

Gamecock Pharmacist

**'MAKE THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE'**

Alumna Julia Mims is dedicated to serving her community and impacting lives.





DEAN STEPHEN J. CUTLER

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

When I became your new dean almost five years ago, I knew the College of Pharmacy was quite remarkable. I remember the awe I felt during my first white coat ceremony while addressing our new P1 students who, incidentally, will become our latest graduates in May. I also fondly recall meeting many of you, our alumni, at the college's 150th-anniversary event, where we celebrated our rich history and shared dreams for our future. As I look back on what we have accomplished together, I am both proud and humbled.

Since July 2016, we have awarded 521 Pharm.D. degrees and 18 Ph.D. degrees to alumni who now represent us worldwide. Throughout their journey as students, these graduates learned from faculty, staff, preceptors, mentors, student leaders, alumni and donors. Our generous donors enabled more than \$1.5 million in scholarships to College of Pharmacy students while expanding leadership, diversity, entrepreneurship and research opportunities. As we look ahead, our dream is to secure our first "full-ride," four-year scholarships, which would significantly increase our recruiting competitiveness.

Collectively, the Department of Clinical Outcomes Sciences and the Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences, along with the college centers and departments, realized numerous achievements. Many of these student and faculty achievements yielded national recognition. Created several years ago by our faculty and staff, our strategic plan continues to be our compass for a bold future. We have all learned, however, that life sometimes happens despite the most well-intentioned plan. Enter the global pandemic.

The College of Pharmacy was the first in the country to introduce saliva-based testing to mitigate COVID-19, positioning the University of South Carolina as one of only five universities to do so, including Yale, Rutgers, University of Illinois and University of California-Davis. The brilliant and responsive action led by Phillip Buckhaults and his research team catapulted our national visibility in unimaginable ways. Carolyn Banister's tireless dedication to managing our CLIA-certified testing lab continues to be a tremendous asset to the university and our state.

Each of my last five years as your dean has been rewarding, but none of them has been as intensely meaningful as was the past year. While there is much left to do, I applaud our college and extended pharmacy family and thank you for your leadership, dedication and courage.

For Carolina,

Stephen J. Cutler

Dean of the College of Pharmacy



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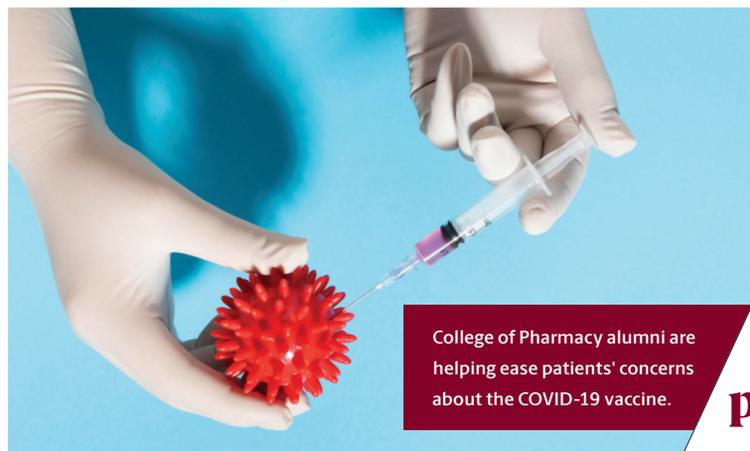
ON THE COVER

Julia Mims is the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Communications and Public Affairs

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution. 21-11761 5/21

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‘MAKE THE
WORLD
A BETTER
PLACE’

Mims serves South Carolinians as pharmacist, community leader

Julia Mims has learned over the course of her pharmacy career that the most important thing she can do to serve her community is to give back.

Because of her dedication to her profession, the University of South Carolina, and as a community leader, Mims was chosen for the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Pharmacy.

“I grew up in Lake City, South Carolina, where my uncle owned Corner Drug Store, and I was fascinated with all the bottles of medication,” she says. “He later sold the store to Sentry Drug when I was in high school, and I worked there while attending pharmacy school. At that time, most people preferred to talk with a male pharmacist. We’ve come a long way since then.”

Mims completed her bachelor’s degree in pharmacy in 1974 and worked the next few years in a hospital setting.

She got her first taste of working in clinical pharmacy when she took a position at the Medical University of South Carolina while her husband attended medical school.

“I felt like I got to use my knowledge more,” she says.

Eventually her family returned to Lake City, where she took advantage of the College of Pharmacy’s distance learning program and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1996.

Mims did some of her rotations at Tuomey Hospital, now Prisma Health Tuomey, in Sumter, South Carolina, where she has been a clinical pharmacist for 24 years. She has served as the clinical pharmacy coordinator, works with the antimicrobial stewardship team, evaluates patient medication regimens, and serves as preceptor for students during their clinical rotations.

“If we want to have good pharmacists in the future, we have to train them,” she says. “What better way to do that than have students come to your pharmacy or hospital and show them how the real world works? I had wonderful preceptors and felt it was my responsibility to give back.”

Mims is also passionate about giving back to her hometown, where she helped launch the Meals on Wheels program 33 years ago. She is an active supporter of the arts, serving on the Lake City Concert Series Board among her many other volunteer activities. She is also vice chair for Florence School District 3 Board of Trustees, having served on the board from 1990-99 and again since 2011.

Mims is humbled to be chosen for the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award. “I look at the names who have received the recognition in the past and it is quite an honor,” she says. “It’s important to be a caring individual and try to make a difference, to make the world a better place. I think most pharmacists are like that. It’s what draws us into the profession.”

10 years of BLAZING TRAILS

Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center creatively opens doors to impactful careers

A decade ago, **Bill and Lou Kennedy** announced a multimillion-dollar gift to help create a center that would serve as a home for collaborative research and education. It would bring together the nation's top minds in entrepreneurship, health sciences, communications and other disciplines with leading pharmacy practice faculty.

The Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center (KPIC) has been a launching pad for initiatives that have pushed the College of Pharmacy to new heights since the September 2010 announcement of that \$30 million gift.

Patti Fabel, executive director of KPIC, says the center's focus on equipping students with entrepreneurial skills is necessary to tackle the ever-changing field of health care.

"There are more than 140 pharmacy schools in the country," she says. "Students have to be more creative. Part of what we do is help them figure out their own career path."

Since its inception, KPIC has offered unique training opportunities to students seeking to expand both their clinical and business skills. These offerings include the Aseptic Compounding Lab and community-based, post-graduate residencies, along with learning opportunities that include the

Business Plan Competition and Ownership Boot Camp.

KPIC also has sponsored pilot studies where pharmacists were embedded into family medicine practices and demonstrated that pharmacists improved patient care, satisfaction and financial sustainability of those practices.

The program has helped train more than 500 pharmacy professionals, has 48 students currently enrolled in the Business and Entrepreneurship track, and has trained 22 residents since 2011.

KPIC serves as a significant differentiator — a specialized learning center combining the study and practice of pharmacy with the exciting opportunities of entrepreneurship and innovation.

"We are so proud of the progress KPIC has made, and we are excited for the future as KPIC trains the next generation of pharmacists," says Lou Kennedy, CEO of Nephron Pharmaceuticals. "Thanks to the rock stars at the College of Pharmacy and KPIC, university pharmacy students are blazing trails in research and development, entrepreneurship and improved health outcomes. Bill and I cannot believe it has already been a decade, and we cannot wait to see what the next one holds for KPIC."



Lou and Bill Kennedy



Patti Fabel



ACE Lab



Eddie Seijo (Photo submitted by Atrium Health.)

Fulfilling a need

College of Pharmacy alumni play key roles in vaccination efforts nationwide

Victoria Hetherington saw something different on a patient's COVID-19 vaccination form and realized it was an opportunity to provide a sense of comfort.

“One patient had written the word ‘scared’ on her form,” says Hetherington, '17, who works on the vaccination team at Gamecock Park.

“I talked with her and walked through all the interactions and allergic reactions she experienced in the past and helped her understand none of those would be in the components of the vaccine. We kept her for a bit longer during the monitoring phase to make sure she was doing well.”

Leadership is a significant component of education at the College of Pharmacy. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to provide

opportunities for students to gain related experience and for alumni to excel.

In addition to her day-to-day responsibilities as manager of the Ambulatory Clinical Pharmacy and as director for the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program at Prisma Health–Midlands, **Nicole Bookstaver**, '09, oversees the pharmacy portion of the vaccination clinic at Gamecock Park.

“In January, I was asked to be the pharmacy lead for a mass vaccination site that was to open in addition to the four hospital-based clinics. My response was, ‘Yes, of course!’” she says.

The drive-through clinic, a streamlined effort coordinated between Prisma Health, South Carolina National Guard and the

University of South Carolina, has drawn hundreds of volunteers across several health care professions.

“What I admire so much is the different disciplines coming together — pharmacy, nursing, medicine, athletic training, disaster operations, process engineering and many others,” Bookstaver says, “and the number of students who are volunteering their time. I am extremely proud to be a part of a profession working to help so many people.”

Hetherington vaccinates patients and supports required daily prework for the clinics. Vaccines must be reconstituted, measured and drawn up into individual syringes, and then administered into patients' arms within a six-hour window.



I am extremely proud to be a part of a profession working to help so many people.

– NICOLE BOOKSTAVER



Most rewarding is the ability to provide comfort to patients, Hetherington says.

Gabby Pierce, '20, works as a PGY1 specialty pharmacy resident at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pierce volunteered to help with the hospital staff vaccination clinic by supporting related tracking and administrative requirements, as well as precepting pharmacy students who were helping in the effort.

“This was a unique opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself and learn more about resources, data and handling patient questions,” Pierce says. “There is truly something to be said in volunteering as a learning opportunity.”

Yvette Van Seters, '90, also has a passion for volunteering. As a pharmacist with Walgreens, Van Seters is part of a team providing vaccinations for long-term care facilities and nursing homes in South Carolina.

“I’ve always been a service-oriented person, and it’s a way to help meet the needs of our community,” Van Seters says. “So many people have lost loved ones to this pandemic. I see the joy on patients’ faces, and that makes my day more than anything.”

Eddie Seijo, '11, understands what it means to see the joy. Seijo is the director of Acute Care Pharmacy Operations with Atrium Health in Charlotte, North Carolina. Because of his experience with centralized medication distribution, he was tapped to help with mass vaccination clinics at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Bank of America Stadium, among several others being held throughout the area.

“There is a need all over the community, so we determined that we would take the vaccination clinics into the community,” he says, “including roving clinics that go into historically underserved communities, working with churches, schools and community centers.”

Running multiple clinics requires significant time and effort, but Seijo remains focused on what is most important for him.

“It’s a lot of nights and long days, but for me, it’s hope,” he says. “It’s getting back to life as we used to know it. I remind myself of what we’re doing, and seeing the joy and hope in the eyes of those we are vaccinating is what keeps you going.”



Victoria Hetherington



Nicole Bookstaver



Gabby Pierce



Yvette Van Seters



GETTING SHOTS INTO ARMS

Pharmacy alumni help ease patient concerns over vaccine

When the COVID-19 vaccines received emergency use authorization from the Federal Drug Administration, it was as though the nation breathed a collective sigh of relief. Finally, there was light at the end of what seemed an interminably long tunnel.

Now, as part of their efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible, College of Pharmacy alumni are helping ease patients' concerns about the vaccine.

Addison Livingston, '97, is CEO and president of Hawthorne Pharmacy and Medical Equipment. His initial focus was to determine how his team could have the greatest impact for the community.

"As pharmacists, we need to be effective in helping to resolve the pandemic," he says. "Partnering with civic organizations and churches can make a difference to get as many vaccinations completed as possible."

