College Connections

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Distinguished Teacher of the Year

Kristen Cook, Pharm.D., '05, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, received the College of Pharmacy 2011 Distinguished Teaching Award.

The Distinguished
Teaching Award has
been presented
annually since 1994
to a College of
Pharmacy faculty
member to recognize
his or her excellence
in teaching and
dedication to student
learning. Each spring,

the Student Advisory Committee, a committee consisting of student leaders from the College of Pharmacy, requests nominations from the student body. The nominators must include an explanation as to why they believe the nominee should be a candidate to receive the Award. Once all nominations have been received, the Student Advisory Committee meets to consider all nominations.

Reasons given in selecting Dr. Cook for the award include her ability to work well with students and being very personable and patient; is a fantastic teacher and volunteers her time to help both students

and the community by volunteering at the Sharing, Hope, and Goodlife Clinics; is a great mentor for Kappa Epsilon and has helped the organization grow within our college; is very involved in the profession as is evidenced by her involvement in



Kristen Cook, Pharm.D., with P4 Class President, Jeremy Gieseke (left), and her husband, Adam.

various pharmacy organizations including the Midwest College of Clinical Pharmacy; is also a wonderful preceptor for fourthyear students; and has been deserving for years, so hopefully now is her time.

For a complete list of past recipients please see Page 9.

Dean's Message

A theme of this last edition of College Connections for 2011 is giving. At our fall honors convocation more than 100 students of the College of Pharmacy received more than \$600,000 in scholarships and awards.

Most of these scholarships and awards come from the professional success of our alumni and friends, and their generosity. The common reason we are given when we receive a gift is the desire on the part of the donor to say thank you to all who helped them achieve their

individual and collective success. This connection between our alumni and our students is inspiring and one of the strengths of this College of Pharmacy.

Equally inspiring is the giving by the students of this College. Rather than monetary, their giving is through their time -- and this is all that extra time after classes and the part time jobs that many of our students have. In this edition we profile the efforts of our Rural Pharmacy Student's Association to help patients in Nebraska understand Medicare Part D and to provide comparisons of the various plans and the costs associated with each plan. Patients were lined up to receive this counseling, which speaks volumes about the need our students were helping to meet.

This issue highlights some of the many accomplishments

of our faculty, staff and students. We welcome three new clinical assistant professors to the College and a new staff member, Jackie Smith, who will help us prepare for our October 2012 site visit for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The most notable accomplishment by our students, is for the 3rd consecutive year, the graduating

class had a 100%, first time pass rate on the national pharmacy licensing examination.

We educate pharmacists who are health care professionals with the scientific knowledge, clinical skills, compassion and integrity to deliver the highest quality patient care and improve human health. Our mission is enhanced because of the financial gifts our alumni and

friends provide us to support our students. The giving of our students is a clear illustration of their understanding of the obligation to give back to the profession, the public they serve, and to all who have helped them. This culture of giving is a cause for celebration at any time, but particularly during this holiday season! On behalf of the faculty and staff of the College of Pharmacy, I want to thank our alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students, as you are why we are an outstanding College of Pharmacy.

Warmest holiday wishes to all,

Courtney

Courtney V. Fletcher, Pharm.D. Dean and Professor

Faculty & Staff News

Dr. Vennerstrom - A UNMC Hero

Here's a recent quote from a prominent campus researcher:

"I get a lot of praise within our department about the work our group does, but then I think of Jonathan Vennerstrom and how he quietly does

amazing, lifesaving work and it really puts things into perspective."

From 42nd St. to the world

What the professor in the UNMC College of

Pharmacy's work has entailed is the development of a pair of antimalarial drugs that stand to save millions of lives in Africa and other places where the mosquito-borne illness is a threat.

This work has garnered praise globally and gained the financial support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation via the Medicines for Malaria Venture. Dr. Vennerstrom also was on the team that developed creatine ethyl ester (CEE), which is currently sold around the world as a nutritional supplement for athletes and non-athletes alike.

