A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

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Inspired by Peruvian Grandmother’s Healing Methods, Traditions
Message from the Dean

All of this and so much more...

We have so much to be proud of at WesternU. As I walk down the hall of the College of Pharmacy administrative suite, I see a wall of framed cover pages from each of our editions of RxBound; each filled with amazing stories. Each edition is made possible through the caring and commitment of our extremely talented publication team, whose names appear at the bottom of this message. Their names may appear in small print, but their contributions are enormous.

The College of Pharmacy’s Doctor of Pharmacy program received a full eight year accreditation through June 2021. Thanks to the hard work of our faculty, staff and participating students over the 18 months it took to complete our self-study, we had a very successful accreditation visit in October 2012. Eight years is the maximum term for accreditation awarded by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. One of the co-chairs of our accreditation self-study was Dr. Wallace Murray, who after 13 years of distinguished service to the College, has retired. Dr. Murray, the former Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, was awarded the title Emeritus Professor by the University Board of Trustees. He leaves an amazing legacy, having been an important and memorable part of the educational experience of every PharmD and MSPS graduate this University has ever produced.

The major theme of this issue is "A Commitment to Diversity". I highlight our six-year effort at reaching out to our surrounding communities to provide health services and to inform the youth in our communities about the vast opportunities that await them in pharmacy and the health professions. It should come as no surprise that our students are our greatest ambassadors. This past year they provided services to nearly 2,400 patients at 27 health fairs, they promoted health and wellness to hundreds of K-12 students, and they assisted seniors with enrollment in Medicare Part D. This past summer we hosted Titus Wongk, as part of a NIH sponsored summer research experience for undergraduate students who are from groups underrepresented in science. Reflecting on his experience he said, “Like the students, faculty come from diverse background and cultures, but we all come together in the College of Pharmacy as a family, each with something different to contribute.” In just a few weeks, Titus recognized what we, as faculty, staff, students and alumni have recognized for some time; that WesternU is your family and so much more.

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP
Dean, College of Pharmacy
Western University of Health Sciences
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On the Cover: Wearing traditional Aztec clothing, the Danzantes del Sol dancers from Ontario, California, performed in the Health Education Center on the WesternU campus, October, 2012, as part of the first Pomona Health Career Ladder and American Indian Health Career Ladder Saturday Academy of the 2012-13 academic year. Javier Galvés, a professor of pre-Colombian music, dance and culture at Pomona College in California, is director of the dance ensemble.

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STAY CONNECTED

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Website  www.westernu.edu/pharmacy
On August 11, 2012, Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy welcomed 120 students into the class of 2016 at a White Coat ceremony held at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center in Pomona, California (thank you to Cardinal Health for their generous sponsorship of the White Coat ceremony this year). Eric Gupta, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration, gave the keynote address to the students and their families. Key points of his address to the students included: 1) Today is a special day as you all get to put on your white coats to signify that you are entering a time-honored profession; 2) However, it is important to remember this day and not lose that sense of pride when you put on that coat because with the rigors and demands of a pharmacy curriculum it is easy to replace that pride with any number of other emotions; 3) Wearing a white coat is a responsibility not only to your patients, but to your peers and your profession so get involved in pharmacy policy and advocacy; and 4) When you wear your white coat always do so thinking of the pharmacists that came before you and always keep pushing to create a better vision for the pharmacists that will come after you.
Opposite page: (top left) Eric Gupta, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration; (middle photos left to right) Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean of the College of Pharmacy; Andrew Grant, Director, Retail/Alternate Care Sales for Cardinal Health; faculty and guests; Kamran Mabroumzadeh receives his white coat; (bottom) Chiona Obaka walks across the stage after receiving her white coat.

This page: (top) Class of 2016 photo on the steps of the Health Education Center, WesternU campus; (photos left to right) Giia-hao Ngoc Doan receives her white coat from Assistant Professor Mark Nguyen, PharmD; students stand to take the Oath of a Pharmacist; Marjan Barati, class of 2016; students take the Oath of a Pharmacist.

White Coat photos provided by Tikko Studios
When I first arrived at the WesternU College of Pharmacy in Fall 2006, one of my primary goals was to develop robust diversity and outreach programs. Looking back now, I am so proud of what we have accomplished.

Over these past six years, what we have achieved is quite remarkable. With the full support of faculty, staff and students we have made great strides in expanding our diversity recruiting efforts. We have reached out to our medically-underserved communities, developed new culturally-specific course offerings, and built programs to encourage minority participation in the pursuit of health professions education. We are a community of faculty, staff and students who are committed to combating the societal factors that have traditionally conspired to trap disadvantaged individuals in a cycle of low expectations and poverty.

As part of our College outreach activities, each year our students assist roughly 150 senior citizens throughout Southern California with enrollment in Medicare Part D programs, sometimes saving individual patients as much as $2,000 in drug costs. During the 2011-2012 academic year, students provided services for 2,389 patients at 27 health fairs, immunized 827 patients and participated in medication therapy management outreach and programs, healthcare-related fundraising walks and charity events, medical missions, and a bone marrow donor program. During our January 2013 Legislative Day, Assemblymember Norma Torres told our students that she frequently sees them providing counseling and services to patients throughout her district. She congratulated our student pharmacists for their generosity and commitment to the community.

Our students regularly demonstrate their commitment to our community through their participation in the Pomona Community Health Action Team, a coalition between many organizations that provides access to health care to those in need. The Pomona Homeless Outreach Project is a WesternU student-run organization that provides health care, food, clothing, and education to the homeless populations in both Pomona and Ontario. The Pomona Health Career Ladder program creates a mentoring relationship with students in the Pomona Unified School District from the 6th grade, through high school and including Cal Poly Pomona. Our career ladder students are exposed at a very early age to the spectrum of health professions through our hands-on Saturday Academies. We have also partnered with the Pomona Health Career Ladder and American-Indian Health Career Ladder students at a Saturday Academy on the WesternU campus.
“We have reached out to our medically-underserved communities, developed new culturally-specific course offerings, and built programs to encourage minority participation in the pursuit of health professions education.”

Palomares Academy of Health Sciences, a local magnate school in the Pomona School District focusing on the study of math and science, to introduce their students to the opportunities of graduate level health professions education. Ninth grade students came to campus for a field trip where they received a brief lecture, gowned-up and then went to the Professional Development Lab (made possible by Target and Walgreens), to compound a tube of toothpaste.

In the past two years, the WesternU College of Pharmacy has been on the forefront of a similar outreach effort aimed at the Native American community here in the Inland Empire. We have joined with other colleges at WesternU in reaching out to students at the Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California, inviting them to the WesternU campus to tour our classrooms and laboratories, to meet our students, and interact with our faculty. In addition, our students have traveled to the Sherman Indian High School campus to conduct health fairs in diabetes prevention and healthy living choices. Students from the Sherman Indian High School have now joined our Pomona Health Career Ladder program. These are some of the ways we are engaged in our community and investing in the future health of its citizens.

WesternU College of Pharmacy has a tremendously diverse student body. Students in our fall 2012 entering class identify 20 different countries as their place of birth. Our students represent socioeconomic diversity, cultural diversity,
“Students in our fall 2012 entering class identify 20 different countries as their place of birth...With this wealth of diversity we still suffer from underrepresentation from Hispanic, African American, and Native American students.”

Overview of College of Pharmacy 2012-2013, Race / Ethnicity Summary

The numbers stated here reflect those at the start of the 2012-2013 school year. These statistics may change at any time.

