PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

AACP Picks USC for Community Service Honor
Dual Awards for University Professor Shih
Professor Sohal on Caloric Restriction and Aging

Volume 1, Issue 5, Summer 2009

The Class of 2009
Stepping Out in Changing Times
**FEATURES**

4 Leading the Nation
School of Pharmacy hosts national conference on how schools can partner with safety-net clinics.

6 Class of 2009
Stepping out to their professional lives in changing times.

23 In the Press
Professor Raj Sohal weighs in on caloric restriction as an anti-aging strategy.

**KUDOS**

3 Hats Off
Students win local, state and national distinctions, marking another banner year for Southern California’s oldest pharmacy school.

5 AACP Picks USC
School wins inaugural Transformative Community Service Award for work in safety-net clinics.

15 Trojan Spirit
USC taps School of Pharmacy’s David Breslow as Outstanding Alumnus.

**IN PICTURES**

15 Awards Banquet
Honoring the Classes of 2009 and 1959.

16 Scholarship Luncheon
Students express gratitude and share insights with donors.

18 Titus Family Department...
...of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy

22 Department of Pharmacology...
...and Pharmaceutical Sciences

26 Alumni
Staying connected.

30 Community Outreach
Students give back.

**USC–UCLA GAME RAFFLE**

You could win great seats!

You can win Dean Vanderveen’s excellent seats for the USC–UCLA football game and be in the center of the action at one of the most celebrated college rivalry games of the season.

The School of Pharmacy wants your E-mail address to keep you posted on school happenings. So, Dean Vanderveen has donated his tickets for this raffle—a way to encourage you to send us your E-mail address.

To enter online, simply go to http://pharmweb2.usc.edu/raffle. Or, enter by completing and mailing the envelope in this magazine. Do it today...and you might find yourself cheering on the Trojans at the November 28th game.

12 Giving
New scholarships to support bright futures.

18 Taking the Hill
School of Pharmacy meets with legislators in the nation’s capitol.

29 Alumni
Staying connected.

32 Students
On the road to success.

R. Pete Vanderveen
Dean

Board of Councilors
Denis Portaro
Chairman

Ronald Belville
Chairman Elect

Theresa Agboh-Taylor
Melvin F. Baron
Gale Bensussen
David Breslow
Rosalie Christopher
Judy Flech Rosenberg
Eileen Goodis
K. Robert Hahn
William A. Heeres
Kathleen Hurtado
Lee “Buzzy” Kleven
Keith LaFond
Kirian Majmudar
Karl Meirhan
Oscar Pallares
Raymond T. Poon
Wanda L. Sawyer
Wayne T. Seltzer
Richard Shinar
Tim K. Siu
Martin Solberg
Holly A. Strom
DeWight Titus
Brad Trom
Lozio T.W. Wong

Associate Members
Gavin S. Herbert
Gerhard Renner
Arthur M. Ulene

Ex-Officio Members
Dolly Harris
Fatim Sako
Steven B. Sample
“The Class of 2009 has now joined the ranks of Trojan alumni. They have distinguished themselves while at the School of Pharmacy—winning local, state and national awards. And in that uniquely Trojan spirit, they have reached out to the community through health fairs and other volunteer efforts to serve those less fortunate in our community. I am confident of the fine contributions that these talented and dedicated new graduates will bring.”

— Dean R. Pete Vanderveen

School of Pharmacy staff member Jovan Del Valle with his daughter and new Doctor of Pharmacy, Joi Del Valle. Del Valle, facilities manager at the School, has worked at the School of Pharmacy for 29 years.

Dean Vanderveen congratulates PharmD graduate, Angela Adler.

Class president Krystle Cher Purificacion is ready for the dean’s toast at the commencement ceremony.

Professor Frances Richmond hooded Kevin Potgieter as he receives his MS in regulatory science.

The spoils of victory...a few of the awards won this year.

Brandi Chock flashes the Trojan Victory sign as she accepts the APhA Division A Chapter of the Year award on behalf of the USC chapter.

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION — ACADEMY OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR — DIVISION A

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Bonnie Hui

PROJECT CHANCE AWARD
Phuong Ho

REGION 8 HEARTBURN AWARENESS CHALLENGE
Connie Nguyen

REGION 8 OPERATION DIABETES AWARD
Elina Baskina and Gina Gornov

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
Paulin Heng

US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD
Carla Blieden

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION — ACADEMY OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR — DIVISION B

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Nicole Cho and Joyce Choi

PROJECT CHANCE AWARD
Aniket Kawatkar and Ning Yan Gu

REGION 8 HEARTBURN AWARENESS CHALLENGE
Hae Sun Suh

REGION 8 OPERATION DIABETES AWARD
Amit Kasebar

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION — ACADEMY OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR — DIVISION C

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Carol Cheung

PROJECT CHANCE AWARD
Kevin Potgieter

REGION 8 HEARTBURN AWARENESS CHALLENGE
Ning Yan Gu

REGION 8 OPERATION DIABETES AWARD
Kevin Potgieter

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PHARMACOECONOMICS AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH OUTSTANDING STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

BEST STUDENT PODIUM PRESENTATION
Hae Sun Suh

BEST STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION
Ning Yan Gu

NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

PHARMACY FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA FILM FESTIVAL FIRST PLACE — BEST PARODY OF A TV COMMERCIAL

RHO CHI CHAPTER PROJECT PROPOSAL AWARD
"Mental Health and Sleep Disorders Screening/Education/Patient Seminar”

IAN AMAZON AND MAGGIE PATEL

USC STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD
Carla Blieden

Brandi Chock

Todd Okamoto

Daya Perkins

USC DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS “TOMMY” AWARDS AMERICAN PHARMACY STUDENT ALLIANCE OUTSTANDING STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

APhA-ASP chapter faculty advisor Michael Wincor with students Bonnie Hui, winner of the APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists Student Leadership Award, and Elina Baskina, co-chair of Operation Diabetes.
School of Pharmacy Hosts Inaugural Conference on Building Partnerships with Safety-Net Clinics

The USC School of Pharmacy hosted 90 professionals at a two-day national conference, “Developing Partnerships between Schools of Pharmacy and Safety-Net Clinics”, on February 12 and 13 in Los Angeles.

The intent of the conference was to provide pharmacy schools and clinics from around the country with real-world expertise on establishing partnerships and, for those who already have partnerships, expanding their reach and impact in their communities. Safety-net clinics, the proposed sites for most of the partnerships, deliver health care services to low income, homeless and other vulnerable populations.

The conference was moderated by School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen and was presented in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative.

