

WINTER 2016

Brothers Work Together

Potential Treatment for Lung Disease

When Chemo Quits





Dear Friends,

With the Spring semester rapidly coming to a close, it seems like a good time to look back on what we have accomplished this year. And, as I reflect back it is clear that we have made considerable progress including developing a new PharmD curriculum expanding our non-pharmacy programs, the addition of our Savannah extended campus in our 2+2 program, the renovation of the expanded space we have obtained at our Augusta expanded campus, and the development of interprofessional training opportunities. However, I am most taken by the support and generosity of our alumni that make many of these changes possible.

Through the generosity of our alumni and friends, we were able to allocate \$1.5 million toward the Augusta renovation. Through outright gifts, as well as small and large endowments, we are now able to provide a quarter of a million dollars in scholarships every year to our students. And the best news for our students is that the amount is increasing every year. Our new Pharmacy South building was in part equipped through gifts, and is in part maintained through the establishment of a maintenance endowment that helps us preserve the "new" feeling of the building. For example, in the seven years since its occupation, rain and sun have created a "patina" of algae and mold on the building. With the help of our renovation funds, the building will be power washed this May just in time to restore it to its original beautiful sight as the spanking new Science Learning Center located next to it opens in August.

Every year I am so thankful that we are able to provide important support such as travel funds for our students, whether it is for professional meetings or educational trips overseas, to arrange for student activities such as commencement, award recognitions, and faculty development or seed funds to make them competitive for research funds on a national level.

Each day when I walk through our buildings and grounds, I am reminded and thankful for the generosity of our alumni and friends. We have the Henry L. Holland Dean's Office Suite, the Strickland Pharmacy Skills Lab and the Strickland Community Training Pharmacy, the Richard Bryan Hospital Pharmacy, the Bloodworth Executive Conference Room, the Hubert F. Chancy Family Lounge, the Grace Wilson Waters Memorial Garden, the Greenway Faculty Office, the Millikan Educational Resource Center, the Walgreen Classroom, the Kroger Learning Center, the Publix Discussion Rooms and the Rite Aid Court Yard. We also have the Kroger Professorship, the Rite Aid Professorship, the Panoz Professorship, the Al Jowdy Professorship and the Terry Eminent Scholar. When walking into our auditoriums, we have hundreds of plaques with names of alumni who have donated to the College. It makes me proud to have so many visual reminders of the generosity of our friends and alumni who have made the commitment to support the education of the next generation of bright and eager pharmacists.

We have wonderful alumni and friends and you have a great school; together we make a perfect team.

A handwritten signature of Svein Øie.

Svein Øie, Dean

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Svein Øie, Dean
706/542-1914
soie@rx.uga.edu

PUBLISHER
The University of Georgia
College of Pharmacy

EDITOR
Sheila Roberson

DESIGN
Sam Pittard
Bulldog Print + Design

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sheila Roberson

PHONE
706/542-5303

FAX
706/542-5269

EMAIL
roberson@rx.uga.edu

WEBSITE
www.rx.uga.edu



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Brothers Give Their Best Together

by Sheila Roberson

When Cartersville brothers **Chris ('07)** and **Carey ('05) Vaughan** graduated from high school neither had any idea of going into pharmacy. Their interests ranged from chemistry to wildlife biology. So who would've thought that both would now be joint owners of the first compounding pharmacy in the affluent Lake Oconee community of Central Georgia? According to records with the Academy of Independent Pharmacists, the Vaughans are currently the ONLY sibling pharmacists practicing together.

Carey first broached the idea of a joint pharmacy venture to his brother while both were still in pharmacy school. Chris had already had a four-year career in the textile industry with a 1999 degree from Georgia Tech but wanted a different career path. By the time he entered pharmacy school at the age of 28, his interests had shifted to drug discovery and compounding.

Carey, four years his junior, entered UGA with an interest in wildlife biology, followed next by possible options as a nurse anesthetist. Both degrees appealed to his desire to help others, whether animals or people. While taking pathophysiology and pharmacology courses in the Medical College of Georgia's nursing program, he discovered what would later become his career.

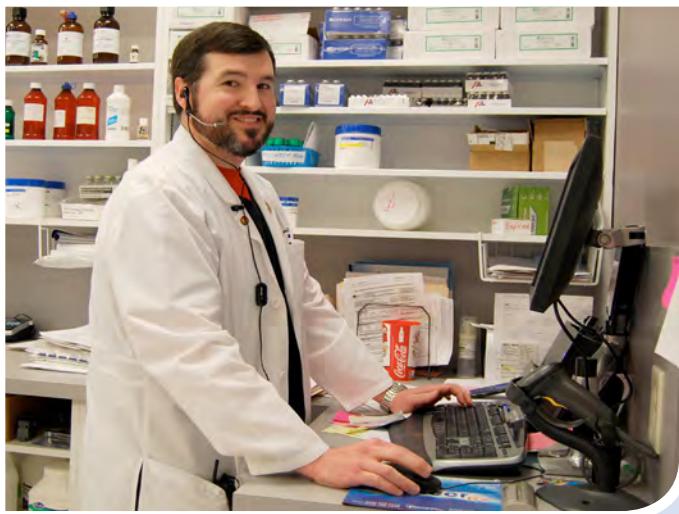
Their combined knowledge base and the trust they developed over the years as brothers have been key factors in building their successful business, by knowing how to compromise, cooperate and recognize the best man for the job. There's Carey's way, Chris's way and a third way that they eventually reach. In any situation they strive to do the best they can for their patients.

Their venture into building a compounding pharmacy has been slowly paced and planned with the help of experts in the National Community Pharmacists Association and the Academy of Independent Pharmacists as well as from successful independent pharmacists. In 2007 while still working as full-time retail pharmacists--Carey at CVS in Lake Eatonton and Chris at Ingles in Commerce--they opened Compounding Specialists at Lake Oconee on a part-time basis as a closed door, compounding-only pharmacy. They had a \$20,000 business credit card to set up their business in what had been designed as a 200 sq. ft. break room in a local veterinary clinic.

"By working together we could play on each other's time and talents and build the assets necessary to eventually operate a full-time business. I focused more on compounding while Carey handled the business end. Eventually both of us shared those responsibilities," said Chris, adding that they both enjoyed the creative aspects of compounding and finding answers to treat medical situations. "Compounding has often been an answer to difficult conditions."

After five years of growing the business, they were able to give up their fulltime chain retail jobs and become fully invested in expanding their own pharmacy services. In 2013 Lake Country Pharmacy & Compounding Center opened as the area's only full service retail pharmacy, offering all commercial





prescription products, and medically related over-the-counter items, as well as non-sterile and sterile compounded medications.

In the three years since they began operating full time they have accomplished a great deal that they are very proud of. The staff has tripled in size and they have gone from averaging four compounds per day in the beginning to 20 per day currently.

