Dr. Chris Bland CoP's Teacher of the Year

Dr. Christopher Bland, clinical associate professor at the Southeast Georgia Clinical Campus in Savannah, has been named the UGA College of Pharmacy's Teacher of the Year. Originally from Aiken, SC, Dr. Bland graduated from the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy in 2000. He worked for Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta and during his tenure, he also served as an adjunct professor at CoP's campus in Augusta. In January 2015 he joined the college full-time at UGA’s Savannah Campus.
Dr. Bland considers this award as validation of his career transition from clinical to academia. “It’s a beautiful thing when passion and a career come together. I love to get students excited about learning,” Bland said.

Dr. Bland is father to Stephanie, 14; Katie, 12; and Andrew, 8. He says his wife, Annette, who also is a pharmacist, is his mentor because, “…she inspires, supports and encourages me to be my best self.” His favorite pastimes include time with his family, serving and worshiping with his church, reading, beach activities and exercising.

Congratulations to Dr. Bland! He will be formally recognized for his achievements during the UGA 2018 Faculty Recognition Banquet on Monday, April 16 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

Dr. Lori Duke Elected Vice President of ACPE

**Dr. Lori Duke**, assistant dean of Experience Programs at the College of Pharmacy, has been elected vice president of the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE) for the 2018-19 term of office. Dr. Duke has held numerous leadership positions in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), including completion of the Academic Leadership Fellow Program. AACP appointed Dr. Duke to the ACPE Board.
She has previously served as liaison to the International Commission and the Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) Commission. Her newly elected position allows her to be seated on the ACPE Executive Committee. Congratulations, Dr. Duke, on this national position! We are proud of you!

Gloria Strait is 2017 3rd Quarter STAR Recipient

Gloria Strait, the scholarship and special events professional at the College of Pharmacy, is the recipient of the 2017 3rd Quarter STAR Award. In her role, Gloria provides oversight and monitors the Pharm.D. scholarship application submission process. She also plans, implements and evaluates special events hosted and overseen by the Dean's Office.

"Gloria is always supportive and works diligently to make sure the scholarship program runs smoothly," a nominator said. "Her yearlong..."
effort to facilitate the work of the Student Awards and Scholarship Committee's work was worthy of a nomination..." Another comment,

Originally from McDonough, GA, Gloria moved to Jefferson when she married her husband, Jonathan, in February 1993. The Straits just celebrated their silver anniversary! Gloria has a son, Nate Strait, a stepson, Dr. Michael Strait, and a step daughter-in-law, Dr. Rachel Strait. They are members of the Episcopal Church in Gainesville. Gloria loves to exercise by walking, doing yoga and “Body Groove,” a dance workout program.

She stays inspired by thanking God for every new day. “That one positive thought changes my whole day,” Gloria says. Congratulations, Gloria, and thank you for all that you do for the PharmDawg Family!

Dr. Brad Phillips Accepts Life Science Industry Award
Dr. Brad Phillips (pictured far right), CAP department head, Millikan-Reeve Professor of Pharmacy and director of UGA's Clinical and Translational Research Unit, recently accepted an award on behalf of the university and the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (CTSA), comprised of UGA, Emory University, the Morehouse School of Medicine and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Presented at the annual Georgia Bio Science Awards, the recognition honored the financial and commercial transactions that CTSA has made in the development of Georgia's life sciences industry. CTSA trains new investigators and develops the infrastructure for accelerating research-based improvements in clinical care and outcomes for the benefit of Georgia citizens. Dr. Phillips is UGA's principal investigator for Georgia CTSA, which received a $51 million National Institutes of Health statewide grant. He was recently featured in Columns, UGA's newsletter for faculty and staff. Congrats, Dr. Phillips! Read the Columns story [here](#).

