New Faces... New Perspectives

Innovative Ideas Propel the School of Pharmacy into the Future
New Faces, New Directions
Making changes and opening doors.

Health Policy and Economics Center Founded
The Schaeffer Center aims to use research to change policy.

Giving
New and continuing support ensures bright future for School.

Globalization
School extends its reach in Asia.

Getting the Stamp of Approval
School gets reaccreditation as faculty earn new appointments.

Dean Receives Reappointment
Vanderveen will serve another 5-year term.

Stimulus Grants for Research
School earns over $2 million in ARRA funding.

“Big Idea” Award
Hats off to associate professor Julio Camarero.

Best in Show
Student wins best poster at ACCP annual meeting.

Alumni & Friends
Homecoming game, reunions and a day on the links.

Host with the Most
USC hosts AACP Summit.

Student Snapshots
Interview skills, Alpha Iota Pi Health Fair & Career Showcase

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

Department of Pharmacology... …and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Talking Politics
Legislative Day brings students together with elected officials.

International Symposium
“Moving Targets” provides a global perspective on cutting-edge topics.

Alumni Updates, remembrances and staying connected.

Two Trojans “Coat” Their Daughters
White Coat Ceremony inducts the Class of 2013.

The cover design, a graphic portrayal of the “new faces” highlighted in this issue’s feature story, rests on a background that uses elements from an illustration of the work of assistant professor Andrew MacKay (pictured in the upper left box of the cover). The full illustration of Dr. MacKay’s work is on page 6. Other faces on the cover include (clockwise): Kermit Crawford, Geoffrey Joyce, Dana Goldman, Neeraj Sood and Dianne Domingo-Foraste. Full story on page 4.
Today the School offers expanded degree opportunities, responding to pressing societal needs by preparing professionals for today’s work environments.

The USC School of Pharmacy announces its new translational degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics. This degree transforms and integrates clinical and basic science, creating an academic home that nurtures and fosters translational medicine. By bringing together the clinical and basic disciplines, the program serves to train translational scientists to apply new scientific understanding and techniques at the patient bedside.

You're probably already familiar with the nationally-ranked PharmD program in the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy. Additionally, the school offers many dual and joint degree programs that PharmD students are able to pursue at the School of Pharmacy.

**Inter-disciplinary PharmD degrees include:**
- PharmD/MBA
- PharmD/MS in Gerontology
- PharmD/MPH
- PharmD/PhD

HTTP://REGULATORY.USC.EDU/

The School’s Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences has long been an international leader in the area of pharmaceutical research, particularly in the areas of molecular mechanisms of disease and drug design, development, targeting and delivery. The department offers graduate programs leading to the following degrees:
- PhD in Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology
- PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences

HTTP://WWW.USC.EDU/SCHOOLS/PHARMACY/PHARMACOPHARMSCI/

The School of Pharmacy is home to the only Regulatory Science Doctorate Program in the nation, and was one of the first to offer a master’s program in this field. The regulatory science degrees focus on regulatory affairs, clinical research and quality systems, and degrees offered include:
- MS in Regulatory Science
- DrScs (Doctor in Regulatory Science)

HTTP://WWW.USC.EDU/SCHOOLS/PHARMACY/PHARMACOLOGY/PHARMACODYNAMICS/

USC was also the first in the nation to offer a program focusing exclusively on pharmacoeconomics, and currently has the largest alumni network in this field. The program is a collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and the School of Economics, and degrees offered include:
- MS in Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy
- PhD in Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy

HTTP://WWW.USC.EDU/SCHOOLS/PHARMACY/Clinical/PHARMACOECONOMICS/

For more information on any of the exciting and innovative degree programs the School has to offer, visit http://www.usc.edu/schools/pharmacy/.

SCHOOLS IN THIS 21ST CENTURY ARE COMPLICATED PLACES.
In many ways, it is the complicated challenge of running a school that makes me love my job. I find it intriguing to start every day knowing it will be different from yesterday and recognizing I may have to think like a CEO, clinician, academic, scientist, politician and student at various points of the day to get the job done.

When I first came to USC, one of my early decisions involved bridge funding for Professor Roberta Diaz Brinton as she waited to hear from the NIH. I considered the potential impact of her project on research and at the patient bedside in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. I reviewed her prospects for the pending NIH grant and decided to provide the funding necessary to keep her lab going until the NIH decision was made. The investment paid off and since then Dr. Brinton has garnered millions of dollars in funding to support her work developing therapies to prevent or delay onset of Alzheimer’s disease, including a grant just awarded by the National Institute of Aging to conduct a clinical trial in humans on a new compound to fight the disease.

Likewise, during my first year at USC, I had to weigh the value of expanding and continuing various clinical programs at the school. I looked at the impact of the projects — where our faculty, residents and students provide clinical services to some of the area’s most vulnerable patients and at the immeasurable learning this environment provides to our students — and I supported the program expansion. Today, data show that the School’s services not only positively impact the health outcomes of these patients but do this while saving health-care dollars.

Last year, I decided to commit school dollars to establish the Schaeffer Center and the recruitment of three new faculty members focusing on health economics and policy. I considered the Schaeffer Center’s potential to propel the school to national prominence while informing decision makers on health policy. In fact, it already has while also complementing our existing pharmaeconomics faculty. A paper just released by one of our new faculty, Dr. Neeraj Soond, and co-authored by Dr. David Cutler of Harvard, informs policy makers on the impact of proposed health reform on national job formation.

Each of these examples illustrates the need for a dean to have sound counsel. For me, this has been greatly met through the input of my administrative team, particularly Drs. Sarah Hamm-Alvarez and Kathleen Johnson. Further, I have relied on the advice and expertise of our Board of Councilors, as well as the QSAD and Pharmacy Alumni boards, whose life experience and professional acumen have offered invaluable guidance and insight.

I have also counted on the perspectives that faculty, staff, students and alumni have brought to my office. These stakeholders have allowed me to make decisions on the very broad nature of running a 21st century school of pharmacy with a wide range of thoughtful input and consideration.

I neglected to mention another hat that a dean must wear — CFO. The generous gifts from our alumni and friends, and from foundations, greatly impact the quality of our programs, facilities and the scholarships that we provide while balancing our budget.

It is a new year and as our academic enterprise becomes ever more complicated, I am heartened by each of you who have stretched to help the School in so many ways. It is with the help of so many divergent voices that we together get the job done to create this 21st Century USC School of Pharmacy. I thank each of you.

R. Pete Vanderveen, PhD, RPh
Dean
John Stauffer Decanal Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences
TRANSFORMING PRIVATE PRACTICE

Pharmacists providing medication therapy management out of a private pharmacy that’s working in concert with a private medical practice are yielding extraordinary outcomes.

