

The Educator

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ANNUAL REPORT 2015



FIRST CLASS!

The Educator



It's Official!

Western New England University College of Pharmacy Receives Full Accreditation.

At the July board meeting of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), full accreditation status was granted to the Western New England University College of Pharmacy.

The ACPE Board also acknowledged two noteworthy practices by the College of Pharmacy. First, a particular strength in the Professional Development sequence provides cocurricular opportunities for student professional development in concert with the curriculum. Second, the College of Pharmacy places great emphasis on the importance of professionalism both within the curriculum and in cocurricular/extra-curricular activities. These efforts have resulted in learners embracing the need for professionalism in their interactions with peers, faculty, practitioners, and patients.



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Message from the Dean



Greetings from Western New England University College of Pharmacy! May of 2015 represented a true sense of accomplishment for many of us within the College of Pharmacy as we experienced the graduation of our founding class, the members of the Class of 2015.

It seemed like only yesterday that the Class of 2015 arrived on campus for orientation week; a week of both excitement and nerves for learners and faculty

alike as we opened our doors for the first time. For the 2011-12 academic year the members of the Class of 2015 were the only learners in the building. Fast forward to Commencement week just prior to the May 17 Doctoral, Law, Pharmacy, and Master's Ceremony and the members were once again the only learners in the building as they participated in their Board Review week.

Getting to this point for the learners and the faculty, staff, and administrators of the College of Pharmacy was an exciting and challenging endeavor. John F. Kennedy may have said it best, "*Things do not happen. Things are made to happen.*" The celebrations of Commencement Weekend "happened" as a result of hard work, collaboration, and a collective desire for the successful development of a program of which we can all be proud.

Over this past year, we have seen the extremely successful launch of our Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, learners chartering new pro-

fessional associations and organizations, the dedication of learners and faculty in various service activities, and a host of professional and scholarly accomplishments by our faculty and learners, including innovation. And of course graduating our first class!

All of this and more you can learn in this edition of *The Educator*. We have embodied the approach to not let things happen, we continue to **make things happen!** Please enjoy this issue of *The Educator* and I encourage you to visit our website (wne.edu/pharmacy) to keep aware of our activities.

Best Regards,

Evan T. Robinson

Evan T. Robinson, RPh, PhD
Dean and Professor

The Western New England University College of Pharmacy At-A-Glance

Mission

The Western New England University College of Pharmacy will prepare entry-level practitioners to provide pharmacy care to an increasingly diverse patient population in a variety of practice environments. The comprehensive learner-centered educational program will foster critical thinking skills, embrace professionalism, and instill a commitment to lifelong learning, community service, and leadership. The College will enhance the knowledge base of the pharmacy profession through teaching, service, research, and scholarly activity.

Vision

The Western New England University College of Pharmacy will be prominently known for excellence in the preparation of pharmacy practitioners as educators of patients and other healthcare professionals and leaders for the betterment of patient care and the community.



Meet the Learners

	Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class 2019
Female	55%	60%	63%	60%
Age Range	22-47	21-42	20-32	19-35
Prior Degree	39%	30%	18%	33%
Bilingual	38%	15%	15%	32%

Trailblazers:

First Class Awarded PharmD Degrees!

The Western New England University College of Pharmacy is honored to celebrate the achievements of its first class to receive the Doctor of Pharmacy degree on May 17, 2015.

This milestone was years in the making. The journey began with a dream of leveraging the existing strengths of the University, the assembly of a visionary leadership team and entrepreneurial pharmacy faculty, and the construction of the \$40 million Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy in 2011. That fall, the Center opened its doors to the intrepid learners of the Class of 2015.

Commencement Weekend May 16-17 2015 was a historic one for Western New England University, which awarded bachelor's degrees at a ceremony on Saturday and master's, law, and doctoral degrees in a new combined ceremony on Sunday at the University's Alumni Healthful Living Center.

Community Celebrates Inaugural Hooding Ceremony

The College of Pharmacy inaugural Hooding Ceremony was held on Saturday evening when the members of the Class of 2015 celebrated their achievements with their peers, family, faculty, and staff. The evening was a fun event with awards presented to members of the Class of 2015, faculty awards, and learner addresses.





Countdown to Commencement

George Abdallah PharmD'15, valedictorian, addressed the class and thanked the faculty and staff of the College of Pharmacy. "Their spirited efforts have enriched our learning experiences and allowed us learners to fulfill many of our personal and professional goals."

During the ceremony the students took the Pharmacist Pledge of Professionalism.

The evening was highlighted by early sup-

porter of the College of Pharmacy keynote speaker, Mark A. Wagner G'93, president of Business Operations for Walgreens. The College of Pharmacy has established a practice residency program with Walgreens.

"When Dean Robinson first came to me, he had this vision, strategy, passion, and energy," said Wagner. "I thought 'this guy is really going to take this idea somewhere.' It's been a wonderful ride ever since."



- **FEBRUARY 2008** University hires founding dean of the College of Pharmacy Dr. Evan Robinson.
- **JULY 2009** Dr. Robinson begins assembling his administrative team.
- **AUGUST 2009** Plans are drawn for the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy.
- **SEPTEMBER 2009** Construction begins.
- **JULY 2010** Recruitment of faculty begins.
- **DECEMBER 2010** Ribbon cutting ceremony opens Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy.
- **AUGUST 2011** Members of the first class arrive.
- **OCTOBER 2011** Inaugural White Coat Ceremony is held.
- **MAY 2011** College hosts first Continuing Pharmacy Education and Preceptor Development Conference.
- **SPRING 2012** Learners start introductory experiential rotations.
- **MARCH 2013** *Make Your Mark* video earns Best Film in PharmFlix contest.
- **MAY 2014** Learners start advanced experiential rotations.
- **MAY 2015** First Class graduates from the PharmD program.
- **JULY 2015** Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) grants full accreditation status to the Western New England University College of Pharmacy.

Wagner spoke about the growing opportunities in the changing industry and the greater role pharmacists are playing in preventative medicine through the now common practices such as administering flu shots. He encouraged them to play an active role in shaping the future of the field.

Erica Wegrzyn PharmD'15 talked about the opportunities for the students to develop a sense of community, from feeling alone when she first arrived to forming a "Wolf Pack" of shared bonds of camaraderie. She thanked Dean Robinson for his attention to each class member. "He has taken the time to invest in us personally and professionally and worked tirelessly make sure that our

program is at the forefront of pharmacy academia. Thank you, Dean Robinson for being our 'leader of the pack.'"

