GLOBAL LIAISONS
pharmacy researchers and clinicians making an international impact
Future pharmacists? Homecoming enthusiasts Cara Tao, daughter of Debbie and Glen Tao, and Kayla and Macie Lum, daughters of Laura and Jeff Lum. All the parents are USC School of Pharmacy alumni.
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CHECK IT OUT ONLINE

Keep up-to-date on School news by regularly visiting http://www.usc.edu/schools/pharmacy/.

See the latest School video about the Diversity Initiative — featuring School of Pharmacy alumni and current students at http://www.usc.edu/pharmacy/video/diversity.

Ever wonder what it’s like to be a pharmacy student today? Take a look at A Day in the Life of a USC Pharm.D. Student at http://www.usc.edu/pharmacy/video/student.

To see how the USC School of Pharmacy is impacting the health of some of Southern California’s most vulnerable residents, take a look at http://www.usc.edu/pharmacy/video/pinnacle.

USC is hosting “Developing Partnerships between Schools of Pharmacy and Safety-Net Clinics” — a national conference on February 12 and 13. For full program information, including registration, please visit https://www.usc.edu/pharmacy/safetynet.

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Pharmacy professionals must stay current with advancements in practice, research and technology...

...continuing education is the answer.

“The Winter Retreat, presented by QSAD, is more than a great CE program. It is that needed respite where you can meet old friends and colleagues and make new ones, too. All of this done in the atmosphere of a world-class resort and spa. It’s a fantastic opportunity to reward yourself and your family.” —Jim Roache, Pharm.D. ('70)
WHAT A RIDE. One would imagine that in such uncertain economic
times, giving would come to a screeching halt at the USC School of Pharmacy.
Supporters might just pull back and just wait — focusing on keeping themselves
afloat as the economic waves knock us about.

But, no, glancing at the pages of this magazine, I see ordinary people — like
you and me — doing some extraordinary things.

For example, alum Charles Brahms talks about the pride that he and his wife,
Valerie, feel in being part of the School of Pharmacy family. They choose to sup-
port a pharmacy student as a way to give back to the community and to insure the
future of our country’s greatest natural resource — the youth of America.

It amazes me that the Brahmses, along with dozens of others, commit themselves to providing scholarships
that, in many cases, are the deciding factor on whether or not a student is able to attend pharmacy school.
Whatever other commitments that these donors have, and whatever today’s outlook appears to be, they still decide
to reach out and help a pharmacy student.

Then there’s Walter Cathey, an alum who has been out of pharmacy school since the 60s. While Walter has
always been committed to the School, he has now gone far beyond the ordinary by taking on the leadership of the
School’s Diversity Initiative. In fact, working with community leaders and the LAUSD, Walter has instituted the
Pharmacy Explorers Program (PEP), as a new track of Med-COR, a program that has been promoting a career in
medicine to high school students for almost 40 years. Now, we are going to be exposing these promising young peo-
ple of color to our profession of pharmacy — ultimately creating a stream of talented students to enter our school.

I think only someone like Walter — who is tireless and a born networker — could have made this happen in a
matter of months. Again, an example of an alum who isn’t coasting or treading to stay afloat in these uncertain
times. He’s working hard for our School and I am grateful that we have him.

And, finally, there’s 2006 graduate Kellee Lindauer. What a story. Kellee started as a box girl many years ago at
Vons — since then she has traveled many miles as she attended our School while raising her children and today she
is the pharmacy manager of a Vons store in Ventura County. But like the others I mentioned, you’d think that
would keep Kellee busy enough and, with her family, you’d think she’d want to hold on tight in the midst of these
choppy economic seas. Instead, she went out and bought the contents for and created 16 baskets that were raffled at
Homecoming activities — with proceeds going to scholarships for our students.

These are just a few examples of the ordinary people who steadfastly support our School and our students.
Actually, these people aren’t ordinary at all — these are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things.

“Actually, these people aren’t ordinary at all — these are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things.”

R. Pete Vanderveen, Ph.D., R.Ph.
Dean
John Stauffer Decanal Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences
According to Intel CEO Paul Otellini, the 40-year-old phenomenon we call the Internet — and its younger sibling mobile Internet technology — promise to continue evolving, dissolving geographic boundaries, and changing the way we learn, work, live and play. In response, today’s universities are working to anticipate and fill the growing need for scientists, liaisons and leaders who can function in a global society.

At USC, preparing students for global citizenship and forming international alliances have been strategic goals since 1994. But an international perspective has really been woven into the fabric of the university’s culture for more than a century.

“USC had students from other countries on its roster when it was founded in 1882, and we now have more international students courting through USC classrooms than any other university in the nation,” says USC School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen.

“That’s true partly because we’re in Los Angeles, which has become a microcosm of the rest of the world and the de facto capital of the Pacific Rim. However, under President Sample’s leadership, we’ve also made a conscious decision to be international in presence, focus and scope.”

Vanderveen says USC has established offices in Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo and Mexico City, and is dedicated to sharing knowledge across borders and working to have a positive global impact.

During the last 25 years, the USC School of Pharmacy has been a constant contributor to the university’s internationalization mission in both its research and clinical departments. The School is known worldwide as a model for pharmacy education and practice, according to Vanderveen, and many of its professors are recognized as experts in their fields by colleagues on every continent.

Our planet is shrinking. Every day, more than 1.46 billion people can log on to their computers and have the world at their fingertips.
Professor Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, says that working globally goes with the territory for research professors.

Sciences and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

“To develop science and make advances, you have to go where the experts are and the research is being done, so you’re often building an international network just to do your job. In my lab alone, we are collaborating on every continent except Antarctica and Africa,” says Hamm-Alvarez.

As a result of such collaborative research, several professors in the department have risen to worldwide prominence. Two such experts are Wei-Chiang Shen, Ph.D., the John A. Biles Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Jean C. Shih, Ph.D., University Professor and the Boyd P. & Elsie D. Welin Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Clay Wang, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is also gaining an international reputation for his research on natural compounds with potential as chemotherapies and antimicrobials.

Hamm-Alvarez says these are just a few examples of her faculty’s global research projects and growing network of colleagues who are opening new doors for M.S. and Ph.D. graduates. “We place grads in a variety of fields with opportunities that didn’t exist for researchers ten years ago,” she explains.

Thanks to USC’s globalization initiative, the department’s cross-training, exchange and recruitment efforts have also improved. “Several foreign governments now encourage and sponsor study experiences here because we provide valuable training and they get an excellent return on their investment,” Hamm-Alvarez says.

Currently, 57 of the department’s 98 M.S. and Ph.D. students hail from other countries — a big step toward the ultimate goal of educating global leaders.

In September, Hamm-Alvarez and three students from her department traveled to Belgium to...
attend the annual conference of the Globalization of Pharmaceutics Education Network, Inc. (GPEN). “GPEN is an elite and very effective student-run organization of which USC is a founding member,” explains Hamm-Alvarez. “The organization facilitates international discussions about pharmaceutical science and offers students an opportunity to meet experts in a casual setting, present their work, and learn about research projects,” said Hamm-Alvarez. “That’s an experience students just can’t get very often.”

