Honoring a Mentor
Thompson Scholarship Fund established in memory of Rob Chabal

Rotating Around the World
Pharmacy students make a difference in Kenya, Belize, and Liberia
When I think of our students, faculty, alumni, and friends the first words that come to mind are integrity, honesty, and hard-working.

This issue of HawkScripts contains heart-warming stories of these principles in action. This inaugural issue of our new design puts a greater focus on the work and lives of our alumni, students, and faculty.

Professional experiences in the Doctor of Pharmacy years are becoming increasingly important for our students. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy candidate Cathleen Waddle, whose enthusiasm and skills have enriched rotations in Kenya and Belize.

Though neither are graduates, George Hiller, ’80 BBA, ’82 MBA, and Tom Veale, ’80 BBA, have strong ties to our college. I was honored when both agreed to serve on the newly established Executive Leadership Board.

Jon and Sara Thompson have endowed a scholarship in memory of Robert Chabal, ’79 BSPh, who served as Jon’s professional mentor. Jon is a 1998 graduate of the college and Sara is a UI education graduate.

Many of you know Jay Currie, ’80 BSPh, ’84 PharmD, who has long been a force in the establishment and evolution of pharmaceutical care. I think you’ll find his thoughts on the future of the profession to be illuminating and interesting.

There are no words to convey our heartfelt gratitude to our models in fellowship and service to others. So much of this is due to YOUR influence on the practice of pharmacy and for that I want to convey my appreciation and gratitude.

Professionally yours,

Don
Long determined to visit Kenya, Cathleen Waddle got the opportunity during her final year in the College of Pharmacy.

For an elective rotation for her PharmD, she joined a medical mission team to Kenya last July. The team’s mobile clinic provided free medical and dental care in a village hospital and at a school, seeing nearly 4,000 patients in eight days. Waddle filled prescriptions, consulted with physicians, and offered patient education through translators. She saw the effects of overcrowded living conditions and poor sanitation as patients came in with conditions such as scabies, intestinal worms, upper respiratory tract infections, and ear infections.

“I learned more about myself, my limitations, and struggles. I learned that compassion can be applied in whatever environment, whatever field,” Waddle says. “The relationships formed with others within the pharmacy, the team, and the people of Kenya were the most memorable and enjoyable parts of the rotation. The people of Kenya were warm, cheerful, and grateful.”

Through prior experiences in the Army Reserve and on active duty, Waddle knew fellow soldiers from Kenya, who “opened my heart to Kenya and created a desire to some day visit the place where such kindness and warmth originated.”

She did another elective rotation in 2011-2012 at a clinic in one of the poorest and least developed regions of Belize served by pharmacy students and faculty from the UI, Drake, and the University of Wisconsin. Waddle hopes to continue international work periodically after establishing a career in ambulatory pharmacy.

Whether it’s due to an interest in global health issues or a desire to visit foreign lands, UI pharmacy students are increasingly seeking worldwide experiences. Their best opportunities come during the four elective rotations in the final year of the PharmD curriculum.

“Our students have expressed an interest in global health and caring for the underserved, so we’ve been trying for the last five years to increase the number of global opportunities available. So often they get an experience that’s life-changing,” says Hazel Seaba, ’71 MS, associate dean of pharmacy.

Stephanie Lukas, a PharmD/MPH candidate, enrolled in the College of Pharmacy for the chance to work with underserved populations around the world. She completed the Belize rotation in the fall and a spring rotation in Liberia, her 30th country, before graduating in May.

“I’ve always been driven by a passion to make the world a

- Cathleen Waddle

"I learned that compassion can be applied in whatever environment, whatever field."
Time and money are the biggest obstacles to expanding global electives.

For rotations to count for credit, faculty members must have flexibility in their teaching schedules to accompany students and ensure experiences are appropriate to students’ training.

“It takes tremendous coordination from preceptors, but the international experiences provide culturally rich learning environments for everyone involved,” says Susan Vos, PharmD, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science and coordinator for an international rotation in Belize.

