

CAMP rotations, House resolution meaningful for former professor's son

"There is a certain quality of life for disabled people that medication cannot provide," said Larry McClagherty, former faculty member at the College of Pharmacy—a belief he holds close to his heart. Over the past several years, Larry has sought activities for his son Neal, a nonverbal quadriplegic, the result of cerebral palsy. These activities have played a profound role in improving Neal's quality of life.

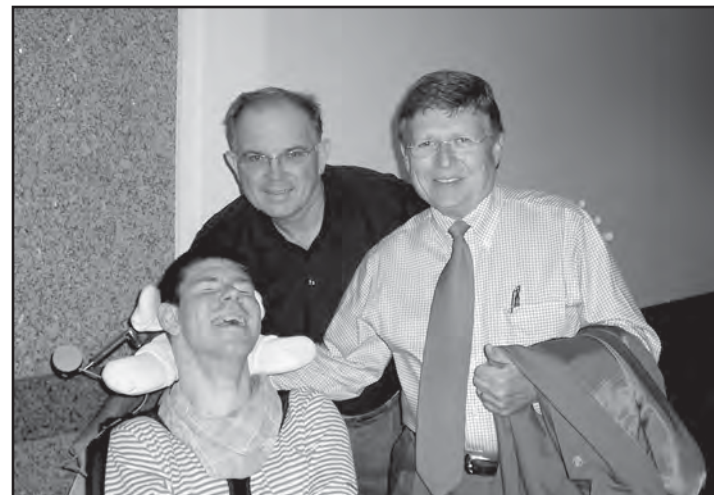
One of the many activities Larry found was the Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP), a camp for kids with multiple disabilities. Throughout the summer, close to a thousand kids will head to the Texas hill country to participate in challenging activities such as riding a horse, swimming, or canoeing in the Guadalupe River.

"CAMP gives the children a chance to achieve the impossible," said Larry. "Even children on ventilators who attend CAMP."

At CAMP, not only is there a counselor for every child, but also a comprehensive medical team is available to assist with the various medical needs. Realizing the importance of pharmacists on a medical team, Larry decided to get involved in CAMP by bringing UH pharmacy students on rotation to help with the medication regimens. This summer, four students will complete the CAMP rotation.

"CAMP was a challenging and sometimes difficult experience, but to see and feel the love and happiness of the children definitely made it a very rewarding rotation," said Jeena Jacob, fourth-year student. Fellow classmates also attending CAMP include Anna Kalani, Amanda Saur, and Erin Wilkinson. Lynn Vu (Pharm.D. '01) was the first student during the summer of 2000 and 18 students have completed rotations at CAMP since.

"CAMP is really important to our family," said Larry. "It also gives students the opportunity to interact with kids like Neal outside the clinical environment."



(From left) Neal McClagherty, father Larry, and State Representative and college alumnus Chuck Hopson in Austin on April 6th.

For bonus photos, visit www.uh.edu/pharmacy/enews

CAMP was just one intervention. Dena Russo, head coach of the Friendswood girl's basketball team introduced Neal to her passion. Coach Russo took a special interest in Neal through her involvement in special education at the high school. She encouraged bringing him to varsity basketball games. The team adopted Neal as a member of the team—allowing him to sit at the end of the bench to cheer them on and becoming the public relations manager. He didn't miss a single district game in five years, at home or on the road.

"Being involved with the team improved the quality of his life," said Larry. "The sport became a true passion for him."

State Representatives Chuck Hopson (B.S. '65) and Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) passed a resolution in the House on April 6th honoring the Friendswood girl's basketball team for their efforts to include Neal as a member of the team, bringing a richer meaning to his life.