When a patient has concerns about the vaccine, Livingston and his team approach

their questions the same as with any vaccine.

"I want our patients to understand the benefits and the risks and give them information as I would with any medicine that has been prescribed for them," he says. "If they are hesitant about receiving the vaccine, we'll talk through their concerns to learn why and help them make the best decision."

Janet Thames, '00, says her patients at Blythewood Pharmacy have been eager to get vaccinated.

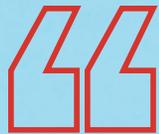
"The question we received the most initially was about how they could register for the vaccine and not as much over concerns

about the vaccine itself," she says. "Older folks especially were ready to be vaccinated for their safety and health. It means they don't have to worry about hospitalization, adverse outcomes, even dying from COVID."

At Good Pharmacy in Rock Hill, South Carolina, **Kia Hicklin**, '03, organized their vaccination clinic, often helping administer an average of 200-300 vaccinations each day.

"I talk with my patients about the benefits and risks of the vaccine weighed against the risk of the unknown if they contract COVID-19," she says.

Hicklin also shares her personal experience with COVID-19 after she and her husband



When I talk with them about their concerns and talk about my experience, it makes the patients more comfortable. **KIA HICKLIN**



Addison Livingston



Janet Thames



Kia Hicklin



Taylor Meyers

were diagnosed with the virus in December 2020. While their symptoms were mild, they both experienced extreme tiredness along with a loss of taste and smell.

“When I talk with them about their concerns and talk about my experience, it makes the patients more comfortable,” she says. “They see that our staff is getting the vaccine and doing well, so they are more inclined to be vaccinated.”

Hicklin’s greatest joy came when she had the opportunity to vaccinate her family members, including her parents.

“We had not been able to see them much. It was so exciting to vaccinate them!” she says.

Taylor Meyers, ’15, is an ambulatory clinical pharmacist with Prisma Health–Midlands, educating patients about the vaccine as well as volunteering to administer vaccines at Gamecock Park.

“Some of the questions I get are about the long-term safety data or whether the vaccine is safe to take if they have a particular condition such as allergies or other comorbidities,” Meyers says.

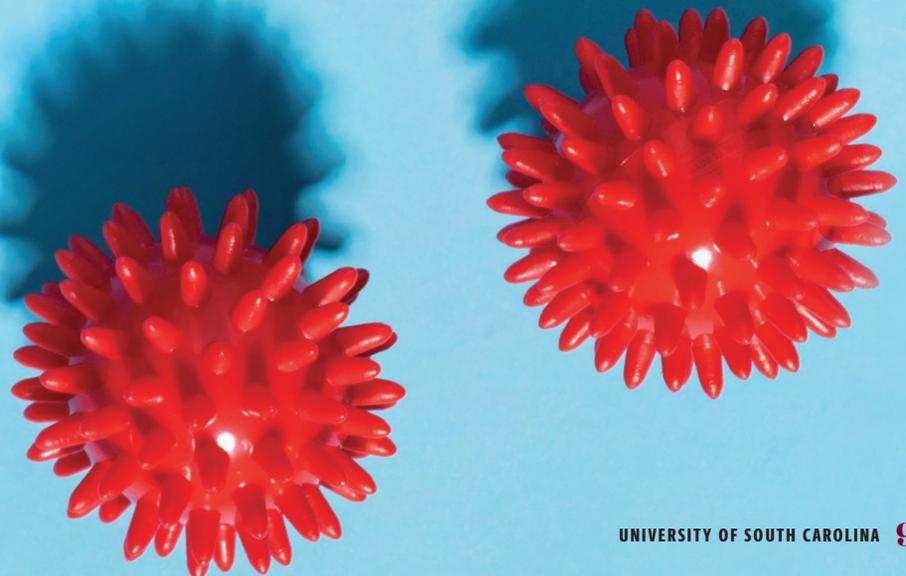
She provides patients with data-driven facts.

“I start with their specific concerns and tell them what I know to be factual,” she says. “If their questions focus more around conspiracy theories, I talk with them on a more personal level to understand their hesitancy and let them know they can always reach out to me. Two people changed their minds and ended up getting the vaccine.”

Rebecca Huggins, ’00, is one of several site managers for the vaccination clinic at Prisma Health Baptist Hospital in Columbia. She noticed some hesitancy in receiving

the vaccine, even from some hospital employees.

“One of my best wins came through an employee who was very hesitant. I reached out to her directly and answered her questions,” Huggins says. “She is now one of our biggest proponents encouraging others to be vaccinated.”



TACKLING RURAL HEALTH DISPARITIES



Partnerships, programs aim to bolster health care in underserved areas

Whitney Maxwell received support in 2018 from the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare to encourage utilization of student rotations in rural areas.

“The goal was to help bolster student interest in selecting rotations in rural areas,” says Maxwell, associate director of experiential education at the College of Pharmacy. “Students design a rural health action plan to assist a community and present it in hopes that either they or their preceptor might be able to put the plan into action.”

The Pharmacy Advancement in Rural Experiential Development program partnered with the Palmetto Experiential Education Partnership to create the PAIRED with PEEP program.

Heather Hembree, '20, decided to participate in PAIRED with PEEP as she learned more about health care disparities in rural areas. She completed six of her nine rotations in rural areas during her fourth year as a pharmacy student.

“During my PAIRED rotations, I focused on both improving access to vaccinations and counseling patients on their disease states to improve health care literacy,” she says. “It was such a rewarding experience. My favorite part of the PAIRED program was being given the opportunity to implement the

health service plans that I created and see the positive impact on the patients with whom I interacted.”

Hembree says the PAIRED program also made her realize that working in a rural health care setting required versatility and ingenuity.

“Sometimes you’re forced to think outside the box to allow more access to care or to get a specific treatment for a patient,” she says.

Maxwell’s hope is that more pharmacists will choose to pursue their careers in rural settings.

