

Saturday, February 21, 2004

Stewardship & Mading Society Dinner

5:30 to 9 p.m.
Safari Texas Ranch
Richmond, Texas

Sunday, March 28, 2004

APhA Alumni & Friends Reception

5 to 7 p.m.
Seattle, Washington

Sunday, April 18, 2004

TSHP Colleges of Pharmacy Reception

6 to 9 p.m.
Adams Mark Hotel
Houston, Texas
(University of Houston, Texas Tech University, University of Texas and Texas Southern University)

Saturday, May 15, 2004

College of Pharmacy Convocation

9 to 11 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall
University of Houston

Monday, June 7, 2004

25th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

7 to 7:55 a.m. Registration and Practice
8 a.m. Shotgun Start
1 p.m. Players Lunch and Awards
(Location TBA)

A Banner Year for Scholarships



The Celso and Matiana Cuellar Presidential Endowed Scholarship was awarded to first-year student Jennifer Espinoza (center). She will receive \$1,500 each year for four years. She is pictured with the daughters of Celso and Matiana Cuellar, Lourdes Cuellar ('73, '79) and Nicki Cuellar.



Randalls Food and Pharmacy awarded 10 scholarships to pharmacy students this year. They are pictured here with Julie Spier ('86) (second from right), pharmacy supervisor for Randalls.

Each fall, the College of Pharmacy dean hosts a luncheon for the Scholarship 50 Luncheon recipients and donors to meet and get to know one another. This year, more than 160 students, donors, faculty, and friends gathered at the Hilton UH Hotel and Conference Center Sept. 12 to celebrate a successful scholarship year.

During the luncheon, Dean Sunny Ohia recognized the donors and thanked them for their support of the college and students. "Ten years ago, we awarded 40 scholarships for a total of \$30,000," said Ohia. "Because of your generosity we have been able to award 161 scholarships, totaling nearly \$127,000, which sets a new record for the college."

This year, three young alumni, Tam Ngo, Kathy Chang, and Lance Campbell, initiated a new scholarship program called Young Alumni Scholarships. With gifts

of \$500 each, they were able to name scholarships and attend the luncheon to meet their scholars. The college plans to expand the program next year, offering the opportunity to name scholarships at this level for all alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years.

Other new scholarships awarded this year include the Celso and Matiana Cuellar Presidential Endowed Scholarship; the Bob Brown Endowed Scholarship; and the Perin F. Lokhandwala Endowed Scholarship.



CVS scholars and donors. Back row: Suehaib Alam, Hoan Tran, Arun Luke (CVS), Ryan Wagner (CVS), Royce Norris (CVS). Front Row: Lilly Yang, Eden Camarines, Nguyen Tran.

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College of PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

PHARMACY FACULTY NEWS

Neurological Benefits Found in Nicotine

Karim Alkadhi, associate professor of pharmacology, and his team of researchers have established that nicotine has a beneficial effect on and even repairs memory impairment caused by stress or hypothyroidism.

Stressed rats were treated twice daily with a dose of nicotine that produced blood nicotine levels equivalent to those seen in smokers. In memory and learning tests, they made significantly fewer errors than untreated stressed animals.

This research eventually may help develop therapeutic agents to boost memory and treat hypothyroidism, once safe approaches are designed to mimic the beneficial effect of nicotine on stress.

Graduate Student Receives Fellowship

Meghna Trivedi, a Pharm.D./Ph.D. student working with Dr. Mustafa Lokhandwala in the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences, will receive a \$6,000 pre-doctoral fellowship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. Trivedi's project focuses on deficits in dopamine receptor function in the kidney resulting from diabetes.

Professor Awarded NIH Grant

Carlos Pedemonte, associate professor of pharmacology in the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences, recently received a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to support his research. The grant, entitled "Dopamine Inhibition of Proximal Tubule NA, K-ATPase," totals \$1.67 million and will provide continuing support for Pedemonte's research into the biochemical mechanisms by which dopamine modulates the function of the sodium pump responsible for reabsorption of sodium in the proximal tubule of the kidney.

