Health professions: A family affair?

If you attended VCU School of Pharmacy’s 2009 convocation, you would be forgiven for thinking that health professions – especially pharmacy – run in families.

At last count, the Pharm.D. class of ’09 boasted two sets of twins – Eric and Steven Colpo and Akil and Bassim Mousa – and a married couple, Jon and Bridges Lowe Gallaham.

That doesn’t even include three graduates who were hooded by relatives: Erika Bailey, who was hooded by her grandfather, William Barr; Melissa Carroll, whose father-in-law, Norman Carroll, did the honors; and Kathryn Krieg, whose hooder was her father, Richard Krieg Jr.

Most School of Pharmacy classes have some students whose parents are alumni or who work as health professionals. In Barr’s case, the trend is multigenerational and pharmacy-oriented.

“I was the first pharmacist in the family, as far as I know,” said Barr, a professor at the School of Pharmacy since 1972. His daughter, Deborah Lee Wingfield, earned her B.S. in pharmacy in 1982, and her daughter, Erika Bailey, received her Pharm.D. degree in May.

“You’d think Erika would have rebelled,” Barr said, laughing. Erika’s father, David Bailey, also is a pharmacy alum of the class of ’82.

Barr believes students are actually less likely to follow family members into pharmacy than used to be the case. Now, he said, the field speaks for itself.

“Pharmacy is one of the Top 10 professions in terms of opportunity, and it’s been getting good press.”

Barr originally considered engineering – and was offered a music scholarship – but decided he’d prefer a career that combined the biological and basic sciences.

As for Erika, he said, “She has always been a person who has thought things through thoroughly. I was very pleased when she decided to enter the field, but I wouldn’t have pushed her one way or the other.”

The same is true of Carroll, whose daughter-in-law was torn between veterinary and pharmacy in high school, it’s not entirely surprising he ended up in the field. A professor of pharmacy administration, he arrived at the School of Pharmacy in 1989.

His family has carried on the health-profession tradition: Daughter Elizabeth is a dietician at a dialysis center and son Nathan earned a master’s degree in health administration at VCU.

Nathan and Melissa were dating when she found herself at a crossroads. “I had to figure out what I wanted to do,” she said. “I was getting married and had accepted both offers [to veterinary and pharmacy school] to buy a bit of time.

“I had to soul-search to see what I wanted out of life…. Veterinary medicine became more what I was striving for than what I wanted to do. I decided to go to pharmacy school … and get a dog!”

She applauds her husband and father-in-law for removing themselves from the situation. “They didn’t want to sway me.”

“That might have made her hooding experience even more special. “It was amazing. It meant a lot to me that [my father-in-law] really wanted to do that.”

It meant a lot to the Kriegs, too, despite a slight glitch at convocation. “It was great,” Krieg recalled. “Everybody laughed because I had just hooded Kathryn, and she walked off. I said, ‘Kathryn, don’t I get a hug?’”

His daughter, of course, returned for her hug. “She was just anxious to get her diploma.”

Krieg is a professor of anatomy and neurobiology with the School of Medicine. He also has taught anatomy for the School of Pharmacy and has served on its Admissions Committee.

Both fields are in his blood: His grandfather, Peter Barone, was a physician, and his great-grandfather, William Wallace Hayden, was a pharmacist.

“I think Kathryn did what she liked,” he said. Her approving dad considers pharmacy an excellent profession for women because of the flexibility it offers. Plus, he said, “You can go anywhere you want.”

And then there’s the paycheck: “Kathryn is going to be making only $2,000 less than I will be making this year. And I’ve been here since 1975!”

But pharmacy wasn’t his daughter’s first choice. “Since I was young, I always knew I wanted to work in the health-care field, maybe a veterinarian, doctor, radiologist,” she said. “Pharmacy had never crossed my mind because I didn’t know much about the profession.”

After her father set up a meeting with Thomas Reinders, associate dean for admissions and students services, she was hooked.

Kathryn’s brother Peter, by the way, is a pharmacy technician. “Who knows,” she said, “maybe there will be two pharmacists in the family one day.”

Her advice for prospective pharmacy students: “Absolutely, go for it! Patients see the physician for diagnoses and routine health-care maintenance, but … pharmacists have the wonderful role of helping patients make the most of their medication therapies.”