The program received a second grant from the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare in 2020 to continue as the Pharmacy Advancement in Rural Experiential Development to Expand Collaboration, Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Rural Communities (PAIRED to ExCEL) program through 2022.

Through this grant, students will take part in a rural health academy prior to beginning their rural rotations and will actually implement the rural health action plan they design.

“We are working to help create a pipeline of students prepared to serve in rural areas,” Maxwell says. “Through PAIRED to ExCEL, we are developing strong leaders in our profession.”



Whitney Maxwell



Heather Hembree



Improving vaccination access

Pharmacy researchers work to support underserved areas in South Carolina

Researchers with the College of Pharmacy are playing a significant role in the effort to provide greater access to health care in rural areas of South Carolina.

Tessa Hastings, Bryan Love and Gene Reeder have teamed up with the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare to identify vaccination deserts and access to community pharmacies as part of a plan to facilitate immunization and pandemic preparedness.

With support through a grant from the center, the team focused the first phase of its project on identifying pharmacy and vaccination deserts across the state. Using that data, the center then created a map to help visualize those deserts and find areas that are within a 15-minute drive to a pharmacy.

“By identifying where pharmacies are located along with information about underserved areas, we hope to improve the vaccination rates in those areas,” Love says.

The second phase is evaluating the existing capacity of pharmacists to provide influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, as well as the addition of vaccinations for COVID-19.

“Community pharmacists are some of the most accessible and trusted immunization providers,” Hastings says. “We want to find the barriers that may be preventing them from providing vaccines and find ways to help them overcome those barriers.”

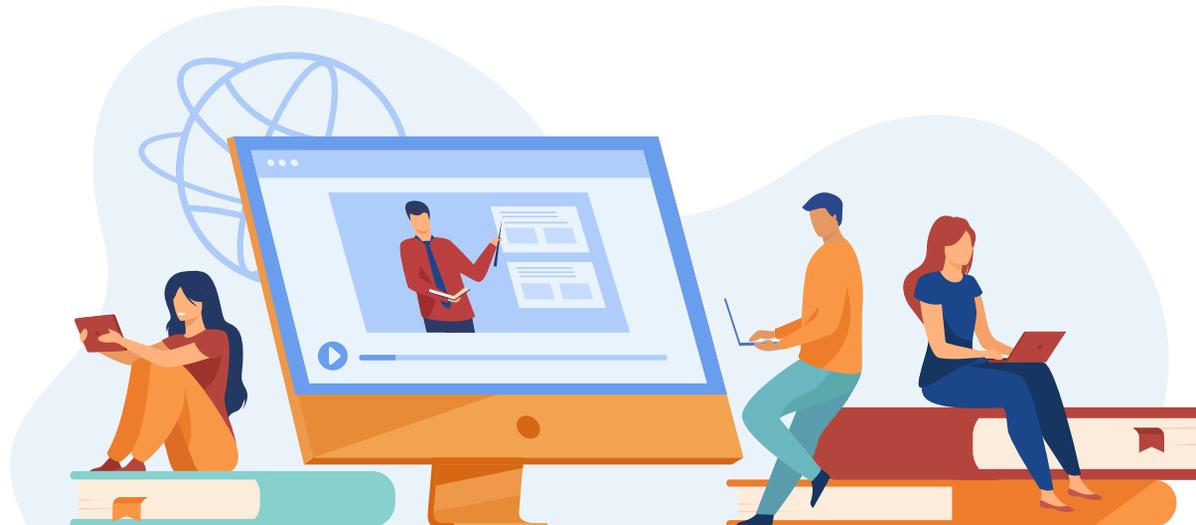
Reeder, who serves as director of Outcomes Research for the College of Pharmacy, used his background in design and analysis to help guide the project. He emphasizes that

pharmacists can have a major impact in providing care to patients in rural areas.

“Getting pharmacists certified to provide vaccinations and engaging them in the education of patients about vaccine safety will go a long way toward improving public health,” he says. “We initially were looking at increasing the number of flu vaccines, then along came COVID.”

Hastings notes that many South Carolinians live in rural areas and statistics demonstrate that only about 50 percent of residents receive an annual flu vaccine.

“Studies show there are serious gaps in health care that lead to lower vaccination rates and worse health outcomes,” she says. “Community pharmacists are trusted and easily accessible and that is key in this era of vaccine hesitancy.”



Never stop learning

Pharmacy's continuing education program offers valuable learning opportunities

It is often said that learning is a never-ending process. For those in the field of pharmacy, that adage could not be more true. With the continual development of new drugs, and especially with the onset of COVID-19, pharmacists must remain vigilant to stay on top of the latest trends, evidence-based medicine and updates to disease-state guidelines.



In South Carolina, pharmacists are required to earn a minimum of 15 hours of continuing education annually in order to maintain their license.

Caitlin Mardis, director of the Continuing Education and

Professional Development program for the College of

Pharmacy, explains there should be more to continuing education than simply meeting these mandated requirements.

"There are the (continuing-education) hours that you must obtain in order to retain your license," she says. "But we want pharmacists to participate in CE activities that truly further their knowledge base and benefit them in their own practice of pharmacy, rather than simply checking a box.

"Continuing-education hours can then become a valuable component of an individual's overall continuing professional development."

The College of Pharmacy's continuing education program is a valuable resource not only to alumni but all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Not only can they meet their annual CE requirements, but they can also participate in learning opportunities that can help them provide better care to patients and even implement new services.

"Almost every week of the year, we are offering live activities in conjunction with health systems and organizations throughout the state — many of them virtual," Mardis says. "All of the activities from our live annual conference are also made available as home studies that can be accessed whenever pharmacists have the opportunity to engage."

"I often hear from those who participate in our live activities that they are surprised how much they get out of them in comparison to other options," Mardis adds. "Our faculty do an excellent job of making the material engaging, as our alumni already know!"