A Heartfelt Thanks to the Inaugural Class

At the Commencement ceremony on Sunday, Dean Evan Robinson told the inaugural class: "Over the past four years, you've shared your hearts with us, your inner compass. You've allowed us to experience your passion, drive, and professionalism. You've allowed us to be a part of its development, and for that you have our heartfelt thanks."

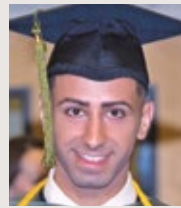
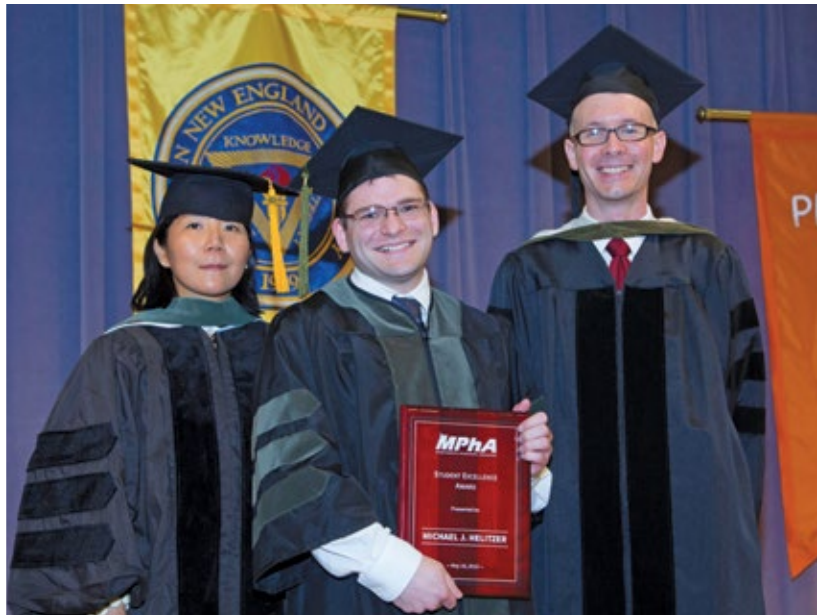
"As you go forward, remember who you are, why you chose this profession, and how you will matter to the patients you touch and to the people in your lives. They will look to and be guided by that compass. It has done you proud to this point; it has done us very proud as well."

Dean Evan T. Robinson

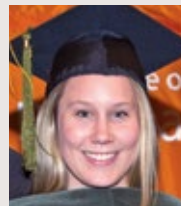


The Founding Class of the College of Pharmacy: **Where are they headed?**

Pharmacy graduates have a wide range of opportunities in their profession. Graduates will sit for the NAPLEX Exam to gain licensure. Here is a sampling of where some of the class members are headed:



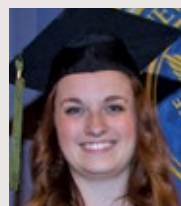
George Abdallah
Valedictorian, residency at
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



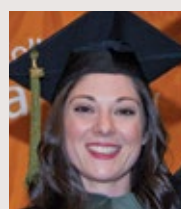
Andrea Bastiaanse
Salutatorian, residency at
St. Francis Hospital



Robert Ferrante
CVS Pharmacy



Christine Galinski
Genoa Healthcare
(Behavioral Health)



Amanda Hubeny
Rite Aid Pharmacy



Quoc Chau
Walgreens Pharmacy



Briana Santaniello
(PharmD/MBA),
Residency at UMass
Medical School
(Managed Care)

In a Class of Her Own



Jennie Marshall PharmD'15 Embarks on a Career After Breaking New Ground at the University



Jennie Marshall PharmD '15 has garnered a variety of notable “firsts” since starting in the Pre-pharmacy program at Western New England University. She is among the first class to graduate from the College of Pharmacy, and is also the first of three students (all of whom are women) to complete the combined PharmD/MBA program this year.

Jennie says her experience in the undergraduate Pre-pharmacy program helped her form a support system early on, and also made for a smooth transition to the Pharmacy program.

“Forming close relationships with my classmates who were also in my program helped carry me through my studies, serving as both personal and professional resources,” she explained. “The communication and collaboration between the College of Pharmacy and the College



of Arts and Sciences is structured to best meet the students' needs and assure they are ready for the challenges ahead."

Not only was Jennie ready for the challenges that Pharmacy school and earning an MBA from the College of Business would bring, she met them head-on. While pursuing both degrees at once was rigorous, the flexibility of the blended-format MBA program helped Jennie fit both areas of study into her schedule. The perspective Jennie gained from the MBA program influenced her view of the pharmacy industry as a whole.

"While I may never be involved in the marketing or finance department of a big corporation, I am better equipped to understand and make changes in the way that these areas influence pharmacy," she said. "Pharmacoeconomics considers the costs and consequences that drug therapy has on the healthcare system and society as a whole. I think that we all, as healthcare providers, have a role and duty to make sure we do our part to make educated, outcome-driven, and financially smart decisions."

Now that Jennie has completed her formal studies, she is moving on to new challenges. Her career goals are to work at a community hospital as a clinical pharmacy specialist, and down the road, eventually

take on a more administrative role within an acute care pharmacy practice model.

Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY-1) Pharmacy Practice Residencies are extremely competitive with over 5,300 students applying this year alone. Only 2,800 individuals were offered a residency, with only 1,600 of them matching with their top choice program. Jennie was one of those 1,600 who was accepted into her first choice at John Dempsey Hospital at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT.

"Essentially, it's a much more advanced level of training and practice while being an autonomous and licensed pharmacist gaining more experience in the field," Jennie said of the PGY-1 experience.

If earning dual degrees didn't keep her busy enough, Jennie was involved on campus as a Pharmacy Peer Advisor and Tutor, Vice President of the Dance Team, and Secretary of the Alpha Zeta Omega Professional Pharmaceutical Fraternity, among many others.

Her advice to incoming students is to make the most of the experience, as challenging as it may be, and keep the end goal in mind.

'It's all worth it. Be sure to get involved in many of the student organizations the University and College of Pharmacy offer. This involvement is so important in order to gain experience, and develop leadership skills that are essential for professional and personal development.'

