Reflecting On Our Success
The 2016 College of Pharmacy Annual Report
Dear Friends,

Fiscal year 2016 was marked by extraordinary education, expert clinical care, research that positively influences health care policy, and landmark grants and contracts to help improve health care for all.

Collegiate faculty were awarded several new grant projects to advance research and drug discovery. Nicole Brogden, ’07 PharmD, PhD, began work on a multi-site U01 grant, a clinical study that will be carried out as a coordinated effort between the Universities of Iowa, Minnesota, and Maryland. Lewis Stevens, PhD, was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R21 multi-year grant. Guohua An, MD, PhD, received a multi-year subcontract award from a Critical Path to TB Drug Regiments (CPTR) Initiative grant to the University of Florida. Aliasger Salem, PhD, was awarded a grant from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for his work as well as from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the NIH.

We also made great strides in advancing pharmacy education with the hiring of new faculty. The establishment of the James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professorship in Hospice and Palliative Care brings a new and important specialty area of health care. In June 2016, a second faculty member joined the hospice and palliative care team, Kashelle Lockman, PharmD.

Several faculty were selected to serve in state and national leadership roles over the past year. In the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs Michael W. Duffel, PhD, was tapped to help lead the Iowa Superfund Research Program, a large multidisciplinary center to research health effects of toxic chemicals in our environment. Professor Dale E. Wurster was elected the next National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE) Faculty Committee Chair Elect. In the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, Vern Duba, clinical assistant professor, was elected Chair-Elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Section of Library and Information Science. Jeffrey Reist, ’82 BSPh, PharmD, clinical associate professor, was elected chair of the Iowa Pharmacy Recovery Network (IPRN).

Finally, the University of Iowa Pharmaceuticals (UIP) has reported that 2016 was a very productive year. UIP has grown from 45 to 65 employees in the past four years, and in 2015 hired their first graduate research assistant in ten years. Between August 2009 and November 2015, UIP has had four successful Pre-Approval Inspections with the Food and Drug Administration — an outstanding accomplishment for any Contract Development Manufacturing Organization. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) also inspected UIP for a drug product. As a result, the EMA has given UIP a certificate for the product’s manufacture and testing. This is a first for UIP — receiving EMA approval to manufacture and test a commercial, prescription product for Europe.

As we look back at the year that has ended, we reflect on our extraordinary accomplishments and eagerly anticipate the exciting years ahead!

Professionally yours,

Donald E. Letendre
Dean and Professor
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DISCOVER AND GROW TOGETHER

Highlighting Collaborations

[World map with pins]
Faculty members in the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics (PSET) Department maintain many ongoing active research collaborations. They team up with others for research and joint educational initiatives within the state of Iowa, with institutions across the United States, and globally.

“When diverse groups of researchers with unique types of talents and expertise work together, projects have a bigger impact,” said Rob Kerns,’96 PhD, professor and John L. and Carol E. Lach Chair in Drug Delivery Technology in the PSET Department. “Our faculty members actively collaborate with investigators in nearly every college on campus,” Kerns added.

Departmental faculty bring expertise in discovering and developing drugs to the interdisciplinary research teams they join and sometimes lead. Faculty team up with non-pharmacy-based peers, departments, and colleges at the University of Iowa, including 13 different units within the Carver College of Medicine.

“One advantage of being in our department is the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with others in many areas of science in the discovery, study, and development of new therapeutic agents,” said Kerns.

For example, the Lyle and Sharon Bighley Endowed Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Aliasger Salem, PhD, who leads one of the department’s divisions, has collaborated with other UI cancer researchers to slow down cancer tumors; Assistant Professor Nicole Brogden, ’07 PharmD, PhD, has teamed up with UI engineers and dermatologists; and Professor Kevin Rice, BS, ’87 PhD, works with colleagues at the UI Carver College of Medicine to develop and test non-viral gene delivery systems.

On the cancer project, Salem collaborated with a team led by George Weiner, MD, the director of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the UI. Salem is an expert on nanoparticles and drug and gene delivery. Weiner’s expertise relates to cancer immunology and tumor biology. “By working together collaboratively,
we did something we could not have achieved alone,” said Salem. “We developed a strategy that changes the local tumor environment so that it is immunogenic and can facilitate the stimulation of an anti-tumor immune response that is systemic and has the potential to treat spreading tumor and prevent recurrence.”

Faculty members travel to different colleges or departments to lecture in their area of expertise. Kerns teaches a Translational Biomedicine lecture to students from the College of Medicine. Likewise, the College of Pharmacy brings in outside lecturers.

Collaborative education also exists in the form of classes taught by faculty from more than one area. Students in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Human Toxicology are taught by faculty members from the UI Colleges of Pharmacy, Public Health, Medicine, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Engineering.

Faculty members also join outside researchers in powerful centers and institutes — many of which are significant in the state and nation but rooted firmly in the land of black and gold. Here are just a few of the myriad groups that faculty are part of:

• Salem, mentioned previously, co-leads one of four cancer research programs in the prestigious Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

• Of the four cores within the Environmental Health Sciences Research Center (EHSRC), Salem co-directs one (Nanotoxicology) and another (Oxidative Stress and Metabolism) is co-directed by Associate Professor Jonathan Doorn, BS, MS, PhD, who also is the head of one of the department’s divisions.

• Michael Duffel, BS, PhD, a professor in the department and associate dean at the college, is associate director of the Iowa Superfund Research Program, a large multidisciplinary center to research health effects of toxic chemicals in our environment. Duffel brings his expertise on enzymes in the metabolism of drugs and environmental compounds to this research effort that also includes members from the Colleges of Public Health, Engineering, Medicine, and Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“Pharmaceutical scientists and practitioners are part of a global community and each individual brings to their profession both culturally unique and internationally shared perspectives.”

— IES KIRSCH, BS, PhD
A large number of human diseases have oxidative stress — Doorn’s area of expertise in the EHSRC group he leads — as part of their mechanism. “Our diverse team of researchers include experts in engineering, occupational and environmental health, drug metabolism, and neurotoxicology, to name a few areas. The unique insights that each of us brings to the table are essential to drive forward our goal of fighting environmental diseases before and after they begin,” said Doorn.

For most on-campus centers, PSET faculty are found among the general membership as well. These include the cancer center, Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center, the Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing, Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, Institute for Clinical and Translational Science and Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Institute, to name a few. The department’s educational partnerships also extend to the national level.

From 2009 to 2012, Lee Kirsch, BS, PhD, led a team of faculty members from universities across the nation as they developed training materials for U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reviewers. In the end, the group — part of the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE) — produced 180 digital educational modules ranging from pharmaceutical chemistry and biopharmaceutics to manufacturing and quality systems. The materials have become essential training for FDA reviewers of universities’ pharmaceutical science departments with applications for drug products.

At times, PSET faculty members work in tandem with investigators from universities in other states or countries for research and educational purposes. Over the past few years, PSET faculty have interacted with research groups and fellow faculty for research purposes at institutions in more than half of the United States and 13 countries.

Qiaohong Hu of China was a visiting professor and researcher in Salem’s laboratory from 2013 to 2014. Since returning, the group has continued to collaborate to develop a new type of cancer vaccine.

In the past three years, Kirsch has hosted two visiting faculty scientists collaborating on research and education — one from a Japan-based global pharmaceutical company, and another from a Brazilian university — the Universidade Federal Do Rio Grande Do Norte (UFRN). Kirsch’s laboratory also welcomed another visiting scholar from URFN. Each visitor spent from three months to two years at the College of Pharmacy and one also lived with the Kirsches.

