

Gamecock Pharmacist

GIVING BACK TO GARNET AND BLACK

Nurture, mentor and pay it forward, says 1978 graduate and USC trustee Hugh Mobley.

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The Long family boasts three generations of Gamecock pharmacists.

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College of Pharmacy

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STEPHEN J. CUTLER
DEAN OF PHARMACY

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to write to you via our inaugural magazine, which provides a snapshot of exciting developments at the college. You can look forward to receiving a new issue twice each year, and we welcome your feedback.

The past several months have been highly productive. We received approval from the S.C. Commission on Higher Education to restore our legacy program. Our faculty and staff members are energized by returning to our USC roots and remain committed to our foundation of teaching, research and service. I have been pleased with positive comments from both USC and South Carolina College of Pharmacy alumni about the direction of our college. Once a Gamecock, always a Gamecock!

Chaired by Scott Sutton, our accreditation steering team submitted a thorough self-study of our Pharm.D. program to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. This 18-month review was intensive and involved faculty, staff, students and alumni. I am grateful for Dr. Sutton's leadership and for the committee's hard work. ACPE completed a corresponding site visit in April as part of its evaluation of our program.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we held a spring faculty-staff retreat facilitated by the Barnard Consulting Group. We crafted a new mission and vision for the college that will be the cornerstone for a new strategic plan, which will serve as the compass that guides us into a new era in pharmacy education.

Our college is well positioned to manage the many transitions taking place to operate as an independent program. Through promotions and the creation of new positions, we have added to the breadth and depth of our administrative team, which is enabling us to better lead the college through this time of change. Additions to our advancement team are providing more opportunities for alumni engagement.

I look forward to continuing on this incredible journey and serving as your dean. Thank you for all that you have done to make me feel welcome and to advance our college.

For Carolina,



A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP

The Walker Leadership Scholars Program was created to address the need to prepare pharmacy leaders to help drive the profession's future successes. The WLS endowment actively promotes the development of pharmacy students into next-generation leaders by providing us with the skill sets to make substantive contributions during our pharmacy careers.

Participating in the WLS program has been an invaluable part of our pharmacy education at USC. When we learned about the program during our P1 year, we knew we had to take advantage of this opportunity to develop our leadership skills through formal and informal learning experiences. These educational experiences have included participating in faculty-directed educational courses, such as Creating Pharmacy Leaders and the Carolina Leadership Initiative, where we learned about various theories of leadership and applied these to refine our own leadership styles.

During our P3 year, as integral members of the Carolina Leadership Initiative, we helped develop a framework to unify the USC system's leadership programs and create the "Spurred to Lead" campaign. As part of this project, we worked with USC students from all majors and backgrounds to plan the university's inaugural Leadership Week. Through the use of banners, interviews, performances and free giveaways, we planned a successful event that inspired the student body to think about how they act as leaders every day on campus. We were honored to be able to influence fellow students in such a positive way.

One of the WLS program's key focus areas is encouraging scholars to network and engage with leaders within and outside the field of pharmacy. Because of the program's resources, we were able to attend local leadership conferences, such as Phi Lambda Sigma's

annual leadership conference in Charleston and the Student Leadership Development Conference sponsored by USC. In addition, we have also attended national pharmacy conferences, such as the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Midyear Clinical Meeting and the Phi Delta Chi Grand Council.

By participating in these events, we learned from subject matter experts about leadership development and also enjoyed the opportunity to meet other students who we will work alongside in the pharmacy profession. Conversations with USC President Harris Pastides and renowned scholar and diplomat Anne-Marie Slaughter, among others, have been highlights of our participation in the program, and we hope to apply the knowledge we've gained through these discussions to continue to grow as we move into the pharmacy workforce.

As the inaugural class of Walker Scholars, we have also embraced the opportunity to directly influence the program's development and direction as committee members and through open communications with our benefactor, Donna Walker. Participating in the program's design and oversight has been integral to our development as leaders because it has empo

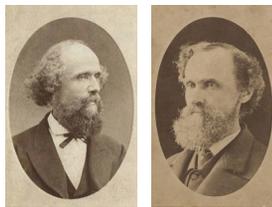
We are honored to be the first Pharm.D. students to graduate with leadership distinction in professional and civic engagement, the culmination of three rich and rewarding years of participating in the WLS program. In the spirit of this distinction, we pledge to make a meaningful imprint on the pharmacy profession and cultivate leadership in generations of pharmacists to come.

Walker Pharmacy Leadership Scholars Kendall Tucker, left, and Parth Parikh, '17, pictured above with Donna Walker.

Celebrating 150 years of pharmacy education at USC

Collegiate pharmacy programs were not widespread until the early 20th century, but in 1866 the University of South Carolina opened one of the nation's first state-supported pharmacy schools.

Civil War Era Most pharmacists are not college educated, training in drug stores as apprentices to physicians or in apothecaries to learn the profession.



1866 The university opens a School of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy and Geology with renowned scientist Joseph LeConte as chairman. Joseph, along with his brother John,

had led the laboratory that manufactured medicines for the Confederate Army and had petitioned the South Carolina College to add formal pharmaceutical and medical education programs. The brothers depart for California three years later; John twice serves as president of the University of California at Berkeley, and Joseph co-founds the Sierra Club.