Initially they only planned to operate a compounding pharmacy but retail services were required to receive insurance support and expand their visibility in the community, Chris noted. Compounding remains the more profitable portion of the business, even with a drastically lower prescription volume.

"We have maintained a consistent growth in the compounding area with quality products and modest pricing and have kept our margins manageable so that patients can generally afford the medications even if the insurance company denies the claims," said Carey. "We have also established good relationships with many of the local doctor's offices so that we can recommend more cost effective alternatives in situations where money is an issue. We utilize an in-house prescription pricing plan. After all, an affordable 'option B' is always better than an 'option A' that sits on a shelf always out of reach."

"We want to focus on giving our best," he added. "Our business philosophy is to give more, do more, and provide more than what patients expect to get elsewhere."

Part of their best includes expanding services to meet the special needs of the population. This would include chronic disease management, *in vitro* fertilization, bio-identical hormone replacement therapy, topical pain management compounds, dermatology products and sexual health needs.

They're currently developing a professional relationship with a doctor's group in Atlanta that specializes in IVF, which has become a growing area of pharmacy.

"With compounding we sell solutions to specific problems and promote relationships with doctors as well as our patients," said Carey.

Their business successes have also encouraged them to pursue other collaborations. A local doctor's group, for example, has asked them to consider opening a second retail pharmacy adjacent to the doctor's practice, as a smart business move and a convenience to patients.

"In everything we do, we work hard, study hard and apply what

we've learned to address our patients' needs," Carey noted. "As an independent pharmacy we will never have the visibility and the budget to compete on a marketing and advertising scale with the Big Box stores, so our best tool is to always be better. We treat every encounter like it is our one opportunity to show this patient why they should choose to come see us instead of going anywhere else. We can do that by making sure that we are an asset to our patients, not just providing a product or a prescription, but truly being an asset to their health and well-being."

Word-of-mouth has been the best advertisement for the largely upscale population of the area that appreciates the time and attention offered by the Vaughan brothers and their hardworking staff. "Our staff--who work 'with' us rather than just 'for' us--is vital to our success and we would not be where we are without them," said Chris.

Carey added, "Any pharmacy, or other business for that matter, is only as good as the team that builds it. We are lucky to have such a great team."

The Vaughans also build rapport with the local citizens by talking with civic groups about the importance of good healthcare practices and promoting a cooperative spirit.

"We aim to give good will and loyalty by giving our patients what they won't get elsewhere," said Carey, who points out that Chris's civic mindedness has even extended to raising donations for Lake Oconee's Dancing with the Stars charity event that supports the First Call Pregnancy Center in Greensboro.

Carey, on the other hand, has served two terms on the College's Alumni Council and both volunteer as pharmacy preceptors. "We make every effort to give our best and if that means also spending time as volunteers in the community and through work, then that's what we'll do."

Working together in their own business has been very gratifying and rewarding for both of them, they said.

"We feel gratification in building our own business with the freedom to make the decisions that we feel are best for our patients, our employees, and our business - not based on what some corporate board in another part of the country thinks we should be doing and mandates that we carry out. Our decisions are just that, ours. At the end of the day, not many people have that. We choose our business priorities, our business focus, and we will decide the direction that our pharmacy will grow into in the future." 



UGA researchers find potential treatment for fatal lung diseases

by James Hataway, UGA Science Writer

Pulmonary fibrosis occurs when lung tissue becomes scarred, leading to loss of lung function and reduced oxygen supply to the blood. Pulmonary hypertension involves an increase of blood pressure in the arteries of the lung that can lead to heart failure.

Although no definitive cause for the disease has been identified, pulmonary fibrosis affects nearly 130,000 people in the U.S., with about 48,000 new cases diagnosed annually, according to the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis. Pulmonary hypertension is rare—with only about 15 to 50 cases per million people—but the total number of deaths attributed to the disease increased by more than 40 percent in the U.S. between 1980 and 2002, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The average life expectancy for people with these diseases is only about five years after diagnosis, and while the drug treatments we currently have may help improve quality of life, they don't reduce mortality," said Somanath Shenoy, co-author of the paper and associate professor in UGA's College of Pharmacy. "Our tests show that treatment with triciribine can halt disease progression and may even reverse some of the damage to lung tissue."

The researchers used mouse models that mimic the disease characteristics of pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary fibrosis in humans to study the effect of triciribine, which inhibits production of a protein called Akt1.

Previous research has demonstrated that Akt1 is at least partly responsible for the development of myofibroblasts, cells that migrate to the sites of

injury to aid in wound healing. When these cells become unregulated, they create scarring, which leads to fibrosis and loss of functional blood vessels in the lungs.

Researchers waited until mice began to exhibit symptoms of disease and then injected the mice with triciribine once daily for a period of three weeks. The characteristic scarring and loss of lung vasculature was slowed in every mouse, and the lung tissue of some mice began to return to normal.

"To our knowledge, this is the first direct evidence that Akt1 causes disease onset and progression of pulmonary fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension," Shenoy said. "We have also tested this process in human cells taken from diseased lung tissue, and we see very similar results."

The researchers tested their hypothesis further by examining genetically modified mice that do not possess the Akt1 pathway. None of these mice developed disease symptoms, further implicating Akt1 as the primary cause of disease.

The researchers are quick to point out that these results are preliminary, and that more tests are necessary before they can evaluate triciribine's efficacy in humans. However, a human version of triciribine could be administered orally, eliminating the need for daily injections.

"We still need to identify the downstream effects of Akt1 inhibition to see if there are any negative side effects," Shenoy said. "But if these tests go well, we hope to begin human trials within the next three to five years."

This research was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. 

Researchers at the University of Georgia have discovered that the drug triciribine may reverse or halt the progression of pulmonary fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension, two respiratory diseases that are almost invariably fatal. They published their findings in the British Journal of Pharmacology.

Somanath Shenoy



When chemo quits working

by James Hataway, UGA Science Writer

A sad reality for many women battling ovarian cancer is that they will probably have to endure treatment more than once. The disease has a high rate of recurrence, and when it does return, it has often developed resistance to chemotherapy.

But researchers at UGA may have found the reason why this happens.



Shelley Hooks and Mandi Murph

UCollege of Pharmacy associate professors Mandi Murph and Shelley Hooks have shown that a protein called RGS10 can impact the effectiveness of ovarian chemotherapy in the laboratory.

"Chemoresistance to ovarian cancer is what kills women," Hooks said. "It's the deadliest gynecologic cancer."

Most women with ovarian cancer will have their tumors come back."

"Within two years, 85 percent of women will have their cancer come back in a more aggressive form," Murph said. "It is during that time that they won't respond to the chemotherapy."