USC School of Pharmacy faculty who presented at the conference include Mel Baron, PharmD (’57); Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PharmD (’78), the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Professor in Community Pharmacy; and Steven Chen, PharmD (’89). Chen along with his partner at the JWCH Medical Clinic, Paul Gregerson, MD, MBA, chief medical officer at JWCH, described how clinical pharmacy services have worked to improve patient outcomes at the clinic.

Also from USC, Kantita Munjal, executive director of foundation relations at the Keck School of Medicine, led a break-out session on grant writing.

In addition to the School of Pharmacy, USC Civic and Community Relations, The Merck Company Foundation and the AACP Transformative Community Service Award supported the conference. Over 30 schools attended along with representatives from eight clinical facilities.

The School of Pharmacy works with community partners to integrate clinical pharmacy services into their medical services, including hiring pharmacists on staff at safety-net clinics. At the clinics, the USC group has shown that pharmacist intervention improves health outcomes.

Supporters of the school’s safety-net work include the QueensCare Family Clinics, UniHealth Foundation, the Merck Company Foundation, JWCH Institute and the South Central Family Health Center. The initial grant that started the project in 2002 was from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration.

“At USC, we’ve committed to giving back to our community. The School of Pharmacy’s work in these clinics, as well as our health literacy projects, make it possible for us to directly impact the health of some of LA’s most at-risk residents,” said School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen. “We’ve seen first hand how our pharmacists have improved patient outcomes while saving precious healthcare dollars. To be honored for this commitment makes it even more rewarding.”

On hand to receive the award were Kathleen Johnson, the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy and the chair of the School’s Titus Family Department, and Mel Baron and Steven Chen, both associate professors. At the ceremony, Dean Vanderveen spoke about the tremendous dedication of the community pharmacy group.

Unable to attend but mentioned as award recipients were Elizabeth Cervantes, Stephanie Iniguez and Cecilia Wu, clinical staff pharmacists at QueensCare Family Clinics. Also part of the team are faculty members Jeff Goad, Edith Mirzaian and Mike Rudolph.

Previously, the school’s work in safety-net clinics garnered the 2007 Pinnacle Award of the American Pharmacists Association and the 2008 Best Practices Award of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
Washington is all abuzz about health-care reform presumably to rein in costs, improve quality and safety and provide coverage for all population groups. What form this will ultimately take and the timeframe in which it will be pursued is anyone’s guess given the menagerie of players and today’s overall economic uncertainty. One thing most corners agree on is that something needs to be done and that it is likely that something will be done during the Obama years.

Given that the School of Pharmacy just graduated 176 new PharmD’s, 8 PhD’s and 29 MS’s, the questions surface: What will the Class of 2009 confront during the next few years as they embark on their new careers? What will these shifting economic times and loan cries for health reform bring to these bright, new faces on the professional team? What impact will stimulus spending and realigned federal priorities have on their career outlooks?

To gain some perspective on this, USCPharmacy asked a few of the School’s experts to share their thoughts. Here, in their own words, is what they had to say:

R. PETE VANDERVEEN, PhD, RPh
John Staufler Decanal Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dean, USC School of Pharmacy

“There’s great talk and anger about the government’s bail outs of Wall Street, the auto industry, irresponsible home buyers, among others — in its many forms and various abuses— and how all this will ultimately shake out and hopefully put the nation’s economy back on track. However, our economy will clearly never get back on track without curing the spiraling health-care costs that have been plaguing the nation for decades. One facet of these costs— a very important and integral one— has to do with medication usage and its effect on the patient and on the budget.

My hope is that the Class of 2009 recognizes this challenge and becomes an integral part of the solution. A recent Consumer Reports Poll indicates that 66% of Americans say they are blinded by the cost of drugs, resulting in many not taking needed medications. Hall of Latino patients neglect to follow through on their doctors’ prescriptions and nearly three in 10 don’t even fill prescriptions for cost reasons. By one estimate, annual costs associated with failure to take medications as prescribed totals over $177 billion. That’s 1,000 times more than the $170 million AIG bonus money. And the medication budget toll is an expense that we face year after year after year.

Appropriate use of medications should be a major health initiative of the Obama administration. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that appropriate use of medications keeps people healthier while saving enormous amounts of money. Some enlightened companies, like General Mills, have discovered an effective way to ensure appropriate medication use among employees is to have pharmacists work one-on-one with them. Here’s what Kendall Powell, Chairman and CEO of General Mills, said at the White House Forum on Health Reform held in March:

“We have white collar, professional, highly educated people at General Mills who do not know how to follow their doctors’ prescriptions and nearly three in 10 don’t even fill prescriptions for cost reasons. And so what we’re doing now—again on this preventative facet—is we’re sitting them down with a pharmacist. For as long as they need to, to understand what they’re taking, why, the consequences of withdrawal, all the interactions. And again it makes a huge difference in the management of chronic disease.”

Mr. Powell understands that involving a pharmacist in the regular management of people with chronic diseases is good medicine and good business.

Unless our nation takes steps to ensure appropriate medication use, we will never gain control of today’s spiraling health-care costs. The seven most common chronic diseases are estimated to inflict a $1.3 trillion annual drag on the economy. It is to the control of these diseases where we can make an impact. On both keeping people healthier and in controlling costs. We have a proven workforce ready to make this solution a reality.

Mr. Powell understands that involving a pharmacist in the regular management of people with chronic diseases is good medicine and good business.

Unless our nation takes steps to ensure appropriate medication use, we will never gain control of today’s spiraling health-care costs. The seven most common chronic diseases are estimated to inflict a $1.3 trillion annual drag on the economy. It is to the control of these diseases where we can make an impact in both keeping people healthier and in controlling costs.

We have a proven workforce ready to make this solution a reality—pharmacists—medication experts accessible on demand.

My hope is that the Class of 2009 recognizes this challenge and becomes an integral part of the solution.
Professor Kathleen Johnson takes change to the next level when she discusses how 2009 PharmD graduates, especially those working as clinical pharmacists, are capable agents of change.

KATHLEEN JOHNSON, PharmD, MPH, PhD
William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy Chair, Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy

“I believe that there are three main areas of contribution for pharmacists in the Class of 2009 and that they will need to push health care forward by serving as leaders of change.

These three areas are: medication safety; efficiency in health care by lowering cost while maintaining quality; and team work to provide the best care including continuity to and from all practice settings. Pharmacists play a vital role in the medication component of these areas.

Medication safety is on the mind of all of us. Pharmacists play a critical role in not just filling prescription orders as written, but talking with patients and providers about medications utilized, assuring that the medication is not only the correct one, but that the dose and patient factors such as adherence, side effects, disease contraindications, self-medication and drug interactions are considered.

Pharmacists in this new era will need to take a more proactive stance as patient advocate because even though a prescription is technically correct as written and there is no legal obligation to initiate a change, the medication prescribed may not be optimal for the patient.