Ron Herman, ’76 BSPh, ’78 MS, ’92 PhD, clinical professor of pharmacy practice and science and director of the Iowa Drug Information Network, has recruited pharmacists for international trips organized by Global Health Outreach (GHO) for several years. He traveled with UI pharmacy student Cathleen Waddle on a GHO mission to Kenya, one of her elective rotations.

A new rotation to Dominica, West Indies, starts January 2013, led by Jeanine Abrons, PharmD, MS, a research scientist in pharmacy and visiting assistant professor in dentistry. She previously has worked with health care providers and the minister of health to provide patient care, education, and donations of medical supplies to Dominica.

To fund their travels, students typically use savings, get loans, ask family and friends for support, or apply for scholarships through the university or other organizations. Waddle’s Kenya trip was partially funded by a $500 scholarship from Christian Pharmacist Fellowship International.

Before joining the college, she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania, providing nutrition, malaria, and HIV/AIDS education. The village she served had no medical clinic or providers, so residents had to travel to a nearby village to buy medications from shop owners. Seeing the limited access to health care motivated her to return to school so she could do something to help. Ultimately she sees herself working with a global health organization.

The rotation in Liberia, new this year, isn’t focused on directly treating underserved populations, but rather on capacity building, or providing training and consultation to local health care professionals. Lukas worked with Lloyd Matowe, PhD, UI assistant professor of clinical pharmacy and founder of a nongovernmental organization, Pharmaceutical Systems Africa.

“It’s important for people to see the way other people live and to learn about other cultures,” Lukas says. “You’ll look at things in a new way for the rest of your life.”
Jon Thompson, ’98 BSPh, was a recent College of Pharmacy graduate with a new bride when he started working at the Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Coralville with Rob Chabal, ’79 BSPh.

“Rob became a mentor immediately,” Thompson says. “He had great professionalism and a big personality. People were drawn to him because of his compassion for others, his sense of humor, and his love of life. He had an energy that was simply contagious. I knew it was going to be a good day if I saw Rob on the schedule. Everyone felt that way.”

Like Thompson, Chabal started his pharmacy career in Coralville about the same time he got married, in 1982. He joined the busy Hy-Vee Pharmacy a few years before Thompson arrived.

“Rob always kept a level head and a good attitude,” Thompson says. “I learned through watching him that a person has the ability to be either a positive force or a negative force in the workplace. Some people just ‘show up.’ Rob showed up, with a smile on his face, and was always ready to tackle what the day had in store.

“I was a quiet, motivated farm kid with big dreams, and he played a pivotal role in my development as a person. He probably never realized how much I looked up to him,” says Thompson, now the father of three sons and owner of five pharmacies.

Chabal died of lung cancer in October 2008. To honor his friend and mentor, Thompson and his wife, Sara, a UI graduate with degrees in education, recently pledged $50,000 through the UI Foundation to establish the Thompson Scholarship Fund in Memory of Rob Chabal within the College of Pharmacy. The scholarship will be awarded to a pharmacy student who demonstrates a strong commitment to community pharmacy practice.

“He had such an impact on me professionally and us personally that we felt this scholarship was a great way to honor him while helping others,” Thompson says.

The Thompsons now live in Washington, Iowa. Their lives are full, with a family to raise and pharmacies to run. Weekly “date nights” give them a breather, a chance to reflect. They talk of Rob Chabal often.

“He talked a lot about pharmacy, his wife, his two girls, his friends, his active life, and his love of vacationing. He worked hard and he played hard. He enjoyed life to the fullest,” Thompson recalls. “Now that I’m 37 and not that young, new grad, I sometimes have to remind myself to love life, like Rob loved life.”
If a particular experience can influence the path a person follows, for Duncan Mackie that experience was watching his father battle hepatitis C, dependent on a course of treatment that left him bedridden every other day.

“It was like he had the worst flu you could have,” says Mackie, a high school junior at the time. “I saw him go through that for a year.”

Today Mackie is a PhD candidate in medicinal and natural products chemistry in the College of Pharmacy. He uses high-throughput screening for compounds that could be used to treat lung and prostate cancers. The key is to develop a therapy that is toxic for the tumor but tolerable for the patient—and at this early stage in the research, something effective in cell and animal models of the cancers.