1873-1891 The school closes in 1873, reopens in 1884 and closes again in 1891 under the influence of Gov. Ben Tillman, who closes all of the university's professional programs.

1924 Persistent lobbying efforts to reopen the college pay off with re-establishment of a Department of Pharmacy. Twelve students enroll.

1928 The School of Pharmacy becomes accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy under the leadership of Emery Motley.



1931 Charlotte Porter becomes the school's first female graduate.

1944 During World War II, enrollment shrinks to 37 students.

1946 As returning servicemen use their GI Bill benefits, enrollment surges to 203 students, 10 percent of them women.



1960 The college expands to a five-year bachelor's degree program.

1972 The college advances its public service outreach by establishing the Palmetto Poison Center.

1990 The college opens a pharmacy museum.

1996 The college adopts the Pharm.D. as entry-level degree.

2004 USC and the Medical University of South Carolina form a jointly accredited program, the South Carolina College of Pharmacy.

2010 The Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center opens with a \$30 million gift from Bill, '66 pharmacy, and Lou Kennedy, '84 journalism.



2011 The SCCP establishes a relationship with the Greenville Health Systems campus.

2016 USC celebrates 150 years of pharmacy education.

2017 USC's legacy program is fully accredited as an independent college of pharmacy.



*'Find what you love ...
and be better'*

Though **Hugh Mobley**, '78, had considered attending medical school like his brother, he realized that he was better suited to the spontaneity of community pharmacy practice rather than a physician's preset patient schedule.

"In this environment, you show up and people just come in, and everything is new every day," he said.

After graduation, the Lancaster, S.C., native returned to his hometown to work in a chain pharmacy but didn't thrive in that setting. As he contemplated his future, his father connected him with a local pharmacist from church who had been diagnosed with terminal lymphoma. The pharmacist asked Hugh to visit him, and over many months and conversations, Mobley learned the man's life story.

The strength of that relationship so impressed Robert Perry's family that upon his death, the estate sold his pharmacy business to Mobley even though he had no money for a down payment. Only three years after graduating from the USC College of Pharmacy, Mobley became owner and operator of his own independent pharmacy and changed its name to Mobley Drugs. He later learned that distant kin had founded the business in the late 1800s as "Floyd and Mobley."

Mobley credits his success in business to strong support from his family. Donna, his wife of more than 30 years, stayed home to raise their four children: Amy, '03 associate, B.S. exercise science '04 and doctor of physical therapy, '07; Drew, '06 master's science degree; Sally, a graduate student in USC's mass communications program; and Amanda, a music education student at Winthrop. The couple also enjoys spending

time with their three grandchildren.

“I’ve had an awesome support system, and none of this would have happened if Donna hadn’t been committed to it,” he said. “It does take a team.”

Mobley’s career has been built upon solid personal relationships with his patients and the community he serves.

On countless occasions, he has advised a patient to be examined by a physician and later learned that intervention saved the patient’s life.

Acknowledging that “it takes a community to raise a business,” Mobley has been a steadfast contributor to the Lancaster community through involvement with the J. Marion Sims Foundation, Breakfast Rotary Club, the Matt Blackwell Foundation and First United Methodist Church.

In addition to strong relationships, Mobley’s success has stemmed from his business acumen and responsiveness to changes in technology, reimbursement and patient needs. His pharmacy, which has twice relocated, includes a vaccination room, counseling space, compounding area, traditional drop-off counter and a nutritionals section, among other features.

“You have to carve out these small areas that nobody else wants,” he explained. “If you’re going to be an independent, you’ve got to have a niche. My philosophy has been to find what you love, find what somebody else doesn’t do and be better than anybody in that area, and the rest of it will work out. But you’ve got to have passion to do it.

“(And) you can’t forget at the core... (is) that one person who’s sick and needs something. That’s the anchor. You’ve got a person who’s sick and needs to be fixed.”



GIVING BACK TO **GARNET AND BLACK**

For a man synonymous with all things garnet and black, the portrait of higher education for USC Board of Trustees vice chairman **Hugh Mobley**, '78, began, curiously enough, with a palette of orange and purple.

Although Mobley’s love of math and science sparked an interest in studying pharmacy, he followed his Lancaster High School classmates to Clemson where he was miserable and, he notes for the record, did not attend any athletics events. After his freshman year, Mobley transferred to Carolina, enrolled in the College of Pharmacy and never looked back.

“When I went to Columbia, it was like I found my way home,” he said. “The [college] allowed me to grow up. I stumbled some, I made some mistakes, but the professors were always nurturing and encouraging me to persevere, that we could get through it.”

Mobley began serving on the S.C. Board of Pharmacy in 1995. In 2011, the General Assembly appointed him to serve on USC’s Board of Trustees, and in August 2016, he was elected vice chairman. The timing of Mobley’s board tenure has been fortuitous as USC seeks to expand its role in educating the state’s health care workforce. USC Provost Joan Gabel has championed the breadth of Carolina’s health sciences programs and created the Galen Health Fellows program, a living and learning community that will launch this fall for outstanding undergraduate students interested in health careers.