Pharmacists have tremendous skills in medication therapy management of chronic disease and these skills have been proven to be cost-effective and of high quality. As the population ages and more therapeutic choices are available at ever increasing cost, pharmacists can focus on the highest risk patients to assure these individuals receive the best care possible and maintain a good quality of life and functioning. Working in concert with others on the health-care team to focus on the patient's needs results in not just filling prescription orders as written, but talking with patients and providers about medications utilized, assuring that the medication is not only the right one, but that the dose and patient factors such as adherence, side effects, disease contraindications, self-medication and drug interactions are considered.

These clinical and prevention activities, currently the standard of care in many health maintenance organizations and governmental programs such as the Veterans Administration health-care system, will need to occur in all health-care settings, from hospitals to community pharmacies. Additionally, pharmacists have expertise to improve medication safety and to improve quality of care while maintaining controls on cost. It is a time for the pharmacist to emerge as the responsible medication expert on the health-care team in all practice settings.”

“...professor Joel Hay, who is often quoted on health economics and policy issues in the national press, takes a look at today’s health-care trends and their impact on the Class of 2009.

JOEL HAY, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy
Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy

“The good news for new pharmacists and other health-care workers is that health care will remain one of the strongest employment sectors for the foreseeable future. Jobs will be plentiful and wages will stay high...”
Another positive development is the tangible commitment that the federal government has made to ensuring electronic medical records and high standards of health information technology (IT). These developments will provide pharmacists with unprecedented opportunities for improving health outcomes through medication therapy management. For the first time, all inpatient and ambulatory pharmacists will have access to the complete medical and drug histories of their patients, allowing them to more accurately evaluate the benefits and risks of continuing or changing medication therapy. Until now, such real-time capabilities for pharmacist oversight and intervention have only existed at a few organizations like Kaiser and the VA system. Pharmacists will need to be proactive to learn how to use these new IT capabilities to optimize patient care and will have to demonstrate that such pharmacy services deserve reimbursement.

Health IT will also dramatically enhance the feasibility of real world comparative effectiveness research. Currently, less than 20% of all medical interventions are backed up by high-quality scientific evidence (e.g., randomized controlled trials of head-to-head comparator therapies). Health-care researchers have estimated that about 1/3 of all US health care is either unnecessary or actually harmful. If we can take advantage of better patient outcomes surveillance through improved health IT, we can conduct real world comparative effectiveness research with a potential to save nearly $1 trillion per year in unnecessary medical care. This would be excellent news for federal deficits and future taxpayers.

Finally, in an increasingly globalized world, with instantaneous twitting from every corner, it is important that Americans confront the enormous basic health-care shortages that exist around the world. In many African countries, children and mothers giving birth die from easily preventable conditions, there are only a handful of physicians per million population and no trained pharmacists at all. Economists make a persuasive case that lack of basic health care can be a major cause of economic and social stagnation. Those of us who are fortunate to have such bountiful standards of living should think about how we might contribute something to health care for the global community.

The vast improvements in global communications will make such contributions more feasible and harder to ignore. If we can fly unmanned warplanes over Afghanistan from an airbase in Nevada, maybe we can figure out how to deliver simple medication advice to mothers giving birth in Ghana from a pharmacy school in Los Angeles.

Professor Sarah Hamm-Alvarez takes a look at the effects of today’s environment on research funding to schools and on job prospects for graduates.

SARAH HAMM-ALVAREZ, PhD
Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Chair, Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences

“A number of new opportunities in research are likely to emerge during the Obama administration. This administration has already significantly impacted the nation’s research agenda by working with Congress to allocate a significant amount, $8.2 billion, for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These one-time funds that are intended to boost jobs through investment in science by funding projects and infrastructure are still making their way through the system, but they have resulted in an unprecedented number of proposals submitted to the National Institutes of Health in the past two months.

As a part of the 2010 budget, President Obama has proposed a modestly increased NIH budget (1.4%) but has also vowed to increase the languishing National Science Foundation budgets more significantly by over 8%. The proposed allocations within the NIH budget, however, represent a significant difference from the Bush administration, with the President’s more significant focus on serving underserved populations, improving the general quality and access to care and improving public health.

Two notable areas highlighted by the President within the NIH budget that are getting proportionally more money are the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. In particular, the President has vowed to double funding in cancer research within the next eight years. Notably, the President has removed the limitations put in place by the Bush administration on stem cell research, promising a significant increase in funding for this area. With the focus on serving human populations, it appears that increasing opportunities will continue to be available for scientists wishing to translate the application of basic science discoveries to the clinic.

“The Obama agenda emphasizes most of the areas that greatly impact human populations by focusing on cancer, infectious diseases and environmental exposure...”

The Obama agenda emphasizes most of the areas that greatly impact human populations by focusing on cancer, infectious diseases and environmental exposure, so it would appear that opportunities in these areas will increase. With the increased emphasis on funding for hard science and technology, there will be increasing opportunities as well in applied sciences at the interface of biology and engineering, although the major influx of funds into the hard sciences by the Obama administration is dedicated to energy research.

With the School’s focus on applied and translational research, as well as basic research in development and delivery of new therapeutics, the Obama administration promises to be friendly to the USC School of Pharmacy. This will likely translate into additional funding in many of our labs, allowing us to offer post-doctoral positions to some of our newly minted 2009 PhD’s. Additionally, while industry growth may still look sluggish, venture dollars will ultimately begin to fund new research projects in both pharmaceutical and medical device companies that meet goals that the administration sets. Once these dollars are unleashed, many of our graduates whose research experience well suits them to the administration’s priorities and projects, should find their opportunity outlook bright in both industry and academia.

In research, uncertainty sometimes breeds great creativity. I am confident that in this new era, our new scientists will find a creative path on which to make their marks.
OUR TIME TO GIVE
Just Arrived

Joanne and Scott Evans are young alums already giving back.

In pharmacy school, Joanne Apodaca was class president while her eventual husband, Scott Evans, served as president of APhA-ASP and of Phi Lambda Sigma. Those leadership posts were precursors to the future careers each would pursue.

Today, Joanne Evans owns and runs the Phillips Ranch Pharmacy in Pomona. She built the store from scratch, opening her doors to customers in August 2005. “When I was in school, I always knew I wanted to do community pharmacy. Being my own boss really allows me to focus on what I like best about my profession—my patients. Here I’m invested in my patients’ lives and that’s what I really wanted.”

Scott’s career took him in a little different direction with most of his experience in hospital pharmacy. He quickly found that management was a good fit for him with most of his experience in hospital pharmacy. He points to his director of pharmacy role at University Hospital from 1998 to 2004 as the career highlight. “Both are graduates of the School of Pharmacy Class of 1998, and only 11 years since completing pharmacy school themselves, they have set up the Joanne and Scott Evans Endowed Scholarship to support the next generation of pharmacists. “We’ve been helped by so many alums during our careers, now it’s nice to be able to give something back,” notes Joanne.