Part of the process

For his various contributions to science and

innovation, Dr. Vennerstrom received the Achievement Award from UNeMed Corporation during the Innovation Week Awards Ceremony in October.

For Dr. Vennerstrom, the award is simply a byproduct of the scientific process that he fell in

love with long ago.



Passions merge

As a child, he lived in east Africa with his missionary parents where he saw the damage malaria caused. Then in college, he became infatuated with

chemistry.

Eventually his love of chemistry merged with his desire to help those with malaria and that led him into drug discovery and development – a process that has been endlessly rewarding for the UNMC professor.

"I find the trial and error process that we use to create drug candidates a real learning experience," Dr. Vennerstrom said. "There are a lot of things we still don't understand. You have to do the experiments."

Faculty & Staff News cont.



Jeffrey N. Baldwin, Pharm.D., Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Pediatrics, will receive the Hugo H. Schaefer Award at the APhA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA in March.

Kristen Cook, Pharm.D., BCPS, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has been named a recipient of the AACP Student Community Engaged Service Award sponsored by Teva! Dr. Cook will receive the award at the AACP meeting, July 2012. Students who participated in the community engaged service project include Kyle McCartney, Mary Manning Kechely, Brandon Bohn and Becky Schainost.





Luis Marky, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was recognized by the National Science Foundation "for exemplary service as a member of the Molecular Biochemistry Panel, Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences." Dr. Marky served on the committee for seven years.

Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., Professor and Interim Chair,
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received good news about his
first antimalarial drug candidate - it is now almost a drug. For the complete
announcement click here.





Jackie Smith will be starting at the College of Pharmacy effective January 3, 2012. Jackie will be responsible for supporting accreditation activities in preparation for our site visit October 2-4, 2012. Please welcome Jackie to the COP.

Welcome Clinical Assistant Professors

The College of Pharmacy would like to welcome twelve new Clinical Assistant Professors to the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Profiles of the new faculty will be featured in the next several editions of the College Connections.



Name: Chia (Lily) Chang, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE

Title: Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy.

Doctoral degree: Pharm.D., University of

Wisconsin - Madison

Memberships: American College of Clinical

Pharmacy



Name: Susanne Liewer, Pharm.D., BCOP

Title: Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy.

Interests: Dr. Liewer is the clinical pharmacy coordinator for the Blood and Marrow Transplant team at the Nebraska Medical Center. In addition to her clinical practice Dr. Liewer is actively involved with education and clinical research. Dr. Liewer's research interests include infectious complications in immunocompromised hosts as

well as toxicities associated with high dose chemotherapies. Currently Dr. Liewer serves as the Program Director for the PGY2 Hematology/ Oncology Pharmacy Residency Program at the Nebraska Medical Center.

Doctoral degree: Pharm.D., The Nebraska Medical Center; Completed pharmacy practice and hematology/oncology pharmacy residencies at University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Memberships: American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association



Name: Brian Trevarrow, BA, Pharm.D., BCPS

Title: Anticoagulation Stewardship and Heart Failure Coordinator, Department of Pharmaceutical and Nutrition Care, The Nebraska

Medical Center, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the College of Pharmacy.

Interests: With interests in cardiology, Dr. Trevarrow is engaged in research into outcomes associated with multidisciplinary patient education

relating to reduced hospital readmissions of heart failure patients. In addition to teaching and precepting students and pharmacy practice residents, Dr. Trevarrow is involved with the development, implementation and updating of anticoagulation protocols and the incorporation of new anticoagulant agents into institutional protocols.

Doctoral degree: Pharm.D., The University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Pharmacy.

Memberships: American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Midwest College of Clinical Pharmacy

Fall Honors

The 2011 Annual College of Pharmacy Fall Honors
Convocation was held on November 17. Over \$600,000
in scholarships and other leadership awards and prizes
were presented. Mr. John Ridgway, Chair of the
Scholarship, Honors and Financial Aid Committee, presided
at the Convocation. The 2011 scholarship and award
recipients are listed on the following pages.



Beth McKelvey (second from left), recipient of the Janel Toon Foote Memorial Scholarship, with (left to right) Janel's husband, Dr. Terrence Foote and Janel's parents, John and Jean Toon.