The Board of Trustees is engaged in the university’s push for a new USC health sciences campus in the Bull Street development that would provide new opportunities for collaborative learning. “The genesis for the health sciences campus is that as we grow together, we practice together,” Mobley said.

The College of Pharmacy can play a meaningful role in advancing health sciences programming because of its unique learning opportunities, such as dual-degree programs in data analytics, public health and business, Mobley said.

“There are so many other disciplines that we can [leverage] across schools to create unique opportunities for graduates that don’t exist in other places,” he said.

Given the life-changing opportunities provided by the College of Pharmacy and the university, Mobley says all alumni have an obligation to give back to their alma mater.

“You’re in one of two categories: You’re a producer or you’re a consumer,” he said. “And if you got your education and left and you gave nothing back — and I’m not talking about money, but you gave nothing back or you didn’t mentor anybody — you’re a consumer.

“If you decided to be a producer, you took your education, went out and nurtured people, promoted the brand and stayed connected. I would encourage all alumni to look at being producers. Pay it forward.”

Because of the rapid pace of change within the pharmacy profession, alumni can mentor new graduates to help them be successful, he said. “They’re all book smart, But how do you get them street smart? That’s where the alumni can make a big difference.”



Seeing the whole patient

DUAL-DEGREE STUDENT ENVISIONS LARGER PATIENT EDUCATOR ROLE FOR PHARMACISTS

The assignment was routine: a seventh-grade science fair project. But for **Liz Rogers**, Class of 2017, studying how quickly over-the-counter migraine medicines dissolved in hydrochloric acid did more than answer which pill to take when she could feel a headache coming on.

It ignited her curiosity in pharmacy and science, leading her to earn a bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science from Carolina in three years and a Pharm.D./master's degree in public health, a dual-degree program offered between the College of Pharmacy and the Arnold School of Public Health.

Along the way, she has amassed an impressive resume of pharmacy and public health-related scholarship and service, including rotations with the Indian Health Services in Alaska, an eight-week internship at Rite Aid's corporate headquarters and leadership positions with campus student organizations and state associations. Besides championing health awareness at events such as the Midlands Heart Walk, Rogers has also educated elementary schoolchildren about diabetes and distributed toiletry kits to the homeless.

Because of her outstanding record, Rogers was recently given the U.S. Public Health Service's Excellence in Public Health

Pharmacy Award, becoming the college's first recipient of this national award.

For her master's degree practicum, Rogers conducted a retrospective case study, analyzing six months of Midlands Cardiology's health records for 150 female heart failure patients who were evaluated for potential worsening symptoms, including difficulty breathing, fatigue or swelling in the legs or feet. She found that the practice excelled in prescribing appropriate drugs and explaining those medicines to patients but had room to improve in discussing physical activity and diet with patients.

"I think that's very interesting because pharmacists are well equipped to provide both of those (services) and free up some time for the physicians and nurse practitioners to spend time with other patients," she said. "There's an opportunity for pharmacy to really take charge with the lifestyle modifications and the medication instruction."

This summer, Rogers will enter a general post-graduate pharmacy residency program at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C.



BOOT CAMP INSPIRES PHARMACY OWNERSHIP

Owning a pharmacy doesn't have to be just a dream, participants learned at the Community Pharmacy Ownership Boot Camp at USC's Alumni Center.

The boot camp, created by the USC College of Pharmacy's Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center and the National Community Pharmacists Association, offered a full day of educational sessions geared toward helping pharmacy students prepare for pharmacy ownership. This year, 89 participants attended, including students from 31 schools and colleges of pharmacy across the country, as well as community pharmacy residents and recent pharmacy graduates.

Now in its fourth year, the boot camp has expanded from a local learning opportunity to a national program. Because of the partnership with NCPA and support from Cardinal Health, 27 students earned scholarships to attend the 2016 boot camp for free.

Topics included business plan writing, financial analysis of pharmacy businesses, ownership models, pharmacy ownership financing options, personal finance, how to locate pharmacy purchase opportunities and evolving niche market opportunities.

Learning about niche practice areas, such as chronic disease management, was one of the participants' favorite sessions. "[I learned] we can think outside the box, help people and still make a living," said Christopher Hajou, a fourth-year Pharm.D. student at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy.

Participants also enjoyed an in-depth presentation about pharmacy pricing and financing from Jimmy Neil of Live Oak Bank, who explained how banks analyze lending decisions.

Kristen Arnall, a third-year Pharm.D. student at Carolina, said she didn't consider ownership until she entered a clinical practice rotation in an independent pharmacy in her hometown of Kernersville, N.C. Hearing firsthand from Live Oak Bank and Cardinal Health representatives about how they can support ownership opportunities made her goal seem tangible.

"It sounds like something impossible is within reach," she said. "Hearing how many pharmacies have been opened and successful opened my eyes that this is something I can definitely work for in my future."

Ashley Wengrove, a third-year Pharm.D. student at the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy, said the boot camp helped her fully grasp concepts that she's heard of, such as junior partnerships, and reinforced her desire to pursue ownership because it would allow her to make practice decisions independently.

And several participants said the personal finance session made them pause to consider how their financial decisions could impact their future ability to finance their dream.

For Hajou, his mind hasn't stopped racing since the boot camp ended. "It's made me think about every aspect of my life and what I need to change to make my dream come true."