To most people, the idea of setting up a $25,000 scholarship is a big commitment and quite a big deal. But Joanne and Scott have taken on this commitment in a rather matter-of-fact way, as if it is a natural next step to make this kind of contribution. As Scott puts it, “We just finished paying off our student loans. We’ve enjoyed a great deal of help, advice and mentoring from the school and other alums, now it’s our turn.”

“Our lives have always been so full and time so tight. But now we’re making time to give back,” says Roslyn.

True to form, Roslyn and Bob Blake have moved into action with the establishment of the Roslyn Ellison Blake Diversity Scholarship at the School of Pharmacy. “USC gave me excellence,” says Roslyn. “I remember being one of only a few African Americans while in pharmacy school—it all came together for me. This is a place where my story and our support can really help someone else,” says Roslyn.

Roslyn Blake returns to the School of Pharmacy eager to give to today’s students.

“USC Gave Me Excellence”
Roslyn Blake returns to the School of Pharmacy eager to give to today’s students.

When Roslyn Blake was growing up, she worked at her father’s store, Ellison’s Record Shop, quietly adopting his work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit that ultimately formed the bedrock on which she pursued a successful career. “I’m nothing special, but always strive,” she humbly describes herself.

Roslyn Blake, PharmD ’92, came to pharmacy school years after graduating from Compton High. After high school, she went to UCSD but did not complete her degree, “I didn’t do well in the science courses, so I decided to go to work for the Social Security Administration.”

While working at Social Security, she ran into a high school classmate who was in her last semester at the USC School of Pharmacy. This fortuitous meeting ignited Roslyn’s interest in a career in pharmacy. The timing was especially good as Roslyn was already questioning her major in public administration at Cal State-Dominguez Hills where she was pursuing her undergraduate degree while holding down a full-time position at Social Security.

Roslyn made an appointment to learn about the prerequisites that she would have to complete to gain admission to pharmacy school. The science requirements were daunting and may have seemed beyond reach to many in Roslyn’s situation.

“In spite of all this, on a prayer, I quit my job after 10 years of employment and enrolled at Long Beach City College for a year of science. I was ready to do it and I did.”

Roslyn got the grades she needed and was accepted to the USC School of Pharmacy. Somehow, Roslyn and her husband, Bob, kept their household—which included two young sons—going while she attended pharmacy school. “I was very grateful to Bob, kept their household—which included two young sons—going while she attended pharmacy school. “I was very grateful for the scholarships I received. They made all the difference in the world.”

During her fourth year of pharmacy school, Roslyn did a rotation at GranCare, a long-term care company that also operated closed-door pharmacies to serve their facilities. They offered her a position upon graduation which she took. From GranCare, Roslyn went to Covenant Care, another operator of long-term care facilities, where she oversaw the company’s consultant pharmacy division for their three pharmacies in California.

In 2000, Roslyn left her position at Covenant to do something she had never done—take time off for herself. Her break ended in three weeks when she went into her husband’s company for a "short stint." That short stint is still happening, as Bob Blake & Associates Inc., a financial services company, enjoyed exponential growth and the couple added a second company headed by Roslyn called MB Ellison, Inc., rightfully named after her father.

“Our lives have always been so full and time so tight. But now we’re making time to give back,” says Roslyn.

To find out more about scholarship support opportunities, contact Ola Carr at 323.442.1381 or carr@usc.edu.
USC TAKES PHARMACY INITIATIVES TO CAPITOL HILL

School of Pharmacy representatives meet with officials in Washington, putting pharmacy on the legislative agenda.

Dean R. Pete Vanderven along with Professors Mel Baron, Steve Chen, Kathleen Johnson and Kathleen Besinque met with elected officials and their staffs in the nation’s capital in February. California Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard met with the group at her Capitol Hill office to discuss the impact of clinical pharmacy services on underserved populations in her district. Representing the 34th Congressional District, Roybal-Allard is on the House Appropriations Committee and a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. The congresswoman has been a strong supporter of the School's work in safety-net clinics.

The USC contingent covered a variety of topics during their Hill visits. They explained the expanded role of the pharmacist in preventive medicine and the importance of recognizing the pharmacist as a provider in the federal health-care code. Furthermore, the group presented data from a new USC study showing the positive patient outcomes resulting from pharmacist intervention in the safety-net environment.

Other topics covered in meetings included current health-care reform issues such as transitioning to electronic medical records. The group also stressed the importance of NIH funding for clinical and translational research conducted at the School and throughout the USC campus.

In addition to meeting with Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, School of Pharmacy representatives met with staff members from the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Henry Waxman.

USC Alumni Association Honors School Of Pharmacy Alumnus David M. Breslow

David M. Breslow, PharmD (’71), CEO of the Institute for Community Pharmacy (ICP), received the Alumni Service Award from the University of Southern California at the 76th Annual USC Alumni Awards Gala on May 2, at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown Los Angeles.

The university’s Alumni Service Awards recognize outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the university.” Breslow has served as director and president of both the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association and the QSAD Centurion groups. Currently, he is a member of the school’s Board of Councilors where he chairs the innovative practice models committee.

Over the course of his 37-year career in pharmacy, Breslow has practiced in a variety of venues, including long-term care, home health care, corporate management, hospital pharmacy and management consulting. In his current position at ICP, Breslow carries out the organization’s mission to advance the profession of community pharmacy and its role in improving quality care to patients.

Breslow's enthusiastic approach to the profession, the School of Pharmacy and to its students has brought other awards his way. In 2006, he was named Pharmacists of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association where he had previously served as senior vice president. In 2001, the USC School of Pharmacy honored Breslow as Outstanding Alumnus.

above: Award recipient David Breslow with President Steven Sample at the Annual Alumni Awards Gala

USC Is Site for National HRSA Satellite Broadcast

The School of Pharmacy presented outcomes data and a patient’s perspective as part of a satellite broadcast bringing together nearly 500 health professionals nationwide.

Steven Chen, associate professor at the USC School of Pharmacy, was online from Washington as a HRSA faculty member along with his co-faculty member, Paul Gregerson, chief medical officer at the JWCH Institute. Chen and Gregerson work collaboratively in caring for patients at the JWCH Clinic at the Weingart Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Gregerson discussed the important role that clinical pharmacy services play at the clinic, improving patient outcomes while saving health-care dollars. Chen discussed the advantages these partnerships offer, providing a fertile environment for educating students and residents as well as offering faculty research opportunities.

Chen introduced his patient Mike Metcalf, at the USC site, who shared his personal story with the national audience, explaining how Dr. Chen played a pivotal role in bringing him back to life—helping him take control of his health to where he is today—“having fallen in love with his new healthy lifestyle”.

