

# The Educator

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ANNUAL REPORT 2014



WESTERN NEW ENGLAND  
UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE of PHARMACY



The Model Pharmacy features a simulated environment where student learners can meet with patients to assess healthcare concerns, discuss medications, and take vital signs.

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# Message from the Dean

Greetings from Western New England University College of Pharmacy! Developing a new College of Pharmacy is a unique journey for all who participate. Each constituent (faculty, staff, administration, learners, practitioners, etc.) contributes in his or her own way until the outcomes of our collective efforts begin to come to fruition.

In Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" is the timeless passage "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." In 2011 the College of Pharmacy enrolled its founding class and everyone involved then and since started a collective journey down the road less traveled, achieving great things and accomplishing milestones along the way.

May 2015 represents our most significant milestone as we celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2015: our first class of pioneers and trailblazers! This group of intrepid individuals has worked hard and



made us proud! We are very excited to see them transition to the next chapter of their lives as they walk across the stage at Commencement and prepare for the next steps in what will be productive and fulfilling lives. It seems like only yesterday we welcomed them to the University!

Other very significant milestones have occurred as well! In July the College of Pharmacy welcomed its first community pharmacy resident in collaboration with Walgreens. Also in July Dr. Clinton Mathias received a \$250,000 research grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a first for the College of Pharmacy. Finally, In August 2014 the arrival of the members of the Class of 2018 fulfills the milestone of achieving our planned full-time enrollment for all four years of the program—300 learners.

# The Educator

Many more milestones have been achieved and you can learn more about them in this edition of *The Educator*. As I talk to the learners, faculty, staff, and administration I am reminded that the graduation of our founding class is not the conclusion of our collective journey together, but yet another milestone in a journey that has many more roads that diverge, decisions to be made, and opportunities to consider.

Please enjoy this issue of *The Educator* and I encourage you to visit our website ([www.wne.edu/pharmacy](http://www.wne.edu/pharmacy)) to keep aware of our activities.

Best Regards,

Evan T. Robinson, RPh, Ph.D.  
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 2015	Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Female	58%	55%	57%	64%
Age Range	22-42	21-42	20-42	19-31
Prior Degree	41%	39%	31%	18%
Bilingual	19%	38%	15%	17%

# Simulation Room Acclimates Learners

to the Sights, Sounds, and even Smells of Clinical Practice

For practicing pharmacists, the professional standard requires participation in simulated practice each year to sharpen their bedside manner, as well as their pharmaceutical knowledge.

It is equally important for pharmacy learners to partake in a similar simulated experience prior to working with actual patients. The Western New England University College of Pharmacy has acquired the latest technology to introduce our learners to the fast-paced environment of clinical care.

The simulation room in the \$40 million Center for Sciences and Pharmacy has been outfitted with a technology-mediated mannequin, as well as the corresponding computer program to control the mannequin's functions.

The 165-lb "Sim Man," as he is nicknamed, can display almost any ailment or bodily function, including experiencing heart failure, bleeding, and vomiting. He reacts physiologically to treatment and can talk to pharmacy students through a microphone controlled by a professor.

"Students don't get a generic computer generated response if they ask how the patient is doing," explained Simulation Technology Manager Ben Hogan. "Patients can react in a variety of ways. Our learners get real experiences that may catch them off guard, just like in a real healthcare setting."

An important feature in the room is a camera that captures and records what happens during the simulation. There is also an observation room outfitted with a two-way mirror for fellow learners to watch a simulation in progress. According to Associate Dean for Pharmacy Academic Affairs Beth Welch, more learning occurs after the simulation, rather than during it.

"One of the most important parts of having a simulated experience is the debriefing," she noted. "So learners can see and learn about what they did well or what they did wrong and what they need to work on. And then they try again."

Ben spends much of his time caring for Sim Man. This includes maintenance, cleaning, and making the mannequin appear as realistic as possible. This can be achieved through Hollywood-style makeup and a book of "recipes" to create wounds and even replicate the various smells in a hospital setting. He said it has been interesting to watch learners work with and react to the mannequin and begin to treat it like a real patient.



*“It is a little intimidating the first time you walk into the Simulation Lab. Each simulation came more naturally, and by the last one I felt prepared to step up and take control. Having the experience made me feel confident applying classroom knowledge to a fast-paced real world situation.”* // Learner Andrea Bastiaanse



“At first they are very standoffish because they aren’t comfortable” Ben said. “But by the end they are laughing and joking with the simulator and having a full conversation with it. I’ve heard nothing but positive feedback from the learners.”

As the practice of pharmacy continues to evolve, pharmacists will be engaging with patients and other health professionals in a variety of ways.

“Six years of education teaches you a lot more than just to be able to do those mechanical duties,” Dr. Welch said. “We teach them to become drug experts. So pharmacists are working more in that capacity to help physicians and prescribers to identify the best drugs for certain medical problems and how they should be monitored.”

This team-centered approach has brought interprofessional education to the forefront of pharmacy curriculum. Dr. Welch hopes to include other health-care programs, such as nursing and physician’s assistant programs, in their simulations to give learners the most realistic setting possible, between the life-like patient and a complete medical team.



