

# The Educator

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ANNUAL REPORT 2016

In our first alumni profile, Andrea Bastiaanse '15 talks about putting her faith in a promising new pharmacy program





# The Educator



## First Pharmacy Class Gives Back

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, members of the College of Pharmacy Class of 2015, the first graduating class of the College of Pharmacy, joined Dean Evan Robinson to dedicate the class gift.

The Class of 2015 donated a Golden Rain Tree that was planted adjacent to the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy building. The flowering Golden Rain Tree, also sometimes called the Pride-of-India or the China tree, is native to East Asia and widely cultivated in temperate regions for its handsome foliage and unusual seedpods.

## Message from the Dean



Greetings from Western New England University College of Pharmacy! May of 2016 saw us graduate our second class of the College of Pharmacy, the Class of 2016. Graduating two classes of alumni is exciting and how often in the history of a College can you say you doubled your alumni base! We did just that! But we are still new, still evolving, and still growing

and to that end we have much to accomplish in the years to come.

As you read about the great things we've accomplished over this past year, I wanted to draw attention to the contributions of our faculty. Some highlights from last year include 54 peer-reviewed manuscripts, eight non-peer reviewed manuscripts, 41 published abstracts, 48 poster presentations, four patents pending, and 14 external grants totaling over \$740,000. Overall it was a productive year!

As we welcome the Class of 2020 and I reflect back on the eight years I have been at Western New England University, I am reminded that no matter how far we've come, we are still on the beginning of a collective journey that has many twists, turns, and exciting opportunities ahead of us. Ralph Waldo Emerson was quoted as saying *"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

To date we have blazed a trail of collective success, a trend to continue! When you seek to blaze a trail you work towards

a point and use your compass to guide you forward. Knowing your direction and leaving a trail is good, but it is better to know what to do when obstacles or items arise to cause you to rethink your path forward all the while knowing that your end point, your final destination, remains unchanged.

To learn about our trail, and where our compass may take us. Please enjoy this issue of *The Educator* and I encourage you to visit our new website ([www.wne.edu/pharmacy](http://www.wne.edu/pharmacy)) for up-to-date information regarding our activities.

Best Regards,

*Evan T. Robinson*

Evan T. Robinson, RPh, PhD  
Dean and Professor

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## 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 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class 2020
<b>Female</b>	58%	66%	61%	63%
<b>Age Range</b>	22-43	21-33	20-36	19-39
<b>Prior Degree</b>	30%	20%	33%	18%
<b>Bilingual</b>	15%	15%	33%	24%





# Full of Promise

## Alumna Andrea Bastiaanse '15

In 2011, the College of Pharmacy was full of many things, yet mostly it was simply full of promise for great things to come. It had a plan. It had a faculty. It even had an awe-inspiring new facility. But it was lacking one important element—learners.

For many prospective students, the idea of enrolling in a new, and at that time, unaccredited program might have seemed a leap of faith, but for Andrea Bastiaanse '15 the name on the sign at the entrance to the campus was all the assurance she needed.

Andrea had great confidence in enrolling in a new program and a new pharmacy school as long as it was affiliated with Western New England University. Throughout her life, Andrea had heard many positive things about the University from her mother, Margaret (Apanell) Bastiaanse '83/G'88, who had earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the institution, and her sister,

Jessica, who was enrolled as an undergraduate. Based on their glowing recommendations, Andrea came for a visit to see for herself what made the institution different.

"When I went to the College of Pharmacy open house it was clear that the College was interested in creating a student-focused program that reflected my values and goals," she said.

Andrea, who had earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Longwood University, was attracted to the idea of being a trailblazer in a new program and the opportunity to be a part of a developing institutional culture.

"As the first class, we got the chance to develop unique relationships with the faculty and staff," she recalled. "During our first year, we were the only learners in the College of Pharmacy so we had everyone's undivided attention! Another benefit of being the first class was the chance to provide

continual feedback and input on the progress of the program."

She and her classmates also had the honor of participating in the accreditation process, which allowed her to meet pharmacy educators from across the country.

Andrea thrived in the evolving College of Pharmacy environment. She became a member of the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP). She interned for the AIDS kNOw More Project (AKMP), a student group affiliated with the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, whose mission is to motivate local youth to educate their peers in regards to HIV and AIDS.

"I was also a member of the Student Affairs Committee," she recalled. "As the Class of 2015 representative, I collaborated with fellow students and faculty to influence College of Pharmacy policy in order to facilitate an effective learning environment and

promote professionalism and leadership among my peers."

Andrea's commitment to her future profession earned her recognition beyond campus. She was a recipient of the Student Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, an award given to one student enrolled in each of the four Massachusetts pharmacy schools. She was recognized for outstanding achievement and commitment to pharmacy in a healthcare setting.

Her greatest honor on campus came at the conclusion of her education at Western New England when she graduated as salutatorian for the College of Pharmacy's founding class.

"I was proud that we had made it to graduation!" she said. "It was great to see the hard work of the faculty, staff, and my peers pay off. The class of 2015 was welcomed to Western New England during orientation by an earthquake. Our White Coat ceremony was delayed first by a hurricane and then by a Halloween snowstorm. We truly earned our beautiful spring graduation day!"

Overcoming such unusual circumstances in their journey, she takes great pride in all that she and her classmates had accomplished in their four years together.