Although it's too soon to tell, their discovery could alter future treatment strategies. For now, it solves a puzzling observation they originally made over RGS10 years ago.

Their article, "Cellular deficiency in the RGS10 protein facilitates chemoresistant ovarian cancer," reviews over five years' worth of research on RGS10 and was published in Future Medicinal Chemistry.

"RGS10 is basically an off switch. It does very little," Murph said. "However, it's important because when it gets turned off, cells become resistant to chemotherapy."

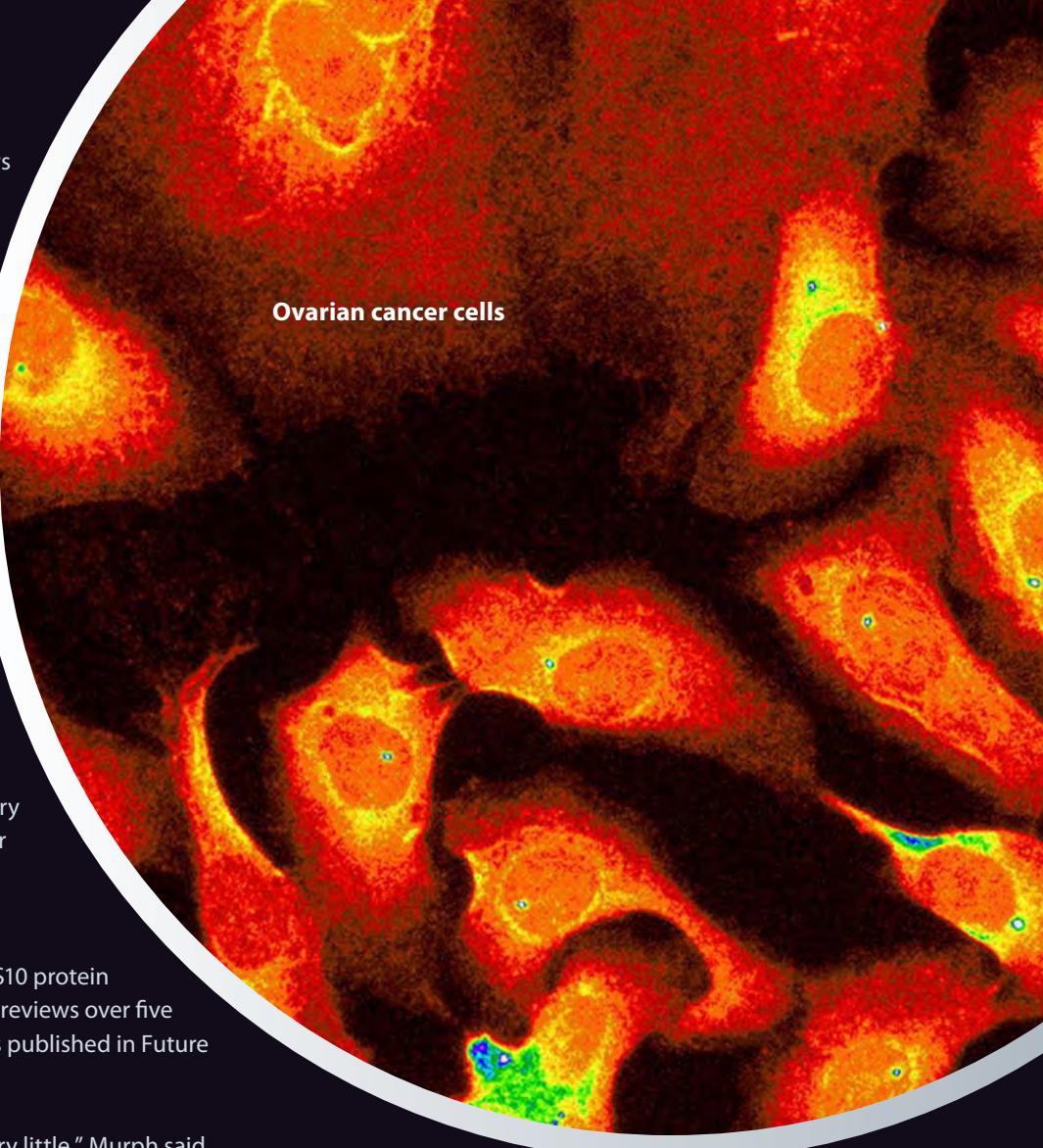
In past articles, Hooks and Murph tested cells to see how they would react to common chemotherapy medicines. They were able to manipulate the sensitivity of ovarian cancer cells to common chemotherapy treatments like paclitaxel, cisplatin and vincristine by changing RGS10 expression.

"Depending on the expression levels of RGS10, the chemotherapy for ovarian cancer is more or less effective," Hooks explained. "If there were a way to reverse silencing of the RGS10 protein, then we could potentially restore sensitivity to drugs."

The Hooks lab is currently working to screen libraries of compounds to identify molecules that may restore RGS10 expression in cells.

Murph also discovered that mTOR signaling is enhanced by the loss of RGS10 expression.