Kirsch has also taught in other countries. He has been actively engaged for a decade in international outreach efforts in the pharmaceutical sciences with universities in Southeast Asia and South America. In 2014, Kirsch visited 12 institutions in Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, and the Philippines to present short courses, lectures and symposia, supported by International Programs at the UI and funded in part by a Strategic Global Initiative Award. In 2015, he taught short courses in pharmaceutical technology at UFRN, the Brazilian university. In the same year, he spent four weeks as a visiting professor at the University of the Philippines Manila, teaching in both the professional pharmacy program and the graduate program.

“Pharmaceutical scientists and practitioners are part of a global community and each individual brings to their profession both culturally-unique and internationally-shared perspectives,” said Kirsch. “By exchanging experiences, problems and ideas in the classroom and in one-on-one interactions, both the visitor and host are personally and professionally enriched and grow as educators and world citizens.”

Salem noted, “It’s increasingly common for researchers in pharmacy to team up with researchers outside of pharmacy to make progress in larger scale inter-disciplinary projects that would not be possible with one single discipline.”
BUILD EXCELLENCE

UI College of Pharmacy: Supporting Students’ Dreams
Students at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy receive support as they build personal visions of what excellence means to them. The college also helps students turn their visions into reality.

Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students in the Learning and Living Curriculum — rolled out to first-year students in the fall of 2015 — are required to create personal vision statements and Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-Bound (SMART) goals.

But students at the college have always been pushed to excel, said Susan Vos, PharmD, FAPhA, a clinical associate professor and the director of the Professional Experience Program at the college. “Our students learn to solve problems and lead projects and people, which are skills that transfer to any future career they will have,” Vos said. “We encourage students to visualize themselves five years from now, and we are here to support them to help make that vision happen.”

Ashley Sabus, a fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy student, has embraced her passion for pediatric medicine. She would like to become a pediatric pharmacy specialist at a children’s hospital.

Sabus has taken advantage of extracurricular opportunities to interact with babies, children, and adolescents while also collaborating with other types of health care professionals. She has educated grade school children about safely using medications through APhA-ASP’s Katy’s Kids program, and comforted pediatric inpatients at the University Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) through the UI Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (UI-SSHP). She has also volunteered to help at a UIHC clinic where children are the medical staff and teddy bears are the patients.

The college has supported Sabus and a few other students who are establishing a new organization that aligns with their personal goals: an Iowa Chapter of the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG).

It has also offered financial support for Sabus to travel to regional and national meetings, including the PPAG’s annual conference. “These experiences have sharpened my leadership skills and given me the necessary tools to advocate for the profession of pharmacy,” Sabus said.

“Our college also has amazing faculty and staff,” she added. “I have found many mentors who continuously support my personal and professional development.”
Vos is one of them. During a five-week rotation last summer, Vos and Sabus worked closely to create a poster, manuscript, and round table discussion and present them the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting.

The projects mainly examined how the college integrates real-world leadership, service, and community engagement experiences into the fourth Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) as well as professional development coursework.

Although the project was unrelated to pediatrics, Vos has been a preceptor for students and residents in the UIHC Pediatric Allergy and Pulmonary Clinic.

Sabus is hopeful that she can secure a pediatric PGY1 residency program after graduation.

Claire Weidman, a third-year PharmD student, has Sabus as a mentor. Weidman is on track to graduate with Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Public Health degrees in 2018. Before then, she’s determined to take full advantage of both curricula, create and nurture a strong support network, and reinforce her curriculum vitae with active organizational leadership.

“You get three years before you go on rotations to build your CV. That’s what future employers or residency directors see when you get out of school and want to work as a pharmacist for them. Right when I graduate I want to hit the ground running,” she said.

Weidman already had a lot going for herself walking into her first day of classes. First, she knew her ideal career involves infectious disease and antimicrobial stewardship. Having pharmacists for parents also helped: Bob Weidman, ’81 BSPh, and Madonna (Schildberg) Weidman, ’80 BSPh. Claire Weidman came in ready to take advantage of the flexibility offered by the dual degree program. She knew the value of pushing herself out of her comfort zone.

“If you aren’t comfortable with something that’s exactly why you should try it,” she said. “My first year here I worked for a pharmacy doing compounding, something which I was terrified of doing beforehand. But I wanted to feel really comfortable with my skills right away in the field as a pharmacist. Getting out of your comfort zone is the only way you learn and you’re only going to learn so much in the classroom.”

Despite her readiness to start pharmacy school, Weidman has still learned plenty in her first two full years here. Tom Temple — a former longtime CEO for the Iowa Pharmacy Association — and Ben Urick, PhD student, were inspirational to Weidman when she took their Leadership and Political Advocacy class in her first year. She had big ideas in her mind bottled up for later in life, and shared some of them with the instructors. “They pushed me to look past what I thought I was capable of as a student, and that the only person who was holding me back was myself.”

“I didn’t plan to be involved,” said Weidman. Somewhat unbelievable, coming from this year’s president of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), Regional Member at Large, chair of the Pre-Pharmacy Mentoring Program, and a member of the student-led Honor Council. She learned to appreciate that by taking the helm of student organizations, she has been more exposed to different elements of the profession.

“A lot of people don’t understand how many avenues you can really take with pharmacy,” Weidman said. “You can really explore them through the different student organizations, through interacting with the faculty, and by taking advantage of all of the programs that Iowa has to offer. It has been a great fit for me.”

“All of that gives you a really firm idea of what you want to do based on experience, not just theory. It has given me a really good handle on where I want my career to go from here.”
To see the future of pharmacy practice in action, look no further than the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science within the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Pharmacists’ roles continue to expand into new and exciting areas, which ultimately helps patients in practical, long-term ways. But pharmacists do not always have the time or resources to test and evaluate new approaches to their work. That’s often where Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) researchers come into play. Meaningful results have come out of departmental faculty members’ research to improve the practice of pharmacy, and successful results can be continued or launched by pharmacists nationwide.

Two esteemed faculty members are good examples of PPS professors who have impacted health care by focusing mainly on how pharmacists practice. They are Barry Carter, ’78 BSPh, PharmD, and William Doucette, PhD. Both use research projects to innovate new practice ideas and examine their effects on health care processes and patients. They examine how health care systems impact pharmacist and physician behavior, especially for patients with chronic conditions.

Doucette often evaluates the services of community pharmacists—who typically can be found supplying medicines in pharmacies dotted around towns—and how they can influence patient medication use. He is especially interested in how pharmacists can improve older adults’ lives.

“As people age, they often take more medications, yet most research doesn’t focus on the elderly. Pharmacists can foresee and prevent drug issues before they happen. By focusing on pharmacists’ roles, I strive to improve health care processes for those at the highest risk of developing medication problems,” said Doucette.

Doucette studies how community pharmacists can improve older adults’ lives, among other things.
Doucette’s research studies have resulted in resources for pharmacists to improve their workflow without having to reinvent the wheel. His Drug Adherence Work-up (DRAW) tool helps pharmacists identify a patient’s reasons for not complying with their prescribed medication regimen, and suggests ways to intervene. The tool was adopted by a major U.S. government initiative seeking to lower blood pressure across America.

Doucette was the principal investigator of a major study to improve pharmacist-provided medication therapy management (MTM) services while they were still in their infancy. Such services can help people reach their drug therapy goals. The study was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

In 2010, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services called for more and better MTM programs for people who received Medicare prescription drug coverage. By then, Doucette and his team had already started the five-year study to do just that for patients 65 and older.

Pharmacists in the study’s treatment groups were offered online MTM training. They were also alerted to more potential patient drug problems than usual. Treatment group patients were better informed than usual about MTM services offered. In the end, each element of medication use improved over the course of the study. Also, patients who were told more often about an essential MTM service did seek the service—a comprehensive medication review—more often. Many of the quality improvement initiatives have become a standard part of MTM programs.