# She's Found Her Passion

Learner Spotlight:  
Christina Andros,  
Class of 2017

**“Find where you can combine your passion and your strengths,” Christina Andros remembers a high school teacher telling her, “and you’ll know what you want to do with the rest of your life.”**



For Christina, Class of 2017, the search is over. As a learner who excelled in math and science, she also “always had a passion for helping others,” she says. “And seeing older family members not always receive the best healthcare made me want to do something about it.” A career in pharmacy seemed an ideal fit.

A native of Wilbraham, MA, who grew up not far from Western New England University, Christina originally thought she’d travel further from home for college, but a visit to the campus won her over. She entered the University’s Pre-pharmacy program, and applied and was accepted into the College of Pharmacy in 2013. She is simultaneously working towards both a PharmD and MBA. The combined degree program is a unique offering that capitalizes on the cross-disciplinary strengths of Western New England University, and one she believes will leave her best equipped to pursue a career in pharmaceutical administration.

“In pharmacy you’re able to connect with patients and make a difference in their lives,” says Christina, who works part-time in both the Pharmacy Department at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield and a Big Y Pharmacy.

She makes connections that impact her community on campus as well. Andros tutors students in math and science. She was the founder and past president of the Pre-Pharmacy Club, a group that has quickly swelled to more than 100 members. She’s also policy vice president of the College’s chapter of American Pharmacists Association, a group for learner pharmacists dedicated to advocating for pharmacists and healthcare providers. She’s also current president of the College’s Student Society of Health System Pharmacy (SSHP).

*“In pharmacy you’re able to connect with patients and make a difference in their lives.”*

Her passion and involvement recently earned her a Skookum Award of Excellence from the University. The award recognizes Western New England University students who shine in leadership roles on campus, community service/volunteer experiences, and participation in athletics and cocurricular programs.

“This school is amazing,” she says. “It’s so reassuring to work with professors who care so deeply about their learners.” One of those professors is Dr. Daniel Kennedy, assistant professor of Pharma-

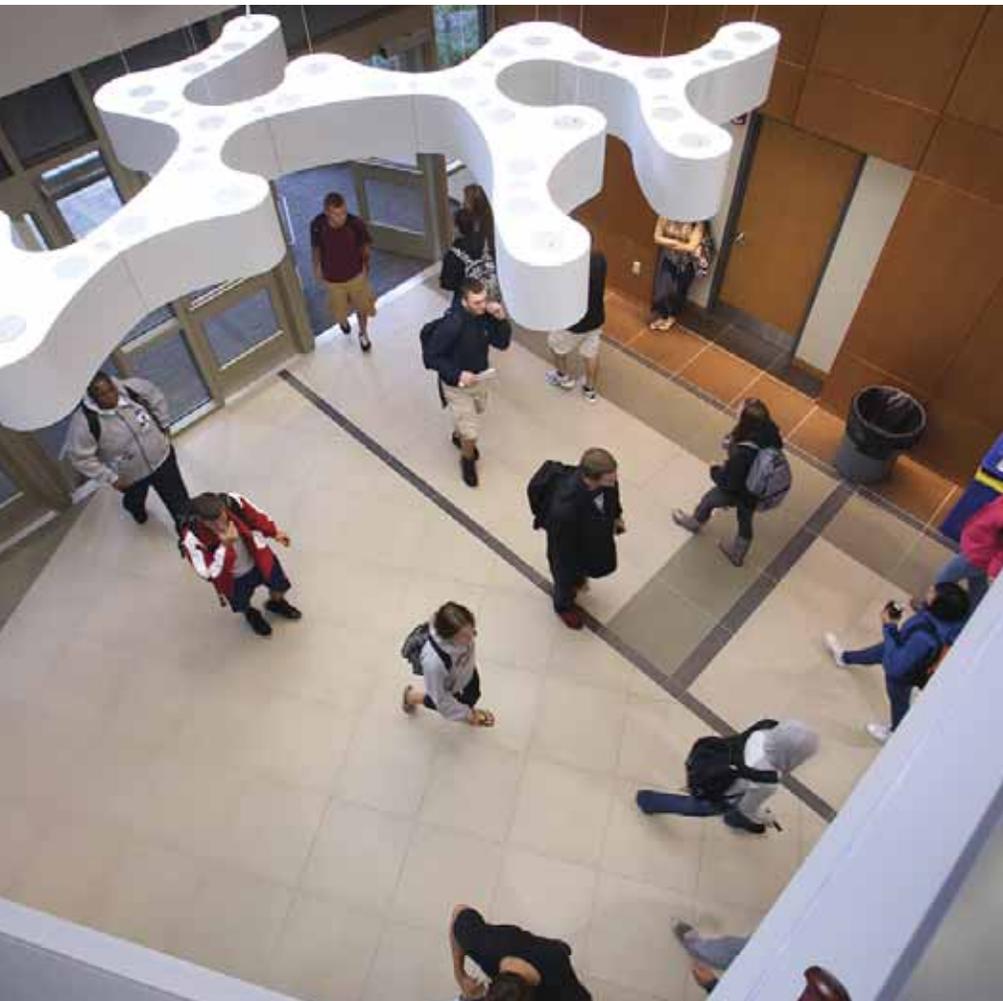
cology. Christina credits his guidance over the past three years in a research project investigating cancer therapy medications and their possible anti-microbial properties. During the 10-15 hours she spends on research each week, Christina searches for new combinations of drugs that might be used to create improved antibiotics in this era of increasing antibiotic resistance. She recently presented findings with Dr. Kennedy at American Society of Microbiology meetings in San Francisco and Boston.

