



SOP alumni honored for contributions, service and loyalty

Three School of Pharmacy alumni—all class of 1980—were honored on April 24, during MCV Campus’ Reunion Weekend 2010, at the Pharmacy Alumni Award Reception. William E. Smith, executive associate dean, congratulated audience members on their respective reunion-year celebrations and thanked everyone for gathering to recognize the award-winners’ contributions. Bronwyn Burnham (B.S. ’89), president of the MCV Alumni Association Pharmacy Division and 2009 winner of the Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award, made the presentations:

Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni Award

The first award to be presented this evening is the Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni Award. This award was created to recognize alumni for significant contributions to the pharmacy profession and/or the community.

This year’s recipients are from the class of 1980: Nancy and Ron McFarlane, who have a strong connection to the School of Pharmacy. After all, they met here...in Tompkins-McCaw Library, to be exact.

The couple, married 29 years, have worked together to create a pharmacy practice that redefines the terms “patient-centered” and “innovative.” Ron is chief operating officer and Nancy is president of their company, MedPro Rx, which earned the top spot in the Triangle Business Journal’s 2008 Fast 50 Award. The award recognizes the fastest growing privately held companies in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Triangle area in N.C.

Up until eight years ago, Nancy worked as a community and hospital pharmacist, and Ron held positions of increased leadership at Caremark. They saw a need to provide high-touch, in-home care for people with certain types of chronic diseases. In 2002, they formed MedPro Rx, a specialty infusion pharmacy that provides infused and injectable medications and services to clients with chronic illnesses. The business was launched on just \$90,000. By 2008, it generated more than \$40 million in annual revenue.

Through MedPro Rx, the McFarlanes have initiated several patient outreach programs. “Education is Power” is a scholarship program designed to support young people living with hemophilia or von Willebrand disease in their pursuit of higher education. Since it began in 2006, “Education is Power” has distributed more than \$200,000 in scholarships to students nationwide. The McFarlanes also created a MedPro Kids Web site featuring the adventures of Chilly Penguin, who attends school and participates in sports, all the while managing his hemophilia. MedPro Rx also advocates for patients in the workplace, offering education about affordable accommodations that can keep bleeding-disorder patients on the job.



Bronwyn Burnham (second from right) presented Reunion Weekend 2010 alumni awards to Nancy McFarlane (from left), Ron McFarlane and Tommy Thompson.

Ron and Nancy have three children and are active participants in professional associations and the Raleigh community. In fact, Nancy has served as an elected representative of the Raleigh City Council since 2007. They have been generous supporters of the School of Pharmacy, having created two scholarships and an endowed professorship. Ron also serves as a member of the dean’s National Advisory Council.

I am so proud to bestow this honor upon Nancy and Ron.

Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award

I am delighted to present the Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award in recognition of outstanding loyalty and service to the pharmacy school. I would challenge any of you to find a pharmacist in Virginia who does not know of J. Tommy Thompson III.

Tommy, who also graduated with the class of 1980, was well-known in pharmacy circles as a young boy who grew up and worked alongside his sister, Alice Page Parsley (class of 1985), in his dad’s (class of 1947) Mechanicsville pharmacy.

After graduation, he went into business with his father and soon purchased the pharmacy from him. He has been owner and chief pharmacist at Mechanicsville Drug since 1981. He has held numerous community leadership positions, serving on the Hanover Bank Board for many years and as its chairman in 1986, and currently as a board member with Eastern Virginia Bankshares, Inc. He also owns Mechanicsville Mini-Storage.

Tommy has been a director of the MCV Alumni Association board of trustees and a member of the MCVA Pharmacy Division, the Dean’s Advisory Council for Dean John Ruggerio, and the National Advisory Council for Dean Victor Yanchick.

He has been president of the Richmond Pharmacists Association and has served on numerous committees for the Virginia Pharmacists Association. Through VPhA’s Academy of Independent Pharmacy, he worked to develop an entrepreneurial pharmacy elective, in which he participates as a lecturer each year. He also endowed a student conference travel fund to support students interested in attending professional conferences.

Tommy and his wife, Janet, have two children and have been happily married for 29 years. Tommy’s commitment to independent pharmacy, to the school and to the profession is admirable. He gives of himself to promote all three at every opportunity.

I am so pleased to honor him with this award.



Among Reunion Weekend attendees were (from left) Betty S. Taliaferro (B.S. ’59), Doris Hinshaw Osborne (B.S. ’60) and Adina Carty Krum (B.S. ’60), all of whom roomed together at various times!

The RxExchange

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I find it hard to believe, but as I write this message we are winding down the Spring 2010 semester and are immersed in a \$5 million Smith Building renovation project that will move the entire first-floor Dean's Office—in 48 hours—to the fifth floor, which was occupied originally by the Department of Medicinal Chemistry.

In addition, the entire first floor will be redesigned to be a commons area for pharmacy students, including several small conference rooms and a student cafe. The second-floor practice labs will be expanded to include a patient interaction laboratory and a simulation laboratory. If you are interested to see what the redesigned area will look like, visit our Web site at www.vcu.pharmacy.edu.

The last two years have been extremely interesting and rewarding for me, personally, not only having the opportunity to plan this renovated space for the future of the School of Pharmacy but also having the privilege of serving as president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

As president last year and immediate past president this year, I visited not only a number of U.S. Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy, but I literally have been around the world, visiting six countries as a representative of AACP and our own School of Pharmacy.

My most recent trip in late April took me to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where I was asked to give the plenary address at the Eighth Saudi International Pharmaceutical Conference and Exhibition. As AACP president, one of my major initiatives was to develop a Global Alliance for Pharmacy Education. It has become very clear to me that the rest of the world is moving pharmacy education and pharmacy practice



to a more patient-centered focus. It's also looking at what we have done in the United States—moving to the doctor of pharmacy program—as a model to emulate. These countries are facing similar issues that we in the U.S. faced in changing practice and changing the educational model.

