

Gamecock Pharmacist



**2022
OUTSTANDING
ALUMNUS**

Gerald Isreal Jr.
finds multiple ways
to serve patients.



SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN JULIE M. SEASE

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

They say that time flies when you are having fun, and I can certainly say that this past year has flown by.

It has been just over a year since I stepped into the role of interim dean, taking the helm of the College of Pharmacy, while Dean Stephen Cutler answered the call to serve as interim provost. And what a year it has been.

I am proud to report that our faculty continue to make great strides in research initiatives. Dr. Tessa Hastings received a \$421,233 R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study improving immunization information system implementation in community pharmacies. Dr. Patti Fabel received a \$20,000 grant from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores to implement a community pharmacy-based training program to teach student pharmacists, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians how to effectively use digital health in patient care.

It was wonderful to be able to gather in person once again as we hosted Cocktails on the Congaree for alumni and friends in March. It was my privilege to announce Gerald Isreal Jr. as the newest member of our Outstanding Alumni of the Year. Gerald, a 1988 graduate, is making a difference in our state, working to address health disparities.

In May, our college awarded 101 Pharm.D. degrees to the Class of 2022. We are proud of these new alumni who are poised to continue the legacy of Gamecock pharmacists. Our college also awarded 75 bachelor's degrees, six doctorates and one master's degree in pharmaceutical sciences. Then, as soon as graduation ended, we were already hard at work preparing to welcome the Class of 2026.

I am grateful that so many of you demonstrated your commitment to the future of our college by donating \$112,162 through Give 4 Garnet – the second highest amount of all units in the university! As a fellow alumna, I am happy our college continues to do well, and we could not do it without all of our alumni and friends.

Dean Cutler has resumed the role of dean as of Aug. 1. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your generosity and dedication to our college; your support of our students, faculty and staff; and especially your support of me, during what will always be a treasured experience in my life. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you as part of our college, which is more than just a physical place. It is a family, and one for which I am forever grateful.

Forever to thee,

Julie M. Sease
Senior Associate Dean



FALL 2022

Dean / Stephen J. Cutler
Senior Associate Dean / Julie M. Sease
Managing Editor / Margaret Gregory
Writers / Terry Dixon, Margaret Gregory, Malory Spicer
Copy Editor / Kathy Keenan
Photography / Jason Ayer, Malory Spicer, Kim Truett

Stay Connected
University Home Page: sc.edu
COP Home Page: sc.edu/pharmacy

College of Pharmacy
University of South Carolina
715 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-777-4151

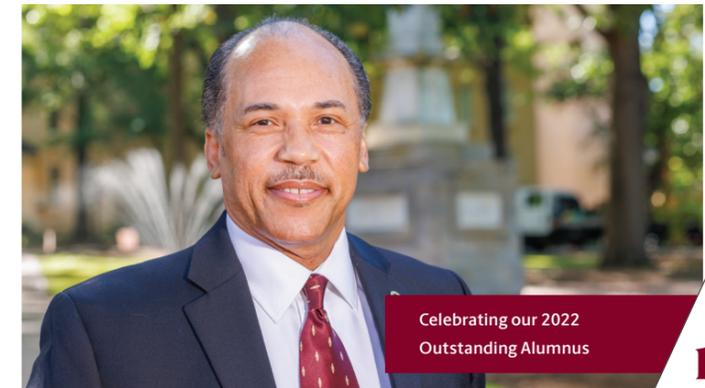


ON THE COVER

Gerald Isreal Jr. is the recipient of the College of Pharmacy 2022 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Communications and Marketing
The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution. 22-13128 8/22

CONTENTS



pg. 12

IN THIS ISSUE

3 / GOING TO THE DOGS... AND CATS AND HORSES

Veterinary medicine rotations provide a unique experience for fourth-year pharmacy students to explore the relationship between human and animal medicine.

4 / IT'S TIME FOR CAROLINA FOOTBALL

For student pharmacists in the Carolina Band, meeting the demands of doctoral-level classes and being part of an elite college marching band is a balancing act.

6 / ADVOCATING FOR THEIR PROFESSION AND PATIENTS

By engaging in advocacy and legislation, pharmacists can strengthen the future for their profession and patients.

8 / 50 YEARS OF TRAINING PHARMACISTS

The Prisma Health Richland Hospital Pharmacy Residency Program is celebrating its commitment to providing valuable learning opportunities for new pharmacists.

16 / PAYING IT FORWARD THROUGH MENTORING

Alumnus Tim Slone helps future Gamecock pharmacists by sharing his wisdom and connections from his diverse career experiences.

The Future of Graduate Studies in CPOS

By Gene Reeder, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Outcomes Research, Distinguished Professor Emeritus



The mission of the Ph.D. program in the Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences department is to improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and affordability of health care through evidence-based research and teaching. The doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a concentration in Pharmaceutical Outcomes Sciences is unique in the state of South Carolina.

Other programs offer majors in health policy, public health and health care administration, but none of these programs have a focus on evaluating the clinical, economic and humanistic outcomes associated with medication. This program provides an advanced, specialized education and intensive training in research methods applicable to pharmacy practice and research.

The Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences department has a cadre of nine faculty with expertise in pharmacoconomics, pharmacoepidemiology, implementation science and health policy. The primary purpose of our research program is to evaluate the clinical, economic and humanistic outcomes related to health care with an emphasis on the effective and efficient use of pharmaceutical products and services.

The department strives to cultivate an interdisciplinary research environment that blends expertise and interest from academia, industry and governmental partners. Our faculty and graduate students conduct, analyze and disseminate qualitative and quantitative research findings to provide policy makers, health care leaders and practitioners with the information they need to improve decisions on health care quality, access, coverage and cost.

Some examples of the types of work conducted by our wwgroupp include:

- Answering health policy questions to support legislative and agency decision making (health care utilization and cost, rural health access and affordability initiatives).