Anticipated Overall Graduation Rate

99.3%

Most recent data is from 2011-2012 academic year. Anticipated Overall Graduation Rate is the percentage of students matriculated to the program who have either 1) completed all graduation requirements or 2) are currently enrolled and are anticipated to complete all graduation requirements.
geographic diversity and even educational diversity. With this wealth of diversity we still suffer from underrepresentation from Hispanic, African American, and Native American students. This is particularly important, given our location in Southern California and the health care needs of our largely Hispanic population. To address this challenge, I created a new position that has been largely devoted to increasing our applicant pool of underrepresented minorities in Southern California. Dr. Jesse Martinez joined our administrative team in 2008 as the Vice Dean of Academic Diversity and Development. Through his efforts, Dr. Martinez has helped to expand our programs tremendously. There are so many examples of our success in this effort. We now have three Early Assurance Programs with minority-serving universities including, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU San Bernardino, and CSU Los Angeles. We are in the process of adding CSU Fullerton in the very near future. These programs are designed to identify underrepresented minority students early in their college experience and provide mentoring and guidance that will assure a smooth transition from their baccalaureate through admission to the College of Pharmacy.

With the opening of our Patient Care Center, we are able to even more completely fulfill our mission of educating tomorrow’s health-care professionals in a humanistic and scientifically expert manner. We are deeply committed to the community we serve, and we strongly believe in infusing our student talent and resources in our community. To that end, we have developed “Essential Spanish for Pharmacists” a Spanish language patient counseling elective designed to train our student pharmacists in Spanish terms and phrases applicable to the pharmacy setting. We are continuing to refine this course with the input of our students.

So many of our College of Pharmacy alumni have gone on to do incredible work in a wide variety of communities, and you may have read about some of them in past issues of RxBound (Melinda Mah, PharmD ’10, Mai T. Nguyen, PharmD ’03, Sam Badianat, PharmD ’03, and Esmeralda Downs, PharmD ’12). Interprofessionally trained, culturally competent, humanistic health care providers will be needed in critical numbers in the foreseeable future, and the WesternU College of Pharmacy is strategically poised to meet those needs.

I want to offer a special thanks to Dr. Jesse Martinez for his tireless work and his guiding hand in our many diversity initiatives. Thanks also to Renee Cook, Sam Shimomura and Bill Burrows for encouraging me to share our story.
Fabiola Escalante: Inspired by Peruvian Grandmother’s Healing Methods, Traditions

By Jeff Malet, WesternU Writer/Photographer
Fabiola Escalante’s curiosity about science and pharmacology began as a 4-year-old, when her parents sent her to live with her cattle-farming grandparents in a remote Peruvian village in the Andes for several years.

Escalante, an indigenous South American Indian who is now a 30-year-old third-year College of Pharmacy student at Western University of Health Sciences, was sent to the mountains because her parents wanted her grandmother, who was also one of the village’s healers, or “curandera,” to treat and cure her asthma and wheezing.

The small village of mostly farmers in Waripahuasin, which is about 40 miles from Querco, Castrovirreyna, Huancavelica, Peru, had a population of about 300 people, said Escalante. The village, with many of the residents living in huts called choza, rests in the Andes, more than 13,000 feet above sea level.

“I remember being curious to learn the purpose of each of the plants she used to treat different diseases,” Escalante said of her grandmother. “Observing this raised my curiosity to learn about the medicinal properties of plants, and inspired my interest in science. I also learned compassion from the community as I watched people follow an ancestral tradition called Anyi.”

Anyi consists of helping other villagers with chores, including working their land, constructing houses, or rushing to the aid of the sick, Escalante said.

“I have made it my personal goal to visit my native country with the purpose of promoting and donating my services to health care projects targeted to my people and underserved communities,” she said. She plans to reach her goal by gathering the support of health care organizations, health professionals and volunteers to join her in providing free health care and pharmaceutical services.

Cured of asthma, Escalante eventually returned home to her parents’ home in Lima, but knew what she learned from her grandmother would endure forever. She finished school in Lima and was admitted to Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru to study industrial engineering.

After a year at the university in Lima, her family immigrated to the United States, eventually settling in Los Angeles. With little money and no English skills, her family took to the streets and alleys of downtown Los Angeles and sold hats and clothing as street vendors in order to survive.

While helping the family, Escalante went to adult school to learn English, then studied at Santa Monica College, eventually getting a scholarship to UC Berkeley, where she attained a B.S. in chemistry.
At Berkeley, she was part of several research projects while helping underrepresented students get acclimated to the university and tutoring students in mathematics.

After graduating, she was hired as a scientist at Roche Molecular Systems, a global pharmaceutical company.

While doing research at Roche, her mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. This pivotal time in Escalante’s life caused her to reflect on her time with her grandmother, who was able to cure people with herbs and plants. She had an epiphany: She would go to school and become a pharmacist, and move closer to home to be with her family.

“I like WesternU. It feels right to be here,” she said. “I like the atmosphere here, the opportunity to start practicing right away, the teamwork and the block system, where they teach us very intensely for one month, then there is a break before starting the next block of intensive studies.

“These experiences have allowed me to get clinical experience working with patients by putting in practice what we learn in class.”

Escalante said she’s grateful to everyone, especially WesternU professors, because of their remarkable commitment to their students.

Jesse F. Martinez, PharmD, FASCP, College of Pharmacy Vice Dean of Academic Diversity and Development, said he is impressed by Escalante’s motives.

“Fabiola’s inspiration is to understand how her grandmother used those practices with herbs and plants, and now she is going to apply modern science to those methods and teachings,” Martinez said.

Since joining WesternU, Escalante has volunteered at several health fairs, was director of programs and historian for the National Community Pharmacists Association – Student Chapter (NCPA), and was on the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Project Chance Committee. She also was a founding member of an elective class, Essential Spanish for Pharmacists, which enables student pharmacists to do a consultation in Spanish.

“Her legacy of diversity is embedded here, no matter what she does in the future, because of her amazing spirit to overcome adversity as an indigenous Indian growing up in a tiny village high in the Andes; to a street vendor in Los Angeles; to a Berkeley graduate; to a molecular scientist; to a pharmacist; then full circle back to her people, an ancestral tradition of Anyi,” Martinez said.
The International Post-Baccalaureate PharmD (IPBP) program, started in 2003, offers a unique training opportunity for international graduates with a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) in pharmacy. Like most Colleges/Schools of Pharmacy in the United States, WesternU requires four years of professional training following two to four years of pre-pharmacy coursework. The IPBP program allows the successful applicant to bypass the first year and enter directly into the second year of the traditional program. Thereafter, the program is completed within three years. The Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree awarded to the IPBP student is the same as the degree given to traditional students.

Currently celebrating its 10th anniversary, the program has been extremely successful in attracting well qualified international pharmacists. Welcoming the newest IPBP Class of 2015, Dean Robinson reiterated the importance of the high quality of education offered at WesternU and complimented the newest students on achieving their goal of pursuing the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Encouraging the newly matriculated class, Dean Robinson said “you have been admitted into the PharmD program after an extremely rigorous process, so you should feel proud of yourselves. Since we only admit highly qualified students, I am confident that you will have great success with our curriculum and you will go on to very successful careers in pharmacy. I warmly welcome you to WesternU and the College of Pharmacy.”

Started as the Mid-Career PharmD Program (MCPP) that mostly attracted Korean pharmacists, the IPBP program today has attracted a truly international pool of pharmacists from over 20 countries. Commenting on the success of the program, Dr. Sunil Prabhu, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs stated, “When I first helped start this program in 2003, we could not ever have imagined the demand for this program which continues still today. We are proud of this program as it not only brings international diversity to our campus, but also a world of talent from all corners of the globe.” Currently, the College receives on average 150 applications each year for 20 available seats.

The process of admission into this program is quite rigorous. Once all applications are received, the College admissions committee and the faculty collectively select the most deserving applicants for an on-campus entrance test and interview. Selection is based on a rigorous file review process which evaluates a candidate’s potential to succeed in the PharmD program. Approximately 60-65 applicants are invited on campus for the interview. Once approved, all applicants are provided online access to the IPBP study guides which contain materials in preparation for the entrance exam. The study guides are prepared by the Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty and mainly focus on the contents of the first year of the PharmD program, which is bypassed by the IPBP students.

Before the IPBP students commence their studies in the second year of the program, they are required to attend a mandatory one month orientation program which covers important study materials such as immunizations, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCEs), statistics, US health care system, etc. However, the major objective is to orient the students to the novel block system of education and to get them comfortable with their surroundings before classes start. The Dean hosts a welcome lunch for the IPBP students each year where faculty and staff mingle with and get to know the new students. Finally, a university welcome session culminating with the White Coat Ceremony formalizes the entry of the IPBP students.