Ovarian cancer cells

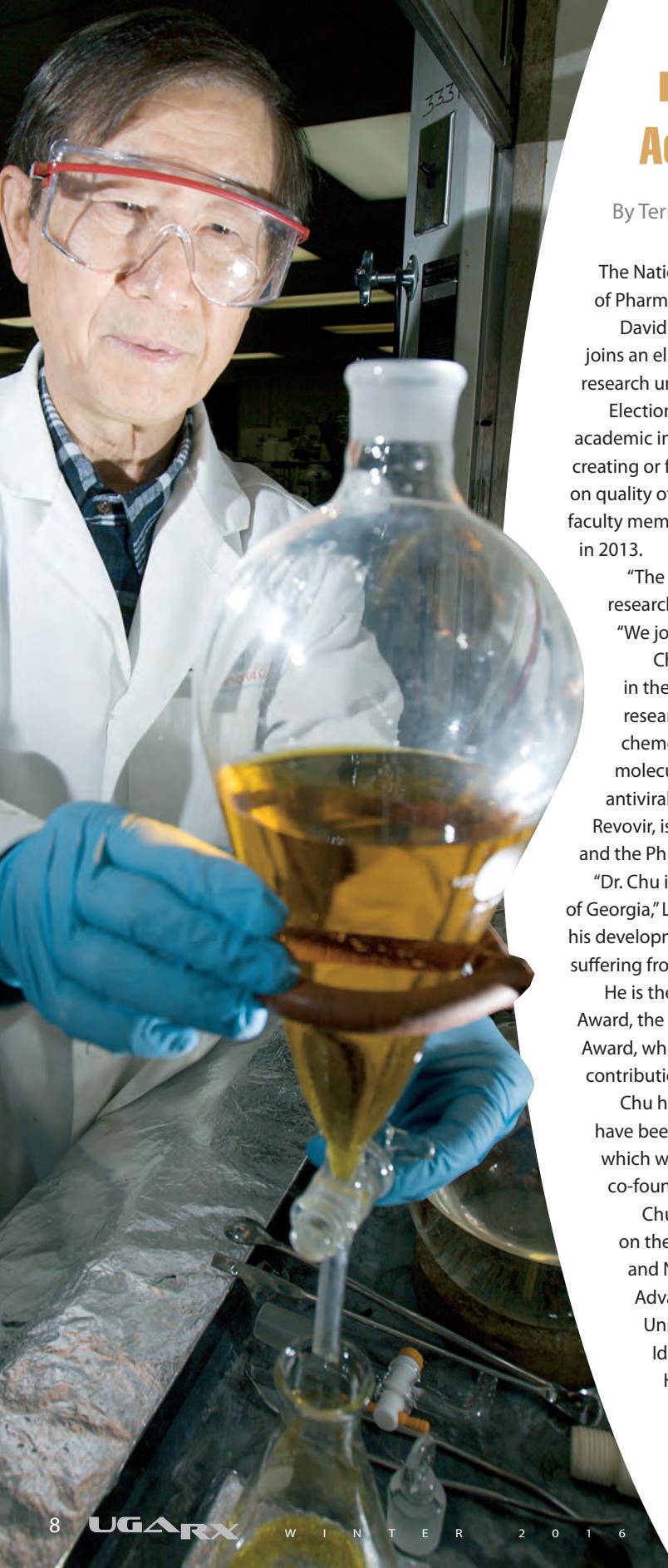


"mTOR essentially determines the survival of [cells], which in turn indicates whether chemotherapy will be sufficient to kill the cells. It's exciting to have found this piece of the puzzle."

Murph recommends more research on mTOR inhibitors to see how they can be combined with traditional chemotherapy to reduce resistance among cells.

Currently, platinum chemotherapy drugs, like paclitaxel and carboplatin are used as a one-size-fits-all treatment for ovarian cancer patients. However, chemoresistance to platinum drugs remains a serious challenge to curing ovarian cancer.

"Five years ago, this field of RGS10 cancer research didn't exist," said Murph. "But Dr. Hooks and I have been able to create this area of research and lead it. Before no one knew or cared about RGS10 effects in cancer cells. Now we have more research that could contribute to improving chemotherapy." 



Emeritus faculty member named fellow in National Academy of Inventors

By Terry Marie Hastings, UGA Office of the Vice President of Research

The National Academy of Inventors has named a University of Georgia College of Pharmacy faculty member to the 2015 class of NAI Fellows.

David Chu, Distinguished Research Professor in the College of Pharmacy, joins an elite group of 582 innovators representing more than 190 prestigious research universities and governmental and nonprofit research institutions.

Election to NAI Fellow status is a professional distinction accorded to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society. Five UGA faculty members have been named NAI Fellows since the honor was established in 2013.

"The election of David Chu as NAI Fellow highlights the innovative research conducted at UGA," said David Lee, UGA vice president for research.

"We join NAI in celebrating his contributions to science and society."

Chung K. "David" Chu is a Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus in the department of pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences. His research focuses on nucleoside and carbohydrate chemistry, antiviral chemotherapy, cancer chemotherapy, structure-based drug design and molecular modeling and antiviral drug discovery for bioterrorism. His antiviral drug clevudine, marketed under the trade names Levovir and Revovir, is used in the treatment of chronic hepatitis B infections in South Korea and the Philippines.

"Dr. Chu is one of the most prolific and productive inventors at the University of Georgia," Lee said. "His work has led to dozens of inventions and patents, and his development of clevudine has improved the lives of countless individuals suffering from hepatitis B."

He is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the NIH Merit Award, the UGA Inventor of the Year Award and the John A. Montgomery Award, which is given biannually to an outstanding scientist in recognition of a contribution that results in significant advances in chemotherapy.

Chu holds 63 U.S. patents and more than 130 international patents that have been licensed to 10 companies. He is a co-founder of both Pharmasset, which was acquired by Gilead for \$11 billion in 2011, and, more recently, he co-founded Atea Pharmaceuticals to explore novel antiviral therapeutics.

Chu has published over 315 peer-reviewed journal articles and served on the editorial advisory board for the journal Nucleoside, Nucleotide and Nucleic Acids. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a national board member of Florida A&M University's College of Pharmacy, a Dean's Advisory Council member of Idaho State University's College of Pharmacy and a National Institutes of Health advisory committee member.

Although officially retired, Chu maintains an active research program on drug synthesis and is currently developing treatments for hepatitis B and C infections. 

Kudos

Fagan named to inaugural class of Women's Leadership Fellows

Susan C. Fagan, assistant dean of the College of Pharmacy's Augusta campus and Distinguished Research Professor, is among nine University of Georgia faculty members who will hone their leadership skills and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities confronting research universities as members of the inaugural class of the university's Women's Leadership Fellows Program.

Her research focuses on therapeutic strategies for the treatment of stroke. Fagan's contributions to her field have been recognized by her appointment as faculty member to national clinical research training programs and grant review panels at the National Institutes of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute.

The cohort includes representatives from seven UGA schools and colleges as well as the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. As Women's Leadership Fellows, the faculty members will attend a monthly meeting where they will learn from senior administrators on campus as well as visiting speakers from academia, business and other fields. The program also will feature a concluding weekend retreat in June for more in-depth learning.

"The inaugural class of Women's Leadership Fellows have already accomplished so much in their careers, and they are poised to make an even greater impact on the University of Georgia," said Pamela Whitten, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

"The university is pleased to welcome the members of the inaugural class of Women's Leadership Fellows," said President Jere W. Morehead. "This program is an important way to cultivate talent throughout UGA's colleges and departments located across the state. It will offer valuable professional development and networking opportunities to the participants while strengthening the leadership capacity of the institution."

The Women's Leadership Fellows were chosen from nominations from deans and other senior administrators as well as from self-nominations. The program is administered by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and coordinated by Meg Amstutz, associate provost for academic programs.

The Women's Leadership Fellows Program is a part of the Women's Leadership Initiative, which was launched in spring 2015 by Morehead and Whitten. In addition to creating new opportunities for leadership development, the initiative is addressing recruitment, retention and hiring as well as work-life balance. To learn more about the Women's Leadership Initiative, see <http://t.uga.edu/1Wk>.



SEAGRAVES CHOSEN FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Gregory Brian Seagraves ('04) has been chosen for the 2016 Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation's award selection committee.

Seagraves is the first pharmacist ever selected for this honor, which was bestowed upon him for his work as the director of the Hepatitis C Treatment Clinic at the Mercy Health Center in Athens. During his five years as the Clinic's director, Seagraves has treated more than 100 Athens area indigent citizens infected with hepatitis C. Seagraves is also responsible for building the multi-disciplinary team approach to treat this chronic disease, which has resulted in a 97% cure rate.