"These activities have brought Neal so much joy," Larry said. "It is important that we seek all non-drug interventions to enhance one's daily living. CAMP and basketball did just that for Neal. What medicine could I give him to make him smile that much?" ■



1

1 Class of 1955 alumnus Louis Hashop walked across the stage in celebration of his golden anniversary. The previous evening, he was joined by three other 50th reunion alums, Robert Barr, Antoinette Helton, and George Lloyd. 2 Pharm.D. graduate Jackie Urbano with her four-year old son, Juan. 3 (From left) University of Houston System Chancellor and University of Houston President Jay Gogue; Dean Sunny E. Ohia; the Hoechst-Roussel Professor of Pharmacy at The University of Texas at Austin, James Doluisio, Ph.D., commencement speaker; and University of Houston System Regent Dennis Golden. 4 Pharm.D. graduates gather on the grassy knoll outside Cullen Performance Hall to take a class photo. 5 Ph.D. graduates (from left) Monica Chuong, Aditi Marwaha, and Varsha Iyer.

Overall, eight graduates received Ph.D. degrees; four received M.S. degrees; ten pharmacists who have completed the nontraditional TxPharm program, received Pharm.D. degrees; and 106 were awarded Pharm.D. degrees.

Graduation

May 14, 2005



2



3



4



5

HOMECOMING and tailgate party!

4 Welcoming back the Class of 1965!

Calling all College of Pharmacy alums to "come home" and celebrate with your extended pharmacy family!

Saturday, November 12th
3 p.m. Tailgate Party
6 p.m. UH vs. SMU

Class of '65 alumni, please contact James Casey at atxjem@cox.net for more info!

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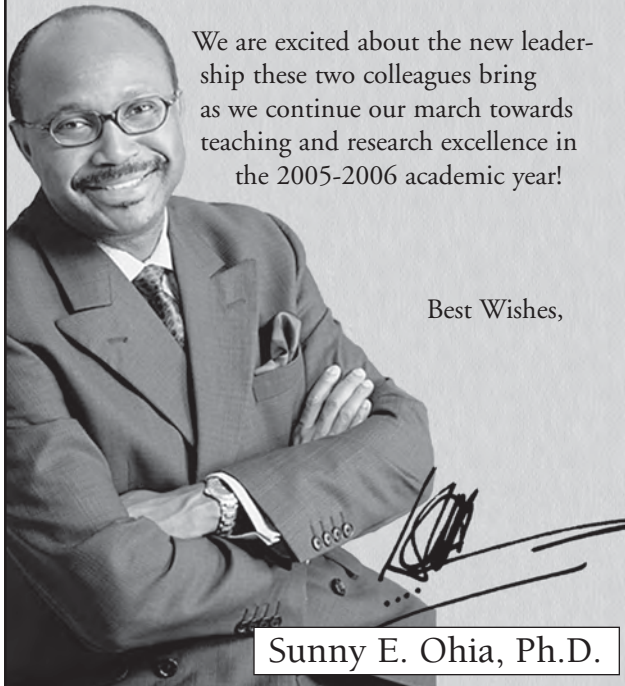
message from the dean

Greetings!

I'm pleased to bring you the summer edition of the Interactions Newsletter.

Recently, the two academic departments in the college, Departments of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences (PPS) and Clinical Sciences and Administration (CSA) have undergone a change in leadership. Join me in welcoming Dr. Vincent Lau as the new chair of PPS. Of note is Dr. Lau's appointment as a John and Rebecca Moores Professor of the University of Houston—an outstanding honor and achievement. Dr. Lau is the first member of the faculty of the college to hold this distinguished academic position at UH.

Dr. Russell Lewis assumed the position of interim chair of CSA on May 15, 2005. Dr. Lewis joined our faculty in 1999 and just received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor.



We are excited about the new leadership these two colleagues bring as we continue our march towards teaching and research excellence in the 2005-2006 academic year!

Best Wishes,

Sunny E. Ohia, Ph.D.