Currently, Andrea is completing her second-year specialty residency in ambulatory care at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford and plans to become a pharmacist in that specialty. "An ambulatory care pharmacist works directly with patients to help manage a variety of disease states," she explained. "During my residency, I will have the opportunity to provide medication management and disease state education for patients in a variety of clinics, including, primary care, HIV, anticoagulation, pulmonary, and cardiology. It allows me to work directly with patients to develop a care plan that works for them."

As part of her requirements for completing an American Society of Health-System Pharmacy (ASHP) accredited residency program, Andrea must complete a major project. During her residency year, she devel-

oped and implemented a hospital policy in which pharmacists can be consulted to manage the dosing and monitoring of the anticoagulant warfarin. As a part of this project, she also completed a retrospective evaluation of provider-managed warfarin at Saint Francis. This information will be used to help evaluate pharmacist impact on warfarin management.



***"I can't speak highly enough about my faculty mentors at the College of Pharmacy. I feel that I was challenged and encouraged to succeed. I strongly believe I would not be in the position I am today without the support and guidance I received from the faculty and staff."***

Andrea Bastiaanse '15  
Resident  
Saint Francis Hospital

She has also been working with several providers throughout Saint Francis on an initiative to improve the transition of care process for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD).

Since graduation, she has taken on another new role, that of alumna of the College of Pharmacy. As with in her experience as a trailblazing learner, Andrea is eager to help define that role for herself and others.

"I have had the opportunity to work with students from other colleges of pharmacy

throughout my residency year," she said. "I hope to work with Western New England students in the future! I think learners will gain valuable insight from my fellow alumni. I particularly look forward to working with students who have precepted with my peers."

Already Andrea's classmates have begun to make an impact on their field and she has watched with pride many peers presenting at local, regional, and national conferences.

"In the past year, I had the chance to see several of my peers presenting their residency research projects via poster presentations at the ASHP Midyear in New Orleans, as well as platform presentations at the Eastern States Conference for Pharmacy Residents and Preceptors in Hershey, PA. I look forward to seeing what we all accomplish."

Inspired by her professors, Andrea also hopes to become a part of the educational process for future learners some day. "I look forward to giving back to the profession through my interactions with students, patients, and other healthcare providers."

Not only is Andrea pleased to see that the College of Pharmacy has lived up to the promise of its potential it held for prospective learners like her, she is excited about the possibilities that lay ahead for her profession.

"I hope to see pharmacists achieve provider status," she says. "This is especially important to me as a future ambulatory care pharmacist. The 2016 ASHP pharmacy forecast predicts that resources will shift towards ambulatory care due to healthcare payment reform. I am excited to use my education and specialty training to help strengthen and promote the transition towards ambulatory care."





# Engaging in the Community

Our faculty and students are actively engaged in the local and global community.

## Dr. Natalia Shcherbakova Helps High School Students Explore Careers in Pharmacy

Community engagement includes reaching out to future pharmacists.

Natalia Shcherbakova, assistant Professor of Pharmacoeconomics, visits with high school students to make presentations about careers in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. She has spoken to members of the Future Medical Careers Club at Agawam High School and most recently to an Anatomy class at Springfield Central High School last spring.

In her presentation, she showcases the various career paths available to today's pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. In addition, she helps students to explore their interests and the steps toward joining those professions, including attending Pre-pharmacy and PharmD programs.

The evolving role of the pharmacist is one reason Dr. Shcherbakova believes the field is resonating with high school students as they look toward their futures.

"It is a healthcare career that attracts many students interested in patient care outside of medicine," she said. "The profession is shifting from product-orientation (dispensing a medication) to a focus on patients (counseling, health education, medication therapy management, immunizations)."



Dr. Natalia Shcherbakova speaks with Future Medical Careers Club members at Agawam High School.

## College of Pharmacy Travels to Thailand to Explore Healthcare Challenges

Western New England University College of Pharmacy collaborated with the University of New England College of Pharmacy to send pharmacy students to Thailand. In November 2015, seven fourth-year professional students from each program participated in the annual **Thailand: Global Healthcare Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience** which is offered each fall and explores the concepts of global healthcare and contemporary health concerns in Thailand. Dr. Kim Tanzer, assistant dean for experiential affairs and director of continuing education at Western New England University, and Dr. James Krebs, assistant dean for experiential education at University of New England, led the group.

Through interactive sessions with experts in the field and experiential learning, students learn about standard healthcare challenges in this part of the world.

Topics include Thai and Chinese medicine as well as disease states prevalent in the tropics. Students traveled throughout Thailand, visiting a variety of healthcare settings, including private and urban hospitals, rural clinics, government public health facilities, research laboratories, hospices, and orphanages; all are working to improve the health of the Thai people and bordering populations.



Michael Courage meets some new friends at a temple in Chiang Mai.



Learners Michael Courage, Gabrielle Lezaja, David Tavella, Dr. Kim Tanzer, Emily Eddy, Victoria Kleszczynski, Alissa Scalise, and Sean Tan with van drivers in Thailand.



Learners David Tavella, Victoria Kleszczynski, Alissa Scalise, and Michael Courage (left to right) teach children at HIV/AIDS Orphan Care Ban Mitrathorn in the Chiang Dow district of Chiang Mai.