- Identifying factors that influence access to and affordability of medicines.
- Evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of new and existing programs and interventions.
- Conducting value assessments of health care interventions with a focus on pharmaceutical products and services.
- Analyzing trends and patterns of health expenditures, insurance coverage, use of personal health services, health status and access to care for the general South Carolina population and subgroups of policy interest.

Much of our recent work has focused on access to vaccinations in rural and medically underserved areas. Low vaccination rates and vaccine hesitancy in these areas present significant threats to public health. Despite the proven success of vaccinations in controlling and preventing disease, vaccination rates remain inadequate.

One project, funded by the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, identified “vaccine deserts,” where the surrounding populations had limited access to routine vaccinations such as influenza and pneumonia. Our research demonstrated that community pharmacists, particularly those in rural communities with limited access to primary care providers, are ideally positioned to recommend and administer vaccinations to adult and pediatric populations.

Our plan is to increase the number of pharmacy-based immunization services in these underserved areas by providing education, training and support for community pharmacists to offer a broad array of vaccination services to their communities. By increasing these services, we provide an opportunity for pharmacists to have a greater impact on the health and well-being for residents of South Carolina and beyond.



Rachel Snead



Claire Spence



Ellie Spahr

Going to the dogs ... AND CATS AND HORSES

Rotation in veterinary medicine provides a unique experience for student pharmacists

Rachel Snead '22, originally considered veterinary medicine as a career because her aunt is a veterinarian.

“I decided to pursue pharmacy, and when I saw the opportunity for a rotation in veterinary medicine, I jumped at it,” says the 2022 graduate.

Veterinary medicine is one of a wide array of advanced pharmacy practice experience rotations that fourth-year students may choose to expand their learning opportunities.

Snead, who wants to pursue independent community pharmacy, knows that many owners have their pet prescriptions filled at their local pharmacy.

During her rotation with veterinarian Wendy King at Spears Creek Veterinary Clinic in Elgin, South Carolina, she experienced the relationship between human and animal medicine.

“I can better discuss the medicines with my patients to make them aware of dosing and potential side effects for their pets,”

she adds. “Community pharmacies even do a good deal of compounding for pet medicines.”

King began precepting pharmacy students not long after she opened her practice 10 years ago, when a friend who was a pharmacy student asked to do a rotation with her.

“Students bring a fresh approach, taking their human medicine experiences and relating it to animals,” she says. “Pharmacy is changing, and more veterinary hospitals are adding pharmacists to their teams. They can gain more exposure to the different drugs and how they work in veterinary medicine.”

Claire Spence, '22, knew she wanted a rotation that was “out of the norm” and applied for a rotation with the School of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

“I wanted to get every experience possible,” she says. “I really love animals and wanted to see how different it was from human medicine.”

Ellie Spahr '22, has a strong interest in compounding pharmacy and completed a rotation at Bees Ferry Veterinary Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina.

“This was an amazing rotation,” she says. “I gained more knowledge and was able to see surgeries, help with medications and learn more about a field that I was really unaware of before.”

Dr. Katherine Saenger, a veterinarian, who helped launch Bees Ferry, says her students appreciate that they get to see everything from preventive care to extensive workups and surgery.

“They get to see the diagnoses and why I’m using a particular drug,” she says. “It is a learning opportunity to see firsthand how pharmaceuticals intervene and impact patient care.”



IT'S TIME FOR CAROLINA FOOTBALL

Student pharmacists bring music to life in the Carolina Band

"Keep your seats, ladies and gentlemen! The University of South Carolina is proud to present the Mighty Sound of the Southeast, your Carolina Band!" And just like that, Williams Brice Stadium comes to life with the roar of 85,000-plus fans as the band takes the field for Saturday in South Carolina.

Marching alongside their bandmates, student pharmacists **Julia Geith**, **Jacob Ernst** and **Julia Covington** step off to the first sounds of "Gridiron," and for each of them, it is a feeling like no other.

Meeting the demands of their pharmacy classes with the time required as a member of the Carolina Band is not always an easy balance. Their schedule kicks off in early

August with a preseason camp of 12-hour days, learning the pregame show along with a new halftime show for each home football game.

"It is already a busy time, especially for professional program students," says Jay Jacobs, associate director of bands and director of athletic bands. "We find that, out of necessity, if they are not already well versed in scheduling and managing their time, being part of the Carolina Band tends to push them in that direction."

He also appreciates the level of discipline that the students bring to other members of the band.

"These students are at such a high level of expectation, they are able to bring that to share with us as members of and leaders of the band," Jacobs says.

Geith, '25, began playing baritone as a seventh-grader at her high school in Virginia and knew being part of an elite college band would be a time-consuming venture.

"It does limit the amount of free time. I knew I was going to be occupied for two to three hours every day," she says. "I had to study before or after or around that time."

While she will not be part of the marching band this season because of the demands of her schedule as a student pharmacist,



Julia Geith



Jacob Ernst



Julia Covington

“

The two biggest draws for me to come to South Carolina were the pharmacy school and the marching band.

– JACOB ERNST

Geith will continue as a member of the Basketball Band. In fact, she traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the NCAA Women's National Basketball Championship game.

"I had the time of my life," she recalls. "We stayed at the same hotel as the players and got to interact with these amazing athletes, but they're really just college students, just like us."

Ernst, '25, who also made the trip to the women's national basketball championship, has played trumpet since fourth grade. He became interested in pharmacy because of his dad, who was a pharmacist and pharmacy owner.

"The two biggest draws for me to come to South Carolina were the pharmacy school and the marching band," he says. "The band is renowned for offering so much, and I was able to earn a band scholarship. Both of my 'big wants' for college were here."

Covington, '26, who has played flute since the sixth grade and now plays piccolo, came to South Carolina from her home in Woodstock, Georgia. She is still working to find that balance between studying and being part of the band.

"My biggest advice to other pharmacy students is to set up your time wisely. If you try to overextend yourself, you will burn out faster," she says. "I have faced that, and I'm working on it."

Being part of the Carolina Band is the best feeling in the world for Covington: "From the time Cocky breaks out on the field to when the team runs out, that excitement never goes away."