1 Richard Jackson of Community Pharmacy Consulting shared tips for analyzing a pharmacy's financial needs and writing a business plan.

2 Pharmacy Students, Ariana Coleman and Kristen Arnall Attend the 2016 Pharmacy Ownership Boot Camp.

3 Dave Ellis, left, of Cardinal Health, discussed how to find a pharmacy to purchase and Jimmy Neil, right, of Live Oak Bank, provided insight about determining the sales price of a pharmacy and financing options.

First Families of Pharmacy

First Families of Pharmacy highlights legacy connections to the USC College of Pharmacy



From left: Rebecca Long Gillespie, Ken Long, Eugene Long, Sr., Lauren Long and Daniel Long.

The Long family

Long's Drugs might have remained one store had Kenneth Long, '80, and his late brother Eugene, '78, not followed their father, Eugene Long Sr., '55, into the profession. Now a third generation — Rebecca Long Gillespie, '07, Daniel Long, '15, and Lauren Long, '16 — has joined the 27-store business.

How did you get involved in the family business?

KEN: I started at (the) Cornell Arms (store near the USC campus) on the soda fountain — cooked hamburgers and breakfast and served milkshakes.

EUGENE: When he was old enough to see over the counter!

KEN: It was natural since I was working across the street from the College of Pharmacy that I would go to college there. It was a lot of pressure to go to work for Dad. After my first year, I said, 'Dad, I appreciate you buying a drugstore and giving me a job, but my friends are making \$30,000 and I'm making 22-5,' and he said, 'Yes, but we're going to build something here. You've just got to be patient.' It worked out.

What did you learn observing your dad and grandpa run Long's?

REBECCA: Dedication to the profession and hard work. Growing up, Dad worked every day. I joke that I broke my arm in third grade, and Mamaw and Papaw took me to the doctor because he couldn't leave the pharmacy.

How did you decide you wanted to be a pharmacist?

DANIEL: I think it's something our family has that's unique that we share so you want to be a part of that when you're growing up.

LAUREN: All the people we looked up to most were pharmacists for Long's. You see them making a successful life, and you want to be able to do that for yourself. And there's something about going to work every day and having your name on the building. It makes you dig a little deeper, you're more attached to what you're doing and more proud of it.

The Smith family

Joe Smith, '49, works alongside his daughter Mary Jo Dyches, '87, and grandson Neil Fulmer, '06, at Peak Pharmacy, which he opened in 1950. Although Smith no longer fills prescriptions and retired as a Newberry County magistrate after serving in that role for 32 years, he continues to manage his store.

What's been most satisfying in your career?

JOE: More than anything else, it's working in the community and making friends and serving people. We have some real loyal customers, and I think that's because of the friendships we've made over the years. You just have to be honest and fair all the way through. If not, you're going to have some trouble.

What's the best part of joining the family business?

MARY JO: Just trying to fulfill his legacy. He's so dedicated to everything he's done. Just to be part of what he struggled to build and what he became. Everything that he has he has earned. I like being a part of that. And watching and learning and really knowing the kind of character he has. Working with him in the store, you see how other people view and think of him. I know the deeds he does that no one sees, like giving \$100 to a mother to buy her child shoes. There's no job I could have done that would have been better than this one. (I also) learned how to serve others, that you get out of something what you put into it. And with Dad, there's a positive side to everything!

Why USC?

MARY JO: There's no other choice. I grew up as a Gamecock going to ball games, basketball games in the Frank McGuire era. We've seen a lot of football. We played Florida State once; it was raining so hard we could hardly see the field. It was 56-0! My dad will not leave that seat until the clock ticks down.



From left: Neil Fulmer, Joe Smith and Mary Jo Dyches.



From left: Michelle, Bryan, Patricia, Greg and Dargan.

The Mayer family

The Mayer family is married to pharmacy. Greg, '77, and Patricia, '75, raised two pharmacists: Dargan, '08, and Bryan, '05, whose wife Michelle, '06, also shares the family profession. Greg's uncle, Robert Gregory, '53, was also a pharmacist.

What did you learn coming from a family of pharmacists?

DARGAN: It's long hours of work, but it pays off. It's hard work, but it's worth it.

What were your hopes for your children when you knew they were entering the family profession?

GREG: I was really hoping they'd find something that they enjoyed. There's so many things in pharmacy, if you're not happy doing what you're doing, you can find something else. I like retail. If I were working in a hospital, I'd be bonkers. And I like dealing with people and interacting. In Dargan's case, it's long-term care and Bryan is doing home infusion. If you find something that you enjoy, you'll do it well.

Why USC?

BRYAN: When we were at Carolina, it was very much a family atmosphere. A lot of professors knew us from being friends with Mom or Dad or [they had] taught Mom or Dad. It was very much an attitude there that they wanted to see us be successful, and they followed through with us being successful. There was an investment in it.

I can remember Dargan in pre-pharm was struggling with organic (chemistry), and Dr. (James) Chapman and Dr. (Walter) Sowell both helped her out before she was even in pharmacy school. They knew Dargan was applying and knew me from being in school and Mom and Dad, and they offered free help with material she was struggling with in organic. It's just stuff like that I know other schools did not have.