Seagraves joined the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy faculty in January 2016 as an academic professional associate in the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. Previously he had been Pharmacist in Charge at Pharmaceutical Specialties in Bogart from 2006 to 2015 and at Athens Custom Meds in Athens from 2004 to 2006.

His responsibilities include coordinating and teaching the lab portion of the Essentials course for second- and third-year students. He also supports the work of the Skills lab.

Each year since 2003 the Healthcare Georgia Foundation has awarded the Joseph D. Greene community service award to five individuals and one community collaborative for "passionate and unselfish service in the promotion of better health and healthcare for underserved individuals and communities."

The Foundation is comprised of a diverse group of Healthcare Georgia Foundation partners and grantees from various regions across the state. According to Gary D. Nelson, Ph.D., the President and Founder of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, "Through the dedication and tireless efforts of these heroes for health, Georgians today and tomorrow will benefit greatly from their legacy of servant leadership."

The 2016 Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award will be presented to Seagraves on March 29 during the Connections 2016: Building a Healthier Georgia Through Community Partnerships ceremony at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta.

Wexler Delivered Chu Lecture

Dr. Ruth Wexler, executive director of Research and Development at Bristol-Meyers Squibb, presented the 2016 Chu Lecture at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy.

Wexler started her career at the DuPont Company, as a research chemist in the Medicinal Chemistry Section of the Biomedical Products Division and was promoted to Executive Director in 1998. In 2001, she joined Bristol-Myers Squibb Company as executive director, Discovery Chemistry, (post-acquisition of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company) and in the fall of 2002, she moved to Hopewell site in New Jersey where she currently heads the medicinal chemistry efforts directed at Cardiovascular Diseases.

The Chu Lectureship was established

to bring internationally recognized leaders in drug discovery to the University and to honor the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus David C. K. Chu in the College's Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences.

As a medicinal chemist, Chu has been involved in drug discovery of anticancer and antiviral agents for more than 30 years. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed research articles in major scientific journals, edited four books, and has more than 50 U.S. patents. During his academic career, he has discovered several clinical candidates for cancer and viral diseases.

Chu has trained more than 120 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and has maintained an active research program in drug design and synthesis, even after his retirement in 2008. His research program in drug discovery has been recognized as one of the top academic laboratories both nationally and internationally.



Pictured: Dexi Liu, Panoz Professor of Pharmacy, Ruth Wexler, David Chu, and Warren Beach, associate professor of pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences

GMP Conference Held

The 40th International Good Manufacturing Practices Conference took place in March at the University of Georgia Hotel and Conference Center. Over 270 attendees participated in the four-day event, which is co-sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration and the College of Pharmacy. Attendees came from 11 different countries and across the U.S.

The keynote speaker was Lawrence Yu, deputy director of the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Other featured speakers and their topics were David Tainsh, GlaxoSmithKline, "Quality Systems: Life Cycle Management and Breakthrough Innovation"; Ron Tetzlaff, Parexel, "Quality Systems in Data Integrity"; Eric Good, ProPharma Group, "The Cost of Non-compliance"; Brenda Redmond, Health Canada: Oversight of Imported Products;; Alan Minsk, Arnall Golden Gregory LLP, "GMP and Regulatory Structure in the Middle East."

Snelling Joins College's External Affairs Staff

Lee Snelling, formerly with the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology, has joined the College of Pharmacy as Director of Major Gifts in the Office of External Affairs. His job responsibilities include developing and managing a portfolio of the College of Pharmacy's major and deferred gift prospects. He will solicit outright and planned gifts from alumni, parents, and friends and solicit corporations and foundations to secure resources for the College of Pharmacy. He will also enhance meaningful stewardship activities for all donors and play a vital role in working with our College of Pharmacy Comprehensive Campaign Board members.

While at the School of Ecology he was director of all development activities including fundraising, alumni relations and public relations. Since 2010 he had also been responsible for direct solicitation of funds from individuals, corporations and foundations.

He also has development experience from Georgia College where he was the Senior Director of Development, as well as serving as an adjunct professor for interdisciplinary studies. Snelling earned two degrees at Georgia College, a Master of Public Administration in 2003 and a Bachelor of Science in history in 2001.



New Faculty Hired in Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy

Jayani Jayawardhana, Ph.D. has been hired into the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy's Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. She had previously been an assistant professor at UGA's College of Public Health since 2010 and as assistant professor at the Medical University of South Carolina from 2009 to 2010.

Jayawardhana is a health economist, and her research focuses on health care policy issues related to prescription drugs, illicit drugs, tobacco, and hospital behavior.

She recently received a R01 grant, totaling \$675,000 for three years from the National Institutes of Health as co-investigator to study the impact of formulary policy changes on prescribing practices of opioids within the Medicaid population. Previous grants have focused on evaluating the impact of magnet status of hospitals on their utilization of medical imaging services, impact of Master Settlement Agreement spending on tobacco control efforts, and effect of nursing-related process improvement in hospitals.

She earned her master's and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Virginia in 2002 and 2008, respectively, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Agnes Scott College in 2000.



College's Pharmacy Advisory Board Meets

The 2016 members of the College's Pharmacy Advisory Board met recently to discuss College goals and initiatives for the coming year.

Pictured from left are John Mauger, Professor of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Utah College of Pharmacy; Scott McClelland, Florida Blue's (BCBSF) Vice President of Pharmacy for Commercial Programs and Specialty Pharmacy Management; Phil Samples, Vice President, Professional and Government Services for Innovation Associates, Johnson City, NY; David Chen, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Senior Director, Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers; Leslie Jaggars, Cardiovascular Clinical Pharmacist at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital where she has practiced for the past 15 years; Valerie Ng, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of California San Francisco and current Chair, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology; Director, Clinical Laboratory; and Director, Transfusion Service at Alameda Health System/Highland Hospital in Oakland;

Also Tony Herfindal, Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Francisco, Medical Center College of Pharmacy; Bonnie Levin, Pharm.D., MBA, is Assistant Vice President, Pharmacy Services for MedStar Health, an integrated health system in Maryland and DC; Jim Smeeding, founding member of the Center



for Pharmacoeconomic Studies at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy. Karl Gumper, employed by Boston Children's Hospital as the Pharmacy Informatics Manager; and Fred Sharpe, owner of U-Save-It Pharmacy in Albany, Georgia, and all or part owner of more than 35 pharmacies in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, North and South Carolina.

Not pictured are Earl "Buddy" Carter, U.S. Congressman and owner of Carter's Pharmacy in Pooler; Marie Jackson, Director of Pharmacy at University Hospital in Augusta; and Robert Thompson, retired Executive Vice President of Pharmacy at Rite Aid Corporation."

