

The Educator

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Learner Susan Ahn '17
assists alumni with free
health screenings at
Homecoming Weekend.

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND
UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE of PHARMACY

The Educator



College of Pharmacy Expands to Include Health Sciences

The College of Pharmacy has a new name to reflect its expanding role in professional education in the health and wellness fields. With the launch of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program this August, it has become the **College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**. Building upon the doctoral programs in Pharmacy and Occupational Therapy, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is well positioned for the future growth of programs in the health sciences.



This Annual Report includes news and events happening during the 2016-17 academic year when we were the College of Pharmacy.

Message from the Dean



Greetings from Western New England University College of Pharmacy! May of 2017 saw us graduate our third class of the College of Pharmacy, the Class of 2017. It is exciting to see the number of alumni growing and to begin to hear about how the next phase of their lives as working professionals begins to evolve.

As you might expect, we have a lot to share and a lot for which we should be thankful. Over this past year our learners and faculty have been very engaged, albeit via volunteerism and community service for our learners and scholarly pursuits for the faculty. We also sought

to work together as a College to help educate healthcare colleagues, K-12 students, college students, and patients about the issues associated to the Opioid crisis, a challenge to the College we intend to renew again for the 2017-18 academic year.

Within this issue I am reminded of the impact one pharmacist can make on a community. The College lost a great friend and colleague this past year, Jack Mailhot, R.Ph. Anyone who knew Jack remembers his smile and quick wit. I had the privilege of meeting Jack during my first year here at Western New England when I attended a Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association meeting here in Springfield. Evident immediately was how much he enjoyed being around people and how much pride he had in his chosen profession of pharmacy. You will learn more about Jack in this edition of *The Educator* and I hope you find his story as motivating and inspiring as I found every one of our conversations.

I would like to close with an acknowledgement to our continued growth and entrepreneurship within Western New England University. Beginning in

the fall of 2017 the University saw the enrollment of the first class of Doctor of Occupational Therapy learners into the new Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program. In order to find an academic home for the OTD program, it has joined the College of Pharmacy to form the new College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Our part in the entrepreneurial spirit of the University continues!

To date we have blazed a trail of collective success, a trend we plan to continue! I am once again reminded of the quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Do not go where the path may lead, but instead go where there is no path and leave a trail.” We continue to blaze new trails!

Please enjoy this issue of *The Educator* and I encourage you to visit our website (wne.edu/phs) for up-to-date information regarding our activities.

Best Regards,

Evan T. Robinson, RPh, PhD
Dean and Professor

Doctor of Pharmacy Program At-A-Glance

Mission

The Doctor of Pharmacy program 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 program will enhance the knowledge base of the pharmacy profession through teaching, service, research, and scholarly activity.

Vision

The Doctor of Pharmacy program 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 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Female	65%	59%	61%	73%
Age Range	22-34	21-37	20-34	19-44
Prior Degree	21%	35%	21%	10%
Bilingual	14%	32%	19%	16%

Legacy of Local Leader Jack Mailhot Inspires New Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association Endowed Scholarship



Jack's dad, Henry Mailhot, stands proudly at Henry's Pharmacy in Springfield's North End.

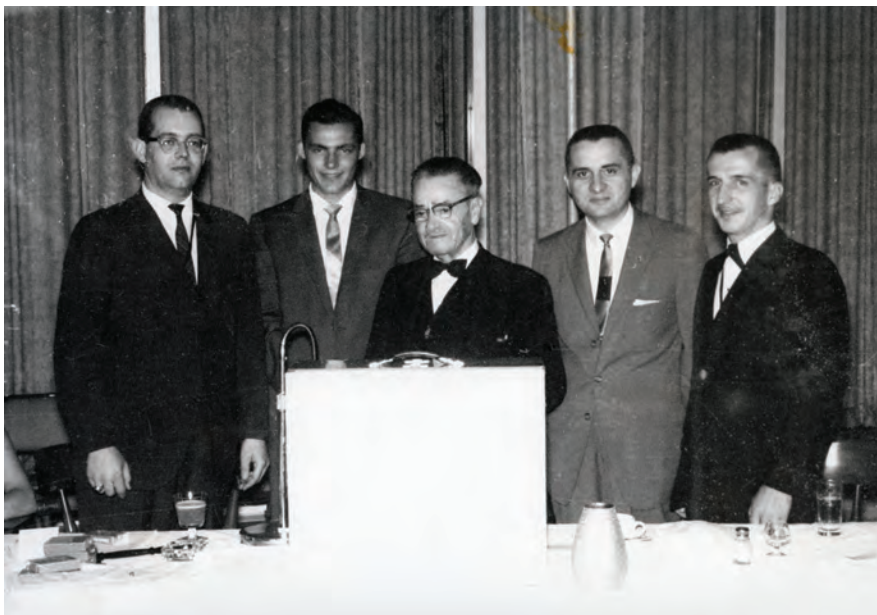
For inspiration in how a pharmacist can have an impact on his or her patients and own profession, students at Western New England University can look to the example of Jack Mailhot, R.Ph. The longtime president of the Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association (WMPHA), Jack passed away in March of 2016. His passing was the impetus for the Association to celebrate the contributions of Jack and other members with an endowed scholarship for learners who come from the local community.

The Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association Endowed Scholarship is based upon a combination of financial aid and merit. It is available to a professional pharmacy learner from one of the western Massachusetts counties of Hampden, Hampshire, Berkshire or Franklin. The scholarship was generously created by the Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association in recognition of contributions made by its members to the western Massachusetts community and to the greater study and practice of pharmacy practice.

The first WMPHA scholarship will be awarded to a student this fall.

Like the future scholarship recipients, Jack was a native son. Born in 1936, he grew up to attend the former Cathedral High School and Hampden College of Pharmacy, the region's first school of pharmacy that launched the careers of hundreds of area professionals long before Western New England University launched its program in 2011.