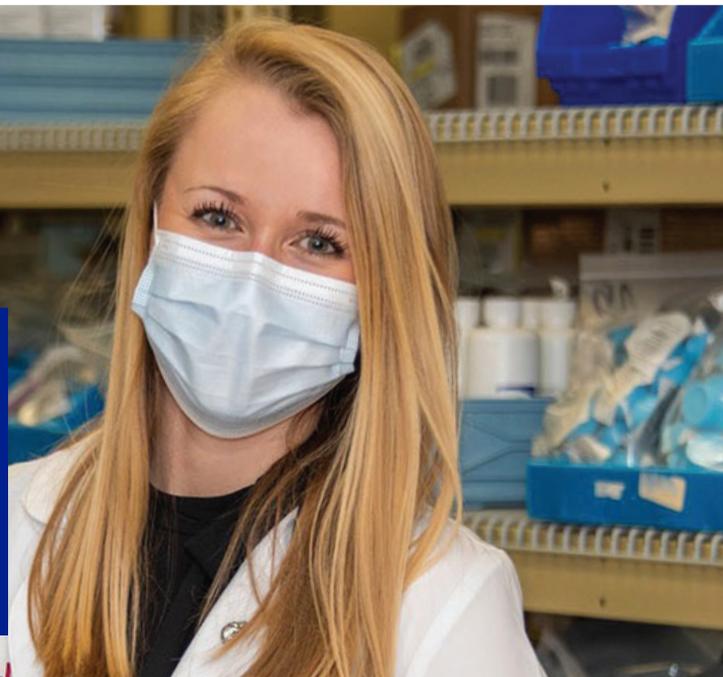
Mardis wants pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to know the continuing education program is available to them as a resource.

"If there is something specific that a pharmacist or pharmacy technician is looking for, we can help them identify where to find that training if we don't already offer it," she says. "We can also use those ideas to plan our own future activities. Our goal is to ensure we are meeting the needs of our alumni, preceptors and friends."



To provide the Office of Continuing Education with feedback regarding how they can meet your needs, please visit is.gd/alumniCE. To learn more about existing continuing education opportunities through the College of Pharmacy, contact Mardis at CE@cop.sc.edu.

PASSION LEADS TO SUCCESS



LeBegue quickly makes impact with patents, published work

Not many people have accomplished as much in such a short time as **Chloé LeBegue**.

LeBegue, who earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2020, already finds herself with patents for a new treatment and a sterilizing compound along with one paper published in a peer-reviewed journal and another pending publication.

She came to the University of South Carolina as an Honors College student. As such, she was required to research and write a senior thesis. LeBegue asked **Michael Wyatt**, professor and interim director of the Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences department, to serve as her thesis advisor.

“I remember when Chloé approached me with the research idea in 2016,” Wyatt says. “In my 20 years, I have had more than 100 enthusiastic students approach me, but this conversation was very different. She had clearly read about the topic much beyond what I had covered in class.”

LeBegue’s research focused on using bacteria to treat phenylketonuria, which causes an increased amount of phenylalanine in the bloodstream. It is a rare genetic condition that results in decreased metabolism for those affected with the disease.

LeBegue filed for a research patent in 2018, and it was granted in 2020. She also made several professional presentations as a student,

including at the 2020 Pharmabiotics Industry Conference in Paris. She learned to speak French in preparation for her trip.

“The day we landed, I was standing outside the Eiffel Tower and heard the news that the pandemic had been declared,” she says. “Fortunately, I still was able to present my research and then quarantined for 14 days when I got home.”

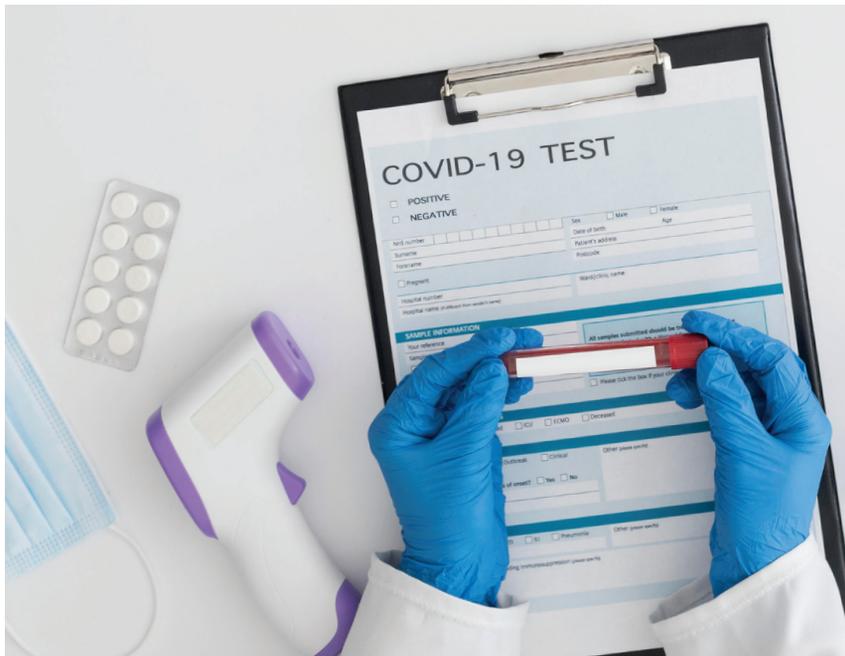
During an academic rotation with Wyatt, they collaborated on an article, “Microbes as Drugs: The Potential of Pharmabiotics,” which was accepted to the peer-reviewed journal *Pharmacotherapy*.

In her fourth year, LeBegue worked as a pharmacy intern at Pharmacy Consolidation Services Center with Prisma Health–Upstate in Greenville, South Carolina. She was assigned a project to find a solution for the disinfectant shortage, resulting in the creation of a formulation that eventually supplied more than 300 health care facilities during the pandemic. She has since received a provisional coverage for a patent on that formula.