National OHRP Conference a huge success

The University of Houston College of Pharmacy hosted one of three national conferences sponsored by the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) on April 21-22, 2005. The conference titled, "The Critical Path to New Medical Products: The Challenges in Protecting Human Subjects," attracted over 150 scientists, researchers, legal counselors, patient advocates, and IRB members, administrators, and staff from all over the country to participate in forums and discussions with a variety of individuals directly involved in the discovery process. The college was honored to host such guests as keynote speaker Bernard Schwetz, Ph.D., director of OHRP; Charles Sawin, Ph.D., chief scientist at NASA, David Lepay, M.D., Ph.D., senior advisor for clinical science at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and Michelle Chenault, Ph.D., director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, FDA. College of Pharmacy Clinical Professor Isaac

We had amazing feedback about the success of the conference. OHRP is looking to bring another national conference to UH.

-Isaac Montoya, Ph.D.

Montoya, Ph.D. spearheaded the conference, which was co-sponsored by the University of Houston College of Pharmacy and the FDA. The conference held many general breakout sessions, covering topics such as human subjects research regulations and ethical principles, problems and solutions to compliance issues in human research studies, and government initiatives regarding the path of medical product development and marketing.



(From left) Michelle Chenault, Ph.D., director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, FDA; Charles Sawin, Ph.D., chief scientist, NASA; keynote speaker Bernard Schwetz, Ph.D., director of OHRP; and David Lepay, M.D., Ph.D., senior advisor for clinical science at the FDA with Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Shara Zatopek (second from right).



Clinical Professor Isaac Montoya welcomes guests and speakers from across the nation as the conference moderator. Montoya spearheaded the conference that hosted over 150 attendees.

Faculty Accolades

Karim Alkadhi, Ph.D., associate professor, will have his article titled "Psychosocial stress-induced hypertension results from in vivo expression of long-term potentiation in rat sympathetic ganglia" highlighted by the journal *Neurobiology of Disease*.

Richard Bond, Ph.D., associate professor, and **Brian Knoll**, Ph.D., associate professor, received a third year of funding totaling \$185,000 from the Sandler Foundation to support their research involving the use of beta-blockers to treat asthma.

Diana Chow, Ph.D., associate professor, received an additional year's funding of \$90,000 from the Gillson and Longenbaugh Foundation for her project "Development of Delivery Systems for CZ48, Lactone-stabilized Derivative of [C20-propionate ester] of Camptothecin for the Treatment of Breast Cancer."

Douglas Eikenburg, Ph.D., associate professor, received a \$124,000 grant from the American Heart Association (Texas Affiliate) to support his research titled "Regulation of Alpha2-Adrenoceptor Downregulation by GRK3," for the period of July 2005 through June 2007.

E. James Essien, Ph.D., associate professor, received an award from the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health, for \$893,477 for his project titled "The Nigerian Uniformed Services AIDS Project," from March 2005 through February 2009.

Ming Hu, Ph.D., professor, has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Chemo/Dietary Prevention Study Section, National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review, from July 2005 through June 2008.

Brian Knoll, Ph.D., associate professor, was recently elected vice-chair of the University of Houston Graduate and Professional Studies Council for 2005-2006.

Isaac Montoya, Ph.D., clinical professor, received a 2004 Distinguished Author Award from *Clinical Laboratory Science* for his article "Topography as a Contextual Variable in Infectious Disease Transmission," published in the Spring 2004 issue.

Co-principal investigators **Sunny E. Ohia**, Ph.D., dean and professor, and **Mustafa F. Lokhandwala**, Ph.D., executive vice dean for research and professor, received a research grant from InterHealth Nutraceuticals Inc., Benicia, CA for \$40,312, for the period of April 2005 through December 2005. The grant will fund research on the "Effect of Hydroxycitric Acid on Neurotransmitters and Fat/Carbohydrate Metabolism in Obese Zucker Rats."

Sunny E. Ohia, Ph.D., dean and professor, received a grant from Alcon Research Ltd., Fort Worth, TX to study "Contractile Studies of the Response of Mammalian Irides to Drugs," from April 2005 through December 2005. Dr. Ohia was awarded \$50,000 for this project aimed at identifying new therapies for some eye diseases.