Kathryn just began training as a floating pharmacist for Kroger in Richmond. Another benefit of her field of choice is that she met her boyfriend, Fabio, on an experiential rotation last summer in Messina, Italy.

Erika Bailey, whose mother works at a Richmond-area CVS pharmacy, has moved to Florida to pursue a career in community pharmacy. At one point, she considered clinical pharmacy.

“I hope she explores the possibilities and opportunities and finds something she’s satisfied with,” said her grandfather. “That’s the only goal I would have for her, the real goal.”

Melissa and Nathan Carroll have moved to Ann Arbor, Mich. She began a pharmacy residency at the University of Michigan on July 1, and he will pursue a Ph.D. in health finance. Melissa’s goal is to work in a hospital pharmacy, although she might first consider a specialty residency.

Whether students follow in their families’ footsteps or independently choose a health profession, Reinders said, it’s cause for celebration.

But, he added, this is also true: “When young people grow up in an environment of helping and caring professions, it’s kind of a powerful message.”
DEAN’S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have just begun our new academic year, and I have completed my 13th year as dean, which is hard for me to believe. It has been a year of ups and downs for us. On the up side, I mentioned in the last newsletter that we had been visited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as part of our customary reaccreditation process, and I am very pleased to report that we met all 30 Accreditation Standards and were given a full six-year accreditation. My hat’s off to the faculty, staff and students who made this happen.

Also, we are making progress in renovation plans for the Smith Building. Watch for more on that in the fall/winter issue of Rx Exchange.

This year, our graduates included the first class from our off-campus program on the Inova campus in Fairfax, Va. Feedback from students who completed their third and fourth years in Northern Virginia was very positive. We look forward to our continued relationship with the Inova campus and health system.

We have finalized our admissions process for the fall semester and anticipate another exceptional class of 130 Pharm.D. students. These highly talented and motivated students were chosen from an applicant pool of more than 1,600. We also are experiencing a significant increase in graduate student enrollment and expect to have about 100 graduate students on board this fall.

On the down side, the Commonwealth of Virginia continues to experience a budget shortfall, so our state budget was cut by nearly 10 percent. Faculty and staff have not had raises for two years and do not expect salary increases for the next year or two. Tuition increases continue to be imposed on our students, many of whom are having increasing difficulty making ends meet. Nonetheless, I am hopeful that the state’s economy soon will be on the upswing and that we can return to a more stable financial situation in 2009–10. I am very grateful for the terrific support we’ve received via gifts and endowments that help support our students through scholarships and awards. Last year, we gave over $500,000 in scholarship support to our doctor of pharmacy students. We will be naming two faculty to newly established professorships and an additional faculty member to an endowed chair.

I have had the privilege of serving as president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for the past year, traveling across the U.S. and abroad in the name of pharmacy education. It is very clear that there is an international shift in pharmacy practice to a more patient-centered, medication-therapy outcome role. I have seen this movement in countries such as Libya, Korea, South Africa, Japan and China. Many of these countries look to the United States to help change the face of pharmacy education. I can say without reservation that the new curriculum at our School of Pharmacy leads the way in innovation to prepare future pharmacists for direct patient-care responsibilities as primary-care providers. Our School of Pharmacy is known nationally and internationally as a leader in pharmacy education and research, and I continue to be proud of what we are able to accomplish.

Best wishes,

Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D., Dean

Class of ’53 legacy lives on in Lafrenaye

Six years ago, the class of 1953 gave the School of Pharmacy the kind of gift that keeps on giving: a permanently endowed fund that provides scholarships for students with demonstrated need. And Jonathan Lafrenaye of Yorktown couldn’t be more pleased.

Lafrenaye, who received his Pharm.D. degree from the School of Pharmacy in May, is the 2008–09 recipient of the Class of 1953 Scholarship Fund. The class established the fund in honor of its 50th reunion and in memory of classmates who had died.

What did receiving the scholarship do for Lafrenaye? First, he said, laughing, “It helps with the $80,000 in debt. That’s an obvious benefit. But, he added, “it also inspired our class to do the same thing.”

The class of 2009 recently announced its own scholarship fund, based on an initial $10,000 in contributions.