Infectious Disease Research Fellowship Awarded

Nathan Wiederhold, Pharm.D., received the ACCP-Ortho-McNeil Infectious Diseases Research Fellowship for his work in antifungal pharmacodynamics. Wiederhold is an infectious disease research fellow at the UH College of Pharmacy/UT-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and shares the award with his preceptor, Assistant Professor Russell Lewis, Pharm.D., BCPS. The \$24,000 fellowship is awarded through June 2004.

interactions

message from the dean



Dean Sunny E. Ohia, Ph.D.

Greetings!
Welcome to a new way of keeping in touch with you – the *Interactions* newsletter. As we continue to expand our vision for the College, it is important that you are informed about our recent achievements and future plans. Until recently, *Interactions* was distributed twice a year in the form of a magazine. In the new format, *Interactions* will be published every quarter, with the familiar *Interactions* magazine serving as a year-end summary of our activities.

This increase in communication is due, in part, to our wish to keep you informed of major internal

and external activities occurring in our College. In my holiday letter, I summarized our academic accomplishments and outreach activities since I joined UH last year in October. I discussed the proposed expansion of the College at the Texas Medical Center, an issue that is rapidly gaining support from both internal and external constituencies interested in our well being as a premier professional college at UH. As we progress toward becoming a top-tier research and teaching enterprise, a great need exists for a more functional, innovative building. We envision building an annex behind the existing complex, adding more classrooms, research laboratories

and office space for our growing faculty and staff.

As we look forward, we hope to continue to improve the quality of our academic programs, grow our research infrastructure and expand our outreach programs that provide service learning opportunities for our students. I will seize this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to our alumni and friends who have continued to provide financial support for our students in this era of rising costs for educational programs.

As we continue to develop *Interactions*, we invite you to maintain communication with the College by submitting infor-

mation for the alumni mailbox and alumni news. Your contributions are invaluable in making this communications vehicle a success for us all. We would like to hear from you.

Thank you for your support of the College of Pharmacy.

Sincerely,

Sunny E. Ohia

A Passion for Pharmacy

For Tam Ngo, she grew up wanting to be a physician, just like dad.

While researching potential medical schools in Houston, the Maryland native decided to take a look at pharmacy schools. Why pharmacy? “The industry was recognizing pharmacists as clinicians instead of dispensers, and the philosophy was to improve patient outcome and patient care,” she said. “I like connecting with people, and I thought the opportunity would be great — to do pharmacy and to get to really do medicine.” In 1995, she applied to UH’s

College of Pharmacy. Ngo had graduated from the University of Maryland in 1992 with a bachelor’s in biology.

Ngo believes that it was extremely important to create a balance between academics and involvement while she pursued her degree. She participated in just about every organization the pharmacy school offered under its roof. Why? “You must have a vision for yourself, and my vision is to be the most successful pharmacist I am capable of being. You must take an active role in your development — you are responsible for your life. You

have to go after what you want out of life.”

Since graduating in 1999, Ngo stays involved. She lectures a few times a year, has served on the college’s admissions board and is a member of the college’s Dean’s Advisory Council. And when she isn’t giving back, she serves as director for Acute Care Customer Service in pharmaceutical contracting for Cardinal Health Clinical Services & Consulting.

“My career and the person I am today are because of the four years of education I received from

the College of Pharmacy.” So she decided to give back once more with the Tam Ngo Outstanding Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to its first recipient at the college’s scholarship luncheon in September.

She considers the college a second family. “It helped raise me as a student, and its best asset is the people, faculty and staff, who have the love and passion to drive its students beyond graduation,” Ngo said.

For Ngo, all the college has to do is “just give me a call.”



Tam Ngo (99) with Dean Ohia at the Scholarship 50 Luncheon.

A Leader Among Future Pharmacists



Alex Varkey, APhA-ASP National President-Elect, 2003-04

Truly passionate about his chosen career track, Alex C. Varkey sets a shining example for both students and professionals, alike. Entering the university as an undergraduate pre-pharmacy major, Varkey expects to graduate in 2005 with his Pharm.D. and has made great strides in both his academic career, as well as in furthering the profession of pharmacy.