2011 Scholarship and Award Recipients

University of Nebraska Regents

Scholarship

Brody W. Crowe

Holly D. Donahue

Jordan M. Hanson Ashley M. Kenkel

Megan M. Kenkel

Jaeyeon Kim

Robert J. Kurasawa

Danielle M. Longo

Michael R. Schmidt

Anna J. Schreck

Daniel K. Schroeder

Corinne A. Shields

Mary E. Vacha

University of Nebraska College of

Pharmacy Tuition Waiver

Kayli A. Bendlin

Morgan L. Farrell

Adam D. Felber

Jeremy M. Gieseke

Amanda L. Gilbert

Alisyn L. Hansen

Allsyll L. Hullsell

Megan C. Hrnicek

Elizabeth K. Jamieson

Brittany L. Johnson

Meaan K. Kehrli

Ryan L. Linscott

Kristin K. McNaughton

Hope M. Mulgrew

Gina M. Paletta

Jessica L. Rago

Rory E. Sallach Kendra J. Schomer

Jeanie M. Shipman

Kyle A. Young

Allysa M. Zoucha

Donald Walters Miller Scholarship

Elizabeth A. Brenner

Margaret L. Hitzeman

Gustav L. Cobb Scholarship

Jonathan M. Ciochon

Janet T. Tran

Plough Foundation Scholarship

Elizabeth A. Baier

Kayli A. Bendlin

Leigh K. Blobaum

Kelsey R. Bryant

Carolyn E. Corn

Matthew P. Crotty

Michael J. Crowe

Amanda S. Edgerton

Evan T. Gahan

Jennifer R. Gallanger

Jeremy M. Gieseke

Jessica A. Kehm

Jaeyeon Kim

Casey R. Koch Michael J. Koraleski

Robert J. Kurasawa

Justin A. Lane

Nicholas A. Lehmann

Colby N. McMann

Kathleen M. Mohan Joseph D. Nekola

Dzuan K. Nguyen

Ashley R. Paseka

Cassandra A. Pauley

Charleen Phan

Jenna J. Preusker

Emily A. Prinz

Daralyn A. Roberts

Sloane M. Schneider Daniel K. Schroeder

Caci J. Schulte

Corinne A. Shields

Hannah K. Snyder

Hannan K. Snyde

Kate Field Grant in Aid Danielle M. Longo

R.H. "Rick" David Scholarship Lonna L. Hughes

Robert A. and Elizabeth Hardt

Scholarship

Kristin R. Bumsted

Matthew P. Crotty

Elizabeth R. Morgan

Jennifer A. Schoenfeld

Rufus A. Lyman Scholarship Elizabeth K. Jamieson Mark Augustin Memorial Scholarship
Amber D. Cizmic

Floyd Hall Bridges Scholarship Hope M. Mulgrew

Sarah E. Cohen Feldman Scholarship James D. Bird

> Alice Elizabeth Barnes Fortna Scholarship Kyle J. Clarey

LaJoie H. Gibbons Scholarship Anna J. Trosper

Adam and Frances Rubendall Scholarship Jordan M. Hanson

Herman and Joseph Schuchman Scholarship Megan K. Kehrli

Henry and Frank W. Schwake Scholarship Tara C. Bergland Kayla J. Hoelting Jacelyn B. Watt