Following in his father Henry's footsteps, Jack owned and operated Henry's Pharma-



Jack stands at the podium flanked by fellow WMPHA members Paul Lussier, Joseph "Doc" Gagne (founder of Hampden College of Pharmacy), Tom Cocchi, and Bob Sauve at an early gathering.

cy, located in the north end of Springfield. In the early '80s he continued his pharmacy career at Rite-Aid and later Wal-Mart.

With a strong commitment to his profession, he was a leader in the Western Massachusetts Pharmacists Association throughout his career, rising from treasurer to serve as president for over two decades.

College of Pharmacy Advisory Committee member Bob Dobek, a semi-retired pharmacist and former University Trustee, was a close friend and colleague. The two were graduates of Hampden College of Pharmacy and like Jack, Bob was a longtime owner of an independent pharmacy, Buckley's Pharmacy in East Longmeadow, MA.

Bob stated Jack saw the College of Pharmacy as a bridge from WMPHA's several hundred members to future generations of pharmacists. Since the advent of the College of Pharmacy, he has invited learners to attend meeting presentations. On average, more than 70 students have attended the eight meetings held annually. According to Bob, bringing people together was Jack's special gift.

"Jack was a born leader," recalls Bob. "He was also a good listener and problem-solver. He was very precise and always on top of every detail, which made him a wonderful administrator."

As WMPHA president, Jack was eager to connect with Dean Evan Robinson and find ways for shared synergies between the College of Pharmacy and the Association. The creation of the new scholarship celebrates his influence on forging that bond and will serve as an enduring a testament to his legacy.

"When we launched the College and the Pharmacy program, we were cognizant that we were not starting something new to the region, but furthering a legacy," says Dean Robinson. "Western Massachusetts has a proud history in the pharmacy profession, so we sought input and involvement from members of the community like Jack from the very beginning. Whether talking about his time in pharmacy school, as an independent pharmacist, a chain store pharmacist, or about his retirement, he was immensely proud of being a pharmacist and being able to help others.

"This new scholarship serves as a lasting bridge from that past to the future of pharmacy education here in our community."

—Dean Robinson



Jack Mailhot

"Jack and other members of WMPHA have been welcoming and supportive of our program. In turn, we have looked for ways to chronicle and preserve that history in the archives we display in the College and the stories we share with our stakeholders. This new scholarship serves as a lasting bridge from that past to the future of pharmacy education here in our community."



Dedicated Learner

Edwin Kaczenski Excels in the Pharmacy Program



“After graduation I hope to be able to contribute to the industry through the field of infectious disease, and hopefully later in my career as a faculty member at a college of pharmacy where I can help to cultivate the next generation of pharmacists”

—Edwin Kaczenski

Learner Edwin Kaczenski PY3 began his time at Western New England as an undergraduate Pre-pharmacy student. He enjoyed the Golden Bear hallmarks of small class sizes and close faculty-student relationships that make the education richer and experience more fulfilling. He enjoyed the same kind of environment when he continued his pharmacy studies at the University.

Like many in the College, Edwin has always been passionate about healthcare, particularly in the complex ways that drugs interact with one another. He is fascinated by the clinical skills he has learned, and is just starting to apply them in rotations.

So far, he has most enjoyed his rotation at Holyoke Medical Center, where he learned about the responsibilities of a clinical coordinator. This opportunity gave Edwin his first glimpse at what it means to be a practicing and confident pharmacist, as well as more insight into how hospital policies are created and reformed. Such decisions and

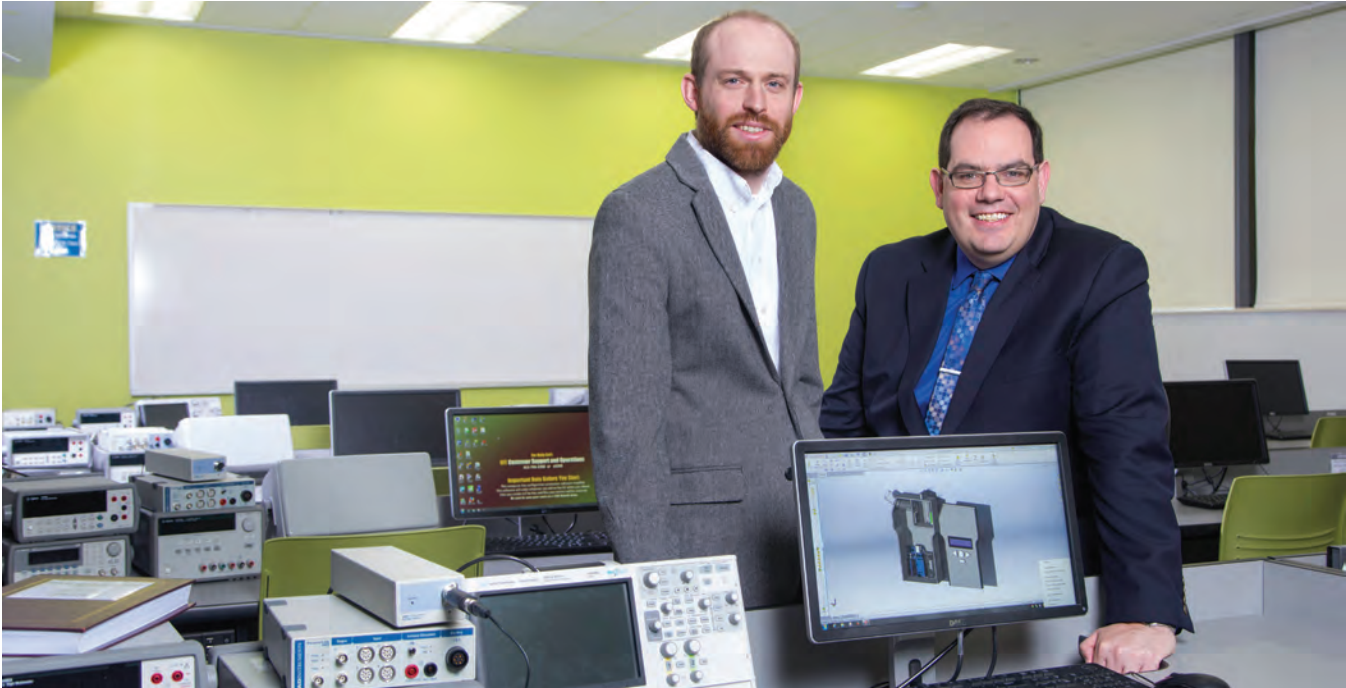
changes may directly impact his practice in the future.