Sujit S. Sangiry, Ph.D., assistant professor, and former graduate student **Aniket Kawatkar** (M.S. '04) received a best poster award at the 10th Annual International Society for Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research (ISPOR) meeting among 581 posters submitted in the general category.

Barbara Tatum, M.A., LPC, director of counseling and advising, received the National Women of Achievement Shining Star Award in March 2005, in recognition of her Christian and civic service to the community.

Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie, Ph.D., associate professor, received notification from the journal *Protein Expression and Purification* that his article entitled "Expression, Purification,

and Isotope Labeling of Cannabinoid CB2 Receptor Fragment, CB2180-233" was one of the top 20 downloaded articles during 2004.

Grants to Enhance and Advance Research

GEAR grants are supported by the University of Houston for the funding period of September 2005 through August 2006.

Ming Hu, Ph.D., associate professor, received a GEAR grant to support his research titled "Limiting Bioavailability of Dietary Carcinogens with Flavonoids" for the amount of \$25,500, for the funding period of September 2005 through August 2006.

Brian Knoll, Ph.D., associate professor, received support for his research on "Sorting Nexins in β_2 -AR Postendocytic Traffic" for the amount of \$25,337.

Carlos Pedemonte, Ph.D., associate professor, received the grant to support his research titled "Determination of NA, K-ATPase Conformational Changes Induced by Hormonal Regulation" for the amount of \$25,500.

Sean Xie, Ph.D., associate professor, received a GEAR grant to support his research titled "Pharmacophore-based Design" for the amount of \$25,500.

Faculty Spotlight — Vincent Lau, Ph.D.



Dr. Vincent Lau takes a look around the UH campus from Science and Research 2, where he now serves as the new chair of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Exercise may slow the progression of Parkinson's

Clinical studies have shown the positive effect of exercise on cardiovascular health. Now, there is evidence that exercise may slow the progression of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease, which affects body movement and task performance. Vincent Lau, Ph.D., recently joined the College of Pharmacy faculty as the new chair of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research goal is to understand the pathological mechanisms in Parkinson's disease by studying the effects of exercise on neurological system.

Because exercise is thought to slow the general process of aging, Lau hypothesizes the same effect might be true with Parkinson's disease. After reproducing the disease-like conditions in a mouse model, Lau has been trying to determine the impact of endurance exercise on neurons in the brain. Though his study is ongoing, he has been able to determine that exercise might provide nerve cell protection, meaning that if exercise preserves the neurons from deterioration, then researchers can establish therapeutic outcomes to reduce the severity of Parkinson's disease.

"In Parkinson's disease, we know particular nerves degenerate, leading to a loss of chemical (dopamine) within the neuron," he said. "However, we have not determined a mechanism for the loss of these neurons."

We are looking to answer whether or not endurance exercise plays a significant role in slowing the progression of the disease.

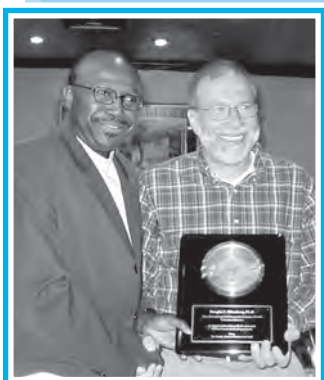
According to Lau, the average human experiences a 30-40% nerve loss over his or her lifetime, which is recognized by slower movements and memory loss as a person ages. In Parkinson's patients, over 80% of the dopamine neurons die, resulting in muscular dysfunction—difficulty walking and swallowing, speech impairment, shaking palsy, loss of balance, and other movement disorders—as demonstrated in the lives of public figures Michael J. Fox, Janet Reno, and the late Pope John Paul II.

"Currently, treatment for Parkinson's disease only temporarily reduces the symptoms," said Lau. "If we can show that exercise protects neurons from cell death, then we can design physical therapies for individuals who show early symptoms of the disease in an effort to stop it from developing."

"We are looking to answer whether or not endurance exercise plays a significant role in slowing the progression of the disease," he said.