But that’s not all. The class of 2008 was also inspired by the class of 1953’s generosity. In fact, Mahmoud “Moo” Sultan (Pharm.D. ’08), a previous recipient of the 1953 scholarship, is the student who announced that his class had decided to establish a scholarship.

Lafrenaye earned a B.S. in biology, with a minor in chemistry, at Old Dominion University. He was born in Indiana, but grew up in New Hampshire … then moved to Washington state, then Virginia. Four years ago, he settled in at the School of Pharmacy … until his fourth year, at which point a number of his rotations were “back home” in the Yorktown area.

Like most pharmacy students, he was active in a number of organizations, including serving as second vice regent for Kappa Psi, class of 2009 treasurer, vice president for the Student Executive Council and as a member of Phi Lambda Sigma, the Accreditation Steering Committee and the Admissions Committee.

In August, he will begin work on a master’s of health administration degree at VCU.

“Even outside of school, my life pretty much revolves around pharmacy,” he said. He hopes one day to manage pharmacies or pharmacy-related organizations. “I’m a very adaptable person, so if I find something that involves both pharmacy and management, I won’t be averse to it.”

Meanwhile, Lafrenaye is part of a new generation of alumni that thinks the class of ‘53 had the right idea: Making a pharmacy education possible – and continuing that tradition – is among the greatest of legacies.

Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D., Dean
Upward and onward!

About 570 students, parents, faculty and staff attended the class of 2009 Senior Banquet on May 15 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Joanne Pear, associate professor of pharmaceutics, was honored with the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Laura Georgiadis, office manager for the Department of Pharmaceutics, received the Outstanding Employee Recognition Award.

The next day, the School of Pharmacy conferred 128 Pharm.D. degrees and 15 graduate degrees at its annual convocation at St. Paul’s Baptist Church. William Zellmer, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ writer-in-residence (and now an affiliate SOP faculty member), delivered the address, “Toward a More Perfect Profession.”

Your alma mater – and former classmates – are interested in what you’ve been up to recently. Career? Travel? Kids? Grandkids? Keep us informed by e-mailing your news to pharmacyalum@vcu.edu or filling out this form and returning it to: Office of Public Relations and Communications, VCU School of Pharmacy, P.O. Box 980581, Richmond, VA 23298-0581. Or you may fax it to the attention of the Office of Public Relations at (804) 827-0002.

Your news will be added to our online alumni notes page. To visit, go to www.pharmacy.vcu.edu, click on Alumni, Donors and Friends, then on PharmFlash: Alumni Edition. Thank you!
### Reunion highlights education, entertainment

Reunion Weekend School of Pharmacy events kicked off – or teed off, rather – with the Second Pharmacy Alumni and Student Golf Tournament the morning of April 24. The tournament was coordinated by the brothers of Kappa Psi fraternity at Birkdale Golf Club. All proceeds benefited Richmond ALS. That afternoon, the third annual Warren Weaver Continuing Education Lectureship featured a talk on “The Face of Pharmacy Education Today” by Dean Victor Yanchick and Cindy Kirkwood (B.S. ’82, Pharm.D. ’85), associate professor of pharmacy. Three first-year Pharm.D. students – Bobby Krzyzanowski, Brad Martin and Sara Tittermary – joined Kirkwood in helping explain the curriculum’s most recent changes to alumni.

Alumni awards were presented later that evening to Bronwyn Burnham (B.S. ’89) and Jennifer Edwards (Pharm.D. ’99) at the Pharmacy Cocktail Reception and Awards Ceremony. (For details, see next page.) The reception was followed by the class of 1959’s 50th reunion dinner.

