2007 Pharmacy Icons Honored
See story on page 3.

Alumni and friends gather to honor OSU Icons of Pharmacy inductees

Also inside:
- Outstanding students recognized
- Women’s Giving Circle funds clerkship
- 2007 graduates
- Preceptor of the Year honored
- Pharmacy and mental health
- Thanks to our donors
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Fall is in the air. Ninety new pharmacists-in-training completed their orientation and were honored during the White Coat Ceremony on October 2. Now it is time for them to get down to business in our revamped first-year curriculum. They will be immediately immersed in the principles of drug action and pharmacy practice laboratory. By next June, they will have been exposed to the top 200 prescription drugs, the most common OTC and herbal products, and the basics of patient counseling. No wonder preceptors tell us that OSU students are well prepared to start their first intern jobs during the summer after the P1 year.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) recently reported the passing percentages of first-time candidates for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination™ (NAPLEX®) for those who graduated between 2002 and 2006. Out of 89 reporting universities, OSU ranked number 12 among U.S. schools, with a passage rate of 98.12 percent.

We are pleased to announce several new faculty appointments in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dan Hartung accepted appointment as assistant professor of pharmacoeconomics at our Portland campus. Ganeesh Cherela brings additional expertise to the clinical pharmacokinetics team in Portland after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Jeegisha Patel, also previously on faculty at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, joins us as clinical assistant professor for community practice development and coordinator of the transitional clerkships during the P3 year. Shannon Gerding Starwalt, OSU class of 2007, started in August as coordinator of early experiential programs and regional pharmacy practice coordinator in Corvallis.

Deanna Moretz, director of experiential programs for the last five years, left OSU to become clinical coordinator for Safeway Corporation. We will greatly miss Deanna, who is recognized regionally and nationally for her leadership. We wish her well in her new endeavor. While we conduct a national search for a new director, Department Chair Matt Ito has agreed to take on this added duty.

During the 2006–07 fiscal year, College of Pharmacy faculty received 29 new and renewal grants and contracts totaling over $2.6 million. We anticipate a steady growth in research funding over the next biennium as newly hired junior faculty reach full productivity.

Funding was approved by the state legislature for the Oregon Translational Research and Drug Discovery Initiative (OTRADI) in the amount of $5.1 million for the 2007–2009 biennium. Funding will establish the infrastructure for this important economic development engine. A portion will also be used to support the antibiotics drug discovery activities from OHSU; Portland State University; and the OSU Colleges of Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, and Science. This complements and expands similar efforts funded internally by the college for the past 1.5 years.

Nine invention disclosures and 11 patent applications were generated by faculty in the college of pharmacy in the past year. Importantly, total patent and royalty income generated by the College of Pharmacy faculty for the university since 1981 is more than $10.7 million!

I am pleased to report that the college received $659,000 in private giving through gifts, pledges and grants during the past year, including $230,000 from the estate of Zennie Stauffer and $25,000 from the Krautscheid family for new scholarships. See page 12 for a list of all annual givers.

I am always eager to connect with College of Pharmacy alumni and friends. Please contact Megan Hoffart, director of alumni and student relations (503-494-3476 or megan.hoffart@oregonstate.edu) to arrange a visit or host an alumni gathering in your area.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Kradjan, Pharm. D., B.C.P.S.
Dean and Professor
Second Annual

Icons of Pharmacy

Nearly 100 friends of pharmacy gathered to honor the 2007 Icons of Pharmacy on May 4 at Portland City Grill in downtown Portland. This year’s Icons of Pharmacy have demonstrated dedication to the College of Pharmacy and have distinguished themselves through sustained and meritorious contributions to pharmacy throughout their careers.

The 2007 Icons of Pharmacy are Darrel Purkerson (’63), Steve Roath (’64), and William “Frosty” Comer (’68). See page 9 for their biographies.

“All three of this year’s awardees exemplify the leadership and community service that we are proud to witness in graduates of Oregon State University,” said Dean Wayne Kradjan. “They have all given to their community and developed a national reputation as leaders in their profession. In addition, they have given of their time and talents to our advisory board, and each has significantly contributed to our capital campaign for scholarship and research support.”