I am sure most of you are aware of the continued budget shortfall that the Commonwealth of Virginia is facing. This has resulted in drastic budget cuts to all state-supported programs,

including the School of Pharmacy. We have weathered the budget shortfall, and I can truly say that the quality of our academic program has not been compromised. We lost funding for about eight faculty positions but plan to regain them as the economy improves.

We have proposed the development of a campus at The University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, where 10 students would complete their P3 and P4 years. It would be similar to our Inova Campus in Northern Virginia. We all are extremely pleased with its success. Kudos to Assistant Dean Michael Clarke and the Inova faculty for a first-class effort!

Lastly, we are moving into the third year of our new curriculum. It appears that our students and faculty have adjusted very well to the new dynamics of team-based learning and expanded experiential education. We were fortunate to attract Phylliss Moret to the School of Pharmacy as assistant dean for experiential education. Phylliss has had a long-standing affiliation with the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists in Washington and has been traveling across the state to meet with our preceptors.

We are always looking for pharmacists who are willing to be part of our affiliate faculty as preceptors. If you are interested in working with us,



The RxExchange is a publication of the VCU School of Pharmacy. Readers are encouraged to submit comments or questions to Cynthia McMullen, director of public relations and communications, by calling (804) 828-6470 or e-mailing chcmullen@vcu.edu.

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please give us a call. I hope that all of you have a good summer, and please keep in touch.

Best wishes,

Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D.
Dean and Archie O. McCalley Chair

Pardon our dust...and enjoy the results

The School of Pharmacy's Robert Blackwell Smith Jr. Building is about a third of the way through its \$5 million renovation, a project that's creating a more student-centered, state-of-the-art primary teaching facility.

Occupants of the Smith Building can attest to that fact, having been witness to the (necessary) banging and sawing sounds as floors are pulled up, ceilings are pulled down and walls are knocked out. The building—just in time for its 25th anniversary—is having a first-, second- and fifth-floor facelift. Construction should be complete by mid-October.

"It's going to be inconvenient, noisy, dirty at times," said William E. Smith, executive associate dean, as renovations began. "But keep in mind it's going to be very, very nice...something for students and faculty to be proud of." It was a good sign that Clancy & Theys, a Newport News, Va.-based construction company, started on time on Feb. 1...even though the university was closed that day because of snow.

Progressing rapidly from asbestos abatement to ripping out interior walls to creating an entirely new floor layout, the fifth-floor renovations were complete in early May. Most of the Dean's Suite offices relocated from the first to the fifth floor, with the rest located or relocated on the third floor. The Office of Admissions and Student Services now is accessible directly from the elevator. A floor-to-ceiling glass case that divides Admissions from the hall leading to the dean's office will display pharmacy equipment and memorabilia.

"People are very focused on getting this done," said Smith, who serves as in-house director of the renovation project. "It's going well."

Some of the second-floor lab renovations had commenced before the semester ended; by the beginning of May, the second floor had "pretty much shut down," Smith said, to allow for more asbestos abatement. Two existing labs will be expanded to include 50 student work spaces, and a new clinical skills lab will accommodate small-group learning and additional technology. The second floor should be finished by the time students return in August.

Demolition of the first floor began in mid-May. The first floor will be totally revamped—with the exception of Room 103, the building's biggest classroom—to allow for a student commons area featuring a larger student lounge, student café, conference rooms, classrooms, and faculty and seminar rooms.

Next up? Committees have been formed to study the feasibility of funding and creating a state-of-the-art sterile products compounding lab and a School of Pharmacy museum, both of which will be housed on the fifth floor of Smith. Sonny Currin (B.S. '59) has agreed to serve as chairman of the Sterile Compounding Lab Committee. Al Schalow (B.S. '61), Roy Moon (B.S. '50) and Marsha Hamlett Allen (B.S. '65) are serving on the Museum Committee.

To see photos of the renovation in progress, visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu and click on "Pardon our dust." Or, if you are on Facebook, visit the VCU School of Pharmacy page, go to Photos and click on "Smith Building renovations 2010."

It's been a stellar year for School of Pharmacy students

The 2009-10 school year has been chock-full of awards, honors, recognition, leadership, you name it. Take a look at just a few of the highlights...

Early August: Eight **Phi Delta Chi** brothers did the School of Pharmacy proud at the fraternity's Grand Council meeting in Phoenix, Az. The school's Alpha Delta Chapter ranked at 100 percent efficiency in the Dale W. Doerr Achievement Award Program, garnered second place in the John D. Grabenstein Leadership Award and ranked No. 11 among PDC chapters nationwide.

Mid-August: P1 orientation began for the **class of 2013**. Dean **Victor Yanchick** welcomed the class, 130 strong, with history, commentary and a bit of advice. Asked which area of pharmacy they planned to pursue, class members were nothing if not diverse: community, compounding, geriatric consultation, research, hospital, owning their own, neonatal, oncology, "not sure," industry, alternative medicine, "everything," veterinary, infectious diseases, nuclear, diabetic health care, public health, pediatrics, pharmacogenomics, pharmacotherapeutics. Some of the goals were particularly specific, such as working for the Navy, becoming a medical science liaison in oncology, working for Indian Health Services and starting a company to research nutritional supplements for third-world countries.

Late August: It was a White Coat Ceremony to remember. Just as P1 students began to recite the Oath of a Student Pharmacist with student body president **Van Tran** (P3), an alarm went off in the Greater Richmond Convention Center. "May I have your attention, please? A fire emergency has been reported in this building!" Tran stayed the course, continuing to lead the oath. As the alarm continued to blare in the lobby, the dean stepped to the podium. "Please be seated," he said. "Man," he quipped. "This has been one hot ceremony.... This is one hot class!"