Among his many accomplishments, Varkey is a two-time finalist for the UH Deans Award, given for outstanding service to the UH community. He also

placed (among 14,000 applicants) as one of 50 national finalists for the Doublemint ACES for Campus Excellence Grant, sponsored by Wrigley. This award recognizes student leaders for their contributions to their campus and community.

A testament to his pioneering nature, Varkey became the founding president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) at UH, an honor society dedicated to promoting the ideals of scholarship and leadership through community service.

“Community service is something I’m extremely passionate about,

and it only seemed right to start an organization dedicated to serving others,” he said.

Just nine months after receiving its charter, UH’s NSCS chapter earned two national awards, becoming the only chapter in existence to win the top two national awards from NSCS in the same year.

A significant turning point came in 2002 when Varkey became more actively involved with APhA-ASP, first elected as vice president of the UH chapter and then ultimately as national president-elect.

“When I saw firsthand how important the student view is in voicing the issues that affect our profession, I knew I had found what I was seeking – a way to make a difference in the pharmacy world as a student pharmacist. I owe my success in attaining this national position, as well as my other achievements as a student pharmacist, to God, my family, my friends, and the faculty and staff, all of whom I consider a part of my family, here at the UH College of Pharmacy,” he said.

Newsletter for College of Pharmacy

Passages

**Robert Earl
"Bob" Rothkamm
(B.S., Pharm 1957)**

Robert Earl "Bob" Rothkamm, 67, of Beaumont, died August 9, 2003. He was born August 16, 1935 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Bob graduated from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 1957. Soon after graduation, he went to work for Eli Lilly and Company where he retired after 36 years. He was an active volunteer for the American Heart Association.

**Billy M. Franks
(B.S., Pharm 1974)**

Billy M. Franks, 53, died September 23, 2003. Billy was born in Monroe, Louisiana, and was a longtime resident of Pinewood, Texas. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont. Billy was owner operator of Winnie Pharmacy in Winnie, Texas, and Fannett Pharmacy in Fannett, Texas.

**Patrick Michael
"Mick" McRae
(B.S., Pharm 1978)**

Patrick Michael "Mick" McRae, 48, of Crosby, passed away May 16, 2003. A native Houstonian, he was born June 5, 1954. Following graduation from Lamar High School, he attended the University of Texas and graduated from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 1978. While employed as a pharmacist at Texas Children's Hospital in 1994, he met his best friend and the love of his life, Vickie Gilmore. He was quick to share a smile and always made time for others.

**Jeffrey Lee Royal
(B.S., Pharm 1979)**

Jeffrey Lee Royal, 56, passed away peacefully May 23, 2003, in Houston. He was born June 20, 1946, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy and was a dedicated and caring pharmacist for Eckerd Drugs for more than 20 years, making many friends of co-workers and patients. He was active in Big Brothers Big Sisters for many years, influencing the lives of three little brothers.

Faculty Member Wages War on Pain

Kelly Standifer's research on nociceptin peptide receptors and their apparent contribution to morphine tolerance has the potential to revolutionize the way doctors treat patients for pain. The implications for those suffering the unrelenting pain of cancer, alone, are staggering.

"I guess you can say I'm passionate about pain," said Standifer, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacological

and Pharmaceutical Sciences. "By understanding those things that make us tolerant to morphine and other potent opioid analgesic agents, we have a target for drug development. Blocking those peptides in the brain that contribute to morphine tolerance should allow patients to maintain pain relief without continuously increasing the dose of their analgesic agent."

Between receiving several grants for her extensive research and

maintaining a busy family life with her husband and two daughters, Standifer is a well-rounded scientist who makes it a point to keep it all in a healthy balance.

She came to the UH College of Pharmacy in 1995 from the program in Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.



