We welcome to the newest members of the WesternU family. I say family because next to my wife and grown children, there is nobody I would rather spend time with than the faculty, staff and students who make up my extended family. The College of Pharmacy, which began in 1996, prepares doctor of pharmacy graduates for the present and future practice of pharmacy as competent, caring, and ethical professionals. Our students are educated and trained in an environment that celebrates diversity, encourages the free exchange of ideas, promotes active learning, advances scholarship, and values public service. Our students graduate prepared to promote the safe and effective use of drugs in order to improve health care outcomes for the communities and populations they serveі. If that sounds like a mission statement; it is.

It has been said that there is a pill for every illі. We have also heard the phrase “better living through chemistry” (paraphrased from a Dupont advertising slogan)і. We are a medicated society with 3.6 billion prescriptions filled annually in the United States. That represents 12.3 prescriptions for every man, woman, and child, with a disproportionate share going to the elderly. By 2010 it is estimated that the average senior will receive 38 prescriptionsі. We treat disease with an arsenal of more than 10,000 prescription drugs and biologicals and we have 300,000 OTC products to choose from for self-treatmentі.

I just learned that one of our students (...and we’ll call her Pamela, because that’s her name), while working at Albertsons/Sav-On pharmacy along with her preceptor, recently spent an hour working with an elderly woman who was on many medications, treating...
numerous chronic conditions. Following the consultation and in collaboration with the patient’s physician, her medication regimen was both improved and simplified, resulting in a monthly savings of $400. The savings are in fact much greater when you consider the avoidance of potential medication-related problems, which often result in hospitalizations and urgent care visits. In our perverse health care payment system, by investing time in improving the patient’s medication regimen and quality of life, Albertsons/Sav-On will lose significant revenue as a result of this interaction. In health care we are preferentially rewarded for procedures and commodities and not cost avoidance, disease prevention, or even achievement of desired health care outcomes. I am happy to report that Albertsons/Sav-On was paid by Medicare for medication therapy management services provided to this patient, but this benefit is available to too few patients.

The following passage appeared as part of an advertisement by Regulatory/Clinical Consultants, Inc. in 2003. It received widespread attention because of its positive message about advances in pharmaceuticals. “Rebecca is six years old. During her lifetime she will survive 73 viral and bacterial infections, leukemia, liver cancer, and arthritis. She will live to the age of 97 and be mentally and physically vibrant throughout. This would not have been possible in 1960, 1975, or in 1990. But it is possible today thanks to steady advances in drug-based therapies.” Such outcomes are only possible when each of our health professions work together to achieve a common goal. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we strive to achieve these outcomes for the patients and populations we serve.

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD
Dean

The WesternU Advisor

The Honoring Power of Endowments

If you wanted to honor your parents or another person who has influenced your life, you would be hard-pressed to find a more fitting way than to establish a named endowment fund. Such a fund carries the honoree’s name far into the future while benefiting a charitable cause through its annual earnings.

For example, you could create an endowment fund at WesternU’s College of Pharmacy in honor of your parents. This fund, bearing their names, would produce a certain amount of earnings each year to support the purpose of the endowment. It could be for a named scholarship or fellowship or perhaps even a named faculty research program. There are many options available.

Every time the fund is mentioned, your parents would be acknowledged and honored. Even grandchildren and great-grandchildren would identify with the endowment and perhaps contribute to the fund through their own charitable gifts.

Endowment funds are easy to establish, and they last indefinitely. They can be launched now with current gifts, or created later through a will bequest or other deferred gift. Another possibility is to start an endowment now and add to it later through a bequest. Of course, the advantage of starting an endowment now is that you can enjoy the experience of seeing your loved ones honored during your lifetime and, perhaps, theirs as well.

To learn more about establishing an endowment fund with WesternU, you may contact Olive Stephens, Gift Planning Administrator, at (909) 469-5211 or at steven@westernu.edu.