### 42nd GMP Conference to be Held

The 42nd International Good Manufacturing Practices Conference (GMP) will be held March 12-15, in Athens, at the UGA Center for Continuing Education. The conference was established in conjunction with the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to create an annual on-going dialogue between regulatory agencies and the pharmaceutical industry on important issues in drug compliance and quality. It is widely
recognized as the top international GMP meeting in the world. The conference offers attendees the unique opportunity to meet with U.S. FDA, other global regulators and industry experts. This year's conference will focus on the GMP Challenges in a Global Environment. For more information, click here or contact Dr. Michael Bartlett, this year's program chair.

Nominations for CoP Employee of the Year Now Being Accepted

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2017 College of Pharmacy Employee of the Year. The award recognizes an employee whose contributions to the college, students, faculty and co-workers during the past year have been outstanding. Please consider nominating an employee using the guidelines and nomination form here. The recipient will receive a $1,000 award, a personalized plaque and their name added to the permanent plaque in the COP lobby. The deadline for nominations is no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, March 30.
The winner of the first ever Lambda Kappa Sigma Souper Bowl was (drum roll, please!)....everyone who attended the event Saturday, Feb. 24 at Southern Brewing Company in Athens! The Souper Bowl was a cook-off in which students, faculty and staff shared their best, tasty soups, chilis, chowders and stews with fellow PharmDawgs. Proceeds from the event supported Project Hope, which delivers essential medicines and supplies, health expertise and medical training to respond to and prevent disasters, promote wellness and save lives around the globe.

There were a few lucky chefs who garnered top prizes. Out of 13 entries, congratulations are extended to:

- Aubrey Slaughter – Best in Show: Crock Pot Crab Chowder
- Dr. Michelle McElhannon – Runner-up: Mojo Pork Chili
- Mickey Montevideo – Most unique: Cheeseburger Soup

Here are the recipes, so that you can sample them yourself!
Faculty Accolades & Honors

Dr. Michael Bartlett, associate dean for Science Education, Research and Technology, recently published three articles: "Chromatographic approaches for the characterization and quality control of therapeutic oligonucleotide impurities," "Simultaneous quantitation of tianeptine and its active metabolite tianeptine MC5 in rat plasma and brain tissue by high performance liquid chromatography/electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)" and "Sensitive liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry method for the determination of two novel highly lipophilic anti-cancer drug candidates in rat plasma and tissue."
Dr. Brian Cummings, PBS associate director, professor and director of the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program, has been elected as the President of the Toxicology Division of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. Newly elected chairs will take office on July 1, 2018.

Dr. Christopher Bland, clinical associate professor at our Savannah campus, recently presented “Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics” as part of the inaugural American College of Clinical Pharmacy Infectious Diseases Board Preparation Course in Jacksonville, FL. The first exam is due to be administered in Fall 2018.
Dr. Houjian Cai, assistant professor, has been invited to give a presentation titled "Biosynthesis of acyl-CoAs sustains prostate cancer progression" at the Experimental Biology 2018 Symposium, organized by American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Diego on April 23.

Additionally, a report from Dr. Cai's lab titled "Pharmacologically targeting the myristoylation of the scaffold protein FRS2α inhibits FGF/FGFR-mediated oncogenic signaling and tumor progression" was accepted by the Journal of Biological Chemistry. Congrats!

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Dr. Amber Clemmons, clinical associate professor, recently presented a poster titled “Prolonged Versus Short Infusion Rates for Intravenous Magnesium Sulfate Administration in Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Patients” at the 2018 BMT Tandem Meetings in Salt Lake City, UT.
Dr. Yao Yao, assistant professor, recently gave an invited talk titled "Laminin: a Key Regulator of Blood Brain Barrier Integrity" at the Department of Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine at Augusta University. Dr Yao also attended the Musculoskeletal Research Symposium at Emory University.

Media Mania

An APhA-ASP student conducts intake info at health fair.
American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists members recently volunteered at the Pine Wood Estates North Mobile Home Community to provide free healthcare testing. Overall, 22 patients received BMI, blood glucose and blood pressure screening. They also were offered free Hepatitis C screening and, if necessary with a positive screening test, patient education. The Red and Black published a story on the Pinewoods Health Fair that can be read here. Go, APhA-ASP!