When Dianne Domingo-Foraste, MD, was approached by her old friend and colleague, Raymond Poon, PharmD (’72), owner of Botica del Sol Pharmacy and also a member of the School’s Board of Councilors, about incorporating clinical pharmacists into her private practice, she was a bit skeptical. “I was a little worried about having pharmacists working with my patients,” she said. “I had no idea what to expect.”

Dr. Foraste is the physician at P. Domingo-Foraste, MD, Inc., known as Inter-American Medical Group, which was founded by her father in 1954. It is a private practice that primarily treats MediCal, Medicare and uninsured patients.

After meeting with associate professor Steven Chen in September, Dr. Foraste decided to implement a program that would bring in pharmacists and residents from USC to work as medication therapy managers, understanding that this would be a great opportunity for these individuals to gain experience.

“It all started as an informal arrangement. I’ve been at this clinic for so many years, and I do my work out of love,” she said. “If I can give back to the new generation of professionals in the form of training — I thought why not.”

Dr. Foraste has been amazed by the results. “I had no idea how much the addition of clinical pharmacists would enhance my practice. Just imagine, you’re one physician seeing maybe 40 patients a day, who are on as many as eight medicines each, and sometimes more. The clinical pharmacist is the physician complement who takes care of the patient’s medication therapy management — which is a key element of care.”

The clinical pharmacists work primarily with patients who are on medications for diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, asthma and anticoagulation. Dr. Foraste has already seen positive changes in her patients, noting that many of her diabetic patients are now more compliant and more controlled.

“The pharmacists have been well-received by my patients, too. They take time to work with them, and this translates to improved outcomes,” she said.

Just as this is Dr. Foraste’s first experience working with clinical pharmacists, her involvement is a first for the School of Pharmacy as well. Though the School has worked with physician groups in the past, these partnerships have mainly been with public safety-net clinics. Dr. Foraste has opened the door to having clinical pharmacists in the private sector, a concept that will likely have positive outcomes for the future of health care.

“Implementing clinical pharmacy care could decrease hospitalizations. How many people are in hospital beds because...”

Dr. Foraste believes the addition of clinical pharmacy services in her medical practice “enhances patient outcomes and the overall care your practice can provide.”
INNOVATING CANCER TREATMENTS

Nanoscale developments have macro potential for the treatment of cancer.

The future of cancer treatment might be microscopic in size, at least according to School of Pharmacy assistant professor Andrew MacKay’s groundbreaking research.

MacKay, who joined the School’s faculty in December 2008, has a background in chemical bioengineering, providing him with a unique perspective on the world of pharmaceutical sciences. After earning his BS in chemical engineering and biology at MIT, MacKay entered the Joint Graduate Group in Bioengineering at the University of California at San Francisco and Berkeley, where he earned a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowship and received his PhD.

Using his knowledge of these fields, MacKay has developed new strategies that, when executed on a nanoscale, have successfully led to tumor regression.

MacKay’s biomedical engineering expertise has enabled him to create a genetically engineered drug carrier, the CP molecule, which targets specific proteins and delivers therapeutics through controlled release, a process that actually makes old drugs behave like new drugs.

“During and after chemotherapy, cancer cells acquire resistance to certain drugs. We developed a new strategy to induce these drugs to assemble sub-microscopic particles. These particles deliver more drug into the tumor than free drug, and reverse drug resistance,” explained MacKay.

His pioneering techniques are a rational approach to overcoming problems with chemotherapy: The targeting prevents the drug from entering healthy tissue, decreasing the amount of toxicity in healthy tissue while effectively treating the tumor.

In the lab, the nanomedicines were used to deliver chemotherapeutics to tumors in mice. Not only did drug tolerance increase fourfold, but the use of these novel chemotherapeutics led to nearly complete tumor regression after only a single dose. While the tumor used in the laboratory was associated with colon cancer in mice, this approach could possibly be used to treat a variety of cancers, and could mark a new direction in cancer treatment.

“While we used these particles to cure drug-resistant tumors in mice, translating this approach to people is naturally the goal,” said MacKay.

Although MacKay’s innovative developments are on a very small scale, their impact has huge potential.

MacKay’s work with the CP molecule and nanomedicines was featured in Nature Materials last November.

TRANSFORMING THE PHARMACY EXPERIENCE

A national business leader is working to remake the pharmacy experience at one of the country’s largest chains.

When Kermit Crawford, a new member of the USC School of Pharmacy Board of Counselors and senior vice president of pharmacy services for Walgreens, was growing up in the small town of Alvin, Texas, the local pharmacist was an influential person in his life. Crawford remembers the trust and respect that the pharmacist, whom his father called “Doc,” held in the community.

“My dad talked with him and got great advice from him,” he said. “It impressed me and eventually got me thinking about the pharmacy profession as a career.”

Crawford decided to pursue a degree in pharmacy, with the goal of either opening his own drugstore or going on to medical school. “While completing my pharmacy degree, I found I loved the practice, especially the interaction with patients,” he said. “I was hoping to eventually open my own store, but first I wanted to work for a big chain to learn the business side, so I went to Walgreens.”

He started out as a pharmacy intern, and worked his way up to his current position where he is now enhancing the pharmacy experience — making it more patient-centric. “We don’t need pharmacists to fill little bottles — the value of the pharmacist is interacting with the patient,” he said.

“Pharmacists can play a greater role in communities across our country by helping patients understand that taking their medication helps improve their overall health and well being,” said Crawford. “They should work with patients to change behaviors — engaging them to be more compliant and to make healthier lifestyle choices.”
In addition to changing the way pharmacists interact with patients, Crawford thinks changes need to be made in the way pharmacies regard medications. “The product side of the business has become a commodity. We must now talk about the value of medication—not the price,” he said. The value, of course, is the clinical outcome that results from proper medication use, something that can be improved with more pharmacist-patient interaction.

Looking forward, Crawford believes that pharmacists will play a more pivotal role, as more health care costs shift to the patient. “Patients will have to be more engaged, and the pharmacist is the most accessible of all health-care professionals,” explained Crawford. “Patients don’t call insurance companies with health questions, they call physicians, but they see pharmacists. This opens up a great opportunity for interaction with the pharmacist.”

Crawford sees a future where face-to-face interactions between patients and pharmacists increase in both frequency and value, and where pharmacists are depended on and trusted much like his father counted on “Doc.”

Joyce, an associate professor, also brings his insightful perspectives to the School of Pharmacy. An op-ed of his that appeared in the LA Times revealed some interesting figures related to employer-provided drug benefits: “Our three-year study of 75 large employers shows that changing drug benefits can result in a dramatic drop in total drug spending by insurers and employees. For example, doubling co-payments cut overall drug spending by 20% to 40% depending on the class of drug.” However, Joyce notes that the increase in co-pays results in reduction in medication use and this raises concerns about adverse health outcomes, particularly among those with chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Sood, also an associate professor, recently conducted a study that was published in the U.S. News & World Report, which demonstrated a correlation between how much health care coverage industries provide to their workers and industries’ level of growth. “Industries which provide health care to a large fraction of workers didn’t grow as fast as industries offering health insurance to a small fraction of workers,” concluded Sood.