TRUCK CRASHES WITH CHEMICAL SPILL: Mock Disaster Preparedness Scenario

On Saturday, March 19 at 12:30pm in Athens (pop. 110,000), a truck transporting chemicals for UGA labs crashes into the UGA Health Sciences Campus (HSC) sign at the corner of Prince and Oglethorpe. The truck was going about 20 mph and the driver ran the red light at the intersection. The truck hit several oncoming vehicles then flipped onto its side and is blocking both lanes of Oglethorpe. Fire department and law enforcement personnel as well as the UGA Hazmat team arrive within 10 minutes. A small fire is near the cab of the truck and a distinct odor of chlorine is present.

Three other vehicles were involved in the crash and are blocking the intersection and 3 or 4 lanes on Prince Avenue. Motorists are exiting their vehicles and most are moving away from site, however 4 people are approaching the victims that were in the path of the truck. Five people are lying on the sidewalk off Prince near the tanker, and 7 in the grassy area behind the truck. Firefighters move to cordon off the area and caution all to move back across the street. Three of the 4 motorists are overcome with fumes and move away.

Police are rerouting traffic as the first ambulance arrives. The first vehicle that was hit by the truck is a sedan that is severely damaged. A man is trapped behind the steering wheel and an adolescent female is in the backseat. She is sobbing and trying to release her seatbelt. The 2nd vehicle is a large SUV, with minimal damage, that is adjacent to the truck on Oglethorpe. A woman in the driver seat is attempting to exit the vehicle and calling to Police to help get her dog out of the back. The third is small compact car flipped over in the parking lot near the coffee shop. The driver was ejected and is lying in the parking lot about 10 feet from the car.

Fire emergency response vehicle is on site and notifies County EMA and Athens Regional about the accident. Multiple response vehicles are now present on scene but are awaiting HAZMAT clearance to begin triaging victims. A 100 meter perimeter is set up around the truck with all businesses and homes evacuated. All residents within a ½ mile radius are being told to shelter-in-place. There is a light northeasterly wind. An incident command post is set up in Russell Hall. For the purposes of our exercise, the triage area is set up in Royar Square adjacent to Russell and George Halls.

Medical students who are residents of HSC Brown Hall are arriving at the scene to provide assistance. Pharmacy and veterinary students participating in a 5K on the main campus are called in to help manage casualties and the walking wounded as well as any animals in the area that may be affected. Faculty with expertise in disaster response have been called to the scene. Local reporters are arriving from UGA outlets as well as the newspaper. Multiple passersby are coming onto the scene and asking how they can help.

Firefighters locate the shipping manifest for the truck. There are 5 corrosive substances in addition to multiple canisters of chlorine. All first responders are evacuated to the George Hall auditorium for a briefing and assignments.

—Trina von Waldner



Some 172 pharmacy students, veterinary students, and medical and nursing students participated in the Disaster Preparedness Drill.



Three pharmacy students were among those who took calls during the drill.



Clinical pharmacist Brian Seagraves discusses the need for antidote stockpiles during a disaster.



Injured patients are seen in the triage area.



Injured patients are evaluated in the triage area and treated according to seriousness of their injury.

Emergency Preparedness Drill Educates Health Care Students

In mid-March Athens witnessed the first interdisciplinary disaster preparedness drill (see box) designed for students in four healthcare units associated with the University of Georgia. Spearheaded by the UGA College of Pharmacy, the four-hour event included some 172 students from the College of Pharmacy, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Augusta University/UGA Nursing and Medicine programs who took on roles as medical personnel and another 40 students as simulated victims. Thirty UGA and Augusta University faculty and staff as well as community instructors from Athens Regional Medical Center and the Clarke County Emergency Management Agency also participated in various capacities. The coordinating committee consisted of four College of Pharmacy faculty including Catherine White, Trina von Waldner, Deanna McEwen, and Ashley Hannings.

"Interdisciplinary education is required in the pharmacy curriculum as part of the College's accreditation," said Trina von Waldner, director of the College's continuing education and outreach programs and one of the organizers of the event. "This mock exercise provides our students and faculty with vital skills should a disaster occur and also helps fulfill our mission as a top level pharmacy school."

All pharmacy students are required to participate in disaster preparedness exercises, she noted, but interprofessional education exercises are new. The health professions students learned about preparation and planning, incident management, safety and security, triage and treatment, and evacuation. Ten teams with 16-17 members each alternately worked in both administrative and clinical drill scenarios that emphasized the importance of learning to work as an interprofessional team.

"Teamwork is a vital expectation in any healthcare practice," noted von Waldner, adding that each drill situation is created from the original emergency situation that involved the accidental release of chlorine gas on a city street near the Health Sciences campus. White indicated that this exercise also served to introduce students to community resources that are vital to emergency response.

Five administrative stations were set up to prepare for hospital surge, supply information on antidote stockpiles for chemical and biological events, man a community call center and provide transport for medical care. An additional five clinical drill centers focused on communication devices, triage for mass casualty victims, walk-in clinics, responder care and decontamination for humans and pets.



Veterinarian Lisa Bazzel shows proper care of pets during an emergency situation.



A plastic model of the area helps students understand where the emergency situation occurred.

Distinguished Pharmacist Honors His Roots

Steven Purvis ('98), owner and pharmacist in charge of Huff's Drug Store in Ellijay, Georgia, was inspired to give to the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy as a result of his own undergraduate experience at the College. Purvis received a scholarship while in Pharmacy school that made an impact on him personally and professionally. As an alumnus he felt it was his responsibility to give back and provide an opportunity for another student in honor of the one he was given.

Albert Einstein said, "Once you stop learning, you start dying." Purvis honors this quote every day and as a result he encourages current students to not let school get in the way of their education. There is a lot to learn both inside the classroom and outside of it he says. He also advised students to "learn to accept and embrace the role as someone who gives back and is able to help people who have no way of repaying you back."

He and his wife, **Kara Purvis ('01)**, created the **Steve and Kara Purvis Student Developmental Support Fund** in 2006 and continue to support the College through their most recent designation, the **Steve and Kara Purvis Endowed Student Scholarship**; further, Purvis continues to exhibit an impact through

his generosity of time, leading as Vice Chair for the College of Pharmacy Comprehensive Campaign Board.

Dana Strickland, Executive Director of External Affairs at the College of Pharmacy, says, "Steve represents the next generation of leaders in the



Dana Strickland, Steven Purvis

College of Pharmacy and Pharmacy in general. I recognized while Steve attended the College that he was an outstanding young man with a bright future. We are grateful for Kara and Steve's generosity and friendship." Huff's Drug Store was recognized Business of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce and Purvis himself was awarded the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award at the GPhA Convention in 2005 and voted Pharmacist of the Year by local colleagues and peers in 2009.