"Academics is first and foremost," Jacobs adds, "but being able to represent the university, the alumni and the students on such a grand scale is to be part of a legacy that has been here for more than 100 years and will be here much longer."



Getting proactive about policy

Pharmacy faculty take hands-on approach to support legislation to improve health care

The pharmacy industry is one of the most regulated professions on both a national and state level, and pharmacists can have significant influence on legislation that impacts how they provide care to their patients.

Two proposed laws affecting pharmacy were introduced during the most recent session in the South Carolina Legislature.

The Pharmacy Access Act, which will allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives to women without requiring an exam by a medical doctor, was signed into law. It will go into effect in December after the state boards of pharmacy and medical examiners approve training and documentation protocols. The Compassionate Care Act, which would

have provided for the legal sale of medical marijuana, failed to pass.

Patti Fabel, executive director of the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center, has testified as a member of the South Carolina Pharmacy Association in response to several proposed legislative issues. Those include a bill that would have removed pharmacists from the health care team within methadone clinics, a bill allowing pharmacists to administer influenza vaccines and, most recently, the Pharmacy Access Act.

“Someone told me years ago that if you're not at the table, you are on the table,” she says. “I would rather have my opinions heard than have someone else make those decisions

about my profession. I became active with the pharmacy association to keep up with legislation as well as to be involved.”

Patients are at the forefront of Fabel's advocacy as she supports proposals that help improve the pharmacist's role in providing care and access.

“Increasing access to care improves patient outcomes,” says Fabel. “When a pharmacist is on a care team, outcomes are improved, and it also helps reduce the cost of care. We all need to support advocating for issues that help improve access.”

Gene Reeder, '73, professor and director of outcomes research, distinguished professor emeritus, stresses that pharmacists need to



If you have something that you are passionate about or believe in, you have to be willing to do something about it.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN JULIE M. SEASE

be aware of what is happening legislatively, both in their states and at the national level. For example, one of the most effective ways to keep track of issues being discussed is to create a search on the South Carolina legislative website that will send an alert if a bill comes up related to that topic.

“Pharmacists can help educate lawmakers, and they need to advocate for their patients, knowing that what they do is important for public health and in the best interest of their patients,” he says.

Reeder notes that the best way to assist in helping to form policy is by getting to know legislators and taking time to make a connection with them.

“You have to be proactive – know your senators and representatives, introduce yourself and make yourself available to them, so that when a critical issue does arise, they know they can turn to you,” he adds.

Kathy Quarles Moore, lab director for community and compounding labs, has taken groups of students to Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators and their staff.

“It is so important that we, as pharmacists, both professionals and students, get involved. We need to advocate for our profession,” she says. “When we were on the Hill, they were appreciative and wanted us to provide insight from our perspective about the patients we serve. We are in a unique position to be able to do that.”

Senior Associate Dean Julie M. Sease says that getting involved can mean writing a letter, making a phone call, attending legislative committee meetings or joining a pharmacy association.

“Being an engaged member can help you know about what your peers may be advocating for,” she says.

And she reminds pharmacists that advocating for their patients is part of the oath they take.

“We pledge to embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care,” Sease says in reciting the oath. “If you have something that you are passionate about or believe in, you have to be willing to do something about it.”



Charleigh Steverson, '24, in Washington D.C. for Compounders on Capitol Hill.



Morgan Grier, '21, Maya Jenkins, '21, and Abigail Bouknight, '20, at the South Carolina State House.

Residency Program Celebrates

50 YEARS

Providing experience and valuable learning opportunities

It has been 50 years since the former Richland Memorial Hospital, later Palmetto Health Richland, launched its pharmacy residency training program. In that time, more than 200 residents have completed postgraduate year 1 general residencies and postgraduate year 2 specialty residencies or fellowships. College of Pharmacy faculty have been involved with the program as preceptors for many years; so much so, the program formally became the Prisma Health Richland Hospital – University of South Carolina Pharmacy Residency Program in 2018.

“The first year there was one resident,” says **Jenna Cox**, postgraduate year 2 Critical Care Residency program director, herself a 2012 graduate and product of the program. “Now we have 15 residents each year, including acute care and outpatient postgraduate

year 1 programs, along with a variety of specialty programs like cardiology, critical care, health system pharmacy administration and leadership, infectious diseases, internal medicine and pediatrics.”

Cox and Brandon Bookstaver, '04, director of the College of Pharmacy's Residency and Fellowship Training program, have joined together to chair the program's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration.

Bookstaver says having the program not only benefits the residents and the hospital but that students get to experience a successful, sustained model at a high training level.

“Students have an opportunity to interact with the residents during their rotations, and they have a program they can apply to in their own back yard,” he says.

“That demonstrates the quality of the program, that they want to remain here after graduation.”

George ‘Dick’ Schwerin was the program's first director. The South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists awards the George D. Schwerin Mentor award, named in his honor, to an individual in recognition of their extraordinary mentorship of student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy residents, pharmacists and/or other members of the health care team.

Debbie Tapley, '84, the program's 10th resident, followed Schwerin as pharmacy director for Palmetto Health in 1988.

“Looking back at the enhancements and expansions in patient care, I do not know that I can name any of those for which a resident was not involved in developing,” she says. “There are any number of programs instituted at this

“Students have an opportunity to interact with the residents during their rotations, and they have a program they can apply to in their own back yard. **BRANDON BOOKSTAVER**”



Jenna Cox



Brandon Bookstaver



Jennifer Bair



Debbie Tapley

hospital that have a direct link through major project research done by the pharmacy residents.”

Jennifer Bair, '99, current executive director of pharmacy with Prisma Health Richland, notes the program provides the opportunity to expand the footprint of pharmacists into clinical areas.

“Our residents are extensions of our clinical pharmacists,” she says. “It is another layer to support our patients, and it is my goal to provide a broad experience that prepares every resident to step into any role they want, and that is demonstrated by the success of our graduates.

“We are grateful for our partnership with the College of Pharmacy – it has been an integral part to the success of this program.”