Early September through early November: As part of its ongoing exchange program with Italy's **Universita degli Studi di Messina** (University of Messina), the School of Pharmacy said ciao (hello)—and ciao (goodbye)—to eight students from Italy.

Mid-September: The school's **Student Association of Community Pharmacists** participated in Walk MS in Tappahannock, Va., to raise money for the Central Virginia Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Early October: Fourth-year students **Alexis Noble** and **Artie Strunk**, finalists in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Clinical Skills Competition, were notified that they would represent the school at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Las Vegas in December. Team Noble-Strunk also won VSHP's second Jennifer E. Stallings College Bowl.

Mid-October: All 18 of the **Inova Campus' P3 students** took part in a Heart Disease Awareness/Diabetes event at the Inova Fairfax Hospital Atrium to recognize American Pharmacists Month and National Health-System Pharmacy Week. They held two more such events in November.

Lokesh Jain, a Department of Pharmaceutics Ph.D. student, received the AAPS Graduate Student Symposium Award in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism & Clinical Pharmacology and Translation Research at the opening session of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists' 2009 Annual Meeting and Exposition. **Kumar A. Shah**, also a Department of Pharmaceutics Ph.D. student, received the AAPS Graduate Student Symposium Award in Analysis and Pharmaceutical Quality.



Pamela K. Quaye works with a patient during an Inova Campus Heart Disease Awareness/Diabetes event.

Late October: At the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Programs' 12th annual Research and Career Day, **Aditi Mulgaonkar** (Ph.D. student in the Department of Pharmaceutics) won the Thakker Award. The Pharm.D. Award went to **Michael Snow** (P2), with honorable mention going to **Che Min Chang** (P2). **Bhawana Saluja** (Ph.D. student in the Department of Pharmaceutics) received the Graduate Award, with honorable mention going to **J. Timothy King** (Ph.D. student in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry).

November: **Kappa Epsilon** members participated in Skate for the Cure to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Mid-December: **December graduates** included three master's and four Ph.D. degrees.



Read more about Eric (right) and Evan Edwards in the next issue of The RxExchange.

Early January: Ph.D. student **Eric Edwards** and his brother Evan were featured in a section-front story in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. The twins, co-founders of Intelliject, a specialty pharmaceutical firm based in Richmond, were inspired by their own severe allergies to develop solutions for others with the same problem. A month earlier, Intelliject had announced a multimillion-dollar licensing deal with sanofi-aventis U.S. for its novel epinephrine auto injector.

Late February: **Amy Dembowski** (P3) attended the Virginia Pharmacist Association Midyear

Conference in Charlottesville as the VPhA board of directors' first-ever student director.

Early March: Dozens of pharmacy students participated in the third annual **VCU/MCV Community Health Fair** at Armstrong High School.

Mid-March: The class of 2010, faculty and staff gathered for the Senior Awards Luncheon. "I said four years would fly!" commented Dean Yanchick, calculating it had been 1.4 million minutes since the class had arrived on campus in 2006. Following lunch, members of honor and leadership societies—**Phi Kappa Phi**, **Rho Chi** and **Phi Lambda Sigma**—were recognized, as were presidents of the class of 2010: **Allison Lynch**, **Lina Saliba** and **Dina Patel**.

The following awards were presented: Patient Care Award, **Artie Strunk**; Award of Excellence in Clinical Communication, **Stephanie Atueyi**; Pharmacy Communication Award, **Kevin Nguyen**; Clinical Research Award, **Issa Nesheiwat** and **Julie Villanueva**; Academic Excellence Award, **Michelle Woods** and **Krista Larson**; Excellence in Pharmacy Award, **Jennifer Padgett**; Leadership Achievement Award, **Courtney Carmack**; Outstanding Leadership Award, **Jennifer Austin**; Community Practice Achievement Award, **Megan Danford**; Technology Excellence Award, **Wilma Tagliente**; Distinguished Service Award, **Lina Saliba**; Outstanding Student Award, **Dina Patel**; Award of Excellence in Nonprescription Medication Studies, **Allison Lynch**; VSHP Excellence in Health-System Pharmacy Award, **Lauren Pierce**; MCV Alumni Association Scholarship/Award, **Meghan Hall**; Excellence in Advocacy and Health Policy Award, **Jon Carter** and **Jenni Witten**; Social Justice Award, **Holly Gurgle**; and Professionalism Award, **Alexis Noble**.

Late March: SOP students scored at the American Pharmacists Association's 2010 Annual Meeting and Exposition: The school's Beta Nu chapter of **Phi Lambda Sigma** was named 2008-09 Chapter of the Year. **Lauren Marston** (P3) was named Boyle Family Scholar as part of the APhA Foundation Scholarship Program. The **Virginia Academy of Student Pharmacists** won the 2008-09 Chapter Policy and Legislative Award, the Region 2 Heartburn Awareness Challenge Award and produced one of the Top 5 videos in the APhA-ASP PharmFlix Video Contest.

Mid- to late April: The class of 2011 offered its video version of "Pharmacy Follies," a montage of reminiscence, spoof and fun. **Mera Ababbeh**, Ph.D. student in pharmacotherapy, won first place in the university's annual Graduate Student Research Symposium & Exhibit. **Tamara Davidson** (P2) and **Amy Kennedy**, Community Participatory Research Fellow, and their faculty mentors were named 2010 Wal-Mart Scholars. **Lauren Cox** (P3) was chosen for the 2010 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, supported by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research. **Kappa Psi** sponsored a Student/Alumni Golf Tournament at Birkdale Golf Club to raise money for the ALS Association.

Next up? The School of Pharmacy's Convocation/Hooding and Diploma Ceremony takes place May 21. *Congratulations, class of '10!*

Donor Spotlight

Slifka family pays tribute to brother by giving the gift of education

Every day for nearly 14 years, Gayle Slifka has attached a tiny angel pin to whatever she's wearing. A gift from her brother, it's symbolic of her life so far: a story of faith, hope and love punctuated by the tragedies real life can bring.

