From Interprofessional Education to Interprofessional Practice

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Message from the Dean

In the face of economic challenge, federal and state budgetary cuts, continued high unemployment in many sectors, and great political uncertainty, I find that the New Year brings hope and optimism for the future of pharmacy. There is not a day that goes by that isn’t made brighter by the energy and excitement of our students as they participate in their professional associations, community service projects, immunization clinics, health fairs and fund raising activities to support a variety of humanitarian causes. Students are, of course, the lifeblood of any college, but I have to say, at WesternU we just seem to have more life.

I am optimistic because we continue to build strategic relationships with partners like McKesson RxOwnership and OptumRx. We were very happy to honor AmerisourceBergen at WesternU’s gala “A Tribute to Caring” event, recognizing a 10-year partnership that has raised more than $1 million in scholarships. We are delighted with growth in our academic partnerships, which will help us achieve our diversity goals through articulation agreements with CSU Los Angeles, Cal Poly Pomona and CSU San Bernardino. Thanks go to Richard Barker, retired banker and founding member of the Dean’s Advisory Council, for his help in facilitating our agreements.

I am also optimistic about the potential for some very important changes affecting pharmacy that are needed in the evolving health care environment. Under the Affordable Care Act, the promise of more health care choices, enhanced quality of care and more affordable health care will not be possible if access to primary care is not improved. Pharmacists could play a vital role in collaboration with primary care clinicians to help patients who are dependent on medications for management of their chronic diseases. Having pharmacists recognized as health care providers through both the Social Security Act and CMS could go a long way toward expanding practice models designed to improve patient and health system outcomes and improve primary care access. Isn’t it about time that pharmacist services that have been available in federal health care settings for 40 years be made available to the rest of the U.S. population? [a rhetorical question if I’ve ever heard one]

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Western University of Health Sciences
From Interprofessional Education to Interprofessional Practice

WesternU is the first institution in the nation to develop an Interprofessional Education (IPE) program that brings together students from each of the University’s nine health professional programs.
Imagine if instead of having one health care professional trying to address all of your medical needs, you had a team of professionals working together to give you the best diagnosis and treatments possible. Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) has developed an innovative program that offers just that, and more. For four years now, WesternU has been a pioneer in developing an Interprofessional Education (IPE) curriculum, which we hope will change the face of health care as we know it.

IPE is generally accepted to mean “When [students from] two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.” Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice. WHO 2010

Teamwork in health care is not a new concept. In fact, society has every right to expect that the delivery of health care should be a well-choreographed process in which all members of the health care enterprise work in concert to ensure the best possible results for the patients and populations they serve. But where does a commitment to teamwork come from? Does it come from the Hippocratic Oath, the Oath of a Pharmacist, the Florence Nightingale Pledge,
or the Dentist’s Pledge? Not one mentions teamwork, collaboration or working with others to improve patient care outcomes.

We see interprofessional teams come together when pandemics or epidemics place sudden and intense demands on health systems. Natural disasters and humanitarian crises too often bring health professionals together in relief efforts. Teams work together effectively under these stressful circumstances because they have a common goal and a shared knowledge and understanding of the work that needs to be done. They may also be working with limited resources and personnel, forcing them to optimize the skills of each team member. If those are the components of high functioning teams, why don’t we see examples in all practice settings?

In 2010, six professional associations came together to try and answer that question. Participating organizations included the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Dental Education Association, Association of American Medical Colleges and Association of Schools of Public Health. These six participating associations convened an expert panel to produce a May, 2011 report on Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. WesternU was well represented on this panel, by Susan Mackintosh, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine & Director Interprofessional Education and Daniel Robinson, Dean College of Pharmacy. Through such efforts, it is hoped that our health disciplines will be compelled to “learn together to work together for better health” (WHO 2010). In short, there is no reason that we can’t have a future with high functioning interprofessional teams in all practice settings.

WesternU is the first institution in the nation to develop a comprehensive, campus-wide Interprofessional Education (IPE) program; one that brings together first-year, second-year and, in some cases, third-year students from each of the University’s nine health professional programs (pharmacy, osteopathic medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, physician assistant, dental medicine, physical therapy, graduate nursing and podiatric medicine) to work together as unified health care teams. The students work together in teams throughout the curriculum at WesternU in the classroom, in small group venues and in clinics with patients, and in doing so, are able to appreciate the value and unique skills that each profession brings to collaborative, team-based care.

The phase one course, “Patient Centered Cases – An Interprofessional Approach” started in the 2009-2010 academic year. This course lays the foundation for future collaborative and coordinated care of patients. A total of five cases, three weeks long, plus foundation lectures comprise the two-semester course. WesternU faculty, volunteer faculty and community practitioners serve as the case facilitators. First semester cases focus on team building, communication and other vital interprofessional skills. Second semester cases emphasize cultural sensitivity, ethical dilemmas and end of life issues. As students learn together, and solve problems together they walk away with a newfound appreciation for their teammates’ varied roles in the delivery of health care.

To learn more about the program, please visit www.westernu.edu/interprofessional-about
Preceptor/Alumni Profile: Dr. Sam Badiant

Sam Badiant, PharmD, graduated from the WesternU College of Pharmacy in 2003. After getting his license, he became a Pharmacy Manager for Rite-Aid and Staff Pharmacist at Beverly Hospital. He remembers that “It was a challenging, yet fruitful combination working in a retail and hospital setting.” He started to precept WesternU student pharmacists at Rite Aid during 2005-2006 as part of the community practice track. He found that it was an extremely rewarding experience for himself as well as his students.

In the middle of 2011, he accepted a position with PharMedQuest Pharmacy Services as their new Pharmacy Operations Supervisor. PharMedQuest Pharmacy Services is an innovative and robust company in the Specialty Healthcare Management field. The corporate office in Brea adjoins their specialty pharmacy, the Watts Clinic Pharmacy. Specialty pharmacy is a relatively new field of pharmacy that services patients of chronic diseases with very expensive injectable, infusion or biotech drugs. They serve a narrow patient population that requires a lot of expensive and complicated drug therapies such as oncology, transplant and HIV patients and those on orphan drugs.

In addition, PharMedQuest Pharmacy Services also serves as a “staff-model” pharmacy in collaboration with two AltaMed Medical Clinics in East Los Angeles. The partnership between AltaMed and PharMedQuest has been one that has seen great increases in providing access to care in underserved areas.

Two other WesternU alumni, Sally Shin, PharmD ’08, and Vincent Ly, PharmD ’10, work at the AltaMed pharmacy in Commerce. Dr. Shin completed a WesternU Residency with Dr. Scott, and now precepts students in the HIV clinic there. Dr. Ly is also a preceptor and Pharmacist-in-Charge at the Commerce AltaMed site.