# Preceptor Paul Serio:

## Opening the World of Independent Pharmacies to Learners



"It's always good to give back," says Paul Serio, RPh, owner of Serio's Pharmacy in Northampton, MA. Serio's is an independent pharmacy his family has owned for close to 70 years, which serves the communities of Northampton, Florence, and Leeds. Paul is one of the dedicated preceptors the College of Pharmacy draws on to provide both Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (rotations) for students. The rotations are part of the experiential education program and involve on-site practice experiences that include interactions with health-care consumers and pharmacists.

Paul is excited to be a part of educating the next generation of pharmacists and says, in an age of so many corporate retail pharmacy opportunities, he's happy to offer something different. "I would like to see independent pharmacy continue to survive. When I came out of pharmacy school in 1987, we were one of seven independents in the town, now we are the only one left. I want to expose students to what I think is the most rewarding of the pharmacy careers," says Paul.

The curriculum at Western New England supports learners interested in independent pharmacies as a career path option with education around entrepreneurship and combined degree options in business like the MBA or the MS in Organizational Leadership.

Paul's interest with independent pharmacies began at an early age. "I grew up around the business," says Paul, whose father founded Serio's Pharmacy on December 2, 1950. "I saw how customers would come in to seek out my father's help with their medical needs. I noticed at an early age that they really depended on his knowledge, help, and most importantly his compassion for their needs. I knew at a young age that I wanted to be part of that."

Like any good business, Serio's reflects how such stores have changed to adapt to the



evolving needs of the community while maintaining the strength of what an independent pharmacy offers. "We have had it all over the years, including a 30-seat full soda and lunch counter," says Paul. "The store's main focus has always been on customer service. I think it's what separates us from the chain pharmacy. The customer is so much more than a number on the bottle to us. We have grown up together. We still have customers who are the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of my father's original customers."

Paul's father began to give him responsibilities at the store beginning when he was 10 years old. "By the time I was in high school, my responsibilities included scheduling, payroll, and overseeing front store operations. I continued to work at the store through college during all breaks and summer breaks," says Paul. He attended the University of Rhode Island for his pharmacy studies and graduated in 1987.

As a preceptor, Paul says he makes sure his learners get independent pharmacy practice experience. "Our learners do it all from

prescription input to filling both traditional bottle and blister packing. They work on medication therapy management cases, we go over pharmacy policies, both HIPPA and fraud and abuse training. We make students aware of changes to any pharmacy state laws and rules," says Paul.

Whether a learner's career path is an independent pharmacy, institutional practice, or any of the varied options, retail pharmacy, or chain, Western New England College of Pharmacy Practical Experience rotations provide important real life experience for learners which better prepare them for whatever they pursue post-graduation.





# Measures of Student Achievement

During the 2015-2016 academic year, College of Pharmacy learners were recognized regionally and nationally for the following accomplishments:



**Matthew Murphy**, (left) **Rebecca Marcinak** (center), **Erika Vuernick** (right), pictured with Drs. Shannon Kinney, Diptiman Bose, and Daniel Kennedy (left to right, back row), were named Walmart Scholars, a competitive nationwide scholarship award for students who have demonstrated a strong interest in enhancing their preparation for a career in academic pharmacy.



Three learners received oral presentation awards at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference in April 2016 in Springfield.

*Pictured from left to right*

**Brittany Dickhaus** (Class of 2018) paired with faculty member Dr. Ronny Prierer, for her research entitled "Determination of Polyelectrolyte pKa Values Using Surface-To-Air Tension Measurements."

**Clayton Cassone** (Class of 2018) (center) paired with faculty member Dr. Shabnam Sani, for his research entitled "Formulation, Evaluation, and Characterization of the In Vitro Release Kinetics of Compounded Slow-Release Capsules of Liothyronine Sodium (T3)."

**Jeffrey Rovatti** (Class of 2018) (center) paired with faculty members Drs. Shannon Kinney and Clinton Mathias, for his research entitled "A Novel Role for IL-10 in Mediation of Mast Cell Responses and the Development of IgE-Dependent Food Allergy," with contributions from **Chelsea Thompson** (Class of 2017) (right). The presentation by Jeffrey Rovatti received the Excellence in Innovative Research Award for the top oral presentation at the conference.



**Brittany Dickhaus** (Class of 2018) (center), **Clayton Cassone** (Class of 2018), pictured with Drs. Ronny Prierer and Shabnam Sani, were recipients of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Gateway to Research Scholarships, a competitive nationwide \$5,000 scholarship for 15 individuals to participate in faculty-mentored research projects.



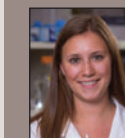
**Allissa Long** (Class of 2019) (left), pictured with Kerri Jarzabski, assistant vice president for Enrollment Management and Retention, was a recipient of the Skookum Award of Excellence, given to students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, cocurricular activities, athletics, volunteer work, and community service.



**Elizabeth Garcia** (Class of 2019) (center), pictured with Dr. Kim Tanzer and Dr. David Baker, was the recipient of the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association Foundation Scholarship.



**Nina Johnson** (Class of 2019), **Chelsea Thompson** (Class of 2017) (center right), and **Edwin Kaczenski** (Class of 2019), pictured with Drs. Shannon Kinney, Clinton Mathias, and Diptiman Bose, were recipients of a poster presentation award at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference in April 2016 in Springfield, Massachusetts for their research entitled "Modulation of Immune Cell Function by Diet-Induced Epigenetic Modifications."