MICHELLE: Professors truly were invested in our success. I genuinely felt cared for and loved and that they wanted the absolute best for you.

The Bookstaver family

When Becky Bookstaver, '14, left a nursing career and entered the College of Pharmacy, she knew it would be a family experience. Her brother Brandon, '04, is on the faculty and her uncle David, '80, is a preceptor. She could count on support from her dad, Paul, '74, and sister-in-law Nicole, '09.

How did you discover pharmacy?

PAUL: I went to work in a drugstore at age 14 as a delivery boy. I didn't know I was going to become a pharmacist. I graduated from delivery boy to cashier, then moved into the pharmacy to help fill prescriptions. At some point, I decided I wanted to become a pharmacist.

What makes USC pharmacy students special?

NICOLE: The passion and enthusiasm for the profession and serving others. What I love about USC is the mentality of constructive collaboration, but it's also a positively challenging environment so everybody's pushing each other forward in a positive direction.

Did you ever work with your dad?

BECKY: I worked a couple of shifts with my dad when people called out sick. He runs a tight ship. He wants each prescription to be completely accurate, and he wants the bottle to look professional. He takes time to speak with patients and gets to know them. People refer to him as 'That's my pharmacist.'

What lessons about pharmacy did you learn from your dad?

BRANDON: His techs work forever for him. So two lessons from that: One is servant leadership. If you're not willing to throw out the trash and put up inventory, then you don't need to be asking someone else to do that. The other is financial. Let's say the company offered a pharmacist bonus of \$100. Well, a bonus is nice, but if that money went to your technicians, that's a really big deal when they might have been making a lower hourly wage. When you create that good team environment, it makes your job as the pharmacist leader much more worthwhile, easier and pleasant.



From left: Nicole, Paul, Brandon, Becky and David.



Read more about our first families at www.sc.edu/pharmacy



RX FOR LEADERSHIP

Calm, cool, collected. That's how teammates describe **Chelsea Drennan**, a second-year professional student in the College of Pharmacy who holds the all-time assists record for the No. 4-ranked USC women's soccer team.

Whether she's scoring a game-winning overtime penalty kick or calculating pediatric patient medication regimens on a clinical rotation, Drennan brings laser-like focus to whatever task is at hand.

Drennan, an Anderson, S.C., native, came to Carolina interested in a health care career but was unsure which field to pursue. A friend enrolled in the pre-pharmacy program suggested the profession, and former soccer standout Mollie Patton, '13, told Drennan that she could handle the rigorous Pharm.D. curriculum while playing for the Gamecocks.

And once Drennan's interest in pharmacy was sparked, she was hooked.

"I think the cool thing about pharmacy is there are so many career paths you can take — there's retail or clinical, research or academia," the Phi Delta Chi member said. "There are so many opportunities."

Associate professor **Christina Cox** said Drennan is diligent with her coursework, sending midnight email reminders from the road about missing class and arranging follow-up meetings to ensure she understands the content.

"She's one of the top performers in class," Cox said. "She asks good questions, and she's always positive."

USC, MUSC maintaining joint experiential ed program

Although the College of Pharmacy is phasing out its joint Pharm.D. program with the Medical University of South Carolina, the two legacy programs will continue their partnership in experiential education.

The partnership has been successful because it capitalized on each college's strong network of alumni preceptors and created a broad portfolio of experiential opportunities for students, which allowed them to specialize in niche areas, said Jennifer Baker, '02, director of experiential education at USC. In addition, merging the programs eliminated duplicative administrative processes for preceptors who mentored students from both Pharm.D. programs.

Following a new memorandum of understanding between the universities, the colleges launched their joint initiative as the Palmetto Experiential Education Partnership (PEEP), the only cooperative pharmacy practice program between state colleges of pharmacy in South Carolina.

Although the PEEP branding is new, the processes associated with the joint experiential education program will remain the same, such as using the E-value system to log student performance.



Interested in becoming a preceptor? Contact Jennifer Baker at 803-777-0490 or jbaker@cop.sc.edu



STUDENT PHARMACISTS EARN SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Assessing patients and drug therapies is second nature for **Ja'Neisha Williams**, '17 and **Paul Philavong**, '17, earning them second place at the Student National Pharmaceutical Association/Kroger National Clinical Skills Competition.

As fourth-year student pharmacists, they competed against other third- and fourth-year student teams in the 2016 event. Each team was evaluated on problem-solving, communication, therapeutic knowledge/management, care plan development and counseling.

"It just felt so normal with the knowledge base that we've already built," Williams said. "We did what we've been training and preparing for the last three years to do."

Philavong said they were confident in their clinical skill set but said it was nonetheless thrilling to receive national recognition.

"To get second place in the entire nation, it feels really amazing and surreal," he said. "It was an honor to represent our school."

Philavong has also received national recognition in the past year for his contributions to academic research, winning a \$5,000 Gateway to Research scholarship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Excellence.

The student pharmacists credit their success at the competition to the College of Pharmacy's strong classroom foundation and exceptional experiential learning opportunities in area hospitals, community pharmacies and physician practice groups.