Bottom left: Dr. Sam Shimomura, Associate Dean for College Advancement, WesternU alumni Sally Shin, PharmD ’08, Sam Badiant, PharmD ’03, and Vincent Ly, PharmD ’10.
News from the Office of Experiential Education: Rotations Fair

By Renee Cook

On October 3rd, the Office of Experiential Education held its 2nd annual Rotations Fair. The event had around twenty participants this year, which included, hospitals, community pharmacies, specialty clinics and pharmaceutical industry sites. Third-year students were able to meet with key preceptors and managers prior to selecting their rotations and gain knowledge on selecting the most appropriate clinical rotation for their career path. Our next Rotation Fair will be held in early October 2012.

Questions regarding CEI’s Preceptor Development Activities, please contact Kathy Schott at kathy.schott@drake.edu

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Experience quality preceptor development opportunities with flexible educational activities from Collaborative Education Institute (CEI).

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Questions regarding CEI’s Preceptor Development Activities, please contact Kathy Schott at kathy.schott@drake.edu

WesternU Preceptors: you get precepting tools and resources from

The PL Preceptor Training & Resource Network helps make your precepting easier & more effective.

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- **PL Journal Club** that lets you conduct regular, highly educational discussions with your APPE students without the usual headaches
- Activity ideas, syllabus examples, evaluation tools and more with your **Preceptor Toolbox**

For more information, contact Darcy Meade: 209-472-2240 x222 • DMeade@PLetter.com

Photo above: Mark Sabillo, PharmD ’13, Sheryl Lee, Rx Intern Coordinator for CVS Pharmacy, and Charles Lam, PharmD ’13. Photo below: Preceptor Felix Pham from Pacific Hospital of Long Beach, Dennis Ancheta, PharmD ’13, Michael Trillanes, PharmD ’13, and Thao Tram from Pacific Hospital of Long Beach.
ASHP-CSHP  California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists

By Castor Phan, PharmD ’13

On September 7th 2011, CSHP and the College of Pharmacy commenced its Annual Residency Week. This year, the event started off with the Fall Residency Roundtable where we invited current PGY1 & 2 Residents and Residency Directors from various sites in California. This event provides students that are interested in pursuing a residency the opportunity to meet and interact with those that know the residency process best. Students took turns circulating around 7 tables to ask questions to our 13 guests. On September 9th 2011, we concluded Residency Week with the Residency Showcase. This year 23 residencies sites were able to visit WesternU to display their poster boards and showcase what their Residency Programs entail.

All photos on this page are from the Annual Residency Week. Above: WesternU Table at the Residency Showcase. Below left to right: Foyer in the Health Professions Center during the Showcase; CSHP group at the Residency Roundtable; group discussion at the Roundtable; and the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center table at the Showcase.
Kappa Psi

By Stephanie Wu, PharmD ’14

Kappa Psi hosted a team for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Light the Night Walk, which took place at Angel Stadium in Anaheim on September 17, 2011. This was the second year that Kappa Psi participated in this walk and it was a great success. This year, a total of 87 participants including the Brothers of Kappa Psi, fellow WesternU student pharmacists and friends joined Team WesternU Kappa Psi. Despite our initial goal of raising $2500, we raised more than $5500 with the support of many Kappa Psi Brothers, friends, and families. After the exciting opening ceremony, the actual walk began as the sun set. Thousands of participants carrying red, white and gold illuminating balloons completed a two-mile-walk filled with celebration and commemoration of lives touched by cancer. Participating in the walk and raising funds for the fight against leukemia and lymphoma is one of many ways in which the Brothers of Kappa Psi continuously reach out to our communities.

Photo above and inset: WesternU group at the Light the Night Walk at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, California.

AMCP Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

By Ani Khachatourian, PharmD ’14

The WesternU AMCP chapter began our community involvement in the summer, by hosting a Medication Brown Bag booth during the Career Fair and Health Expo at the Fairplex in Pomona. In addition to providing valuable information on medication safety and efficacy, we continued our medication disposal/wastage project in evaluating personal and environmental safety by surveying and providing guidance for non-adherence, expired medications, and methods of proper medication disposal. We continued our involvement with Medicare Part D outreach during the open enrollment period in helping seniors choose the right prescription plans. Our student pharmacists were duly rewarded with the experience of aiding members from the community in their overall health and wellness. AMCP looks forward to an exciting new year with many enriching events that will be geared towards educating the WesternU student body about Managed Care Pharmacy.

Photo: (Left to right): Cindy Fan, Pauline Phan, Sin Ok Choi, Lynh Nguyen, Jeesun Cho, Ani Khachatourian, Yasaman Rahimian, Youkavet Samih, Annie Song.
Gamma Sigma Chapter of the Rho Chi Society

By Annie Song, PharmD '13

What a busy semester it has been! We started off the school year with the popular I ♥ Rx t-shirt fundraiser at Club Day and our first general meeting, where everyone got a chance to catch up and plan events for the year.

At the end of October, Rho Chi helped host Pharmacy Educator Week, a week of celebrating our educators and encouraging those who want to go into academia, with decorations, a faculty panel and a career day booth. November brought an annual event, the Rho Chi Wine and Cheese Night where members got a chance to mingle with alumni and faculty in a social setting.

To finish off the semester, in December the Gamma Sigmas came together at the holiday luncheon with faculty to celebrate a busy semester gone by. As the current members on campus prepare to leave for rotations in January, we look forward to welcoming our new members soon!

Group photo below: (from bottom l-r) Dr. Wallace Murray, Aliz M. Talatinian, Carrie Bitterlich, Tony Chiang, (next line) Jinoo Lee, Youkavet Samih, Elnaz Panbechi, Hazel Tran, (next line) Thao T. Pham, Farah Nabi, Valerie Bonifacio, (next line) Cindy Fan, Kelly Huang, Mary Chanason, Sangeeta Sahni, (last line) Jennifer Hong, Annie Song, Eloise Santos, Stephanie Lin, Photos right (top to bottom): 1) Wine and Cheese Night: Stephanie Lin, Dr. Wallace Murray (advisor), Jinoo Lee, Elnaz Panbechi; 2) Hazel Tran, Carrie Bitterlich, Alidz Talatinian, Elnaz Panbechi; 3) Annie Song, Cindy Fan, Jennifer Hong, Alidz Talatinian, Carrie Bitterlich, Annie Song, Eloise Santos, Stephanie Lin; 4) Pharmacy Educator Week: Jennifer Hong, Annie Song, Cindy Fan, Carrie Bitterlich, Alidz Talatinian, Tony Chiang; 5) Hazel Tran, Carrie Bitterlich, and Jennifer Hong.
NCPA

By Peter Phan, PharmD ’14

NCPA sent their award-winning business plan team to Nashville, TN to represent WesternU at the 113th Annual Convention & Trade Exposition. Spirits were high as they presented their business plan to attendees of the convention. In addition, NCPA continues to show its dedication to the community by hosting a variety of local health fairs this year including the 30th annual Claremont Village Venture Fair, Holiday at the Plaza at the Pomona Civic Center as well as the WesternU Flu Clinic right here on campus. To promote independent pharmacy, our NCPA student chapter invited many successful independent owners to share their stories and give students insight to the exciting world of independent ownership.