After graduation, Christina plans to pursue a pharmacy residency to gain more exposure to the clinical or pharmacy administration environment she hopes to work in some day. “While retail pharmacy is great, there are other options I’d like to explore,” she says.

“In the hospital setting I feel I’ll be practicing ‘at the top of my license.’ I look forward to working with doctors, making recommendations, having the opportunity to capitalize on my strengths as a pharmacist, and using those strengths to make worthwhile decisions for patients. I know I’ll see a great return on all I’ve put into earning my degrees.”

# Learner Accomplishments .....

**College of Pharmacy learners** have been in the spotlight since the program first opened. Here are some highlights of their recent successes, both as individuals and in groups.



**Meaghan Paris**, Class of 2016, (shown with Dr. Shabnam Sani) was awarded a travel scholarship by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research to attend the 2014 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program in Washington, DC, in June.



**Christina Andros**, Class of 2017, was a recipient of the Skookum Award of Excellence, given to University students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, cocurricular activities, athletics, volunteer work, and community service.





**Desirae Daniels**, Class of 2017, (pictured with Dr. James Knittel) and Assistant Professor Shabnam Sani were honored with a poster presentation competition award at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference this May in Poughkeepsie, NY, for their research entitled “Design and Characterization of Smart Nano-carriers for Tumor Drug Delivery.”



**Nika Bejou**, Class of 2016, (with faculty partner Assistant Professor **Clinton Mathias**, far left) and **Farbod Khaleghi**, Class of 2017, (with faculty partner Professor **Ronny Priefer**, far right) 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.



**Harmony Hill**, Class of 2015, (shown with Eric Nemeč) was a recipient of the Massachusetts Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Student Excellence Award.



**The College of Pharmacy chapter of the American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists**, under the supervision of faculty adviser **David Baker**, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, and student director **Tim Pchelka**, Class of 2016, were finalists for the “Best Video” award in the *Be the Change* video contest sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association.

# Learner Organizations

## Pharmacy Student Governance Association (PSGA)

The Pharmacy Student Governance Association, the overarching learner governing group, oversees and coordinates other learner organizations and serves as a liaison between learners, faculty, and administration. In the spring, the PSGA oversaw the second annual golf tournament. It organized a team of over 50 walkers for the April Pioneer Valley AHA Heart Walk and hosted a “Day of Service.” Finally, they raised money to feed Thanksgiving dinner to 80 people for the Springfield Rescue mission with the penny wars contest.

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

The chapter has provided patient care programs, held annual patient counseling competitions and fundraising events, and attended local and national meetings. Patient care programs included Operation Heart, Operation Self-Care, and chapter-created respiratory education. Throughout October, the chapter advocated for American Pharmacist Month by spreading the theme of “Know your pharmacist, know your medicine.” Four members attended the 2014 American Pharmacist Association Annual Meeting and Exposition in Florida to represent the chapter as delegates and one as a counseling competition participant. The chapter’s PharmFlix video, with the year’s theme “Be the Change,” was entered in a national contest. It placed in the top five videos for Most Informative categories and top ten videos for Best Picture. Four APhA-ASP members attended the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies in June.



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

The Society offers opportunities for advocacy, continuing education, drug information, national conferences, professional policies and practice standards, publishing opportunities, and residency options. The chapter has also overseen the divisional Clinical Skills Competition, where learners enhance their skills in collaborative practice with physicians. Some ongoing activities include the Senior Spectacular, the annual Clinical Skills Competition, the Operation Heart Program, a YMCA 5K run in Northampton, MA, and diabetes education and risk screening events at Big Y World Class Market. SSHP was also awarded a grant by the Western New England University Alumni Association to be used for various initiatives.

## Alpha Zeta Omega Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Delta Tau Chapter

The Delta Tau chapter focuses on fundraising and performing community service, including fundraising for Ronald McDonald House charities, collecting dresses for Cinderella’s closet, participating in the Bay State Medical Center Toy Drive, and organizing a team for the local October AIDS walk.

## Phi Delta Chi (Gamma Tau chapter)

The Phi Delta Chi (PDC) chapter at the College of Pharmacy is committed to raising funds and increasing awareness for worthy causes, such as St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Twelve brothers from the Gamma Tau chapter attended the Northeast Regional Conference in

Norwich, CT, in March. Others attended the PDC Leadership Development Seminar in Tampa in August.



## Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association encourages learners to be voices for change and serve as advocates for increased health awareness in underserved communities. This year’s activities included organizing a Flu Clinic at Costco Pharmacy, participating in World AIDS Day, and collaborating with Mercy Medical Center and Friends of the Homeless to organize a comprehensive Health Fair.



# University Partners with Walgreens

## to Offer New Community Practice Residency Program

The Community Practice Residency Program affiliated with Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Walgreens offers residents a structured education and training experience. The mission of the program is to provide postgraduate training that enables residents to build on their professional skills, helps them to achieve their professional goals, and inspires them to become leaders within the profession.



Resident Kalani Hornbeak at work in the Walgreens Pharmacy.

Through the program, residents will develop expertise in medication therapy management (MTM), chronic disease state management, as well as initiate, implement, and maintain collaborative working relationships within the community. One candidate will be selected each year for the residency, which runs from July 1 to June 30. The program welcomed its first resident, Kalani Hornbeak, on July 1 of this year.