In another of Doucette’s studies, community pharmacists joined forces with a type of pioneering health system called an accountable care organization (ACO). In our nation’s changing healthcare environment, a top priority for these types of organizations is to stay connected with patients. Including community pharmacists in patients’ health care was associated with a significant drop in hospitalization rates and Medicare costs. The model also showed some success at managing the medications of high-risk older adults.

For several years, Doucette’s work has also paired up teams of clinical providers and community pharmacists throughout the state – backed by the Iowa Department of Public Health – to manage high blood pressure and diabetes. Participating pharmacists can provide blood pressure checks and work with the patients and providers to adjust therapy, increase medication adherence, and improve lifestyle issues.

“This collaborative approach builds on the ready access that patients can have to community pharmacists, the most publicly-accessible health care professional,” said Doucette.

Meanwhile, Carter’s research also evaluates strategies to better control chronic diseases. His work focuses on health care strategies involving clinical pharmacists – different from community pharmacists because their roles began in hospitals and clinics but have since expanded into other settings.

Carter – an expert on hypertension – has been the principal investigator on six studies funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) within the National Institutes for Health. Carter has also fostered pharmacist/physician collaboration to better manage diseases, particularly cardiovascular issues.

Carter’s group’s previous research has shown pharmacists’ ability to significantly lower blood pressure. His work looks at the effects of a given intervention on minority versus majority populations. His ongoing research examines whether pharmacists can also lower a patient’s overall risk of cardiovascular disease, in addition to lowering blood pressure, HgbA1c, and cholesterol levels.

“It has been documented that typically, minority patients face additional barriers to health care access, and in many cases may not have a sense of trust in the health care profession. This often leads to poorer outcomes,” said Christopher Parker, ’06 PharmD.

Parker is one of three UI-based clinical pharmacists running a current NHLBI-funded study of Carter’s. The study uses telehealth, an innovative approach, to examine how improving
patients’ access to health care can lower their risk of cardiovascular disease. Pharmacists involved in the project recommend drug therapy adjustments to each patient’s primary care provider. The project is called “MEDication Focused Outpatient Care for Underutilization of Secondary Prevention,” or MED-FOCUS.

Parker and another MED-FOCUS pharmacist, Rachel Finkelstein, ’13 PharmD, are based in the UI College of Pharmacy. A third collaborating pharmacist, Tyler Gums, ’16 MS in Translational Biomedicine, PharmD, is currently located at the University of Texas at Austin after finishing a fellowship at the college. Parker, Gums, and Finkelstein run the grant-funded Cardiovascular Risk Service. They work virtually with other clinical pharmacists who are physically located in offices around the country. They communicate with patients by phone, email, text messaging, and video conferencing, and tailor study interventions to meet each patient’s needs.

“Our research redefines the role of the pharmacist by allowing him or her to become a part of the patient’s health care team from a remote location,” said Parker. “This is made possible because we have access to the patient’s electronic medical record so we can make the most appropriate recommendations. Having this access leads to better care.”

“Needless deaths can be prevented with pharmacist-run, team-based risk factor management,” Carter said. “Research suggests that if all medical offices in this country that currently work with clinical pharmacists used this care model for their cardiovascular patients, there would be up to 30 percent fewer coronary deaths and up to 40 percent fewer stroke deaths per year,” said Carter.

Another ongoing project for Carter’s team targets rural Iowans, also by using telehealth and the college-based Cardiovascular Risk Service to improve cardiovascular disease.

Carter is the PPS department’s Patrick E. Keefe Professor, as well as a professor in the Department of Family Medicine in the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine. Doucette is the Deborah K. Veale Professor in Healthcare Policy. He is also the head of the Health Services Research Division within PPS.
“In physics, once you know the equation, you know where the ball is going to be. But with humans, there are so many more dimensions to consider.”

MARY SCHROEDER, PhD
Mary Schroeder’s students quickly learn that economists don’t simply cut costs.

After earning a PhD in Economics, Schroeder joined the college five years ago. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS).

Most colleges of pharmacy don’t employ economists. A few years ago, the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy had three. Economists are trained to consider “costs” beyond money – including time, resources, and other factors, Schroeder said. “For example, even though a pill may cost less than a dollar a day, a patient may not take it because it tastes bad, or because they are supposed to take it four times a day, or because it always made their stomach hurt. Those are also costs.”

Schroeder is curious about how people — especially older adults — make decisions about treatments. She also studies their effects. She has collaborated with other faculty members and clinicians to assess treatments for cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke. Schroeder’s economics background helps her look at clinical data in a unique way.

A trend puzzled and concerned the medical community recently: When a woman finds out she has early-stage cancer in one breast, and then she gets a pre-surgery magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), she is more likely to request the other breast be removed than if she had not gotten the diagnostic test. Fact is, such patients’ chances of developing breast cancer on the other side are very small.

Schroeder’s economic background could not accept the association, because she was taught that diagnostic tests do not by themselves affect treatment decisions. Collaborator Alexandra Thomas, MD, told her that MRIs can be too sensitive. Also, women with a questionable result (in this case, in the likely-healthy breast) are routinely asked to get another MRI in six or so months.

Schroeder had a hunch, which she and Thomas followed by creating their own study.

“It turns out, the moment you tell a woman: ‘We saw something on the MRI. It’s most likely nothing, but come back in six months,’ she’s done,” said Schroeder. “She’ll be much more likely to get a bilateral surgery. It wasn’t the MRI, it was the information in the MRI.”

Schroeder said projects take off when experts really reach into each other’s worlds. “In the beginning when we were working together, I would ask Alex (Thomas) questions and bring her things that a clinician would never think to ask or notice. My ignorance allowed us to contribute uniquely to the literature.”

Schroeder was born in Taiwan, and moved to Indiana with her graduate student father and the rest of the family at age two. The family moved around, eventually settling in Albuquerque, N.M., during her high school years. She interned at Sandia National Laboratories for seven years in high school and college in the security contractor’s computational and shock physics department. She received a bachelor’s degree in physics, but longed to have humans be part of the equation.

“In physics, once you know the equation you know where the ball is going to be,” she said. “But with humans, there are so many more dimensions to consider and uncertainty due to differences in preferences. ... That was intriguing to me.”

Given all the decisions associated with health and healthcare, Schroeder will have plenty to be intrigued about.
On Aug. 20, 2016, 112 students were welcomed to the College of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy class during the annual White Coat Ceremony. The students were coated by their professional mentors, alumni and friends of the College of Pharmacy who will help guide these students during their journey from student to practicing pharmacist.

Recent alumni Madison Williams and Nathan Peterson, both ’14 PharmD, look toward the advancement of the profession when mentoring new pharmacy students.

“Being a professional mentor allows me the opportunity to advance and heighten the profession of pharmacy by enlightening, supporting, and encouraging future pharmacists to achieve greater accomplishments and to strive to discover unknown possibilities,” said Williams.

Peterson expanded on that point, saying, “To me, mentoring is the most fulfilling way of giving back to the College and profession. My mentors played a huge role in my success, and it only makes sense to pay that forward.”