Edwin has become an accomplished scholar during his time in both the Pre-pharmacy and Pharmacy programs. He won a poster presentation award for his research “Modulation of Immune Cell Function by Diet-Induced Epigenetic Modifications” and was inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society. He also presented his work on “Epigenetically-induced Changes in Mast Cell Function can Modulate the Development of Allergy to Oral Antigens,” at the 117th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Anaheim, CA.

When he isn't in class or at rotations, Edwin makes the most of our beautiful campus as a member of the men's cross country team. He says being involved in collegiate athletics has added to his pharmacy experience by honing his skills in teamwork and leadership.



Faculty-developed Startup Launches Pain-free Diabetes Breathalyzer Device



Dr. Michael Rust and Dr. Ronny Priefer display the design of their game-changing device.

University faculty members Dr. Ronny Priefer (Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy) and Dr. Michael Rust (Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering) have much to celebrate regarding the great launch to their startup firm: New England Breath Technologies, Inc.

New England Breath Technologies' first product is a portable breathalyzer device set to revolutionize non-invasive blood glucose level monitoring. The device is intended to replace regular finger prick blood testing in persons with diabetes. The new product uses multilayer nanotechnology to detect acetone in the breath of diabetic patients, which has been shown to correlate with blood-glucose levels. This breathalyzer will not only provide a pain-free way of testing blood sugar levels, but will also adhere to diabetes monitoring compliance standards.

This spring, the company was awarded the top prize of \$25,000 from Valley Venture Mentors (VVM), which will be used to run a clinical trial. As a participant selected for the prestigious VVM Accelerator program, a four-month long startup boot camp, the company received business advice and training, marketplace exposure, and networking with other area entrepreneurs.

The firm also recently won the People's Choice Award at the Sixth Annual M2D2 \$100K Challenge. The Challenge is a nationwide competition that showcases the innovative ideas of early-stage medical device, diagnostic and biotech companies.

"It is a wonderful feeling to know that an idea from a small lab in Western New England can attract attention, not only in the local community, but within the biotechnology field as a whole," says Dr.

Priefer. "Being judged so favorably by others that intimately know this arena is a great feeling. Clearly, the University has the infrastructure to take ideas from a piece of paper to reality."



Learner Accomplishments

College of Pharmacy learners are dedicated to their pharmacy education and as a result, are high achievers. Here are the highlights from some of their most recent successes.



Nicole Silengo, Class of 2018; **Kayleigh Mitchell**, Class of 2018; **Olivia Roth**, Class of 2020; **Elizabeth Allen**, Class of 2020; **Cassie Field**, Class of 2019; **Brittany Dickhaus**, Class of 2018; **Jessica Race**, Class of 2020; **Caleigh Curran**, Class of 2019; **Sarah Provencher**, Class of 2019; and **Michelle Tran**, Class of 2018, (pictured with Dean Evan Robinson) were the recipients of the College of Pharmacy Annual Scholarship, which is awarded to students based on academic merit.



Shelley Kusnierz, Class of 2019, (pictured with Associate Professor David Baker and Assistant Dean Kim Tanzer) was awarded the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association Foundation Scholarship, which is given to a Massachusetts resident who is a member of the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association.



Kylie Josefiak, Class of 2019, (shown with Dr. Daniel Kennedy) was named as a Walmart Scholar, a nationwide scholarship award for students who have demonstrated a strong interest in enhancing their preparation for a career in academic pharmacy.



Thomas Spring, Class of 2018, (pictured with Dean Evan Robinson) was presented with the The Norman and Minna Halperin Scholarship, given to students in good academic standing and an interest in community pharmacy.



Nicole Bucci, Class of 2018; **Maria Hysolli**, Class of 2019; **Stephanie Guay**, Class of 2018; **Kylie Josefiak**, Class of 2019; **Whitney Stubbs**, Class of 2018; **Rachel Larson**, Class of 2020; **Brittany Russell**, Class of 2019; and **Kelsey Shadick**, Class of 2020, (pictured with Steve Mataraza) were the recipients of the Rite Aid Pharmacy Scholarship.



Elizabeth LaRose, Class of 2018, (shown with Dean Evan Robinson) was presented with the Robert W. and Marilyn P. Dobek Pharmacy Scholarship.



Collin Jerard, Class of 2020, (with Dean Evan Robinson) was awarded the Alfred A. LaRiviere Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which was initiated by the members of the Rotary Club of Springfield in memory of Alfred A. LaRiviere.



Jessica Zewski, Class of 2018; (pictured with Dean Evan Robinson) and **Nicole Dutton**, Class of 2017 (not pictured) were awarded the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship based on their academic merit.



Top left: **Ayeisca Mateo**, Class of 2019; **Jessica LeClair**, Class of 2018; (pictured with James Gallagher and Wendy Perreault of CVS Health); **Jarred Rosenberg**, Class of 2020; and **Edward Korobkov** (not pictured), Class of 2018, received the CVS Health Foundation Pharmacy Scholarship, which is awarded to students based on their academic merit and interest in a career within a community pharmacy practice.