FOR RESIDENCY PROGRAM ALUMNI

Friday, Sept. 30

- Hospital tours
- Lunch/CE programming
- Banquet – Pastides Alumni Center

Saturday, Oct. 1

- Football tailgate – S.C. State vs. South Carolina
- Self-guided activities

Sunday, Oct. 2

- Savage Craft Ale Works

Contact jenna.cox@prismahealth.org or bookstaver@cop.sc.edu.



Mentoring for success

Alumni answer the call to guide future pharmacists

Pharmacists have a great deal of responsibility in meeting the day-to-day demands of their positions – whether as a community pharmacist, health-system pharmacist or any one of the numerous roles pharmacists fulfill. Many of them also take on the added responsibility of training student pharmacists, a role that requires additional focus and dedication to ensure students gain as much knowledge and experience as possible before embarking on their own careers.

For **Jennifer Baker**, '02, director of experiential education for the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, many of these volunteer preceptors go above and beyond what is required for both introductory pharmacy practice experiences, which follow the first and second years of the professional

program, and advanced pharmacy practice experiences for fourth-year students.

“Preceptors have to make sure the students know how they are performing throughout the entire month of their rotation,” Baker says. “They hold the students accountable for their responsibilities and their professionalism, providing guidance to help them grow.”

Jenna Cox, '12, believes the entire trajectory of her career changed during her advanced pharmacy practice experiences. “I thought I wanted to pursue a retail setting,” she says, “but rotations opened my perspective to clinical pharmacy.”

Now, as the director of the Postgraduate Year 2 Critical Care Residency Program at Prisma Health Richland Hospital, Cox is paying it forward by serving as a preceptor to students.

“Looking back on my preceptors and how they helped shape and influence me, isn't it great to be able to give back?” says Cox. “I want to ensure that students are constantly growing and that I am providing them opportunities to learn.”

Baker applauds Cox's dedication to training students.

“She even reached out to me to coordinate additional acute care rotations to help students in preparing for the NAPLEX, the national pharmacy licensure exam. She wants to help them be successful forever,” Baker says.

Valerie Kennedy-Robinson, '88, managed care pharmacist with Prisma Health Richland Hospital, was precepting students before she officially became a preceptor.

◀ Jennifer Baker (left) and recipients of 2022 PEEP Preceptor Awards at the College of Pharmacy P4 Awards Luncheon on May 5, 2022.

“Growing up, I wanted to be a teacher,” she says. “I had a great manager when I first started working at Richland, and I would help her with her students. She encouraged me to consider being a preceptor.”

Kennedy-Robinson recently was named a preceptor of the year by the Palmetto Experiential Education Partnership, a partnership between the College of Pharmacy and the Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy experiential education programs.

In nominating Kennedy-Robinson for the award, one of her students noted that she shows compassion, not only for her patients but for everyone around her.

“She goes above and beyond every day to help patients get prior authorizations so they can fill their medications,” the student wrote.

Kennedy-Robinson is grateful to be named as a top preceptor.

“It makes me feel that what I am doing each day is making a difference,” she says. “It means a great deal to me that I can impact someone else.”

Steven Frazier, '06, also a PEEP award winner this year, is pharmacy supervisor for Prisma Health Children's Hospital. He became a preceptor as a way to give back to the College of Pharmacy.

“I appreciate all the things the university as a whole did for me,” he says. “This is my way to contribute and help young aspiring pharmacists.”

Frazier says that to be a good preceptor, it is important to listen to your students.

“Being a preceptor is another way to stay connected to see what the students are learning,” he says. “I meet with them on day one to find out what they want to get out of my rotation, so that I can set them up to learn as much as possible.”

Elizabeth Rodriguez, '19, is a pharmacist with Greenwood Regional Rehabilitation Hospital in Greenwood, South Carolina. She also is a 2022 PEEP award recipient.

“I hear from my students that they want to feel more confident, so I work to help build their confidence in their pharmacy knowledge and in their role as a pharmacist,” she says. “I want to provide more experience for them and reinforce with them their responsibilities to their patients. I knew that when I graduated and stepped into my role as a pharmacist, it was important to the field of pharmacy and to my students to contribute to their learning.”

Baker feels indebted to these preceptors and all those who work diligently to immerse their students into their practice sites.

“They make the students feel that they are a part of the team and are contributing to the mission and goals of that organization and that area of care, giving them the best rotation experience possible.”



Elizabeth Rodriguez



Valerie Kennedy-Robinson



Jennifer Baker



Jenna Cox

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROVIDE BETTER CARE



Celebrating our 2022 Outstanding Alumnus

Some 34 years ago, **Gerald Isreal Jr.** began his professional life as a community pharmacist, which he thought would become a lifelong career. As time progressed, he began to learn more about the vast opportunities in the field and realized there was more than one way he could serve his patients.

Isreal, a 1988 graduate, grew up in Columbia, South Carolina. Music was his first love. He played drums and bass guitar from the sixth grade through high school – including marching, concert and jazz bands. He is still an active musician.

Always seeking a new challenge, he also played varsity baseball and football in high school.

“I wanted to try it all growing up, so I did and had the best time doing it,” he says. “I knew that someone my size probably would not play football in the NFL. I always had good mentors in my life

who encouraged me to not let obstacles deter me but use them as stepping-stones to something else. My parents always reminded me that I had opportunities that they did not have growing up in the 50s and 60s.”

After high school, Isreal knew he wanted to pursue a career in medicine or architecture. He began pre-med studies at the University of Georgia. While there, a good friend convinced him that pharmacy was a great career to pursue if he had a change of heart about becoming a physician.

“I had terrible acne growing up. The pharmacist who filled my meds was a great guy, always helpful, friendly, knowledgeable and loved what he did.”

After two years, circumstances brought Isreal to the University of South Carolina to finish his education at the College of Pharmacy.

“After graduation, I went to work for a small independent pharmacy, and the same pharmacist that filled my acne meds was the pharmacist in charge,” he recalls. “That was my sign that this was what I needed to do for the rest of my life.”