Goldman, Joyce and Sood are bringing their provocative ideas to USC, where they will continue to foster rich developments in health economics research along with their new colleagues in the School’s pharmacoeconomics group. This in turn will be used to inform policy, as their views and voices are among those called upon to be part of the national conversation—in Congressional hearings and other venues—where research is translated into policy change. Through this trio of new faces, USC will make its mark on governmental policy in ways that may both innovate and transform the provision of health care across the country. See page 15 for an article about the new Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics and page 18 for an article about Professor Goldman’s appointment to the Institute of Medicine.
SNAP shots

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2009

Nearly 400 people attended the School of Pharmacy Homecoming pre-game picnic buffet, where alumni, current students, friends and family got ready for the USC–Stanford football game. The picnic included a champagne toast by the dean and raffles for over 40 prizes.

center: School of Pharmacy alumni enjoy the pre-game picnic buffet.
right: Vice president of the Alumni Board of Directors and School of Pharmacy volunteer photographer Glen Tao, PharmD (’84), is caught on camera winning a raffle prize.

left: Michael Wu, PharmD candidate, and Gary Loach, PharmD (’80), proudly display their Trojan spirit.
right: Board of Councilors member Louis Wang, PharmD (’73), Dianne Jung, PharmD (’74), and Larry Jung, PharmD (’72), gear up for the big game.

left: Members of the PharmD class of 1973 Paul Richmond, Tim Blake, Bob Kazee, Ted Kessler and Jerry Garich reconnect at the picnic.
right: Stella Min and Michelle Chang, both level four PharmD candidates, have Trojan pride all over their faces at their last Homecoming as students.

2009 Alumni & Friends Golf Outing

School of Pharmacy alumni teed off at the 5th Annual Alumni & Friends golf outing at the Angeles National Golf Club in Sunland. Sponsors for the event included:

CARDINAL SPONSOR—Rite Aid Corporation
GOLD SPONSORS—Albertsons/Sav-on, CVS Caremark and Good Neighbor Pharmacy
TROJAN SPONSORS—UPNI and Safeway/Vons
PARTNERSHIP SPONSOR—Walgreens

(left to right) Tom McCarthy, PharmD (’70), Bob Dion, PharmD (’52), John Song, PharmD (’92), Steve Libary, PharmD (’72), Kim McCarthy and (front row) Tim Black, PharmD (’73), gather for the 5th annual golf outing.

(right) Corinna Cohen, PharmD candidate, and John Jr., PharmD (’69), enjoy the pre-game picnic buffet.

left: 2009 Alumni & Friends Golf Outing—Hilton head Trophy winners: Tom McCarthy, PharmD (’70), Bob Dion, PharmD (’52), John Song, PharmD (’92), Steve Libary, PharmD (’72), Kim McCarthy and (front row) Tim Black, PharmD (’73). right: Corinna Cohen, PharmD candidate, and John Jr., PharmD (’69), enjoy the pre-game picnic buffet.

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right: Stella Min and Michelle Chang, both level four PharmD candidates, have Trojan pride all over their faces at their last Homecoming as students.
NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED AT SCHOOL

Dean R. Pete Vanderveen has announced a series of appointments and promotions at the School of Pharmacy.

Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, PhD, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been appointed the new associate dean for research affairs. Hamm-Alvarez is also the chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Michael Wincor, PharmD, has been appointed the new associate dean of globalization and continuing professional development. Wincor is an associate professor of clinical pharmacy in the Titus Family Department.

Two faculty members have been promoted to professor. Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PhD, William A. and Josephine A. Herens Professor in Community Pharmacy, has been promoted to professor of pharmaceutical economics and policy. Both Hay and Johnson are in the Titus Family Department.

Jason Doctor, PhD, Tien Ng, PharmD, and Clay Wang, PhD, have each been promoted to associate professor. Doctor and Ng are in the Titus Family Department while Wang is in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

As the end of R. Pete Vanderveen’s fourth year as dean neared, President Steven Sample and Provost C. L. Max Nikias announced Vanderveen’s appointment to an additional five-year term beginning in 2010.

Faculty, staff and students at the School of Pharmacy showed strong support for Vanderveen’s reappointment, noting his accessibility, participation in and support of student activities, beneficial reorganization of the departments from four to two, public relations efforts to improve the School’s profile and participation and leadership in national pharmaceutical associations.

Vanderveen has worked to enlarge the role of clinical pharmacy services in various practice settings, a decision that benefits not only the School, but also the surrounding community. Vanderveen has overseen the expansion of partnerships with the JWCH Clinic at the Weingart Center and QueensCare clinics, where faculty, students and residents provide medication therapy management to patients.

University administration finds strong support for Dean’s leadership among school stakeholders.

This commitment to community outreach has led the School to win some of the most prestigious national awards in pharmacy practice over the last few years. These include the American Pharmacists Association Foundation Pinnacle Award, the American Society of Health System Pharmacists Best Practices Award and the AACP Inaugural Award for Transformative Community Service.

Vanderveen has also supported the School’s research units by providing bridge funding when scientists await grant dollars and by enhancing core facilities. He has also successfully promoted interdisciplinary hires and collaborations with other USC schools.

In addition, the dean launched the Diversity Initiative to increase diversity in the School’s student body. This program proactively recruits high-school students to join the School’s Pharmacy Explorers Program (PEP), a track of MEDCOR which introduces LAUSD students to the health professions through a Saturday enrichment program and mentoring activities.

Dean R. Pete Vanderveen announced the actions of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) pertaining to the accreditation of School’s PharmD program.

“I’m pleased to report that we have received the full six-year term of accreditation from the ACPE. This full accreditation status was based on a formal review of our school, after an exhaustive self study and a three-day site visit last January,” said Vanderveen. “These results are excellent and attest to the exemplary quality of our program.”

The ACPE is recognized by the US Department of Education as the accrediting body for pharmacy schools nationwide. The USC School of Pharmacy received full accreditation with a term that extends through June 30, 2015.

In preparation for the review by the ACPE, associate dean for academic and clinical affairs Fred Weissman prepared thousands of pages of materials to address each of the 30 rigorous standards that were reviewed by the ACPE accreditation team.

“We are very grateful to the leadership and tireless work that associate dean Weissman provided for this review,” said Vanderveen. “And, of course, his efforts and the efforts of the entire faculty were critical factors in the exemplary ranking received from the accreditors.”