A LIAISON WITH INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE
If you ask anyone in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences to name a researcher who is a true global visionary, you’ll likely hear the name of Enrique Cadenas, M.D., Ph.D., Charles Krown/Alumni Professor and associate dean for research affairs, mentioned.

A native of Argentina, Cadenas is a world-renowned expert in the area of free radical research. He collaborates extensively in several countries, including Germany, Sweden, Argentina and England, and represents the School of Pharmacy’s research and scholarly interests.

Like Hamm-Alvarez, Cadenas has a joint appointment in the Keck School of Medicine. His dedication to his research and careful attention to other responsibilities have earned him the respect of colleagues everywhere. Cadenas is involved with several prestigious foreign organizations and currently serves as President of the Society for Free Radical Research International (SFRRI), an umbrella organization that has 2,500 members worldwide.

Addressing the audience at this year’s SFRRI meeting in Beijing, Cadenas told the audience, “It should be considered as matter-of-course that free radical research would be a component of translational medicine, with important implications for public health.”

His goal is to encourage society members to adopt the view that their molecular-level discoveries are valuable to patients and should be translated into practical or “bedside” applications.

Most recently, Cadenas has presented his research in Siena, Osaka, Niigata, Brighton, Berlin, Spetses, Korea, Kyoto, Paris and New Delhi. In early 2008, he organized a two-day symposium in Santa Barbara, at which he spoke on “Oxidants and Antioxidants in Biology” following a conference on hunger solutions.

Several Ph.D. graduates from the Cadenas’ lab now hold positions around the world, among them Xiaoobo Qu, Ph.D., at Peking University of Health Sciences; Allan Chan, Ph.D., at the National Institutes of Health; and Qiong Qiong Zhou, Ph.D., at the University of Maryland.

PIONEERING A GLOBAL IMPACT
Distinguished Professor Walter Wolf, Ph.D., pioneered the study of radiopharmacy in the 1960s and established its first professional degree. Wolf has trained over 250 M.S. and Ph.D. candidates from all over the world, many of whom now occupy significant leadership positions in their countries of origin. Three noteworthy examples are Spyridon C. Archimandritis, Institute of Radioisotopes and Radiodiagnostic Products at the National Center for Scientific Research Demokritos in Athens, Greece; Wichit Chanachai Kirdpon, Ph.D, Professor of Radiological Sciences, Khon Khaen University, Khon Khaen, Thailand; and Ho-Hsui (Steven) Wu, assistant director of the Veterans General Hospital in Taipei.

Dr. Wolf’s footprint in radiopharmacy and beyond is truly a personification of the worldwide web, with his graduates maintaining their “Wolf network” through regular reunions.

As the world continues its rapid transformation, “we are generally on a good path,” says Hamm-Alvarez. “There is more transparency, and technology has drastically simplified what we do by bringing the world right into our labs. Add that to the fact that this generation of students is eager to travel and form partnerships abroad, and you have the ingredients for a vast and healthy global research network.”
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL WINCOR works with schools around the world, including those in Japan, Australia and Norway.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL WINCOR works with schools around the world, including those in Japan, Australia and Norway.

TITUS FAMILY DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL ECONOMICS & POLICY
A key contributor to the success of the Titus Family Department’s effort to make a global impact is Michael Wincor, Pharm.D., associate professor of clinical pharmacy and director of external programs.

“We began establishing student and faculty exchange agreements with foreign universities back in the 1980s,” Wincor says. “Now, we have formal agreements with 13 universities in Japan, China, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia, and informal agreements with seven institutions in Korea, Australia, Argentina, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom.”

CLINICIANS BUILDING BRIDGES
Last summer, three Pharm.D. students learned what it’s like to practice in foreign countries as part of the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation exchange program—one of the many exchange tools in the School’s growing toolbox. Two students practiced in Taiwan, and third-year Pharm. D. student Bonnie Hui worked in a hospital in rural Ghana and gave talks about the rational use of drugs.

Wincor says the School’s faculty and graduate students attend and host numerous international conferences, and partner with universities and organizations like Mediceo-Paltac of Japan to provide symposia on pharmacy practice.

According to Wincor, other US universities have always looked to the School for insight and guidance because USC established the first Pharm.D., clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical economics programs in the nation. Now, USC plays a prominent role as an advisor on the international stage.

Last year, Vanderveen and Wincor met with the dean of Cyberjaya University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to discuss a formal exchange agreement between the two institutions. Cyberjaya’s Dean Shaharuddin bin Mohd plans to develop the first Pharm.D. program in Malaysia, so he sought advice from USC to create the curriculum. An alum of Dr. Wolf’s lab who earned his M.S. and Ph.D. from USC in the 1980s, bin Mohd knew exactly where to turn for help.

“There is more transparency, and technology has drastically simplified what we do by bringing the world right into our labs.”

“The School of Pharmacy’s international programs expand its visibility and influence worldwide, help foreign institutions and give participants the opportunity to form an international network of pharmacy colleagues,” explains Wincor. “I consider that a win-win-win situation.”

Pharm.D. students have a unique opportunity to apply for practice-based exchange programs in foreign settings. Kathleen Hill-Besinque, Pharm.D., M.S. Ed., associate professor of clinical pharmacy and director of experiential programs in the Titus Family Department,
has been coordinating these placements for several years and considers them an essential piece of the education puzzle for the new generation of pharmacists.

“Our students can work in eight countries giving lectures, doing patient care and assisting with pharmacy practice, and we host students from several European and Asian nations who want to learn about pharmacy practice first-hand.”

Besides handling experiential exchanges, Hill-Besinque is currently working with colleagues in Japan on performance-based assessments and, eventually, a common set of standards that could be used worldwide.

“Clinical pharmacy practice in the US — and particularly at USC — is more extensive than in most other countries,” explains Hill-Besinque. “The American pharmacist is more patient- than product-focused and functions as the medication expert on the health care team. Other countries recognize this now and want us to educate them.”

GLOBAL EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

In the interest of advancing clinical psychiatric pharmacy services and starting a psychiatric pharmacy residency, Singapore’s Ministry of Health invited Julie Dopheide, Pharm.D., associate professor, to serve as a visiting expert at Woodbridge Hospital (also known as the Institute of Mental Health) last October. While in Singapore, Dopheide conducted an ambitious series of lectures, workshops and patient visits, and presented two symposia at the Asian Pacific Psychiatric Rehabilitation Conference.

Dopheide also took time out to visit Joyce Lee, a graduate of the School’s residency program who was recruited by the National Health Care Group of Singapore to set up a diabetes clinic and teach ambulatory care pharmacy.

“It was very satisfying to be part of improving health care on an international level,” said Dopheide. “As we place more graduates in other countries, and they train other pharmacists, we can have a huge positive impact on health care programs and patients around the world.”
One area of study that has all but exploded onto the international scene is regulatory science, and nobody knows it better than Frances Richmond, Ph.D., professor and director of the Regulatory Science Program at the School of Pharmacy. An enthusiastic innovator, Richmond is carefully preparing the next generation of leaders for the pharmaceutical and medical device industries as well as government and policy groups.

“Once upon a time, everyone was satisfied with US regulations, but that’s no longer the case,” says Richmond. “Some countries — like Japan — are more stringent than we are, and others have specific constraints. We put our students through rigorous training so they can traverse this uneven terrain.”