During the next several years, the small pharmacy where he began his career would be sold and merged with larger retail chain companies. Isreal decided to consider other opportunities. He joined a large pharma company, Merck and Co. Inc, as a sales representative, educating physicians about new medications.

His next career advancement led him into the managed care arena with Advance PCS, now CVS Health, a pharmacy benefit management company. This was the beginning of what would become a long and successful relationship with BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.



Alumni serve as the force, the lifeline that connects the college’s past, present and future graduates. GERALD ISREAL JR.

“I was in the right place at the right time when my current employer decided it was time to build their own pharmacy division,” he says. “I accepted the opportunity to become a member of the BlueCross leadership team as the senior director of pharmacy.”

Isreal now serves as chief pharmacy officer and assistant vice president of pharmacy management. His position allows him to take part in discussions that impact how South Carolinians access their drug therapies. He also helps develop policy and legislation that impact the practice of pharmacy.

“Pharmacists have a huge role in finding solutions to provide better care to our patients,” he says. “We are one of the most accessible health care providers, especially in rural areas, and we are needed now more than ever. And it is about more than having a provider nearby, but also having available transportation.”

Isreal says pharmacists also can help patients build a greater trust in their health care practitioners.

“Many people of color have a distrust of the system because of past experiences, so they may refuse to go to a doctor, but they will talk to a pharmacist,” he says. “That is our opportunity to encourage people not to be afraid.”

Isreal reminds his colleagues and students alike that there will always be something to learn.

“Always study – never stop learning,” he advises. “Get to know your patients, develop a relationship with them and apply the knowledge you have, but remember that medicine and health care are changing every day. There will always be a role to have a voice to impact the industry.”

Isreal believes the graduates of the College of Pharmacy have many gifts to share with other alumni and especially, with students. Whether as mentors sharing their career experiences or by supporting the college through fundraising initiatives, alumni play an important role.

“Alumni serve as the force, the lifeline that connects the college’s past, present and future graduates. They exemplify and promote consistency in excellence, while providing a forum to discuss and share ways for all to maneuver an ever-changing industry,” he says.

Isreal adheres to the age-old adage, “Let the life I live speak for me.”

“To be recognized by my fellow alumni, peers and mentors as the Outstanding Alumnus for 2022-2023 is truly an honor,” he says. “Pharmacy has been very good to me. To hear my children, friends and colleagues comment how proud they are for this accomplishment validates in my heart that I must have done something right.”



Working in retail pharmacy circa 1990.



Providing keynote remarks at the Convocation & Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.



Accepting the College of Pharmacy Outstanding Alumni of the Year award.

The many faces of alumni engagement

Support nurtures growth and development of students, strengthens the college.

By Terry Dixon, Senior Director of Development

There is good news to share. You are strengthening our college in significant ways that we simply could not achieve alone. Throughout the past academic year, your support showed up in multiple instances. For example, our 2022 Virtual Career Expo had a record number of participants, translating into a record amount of shared professional guidance. A second-year student shared how her participation sparked curiosity about pharmacy career options. She credited her experience with potentially “changing everything.” Thank you for inspiring big dreams.

The value of the knowledge, guidance and lessons you pour into our students while serving as preceptors or volunteering as speakers or panelists will stay with our students indefinitely. Your wise words still resonate, and your candid, honest and humble tales about “when you were in pharmacy school” help reassure them that not everyone has it figured out all the time. Thank you for challenging our students and instilling confidence.

Your philanthropic support continues to drive growth in support of our funding priorities and strategic goals. Your contributions helped us reach approximately 174 percent of our annual fundraising goal, which is truly remarkable. Our annual fund donors provided immediate and important support to the college’s Carolina Fund, Dean’s Circle Fund and General Scholarship Fund. Thirteen donors added significantly to their existing named endowment funds or created new named endowment funds that will support our pharmacy students in perpetuity. Thank you for your dedication and generosity.

Your participation with our Give 4 Garnet campaign earned the college a No. 2 spot out of all colleges and units for the total dollar amount raised and put us in the top 10 for the overall number of donors. As a result, there are now pharmacy students preparing to attend upcoming pharmacy conferences to learn, share and network with potential employers, colleagues and future friends. Thank you for helping our students grow while making meaningful lifelong connections.

The opportunity to visit with 109 of you at Cocktails on the Congaree in March was one of the highlights of our year. It was the first time we were able to gather as a large alumni group since the spring of 2020. Judging by your smiles, which seemed to be even brighter, and your shared hugs, which seemed to last a bit longer, you enjoyed yourself as much as we did. Thank you for sharing the gift of yourself with your fellow alumni and us.

And although many of you live far away from Gamecock Country, you still showed your support by engaging on our social media channels, reading monthly e-newsletters, and sharing your personal and professional updates so that we can stay connected as a pharmacy family.

We recognize that many deserving organizations are vying for your time, expertise and financial support. We hope that you will consider letting the College of Pharmacy be among your top three charitable priorities for the 2022-23 academic year. While there are many faces of alumni engagement, the face we most desire to engage with belongs to you.

ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT
OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL MEDIA GIVE 4 GARNET
VOLUNTEERISM
MENTORING COLLEGE EVENTS
PHILANTHROPY

CONNECT

Our website is a terrific way to stay updated about the college. Visit us at sc.edu/pharmacy. Our monthly e-newsletter shares timely news, important event dates and features an alumni Q&A. Be sure to follow our social media channels. Find us @UofSCPharm on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy on LinkedIn. Do you have a story idea to share, or are you not receiving the monthly e-newsletter?

Email us at alumni@cop.sc.edu or visit bit.ly/cop-alumni to share updates.

GIVE

Did you know that the University of South Carolina receives less than 10 percent of its funding from state appropriations? The annual gift you make each year provides critical, time-sensitive support for many areas including scholarships and professional development for students. Creating a named endowment ensures a lasting legacy for our college. Consider this question: What would you like to accomplish with your money that would be meaningful to you?

Let me know what comes to mind at tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu.