The school successfully met all 30 standards that the evaluation team uses to review PharmD programs.
Stimulus grants boost new pharmacy developments

ARRA grants allow USC researchers to go forth with their ground-breaking research.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has provided eight grants supplementing support for current research at the USC School of Pharmacy.

Recipients of the grants include Nouri Neamati, an associate professor working on HIV therapies; Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences; Roberta Diaz Brinton, holder of the R. Pete Vanderveen Endowed Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development; associate professor Clay Wang; Ron Alkana, professor and associate dean of graduate studies and curricular development; and Daryl Davies, associate professor working on HIV therapies; Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the

Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies; associate professor Clay Wang; Ron Alkana, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Curricular Development; and Daryl Davies, Associate Professor working on HIV therapies; Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the

Four students.

In addition to these grants, the Student Affairs Department received the ARRA Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students in the amount of $289,717. The money was awarded to 38 level four students.

The grants awarded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the USC School of Pharmacy, totaling $2,009,962, include:

- Neamati’s grant for $442,259 to enhance his lab’s work to find inhibitors that selectively block the interaction between HIV-1 integrase and a cellular protein for the treatment of AIDS.
- Hamm-Alvarez was awarded $408,692 to further research efforts designed to find ways to best deliver medications to the eye. Co-investigator of the Hamm-Alvarez grant is Andrew MacKay, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- Brinton has received a $310,222 grant to continue her research in therapeutic development for the treatment of mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s disease.
- Wang’s $589,613 grant will be shared with his collaborator, Beril Oakley, the Irving S. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Kansas. Wang’s work focuses on searching for natural compounds that have the potential for use as novel chemotherapy agents.
- Alkana has been awarded a $58,859 supplement to support PhD student Letisha Wyatt as a graduate assistant in his lab.
- Davies’ award of $45,325 provides an opportunity for a secondary-school science teacher and two undergraduates to spend hands-on time in the laboratory setting.
- Sanchez was awarded a two-year fellowship totaling $82,352. This support allows him to mine molecular databases for novel compounds that are able to disrupt replication of the HIV virus.

Therapeutic Discovery and Development; associate professor Clay Wang; Ron Alkana, professor and associate dean of graduate studies and curricular development; and Daryl Davies, associate professor in the Tunis Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy. Two students also received ARRA grants: Tino Sanchez, a PhD student working in the Neamati lab, and doctoral student Jennifer-Ann Bayan, who works in the laboratory of assistant professor Bangyan Stiles.

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The newly established Leonard D. Schaeffer Center is a collaboration between the School of Pharmacy and the School of Policy, Planning, and Development and is housed on the University Park Campus.

The mission of the Schaeffer Center is to promote health and value in health care delivery through innovative research and policy in the United States and internationally. The Center’s unique interdisciplinary approach sets USC at the very top tier in health economics.

The Center’s research will focus on five key areas: reducing unnecessary spending, improving insurance design, understanding how public policy affects medical innovation, identifying the macroeconomic consequences of U.S. health-care costs and improving comparative effectiveness and outcomes research. Anticipated research projects include a study on how coverage gaps in certain federally funded programs impact patient health and how insurance designs affect physician-prescribing behavior.

Dean R. Pete Vanderveen said the Schaeffer Center will provide many opportunities for additional collaborations across campus. “The center promises to be a vibrant, proactive voice impacting the future direction of health care,” he said.

The opening of the Center has been made possible by a $1.2 million operating gift from Leonard D. Schaeffer and his wife, Pamela Schaeffer. Leonard Schaeffer was the founding chairman of WellPoint, the nation’s largest health insurance company, and a recognized expert in health policy and health economics.

Schaeffer’s gift will assist the new center in its first four years of operation.

“I am pleased to help the university establish a research center at a time when we must set aside our differences and challenge assumptions if we are to succeed in transforming health care,” Schaeffer said. “Using a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, this new center is uniquely positioned to produce innovative research, reliable data and independent analysis that can lead to more effective health policy solutions.” Significant additional support for the start-up has also been committed by the provost and the deans of the two schools.

With the opening of the center comes the inclusion of three new faculty members at the School of Pharmacy, joining USC from the RAND Corporation. Their expertise will serve as a welcome addition to the seasoned pharmacoeconomics team that already exists at the School. These new faculty members are Dana Goldman, PhD, who serves as the director of the Schaeffer Center, Geoffrey Joyce, PhD, and Neeraj Sood, PhD. Joyce and Sood have been appointed associate professors at the School of Pharmacy.

Goldman is a professor at the School of Pharmacy and the SPPD, where he holds the Norman Topping Chair in Medicine and Public Policy.

Dana Goldman is an internationally known health economist who previously served as director of the RAND Corporation’s program in Health Economics, Finance and Organization, as well as director of the Bing Center for Health Economics, the Royal Center for Health Policy Simulation and the RAND Summer Institute. In the past 10 years, he has published 70 peer-reviewed articles and received more than $10 million in externally funded research grants. He is on the editorial board of Health Affairs, is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and serves on numerous advisory panels with the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging and the Institute of Medicine.

Geoffrey Joyce is an expert in insurance design, demand for pharmaceuticals and Medicare and smoking cessation. Neeraj Sood’s work focuses on the economics of innovation, economic epidemiology, health-care financing and HIV/AIDS policy.

The Leonard D. Schaeffer Center pushes USC to a new level of prominence in the field of health policy and economics.
Back in the late 1940s, Ray Kathren, Ron’s older brother, was a student at the School of Pharmacy. Ray had found his way to USC through a rather circuitous route. He was born in Detroit and then moved with his family to Canada, his mother’s native country. Quickly, it became apparent that Ray was quite brilliant. Ray graduated from high school at 15 at the top of his class and started college a year later in Detroit. He came to Los Angeles, attended college and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. “Ray was always very proud of his service in the military,” says Ron, noting that every year at tax time Ray would travel to the Long Beach VA Hospital to volunteer his time and expertise by helping fellow veterans with their taxes.

After his military stint, Ray came to the USC School of Pharmacy, having become interested in the profession through an uncle who was a pharmacist. A bug to get moving and “start doing things” prevented Ray from finishing pharmacy school. Instead, he started his own business and was able to retire at the age of 39. While quite successful, Ray always lived a simple life. Unlike his brother, Ron followed a conventional path, enjoying an academic career as a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of a research program. While the two brothers pursued different routes, they remained close throughout their lives. Today, as executor of his brother’s estate, Ron is carrying out Ray’s last wishes.

“I always think that unconventional people lead us into new pathways. So, I think my brother Ray has led us to direct his gift in this way...helping junior faculty who might not have an opportunity to attend an important meeting without access to this gift,” says Ron. “It’s not flashy; it’s not usual, but it’s a quiet way to help deserving young faculty embarking on their careers.”

