Dear Alumni,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you all the best in this new year. This time of year is a time of reflection for many of us, and in my reflection of this past year I am thankful for the gift of motherhood. I now have a better appreciation of the sacrifices all parents make for their child(ren). I can’t count the number of times I thought of Debbie (Robinson) this past year. I was just talking about her with the staff about the exemplary life she lived as a parent and the number of hours she dedicated to us when she was the Rotations Associate. After the Charter Class of 2000’s 5-year reunion, we started to raise funds in order to continue the Debbie Robinson Memorial Scholarship since the funds for this scholarship will be depleted after this year. I would like to take this opportunity to open it up to all of you and ask for your generosity so that we can continue to commemorate the dedicated woman and loving parent she represented. The past 2 years, the College has been able to grant four $1000 scholarships to 3rd-and 4th-year students who were in good academic standing, and had a financial need. While it is a preference, and not a requirement, all of these recipients were a parent of one or more school-aged children. The deadline for this fundraiser is set for May 1st. A donation in any amount will be greatly appreciated as it will help support students who strive to excel under difficult situations. I would like to thank all of you who have or plan to contribute to this fundraiser for your kind and generous contribution.

Again, I hope this year will bring you and your family many blessings.

Best Regards,
Megan Nguyen, PharmD ’00
Section President
College of Pharmacy
Alumni Association

NAPLEX & CPJE Pass Rates

WesternU graduates have continued to pass the NAPLEX examination at a 100% rate for the last three reporting periods (September 1, 2004 to August 30, 2005).

WesternU graduates also had a 91.7% pass rate on the California Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (CPJE) as compared to an overall pass rate of 77.5% (April 1, 2005-September 30, 2005).

Congratulations to the WesternU College of Pharmacy alumni.
Mid-Career Post-Baccalaureate PharmD Program

The College of Pharmacy graduated its first group of students in the accelerated PharmD Program in December 2005. Known as the Mid-Career Post-Baccalaureate PharmD (MCPP) Program, this track offers a unique opportunity for American and/or foreign trained Pharmacists with a bachelor’s degree (BS or equivalent) to obtain the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree in a condensed time frame of 2.5 years. This program was started in 2003 and has so far attracted a number of pharmacists from the US and foreign countries.

Dr. Sunil Prabhu, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, who chaired the MCPP advisory committee during its initial years was recently promoted to Director of Special Programs in charge of overseeing this program. For more details, be sure to visit the following link http://www.westernu.edu/pharmacy/mcpp_about.xml.

Class of 2010 Student Interviews

Student interviews for the Class of 2010 are scheduled for the following dates: February 7, 9, 16 & 25 (Saturday); March 11 (Saturday). Interview sessions during the week are held from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday interviews will be an all day event beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above sessions please contact Ms. Gerri DeGelia, gdegelia@westernu.edu, Dr. Sunil Prabhu, sprabhu@westernu.edu or Dr. Wallace Murray, wmurray@westernu.edu with available dates and a daytime phone through which we might contact you. We look forward to seeing you again and working with you toward a common goal: admitting the best and brightest for the Class of 2010!

“The thing I like best about WesternU’s pharmacy program is the environment that they set out to achieve. The college tries to have a student-focused environment for learning. I already feel comfortable with the professors. I chose to come to this school because of the emphasis that they place on teamwork. It helps me learn from other students as well as to learn how to deal with group settings. Additionally, the professors at WesternU strive to teach pharmacy using care and compassion as the cornerstone. These characteristics, I feel, are a rare commodity to be found in pharmacy schools. The best thing about the program is the way the curriculum is set up in blocks. Also, it’s really great how professors get us out there to preceptor sites one month into our first year. It makes it easier to apply what we have learned.”

-- Ajay Roberts, PharmD ’09
**Student News**

Muoi Gi, PharmD ’05 was one of the recipients of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Student Leadership Award presented at the Opening Ceremony at CSHP Seminar ’05. She is currently a resident at the VA San Diego.

Giano Panzarella, PharmD ’07, and Kristina Reyes, PharmD ’08, were awarded the 2005 Presidential Scholarships by the National Community Pharmacists (NCPA) Foundation at the NCPA 107th Annual Convention. The scholarship winners are selected on the basis of academic achievement, leadership qualities, interest in independent community pharmacy and extracurricular accomplishments.

Amy Hy, PharmD ’07 received the Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship provided by the NCPA Foundation at the NCPA 107th Annual Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Faculty & Staff Update**

David I. Min, PharmD, MS, FCCP, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, is a new faculty starting January 2, 2006 in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration. He came from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Min earned his Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Science from University of Minnesota and completed his Research Fellowship in the area of organ transplant pharmacotherapy at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics. His practice and research interests are in the area of immunosuppressant management in organ transplant patients, especially cyclosporine and tacrolimus pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenomics, organ transplant patient care and opportunistic infection. He has published extensively in this area. He will practice and teach the clerkship students at St. Vincent Hospital, Los Angeles. His hobbies include travel and baduk (Go).