Finally, a Fund for the Teachers of America



Michael Azzolin ('02) received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia and a Master of Business Administration degree from Piedmont College and is now the owner and COO of PharmD on Demand in Athens, GA. The mission of PharmD on Demand is to increase patient care and safety through high quality, cost effective hospital pharmacy services.

Azzolin created the Spruill-Wade-Cobb Fund for Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy in honor of the professors that inspired him as a student and also as a result of relationships with the Office of External Affairs that educated him on the career path of the people whose professional passion is to educate future pharmacists. Professors Bill Spruill, Bill Wade, and Henry Cobb were very involved in pharmacy related activities and organizations that support both student pharmacists and others that support the practice of pharmacy in all practice settings. Their example of dedication left an impression on many currently practicing pharmacists over many years that encouraged them to do the same.

The purpose of this fund is to enhance the utilization of pharmacists in the healthcare environment in Georgia and the United States. He says, "I believe that one way to make pharmacists more accessible to patients and allow them to have an impact is to encourage relationships between students and faculty at the College of Pharmacy through the enhancement of resources available to clinical and administrative pharmacy professors."

An investment in this fund will have a positive impact on the present and future practice of pharmacy. Azzolin encourages present

students to build relationships with peers and mentors. "At some point in your career you will need support from your colleagues. That can be anything from providing effective patient care, to locating a new job, to having input with pharmacists that are involved in shaping legislation that may impact your area of practice."

Azzolin is a recipient of many awards including but not limited to the UGA Bulldog 100 Class of 2016, UGA Distinguished Alumnus Award, UGA 40 Under 40 Class of 2015, and UGA Bulldog 100 Class of 2014 and 2015 with which PharmD on Demand placed 12th and 23rd respectively. Azzolin is also a member of the President's club of the The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy.

ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR LEAVES A LEGACY

A very special thank you to an anonymous donor who, through their generosity and commitment to the University of Georgia's College of Pharmacy, was able to donate a significant gift and further the College's fundraising goal exponentially for the Comprehensive Campaign. Two-thirds of the benefactor's gift will be placed towards scholarship support for future first generation PharmD students when the gift is realized, while one-third will be used for student scholarships University-wide.

The donor's investment in the College emphasizes the importance we believe our students hold and our belief in the extraordinary impact they will have on the future of Pharmacy. No matter how small or large the gift, a legacy such as this can be left by anyone and for any candidate that is believed to be the best fit. We encourage students, alumni, faculty, and all others to support the College in any way possible. There are many ways in which you can offer a gift and we would love to discuss them with you at your convenience. Please feel free to contact the Office of External Affairs at pharma@uga.edu to ask how you can make an impact in the world of Pharmacy.

A Word From Andre Mackey ('88)

Alumni Association President

*H*ello fellow alumni! In the Fall 2015 issue, I introduced myself to you and shared some of the things I've been doing since graduating. After speaking with several of you about my new role and assuming everyone knew about the Alumni Council, I realized many of you are not aware of what we do. So I would like to use this issue to tell you a little about our purpose.

The Alumni Council works to promote fellowship and professional communication among College of Pharmacy graduates. Although Homecoming is not the only time we focus on this part of our mission, it is the time of year most of you are likely to be on campus. So we put a lot of effort into making our tailgate a memorable and enjoyable event. The Council also strives to stimulate a continuing relationship between the College of Pharmacy and its graduates, keeping you abreast of the goals of the College in advancing the practice of pharmacy and pharmacy education. We also try to recognize our graduates whose accomplishments not only enhance the College, but the profession of pharmacy. There are two UGA signature programs, 40 Under 40 and Bulldog 100, where we aim to get university-wide recognition for our most successful alumni. We would encourage you to nominate your deserving peers for these honors. In the past year we've had seven Pharmacy graduates recognized for these prestigious awards.

In order to continue the great legacy of producing these outstanding alumni, we also assist the University in not only encouraging outstanding students to attend, but we also assist in securing financial support for these efforts. This support is essential in helping our hardworking students gain a quality education and reducing their financial burden.

We work very closely with Kim Hamby, who is the Director of Alumni Affairs at the College of Pharmacy. In fact, we could not function without her direction and leadership as the resident "eyes and ears" on campus for the Council. So thanks, Kim!

Now that you are a little more familiar with what we do, I hope you realize that you too are a part of the Alumni Association. We would love to see you return home to UGA, especially to the College of Pharmacy. Take pride in all that continues to be accomplished by and for alumni of the past, present and future.

Before I leave I'd like to congratulate these 2016 pharmacy alumni winners: 40 Under 40: Michael Azzolin ('02) and Bulldog 100: #25 Michael Azzolin ('02), PharmD on Demand; #49 Stewart Bloodworth ('94), Universal Servo Group; #61 Bent Gay ('85), Gayco Healthcare; #66 David Pope ('04), Creative Pharmacist; #67 Tammy Rogers ('87), Beaumont Pharmacy; and #80 James Myrick Sr. ('70), Myrick Marine Contracting Corp.

Best regards,
Andre Mackey ('88)



Kim Hamby, Alumni Affairs Director • kihamby@uga.edu • 706-542-4536

1940s

Lewis West ('44) of Sandersville was owner and operator of West Drug Company and West Prescription Shop for a total of 52 years; he retired at the age of 90 and enjoys collecting pharmaceutical memorabilia. He is a longtime supporter of civic and professional groups. He and his wife Anita have two sons. West started work at West Drug Co. with his father, Walter West, who opened the business in 1920.

1960s

Wendell Evans ('65) of Eden, N.C. retired in 2006. From 1965 to 1982 he worked at Manns Drug in Eden, then opened his own store, Eden Drug, Inc., with partner Willie Shoemaker. After he retired he sold his store to Pete Crouch. Now he invests in rental real estate. He has served nine years on the Rockingham County Health Board and served terms as trustee and elder at Leaksonville Moravian Church. He and his wife Dorothy have four children, eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He enjoys going to their beach house, doing yard work and maintaining their properties.

Christophe Kapetanakos ('64) of Greenville, S.C., graduated from Furman University in 1959 and retired in June 2013 after 48 years in practice.

Elbert William Fricks ('66) of Rome opened Silver Creek Pharmacy near Rome in May 1999 and sold his interest in 2008, continuing part time there until June 2015. He is current chairman of Model-Johnson Foundation, a local supporter of four local schools providing financial aid to teachers and scholarships to students. He and his spouse, an R.N., have been married 50 years; they have one daughter and five grandchildren. He enjoys gardening, being a Sunday school teacher, a deacon and a choir member. He has gone on medical mission trips to Ukraine and Peru.

1970s

Flynn Warren ('70) of Watkinsville has been named as the Georgia Pharmacy Association 10th District representative.