The College is proud to have graduated almost 200 students from this program thus far.
ASHP-CSHP
California Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists
By Sareen Zinzalian, PharmD ’15

CSHP’s annual marquee event is Residency Week, which acts as a massive launching pad for students aiming to find residencies in hospitals, clinics and other concentrations of pharmacy. During Residency Roundtable, PGY1/PGY2 residents and pharmacists from the local Southern California area visit WesternU to provide information about the preparation process and answer questions about residency programs as well as what students can do in their respective years as P1s, P2s, and P3s. During this week CSHP also hosts the Residency Showcase, where over twenty residency programs are invited to visit campus and present their programs to inquiring students. In addition, student pharmacists from other California schools are invited to attend, as WesternU is one of the few schools to host such an event.

In October, CSHP reached out to the local elderly by visiting Pomona Adult Day Health Care Center to host an educational outreach day regarding Poison Prevention. The presentations centered on safety measures regarding common household chemicals and substances, which people may not think are harmful. The Poison Prevention Committee also promoted their cause on campus by handing out pins with the poison control center’s phone number.

Recognized with the Chapter of Distinction Award 2011 and 2012
• Michael Trillanes, PharmD ’13 and Wey Ling Phuah, PharmD ’13, received first place at the state level Clinical Skills Competition
• Second place for the Quiz Bowl
• Felicia Molina, PharmD ’13, Student Leadership Award
Career Day
By Mark Iannuzzo, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

The College of Pharmacy hosted its annual Career Day on November 6, 2012. Career Day provides students an opportunity to speak with prospective employers about intern and future career opportunities. This year there were eleven 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, Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Rite Aid, Rx Relief, Target, Vons/Safeway, Walgreens, Walmart and WesternU.

On February 1, 2013, the fourth-year students had the opportunity to participate in the college’s annual Job Fair at WesternU. Interviews were coordinated through the College’s Office for Student Services. For more information about future career events, please contact Mark Iannuzzo at 909-469-5507 or miannuzzo@westernu.edu.

Photo below: students and prospective employers discuss intern and future career opportunities at Career Day, November 2012.

Phi Lambda Sigma
Gamma Nu Chapter
By Paideia Le, PharmD ’14

Phi Lambda Sigma-Gamma Nu Chapter (PLS) had a semester full of new beginnings and continuing traditions. PLS welcomed the class of 2016 with our Second Annual Student Mixer, an event full of prizes, games and new friends. PLS proudly presented a new tradition with the first Business Attire Fashion Show. Dean Robinson, Drs. Chan, Hoffman, Phuong and Hata strutted their “what not to wear attire,” while the board members strutted their best dress down the catwalk. The show had a great turn-out and we can’t wait for next year! Board member Stephanie Shieh did an awesome job organizing our annual leadership retreat sponsored by Walgreens and the College of Pharmacy. This year’s “Transitional Leadership” theme was presented by special guest speaker Associate Dean Dr. Nanci Murphy visiting from the University of Washington, School of Pharmacy. We ended this semester by installing 19 new initiates at our Annual Installation Banquet. Among them, Drupad Parikh, PharmD ’13, is the first International Post-Baccalaureate student member, diversifying and expanding the Gamma Nu Chapter. Welcome and congratulations to all of our new members!
California Pharmacy Student Leadership

By Jeff Dai, PharmD ’15

The 2012 WesternU CAPSLEAD (California Pharmacy Student Leadership) team members, Priti Amin, Jeff Dai, Johnny Lee, Trier Nguyen, Van Thuy Pham, Queena Sun, Danny Tang, and Huong-Giang Vu, developed a survey, collected data and analyzed results in a collective effort to answer their chosen research topic. The faculty advisors, Drs. Eric Gupta, Karl Hess and Janice Hoffman, provided invaluable guidance and feedback throughout the entire project.

The CAPSLEAD team presented their poster “Attainment of professional attributes by student pharmacists and practicing community pharmacists” at the CSHP Seminar in October 2012. The team’s abstract is currently undergoing submission review with CPhA and APhA for presentation at those respective conferences in March 2013.

APhA-ASP

The American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists

By Kamran Mahramzadeh, PharmD ’16

The WesternU APhA-ASP/CPhA chapter considers community outreach a significant focus. Since the last issue of RxBound, we have continued to be involved by organizing and participating in health fairs, awareness events, and by creating informational videos. We have shown that we can make a difference in the community by using a multifaceted approach. In the month of September, our organization took part in the Mt. Sinai Foundation Road Map to Wellness Fair, Care Harbor LA Clinic, and Kaiser Riverside Drug Take Back Day, where we served three different communities in a single day. These events were very successful, as we helped over 1,000 patients and collected approximately 400 lbs. of expired or unwanted medications.

Additionally, our submission to the APhA-ASP PharmFlix Video Contest, “Make Your Mark,” was another route in which we hope to positively affect the community. Our goal was to show how we, as student pharmacists, can advocate for our profession and “make our mark” on patient’s lives. After making changes to our schedule, we were able to plan more than the usual number of events for the upcoming semester and continue to provide our members with opportunities to make a difference in the community.

Rho Chi Society

Gamma Sigma Chapter

By Annie Song, PharmD ’13

The Gamma Sigma Chapter of Rho Chi carried on the tradition of hosting Pharmacy Educator Week—a week long highlight of pharmacy educators and academia. During the first week of November, students were greeted with decorated halls featuring interactive profiles from pharmacy faculty members. Rho Chi also showcased pharmacy education as an attractive career option during the College of Pharmacy’s Career Day. Wrapping up our week long celebration of pharmacy education was the faculty panel which gave students the opportunity to talk candidly with professors as they shared their stories and paths towards academia.

Our chapter also hosted a Wine and Cheese event for members, alumni and faculty. This event allowed students the opportunity to mingle with their professors in addition to learning about various wine and cheese pairings.
The Gamma Sigma chapter also continued the WesternU spirit of humanism, caring, and giving back to the community by hosting various health fairs, the most recent of which focused on osteoporosis and diabetes screenings. We look forward to planning more health fairs as well as other exciting events in the future, especially our upcoming Rho Chi reception at the APhA convention as well the Rho Chi induction banquet for the next generation of academic leaders.

AMCP

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

By Jennifer Du, PharmD ’15

The WesternU AMCP chapter has continuously worked throughout the school year to provide the community with valuable medication information through various outreach events such as Medication Brown Bagging and health fairs. During the brown bagging events, our students provided information to members of the community that included medication safety, efficacy, and compliance. These events provided our students a unique opportunity to apply their knowledge as well as improve their medication counseling skills. In addition to brown bagging events, AMCP was actively involved in many Medicare Part D Outreach programs in which students assisted seniors in choosing the right plan to best benefit their medication needs and budget. Through all the events AMCP has been involved in, our student pharmacists were richly rewarded with the experience of being able to aid the community in improving their overall health. AMCP looks forward to another exciting year in which our chapter can further provide the WesternU student pharmacists with more enriching opportunities and grow as a chapter.

NCPA

National Community Pharmacists Association

By Corey Edwards, PharmD ’15

This has been a busy semester for NCPA, having our calendar filled with health fairs, elections, guest speaker events, and the NCPA National Convention in San Diego. While at the convention, the Business Plan Team presented the 2012 plan for pharmacy owners and venders to observe and ask questions. The week after was filled with nominations and speeches by what is now our new officer board. In order to gain a head start on running the board, NCPA decided to turn over control of our Winter Holiday Grams to the 2012-2013 officers. With over 250 grams sold, and tens of pounds of chocolate being passed to fellow students, we had a chance to spread a little bit of holiday cheer before finals. This fundraiser gave us all a chance to practice working together for what will be, no doubt, a busy and productive year.