### Previous Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award Recipients

- 1981: R. Reginald Rooke (B.S. ’21)
- 1982: Edward Willey (B.S. ’30)
- 1983: E. Claiborne Robins (B.S. ’33)
- 1984: W. Roy Smith (B.S. ’41)
- 1985: J. Curtis Norttingham (B.S. ’35)
- 1986: Linwood S. Leavitt (B.S. ’41)
- 1987: Ralph M. Ware Jr. (B.S. ’42)
- 1988: John W. Hasty (B.S. ’56)
- 1989: Eugene V. White (B.S. ’50)
- 1990: Marianne R. Rollings (B.S. ’63)
- 1991: Carl F. Emwiler Jr. (B.S. ’62)
- 1992: Harvey B. Morgan (B.S. ’53)
- 1993: R. Michael Berryman (B.S. ’63)
- 1994: William F. Pillow (B.S. ’54)
- 1995: R. David Anderson (B.S. ’47)
- 1996: Nelson L. Showalter (B.S. ’67)
- 1997: Daniel A. Herbert (B.S. ’66)
- 1998: Charles E. Green III (B.S. ’66)
- 1999: Marie A. Smith (Pharm.D. ’80)
- 2000: John O. Beckner (B.S. ’78)
- 2001: Alvin J. Schalow Jr. (B.S. ’61)
- 2002: S. Chris Jones (B.S. ’82)
- 2003: Ronald G. Davis (B.S. ’73)
- 2004: Susan L. Wyatt (B.S. ’74, Pharm.D. ’78)
- 2005: Kelly Hasty Kale (B.S. ’85)
- 2006: Cynthia Pigg (B.S. ’84)
- 2007: Retra M. Robinette (B.S. ’87, Pharm.D. ’01)
- 2008: Stephen Fuller (B.S. ’85, Pharm.D. ’88)

### Previous Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award Recipients

- 1989: Nick G. Nicholas (B.S. ’52)
- 1990: Henry W. Addington (B.S. ’51)
- 1991: Bertha C. Rolfe (B.S. ’47)
- 1992: R. Blackwell Smith (B.S. ’37)
- 1993: Alvin J. Schalow Jr. (B.S. ’61)
- 1994: Ralph M. Ware Jr. (B.S. ’62)
- 1995: Charles F. Kingery (B.S. ’49)
- 1996: E. Claiborne Robins (B.S. ’53)
- 1997: Thomas W. Rorrer Jr. (B.S. ’53)
- 1998: Marianne R. Rollings (B.S. ’63)
- 1999: C. Eugene White (B.S. ’56)
- 2000: Michael E. Stredler (B.S. ’64)
- 2001: Thomas Talamini (B.S. ’61)
- 2002: L. Preston Hale (B.S. ’72)
- 2003: Rebecca P. Sneed (B.S. ’85)
- 2004: Janet Silvester (B.S. ’79)
- 2005: Harvey Morgan (B.S. ’55)
- 2006: John W. Hasty (B.S. ’56)
- 2007: Charles A. Baker (B.S. ’65)
- 2008: Amy L. Whitaker (Pharm.D. ’98)

Alumni awards were presented later that evening to Bronwyn Burnham (B.S. ’89) and Jennifer Edwards (Pharm.D. ’99) at the Pharmacy Cocktail Reception and Awards Ceremony. (For details, see next page.) The reception was followed by the class of 1959’s 50th reunion dinner.

The Pharmacy Alumni Block Party on April 25 featured entertainment by The English Channel, a Richmond-based British invasion band whose keyboardist, Bob Quarles (B.S. ’79), also happened to be celebrating his 30th reunion. Earlier in the day, pharmacy students offered tours of the R. Blackwell Smith Jr. Building; later that day, the Pharmacy Grand Alumni Dinner for classes of 1958 and earlier took place.

Hilda Meth, widow of emeritus faculty member Werner Lowenthal, was on hand during the weekend with copies of “Earth Sculptures,” a collection of award-winning photographs by Lowenthal. (If you’re interested in purchasing a copy at $35, Meth is donating proceeds to the School of Pharmacy via the Werner Lowenthal Endowment Fund.)

The weekend weather couldn’t have been nicer as pharmacy alumni took advantage of the opportunity to meet and greet.

Carthah “Sonny” Carrin Jr. (B.S. ’59) of Chester offered his take on being a School of Pharmacy alumnus: The school teaches every graduate a great lesson for life, he said.

“And that is that hard work produces a great product.”

For more reunion photos, visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu. Click on Alumni, Donors and Friends, then on Special Events.
The Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award was created to recognize an alumnus for significant contributions to the pharmacy profession and/or the community. This year’s recipient is the youngest ever to have received this honor: Jennifer Edwards, class of 1999.

Jennifer is a clinical pharmacist for HCA CJW Medical Center, on the Chippenham Campus. She is also a staff pharmacist for the Walgreen Company, where she has spent the last nine years dedicated to developing patient-care models within Richmond-area stores. Jennifer developed and implemented diabetes and immunization programs for Walgreens and served as the district diabetes representative for all Walgreens stores in the Commonwealth.