In 1989, Slifka was at a crossroads. At 32, she did not care for her job as a convenience-store trainer, had been diagnosed with endometrial cancer and was terrified of losing her brother, Remington, who had been diagnosed with HIV six years earlier. She decided to leave Florida, where she had spent much of her childhood and adulthood, and head north to Richmond, Va., where her sister Sharon had settled.

The decision was life-changing. At a party one evening, having been introduced to Peggy Hayes, a VCU School of Pharmacy faculty member, Slifka's eyes were opened to a new opportunity. She applied to be a pharmacy technician at MCV Hospitals.

At first, her employer-to-be was concerned about her lack of related experience and the pay cut she'd have to take.

"I told him, 'When you get a diagnosis like cancer, you realize life is short. Money's not important. I feel like I need to give back. ...You'll never know the opportunity you missed to have the best pharmacy tech you ever had!'"

Later that day, she was offered the job. After a few years—having regained her health and having developed a passion for health care—Slifka believed she had more to offer.

It was around this time that her brother suffered his first HIV-related opportunistic infection. She and her sister persuaded him to join them in Virginia.



Howard Remington Slifka posed with his dog Millie in 1995, the year his sister enrolled as a P1.

In the fall of 1995—with her brother receiving treatment from the "fantastic doctors" at MCV Hospitals and the hospital pharmacy having helped her figure out a way to work and still go to school—Slifka enrolled as a P1.

It had been 18 years since she attended the Florida State University. But...you never know till you try.

"There was an ultimate goal," Slifka says with a wistful smile. "People do things for a reason, and

when I was contemplating pharmacy school, I wanted to be the one to find a cure for AIDS.

"That's what kept me going, although in the end that's not what happened. ...But even if [what I do] is not a cure, it's educating. It's fueling the passion. You know you're doing the right thing."

Her first year at the School of Pharmacy went well. Back at the hospital pharmacy, intern Leslie Richard (Pharm.D. '97) was leaving and suggested that Slifka apply for the job. It involved a good deal of data entry, perfect for a student. "I could do my job at 10 at night," Slifka recalls. "It was wonderful!"

She also enjoyed her co-workers, including Craig Kirkwood (now associate professor of pharmacy), Lynn Limon (Pharm.D. '79) and Angela Cimmino (Pharm.D. '94).

Her beloved brother was never far from her thoughts; that year, he had had two more episodes. "My family was realizing that this was indeed a grave battle."

Education was important to Remington Slifka, and he often helped his sister study. "I'd go to his house with my Top 200 drug cards, and he would call them out. If I missed one of the antibiotics he was on, he'd buzz me. Lashes with a wet noodle!"

"My brother was so proud of me. I still have his letters. 'Go, Gayle!' he'd write."

Slifka also admired her brother's advocacy work. When he was diagnosed—back when the virus was still referred to as GRID (gay-related infectious disease)—he volunteered with the San Diego AIDS Project. Later, in Richmond, he worked at the Fan Free Clinic and lectured at schools on "safer sex."

He even spoke to Slifka's first-year communications class. "I was so proud of him. He talked about what it was like to have HIV and shared his view of how a health-care provider should respond in these situations."

Nancy Yunker (now assistant professor of pharmacy) helped counsel him on his medications. He didn't always do well on meds, some of which had severe side effects, but he availed himself of clinical trials. Once, when he was hospitalized in early 1996, a doctor said, "There's nothing else we can do."

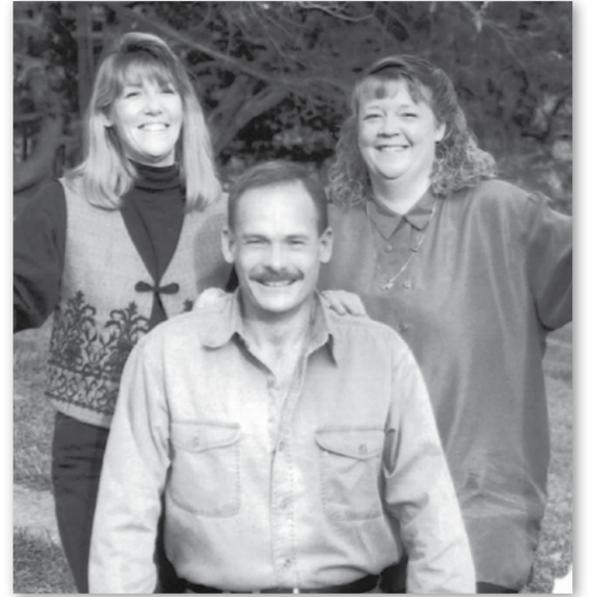
When Slifka heard this, she told her brother, "I don't believe it! Do you want to live? Do you want to fight?" She went straight to the pharmacy, where Laurie Cooksey (B.S. '89, Pharm.D. '95) pulled out a book by Evelyn Fisher that recommended a particular "cocktail."

"Go back up and show that doctor," Cooksey said. Slifka did. And the doctor said, "That's right!"

On July 12, 1996, Remington Slifka turned 42. The family—along with his partner, who was HIV negative—threw a party. About a week later, he was back in the hospital. While he didn't seem worse, says Slifka, "You could see the changes in his body. He was weakening." Over the years, he had lost half his body weight.

Howard Remington Slifka died on Aug. 9. A memorial service, attended by many of Slifka's pharmacy professors and classmates, took place in September.

No matter how much her brother's death hurt her, Slifka was still a student and knew she'd have to



Sharon (from left), Remington and Gayle Slifka all lived in the Richmond area by the mid-1990s.

handle it. Three years later at age 42, she graduated from VCU School of Pharmacy.