NCPA: (below) Janet Shin, PharmD ’15, Christina Nguyen, PharmD ’15, Corey Edwards, PharmD ’15, and David Truong, PharmD ’15.
In efforts to continue expanding our philanthropic endeavors, the Brothers of Epsilon Gamma (EG) decided to undertake First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move!” initiative – to raise a healthier generation of kids. Working in conjunction with Darlene Mosher, the director of the ASES (After School Education & Safety) Program at 27 different elementary schools in the Pomona District, several EG Brothers were able to successfully hold our first outreach to 4th and 5th grade students on October 26, 2012 at Lincoln Elementary School. In line with the “Let’s Move!” initiative, we were able to hold an informational yet engaging presentation focusing on immunizations, eating healthy, and exercising. Due to much of its success and positive feedback, we were able to work out a second outreach on November 9, 2012 at Lopez Elementary School, and we will be continuing to outreach to the local elementary schools.

EG has also formed an agreement with the American Red Cross to begin fundraising for hurricane relief in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. We recently held a campus-wide fundraiser on November 19, 2012, selling candy apples with the slogan, “Caring to the Core.” We sold around 90 apples and donated 100% of the profits to the American Red Cross. In addition, we have started a fundraising page with the American Red Cross to continue collecting relief funds to help those on the east coast get back on their feet.

Kappa Psi: (above) “Let’s Move” outreach at Lincoln Elementary School; (right) Fundraiser for hurricane Sandy relief selling candy apples.
CSHP Joseph H. Beckerman Memorial Scholarship
By Sam Shimomura, PharmD, Associate Dean for College Advancement

Congratulations to Michael Trillanes, PharmD ’13 for receiving the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Joseph H. Beckerman Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was presented at the CSHP Seminar ’12 by Joe’s daughter, Carol Beckerman. Dr. Beckerman served as a mentor to hundreds of students and young pharmacists and was a leader in hospital pharmacy. Scholarships are awarded annually to a California student pharmacist who exhibits a desire for a career in health-system pharmacy. For a student to qualify, he or she must also demonstrate characteristics that were important to Joe Beckerman: ethical behavior, professionalism, leadership, caring and compassion. Michael is the second WesternU student pharmacist to receive this scholarship. Jamie Ky, PharmD ’11 received the inaugural Beckerman scholarship in 2010.

In addition, Michael partnered with Wey Ling Phuah, PharmD ’13 to win the state-wide Clinical Skills Competition at CSHP Seminar ’12.

CPhA Student Pharmacist of the Year
By Jesse Martinez, PharmD, Vice Dean, Academic Diversity and Development

Richard Garcia, PharmD ’13, has been honored as “CPhA Student Pharmacist of the Year” for his involvement in community projects and other programs that have brought credit and public acceptance to the profession. In addition, he exemplifies WesternU College of Pharmacy’s commitment to a humanistic tradition to extend the quality of life in his community. Richard participates in the Pomona Health Career Ladder. Richard has served in leadership student professional societies as President of APhA and CPhA, Health Fair Education Committee, Professional Community Outreach Committee for ASHSP, and community senior education on Medicare to name a few. He is also the recipient of the Walgreens’ Diversity Scholarship for demonstrated excellence in academics, shown high attributes of compassion, community service and strong motivation towards the profession of pharmacy. Richard is also a member of Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society. He is a recipient of the national RESPY’s Award, WesternU’s President’s Honor Award, East-West Scholarship and the Dean’s Honor Award. Richard Garcia grew up in Pomona and attended the schools in the district. He went on to UCLA for his undergraduate degree and today is completing his final year at WesternU with distinction.

VALOR Internship Residency
By Luis Moreno, PharmD ’14

Last summer I had the opportunity to participate in the Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR) Pharmacy Summer Internship at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. I was proud to know that two other classmates also participated in the VALOR program last summer: Jennifer Turcios at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, and Amy Trieu at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. The application procedure for VALOR is very comparable to the application procedure of a regular residency in terms of the required documents that must be submitted and the interview process. One of the foremost application requirements is that the applicant must commit to participate in VALOR for two consecutive ten-week long summer periods. It was a privilege and a delight for me to work as a VALOR student at the VA Loma Linda. It was a great feeling to have been given the responsibility to work directly with patients in primary care being seen for management of their hypertension/lipids/diabetes. There was so much that I was able to learn from my highly experienced preceptors. The VALOR program is definitely a singular opportunity for any student pharmacist that is looking to expand his/her exposure to various pharmacy fields including Inpatient/Outpatient Pharmacy, Medicine, Geriatric, Mental Health, and/or Primary Care.
OptumRx debuts Pharmacy is Right for Me Website

OptumRx and College of Pharmacy at WesternU, partner to help the next generation of aspiring pharmacists and health care professionals. The "Pharmacy is Right for Me" website debuted on Oct. 27, 2011, thanks to a partnership between the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and OptumRx, which is a pharmacy benefits manager working under UnitedHealth Group. Working together, John Jones, RPh, JD, Senior Vice President, OptumRx (who is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council), Dean Robinson and Vice Dean Jesse Martinez selected WesternU and Pomona Health Career Ladder students to tell their stories for the website. Four “Inspiring Journeys” videos were created to inspire middle and high school students interested in the future of pharmacy and health care.

In its fifth year at WesternU, Pomona Health Career Ladder holds six Saturday Academy workshops each academic year. WesternU students, through the Pipeline to Healthcare student organization, help create fun and engaging curricula for the middle-school students. They also created a separate program for more than 50 high school students who attend the academy. The Career Ladder students are mostly from the Pomona area and Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, which is part of the American Indian Health Career Ladder program.

The program, which mentors students — called “biomedical scholars” — starting in sixth grade, is a partnership between the Pomona Unified School District (PUSD), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona), and WesternU. Its goal is to identify students with an aptitude for, and interest in, the health sciences, and guide them through an educational “pipeline” to a high school diploma, an undergraduate degree at Cal Poly Pomona, and into a health sciences program at WesternU.

Jones says OptumRx was looking at ways to advance the Obama administration’s initiative of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and WesternU’s Career Ladder program was “a perfect fit.”

“As OptumRx was considering developing the Pharmacy is Right for Me program to further advance STEM goals, it became obvious that the Career Ladder program would produce video opportunities to feature on the website,” Jones said.
WesternU’s videos are from fourth-year student pharmacists Richard Garcia and Felicia Molina. Two more came from Pomona Unified School District students who learned how to make toothpaste in WesternU’s College of Pharmacy compounding lab during Palomares Academy of Health Sciences’ Project Lead the Way Biomedical Program in 2011.

Garcia talks about the impact of relating to patients by speaking Spanish. He says the profession is equipping him to help the underserved and make a difference. He encourages high school students to pursue the many opportunities available in the pharmacy profession.

Molina emboldens high school students to become pharmacists, and describes why and how she is in school to become one. Her 10 years of working in a pharmacy, as well as her family’s medical issues, reinforced how much she likes helping people.

One of the videos features Pomona ninth-graders talking about why they are choosing a science-related field and how they can eventually give back to the community. The second of these videos showcases their experiences in the compounding lab.

College of Pharmacy Vice Dean of Academic Diversity and Development Jesse F. Martinez, PharmD, FASCP, was active in offering a pharmacology lab experience field trip to these students because they are interested in pursuing careers in health sciences like medicine and pharmacy.

Dean Robinson said he was glad the College of Pharmacy was able to inspire some of the website content.

“I think the website does a great job of pointing out that pharmacy is a rapidly changing profession, and it gives students many good reasons to go into the field,” he said. “I’m very excited about what this offers, and that it provides a visual perspective to attract and keep the interest of students who have so many options ahead of them. We certainly want them to know as much about pharmacy as possible so they can make informed decisions.”

(Left) Vice Dean of Academic Diversity and Development Jesse Martinez, PharmD, FASCP, with Pomona ninth-graders in the compounding lab; (middle) Student pharmacist Jack Lam, PharmD ’13, gives a presentation to Pomona Career Ladder students; (right) Native American students present a poster during the Native2College American Indian summer residential program.

Felicia Molina worked in a pharmacy for 10 years before beginning her pharmaceutical studies at WesternU, College of Pharmacy.