Dr. Scott Pegan, associate professor and director of the Drug Discovery Robotics Core, recently was featured in UGA’s Columns. Dr. Pegan shared why he makes contributions to the College of Pharmacy. Kudos, Dr. Pegan, for your example of loyalty and camaraderie! To read the story, click here.
She also served as guest editor for a special "Symposium in Print" that was published in Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry.

**Students: The Heart of CoP**

Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International will host its annual Custodian Dinner on Monday, March 19th at 6 p.m. in the Pharmacy South lobby. Sonny's BBQ will be served. The cost per ticket is $10 per person. Donations also will be accepted for gifts for our custodial staff. If you are interested in attending, please complete this form by March 9th at midnight. CPFI will accept cash, check, or venmo (@CPFI-Organization). Please put cash/check in an envelope and place in locker #19 in Pharmacy South.
The American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists hosted a Women Leadership in Pharmacy Panel at a recent org hour. Their guest speakers included CoP alumnae Dr. Megan Freeman, Dr. Sharon Sherrer, and Renee Hay who discussed their journeys throughout their careers that led them to their current leadership roles. They also provided advice to current students on opportunities to take advantage of while still in school, interviewing tips and how to learn from their mistakes. APhA-ASP greatly appreciates these women for taking the time to speak to students.
The Student National Pharmaceutical Association recently hosted an event allowing a group of students and faculty from CoP to take a trip to the David J. Spencer CDC Museum in Atlanta. During this experience, the group had the opportunity to learn more about the role of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in healthcare and how they can apply their pharmacy skills to this common mission. Overall, it was a rewarding and educational experience for the organization.
PharmDawgs, along with other students from across the country, gather at the Shot@life summit.

**Tosin Adelakun, Stella Kasti, Jennifer Dinh, P3 students, and Diane Ayuninjam, P2 student** recently traveled to Washington DC to take part in the United Nations Foundation's Shot@life Champion Summit. Shot@life is a United Nations Foundation advocacy campaign that has as its mission to fight for global childhood immunizations and end vaccine preventable childhood deaths by 2030. During the summit, more than 100 participants, comprised of various professionals, gathered and took part in a three day “boot camp” eradicating Polio and giving every child a "shot@life." The summit consisted of presentations, speeches and activities to deepen participants knowledge about global childhood immunization programs, and to sharpen advocacy skills in order to meet with members of Congress.

**Staff Stories**
The 2018 1st Quarter STAR Award cycle is now in progress. Please consider nominating a staff member you feel has demonstrated STAR qualities in Service, Teamwork, Attitude and Reliability in the performance of their duties during the previous quarter. Anyone inside or outside the College can nominate a staff member for this award.

Nominations for the 1st Quarter STAR Award will be accepted through March 31. Nominations received after this date will be considered for the 2nd Quarter 2018 Award cycle.

STAR Award winners receive a certificate and monetary award of $250 – a terrific way to recognize and reward a staff member for their dedication and commitment to the College of Pharmacy!

The guidelines and nomination form for the STAR Award can be found here and through the College of Pharmacy's home page. For questions, contact Toni Phelabaum (amp@uga.edu).
PharmDawg Alum News

Marin Abousaud, P3 student and Mistress of Ceremonies, presents Dr. Henry Young, Kroger Professor, with a gift.

CoP celebrated its inaugural Dose of Gratitude event Friday, March 2. Students, faculty, staff, donors, and even Hairy Dawg gathered for a wonderful evening at the Georgian Hall to honor the generosity of our alumni and supporters and their impact on our college. Thank you to all who attended and to everyone who has made a difference in the lives of PharmDawgs! For photos from the event, click Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..
Calendar of Events

3/12–15: 42nd Annual GMP Conference
The conference will take place in Athens, Georgia at the Georgia Center. This conference was established in conjunction with the US Food and Drug Administration to create an annual ongoing dialogue between regulatory agencies and the pharmaceutical industry on important issues in drug compliance and quality. For more information, click here.