Kohll's Pharmacy & Homecare Scholarship Craig W. Ecabert

Phuong Nguyen & Yen Le Pharmacy Scholarship Anthony T. Podany

Gilbert Swanson Foundation Scholarship Caci J. Schulte

> Robert Valdez Scholarship Colby N. McMann

Carlberg Leadership Scholarship Beth A. McKelvey

U-Save Pharmacy, Inc Retail Scholarship Elizabeth A. Brenner

Thomas J. O'Holleran Scholarship Jennifer K. Doné Janelle M. Weber

Dr. Witold Saski Pharmacy Scholarship Janelle M. Weber

John and Marie Augustine Scholarship Megan C. Hrnicek

> Class of 1968 Scholarship Austin R. Lucht

> Class of 1986 Scholarship Jolyn N. Anderson

Melvin R. Gibson Scholarship-Kayli A. Bendlin

Joseph D. Williams Pharmacy Scholarship/Leadership Award Jeremy M. Gieseke

UNMC Faculty Women's Club Scholarship Alyssa M. Tello

Eleanor & Marion Johnson Scholarship Leigh K. Blobaum Loree R. Weese

> J.J. Thomas Scholarship Megan C. Hrnicek

Leland "Lee" C. Lucke Memorial Scholarship Nicole M. Downey

College of Pharmacy Alumni Association
Scholarship
Kayli A. Bendlin
Thu Hong T. Bui
Alisyn L. Hansen
Margaret L. Hitzeman
Rory E. Sallach
Jeanie M. Shipman

Glaxo/Wellcome, Inc. Scholarship Amanda L. Gilbert

National Association of Chain Drug Stores Scholarship Eric D. Sundsboe

Shopko Stores, Inc. Scholarship Nicholas E. Eckert

Stone Drug Company Pharmacy Scholarship Jeremiah D. Bertschinger Dzuan K. Nguyen

E. F. Schwedhelm Memorial Scholarship
Melissa M. Eickmeier
Valarie J. Hoffman
Christine E. Korth
Grant A. Meier
Matthew P. Nielsen
Sharla L. Roth

CVS Caremark Corporate Giving
Scholarship
Marcus L. Anderson
Jeremiah D. Bertschinger
Jeffrey R. Brezina
Cristin M. Bruckman
Jason E. Burke
Amy R. Carlson
Matthew D. Egger
Grant M. Huning
Kyle R. McCartney

Beth A. McKelvey Ellina S. Pisetsky Jenna J. Preusker Rebecca A. Schainost Alyssa M. Tello

Nora Parker Linn Student Leadership Award Tara W. Behne

Pharmacist's Mutual Scholarship Eric D. Sundsboe

Ted Roche BRAN Scholarship Thu-Hong T. Bui

Rex C. Higley Memorial Scholarship Nicole M. Downey

Cora Mae Briggs Scholarship Nicholas E. Eckert

Dean's Pharmacy Leadership Award
Joshua D. Bauer
Leah A. Benson
Elizabeth A. Brenner
Heidi L. Brink
Thu Hong T. Bui
Margaret L. Hitzeman
Lonna L. Hughes
Austin R. Lucht
Ashley V. Milota
Jeanie M. Shipman

College of Pharmacy Scholarship Nicholas A. Lehmann

Charles A. Story Scholarship Emily A. Johnson

Rho Chi Honor Society Scholarship Leigh K. Blobaum

Edward & Lois Holscher Pharmacy Scholarship Nicole M. Downey

Janel Toon Foote Memorial Scholarship Beth A. McKelvey

> Gretchen B. Lee Scholarship Katrina J. Keebler Jenna R. Woods

Louis G. & Zinnecker Memorial Scholarship Jeffrey R. Brezina

Wilbur L. & Valerie Moon Scholarship Valarie J. Hoffman Sloane M. Schneider



RPSA and Medicare Part D

In early November, members of the UNMC Rural Pharmacy Student Association (RPSA) held a Medicare Part D workshop at the Pamida Pharmacy in Beatrice, during which they counseled patients on how to get the most from their benefits. It's the third consecutive year UNMC RPSA students held the workshop in Beatrice. They also ventured to Pender and Wayne, NE this year. Here are a couple of letters from our friends at Pamida.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the RPSA students have again held themselves to the high professionalism standards expected of UNMC COP students.

On November 5th, the RPSA students provided Medicare Part D information to seniors and their caregivers in the rural community of Beatrice, NE. Three year in a row they have traveled to Pamida in Beatrice!

The workshop was scheduled from 9:30AM - 12:30PM, however, we got our first patient only a few minutes into 9AM. In a very short time, a waiting line had developed. The students finished with their last patient a few minutes prior to 1PM.