Photo top right (left to right): Ryan Ngov, Dr. Jesse Martinez, Dr. Karl Hess, Karen Lai, Amy Le, Susan Phan, Dean Danielle Robinson. Photo top right: Ryan Ngov, Susan Phan, Karen Lai, Amy Le, Peter Phan. Inset photo left: Peter Phan, Karen Lai, Susan Phan, Amy Le, Ryan Ngov, Dr. Jesse Martinez. Photo inset right: WesternU Flu Clinic.

Career Day

By Mark Iannuzzo, Director Student Services

The College of Pharmacy hosted its annual Career Day on November 1, 2011. Career Day provides students opportunities to talk with prospective employers about intern and career opportunities. This year there were thirteen participating companies that had table-top displays which allowed students to visit with all the representatives on an informal basis. This year’s participants included Albertsons/Sav-on, CVS Caremark Pharmacy, Kaiser Permanente, Kmart Pharmacy, Pharm-Aid, Inc., Ralphs, Rite Aid, Rx Relief, Target, Vons/Safeway, Walgreens, Walmart and WesternU College of Pharmacy.

On January 27, 2012, the fourth-year students will have an opportunity to participate in the college’s annual Job Fair here at WesternU. Interviews will be set up through the College’s Student Affairs office. For more information, please contact Mark Iannuzzo at 909-469-5507 or miannuzzo@westernu.edu.
The 2011 WesternU CAPSLEAD team presented a poster of their research project findings titled: “What is the public perception of pharmacists in the community pharmacy setting and does it support the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners’ Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice?” at the CSHP Seminar in Anaheim this October. The poster will once again be presented at the CPhA Outlook conference in Sacramento in February 2012.

This year’s team members, Jacob Arslanian, PharmD ’13, Ilham Hassan, PharmD ’14, Ani Khachatourian, PharmD ’14, Karen Lai, PharmD ’13, Van Nguyen, PharmD ’13, and Maya Yanover, PharmD ’14, and team leads Paideia Le, PharmD ’14, and Claire Spahn, PharmD ’13, worked extensively to gather and analyze survey data and to represent WesternU at the CSHP and CPhA Conferences. Additionally, Dr. Eric Gupta, Dr. Karl Hess, and Dr. Janice Hoffman provided valuable assistance to the team as Faculty Advisors.

Continuing the tradition of promoting pharmacy practice, APhA-ASP/CPhA celebrated American Pharmacists Month in October. We held a week long event on campus composed of events, fundraisers, and activities, all geared towards promoting knowledge and awareness of the pharmacy profession. After a thrilling election period, APhA-ASP/CPhA announced their new Executive Board on October 10. The new and current board are working together to ensure a smooth transition for the upcoming year.

Phi Lambda Sigma

By Pauline Phan, PharmD ‘13

The Gamma Nu Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma National Pharmacy Leadership Society kicked off the year with the first annual College of Pharmacy Mixer event at the HEC Recital Hall. The purpose of the event was to foster inter-class friendships between the PharmD classes of 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012 as well as promote leadership amongst student pharmacists. The event gathered approximately 160 students and was a great success.

Shortly following the Mixer, Phi Lambda Sigma hosted its 4th Annual Leadership Retreat on September 17th, 2011. The keynote Speaker, Dr. Alan Spies, RPh, MBA, JD, PhD, focused his interactive discussion on harnessing the leadership within each student pharmacist as well as his own journey in leadership. Following the talk, students broke out into workshops that included games and activities highlighting different portions of Dr. Spies’s discussion. The fifty students in attendance were able to leave the event with gifts, prizes, and newfound insight on their leadership potential.

On August 6, 2011, Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy welcomed 118 students into the class of 2015 at a White Coat ceremony held at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California (thank you to Walmart for their generous sponsorship of the White Coat ceremony this year). Cynthia Jackevicius, PharmD, Director, Residency and Fellowship Training Program and Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice & Administration, gave the keynote address to the students and their families. Key points of her address to the students included: 1) Be open to and interested in all possibilities since you don’t know what opportunity will present itself and ultimately influence your career path. Find your passion and inspiration to get you through the days, weeks and years of hard work during pharmacy school; 2) Do everything you can to succeed, including being happy. As the Nobel laureate Albert Schweitzer said: “Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful;” and 3) Remember that patient care is an art and a science, encompassing both the mind and the heart. Patients will trust you because you are wearing a white coat. Consider how you will be of service to patients and create your own distinct mixture of humanism, science and caring as a student pharmacist.

Below: Dean Daniel Robinson greets Phillip Nelson, DVM, PhD, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, at the Convocation Ceremony. Bottom left: students receiving their white coats during the White Coat Ceremony. Bottom middle: Brett Boschetto, PharmD ‘15 receives his white coat from Fadi Khazaaleh, PhD, BPharm, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Bottom right: James Scott, BS, ME, PharmD, Associate Dean of Experiential and Professional Affairs, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, and Cynthia Jackevicius, PharmD, MSc, BScPhm, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration.
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, PHARM.D CLASS OF 2015
McKesson RxOwnership Gives $20,000 for Independent Pharmacy Course

On Aug. 3, 2011, McKesson RxOwnership donated $20,000 in support of independent community pharmacies.

The donation will be used to expand the College of Pharmacy’s Advanced Elective on Entrepreneurial Independent Pharmacy Ownership Course to include more mentor sites and preceptor training. The course is in its seventh year and has become very popular with our fourth-year student pharmacists.

McKesson has a 178-year history partnering with community pharmacy and supports the valuable role that pharmacists play in communities. McKesson RxOwnership supports pharmacists through the buying or selling of a pharmacy and motivates pharmacy students to map a strategy for ownership.

“I’m excited that so many WesternU students are interested in advancing health care through pharmacy practice,” said Bob Graul, McKesson RxOwnership National Vice President. “It’s WesternU’s interest in pursuing a successful career in pharmacy that motivates McKesson to contribute to your students’ future success.”

OptumRx (Prescription Solutions) Makes Second Gift To PHCL

The Pomona Health Career Ladder (PHCL) program received a second gift of $10,000 this past June from our generous partner at OptumRx (formerly Prescription Solutions). John Jones, Senior Vice President, Professional Practice and Pharmacy Policy with OptumRx, contacted the College of Pharmacy administration in early June with the good news that OptumRx would be able to make the second gift within the same year, making a total donation of $20,000 for the year. This gift has provided significant support for the PHCL programming that is becoming increasingly popular in the local Pomona community.