Asked why Ray remembered USC in his estate, Ron recalls that “his brother had fond memories of his time at USC and he felt the school genuinely provided a great education. He was always very positive about USC.”
DANA GOLDMAN IS NAMED to the Institute of Medicine

Goldman directs the USC-based Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics.

Dana Goldman, a professor at the School of Pharmacy and the School of Policy, Planning and Development, has been named to the Institute of Medicine — one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine.

Goldman, who is best known for his contributions to health economics and policy, came to USC from the RAND Corpora-
tion, where he was director of the RAND Health Economics, Finance and Organization division.

Goldman oversees the newly created Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics at the University of Southern California. The Schaeffer Center is a collaboration be-
tween the School of Pharmacy and the School of Policy, Planning and Development, where Goldman holds the Norman Topping Chair in Medicine and Public Policy.

In the past 10 years, Goldman has published 70 peer-
reviewed articles and received more than $10 million in externally funded research grants. He is on the editorial board of Health Affairs, is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and serves on numerous advisory panels with the Na-
tional Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging and now, the Institute of Medicine as well.

Lifetime appointments to the Institute are elected by current active members through a highly selective process that recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care and public health.

“The Institute of Medicine provides an opportunity to engage in research with some of the nation’s top health experts, and I am honored to represent the University of Southern Cali-
ifornia as part of this tradition,” said Goldman. “I look forward to collaborating with the other institute members in our shared mission to find ways to improve the health-care system.”

Goldman is one of two USC faculty members recently named to the Institute. The other is Mark Humayun, a profes-
sor of ophthalmology, cell and neurobiology and biomedical engineering at the Keck School of Medicine, the Doheny Eye Institute and the Viterbi School of Engineering.

The Institute of Medicine, established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences, functions as both an honorific membership organization and an advisory organization provid-
ing independent, scientifically informed analysis and recom-
mandations on health issues. The addition of recently elected members bring the Institute of Medicine’s total active membership to 1,610 and the number of foreign associ-
ates to 93. An additional 75 members hold emeritus status.

Associate professor Steven Chen has been appointed co-
chair of the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative 2.0, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Chen, a strong proponent for clinical pharmacy services in clinics that serve high-risk and chronically-ill patients, hopes that his new role will provide an opportu-
tunity to help new and existing medical teams across the country develop or advance their clinical pharmacy services and produce documented improvements in health outcomes.

Chen has worked with the JWCH Medical Clinic at the Westsart Center in Downtown Los Angeles, one of the largest safety-net clinics in the area, and consults with other local clinics, including the QueensCare Family Clinics and the South Central Family Health Center.

Steven Chen takes on the role of co-chair of a national collaborative that aims to get pharmacy services into the clinics that need them the most.

LEADING THE INITIATIVE FOR CLINICAL PHARMACY SERVICE INTEGRATION

Chen’s experience with these clinics and the dramatic improve-
ments in patient-health outcomes, along with his involvement in last year’s Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative, made him a top contender for his new post. As co-chair of the col-
laborative, he will provide leadership to the faculty involved, ensuring that the collaborative develops strategies that will assure its success.

Chen has high hopes for the future of integrated clinical phar-
mary services in medical homes throughout the nation. “This collabora-
tive is showing that clinical pharmacy services clearly save lives and improve health outcomes,” he said.

One of the areas that Chen plans to focus on is the collect-
tion and analysis of data relative to the impact of clinical pharmacy services. “The data tells the story of how clinical pharmacy services dramatically improve patient outcomes while saving health-care dollars,” said Chen.

In its second year, the Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative increased site participation by almost 50 percent, adding nearly 80 new teams to this year’s roster. The collaborative seeks to improve patient outcomes and safety by integrating evidence-based, clinical pharmacy services into clinical care and management.
FACULTY UPDATES

Mel Barrow, PharmD, MPA, was the white coat speaker for the Touro University School of Pharmacy; presented “Wonder Drugs” at the Opera for Educators program in Downtown LA in September; quoted in the LA Times about “managed care” in September; quoted in The Wall Street Journal about health-care reform efforts targeting Medicare fraud in September.

Paul Beringer, PharmD, awarded $45,600 grant for project titled “Predictors of Response to Azithromycin in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis”.

Steven Chen, PharmD, quoted in the LA Times about the lack of clinical trials of different diabetes treatments that show long-term safety and efficacy in October; featured in the LA Times about his work with patients as a clinical pharmacist in November.

Daryl Davies, PhD, awarded $46,325 NIH Grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provides an opportunity for a secondary-school science teacher and two undergraduates to spend hands-on time in the laboratory setting mentioned in Chemical Engineering News for his use of mutated receptors to identify ethanol-sensitive targets in protein.

Jason Doctor, PhD, presented “The Development of a Utility Basis for the Person Tradeoff (PTO) Measure and a Test of PTO Validity,” at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making in Hollywood in October.

Dana Goldman, PhD, presented “Socioeconomic Gradients in Health: The Role of Patient Self-Management,” at the Multidisciplinary Research Colloquium Series in Aging in September; quoted in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal about the need to address medical malpractice to alleviate health-care costs in September; quoted in The Washington Post for his study that showed that employers pass health-care costs onto employees in October; inducted into the Institute of Medicine; awarded the 2009 Garfield Economic Impact Award for his work on the publication titled “U.S. Pharmaceutical Policy in a Global Marketplace.”

Joel Hay, PhD, interviewed on CBS Radio’s San Francisco affiliate KCBS-AM about medical data mining; quoted in The Ventura County Star about health-care reform; quoted in The New York Times about the need for his study that showed that employers pass health-care costs onto employees in October; interviewed on Fox News about what mandatory car insurance can tell us about the likely success of mandatory car insurance; awarded the 2009 Garfield Economic Impact Award for his work on the publication titled “U.S. Pharmaceutical Policy in a Global Marketplace.”

Gladys Mitani, PharmD, awarded first place for her poster titled “Influence of CYP2C9 and VKORC1 Genotypes on Warfarin Dosage Requirements in a Predominantly Hispanic Population,” at the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists seminar in October; joined the editorial staff for the Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Mel Baron, PharmD, was the white coat speaker for the Touro University School of Pharmacy; presented “Wonder Drugs” at the Opera for Educators program in Downtown LA in September; quoted in the LA Times about “managed care” in September; quoted in The Wall Street Journal about health-care reform efforts targeting Medicare fraud in September.

Glen Stimmel, PharmD, presented “Drug-Induced Sexual Dysfunction and Counseling Patients on Sexual Issues,” at the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists meeting in October.