"When I look back at when I first came into pharmacy school, I think about how much I've grown from my P1 year to now," Williams said. "I'm very proud of myself and my teammate. We work together well, and we brought charisma and fun and energy. That's what it's all about."

USC honors Justo with clinical practice teaching award

Throughout pharmacy school, **Julie Justo** pictured herself as a hospital-based pharmacist caring for patients.

But during her first year of residency training at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she gave a talk to pharmacy students about how bacteria invade the immune system. Suddenly her plans changed.

"It was the most fun I'd ever had in my training to date, and I was kind of on a high when I walked out of that class," she said. "And the more I thought about it, I realized the thing I love about pharmacy is that I got to teach people every day, whether it was patients, doctors, nurses, other pharmacists or social workers."

After finishing her residency and fellowship training, Justo joined the faculty at Carolina. At the college, her teaching responsibilities include lecturing in clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapy courses, coordinating a clinical applications course, moderating in the transforming health care course, teaching acute care electives and precepting fourth-year students.

Her students describe her as passionate — "that might just be because I talk a lot...and fast and loudly" — and patient, a quality Justo didn't see in herself until she reflected on how she works students to describe complex concepts in multiple ways until the student latches onto one that makes sense.

One of Justo's guiding principles is her emphasis on mastery to fulfill the pharmacist's professional obligation — providing the best care possible for the patient — rather than to record a high test score. Inspiring students to be lifelong learners who can self-evaluate their comprehension is part of her approach.

She will pose the question, "Based on what you learned with urinary tract infections, would you trust yourself to take care of your loved one, your mother, your spouse, your brother? If you feel you could provide the same high-quality care as you would want for yourself, then that means you've probably mastered the content."



Future Entrepreneurs



From left: Courtney Clark, Vy Nguyen, Michelle Simons and Morgan Dameron.

Each year, the College of Pharmacy's Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center hosts a business plan competition. Working in teams, the students create a detailed plan for a new pharmacy model. The top four teams (based on their written proposals) are invited to present their plans and compete for cash prizes. This year's winning team, Elevate Pharmacy & Wellness Center, won \$6,000 plus a trip to the National Community Pharmacists Association's annual meeting.



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The college and our student organizations depend heavily upon the generosity of sponsors to fund college and organizational events and activities. Interested in learning more about sponsorship? Contact Terry Dixon, senior director of development.

Special thanks to the following sponsors for their recent support of our students: College of Pharmacy Dean's Circle, CVS Health, Fred's, Good Pharmacy/Marvin Hyatt, Long's Drugs, Nephron Pharmaceutical Corporation, Rite-Aid, Walgreens and Walmart.

For more information, call 803-777-5426 or email tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu



DUNN WINS UNIVERSITY'S GARNET APPLE TEACHING AWARD

Brie Dunn earned a chemistry degree as an undergrad and was soon wearing a hard hat and steel-toed shoes in an industrial lab. After tiring of that, she returned to school to earn a Pharm.D. degree.

She had never thought about teaching, but that's what she found herself doing after joining the clinical pharmacy faculty at Carolina six years ago. She quickly sought out resources from the Center for Teaching Excellence and other colleagues to gain a better pedagogical understanding.

"Students say I explain things in an easy-to-understand fashion. Sometimes, I might explain it six different ways so that everyone understands," she says.

Dunn's teaching prowess has led to several recognitions, including the 2014 American Council of Clinical Pharmacists' New Educator of the Year, the 2015 USC Provost's Clinical Teacher of the Year and the 2016 receipt of the Garnet Apple Teaching Award. And she will be sharing her knowledge with the college's faculty as the new associate dean for outcomes assessment and accreditation.

Dunn's love for technology led her to use educational tools that present students with case scenarios, testing their pharmaceutical knowledge and decision-making skills. Students meet an avatar for "Miss Laura," an emergency room patient with a severe infection. Their treatment decisions advance through branching algorithms that ultimately determine Miss Laura's fate.

College announces associate director of development

Kendall Belk has been named as the college's first associate director of development and alumni relations. Belk is managing the college's lead annual giving program, alumni engagement initiatives and related special events. Kendall is a familiar face in the Gamecock family, having worked in USC Athletics for more than eight years in various roles, including assistant director of the Gamecock Club and director of development communications and stewardship.

Most recently, Kendall was the director of donor relations at Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia where she provided fundraising and donor relations oversight for a 20-county service area. Kendall is a two-time alumna from USC with a bachelor's of science degree in business and a master's degree in sport and entertainment management.

Kendall joins the college's development team with Terry Dixon. Belk may be reached at **803-576-6322** or **belkkb@cop.sc.edu**.



RONINSON EARNS USC BREAKTHROUGH LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH AWARD

Igor Roninson brought 10 scientists and Senex Biotechnology, a cancer drug discovery company, to the University of South Carolina in 2011 when he was named the new SmartState Endowed Chair in Translational Cancer Therapeutics.

The professor, named a Breakthrough Leadership in Research awardee by the Office of Research, was just getting started in building infrastructure that would enhance cancer research throughout the state.

Just three years after his arrival, Roninson's leadership bore the fruit of one of the largest grants the university had ever received — \$11.3 million from the National Institutes of Health for a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence. As director of the Center for Targeted Therapeutics, Roninson is developing young talent that will elevate USC's reputation for drug discovery research.