Special guests at this year’s celebration included OSU President Ed Ray and his wife Beth, and Mike Goodwin, president and chief executive officer of the OSU Foundation, and his wife Sheila.

Guests sipped wine while enjoying a panoramic view of Portland and then dined on mahi-mahi or prime rib. The evening concluded with a program honoring the newly inducted Icons of Pharmacy.

Continued on page 9

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—Dean Wayne Kradjan

Nominations for the 2008 Icons of Pharmacy will be solicited by direct mail to current Pharmacy Hall of Fame and College of Pharmacy Advisory Council members, and on the College of Pharmacy Web site. Nominations may be made by faculty, staff, alumni, or other friends of the college.

Written nominations are due by February 1, 2008. Please send nominations to:

Megan Hoffart
Director, Alumni & Student Relations
OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy
3303 SW Bond Ave.
Portland, OR 97239

(L–R) Dave Widen, Ann Widen, and Marc Watt shared the view and conversation at the annual Icons of Pharmacy gala.

Frosty Comer’s family members made a surprise appearance to show support for his recognition as an Icon of Pharmacy. (L–R) Wendy Lambert (daughter), Connie Bowen (mother), and Casey Milne (sister).
2007 Graduation Ceremony

Approximately 600 guests joined College of Pharmacy faculty in honoring this year’s graduates at the Graduate Recognition Ceremony held June 16, 2007, at the LaSells Stewart Center Austin Auditorium. A reception followed in the Alumni Center main ballroom.

OSU President Edward Ray and P4 Class President Brian Vu (’07) addressed the gathering, and Anita Jafari (’07) read the Oath of a Pharmacist. Theresa Filtz, associate professor, and Deanna Moretz, outgoing director of experiential programs, read statements submitted by graduates to accompany their walk across the stage.

Chrissa Kioussi, assistant professor, and David Bearden, clinical associate professor, had the pleasure of hooding the graduates, which is a time-honored tradition signifying the students’ completion of the program. The P4 class Teacher of the Year award, presented by Caitlin Fewx (’07) went to Ann Zweber and Doug Stennett. Both are outstanding faculty members of the college.

The 2007 graduating class included 48 women and 32 men who averaged 29 years of age, which reflects the increasing maturity of College of Pharmacy graduates. Sixty-four percent completed some or all of their pre-pharmacy training at OSU and 36 percent come from other Oregon colleges. Twenty-seven percent came from out of state, predominately Hawaii.

Many graduates have accepted positions representing independent community, chain, or grocery store practice. Others have gone on to take jobs in hospitals or managed care organizations. Six individuals are pursuing further education in the form of a pharmacy residency, and one student has accepted a position as a faculty member with the College of Pharmacy.
Student Recognition Banquet

The annual Student Recognition Banquet was held on May 26, 2007. In addition to providing an opportunity to present awards to students and faculty, this year’s celebration included a mustache competition, student performances, a student-produced video, and dancing.

2007 Award Recipients

At this year’s Graduate Recognition Ceremony, the following graduates were honored for their contributions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award
Jeffrey McCoy

Facts & Comparisons Excellence in Clinical Communication Award
Tracy Shiozawa

Roche Pharmacy Communications Award
Nick Crozier

PATIENT COUNSELING

Perrigo Award of Excellence in Non-prescription Medication Studies
Jennifer Garrison

LEADERSHIP

Merck Award
Terence Colleran
Cynthia Hankins

Teva Pharmaceuticals, U.S.A., Outstanding Student Award
Andrew Gibler

Eli Lilly Achievement Award
Jamie Martin

APhA-ASP Mortar & Pestle Professionalism Award
Michael Fahey II

PATIENT CARE

Glaxo SmithKline Patient Care Award
Marie Dorsey

U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award
Hugh Easley

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The Entertainers
After the awards, students let loose and danced the night away. (L-R) P1 Heather Wright, P1 Karen Bronson, P1 Lisa Perry, P2 Galileo Galeon, and P1 Amanda Hulbert.