Christina Andros [Class of 2017] was a recipient of the Massachusetts Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Student Excellence Award.

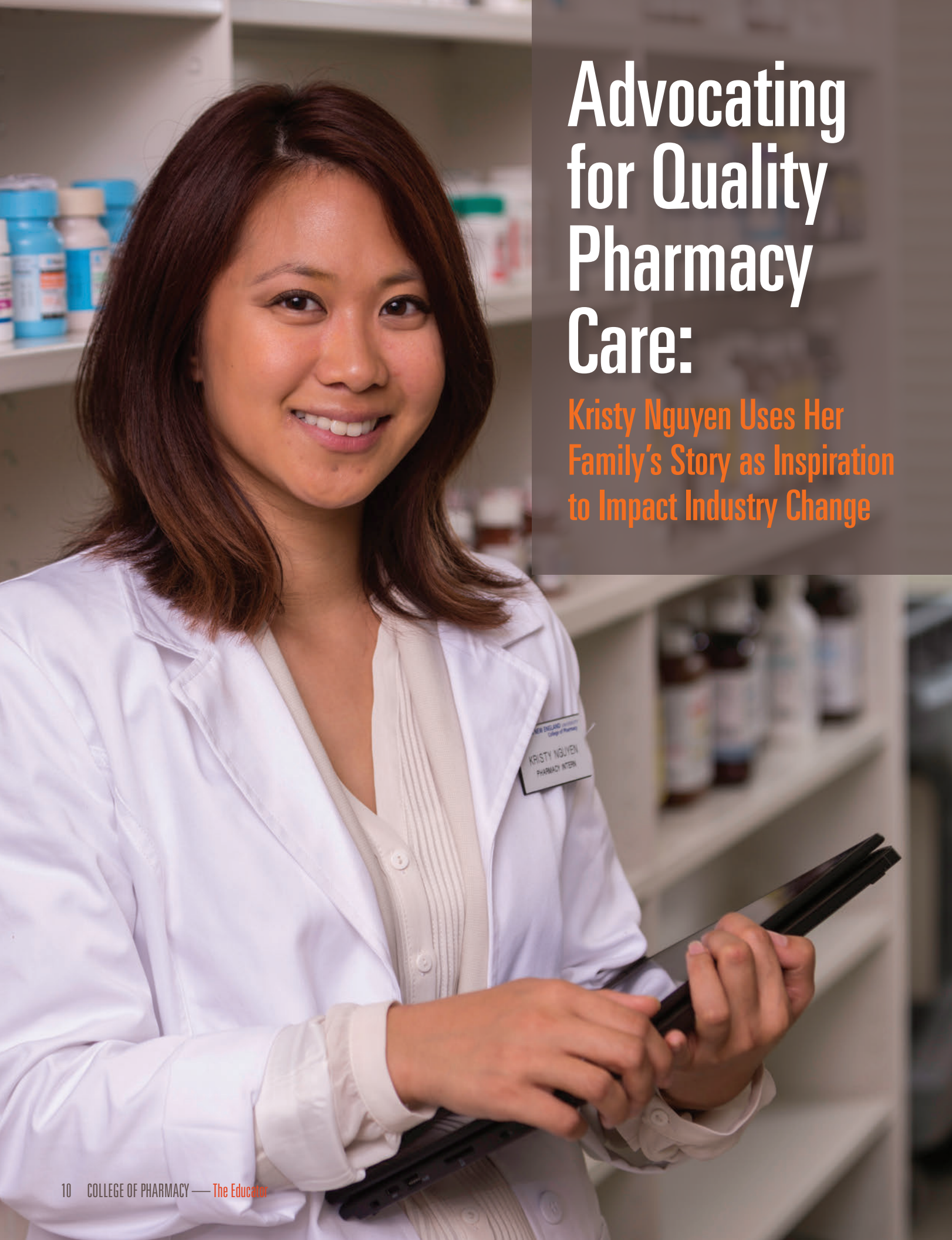


Kristy Nguyen [Class of 2017] was one of five pharmacy students nationwide named to serve a 12-month commitment on the Executive Committee of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Pharmacy Student Forum.



# Advocating for Quality Pharmacy Care:

**Kristy Nguyen Uses Her Family's Story as Inspiration to Impact Industry Change**



*"The profession offers so many options, many of which I have been fortunate enough to experience," she said. "I am looking forward to exploring more of these potential career options. I want to work somewhere that defines working as a privilege and a pleasure, where I am allowed the autonomy and freedom to bring value to my work, and where I know that I am making a difference."*

Kristy Nguyen PharmD'17

Kristy Nguyen was acutely aware of world issues surrounding pharmacy from a young age. As a first generation Vietnamese-American, she grew up hearing her parent's stories about living in Vietnam at a time when the healthcare system was non-existent. They described the helplessness they felt when medical professionals weren't available to provide counsel. Prescription-only drugs could be purchased without a prescription, and some medications, often counterfeit or expired, were sold in unlicensed mobile street shops, which increased access to abusers and children. A clear lack of regulation made it difficult for the role of pharmacist to be functional in Vietnam at the time.

These stories, along with volunteer experiences at the People's Center, an urban community health center; and work as a pharmacy technician in an urban area, kindled Kristy's passion for pharmacy. Such experiences made her aware of areas with limited healthcare accessibility, the lack of public health education, and other existing disparities, which has made her want to be a voice for such communities.