John Jones is the current Executive in Residence at the WesternU College of Pharmacy, and is an active member of the Dean’s Advisory Council as well. “We at OptumRx definitely admire your PHCL program,” Jones said, “and we want to support it when we can.”

Above: Charles Tomassene, Director Strategic Initiative California and Hawaii, Bob Graul, National Vice President RxOwnership, Daniel Robinson, Dean, College of Pharmacy, Karen Schmidt, Vice President RxOwnership, and Edgar Cardona, Vice President Retail Sales California.
Please check out the new interactive website, “Pharmacy Is Right For Me,” (www.pharmacyforme.org) that OptumRx has recently launched. It features brief interviews with College of Pharmacy students and some of the PHCL ninth grade students from Pomona as well.

As one of the largest pharmacy benefit managers in the United States, OptumRx specializes in the delivery, clinical management and affordability of prescription medications and consumer health products. OptumRx provides retail pharmacy network claims processing, mail order pharmaceuticals and specialty pharmaceuticals management in concert with its pharmacy benefit management programs. The company also provides retail network contracting, rebate contracting and management and clinical programs, such as step therapy, formulary management and disease/drug therapy management programs that assist customers in achieving a low-cost, high-quality pharmacy benefit.

Thanks to Our Alumni

Happy 2012! The past six months have been an exciting time for the College of Pharmacy here at WesternU, particularly in regards to the wonderful responses we have been getting to our recent alumni outreach events. Our alumni have told us they really enjoy seeing one another, hearing about what is happening on campus, and reuniting with College of Pharmacy faculty and staff as well. Julie Avila and Letty Ramirez loved seeing so many familiar faces! Alumni are responding to our updated webpage, Facebook page, and Twitter sites, and the increase in charitable donations to the College of Pharmacy is helping to keep WesternU on the leading edge of Pharmacy education in the nation. Thanks to our alumni, for all of your enthusiastic responses and support! Keep your eyes on us to see what’s coming next!

Bill Burrows
Director of Development
College of Pharmacy
909-469-8431
bburrows@westernu.edu

Generous Support for Pharmacy
Scholarships & Student Programs

• $15,000 from Albertsons SuperValu Inc. for the Albertsons Foundation Scholarship
• $10,000 from Walgreens for the Walgreens Diversity Scholarship
• $6,000 from Target for Pharmacy Student Association support
• $5,000 from the Indian Pharmacists Association (IPA) for the IPA Student Scholarship
• $5,000 from Brian Garner for the Dr. Brian Garner Scholarship Endowment
• $4,000 from Albertsons SuperValu Inc., Welcome BBQ event during WesternU Welcome Week

• $4,000 from Target for the Target Case Competition
• $4,000 from Walmart for annual scholarships
• $1,500 from RxPrep for Pharmacy Student Association support
• $1,000 from Max Ray for Pharmacy Sustaining Fund
• $500 from Joel Weber, Dean’s Advisory Council member, for Pharmacy Sustaining Fund
• $250 from South Bay Pharmacists Association for Olizene B. Terrell Scholarship

Generous Alumni Support for the College of Pharmacy
June – December 2011

$1,000 – $5,000
Gene Kim, PharmD ’03

Other Gifts
Dara Abacan, PharmD ’09
Luis Aguilar, PharmD ’00
Mehdi Amiri, PharmD ’11
Elizabeth Basteiguian, PharmD ’10
Ivy Chan, PharmD ’09
Long-Shyang Chang, PharmD ’08
Katie Hui, PharmD ’08
Bony Kari, PharmD ’05
Eun Sook Kim, PharmD ’07
Katherine Le, PharmD ’08
Young Ran Lee, PharmD ’07
Yen Luong, PharmD ’08
Elana Mossazadeh, PharmD ’11
Haikui Parsamyan, PharmD ’10
Laurel Shea, PharmD ’06
Azeem Syed, PharmD ’08
Oanh Trinh, PharmD ’10
Vicky Vu, PharmD ’05
Jerry Yang, PharmD ’08

Family & Friends Support for the College of Pharmacy
June – December 2011

David Bosch, DO ’11
Chi Fuu Lin, father of Jennifer Lin, PharmD ’01
Danny Osato
Robert Stewart
DAC Member Helps Build Dean’s Endowment Fund

The College of Pharmacy Dean’s Endowed Scholarship Fund grew a bit larger this fall thanks to the generous giving of Mr. Thomas R. Russillo, an active member of the College of Pharmacy’s Dean’s Advisory Council. Mr. Russillo, currently an industry consultant, has served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Ben Venue Laboratories Inc., the largest U.S. contract manufacturer and third largest U.S. Marketer of multisource injectables. Prior to Ben Venue, he held a number of senior positions with Baxter International, most recently as Managing Director, International Medical Technology.

Mr. Russillo also served as Executive Vice President of Global Generics of Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc., as President of U.S. Generics Division and Executive Vice President of Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc., and has served as Chairman of the National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Board Member for the Generic Pharmaceutical Association.

Mr. Russillo presented his donation of $5,000 in support of the Dean’s Endowment following the Dean’s Advisory Council meeting in Newport Beach this past September, where the Council members heard about, and discussed, many of the exciting new programs that the College of Pharmacy is developing. “Will this help?,” Tom asked as he handed over his check. “Yes!” was the resounding answer!

In Memoriam of Byron Schweigert

Byron Schweigert was a charter member of the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Board (established in 2000) and continued serving in that capacity until he became ill. According to Max Ray, Dean Emeritus of the College of Pharmacy, “Dr. Schweigert provided bold insights that were particularly useful to the College in its formative years. He was a champion of the concept of interprofessional education and practice, and he helped us reconceptualize our curriculum in these areas. He also provided valuable guidance to the College in understanding how some of the key Institute of Medicine reports applied to pharmacy. We were pleased to have Dr. Schweigert serve as the commencement speaker for the College of Pharmacy in 2005.”

Byron enjoyed a fulfilling career of 35 years at Memorial Hospital Medical Center Long Beach beginning in 1970 in the pharmacy department and ending as the CEO. He also served as the Chairman of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. His career ended as CEO of Anaheim Regional Medical Center and he retired in 2010.

Byron is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Kathy; his daughters, Tracie Schweigert and Robin Stacy and her husband, Mike; grandchildren Sara and Luke; and his parents, Fred and Alma Schweigert.
One of our visions is to prepare our pharmacy graduates to effectively communicate and educate patients within the population-based communities they will serve. Competent communication in patient consultation is one of the real-life skills associated with pharmacy practice. The Spanish language patient counseling elective will focus on pharmacy/medical language skills to explain therapeutics which is the capstone of medication consultation for wellness and patient safety.