Clockwise from upper left:
Mentor Jill Stegall, ’02 PharmD, coats Hyesin Han.
Family and friends are an important part of this day.
Student Christian Askren was presented his white coat by his professional mentor, Michael Andreski, ’83 BSPh, ’93 MBA, ’09 PhD.
Craig Logeman, ’88 BSPh, president-elect of the Iowa Pharmacy Association addressed the audience.
Students take the Oath of the Pharmacist during the annual White Coat ceremony.
Students Kebba Bosang, Matthew Busalacchi, Jisoon Chong, Caprisse Honsbruch, Christian Askren, and MacKenzie McGraw listen as Dean Letendre explains the role of the pharmacist.
Ninety percent of graduates from the UI College of Pharmacy landed the residencies they wanted in 2016. That’s well above the national average of 68 percent, according to the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. Completing these competitive residencies will improve the graduates’ chances of securing the jobs they want.
Ninety percent of graduates from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy landed the residences they wanted in 2016. That’s well above the national average of 68 percent, according to the American Society of Health System Pharmacists.

As recently as a decade ago, it was far less common for pharmacists to complete residencies after graduation, but they’re becoming more common as a way of providing soon-to-be-pharmacists with extra training and to make them more competitive job candidates.

The number of residencies nationwide, however, has not kept pace with the growing number of pharmacy schools. In addition, a transformation in the way pharmaceutical services are delivered requires pharmacists to know and do more than ever before.

As a result, competition for residencies is fierce.

“We’re in an extraordinarily competitive environment,” says Donald Letendre, Dean of the UI College of Pharmacy. “That so many of our students are getting residencies speaks to the quality of our students. It speaks to their education and training, and it speaks to the dedication of our faculty.”

Today’s pharmacists are highly trained medical professionals who can do much more than dispense medication. They are well versed in drug-therapy management, preventative care, patient counseling, and chronic-disease-state management, which includes high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol. Pharmacists also are allowed to administer immunizations, except in four states—Wyoming, West Virginia, New York, and New Hampshire—where the types of vaccines they can administer are limited.

Letendre says pharmacists are improving the quality of health care and reducing the number of hospital readmissions by helping patients manage medications and follow treatment plans after they return home.

“In order to do that effectively, pharmacists need the highest level of education and training they can possibly get to work side by side with other health care professionals and to ensure patients get the best quality of care,” Letendre said. “That’s where the residencies come in: They provide that extra training and experience.”

A variety of pharmacy residency programs across the nation range from one- to two-year posts, some even longer. Some take place in community pharmacies, while others are at hospitals and large acute-care facilities where pharmacy residents can specialize in areas such as pediatrics, psychiatry, administration, and ambulatory care.

Pharmacy residencies work much the same as medical residencies. Students apply to hospitals, medical centers, and community pharmacies that offer residencies across the country, interview at many of them, and then rank them according to their preference. Directors of residency programs also rank the candidates according to their program’s preference. Both lists are entered into a computer, and an algorithm creates a “match” that pairs candidates with programs.

In 2016, 43 out of 48 graduates from the UI College of Pharmacy who applied for a residency matched with their choice of program. Among them was Alyssa Cosnek, who landed one of six residencies through the Community Pharmacy Residency Program offered by the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the UI College of Pharmacy.

Established in 1997, the community residency program at the UI is the longest-running accredited community residency in the nation. These residencies, which are open to any pharmacy graduate around the world, are offered at six community pharmacies in Iowa, including Towncrest Pharmacy in Iowa City, where Cosnek will be working for the next 12 months.

Randy McDonough, co-owner and director of clinical services at Towncrest and Solon Towncrest Pharmacy, has trained more than 20 residents in his career and says he believes residencies eventually will be required for all graduating students.
“Pharmacy is changing dramatically,” says McDonough, who also is an adjunct professor at the UI College of Pharmacy. “Community pharmacists are being held responsible for achieving therapeutic outcomes and safe and effective care. Pharmacists, like other health professionals, are being evaluated based on clinical outcomes.”

Residents in the UI Community Residency Program do more than dispense medication. Cosnek and others work to become experienced clinical providers who can manage patients’ drug therapies, regardless of the clinical complexity or situation.

Stevie Veach, a clinical assistant professor and director of the Community Residency Program at the UI College of Pharmacy, says that one year of residency training is worth three to five years of on-the-job training.

“Residencies give residents the opportunity to further apply their clinical knowledge with consistent and regular oversight and feedback,” she says, adding that 40 percent of graduates from the UI Community Residency Program still practice in Iowa.

Paul Abramowitz, chief executive officer for the American Association of Health-System Pharmacists in Bethesda, Maryland, says he believes the growing interest in residency training and the demand for residency-trained pharmacists is a reflection of the changing role of the pharmacist.

“Residency training has been a powerful way to help position pharmacists as knowledgeable and credible leaders on the patient care team,” Abramowitz wrote in March in a blog on ASHP Connect. “It has also helped pharmacists take on even greater responsibility for medication therapy management and overall patient care.”

The UI College of Pharmacy also is affiliated with nine other residency programs in Iowa, which are offered through UI Hospital and Clinics, Iowa City Veterans’ Affairs Health Care System, UnityPoint Health-Allen Hospital in Waterloo, Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo, Northeast Iowa Medical Education Foundation in Waterloo, and Waverly Health Center. Many of these residencies are multi-year posts in specialty areas such as pediatrics, oncology, psychiatry, and internal medicine.

Letendre says that in the case of large acute-care facilities such as UIHC, it is almost unheard of for pharmacists to be hired without residency training.

“That has become commonplace in acute care facilities across the United States,” he says.

“They have become very selective. As a consequence, they have become much more competitive because the number of applicants has increased and because the demands for residencies have increased by virtue of employment requirements.”

Letendre is actively working with other health care organizations across the state to establish more residency programs. He also wants to develop incentives, such as student loan forgiveness, to encourage UI pharmacy graduates to practice in Iowa.

“We’ve already made a huge investment in their education,” he says. “Why not make additional investments in their training so at the end of the day, we hire them and they stay here?”

In the 2015-2016 academic year, first-year Doctor of Pharmacy students at the University of Iowa were the first to take part in the college’s Learning and Living curriculum. The curriculum is transformative, patient-focused, and student-centered, and expands on teaching methods used in the college for years leading up to the launch.

Now entering their second year, these students will be trailblazers for two key aspects of the Learning and Living curriculum: professional discovery projects and integrated pharmacotherapy courses. Professional discovery projects involve students collaborating in small groups with faculty members to complete a research project. Faculty members are responsible for guiding each group — from project identification, research and scientific process, to presenting findings.

Integrated pharmacotherapy courses will engage faculty members from all four academic divisions in the college to deliver content in an organized and logical manner. Each four or five week course will focus on a particular organ system or disease state. This integration will ensure that material is relevant and important to the topic. Courses will build on prior knowledge and students will be challenged to apply new information to solve patient care problems.
Jennifer Wick has worked with the Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System ever since she earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 2002.

Wick’s mother is a nurse, so she was familiar with health care professions. Since high school, she was certain she wanted to be a pharmacist helping sick and injured patients.

Wick spent her first seven years based at the VA Medical Center in Iowa City. She currently covers the Cedar Rapids and Ottumwa community-based outpatient clinics of the Iowa City VA Health Care System as a clinical Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) pharmacist. In that role, she serves as a supportive resource for seven primary care teams and their thousands of patients. She also participates in shared medical appointments, manages various types of patients’ medication therapies, and has authority to prescribe medications for patients getting therapy for lipids and for smoking cessation.

“In patient-aligned care teams, patients are at the center of the team working with a central provider. Then we as pharmacists — along with social workers, mental health or other providers act as supporters,” said Wick. “As a pharmacist I’m very accessible to my patients, so am able to manage their disease states more efficiently.”

In addition to serving on the Genesis Board, Wick also is an adjunct assistant professor for the college and takes students on rotations as a preceptor for Professional Experience Program students.