“Western New England University College of Pharmacy strives to build residency programs that prepare and inspire advanced pharmacy practitioners by instilling the values of lifelong learning, service, and leadership in our graduates,” says Clinical Associate Professor Kam Capoccia, director of the residency program. “Engendering these qualities will be vital to improve patient outcomes in the practice models of today and the future.”

The residency program is based at a Walgreens Pharmacy located at 625 Carew Street in Springfield, MA. This location offers a variety of innovative clinical pharmacy services for patients who are prescribed complex therapies. This site has a dedicated space located next to the dispensing pharmacy—offering advanced patient care in a variety of disease states such as hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, heart failure,

asthma/COPD, and HIV/AIDS. The resident will gain substantial experience in providing Medication Therapy Management (MTM), health screenings, health/wellness education, and immunizations to a diverse patient population.

The program was developed and is guided by the College’s Residency Advisory Committee. Preceptors of the program include Dr. Capoccia, as well as Clinical Assistant Professor Melissa Mattison, and Walgreens Pharmacy Manager Christine Vala.



Kalani discusses nutrition with a patient in the Pharmacy Community Patient Care Center.

The residency provides an opportunity for pharmacists to practice at the Western New England University College of Pharmacy Community Patient Care Center located on campus in the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy. The Center is a College of Pharmacy initiative developed to provide one-to-one health care consultation with patients. A number of services are available at the Community Patient Care Center.

At the College of Pharmacy, the resident will participate in teaching and precepting experiences. Academic opportunities include small group discussions as well as large didactic lectures. The resident will co-precept Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential learners from the College of Pharmacy.

*Upon completion of this program, the resident will have developed the knowledge and skills necessary to advance the practice of pharmacy and become a leader in the profession and within Walgreens.*

Dr. Kam Capoccia



# Preceptor Jerry Munic

## Embodies College of Pharmacy Values and Encourages Learner Input

*As a member of the College of Pharmacy Advisory Council and a preceptor for Introductory (IPPE) and Advanced (APPE) learners in the PharmD program, Jerry Munic is not only an excellent mentor for future pharmacists, but also a great representative of the many paths a career in pharmacy may take.*

Currently the clinical pharmacist at the Holyoke Soldiers Home, Jerry has taught and lectured, worked in retail and hospital settings, and run planning and quality control programs for Merck Sharp & Dohme. He also spearheaded an Asthma Intervention Program sponsored by Glaxo SmithKline, and taught an Xhale Smoking Cessation Program developed by the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his B.S.Pharm. at UConn and an MBA from the State University of New York at Binghamton. He also models the College of Pharmacy's strong service ethic through his volunteer positions on the Boards of Directors of the Jewish Geriatric Services and the Springfield Jewish Community Center, where he held posts as JCC president and treasurer.

Learner Anthony Garone is one such example. “Anthony noticed that we had two antiplatelet products here in the Home,” recalled Jerry. “One was relatively economical because it's been generic for quite a while, and the other one is brand only; most of the literature indicates that the once-a-day generic is superior to the twice-a-day brand. So we had him present at the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and got everyone's support to encourage prescribers to switch from Product 'A' to Product 'B' to save money and provide better healthcare.”

Since the National Patient Safety Goals were published in late 2013, Jerry has involved College of Pharmacy APPE students in researching and assessing ways to reduce falls among patients at the Soldier's Home. “Pharmacy is an active part in reviewing patient profiles and assessing the pharmacological therapies to determine whether any one of those therapies or a combination may contribute to their risk of falling. That seemed like the perfect project to make the APPEs responsible for assessing and reporting to me about and they're doing a great job.”

Jerry's varied background also provides insight for student's choosing to pursue the combined PharmD/MBA program. He was the first pharmacist ever hired in the Production Planning Department at Merck.

“Having both degrees in that environment was a huge advantage in terms of just getting more accomplished,” he said. “I think the students at Western New England who are enrolled in the combined program or choose to get their MBA down the road

*Everything the students do has significance to the way we operate and care for our patients.*

Jerry became a preceptor to pharmacy students a decade ago while working in retail pharmacy. “I discovered I really enjoyed it,” he said. “It's a two way street. I definitely get something back from working with the students; they help keep me current.”

“The one thing that is different about students today is a greater maturity than those in the past. There is also a greater willingness in the students to put themselves out there. They are curious and not afraid to ask questions about patient care. Sometimes that leads us back to subscribers for alterations in therapies.”

will definitely have that advantage with a scientific background and a management background—because the reality is that even in retail, you're managing people, processing, and expectations from customers.”

After applying his clinical and management expertise in so many different settings, Jerry is honored to now care for the 300 veterans who utilize the Holyoke Soldier's Home pharmacy. “It's a tremendous facility,” he said. “From the nursing staff to house-keeping—people view working here as a mission because they know the population that we're serving here and feel that they deserve the best care possible.”

# Learning By Doing:

## Student Engagement in the Community

### Continuing Pharmacy Education and Preceptor Development Conference

The College of Pharmacy held its fourth annual Continuing Pharmacy Education and Preceptor Development Conference on May 20. Eighty-one local pharmacists attended. Sessions included a Pharmacy Law Update, and presentations on Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Guidelines, Gout Management, and Electronic Cigarettes. The conference is a way for the College to thank its preceptors for their participation in various experiential rotations with our learners.