"His scientific contributions to the field of cancer research over the years are exhaustive, have had great impact and are published in the top journals in his field," says Kim Creek, associate dean for research. "And he is not only a top-class scientist but also a tireless leader and mentor of junior scientists and junior faculty."

Roninson's company, Senex Biotechnology, has discovered a first-in-class cancer drug that acts through an entirely novel mechanism and has applications in cardiovascular and viral diseases. Senex has brought more than \$3 million into the S.C. economy through NIH Small Business Innovation Research Grants, private investment and licensing fees.

COLLEGE NEWS



Richard Schulz, a fixture on the college faculty for more than 30 years, retired in February. Schulz was extensively involved in teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and mentoring students and junior faculty. He was named the college's teacher of the year in 2001 and researcher of the year in 1999 and 2007.

Gene Reeder, '73, served the college for 33 years as a beloved faculty member and administrator who molded a generation of Gamecock pharmacists. Reeder rejoined the college last fall as director of outcomes research for the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center and professor emeritus, roles that will make use of his talent for outcomes research and student and faculty development.



The College of Pharmacy's administrative team has been

transformed in the past few months. **Wayne Buff**, '73, '97 Pharm.D., was promoted to senior associate dean while **Amy Grant** was promoted to associate dean for student affairs and diversity. In addition, three new positions were created and filled internally. **Keith Warren** is the college's assistant dean of finance, **Kim Creek** has been tapped as associate dean for research and **Brie Dunn** has been named associate dean for outcomes assessment and accreditation.



A team of USC scientists led by **Carolyn Banister**, '09, and **Phillip Buckhaults** discovered a new subtype of cervical cancer that affects 8 percent of patients. Unlike most cervical cancers — which are primarily driven by human papillomavirus — this subtype's growth is initiated but not sustained by HPV, suggesting that patients with this subtype might respond better to alternative treatments that target their tumors' unique genetic structure.

Antibiotic treatment within a child's first year of life might wipe out more than an unwanted infection. Exposure to the drugs is associated with an increase in food allergy diagnosis, according to research led by **Bryan Love**, '96, '97 Pharm.D. His team examined S.C. Medicaid data from about 1,500 children with food allergy diagnoses and about 6,000 children without food allergy diagnoses, finding that children who are prescribed antibiotics within the first year of life were 1.21 times more likely to be diagnosed with food allergy.



Betsy Blake was honored by the S.C. Pharmacy Association with the Kenneth R. Couch Distinguished Mentor Award and was elected as speaker-elect of the SCPhA's House of Delegates. **Jennifer Baker**, '02, was elected as the SCPhA's Midlands region director. **Brie Dunn** received the George D. Schwerin Mentor Award from the S.C. Society of Health-System Pharmacists. **Julie Justo** received the SCSHP's Young Pharmacist of the Year award, and **Whitney Maxwell** was elected director of SCSHP's Region III.

Brandon Bookstaver, '04, was named a fellow for the Infectious Diseases Society of America. **LeAnn Norris**, '04, was elected a fellow of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. **Julie Justo** and **Bryan Love** earned their board certification in infectious diseases, and Love also graduated from the AACP Academic Research Fellows Program.

Jill Michels, '95, '96 Pharm.D., was selected as a director-at-large for the board of the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Michels is the managing director of the Palmetto Poison Center, where she has served since 1999. The AAPCC maintains the National Poison Data System, the only comprehensive, near real-time poisoning surveillance database in the U.S., which contains information on more than 60 million poison exposures mapped to a database of more than 427,000 specific products.

Associate professor **Peisheng Xu** was awarded a five-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health to support the development of targeted therapy for Alzheimer's disease. Xu spent about four years developing a nanoparticle with a unique polymer structure that he will now test in rodent models. Thus far, Xu's nanoparticle has produced antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects, which may help to treat or prevent the disease.



Associate Dean for Research **Kim Creek** said Xu, who was named one of the university's Breakthrough Rising Stars in 2013, was the third target investigator supported by Professor Igor Roninson's \$11.3 million grant from the NIH's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence to graduate from the COBRE by securing extramural funding for his independent research.



Lynn Connelly, '78, was named the College's Outstanding Alumnus of the Year for 2017. Connelly has owned the West Columbia Medicine Mart since 1982, with his wife, Frances, '80. He serves as a preceptor for a community pharmacy

residency and is an active member of the South Carolina Pharmacists Association.

Reamer Bushardt, '98, was named senior associate dean for health sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He leads all health sciences departments at the school, including physician assistant studies, physical therapy and health care sciences, clinical research and leadership and the division of integrated health sciences.



The College of Pharmacy's compounding team placed second at the national Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition sponsored by MEDISCA, MEDISCA Network and LP3 Network. **Sarah Lewter, Kristen Arnall** and **Clair Padgett** also won the sportsmanship award at the competition. **Kathy Quarles-Moore**, '86 was the team's faculty sponsor.



Minghui "Sam" Li, '17, a recent graduate student in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences, was named a **Donna** and **Andrew Sorensen** Graduate Student Fellow, one of six students across the USC campus to earn the designation. Li was also named one of the university's prestigious Breakthrough Scholars.