“We found a protein that is up-regulated as cancer becomes more progressive. We think if we inhibit that protein, we can shrink the size of tumors,” he says. His team, working in the laboratory of David Roman, PhD, assistant professor of medicinal and natural products chemistry, also collaborates with investigators across campus studying other disease states.

As an athlete I enjoy a challenge. ... My main interest is cancer research, and the college offers exactly what I was looking at doing.” he says. “As an athlete I enjoy a challenge, and Dr. Roman really understands that. Dr. Rice and Dr. Roman are big reasons why I came here and have really been important in my research development.”

Currently Mackie is a trainee in the Biotechnology Predoctoral Training Program funded by the National Institutes of Health through the Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing at UI Research Park. After completing his PhD, he hopes to land a post-doctoral position, possibly near his family in North Carolina, and eventually a faculty position at a major research university, where this former coach can continue to serve as a mentor.
Send us your personal and professional news

HawkScripts is the only alumni publication for the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, and we want to hear from you!

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Clint welcomed their first child, and husband PharmD, Kelly (Blahnik) Larrison, ‘05, sharing your joy with you! of Iowa gear and we look forward to future alums with their first piece. We’re proud to provide our newest new bundle of joy! Pharmacists onesie to welcome your addition — send your information to pharmacy-alumni@uiowa.edu — and Tell us the news of your family’s baby? Make the College of Pharmacy’s Distinguished Alumni Award in Pharmacists and receive the College of Pharmacy Executive Leadership Board Fund, a discretionary resource that will allow the dean to support areas of greatest need within the college—particularly student scholarships.

All of the board members, who serve four-year terms, have committed to contributing to this initiative through generous annual gifts at the highest level. Their gifts qualify them for recognition at the 1885 Society’s Boerner Founders Level, which honors givers of $1,885 or more and is named in memory of the college’s founding dean.

These board leaders—who come from a range of disciplines both within the field and beyond—have a passion for UI pharmacy and want to collaborate with the dean in advancing the college. Through their board membership, they do everything from interacting with students and working with faculty to participating in strategic planning and fundraising. In fact, this issue of HawkScripts includes profiles of two such dedicated members, Tom Veale, ’80 BBA, chair of the board, and George Hiller, ’80 BBA, ’82 MBA, and there are more board-member profiles to come in future issues of this newsletter.

Thanks to their gifts of time, vision, and generosity, these Executive Leadership Board members are an inspiration for us all.

To learn more about how private gifts help students in the college, contact Mundi McCarty, director of development for the UI College of Pharmacy, at mundi-mccarty@uiowa.edu or 1-800-648-6973, or go to www.uifoundation.org/pharmacy. There is a dedicated group of leaders within the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy who truly understand the power of private support. Thanks to this group’s generosity, future generations of UI pharmacy students will have the chance to follow their dreams of becoming leaders in the field as well.

The 24 members of the college’s Executive Leadership Board, comprised of alumni and friends, recently voted in favor of creating the College of Pharmacy Executive Leadership Board Fund, a discretionary resource that will allow the dean to support areas of greatest need within the college—particularly student scholarships.

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Meet the Executive Leadership Board

Tom Veale, a 1980 graduate of the UI’s Tippie College of Business, is no stranger to the UI College of Pharmacy. After all, his wife, Debbie, received her BSPh degree in 1981. Veale is the founder and president of Tristar Risk Management, a third-party claims administration firm based in Long Beach, Calif.

Debbie Veale’s work as director of managed care for CVS Caremark helped Tom see the important role of pharmacy in the nation’s health care delivery system. “I see being on the board as a way to contribute while staying apprised of what is going on in the fast-changing pharmacy industry,” he says.

The UI College of Pharmacy needs to continue to be a leader in the education of tomorrow’s pharmacists, he says. “I see facilities, including the construction of a new teaching facility, as one of the greatest challenges for the college in the next few years.”

The Executive Leadership Board plans to serve in a support role to the college administration and its faculty. He adds, “Longterm, I see the board as a body that can support the school financially, operationally, and also serve as a window into the range of industries where future Iowa pharmacists can practice.”