Bottom left: **Kyle Mahoney**, Class of 2020, (shown with Dean Evan Robinson, Associate Dean Beth Welch, Assistant Dean and Associate Professor Joshua Spooner, Assistant Dean Kim Tanzer, and Assistant Dean Matt Dintzner), received the College of Pharmacy Dean's Scholarship, which is awarded to the highest rated incoming student in the Professional Pharmacy program who demonstrates achievement and commitment to the College of Pharmacy's mission, vision, and values during the first semester of the Professional Program.

Community Engagement



High school students review the DNA extraction protocol with Dr. Whitman at the Golden Bear Pharmacy Summer Camp.

Pharmacy Summer Camp Welcomes High School Students



Dr. Arin Whitman coordinated the second annual Golden Bear Pharmacy Summer Camp. Thirty-four local high school students attended the camp from June 26-30, at no cost. It was a full week of activities presented by faculty, which included being in the laboratory making creams, extracting DNA, testing chromatography, and participating in a microbiology experiment. They also spent time with clinical faculty learning skills such as taking blood pressure and recognizing common uses for medicinal herbs. It was a well-rounded week full of activities and learning.

Enhancing Medication Safety Education Conference



The College of Pharmacy held the Enhancing Medication Safety Education Conference, a full-day program, which provided updated strategies on enhancing medication safety and improving patient outcomes. Attendees earned six continuing education hours.



Learners Welcome Alumni to Homecoming Health Screenings



University alumni returning to campus for Homecoming Weekend September 23-25, 2016 were welcomed to the College of Pharmacy booth by learners offering free health screenings and information about fighting the opioid epidemic.

Chinese Pharmacists Complete International Program



Six Chinese pharmacists are the first students to successfully complete a new International Clinical Pharmacy Training Program, which culminated in a graduation ceremony. It was established by the College of Pharmacy in collaboration with Chinese Pharmacological Society-Division of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Research, and Yale New Haven Hospital Department of Pharmacy. The program exposes Chinese clinical pharmacists to advanced training through U.S. based educational and clinical resources.

Profile

Preceptor Christine Vala Inspires Students to Champion the Underserved



Christine Vala, RPh, is one of the talented preceptors who work with the Pharmacy program to contribute to the education of future pharmacists. Christine is the Pharmacy Manager at Community, A Walgreens Pharmacy, which is a nontraditional pharmacy with an emphasis on treating complex disease states. “This pharmacy gives patients autonomy. Growing up, helping people—especially the underserved—was always my goal and being a pharmacist fits this goal perfectly,” says Christine.

Christine assisted in building and continues to help grow the program. She has received several awards in community Service from the Multi-Cultural Community Service Association as well as Walgreens.

As preceptor for the Pharmacy program, she plays a critical role in learner development of pharmacy students. Christine uses her knowledge, skills, and values as a pharmacist and, she says, finds satisfaction in helping educate future pharmacists.

“Precepting allows me to educate the next generation of pharmacists. My passion is to educate and challenge students to be the best pharmacists they can be,” she says.

Christine helps educate a vast array of students from Pre-pharmacy technician students to pharmacy interns, IPPEs, APPEs, and resident pharmacists. She is also responsible for training newly hired pharmacists for Walgreens.

Christine says the students from Western New England University come prepared for this next step in their education. “The students from Western New England are eager to learn and not afraid to take on challenges. They display professionalism, show strong initiative, and are always willing to help,” she notes.

She says Western New England University provides its pharmacy students with a broad spectrum of learning and the curriculum prepares them for the challenges they will face in their future career

and allows them to utilize their education.

“I believe in challenging my students,” says Christine. “I realize their strengths and weaknesses and I try and work with them to grow in their profession. I invite them to come to community outreach events like flu shot clinics, brown bag sessions, and preceptor talks to see how community pharmacy is expanding and evolving.”

Christine says the projects her students are involved in vary among student level and day to day challenges, but some include blood pressure clinics, drug-drug interactions, OTC consults, and compounding.

“I strive to bring out the best in everyone I work with. I give them the freedom to develop their own style while providing them with the tools they need. It is my constant, on the spot communication and feedback that the students appreciate. I observe and assess many situations with students and give feedback in the moment to help them achieve excellent patient care.”

“The students from Western New England are eager to learn and not afraid to take on challenges. They display professionalism, show strong initiative, and are always willing to help,”

—Christine Vala, RPh

Faculty Focus

Dr. Shusen Sun, Director of International Pharmacy Programs, Department of Pharmacy Practice



Born in Beijing, China, Dr. Shusen Sun completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Science and Technology of China. He came to the United States for graduate study in chemistry at Vanderbilt University and went on to Pfizer as a research chemist after he obtained his master's degree. At Pfizer, he worked on drug discovery projects involving antibiotics and cancer therapy, where he won the Pfizer Global Research and Development Excellence Award and the Pfizer Above and Beyond Award. "My interest in pharmacy came from my research at Pfizer. The research included drug discovery, structure-activity modification, and compound synthesis. It was fascinating to see our research progress from early discovery to clinical trials. But I was also very interested in seeing the ultimate use of drugs in patient care," says Professor Sun.

While at Pfizer, he completed his PharmD from Creighton University through a distance pathway. He then worked as a clinical pharmacist in emergency medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital-Saint Raphael Campus from 2007 to 2011, where he established the clinical pharmacy service in the Emergency Department. "With the support of the leadership and staff from the Pharmacy Department and the Emergency Department, I established the clinical pharmacy service and started to provide direct patient care within a team-based model along with physicians and nurses. I also setup clinical rotations for pharmacy students and residents. I was very proud of my work there," he says.

“I enjoy teaching because I have an opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with student pharmacists. It is a joy to guide them and to see them grow professionally on a daily basis.”

— Dr. Shusen Sun

At Yale New Haven Hospital, Dr. Sun was also involved in precepting pharmacy students and residents in their clinical rotations. With a strong passion in teaching and a desire to explore new opportunities, he came to teach at Western New England University in 2011.