While a Pharm.D. student, Slifka had received two \$500 scholarships. "It doesn't sound like a lot," she says—especially in light of the \$130,000 she owed upon graduation—"but every penny helped. I was so grateful to get them."

It took eight years to pay off her debt, working briefly at Walgreens, then five years for NeighborCare (now Omnicare). In 2004, she began her current job as a medical outcomes specialist with Pfizer Inc.

All along she'd been thinking about how she could give back. She had been giving back to the school in kind, lecturing on the role of pharmacy in industry and serving as preceptor for about 40 students. But she also wanted to memorialize her brother, in whose name she had made donations to Transformation Retreats. (She volunteers for and is president-elect of the organization, which provides spiritual support for people living with HIV/AIDS.)

At last year's VPhA convention, Slifka started thinking about the assistance she had received in school. What if her family endowed a scholarship?

"I talked to my dad and my sister about the \$10,000 minimum it would take. My father said, 'Gayle, I am so happy.' I said, 'Dad, we have an opportunity to help other students. Dad, this would be awesome.'"

Her father and sister quickly agreed to chip in \$3,300 each, and her mom topped it off...resulting in the H. Remington Slifka Scholarship, created to support students with interest and academic accomplishment in infectious disease. The first recipient will be named later this year. And the family are happy that the gift of education is available in the name of their brother and son.

But back to that angel.

On Christmas Day 1996, her brother's partner presented Slifka and her sister Sharon with two gift bags—presents their brother bought them before he died. On Gayle Slifka's bag was pinned a small angel...a guardian angel she wears to this day.

Slifka might not have found a cure for AIDS. But isn't it possible her family's endowment will help fund the student who does?



Slifka's partner had chocolate "Rembars" made for his memorial service.

SOP scholarships: an investment in students

As Gayle Slifka, her family and others have discovered, supporting a student can create a real legacy. The School of Pharmacy distributes more than \$550,000 a year in scholarship funds to deserving Pharm.D. students. Congratulations to the 2009-10 recipients:

- **Catherine Arnatt** (P1), **Lauren Marston** (P3) and **Brad Martin** (P2): Harry and Zackia Shaia Pharmacy Scholarship Program
- **Stephanie Atueyi** (P4): William S. Cooper Scholarship and Walgreen Company Endowed Scholarship
- **Jennifer Austin** (P4): W. Roy Smith Scholarship
- **May Aziz** (P3): Linda Nixon Harvey Scholarship
- **Leah Belcher** (P3): Glenn B. Updike Sr. Scholarship
- **Leah Belcher** (P3) and **Amy Dembowski** (P3): Edward E. Willey Pharmacy Scholarship Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Leadership
- **Katherine Bidwell** (P4): Clara and Thomas Rorrer Sr. Scholarship
- **Karl Bituin** (P3): Nick G. Nicholas Scholarship
- **Jennifer Bouffard** (P4): Rite Aid Scholarship Fund
- **Robert Cade** (P3): Lindsay W. and Laura Butler Scholarship
- **Jon Carter** (P4), **Holly Gurgle** (P4), **Jennifer Padgett** (P4), **Pamela Serbeh** (P4) and **Van Tran** (P3): George Schlosser Scholarship
- **Tonya Coles** (P2) and **Brad Martin** (P2): Walgreens Scholarship
- **Amy Dembowski** (P3): Berkowitz Independent Community Pharmacy Scholarship
- **Bonnie Dennis** (P3): Nancy L. and Ronald H. McFarlane Scholarship
- **Kathryn Earle** (P4) and **Michelle Woods** (P4): Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship
- **Reid Gadziala** (P3) and **Julie Villaneuva**: Ukrop's Scholarship
- **Joe Gibbons** (P4): Barbara Peacock Plunkett Scholarship
- **James Gibson** (P3): Camilla Jeffries Patton Scholarship
- **Helen HaileSelassie**, **Dawn Holbrook**, **Issa Nesheiwat**, **Kevin Nguyen** and **Stephanie Rasnick** (all P4s): CVS Scholarship Fund
- **Emily Hall** (P3): Samuel and Gilbert Rosenthal Foundation Scholarship
- **Meghan Hall** (P4): MCV Alumni Association Scholarship/Award
- **Meghan Hall** (P4), **Christine Sanders** (P3), **Matthew Turner** (P3) and **Michelle Woods** (P4): Russell Fiske Scholarship Fund
- **Ashley Hamilton** (P4): K-Mart Scholarship Fund
- **Anna Kostric** (P4): Warren E. Weaver Scholarship
- **Adam Krukus** (P3): Robert J. Woods Sr. and Florence E. Woods Endowed Scholarship
- **Krista Larson** (P4): Richard Jacobs Scholarship
- **Lindsay Madures** (P2): Wal-Mart Scholarship
- **Lauren Marston** (P3): Henry Addington Academy of Independent Pharmacy Scholarship
- **Carmen Mitchell** (P3), **Charles Roberts** (P3) and **Kailen Verilla** (P4): SuperValu/Albertsons Scholarship
- **Elizabeth Neal** (P2): M. Bruce Rose Scholarship
- **Alexis Noble** (P4): Carolyn Coleman Stone Scholarship and Phi Delta Chi Scholarship in Memory of Daniel A. Herbert
- **My-Tien (Teresa) Nguyen** (P4): C. Eugene White Scholarship Fund
- **Jennifer Padgett** (P4): John W. Hasty P'56 and Kelly Hasty Kale P'85 Scholarship
- **Megan Puckett** (P3): North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company Scholarship
- **Lina Saliba** (P4): William W. and Patsy S. Gray Scholarship and Mended Hearts Scholarship
- **Meriam Senay** (P4): Katherine Merryman Rorrer Scholarship Fund
- **Matthew Stone** (P4): NACDS Scholarship
- **Wilma Tagliente** (P4): David D. Marshall Scholarship
- **Meghan Thompson** (P1): S.B. "Jack" Clement Scholarship
- **Gayle Tuckett** (P2): Class of 1953 Scholarship Fund
- **Sarah Venezian** (P4): Conway F. Stanley Scholarship
- **Jennifer Witten** (P4): Eugene V. White Endowed Scholarship Fund
- **Ashley Zeigler** (P3): Ronald G. Davis P'73 and David L. Williams P'06 Scholarship Fund