VOLUNTEER

We understand the demands of your time, and we will graciously accept what you can give. Your participation can influence our future alumni and college. How would you like to make a difference?

Learn about virtual or in-person opportunities or share your ideas with Sarah Sipes, associate director of development and alumni engagement, sosipes@mailbox.sc.edu.



PAYING IT FORWARD

Pharmacy alumnus shares his experiences to benefit future pharmacists

Tim Slone, '84, has had a successful career, traveled the world, lived in many locations and had a lifetime of interesting experiences.

"I have worked at seven different pharmaceutical companies, lived in 10 different cities and had 25 different jobs," Slone says. "To think I have done all these things and touched so many different areas, I never would have imagined it."

Slone, vice president of global compliance for Novavax Inc., says he is "forever indebted to the university" and genuinely believes that were it not for the College of Pharmacy and his experiences in earning

a master's of pharmaceutical sciences, he would not be where he is today.

Slone came to the University of South Carolina after earning his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Mars Hill University in North Carolina.

After graduation, a friend who was also a chemistry major shared his experience working with a dye and finishing textile plant.

"He said the pay was good, but the hours were bad... there was no air conditioning. It was not a great working environment" Slone says. "That made me think I would rather go to graduate school."

A football teammate at Mars Hill had family in Columbia who offered Slone an apartment, and that is how he found his way to South Carolina.

He started his first pharmaceutical job before graduating, joining Eli Lilly and Co. as a sales representative. Rising through the company, Slone held positions as a hospital sales representative, specialty representative in cardiovascular products, in sales management and in marketing management. He then moved on to a bio-tech company and eventually joined GlaxoSmithKline, where he began working in risk management and compliance.



What excites me the most is when you see the light bulb go on in their head, that 'aha' moment. TIM SLONE

◀ Tim Slone (top), Amanda Arenella (left) and Katie Paxton (right).

His career then expanded into compliance roles with companies like Shire/Takeda, OneSource Regulatory, Ipsen, Alexion/Astra Zeneca Rare Disease and now Novavax.

As his career progressed, Slone realized the importance of providing guidance to student pharmacists, so he accepted an invitation to speak to students in the Introduction to Pharmacy Pathways and Careers class, taught by Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity Amy Grant. He also has taken part in the college's annual Career Expo.

"I want to make students aware that there are many different paths down which a pharmacy degree can take them. They may often only think of retail pharmacy or clinical pharmacy. I want them to have exposure to the variety of things you can do," Slone says.

Two students in the class of 2023 – Katie Paxton and Amanda Arenella – reached out to Slone to learn more about his career experiences.

"I came into pharmacy wanting to do a residency," says Paxton, "but after hearing

Tim speak, I decided to reach out to him for more advice. He is an outstanding mentor and helped me network to obtain two rotations for my P4 year in industry."

Arenella was intrigued by Slone's experiences as well and credits him for helping both her and Paxton to research pharmacy industry rotations.

"He reviewed our letters of intent, giving us pointers on how to improve and understand what companies would be looking for in an intern," she says. "We knew that we could reach out to him at any time, and he was always available to help us."

Slone hopes that other alumni will make themselves available to mentor students.

"What excites me the most is when you see the light bulb go on in their head, that 'aha' moment," he says. "It made me feel good to know that I was helping them filter through the noise and distill it down to something they could identify with and made sense to them."

Although the pharmacy curriculum is intense, it's not all about textbooks and test scores, Slone says, adding that it's important for alumni to share their experiences.

"Your career will not be handed to you on a platter, but you can be very successful," he says. "Never turn down an opportunity that might stretch you and help you gain new skills or experiences. You never know where it is going to take you."



BY THE NUMBERS



Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences faculty submitted **82** publications during 2020-2021, a **38%** increase over the previous year.

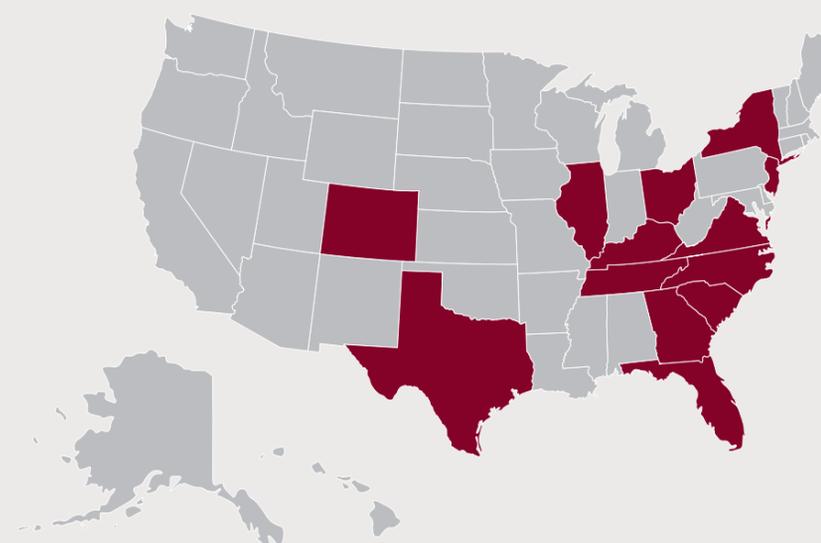


In 2020-2021, the College of Pharmacy was awarded **\$5,922,540** from the National Institutes of Health and **\$6,409,674** in other federal funding, a **50%** increase in total grant funding over the prior year.

↑ 8%

Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences faculty achieved an **8%** increase during 2020-2021 in the number of applications submitted for research grants.

RESIDENCY MATCHES



56

Matches

35

Cities

15

States

PGY₁ MATCHES

35 students in the College of Pharmacy class of 2022 matched with a postgraduate year 1 residency or fellowship position.

PGY₂/ PGY₃ MATCHES

21 alumni of the College of Pharmacy matched with a postgraduate year 2 or 3 residency or fellowship program.

PHARMACY SPECIALTIES

19 pharmacy specialties were represented across the postgraduate positions.

General

22 students matched with general postgraduate pharmacy residency or fellowship positions.