"I strongly believe that healthcare is a social justice right, and pharmacists play a key role in providing this right," she said. "Pharmacists deliver direct patient care, and can have an even bigger voice in healthcare delivery. I hope to help revolutionize the role of the pharmacist by providing quality individualized counseling and advocating for my patients."

Kristy's strong commitment to uphold the principles of pharmacy, and aspirations

to use her position for advocacy has been an asset to her studies, and the College of Pharmacy has challenged her in a way that will help her accomplish her goals.

Being immersed in the pioneering curriculum at the College of Pharmacy allowed Kristy a more hands-on and growth-oriented learning experience. The intimacy of the program provided the perfect platform for asking questions and getting involved. As a student who is (admittedly) much more comfortable sitting in the back of a large lecture hall, Kristy was encouraged to come out of her shell, resulting in increased confidence in her abilities.

As Kristy found her place in the classroom, she also cultivated an active life outside of her studies, including being a member of many clubs and honor societies. Among them are the Class of 2017 (where she was president and currently serves as co-historian), Phi Lambda Sigma, and the American Society of Health-Science Pharmacists. She was honored two years in a row as Pharmacy Student of the Year by the Pharmacy Student Governance Association, and was also the Member of the Year for the University chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma, the leadership society for pharmacy. She also is earning her MBA from the College of Business in May, which she pursued concurrently with her Pharmacy studies.

Part of what makes Kristy an outstanding student of pharmacy is that her journey, while illustrious, hasn't been without obstacles. Instead, she has chosen to face these challenges head on, a true hallmark of a dedicated scholar. She struggled with

the course material in infectious diseases, and rather than avoiding that area, she chose her first rotation specializing in it so that she could gain mastery. However, prior to the start of the rotation, and again early on in the session, Kristy was faced with the deaths of two friends, which impacted her ability to be effective in her studies, and she failed the rotation.

"At first, I was ashamed," she explained. "And then I started thinking about how we never talk about the disappointments, the sacrifices, and, worst of all, the failures in pharmacy school. I failed, and that is now part of my story. It is okay to fall, just so long as you get back up. With time, I am healing from the inside outward, with hopes of moving forward and jumping into my next rotation with an invigorated commitment to conviction."

Scheduled to graduate in May of 2017, Kristy is already looking forward to her next steps.





# Learner Organizations

Our learner organizations were active in the community this year, helping students build lifelong interest in service and explore their future roles as healthcare professionals.



## Pharmacy Student Governance Association (PSGA) Promotes Service

PSGA, the overarching student governing group, oversees and coordinates other learner organizations and serves as a liaison between learners, faculty, and administration. Some activities this past year included the 4th Annual College of Pharmacy Golf Tournament, a PSGA Day of Service, a NAPLEX information meeting for PY-3 learners, and the Revitalize CDC's Green-NFit event where learners helped repair and revitalize residences of community members in need.



## American Pharmacists Association (APhA-ASP) Raises Funds and Awareness

ASP, which provides opportunities for professional growth to improve patient care and to advance the future of pharmacy, organized programs such as Operation Heart, Operation Diabetes, and Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk; attended the APhA Annual meeting in Baltimore; and participated in the AHA Heart Walk, and raised almost \$600.

## Alpha Zeta Omega Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Delta Tau Chapter (AZO) Participates in Service and Major Immunization Push

With a focus on fundraising and performing community services, the Delta Tau chapter held a fraternity-wide potluck, Yankee Candle fundraiser, Out of the Darkness campaign walk, Halloween activities, and Easter Egg Hunt. Learners also attended the national Alpha Zeta Omega summer convention in Aruba, participated in a Day of Service, and assisted with a MassMutual flu clinic by immunizing over 1,200 patients.

## American Society for Health System Pharmacists/Student Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP/SSHP) Educates Through Health Fairs and Elementary School Visits

ASHP/SSHP is an organization for learners interested in working in hospitals and health-systems settings. This year learners participated in the 2nd Annual SSHP Health Fair and the Pharmacy Student Organization Collaborative Health Fair, and gave an educational presentation for 4th and 5th graders at three Longmeadow, MA, elementary schools.

## American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Student Association (AIHPSA)—Alpha Chapter Documents History of Profession and College

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. This year, AIHPSA members continued to interview and record senior pharmacists' reminiscences of their education and practice in decades past as part of the Voices of Pharmacy Past (VoPP) project, catalogued the College of Pharmacy mortar and pestle collection, and had an outing to the Agawam Main Street flea market to find pharmacy-related artifacts.



## New—Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Establishes Chapter and Events

The PLS is the national pharmacy leadership society. This year, Western New England University began a local chapter and received a \$500 grant presented by Christine Perry, RPh to support the etiquette dinner and Kristy Nguyen received the Chapter Member of the Year award.

## Phi Delta Chi—Gamma Tau Chapter Helps Increase Health Risk Awareness

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.

## New—Rho Chi Society Welcomes Firsts Members

Rho Chi is the newest academic honor society at the College of Pharmacy, and encourages and recognizes excellence in intellectual achievement and advocates for critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy. Thirty-three learners were inducted into the newly formed Epsilon Iota Chapter of the Rho Chi Society on May 3. The event was sponsored by Rite Aid Pharmacy and was represented by Scott DeCesare, Pharmacy District Manager.