In addition to these endowed funds, all gifts to the School of Pharmacy Annual Fund are used to support student scholarships. If you're interested in endowing a scholarship, please contact Ellen Leverich, director of development, at emleverich@vcu.edu or (804) 828-3016. Or visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu and click on "Pharmacy's Future." You'll find a collection of feature stories centering on current faculty and students...students who are part of pharmacy's future.



School of Allied Health Professions
School of Dentistry
School of Medicine
School of Nursing
School of Pharmacy
Massey Cancer Center
MCV Hospitals



Healthy Planning

Russell Fiske's bequest to the School of Pharmacy provides scholarship assistance to three or four students each year.

Join the university's many alumni and friends who have made a commitment to the future of medical education, research and patient care at the Medical College of Virginia Campus of VCU. Creating a bequest or other planned gift enables the health care providers of tomorrow to receive an excellent education today.

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NEWS CAPSULES

The accomplishments of the School of Pharmacy's alumni, faculty and staff are far too numerous to include here. Here's just a smattering of what they—and you—have been doing.

ALUMNI



Bertha and Norman Rolfe enjoyed themselves during Reunion Weekend 2009.

The School of Pharmacy's National Advisory Council established the Bertha and Norman Rolfe Pharmacy Scholarship, in honor of alumna **Bertha Rolfe** (B.S. '47) and in memory of her husband Norman, who died Sept. 28, 2009. He was regarded by many alumni as a close friend and essential to alumni activities. To make a gift to the Rolfe scholarship, contact the School of Pharmacy Office of Development at (804) 828-3016.

Maj. **Robert "Wes" Rainey** (Pharm.D. '01) is a pharmacy flight commander for the 17th Medical Support Squadron at Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas. He recently was presented the 2009 AMSUS (Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S.) Society of the Federal Health Agencies Award for Excellence in Clinical Pharmacy Practice. The competition includes pharmacists from the active and reserve components of all the uniformed services, as well as the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Rainey is married to **Denise Lyons Rainey** (Pharm.D. '02).

Patty Slattum (B.S. '85, Pharm.D./Ph.D. '92), associate professor and director of the School of Pharmacy's Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Program, received the university's Distinguished Service Award during its 27th annual Faculty Convocation.

FACULTY AND STAFF

SOP faculty and students won the VCU Community Engagement Council's top award—the Currents of Change Award—at "Celebrate! VCU With the Community" in April. The school's community engagement efforts also earned it a spot as one of six on the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for Exemplary Community Service Projects. The school will participate in two 2010-11 Community Engagement Grants, and its 2008-09 Community Engagement Grant posters were on display at the "Celebrate!" event. Faculty community-engagement participants on hand for the ceremony included **Akash Alexander**, **Gary**

Matzke, Sallie Mayer, Tish Moczygemba, Amy Rudenko (Pharm.D. '98) and **Evan Sisson** (B.S. '92, Pharm.D. '94).

Of 14 pharmacy professionals recently inducted by the National Academies of Practice, three have VCU School of Pharmacy ties: **Kelly Goode**, SOP professor and alumna (B.S. '89, Pharm.D. '94); alumna **Marie Smith** (Pharm.D. '80); and **Stephanie Hammonds**, 2008-10 Congressional Healthcare Policy Fellow. **Gary Matzke** was inducted as part of the inaugural class of NAP fellows at the same meeting. Of 15 new fellows, only Matzke, associate dean for clinical research and public policy, represents the pharmacy profession.

The School of Pharmacy's Center for Biomarker Research and Personalized Medicine received a \$4.5 million "Grand Opportunities" (RC2) grant to detect schizophrenia methylation markers. The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health via the 2009 American Recovery Reinvestment Act. Principal investigator is **Edwin Van den Oord**, professor and director of the center. The RC2 is the largest ARRA research grant awarded to the university.



Shuford and Moret

New faculty and staff include:

Dean's Office: **Phylliss Moret**, assistant dean for experiential education. She worked nearly 15 years as associate executive director /chief operating officer of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.

Veronica Shuford, educational specialist. She served as the school's director of academic technology from 1999 to 2006.

Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science: Two postdoctoral fellows, **Amit Khachane** and **Shaunna Clark**, and senior lab technician **Linying Xie** have joined the Center for Biomarker Research and Personalized Medicine.

Inova Campus: **Lucas Servera** has been hired as an educational technologies analyst.

Transitions:

Dean's Office: Dean **Victor Yanchick** has been appointed to the Archie O. McCalley Dean's Chair. The endowed chair is named for McCalley (B.S. '27) of Richmond. A member of Phi Delta Chi and former owner of People's Drug Store, he died in 1999. In 2005, his widow, Beulah Binns McCalley, also died. The chair is the result of an unrestricted \$1.2 million gift from the McCalley estate.

Chnoic Adams Clarke, formerly development associate, has been named assistant director of development.

Department of Medicinal Chemistry: Chairman **Richard A. Glennon** has been named the Alfred and Frances Burger Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. Burger, considered the father of medicinal chemistry, was author of the first edition of "(Burger's) Medicinal Chemistry" and founder of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*. Don Abraham, who first held the professorship, was chairman of the department from 1988 to 2003.

Department of Pharmacy: The department's name has been changed to Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science. Pharmacy Administration now is known as the Division of Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes.