We are pleased to announce that Lindsay Heal has joined the college as the Secretary for the Division of Social and Administrative Sciences (SAS). Lindsay previously worked in the Office of the President as his Administrative Assistant and brings with her a deep breadth of knowledge and a strong set of skills to the college. She will assume the secretarial and support duties formerly performed by Christina Lopez, and will work closely with the SAS Division and designated members of the Pharmacy Practice Division.

Dr. Jack Chen has decided to leave WesternU and move to the College of Pharmacy at Loma Linda. We are very grateful for the many contributions he has made to our college as you can see from his prolific research and publication record in this issue of the newsletter and in previous ones. He has also served as the Faculty Advisor to the APhA/ASP Student Chapter and has been a great role model for our students.

Dr. Jesse Martinez, Director of External Affairs and Development and Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has resigned to become CEO for a healthcare-related company. He was instrumental in starting the WesternU Pharmacy Associates, a support group for the College of Pharmacy, and helping to generate funding for scholarships, research and leadership development. He also developed an Advanced Elective in independent community pharmacy ownership and participated in the professional leadership development seminars for first-year students. In addition, part of the curriculum he developed for the Advance Elective will be incorporated into a future Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC) Certificate program. He has agreed to continue to serve on the external Dean’s Advisory committee.
Dear Colleagues,

A topic that I’m sure we all think about regularly is how we could improve our profession. I find myself periodically developing “what if” lists for pharmacy. In this issue, I’d like to just share a few “what if” ramblings with you.

What if pharmacists routinely received information about the indication for each medication that is prescribed, and the therapeutic goals that the prescriber has in mind for each medication prescribed? And what if pharmacists routinely monitored patients’ response to medication and provided feedback to the prescriber?

What if every patient received adequate information, counseling and coaching from his or her pharmacist, for every medication dispensed?

What if every pharmacy were a “beehive” of intellectual activity, with regularly-scheduled continuing education programs, journal clubs, and other activities designed to keep pharmacists adequately informed? And what if such activities were built into pharmacists’ work schedules?

What if pharmacists were compensated based on how well their patients did?

What if the pharmaceutical industry and the profession of pharmacy found better ways of collaborating on behalf of those who take the medications that the industry produces?

What if every pharmacist practiced at a level commensurate with his or her education and training?

What if all pharmacists, physicians, and other health care providers worked in interdisciplinary teams?

What if every pharmacist viewed herself or himself as the patient’s advocate in all matters related to medication use?

What if every pharmacist took an active role in public policy development related to improved access by all patients to the medications they need?

What if all pharmacists took an active role in their professional associations?

What if the demand for pharmacy residency programs were to double or triple over the next few years?

What if every patient had a personal pharmacist?

I wish you each all the best in this new year.

Max D. Ray, PharmD, MS
Dean
**Faculty Accomplishments**

**Dr. Rajan Radhakrishnan** has received a New Investigator Award from the American Association of College of Pharmacy (AACP). The title of his proposal is “The role of TRPV1 Channels in a novel model of chronic ischemic muscle pain.” The award is sponsored by grants from The American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE). This is the third time one of our faculty members has received this award.

**Donald Hsu, PharmD ’03** presented a poster at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in San Francisco entitled “Outcomes of Vancomycin Treated Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Infections Targeting Higher Trough Concentration.” A co-author for the study was Annie Wong-Beringer, PharmD, formerly Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at WesternU. Dr. Hsu is a co-author on the publication: “Absolute Bioavailability and Intracellular Pharmacokinetics of Azithromycin in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis.” Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 2005 49: 5013-5017.

**Dr. Jack Chen** has been appointed as the Chief Editor for the Schwarz Pharma Parkinson’s Report. He also presented 5 posters at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, October 23-26, 2005 in San Francisco, CA.

The titles are:
3. Rasagiline provides significant management of motor symptoms in early and moderate-to-advanced Parkinson’s disease.
4. Low incidence of cognitive and behavioral adverse events in rasagiline-treated patients with early to advanced Parkinson’s disease.
5. Rasagiline is effective as monotherapy in patients with early Parkinson’s disease and as adjunctive therapy in moderate to advanced PD.

**Dr. Jim Scott** presented 3 posters at the 10th European AIDS Conference/European Aids Clinical Society in Dublin, Ireland.

The topics are:
1. “48-week results of the POST study: Simplification to a once-daily regimen”
2. “CD4 cells increase in patients receiving the combination of TDF/ddl-EC without a NNRTI”
3. “Rare occurrence of renal impairment when retrospectively evaluating the use of Tenofovir DF when used 12 months”

**Dr. Mark Okamoto** has been invited by the Scientific Director of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau of the Government of Hong Kong to serve as a grant application reviewer and to assess outcomes of completed projects funded by this agency. This appointment is for an indefinite period of time. This appointment underscores the reputation that Dr. Okamoto has established through ISPOR and other organizations that champion pharmaceutical outcomes research.

**Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius** has been recognized by the Canadian Cardiovascular Society for her research and publications with

Continued on page 6
the Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team (CCORT). This group has been awarded the 2005 Robert E. Beamish Award for publications that have the greatest potential impact on cardiovascular medicine in Canada during the years 2003 – 2005. Dr. Jackevicius is a co-author on an article: “Impact of renal insufficiency on outcome after contemporary percutaneous coronary intervention” in Am Heart J 2006; 151:146-52. She also co-authored an article titled “Impact of renal insufficiency on outcome after contemporary percutaneous coronary intervention” in the Am Heart J 2006; 151:146-52.

Dr. Guru Betageri has been invited to present “Advances in Liposome Drug Delivery Systems” at the Second International Symposium on Drug Discovery and Process Research in Belgaum, India and at the International Seminar organized by the Utta Pradesh Technical University in Lucknow India in February, 2006.

Dr. Jeany Jun presented a poster at the CSHP Seminar ’05 on “Meeting the ADA Standards of Care for Diabetes in a Predominately Hispanic Population.” She has uncovered some unusual data concerning diabetics in Pomona Hispanic patients.

Dr. Kabir Lutfy presented at a departmental seminar series at the University of California, Irvine, (Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology) on September 26th 2005; the title of his talk was: “Differential role of enkephalins in analgesic tolerance, locomotor sensitization and conditioned place preference induced by morphine.”

Drs. Siu-Fun Wong and Ryan Quist authored a platform presentation given at the 2005 annual American College of Clinical Pharmacy Meeting in San Francisco. The presentation was titled “A Cost Effective Analysis of Palonosetron in Combination with 3-day Corticosteroid for the Prevention of Chemotherapy-induced Nausea and Vomiting in a Private Practice Office.”

Dr. Hugo Arias has been chosen for the fourth consecutive year as editorial board member of the scientific journal International Journal of Biochemistry & Cell Biology. He also had a review published in the special issue “Biomedicine and Bioinformatics” from the journal Current Protein & Peptide Science titled “Anesthetics as chemical tools to study the structure and function of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors” by Arias, H.R., and Bhumireddy, P. (2005) Curr. Protein Pept. Sci. 6, 451-472.

Dr. Gollapudi Shankar was chosen as the keynote speaker at the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Hyderabad, India in December 3rd, 2005. The topic of his presentation was “Cardiovascular Adverse Effects of Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs: Application of Pharmaceutical Care Principles in the Management of Atypical Antipsychotic Pharmacotherapy.”
Romic Eskandarian, PharmD ’03, was promoted to Clinical Coordinator of Glendale Adventist Medical Center, a 500 bed hospital system. He also precepts first-and fourth-year pharmacy students from WesternU and other schools of pharmacy.

Jorge Quiros, PharmD ’03, married Ingrid Avila in January 2005. They are expecting their first son in January, 2006.

Ryan DeGuzman, PharmD ’01, has specialized in veterinary pharmacy at Golden Gate Veterinary Pharmacy in San Rafael, California. His practice was featured in a video shown at the “Tribute to Caring” dinner held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. To learn more about his practice go to www.ggvetrx.com.

Virginia Toppenberg, PharmD ’00, (now Virginia Hoyle) finished her pharmacy residency at Kaiser Sunset, then transferred to Kaiser Woodland Hills as a full-time vacation relief pharmacist for three years. She is currently the Pain Management/Geriatrics pharmacist at Kaiser Sunset. She is married and has a 2-year-old son.

Teresa Tong, PharmD ’00, (now Teresa Tong-Fong) is Inpatient Pharmacy Director at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Fremont, California. She also had a baby boy (Ethan) last April.

New CSHP Student Chapter Officers

Back Row: Chen I. Chen PharmD ’08, Noël Cipparone, PharmD ’09, Kelly McDannold, PharmD ’08, Van Ahn Hoang, PharmD ’08, Doreen Bower, PharmD ’09  Front Row: Joy DeGuia, PharmD ’09, Terisa Tran, PharmD ’09, Minhchau Vu, PharmD ’08, Julie Vuong, PharmD ’08, Thao Cong, PharmD ’09, Ivy Chan, PharmD ’09, Julie Tseng, PharmD ’09.
Alumni Relations

WesternU welcomes Dorothy Buchanan as Director of Alumni Relations. Her work will promote and enhance communication between alumni and the University. She will also organize, implement and assess a comprehensive alumni relations plan, which will work to strengthen the key role that alumni play in the mission of WesternU. Buchanan comes to WesternU from Claremont McKenna College, where she served as Associate Director of Donor Relations.