Teacher of the Year Award
Jane Ishmael received the Teacher of the Year award, which is voted on by the P1 class. Also honored were Fred Stevens, chosen by the P2 class, and Harleen Singh, chosen by the P3 class.

Best Mustache Award
P2 Ted Williams shows off his prize—a razor—for winning this year’s P2 mustache contest. Ted beat the competition with a classic look.

Unsung Hero Awards
P2 Brian Zacher (left) presents P2 Sandra Widows with the Unsung Hero Award. This award is given to students who were chosen by their classmates because they have shown exemplary class spirit without asking for recognition. Other recipients were Karen Stephenson (P1), Rick Pi (P3), and Chad Kobayashi (’07).

Unsung Hero Awards
P2 Brian Zacher (left) presents P2 Sandra Widows with the Unsung Hero Award. This award is given to students who were chosen by their classmates because they have shown exemplary class spirit without asking for recognition. Other recipients were Karen Stephenson (P1), Rick Pi (P3), and Chad Kobayashi (’07).
Congratulations!

Doctor of Philosophy:
Chien Ngoc Nguyen
Acharawan Khamsiratrakul

Master of Science:
Xiaobo Fei
Qingmei Yao

Not pictured:
Adrian A. Contreras
Jessica Horrell
Caprice Angelina Siekman

Katie Welch
Lisa Lin Wong
Martin Wong

pharmacy.oregonstate.edu  Fall 2007  7
A health clinic in the tiny coastal town of Wheeler, Oregon, received a shot in the arm this fall in the form of a College of Pharmacy student.

Like the rest of her Pharm.D. classmates, Katie Welch spent her final year receiving on-the-job training. To gain broad exposure within the profession, students rotate every six weeks, completing seven different clerkships.

A housing stipend provided by the OSU Women’s Giving Circle helped Welch choose the Rinehart Clinic, a nonprofit, sliding scale health clinic which serves mostly low-income residents of Tillamook County. Located south of Cannon Beach, the clinic’s service area is federal designated as having an acute shortage of healthcare providers.

Through the Women’s Giving Circle, OSU alumnae and friends pool their individual donations to fund grants for programs relevant but not exclusive to women. “It’s very powerful when women can get together and, even through small donations, make a large impact on someone’s life,” Welch said. “They made it possible for me to follow this path.”

Michael Canton Named Preceptor of the Year

Michael Canton, Rh.P., clinical staff pharmacist at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene, Oregon, and instructor at the College of Pharmacy, was named OSU College of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year.

Canton holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona and a master’s in pharmacy practice from the University of Washington. He was president of the Oregon State Society of Hospital Pharmacists in 1998-1999. The Oregon Society of Health-system Pharmacists presented him with the award for Excellence in Education in 1998 and named him Pharmacist of the Year in 2000. He was also recognized as Pharmacist of the Year by the Oregon State Pharmaceutical Association in 1999.

2007 graduate Brian Vu, who performed a P4 clerkship under Canton, described him as “the perfect mentor.” “He inspires students to go above and beyond, including reaching out and working collaboratively with nurses, physicians, and other health professions,” said Vu. “Since I’ve begun my residency program, I have already used Mike as a resource for potential residency project ideas and have requested his input. He is one person I will forever have as my mentor!”

“He is one person I will forever have as my mentor!” —Brian Vu
Darrel Purkerson ‘63 was raised on a farm west of Junction City, Oregon. He went on to attend Oregon State College and later graduated from the newly renamed Oregon State University. He took a year off from college to work, then returned to college and majored in pharmacy.

Upon graduation, he worked at an independent pharmacy, Economy Drug, in Hillsboro, Oregon. He also worked for Tiffany Drug and Eugene Hospital and Clinic for two years and did relief work at various independent pharmacies. He and his wife Helen, to whom he has been married since 1963, have two children who are OSU graduates. In 1968, the family moved to St. Helens, Oregon, so Purkerson could manage an independent pharmacy. Three years later, he built his store in St. Helens.

Purkerson’s career inspired him to volunteer with local and state organizations. He employed high school students at his pharmacy to encourage them to think of higher education. Purkerson spent hours in the community on various boards when time allowed.