Richard Garcia credits his interest in pharmacy to a family upbringing that instilled a “desire to help others, especially those less fortunate.”
On September 20, 2012, Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy celebrated a new relationship with Cardinal Health that emphasizes the vital role of independent community pharmacists. Cardinal Health representatives Bill Hayden, Vice President, West Area Retail/Alternate Sales, and Andrew Grant, Director Retail/Alternate Care Sales Pharmaceutical Distribution, presented Daniel Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, Dean, College of Pharmacy, with a check for $125,000 in support of student pharmacists pursuing careers in independent community pharmacy.

“It is really exciting for us to have their support, which we are going to use to provide scholarships for students pursuing their dream of a career in independent community pharmacy,” said Dean Robinson, “Cardinal Health is becoming a wonderful...
Dean’s Advisory Council

Daniel C. Robinson, PharmD
Dean, College of Pharmacy

Steven W. Gray, PharmD, JD
Chairman of the Dean’s Advisory Council

Mission

The mission of the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council is to assist the College in building a strong presence in the world of pharmacy, to increase the College’s national and international visibility for quality research, education and service, and to serve as ambassadors for the College.

partner for us. They supported our recent White Coat ceremony at Convocation, they are participating in our coursework and they are looking for other ways to help our students. We’re very excited about our new relationship.”

Cardinal Health is a top distributor of pharmaceutical and other medical supplies and equipment in the U.S., helping pharmacies, hospitals and ambulatory care sites focus on patient care while reducing costs.

The WesternU College of Pharmacy is one of eight pharmacy schools across the country to receive funding through the Cardinal Health Pharmacy Scholarship Program this year. The company has donated more than $2.1 million to 20 universities through the scholarship program since its launch in June 2011.

“We picked the WesternU College of Pharmacy because of their commitment to community pharmacy,” said Bill Hayden. “We look for schools that are innovative and dedicated to independent community pharmacy, and WesternU is one of them.”

Student pharmacists have many options when they graduate, including clinical pharmacy in a hospital setting or working in a “big box” community pharmacy such as Target or Walmart.

“We see independent community pharmacy as improving community health care,” Hayden said. “There are great pharmacists that work at CVS and Walgreens, but there is a difference in dealing with an employee and dealing with an independent pharmacy owner.”

Independent community pharmacists are some of the best health care providers out there, Hayden said.

“For community care, we feel the independent community pharmacist is extremely valuable,” he said. “And any time one goes out of business, we believe that community is underserved.”

Student pharmacists need to understand community pharmacy is extremely important.

“Not only is it rewarding financially, but an independent community pharmacist is a leader in their community,” Hayden said. “They are an employer. They are usually very well known. That’s a big civic responsibility.”

College of Pharmacy Receives Eight-Year Accreditation

Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy is proud to announce that its accreditation has been extended eight years, through June 2021. Eight years is the maximum term for an accreditation cycle. WesternU’s Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (www.acpe-accredit.org).

College of Pharmacy Dean Daniel Robinson, PharmD, FASHP, thanked all those who participated in the self-study and the very successful October 2012 accreditation visit.

“We are very excited and proud of our full eight-year accreditation,” he said. “Preparation was an 18-month process that involved all of our faculty and staff, and many of our students. We have an amazing team that rallied behind our accreditation credo, ‘Nothing less than eight.’ We owe a special thanks to Drs. Sunil Prabhu and Wallace Murray for their leadership roles in orchestrating our campus efforts.”

Accreditation for the College’s Continuing Pharmacy Education Program also has been extended, through January 2019. Six years is the maximum term for CE accreditation. More information about the College of Pharmacy’s continuing education can be found under Outreach & Events.

The College of Pharmacy, founded in 1996, has 545 students enrolled in its Doctor of Pharmacy program.
OptumRx Makes Fourth Gift in Support of PHCL

The Pomona Health Career Ladder (PHCL) program received another gift of $10,000 this past December 2012 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 just before the holiday break this December with the good news. With this fourth gift, OptumRx has provided key funding support for the PHCL program totaling over $37,000 over the past two years.

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

Please check out the interactive website, “Pharmacy Is Right For Me,” (www.pharmacyforme.org) launched by OptumRx. It features brief interviews with WesternU 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 of 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.

Thomas Russillo Expands the Dean’s Endowment Fund

The College of Pharmacy Dean’s Endowed Scholarship Fund received another generous gift this fall thanks to the continued support of Mr. Thomas R. Russillo, an active member of the College of Pharmacy’s Dean’s Advisory Council. Mr. Russillo is past 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 is immediate past Executive Vice President of Global Generics of Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc., 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 at the Dean’s annual Fall Gathering party held at his home for College of Pharmacy faculty, staff, and friends.

IPA and GNP/ICP Complete Endowment Pledges

The past six months have been an exciting time for the College of Pharmacy here at WesternU, particularly in regards to the continued growth of endowed scholarships. This fall, the Indian Pharmacists Association (IPA) made a generous gift of $5,001 to complete their $20,000 pledge commitment and establish the IPA Endowed Scholarship Fund. Similarly, the GNP/ICP Scholarship Golf Classic fundraiser completed its $20,000 GNP/ICP Scholarship Endowment in support of independent community pharmacy with a final donation of $4,750. Thank you, COP friends, for all of your incredible support!

Corporate and Friends Giving (July’12- December ’12)

- $130,000 from Cardinal Health establishing the Cardinal Health Independent Community Pharmacy Scholarship Fund ($125,000), and in support of the 2012 College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony ($5,000).
- $32,500 from Rite Aid in support of the Rite Aid Diversity Scholarship Support Fund ($25,000), and the College of Pharmacy General Scholarship Fund ($7,500).
- $19,000 from Albertsons/SUPERVALU in support of the Albertsons Sav-on Minority Pharmacy Student Scholarship program ($15,000), and the Dean’s Welcome Week BBQ ($4,000).

For information about giving to the College of Pharmacy, please contact Bill Burrows, Director of Development, at 909-469-8431 or email bburrows@westernu.edu

Gifts may also be made online at www.westernu.edu/giving
• $13,000 from Walgreens in support of the Class of 2012 Commencement Banquet ($3,000), and the Walgreens Diversity Scholarship ($10,000).

• $5,001 from the Indian Pharmacists Association to complete their $20,000 IPA Endowed Scholarship Fund.

• $5,000 from Dr. Brian Garner for the Dr. Brian Garner Scholarship Endowment.

• $4,750 from the final GNP/ICP Scholarship Golf Classic fundraiser to complete the $20,000 GNP/ICP Scholarship Endowment in support of independent community pharmacy.

• $4,000 from Target in support of the 2013 CASE Competition.

• $3,500 from RxPrep in support of the College of Pharmacy’s 2012 Career Day and Job Fair ($2,000), and the College of Pharmacy General Scholarship Fund ($1,500).

• $2,600 from UPNI in support of the College of Pharmacy Legislative Awareness Day event, 2011 and 2012.

• $2,000 from the Azizyants family (Natalie’s Catering) in support of the College of Pharmacy General Scholarship Fund.

• $1,000 from Walmart for the annual Walmart Pharmacy Scholarship.

• $1,000 from College of Pharmacy Dean Emeritus Max Ray in support of the Pharmacy Sustaining Fund.

• $1,000 from Blue Shield of California in support of the College of Pharmacy’s 2013 Ray Symposium.

• $1,000 from Vons/Safeway in support of the College of Pharmacy General Scholarship Fund.

• $500 gift-in-kind lab supplies from Nipro Diagnostics, Inc. in support of College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor, Dr. Emmanuelle Schwartzman’s, class.