Also from the USC site, Kathleen Johnson, the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy, presented outcomes data from the school’s work in seven safety-net clinics. Johnson’s presentation showed how pharmacist intervention produced better results for patients with diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol while also enhancing patient medication compliance and safety.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, presented a national learning session of the Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative (PSPC) on May 6. The PSPC strives to improve the quality of health care nationwide by integrating evidence-based, clinical pharmacy services into the care and management of patients with chronic diseases.

While the main site for the learning session was in Washington, DC, the broadcast brought together another dozen sites nationwide. USC and University of Minnesota were the only satellite sites that transmitted part of the national program.

Chen and Gregerson work collaboratively in caring for patients at the JWCH Institute. Paul Gregerson, chief medical officer at the JWCH Institute.

Chen introduced his patient Mike Metcalf, at the USC site, who shared his personal story with the national audience, explaining how Dr. Chen played a pivotal role in bringing him back to life—helping him take control of his health to where he is today—“having fallen in love with his new healthy lifestyle”.

Also from the USC site, Kathleen Johnson, the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy, presented outcomes data from the school’s work in seven safety-net clinics. Johnson’s presentation showed how pharmacist intervention produced better results for patients with diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol while also enhancing patient medication compliance and safety.

On hand in Washington for the HRSA satellite conference were Dennis Wagner, School of Pharmacy Professor Steve Chen, Denise Gault and JWCH medical director Paul Gregerson and Jimmy Mitchell. Wagner, Gault and Mitchell are all employed by HRSA; Chen and Gregerson are faculty members for the HRSA initiative promoting clinical pharmacy services in clinics nationwide.

Patient Mike Metcalf spoke during the broadcast.
The School of Pharmacy Alumni Association hosted the 2009 Alumni/Senior Awards Banquet on May 3 at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. Over 400 people attended the annual event honoring the Class of 2009 and the Class of 1959’s 50th year in the pharmacy profession. The Outstanding Alumnus Award was presented to Walter Cathey, PharmD (’62), recognizing his professional achievements and distinguished contributions to the School.

Honorary Alumni awards were given to Terry Bonecutter, CEO and president of QueensCare, and Paul Gregerson, MD, MBA, chief medical officer of the JWCH Institute, for their dedicated support of the School. Matt Moran, senior director of the Allergan Global Regulatory Affairs Group, received the Roche Preceptor of the Year Award.

Honorary Alumni award winners (left) Terry Bonecutter, president and CEO of QueensCare, and (right) Paul Gregerson MD, MBA, chief medical officer of the JWCH Institute.
Mel Baron, PharmD, MPA, recognized as a Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association at the APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio in April; presented at the School of Pharmacy’s Developing Partnerships between Schools of Pharmacy & Safety-Net Clinics conference in February; presented “Transforming Research Into Practice: Development of a Depression Fotonovela for Low-Literate Latinos” with Greg Molina at the Critical Issues in Latino Mental Health 2009 Conference, in New Brunswick, NJ, in June; awarded $30,600 USC Neighborhood Outreach grant to produce a fotonovela on obesity; featured on the website of California Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard with Dean R. Pete Vanderveen, PhD, RPh, Steven Chen, PharmD, and Kathy Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PhD, in honor of the AACP Inaugural Award for Transformative Community Service in February.

Kathy Besinque, PharmD, interviewed by Prevention magazine about the potential dangers of the contents in home medicine cabinets in January.

Steven Chen, PharmD, faculty member for the HRSA Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative; spoke at School’s Developing Partnerships between Schools of Pharmacy and Safety-Net Clinics conference in February; presented “Net Forward Energy: Instructive Lessons Learned from a National Clinical Practice Change Collaborative” for USC Center for Excellence in Teaching in March; presented at the QSAD Centurion 14th Annual Winter Retreat in February; presented “Comparative Effectiveness of Generic vs. Brand-Name Diuretics in Acute Heart Failure” at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Annual Meeting in San Diego in June.

Scott Evans, PharmD, chief operating officer of the USC University Hospital and the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, was awarded the Phi Delta Chi fraternity’s Albert B. Prestrutt/Glaxo SmithKline Pharmacy Leadership Award in recognition of his leadership qualities at the APhA annual meeting in April.

Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPh, PhD, William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the Titus Family Department, named to the Rho Chi Honor Society Alumni Honor Roll in April; presented “Payers’ Perspective on the Value of MTM” at the APhA Annual Meeting, in San Antonio in April; presented “The Impact of Pharmacist Interventions on Outcomes of Diabetic Patients Compared to Usual Care” with Steven Chen, PharmD; I-Ning Cheng, PharmD, Jeffrey McCombs, PhD, and Mimi Lou; presented at the ISPOR 14th Annual International Meeting in Orlando in May; quoted in a Los Angeles Times article on the legalization of marijuana in May.

Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPh, PhD, William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the Titus Family Department, named to the Rho Chi Honor Society Alumni Honor Roll in April; presented “Payers’ Perspective on the Value of MTM” at the APhA Annual Meeting, in San Antonio in April; presented “The Impact of Pharmacist Interventions on Outcomes of Diabetic Patients Compared to Usual Care” with Steven Chen, PharmD; I-Ning Cheng, PharmD, Jeffrey McCombs, PhD, and Mimi Lou; presented at the ISPOR 14th Annual International Meeting in Orlando in May; quoted in a Los Angeles Times article on the legalization of marijuana in May.

Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPh, PhD, William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the Titus Family Department, named to the Rho Chi Honor Society Alumni Honor Roll in April; presented “Payers’ Perspective on the Value of MTM” at the APhA Annual Meeting, in San Antonio in April; presented “The Impact of Pharmacist Interventions on Outcomes of Diabetic Patients Compared to Usual Care” with Steven Chen, PharmD; I-Ning Cheng, PharmD, Jeffrey McCombs, PhD, and Mimi Lou; presented at the ISPOR 14th Annual International Meeting in Orlando in May; quoted in a Los Angeles Times article on the legalization of marijuana in May.
FACULTY UPDATES continued

Michael Nichol, PhD, QSAO Centurion Professor in Pharmacological Sciences, presented “Nonadherence to Clinical Practice Guidelines for Multiple Disease Conditions in a California Medicaid Population”, “Comparison Between the EQ-5D and the Seven Derived Health Utilities in Stroke Patients Using a National Representative Sample in the United States”, “Medication Non-adherence and Non-persistence in a Managed Care Diabetes Mellitus Population”, and “The Impact of Demographics and Insurance on Quality of Care in Patients with Major Depressive Disorder in a California Medicaid Program” at the ISPOR 14th Annual International Meeting in Orlando in May, interviewed by National Public Radio’s Morning Edition about the merger between drug companies Merck and Schering-Plough in March.