Don Brophy, interim chairman of the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science, has been promoted to professor.

Gretchen Brophy has been promoted to professor.

Kai "Annie" Cheang has been promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure.

Emeritus professor **Lemont Kier** has been asked to assist with School of Pharmacy faculty mentoring and development, graduate student mentoring and other special projects.

Laura Morgan, assistant professor, has been named director of the Foundations Lab.

Daniel Adkins and **Karolina Aberg**, formerly postdoctoral fellows in the Center for Biomarker Research and Personalized Medicine, have been named assistant professors of pharmacy.

Inova Campus: **Dan Tassone** (Pharm.D. '04), formerly clinical assistant professor of pharmacy, now works with the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Center.

EVENTS

The National Advisory Council's spring meeting took place on May 7. **Gary Cupit** and **Douglas Hoey** recently were invited to join the NAC.

Cupit, an alumnus (B.S. '70), is chief executive officer of Somnus Therapeutics Inc. He previously served as president of Enzo Therapeutics Inc., president and CEO of Sapphire Therapeutics Inc. and vice president of global business development and licensing for Novartis. He also worked in business development, sales, product management and new product development with other pharmaceutical companies and has 14 years of academic and consulting experience in clinical pharmacy.

Cupit earned his Pharm.D. degree at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (now known as the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia).



Cupit and Hoey

Hoey is the chief operating officer for the National Community Pharmacists Association, overseeing NCPA's government affairs, management institute, communications and strategic initiatives departments. Previous roles at the NCPA, which he joined in 1996, included leading the NCPA Management Institute and serving as foundation staff liaison.

He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Pharmacy and holds an M.B.A. from Oklahoma City University. Before working for the NCPA, Hoey spent 14 years as a community pharmacist in pharmacies that offered services such as home infusion, long-term care consulting and compounding.

Current NAC members are: **Rick Baxter**, B.S. '78, MedCo Health Solutions of Richmond; **Catherine H. Cary**, B.S. '89, Pharm.D. '95, Richmond Apothecaries Inc.; **Frank Harvey**, B.S. '84, Williamsburg Consulting Group; **John Hasty**, B.S. '56, retired; **Keith Hodges**, B.S. '89, Gloucester Pharmacy; **Susan Learned**, Pharm.D./Ph.D. '97, GlaxoSmithKline; **Rusty Maney**, B.S. '87, Walgreens; **Ronald H. McFarlane**, B.S. '80, MedPro Rx; **Bruce McWhinney**, B.S. '70, Cardinal Health; **Phillip Morris**, B.S. '85, CVS/Caremark; **E. Lenn Murrelle**, Philip Morris USA; **Joseph Oley**, Westbury Pharmacy; **Bertha C. Rolfe**, B.S. '47, retired; **Thomas W. Rorrer Jr.**, B.S. '52, retired; **Edith Rosato**, NACDS; **Alvin J. Schalow Jr.**, B.S. '61, retired; **Janet A. Silvester** (NAC chair), B.S. '79, Martha Jefferson Hospital; **Larry E. Small**, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare; **Jermaine Smith**, Rite Aid Corp.; **Rebecca P. Snead**, B.S. '85, National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations; and **Daniel L. Wandres**, Inova Health System.

Emeritus members are: **Henry W. Addington**, B.S. '51, retired; **Charles A. Baker**, B.S. '72, Virginia Department of Health; **John Oliver Beckner**, B.S. '78, Ukrop's Super Markets; **Ronald G. Davis**, B.S. '73, Buford Road Pharmacy; **Hugh F. Gouldthorpe Jr.**, Owens & Minor Inc.; **L. Preston Hale**, B.S. '72, QS/1 Data Systems; **Timothy W. Lucas**, B.S. '93, Down Home Pharmacy; and **Harvey B. Morgan**, B.S. '55, Virginia House of Delegates.

Respiratory Drug Delivery 2010, which took place April 25-29 in Orlando, Fla., attracted nearly 700 attendees from 25 countries. RDD, which originated with the School of Pharmacy's Aerosol Research Group, is co-organized by **Peter Byron**, chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutics; **Joanne Peart**, associate professor of pharmaceutics; and **Richard Dalby** of the University of Maryland. During the symposium, RDD's third **Charles G. Thiel Award** was presented to **Michael Newhouse** of Hamilton, Ontario. Byron said Newhouse—who pioneered the design, manufacture, research into and use of the AeroChamber—was the committee's unanimous choice for the 2010 "Charlie." The award is endowed by 3M Drug Delivery Systems.

School of Pharmacy poster presenters included research associate professor **Michael Hindle** and Ph.D. students **Swati Agrawal**, **Renishkumar Delvadia**, **Megha Mohan** and **Bhawana Saluja**. Assistant professor **Masahiro Sakagami** spoke on "Beyond Insulin: The Shrinking Pulmonary Delivery Window for Systemic Biotech Drugs."



Beckner and Stanley

in a year marked by the challenges of H1N1 is especially gratifying," he said during the meeting, which took place March 12-15. Beckner said the Immunization Champion Award reflected the collaborative efforts of a number of individuals and groups, including Ukrop's pharmacists and technicians; **Shane Kraus** (M.D. '78), a strong advocate for pharmacy and its immunization protocol; **Dennis Stanley** (B.S. pharmacy '74), a trailblazer in the area of travel vaccines; APhA and especially Mitch Rothholz of APhA; the School of Pharmacy, especially Dean **Victor Yanchick**, professor **Kelly Goode** (B.S. pharmacy '89, Pharm.D. '94) and assistant professor **Sharon Gatewood** (B.S. chemistry '97, Pharm.D. '02); and industry partners Merck, VaxServe and GSK.