Richmond is called upon regularly to offer guidance to pharmaceutical companies around the world. In October, she was one of two keynote speakers at the 2008 International Life Science Summit’s FDA Policy Workshop in Hangzhou, China. More recently, she taught a US FDA approval process short course in Korea, where she met up with a former student.

Another highly respected School of Pharmacy researcher whose audience spans the globe is Joel Hay, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacoconomics and policy.

Last summer, for example, Hay was the featured speaker at a three-day conference at the University of Colombia in Bogota, where he discussed the cost of pharmaceuticals and drug usage oversight. Hay brought along one of his Ph.D. students, Marcio Fletes, who served as an interpreter and made his own presentation — delivered in Spanish.

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

These are just a few examples of the global sphere in which the School of Pharmacy operates. In fact, virtually every faculty member has something “global” happening, and students are not far behind.

“Collectively,” Dean Vanderveen says, “the opportunities we educators offer our students will have a significant impact on our world and the rapid changes occurring here. Ultimately, our job as a global university is to help a new generation of leaders develop and use progressive approaches that have broadly shared benefits as their objective. If we can do that, we’ll be furnishing the key that unlocks solutions to both local and global problems and makes our small world a better place to live.”
Associates Gather for Brunch

right: The Associates brunch was hosted by Josephine (left) and Bill (center) Herres at their home in Riverside. Among those attending was Kathleen Johnson (right), the William A. and Josephine A. Herres Chair in Community Pharmacy. Dr. Heeres is a ’63 graduate of the School and Dr. Johnson is a ’78 graduate.

left: Emmanuel Akinwole, Pharm.D. candidate 2012, gets the full “Trojan Band experience” at the Associates brunch held in September.
2008 Alumni & Friends Golf Outing

Dennis Mitani, Pharm.D. ('71), Seiichi Ishikawa, Pharm.D. ('94), Alan Endo, Pharm.D. ('71), and Steve McMath placed third in the Alumni and Friends Golf Outing held at Angeles National Golf Course during Homecoming Weekend.

Barbara Gee, Pharm.D. ('85), hit the longest drive among women players at the annual golf event. Also pictured is John Dang, pharmacy manager at the Albertsons Sav-on in Westminster. Dr. Gee is the regional manager of managed care operations-west for Albertsons Sav-on.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2008

left: Members of the Class of 1988 (back row) Phuong Mai Nguyen, Martha Mazur-Lane, Monica Vera-Schubert, Jean Rich, Melanie Baker, and Ed Achuck and (front row) Nami Jun and Joanne Tabata were very serious about enjoying their reunion at the Homecoming Picnic.

right: Stu Harwitz, Pharm.D. ('68), and Lewis Weiss, Pharm.D. ('68), gather for their 40-year reunion at the Homecoming Picnic.
White Coat Ceremony

Elisabeth Plunkett, Pharm.D. candidate 2012, receives her white coat from Professor Brad Williams at the annual White Coat Ceremony held on August 21. The ceremony welcomed the 187 new students composing the Class of 2012. The entering class has an average undergraduate GPA of 3.5.

TAP Program

Professor Mel Baron (center) with USC seniors Michael Childress and Jasmine Knight, both in the Trojan Admission Prepharmacy (TAP) program. Students enrolled in the TAP program are guaranteed admission into the Pharm.D. program provided they meet prerequisite and GPA requirements. Childress and Knight are two out of the likely 40 TAP students slated to begin the Pharm.D. program in the fall of 2009.

PEP

Dean Vanderveen, Walter Cathey, special assistant to the Dean for the School's Diversity Initiative; Brian Taylor, head of schools for the Inner City Education (ICE) Foundation Public Schools in Los Angeles; and John Davis, founder and current director of Med-COR, at the dinner launch of the Diversity Initiative. Cathey has successfully started the Pharmacy Explorers Program (PEP), incorporating it into the Med-COR curriculum which mentors high-school students interested in health careers.
SNPhA joins the School of Pharmacy with goals to strengthen diversity and become involved in community outreach.

USC Hosts A New Organization

FOR FUTURE PHARMACISTS

The USC chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association has been officially recognized by the Associated Students of Pharmacy.

SNPhA, the student affiliate of the National Pharmaceutical Association, dedicates itself to minority representation in pharmacy and other health-care fields. The new chapter will play a part in the School of Pharmacy’s Diversity Initiative and reach out to current and prospective students of color.

The chapter will take part in outreach activities such as the “Operation Immunization” campaign, the “Power to End Stroke/Smoking Cessation” and “Remember the Ribbon,” a national program aimed at promoting AIDS education. The chapter will also join forces with the Pharmacy Explorers Program (PEP), launched by the School in November, which introduces area high school students to careers in pharmacy.

Members of the chapter will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, promote active participation in national health care issues, develop the role of the minority health professional and increase community awareness and understanding of diseases. Additionally, members are eligible to receive scholarships from SNPhA.

At the SNPhA National Convention in July, USC was presented with a charter that entitled the first USC chapter to all rights, privileges and representation in the national organization. There are currently 61 SNPhA chapters nationwide.

The SNPhA officers of the USC chapter include Pharm.D. students Yazmin O’Quinn, president; Chandra Smallwood, president-elect; Ryan Martinez, secretary; Karla Martinez, treasurer; and Cynthia Mercado, historian. Walter Cathey, special assistant to the dean for the Diversity Initiative, is the group’s advisor.

President-elect Chandra Smallwood and chapter president Yazmin O’Quinn attended the national meeting of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.
Professor Annie Wong-Beringer’s research points to the need for new antibiotic drug development to combat a common resistant bacterium.

USC Pharmacy Professor Receives NIH Grant To Study Antibiotic Resistance

Annie Wong-Beringer, an associate professor at the School of Pharmacy, has won a $407,000 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, to study how the overuse of the fluoroquinolone family of antibiotics causes the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacterium to become resistant and more virulent, leading to poor patient outcomes.

Wong-Beringer’s project looks at the molecular mechanisms that regulate the resistance and virulence of this bacterium that is a leading cause of infections in hospitalized patients, those who have compromised immune system, and in patients with cystic fibrosis. By understanding the molecular pathways that govern resistance and virulence in the bacterium, the study aims to identify novel drug targets to disarm this hard-to-treat bacterium.

“If the study bears out our thesis, it will send a strong message to the medical community of the adverse consequences that can happen when some antibiotics are not appropriately prescribed,” says Wong-Beringer.

Wong-Beringer believes that the over use of fluoroquinolone antibiotics plays a big role in the growing virulence and resistance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. This has contributed in part to more prolonged illness and higher risk of death in affected patients.

“This bacterium presents a formidable challenge for clinicians today because some strains have already developed resistance to virtually all available antibiotics on the market. At the same time, no new antibiotics to combat these resistant strains are being developed in the drug development pipeline in the foreseeable five years,” notes Wong-Beringer.

Wong-Beringer’s grant from the NIH, known as an R21-Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award, provides support during the early stages of a project that may involve considerable risk but may lead to breakthrough in a particular area — such as the development of novel agents that could have a major impact on clinical research. These highly competitive awards follow a similar review path as RO1 grants.