Alumni Donors
(July ‘12 – December ‘12)

Luis Aguilar, PharmD ’00
Alireza Alibanaei, PharmD ’11
Jeong Chang, PharmD ’10
Katelyn Dinh, PharmD ’09
Maria Downs, PharmD ’12
Dax Easton, PharmD ’09
Tzu-Chi Hsu, PharmD ’10
Maximilian Jahng, PharmD ’09
Reagan Lee, PharmD ’05
Lien Ly, PharmD ’04
Armen Manoukian, ’08
Gifty Mathew, PharmD ’12
Brandon Nozawa, PharmD ’12
Rouzanna Papoyan, PharmD ’02
Michele Prescott, PharmD ’08
Amitkumar Thakkar, PharmD ’12

Family & Friends

Georgi Azizyants & Natalia Tarasenko
Nancy Burrows
Chi Fuu Lin
Diane Morimoto
Kwooey Won
Western University of Health Sciences celebrated its 35th anniversary and the successful completion of its $35 million Capital Campaign at its annual “A Tribute to Caring” gala held at the Disneyland Hotel on November 10, 2012. ATC raised over $125,000 for student scholarships this year, and its endowment now exceeds $900,000.

The theme of ATC, “Look How Far You’ve Brought Us,” acknowledged the students, faculty, staff and friends who have made WesternU what it is today. WesternU started in 1977 as the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP), but has grown into a comprehensive health professions university that combines scientific excellence and a compassionate approach to patient care.

“We’re pleased that so many of you have been with us from the beginning of this journey, and our circle of friends continues to grow and thrive,” said WesternU Founding President Philip Pomerantz, PhD. “I also thank each and every one of you for your generosity tonight. Your contribution to A Tribute to Caring ensures that new generations of healers will have the resources to fulfill their dreams, the same dreams we had when COMP was created in 1977.”

Beth Pomerantz, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Philip Pomerantz, also spoke on the family’s behalf.

“Our family believes very deeply not only in educating people to help ensure a future of high quality health care, but also in the idea that the world can be a better place if all of us remember to be there for one another,” she said. “It is a notion that extends far beyond health sciences and education, and represents what we truly believe to be a design for living.”

ATC celebrated the successful completion of WesternU’s Capital Campaign, which had an original goal of raising $35 million by the University’s 35th anniversary in 2012.

“When a campaign for $35 million exceeds that goal dramatically, and finishes in excess of $54 million, credit is due in a number of areas,” said WesternU Senior Vice President Thomas G. Fox, PhD. “University leadership has to be on board, there has to be a team of outstanding fundraisers, and there have to be dedicated donors.” WesternU’s campaign attracted the support of more than 2,500 donors.

“We were also very fortunate to have an exceptional core group for our Capital Campaign Steering Committee,” said Dr. Fox. The steering committee was chaired by COMP’s first graduate Richard Bond, DO, DrPH, FAAFP, who also serves as the vice chairman of the WesternU Board of Trustees. The steering committee also included board members Mike Quick and Vincent J. Naimoli, MBA, and Lenda Naimoli.

College of Pharmacy student, Drupad Parikh, PharmD ’13, is a GNP scholarship recipient and attended ATC this year.

“Scholarships make a big difference,” he said. “You’re supporting our dreams of getting an education and serving the community.”

WesternU would like to thank all of the many sponsors:

Silver Sponsors: Good Neighbor Pharmacy, Wells Fargo Bank, Fairplex, Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center & The Learning Centers at Fairplex

Bronze Sponsors: Essilor, Family Care Health Plans, Hoya, Imperial Private Security, Kon Leung, DDS & Josephine Yeang, LCS Constructors, Inc., The Naimoli Family, Pacific Hospital of Long Beach, Pomona Valley Hospital, Medical Center, Wells Fargo Insurance

Crystal Sponsors: Pfizer Animal Health, Samaritan Health Services, Inter Valley Health Plan, Housecall Doctors Medical Group, Inc., Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Pacific Dental Services, Cal Poly Pomona, VSP Vision Care, Pacific Medical Buildings, Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation, Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman LLP

College of Pharmacy student, Drupad Parikh, PharmD ’13, is a GNP scholarship recipient and attended ATC this year.
Resources available to our WesternU preceptors at no cost.

The WesternU OEE offers a variety of resources to help our preceptors become better mentors.

- University library access, including access drug information resources and clinical research portals (upon appointment of a clinical faculty appointment)
- Online Preceptor Development Continuing Education
- Pharmacist's Letter Preceptor Training and Resource Network
- Collaborative Education Institute (accessible through www.e-value.net)
- Scholar’s Experiential Education teaching module
- The WesternU OEE holds periodic live Preceptor Development continuing education events in The Greater Los Angeles Area, and occasionally in other areas of California
- Hospital Pharmacist Monthly
  - 80-minute Audio Program Downloadable as an MP-3 Format
  - Updates on Medication Management Regulatory Standards
  - Promoting the Role of the Chief Pharmacy Officer
  - Medication Safety Tips and Pitfalls
  - In the News — Articles of Interest
  - Establishing Medication Clinical Guidelines
  - Sentinel Event Alerts
  - FDA MedWatch Alerts and Black Box Updates
  - Updates to the Federal 340B Drug Pricing Program
  - Tips for Increasing Pharmacy Operational Efficiency
  - Interviews with Experts and Newsmakers
  - Pharmacy Technology and Informatics
  - Tools for Managing the Pharmaceutical Budget

WesternU College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education (OEE) can provide on-site CE preceptor development programs for many of our clinical rotation sites. If you can bring ten or more pharmacists together for a CE (lunch or dinner), then we will come to you to provide the CE credit focused on improving the skills involved with precepting students on clinical rotations. Contact the OEE for more information if you are interested.

James D. Scott, PharmD, FCCP, AAHIVP, Associate Dean for Experiential and Professional Affairs.

CONTACT US:
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Email: OEE@WesternU.edu or telephone (909) 469-5517
Visit us online at: www.westernu.edu/pharmacy-oee
Titus Wongk, a senior at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., was one of 24 NIH/NIDDK STEP-UP fellows selected to work in a distinguished laboratory for their summer research. He was mentored by Dr. Bradley T. Andresen of WesternU College of Pharmacy. His project, titled “Effects of MEK Inhibition on Angiotensin II- and Norepinephrine-mediated Hypertension,” was presented at the Step-Up Research Symposium in Bethesda, MD and also at WesternU’s 5th Annual Summer Student Technology and Research Symposium (STARS).

The APS Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) Fellowship provides hands-on summer research experiences for undergraduate students who are from groups underrepresented in science. The program helps students explore biomedical research careers and provides exposure to the core NIDDK mission areas of diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition, obesity, and digestive, liver, urologic, kidney, and hematologic diseases.

Titus Wongk, NIH/NIDDK STEP-UP Fellow

Coming to Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) was a brand new experience. However, I was not a stranger for long. Immediately, the students at WesternU made me feel welcomed by including me in lunch outings and weekend getaways. WesternU students work diligently to complete experiments, and take the lunch hour to briefly relax with a bite to eat and a game or two of billiards. Like the students, the faculty all come from diverse backgrounds and cultures, but we all come together in the College of Pharmacy (COP) as a family, each with something different to contribute. Being new to the field of research, students and faculty alike were extremely nurturing and willing to assist me in my research. My principal investigator, Dr. Bradley T. Andresen, initially worked side-by-side with me to ensure I was comfortable with procedures before letting me loose. I cherish the friendships I made with the faculty and students. From all around the world, College of Pharmacy faculty and students descend on the city of Pomona for a common interest, the love of research.

Bradley T. Andresen, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

It was a pleasure to be chosen as research host for Titus Wongk by both Titus and the American Physiological Society (APS) this past summer. Titus was selected as one of 24 undergraduate students from around the country to participate in the APS Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) Fellowship. The first time I saw Titus was at an indoor soccer arena in Upland, CA; he and I are both avid soccer players and he joined the summer league of the indoor team that myself and Dr. Fadi Khasawneh played on. It was a great pleasure to work and play sports with Titus, and we developed a wonderful lifelong friendship. Through interacting with Titus in the lab and sport, I can attest that not only is he very intelligent, but also a very calm, caring, and compassionate person. Titus’s experience at WesternU is emblematic of how we treat all members of our college. I too greatly appreciate the camaraderie and diversity within the college, for it brings diversity to our discussions and flavor to our meals.