A committee (pictured above) led by third-year student pharmacist, Sandra Pineda and under the guidance of faculty member Dr. Jesse Martinez has developed a Spanish language elective course that features on-line self-paced modules covering cultural competency and Spanish medical terminology. Upon completion of the modules with proficiency testing, the participants will be able to further practice their learned skills in a self-paced workshop. The workshop includes video and interactive exercises lead by student pharmacists fluent in Spanish. Throughout the workshop, students will practice their Spanish language skills relating to patient consultation and be assessed after each lesson. Every WesternU student pharmacist will have the opportunity to be proficient in counseling patients in Spanish.

Sandra Pineda, says “Being skilled in Spanish consultation will allow student pharmacists to become competent and valuable to our patients, community and pharmacy employers.”

“We are responding to the needs of our community by preparing graduates with skills in Spanish that will allow them to provide a higher level of care,” said Dean, Daniel Robinson. “While this course focuses on Spanish language skills, subsequent courses will include other languages, such as Vietnamese, that reflect the diversity of Southern California.”

This elective course was designed and piloted through the hard work of our committee of student pharmacists and was partially funded by generous grants from Target and CVS Caremark.

Spanish committee (l-r): Fabiola Escalante, PharmD ‘14, Tiffani Emerson, PharmD ‘13, Luis Moreno, PharmD ‘14, Dr. Jesse Martinez, Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development, Sandra Pineda, PharmD ‘13, Dr. Wallace Murray, Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs, Jennifer Turcios, PharmD ‘14, and Richard Garcia, PharmD ‘13.
The evening’s entertainment featured sleight of hand in the Magic Kingdom, but the end result was no illusion.

Western University of Health Sciences set new records in tickets sold and money raised at its annual gala, “A Tribute to Caring,” on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, Calif.

The gala raised more than $170,000 for student scholarships and honored longtime College of Pharmacy supporter AmerisourceBergen Corporation with the 2011 A Tribute to Caring Corporate Humanitarian Award. Several magicians performed for the more than 600 guests as they mingled prior to the evening’s dinner and program.

WesternU Founding President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, thanked donors for supporting the university’s mission.

“When you study the science of healing, you must remember it has to intersect with compassion and caring. You think about the patient,” he said. “Your presence here tonight will have a direct impact on our work and our mission of fostering caring and compassion in health care.”

A Tribute to Caring is a special opportunity for WesternU to recognize enduring contributions to the education of tomorrow’s health professionals, said WesternU Senior Vice President Thomas G. Fox, PhD.

“Although past Tributes have sometimes honored more than one organization, tonight that is not the case,” he said. “All of us at the
university agreed that the commitment and spirit of partnership demonstrated over the years by this evening’s honoree warrant their standing alone on our stage as the evening’s sole award recipient.”

In presenting the award to AmerisourceBergen Corporation President David Neu, Dr. Pumerantz told him, “It is an honor to present this award to you. You are a company that has a conscience. You care for people, you make a lot of scholarships available, and the work you do uplifts the community.”

AmerisourceBergen has an upcoming year-end meeting in Dallas, where they will talk about various recognitions and contributions made across the country, Neu said, and he will be proud to share this accomplishment.

“I just can’t tell you how proud I am to share with all of our associates this great story, not just about the money that was contributed and the time and the effort, but that we’re very humbled by the fact that you let us into your circle,” he said. “For that I really thank you very much.”

AmerisourceBergen sponsors the annual Good Neighbor Pharmacy/Institute for Community Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic, which has raised more than $1 million for student scholarships at WesternU and USC. The golf tournament will celebrate its 10th year in 2012. AmerisourceBergen is also establishing a $25,000 endowed scholarship at WesternU.

AmerisourceBergen provided funding for WesternU’s Patient Care Center Pharmacy, which is part of the Good Neighbor Pharmacy Network.

Good Neighbor Pharmacy is a network of more than 3,700 independently owned and operated community pharmacies across the United States and Puerto Rico. Good Neighbor Pharmacy is part of a program offered by AmerisourceBergen, one of the world’s largest pharmaceutical services companies serving the United States, Canada and selected global markets.

Mike Quick, National Vice President, Good Neighbor Pharmacy Development, has served on the WesternU Board of Trustees since 2004. When he first visited the campus, he saw how special the WesternU family was, Quick said.

“I’m honored not only to be on the Board of Trustees but to work with these special people in health care,” he said.

AmerisourceBergen has been a great partner, said College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD.

“We’re very grateful for the long-lasting relationship, and students have benefitted tremendously,” he said. “The scholarships that our students receive help those that want to focus on independent community pharmacy. AmerisourceBergen has been very focused on helping us achieve success for that group of pharmacists.”

WesternU students who attended the gala received a welcomed break from studying and a chance to meet previously unseen supporters.

“It’s good to see behind the scenes,” said second-year College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific student Anthony Chen, DO’14. “This is for scholarships. It’s important to see what goes on, especially as a student.”
Alumni Events

By Renee Cook

We encourage you to attend one of the many receptions and events hosted throughout 2012. These events are great opportunities to network, re-connect with former classmates and faculty and to encourage, inspire and motivate current student pharmacists to continue to build on our tradition of excellence. We are currently planning our next Alumni Dinner, with CE for March 31 in the Pasadena area. Invitations will be sent out soon. See you there! (For other College of Pharmacy events, please see the back cover)

Alumni Dinner 2011, Newport Beach

On Sept 10th, 60 WesternU alumni gathered at the Villa Nova Restaurant in Newport Beach for dinner and a continuing education program. Dean Robinson, along with several faculty (Drs. Jesse Martinez, David Pham, Sam Shimomura) and staff members (Julie Avila, Bill Burrows, Renee Cook) welcomed the alumni. Dr. David Pham presented the continuing education program, “Managing Diabetes with Food, Activity and Medication.” The program was very well received. The dinner was excellent and the backdrop of the ocean was delightful. The evening concluded with a wonderful drawing for a weekend at the Blue Lantern Inn in Dana Point, that included dinner at the Harbor Grill and a very nice bottle of wine. Raffi Kaprielian '07 and Arpie Mikaelian ’09 were very excited to be the recipients!

The Class of 2011 had the most alumni attending, followed by the Class of 2003 as a close second. Our next alumni dinner will be in March 2012 located in the Pasadena area.