“This grant will help my lab address an urgent need,” says Wong-Beringer. “Today’s drug pipeline lacks new drugs targeting this pathogen. Our study is an initial step in the process toward developing novel therapies to attack this virulent bacterium.”

Wong-Beringer, vice chair of the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy, is the principal investigator on the project. The project is in collaboration with investigators at the medical schools at Harvard University, Yale University and Mercer University.
Jeff Goad has taken over the top job at the California Pharmacists Association.

Jeff Goad, associate professor and director of the USC School of Pharmacy International Travel Clinic, was installed as the new president of the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) at the annual Synergy Meeting held in Sacramento in November.

As president, Goad represents the interests of licensed pharmacists and student pharmacists throughout the state, particularly on legislative and professional issues that impact the profession.

“It is particularly important for pharmacy professors to be actively involved in the Association,” says Goad. “It’s a good way for us to set the right example for our students, stressing the importance of the group’s work for our profession. Students are not only our future, but a large part of our present as they represent an active contingent of the organization.”

Among the pressing issues that have already hit Goad’s desk is the recently passed extension of a bill that deals with drug pedigree. This refers to the system of tracking a drug — from manufacturer to distributor to point of sale to customer — in an effort to assure that drugs are not counterfeit.

“This is an important concern for pharmacists,” says Goad. “We have to be certain that the drugs we provide to our patients are exactly what we think they are. The E-pedigree system addressing this has been put in place but this is an unfunded mandate. So the Association continues to press the legislature and the board of pharmacy to allow adequate time for pharmacists to integrate the necessary new technologies required for E-pedigree.”

With health care among the top issues nationwide and possible reform coming, Goad is insistent that pharmacy be represented at the table. Staff and lobbyists for the organization provide Goad with on-the-ground presence in Sacramento as these discussions unfold.

Immediate concerns include the need to protect MediCal reimbursement rates and expanded scope of practice issues. Goad is also working with the Board of Pharmacy on an immunization bill that would allow pharmacists to vaccinate patients with any routine CDC vaccination without needing a physician sign off. Currently, a physician protocol has to be in place for pharmacists to vaccinate patients, which has become an obstacle to expanding immunization access.

“Immunization is a great example of the changing face of pharmacy,” says Goad. “Ten years ago, pharmacists did not immunize in California to any great degree. Today, virtually every pharmacy chain and many independents offer immunizations to patients. In the coming decade, with electronic health records available to pharmacists as well as other professionals, we’ll have an opportunity to play an even greater, more pivotal role as the medication expert and the preventive health specialist.”

Goad is also looking forward to actively work with other professional groups representing physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, among others. He also plans to create a public relations campaign to promote the role of today’s pharmacist to consumers.

“As technology evolves and allows patients more control over their health information, it’s important for our profession to embrace technology and help patients understand what the pharmacist can offer them, how we can help them improve their health care,” says Goad.

To learn more about the work of Dr. Goad at the CPhA, visit www.cpha.com.
Mel Baron, Pharm.D., Steven Chen, Pharm.D., and Kathleen Johnson, Pharm.D. MPH, Ph.D., William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the Titus Family Department, awarded $95,000 grant from the WellPoint Foundation to support a fotonovela on medication adherence.

Paul Beringer, Pharm.D., awarded $27,660 Webb Cystic Fibrosis Research Award for “Establishing an In-vitro CFTR Model to Screen for Novel Therapeutics that Mitigate P. Aeruginosa-Induced Airway Inflammation and Remodeling”.


Roger Clemens, Dr.PH., appointed one of the 13 nationally-recognized experts on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture.

Daryl Davies, Ph.D., has joined the Titus Family Department as an associate professor; lab awarded Rose Hills Fellowship in support of undergraduate research student Jeffrey Hassan.

Julie Dopheide, Pharm.D., visiting expert on psychiatric pharmacy at the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore, in October; presented an “Update on Depression Management” at the Asia Pacific Psychiatric Rehabilitation Conference; co-creator of online CE program, “Update on the Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Improving Outcomes” for the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists; presented “Getting to Goal for ADHD: New Strategies for the Continuum of Patients with ADHD” at a satellite symposium at the 113th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar of the American Osteopathic Association, Las Vegas, in October.

Jeff Goad, Pharm.D., represented the APhA at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in October.

William Gong, Pharm.D., director of residency and fellowship training, met with faculty and students at the Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, where he presented lectures, seminars, and case-based workshops with Michael Wincor, Pharm.D., director of external programs.

Joel Hay, Ph.D., interviewed by Investor’s Business Daily about brand-name drug patents and seeding studies in August; interviewed by The Los Angeles Times and on NBC’s Today Show about retail price wars in the sale of generic drugs.

Kathleen Johnson, Pharm.D., MPH, Ph.D., William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy and chair of the Titus Family Department, presented a poster on baseline data and factor utilization for the Hemophilia Utilization Group Study, 28th International Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia, Istanbul, Turkey; appointed USC representative to the California Health Benefits Review Program, Task Force Committee; presented “What is Health Outcomes Research?” to the LAC/USC IRB committees in October.
Jeffrey McCombs, Ph.D., had several abstracts accepted as posters for the World Psychiatric Association International Congress in Florence, Italy, April, 2009, including “Comparing Antipsychotics within Noncompliance Risk Groups”, “Post-Treatment Costs for Patients with Bipolar Disorder”, “Post-Treatment Costs for Patients with Schizophrenia”, “Duration of Drug Therapy in Patients with Bipolar Disorder”, and “Duration of Drug Therapy in Patients with Schizophrenia”; featured in Medical News Today regarding his Value in Health publication on the sensitivity of head-to-head drug comparisons.

Tien Ng, Pharm.D., primary preceptor of the PGY2 cardiology residency program that was recently accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Michael Nichol, Ph.D., QSAD Centurion Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed to planning group involved in the development of the next USC strategic plan.

Glen Stimmel, Pharm.D., B.C.C.P., presented “Managing Ills, Pills, & Rx Bills” at EXPO Center, Ahmanson Senior Citizen Center, in September; presented “Behavioral Health Medication Management in the Primary Care Setting” at the LA Care Health Plan Conference, The California Endowment, Los Angeles, in October; presented “Clinical Comparative Effectiveness of Atypical Antipsychotics: Weighing the Evidence” at a University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy teleconference in October.

Fred Weissman, Pharm.D., J.D., associate dean for academic and clinical affairs, received a grant from the Allergan Foundation in support of the School's drug development industry course.

Brad Williams, Pharm.D., presented “Navigating the Maze of Medications” at the Western Regional Meeting of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, Costa Mesa, in September; presented “An Evidence-Based Approach to the Management of Alzheimer's Disease” at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Annual Meeting, New Orleans, in November; presented “Age-Associated Changes and the Implications for Drug Therapy” and led complementary discussions for staff at the FDA Office of Clinical Pharmacology in October; editor with Kathy Besinque, Pharm.D., associate professor, of Applied Therapeutics: The Clinical Use of Drugs, 9th Edition, published in September.