### Team Robinson at the Heart Walk

Fifty-seven learners and faculty members from the College of Pharmacy walked together as “Team Robinson” at the 2014 Pioneer Valley Heart Walk. The Heart Walk is the American Heart Association’s main event for raising funds to support research and help those affected by heart diseases. This year the Western New England University community donated \$881 to the American Heart Association.

### Emergency Preparedness for Pharmacy Professionals and The Medical Reserve Corps

Following the tragic events of 9/11, and the large number of natural and man-made disasters across the nation in recent years, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a civilian volunteer corps, was established to meet the needs of communities before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. MRC volunteers are locally based, trained, and credentialed people from both medical and non-medical backgrounds.



The College of Pharmacy’s Class of 2017 joined the first wave of academic institutions across the country that have recognized the critical role of pharmacists in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery on local and national levels. Through a daylong training, our learners became registered volunteers for the MRC in the event of an emergency in the Springfield area.

### Script Your Future, Wilbraham Senior Center

During the month of February, student pharmacists from Western New England University and nursing students from American International College partnered to promote medication adherence as part of the Script Your Future campaign. Two events were held on February 27 and 28. Students conducted blood pressure screenings, blood sugar testing, and adherence counseling.

### HIPE’s “Raise Your IPE IQ” Professional Development Seminar

On February 25 Healthcare Interprofessional Education (HIPE) of Pioneer Valley provided its first professional development seminar entitled “Raise Your IPE IQ.” The program goal was to raise the awareness of the necessity for inter-professional healthcare education for the

benefit of the wide variety of healthcare professions and the patients they serve. In addition, educational institutions learned about the many accrediting bodies that are requiring interprofessional healthcare education in their standards.

### College of Pharmacy Participates in “Springfield Senior Spectacular” at Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

Faculty and student learners participated in the “Springfield Senior Spectacular” at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on October 29. This free community event featured exhibits, informational seminars, workshops, demonstrations, and entertainment. Third year learners and faculty provided information on high blood pressure, answered medication questions, and provided blood pressure screening services.



# Robert Dobek Sees Mentor's Dream

## Become a Reality Through College of Pharmacy

When Robert “Bob” Dobek first heard from Dean Evan Robinson that Western New England University was planning to establish a College of Pharmacy, it was a moment of personal satisfaction knowing that the lifelong dream of his professional mentor would finally be realized.



After three years of service, Bob, a semiretired pharmacist, recently stepped down from the University's Board of Trustees to enjoy more time with family. He will remain active on several subcommittees, as a preceptor, and on the Advisory Committee of the College of Pharmacy.

Bob earned his bachelor's degree in Pharmacy at Hampden College of Pharmacy, a proving ground for many of the region's pharmacists in the 20th century. Hampden was the brainchild of Dr. Joseph Gagne, known affectionately by his students as "Doc," who made it his personal mission to fill an important educational void in western Massachusetts.

According to Bob, Doc Gagne put his heart and soul into the school, which began in a backroom of his family's pharmacy on Cabot Street in Holyoke, MA. After WWII, admissions soared and the school was relocated to Chicopee, MA, becoming the foundation that launched the careers of scores of pharmacists who established neighborhood pharmacies in their communities. As he grew older, Doc began to worry about succession planning. His ultimate goal was to see a pharmacy school on the Western New England campus. While Doc Gagne didn't live to see his dream become a reality, Bob Dobek, one of his protégés, became an important bridge from the past to the future of pharmacy education.

"It was Doc Gagne's dream that there would one day be a pharmacy school on the Western New England campus."

As a well-respected area pharmacist and longtime owner of Buckley's Pharmacy in East Longmeadow, MA, Bob was



an ideal addition to the Western New England University Board of Trustees during the early development of the College of Pharmacy. He is a registered pharmacist (RPh) in Massachusetts and Connecticut and has served as a longtime member and treasurer of Western Massachusetts Pharmacy Association. In 1995, Bob became semiretired, selling Buckley's and going to work part-time for Costco Wholesale in its Pharmacy Department. He assisted in opening Costco's pharmacy in Enfield in 2004.

Bob's high school friend Trustee Robert Clarke first suggested that he get involved with the Board of Trustees. When he was formally asked to join, Bob had one caveat: that any gifts made to the University would be designated for the new College of Pharmacy. Bob and his wife, Marilyn, have established scholarships and are exploring additional ways

to continue to support the College and its learners.

"I was just in awe of the wonderful start-up of the College of Pharmacy," said Bob. "It was historic and I was excited to be in on the ground floor. I have been so impressed by the enthusiasm among the whole staff."

Bob has been a preceptor to students at Costco and regularly attends events at the College. "The learners realize that they are helping to build the foundation for what the school will become. The College is on the cutting edge and the learners are being very well prepared not just for retail pharmacy, but for many other options, including clinical pharmacy, and niches such as compounding centers and wholesalers. There are also

opportunities for learners to be involved in research here."

Bob is pleased to see the role of the pharmacist changing to be more interactive. "Today pharmacists are giving out flu and pneumonia shots. That was unheard of years ago," he said. "More than just someone who looks for potential drug interactions, they are a trusted counselor who builds relationships with customers. The options for learners today are vast. It's a very unique profession."