They worked well as a team and helped each other solve problems. With just some short instruction from myself, I noticed the P-3 students taking the lead role and directing the other students.

Most importantly, they worked well with their patients. They explained the information well, offered potential drug cost saving options, and explored possible





therapeutic interchanges with their patients. Based on the smiles on their patients' faces you can tell everyone enjoyed this workshop.

RPSA is scheduled to travel to another Pamida in Wayne, NE on Nov 12th to conduct a similar Medicare Part D workshop.

Your UNMC students are always welcome at Pamida and plans are conduct a 4th annual Pamida Beatrice workshop in 2012!

Dr. Peter Vu, Proud UNMC Pharm D. Pamida Pharmacy Manager, Beatrice, NE

I wanted to write a note of thanks for the RPSA students that took time out of their busy schedules to represent UNMC at our Medicare-D Workshop. On Saturday November 12, Jen Done and five other pharmacy students traveled to Wayne, NE to assist our patients with Medicare-D searches.

Our event was scheduled from 9:30-12:30. The students were able to assist several patients in the first hour. We had taken information from patients that were unable to come that morning. The UNMC students prepared their profiles. We feel the event was a great success. The service provided to our patients is invaluable. I have received several positive comments from our patients regarding their experience and interaction with the UNMC students.

We look forward to working with the RPSA students in 2012 for our 2^{nd} Annual Medicare-D Workshop.

Becky Barner, Pharm.D. Pamida Pharmacy Manager, Wayne, NE

NAPLEX

For a third-consecutive year, the College of Pharmacy graduating class had a 100 percent pass rate on the national pharmacy licensing examination.

All 60 of UNMC's graduating pharmacy students passed the examination on their first attempts.

The national pass rate for all colleges of pharmacy was 96.57 percent. UNMC students had an average score of 112.43. The national average score was 105.03.

"The entire College of Pharmacy family shares in this achievement," said Courtney Fletcher, Pharm.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy. "It reflects the commitment and expertise of the College of Pharmacy faculty. ... And, it is a result of the outstanding students who come to study pharmacy at UNMC."

Fu Chen, Ph.D. candidate, received the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Innovation in Nanotechnology Award at the annual meeting in October. This award recognizes and promotes the achievement of an individual that demonstrates innovation in the area of Nanotechnology as applied to Drug and Device Development. Dr. Dong Wang is his faculty advisor.

Distinguished Teaching Award Continued from Page 1

Distinguished Teaching Award Past Recipients			
Paul W. Jungnickel	1994	Udaya B. Kompella	2003
David J. Warner	1995	Todd S. Paulsen	2004
Wallace J. Murray	1996	Keith M. Olsen	2005
Pierre A. Maloley	1997	Jeffrey N. Baldwin	2006
Keith M. Olsen	1998	Paul P. Dobesh	2007
Dennis H. Robinson	1999	Edward "Ted" B.	2008
Eric M. Scholar	2000	Kyle R. Peters	2009
William F. Elmquist	2001	Paul P. Dobesh	2010
Charles H. Krobot	2002		

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3, 2012

Spring Semester First day of classes

February 14, 2012

COP Seminar-Vicki Ellingrod

March 12-18, 2012

Spring Break P1s-P3s

March 26-April 1, 2012

Spring Break P4s

April 20, 2012

Spring Last Day of Classes

April 23-27, 2012

Spring Finals Week

May 4, 2012

Spring Honors Convocation

May 5, 2012

Graduation

May 8, 2012

ACPE Faculty Retreat

Location—TBD

August 15, 2012

White Coat Ceremony

October 2-4, 2012

ACPE Site Visit

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

James Sheets, RP, of Lincoln was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the Nebraska Pharmacists

Association's President's Inauguration & Awards Celebration on December 9, 2011, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE.

This award is given to a pharmacist who has shown outstanding service to the NPA, the profession of pharmacy, and their community

over the course of their pharmacy career.

Sheets is a graduate of South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy. He also attended the University of Nebraska, and became a registered pharmacist 50 years ago in 1961.