Susie Park, PharmD, presented poster on fibromyalgia and major depressive disorder with Bosun Chung, PharmD, at the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists 12th Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL in April.

Glen Stimmel, PharmD, and Jeff Goad, PharmD, MPH, represent USC Pharmacy along with 10 students at the California Pharmacists Association’s Community Pharmacy Residency Excellence in Teaching Award in Long Beach in April.

Irving Steinberg, PharmD, presented “Black Box Warnings and Adverse Drug Reactions”, “Hypertension in Children: Is it Time to Consider Medication?”, and “What’s the Most Appropriate Antibiotic for this Pediatric UTI?” at the 30th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners in March.

Annie Wong-Berlinger, PharmD, vice chair of Titus Family Department, presented at the QSAO Centurion Annual Winter Retreat in January; awarded $115,625.00 grant from Trius Therapeutics for study “Effect of TR701 on susceptibility and virulence profiles of MRSA strains causing complicated skin and soft tissue infections”.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The American Pharmacists Association, the Rho Chi Society, the Phi Delta Chi national fraternity and the American Pharmacy Student Alliance recognized USC faculty and students at annual meetings held from April 9-13 in San Antonio.

“Once again, our students and faculty have had an extraordinary showing on the national stage,” said R. Pete Vanderveen, the School of Pharmacy dean. “I am inspired by the very fine work they are doing and proud of the recognition they have received.”

Mel Baron, PharmD, MPA, was named an American Pharmacists Association fellow and Jeff Goad was awarded the association’s Community Pharmacy Residency Excellence in Precepting Award. Both Baron and Goad are associate professors in the school’s Titus Faculty Department.

Scott Evans, PharmD, chief operating officer of the USC University Hospital and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, was awarded the Phi Delta Chi fraternity’s Albert B. Prescott/GlaxoSmithKline Pharmacy Leadership Award in recognition of his leadership qualities.

The Rho Chi Honor Society named Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PhD, the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the Titus Family Department, to the Rho Chi Alumni Honor Roll. For a full list of student winners at the national meetings, see the Student Awards grid on page 3.

MAKING THE GRADE

School of Pharmacy Once Again Validated by ACPE

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy, has once again deemed the USC School of Pharmacy an accredited institution. Representatives from the ACPE, along with site visit team members from peer institutions, visited the School on January 27–29 as the culminating activity of the long process.

The accreditation process requires the school to conduct an extensive self-study that covers all aspects of the school and involves faculty, staff, students, preceptors and alumni. Associate Dean Fred G. Weissman oversaw the preparation of the self-study document along with thousands of pages of supporting materials made available to the accrediting committee.

While the School has not received a final report from the ACPE, preliminary communications indicate that the school met all 30 standards required for accreditation. The ACPE has advised that a final, formal report will be sent to the School later in the summer.

TAKING IT On The Road

Each year students do a rehearsal of their health-education presentations for faculty prior to taking their message to the public. Among this year’s new displays was a look at steroids and their inappropriate and dangerous uses. This exhibit will be presented to students at the East Los Angeles Skills Center, the East Los Angeles Occupational Center and Bravo High School. PharmD students with their exhibit are (kneeling) Trevor Millington and Brandon Hockaday; (left to right) Oscar Gallegos, Ryan Anderson, Audrey Moreau and Brian Kim.

Global THUMBS UP

Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year went to USC at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 14th Annual Meeting held in Orlando in May. Celebrating the win are Danielle Coelayo, Takeda MS Fellow, Nhu Tran, Amylin MS Fellow, Phil Wiegand, Abbott Labs MS Fellow, Jia Kyung Suh, doctoral student from Korea; faculty members Mike Nichol, PhD, and Jeff McCanta, PhD, Sin Yeo Zolfaghari, doctoral student from Iran; Jai Ling Poon, doctoral student from Singapore; Jaerin An, doctoral student from Korea; Hae Sun Suh, a recent doctoral graduate from Korea; and Jerry Chang, PharmD, doctoral student and Dean’s fellow. For other prizes won at the meeting, see the student awards grid on page 3.

At the YMCA

In April, the School of Pharmacy was honored by the Alhambra City Council for “participation, dedication, hard work and spirit of volunteerism in making the YMCA Health Fair such a huge success”, Receiving recognition from the Council are PharmD student Bonnie Hui, Board of Councilor members Tim Su, MD, and Raymond Poon, PharmD (’71), and YMCA CEO Valerie Gornitz. Dr. Su and Poon worked with USC students in organizing the event. Faculty member Cynthia Liu, PharmD, supervised students at the event.

TAKING IT ON THE ROAD

Summer 2009 | USC PHARMACY MAGAZINE

20 SUMMER 2009 | USC PHARMACY MAGAZINE 21
Jean C. Shih, the Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a grant of $1.096,775, continuing her research support from the National Institute of Mental Health for the next five years.

Shih’s work focuses on monoamine oxidase, also known as MAO, an enzyme that regulates known brain chemicals—serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals help cells communicate, affecting brain functions related to mood and behavior.

Shih’s MAO findings have garnered international attention as her lab was the first ever to clone human MAO-A and MAO-B genes and to unravel their structures, functions and regulations. This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression.

“This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression...Ultimately, this will help us better identify and understand the most critical periods for prevention and treatment of these brain disorders.”

Jean C. Shih, the Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a grant of $1.096,775, continuing her research support from the National Institute of Mental Health for the next five years.

Shih’s work focuses on monoamine oxidase, also known as MAO, an enzyme that regulates known brain chemicals—serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals help cells communicate, affecting brain functions related to mood and behavior.

Shih’s MAO findings have garnered international attention as her lab was the first ever to clone human MAO-A and MAO-B genes and to unravel their structures, functions and regulations. This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression.

“This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression...Ultimately, this will help us better identify and understand the most critical periods for prevention and treatment of these brain disorders.”

Jean C. Shih, the Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a grant of $1.096,775, continuing her research support from the National Institute of Mental Health for the next five years.

Shih’s work focuses on monoamine oxidase, also known as MAO, an enzyme that regulates known brain chemicals—serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals help cells communicate, affecting brain functions related to mood and behavior.

Shih’s MAO findings have garnered international attention as her lab was the first ever to clone human MAO-A and MAO-B genes and to unravel their structures, functions and regulations. This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression.

“This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression...Ultimately, this will help us better identify and understand the most critical periods for prevention and treatment of these brain disorders.”

Jean C. Shih, the Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a grant of $1.096,775, continuing her research support from the National Institute of Mental Health for the next five years.

Shih’s work focuses on monoamine oxidase, also known as MAO, an enzyme that regulates known brain chemicals—serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals help cells communicate, affecting brain functions related to mood and behavior.