# Faculty Accomplishments

## Publications



**David Baker**, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, and **Eric Nemec**, clinical assistant professor of informatics, authored "A Survey of Grading Scale Variations in Doctor of Pharmacy Programs" in *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* (2014; 6: pp. 194-202).

Professor Baker, with **Izabela Collier**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, published "Implementation of a Pharmacist-Supervised Outpatient Diabetes Treatment Clinic" in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* (2014; 71: pp. 27-36).



**Diptiman Bose**, assistant professor of pharmacology, authored an article entitled "Probiotics for Recurrent Clostridium Difficile Infection in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients" for *Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice* (2013; 21, 5: pp. 281-282).

Professor Bose, with D. Yang, I. Kaina-Corwell, A. Ghogh, K. Chen, M. Stamu, N. I. Pessah, J. Lehmler, and P. J. Lein, published "PCB 136 Atropselectively Alters Morphometric and Functional Parameters of Neuronal Connectivity in Cultured Rat Hippocampal Neurons via Ryanodine Receptor-Dependent Mechanisms" in *Toxicological Sciences* (2013; 138, 2: pp. 379-92).



**Kam Capoccia**, clinical associate professor of community care and director of the residency program, published "Physical Examination" in BOH's *Pharmacy Practice Manual: A Guide to the Clinical Experience*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Stein S.M., ed.) LWW, (2014: pp. 74-116).



**Izabela Collier**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, published "Implementation of Pharmacist-Run Insulin Treat-to-Target Clinic" in Westberg SM, Currie JD, Garwood CL, *American College of Clinical Pharmacy Ambulatory Care Pharmacist's Survival Guide*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Lenexa, Kansas, 2013: pp. 86-95).



**Matthew Dintzner**, associate professor of medicinal chemistry, authored Chapter 14: "Green Synthesis of Homoallylic Silyl Ethers" in *Green Syntheses* (2014; 1: pp. 181-189).



**Courtney Doyle-Campbell**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, authored "European Society of Hypertension and European Society of Cardiology Guidelines and the Muted Enthusiasm for Home Blood Pressure Monitoring" in *Hypertension* (2014; 63:e5).



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

With T. A. Beerman, L. Gawron, and B. Shen, "The Radiomimetic Eneidyne, 20'-deschloro-C-1027 induces Interstrand DNA Crosslinks in Hypoxic Cells and Overcomes Cytotoxic Radioreistance" in *DNA Repair* (2014: In Press).

With **Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean and associate professor of pharmacy practice, Pharmacy students **Christine Galinski**, and **Patricia Horosz**, "Comparison of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences Among U.S. Pharmacy Programs" in *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2014: In Press).

With **Dawn Holmes**, assistant professor of biology, Pharmacy student **Christina Andros**, and A. Chen, "A Novel Application of Radiomimetic Compounds as Antibiotic Drugs" in the Proceedings of the 124<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology, June 2014.

With **Michael Rust**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, **Bart Lipkins**, professor of mechanical engineering, **Tyler Gerhardson '14** (BME), **Brianna Sporbert '14** (BME), and **Dane Mealey '10** (ME), "The Concentration and Separation of Blood Components using Acoustic Radiation Force, in *Blood*, November 15, 2013 supplement.

With PharmD students **Christine Galinski** and **Alicia Scalise**, and P. P. Nag, S. Bowley, R. H. Bekendam, J. R. Dilks, L. van Hessem, J. Pu, T. Pilyugina, S. Dandapani, B. Munoz, and R. Flaumenhaft, "Development of Second Generation Thiol Isomerase Inhibitors to Prevent Thrombus Formation, in *Blood*: November 15, 2013 supplement.

With **Michael Rust**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, **Bart Lipkins**, professor of mechanical engineering, **Tyler Gerhardson '14** (BME), **Brianna Sporbert '14** (BME), and **Dane Mealey '10** (ME), "Concentration of Blood Components by Acoustic Radiation Force" in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, (2013; 134, 5: pp. 4012).

With PharmD students **Christine Galinski** and **Alicia Scalise**, and **Christopher Dockendorff '06** (EE), R. Flaumenhaft, P. P. Nag, J. Pu, F. H. Passam, C. Khodier, L. von Hessem, L. VerPlank, S. Dandapani, and B. Munoz, "Identification of Novel Antagonists of Protein Disulfide Isomerase for Inhibition of Thrombus Formation" in the *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis* (2013; 9, Supplement 2: Abstract AS 07.2).



**Shamima Khan**, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, J. Hossein and M. C. Di Pentima published "The Quest for the Best Metric of Antibiotic Use and its Correlation with the Emergence of Fluoroquinolone Resistance in Children" in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*. The article was accepted for online publication in June 2014.



**Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, with A. Ivankin, S. Carson, and M. Wanunu published "Fast, Label-Free Force Spectroscopy of Histone-DNA Interactions in Individual Nucleosomes Using Nanopores" in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (2013; 135, 41: pp. 15350-2).

**Clinton Mathias**, assistant professor of pharmacology, published the following:

With L. A. Guernsey, D. Zammit, C. Brammer, C. A. Wu, R. S. Thrall, and H. L. Aguila published "Pro-inflammatory Role of Natural Killer Cells in the Development of Allergic Airway Disease" in *Clin Exp Allergy* (2014; 44, 4: pp. 589-601).