Jennie Marshall PharmD'15

Measures of Student Achievement

During the 2014-2015 academic year, College of Pharmacy learners were recognized regionally and nationally for the following accomplishments:



Victoryn Williams (Class of 2016) and **Alissa Scalise** (Class of 2016), pictured center with faculty partners **Dr. Eric Nemece** and **Dr. Kim Tanzer**, were named Walmart Scholars, a nationwide scholarship award for students who have demonstrated a strong interest in enhancing their preparation for a career in academic pharmacy, and they represented the College of Pharmacy at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in July 2015.



Kaylee Maynard (Class of 2017) was selected by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores to represent Massachusetts at the RxIMPACT Day event on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC in March 2015.



Desirae Daniels (Class of 2017), **Sarah Stevens** (Class of 2017) and faculty member **Dr. Shabnam Sani** were honored with a poster presentation competition award at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference in April 2015 in Buffalo, NY for their research titled "Statistical Design for Formulation Optimization of Methotrexate Micelles as Pharmaceutical Nanocarriers for Tumor Targeting."



Andrea Bastiaanse (Class of 2015), pictured center with Dr. Yoonsun Mu and Dr. Josh Spooner, was a recipient of the Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists Student Excellence Award.



Kristy Nguyen (Class of 2017) (left), pictured with Ashley Camilo (Class of 2016), was selected to participate in a 10-week summer internship at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists headquarters in Bethesda, MD.



Nestor Otero (Class of 2017) and **Nicole Dutton** (Class of 2017), pictured with Dr. David Baker (left), were recipients of the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association Foundation Scholarship.



Jessica Barnet (Class of 2018) and **Pegah Shakeraneh** (Class of 2018), pictured with Associate Director of Advancement Events Kristina Oleksak, were recipients of the Skookum Award of Excellence, given to University students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, cocurricular activities, athletics, volunteer work, and community service.



The College of Pharmacy chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, under the supervision of faculty advisor **Dr. David Baker** and student director **Tim Pchelka** (Class of 2016), were finalists for the "Best Video" award in the PharmFlix video contest, the theme of which was for 2014: "Voice Your Value."

Learner Organizations



Pharmacy Student Governance Association (PSGA)

PSGA, the overarching student governing group, oversees and coordinates other learner organizations and serves as a liaison between learners, faculty, and the administration. In the summer of 2015, the PSGA oversaw the third annual College of Pharmacy golf tournament. In addition, more than 75 learners participated in the PSGA “Day of Service” activities at locations that included Forest Park, TJ O’Connor Animal Shelter, the Open Pantry of Springfield, and the Grayson House. Members also organized a night at the Springfield Falcons and coordinated the first ever Rape Aggression Defense program with over 30 PSGA members in attendance.



American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)

The ASP chapter provides opportunities for professional growth, to improve patient care and to envision and advance the future of pharmacy. This includes patient-oriented care programs such as Operation Heart, Operation Diabetes, Operation Immunization, and other chapter-created education events. Chapter members attended the Midyear Regional Meeting, held in Albany, NY. The PharmFlix Committee’s “Voice Your Value” video placed in the top 10 for Best Picture for the 2015 Pharmflix video contest. Eight members of APhA-ASP organization attended the APhA 2015 Annual Meeting and Exposition held in San Diego with one member participating in the annual Patient Counseling Competition.

Alpha Zeta Omega (AZO) Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Delta Tau Chapter

The Delta Tau chapter focused on fundraising and performing community services that included a fraternity-wide potluck, Yankee Candle fundraiser, Out of the Darkness campaign walk, Halloween activities, and Easter Egg Hunt. Members held their annual “Dead Man’s Walk” on campus in which prospective members were led across campus to different trivia and historical challenges related to AZO.

American Society for Health-System Pharmacists/Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP/SSHP)

ASHP/SSHP, open to learners interested in working in hospitals and health-systems settings, offers opportunities for advocacy, continuing education, drug information, national meetings and conferences, professional policies and practice standards, publishing opportunities, and residency options. Some recent activities included the Senior Spectacular where members performed blood pressure screenings and education for older adults in the community; a Clinical Skills Competition; and hosting mock interview sessions. In November, the chapter hosted a panel of hospital pharmacists to answer learner questions regarding career paths and current job placement. Finally, a major project last year for SSHP was bringing together all the learner organizations for the Pharmacy Student Organization Collaborative Health Fair held in April.

NEW CHARTER: American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Student Association (AIHPSA) – Alpha Chapter

The AIHPSA is the first recognized student organization of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy. The primary aim is the documentation and preservation of pharmacy’s heritage, which include the



following activities; community service, fundraising, pharmacy history outings, pharmacy filmography, and collecting pharmacy antiques. Several chapter members have been engaged in interviewing and recording senior pharmacists' reminiscences of their education and practice in decades past as part of the Voices of Pharmacy Past Project. The Chapter will be finalizing plans for a Mystic Village outing as well as the mortar and pestle replica fundraiser. Four members of the chapter had a Pharmacy History outing at the Agawam Main Street flea market in which learners browsed to find pharmacy-related artifacts.

Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)

The SNPhA chapter encourages learners to be voices for change and activism and serve as advocates for increased health awareness in underserved communities. The chapter encouraged the College of Pharmacy community to wear green in support of World Kidney Day on March 12, 2015. SNPhA participated in the National Diabetes Fair in Manchester, CT at which shoppers were counseled on diabetes and hypertension with additional topics, including blood sugar regulation, blood pressure screening, and risk evaluation. Nearly 50 blood pressure screenings were performed, and many more patients were counseled. Finally, SNPhA held an Expo for the Homeless at the Friends of the Homeless shelter in Springfield to educate the home lesson topics, including mental health, sleep disorders, suicide awareness, medication information, diabetes, immunization, and nutrition.



NEW CHARTER: Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) – Beta Beta Chapter

LKS was chartered in February 2015 as an international professional pharmacy fraternity with a mission to provide lifelong opportunities for women in pharmacy through professional excellence and personal growth. The Chapter attended the LKS Convention in St. Louis this summer.



NEW CHARTER: Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) – Delta Rho Chapter

PLS is known as the national Pharmacy Leadership Society. A need to recognize and foster pharmacy leadership at the College of Pharmacy was identified and led to the creation of a local chapter. In October 2014 the Western New England University College of Pharmacy chapter was designated as the Delta Rho chapter of PLS. In the spring of 2015 the Delta Rho chapter inducted its inaugural members.