After joining the Pharmacy program faculty, he continued to practice in emergency medicine as a pharmacy faculty educator, first at Baystate Franklin Hospital and then at Holyoke Medical Center. Dr. Sun was selected to serve as a member of the Section Advisory Group on Emergency Care-American Society of Health-System Pharmacists from 2014 to 2016. He is currently a member of the Geriatric Emergency Medicine Special Interest Group with the International Federation for Emergency Medicine. He was also invited as a pharmacist speaker to present at the Global Emergency Medicine Conference in 2014 and 2015 and at the International Conference on Emergency Medicine in 2016. Dr. Sun also actively pursues scholarly and practice research with numerous publications, and he is the Editorial Board Member for the International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy.

Dr. Sun has been awarded grants on drug overdose and enhancing medication safety. For the past four years, he applied and was awarded four unrestricted educational grants, a total of \$56,000, from BTG International, Inc. to hold pharmacist continuing education conferences on drug overdose and medication safety. Each year over 100 pharmacists from the New England region attended these conferences. “These programs achieve our goal to raise the aware-

Bringing his Passion for Medication and Patient Safety, Dr. Shusen Sun Educates Future Pharmacists Around the Globe



Dr. Sun meets with Clinical Pharmacist Scholars from China.

ness of prescription drug overdose and medication safety among pharmacists and to increase their knowledge competency on these topics,” says Dr. Sun.

At the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, he is the director of International Pharmacy Programs, which began in January 2016 with the first clinical pharmacist scholar from China who completed a three month pharmacy education and clinical pharmacy session. The program was later expanded in collaboration with Chinese Pharmacological Society-Division of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Research and Yale New Haven Hospital. The program mission is to provide Chinese clinical pharmacists advanced training through US-based educational and clinical programs. It allows international pharmacists to spend one month at the College to learn about Doctor of Pharmacy education, and five months at Yale New Haven Hospital to learn about the clinical practice of pharmacy in the United States.

A variety of lectures and discussions are offered with topics including the pharmacy admissions process, accreditation standards

and outcome assessment, curricular design, mission and vision development, experiential education, pharmacists as educators, and leadership development in pharmacy practice. “We had six Chinese pharmacists from five major Chinese academic hospitals enrolled in this program in November 2016, and all of them successfully completed the training in April 2017. We are anticipating the second cohort to start the training in September 2017,” says Dr. Sun.

Dr. Sun talks about what makes the Western New England University PharmD program stand apart. “We have a learner-centered educational program, small class size, and we know our students well. In pharmacotherapy we adopt the integrated pharmacy care and patient management model. The model allows us to teach our pharmacy learners with the integration of biomedical, pharmaceutical, social/behavioral/administrative, and clinical sciences. The curriculum also instills a commitment to lifelong learning, community service, and leadership,” he says.

Faculty Accomplishments



Research and Publications



David Baker, associate professor of pharmacy administration, published, with Uyen Nguyen '16 "The Events Upon Which U.S. Pharmacy Schools Established Their Founding Dates" in the *History of Pharmacy SIG Newsletter*. Pharmacy Chronicles: Past, Present, and Future (2016 Spring: 3: 4-5, 13).



Daniel Kennedy, associate professor of pharmacology, published, with R. Bekendam, P. Bendapudi, L. Lin, P. Nag, J. Pu, pharmacy student **Alexandra Feldenzer**, J. Chiu, K. Cook, B. Furie, M. Huang, P. Hogg, and R. Flaumenhaft, "A Substrate-Driven Allosteric Switch that Enhances PDI Catalytic Activity" in *Nature Communications* (2016 Aug 30: 7,12579).



Clinton Mathias, associate professor of pharmacology published the following:

With S.H. Polukort, J. Ser-Dolansky, S.S. Schneider, pharmacy student **Jeff Rovatti**, **Chelsea Keedy** '17, and biomedical engineering major **Logan Carlson** '17, and **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, "IL-10 Enhances IgE-Mediated Mast Cell Responses and Is Essential for the Development of Experimental Food Allergy in IL-10-Deficient Mice" in the *Journal of Immunology* (June 5, 2016: doi:10.4049/jimmunol.1600066).

With S. Polukort, C. Dollard, **Chelsea Keedy** '17, pharmacy student **Edwin Kaczanski**, and **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Epigenetically-induced Changes in Mast Cell Function can Modulate

the Development of Allergy to Oral Antigens," at 117th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Anaheim, CA, in July 2016 and *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, (80, 5, Article S2. doi: 10.5688/ajpe805S2).

With S. Polukort, J. Ser-Dolansky, S.S. Schneider, pharmacy student **Jeff Rovatti**, **Chelsea Keedy** '17, biomedical engineering major **Logan Carlson** '17 and **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, "IL-10 Enhances Mast Cell Activation and is Essential for the Development of IgE-mediated Experimental Food Allergy" in *The Journal of Immunology* (May 1, 2016: 196, 1 Supplement, 123.8).

With D. Thomas and **Diptiman Bose**, assistant professor of pharmacology, biomedical engineering major **Shashank Kaul**, pharmacy student **Matthew Murphy** and **Jacob Morrill** '16, "Ellagic Acid Mediated Attenuation of Store Operated Calcium Entry alters Cytokine Expression in Jurkat T Cells" in *The FASEB Journal* (April 2016: 30, 1, Supplement 1138.2).



Katelyn Parsons, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, coauthored an article titled "Visual Hallucinations Associated with Gabapentin Use" with **Michael Derkits** '15 in *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* (2016: 15, 73(10): pp 631-4).



Shabnam Sani, associate professor of pharmaceuticals, published the following:

With H.H. Alsulimani and J. Kim, "Microdialysis-directed Intra-tumor Pharmacokinetic Modeling of Methotrexate in Mice

and Humans” in the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences* (2016:19, 2: pp. 239-251).