Lau's research is funded by the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Upon accepting the position of chair, Lau was named a John and Rebecca Moores Professor of the University of Houston, effective September 1, 2005.

Saying goodbye Douglas Eikenburg steps down as chair of PPS



The Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences Department hosted a special recognition dinner for Douglas Eikenburg, Ph.D., who, after 10 years, has stepped down as chair. Faculty, research staff, and students took turns sharing comical stories about Dr. Eikenburg's leadership style. All paid tribute to his effectiveness as a leader, discussing how the department has strengthened and grown under his watch. Over 90 guests attended the dinner in Dr. Eikenburg's honor.

Over 90 guests attended the dinner in Dr. Eikenburg's honor.

Catching up with alumni on the road

Professor Thomas Lemke takes time out from his bike trip to visit with alum Brooks Webb

While traveling on his 4,300-mile journey across the country, Professor Thomas Lemke had the opportunity to visit College of Pharmacy alumnus Brooks Webb (B.S. '90) in Hazard, Kentucky.

Webb works for Appalachian Regional Healthcare, the largest rural, nonprofit healthcare organization in the country. The healthcare system was established by John L. Lewis, organizer of the United Mine Workers union, to care for miners and their families. Webb has been working as the pharmacist in charge of the outpatient clinic for about six years.

Read more about Dr. Lemke's journey at www.uh.edu/pharmacy/bike
GREAT RIDES. GREAT STRIDES.



(From left) Professor Thomas Lemke and alumnus Brooks Webb.

In Memory
Former Professor Bob Brown passes away



Robert "Bob" O'Donnell Brown (B.S. '77) passed away June 20, 2005 after an extended hospital stay. Bob served his alma mater at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy as a clinical assistant professor and community externship coordinator in the 1990's. He was active in the Houston Area Pharmacy Association and served as president. He was also an active member of the Texas Pharmacy Association and served in Vietnam. An endowment was created many years ago in his honor. Those wishing to donate to the Robert O. (Bob) Brown Endowed Scholarship can contact Michelle Stevenson-Shaw at 713.743.7027 or msteve@uh.edu.

Appointment Announcements



Russell E. Lewis, Pharm.D., accepted the position of Interim Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences and Administration, effective May 16, 2005. Lewis has served the college as an Assistant Professor since 1999 and was recently promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, effective September 1. He also serves as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. After receiving his Pharm.D. degree in 1996 from the University of Kansas College of Pharmacy, Lewis completed an ASHP-accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, MO, and an Infectious Diseases Research Fellowship at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. A member of the Infectious Diseases research group at the college, Lewis studies invasive fungal infections in cancer patients and antibacterial/antifungal pharmacodynamics. His teaching responsibilities include Advanced Therapeutics, Advanced Pharmacology, and Pharmacotherapy. Lewis also takes students on infectious disease clinical rotations at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Alumni Profile *Entrepreneurship*

“Independent pharmacy ownership is challenging and risky, but it is also very rewarding.”

Trang H. Le, B.S.

Growing up in a family of business owners, and descending from a long line of pharmacists, it's not mere chance that Trang H. Le (B.S. '89) is a successful independent pharmacy owner.

“I've known since I was young that pharmacy was the only career for me,” she said. “I was involved in my family's business since I was a little girl, so my tendencies have always been toward business and pharmacy.”

In fact, Le's great-grandfather was a very successful independent pharmacy owner in Viet Nam. He specialized in the development of herbal medications that he distrib-

uted from his several pharmacies to different areas of Vietnam.

A hundred years later, Le has successfully followed her great grandfather's footsteps in establishing her Pharmcare Pharmacy at a new location on FM 518/Broadway in Pearland.

“Ownership has not always been easy,” she said. “I've made many costly business decisions trying to survive the competition. In the end, I decided to provide premier customer service and to find unique niche which others competitors in the area don't offer.”