Nicole Reilly, a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences, won first place in the student poster competition at the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genome Society's 2016 annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.



CLASS NOTES

New job? New degree? What life milestones would you like to share with former classmates? Submit class notes for the next issue of Gamecock Pharmacist to laurakam@mailbox.sc.edu.



SEND US YOUR PHARMACY PHOTOS

We want to preserve our history through photographs and your help would be appreciated. Email favorite photos from your pharmacy days for inclusion in our college archive and, possibly, future publications and/or social media. Be sure to identify everyone in the photo. Email digital images to communications manager Laura Kammerer at laurakam@mailbox.sc.edu. To share printed photos, call Laura at 803-777-1731 to make arrangements.

Will you be our guardian?

The Carolina Guardian Society honors alumni and friends who have generously remembered the University of South Carolina or one of its affiliated foundations in their estate plans. Guardian Society members receive a handsome recognition gift and are invited to the university's annual Guardian Society Luncheon held each February.

The following types of commitments, confirmed in writing, qualify for membership: a bequest in your will or trust; gift (percentage or whole) of a qualified retirement plan asset such as an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b); a gift of life insurance; or a life income gift that names the university or one of its affiliated foundations as a beneficiary, such as a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity.

If you have already arranged a bequest for the university, let us know so that you can be properly recognized now. For information, contact Terry Dixon, senior director of development, at 803-777-5426 or tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu

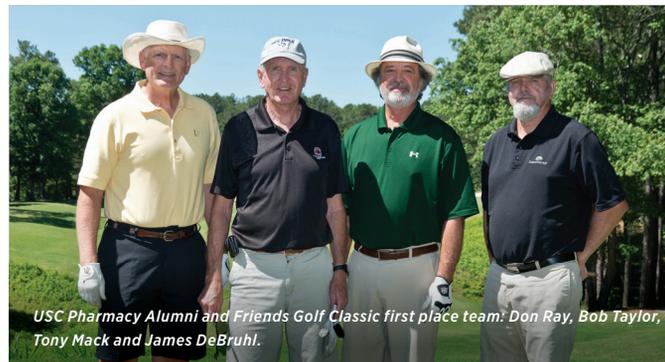
Thank You, USC College of Pharmacy Guardian Society members, including Brenda and Art Armes, Sondra Berger, Betty and Julian Fincher, Lou and Bill Kennedy, Toni and Jerry Odom, Nancy and Mike Ross, Nancy and Jim Warren and Debbie and Ted Williams.

Is your name missing?

Let us know at 803-777-5426 or tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu.



From left: Dean emeritus Julian Fincher and his wife, Betty; Cocky; Sondra Berger and Gene Reeder, director of outcome studies for the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center.



USC Pharmacy Alumni and Friends Golf Classic first place team: Don Ray, Bob Taylor, Tony Mack and James DeBruhl.

Long's Drugs driving pharmacy scholarships

Alumni and friends of the USC College of Pharmacy took to the greens May 8 for the 18th annual Alumni and Friends Golf Classic.

"The golf classic continues to be a fun event to raise both awareness and dollars for our scholarship program," said Terry Dixon, senior director of development. "We thank all of our players and sponsors, especially our event sponsor, Long's Drugs, for their participation."

Long's will be the event sponsor through 2019, the event's 20th anniversary. Long's is a comprehensive pharmacy services provider with 27 locations in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas and Louisiana. Long's has leveraged its retail footprint to grow a specialty and 340B contract pharmacy business, serving patients with chronic illnesses and complex medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS.

Special thanks to our Coker Level sponsors, including Century Contractors; Fred's Inc.; JMR Corporation/J. Michael Ross, president; McHugh Pharmacy Group; QS/1 Data Systems and Smith Drug Company.

Winning teams: first place, James DeBruhl, Tony Mack, Don Ray, '75, and Bob Taylor; second place, Casey Hydro, '03, Larry Kerr, Randy Rowen and Allen Stokes; third place, Jim Pangle, '75, Mike Ross, '76, David Thames, and Tim Mullenix, '88; and fourth place, David Clark, '99, Jim Clark, Scott Johnson and Johnny Nash.

Alumnus Bill Means, '85, won the award for "Closest to the Pin" and Jim Clark won the "Longest Drive" award.

Save the date for next year's tournament on Monday, May 14, at Cobblestone Park Golf Club.

Read & Repeat

↑ 10%

USC College of Pharmacy students have a national residency match rate 10 percent higher than other pharmacy programs.



> 30,000

Number of calls the Palmetto Poison Center answered in 2016 for consultation on poison exposures. Of those calls, more than 6,000 involved hospitals and other health care professionals asking for treatment advice for poisoned individuals.

GOT S.C. COVERED



USC College of Pharmacy alumni live in all 46 counties in South Carolina.

2

Two faculty members, Lorne Hofseth, chemo/dietary prevention study section, and Georgi Petkov, urologic and genitourinary physiology and pathology, serve on NIH study section review panels.



study buddy

Scott Sutton's Naplex Review Guide published by McGraw-Hill has been updated with a second edition. Sutton, '97, '98 Pharm.D., also authored a digital study book at www.naplexeasy.com



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