Len Reynolds ('73) of Camilla retired in

April 2015 after 40 years in pharmacy and 35 years as owner of Camilla Pharmacy. He was an active member of GPhA, serving several terms a Regions President and PharmPAC board member. Now he is enjoying more time with family and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Robert Thompson ('76) was awarded the Harold W. Pratt award at the National Association of Chain Drug Store meeting in August.

1980s

Brad Clark ('82, '87 PhD) of Greensboro, N.C., is an associate professor of pharmaceutics at High Point University School of Pharmacy. He enjoys photography, guitar, and Georgia football. He and his wife Jennifer have children Ryan, 27; Sam, 26; Kevin, 24; and Brandon, 21.

1990s

Ralph Claxton ('91) of St. Joseph, Missouri, was appointed Director of Regulatory Affairs for PRN Pharmacal. He is a veteran of the animal health industry and has roles of varied responsibility at four global companies prior to joining PRN Pharmacal.

Kelly Smith ('92) of Lexington, Kent., has been named Interim Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. She is the first woman to hold the top leadership position in the 145-year history of the UK College of Pharmacy.

Jennifer Moxley Stevens ('92) of Darien is pharmacist in charge of Freds Pharmacy in Darien. She and her husband David have three children, Amelia, 19, a sophomore at UGA , Matthew, 15 and Hailee, 9.

Marie A. Chisholm-Burns ('93) of Memphis has been named recipient of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacy Association of Black Health-System Pharmacists (ABHP) Leadership Award. Chisholm-Burns is dean and professor of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy at its three campuses in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville; a renowned academic and clinical pharmacist; and an exemplary leader in the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare. She is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusivity, and emphasizes the necessity

of cultural competency and sensitivity training to ensure that future pharmacists can provide effective care to patients from a broad spectrum of backgrounds. Chisholm-Burns is also the founder and director of the Medication Access Program (MAP), a statewide network that facilitates solid-organ transplant patients' access to medications. The program has helped more than 800 solid-organ transplant recipients--of whom more than 57% are African American--receive nearly \$60 million in prescription medications. Her efforts in this area have influenced similar programs at several institutions around the country.

Stacey Gillian Pierce ('93) of Fountain Inn, S.C., works with Bi-Lo Pharmacy in Greenville, S.C. She received the district award for the most influenza vaccinations administered for two consecutive years, 2014 and 2015. She has been married to her husband Rob for 22 years; they have two children, daughter Gabrielle is a sophomore pre-pharmacy student at the University of South Carolina, and son Mitchel is a high school junior. Stacy enjoys reading, walking and vacationing with her family.

In Memoriam

Janet McCombs, a 24-year clinical faculty in the Department in the Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, passed away in December 2014 after a lengthy illness. She had retired in 2005. She is survived by her father, brother and sister.

Jalna Alday of Athens passed away in February 2015. She had been a long-time staff member of the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. She is survived by three daughters and one son.

David Decker ('78) of Franklin County passed away in April 2015. He worked with CVS in Clayton. He is survived by his wife and son, plus two brothers and their families.

Charles Braucher of Athens passed away in March 2016. He joined the College's Department of Pharmacy Care Administration in 1958 and retired as emeritus faculty in 1988. He earned his Ph.D. at Purdue University and served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He was active in the community and the Methodist church.

U.S. Rep. Carter visits Savannah campus

Students enrolled at the College of Pharmacy's Southeast Georgia campus recently welcomed **U.S. Representative Earl L. "Buddy" Carter** to their pharmacy law class. He spoke about pending legislation related to healthcare, recent events regarding drug pricing and the future of pharmacy and healthcare. Ken Duke, clinical assistant professor, invited Carter to address the class as an alumnus, but also and most importantly from his perspective as a Congressman on the national level.

Carter spoke directly to students at the St. Joseph's/Candler medical facility and via live-streaming video to students in Albany, Athens and Augusta, just as pharmacy professors do.

Carter, an alumnus of the College's Bachelor of Science Class of 1980, emphasized that pharmacy students in the UGA program are receiving the highest level of clinical training ever seen in the pharmacy field. He advised students that certain policy changes, such as Provider Status for Pharmacists, could soon be implemented that would assure that their skills and expertise will not be underutilized when they begin their careers.

Carter, the only pharmacist in Congress, joined the 114th U.S. Congress in January 2015, representing Georgia's 1st Congressional District. During his short time in the House, Carter has become co-chair of the Community Pharmacy Caucus and a member of the Republican Study Committee's Health Care Task Force.

He has owned and operated a community pharmacy for more than 30 years. Carter was mayor of Pooler before serving in the Georgia General Assembly as a representative and then as a senator, where he advocated for smarter laws to tackle Georgia's prescription drug problem through the creation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.



Buddy Carter addresses pharmacy class in Savannah

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take a minute to fill out this questionnaire and **mail it to the Editor, College of Pharmacy, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, or FAX it to Sheila Roberson at 706-542-5269 or email it as an attachment to roberson@rx.uga.edu**. Many of our alumni have inquired about former classmates, so we are trying to keep current information available.

NAME _____ DEGREE and YEAR _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____ FAX _____

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION (Employer Name and Address, Job Title. Duties...) _____

AWARDS AND HONORS _____

FAMILY INFORMATION (Spouse's Name. Is Spouse a UGA Grad? Is Spouse also a Pharmacist? Any Children?) _____

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES _____



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRINT/ONLINE

Beginning in the Fall 2014 issue of UGARx, we began printing and mailing the magazine only to those alumni donors and friends who have contributed \$500 or more to the College of Pharmacy.

All issues of UGARx continue to be posted on our website (www.rx.uga.edu) for alumni to download and print. We will send emails and online notices to everyone about the quarterly postings of UGARx.

If any alumni would prefer to continue receiving a printed copy, please contact Sheila Roberson, director of publications, at 706-542-5303 or roberson@rx.uga.edu.

FAX your Facts

Everyone wants to know what's happening with their classmates but few take the time to mail in the alumni questionnaire at the back of the UGARx. Now you can take the quick and easy way! Just FAX your information to Editor, UGARx, 706-542-5269, or email it as an attachment to Sheila Roberson at roberson@rx.uga.edu. Mail still works too: Editor, UGARx, College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. See you in print!

Upcoming CE Programs

Howard C. Ansel Symposium
August 5, 2016

Southern Translational Education and Research (STaR) Conference
September 22 & 23, 2016

Substances of Abuse Seminar
October 28, 2016

Medical Device Regulations Conference
November 1 & 2, 2016

For more information call 706-542-6232
or email pharmce@uga.edu

ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni Dinner
at GPhA Convention

Hilton Head Island
June 16, 2016

For the latest information on College events
and activities, check out our website at:
www.rx.uga.edu



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