Faculty Publications

- Shaligram S, Campbell A. “Toxicity of Copper Salts is Dependent on Solubility Profile and Cell Type Tested.” Toxicol In Vitro. 2012 Dec 31, 2013
- Jackevicius CA, Tu J, Krumholz, H. Statins: Is it Safe and Effective to Use Generic “Equivalents”? Invited editorial on Statins in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology (ahead of print)
WesternU’s Olivia Phung, PharmD, Awarded (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation’s 2012 Drug Therapy Research Literature Award

Olivia Phung, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice for the College of Pharmacy at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif. received the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation’s 2012 Drug Therapy Research Literature Award.

The award is one of five bestowed annually as part of the ASHP Foundation’s Literature Awards program, which honors important contributions by pharmacists to biomedical literature. The Literature Awards are given to individuals who publish high-impact articles in primary, peer-reviewed biomedical literature. Emphasis is placed on originality, innovation, impact, and quality of the contributed articles.

Phung’s winning article, “Oral Antidiabetic Drugs for the Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes,” was co-authored with Nitesh A. Sood, MD, Bruce E. Sill, PharmD, and Craig I. Coleman, PharmD, and published in Diabetic Medicine (Diabet Med. 2011;28:948-64).

The research that Phung and her team conducted provides a comprehensive synthesis of the available evidence on the efficacy of drugs used to prevent type 2 diabetes.
Dr. Wallace Murray
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Retirement

Dr. Murray has served the College of Pharmacy and WesternU with great distinction for 13 years, since 1999. He joined the College as a tenured Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Assistant Dean for Student Services one year before we graduated our first PharmD class. Dr. Murray had spent the previous 24 years at the University of Nebraska in the Department of Biomedical Chemistry and served administratively as the Assistant Dean for Curriculum Development.

Since joining WesternU, Dr. Murray has served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Interim Chair Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Interim Chair Department of Pharmacy Practice & Administration, and Interim Dean College of Pharmacy. He has been our “utility” administrator, seeing us through many transitions through the years; all while masterfully fulfilling his responsibilities to Academic and Student Affairs.

Dr. Murray has maintained his commitment to student teaching and has major responsibility for filling our curricular requirements for medicinal chemistry. Despite his heavy administrative responsibilities he has consistently had an above average teaching load and his teaching evaluations have remained among the top 25% of faculty.

Dr. Murray has received numerous honors throughout his illustrious career. He has twice received the national pharmacy honors society Rho Chi Faculty Advisor Award, once in 1999 while at the University of Nebraska and again in 2011 as our WesternU advisor. This is a unique distinction since he is the only person to ever receive this national award twice. He received five distinguished teaching awards while at the University of Nebraska with two of those receiving national recognition.

“When I came to WesternU 13 years ago, it was for one major reason: the educational experiment created by Founding Dean Harry Rosenberg, who for many years was my faculty colleague at the University of Nebraska. The block system, team-based learning and the unique classroom architecture was pioneering.”

— Dr. Wallace Murray in his farewell message to the College of Pharmacy.
Dr. Murray has an impressive record of scholarship with 59 peer reviewed publications, 10 book chapters and 8 published books in the areas of medicinal chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences. He has been an invited speaker at many national and international conferences. His service to both the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists has been outstanding with participation and leadership on many important committees that contributed to the success of these organizations.

Dr. Murray’s contributions to leadership in the College have been unparalleled. He has chaired nearly every committee in the College including the Curriculum Committee, Student Liaison Committee, Scholarship and Awards Committee, Admissions Committee, and he has been vice-chair of the College Dean’s Council from 1999 through 2011. He has also served on many University committees and was highly effective in his position on the Interprofessional Education Implementation Committee. One of his last major contributions to the College has been as co-chair of our ACPE Self-Study, which resulted in a highly successful accreditation visit in October 2012.

We would like to thank Dr. Murray for 13 years of exceptional leadership and dedication to the College. He will leave an amazing legacy, having been an important and memorable part of the educational experience of every PharmD and MSPS graduate this University has ever produced.

Dr. Wallace J. Murray was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor on the occasion of his retirement from Western University of Health Sciences on December 31, 2012.
New Faculty and Staff

Thomas J. Kleyn, PharmD, BCPS, AAHIVP, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration
Dr. Kleyn received his PharmD from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN in 2010. He completed his Pharmacy Practice Residency at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis, IN in 2011 and his specialty residency in HIV Pharmacotherapy at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, OK in 2012. Dr. Kleyn joined the College of Pharmacy in July of 2012. His previous research has focused on the effect of a pharmacist on treatment outcomes in an HIV clinic and on transmitted drug resistance in antiretroviral-naïve persons. He is currently developing practice sites at AIDS Healthcare Foundation clinics in Beverly Hills and Hollywood. His areas of academic and research interest include motivational interviewing and improving medication adherence in people living with HIV.

Jonathan H. Watanabe, PharmD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administration
Jonathan received his PharmD from the University of Southern California in 2007. He completed his MS with the Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy Program (PORPP) at the University of Washington in 2008 as a component of the University of Washington/Allergan Health Economics and Outcomes Research Fellowship (2007-2009). In 2009, Dr. Watanabe returned to PORPP to pursue a PhD that was defended in 2012. His research areas include pharmaceutical and health policy analysis, pharmacoepidemiology, and health services research focusing on health disparities. He practiced in long-term care pharmacy. Jonathan instructs the Biostatistics and Introduction to Health Systems courses for P1 students. His methodologic interests are Propensity Score applications and Repeated Measurements Statistics.

Tammy Liu, Laboratory Technician, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Tammy Liu joined the College of Pharmacy in October 2012 as a Laboratory Technician. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring laboratory safety and compliance and assisting Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty and research staff with their projects. She also assists with pharmacy courses as a teaching aide. Tammy has five years of experience in academia laboratories. Tammy earned her bachelor’s degree in Biology from the University of California Riverside in 2009.

Prior to joining WesternU, Tammy was a laboratory aide at the Citrus Research Board in Riverside. She researched huanglongbing (HLB) disease and the vector Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) responsible for citrus greening. Tammy is excited to be a part of the WesternU College of Pharmacy and looks forward to learning a new field of study.

Faculty Honors & Awards

Brad Andresen
- Recognized in "The Physiologist" for his work with the NIH APE STEP-UP project with Mentee Titus Wong entitled: "Effects of MEK Inhibition on Angiotensin II- and Norepinephrine-mediated Hypertension," was also presented at WesternU’s 5th Annual Summer Student Technology and Research Symposium. The APS Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) summer program focusing on undergraduate students from groups underrepresented in science.

Sheryl Chow
- Elected as a Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA) affiliated with the Council on Clinical Cardiology, inducted at the American Heart Association Session in Los Angeles, CA,
- Invited to serve as a member of the 2012-2013 American Heart Association Clinical Pharmacology Committee

Hyma Gogineni
- Passed the Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCAPS) examination

Eric Gupta
- Selected as the Top Ten Grand Council Deputy (Chapter Advisor) at the Kappa Psi National Conference

Karl Hess
- Elected as the CPhA Academy of Pharmacy Educators Trustee

Janice Hoffman
- Elected as President-Elect of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) California Chapter
- Elected as one of CPhA Long Term Care Board of Directors
Jennifer Sandoval, Administrative Assistant, Student Services

Jennifer Sandoval joined the College of Pharmacy in July 2012 as an Administrative Assistant. In this role, she assists the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and the Manager of Continuing Education and Events.

Prior to joining WesternU, Jennifer worked at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Pasadena, as well as the Walter Jay M.D. Institute an Educational Center.

Anne Ly, Administrative Assistant, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Anne Ly joined the College of Pharmacy as an Administrative Assistant for the Department of Pharmaceutical Science in January, 2013. She supports the faculty and the Masters of Pharmaceutical Science Program. Anne has over eight years of administrative experience. She earned two Bachelors of Arts from UCLA in 2006 and is currently pursuing her MLIS degree.