Since graduating from VCU School of Pharmacy, Jennifer has served the people of Virginia as a community pharmacy representative to the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services Drug Utilization Review Board. She has been an active member of the Virginia Pharmacists Association, where she has served as membership chairwoman and as a member of the Education Committee. She is also a member of the board of directors and serves as treasurer for the Richmond Pharmacists Association. Jennifer was honored with the Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year Award for VPhA in 2002.

After losing her 23-year-old brother in 2003, Jennifer became passionate about the pharmacist’s role in preventing prescription drug abuse. She served as the only appointed pharmacy representative on the Virginia Advisory Board of the Prescription Monitoring Program. Since 2006, Jennifer has served as the governor’s appointee on the Virginia Board of Pharmacy. Through this honor she participates on the CQI, Informal Conference, Regulation Review, Drug Disposal, Examination and Item Review Committees. She was also appointed by the governor to serve as pharmacy representative on the board of the Virginia Department of Health Professions. Jennifer also serves on the Legislative Affairs Committee to the National Association Boards of Pharmacy to help promote and change pharmacy throughout the country.

Jennifer remains active with the School of Pharmacy by serving on the Curriculum Committee, Office of Experiential Education advisory board and the Admissions Committee. She also is an associate clinical professor. She enjoys guest lecturing and precepting students throughout their advanced community practice clerkships and co-monitoring the Community Pharmacy Residency Program. In 2005, she was recognized as VCU School of Pharmacy preceptor of the month. She assisted in the development and implementation of the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) module for community pharmacy and was a conference leader for this program.

The Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding loyalty and service to the school.

Two past recipients of the Service Award are with us. They are: Rebecca Snead (B.S. ’85) and Amy Whitaker (Pharm.D. ’98).

This year’s recipient of the Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award is tireless in her efforts on behalf of pharmacy education, service and care. She is a remarkable leader, a courageous advocate and a good friend: Bronwyn Burnham.

Bronwyn received her B.S. in pharmacy from VCU School of Pharmacy in 1989. She has focused her passion for patient care and service through the community practice environment. Bronwyn’s patient-centered approach to pharmacy practice has been put to use by CVS. She pioneered the CVS Pharmacy Care Centers, meeting with patients monthly to monitor disease states and acting as a liaison between patient and physician. She was designated outreach coordinator for the Richmond and surrounding markets and was responsible for organizing and implementing outreach programs in the community.

From 2001 to 2004, Bronwyn held the position of pharmacy supervisor with CVS, managing pharmacies in the Richmond and Williamsburg areas. She recently completed the Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Program through APhA and plans to participate in flu clinics organized by CVS/pharmacy this fall.

Bronwyn’s true calling and passion is for energizing, organizing and motivating people. Her unwavering commitment to both the Virginia Pharmacists Association and the MCV Alumni Association Pharmacy Division are a testament to this fact. Bronwyn currently serves as president of the Virginia Pharmacists Association and has led the organization through a difficult financial year with focus, bravery and resilience. She has served Virginia pharmacists on the local and state level through VPhA.

Similarly, Bronwyn has embraced the opportunity to serve VCU School of Pharmacy alumni through service on the MCVAA Pharmacy Division board. Currently completing her second year as division chairwoman, she is working with alumni, staff, faculty, community and university leaders to spearhead a strategic plan for the MCVAA Pharmacy Division and the greater association. Through Bronwyn’s commitment, the MCVAA will grow to provide a new level of service leadership.

Bronwyn also commits volunteer time directly to the VCU School of Pharmacy as a conference leader for Communications in Pharmacy Practice (PHAR 525) and as a faculty member in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) program.

(Photos by Thurston House)
In Memoriam

The School of Pharmacy extends sympathy to family and friends of our departed alumni:

Randalph L. Arter Jr. (B.S. ’50)
Mr. Arter, 86, of Colonial Heights, died Dec. 6, 2008, at Sister Barbara Veterans Care Center in Richmond. He was predeceased by his wife, Charlotte, and is survived by his sons, stepson and stepdaughter and husband. His funeral service was held at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Colonial Heights. The Virginia Board of Pharmacy will honor him with a citation in their August meeting.