Michael Wincor, Pharm.D., director of external programs, elected chair at the inaugural business meeting of AACP’s Global Pharmacy Education Special Interest Group.

Annie Wong-Beringer, Pharm.D., vice chair of Titus Family Department, received a $406,000 NIH research grant for study “Impact of Fluoroquinolone Resistance on Pseudomonas Virulence and Patient Outcomes”; received the 2008 Impact Paper of the Year Award at the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacist Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the 48th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents of Chemotherapy/Infectious Diseases Society of America Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., in October, for the 2006 article in the Archives of Internal Medicine, “High-dose vancomycin therapy for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections”; presented poster at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, in October.
Comic Book On Diabetes
No Laughing Matter

It may be hard to believe that a comic book could get serious with important health issues, but the USC School of Pharmacy’s “Sweet Temptations” is no joke when it comes to educating the public about diabetes.

Independent studies by the Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research at USC and by the Healthcare Management Corporation found that “Sweet Temptations,” a fotonovela produced by the School of Pharmacy, successfully increases diabetes awareness and knowledge in the Latino community.

“This is very good news. It gives us a validation that our materials are having a positive impact on the target population,” says Mel Baron, associate professor at the School of Pharmacy and the producer of the fotonovela.

A fotonovela is a comic book story composed of photographs instead of illustrations. The medium, well-known among Latinos, often covers social issues with soap opera-like storylines.

Prior to producing the project, Baron and his associates researched the myths and misinformation common in the Latino community that prevents people from seeking medical attention or sticking to therapeutic regimens in the treatment of diabetes. They also sought a format that was culturally sensitive and familiar, finding that the fotonovela was both of these.

According to the independent research conducted by Jennifer Unger, currently the associate dean for research at the Claremont Graduate University, the findings provide compelling evidence that fotonovelas such as “Sweet Temptations” can be a useful medium for health education among Latinos. At the time of the study, Unger was with the USC Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research.

Using a test group of adult students, Unger administered a pre-test about diabetes, and then asked participants to read the fotonovela, followed by retaking the same test.

“We developed a survey of people’s knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs,” says Unger. “We found that the fotonovela did increase the participants’ knowledge of diabetes and that may ultimately lead to better behavior.”

The study reports that 100 percent of the 311 participants found the fotonovela to be informative. Diabetes knowledge increased from 66 to 86 percent after reading the fotonovela. The youngest respondents, in the 18 to 24 age bracket, benefited most from the fotonovela, with significant changes in their behavioral intentions and their knowledge of the disease.

After reading the fotonovela, most of the study participants intended to exercise more, eat more fruits and vegetables, and talk to doctors and family members about diabetes.

The effectiveness of the fotonovela was further validated by another study conducted by Healthcare Management Corp., a subsidiary of Wellpoint, Inc. In focus groups studying methods to educate minorities about diabetes, the fotonovela proved to be an impactful educational tool.

“There is a knowledge disconnect about diabetes in our Latino focus groups, and the cultural relevance of the story in the fotonovela really helped participants connect more with the issue,” says Grace Ting, health services director at Wellpoint, Inc., “They could relate to the family experiences of ‘Sweet Temptations’. The storyline was comfortable and familiar to them.”

According to Ting, the study group considered various forms of media, and found the fotonovela to be the single-most helpful tool in terms of diabetes awareness.

These results have led Wellpoint to include Baron’s fotonovela in a pilot study that strives to recruit minorities into a disease management program. The success of the “Sweet Temptations” fotonovela has also prompted Wellpoint to support a fotonovela on medication adherence that the School of Pharmacy will produce next year.

Baron has also produced fotonovelas on folic acid and depression, and has various other titles in development.
Fellowship Values Academic Excellence
In USC Pharmacy Students

Daya Perkins, a doctoral student in pharmacology and toxicology, has won this year’s Krown fellowship, a $10,000 award recognizing research, publications, mentoring and academic achievement.

To win the award, Perkins presented her research on important receptors in the brain that may be used as targets in the development of new treatments for alcoholism. Perkins, who also has a fellowship from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, works in the laboratories of Professors Ronald Alkana and Daryl Davies. She is concurrently pursuing an MS in regulatory science at the School of Pharmacy.

“I am indebted to my mentors, Dr. Alkana and Dr. Davies, without whom I could not imagine achieving so much,” Perkins said. “My time in the lab has shaped me as a scientist and my experience has given me critical insights into the professional lives of scientists in the industry.”

Anna Scott, awarded an honorable mention, is also a doctoral student in molecular pharmacology and toxicology. Scott is in the regulatory science masters program as well and works in the lab of Professor Jean Shih.

Scott’s research looks at how genes in the brain, when mutated, can lead to abnormal development. Part of her work centers on enzymes that regulate the levels of neurotransmitters, such as serotonin and dopamine, which influence mood and behavior. Scott has found that neural stem cells lacking these enzymes have slower cell growth.

The Krown Fellowship, an annual competition for graduate students at the School, honors Charles Krown, a successful leader in both retail and manufacturing pharmacy. Krown applicants must be full-time Ph.D. students in the School of Pharmacy, have advanced to candidacy, maintain a 3.5 GPA and must have been the first author on at least one published peer-reviewed manuscript.

Daya Perkins won the 2008 Krown Fellowship and Anna Scott took the honorable mention accolade. Both Perkins and Scott are Ph.D. students in pharmacology and toxicology.

ASHP Best Practices Award

(front row) Mel Baron, Pharm.D. (’57); Cecilia Wu, Pharm.D. (’05); Steve Chen, Pharm.D. (’89); (back row) Kathleen Johnson, Pharm.D. (’78), MPH, Ph.D.; Elizabeth Cervantes, Pharm.D., and Sally Lu, Pharm.D. (’02), MPA, won the Tenth Annual American Society of Health System Pharmacists Best Practices Award for their work in safety-net clinics. The group’s project was on display at the organization’s mid-year meeting in December. Presented in cooperation with Amgen, the award recognizes the group’s work for “innovation and leadership in health-system pharmacy”.
Ryan Hamilton, Ph.D., wants to know if targeting energy levels in arterial cells can reverse high cholesterol and reduce plaque formation in the arteries. An American Heart Association fellowship is helping him find the answer.

“My research is aimed at understanding how changes in the structure of ‘bad cholesterol’ can cause energy and antioxidant loss in arterial cells, resulting in heart disease,” Hamilton says. “When cell energy is increased, artery function improves.”

The two-year award is part of the AHA Western States Affiliate Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, supporting promising new researchers as they begin careers in cardiovascular and stroke research.

In previous studies, Hamilton found that arterial cells with bad cholesterol had lower energy levels and a higher rate of cell death. In the laboratory, Hamilton will continue this research by using alpha lipoic acid and acetylcarnitine in the cells to see if the agents can reverse or prevent these negative effects.

Hamilton’s goal is to lay the foundation for the development of therapeutics that can prevent or reverse damage to the arteries, ultimately aiding in the treatment of heart disease.

“The initial studies will be done in the laboratory,” Hamilton says, “However, I eventually would like to take this study to clinical trials.”
The USC student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) was presented with the Dargavel Chapter of the Year award at the 110th Annual Convention of the NCPA on October 13 in Tampa, Florida.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY WINS THE NCPA Award For Fourth Consecutive Year

Accepting the award was Kalsang Dorji, current co-president of the USC chapter, and Christine Nguyen, a member of the group. Dorji is also the association’s national student president-elect.