With D. Poddighe, E. J. Freyschmidt, D. Kombe, B. Caplan, G. L. Marseglia, and H. C. Oettgen, "Basophils are Rapidly Mobilized Following Initial Aeroallergen Encounter in Naive Mice and Provide a Priming Source of IL-4 in Adaptive Immune Responses" in the *Journal of Biological Regulators & Homeostatic Agents*, (2014; 28, 1: pp. 91-103).

With **Lucia Rose**, former clinical assistant professor of acute care, T. E. Bias, S. B. Trooskin, and J.J. Fong, "Sofosbuvir: A Nucleotide NS5B Inhibitor for the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Infection" in *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, (May 8, 2014: Epub ahead of print; doi:10.1177/1060028014534194).



**Melissa Mattison**, clinical assistant professor of community care, and **Eric Nemec**, clinical assistant professor of informatics, authored "An Active Learning Approach to Complementary and Alternative Medicine in a Self-Care Therapeutics Class" and "Lifestyle Medicine: The Impact of an Immersive Elective" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2014 [accepted]).



**Yoonsun Mo**, clinical assistant professor of acute care, and **Anthony Zimmermann**, chair and professor of pharmacy practice, authored "Role of Dexmedetomidine for the Prevention and Treatment of Delirium in Intensive Care Unit Patients" in the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* (2013; 47, pp. 869-876).



**Jared Ostroff**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care published the following:

"Description of a Medical Writing Rotation for a Postgraduate Pharmacy Residency Program. 2013." The paper appears online at <http://jpp.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/12/27/08-97190013516366>.

With H. Anksorus, "Implementation of a PGY-2 Academia Rotation: View from a Resident's Perspective" in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* (June 15, 2014; 71, 12: pp. 998-9).

With M.J. Crowley, and S. D. Melnyk, "Can Group Medical Clinics Improve Lipid Management in Diabetes?" in the *American Journal of Medicine* (February 2014; 12, 2: pp. 145-51).



**Katelyn Parsons**, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care, authored a letter entitled "Use of an Instant Messaging Application to Facilitate Pharmacy Students' Learning During Medical Rounds" for the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* (2013; 70: pp. 1654-5).



**Ronny Priefer**, professor of medicinal chemistry, and D.A. Rodriguez published "Sulfite Formation Versus Chlorination of Benzyl Alcohols with Thionyl Chloride" in *Tetrahedron Letters* (2014; 55, 19: pp. 3045-3048).



**Evan Robinson**, dean and professor, published the following: "The Changing Face of Pharmacy," in *HCN Healthcare News* (September 2013).

With M. S. Medina, C. M. Plaza, C. D. Stowe, G. DeLander, D. E. Beck, R. B. Melchert, R. B. Supernaw, V. F. Roche, B. L. Gleason, M. N. Strong, A. Bain, G. E. Meyer, B. J. Dong, J. Rochon, and P. Johnston, "Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Education (CAPE) Educational Outcomes 2013," in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2013; 77, 8: Article 162).

With C. J. Boyle, "Leadership is Not a Soft Skill" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (2013; 77, 10: Article 209).



**Shabnam Sani**, assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, published the following:

With **Rodney Siwale**, assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, Chapter 4: "Multicompartment Models: Intravenous bolus Administration" and Chapter 8: "Multi-Dosage Regimens" in Shargel L, Wu-Pong S, and Yu A, *Applied Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics* 7th ed. (2014: McGraw Hill, In press).

With C. Shukla, E. D. Bashaw, R. Juluru, S. H. S. Boddu, A. Joshi, and N. Dave, *Probes: The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Microdialysis Focus Group Magazine*. (January 2014; 3, 1).

With R. Stratford, J. Mehta, C. Shukla, and J. Patel. **Probes: The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Microdialysis Focus Group Magazine**. (2014; 3, 2).

With **Kayla Vasseur** '14 (BME), and **Robert T. T. Gettens**, associate professor of biomedical engineering, "Delivery of Anti-Cancer Drugs Using Nanocarriers" [abstract]. Northeast Bioengineering Conference, Northeastern University's College of Engineering, April 2014.



**Corey Scheer**, clinical assistant professor of acute care, published "Electronic Cigarettes in Smoking Cessation" in *Mental Health Clinician* 2013.



**Rodney Siwale**, assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, with K. G. Yeboah, J. Akande, R. T. Addo, K. Aninkorah-Yeboah, and A. Siddiq, published "In vitro and Ex vivo Characterization of Lectin-labeled Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Antigen-containing Microspheres for Enhanced Oral Delivery" in the *Journal of Drug Targeting* (2014; 22, 1: pp. 34-47).



**Natalia Shcherbakova**, assistant professor of pharmacoeconomics, with M. Shepherd, published "Community Pharmacists, Internet and Social Media: An Empirical Investigation" in *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy* (2013: In Press).



**Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean and associate professor, pharmacy practice, authored "In Response to: 'Use of Humor to Enhance Learning: Bull's Eye or Off the Mark'" in the *American Journal of Pharmacy Education* (2014; 78, 4: Article 84).



**Shusen Sun**, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, and **Anthony Zimmermann**, chair and professor of pharmacy practice, published "Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome" in *Hospital Pharmacy* (2013; 48, 8: pp. 1-6).