Visit [wne.edu/pharmacy/student-life/organizations](http://wne.edu/pharmacy/student-life/organizations) to view a complete listing of our growing roster of student organizations.





# Faculty Accomplishments

## Research and Publications



**David Baker**, associate professor of pharmacy administration, published, with pharmacy student **Uyen Nguyen '16**, "Cyclical History of U.S. Pharmacy School Openings and Closings" in the *History of Pharmacy SIG Newsletter: Pharmacy Chronicles: Past, Present, and Future* (2015: Spring, 2: 4-5). Dr. Baker also published "Teaching Pearls: An Exercise to Engage Students in the History of Pharmacy" in the same issue (pp. 12).



**Matthew Dintzner**, assistant dean for assessment and accreditation, authored an invited book chapter titled "Montmorillonite Clays as Heterogeneous Catalysts for Organic Reactions" in *Catalysis for Sustainability* (2015: New York: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group; pp. 137-147). Dr. Dintzner also coauthored a white paper entitled "Are you CAPE-A.B.L.E.? Assessment Blueprint for Learning Experiences" with J. Sousa, M. Fulford, et al., published on the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's website (Washington, DC: AACP; 2014 Nov 18 [cited 2015 October 7]).



**Daniel Kennedy**, associate professor of pharmacology, published with pharmacy alumnae **Christine Galinski '15** and J. Zwicker, "Revisiting the Mechanistic Basis of the French Paradox: Red Wine Inhibits the Activity of Protein Disulfide Isomerase" in *in vitro*, Thrombosis Research (2016: 137, 1: pp. 169-173). Dr. Kennedy also published with D. Ginsburg, pharmacy alumnus **Nathan Harnois '15** and **Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean for student affairs, "The Role and Responsibilities of Pharmacy Student Government Associations in Pharmacy Programs" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2015 Sept 25: 79, 7: Article 100).



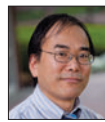
**Clinton Mathias**, associate professor of pharmacology, published with **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, L. Carlson, J. Ser-Dolansky, S. Shah, G. Gambrah, C. Thompson, W. King, and S. Schneider, "Curcumin Ingestion Inhibits Mastocytosis and Suppresses Intestinal Anaphylaxis in a Murine Model of Food Allergy" in *PLoS One* (2015: Jul 6; 10: 7, e0132467). Dr. Mathias also published "A Learner-Led, Discussion-based Elective on Emerging Infectious Disease" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2015: 79, 6: Article 81).



**Ronny Priefer**, professor of medicinal chemistry, published an article titled "Cubane: 50 Years Later" with K. Biegasiewicz, J. Griffiths, G. P. Savage, and J. Tsanaktsidis, in *Chemical Reviews* (2015: 115, 14: pp. 6719-6745). Dr. Priefer also published "Acid-base Equilibria of Multilayered Pseudo-polyelectrolytes," with pharmacy student **Ayeisca Mateo**, in *Applied Surface Science* (2015: 356, pp. 1229-1233).



**Jilla Sabeti**, assistant professor of pharmacology, coauthored an abstract titled "Adolescent Alcohol Exposure Influences Later Striatal Akt Activation by Dopamine: Detection of Aberrant Akt Phospho-Isomers Using Simple Western™ Technology" with T. White for *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* (June 2015: 39, Supplement S1: 124A, #450).



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

With XQ Li, NM, XG Li, et al., "Association of PON1, P2Y12 and COX1 with Recurrent Ischemic Events in Patients with Extracranial or Intracranial Stenting" in *PLOS ONE* (11: 2: e014889).

With **Eric Nemeč**, former clinical associate professor of informatics, "Implementing an Elective Toxicology Course through Integration of Emergency Medicine Resident Physicians Into Didactic Lectures" in *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* (2016: 8, pp. 200-206).

With **Courtney Doyle-Campbell**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, **Jared Ostroff**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, and **Melissa Mattison**, clinical assistant professor of community care, "A Comprehensive Capstone Course Focusing on Simulation in Community, Ambulatory, and Acute Care" in *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* (2016: 8, pp. 69-76).

With ZM Yi, XX Li, M Lu, SD Zhai, "An Evaluation of Clinical Pharmacist Service on a Neurology Care Unit" in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharm* (2016: 38, 1: pp. 30-33).

With ZM Yi, XJ Zhi, L Yang, et al., "Identify Practice Gaps in Medication Education Through Surveys to Patients and Physicians" in *Patient Prefer Adherence* (2015: 9, pp. 1423-1430).

With XG Li, YX Wu, SG Mei, et al., "Population Pharmacokinetics of Vancomycin in Postoperative Neurological Patients" in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* (2015: 104, pp. 3960-3967).

With ZG Zhao, "Clinical Pharmacists in the Management of Drug Overdose: Vital Signs and Toxidromes" in *Drug Evaluation* (2015: 12, 22: pp. 6-13—in Chinese).

## Presentations

**David Baker**, associate professor of pharmacy administration, wrote a presentation, with G. Higby who presented it, titled "Historic Milestones in Federal Pharmacy Law: The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938—The Elixir That Made Drugs Safe" at the AACP Annual Meeting in National Harbor, MD, in July. At the same meeting, Professor Baker presented, with pharmacy student **Uyen Nguyen '16**, "The Historical Events Upon Which U.S. Pharmacy Schools Were Founded" and with **Eric Nemeč**, former clinical associate professor of informatics, "Pharmacy on the Small Screen: The Television Portrayal of the Profession."