3/21: Custodian Dinner
6:00 p.m., Pharmacy South Lobby
Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International will host its annual Custodian Dinner. Sonny's BBQ will be served. The cost per ticket is $10 per person. Donations also will be accepted to go towards gifts for our custodial staff. See story in newsletter for more information.

3/22: Savannah Campus Open House & Tour
5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m., St. Joseph's/Candler Heart & Lung Building, Suite 210, Savannah GA
A Celebratory Open House and Tour of the newly renovated and expanded Southeast Georgia Clinical Campus will be held. For questions, contact Patricia Cordary.

3/22: Georgia Society of Health–System Pharmacists Journal Club
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m., Athens: RC 238, Albany: Conference Room, Augusta: HM140
The GSHP Journal Club is a monthly event that gives two students the opportunity to review current literature and present a selected article to the organization. Catherine Rothery and Sydney Finder will present “Canagliflozin and Cardiovascular and Renal Events in Type 2 Diabetes.”

3/23–25: Georgia Society of Health–System Pharmacists Spring Meeting
Savannah, GA
One of three statewide meetings held by GSHP throughout the year. Students will have the opportunity to attend presentations by
pharmacists throughout the state to remain current on important clinical topics. The meeting will feature a poster session during which students and residents can present their research.

3/26: Georgia Society of Health–System Pharmacists Elections
Athens: PS 230, Albany: Classroom, Augusta: HM 134
Georgia Society of Health–System Pharmacists will hold their yearly elections.

3/31: APhA–ASP Multicultural Health Fair
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Pinewoods Flea Market, Athens GA
Free Point of Care testing, Hepatits C screening, and patient education will be provided. Contact Zach Halbig or Rebecca Bruning for additional details or to sign up to volunteer.

Looking Ahead...

4/6: Pinning Ceremony
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., The Classic Center
Keynote Speaker: Alan Wolfgang, Ph.D., assistant dean for Student Affairs Emeritus. Invitation required. For more information contact Renee Dobbs, Office of Student Affairs, 706–542–0804.

4/18: Doctor of Pharmacy Spring Visitors Day
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Pharmacy South 101
The Spring Visitors Day is an opportunity for prospective pharmacy students to learn more about the Doctor of Pharmacy program, the admissions process and numerous leadership and professional development activities in the College of Pharmacy. Attendees will interact with current students, faculty and staff. For more information contact Dr. Danielle Vitale, 706–542–5150, daniv@uga.edu

4/26: PBS Research Day
Georgia Center, Second Floor
There will be a poster competition, two speakers and awards will be given out for the LaRocca Award, ISPE Women in Sciences, Richard Bryan Scholarship and poster winner. For more information, contact Robyn Malone.
4/26-27: Southeastern Residency Conference
Classic Center, Athens, GA
This conference is an opportunity for pharmacy residents and graduate students to make formal professional presentations of their own projects or research; exchange information and ideas with colleagues; discuss issues confronting institutional practice; and develop intraprofessional relationships. Visit the [SERC website](http://serc.uga.edu) for details. For more information contact Elise Martin at elisef@uga.edu or 706-542-623.

4/27: Pharm. D. Senior Banquet
6:30 PM, Tate Center Grand Hall
Invitation required. For more information contact Renee Dobbs, Office of Student Affairs, 706-542-0804.

4/28: Pharm.D. Commencement
2:00 p.m., UGA Performing Arts Center
Ticket required. For more information, contact Renee Dobbs.

5/4: B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences Convocation
2:00 p.m., Pharmacy South 101
For more information, contact Robyn Malone.

5/28: Memorial Day
UGA closed for Memorial Day.

7/27-29: Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists Summer Meeting
Amelia Island, FL
This is the largest of the three GSHP statewide meetings. Students have the opportunity to attend CE presentations, network with pharmacists, and enjoy the beach! This event also features student specific programming with both a residency panel and a luncheon with residents and preceptors.

Check out UGA events at [http://calendar.uga.edu](http://calendar.uga.edu)
UGA Calendar of Events ... "Body and Mind in China and Greece: Perspectives from Philosophy and Medicine," Lisa Raphals with the University of California, Riverside.