Compounding CE

A compounding continuing education course has finally come to the West Coast. WesternU has partnered with Letco Medical to provide basic hands-on training in compounding skills. In August, we asked for alumni volunteers to help pilot test this three-day certificate course. Thank you to our alumni that participated in the pilot course, their input was invaluable in improving the workshop. In October, the first official course, drew 19 attendees. Upcoming Contemporary Compounding Intensive Courses are scheduled for June 1-3, July 20-22 and Sept 14-16, 2012.
New Orleans ASHP
The Bourbon House in New Orleans was the location for a dinner hosted by Dean Robinson for alumni, faculty, student pharmacists, preceptors, VIP’s, and other friends of the college. There were 18 alumni in attendance. The food and fare was typical New Orleans style. All in attendance had a grand time and hated to see the evening conclude.

CSHP Seminar ’11
WesternU alumni, faculty and students attending CSHP Seminar at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim were treated to an excellent Mexican feast at Tortilla Joe’s in Downtown Disney. There were around 170 in attendance, which included, alumni, faculty, student pharmacists, preceptors and other VIP’s. There were several drawings that evening and the attendees were very excited to have the chance to visit, network and catch up with one another.

With your support, our mission is in the bag.
Good Neighbor Pharmacy and the Institute for Community Pharmacy present the 10th Anniversary GNP ICP Scholarship Golf Classic
June 13, 2012
Robinson Ranch Golf Club, Santa Clarita, California
Proceeds will benefit Pharmacy Scholarships at Western University of Health Sciences and USC School of Pharmacy
For more information, contact Michelle Nunez at (818) 864-6171
Dr. Sunil Prabhu joined the WesternU College of Pharmacy in 1996 as a founding faculty member of the College. Currently, he is the longest serving member of this College having recently completed 15 years of service. Starting at the Assistant Professor level in 1996, he was tenured in 2002 and promoted to the Associate Professor level. In July 2011, Dr. Prabhu was promoted to full Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He currently serves as the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, having also previously served as Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management and Director of Special Programs. Dr. Prabhu teaches Pharmaceutics topics in the first year professional (P1) program and actively organizes and supervises the Pharmaceutical Compounding Lab course for P1 students. For the last 10 years or so, Dr. Prabhu has maintained an active research profile. Using his background and experience in novel drug delivery systems, he has applied a unique nanotechnology-based drug delivery system to deliver combinations of drugs to target two forms of digestive cancers, namely colon and pancreatic cancer. Specifically, his area of expertise has evolved into the chemoprevention of these cancers whereby he is attempting to prevent these diseases from initiation and proliferation at the pre-neoplastic level by oral administration of targeted low dose nanotechnology-based drug combination regimens. To support his research initiatives in cancer, Dr. Prabhu was awarded two consecutive research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI)) during the past five years. His first grant on colon cancer recently resulted in several presentations and publications in high impact meetings and journals where his team, using an in vivo model of the colon, demonstrated that low dose combinations of aspirin and folic acid encapsulated within polymer-based nanoparticles, and mixed with free calcium can significantly reduce the formation of aberrant crypts (pre-neoplastic lesions) in the colon, thus potentially reducing the chances of occurrence of colon cancer. Commenting on his findings, Dr. Prabhu stated “We are very excited to report these results where nanotechnology drug regimens have, for the first time, demonstrated their effectiveness in reducing the incidence of precursor colonic lesions which may be key to reducing the incidence of colon cancer. Although a lot more needs to be done, our findings are proof positive of the potential of nanotechnology applications in preventing the spread of dreaded diseases such as colon and pancreatic cancer.” Dr. Prabhu also added “Our second NIH grant on pancreatic cancer chemoprevention using combinatorial nanotechnology regimens has also resulted in remarkable results when tested on human pancreatic cancer cell lines. We are confident that the in vivo studies currently being conducted in our lab will result in important information towards the chemoprevention of this cancer.” Pancreatic cancer is a silent killer with a poor prognosis once diagnosed, with <5% chances of survival for the patient. Thus, it is imperative that we find chemopreventive strategies to stop this disease before it even occurs, he added. Based on his recent findings, Dr. Prabhu is now preparing new grants to request additional funding from the NIH to continue this valuable work. Stay tuned!
A new study published in the New England Journal of Medicine examines the economic impact and potential precedent set by the delay in lipid-lowering drug Lipitor becoming available in generic form.

Lipitor was the top-selling prescription medication in the U.S. in 2010, earning its manufacturer Pfizer more than $7 billion in total revenue, according to the study “Generic Atorvastatin and Health Care Costs.” The article’s lead author is WesternU College of Pharmacy Associate Professor Cynthia Jackevicius, BScPhm, MSc, PharmD, FCSHP, BCPS (AQ Card). Co-author Mindy Chou, PharmD ’11, is a College of Pharmacy alumna who worked with Jackevicius during her advanced elective rotation.

Lipitor’s patent expired in June 2011, but Pfizer made an agreement with Ranbaxy, the first company to develop a generic atorvastatin, to defer the first generic’s introduction into the U.S. market from June to November. This five-month delay cost Americans an estimated $324 million in savings.

This cost estimate is very conservative since in the first five months of a first generic, the product price usually only drops by about 20 percent, Jackevicius said.

Although generic-substitution laws and tiered formularies have been deployed for years in attempts to promote the use of generic products, patients’ and physicians’ preference for brand-name medications persists, according to the study. Examination of primary care prescribing patterns with regard to statins alone reveals that such preferences may result in $5.8 billion in excess expenditures annually.

Pfizer has employed aggressive business tactics to retain Lipitor revenue, including strategic agreements with several prominent pharmacy-benefits management and insurance companies to provide Lipitor at less than the cost of the first generic atorvastatin, with a generic-level copayment for patients, in exchange for a monopoly on dispensed atorvastatin prescriptions, according to the study.

The tactics employed by Pfizer are much broader and all-encompassing that what has been done previously to try to maintain market share, Jackevicius said.

“Because of Pfizer’s aggressive tactics, other companies with patents about to expire may mimic their actions if they prove to be successful,” Jackevicius said. “There is concern that some of these tactics may delay other generic companies from making a generic product if they don’t think they will get much market share after the first six months of exclusivity with the first generic.”

In the short term, a consumer may not be negatively impacted financially, especially if they get the brand name product at less than the generic price. Then this is really a win-win. The questions arise in terms of whether there will be enough generic competition in the long term to promote enough competition, Jackevicius said.

“Usually about six or seven generic products are needed after the first six months to drive the generic product price down to about 20-30 percent of the generic, the usual price at that time with that many generics available,” Jackevicius said. “The other concern is, who gets the savings from the agreements with Pfizer to keep using brand name Lipitor? Does the pharmacy benefits management company or insurance company give the savings back to the employer, or do they keep these savings for themselves? If the employer is still having to pay the higher Lipitor price, then the costs to the employer, and indirectly to the employee, for the health care plan is not reduced. It is uncertain, according to the current agreements that Pfizer has, who retains the savings.”