1 From WesternU College of Pharmacy Mission Statement, April 2007
2 Smith MC, Knapp DA (eds): Pharmacy, Drugs and Medical Care, 5th Ed. 1992, pg 75
3 Wikipedia, Better Living Through Chemistry, accessed 8/10/07
5 Institute of Medicine Report: Preventing Medication Errors, 2007 pg 51
6 Remington 21st ed. Example advertising from regulatory/Clinical Consultants, Inc 2004
The team of Daniel Liou ’08 and Minchau Vu ’08 were winners of the 2007 WesternU Clinical Skills Competition and proudly represented WesternU at CSHP Seminar and ASHP Mid-Year meetings.

Michelle Lau ’09 has been appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the 2007-2008 ACCP National StuNet Advisory Committee.

Jacinda Telles ’09 (photo above) is one of 15 students nation-wide to receive the NCPA Presidential Scholarship of $2,000 at the NCPA Convention in Anaheim October 14, 2007.

Kristina Reyes ’08 received the Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship at the NCPA Convention in Anaheim October 14, 2007.

Solomon Lopez ’10 was recognized as the WesternU Student Chapter Member of the Year at the NCPA Annual Meeting in Anaheim October 14, 2007.

The WesternU NCPA Student Chapter team of Chen Chen ’08, Karl Hess (faculty advisor), Kristina Reyes ’08, Hamid Zand ’08, and Daniel Liou ’08 (photo above) placed in the top 10 in the 2007 Pruitt-Schutte NCPA Business Plan Competition.

Amy Phillips, PharmD ’07 was one of the recipients of the “Student Leadership Award” at the CSHP Seminar ’07 in Palms Springs.

Alumni News

Class of 2002 Alumni Reunion

The WesternU Class of 2002 celebrated their 5-year reunion at the Cedar Creek Inn restaurant in La Habra on November 17, 2007.

From left: Dean Robinson, Nancy Nguyen, Phuong Nguyen, Diana Acevedo, Roseanne Papoyan, Christina Nguyen, Sandra Jurado, Bonnie Neri-Huang, Associate Dean Sam Shimomura
This will be a time in your life that you will pledge professional mutual respect, competency and also compassion for your patients. You will pledge to value knowledge and wisdom. You will pledge to contribute and to earn the respect of your patients, your colleagues, your family and yourself. And, you will pledge to continue to learn throughout all of the days of your professional life.

Our beacon to the right professional path has been and will always be — to improve patient care. This University gave me the opportunity, not long ago, to be part of a medical relief team that traveled to Sri Lanka. The great tsunami in the last days of December 2004 left most of the shorelines of the Indian Ocean in disaster. A medical team was formed and the members of the team were educated on tropical medicine and disaster relief. As the pharmacist of the medical team, I was responsible for the medication inventory and was the focal point for pharmaceutical therapeutics. The eleven days providing medical relief for the tsunami victims was one of the most emotionally moving patient care experiences of my professional life as a pharmacist.

Being a pharmacist has been a gift — a precious gift. I have earned it but it did require some good fortune. In 1959, our family of thirteen children moved into a small farming community along the central coast of California. When we moved into town that year, my first job was in a pharmacy called Gardner Wheaton Rexall Drug Company. I swept floors, washed windows, stocked shelves, took out the trash, delivered prescriptions to customers on my bicycle, but most importantly, I was able to observe my mentor in life, the pharmacist and owner, Kaz Inouye. He always wore his white coat. His patients respected him. His community respected him and he was there for his community when they needed him. I wanted to be a pharmacist even though it seemed an impossible dream. My parents were immigrants from Mexico. My father went to school in Mexico but only for three years. My parents met while on a “bracero” program where Mexicans came to California to harvest crops in the 1930s. They met, married and settled in the Santa Maria Valley. So, there I was, dreaming the impossible dream of being a pharmacist at the age of fourteen. From that point in time and including the time I earned my Doctor of Pharmacy degree thirty years ago, I have maintained what my mentor Kaz Inouye has instilled in me – to contribute and earn respect in the profession of pharmacy.