The Veales, of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., are enthusiastic supporters of the University of Iowa. In 2008, they endowed the Deborah K. Veale Professorship in Healthcare Policy in the College of Pharmacy. In addition, they also made a $250,000 gift commitment through Tristar Risk Management to create the Tristar Excellence Fund in the Vaughan Institute of Risk Management and Insurance in the UI Henry B. Tippie College of Business.

George Hiller has nearly 30 years of experience in strategic selling, marketing, and management, primarily with consumer products companies including Procter & Gamble and PepsiCo. “Because I don’t have a pharmacy background, I tend to look at things from primarily a business perspective. I hope I can help the board address its agenda with my experience outside of pharmacy,” Hiller says.

Hiller is president and CEO of Des Moines-based Hiller & Associates, which provides consulting on national beverage agreements and negotiations to the restaurant, hospitality, and convenience industries. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from the UI and has been an adjunct professor or guest lecturer at the UI, Drake University, the University of Cincinnati, and Normandale Junior College in Minneapolis.

Hiller’s friend Tom Temple, ’77 MS, introduced him to Dean Donald E. Letendre, and now both serve on the Executive Leadership Board.

“My belief in Dean Letendre, the university, the college, and the product are the reasons why I accepted an offer to be a board member. I’m very pleased to play a role in the College of Pharmacy’s initiatives for the capital campaign and the new physical plant,” Hiller says.

He says his Iowa connections beyond Hiller & Associates—especially acquaintances in health care—could be potential partners in helping the College of Pharmacy achieve its goals. Another key ingredient Hiller brings to the board is passion for the university. “I’ve come to see what a gem the College of Pharmacy is. If it’s good for the University of Iowa, that’s what I want to see.”
You are one of the leaders of pharmaceutical care—what drew you to it in the first place?

I was fortunate to have mentors early in my career who believed in assisting patients to get the most from their medications. After several years practicing in family medicine, one of my mentors, Ray Buser, proposed we determine if the delivery of pharmaceutical care was possible in community pharmacy. We showed its value through a study completed at Claxton Pharmacy in Cedar Rapids in the early 1990s.

How does pharmaceutical care translate into your work as coordinator of community pharmaceutical care and the community pharmacy residency?

I started teaching pharmaceutical care skills to our student pharmacists in 1993. Once enough community pharmacists were providing this level of care, we started offering rotations in 1995. Since then, PharmD students are required to complete at least one rotation in pharmaceutical care advanced community pharmacy practice. In 1997, Matthew Osterhaus, Osterhaus Pharmacy in Maquoketa, and Jim Miller, Ruegnitz Drug in Dubuque, and the college created the community pharmacy residency, the longest running, continually accredited program of its kind in the U.S.

Where do you see the pharmacy practice going in the next decade?

Clearly, societal demands will require the development of new, efficient, and safe medication distribution systems. Pharmacists will need to use their expertise and skill to maintain the public’s confidence. At the same time, other pharmacists will be focused on safe and cost-effective medication management for individual patients and for specific populations. What this will look like is yet to be determined.

When you graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1980, what did you think you’d be doing professionally?

My plan was to have a community pharmacy, consult at a nursing home, likely staying there until I died. Two years later I was back in Iowa City, in the first class of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, and I have been working for the college ever since.

What do you tell young people who are thinking about going into the profession?

Being a pharmacist is a great way to help others. Today, perhaps more than ever, the boundaries of opportunity for the profession are not drawn. As the future unfolds, the options for pharmacists will continue to expand.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 18
10:00 AM - Welcome to the Profession Ceremony
Coralville Marriott, Coralville

Friday, August 24
12:00 PM - Eggleston-Granberg Pharmacy Scholarship Golf Classic
Brown Deer Golf Course, Coralville

6:30 PM - IPA BBQ & Awards Dinner
Brown Deer Golf Course, Coralville

Saturday, September 1
12:00 PM - Alumni Tailgate Lunch
Iowa vs. Northern Illinois
Soldier Field, Chicago

Thursday, September 27
1:00 PM - Deborah K. Veale Professorship in Healthcare Policy Investiture
Old Capitol Senate Chambers, Iowa City

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