“The college did so much for me; I’ll do anything I can do to help give back to the college,” said Wick. “I serve on the board for the same reason that I have pharmacy students. I genuinely enjoy working with them. It’s a two-way street: They keep me motivated, and I teach them and keep them motivated as well.”

Wick instills the values of networking and active organizational participation in her rotation students. “My worst quality is often saying yes to too many things,” said Wick. “But it’s worth it to start creating strong professional relationships early, while in school if possible, and nurture them afterwards. Pharmacy is such a small world. ... As the dean says, it's important to learn how to make personal connections with people, to look somebody in the eye and shake their hand really well.”

Wick has been a member of Johnson County Pharmacy Association for many years and served as trustee from 2011-13. She participated in the VA’s leadership development program in 2008-09, as well as the Iowa Pharmacy Association’s Leadership Pharmacy Conference in 2010.

Prior to her current position, she worked as an outpatient staff pharmacist at the Iowa City VA Medical Center.

Wick earned the Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist designation in 2011.
Kerry “Gus” Hartauer made an unplanned visit to the University of Iowa campus in 1979. Without that, he might not have ended up launching a 26-year career at Eli Lilly and Company.

Hartauer—then a senior at LaSalle-Peru High School in Illinois—had come to Iowa for the first time with his father after being accepted to Drake University for pharmacy school. However, he was not completely sold by its urban campus.

“A friend had told me that the University of Iowa had a college of pharmacy and we stopped in Iowa City on the drive back home. I remember vividly walking around the Pentacrest on a nice sunny day and knowing very quickly that Iowa is where I wanted to be. Somehow we also stumbled onto an advisor, who was very helpful and welcoming, and that sealed the deal,” Hartauer said.

Hartauer received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the college under the mentoring of his major advisor, Keith Guillory—then a Pharmaceutics professor.

He joined Lilly in 1989 as a research scientist. He spent the first 12 years of his career in formulation and process development. Then he moved into technical management roles within Lilly Research Labs. When Hartauer retired in the summer of 2015 from Lilly, he was a research fellow. He is a formulation development expert and inventor on eight patents.

At Lilly, Hartauer led his formulation group in the development, scale-up, and technology transfer of four unique, globally-marketed drug product dosage forms to treat infectious diseases, osteoporosis, and depression.

“I feel very good about being in a technical role, making multiple drugs and dosage forms available to patients,” Hartauer said. “However, I am most proud of the people I hired. If I left a legacy at Lilly, I hope it was as someone who cared about people and committed the time to develop them into highly successful scientific and people leaders.”

Iowa has always felt like home for Hartauer; his wife, Beth, was born and raised in Cedar Rapids and also graduated from the UI. They have four grown children and have been engaged and philanthropically tied to the college since graduation. They started the Keith Guillory Pharmaceutics Graduate Fellowship and recently gifted $75,000 for the new pharmacy building project. Also, Gus Hartauer and three other College of Pharmacy alumni started the Guillory-Matheson-Flanagan-Wurster Graduate Fellowship for Pharmaceutics students.

“I feel indebted to the University of Iowa and the faculty at the College of Pharmacy,” said Gus Hartauer. “Giving back, whether it is financially or serving on the Executive Board, is a way for me to honor the education and culture that has served me so well, and the faculty who created the environment that made that possible.”
Fravel’s Commitment to Engagement Leads to Student Success

Michelle Fravel, ’06 PharmD, was selected as the recipient of the 2016 College of Pharmacy Award for Teaching Excellence. Fravel is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy with primary teaching roles in Therapeutics, Foundations of Pharmacy Practice and the Pharmacy Practice Lab series. After earning her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, she completed a two-year Specialized Ambulatory Care Residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

She is also a clinical pharmacist in the Internal Medicine Renal/Hypertension Clinic and the Anticoagulation Case Management Service at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She serves as a preceptor to fourth year pharmacy students and pharmacy residents in both of these clinical settings.

In the fall of 2015, the UI College of Pharmacy launched a new curriculum; one that took several years to develop and refine. Fravel played a key role as the chair of the curriculum committee, and was largely responsible for the design, in the coordination, and coordination and implementation of this new curriculum, the Learning and Living Curriculum.

Her philosophies of engagement are evident throughout the college’s Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum. As Fravel stated, “My main focus in teaching is to engage students. I am convinced from my experience that teaching, no matter how perfectly designed or meticulously planned, has no effect if the students have not personally committed to learning.”

In his nomination, Vern Duba, clinical assistant professor, stated, “Fravel demonstrates consistent evidence of high levels of teaching excellence. She participated in TILE-certification workshops facilitated by the UI Center for Teaching. She has embraced and engaged active learning into her courses in the existing curriculum and is committed to revising her courses in the Learning and Living Curriculum.”

The College of Pharmacy Award for Teaching Excellence is a peer-reviewed nomination process for recognizing outstanding faculty. Clinical-track faculty, tenure-track faculty, lecturers, visiting faculty and adjunct faculty are eligible for consideration through self-nomination or nomination by colleagues.

The College of Pharmacy Academic Performance/Awards and Recognition Committee follows the UI President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence model for content of candidate support materials. This ensures sufficient information to select awardees and to employ uniform, university-wide standards in choosing recipients.
In addition to the College of Pharmacy Award for Teaching Excellence, each class within the college also selects a Teacher of the Year. This year’s recipients are:

JEFFREY REIST, CLASS OF 2019
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jeffrey Reist, '82 BSPh, PharmD, is a clinical associate professor and director of the Pharmacy Practice Laboratory at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. He is a clinical pharmacist on the interprofessional team at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Department of Family Medicine, Geriatric Clinic, and is a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. He is board certified as a pharmacotherapy specialist by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. Prior to returning to teach at the University of Iowa in 2003, Reist practiced in hospital, community, and long-term care pharmacy practices and served as a preceptor to pharmacy students.

DEANNA MCDANEL, CLASS OF 2018
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Deanna McDaniel, '01 PharmD, is a clinical pharmacy specialist in ambulatory care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and clinical associate professor at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. She also is the program director of the PGY1/2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency at UIHC. Her primary practice sites include the Anticoagulation Case Management Service, Pharmacotherapy Clinic, and the Allergy/Immunology Clinic. She serves as a preceptor to both residents and PharmD students in these areas. McDaniel received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa in 2001 and completed an ASHP-accredited Specialized Residency in Primary Care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in 2002.

BRET HEINTZ, CLASS OF 2017
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Brett Heintz is a pharmacy specialist in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He joined the Iowa City VA Health Care System in 2012, and also holds an academic position as clinical associate professor at the UI College of Pharmacy. He precepts pharmacy students, delivers didactic lectures and coordinates a pharmacotherapy course. Prior to joining the Iowa City VA and the University of Iowa, he was an assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy with a clinical practice in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine at UC Davis Medical Center. Heintz received his Bachelor of Science in cell and molecular biology at San Diego State University and his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of California, San Francisco.

PRECEPTOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

As teachers, experts, specialists, and mentors, preceptors provide learning experiences outside the standard classroom. Preceptors allow student pharmacists a glimpse into the daily life of a health care provider. Each year, the college recognizes preceptors with excellence awards in three categories:

PRECEPTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD, FACULTY: SHANNON HEINTZ, ACUTE CARE, VAMC

The Acute Care rotation at the VA Medical Center with Clinical Assistant Professor Shannon Heintz, PharmD, focuses on the care and pharmacotherapy issues associated with surgical patients and those patients who are listed and have received a kidney transplant. The rotation provides students with the opportunity to practice pharmaceutical care in a multidisciplinary setting. In this rotation, students’ time is divided between various surgical services at the VA Medical Center. Students are exposed to multiple disease states relevant to the pre- and post-operative care of a surgical patient. Daily discussions with the preceptor or physicians focus on issues pertinent to the surgical and kidney transplant population.

PRECEPTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD, ADVANCED PHARMACY PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: UIHC SURGERY

Preceptors David Thomsen, '91 BSPh, Megan Alderton, PharmD, Emily Augustine, PharmD, and Kathryn Hensley, '14 PharmD, work to improve students’ knowledge of post-operative and surgical issues in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Surgery Department, with a primary focus on organ transplant recipients. The patient population includes general surgery patients, vascular patients, liver/renal failure patients, and organ transplant recipients. Key rotation activities include daily rounds with the multidisciplinary team, extensive patient counseling opportunities, opportunistic infections, immunosuppressive medication regimens, and prescribing in renal/liver failure patients.

PRECEPTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD, INTRODUCTORY PHARMACY PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: MERCY DUBUQUE

The rotation at Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque provides an opportunity for students to become active members of the Inpatient Pharmacy at Mercy Medical Center. Students, led by Kate Kott, PharmD, Jared Ehtessabian, '11 PharmD, Nicole Goodall, '12 PharmD, Jennifer Noel, PharmD, Amanda Powers, '02 PharmD, Kelly Ungs, '10 PharmD, Kay Zepeski, '81 BSPh, Abbey Richman, '11 PharmD, and Pete Maier, BSPh, assume an active role in optimizing patient pharmacotherapy through active participation in the multi-disciplinary health care team.
Committee Launches Awareness Campaign for New Pharmacy Building

In 2015, a new College of Pharmacy committee held its inaugural meeting. The Iowa Building Development Committee (IBDC) is comprised of alumni and friends of the college, with the goal of supporting collegiate and UI Foundation efforts in garnering support and funding for the new UI College of Pharmacy facility. These volunteer leaders are answering the charge to support fundraising efforts to defray the $96.3 million estimated cost of the facility, and inform alumni and friends state- and nationwide about the project’s progress.

This past summer, the IBDC held a meeting in Des Moines to discuss their role and priorities. They will spread the word about the private support needed to ensure that the College of Pharmacy’s new facility is adequately funded. In the months ahead, alumni of the college can expect to hear more about this committee, and to attend receptions across the state of Iowa to learn more about the building, its features, and how it will propel the UI College of Pharmacy to the forefront of educational institutions in the world.

THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS:

- Gary Albers, ’75 BSPh
- Bill Baer, ’76 BSPh
- Tim Becker, ’79 BSPh
- Sharon Cashman, ’87 BSPh
- Carl Chalstrom, ’87 BSPh
- Connie Connolly, ’92 BSPh
- Jay Currie, ’80 BSPh, ’84 PharmD
- Bill Drilling, ’85 BSPh
- Steve Firman, ’76 BSPh
- John Forbes, BSPh
- Kate Gainer, PharmD
- Bob Greenwood, BSPh
- Greg Hoyman, ’68 BSPh
- TJ Johnsrud, ’66 BSPh
- Julie Kuhle, ’76 BSPh
- Larry Lee, ’72 BSPh
- Ed Maier, ’70 BSPh
- Randy McDonough, ’87 BSPh, ’97 MS, ’00 PharmD
- Jim Miller, ’71 BSPh
- Steve Mullenix, ’74 BSPh
- Leman Olson, BSPh
- Bob Osterhaus, ’52 BSPh
- Matt Osterhaus, ’80 BSPh
- Jim Scott, ’70 BSPh
- Al Shepley, ’71 BSPh
- Jenelle Sobotka, ’87 BSPh, ’89 PharmD
- Nora Stelter, ’00 PharmD
- CoraLynn Trewet, PharmD
- Susan Winckler, ’92 BSPh, JD

A view of the exterior of the building.

The lobby will have spaces for large group gatherings and presentations.
A Remarkable Year for Support

Thanks to the generous support of so many of the College of Pharmacy’s alumni and friends, 2016 has helped us to achieve new heights in establishing a culture of philanthropy. Over 852 individual donors made a gift to the College of Pharmacy in fiscal year 16, resulting in 633 gifts to pharmacy. Of these, 72 percent were from alumni, 13 percent were from corporations, and 8 percent were from friends of the college.

It’s because of these generous donors — and the generous donors of years to come — that the UI College of Pharmacy is able to provide scholarships to students in need, hire and retain world-class faculty, and break ground on a new learning and research facility. Each contribution, whether $1 or $1 million, helps lay the groundwork for the future.

The benefits of giving go far beyond the education these gifts provide. Individuals involved in philanthropy report a deep feeling of satisfaction in helping to advance the education and practice of pharmacy. They feel connected to the college, its people, and its mission.

To learn more about how your support benefits the UI College of Pharmacy, contact Mundi McCarty, the University of Iowa Foundation’s director of development for the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, or go to www.uifoundation.org/pharmacy.

Gift Announcements

A gift was recently received from Kerry (Gus), ’84 BPh, and Beth Hartauer. This gift, in addition to a previous donation, has been designated to support the College of Pharmacy Building Fund. The Hartauers have been generous donors to the College of Pharmacy for about 24 years.

Lynne Cannon recently pledged a gift to the College of Pharmacy to support the College of Pharmacy Building Fund. Her gift will name a Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry Lab in the South Tower of the new building. This gift is being made in memory of her late husband, Joseph G. Cannon, who passed away on Dec. 17, 2011. His presence at the UI College of Pharmacy spanned nearly 50 years in the Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry (MNPC) division. This is Mrs. Cannon’s second major gift to the college. In 2012, she established a fund in her late husband’s name to provide support for MNPC graduate students which includes, but is not limited to, travel, registration fees, a keynote lecture and lodging to attend the annual MIKI (Minnesota/Illinois/Kansas/Iowa) meeting. Joseph Cannon was a co-founder of the MIKI meeting.

Linda Gustavson, ’77 BPh, recently increased her gift to support the University of Iowa through a bequest arranged through the UI Foundation. She has been a generous donor to the College for 23 consecutive years.

James (Jim) G. Snyder recently increased his gift to the University of Iowa. His gift supports a bequest directed toward the H. Curtis Snyder Award Fund. James is a graduate of the University of Iowa (’73 DDS). His father, H. Curtis Snyder, was a graduate of the College of Pharmacy (’29 PHG) and he created the fund in his memory.

A five-year pledge was recently received from Coralynn and Matt Trewet. This gift has been designated for the College of Pharmacy Building Fund. She is a former faculty member at the UI College of Pharmacy and is a current member of the Iowa Building Development Committee, which is comprised of alumni and friends of the college with the goal of supporting collegiate and UI Foundation efforts in garnering support and funding for the new College of Pharmacy building.
Alumni, Faculty, Students Honored at IPA Meeting

The Iowa Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting was held June 17-18, 2016 in West Des Moines. Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists gathered to participate in policy discussions, attend educational sessions, and network with fellow pharmacy leaders.

The House of Delegates sessions were led by Speaker of the House, CoraLynn Trewet (Iowa Building Development Committee member).

Jane DeWitt, ‘92 MS, ’00 PhD, was introduced and confirmed as the 2016 IPA Honorary President, Susan Vos, clinical associate professor, was installed as Speaker of the House and Steve Martens, ’02 PharmD, was elected as Vice-Speaker of the House.