Bradley Williams, PharmD, presented “Keeping Grandma Healthy: The Challenge of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy,” at the AAPS meeting in Los Angeles in November; appointed to the Regional Chapters Council of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists for the coming year; principal investigator on a grant for $99,948, from the SCAN Foundation, supporting his project, “Pills and Spills: Helping Direct-Care Workers Reduce Falls through Medication and Environmental Interventions.”

Michael Nichol, PhD, presented “Association of Noncompliance with Clinical Treatment Guidelines and Disease Burden in a California Medicaid Cardiovascular Disease Population,” “Comparison between the EQ-5D and the Seven Derived Health Utilities in Visual Impairment in a U.S. National Representative Sample,” and “The Impact of Multiple Cardiovascular Medications Use on Medication Adherence in a California Medicaid Population with Cardiovascular Disease,” at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making in Hollywood in October.

Susie Park, PharmD, awarded a $20,000 grant from the California Korean American Pharmacists Association to support her research project focusing on antidepressant response in the Korean population.

Frances Richmond, PharmD, quoted in The Scientist about the lack of recognition given to the field of regulatory science in September.

Neeraj Sood, PhD, quoted in the Wall Street Journal’s “Market Watch” site about how health-care reform would affect the aerospace industry in September; quoted in The Washington Post for his study that showed that employers pass health-care costs onto employees in October; interviewed on Fox News about what mandatory car insurance can tell us about the likely success of mandatory car insurance; awarded the 2009 Garfield Economic Impact Award for his work on the publication titled “U.S. Pharmaceutical Policy in a Global Marketplace.”

Kathleen Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PhD, the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Professor in Community Pharmacy, promoted to professor.

Annie Wong-Beringer, PharmD, presented poster titled “Contribution and Associated Outcomes of Community MRSA Strains in Bloodstream Infections” and platform talk entitled “Factors Predictive of Treatment Failure of MRSA Bloodstream Infections,” at the 49th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in San Francisco in September; presented “Concepts in Antimicrobial Stewardship” at the UCLA Adult and Pediatric Infections Diseases Grand Rounds in October; invited to lead a roundtable panel discussion on antimicrobial stewardship at the Infectious Diseases Society of America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, in October; appointed to serve a 3-year term on the Infectious Diseases Society of America—Standards and Practice Guidelines Committee beginning in October.

Anne Wong-Beringer, PharmD, presented poster titled “Contribution and Associated Outcomes of Community MRSA Strains in Bloodstream Infections” and platform talk entitled “Factors Predictive of Treatment Failure of MRSA Bloodstream Infections,” at the 49th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in San Francisco in September; presented “Concepts in Antimicrobial Stewardship” at the UCLA Adult and Pediatric Infections Diseases Grand Rounds in October; invited to lead a roundtable panel discussion on antimicrobial stewardship at the Infectious Diseases Society of America Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, in October; appointed to serve a 3-year term on the Infectious Diseases Society of America—Standards and Practice Guidelines Committee beginning in October.
While many things have changed at USC over the last fifty years, Professor Walter Wolf has remained a consistent force at the university.

Wolf, one of only twenty faculty members to hold the title of Distinguished Professor, started his USC career in the department of chemistry in 1959, moving to the School of Pharmacy in 1962. Since then, he has shepherded hundreds of students through the School’s degree programs — a fact illustrated by the nearly one-hundred people who gathered at the Edmondson Faculty Center on November 7 to celebrate this milestone in his USC career.

“And to think I came to USC for a one-year research appointment,” says Wolf. During his tenure at the School, Wolf developed the USC radiopharmacy program, pioneering the field worldwide and making great strides in the use of radioactive materials for cancer treatment.

...You helped place the USC School of Pharmacy ahead of the curve. With skill and devotion, with insight and great talent, you advanced pharmaceutical studies and the training of newer generations of pharmacists and scientists,” said a letter from chair Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences also spoke, remarking, “Walter, you are always very engaged. And you are one of the reasons that I decided to come to USC.”

Robertia Diaz Brinton, the R. Pete Vanderveen Endowed Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development, has been awarded the 2009 North American Menopause Society/Wyeth Pharmaceuticals SERM Research Award.

The award, presented at the Menopause Society’s 20th annual meeting in San Diego, recognizes Brinton’s research to develop brain-selective estrogen receptor modulators for menopausal women. Her research has advanced at an accelerated pace thanks to support from the National Institute on Aging, the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, the L.K. Whitter Family Foundation, the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation, the Alzheimer’s Association and the Jane and Gail Benussen Gift for Translational Research.

“The support has made it possible for us to make quantum leaps in our research, which have resulted in the discovery of therapeutics that prevent and treat Alzheimer’s,” said Brinton.

Brinton and her team are generating alternatives to estrogen hormone replacement therapy. The molecules are designed to prevent a decline in cognitive function in postmenopausal women, without increasing the risk of cancer.

Brinton’s research and therapeutic development is particularly important as 68 percent of those living with Alzheimer’s disease are women. “If no effective preventive therapeutics are developed, projections indicate that within 42 years, one in 45 Americans will be afflicted with Alzheimer’s,” she said. “Our goal is to translate our scientific understanding of how the brain generates cognitive function and protects itself against Alzheimer’s into therapeutics that prevent and treat the disease.”

Her research already has unlocked the potential of Allopregnanolone, a naturally occurring neurosteroid, to generate new neurons in mice with Alzheimer’s, reversing learning and memory deficits. She has developed a transdermal gel and is now working on developing a nasal spray. All of this is in preparation for the ultimate test for a new compound that requires clinical trials and review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Brinton recently became a member of the National Institute of Mental Health Board of Scientific Counselors and the Society for Neuroscience. She has published more than 100 scientific reports and serves on advisory boards for Alzforum and the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation.

To honor the work of Professor Wolf, the School of Pharmacy has established the Gladys and Walter Wolf Endowment Fund to support future research fellows at the School. To make a donation, please contact Jennifer Watson at 323-442-1382 or fredh@usc.edu.
Julio Camarero receives transformative research grant from the NIH.

Camarero plans to use a naturally occurring peptide — the name for a class of small, protein-like compounds — as the basis for a stable antibody substitute. He is also developing a new technology that mimics the immune system and can rapidly locate peptides related to particular diseases, such as breast and prostate cancers. What differentiates his technology from other approaches is that selection is made in vitro rather than in vivo. The process occurs within the cell itself, and this allows potential candidates to be screened efficiently.

This technology in effect allows him to accelerate molecular evolution. “We’re creating a library of a thousand million compounds and out of that library, we may get 50 to 100 candidates to take to the next step,” Camarero explained.

This innovative research could eventually be translated to help detect cancers, toxins and other specific targets, and in the long run, it could be used toward developing new, more biologically based therapeutic drugs. The drug pipeline is currently empty in this category, so his research holds great promise for the future of therapeutics.