I am sure that my impossible dreams as a young boy are similar to your dreams entering your first year of pharmacy studies. I studied how Kaz Inouye interacted with his patients in his white coat. How the core of him respected his patients and their medical conditions and their spectrum of emotions. In the 1950s, patient

...Continued on page 7
Moses S.S. Chow, PharmD, has joined the WesternU faculty as Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration and Director of the Center for Advancement of Drug Research and Evaluation (CADRE). Dr. Chow has a distinguished record in pharmacy education and research, having recently come from the Chinese University of Hong Kong where he was Director of the School of Pharmacy (1998-2006) and Director of the Drug Development Center (2000-2006). Formerly, he was at the University of Connecticut for 25 years as a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy with a joint appointment in Pharmaceutics and Pharmacology (tenure track). Dr. Chow received his PharmD from the University of California San Francisco and he completed a residency in Clinical Pharmacy from the VA Hospital, Palo Alto.

David Q. Pham, PharmD, BCPS is a new faculty member in Pharmacy Practice and Administration. Dr. Pham was previously an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Long Island University for 5 years. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of the Pacific in 2001 and trained as a resident at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Stockton. His practice site is at Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center.

Mark Nguyen, PharmD, received his PharmD from Long Island University and then trained at the VA Baltimore for his general practice residency and at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for his critical care residency before joining WesternU as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration. His practice site is also at Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center.

Susan Jacob, PharmD joins the WesternU faculty as Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and completed her residency training at the VA Loma Linda where she later worked as a surgical inpatient clinical pharmacist. She will continue to use the VA Loma Linda as her practice site.

Daniel Martinez has joined the staff of the College of Pharmacy as Budget Assistant/Secretary IV. Prior to joining us, he worked at the Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions here at WesternU.
Promotions and Appointments

Guru Betageri, PhD, has accepted the position of Assistant Dean of Western University’s new Graduate College of Biomedical Sciences. As Assistant Dean for graduate education at WesternU, Dr. Betageri will take a point position in developing and expanding the University’s graduate college. He will also provide guidance in the design, implementation and evaluation of all aspects of the curriculum that will provide post-entry level students the ability to pursue graduate studies in the biomedical and related sciences.

Sunil Prahbu, PhD, has been appointed Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management. Dr Prabhu will be responsible for admissions, student recruiting, diversity issues and the International Post-Baccalaureate program.

James D. Scott, PharmD, has accepted the position of Director of Residency and Fellowships. Dr Scott will oversee the recruitment and training of WesternU residents and fellows as well as be responsible for quality assurance and accreditation.

Stephen O’Barr, PhD, has been appointed Director of Graduate Education within the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr O’Barr will participate in the planning and expansion of graduate programs for the College in conjunction with the University Graduate College.

Grants:

Sheryl Chow received a $10,032 grant from GE Healthcare for “Effect of Iodixanol (Visipaque”) compared to Ioxilan (Oxilan”) contrast medium in systolic heart failure patients receiving amiodarone therapy.”

Karl Hess received $4,000 from the Community Pharmacy Foundation for “Implementation and evaluation of a travel medicine clinic located within a community pharmacy.”

Cynthia Jackevicius received $20,000 from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Watson Anemia Investigator Development Research Award for “Erythropoietin Use in Heart Failure Patients with Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease.”

Cynthia Jackevicius received $426,477 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for “A Population-based Analysis of the Effectiveness and Adverse Effects of Medications in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation.”

Jennifer Le received $20,000 from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Pharmacotherapy Investigator Development Research Award for “Optimizing Outcomes of Gram-negative Infections with Translational Research.”

Jennifer Le received $32,125 from Pfizer’s Investigator-Initiated Research Program for “Complications associated with outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy in children.”