LeBegue is now the pharmacist in charge of compounding and repackaging at Prisma Health–Upstate.

“The patents were an idea that became a passion,” she says. “One thing has led to another, and I encourage everyone to pursue your passion. When you are doing something that you see value in, it doesn’t feel like work.”

READ & REPEAT



77,739 COVID -19 saliva test samples were processed for the university by the College of Pharmacy between Jan. 1 and April 13, 2021.

2 years

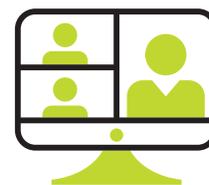
For **two** years in a row, College of Pharmacy students have won the Clinical Skills Competition sponsored by the South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists.



248 College of Pharmacy students received support through departmental scholarship awards in the 2020-21 academic year.

\$30M

24 Grant submissions totaling more than **\$30 million** have been submitted by College of Pharmacy faculty since September 2020.



56 Exhibitors and more than **300** students took part in this year's Virtual Pharmacy Career Expo.



Establishing a perpetual legacy

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT PLANNED GIFT

The College of Pharmacy announced a generous \$2 million planned gift earlier this year from an alum who wishes to remain anonymous. Once realized, the gift will support scholarships and programs at the college. This is the second-largest planned gift in the college's history.

"I, along with everyone else in the college, continue to be thrilled about such an extraordinary commitment," **Dean Stephen J. Cutler** says. "This level of support demonstrates a tremendous dedication to our college's mission and its future. Our No. 1 priority is to give our students a world-class education knowing that they will go on to become top pharmacists, researchers or health scientists. This tremendous gift to the UofSC College of Pharmacy ensures that we can do that in the years ahead."

Planned gifts are contributions that are arranged in the present and allocated at a future date. Often the most significant philanthropic gifts donors will ever make, they often establish perpetual legacies that support one or more designations of the donor's choosing or can also support spendable, unrestricted funds designed

to support greatest areas of future need, according to **Terry Dixon**, senior director of development and alumni relations.

"Planned giving is incredibly powerful in that it strengthens the college's future sustainability and is a realistic giving option for most people, regardless of their age," Dixon says. "Planned giving enables donors to make larger and more impactful gifts than they ever thought possible and can be structured to meet specific needs. By making a planned gift of any size, donors qualify for membership in the Carolina Guardian Society, which recognizes alumni and friends who provide for the university through a planned gift. These donors are dream-makers."

Dixon says that planned gifts include gifts made through wills or living trusts, appreciated gifts of securities, charitable

gift annuities, charitable trusts or real estate assets. Donors can also make planned gifts from retirement plans or insurance policies.

"Often it's as simple as adding one or two sentences to a document," Dixon says. "If alumni have already established planned gifts supporting the college, we really would like to know so that we can thank them now, engage them and recognize them as Carolina Guardian Society members."

Dixon says that she collaborates closely with the Office of Gift Planning when working with prospective planned gift donors.

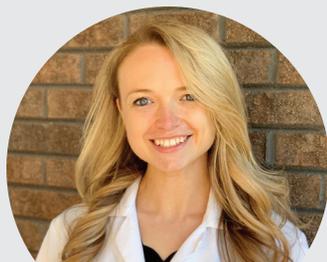
"This talented team of planned giving experts, including two attorneys, provides excellent counsel and helps our donors structure gifts that are mutually beneficial," she says.



*In the near future, the college plans to host a virtual information session to provide helpful updates about planned giving opportunities. If you would like to receive an invitation or learn more about planned giving opportunities, contact **Terry Dixon** at tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu or (803) 777-5426.*



TAMIA JONES



JESSICA SHUE



MICHAEL DEANEY



MADISON KOONS

'21

“As my time at the UofSC College of Pharmacy comes to a close, I can look back and say I am most thankful for the mentorship and grace in the culture here. With this support, in addition to the college's didactic curriculum, I was prepared to complete my final year of pharmacy school in Charlotte, North Carolina, in a longitudinal scholar's program.”

'21

“The past four years at the UofSC College of Pharmacy were incredible. From winning a national compounding competition to being recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives, I always felt fortunate to be a Gamecock. I am excited to build upon the foundation of leadership, professionalism and clinical knowledge I have gained here and apply it throughout my Oncology Medical Affairs Fellowship with Novartis.”

'22

“My time with the College of Pharmacy has been invaluable, with college administration fostering my interest in serving the underserved and developing my leadership more than I could have predicted. Its unwavering support for student-led initiatives has allowed my student organization's members to advocate for our community and provide culturally competent care through health care diversity, equity and inclusion education sessions.”

'22

“The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy has not only been the catalyst in my educational pursuits but has also been the foundation to my personal growth. I can honestly say that, despite the challenges that come along with being a pharmacy student, I can forever be grateful for the attributes that I have been able to obtain and carry with me in my future as a Pharm.D.”



ADITYA PRADHAN



EBONÉ TRAPP



TENIA SLADE



JACOB JORDAN

'23

“The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy has not only allowed me to become a better student but also a better person. The experiences gained in the College of Pharmacy, from the classroom, to my peers, to the various organizations, have allowed me to gain a level of confidence and sense of duty that I could not have achieved before.”

'23

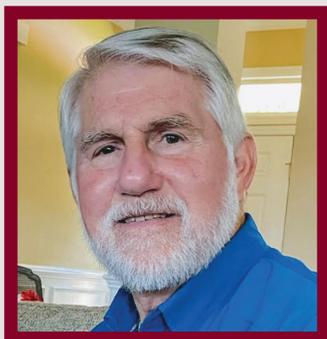
“My experience at the college has been great thus far. There have been many opportunities to get involved with the school and within the community through the various organizations on campus. As students, we are able to explore so many facets of pharmacy, thanks to our distinguished faculty who are always willing to share their clinical knowledge and experience with us in and out of the classroom.”