**Michael Thomas**, vice chair and clinical associate professor, published the following:

"Health Maintenance/Public Health I" in Bainbridge JL, Clark N, Coyle EA, et al, *Updates in Therapeutics: The Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Preparatory Review and Recertification Course*, Lenexa, KS ed. American College of Clinical Pharmacy, (2014: pp. 2-643-2-673).

With L. Macias-Moriarty, "Student Knowledge and Confidence in an Elective Clinical Toxicology Course using Active-learning Techniques" in the *American Journal of Pharmacy Education* (2014: In Press).

## Grants



**Jilla Sabeti**, assistant professor of pharmacology, received a grant of \$180,946 from the National Institutes of Health. The award will allow for a study of the molecular mechanisms of alcohol actions in the adolescent brain.



**Shusen Sun**, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, (PI), and **Diptiman Bose**, assistant professor of pharmacology (Co-PI), were awarded a \$15,500 unrestricted educational grant from BTG International Inc. to host a pharmacy continuing education conference on Prescription Drug Overdose and Antidote Updates 2014 at Western New England University.

# To Eat or Not to Eat— That Is the Question

## Dr. Clinton Mathias Continues His Search for Answers in Food Allergy

As one of the initial hires for the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Clinton Mathias brought with him a strong background and extensive experience in the fields of allergy and asthma. At Western New England University, one of his lab's major research interests has focused on the ever-increasing problem of food allergies. With Western nations suffering at much higher levels than our counterparts in the East, Dr. Mathias has set out to investigate this puzzling discrepancy.

"In Southeast Asia, food allergies are at a much lower level so one might wonder whether dietary antigens could play a role," said Dr. Mathias. "Curcumin, a spice in curry, is known to have pharmacological and antioxidant properties. People in places like India and China have been using it for medication for millennia."

Food allergy is driven by a subset of helper T cells with patients producing elevated levels of antibodies and exhibiting mast cell infiltration in the gut. Dr. Mathias' research induced food allergies in mice and treated them with curcumin to see if it would stop the development of allergic responses.

The results he has gathered over the past couple of years has yielded some promising results. His team has established that curcumin inhibits the mast cell-dependent phase of the allergic response to food substances, and that ingestion of curcumin suppresses the acute aspects of intestinal anaphylaxis such as allergic diarrhea. "We have presented abstracts about this work at national conferences and are



ready to submit a manuscript," he added. "We have received funding for this research from the National Institutes of Health."

For a professional with a passion for teaching ("I love interacting with students and feel a strong responsibility toward educating the next generation of scientists"), Dr. Mathias credits part of his research success to the atmosphere and facilities of Western New England University.

"It is great to be working in a building such as the Center for Sciences and Pharmacy and with colleagues and learners from the College of Pharmacy and other disciplines," lauded Professor Mathias. "Western New England has for a long time placed a strong emphasis on quality teaching and educating the next generation. When I was offered the position, I realized it would be a great opportunity for me to not only continue doing what I loved to do, *i.e.* teaching and performing research with undergraduate students, but also do it in a setting where undergrads will be exposed to the biomedical sciences and the health profession through the Pharmacy program."

This year alone, three students (Logan Carlson from Biomedical Engineering, Desirae Daniels from Pharmacy, and Deana Rodriguez from Health Sciences) working side-by-side in the labs with Dr. Mathias and other College of Pharmacy faculty have



won poster awards at national and regional conferences. Furthermore, Dr. Mathias also won a travel award which provided funds for him and a learner to present their work at the national conference of the American Association of Immunologists.

This type of applied experience is helping prepare our learners to take on the challenges of the rapidly changing pharmacy profession. "I think the next generation of pharmacists needs to acquire a diverse set of skills that will allow them to succeed not only in retail pharmacy, but in many other settings," Dr. Mathias opined. "In many places, pharmacists are stepping out of their traditional roles and have played more of an active role in interacting with patients and doctors and contributing to the health profession in the clinic and in the pharmaceutical industry."



Thanks to such experiences, our learners will enter their professional careers with the confidence and experience to immediately become trusted, caring, and contributing pharmacists. And with research opportunities like those provided by Dr. Mathias, our learners do not have to wait until after graduation to start making a real difference for society.

*In addition to his position at Western New England University, Dr. Mathias serves on the Education Committee for the American Association of Immunologists (AAI), and is also the Director of the AAI's High School Teachers Summer Research Program, which provides opportunities for high school teachers nationally to perform immunology research in the laboratories of leading scientists.*



## Save the Date!

### A Continuing Pharmacy Education & Preceptor Development Conference for Registered Pharmacists

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Western New England University  
Rivers Memorial Hall

Part of the Mission of the Western New England University College of Pharmacy is to enhance the knowledge base of the pharmacy profession through teaching, service, research, and scholarly activity. Through this Continuing Education/Preceptor Development Conference, the College of Pharmacy demonstrates its commitment to lifelong learning.

This program will provide insight into legal issues impacting the pharmacy profession, preceptor development, and updates on clinical therapeutics.

Continuing Pharmacy Education conferences are a way to continue your own professional development.

**For directions to the University, go to:**  
[www.wne.edu/visiting](http://www.wne.edu/visiting).

For additional information and questions, please contact Joanne Moore at [joanne.moore@wne.edu](mailto:joanne.moore@wne.edu) or 413-796-2046.

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