Additional award recipients are as follows:

- 2016 Bowl of Hygeia Award: Kenneth Anderson, ’72 BSPh
- Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award: Ashley Dohrn, ’06 PharmD, adjunct assistant professor
- Health-System Pharmacist of the Year Award: Erik Maki, ’03 PharmD
- GenerationRx Award: Noelle Johnson, ’07 PharmD
- Karbeling Leadership Award: Robert Nichols, ’17 PharmD Candidate
- Poster Presentation Award: “Changes in Pharmacy Practice Due to a Change in Prescription Refill Processing: The Iowa New Practice Model,” Michael Andreski, ’83 BSPh, MBA, ’09 PhD; Megan Myers, PharmD
- Appreciation Award: Ray Buser, ’69 BSPh, Michele Evink, adjunct assistant professor, Tom Halterman, ’89 BSPh, Jim Miller, ’71 BSPh, Iowa Building Development Committee Member, Matt Osterhaus, ’80 BSPh, Executive Leadership Board Member, Iowa Building Development Committee Member
- Renée and Randy Juhl

Randy Juhl, ’72 BSPh, ’74 MS, ’76 PhD, was recently honored with the Randy P. and Renée T. Juhl Conference Room at the University of Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy. The room was named in gratitude for the Juhls supporting graduate students with a fellowship, as well as for his service as Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Pittsburgh.

Deborah Pierce Linman, ’73 BSPh, received recognition as 2015 Volunteer of the Year for Bluffton Self Help in South Carolina. Bluffton Self Help is a non-profit charity committed to providing free food, clothing, and short-term assistance.

Michael Andreski, ’83 BSPh, MBA, ’09 PhD, was promoted with tenure to associate professor of Social and Administrative Pharmacy at Drake University on July 1, 2016.

Lisa Gersema, ’84 BSPh, ’86 PharmD, was recently installed as the president of American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
Robert Arthur “Bob” LaGrange, ’52 BSPh, died peacefully on July 28, 2016 in Vinton, Iowa. After completing his degree at the UI College of Pharmacy, LaGrange married Jane Vauthrin and served as a pharmacist at the U.S. Army Hospital in Camp Chaffee, Ark. In 1954, he returned to his hometown of Vinton, and became partner of LaGrange Pharmacy, where he worked until his retirement in 1994. LaGrange was proud of the fact that he was one in a long line of pharmacists, following his grandfather, Theodore, his father, Art, and being followed by his son, Mike, ’80 BSPh, and his grandson, Dan, ’10 PharmD.

Richard Allen Landess, ’58 BSPh, passed away on June 19, 2016. Landess was born Feb. 22, 1933, in Brighton, Iowa. He graduated from high school in Anamosa, Iowa, and from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. He was a pharmacist for over 50 years, and a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Iowa chapter of the Lions Club and Masons. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan and faithful Chicago Cubs fan. Landess served with honor in the Army at the end of the Korean War.

Emily Beckett, ’07 PharmD, clinical assistant professor, was awarded Broadlawns Family Medicine Residency Program Teacher of the Year this week – an award nominated by the 28 residents, chosen amongst all faculty, doctors, and teachers within the entire Broadlawns system.

Christina Gaard Baumgart, ’11 PharmD/MPH recently began a new position as the clinical patient aligned care team pharmacy specialist at the La Crosse Community Based Outpatient Clinic, in LaCrosse, Wisc.

Clinical Assistant Professor Kate Gaspar, ’13 PharmD, recently became a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist, a certification from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Tara Feller, ’15 PharmD, with Professor William Doucette, and Assistant Professor Matthew Witry, ’08 PharmD, ’13 PhD, published an article in the June 2016 issue of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education entitled, “Assessing Opportunities for Student Pharmacist Leadership Development at Schools of Pharmacy in the United States.”

After nearly 40 years in pharmacy, starting as a high school stock boy, serving as pharmacist, store manager, buyer, contracting director, and pharmacy program director, Todd Cooper, ’85 BSPh, has happily retired to Belize.

Adjudt Professor Randy McDonough, ’87 BSPh, ’97 MS, ’00 PharmD, was elected to serve a three-year term on the American Pharmacists Association’s board of trustees. His term begins in March 2017.

Joshua Free, ’05 PharmD, was elected chair of the Oregon Pharmacy Coalition, the joint legislative body supported by Oregon State Pharmacy Association and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Shari A. Petsche Boyle, ’85 BSPh, completed her Doctor of Pharmacy from Idaho State University in August 2015.

In Memoriam

Emily Beckett

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Jordan VanOven was born on Jan. 8, 2016 to Victor VanOven, ‘02 PharmD, and husband, Bryan VanOven. Jordan was 8 pounds, 9 ounces. He joins big sister Gemma and big brother Jacob.

Teresa Mitchell, ‘08 PharmD, and her husband, Quinn Nissen, welcomed their son Quinn Mitchell Nissen on March 2, 2016. He weighed 7 pounds, 0.5 ounces.

Amy Van Gorp, ‘07 PharmD, and her husband, Seth, welcomed daughter Penny on July 16, 2015. Penny weighed 9 pounds, 13 ounces, and joined big sisters Sadie and June.

Jennifer Colwell, ‘09 PharmD, and her husband, Ben, ‘10 PharmD, welcomed their daughter Sophie Elizabeth on Dec. 23, 2015. She was 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.

Ariel Loring, ‘10 PharmD, and her husband, Miles, welcomed a daughter, Vera Kathryn on Nov. 3, 2015.

Eric Dorr, ‘90 PharmD, and his wife, Megan, welcomed daughter Macy on Feb. 26, 2016. She was 8 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Macy joins a brother, Max, at home.
Are you an alum who recently had a baby? Make the College of Pharmacy a family tradition!

Tell us the news of your family’s addition — send your information to pharmacy-alumni@uiowa.edu — and we’ll send you a free Future Iowa Pharmacists onesie to welcome your new bundle of joy!

Karma and Bill Fafendyk, both ’09 PharmD, welcomed their daughter Laney Elise on Sept. 9, 2015.

Adam Harris, ’09 PharmD, and his wife, Danielle, welcomed a son, Ashton, on Feb. 26, 2016. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

Andrew Berg, ’12 PharmD, and his wife, Teresa, welcomed Emilia Violet on March 24, 2016.

Anthony Buerger, ’13 PharmD, and his wife, Kim, welcomed twin daughters, Emmie and Riley.

Kate Gaspar, ’13 PharmD, clinical assistant professor, and her husband, John, welcomed Eleanor Lorraine Gaspar on July 4, 2016. Eleanor was 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and 21 inches long.

Stacy Ross, ’13 PhD, and her husband, Nathan, welcomed their twin daughters Abigail and Evangelyn Ross on Feb. 25, 2016. They join big brother Wyatt at home.

Jennifer Barnes, College of Pharmacy staff, and her husband, Bob, welcomed their third daughter, Clementine Victoria on May 30, 2016. Clementine weighed 10 pounds, 5 ounces and was 22 inches long. Welcoming her home are big sisters Helena and Josephine.

Meagan Winger, ’13 PharmD, and husband, Derek welcomed their daughter, Amelia Skye, on Nov. 7, 2015.
Jeanine Abrons, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been elected as secretary of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Global Pharmacy Education Special Interest Group.

Professor Maureen Donovan, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapies, was a member of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee, which met jointly with the Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the FDA on the approval and labeling of a new opioid drug product. The meeting was May 5, in Rockville, Md.

Vern Duba, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, will assume an additional role while fulfilling his duties as the AACP Section of Library and Information Science secretary. He was selected to pilot a secretary of knowledge management role, during which he will help identify best practices and duties for future implementation of the role within other AACP governance groups.