Shih’s MAO findings have garnered international attention as her lab was the first ever to clone human MAO-A and MAO-B genes and to unravel their structures, functions and regulations. This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression.

“This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression...Ultimately, this will help us better identify and understand the most critical periods for prevention and treatment of these brain disorders.”

Jean C. Shih, the Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a grant of $1.096,775, continuing her research support from the National Institute of Mental Health for the next five years.

Shih’s work focuses on monoamine oxidase, also known as MAO, an enzyme that regulates known brain chemicals—serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals help cells communicate, affecting brain functions related to mood and behavior.

Shih’s MAO findings have garnered international attention as her lab was the first ever to clone human MAO-A and MAO-B genes and to unravel their structures, functions and regulations. This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression.

“This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression...Ultimately, this will help us better identify and understand the most critical periods for prevention and treatment of these brain disorders.”

Jean C. Shih, the Boyd P. and Elsie D. Welin Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a grant of $1.096,775, continuing her research support from the National Institute of Mental Health for the next five years.

Shih’s work focuses on monoamine oxidase, also known as MAO, an enzyme that regulates known brain chemicals—serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine. These brain chemicals help cells communicate, affecting brain functions related to mood and behavior.

Shih’s MAO findings have garnered international attention as her lab was the first ever to clone human MAO-A and MAO-B genes and to unravel their structures, functions and regulations. This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression.

“This work is an important building block in the development of therapeutics for aggression, anxiety and depression...Ultimately, this will help us better identify and understand the most critical periods for prevention and treatment of these brain disorders.”
FUNDING KEY TO DRUG Development Projects for PhD Students

PhD candidates Erik Serrao, Tino Sanchez and Ben Xu were granted fellowships that will help support their studies on HIV and Sjögren’s syndrome.

Erik Serrao and Tino Sanchez

Tino Sanchez received a two-year $30,000 dissertation fellowship from the California HIV/AIDS Research Program to support research on the disease. Sanchez hopes his study may lead to drug development for patients suffering with HIV. The disease works by invading an immune cell and replicating in the cell. Sanchez plans to target the integrase enzyme as it is key in allowing viral DNA to integrate into host cells. Among HIV therapies, only one integrase inhibitor is FDA-approved.

“HIV is the most unique and devastating virus known for PhD students in any field. Like Sanchez, Serrao’s research will also target the integrase enzyme. Serrao will work on the development of new compounds that can inhibit HIV integrase from incorporating the virus into chromosomes. Both Serrao and Sanchez work in the lab of Nouri Neamati, associate professor of pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences.

PhD candidate Ben Xu was awarded a Sjögren’s Syndrome Foundation student fellowship, which will help support his research project on Sjögren’s syndrome, an autoimmune disease that is characterized by tear gland inflammation and dry eye.

Xu hopes this research will eventually aid in therapeutic development for those suffering with Sjögren’s syndrome. He will use the $3,000 award to study how antibodies are transported from the blood through the tear gland and into tears.

“This award will encourage me to do a deeper study on cell biology and protein trafficking, which may be involved in the delivery of drugs,” Xu says.

Xu’s research will take place in the lab of his mentor, Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Over 90 donors and recipients attended the School of Pharmacy’s Annual Scholarship Luncheon, which took place in Centennial Park on April 16. The event provided a unique opportunity for students to connect with the benefactors who have played an important role in making their educations possible.

School of Pharmacy annual scholarship luncheon

DEAN R. PETE VANDERVEEN ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE EVENT:

- Comprehensive Pharmacy Services Scholarship
- Joanne and Scott Evans Endowed Scholarship
- Barbara Gee Endowed Scholarship
- Mission Road Pharmacy Scholarship
- Urmila Patel Endowed Scholarship
- Mayank and Rebecca Shah Scholarship
- Roslyn Ellison Blake Endowed Diversity Scholarship
- School of Pharmacy Diversity Scholarship with support from Target, Cardinal Health and Walgreens
WINTER BREATHER

The 14th Annual Winter Retreat presented by QSAD was held in January at La Costa Resort & Spa. Sponsored by AmerisourceBergen Good Neighbor Pharmacy, the program offered continuing education accented with the amenities of the resort. For information about next year’s Winter Retreat, slated for January 29-31 at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, contact Mary Wackerman at 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu. Pictured are attendees at this year’s event Herbert Weinberg, PharmD (‘56), JD, and his wife Polly Weinberg. According to Weinberg, “QSAD’s Winter Retreat gives you the opportunity to meet with old friends, make new friends and listen to interesting speakers about matters pharmaceutical, in a beautiful resort setting. It doesn’t get any better than that.”

KEEPING TRACK OF classmates

William T. Economou, PharmD (’57), given honorary California Pharmacists Association life membership at the CPhA annual meeting in Anaheim in February, recognized by the California Board of Pharmacy for 50 years of service.

Andrew Rosenthal, PharmD (’67), is the director of pharmacy, Kindred Hospital, San Antonio, Texas.

David Breslow, PharmD (’71), is the CEO of the Institute for Community Pharmacy, received the 2009 Alumni Service Award at the USC 76th Annual Alumni Awards Gala in May.

Elwin Goo, PharmD (’72), completing second term as chair of the Hawai’i State Board of Pharmacy, writes board exams for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, served as guest lecturer in Law and Ethics at the University of Hawaii College of Pharmacy.

George Yasutake, PharmD (’78), named Pharmacists of the Year at the California Pharmacists Association annual meeting in Anaheim in February.

David Fong, PharmD (’82), named executive director of United Pharmacists Network, Inc. in January.

Mark R. Henschke, PharmD (’83), recognized by MDx Medical, Inc. with the national Patients’ Choice Award in April.

Francesca Venturini, MS (’97), L. Shi, PhD (’01), B.V. Patel, MS (’02), and L.J. Lee, MS (’06), presented at the 2009 International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual meeting in Orlando in May.

Scott Evans, PharmD (’98), awarded the Phi Delta Chi Albert B. Prisect/Gravo SmithKline Pharmacy Leadership Award at the American Pharmacists Association annual meeting in San Antonio in April.

Classmates Ken Thai, PharmD (’02), and Brian Garner, PharmD (’02), opened Bella Vista Pharmacy in Monterey Park. Brian Thai, PharmD (’08), will manage the new pharmacy.

Sona Frausto, PharmD (’03), MA, is currently working as assistant professor of clinical and administrative sciences and chair of admissions committee at California Northstate College of Pharmacy.

Adrienne R. Matthews, PharmD (’03), MA, named WellPoint Pharmacist Program manager/pharmacy director for California-based employers that are clients of Anthem Blue Cross.

Rebecca A. Rottman, PharmD (’03), BCPS, CGP, is currently working as a geriatric clinical pharmacy specialist at South Texas Veteran’s Healthcare System, Audie L. Murphy Division, in San Antonio, Texas.