Phi Delta Chi (PDC) – Gamma Tau Chapter

The PDC chapter within the College of Pharmacy is committed to raising funds and increasing awareness for worthy causes, such as a blood pressure screening at Holyoke Medical Center and planning Generation Rx, a program that discusses prescription drug use for various groups. PDC brothers attended Gatlinburg, an ever-growing retreat in Tennessee. The pinning ceremony held on January 13 welcomed 12 new pledges who ran to be brothers for life. With plans of continued membership growth, service, and professional events, the fraternity looks to have another thriving and successful year.

Preceptor

Debra Anderson Prepares Students to Succeed

"I am very passionate about sharing knowledge and helping my students succeed," says Debra Anderson, PharmD. Debra is among the many talented preceptors the College of Pharmacy draws on for Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) rotations for students. The rotations are part of the Experiential Education Program, which is designed to enhance students' attitudes, skills, and knowledge and involve on-site practice experiences in community and health system settings, including interactions with healthcare consumers and pharmacists.

Debra supervised students from Western New England University College of Pharmacy in her role as Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge, MA (she has recently accepted a position as a clinical pharmacist at Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, VA).

"I am very passionate about sharing knowledge and helping my students succeed."

"I decided to become a preceptor as I have always loved teaching others. I also wanted to ensure that students who would soon be-

come my peers were trained so that if I had to work the bench with them or they were taking care of my family, that I would trust them to do so," says Debra who established the pharmacy student program at Harrington Memorial Hospital. "I can say the pharmacy students from Western New England University kept me on my toes and helped push me to be a better preceptor and pharmacist."

Debra says Western New England University students had something that cannot be taught. "They were passionate about the career they chose. Their drive to learn and succeed, coupled with the knowledge base that the school helped provide, made for a smoother transition from the classroom to the real world," she says. "By the end of the six-week advanced rotation, the students had fully integrated themselves within the team and understood what would be required to be a clinical pharmacist in a community hospital."

Debra says her students worked alongside her, actively participating in patient care from the very beginning. After a crash course in system training, they were responsible for completing daily reports including automatic renal dosing, aminoglycoside/vancomycin dosing, congestive heart failure contraindications and therapy optimization, anticoagulant management, antibiotic selection and the documentation of all the interventions they made. In addition to these tasks, they

provided transition of care services such as medication reconciliation on intake and patient discharge counseling prior to leaving the hospital. "Students need to have a desire to learn for themselves, so instead of giving them the answers, students were made to look up the information on their own," she notes.

"My students brought up formulary substitution ideas, worked on staff education including journal clubs, and completed pharmacoeconomic studies and drug consults," Debra says. "If there were projects I needed to complete for Pharmacy and Therapeutics or the Antibiotic Stewardship committee, I would try to involve them as much as possible given all of the other tasks they had to complete."

Debra says Western New England's APPE rotations provide important real life experience for students which better prepare them for whatever they pursue post-graduation. "I gave them the experience of working in a small community hospital," she says.

Upon Debra's recommendation one of her students and Western New England Univer-



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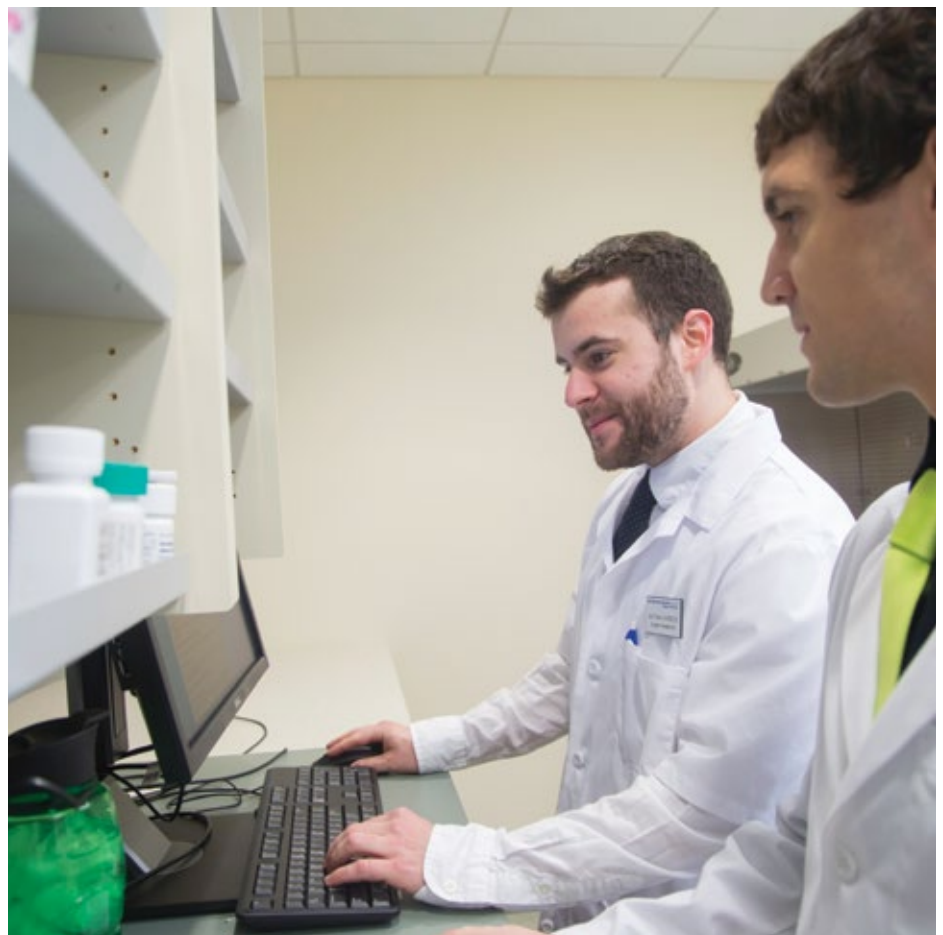
Debra Anderson

sity graduate Patricia Horosz PharmD’15 was hired to continue the education of pharmacy students rotating through Harrington Memorial Hospital. Another Western New England graduate, Kristie Blanchette PharmD’15 was also hired per diem for the hospital. “I am proud that Western New England University students of mine will continue to work on a program that I built from the ground up,” Debra says.