Whatever happens, Lipitor’s generic transition should be watched closely, since Pfizer’s strategies may set a new precedent for the other blockbuster drugs on the verge of losing their patents, the study concluded. To read the full article please visit www.NEJM.org.

“Generic Atorvastatin and Health Care Costs” (10.1056/NEJMp1113112) was published on December 7, 2011, at NEJM.org.
Bradley T. Andresen PhD, FAHA  
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Dr. Andresen received his PhD from the Pharmacology Department at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh PA). During his graduate studies Dr. Andresen focused on signal transduction pathways that are altered in a genetic model of essential hypertension. Following this work Dr. Andresen pursued an interest in the small G-protein RhoA, which lead him to taking a postdoctoral position at the NIH, specifically the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. He trained under Dr. Silvio Gutkind where he undertook the process to determine how Gαq activated RhoA in the Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer Branch. After this, Dr. Andresen moved to an instructor position at Georgetown University Medical School in the Department of Pediatrics. Here he worked with Dr. Pedro Jose to better understand the biochemical mechanisms underlying a polymorphism that contributes to hypertension. He then moved to an assistant professor at the University of Missouri department of Internal Medicine where he continued his polymorphism based studies as well as expanded his hypertension studies from his graduate work. Additionally, he acquired two other projects through collaboration regarding 1) understanding the molecular mechanisms of Nebivolol’s ability to generate NO, and 2) identifying the C-peptide receptor a druggable target to treat diabetes. Dr. Andresen joined WesternU in June, and is hoping to network and build collaborations that will lead to better understanding human biology and hopefully begin to develop therapies or clinical diagnostics to better combat today’s ailments.

David Sanchez, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Dr. Sanchez received his BS in Biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin and his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of California San Francisco. Later, he worked as a postdoctoral scholar and research faculty at UCLA in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics and the UCLA AIDS Institute. His research focuses on how human viruses such as HIV and the herpesviruses evade innate immunity to establish disease. These studies aim at discovering novel drug targets for next generation antivirals that directly induce antiviral immunity. In addition, he was a consultant to the NIH Nanomedicine Development Center at UCLA working towards better methods of discovery of therapeutic combinations of antiviral drugs. His work has been published in the journals such as *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and *Journal of Virology*. He also holds an Adjunct Associate Professor of Life Science position at Los Angeles City College where he taught the General Microbiology prerequisite course for pre-allied health students for six years and has worked on enhancing methods of healthcare oriented education at that level. Dr. Sanchez joined WesternU in July of 2011, teaching in the first-year PharmD Immunology course.
Honors and Awards

Sheryl Chow
• Was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (FCCP).

Eric Gupta
• Was awarded Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award among 35 other fraternities, by the Professional Fraternity Association for his work in Kappa Psi.
• Was elected to the position of Grand Vice Regent (National Vice President) for the 2011-13 term, and received the GCD Certificate of Excellence for being one of the top ten Grand Council Deputies (Chapter Advisor) in the nation at the 55th Grand Council Convention (Kappa Psi National Meeting which occurs biennially) in San Francisco Aug. 2-6, 2011.
• Immediate Past President at CPhA.

Janice Hoffman
• Served as the Guest Editor for the Summer issue of California Pharmacist.

Roger Klotz
• Was elected to Board of Trustees, Region 6 at CPhA.

Gollapudi Shankar
• Recently obtained his MS degree in Clinical Psychology with emphasis on substance abuse, from CSU.
• Was appointed to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board of the California Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Grants and Contracts


Hoffman, Janice, Target Case Competition Grant, $4,000.

Organizational Changes and Promotions

• David Min was promoted to Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

• Wallace Murray, has assumed the role of Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs was promoted to Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Murray will provide leadership in and supervision of the development, implementation and evaluation of all aspects of the professional curriculum.

• Megan Nguyen has assumed the role of Director for Enrollment Management. Dr. Nguyen will coordinate the admissions process for the College of Pharmacy in conjunction with the University Office of Admissions.

• Sunil Prabhu, has assumed the role of Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and was promoted to Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Prabhu will provide leadership, evaluation and oversight of all aspects of enrollment, academic and professional experiences for our student pharmacists.

Jackevicius, Cynthia, “Population-Based Adherence to Arrtial Fibrillation Therapies.” AHA: $140,000 over two years.


Phung, Olivia, “A Systematic Review Evaluating the Association between Sulfonylureas and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease.” Merck: $25,000 for six months.

Supsin, Chairat, “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceived Barriers of Elderly Patients Regarding Shingles and Shingles Vaccine Administration.” APhA Incentive Grant, $1,000.

If you have made a provision to leave a future gift to WesternU through your will or other estate planning documents, or are considering doing so, please let us know. The planned giving staff works diligently to honor the wishes of our donors, and we take care to provide confidentiality when requested.

The advantage of knowing about a future gift ahead of time is that it gives us the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude, and ensures that your gift is applied in accordance with your wishes. We want to keep you “in the loop” so you will continue to have confidence that your legacy gift intentions are met.

WesternU would not exist without the help and assistance of individuals who have given so generously to this university. When you have included us in your estate plans, your gift is not only greatly appreciated, but truly helps us better plan for a brighter future. We are here to assist you.

Olive B. Stephens, Planned Giving Administrator 909-469-5211 or ostephen@westernu.edu

Tim Bamrick, CSPG, Director of Development (909) 706-3455 or tbamrick@westernu.edu
Faculty News & Accomplishments continued

**Publications**


Murad J, Espinosa E, Ting H, Khasawneh F. “The C-terminal segment of the second extracellular loop of the thromboxane A(2) receptor plays an important role in platelet aggregation.” *Biochemical Pharmacology* 2011 Oct 8.

**Law A.** “Understanding HOPE in Today’s World.” *California Pharmacist*, 2011; LVIII, 19


Invited presentations


Phung O, was invited by the Knowledge and Evaluation Research Unit at the Mayo Clinic to deliver a half-day workshop to their research group on how to use the statistical program WinBUGS for Network Meta-Analysis. This was a hands-on workshop on Nov. 4, 2011 at Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn., with short practice activities using the statistical program, and discussion of basics about network meta-analysis.

A Bright Future
Sherman Indian High School joins WesternU’s Career Ladder program
By Bill Burrows

Students from Sherman Indian High School (SIHS) in Riverside, Calif., will join WesternU’s 2011-12 Pomona Health Career Ladder (PHCL), and become part of a new high school cohort. SIHS is a boarding high school for Native American students from approximately 70 tribes from around the country. The curriculum includes both college prep and vocational programs, and has a grade 9-12 student enrollment of approximately 600. The school originally opened in 1892 in Perris, California, and moved to Riverside in 1903.