Gustavus Aranda, PharmD (’04), MS (’06), named senior manager, Clinical Science and Outcomes at Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.

Sue-Anne Nouchi, PharmD (’05), currently practicing at Torrance Memorial Medical Center and recently featured in the hospital’s magazine, Vigor.

remembrances

Frank Sei Takeuchi, BS (’88), passed away in February.

James Robert Turner, BS (’49), passed away on December 31, 2008. Mr. Turner opened Turner’s Pharmacy in Glendora in 1951. In the 1960’s, the pharmacy was relocated in Glendora and renamed Sierra Pharmacy. Turner is survived by his wife, Shirley.

Logan Lewis Fox, BS (’51), passed away on April 20.

Massao Kanai, BS (’54), passed away on January 1.

Charles “Chuck” Beeman, PharmD (’56), passed away on February 25. Dr. Beeman opened Beeman’s Pharmacy at St. Bernardine Medical Center in 1963 and a second Beeman’s Pharmacy in 1971. He was appointed to the San Bernardino Community College District Board in 1983 and served as a Trustee for 25 years.

Lou Colella, PharmD (’60), passed away in February.

Edward Hirschtman, PharmD (’68), passed away from complications due to lung cancer on April 12 at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California. He founded several companies including Pacific View Pharmacy Corp. in 1978 and Comprehensive Pharmacy Services, Inc. in 1980. Hirschtman is survived by his wife, Anne.

Richard Oksas, PharmD (’70), passed away in January. Oksas is survived by his wife, Carol.

Dale Ann Ross, PharmD (’71), passed away on January 27.

Hugo Bustamante, PharmD (’93), passed away in April. He worked as a pharmacy supervisor at the Long Beach Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Jane Alison Guentherman, PharmD (’92).
Pharmacy students and seniors at the St. Barnabas Senior Center in Los Angeles took part in the “Senior Prom”, an annual event hosted by the School’s Skull and Mortar Pharmacy Service Fraternity. The prom is a combination dance and health fair providing screenings and education “with a beat”. The screening and educational booths addressed a wide variety of health issues affecting seniors such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heartburn and proper medication use. Throughout the afternoon, seniors and students danced to nostalgic tunes from the Temple City High School jazz band.

Aubrey Moreau, a PharmD candidate, takes a break from his screening booth post to dance with a partner at the senior prom.

Student pharmacists played a starring role at the Fox Interactive Health Fair held on March 25 in Beverly Hills. USC students offered a slate of screening tests to employees of the entertainment firm.

Giving Middle Schoolers an Rx for Success

Merriam Cabando, Michael Wu, Andy Thai and Billie Gomes speak to an eighth grade science class during "Career Day" at Granger Junior High School in San Diego. The PharmD candidates educated students about the pharmacy profession and filled them in on what it’s like to be a USC pharmacy student.

HOOPS 4 CHARITY...

...is a new event that allows the winner to name the beneficiary of all funds raised through the activity. PharmD student Dan Trinh topped the basket total and announced that the $1,000 donation generated by the event would be donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, which supports breast cancer research.

SKULL and MORTAR
Honorary Service Fraternity holds ANNUAL KIDS’ DAY

The School of Pharmacy hosted middle schoolers from La Merced Intermediate School at the 12th annual Kids’ Day on March 6. This year’s theme was “Out of this World”, as pharmacy students put together an action-packed day that gave the kids a look into careers in health care. The visiting students were also given educational information on making good life choices, staying out of gangs and substance abuse prevention.

The eventful day was complemented by a talent competition and a series of dance performances put together by pharmacy students.
Pharmaceutical economics & policy students Jae-jin An, Jerry Chang, Flavia Epykowicz, Ning Yan Gu, Aniket Kawatkar, Quang Le, Hae Sun Suh, Zheng Yi-Zhou and Sara Zollaghari presented posters at the 2009 International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual Meeting in Orlando in May.

Emily Delikhah, PharmD candidate, named outstanding student member of the year by the USC National Community Pharmacists Association.

Bonnie Hui, PharmD candidate, awarded Robert C. Johnson Scholarship from the California Pharmacists Association; awarded American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists Student Leadership Award; elected as a member-at-large to the National Executive Committee of the Academy of Student Pharmacists.

Pamela Lincoln, PharmD candidate, recipient of AACP/Wal-Mart Scholars Program, which provides a $1,000 travel scholarship to attend the AACP Annual Meeting in Boston in July.

James Sanchez, PhD candidate, awarded a $6,000 fellowship from the American Foundation of Pharmaceutical Education.

Tino Sanchez, PhD candidate working with Professor Nouri Neamati, awarded a California HIV/AIDS Research Program Fellowship, supporting drug development research.

Erik Serrao, PhD candidate working with Professor Nouri Neamati, awarded a USC Graduate School Oakley Fellowship, supporting research on HIV/AIDS drug development.

Letisha Wyatt, PhD candidate, recipient of a $6,000 American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

Ben Xu, PhD candidate working with Professor Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, awarded a Sjögrens Syndrome Foundation Student Fellowship.

Bosun Chung, PharmD, research award finalist for the Innovative Practice Award at the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists 2009 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in April.

Davalyn Tidwell, PharmD (’08), recipient of AACP/Wal-Mart Scholars Program, which provides a $1,000 travel scholarship to attend the AACP Annual Meeting in Boston in July.

Indriani Wang, PharmD, awarded the PharmD Student/Resident Award at the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists 2009 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in April.

If you are interested in learning more about the Alumni Association or how you can support students, please contact Mary Wackerman at 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu.

www.usc.edu/pharmacy
August 3–7, Monday–Friday  
52nd Annual Postgraduate Refresher Course  
Hyatt Regency, Maui, Hawaii  
Information: 323-442-2403 or pharmce@usc.edu

August 20, Thursday  
White Coat Ceremony  
HSC Quad  
Information: 323-442-1360 or mwacker@usc.edu

October 13, Tuesday  
2009 Career Day Showcase  
USC–HSC Quad  
Information: 323-442-1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

November 13, Friday  
5th Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Outing  
Angeles National Golf Course  
Information: 323-442-1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

November 14, Saturday  
Homecoming and Class Reunions  
University Park Campus  
Information: 323-442-1381 or carr@usc.edu

January 29–31 (2010), Friday–Sunday  
15th Annual Winter Retreat  
Ojai Resort and Spa  
Information: 323-442-1360 or mwacker@usc.edu

February 20 (2010), Saturday  
Interview Day 2010  
HSC–USC School of Pharmacy  
Information: 323-442-1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

February 27–28 (2010), Saturday–Sunday  
23rd Annual Las Vegas Seminar  
Caesars Palace  
Information: 323-442-2403 or pharmce@usc.edu