Debra obtained her PharmD from the accelerated program at MCPHS-Worcester after obtaining her bachelors in Biology from Clark University. She is certified in Anticoagulant Therapy Management and Antimicrobial Stewardship. She is working toward her BCPS in Pharmacotherapy.

She says she has wanted to work in the healthcare field ever since she was young. “I realized that pharmacy would be a better fit for me than medical school during my junior year in college. As I progressed through my program, I realized that pharmacists were being integrated in the healthcare team more than they had in the past. I knew that I could make a difference in patient’s lives even behind the scenes. I could prevent kidney failure and optimize therapy simultaneously by renal dose adjusting and monitoring more than what had previously been done. I am passionate about patient safety and care,” says Debra.

“While a knowledge base is a key element to a pharmacist’s education, professionalism is above all the most important,” she says. “The Deans and staff of Western New England University know that the field of pharmacy is growing at a rapid rate. Ensuring that the students are positive reflections of the school as well as the profession is a top priority throughout the program.”



Learning By Doing:

Student Engagement in the Community

Interprofessional Education (IPE)

Bay Path University, Springfield Technical Community College, and Western New England University joined forces to hold an inaugural Interprofessional Education Simulation Program. This two-day program included nearly 200 students, faculty, and staff from Bay Path's Physician Assistant program, Springfield Technical Community College's Nursing program, and the Western New England University College of Pharmacy program. The goal of this program was to clarify health profession roles, develop communication skills, and learn about collaboratively delivering patient-centered care. The first part included an orientation held on March 23 on the Western New England campus, at which all students worked in teams to learn about each other's profession and collaborate on a patient care case. On April 2, interprofessional teams worked together in a simulated experience to provide optimum patient care. Students were shuttled to STCC's SIMS Medical Center where teams worked in a simulated hospital environment using high-fidelity human simulators. Shuttled teams also worked at the College of Pharmacy in an ambulatory care environment using the Community Care Clinic and patient actors. The program was very successful and allowed students to feel equally valued as well as understanding each other's roles in delivering patient care.

Signing of House Bill 4235

Evan Robinson, dean, Western New England University College of Pharmacy, gathered for a photo with Jack Reynolds, dean, Northeastern University School of Pharmacy, and Governor Deval Patrick (center) shortly after the signing of House Bill 4235, *An Act Relative to Pharmacy Practice in the Commonwealth* on Thursday, July 10, 2014.



College of Pharmacy Students Compete to Raise Awareness of Medication Adherence

Nine learners from Western New England University College of Pharmacy teamed up with 11 students from Elms College School of Nursing to compete in the national *Script Your Future* campaign to raise awareness in the greater Springfield area about the importance of taking medication as prescribed.

Developed by the National Consumers League (NCL), the *Script Your Future* campaign educates consumers, family caregivers, and health care professionals about the importance of taking medications as directed. This is a vital first step toward better health outcomes.

In the United States, nearly three out of four patients do not take their medication as directed. The three-year *Script Your Future* campaign focuses on patients affected by three serious chronic conditions—diabetes, respiratory disease, and cardiovascular disease. *Script Your Future* provides practical tools that help patients and healthcare professionals better communicate about ways to improve medication adherence.

In addition to promoting adherence, the nursing and pharmacy students were excited to advance the idea of our two professions working as one team.

The Medication Adherence Team Challenge 2015 was a two month-long outreach project to engage interdisciplinary student teams from pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and other health professions to tackle the problem of poor adherence. At the end of the Challenge, select schools or colleges were recognized nationally for their efforts. While Western New England was not one of the Team Challenge Winners, the team was acknowledged with an honorable mention and as a finalist. Participants included: Dr. Beth Welch, faculty advisor, and learners Ryan Bettencourt, Nicole DaSilva, Victoria Kleszczynski, Christopher Krupa, Gabrielle Lezaja, Stacy Longo, Kristy Nguyen, Uyen Nguyen, and Alissa Scalise.



Tar Wars

Western New England University College of Pharmacy learners visited fifth grade classrooms at Wolf Swamp, Blueberry, and Center Elementary schools in Longmeadow, MA, on March 20, 26, and 27 to present the Tar Wars program; a tobacco-free education program for elementary school students. The program is designed to teach elementary school children about the consequences of tobacco use, the cost associated with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market their products to youth. Christina Andros, president of the College of Pharmacy Chapter of the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists, along with select members of the organization worked to prepare this presentation.



Learners participating: Christina Andros, Ashley Camillo, Quoc Chau, McKenzie Custer, Samantha DeBiasio, Robby Ferrante, Steve Fiedler, Andrew Jung, Greg Lewis, Erika Prouty, Jeremy Schongar, Sagar Shah, Sarah Stevens

Faculty advisors: Dr. Jared Ostroff and Dr. Marissa Wolff



Dr. Ronny Priefer A Passion for Chemistry

Leads to Breakthrough Thinking in Patient Care



Invasive, painful, sometimes inaccurate, the finger-prick technology used by millions of diabetes patients each day, leaves a lot to be desired. Dr. Ronny Priefer thinks these patients deserve a better solution. And, he just may have found it.

Dr. Priefer, professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Western New England University's College of Pharmacy, is credited with developing a new branch within the realm of multilayering technology that has led to the patenting of a novel breathalyzer for use in diabetes blood sugar monitoring. The device has the potential to help the 18 million Americans afflicted with this long-term condition.

Professor Priefer says the idea of a breathalyzer came to him during a conversation with a colleague about the reluctance of some people with diabetes to perform the painful finger prick to test blood glucose levels (BGL). It has been reported that for diabetic individuals, adherence levels are in the 20-66 percent range and thus are the largest cause of diabetic complications. After that conversation, Dr. Priefer spent time researching less invasive ways to test BGL.

He focused on breathalyzers, but found that when they had been tried, what was used to measure breath acetone reacted to the humidity in a person's breath and corrupted the readings. Dr. Priefer had been working with nanotechnology for the past few years and was able to draw on that experience to create polymers that actually incorporate the humidity of breath to help the film to read acetone.

“Breathalyzers are a growing field of study because of their potential to have a significant positive impact on patients’ quality of life and compliance with diabetes monitoring.”