The competition recognizes the work done by the chapter during the 2007-08 year, when Pharm.D. students Yousuf Rahyab and Harut Kagoyan were co-presidents. The chapter won the award based on work that illustrates their commitment to community pharmacy, including the recruitment of new members to the group and advocacy for legislative action supporting the profession.

The chapter participates in outreach events and activities across Southern California, such as screening and education events at clinics, independent pharmacy locations and health fairs. The group also encourages students to consider a career in community pharmacy through their speaker series, “Recipe to Developing and Owning Your Own Pharmacy”.

The NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition was also held at the convention. This competition requires students to create a blueprint for buying an existing independent community pharmacy or developing a new pharmacy. The USC group’s business plan was recognized among the top ten in the nation at the convention.

RESPy Award

Bonnie Hui, Pharm.D. candidate 2010, received the 2008 RESPy award, which honors outstanding pharmacy students who display exemplary behavior and potential as a community pharmacist. “RESPy” stands for respect, excellence and service in pharmacy. Hui was nominated for the award, sponsored by Pharmacy Times and Wal-Mart, based on her contributions to community service. The award includes a $1,000 scholarship, a paid summer internship with Wal-Mart and an article in Pharmacy Times.
The Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences has added Julio C. Camarero to its faculty roster as an associate professor.

Camarero brings over a decade of experience in researching mechanisms of microbial disease and how these mechanisms relate to the immune system. His work aims to develop new technologies to find novel compounds to block bacteria from causing disease.

Past work of the Spanish-born scientist has looked at anthrax and at the Bubonic plague bacteria. He is also interested in the AIDS virus and hepatitis C.

“I am fascinated by pathogenesis – that is how microbes exploit and kill,” says Camarero. “Pathogenic microbes are able to interface and modulate the host immune response to their own benefit, which ultimately results in disease. If we can inhibit or interfere with such molecular interactions from happening, we should be able to disable pathogenic microbes without affecting the non-pathogenic ones.”

At the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Camarero was a Distinguished Lawrence Fellow which ultimately led to his assuming the post of staff scientist and head of the laboratory. Prior to his work at Livermore, he was a Burroughs Wellcome Fellow at The Rockefeller University in New York.

Camarero’s work greatly focuses on the potential of natural sources, recognizing nature as being million of years ahead of us in finding new compounds. “Today’s advance knowledge in chemistry allows us to tweak these natural compounds to maximize effectiveness toward a given goal,” says Camarero whose laboratory is housed in the John Stauffer Pharmaceutical Sciences Center.

Noting microbial disease as his main focus, Camarero confronts the question as to why some bacteria lives happily with us while other bacteria invades us and can kill us. His lab will work toward the development of chemical tools to confront health problems such as this. Further, he will explore the use of microproteins for therapeutics to fight these microbial agents.

Camarero is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed publications and four invited book chapters.
MOVING TARGETS TAKES AIM
At Diabetes

Diabetes, one of the world’s greatest health challenges, was the focus of the 2008 “Moving Targets” symposium hosted by the USC School of Pharmacy on August 22 at the Westin Pasadena. “Moving Targets: Diabetes: Mechanisms and Treatments” included two featured presentations by renowned diabetes experts. Dr. George L. King, director of research at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, discussed the development of PKC inhibitors as therapeutic agents for diabetic complications, and Dr. John Patton, chief scientific fellow and co-founder of Nektar Therapeutics, presented an overview on inhaled insulin. Dr. Richard Bergman, chair of physiology and biophysics at the Keck School of Medicine, presented a talk on metabolic syndrome and diabetes.

The event attracted some 130 students, faculty, clinicians and industry representatives. Students came from USC, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and Stanford University. The event provides a unique environment for the diverse attendees to network as well as participate in the scientific sessions.

Janette Contreras was the podium host throughout the day. Contreras is chair of the group that sponsors the annual event, the USC Student Chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

The lecture portion of the program was followed by the “Moving Targets Student Poster Competition”. This year’s first place went to Nazanin Yacobi, a Ph.D. student at the Keck School of Medicine. Second place went to Jennifer-Ann Bayan, a Ph.D. student at the School of Pharmacy, and third place was awarded to Eszter Pais, a Ph.D. student at Keck.

Support for “Moving Targets 2008” was provided by the USC School of Pharmacy, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, Allergan and Pfizer. Committee members include Janette Contreras, Daya Perkins, Vivian Galicia, Robert Mo, Anna Scott and Brian Sutch, all School of Pharmacy doctoral students.
School of Pharmacy senior research associate Liana Asatryan and doctoral student Janette Contreras have each received an award from the National Institutes of Health to fund their respective projects in drug discovery and development.

Asatryan's grant, a KO1 Mentored Research Scientist Development Award, is designed to not only support her research but also to support her development toward becoming an independent researcher in her own lab. This is the first time the School of Pharmacy has been awarded this type of grant from the NIH.

Asatryan's four-year award of $450,000 enables her to continue her work on alcoholism, specifically looking at purinergic receptors in the brain that are affected by alcohol.

“If we are able to fully understand how alcohol changes these receptors, we will then be able to work toward targeting these receptors to ward off the effects of alcohol,” says Asatryan. “My work is attempting to develop therapeutic agents that will treat either the cravings for alcohol or eliminate some of the behavioral effects of alcoholism.”

Asatryan works in the labs of Ronald Alkana, professor, and Daryl Davies, associate professor, at the School of Pharmacy. Alcoholism ranks as the nation’s top substance abuse problem. Affecting some 18 million Americans, the disease is annually responsible for over 100,000 deaths and a financial toll of $185 billion.

Janette Contreras won the Ruth L. Kirschstein Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, an NIH award created to promote diversity in health-related research. Contreras works in the lab of Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Contreras's fellowship provides $123,000 over three years, financing her work on the treatment of diseases of the eye. Specifically, Contreras will contribute to the Hamm-Alvarez lab's focus on dry eye and Sjögren's disease.

“My work focuses on diseases that target the lacrimal cells in the eye,” says Contreras. “We hope to find efficient ways to deliver medicines into the affected cells. Ultimately, this work may lead to treatments as well as cures for these ailments.”

By studying the role of the viral receptors in the eye's lacrimal gland and how a virus travels into the gland, Contreras is trying to flip the delivery route and use it as a way for medicines to enter the affected eye molecules. Approximately 10 million Americans suffer from dry-eye syndrome and as many as four million have Sjögren’s disease, an inflammation of the lacrimal glands that leads to decreased tear production.

Contreras’s grant provides funding for tuition, stipend and participation at academic conferences to present research findings. Contreras is chair of the USC student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.
Enrique Cadenas, the Charles Krown/Alumni Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean for research affairs at the USC School of Pharmacy, has received a grant from the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program to study emphysema associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The award, totaling $394,380 over three years, supports Cadenas’s proposal entitled “Role of Oxidative Stress and Mitochondria in COPD”. The study examines the observation that apoptosis, or cell death, continues to occur in patients with COPD even after they have stopped smoking. Cadenas will explore the idea that once mitochondria are damaged by smoking, a vicious cycle is unleashed that spreads and intensifies the already damaging effects of cigarette smoke.