Cynthia Jackevicius

• Invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the American Heart Association’s Outcomes/Qualitative Research & Therapeutic Clinical Trials/Population Peer Review Committee for grants from the Western States and National levels.

Thomas Kley

• Obtained credentialing from the American Academy of HIV Medicine as an HIV Pharmacist (AAHIVP)

Anandi Law

• Served as a reviewer to the AACP New Investigator Award

Arbi Nazarian

• Selected as Chair-Elect of the Biological Sciences Section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

Olivia Phung


Doreen Pon

• Passed the Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS) Pharmacotherapy examination

James Scott

• To be inducted as President of the San Fernando Valley Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists on February 27, 2013.

Emmanuelle Schwartzman

• Passed the Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCAPS) examination

Don Vu (Transplantation/Pharmacogenomics Fellow)

• Awarded this year’s American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Immunology/Transplantation PRN resident/fellow award for his abstract entitled: “Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) as rescue therapy for BK virus nephropathy.” ACCP annual conference, October 21-24, 2012, Hollywood, FL

Jeffrey Wang

• Invited as an ad hoc reviewer for NIH’s Developmental Therapeutics (DT) Study Section.

Grants & Contracts

Ying Huang and members of CADRE Wai Kei Lam, Moses S.S. Chow (Director of CADRE), Wai Min Chan, Joan Zuo and Xie Chen.

• Awarded a three year grant from the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macau. A Collaborative project with the Macau Institute of Medicine and Applied Research, Macau University of Science and Technology, and Center for Advancement of Drug Research and Evaluation (CADRE) of College of Pharmacy. Project entitled “Chinese medicine to overcome resistant chemotherapy: comparison of the effects of Tripterygium wilfordii with other selected herbal extracts in cell models of resistant lung, pancreatic and prostate cancers.” The three year award which started Sept 1, 2012, is in the amount of $247,640, including $22,000 to WesternU for molecular and genomic studies under the direction of Dr. Ying Huang, Assist Dir. of CADRE and Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Co-investigators of the project include Wai Kei Lam, Moses S.S. Chow (Director of CADRE), Wai Min Chan, Joan Zuo and Xie Chen.

Quang Le

• Awarded the AACP New Investigator Award for his proposal “Cost-Effectiveness of Treatment Choices in a PTSD Doubly Randomized Preference Trial.” The funded amount is $9,635.

Kabir Lufty

• Awarded an intramural grant for his project titled, “The role of endogenous PACAP in Opiate Reward,” in the amount of $42,000 over one year from the University Research Committee.

Peter Oelschlaeger

• Awarded an intramural grant “Applying virtual screening techniques to the search for metallo-β-lactamase inhibitors.” ($5,000). A collaborative project with Dr. William Welsh’s group at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Piscataway.

• Awarded an intramural grant “Crafting metallo-β-lactamase activity in another protein scaffold using the Rosetta3 computational protein design program,” ($3,500). A collaborative project with Dr. David Baker’s group at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Olivia Phung

• Received funds from Merck to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis entitled “Early Combination Therapy for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus” which compares initial combination therapy to stepwise therapy in diabetic patients who are newly diagnosed or treatment-naïve. This award is $30,000 for 6 months.
Resident/Fellow Profiles

Po Ying Fung, PharmD
I graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology and received my PharmD at WesternU. I am currently a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident at WesternU/ St. Mary Medical Center. As a resident of a new PGY1 program, I am excited for the opportunity to work alongside some of the most dedicated faculty to further establish WesternU’s reputation in the pharmacy profession.

Mai-Chi Hong, PharmD
Having obtained my PharmD degree from WesternU, I am delighted and excited to return to complete a PGY2 Residency in Infectious Diseases (ID). Prior to my education at WesternU, I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology from UCLA. I’ve had a strong interest in ID since I was a student at WesternU, and this interest was reinforced during my PGY1 training at Loma Linda University. I am eager to continue to pursue this passion for ID during this residency year while having the honor of collaborating under the guidance of WesternU and affiliated preceptors and faculty members.

Stephanie Liang, PharmD
After completing my BA in Biological Sciences at University of Southern California, I continued on at USC to receive my PharmD in 2012. I am committed to providing superior services to patients in accessible settings, and I am working towards this goal through my current status as the PGY1 Resident in Community Pharmacy Practice. An Albert Schweitzer Fellow for Life, I strongly promote interdisciplinary care and providing for the underserved. My other interests include nutrition, fitness and event planning.

Lingyun Lu, MS, PharmD
Recently I received my PharmD from Nova Southeastern University. Before coming to the United States, I was a Cellular Pharmacology research fellow at Hokkaido University, School of Medicine in Japan. I earned my BS and MS degrees in Pharmacy from Dalian Medical University in China. Currently I am enthusiastic about pursuing an academic career in cardiovascular outcomes research as the Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Fellow.

Sonal Mahajan, MSc, PharmD
I began my journey in the field of pharmacy with a Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy from the renowned University Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, India. I was further intrigued by how biotechnology and pharmacogenomics could be applied to tailoring drugs, thus providing individualized treatment. So I pursued my Masters in Biotechnology at the University of California, Irvine. To further my pharmacy education in patient care, I completed my PharmD at WesternU in 2012. There is much work to be done to improve access to quality mental healthcare, and I am extremely motivated to contribute my energy and talent towards that goal as the PGY1 Resident in Pharmacy Practice and next year at the PGY2 Resident in Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy.

Bik Wai Tai, PharmD
Born and raised in Hong Kong, I studied Food & Nutritional Sciences for my undergraduate program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, moved to Indiana for my pre-pharmacy coursework at Purdue University, and graduated with my PharmD degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Long interested in employing the concepts of pharmacoconomics and outcomes research to optimize patient care in community and hospital pharmacy practice settings, I joined WesternU as a postdoctoral Fellow in Health Outcomes Research to pursue further training in this field, as well as to gain opportunities in teaching and precepting current PharmD students.
I graduated from UC San Diego with a BS in Biochemistry/Cell Biology and received my PharmD at Pacific University, School of Pharmacy in Oregon. My involvement in leadership development, public health projects, and international medical missions solidified my desire to practice in a team-based setting and to expand the roles of clinical pharmacy services. I enjoy traveling and therefore my fondest memories in pharmacy school are traveling to leadership conferences and competing a rotation in Ghana, West Africa. My professional interest includes chronic disease management, pharmacy leadership, public health, and academia. As WesternU's first PGY-1 Ambulatory Care Resident, I am excited for a great year of expanding services to the patients we serve!
Alumni, what’s new with you? Please email your news and photos to rxbound@westernu.edu

We also encourage you to attend one of the many receptions and events hosted throughout 2013. 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. Be on the lookout for more information about upcoming events. We hope to see you there!
SAVE THE DATE!
FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Save the date for our inaugural
WesternU College of Pharmacy
Scholarship Golf Classic

Thursday, May 23rd, 2013
Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon

For more information, please visit
www.westernu.edu/scholarship-golf-classic

THE
Ray Symposium
Global Lectures in Healthcare

Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention
Thursday, April 18, 2013
5:00 p.m., HEC Lecture Hall I,
Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA

FEATURING:
Patricia B. Crawford, DrPH, RD
Director, Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health
Cooperative Extension Nutrition Specialist
Calendar 2013

March 15-18  CPhA West Coast Pharmacy Exchange, Monterey, CA
April 3-6   AMCP 25th Annual Meeting & Showcase, San Diego, CA
April 4    Honors Day, WesternU Pomona, CA
April 13   East-West Scholarship Dinner, San Gabriel, CA
April 16   California Pharmacy Legislative Day, Sacramento, CA
April 18   Ray Symposium, WesternU, Pomona, CA
May 9      Poster Day, WesternU, Pomona, CA
May 14     Commencement Dinner, Pasadena, CA
May 15     Commencement, Pasadena, CA
May 15-17  ASCP Midyear, Orlando, FL
May 18-22  ISPOR Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
May 23     WesternU College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic, Beaumont, CA (details inside)
June 1-5   ASHP Summer Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
June 12-14 Collaborating Across Borders (CAB) IV Meeting, Vancouver, BC