Jim and his wife, Rose Ann, who is also a pharmacist, owned Sheets Pharmacy in Falls City for many years before moving to Lincoln. Jim is a Past President of the Falls City Lions Club; Chamber of Commerce School Board; and a past Director of the Falls City Ambulance Company. Jim was also the Falls City Jaycee Boss of the Year in 1971.



NPA President, Christopher Shaffer, Pharm.D., BCPS, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice (left); and James Sheets, RP.

Jim served on the NPA Board of Directors between 1968 and 1974; and served as NPA President from 1982 -1983. The President's Letter that Jim wrote each month for the Nebraska Mortar & Pestle was titled, "Short Sheets".

Throughout his career, Jim has volunteered in the community, on committees and Boards for the NPA. Jim has dedicated his

life to serving patients and his profession. Jim retired in 1996 moved to Lincoln, but for the past 14 years, he has worked part-time at Pete's Pharmacy in Pawnee City.

The Nebraska Pharmacists Association is the professional association of the state's pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy students. This 1400 member association provides professional education for its members and community services to the residents of Nebraska.



The Economic Times

1 Nov 2011, 04.49AM IST, Khomba Singh, ET Bureau

Ranbaxy gets nod for first drug developed by Indian pharma co

NEW DELHI: The country's drug regulator has given conditional market approval for Ranbaxy Laboratories' anti-malaria drug, paving the way for the launch of the country's first privately-developed medicine and ending more than a decade of failures or near misses for India's drug makers.

While the domestic drug industry has been successful in making generic versions of drugs as well as new drug delivery systems, this is the first time that a new molecule discovered and patented by a home grown company will be sold commercially, plugging a big hole in the R&D credentials of the country.

"There are a few companies whose molecules have reached the last phase of clinical trials. But, on the whole, Indian drugmakers have had very limited success with their drug discovery programmes because of inadequate funding and lack of proper skill sets," says Sujay Shetty of Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) Surinder Singh said the marketing licence was subject to the condition that the Chinese plant from where Ranbaxy imported key ingredients for the drug was inspected and approved. Though the final phase of its clinical trial used the same ingredients from China and has been cleared for both safety and efficacy, the government wants to play it safe. "Since it (the drug) will be widely used we want to check for our satisfaction," Singh said.

The proposed launch could provide a boost to Ranbaxy's revenues as this combination drug, arterolane maleate and piperaquine phosphate, will be cheaper and easier to consume, compared to its existing competitors. It is likely to cost less than one-third of the price of similar brands in the market sold by foreign drugmakers which cost about Rs 200-225 per course. The annual size of the antimalaria drugs market in India is estimated to be Rs 450 crore.

Unlike other similar therapies available in the market where the patient has to eat eight medicines a day for three days, patients will need to eat just one tablet each for three days if they use Ranbaxy's drug. The Gurgaon-based drugmaker did not respond to an e-mail query. The company's shares fell 2.59% to close at Rs 501.10 on Monday.

According to another official close to the development, the Gurgaon-based company plans to manufacture the drug from its plant in Goa. It is in the process of getting regulatory nod as country's laws require a separate manufacturing license from the state where the drug would be produced.

At present, the drug is used to treat the P falciparum malaria. It soon plans to start studies for P Vivax the other type of malaria.

The clinical trials for the drug were conducted in India, Thailand and Bangladesh. According to the company's website, the company has been developing the drug since 2003. Malaria is a major public health problem in more than 90 countries with over 2.4 billion people.

The disease is estimated to kill a child every 30 seconds and cause up to 250 million new infections globally each year. Since the disease are prevalent only in poor countries, global MNCs who develop new drugs have either abandoned developing drugs to treat malaria. Between 1975 and 1999, only four of the almost 1,400 new drugs developed worldwide were anti malarial, and all were at least in part the products of publicly funded research.

The company has identified sites in Africa to start clinical trials for the use of the drug in children. Some part of the development of the drug was funded by the Indian government and other organisations. In 2007, Medicines for Malaria Venture had pulled out of the funding partnership dealing a blow to the company's new drug ambitions.