Coe

On behalf of Ukrop's Super Markets and Ukrop's Pharmacy, **John Beckner** (B.S. pharmacy '78) accepted the Immunization Champion Award in the Community Outreach category at the 2010 American Pharmacists Association's Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington. "To receive an award like this in a year marked by the challenges of H1N1 is especially gratifying," he said during the meeting, which took place March 12-15. Beckner said the Immunization Champion Award reflected the collaborative efforts of a number of individuals and groups, including Ukrop's pharmacists and technicians; **Shane Kraus** (M.D. '78), a strong advocate for pharmacy and its immunization protocol; **Dennis Stanley** (B.S. pharmacy '74), a trailblazer in the area of travel vaccines; APhA and especially Mitch Rothholz of APhA; the School of Pharmacy, especially Dean **Victor Yanchick**, professor **Kelly Goode** (B.S. pharmacy '89, Pharm.D. '94) and assistant professor **Sharon Gatewood** (B.S. chemistry '97, Pharm.D. '02); and industry partners Merck, VaxServe and GSK.

A number of School of Pharmacy residents, faculty members and alumni participated in the Virginia Pharmacists Association Mid-Year Conference Feb. 27-28 in Charlottesville, Va. Assistant professor **Sharon Gatewood** (B.S. chemistry '97, Pharm.D. '02) led a roundtable discussion on over-the-counter cough and cold medications, and assistant professor **Akash Alexander** led sessions on gastrointestinal drugs. **Toni Coe** (Pharm.D. '09), a community practice resident at the school, discussed muscle pain, fever and headache medications, while **Holly Hurley** (Pharm.D. '04) covered women's health. **Sarah Melton** (B.S. pharmacy '91, Pharm.D. '04) and her husband, S. Hughes Melton, presented a session on "The Role of the Pharmacist in the Patient-Centered Medical Home: Taking Collaborative Practice to the Next Level." Community practice resident **Gretchen Kreckel** spoke on "Pharmacy's Role in Hospice Care." Assistant professor **Amy Rudenko** (Pharm.D. '98) and **Traci Poole** (Pharm.D. '09), a community practice resident, presented a "Jeopardy!"-like program on "Side Effects and Reactions of Common Medications." A School of Pharmacy Alumni and Friends Dessert Reception at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel rounded out the first evening of the conference. **Casey Valiente**, a School of Pharmacy community practice resident, led the final session on the conference's second day: "Medication Management Issues and Opportunities."

IN MEMORIAM

The School of Pharmacy extends sympathy to family and friends of our departed alumni:

William S. Cooper Sr. (B.S. '57) of Richmond, Va., died Nov. 22, 2009. His legacies include the William S. Cooper Scholarship Fund, created by his classmates because he was not only the first African-American to graduate from the School of Pharmacy, he was also committed to breaking down color barriers. Cooper was 81. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, LaVerne Cooper, and two sons, Bill Cooper Jr. and Kenneth E. Cooper Sr.

Carl F. Emswiler Jr. (B.S. '62) of Basye, Va., and Sarasota, Fla., died Dec. 10, 2009. A winner of the American Pharmacists Association's Remington Honor Medal, the VCU Alumni Star Award and the School of Pharmacy's Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award, he was instrumental in furthering the concept of office-based practice in the field of pharmacy. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jewell Stinson Emswiler.

Eugene "Gene" Touchstone (B.S. '74) died Feb. 20, 2010, at his home in Mechanicsville, Va. He was retired from the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville after 31 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Touchstone, daughter Wendy Touchstone Shilbe and son-in-law Joe Shilbe (School of Pharmacy class of 2012), son Steven Touchstone and daughter-in-law Meredith Touchstone and four grandchildren—Sam Schilbe, Davis Schilbe, Will Touchstone and Berkeley Touchstone, all of Richmond.

David Lawrence Dellinger (B.S. '75) of Manassas, Va., died Jan. 30, 2010. He owned Crestwood Pharmacy, which he opened in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Mary Bounds Dellinger, and his sons, Robert and Michael Dellinger. Mike is a member of the School of Pharmacy's class of 2011. Dellinger was 58.

Paul William Heron (Pharm.D. '09) of Chesapeake, Va., died in a car accident on March 19, 2010. He was a pharmacist for Kroger Pharmacy in Churchland, a Portsmouth community. Heron was 26. His stepfather, Tim Jennings of Norfolk, Va., is a preceptor for the School of Pharmacy. In memory and honor of Heron, his family and friends are working to endow a scholarship in his name. To date, 27 donors have contributed \$4,715 toward the Paul Heron Scholarship. To make a gift to the scholarship fund, call the School of Pharmacy Office of Development at (804) 828-3016.

Note: In the Spring/Summer 2009 *RxExchange*, it was reported that **J. Ronald Beaver** (B.S. '57), was survived by his wife Tracy. In fact, she preceded him in death by about six months. Thanks to his sister, Beverly McNeer, for providing that information.

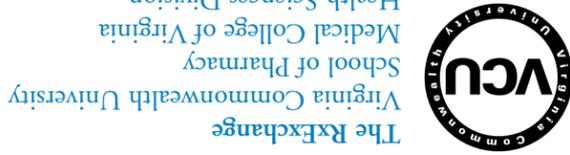
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Congratulations, class of 1980! Three of your own—Nancy McFarlane, Ron McFarlane, and Tommy Thompson—were honored for their achievements and service during Reunion Weekend 2010. Page 1.



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COVER STORY

Any school's alumni are among its richest resources. The School of Pharmacy is no exception. As alumni, you make us proud with your contributions and service to society, the profession and the school (pages 1 and 6). You amaze us with your generosity, giving back to the school in so many ways, from volunteering as preceptors to endowing scholarships for future pharmacists (pages 4 and 5). You are always on the go, participating in local, state and national organizations (page 7). Alumni, we salute you. If you are interested in letting the school, your former classmates and professors know what you are doing, please fill us in by e-mailing pharmacyalum@vcu.edu.