“This impairment of mitochondrial function ultimately causes cell death which often leads to emphysema,” says Cadenas. “During the course of the project, we will consider compounds that can offset this destruction by improving mitochondrial function and thus halt or minimize the damaging effects of past smoking.”

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease damages and obstructs the lung airways, making it hard to breathe. Cigarette smoking is commonly associated with the disease, causing over 90 percent of cases. It is estimated that over 24 million Americans have COPD and many of them are undiagnosed.

The Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program was created in California in 1989. Funded by cigarette surtax revenues, the program supports research projects on tobacco-related diseases.

Cadenas is known for his work on cellular dysfunction in the aging process and age-related, degenerative diseases. His work, also funded by the NIH, considers events that produce free radical injury and the ultimate development of therapeutic models that prevent free radical damage and the effects of aging.
Edward G. Hirschman, Pharm.D. (’68), donated $1 million to the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center where the Edward G. Hirschman Burn Center has been named in his honor.

Jesse Martinez, Pharm.D. (’77), appointed vice dean for academic diversity and development at Western University College of Pharmacy.

Gary Leach, Pharm.D. (’80), named psych specialty manager for NovaQuest, covering the Southern California, Arizona and Hawaii markets.

Mark R. Henschke, Pharm.D. (’83), selected Master Preceptor of the Year by the Physician Assistant Program at the University of New England College of Health Professions.

David Sedrak, Pharm.D. (’06), featured on the cover of the October issue of America’s Pharmacist, in a story about independent pharmacies nationwide.

Patrick W. Sullivan, Pharm.D., Ph.D. (’01), awarded the 2008 ISPOR Bernie J. O’Brien New Investigator Award at the ISPOR International meeting in Toronto.

Angela Chandna, Pharm.D. (’02), named regional vice president for RxRelief.

Gustavus A. Aranda, Jr., Pharm.D. (’04), MS (’06), named outcomes liaison for US outcomes research, Global Health Outcomes at Eli Lilly & Company.

Pamela Dastranj, Pharm.D. (’07), a store manager for CVS/pharmacy, featured in “Seven Steps to Healthy Living”, part of the KABC Women’s Health Prevention Campaign aired in October.


Barbara Gee Endowed Scholarship
Established by Barbara Gee, Pharm.D. (’85), and matched by her employer, Albertsons Sav-on.

Urmila Patel Endowed Scholarship
Brothers Nayan Patel, Pharm.D. (’96), Ashwin Patel, Pharm.D. (’98), and Yogesh Patel are honoring their mother with this scholarship.

Mission Road Pharmacy Scholarship
Owners Tu C. “Amy” Nguyen, Pharm.D. (’99), and Kelly Nguyen, Pharm.D., are the supporters of this scholarship.

Comprehensive Pharmacy Services Scholarship
Diversity Scholarship
Supported by Albertsons Sav-on, Target, Walgreens and Jennifer Watson.

Richard J. De Meo, Pharm.D. (’77), passed away on December 8, 2007. He served on the School’s Board of Councilors and had a long and distinguished career in pharmacy. He began his career as a professor of pharmacy at both Idaho State University and University of the Pacific. In 1986, he founded a pharmacy management company which he sold to a Fortune 500 company in 1998. Additionally, he co-founded two successful pharmacy service and consulting firms. Dr. De Meo was an avid athlete and ardent Trojan fan. He is survived by his wife, Christy, and children, Brian and Wendy.

Kellee Lindauer, Pharm.D. (‘06), a pharmacy manager at a Vons store in Ventura County, found time to make and donate 16 baskets that were raffled at the School’s Homecoming Weekend activities.
Career Day 2008

The School of Pharmacy held its annual Career Day in October, giving students a chance to meet and mingle with 30 prospective employers. Over 300 students received information on internships and full-time positions from various employers at the event held on the Health Sciences Campus Quad.

Left top: James Murray, a pharmacy recruiter with Sav-on, happily tells Boratha Yeang, Pharm.D. candidate 2011, and Tiffany Cheung, Pharm.D. candidate 2010, about internship opportunities at Sav-on.

Left middle: Julie Kim and Elisabet Lee, both Pharm.D. candidates 2011, taking advantage of an opportunity to discuss the job market with Belia Biagas, senior plan recruiter with Longs Drugs.

Left bottom: Anthony Lorenzana, Pharm.D. candidate 2011, with exhibitor Angela Chandna, Pharm.D. (’02), from the pharmacy staffing company, Rx Relief.

Getting down to business: Medhat Bakr of Rite-Aid gives his card to Vinson Chien, Pharm.D. candidate 2012.

6TH ANNUAL GNP/ICP GOLF CLASSIC

Dean R. Pete Vanderveen, Ph.D., (right) greets John Tilley, R.Ph. (left), past president of the National Community Pharmacy Association (NCPA), and Stephen Giroux, R.Ph. (center), current president of NCPA, at the 6th Annual Good Neighbor Pharmacy/Institute for Community Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic held last summer at the Robinson Ranch Golf Club. Proceeds from the golf tournament support scholarships for USC pharmacy students who have a long-term goal of pharmacy ownership. In the past six years, proceeds from the Golf Classic have generated $260,000 in scholarships awarded through the annual GNP/ICP Scholarship. The Classic also provides funding for an additional endowed scholarship.
Operation IMMUNIZATION

As a pharmacist, I do much more than manage your medications. I provide vaccinations like many other pharmacists in your community. Como farmaceutico, mi trabajo va mas alla de manejar medicamentos. Tambien proporciono vacunas, al igual que otros farmaceuticos en tu comunidad.

Above is an excerpt from the immunization messages broadcast throughout Los Angeles, the result of the combined efforts of USC pharmacy students, KLVE-107.5 FM radio and CVS/pharmacy. Pharmacy students wrote the three spots as part of “Operation Immunization”, a student campaign designed to educate, promote awareness and immunize the public. The radio spots were voiced by CVS pharmacist Art Mercado. The spots were broadcast in October and November on Univision radio station, KLVE-107.5 FM.
In October, the Vietnamese-American Pharmacy Student Association (VAPSA) and the Korean-American Pharmacy Student Association (KAPSA) held health fairs for their respective communities. VAPSA’s event was held in Orange County while KAPSA hosted their event in Koreatown. In both cases, the health fairs provided an opportunity for area residents to speak to health professionals in their native languages. The two health fairs resulted in School of Pharmacy students, with the help of faculty and alumni, screening nearly two-thousand people for diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol and osteoporosis. Students also administered nearly a thousand flu shots at the two events.
Pharmacists, students, legislators and other community leaders discuss pivotal pharmacy issues at the event sponsored by the American Pharmacy Student Alliance (APSA).

Other speakers included John Tilley, past president of the National Community Pharmacists Association, Jeffery Goad, president-elect of the California Pharmacists Association and an associate professor at the School of Pharmacy, and Victor Law, chairman of the United Pharmacists Network, Inc., USC School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen and Kathleen Johnson, chair of the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy, also spoke.