Dennis B. Bowker (B.S. ’61)
Mr. Bowker, 81, died April 13, 2009, in Richmond. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and was survived by two sons, Daniel B. Bowker and Thomas B. Bowker, and daughter, Jennifer B. Bowker, and two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A former director of the Virginia Society of Hospital Pharmacists, John was predeceased by his wife, Arlene, and is survived by his children, Mary Jean Bowker and John B. Bowker, and nine grandchildren. A native of West Virginia, he was also survived by his sisters, Mary Ann Bowker and Barbara Bowker, and brothers Joseph Bowker and Robert Bowker.

Jerry Allen Looney (B.S. ’87)
Mr. Looney, 59, died Aug. 21, 2008, at CPW Medical Center following an extended illness. He was born in 1949 to Thomas and Mary Looney and was predeceased by his parents and one sister. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; his daughter, Hannah; and his parents, Thomas and Mary Looney.

George B. Brooks (B.S. ’55)
Mr. Brooks died Aug. 20, 2009, in Churchville.

Jack B. Carson (B.S. ’50)
Mr. Carson, 81, died April 26, 2009, in Richmond. He is survived by his wife, Sally Carole; and two sons, Daniel B. Bowker and Thomas B. Bowker. The School of Pharmacy will honor him with a citation in their August meeting.

Curtis T. Carson
Mr. Carson, 81, died April 26, 2009, in Richmond. He is survived by his wife, Sally Carole; and two sons, Daniel B. Bowker and Thomas B. Bowker. The School of Pharmacy will honor him with a citation in their August meeting.

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Alumni members of the School of Pharmacy’s National Advisory Council, which met May 1, are:

Rick Baxter (B.S. ’78) of Richmond; Catherine Cary (B.S. ’89, Pharm.D. ’95) of Mechanicville; Ron Davis (B.S. ’73) of Richmond; Frank Harvey (B.S. ’84) of Williamsburg; John Hasty (B.S. ’56) of Hayes; Keith Hodges (B.S. ’89) of Urbanna; Susan Learned (Pharm.D./Ph.D. ’97) of Pittsburg, N.C.; Rebecca Snead (B.S. ’87) of Mechanicsville; and Ron McFarlane (B.S. ’80) of Raleigh, N.C.

Also: Bruce McWhinney (B.S. ’70) of Macon, N.C.; Phillip Morris (B.S. ’85) of Providence Forge; Bertha Rolfe (B.S. ’47) of Richmond; Thomas Rorrer (B.S. ’52) of Fredericksburg; Alvin Schalow Jr. (B.S. ’61) of Midlothian; Janet Silverstein (B.S. ’79) of Troy; and Rebecca Snead (B.S. ’85) of Chester. Emeritus alumni members are Carl Emswiller Jr. (B.S. ’62) of Sarasota, Fla., and Baye; and Timothy Lucas (B.S. ’93) of Roanoke.

Non-alumni members of the National Advisory Council are: Lenn Murrelle of Midlothian; Joseph Oley of Richmond; Edith Rosato of Fairfax Station; Larry Small of Midlothian; Jermaine Smith of Nottingham, Md.; and Daniel Wandro of Falls Church.

Nancy and Ron McFarlane (both B.S. ’80) of Raleigh, N.C., donated $250,000 to the School of Pharmacy for an endowed professorship in pharmacy practice. The professorship is in addition to the Phi Delta Chi Scholarship and the Nancy L. and Ronald H. McFarlane Scholarship, which the couple previously established. “The school is doing a lot of great things,” says Ron McFarlane. “We are happy to be able to help them achieve and grow their mission.”

The Pharmacy Division of the MCV Alumni Association is helmed by Bronwyn Burnum (B.S. ’89). Other members are Kenneth Kolb (Pharm.D. ’82), who also serves as treasurer of the MCVAA board, and pharmacy trustees-at-large: Hill Hopper (B.S. ’89), Timothy Robertson (B.S. ’92), Mark Szaulwinski (B.S. ’85) and Amy Whitaker (Pharm.D. ’98). Whitaker is also an assistant professor of pharmacy at the school.

For more alumni news, visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu. Click on Alumni, Donors and Friends, then on PharmRally Alumni Edition. To submit your news, e-mail pharmacyalum@vcu.edu.