With pharmacy student **Clayton Cassone** and H. Bakhteyar, “Formulation, Evaluation, and Characterization of the In Vitro Release Kinetics of Compounded Slow-release Capsules of Liothyronine Sodium (T3),” published and presented at Eastern Colleges Science Conference, Western New England University, Springfield, MA, April 2017. It was the winner of the top oral presentation award.



Natalia Shcherbakova, assistant professor of pharmacoecconomics, published the following:

With G. Tereso, “Clinical Pharmacist Home Visits and 30-day Re-admission in Medicare Advantage Beneficiaries” in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* (2016: 22, pp. 363-368).

“The Delivery Mode Matters when Surveying U.S. Practicing Pharmacists: The Reason to Say ‘No’ to the Hybrid” in *Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy* (2016: 12, 1: pp. 169-70).

With C. Ruban, J. Noone, J. Marino, W. Saunders, and C. Blanchette, “Examining Corticosteroid-Induced Type 2 Diabetes in the COPD Medicare Population” in *Value in Health* (May 2016: 19, 3: pp. A110-111). International Society for Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research, Washington, D.C.

With G. Tereso and J. Spain “Factors Associated with Treatment Persistence among Patients Newly Initiated on Opioid Substitution Pharmacotherapy” in the *Journal of American Pharmacists Association* (2016: 5, 3: e133).



Josh Spooner, assistant dean for student affairs, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and associate professor of pharmacy practice, authored two textbook chapters in *Pharmacotherapeutics for Advance Practice*, 4th Ed. (2016: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins): “The Economics of Pharmacotherapeutics,” with **Briana Santaniello** ’15 and S. Mistry and “Ophthalmic Disorders.”



Shusen Sun, clinical associate professor of emergency medicine, pharmacy practice, published the following:

With X.G. Li, N. Ma, B. Wang, et al. “The Impact of P2Y12 Promoter DNA Methylation on the Recurrence of Ischemic Events in Chinese Patients with Ischemic Cerebrovascular Disease” in *Scientific Reports* (2016 Sep 30: 6, 34570).

With X.G. Li, Y.X. Wu, Z.G. Zhao, et al. “Population Pharmacokinetics of Vancomycin in Postoperative Neurosurgical Patients and the Application in Dosing Recommendation” in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*. (2016: 105, 11: pp. 3425-3431).

With Z. Zhao, X.G. Li, S.H. Mei, et al. “Impact of Genetic Polymorphisms Related to Clopidogrel or Acetylsalicylic Acid Pharmacology on Clinical Outcome in Chinese Patients with Symptomatic Extracranial or Intracranial Stenosis” in the *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* (2016; 72, 10: pp. 1195-204).

With Z.G. Zhao. “Updates of New Molecular Entities Approved by the FDA in the First Half of 2016: Cancer, Rare Disease and Antiviral Medications.” in *Drug Evaluation* (2016; 13, 16: pp. 7-12 in Chinese).



Presentations

David Baker, associate professor of pharmacy administration, presented the following:

With G. Higby, “Teaching Pharmacy History—Addressing the 2016 ACPE Standards in Diverse Ways” at the Social and Administrative Sciences Section Roundtable presentation at the July 2016 American Association of the Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

“Pharmacy Law Annual: Massachusetts Regulations and Case Law Review,” at Western New England University College of Pharmacy Continuing Pharmacy Education and Preceptor Development Conference for Registered Pharmacists, Springfield, MA, in May 2016.

Daniel Kennedy, associate professor of pharmacology, made the following presentations at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA, in July 2016:

With pharmacy students **Alexandra Feldenzer**, **Matthew Aguilera**, and **Nicholas Sesto**, and **Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean for student affairs, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and associate professor of pharmacy practice, “Mapping Required Biological Science Courses in Pharmacy Curricula to the PCOA Exam.”

With pharmacy students **Allissa Long**, **Jamie Romanowski**, **Alexandra Feldenzer**, and **Kayleigh Mitchell**, and visiting scholar Elizabeth Brunt, “Exploring the Role of the Thiol Isomerase ERp57 in Cancer Progression Using Novel Small Molecule Inhibitors.”

With S. Tucker, C. Cox, K. Janke, M. Malloy, S. Stein, H. Troung, V. Viswesh, and C. White, “Innovation in the Open: Changing the Innovation in Teaching Award Process to Foster Innovation Discovery.”

With **Rebecca Marcinek** ’17, **Erika Vuernick** ’17, **Katie Schmidt** ’17, and **Chelsea Keedy** ’17, Eric Nemeck, and **Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean for student affairs, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and associate professor of pharmacy practice, “Go Up or Get Out?! Promotion and Tenure Policies in Pharmacy Practice.”

With **Joshua Spooner**, assistant dean for student affairs, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and associate professor of pharmacy practice, and pharmacy students **Christina Di Donato**, **Kayleigh Mitchell**, and **Matthew Amaral**, “Lies, Damn Lies, and Missing Statistics: Measures of Student Achievement Published on Pharmacy Program Websites.”

Faculty Accomplishments (continued)



Clinton Mathias, associate professor of pharmacology, served on the Education Committee and gave a presentation at the American Association of Immunologists meeting in May 2016 in Seattle. He also presented the following:

With S.H. Polukort, C. Dollard, Pharmacy alumna **Chelsea Keedy '17** and pharmacy student **Edwin Kaczinski**, and **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, "Epigenetically-induced Changes in Mast Cell Function can Modulate the Development of Allergy to Oral Antigens" at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy meeting in Anaheim, CA, July 2016.

With S. Polukort, J. Ser-Dolansky, S.S. Schneider, pharmacy student **Jeff Rovatti**, **Chelsea Keedy '17**, Biomedical Engineering major **Logan Carlson '17**, and **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, "IL-10 Enhances Mast Cell Activation and is Essential for the Development of IgE-mediated Experimental Food Allergy" at the American Association of Immunologists meeting in Seattle, May 2016.