'24

“My experience thus far has been unique to say the least! Starting pharmacy school virtually has been challenging, but professors are understanding and available when needed. I am currently the secretary of SNPhA, and community service is the one thing that feels “normal” right now! I am excited to see how the College of Pharmacy helps me grow over these next few years.”

'24

“In my first year of pharmacy school, I feel I have developed not only my knowledge of pharmacy but also in my ability to lead and collaborate with my peers. The connections I have made in my first year alone will resonate with me for a lifetime, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds as I continue this journey.”



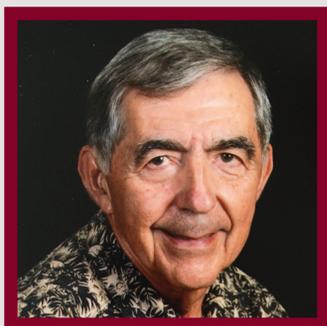
Bernard Gunter | '74

“ UofSC College of Pharmacy played a major role in preparing me for a career in community pharmacy. The professors, their assistants, and lab instructors provided the instruction and support which allowed me to return home to the rural small-town pharmacy where I worked as a teenager. Being there to provide pharmacy services and consultation to the community I grew up in was immeasurable. ”



Gloria Garner | '92

“ When I was deployed to Desert Storm in my fifth year of school, UofSC provided me with a way forward to accomplish my academic goals through scholarships and clerkships in the desert. My servant leader and clinical pharmacist skills were formed at UofSC, and I will always be grateful and proud to be a Gamecock. ”



Davis Hook | '64

“ The UofSC College of Pharmacy provided me with the necessary tools for employment. Because pharmacists are the most accessible health care professionals, it became extremely meaningful to interact with patients and colleagues. Relationships with customers and other health care providers formed the basis for a gratifying career. The knowledge I gained enabled me to have a fulfilling and rewarding life career as a pharmacist and business owner. ”



Tim Slone | '84

“ The College of Pharmacy at the University of South Carolina prepared me well for my career in the pharmaceutical industry. From the close interactions with the faculty and staff, to the classes and the exposure during Career Day, to the many different companies and opportunities that were available for me to start my career after graduation. All I can say is, thank you! ”

Alexa Swingle | '20

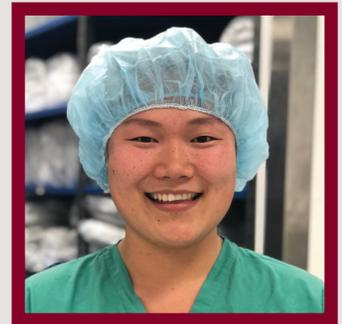
“ One important lesson I gained during my time at the College of Pharmacy was to never sacrifice pharmaceutical elegance. While there is a lot of pressure to work quickly in a high-volume retail pharmacy setting, there is always time to straighten a label — it’s the patient’s first impression of your pharmacy. ”

**Vishal Shah | '09**

“ My Pharm.D. degree from the University of South Carolina along with a bachelor’s degree in computer science has helped me immensely in becoming a part of the ever-growing field of health care technology. I have been practicing as an informatics pharmacist at the No. 1 hospital in the country — Mayo Clinic. The dedicated efforts of my educators at UofSC have inspired me to be a mentor at Mayo Clinic where I precept PGY1 residents. ”

**Min-Joo K. Edwards | '14**

“ The pharmacy program at UofSC not only fostered opportunities for leadership but encouraged students to be independent. I was inspired by great professors who pushed me to think outside of the box, and this allowed me to land a career within my own specific niche. The support of the school and its abundant networking opportunities have proven to be invaluable. ”

**Monette Sox | '80**

“ The UofSC College of Pharmacy was the gateway to a career that has been fulfilling in so many ways. Pharmacists are now even more instrumental in providing health care, especially during the pandemic. Giving back ensures that this positive growth of our profession continues. ”



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ALUMNI



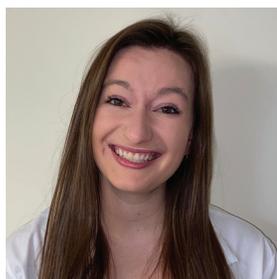
Dana Nelson, '20, received the 2021 APhA Foundation Incentive Grant.



Jenna Cox, '12, was named to the Steering Committee for the Southeastern Pharmacy Residency Conference.



Bradley White, '06, received the 2020 South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program Gateway Award.



Gabby Pierce, '20, was selected for the Executive Fellowship in Association Leadership & Management with ASHP.



Michael Bedenbaugh, '20, has been appointed to serve a six-year term from the 4th Congressional District for the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy

FACULTY & STAFF



Dean Stephen J. Cutler received the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy 2020 Distinguished Alumnus Award.



Igor Roninson received \$11.1 million from the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health, to continue the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence for Targeted Therapeutics.



Julie Ann Justo, was selected as Pharmacist of the Year by the South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists. She was also named as a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.



Kevin Lu is a recipient of the Journal of Managed Care and Specialty 2020 Award.



Patti Fabel has been selected as a 2021 Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association. Fabel also received the 2021 Garnet Apple Teaching Award.



Jennifer Clements received the George D. Schwerin Mentor Award from the SCSHP.



Dr. Charles Bennett was selected to join the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health research program on health policy associated with the John and Laura Arnold Fund.