Camarero joined USC in 2007 as an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences as part of the Provost’s Biomedical Nanoscience Initiative. Previously, he held a fellowship at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

**JUST IN...**

**Julio Camarero** has been awarded a new 3-year, $400,000 grant from the Department of Defense PCRP of the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. The award will support Camarero’s project entitled, “Screening and Selection of New Antagonists of the RING-Mediated Hdm2/Hdmx Interaction,” and focuses on identification of new therapies for prostate cancer. He will be collaborating with Dr. Geoff Wahl from the Salk Institute.

**James Adams** received the 2010-2011 Pfizer Professorship at the University of Washington, applied for by Dr. Geoff Wahl from the Salk Institute.

**Roger Clemens** was awarded a $442,259 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to further research to find ways to prevent and identify conditions that lead to brain aging.

**Igor Rebrin** was awarded a $121,087 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to extend his studies on caloric restriction for his group to include new, small-molecule compounds.

**Glenn Hamor** passed away in November. Hamor taught at the School of Pharmacy from 1962-1998, and was the first USC professor to receive a four-year grant from the National Institute of Health for his study on anti-epileptic drugs.

He received a Pfeiffer Memorial Research professorship at the University of Twiwa (Italy) School of Pharmacy where he taught for 20 years. He was also a visiting professor at the Trinity College School of Pharmacy in Dublin (Ireland). He was interested in literature in addition to science, and led the USC Retired Faculty Book Club for most of the last 20 years.

The first winners of the Transformative Research Program Award from the National Institutes of Health include Julio Camarero, a scientist working independently to mine the proteome — the universe of proteins and protein-like molecules — for important new compounds.
Pharmacy Students Talk Politics

Annual event brings together elected officials, faculty and students to discuss the legislative agenda and process.

USC School of Pharmacy students and faculty had the opportunity to discuss the timely subject of health-care reform with elected officials at the School's annual Legislative Day, held on November 6 at the University Park Campus.

The event included presentations from California assemblymembers, health economists, student leaders, faculty and association representatives, all speaking about the hot national topic of health-care reform. Elected officials speaking at the event included California State Assemblymembers Mike Eng, Ted Lieu and Anthony Portantino, as well as State Senator Curren Price.

The elected officials challenged the students to get involved and stay involved in the political process, noting the importance of letting representatives know your perspective and helping them to be better informed as they cast votes in Sacramento.

Other speakers included associate professors Geoffrey Joyce and Jeffery Goad and Victor Law. School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen welcomed participants to the event. Vanderveen congratulated PharmD students Parth D. Shah and Tanaz Kohan, the two student organizers of Legislative Day, noting the "innumerable hours they have spent making this event happen."

After the presentations, students staged a formal discussion on health-care reform and its impact on the pharmacy profession. The morning event was followed by a health fair, where students offered the Legislative Day attendees, the USC community and local residents an opportunity to be checked for diabetes, cholesterol, hypertension and osteoporosis.

The breakfast was attended by nearly 200 people. The event included presentations from California assemblymembers Mike Eng, Ted Lieu and Anthony Portantino, as well as State Senator Curren Price.

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PHARMACY STUDENTS PREPARE FOR FUTURE CAREERS

The annual 2009 School of Pharmacy Career Showcase was held on October 13 in the lobby of Hoffman Hall. The event offered students an opportunity to network with representatives from a diverse cross section of future employers, including community pharmacies, hospitals, managed care and industry.

Many students attending the event learn about employment opportunities while still in school. Tamara Palagashvili, a second-year PharmD student, was hoping to find out about the different career fields available to pharmacy students. “We’re used to focusing on in-patient and out-patient care,” said Ernest Suh, a first-year PharmD student. “This is a good way to get more information about other options.”

Representatives discussed a range of available positions, including internships, externships and full-time hires. Blake Taylor, who represented Ascenti Medical Services, said she was looking for students to fill full-time positions upon graduation. “I’m hoping to meet new students and continue to develop relationships with continuing students,” explained Taylor. 

Other students were there to learn more about the different career fields available to pharmacy students. “We’re preparing for the future,” said Aminat Adebiyi on her resume. 

Michael Blasco, MS in regulatory science, advises regulatory science student Amrpat Abdiy on her resume.

MAKING the DIFFERENCE

Board of Councilor member Rosemarie Christopher coordinates an annual interview prep day that provides students an opportunity to refine their resumes and gain interview tips from working professionals. Here Michael Blasco, MS in regulatory science, advises regulatory science student Amrpat Abdiy on her resume.

GLOBAL TIES

Associate Dean Michael Wincor headed to Malaysia to expand the School of Pharmacy’s worldwide influence.

In Malaysia, Professor Michael Wincor established a formal academic exchange agreement with Cyberjaya University, opening doors for students and faculty on both sides of the Pacific to experience pharmacy practice in a different environment.

Wincor’s other activities in Malaysia included serving as an external reviewer for the final stages of accreditation of the Bachelor of Pharmacy program at Cyberjaya University where he also presented a symposium on pharmacy education and practice in the US to faculty, government pharmacists and students. Wincor also facilitated an interactive psychiatric pharmacy workshop for thirty pharmacists from Kuala Lumpur and other parts of Malaysia.

“Our agreement with Cyberjaya University is our first formal exchange agreement with faculty of pharmacy in Malaysia,” said Wincor.

In a meeting with the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health in Malaysia, Wincor had an opportunity to present ways of extending training programs to the country’s working pharmacists. Further, he worked with colleagues there in the preparation of a proposal for a two-year post-baccalaureate PharmD program at Cyberjaya to be submitted to the Ministry of Health in the near future.

In Malaysia, Wincor encountered a strong cardinal and gold presence. The president of Cyberjaya University, Dr. Mohd Salmi bin Mohd Sohod, received a PhD in Public Administration from USC in 1978, and the Dean, Dr. Shaharuddin Mohd Ams, received his MS in Nuclear Pharmacy in 1982 and PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1987, both from the USC School of Pharmacy.

Wincor is an associate professor in the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy and the associate dean of globalization and continuing professional development at the School.

For over 25 years, the School of Pharmacy has engaged in international collaborations, working with other institutions in Asia, Europe, Australia, South America and Africa.

Breaking barriers

The Alpha Iota Pi Health Fair, held in November at St. Thomas of Aquinas Church in Monterey Park, provided student pharmacists an opportunity to screen or immunize approximately 380 area residents. The main patient populations in the area are Latino and Chinese, and students were prepared to meet the challenges of language barriers with translators and speakers at every station.

Edward Thanasombat, PharmD student, is immunized by a fellow student at the fair.

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Board of directors OFFICIALLY dedicate QSAD CENTURION EXECUTIVE PLAZA

At the dedication of the plaza in the School’s Centennial Park, Oscar Pallares, PharmD (’55), was recognized for his 50-years of support of QSAD Centurion. Pictured (left to right): Fatin Sako, PharmD, president of QSAD Centurion Board of Directors, Dean Vanderveen, Oscar Pallares and Mary Pallares.