Working alongside the PHCL program, the SIHS students will be known as the American Indian Health Career Ladder. The new crop of 15-20 SIHS students will be incorporated into the Saturday Academy Workshops with students who graduated from last year’s program, to become the high school cohort.

Elizabeth Rega, PhD, Associate Professor, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific at WesternU and Director of Strategic Alliances, said having the Sherman Indian High School students join the high school cohort would make the program inter-cultural.

“The high school cohort will focus on gaining practical medical skills, teaching and mentoring younger students by creating and conducting a workshop, and skills preparation for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to engage them in PSAT and SAT preparation,” said Rega.

On November 9th 2011, WesternU invited 20 students from SIHS to campus to spark their interest in the health professions. The students visited the College of Pharmacy Professional Development Laboratory and various classrooms. In addition, they toured Banfield, The Pet Hospital and observed a dog undergoing a surgery. Jesse Martinez, PharmD, Vice Dean of the College of Pharmacy, organized the visit and tour, and presented a lecture on his humanitarian trip to help the survivors of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka.

The health professions are among the more marketable forms of employment for graduating students, and the goal is for these students to become interested in the health professions, and maybe one day return to their tribes as health professionals, Martinez said. “In order to do that, we have to get them interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The purpose of the campus visit was to expose these students to new opportunities so that they might thrive and get an advanced education for a brighter future.” Martinez said that the relationship between WesternU and SIHS is going to continue to be fostered, promoted and enhanced going forward.

Roland “Tripp” Doepner, the principal of SIHS, said that the students at SIHS need regular and consistent contact and interaction with good adult role models. “The students, staff and faculty at WesternU are just those kind of good adults,” Doepner said.
Photo opposite page: “Unity” statute on Sherman Indian High School campus. This page left top and center: Dr. Jesse Martinez speaks to the students in the compounding lab. Bottom: WesternU student Badal Satassia, PharmD ’12, at a health fair held on the SIHS campus. Above: SIHS student, Sheena Benton learns about suturing techniques at a Career Ladder event December 3, 2011.
Honey Manchanda

“I would say my experience at WesternU has been an eye-opener to the pharmacy profession and a glimpse of the health care system in the United States. The CSHP Seminar educated me on the current events in the profession. The Patient Care Center pharmacy and St. Vincent Medical Center gave me firsthand experience in multidisciplinary approach in ambulatory and acute care. I was invited by Ms. Renee Cook to experience the delicacies of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. I also visited the Pantages Theater to watch “Wicked,” which was my first-ever Broadway show, and it was simply wonderful. The visit has also provided me with the opportunity to create contacts and friends. Overall, the whole program gave me a new perspective on the pharmacy profession and the American culture as well as the opportunity to make new friends. I plan to share this experience with my colleagues here in Thailand.”

David Min, PharmD, MS, FCCP, FASHP
Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

“Honey was the first foreign student (from Thailand) I supervised at the St. Vincent Medical Center. His personality was sweet and his unique appearance with a head turban was rather impressive. He was very intelligent and spoke fluent English. He was well prepared and readily participated in the clinical discussion as well as clinical rounds with physicians and other health care providers although the topic was very specialized in the area of organ transplantation without any significant problems.”

Emmanuelle Schwartzman, PharmD, CDE
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration

“Honey was a very pleasant individual to work with in our clinic. He provided interesting insight into his home town and their medical system and gave a wonderful presentation about his pharmacy program back home. Despite being at a disadvantage with understanding our medical system and our brand names, he was quick to adapt and showed much initiative in his desire to self-learn. It was an enriching experience to have him as our student.”

Over the years, the WesternU College of Pharmacy has tried to offer a diverse range of training opportunities. This includes not only a Global Health rotation which our students can take, but it also includes exchange programs with a couple of different schools of pharmacy outside of the US. This past November we continued our relationship with Khon Kaen University, in Khon Kaen, Thailand, by offering a rotation with WesternU College of Pharmacy faculty members. We have had other students from Khon Kaen University visit us, and we have offered a rotation in Thailand for WesternU P-4 students. Our visiting student in 2011 was Mr. Honey Manchanda, and he was a pleasure to work with. The Office of Experiential Education looks forward to continuing to work with Khon Kaen University, and to building additional relationships around the globe.

Photo top left: Renee Cook, Honey Manchanda and Dr. James Scott. Above right: Dr. David Min and Honey Manchanda. Photo below: WesternU students (front row l-r) Siranush Miduryan, Ara Simanian, Shanshan Chen and Honey Manchanda, along with St. Vincent employees.
Joshua S. Benner, PharmD, ScD
President and CEO, RxAnte, Inc. and Visiting Scholar, The Brookings Institution
“Reforming Health Care: Policy, Politics, and Patient Care”

Dr. Benner directs a portfolio of activities related to medical product safety surveillance, comparative effectiveness research, clinical research and development, and FDA policy. He is also an adjunct scholar at the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Previously, Dr. Benner was senior principal in health economics and outcomes research at IMS Health, where he led studies on the utilization and value of medicines, including prospective trials, retrospective studies in administrative and medical records databases, patient surveys, and economic modeling. Previously, he was principal of ValueMedics Research until its acquisition by IMS Health in 2007. Dr. Benner completed an AHRQ post-doctoral fellowship in health services research at the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology & Pharmacoeconomics, Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He holds a doctor of pharmacy degree from Drake University and a doctor of science in health policy and management from the Harvard University School of Public Health.

PLEASE JOIN US!
CALENDAR 2012

February 4         WesternU Breakfast at CPhA Outlook, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, CA
February 8         “Strengthening Your Preceptor Skills” CE, Sheraton Universal, Universal City, CA
Feb 11-14          AACP Interim Meeting, San Diego, CA
March 9-12         APhA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
March 20           California Pharmacy Legislative Day, Sacramento, CA
March 31           Alumni Dinner and CE, Pasadena, CA
April 5            Honors Day, WesternU, Pomona, CA
April 12           Ray Symposium, WesternU, Pomona, CA
April 21           East -West Scholarship Dinner, San Gabriel Hilton, San Gabriel, CA
April 18-21        AMCP Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
May 3              Poster Day, WesternU, Pomona, CA
May 17             Commencement, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Pasadena, CA
May 21-23          ASCP Midyear, Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, CA
May 22-25          Western States Conference for Residents, Fellows and Preceptors, Asilomar, CA
June 1-3,          Contemporary Compounding Intensive CE, WesternU, Pomona, CA
June 10-13         ASHP Summer Meeting, Baltimore, MD
June 13            GNP/ICP Golf Tournament, Robinson Ranch, Santa Clarita, CA
July 14-18         AACP Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
July 20-22         Contemporary Compounding Intensive CE, WesternU, Pomona, CA

ALUMNI: WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?
Please email your news and photos to rxbound@westernu.edu

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