Acute care

3 students matched with acute care positions at Prisma Health, Moses Cone and Bon Secours.

Emergency

3 alumni matched with emergency medicine positions in the Carolinas and Cleveland, Ohio.

Critical Care

4 alumni matched with critical care positions at locations such as UF Jacksonville and Prisma Health.

Community

3 students matched with community pharmacy positions across North and South Carolina.

Pediatrics

3 students and alumni matched with pediatric positions in New York, Tennessee and Texas.

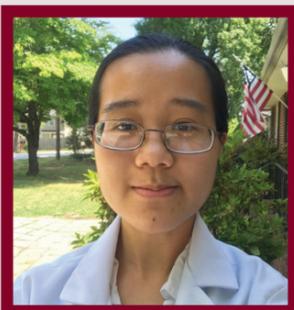
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

6 students and alumni will serve our nation's veterans as residents at VA Health Care Centers across **4** different states.



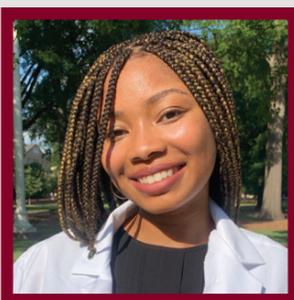
PALMETTO STATE

22 Gamecock Pharmacists matched to residency or fellowship positions in South Carolina, while **33** matched out-of-state.



Thuy Kieu | '24

“ I chose to come to the College of Pharmacy because the landscape of the University of South Carolina reminds me of my home. People at the university get to know me and treat me with respect. The university provides me with the support I need to do well, and I like the variety of organizations in the College of Pharmacy. ”



Moji Awe | '24

“ What I enjoy the most about being a student at the College of Pharmacy are the bonds that I have built with my classmates and future colleagues. Pharmacy school is no easy feat, but it is more enjoyable when you know you are not going through the journey alone. ”



Danny Schreiber | '24

“ The College of Pharmacy has provided me key opportunities to develop as a well-rounded, knowledgeable student pharmacist, future health professional and person. Through various research experiences, leadership development opportunities and volunteer services, I owe so much of who I am to the college. I am grateful to be part of a network of such devoted, compassionate and influential professionals. ”



Amber Burroughs | '25

“ The reason I chose to attend the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy is because I am a former graduate and a native of Columbia, South Carolina. I also chose the university because of the traditional leadership, innovative approach to learning and diversification that the college offers. Lastly, the faculty truly promotes a positive learning environment that enhances academic success for students. ”



Tyler Wagner | '19

“ I support the next generation of Gamecock pharmacists because of the exceptional commitment of University of South Carolina faculty and staff to their education. It takes a team effort to cultivate a robust culture, and the backing of alumni who support the vision of the college is imperative. ”



Stanley I. Nelson | '85

“ When I was in pharmacy school, there were times I wondered if I made the right choice. Then I went on our class trip to visit the pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly and Co., where I was exposed to all the possibilities I had with my pharmacy degree. I enjoyed a 30-year career with Lilly, and I have the College of Pharmacy to thank. I support the college because I want students to know they have selected a field that has many possibilities, and they can make a significant difference in the world. ”



Ranarda Jones | '03

“ As a pharmacist, I feel it is very important to give back to the next generation of pharmacists. Why not start with my alma mater? It is important that future pharmacists understand different career paths that are available as pharmacists and to see others like myself whose career trajectory has taken many different routes in the industry. ”



Stan Papajohn | '61

“ When I was a young pharmacist, advertisements related to medical care always said, 'Ask your doctor.' Never once did they tell anyone to talk with their pharmacist. That has now dramatically changed, and pharmacists are being recognized for the significant contributions they are making in health care. I am proud to be part of the College of Pharmacy and to help train the next generation of pharmacists. ”

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENT

- **Nikki Chen** was named Southeast Regional Correspondent 2022-2023 for Phi Delta Chi.
- **Rachel Smith** received the Willie L. Harriford Outstanding Service Award from the University of South Carolina Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.
- **Mojibola Awe, Nikki Chen** and **Daniel Schreiber** received the Outstanding Senior Award for major achievement in service, leadership, academics and research.
- **Dania Asmar, Emily Frame, Sophia Knudsen, Bria Kosanovich, Hannelore Nestler** and **Grace Thompson** received the Kappa Psi Scholastic Achievement Award.
- **Lane Brown, Morgan Carhart, Lou Evans, Haley Gardner, Emily Harvey, Elizabeth Kernodle, Gabrielle Levon, Chloe McGee, Natalie Moning, Sydney Nicholls, Anna Rayfield, Yasmeen Sabree** and **Catherine Tuori** received the Rho Chi Pharmaceutical Honor Society Scholastic Achievement Award.
- **Alexandra McWalters** received the Theresa Smith Pharmaceutical Biochemistry Student of the Year Award.
- **Carly Huggins, Ryan McCormick** and **Bailey Smith** took second place in the South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists Clinical Pharmacy Challenge.
- **Rebecca Axson, Jessica Chen** and **Christina Lin** won the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center's Business Plan Competition and will compete for a national title in October.
- **Youwen Zhang** received the Dera D. Parkinson Fellowship, a University of South Carolina Trustee Fellowship.
- **Li Zhang** was named Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year.
- **Xiaomo Xiong** and **Zach Mack** received The Ritedose Corporation Graduate Student Scholarship.
- **Mingming Wang** received the James Plaxco Jr. Scholarship Award.
- **Jacob Massey** received the Charles Yandell Award.
- **Bernardo Chavez** received the Daniel Li-Chang Wang Scholarship Award.
- **Thayra Rios Schad** received the APhA-ASP Senior Recognition Certificate and Outstanding Student Leadership Award.
- **Michael Deaney** received the college's Community Service Award.
- **Hirali M. Patel** received the college's Dean's Award.
- **Rebekah L. Miller** received the Excellence in Clinical Communication Award.
- **Leigh F. Joyner** received the Integrative Medicine Award.
- **Oyindamola A. Olorunfemi** received the Interprofessional Award.
- **Ronald J. Crocker, Kennedy J. Freeman** and **Dawn H. Jensen** received the Merck Manual Award for Academic Excellence.
- **Ronald J. Crocker, Carly M. Huggins, Rebekah L. Miller, Kinsey M. McClure, Ryan C. McCormack, Taylor N. Ramsey** and **Stevie R. Swain** received the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award.
- **James E. Orban III** received the college's Professionalism Award.
- **Erik A. Preheim** received the Viatris Excellence in Pharmacy Award.