When Le finished pharmacy school at UH, she accepted a position at a chain pharmacy and eventually moved up to pharmacy manager position. During that time, she realized that she had taken her career to its potential and set out to find a new challenge. In 1994, Le opened a small independent store and began finding ways to network with the neighboring communities.

“To open an independent pharmacy, you really have to hustle,” she said. “You begin to realize that you have no national visibility and the success of your store depends on your creativity.”

In an effort to differentiate her services from the competition, Le began visiting group homes to pick up and deliver prescriptions. She soon expanded her operations to include long-term care and medical equipment supplies to reflect the needs of her surrounding communities. She also specialized in prescription compounding to help customize patient's specific needs.

“A pharmacy owner must meet the needs of the community in order to be successful,” she said. “That means you must consider expanding to accommodate those needs.”

Her new facility consists of several unique services and specialized products. Le's newly designed pharmacy includes a central retail section, surrounded by a medical equipment showroom, private consultation area, disease state management resource center, a compounding and sterile facility lab, and an additional space that she is building as a long-term care service environment. Every couple of weeks, Pharmcare pharmacy hosts a variety of speakers to give community seminars on disease state management topics.



Trang H. Le in her new Pharmcare store off FM 518/Broadway in Pearland. Her store includes a compounding lab for special medication requests, including meds for pets.

See Le on page 6

Alumni Mailbox

Rod Gunter (Pharm.D. '03) and his wife of two years, **Pitra Moein** (Pharm.D. '03), announce the birth of their baby girl, Nila Skye Gunter, born March 4th. The couple both work for the same hospital pharmacy in Tyler, TX, and enjoy working together.

Jim Lovering (B.S. '75) retired from the United States Navy after 42 years of service. Lovering enlisted while attending high school in San Antonio. He served while attending the College of Pharmacy and, following graduation, made Chief Hospital Corpsman and was commissioned Ensign Medical Service Corps. His last paid assignment was as the Director of Health Services for the US Regional Command South, located in Fort Worth. He still works for Covenant Health Systems Medical Center in Lubbock.

Theresa T. Nguyen (Pharm.D. '00) and her husband CT announce the birth of their baby boy, Jonathon, born on February 25th. Theresa was introduced to her husband through her classmate,

Thinh Trinh (Pharm.D. '00), who is now her brother-in-law.

Kenneth Schwartz (B.S. '93) and his wife Nancy celebrated the one-year birthday of their son Jared Thomas Schwartz, born on April 24, 2004. Kenneth recently received a promotion within Healix, Inc. to the Pharmacist-in-charge of the pharmacy and infusion center at the Baylor College of Medicine's Department of Medicine section of Immunology, Allergy, and Rheumatology. This clinic also services the Infectious Diseases clinics with I.V. antibiotics. Kenneth has served the college as a preceptor for five years.

Please e-mail
interactions@uh.edu
to contribute to the
alumni mailbox!

26th Annual College of Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Tournament

Eighty College of Pharmacy faculty, alumni, and friends gathered Monday, June 6th for a round of golf to raise money for pharmacy students. The tournament raised \$13,846 for the Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Tournament Endowment Fund from golfers and sponsors, including Walgreens, Axxis Drilling, CVS, Novo-Nordisk, Schlumberger, Windsor Village United Methodist Church, Nature's Pharmaceutical, Randalls, Continental Airlines, and Haliburton.



Low net winners from the tournament, playing for Walgreens: (above from left) Roy Armstrong (B.S. '84) and Haden Holloway (B.S. '67). Teammates Joe Hance and Sean Marley are not pictured. (Left from left) Second-year student Andy Laegeler, State Representative Chuck Hopson (B.S. '65), and former professor and tournament co-founder Larry McClagherty won first place Low Gross.

Newsletter for College of Pharmacy

PERSPECTIVE

Student Profile

Building Bridges

Andy Laegeler

Every Wednesday night, a group of elderly residents gather at Bayou Manor for an evening of bridge. And, every Wednesday night, second-year student Andy Laegeler and his wife Molly join the residents, “bridging” the gap between two generations.