Alumni of the School of Pharmacy’s alumni, faculty, staff and students are far too numerous to include here. Here’s just a smattering of what they—and you—have been up to since the holidays.

Faculty and Staff

Joseph L. McClay, research assistant professor of pharmacy, received a 2009 NARSAD Young Investigator Award. The National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression is considered the world’s leading charity for mental-health research.

William Garnett (B.S. ’69), professor of pharmacy, and David Holdford, associate professor of pharmacy, were named APhA Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science fellows at the American Pharmacists Association’s Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Antonio, Texas, in April.

New faculty and staff include:

- Business Office: Rachel Mocny Salinas, fiscal administrator for the Department of Pharmaceutics, and Tremayne Thompson, fiscal administrator for the Department of Medicinal Chemistry.
- Dean’s Office: Scenen Crenshaw, building manager and administrative support specialist; and Renee L. Murray, director of the Office of Experiential Education’s IPP program.
- Departments of Pharmaceutics and pharmacy: Crysty Davis, office services assistant.
- Department of Pharmacy: Ann Weisner, who’s finishing an AmCare residency at University of Kentucky, will join the faculty Aug. 17. New affiliate faculty are Matthew Banks, Rebecca Collins, Monty Kier, Edward Murrelle and William Zellmer.
- Transitions: Dean’s Office: Beverly Talluto, assistant dean for experiential education, left to join Texas A&M’s Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy as associate dean for clinical programs.
- Department of Medicinal Chemistry: Most of the department moved from the fifth floor of the R. Blackwell Smith Jr. Building to Biotech One at 800 East Leigh Street.
- Department of Pharmaceutics: Wesley J. Poynor, associate professor, retired.
- Department of Pharmacy: Kimberly Cappuzzo (Pharm.D. ’01), assistant professor, working as a senior regional scientific liaison with Amergin Inc. (She will remain an affiliate associate professor with the school.)

Events

Dean Victor Yanchick was invited to deliver commencement addresses to the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy on May 9, the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy on May 14 and the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy on May 22. He also made opening and closing remarks at the VCU School of Pharmacy convocation on May 16 and will preside at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s 2009 Annual Meeting in Boston in July.

Eve Bell of HCA Henrico Doctors’ Hospital-Forrest in Richmond was named 2008-09 Preceptor of the Year at the Office of Experiential Education’s annual Preceptor Appreciation & Awards Night on April 25. Also honored as Outstanding Preceptors were: Robert Carson of Ukrop’s Pharmacy, Virginia Center Commons, Richmond (community rotation); Jennifer Chow of Children’s Hospital of the Kings Daughters, Norfolk (acute care-pediatrics rotation); Neil Davis of Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Virginia Beach (acute care-critical care rotation); Michael Dupree of Federal Correction Institution, Petersburg (elective – infectious disease rotation); Tim Lucas of DownHome Pharmacy, Roanoke (advanced community rotation); Cherri Mohler of Walgreens Clinic Pharmacy, Chippenham Campus of CJW Medical Center, Richmond (advanced community rotation); Tiffany Ngo of Giant Pharm, Fairfax (community rotation); and Sheri Ober of Carilion Medical Center, Roanoke (elective – infectious disease rotation).

Recipients of the 2008-09 Outstanding Mentor Awards were: Daniel Tassone of the School of Pharmacy’s Inova Campus in Falls Church (faculty) and Patricia Pecora Falcio of VCU Health System (nonfaculty). Outstanding Service Award winners were: Joe Hoyle of HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Virginia, Richmond (geriatric and IPP hospital rotations); and Rodney Stiltner of VCU Health System (elective – hospital pharmacy administration rotations and more than 20 IPP hospital rotations).
The School of Pharmacy’s class of 2009 is its biggest ever: 122 Pharm.D. degrees, six nontraditional Pharm.D. degrees, six M.S. in pharmaceutical sciences degrees, five Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science degrees and four combined degrees with Certificates in Aging Studies. To ensure that pharmacy education continues to flourish, the school – on behalf of alumni, individual and corporate donors – is also offering a record amount in scholarship funds, totaling $550,000. Are you interested in investing in pharmacy’s future? Visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu and click on “Alumni, Donors and Friends” or contact Ellen Leverich at (804) 828-3016 or emleverich@vcu.edu.

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