Dr. Ronny Priefer

Dr. Priefer and Dr. Michael Rust, along with his students from the College of Engineering are developing a device that will accurately detect breath acetone and which



will mimic the current size and footprint of the common personal alcohol breathalyzer. “Breathalyzers are a growing field of study because of their potential to have a significant positive impact on patients’ quality of life and compliance with diabetes monitoring,” says Professor Priefer. “Several tests still need to be completed to verify the design output of the device and demonstrate that the customer’s needs have been met,” he says. “We have done some clinical studies with Dr. Kam Capoccia, clinical associate professor of community care and director of the Big Y Consultation and Wellness Center, which have provided encouraging results.”

Professor Priefer’s passion for chemistry goes back to his undergraduate days when he received his B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Northern British Columbia. He

went on to earn his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from McGill University of Montreal. Professor Priefer obtained the prestigious Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada’s industrial post-doctoral fellowship award, one of only a handful awarded nationwide each year. This provided him the opportunity to work at Neurochem Inc. on small molecule drug research for Alzheimer’s and epilepsy. In 2005, he took a position as Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry at Niagara University, becoming an Associate Professor in 2008, and a full professor and the Chair of the Department in 2012. It was then that he came to Western New England University College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Priefer says the education students get in medicinal chemistry at the College of Pharmacy is unique. “What a student learns from taking medicinal chemistry is the deeper understanding of the *why*,” he says. “Pharmacists are not drones that count out pills. They are knowledgeable on how a drug works, its side-effects, and how it falls apart in and out of the body. All of these can only be answered if you look at the structure of the drug.” Professor Priefer says that at Western New England’s College of Pharmacy there is a whole semester dedicated to medicinal chemistry in addition to the discussions on disease states. “Our students are stronger in their deeper understanding of the drug than those who do not have that course layout.”

Professor Priefer has successfully obtained funding from the American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Fund, American Society of Quality, Rochester Academy of Science, Barbara S. Zimmer Memorial Fund, and the New York State Great Lakes Protection Fund, in addition to a number of industrial arrangements. He has published 37 peer-reviewed manuscripts, a book chapter, and filed one full utility patent. He has received seven

teaching and scholarship awards throughout his academic career. He is the current chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee at the College of Pharmacy and most recently was on the team that established the University Senate and was elected as its inaugural chair.

He has a particular interest in cross-disciplinary research. “It is impossible to be an expert in everything. Research would slow to a crawl and new and better ideas would not arise if we all worked on islands,” he says. “Within the College of Pharmacy there are many outstanding researchers, whether in the fundamental sciences, clinic, scholarship of teaching, or administrative sciences. Likewise, across campus, whether in Arts and Sciences, Law, Business, or Engineering there are fabulous faculty doing novel work. I have personally been fortunate to find collaborators within my College, but also within the College of Engineering. They have a fantastic undergraduate research program under Dean Cheraghi that encourages cross-discipline research. The cross-discipline research mindset has been embraced by Dean Robinson from the very inception of the College of Pharmacy. Students at all education levels here at Western New England can find research opportunities that suit their personal ambitions. In a global market where competition for jobs has become more difficult; having a research edge on a resume is a great benefit for our graduates.”



Faculty Accomplishments

Research and Publications



Diptiman Bose, assistant professor of pharmacology, published, with C. Zhang and D. Thomas, "Paradoxical Effects of Sarco/Endoplasmic Reticulum Ca²⁺-ATPase (SERCA) Activator Gingerol on NG115-401L Neuronal Cells: Failure to Augment ER Ca²⁺ Uptake and Protect against ER Stress-induced Cell Death" in *European Journal of Pharmacology* (May 2015: 762, pp. 165-173).



Courtney Doyle-Campbell, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, with **K. Dillon, J. Seacat**, and C. Saucier, published "Could Blood Pressure Phobia Go Beyond the White Coat Effect?" in *Am J Hypertens* (April 2015: pii, hpv040).



Seth Housman, clinical assistant professor of acute care, with C. Sutherland and D. Nicolau, published "Pharmacodynamic Profile of Commonly Utilized Parenteral Therapies Against Methicillin-susceptible and Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* Collected from US Hospitals" in *Int J Antimicrob Agents* (Sept. 2014: 44, 3: pp. 235-41).



Daniel Kennedy, assistant professor of pharmacology, published the following:

With T. Beerman, L. Gawron, and B. Shen B, "The Radiomimetic Eneidyne, 20'-deschloro-C-1027 Induces Interstrand DNA Crosslinks in Hypoxic Cells and Overcomes Cytotoxic Radioresistance" in *DNA Repair* (Amst. Sept. 2014: 21, pp. 165-70).

With Pharmacy students **C. Andros** and **K. Mitchell**, Bio major **R. Dubay '15**, A. Chen, and D. Holmes, "A Novel Application of Radiomimetic Compounds as Antibiotic Drugs. *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* (Epub: Apr 2015 DOI: 10.1111/jphp.12432).



Shamima Khan, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, published "Medicare Part D: Pharmacists and Formularies—Whose Job is it to Address Copays?" in *The Consultant Pharmacist* (Sept. 2014: 29, 9: pp. 602-13) and "What Can Pharmacists Do About the Medicare Part D Donut Hole and Reimbursement? A Six-State Survey" in *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research* (June 2015: 27, 3: pp. 373-81).



Shannon Kinney, assistant professor of pharmacology, with M. Langecker, A. Ivankin, S. Carson, F. C. Simmel, and M. Wanunu, published "Nanopores Suggest a Negligible Influence of CpG Methylation on Nucleosome Packaging and Stability" in *Nano Lett.* (2015: 15, 1: pp. 783-90).



Clinton Mathias, assistant professor of pharmacology, published "Natural Killer Cells in the Development of Asthma" in *Current Allergy Asthma Reports* (2015: 15, 2: 500: pp. 1-8).



Melissa Mattison, clinical assistant professor of community care, and **Eric Nemeč**, clinical assistant professor of informatics, authored "Lifestyle Medicine: The Impact of an Immersive Elective" in *Am J Pharm Educ* (2014: 78, 8: Article 154). She and Eric also published "An Active Learning Approach to Complementary and Alternative Medicine in a Self-Care Therapeutics Class" in *Am J Pharm Educ* (2014: 78, 7: Article 141).



Yoonsun Mo, clinical assistant professor of acute care, published the following:

With F. K. Yam, "Recent Advances in the Development of Specific Antidotes for Target-specific oral Anticoagulants" in *Pharmacotherapy* (2015: 35, 2: pp. 198-207).