“We volunteer to play with the residents because it allows us an opportunity to serve other people,” said Andy. “Because we are so busy, it also allows us to spend quality time together.”

Andy’s interest in the elderly extends beyond a hand of bridge. A personal experience sparked his interest in geriatric pharmacy, leading him to choose a geriatric specialization for his future practice.

“I remember my grandma receiving samples from the doctor that interacted with medications she was already taking. If my aunt, who is a pharmacist, wouldn’t have intervened, there might have been a negative health outcome,” he said. According to Andy, there is a big need for consulting pharmacists for geriatric patients because of the number of medications and the number of disease states elderly patients often have. Sometimes, these patients are seeing multiple specialists, most of whom are prescribing without extensively reviewing all of their current medications and probable drug interactions.

“With more people taking more medications, there is a definite need for managed care,” he said. “This is an area of pharmacy that will have great impact on individual’s lives and might possibly reduce healthcare costs in the long run.”

Andy’s interest in geriatric pharmacy developed a short time ago after a spontaneous decision to apply to pharmacy school. During Thanksgiving vacation in 2003, he reevaluated his life goals—which up to that point had taken him to Baylor College of Medicine to pursue a Ph.D. in Biochemistry. Andy realized that his interest in research had diminished, replaced by a stronger interest to serve people.

“My decision to go to pharmacy school was sudden,” he said. “My family has had over a century of pharmacy service to communities. I’m not sure why it never occurred to me to look at becoming a pharmacist, carrying on a family legacy.”

In fact, the Laegeler family has many veteran pharmacists within its family tree, dating back as far as the 1880s. One uncle owned Laegeler Pharmacy in



Bridge night! Student Andy Laegeler (center) plays bridge every Wednesday with (clockwise) wife Molly, Lois Brock, and Ginnie Chesbrough at Bayou Manor.

Highwood, IL—the backyard of Deerfield, IL, where Walgreens is headquartered. Two grandfathers and an aunt also share in the pharmacy family pedigree.

“When it occurred to me to move forward with pharmacy school, everything fell into place,” he said. “I know I am on the right professional pathway.”

Andy’s decision to change his career certainly bridges the gap between the many pharmacists within the Laegeler family—much like the bridge he provides the elderly every Wednesday night.

Student News

Graduate student **Karem Alzoubi** was recently awarded the Graduate Student Achievement Award for 2005 from the Sigma Xi scientific society at the University of Houston. Alzoubi works under advisor Karim Alkadhi, Ph.D.

Four students were inducted by the University of Houston into Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership society. Graduate student **Hibah Awwad**, fourth-year professional student **Jennifer Helgoth** and third-year professional students **Tracie Kaurich** and **Alana McCarn** were among 16 students university-wide inducted into the society.

Second-year students **Jenny Cade** and **Becky Fulin** were selected as Interns for the R&E Foundation’s Summer Internship Program sponsored by the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Both Cade and Fullen will be completing their internship in hospital pharmacy at Scott & White in Temple, Texas.

Fourth-year students **Eden Camarines** and **Kathryn Nguyen** captured first place at the Clinical Skills competition at the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists Annual Meeting in Austin. Second-year student **Andy Laegeler** won honorable mention in the Disease State Management competition.

Graduate student **Pranav Gupta** was nominated for the Controlled Release Society’s Innovative Aspects of Oral Drug delivery and Absorption Graduate/Post-doc Award. Gupta is currently studying under advisor Diana Chow, Ph.D.

Graduate student **Amer Hakam** won a travel award to present an abstract at the Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego. He also won the graduate student poster award at the University of Houston Sigma Xi Research Day. Hakam currently works under advisor Tahir Hussain, Ph.D.

Fourth-year student **Samer Kabbara** and second-year student **Amy Schilling** presented posters at the Pharmacy Student Research Conference in Denver in June. Both research projects were guided by Assistant Professor Vincent Tam, Pharm.D.

