
University of Rochester
UR Center for AIDS Research–Pharmacokinetics and Immunodynamics of Multi-Model Nanoparticles for TB

KRZYZANSKI, WOJCIECH
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Fellowship in a Novel Method to Optimize Covariate Testing in Population Analyses when Covariates are Missing

MAGER, DONALD
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Daichi Sankyo Pharma Development
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F. Hoffmann-La Roche Limited
Mechanistic Modeling in Hematology to Systematically Explore Factors Contributing to Differences in anti-CD20 Therapy Outcomes and to Inform Optimal anti-CD20 Combination Strategies

MORRIS, MARILYN (cont.)
National Institute on Drug Abuse
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Bristol-Myers Squibb
Company UB-BMS Training Program (Morris-Hill–grad)

NGUYEN, JULIANE
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Self-replicating RNA–nanopollexes for programming monocytes to regenerate the heart
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YING XU, Y.
Justin Bui said a UB pharmacy student contacted him to encourage him to attend the university. It worked. “I wanted to be part of a network of students who genuinely care about each other,” says Justin, a PharmD/MBA student who came to Buffalo from San Jose, Calif. He hopes to one day own an independent pharmacy like the one his grandfather had in Vietnam. At UB, Justin was president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association’s local chapter, and now is a member of its national board. The UB Fund provided support for Justin to attend a national conference, and he says he is grateful for the donors who “allowed me to explore opportunities that wouldn’t have been attainable without your gracious support.”

Gifts to the UB Fund have an immediate impact on students.

The best public universities have the strongest private support.