With F. K. Yam, "Rational Use of Second-Generation Antipsychotics for the Treatment of ICU Delirium: A Neuropharmacological Approach" in *J Pharm Pract* (Epub June 2015: pii:0897190015585763).

With C. Scheer and Pharmacy student **G. Abdallah**, "Emerging Role of Melatonin and Melatonin Receptor Agonist in Sleep and Delirium in Intensive Care Unit Patients" in *Journal Intensive Care Med* 2015 (Epub June 2015: pii: 0885066615592348).



Ronny Priefer, professor of medicinal chemistry, authored an article titled "Chemical Shift and Coupling Constant Analysis of Dibenzoyloxy Disulfides" with E. G. Stoutenburg, G. Gryn'ova, and M. L. Coote for *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy* (2015: 136, pp. 1924-1931). He also published, with K. F. Biegasiewicz, J. S. Gordon IV, and D.A. Rodriguez, "Development of a General Approach to the Synthesis of a Library of Isoflavonoid Derivatives" in *Tetrahedron Letters* (2014: 55, pp. 5210-5212).



Evan Robinson, dean and professor, published with **N. Shcherbakova** and L. Backer "Assessment of Pharmacy Manpower and Services in New England in *Journal of Pharmacy Practice* (Epub May 2015: DOI: 10.1177/0897190015579449).



Shabnam Sani, assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, with Kim J. Microdialysis, published "A Real-Time Sampling Technique for More Effective Pharmacokinetic-Pharmacodynamic Studies in Drug Research and Development" in *J Clin Pharm* (2014: 1, 1: pp. 1003).



Natalia Shcherbakova, assistant professor of pharmacoeconomics, with K. Rascati, C. Brown, K. Lawson, E. Richards, S. Novak, and L. Yoder, published "Factors Associated with Seizure Recurrence in Epilepsy Patients Treated with Antiepileptic Monotherapy" in *CNS Drugs* (2014: 28, 11: pp. 1047-1058).



Rodney Siwale assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, with R. Addo, K. Yeboah, A. Siddig, J. Akande, A. Jones, R. Ubale, J. Akande, H. Netey, N. Patel, E. Addo, and M. D'Souza published "Formulation and Characterization of Atropine Sulfate in Albumin-chitosan Micro-particles for In Vivo Ocular Delivery" in *J Pharm Sci* (May 2015: 104, 5: pp. 1677-90).



Joshua Spooner, assistant dean for student affairs and associate professor of pharmacy practice, along with **Daniel Kennedy**, assistant professor of pharmacology, and pharmacy students **Christine Galinski '15** and **Patricia Horosz '15**, authored an article titled "Comparison of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences Among U.S. Pharmacy Programs" for *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2014: 78, 9: Art 162).



Shusen Sun, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, published the following:

With **Z. Zhao**, *Acute Overdose and Management*, 1st ed. 2015: Beijing: People's Medical Publishing House Co. LTD; 2015.

With **Eric Nemeč**, clinical assistant professor of informatics, B. Joyce, and E. Tessier, "Implementing a Learner-Centered Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Model at a Community Hospital" in *Curr Pharm Teach Learn* (2015: 7:2: pp. 231-238).

With **X. Ma** and **Z. Zhao**, Updates of New Molecular Entities Approved by FDA in 2014 Gastrointestinal, Neurological, Psoriasis, Rare Diseases and Imaging Agent" in *Drug Evaluation* (2015: 12, 6: pp. 6-12).

With **R. Han** and **Z. Zhao**, "Updates of New Molecular Entities Approved by FDA in 2014 Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Diabetic Drugs" in *Drug Evaluation* (2015: 12, 4: pp. 5-10).

With **M. Guo, Z. Zhao**, and **X. Li**, "The Comparison Between Novel Oral Anticoagulants and Warfarin in Clinical Application" in *Drug Evaluation* (2015: 12, 4: pp. 24-7).

With **R. Han** and **Z. Zhao**, "Updates of new molecular entities approved by FDA in 2014: Anti-infective Agents" in *Drug Evaluation* (2015: 12, 2: pp. 8-14).

With **Y. Si** and **Z. Zhao**, "Introduction to the U.S. Expert Guidelines for Stocking of Antidotes in Hospitals" in *Drug Evaluation* (2014: 11, 22: 11-13).

With **H. Xi, X. Ma,** and **Z. Zhao,** "Introduction to the Board of Pharmacy Specialty Certification Program in the United States and its Revelation for China" in *Drug Evaluation* (2014: 11, 20: 8-12).



Michael Thomas, vice chair of Pharmacy Practice and clinical associate professor, published the following:

"Health Maintenance/Public Health I" In Bainbridge JL, Branham A, Coyle EA, et al Updates in *Therapeutics: The Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course*, 2015 ed. Lenexa, KS: American College of Clinical Pharmacy (2015: 2-673-2-705).

With L Macias-Moriarity, J. Fetterman, and G. Stajich, "Residency Program Director's Perception of PGY-1 Applicants: Results of the National 35 ½ Second Survey" in *Curr Phar Teach Learn* (2015: 7, pp. 465-9).

With **S. Sun,** "Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences for Pharmacy Students in Emergency Department Settings" in *Curr Phar Teach Learn* (2015: 7, pp. 378-81).

With J. Shewmaker, and M. Musselman, "Droperidol for the Treatment of Acute Migraine Headaches" in *Ann Pharmacother* (2015: 49, pp. 223-40).



Marissa Wolff, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, published, with J. Cruz, A. Vanderman, and J. Brown, "The Emerging Role of Tacrolimus in Myasthenia Gravis" in *Ther Adv in Neurol Dis.* (Mar 2015: 2, pp. 92-103).