Kashelle Lockman recently joined the College of Pharmacy as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, working with Associate Professor James Ray, the James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professor in Hospice and Palliative Care. The team will focus on the areas of palliative care, pain management, and hospice related care. She will maintain a clinical practice at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Gary Milavetz, head of the Division of Applied Clinical Sciences in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, presented at the “Drowsy Driving Summit,” sponsored by University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center, the National Advanced Driving Simulator, UI Public Policy Center, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau. The summit, held on June 29, sought to increase public awareness of the issue of drowsy driving. Mark Rosekind, NHTSA Administrator, and Iowa Governor Terry Branstad were in attendance.

Christopher Parker, ’06 PharmD, pharmacy specialist, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was nominated by students Max Anderegg, Rochelle Yang, Panagiota Terzis, and Jaelyn Westfield for the first annual Student Supervisor of the Year Award at the University of Iowa, and was selected as a Certificate of Appreciation winner. The Certificate of Appreciation award means he was voted in the Top 12 overall on the UI campus. The Office of Student Employment had 87 nominations (61 unique supervisors) in the first year of this award, which speaks to the level of importance campus supervisors have on students’ overall education experiences at the University of Iowa.

Associate Professor Zhendong Jin, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics, was recently awarded an R21 grant from NIH/National Cancer Institute for a project entitled: “Chemical
Biology of Superstolides — A Novel Class of Anticancer Natural Products."

Aliasger Salem, division head of Pharmaceutics and Translational Therapeutics, Denison Kuruvilla and Sheetal D’mello, graduate research assistants, were part of a team of researchers who recently received a patent for their work entitled, "New Biodegradable Polymers with Sulfenamide Bonds for Drug Delivery Applications."

Alexandra Thomas, who has a secondary appointment in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, Division of Applied Clinical Sciences, received the prestigious University of Iowa Michael J. Brody Award. All recipients of the award must hold faculty rank in a tenure-track, clinical-track, or research-track position at the University of Iowa. They also must meet a rigorous set of criteria.

Dale Wurster, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics, has been elected the next NIPTE Faculty Committee chair-elect. He assumed this position on July 1, 2016 when the current chair-elect, Eric Munson, became the chair.

Abigail Renner, second-year PharmD/MPH student, was recently named a 2016 Express Scripts Scholar. She was one of four students to receive the highly competitive scholarship, given by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy to students seeking dual degrees.

Rachel Grolmus, fourth-year PharmD student, was awarded the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. This prestigious national award recognizes pharmacy students who are committed to improving and promoting public health.

Third-year Doctor of Pharmacy student Max Anderegg was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Council on Pharmacy Management for a one-year term beginning June 1. The council is the primary body concerned with professional policies related to the process of leading and directing the pharmacy department in hospitals and health systems.

Megan Kelchen, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics and Assistant Professor Nicole Brogden attended the Microneedles 2016 conference in London, May 23-25. Kelchen’s abstract was selected for both a “flash presentation” and poster presentation. Brogden co-chaired the Therapeutic Delivery scientific session.

The Iowa National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Student Chapter was voted to receive NCPA’s National Chapter of the Year Award, presented in October 2016. The chapter’s officers include Morgan Miller, president; Sam Williams, vice president/president-elect; Emily Burger, treasurer, and Jenna Brandhorst, secretary.

Eight graduate students from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics attended the 48th Annual Pharmaceutics Graduate Student Research Meeting June 16-18, 2016 in Kansas City, Mo. Students who attended included Sumeet Singla, Ronilda D’Cunha, Ammar Al Khafaji, Mohammed Albarki, Namita Sawant, Laxmi Shanthi Chede, Terra Kruger, and Kendra Bell. Laxmi Shanthi Chede was awarded third place for her poster presentation at this conference.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT
The University of Iowa Pharmaceuticals (UIP) provides pharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing services to its clients.

Mickey Wells, ’87 BSPh, ’90 PhD, has been director of UIP since 2008. He shed some light on the organization for HawkScripts.

**What is the function of UI Pharmaceuticals?**
Companies, organizations, universities, and colleges hire UIP to develop formulations, and processes for making formulations into dosage forms; to develop analytical methods for testing dosage forms; to manufacture dosage forms for use in clinical trials; and to test dosage forms for release prior to use in clinical studies and on stability. UIP is focused on clinical supplies, but has always manufactured and tested commercial, prescription drug products when it’s a fit for our facility. UIP needs to follow strict rules and guidelines by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or European Medicines Agency (EMA).

**Tell us about some of the drugs that have been approved by the FDA?**
Since 1988, UIP has been a part of 30 commercial, prescription drug products! These drug products have included gels, immediate-release tablets, modified-release tablets, capsules, intravenous injections, and subcutaneous injections. They have been indicated for use for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), depression, erectile dysfunction, bacterial vaginosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, dry mouth due to radiotherapy, and many products to fight cancer.

Since 2009, UIP has been a part of seven commercial, prescription drug products. Each was among only approximately 20 FDA approvals that year in their drug product classes! To be a part of a client’s approval for such a product is quite a thrill.

The one commercial, prescription drug product UIP currently manufactures is Valchlor™ for Actelion Pharmaceuticals, to treat cutaneous T-cell lymphoma—a form of skin cancer. Previously, the only way you could get this in topical form was via a compounding pharmacy. This drug is not a good candidate for compounding because it is highly toxic and highly unstable. Now physicians and patients can choose a drug product that has undergone the rigors of FDA scrutiny and is efficacious and stable. Actelion has now filed this drug product in Europe. If and when approved in Europe by the EMA, possibly in 2017, this would be the first commercial, prescription European drug product that UIP itself has manufactured and tested.

UIP also has two other drug products filed by two of our clients for FDA review and approval.

**How has UI Pharmaceuticals grown recently?**
UIP has grown from 45 to 65 employees in the past four years. We are very excited to be planning for a new, modern sterile manufacturing facility in the lower level of the new pharmacy building. Under current plans, it will have enough new space to increase our batch size capability from 4,000 vials/batch to up to 20,000 vials/batch. UIP will also take over all of the second floor of the current south wing to further grow our preformulation capabilities and replace warehousing space that will go away with demolition of the 1960’s wing of the current college of pharmacy.

**In 2015, you hired your first graduate research assistant since 2006. Why was this the right time to reinstate this program?**
The recession put a stop to all student/graduate research assistant employment for a number of years. With the resurgence in the economy and our business, financially it was the time to restart this. Unlike in the past, UIP is not only employing its graduate research assistants part-time, but is also paying their tuition and committing to rotating them through the various departments within UIP. No other Pharmaceutics graduate program can provide this kind of experience while in graduate school. These UIP RAs will gain a much broader experience base to enter industry or academia. We also restarted hiring part-time undergraduate and professional students. Students provide a great energy to UIP.

**Since 2009, UIP has been a part of seven commercial, prescription drug products.**
UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3
Hawkeye Lunch and Learn featuring Dean Donald Letendre
Iowa City

November 7
Pharmacy Building Rally
Des Moines

November 8
Hawkeye Lunch and Learn featuring Dean Donald Letendre
Des Moines

November 11
Dean’s Appreciation Dinner
University Club, Iowa City

November 13-17
AAPS Annual Meeting and Iowa Reception
Colorado Convention Center, Denver

Keep in touch with the College of Pharmacy

We want to connect with you! Please take a short survey to let us know about your alumni experience!

http://pharmacy.uiowa.edu/2016-alumni-survey

In the Next Issue

Can’t make it for the 2016 Homecoming and Groundbreaking celebrations? Don’t worry, we’ve got you covered! Our next issue will feature photos and details about all of our alumni award winners, groundbreaking ceremony, and more!

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