Graduate student **Wy Sheng** won the 2005 MALTO meeting’s Best Poster Presentation Award. Sheng works under advisor Sean Xie, Ph.D.

Residencies provide specialized training for Pharm.D. graduates

Why would some students, after at least six years of coursework to complete their Pharm.D. degree and huge student loans, choose to pursue a residency following graduation that pays one-third of the going rate for a doctor of pharmacy today?

In fact, many residencies around the nation are very competitive, accepting only the best of pharmacy graduates. The reason? Over the last ten to fifteen years, schools and colleges of pharmacy have been transitioning to doctor of pharmacy programs. Residencies offer graduates a chance to obtain concentrated clinical development and advanced specializations in particular areas of pharmacy, distinguishing them among their peers. Nearly a fifth of our graduating class of 2005 is pursuing residencies, some of which are quite prestigious: Baptist Hospital-Memphis; Children’s Hospital-Atlanta; University of North Carolina Ambulatory Care Specialty Residency; Mayo Clinic in Minnesota; Ohio State; VAMC-Memphis; and Detroit Receiving Hospital, to name a few.

The University of Houston offers several residencies in collaboration with Kelsey-Seybold Clinic and Memorial Hermann Southwest Healthcare System. Students wishing to obtain more information about residencies may contact Lynn Simpson, Pharm.D., at lynn@uh.edu.



UH residents and Class of '04 graduates: (from left) Susan Loughlin, Kayode Giwa, and LaTanya Armstead. Both Armstead and Loughlin completed residencies at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, while Giwa finished his residency at Memorial Hermann.

Pharmacy staff member receives top University honor

Charles Henry receives McElhinney Award

College Business Administrator Charles Henry was the recipient of the 2005 Charles F. McElhinney Distinguished Service Award. The award is the highest staff award given at the university and is reserved for previous Staff Excellence Award winners. Henry was honored with a Staff Excellence Award in 2000.

Henry has been with the university since 1979 and has served as an accounting specialist for the Division of Research and as a financial coordinator for the College of Optometry. This summer will mark his 20th year at the College of Pharmacy serving as the college business administrator.

Henry served as UH Staff Council president from 1998-2000 and was recently re-elected to serve another term, beginning this fall. He also serves on the Transportation and Parking Committee and was a member of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women and a founding member of the Staff Constituent Group of the Campus Cougars Alumni Association.



Le

from page 4

“My staff was interested in moving toward disease state management, so we decided to include this service in our new location” she said. Her staff includes fellow UH alums, Loriann Furman (Pharm.D. '03), Amy Howard (B.S. '93), and Bryan Prescott (Pharm.D. '01), who helps Le manage her second location inside Food Town supermarket in Pearland. Le also precepts UH students on rotation.

“UH students are very good,” she said. “They are well educated and professional. I am very proud to be a part of the UH family.”

For Le, this ‘family’ has been very influential to her success. “I learn a great deal from my students on their rotation. We all work together, as a family, to provide the best services to our community that we possibly can.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 15 through
Wednesday, October 19, 2005
*NCPA Annual Convention and
Trade Exposition*
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Convention Center

Saturday, August 13, 2005

Continuing Education

Aseptic Techniques for Pharmacists
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. TMC Campus
Aseptic Techniques Refresher Course
7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. TMC Campus

Friday, September 16, 2005

Scholarship 50 Luncheon

UH Hilton Hotel
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday, September 23, 2005

Robert L. Boblitt Lecture

UH Hilton Hotel

Sunday, October 23 through
Saturday, October 29, 2005
National Pharmacy Week

Friday, November 11, 2005

Texas Medical Center College of Pharmacy Campus Silver Anniversary Seminar

2 p.m.-5 p.m. Seminar and Program
5 p.m.-7 p.m. Reception

Saturday, November 12, 2005

Tailgate Party & Homecoming

3 p.m.-6 p.m. Tailgate
6 p.m.-10 p.m. UH vs. SMU

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College of Pharmacy

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