**Matthew Dintzner**, assistant dean for assessment and accreditation, presented a poster titled "Effects of Prior Degree and Age on Course Evaluations," with pharmacy student **Stacy Longo**, at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in National Harbor, MD, in July.

**Daniel Kennedy**, associate professor of pharmacology, **Eric Nemeč**, former clinical associate professor of informatics, and **Beth Welch**, associate dean of academic affairs, with pharmacy alumnus **Paul Dipietro '16** and pharmacy student **Stacy Longo**, presented "Current Practices of Awarding Graduation Honors Within Doctor of Pharmacy Degree Programs" at the AACP Annual Meeting, July 13 in National Harbor, MD.

**Daniel R. Kennedy**, associate professor of pharmacology, **Bart Lipkens**, professor of mechanical engineering, and **Michael Rust**, associate professor of biomedical engineering with **Tyler Gerhardson '15** (BSBE) and **Ryan Dubay '15** (BSBE) presented a poster titled "Design and Fabrication of a Micro-scale Acoustophoretic Separation System" at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Northeast Bioengineering Conference in Troy, NY.

**Clinton Mathias**, associate professor of pharmacology, presented "Modulation of the Allergic Response—Roles of Dietary Components and Regulatory Cytokines" at the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA.



**Thomas Moore**, media and simulations operation manager, **Scott Sherman**, divisional administrator of technical services in information technology, and **Beth Welch**, associate dean of academic affairs, presented "Selecting a Technology Device that Provides Maximum Educational Benefit" at Campus Technology 2015 on July 28 in Boston, MA.

**Ronny Priefer**, professor of medicinal chemistry, presented "Synthesis and Characterization of Novel Amide Tethered Polymers" at the 250th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, August 16-20, in Boston, MA.

**Jilla Sabeti**, assistant professor of pharmacology, presented "Adolescent Alcohol Exposure Influences Later OCD Risk and Striatal AKT Activation by Dopamine" in San Antonio, TX, at the scientific meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, in June. The presentation was made possible through generous funding provided by the NIH-National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.



**Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean for student affairs, **Kim Tanzer**, assistant dean of experiential affairs and continuing education administrator, and **Beth Welch**, associate dean of academic affairs, presented "Incorporating a Required Longitudinal Professional Development Course Series into the Doctor of Pharmacy Program" at the AACP Annual Meeting, July 11, in National Harbor, MD.

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

"Interpretation of FDA Approved New Drugs in 2014" at the 5<sup>th</sup> National Annual Meeting of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, September 17 in Beijing, China.

"Geriatric Pharmacotherapy" at the Sino-US Pharmacy Specialist Internet and On-Site Training Conference, on September 17 in Beijing, China.

"Pharmacist Role in Geriatric Medication Therapy Management" at 2015 Continuing Pharmacy Education Conference, Shandong Association of Licensed Pharmacists, in November in Jinan, Shandong, China.

"Pharmacy Experiential Education Teaching Experiences at the U.S. Pharmacy School" at the Eleventh Clinical Pharmacy Practice Training and the Capital Medical University Clinical Pharmacy Preceptor Training Conference in November in Beijing, China.

"Psychiatric Drug Toxicity," "Updates of Prescription Drug Toxicity," and "Medication Reconciliation in Emergency Department" at the Global Emergency Medicine Meeting 2015, in November in Shenzhen, China.

"Medication Therapy Management in the Elderly" at Western Massachusetts Hospital Pharmacist Association, in November in Holyoke, MA.

"Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative" at Beijing Tsinghua Changgung Hospital, in December in Beijing, China.

## Appointments

**Matthew Dintzner**, professor of medicinal chemistry and director of assessment, was promoted to assistant dean for Assessment and Accreditation.

**Clinton Mathias**, associate professor of pharmacology, was named as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

### TENURE AND PROMOTIONS, effective September 1, 2016

Dr. David Baker, promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration

Dr. Izabela Collier, promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Ambulatory Care

Dr. Matthew Dintzner, tenured and promoted to Professor of Medicinal Chemistry

Dr. Daniel Kennedy, tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmacology

Dr. Clinton Mathias, tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmacology

Dr. Ronny Priefer, tenured

Dr. Shabnam Sani, tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

## Awards

**David Baker**, associate professor of pharmacy administration, received the Class of 2015 Recognition Award from the College of Pharmacy graduating class.

**Matthew Dintzner**, assistant dean for assessment and accreditation was accepted into the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's 2015-2016 Academic Leadership Fellows Program.



**Beth Welch**, associate dean of academic affairs, and C. Schrauf of Elms College were faculty advisors of the Script Your Future National Team Challenge in which approximately 20 pharmacy and nursing students participated. The National Consumer's League announced that Western New England University College of Pharmacy was a finalist for the national award.

## External Grants

**Matthew Dintzner**, assistant dean for assessment and accreditation, received a grant of \$365,000 from the National Science Foundation to acquire a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer that will be housed in the Center for Sciences and Pharmacy. The instrument will be used by the Cooperating Colleges for Greater Springfield (CCGS) consortium to facilitate the scholarly productivity of CCGS science faculty and enhance the training of hundreds of undergraduate science students annually. **Ron Priefer**, professor of medicinal chemistry, and **Keri Lee**, assistant professor of chemistry, are co-PIs on this award.