Kelly M. Standifer, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Tulane Event



Dean Ohia and his wife, Ekanem, hosted a brunch for New Orleans alumni. Pictured: Sal ('55) and Charlotte D'Angelo and Ruby Tremont ('60).



Dean Ohia and his wife, Ekanem, are spotted in the crowd at the UH vs. Tulane game with alumni and other friends in New Orleans.

Keeping Busy in San Antonio



Dean Ohia with Dorine and Steve Knott ('97), Robert Pringle ('95), Lynn Simpson ('96) and Laura Pringle ('95) at a "Meet the Dean" reception in San Antonio.



Dean Ohia with John (Tech '77) and Mary Espinoza ('80), hosts of the "Meet the Dean" reception in San Antonio, and Celso Cuellar ('65).



Dean Ohia conducted a site visit to Caremark in San Antonio Sept. 22, 2003, where he encountered a number of UH alumni.

update your information

If you or someone you know has recently married, received an award or experienced a noteworthy event, please let us know. Fill out the form below and send it to our "Alumni Mailbox."

Name: _____

Maiden name (if applicable): _____

Class of : _____

Current Address: _____

Phone and E-mail: _____

News: _____

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interactions

Newsletter for College of Pharmacy

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Learning. Leading.

Planned Giving

A Twofold Gift

In honor of the college's 50th anniversary, Shirley Buckley placed \$50,000 into the University of Houston's pooled income fund. She also made a significant bequest — a gift through her will — to support the College of Pharmacy.

Buckley is the wife of UH's College of Pharmacy's second dean, the late Joseph P. Buckley.

"It's an opportunity to invest in the university. Gifts like these provide the edge of excellence for the program," she said.

The concept is simple. A pooled income fund commingles gifts from many donors for investment

purposes, sharing the net earnings proportionately among them. In many respects, it is similar to a mutual fund. When Buckley contributed to the pooled income fund, she gave a gift that also gives back to her through an income stream she will receive for the rest of her life, as well as a current tax deduction. Upon her death, the gift becomes the property of the College of Pharmacy to be used to further its important educational programs.

In addition to this irrevocable gift to the pooled income fund, Buckley also made a revocable gift — a significant gift to the college through her will. Making a gift

through a will is one of the easiest deferred gifts to make. A will names the individuals and charitable organizations who will receive your property upon your death. While preparing your will or trust, a simple bequest provision can be included to provide future support for the College of Pharmacy. If you already have a will, a codicil (or amendment) can be used to easily add a charitable bequest.

As a benefit for making these deferred gifts, Buckley is a member of The 1927 Society with the University of Houston System.

The 1927 Society was created to honor and recognize special

supporters who have made a planned (deferred) gift through a will, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, retirement plans and life insurance policies. She also is a member of the College of Pharmacy's Mading Society, a planned giving recognition society.

If you're interested in learning more, please return the reply card or contact Janis Parsley, director of development, College of Pharmacy, at 281-275-3362 or parsley@uh.edu, or contact Lynn Mason, director of planned giving, at 713-743-4351 or lmason@uh.edu.



Shirley Buckley with her late husband and our former dean, Joseph P. Buckley

Support UH College of Pharmacy Through a Planned Gift

The College of Pharmacy is included in my estate plans through the following:

- Bequest In Will
- Retirement Plan
- Life Insurance Policy
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- I am considering including the College of Pharmacy in my will. I want to learn more.
- I am interested in making a gift to the College of Pharmacy. Please call me.
- Please send me more information on The 1927 Society that recognizes alumni and friends who make gifts through their estate plans.
- I am 70 years of age or older and would like a personal illustration of how a charitable gift annuity could benefit me.

Use the amount checked for my illustration:

- \$10,000
- \$25,000
- \$50,000
- \$100,000
- other _____

I would like to receive my payments:

- Quarterly
- Semi-Annually
- Annually

The proposal should be prepared for:

- Me only; my birthdate is _____
- Another individual and me; our birth dates are _____ and _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

College/Major/Year: _____

Please return to:

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141 Science and Research Building 2, Houston, TX 77204-5000

interactions

College of Pharmacy

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