Today Purkerson is working on four different boards and trying to find time to travel, hunt, fish, and spend time with family, including his three grandchildren.

Steve Roath ‘64 is retired president and chief executive officer of Longs Drug Stores. He joined the company as an intern in 1964 and held increasingly responsible positions within the company. He was named president in 1991 and chief executive officer in 2000. He is on the board of directors with with Encore Associates, a San Ramon, California, strategic consulting firm for the food and consumer products industry.

His community and nonprofit involvements have included serving as the chair of the Food and Drug Industry Program with the City of Hope and past president of the California Symphony (Walnut Creek). He is an active alumnus, serving as a trustee at the OSU Foundation and as a member of the College of Pharmacy Advisory Council. He also has sponsored pharmacy students to travel with him to Guatemala on a medical mission trip.

Throughout his career, Roath has been honored with multiple awards, including Retailer of the Year though Drug Store News, College of Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year, and OSU Fellow.

Roath and his wife Jane live in Alamo, California. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

William “Frosty” Comer ‘68 holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Willamette University. He holds a B.A. and B.S. in pharmacy and a master’s in hospital pharmacy administration from OSU.

In the 1980s, Comer played a major role in helping create the nation’s first in-patient hospice facility. He is known for his visionary leadership in pharmacy and health care as vice president of federal health services for Coram Healthcare. He has been responsible for making home health accessible to thousands of seriously ill patients, especially military personnel, their dependents, and veterans. As a retired Army colonel, he spent part of his military career as the chief of pharmacy for the Army’s General Hospital in Stuttgart, Germany, during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Comer has served on the board of directors for the American Red Cross Pacific Northwest Chapter and the Oregon Legislative task force on pain and symptom management. He was also as treasurer of the Oregon Health Forum. He served as a College of Pharmacy assistant/adjunct faculty member and serves on the college’s Advisory Council. He was named Pharmacist of the Year in 1989 and has been presented with the E.B. Lemon Award from the Oregon State University Alumni Association.
Announcements

College of Pharmacy faculty has made 10 invention disclosures since July 2006, ranking it second within the university for such disclosures. Special recognition goes to Zhengrong Cui, Taifo Mahmud, Kerry McPhail, Cristobal Miranda, and Mark Zabriskie. Eleven new patent applications were filed during that time period. Congratulations to our faculty!

Taifo Mahmud received the 2007 Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar Award, which is given to assistant professors who have accomplished exceptional scholarship in their field, in May. He was promoted to associate professor, effective July 1, 2007.

Ann Zweber was elected president of the Oregon Board of Pharmacy in June.

New Faculty

Shannon Gerding Starwalt was hired as director of early experiential education. In addition to her responsibilities at OSU, she will have a clinical practice at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center as a clinical pharmacist. Starwalt earned a Pharm.D. from OSU in June 2007. She also holds a bachelor’s degree from OSU, with a minor in public health. She has worked in the inpatient pharmacy at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center for the past six years, and said her ultimate goal is to act as the liaison between OSU and Samaritan Health Services, with an emphasis on providing quality experiential education opportunities for students within the five hospitals in the Samaritan system.

Kerry McPhail is now assistant professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Natural Products Research in September 2006. She holds bachelor’s degrees in zoology and chemistry and a Ph.D. in marine natural products chemistry from Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. From 2000 to 2005, she pursued postdoctoral studies and transitioned to research assistant professor William Gerwick’s lab at OSU. Her research focus was on the natural products chemistry, biochemistry and biosynthetic pathways of marine cyanobacteria and macroalgae in the context of anti-cancer and tropical disease drug discovery. McPhail has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications in the field of natural products research.

Jeegisha Patel joined the college as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. She earned a Pharm.D. from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 2002 and completed a community pharmacy practice residency at Long Island University and Duane Reade Pharmacy in New York. Prior to coming to OSU, Patel worked for three years as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, where she developed a patient care center with a local Rite-Aid. Her areas of expertise include disease management in chronic disease states such as diabetes and hypertension, and her research interests include medication therapy management and community practice.