## Patents

**Ronny Priefer**, professor of medicinal chemistry and **Michael Rust**, assistant professor biomedical engineering filed patent with Europe, India, and Mexico titled "Breath Acetone Monitor and Method of Detecting Breath Acetone."



# Professor Melissa Mattison

## Inspires Learners to Live Their Best

“My motto is ‘If not now, when?’ I use it for weight loss and all kinds of challenges. It scares me sometimes, but that’s good,” says Dr. Melissa Mattison who is passionate about living your best and most healthy life. She practices it herself, educates her patients on it, and teaches it to her learners.

“For my learners, I hope that they will be able to live lives that are balanced and are able to de-stress along the way,” says Dr. Mattison. “I hope that they will become pillars of their communities and inspire patients and coworkers to live healthier lives to prevent or modify chronic diseases. It is a public health issue that we must address and we are capable of doing it.”

Dr. Mattison is a clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and community care, specializing in obesity and weight loss. Her areas of interest include health and wellness, motivational interviewing, Medication Therapy Management (MTM), and disease prevention. She is the clinical director of the Community Patient Care Center on campus and is one of the primary preceptors for the Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Walgreens Community Pharmacy Practice Residency program.

Dr. Mattison graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Pharmacy and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Florida. Prior to joining the faculty at Western New England University, Dr. Mattison worked in community pharmacy for Walgreens in Connecticut, Louisiana, and Massachusetts. She was recognized as 2010 pharmacy manager of the year as well as having the store of the year in 2011. Dr. Mattison was one of the first pharmacists in Massa-

*“I love to try new ideas, active participation in the classroom, and to encourage thinking outside of the box.”*

chusetts to begin immunizing and led the immunization program for Walgreens in Massachusetts.

Dr. Mattison says she loves being a pharmacist and how it allows her to connect and help patients. Her talent for making those connections and educating and inspiring others has made for a dynamic transition to the classroom and her work at Western New England University’s College of Pharmacy.

“Through my experiences in community pharmacy, I try to create real life scenarios that learners can work through, either in Professional Pharmacy Practice lab or in Self-Care Therapeutics,” she says.

When it comes to wellness, Dr. Mattison believes actions speak louder than words. She has been a runner for over 30 years and has competed in Ironman triathlete competitions and marathons. Today, she fits exercise into her day by running during lunch, before work, or on a weekend morning. “I bike up Mount Tom, I swim whenever I can, I do yoga in the winter and we have a spin bike in our living room like all good crazy triathletes! Being active is a part of my life and my family’s day to day life,” she says.



Learners, faculty and patients at Western New England have benefited from Dr. Mattison’s passion for wellness. She takes 10 minute walk breaks with her learners during her classes; ran a “couch to 5K” group at the University; taught a health, wellness, and fitness elective that culminated in a 5K race (a first for many learners); lectures on obesity in and outside of the classroom; challenges learners in class to make a SMART goal related to health and gives credit for attempting to implement it and then reflecting on it. She even coached a colleague to run her first half-marathon last year.

“As I get older, I realize that wellness is a key component of a fulfilled life and that you can be responsible for many aspects of your health. I can see people improving their health, taking less medications, decreasing blood glucose values, improving blood pressure control, increasing their mobility, easing knee and back pain...all through losing weight and eating better,” notes Dr. Mattison.

“I find it fascinating that pharmacists can now work in so many nontraditional roles,” she reflects. “When I graduated there were two options: work in retail or a hospital. Now the opportunities are endless and I think they will continue to expand as pharmacists obtain provider status across the country. ‘Pharmacists as educators’ is an ever expanding role and that is my position now as I counsel patients through weight loss journeys.”

## Western New England University and Bryant University Sign Articulation Agreement



The Western New England University College of Pharmacy and the Bryant University College of Arts and Sciences entered into an articulation agreement in April 2016. The agreement will provide qualified students from Bryant University with an enhanced opportunity to pursue study in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Western New England University’s College of Pharmacy. This articulation agreement will provide a more efficient transition for Bryant students who have met the eligibility criteria agreed upon by both institutions, which includes course equivalencies and grade point average requirements as well as other application processes.

Bryant University requires its students to minor in business, which will provide new opportunities to participating students, since the Western New England University College of Pharmacy offers two combined degree programs (the Doctor of Pharmacy/MBA and the Doctor of Pharmacy/Master of Science in Organizational Leadership programs) in collaboration with the College of Business.

“Agreements such as these create unique opportunities to collaborate with programs regarding the path forward to becoming a pharmacist” according to Western New England University College of Pharmacy Dean Evan T. Robinson. “We are excited about working with Bryant University.”





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## Hooding Ceremony Recognizes Achievement

The College of Pharmacy celebrated its second Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, May 21, when the members of the Class of 2016 received their doctoral hoods cheered on by their peers, family, faculty, staff, and alumni. The evening program included presentations of student and faculty awards and learner addresses.



For the latest news, visit: [wne.edu/pharmacy](http://wne.edu/pharmacy)

Western New England University College of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, 135 South LaSalle Street, Suite 4100, Chicago, IL 60503, 312/664-3575; FAX 312/664-4652, web site [www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org).