With S. Polukort, J. Ser-Dolansky, S.S. Schneider, pharmacy student **Jeff Rovatti**, **Chelsea Keedy '17**, Biomedical Engineering major **Logan Carlson '17**, and **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, "A Novel Role for IL-10 in Mediation of Mast Cell Responses and the Development of IgE-dependent Food Allergy" (won the AACP Excellence in Innovative Research award) at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference at Western New England University in April 2016.

With S. Polukort, pharmacy students **Edwin Kaczinski**, **Nina Johnson**, **Chelsea Keedy '17**, **Shannon Kinney**, assistant professor of pharmacology, and **Diptiman Bose**, assistant professor of pharmacology "Modulation of Immune Cell Function by Diet-induced Epigenetic Modifications" (won Best Poster) at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference at Western New England University, April 2016.

With D. Thomas, **Diptiman Bose**, assistant professor of pharmacology, Shashank Kaul, biomedical engineering major and pharmacy student **Matthew Murphy** and **Jacob Morrill '16**, "Ellagic Acid Mediated Attenuation of Store Operated Calcium Entry alters Cytokine Expression in Jurkat T Cells" at the Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego, CA, April 2016.

Katelyn Parsons, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, presented a continuing education program, "Updates in Anticoagulation: Out with the Old, In with the New?" with Pharmacy students **Nicole Bucci** and **Nicole Silengo** at the Alpha Zeta Omega National Convention in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in January 2017. She also presented a continuing education program, "Don't Sugar Coat It: Update in Diabetes Therapy" with **Todd Thompson '17**, and **Christopher Krupa '17** at the Alpha Zeta Omega National Convention in Montreal, Canada, July 2016.



Ronny Priefer, professor of medicinal chemistry, and **Michael Rust**, associate professor of biomedical engineering, presented their research on developing a painless blood glucose breathalyzer at the 2016 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in Denver in November 2016.



Scott Sherman, senior divisional administrator of technical services, presented at the Conference on Pen and Touch Technology "Go Green with Touch Screen: Leveraging Technology to Maximize Learning and Minimize Paper Waste" at Brown University in Providence in April 2016.

Shusen Sun, clinical associate professor of emergency medicine, pharmacy practice, presented the following:

"Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Practice" at the First International Pharmacy Forum on Individualized Pharmacotherapy, China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Beijing, China, in September 2016,

"Clinical Pharmacy Education and Practice" at the Chinese Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing, China, in September 2016.

"Pharmacogenomics Practice of Clinical Pharmacy in American Hospitals" at the 6th National Annual Meeting of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Nanjing, China, in September 2016.

"Geriatric Pharmacotherapy" at the First Symposium of Precision Medicine of Gansu Province, Lanzhou, China, in September 2016.

"Pharmacist Prescribing in the US" at the Sino-US Pharmacy Specialist Internet and On-site Training Conference, Beijing, China, in September 2016.

"US Pharmacist Service Reimbursement" at the Twelfth Clinical Pharmacy Practice Training and the Capital Medical University Clinical Pharmacy Preceptor Training Conference, Beijing, China, in October 2016.



Beth Welch, associate dean for pharmacy academic affairs and professor of pharmacy practice, and **Thomas Moore**, media and simulation operations manager at the College of Pharmacy, presented "Interprofessional Education Simulation Program Across Institutional Borders" at HPSN (Human Patient Simulation Network) World 2016, Tampa, FL, in February 2017.

GRANTS

Clinton Mathias, associate professor of pharmacology, was awarded an Undergraduate Faculty Travel Grant by the American Association of Immunologists, \$1,250 for mentor and \$1,000 for pharmacy student **Jeffrey Rovatti**.

Shabnam Sani, associate professor of pharmaceuticals, with H. Bakhteyar (Co-investigator), received \$10,000 in January 2017 for a grant titled "Release of Liothyronine Sodium (T3) from Compounded Slow-release Capsules: The Effect of Formulation Parameters on the Release Kinetics," from Freedom Pharmaceuticals Inc. She also received the following grants:

A \$5,000 grant in February 2017, with pharmacy student **Clayton Cassone**, titled "Formulation, Evaluation, and Development of an In vitro-In vivo Correlation (IVIVC) of Compounded Slow-Release Capsules of Liothyronine Sodium (T3)" from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education, Gateway to Research Scholarship Program.

A College of Pharmacy Bridge Grant of \$5,000 for "Pharmacokinetics Evaluation of Methotrexate Mixed Micelles (made of polyethylene glycol/ phosphatidylethanolamine conjugates and D-a-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate) as Pharmaceutical Nano-carriers for Tumor Targeting."

Shusen Sun, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, pharmacy practice, received a pharmacist continuing education unrestricted educational grant of \$13,500 for "Enhancing Medication Safety 2017" from BTG, International Inc.

APPEARANCES



Kam Capoccia

Better Use of Diabetes Medicine
9/8/16 Press Release Point

Care Coordination Key to Diabetes Care
9/13/16 Health IT Analytics

Ronny Priefer

Needle-Free 'Breathalyzer' Shows Promise
11/13/16 MedicineNet.com

New Device for Monitoring Blood Glucose Levels
1/20/17 Health Medicine Network

TENURE AND PROMOTIONS

Effective July 1, 2017

Dr. Kam Capoccia, promoted to Clinical Professor in Community Care Practice

Dr. Rodney Siwale, tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmaceuticals



Dr. Shusen Sun, promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Acute Care

Shusen Sun, clinical associate professor of emergency medicine, pharmacy practice, was appointed director of International Pharmacy Programs at Western New England University.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF



Dr. Thomas Kalista, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, joined July 1, 2016.



Dr. Jimmy Gonzalez, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, joined July 1, 2014.