Theresa Filtz has been promoted to associate professor of pharmacology in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She also has been a faculty member in Molecular and Cellular Biology at OSU since 1999 and is an adjunct faculty in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics since 2003. Filtz received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She received postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. One of her current research projects involves deciphering the regulation of phospholipase C-beta, an enzyme involved in smooth muscle contraction and cardiac hypertrophy. She is also working in collaboration with Phil Proteau on a project funded by the American Heart Association, in which they are attempting to define the active ingredients in hawthorn. She is currently the chair of the Graduate Studies Committee and advises pharmacy research graduate students in the college.

Continued on page 14
The most important visitors to Stacy Ramirez’s office walk around her desk and sit in a chair next to her. As they talk, Ramirez catches subtle clues about her visitors’ emotions, whether or not they are taking their pills or maybe hearing voices again.

“I can tell by their eyes if there’s something going on that I need to ask them about,” she said.

Ramirez is a clinical assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy. In addition to teaching classes on pharmacy management and operations, she meets daily with a dozen or more residents at Mid Valley Housing Plus, a residential support facility in Corvallis for people with mental illness. In the office she shares with Mid Valley case manager Sam Ortiz, she answers residents’ questions, administers medications—some by court order, others on request—and serves as a liaison with physicians.

No longer focused only on dispensing prescriptions, pharmacists increasingly serve as consultants and sometimes lifelines for people with chronic illness such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and schizophrenia. The hope is that pharmacists, as specialists in drug effectiveness and interactions, can help stabilize lives and reduce hospital visits. For people with mental illness, that includes staying out of jails and homeless shelters.

In collaboration with OSU faculty members Ann Zweber in the College of Pharmacy and Ray Tricker in the Department of Public Health, Ramirez will evaluate the consequences of her work at Mid Valley, documenting impacts on patient quality of life, interactions with police, and visits to the emergency room. Her research, which is just getting started, could have broad implications for developing an innovative role for pharmacists in the health care system.

“I have a patient that I see once a week,” said Ramirez, who serves on boards of directors at Mid Valley and the Oregon state Pharmacy Association. “He let me know that he was hearing voices, and the voices were telling him not to take his medications, not to listen to me anymore. So I got hold of his physician, made some adjustments to his medications, called and checked on him to make sure he was taking them, to see if the voices had come back. He’s doing much better now.


As a mental health specialist, Tricker served on the Oregon governor’s Task Force on Mental Health. In 2006, he invited Ramirez to work at Mid Valley. The nonprofit organization now accommodates about 65 clients. Two to three new requests for services—a warm apartment, transportation, counseling, case management (known in mental health circles as an Assertive Community Treatment model)—arrive weekly, says Tricker, who is also on Mid Valley’s board and has worked with the nonprofit organization for more than a decade.

At OSU, he offers students in his public health courses the chance to work with Mid Valley residents. Students gain valuable field experience, assisting residents with everything from shopping to a regular exercise program known as Walking Warriors.

“The goal is to find ways to create conditions that prevent people from relapsing,” Tricker says.

In her meetings with Mid Valley residents, Ramirez sees the need daily. “These patients have multiple psychiatric issues,” she said. “They know that unless they see someone every day, their chances of staying on their medication are not as good.”

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Thanks to all who so generously donated to the college this past year. We greatly appreciate your support of our students’ education and professional development.

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Whallen & Susan Fong
Dan Hartung recently joined the college as the assistant director of program evaluation and research with the Drug Use Research and Management group. Hartung holds a bachelor’s degree and Pharm.D. from the University of Wisconsin and a master’s in public health from Oregon Health & Science University. He performed a pharmacy practice residency at the Portland VA Medical Center and was a fellow in pharmacoconomics and outcomes research at OSU. Hartung’s research focus involves evaluating population-level use of prescription drugs, using large automated datasets, studying the impact of drug policy on health outcomes, pharmacoepidemiology, and health economics. He is specifically interested in evaluating cost-sharing policies and prior-authorization policies, and examining drug safety issues using observational epidemiologic techniques. ◇
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