ALUMNI

- **Christine Ambrose Bonarrigo**, '20, accepted a new position as the clinical pharmacist for Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center.
- **Tej Patel**, '20, and team at Medicine Stop Pharmacy & Compounding in Warner Robins, Georgia, received the Charles K. & Barbara Shaheen Small Business of the Year award from the Robins Regional Chamber.
- **Pooja Shah**, '15, of UNC Health transitioned into a manager role for the health system's 340B programs.
- **Ashley Miller Sullivan**, '15, accepted a new position as a manager with Steward Healthcare.
- **Nicole Bookstaver**, '09, was named Pharmacist of the Year by the South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
- **Sean Tran**, '09, received the George D. Schwerin Mentor Award from the South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
- **Alyson Wilder**, '07, was named Prisma Health Richland Hospital Preceptor of the Year.
- **Ranarda Jones**, '03, was named a 2021 NASPA Excellence in Innovation Award recipient by the National Association of State Pharmacy Associations.
- **William Wynn**, '99, was promoted to associate director of U.S. Field Medical Affairs for Indivior. Wynn was also elected to serve as treasurer of the South Carolina Pharmacy Association for 2022-2024.
- **Rayner Lotton**, '81, retired as clinical staff pharmacist from Beaufort Navy Hospital.
- **Sam Watson**, '80, of VMS BioMarketing received the PM360 ELITE 2022 Transformational Leader distinction for multiple decades of field leadership roles in the pharmaceutical industry.
- **J. Michael Ross**, '76, received the 2022 Distinguished Greater Blythewood Rotarian Award.

FACULTY

- **Tessa Hastings** has been elected to serve as secretary of Knowledge Management for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Graduate Education SIG. She also received the College of Pharmacy's Emerging Researcher Award for her contributions to its research mission. Hastings has been elected to the board of directors for the South Carolina Immunization Coalition.
- **Julie Sease**, '03, has been elected to serve as secretary of Knowledge Management for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Council of Deans.
- **Patti Fabel** received a \$20,000 scholarship from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores to implement a community pharmacy-based training program on how to effectively use digital health in patient care.
- **Michaela Almgren**, '10, received the Clinical Practice Teaching Award from the University of South Carolina Office of the Provost.
- **Douglas Pittman** and **Brie Dunn** were recognized as Teachers of the Year by College of Pharmacy students.
- **Reagan Barfield**, '19, was named Outstanding Mentor of the Year by College of Pharmacy students.
- **Betsy Blake** received the College of Pharmacy's Distinguished Service Award for her extraordinary efforts in advancing student education, mentoring and career development.
- **Peisheng Xu** received the college's Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Innovation Award for his engagement above and beyond his faculty job description.

► Do you have news to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your updates at bit.ly/cop-alumni.

PHARMACY CELEBRATIONS



Friends and family honor Alexis Caronis, '21, Cassidy Kemp, '21, James Orban, '22, Robbie Ouzts, '20, and Haley Cave, '22, at the 2022 Walker Leader Scholars Graduation Reception.



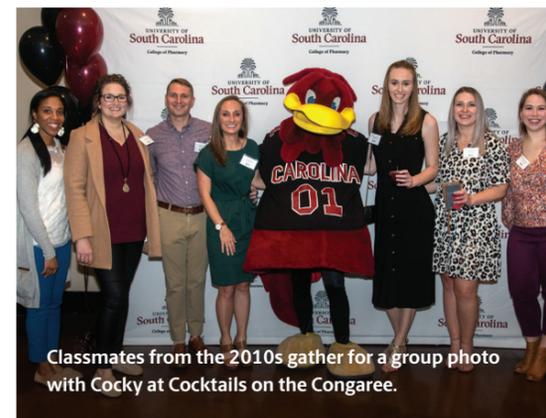
Founder Donna Walker, '79, and Advisory Committee Chair Kathy Quarles Moore, '86, with current Walker Scholars Shannon Leighton, '23, and Jordan Jones, '23.

WALKER LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS RECEPTION

Graduates from the classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 were celebrated at this year's Walker Leadership Scholars Reception, held May 1 at the Pastides Alumni Center.

COCKTAILS ON THE CONGAREE

Cocktails on the Congaree, held March 24 at Stone River, marked a return to in-person alumni events for the College of Pharmacy.



Classmates from the 2010s gather for a group photo with Cocky at Cocktails on the Congaree.



Jillian Wilkes, '09, Lee Ann Bundrick, '84, and Jarrod Tippins, '09, at Cocktails on the Congaree.



Graduating students celebrate their achievements at the College of Pharmacy P4 Awards Luncheon, held May 3.



Bailey Smith, '22, places a pin on New York City, where she will begin a PGY1 pharmacy residency at Lenox Hill Hospital.

P4 AWARDS LUNCHEON

The culmination of the spring semester was marked by joy and triumph as students, faculty and staff celebrated their hard work throughout the year.



College of Pharmacy
Columbia, SC 29208

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #766
Columbia, SC



We
CREATE OPPORTUNITY.

As Gamecocks, we lift each other up so that each of us can achieve excellence. **Maribeth Kowalski**, '95, knew early on that she wanted to be a pharmacist; today, she's a leader in the field of biopharmaceuticals. She credits her success to the academic and professional education she received at the College of Pharmacy, and to the scholarships that helped her along the way. Now, she gives back through mentoring and an endowed scholarship — helping future pharmacists find their own paths of excellence.

BEHOLD THE REMARKABLE We