The event was sponsored by the United Pharmacists Network, California Pharmacists Association, Albertsons-Sav-on, USC Graduate and Professional Student Senate and the Associated Students of the School of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy students Maryam Nowakhtar, director of legislative affairs for the School’s National Community Pharmacy Association chapter, and Tim Bensman, director of legislative affairs for the American Pharmacy Student Alliance, organized the event.

Pharmacy students got a glimpse of how the political process impacts their careers at Legislative Day, held on October 17, at the Davidson Conference Center.

The event provided a forum for various perspectives on the pharmacy profession and the legislative issues that surround it. Immediately following the formal program, students hosted a health fair on Alumni Park, giving guests an opportunity to be checked for diabetes, cholesterol, hypertension and osteoporosis by student pharmacists.

Legislative Day promotes student awareness and involvement in legislative issues and educates legislators about pharmaceutical issues. It also gives today’s pharmacists a chance to voice their concerns to politicians.

“Our profession is impacted by numerous outside forces,” says David Breslow, Pharm.D. ('71) and the CEO of United Pharmacists Network, Inc. “The legislature will make changes happen. Pharmacists must be on the political frontlines to have their voices heard.”

Breslow was among the speakers at the breakfast event attended by nearly 200 people. Elected officials speaking at the event included California State Assemblymembers Mike Eng and Anthony Portantino, LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Chair of the State Board of Equalization Judy Chu.

left: Leg Day student organizer Tim Bensman with speaker David Breslow, Pharm.D. ('71).

center: Dean R. Pete Vanderveen with LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, a Leg Day speaker, and Walter Cathey, Pharm.D. ('62), who is heading the School’s Diversity Initiative.

right: California State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, a Leg Day speaker, with Maryam Nowakhtar, director of legislative affairs for the School’s National Community Pharmacy Association chapter.
Parents Weekend 2008

far left: Doing a diabetes check on a Trojan parent is Lydia Krin, Pharm.D. candidate 2011, at the School of Pharmacy’s “For Your Health” booth during Parents Weekend.

top: Bryan Coleman, Pharm.D. candidate 2011, consults with Professor Cynthia Lieu at Parents Weekend. The School of Pharmacy screening booth had lines of parents waiting to for checks on osteoporosis, blood pressure, diabetes and body fat analysis.

bottom left: Regina Gornov, Pharm.D. candidate 2011, takes a blood pressure reading on one of the many parents who stopped to have health screenings done during Parents Weekend events held on the University Park Campus.

bottom right: Michelle Nguyen, Pharm.D. candidate 2010, discusses the results of a bone density screening test with a Trojan parent.
Student Updates

The USC chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association won the NCPA Chapter of the Year award and a top-ten distinction in the NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition at the NCPA annual convention in October.

The USC American Pharmacy Student Alliance organized “pHarmony,” celebrating American Pharmacists Month in October. The event brought together students from the different disciplines studying on the Health Sciences Campus, promoting unity with the pharmacy profession. KIIS-FM radio personality Manny on the Street broadcast the event live from the HSC Quad, and was featured on On-Air with Ryan Seacrest.

Jennifer-Ann Bayan, Ph.D. candidate, awarded second place in the poster competition at the “Moving Targets: Diabetes: Mechanisms and Treatments” symposium in Pasadena in August.

Janette Contreras, Ph.D. candidate, awarded the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, $123,000 over three years, supporting her research on eye diseases.

Ryan Hamilton, Ph.D., awarded a $75,000 American Heart Association postdoctoral fellowship to support his research on heart disease.

Bonnie Hui, Pharm.D. candidate, awarded the RESPy award, sponsored by Pharmacy Times and Wal-Mart. The award includes a $1,000 scholarship, recognition in Pharmacy Times and a paid summer internship with Wal-Mart.

Sarah Kim and Kimberly Lau, Pharm.D. candidates, did a presentation on the School’s “Senior Prom” event to the Student Forum and the Geriatrics Academicians Roundtable at the ASCP annual meeting in New Orleans in November. The “Senior Prom”, held last April, offered senior citizens a chance to dance, visit and have health screenings done by Pharm.D students.

Daya Perkins, Ph.D. candidate, awarded the Krown Fellowship of $10,000 recognizing her research, published work and academic achievement. Doctoral candidate Anna L. Scott received an honorable mention.

Dean Vanderveen answered many questions posed by students, citing the informal discussion as a great way to better understand student concerns.

Student body president Sam Ho and vice president of academic affairs Pamela Lincoln cut the cake at the fireside chat.

Maybe it was the idea of a fireside chat without the fire...whatever it was, Dean Vanderveen and students certainly found time to joke around during their conversation.

Well, maybe there wasn't a fire but Dean Vanderveen and Associate Dean Weissman held the first of a series of Fireside Chats on November 18 with members of the Class of 2010. According to Dean Weissman, “These chats are an opportunity for students to informally talk with us and to voice concerns that they may have.”

Over 75 students attended and, over snacks, they discussed scheduling, curriculum, meetings and other issues with the deans. Similar sessions were also held for the Classes of 2011 and 2012.
SCHOLARSHIPS

close lives

“Valerie and I take great pride in being part of the USC School of Pharmacy family. How fortunate we are to be able to give back to this wonderful community and help deserving students achieve their goals. What better way to insure the future of our country’s greatest natural resource, it’s youth, than to provide financial support through a scholarship.”

— CHARLES BRAHMS, PHARM.D. (’65)

“As a Pharm.D./MBA student, I have to go abroad for a business trip as part of the curriculum and the Brahms scholarship helped me fund that trip, among other things. The gift from Dr. and Mrs. Brahms makes me appreciate the Trojan Family even more. It’s great to know that someone is willing to give you a helping hand on your journey of life as a Trojan.”

— SHING “EDDIE” WONG, PHARM.D./MBA CANDIDATE 2011
Director of Finance, Student Industry Association
Social Chair, Chinese-American Pharmacy Student Association

To learn how you can change a life, contact Mary Wackerman at 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu. WWW.USC.EDU/PHARMACY
save the date...

January 23-25, Friday - Sunday
QSAD Winter Retreat
La Costa Resort and Spa
Information: 323-442-1360 or mwacker@usc.edu

February 7, Saturday
Interview Day
HSC — USC School of Pharmacy
Information: 323-442-1738 or stanovic@usc.edu

February 12-13, Thursday-Friday
Developing Partnerships between Schools of Pharmacy and Safety-Net Clinics
A National Conference Sponsored by the USC School of Pharmacy
Information: 323.442.1738 or stanovic@usc.edu
www.usc.edu/pharmacy/safetynet

March 21-22, Saturday-Sunday
22nd Annual Las Vegas Seminar—Caesars Palace
Information: 323-442-2402 or pharmce@pharmacy.usc.edu

May 3, Sunday
Alumni/Senior Awards Banquet
The Langham, Pasadena
Information: 323-442-1381 or carr@usc.edu

May 15, Friday
School of Pharmacy Satellite Commencement
HSC — Quad

June 10, Wednesday
7th Annual GNP/ICP Scholarship Golf Classic
Robinson Ranch Golf Club
Information: 323.442.1360 or mwacker@usc.edu