Welcoming the class of 2013

The USC School of Pharmacy welcomed 187 students to the PharmD program at the annual White Coat Ceremony sponsored by QSAD Centurion and supported by Albertsons/Sav-on. Two students were coated by their fathers: (left) Board of Councilor member Buzzy Klevens, PharmD (‘74), “coats” his daughter, Rebecca Klevens, and (right) Mari Kaneko is coated by her father, Kevin Kaneko, PharmD, assistant professor and manager of ambulatory care pharmacy services at the USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

Keeping track of classmates

Steven Baskin, PharmD (‘66), is the chair of pharmacology at Spartan Medical School in St. Lucia, West Indies.

California Pharmacists Association 2010 elections included several USC School of Pharmacy alumni: on the Board of Trustees, Region 6 Trustee Sylvia Moore, PharmD (‘62), Region 8 Trustee Steven Gray, PharmD (‘75), in the Academy of Directors, Academy of Long Term Care Elizabeth Gross, PharmD (‘83), Academy of Managed Care Chris Chan, PharmD (‘01), and Steven Gray, PharmD (‘75), Academy of Pharmacy Owners Garrett Ow, PharmD (‘08), and Ken Thai, PharmD (‘02).

Suzana Giffin, PharmD (‘98), is the head of the MedInfo Department at Amgen.

Lauren J. Lee, MS (‘06), published in Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice.

Clinical Practice and Diabetes Technology & Therapeutics.

Peter Lee, PharmD (‘04), received the Spirit of Volunteerism Award at the 2009 Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy’s Educational Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Bimal Patel, MS (‘02), presented at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Educational Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in October; presented at the North American Menopause Society Meeting in San Diego, fall 2009.

Pankaj Patel, MS (‘02), published in the Journal of Clinical Rheumatology, The Journal of Rheumatology, Journal of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, Current Medical Research and Opinion and the ISME Journal; participated in the AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Meeting in April; participated in the Academy of Health annual meeting in June; participated in the European ISPOR meeting in October.

Michael Rigas, PharmD (‘81), published in the Journal of Clinical Neuromuscular Disease and Infusion.

Jim Roache, PharmD (‘70), hosted a Dean’s Roundtable in Laguna Hills.

Mayank (Mike) Shah, PharmD (‘05), and his wife Rebecca have established the Rebecca and Mayank Shah Scholarship, directed to students with an interest in independent community pharmacy practice.

Gary Suess, PharmD (‘64), retired after 40 years at the CBC Rose Professional Pharmacy, located in Covina.

Frank L. Tornatore, PharmD (‘77), PhD, has completed his dissertation entitled “Towards the development of cognitive/health belief model to improve medication adherence in the patient with schizophrenia” and has earned his PhD in psychology from California Coast University; appointed clinical professor of psychiatry at the Western University School of Pharmacy.

Michael Rigas, PharmD (‘81), published in the Journal of Clinical Neuromuscular Disease and Infusion.

Jim Roache, PharmD (‘70), hosted a Dean’s Roundtable in Laguna Hills.

Mary Elvira Moore, PharmD (‘49), passed away in September 2008. During World War II, she served as a Pharmacist’s Mate in the Navy WAVES. She retired from Coast Drugstore in Hermosa Beach a number of years ago.

Ronald Gary Sarkesian, PharmD (‘73), passed away in March 2008. As a pharmacist, he spent his last years working for Network Pharmacy in Apple Valley. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his son, Paul and wife, Amy; his daughter, Deborah Dietz and husband, Dean; his grandchildren, Luke and Logan Sarkesian and Talan Dietz; his mother, Marjie; and his sister, Lynda Dest.
Doctoral students Lilian Chang, Divya Pathania, Kavya Ramkumar, James Sanchez and Shili Xu were named Best Teaching and Research Assistants at the School of Pharmacy.


Bonnie Hui, PharmD candidate, published in the September/ October 2009 issue of Student Pharmacist Magazine.

Tanaz Kohan, PharmD candidate, awarded 2009 Presidential Scholarship from the National Community Pharmacists Association.

Robert Mo, PhD candidate, received a 2009-2010 American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

James Sanchez, PhD candidate, received a 2009-2010 American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

Parth Shah, PharmD candidate, elected Region 8 Member-at-Large for the American Pharmacy Student Alliance.

Caring for the elderly
Michelle Vu, PharmD candidate, (left) accepts the state award for fostering the goals and vision of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists at the annual meeting in Anaheim. Vu is the USC School of Pharmacy student director of geriatric care. She is joined by Tim Merritt, PharmD ('07), membership director of the state ASCP chapter. Professor Brad Williams is the advisor to the students.

SCHOLARSHIPS change lives

“As a financially struggling pharmacy student, I sometimes wondered, ‘Is this worth it?’ And then a scholarship helped me through my last year. As my career progressed, it became clear that my USC pharmacy degree opened many doors. When I became financially able, I wanted to give back and open doors for others. So, I funded an endowed scholarship. By giving back, I’m making a payment on a debt that I owe to the future of our profession. If you benefited from your School of Pharmacy experience, consider making a payment on your debt by supporting students today.”

Joel Hoffman, PharmD (‘61)

“I became part of the Trojan Family when I received this scholarship. Like a parent, it took care of me financially, paying for housing, professional clothes to wear, even gas used to attend conferences. It not only helped me survive, but it solidified my decision to continue the tradition of giving back to my Trojan Family, as Dr. Hoffman has generously done for me. Thank you.”

Jan Riego, PharmD candidate (‘10)

To learn how you can change a life, contact Mary Wackerman at 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu.
January 29-31, Friday-Sunday
15th Annual Winter Retreat
Ojai Resort and Spa
Information: 323-442-1360 or mwacker@usc.edu

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

February 27-28, Saturday-Sunday
23rd Annual Las Vegas Continuing Education Program
Caesars Palace
Information: 323-442-2403 or pharmce@usc.edu

March 25, Thursday
Scholarship Lunch
USC School of Pharmacy Centennial Park
Information: 323-442-1381 or carr@usc.edu

May 2, Sunday
Alumni/Senior Awards Banquet
Langham Huntington Hotel
Information: 323-442-1381 or carr@usc.edu

May 14, Friday
School of Pharmacy Satellite Commencement
HSC Quad

June 9, Wednesday
GNP/ICP Scholarship Golf Classic
Robinson Ranch Golf Club
Information: 323-442-1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

August 2-6, Monday-Friday
53rd Annual Postgraduate Refresher Course
Maui, Hawaii
Information: 323-442-2403 or pharmce@usc.edu