Kabirullah Lutfy (Co-Investigator) and Lawrence Toll (Principal investigator) have been funded by a NIDA/NIH ROI grant for $1,850,000 over 4 years for “Mixed NOP/mu compounds and the involvement of their receptors in analgesia.”

David Min received a $9,290 Western University of Health Sciences Intramural grant for “CYP3A Genotypes and Hypertensive Nephropathy in Different Ethnic Groups and Effects of Donor Genotypes of CYP3A5 on Post-transplant Hypertension in Renal Allograft Recipients.”
Megan Nguyen received a $5,000 Western University of Health Sciences Intramural grant for “Is increasing vancomycin dosage efficacious to overcome elevated vancomycin minimum inhibitory concentration among methicillin resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)? A pharmacodynamic analysis of vancomycin against MRSA using Monte Carlo Simulation.”

Stephen O’Barr received $100,000 from the Alzheimer’s Association for “CHP+Zn and T4 treatment decreases amyloid-beta levels and improves cognition in vivo.”

Sunil Prabhu and Ying Huang received $100,000 from the National Institute of Health for “Combined chemoprevention using a nanotechnology-based therapeutic system.”

Gollapudi Shankar received a $3,500 Western University of Health Sciences Intramural grant for “Comparison of Clinical Profiles of Bupropion and Venlafaxine Based on the Differences in their Affinity towards nicotinic Receptors.”

Siu-Fun Wong received $50,000 from Genentech for “Genentech AVF3991n: An Observational Study of Avastin (Bevacizumab) in Combination with Chemotherapy for Treatment oOf Metastatic or Locally Advanced and Unresectable Colorectal Cancer, Locally Advanced or Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung (Excluding Predominant Squamous Cell Histology), or Locally Recurrent or Metastatic Breast Cancer.”

Siu-Fun Wong and Ying Huang received a $20,000 Western University of Health Sciences intramural for “Individualizing DNA repair profiles to improve platinum-based chemotherapy.”

Siu-Fun Wong and Ying Huang received a $20,000 Western University of Health Sciences intramural grant for “Comparative assessment of ERCC1 expression in lung and colon cancer patients.”

Jeffrey Wang received a $20,200 Western University of Health Sciences Intramural grant for “Synthesis and Evaluation of Novel Salicylic Acid Derivatives as Potential Chemopreventive Agents for Colon Cancer.”

consultation was not mandatory with the dispensing of medication, but I can vividly remember how Kaz Inouye would guide his patients to an area where he could consult with them privately. I studied that practice and used it when I had my community pharmacy. Over the years, I have bought and sold many pharmacies, managed large pharmacy operations in multi-states and insisted that our pharmacists and personnel continue the practice of improving patient care.

The profession of pharmacy awaits you. I have had the honor of being a preceptor to many pharmacy students in my thirty years as a pharmacist and I continue to teach in the pharmacy curriculum which brings me great joy. My challenge to you is to become a leader in the profession of pharmacy. Be an advocate of patient care. Be a leader and become an active member in our professional societies. Pledge today to fulfill your vows to maintain the highest principles of moral, ethical and legal conduct for life as a pharmacist — which is a precious gift.
Greetings from Pomona and the WesternU Alumni Office! We are busy planning events for our Pharmacy alumni: the Alumni Reception at the 42nd Annual ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting on Monday, December 3, at the Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, and Alumni Breakfast at CPhA Outlook February 9, 2008, in Sacramento. We also are working to launch a unique on-line alumni community in January. Watch your mailbox and in-box for announcements about upcoming events and alumni benefits and services. Don’t forget to also update us on your successes, both personal and professional. Lastly, if you are not receiving e-mails from our office, you are missing out on some great opportunities. You can reach the Alumni Office at (909) 469-5274 or alumni@westernu.edu. We enjoy hearing from you!

Dorothy Buchanan
Director, Alumni Relations