Grants: Proposals and External Funding



David Baker, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, Walgreens Diversity Outreach and Inclusion Initiatives Donation, reviewed and decided by Student Affairs Committee of Western New England University College of Pharmacy. **\$3,000.**



Izabela Collier, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, and A. Abbott, Diabetes Management Team of Excellence in Primary Care Innovation Grant. VA, **\$1,500.**

Shannon Kinney, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Altered DNA Hydroxymethylation in a Mouse Model of Prostate Cancer," AACP New Investigator Award. **\$10,000.**

Clinton Mathias, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Inhibitory Effects of Curcumin on Th2 Sensitization and Mast Cell Function in a Mouse Model of Food Allergy," NIH NIAID **\$250,000.**

Ronny Priefer, professor of medicinal chemistry, "ACS-PRF Synthesis and Multilayering of Poly(4-vinylphenol) Derivatives for Future Applications as Proton Exchange Membranes in Fuel Cells Renewal." **\$21,666.** And TA Instruments: Academic Matching Grant. Thermogravimetric Analysis Collaborative Research. **\$29,685.**



Jilla Sabeti, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Molecular Mechanisms of Alcohol Action in the Adolescent Brain," NIH-NIAAA. **\$51,488.**

Shabnam Sani, assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, (PI), H. Bakhteyar (Co-investigator), "Release of Liothyronine Sodium (T3) from Compounded Slow-release Capsules: The Effect of Formulation Parameters on the Release Kinetics, Freedom Pharmaceuticals Inc.," May 2015, **\$20,000.** And (PI), Funded to run the workshop "What about 'Cosmeceuticals?' Alchemy of Natural Beauty: How to Make Your Own Organic Cleansers, Creams, Sunscreens, Lip Balms Shampoos, Serums, and More." Walgreens Discretionary Funds to Enhance the Curriculum, February 2015. **\$1,500.**

Shusen Sun, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, and **Diptiman Bose**, assistant professor of pharmacology, Prescription Drug Overdose and Antidote Update 2015 Pharmacy Continuing Education Conference. BTG International Inc. **\$13,500.00.**

Grants/Proposals and Internal Funding

Diptiman Bose, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Role of Store Operated Calcium Entry Sensor STIM1 in 6-Hydroxydopamine Induced Neurotoxicity," Western New England University College of Pharmacy Bridge Grant. **\$5,000.**

Daniel Kennedy, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Developing the First Small Molecule Inhibitors of the Thiol Isomerase ERp57," Western New England University College of Pharmacy Bridge Grant. **\$5,000.** And **A. Camilo,** and **A. Scalise,** The 2nd Annual College of Pharmacy Day of Service. Western New England University Alumni Association. **\$750.**

Shannon Kinney, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Identification of Methylated Tumor/Metastasis Suppressor Genes in Prostate Cancer," Western New England University College of Pharmacy Bridge Grant. **\$5,000.**

Yoonsun Mo, clinical assistant professor of acute care, **Anthony Zimmermann**, chair and professor of pharmacy practice, and **Michael Thomas**, vice chair and clinical associate professor, "Practice Patterns and Opinions on Current Clinical Practice Guidelines Regarding the Management of Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit," Western New England University College of Pharmacy Internal Grant, **\$2,800.**



Eric Nemeč, clinical assistant professor of informatics, "Generation Rx" Western New England University Alumni Grant, **\$500.**

Shabnam Sani, assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, (PI) "Statistical Design for Formulation Optimization of Methotrexate Mixed Micelles made of Polyethylene Glycol/Phosphatidylethanolamine Conjugates and D- α -tocopheryl Polyethylene Glycol 1000 Succinate as Pharmaceutical Nanocarriers for Tumor Targeting," Western New England University College of Pharmacy Bridge Grant, **\$5,000.**

Michael Thomas, vice chair of pharmacy practice and clinical associate professor, N. Acquisto, M. Shirk, and A. Patanwala, "A national Survey of Emergency Pharmacy Practice. Western New England University College of Pharmacy Internal Grant, **\$1,170.** And with **Shusen Sun**, "A National Snapshot of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences for Pharmacy Students in Emergency Department Settings," Western New England University College of Pharmacy Internal Grant, **\$770.**

Other External Revenue/Resource Acquisitions

Ronny Priefer, **Shabnam Sani**, and **Rodney Siwale**, "Analysis of Pill Terminator on Morphine Sulfate Pentahydrate" provided by Combined Distributors, Inc. using HPLC, **\$1,200.**

Patents

Ronny Priefer, professor of medicinal chemistry, and **Michael Rust**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, filed a full utility patent with the United States Patent and Trademark Office titled "Breath Acetone Monitor and Method of Detecting Breath Acetone" U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 14529336 (pending) as well as a provisional European patent through the Patent Cooperation Treaty, International Application Number: PCT/US14?64029.

Community Pharmacy Focus of Big Y Residency



Western New England University College of Pharmacy Residency Program provides post-graduate training to pharmacists to become leaders within the profession, to provide direct care for the members of their community, to contribute to community pharmacy's advancements in healthcare, and to integrate practice based outcomes research in the community setting.

The College of Pharmacy has partnered with Big Y Foods, Inc. which recognizes the importance of advancing the role of the pharmacist and profession of pharmacy in community practice and is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for pharmacists that both enhance their knowledge base and promote personal growth. The Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY 1) Community Pharmacy Residency is a 12-month program that provides exposure to the various pharmacist delivered patient care experiences within community practice.

The program is offered at the Consultation and Wellness Center located at the Big Y on Cooley Street in Springfield, MA. Located adjacent to the store's pharmacy, the Center offers personalized education sessions, Blood pressure monitoring, Glucose meter training, insulin injection training, blood glucose evaluations and monitoring, pharmacist review of medication regimen, foot examinations, smoking cessation counseling, and wellness activities, along with advice on label reading and grocery tours.





Welcome College of Pharmacy Alumni!

We hope the Western New England University College of Pharmacy will always hold a special place in your heart and be considered where you started your career. As a graduate of the College of Pharmacy, you are a member of the Alumni Association and can run for the board of directors, participate in all alumni activities, and take advantage of the benefits afforded to all alumni. We invite you to explore our new website for more details on how to be involved as a volunteer and to share with us your personal milestones and professional achievements in our alumni publications.

Visit: wne.edu/pharmalum

For more information on volunteering, updating your information, or hosting an alumni or recruiting event, contact Kim Roeder at 413-782-1311 or kim.roeder@wne.edu.

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Native Medicinal Garden

Established in 2011, the Native Medicinal Garden is administered by the Department of Pharmacy Practice under the stewardship of Professor Tony Zimmermann. Bridging the past to the future, the garden promotes an understanding among students of the medicinal uses of native New England plants as it relates to the profession of pharmacy. The Garden is located between the Center for Sciences and Pharmacy and Emerson Hall. We invite everyone to come by and enjoy the garden.



For the latest news, visit: www.wne.edu/pharmacy

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