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

PHARMACY *IN ACTION*



L-R: Chelsea Brown, '21; Erin Warren, '21; assistant professor Kathy Quarles Moore, '86; Greg Mayer, '77, owner, Apothecare Pharmacy, Leesville, South Carolina



L-R: Rachel Snead, '22; James Orban, '22; Hirali Patel, '22; Karma Safford, '23



Michelle Chau, '22



Katey James, '22



Kara Taylor, '23 (left), Catherine Packard, '23

COVID-19 VACCINATION

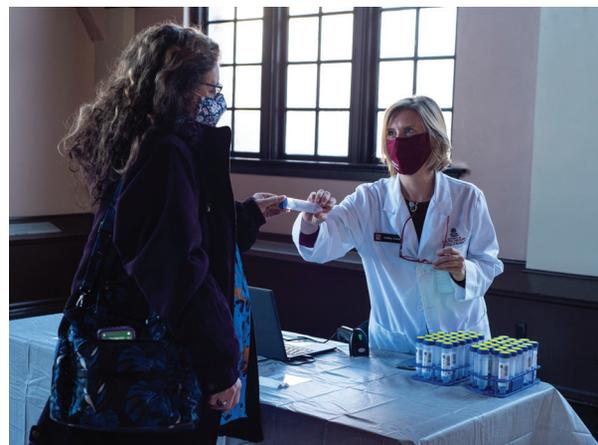
College of Pharmacy students have earned valuable experience while volunteering and assisting COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the state, including a coordinated effort at Gamecock Park in Columbia.

WALKER LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

The College of Pharmacy Walker Leadership Scholars participated in a book club discussion with university President Bob Caslen in February. The program offers student leaders the opportunities to accelerate their leadership development through experiential learning and mentorship.

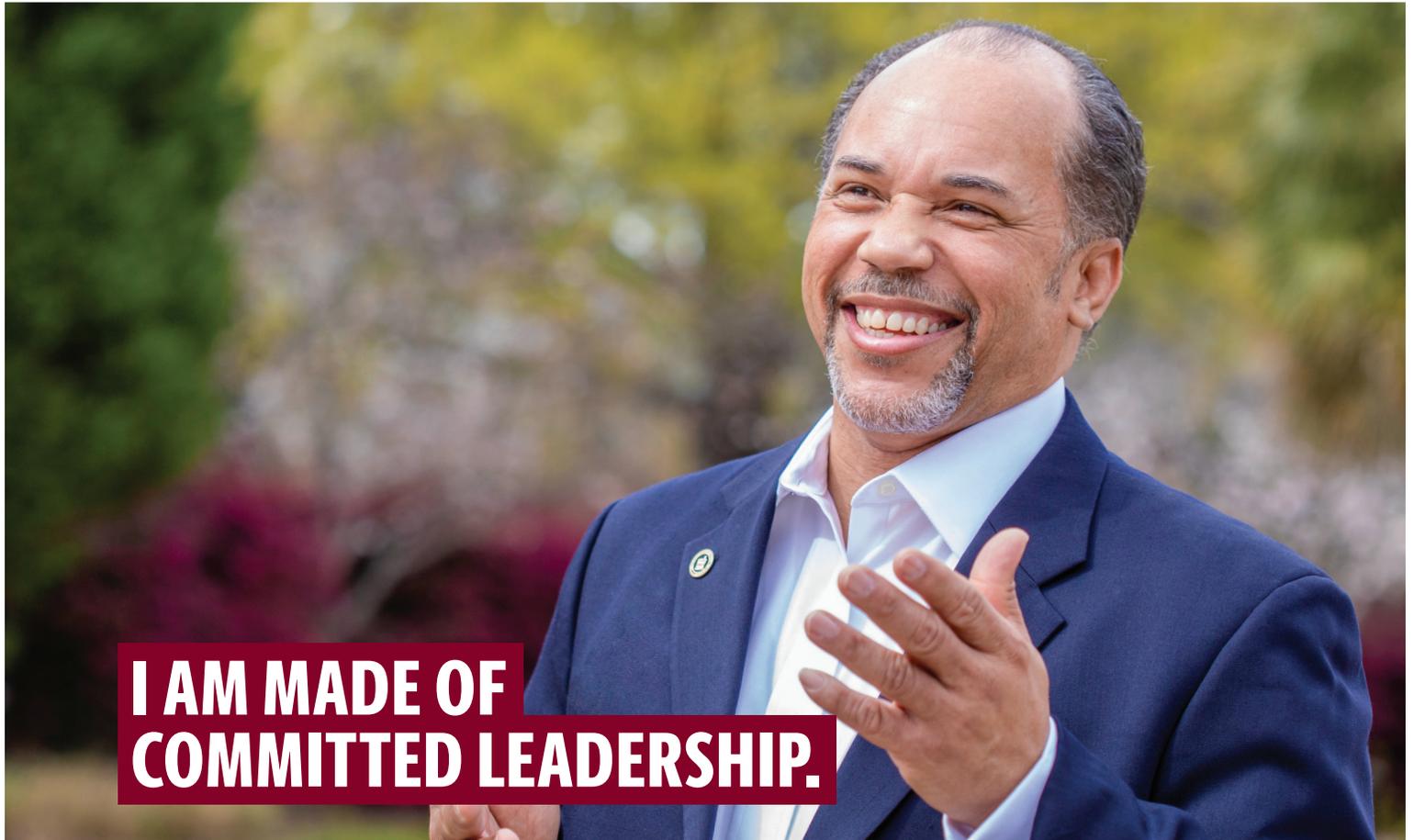


L-R: Alexis Caronis, '21; Haley Cave, '22; Jordan Jones, '23; President Bob Caslen; Shannon Leighton, '23; James Orban, '22; Cassidy Hall Kemp, '21.



SAFE TESTING AT WINTHROP

The College of Pharmacy provided on-campus COVID-19 testing for Winthrop University in February. We will continue to test with Winthrop through fall 2021. We continue to offer testing resources across South Carolina.



**I AM MADE OF
COMMITTED LEADERSHIP.**

I AM SOUTH CAROLINA.

From retail pharmacist to industry leader, Gerald Isreal ('88) has dedicated himself to improving the lives of South Carolinians for more than three decades. He has taken the knowledge gained at the university to numerous pharmaceutical positions, striving in each role to enhance the health and well-being of his patients. An experienced leader, Isreal — now chief pharmacy officer for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina — is making a difference in our state, working to address health disparities and find solutions for underserved areas.