Staff



Lori Berg, Assistant Director Pharmacy Admissions
Joined January 23, 2017



Paula Geddis, Staff Assistant to the Dean
Joined April 1, 2016



Shelton Golden, Multimedia Systems Technician
Joined January 11, 2016

Bringing Pharmacy to the People

Melissa Putnam PharmD'15 Makes Medicine More Manageable for Patients



"You can never have enough experience."

—Melissa Putnam

Melissa Putnam PharmD'15 went from intern to pharmacist at the Manchester, NH, company PillPack. This startup is innovating the pharmaceutical industry by packaging each dose of medication individually, complete with the time and date when they should be taken. This makes it easier for patients to take their prescriptions correctly helping decrease medication errors.

Melissa plays an important role in this process, which includes checking prescriptions, approving shipments, and reviewing each patient's daily medications.

"What I find fulfilling about working at PillPack is that we're revolutionizing

pharmacy," she said. "This is the one company that individually packages medication on such a large scale. Pill-Pack's mission is to simplify pharmacy by taking the worrying out of managing medications and increasing adherence to improve patient outcomes."

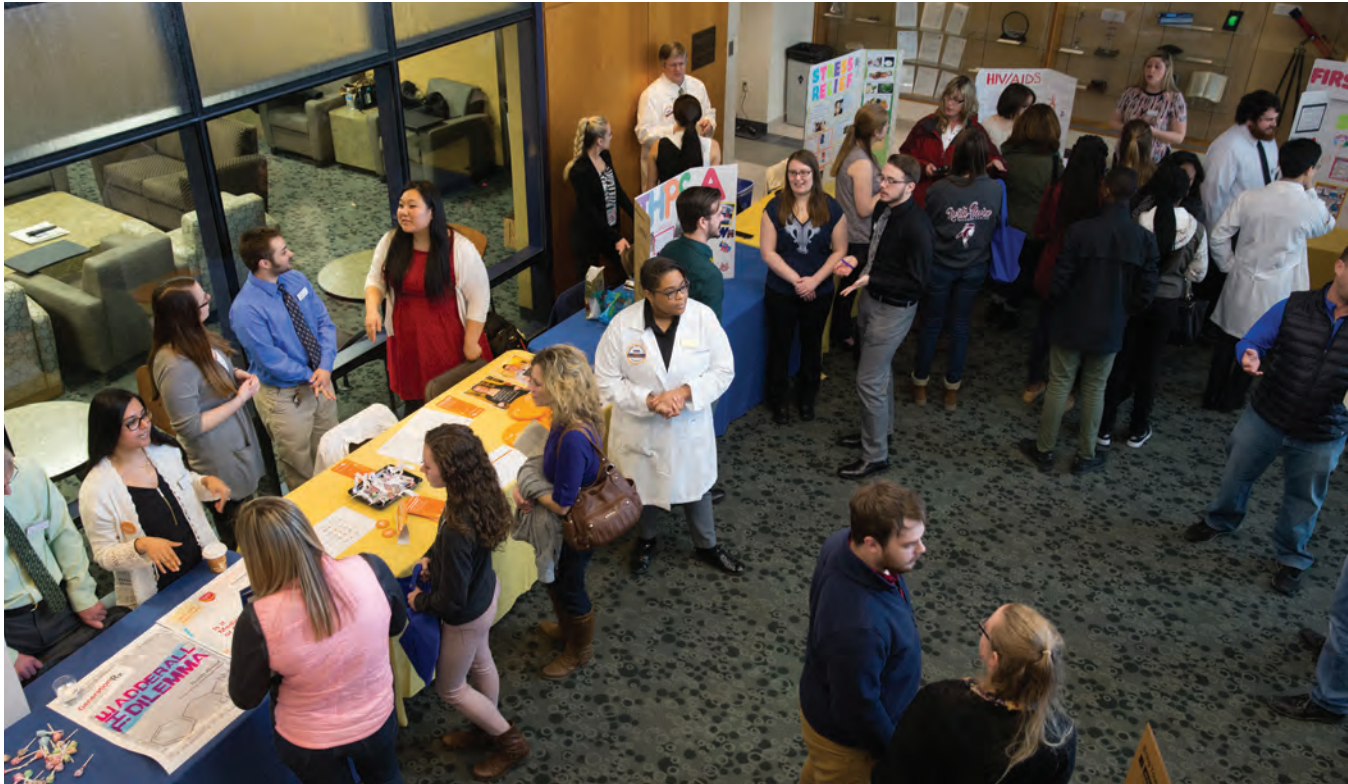
Melissa says the Pharmacy program emphasized leadership and professionalism early on, and that she was encouraged to increase the role of a pharmacist as an educator. The College collaborated with local businesses to allow for increased counseling of patients by student interns. She says one of the biggest assets was the small class size, because she had the

opportunity for more interaction with professors and a sense of community among her classmates.

As a full-fledged pharmacist just a few years out of school, she has enjoyed working with PillPack's student interns. She relishes the opportunity to challenge and encourage students, as she can relate to their journey in a personal way and give them much-needed experiences.

"My advice to current pharmacy students is to start working in a pharmacy as soon as possible," she said. "You can never have enough experience."

The Educator



Pharmacy Program Welcomes Accepted Undergraduates With Health Fair

PharmD program learners and faculty conducted a health fair during the University's Undergraduate Accepted Students Day program held April 9. The more than 2,000 accepted students,

parents, and family members attending had the opportunity to learn about a variety of healthcare topics from our future pharmacists and their faculty mentors.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Doctor of Pharmacy Program
1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119

Visit us on the Web at
wne.edu/phs

Faculty

Call 413-796-2300 and ask for a specific faculty member.

Celebrating Our Graduates

The College of Pharmacy kicked off Commencement Weekend celebrations with a Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, May 20, when the members of the Class of 2017 received their doctoral hoods and student and faculty awards were presented. On Sunday, May 21, 70 PharmD candidates joined the alumni ranks at the Graduate Commencement ceremony held at the Alumni Healthful Living Center.



For the latest news, visit: wne.edu/phs

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.