



Alumni-run Compounding Pharmacy First in State to Receive Accreditation

A VCU School of Pharmacy alumnus, Christopher K. Currin (B.S. '95), is co-founder of the first—and so far, only—pharmacy in Virginia to earn the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board's Seal of Accreditation.

In fact, he and his father, C.F. "Sonny" Currin (B.S. '59), are both graduates of the school as well as partners in the business.

"We are very proud of our new PCAB Accreditation status. This accomplishment is another example of our continued commitment to put our patients and prescribers first," said Chris Currin, who is Rx3's director of pharmacy and a fellow of the American College of Apothecaries.

"The PCAB Seal of Accreditation demonstrates our dedication to protecting our patients by practicing safe, high-quality compounding."

Compounding medications is an integral part of the practice of pharmacy. An estimated 30 million to 40 million prescriptions are compounded annually, but many people aren't aware of compounding's role.

Prescriptions for compounded medications are written by physicians, veterinarians, and other legally authorized prescribers and prepared by specially trained pharmacists. Some pharmacies practice limited compounding, while others specialize in the centuries-old practice.

Who needs compounded medications? Examples include:

- Children who need smaller doses of medicines that are commercially manufactured only in adult-size doses
- People who can't tolerate inactive ingredients, such as gluten or sugar, in manufactured medicines
- Patients whose doctors want to prescribe medications whose manufacturers have discontinued them for economic reasons



Dean Victor Yanchick (right) congratulates Chris (left) and Sonny Currin on their success. Rx3 will soon move to a new 7,000-square-foot space.

While compounding is state-regulated, PCAB Accreditation offers a more comprehensive, profession-wide way through which the highest standards can be ensured.

To earn accreditation, Rx3 Pharmacy had to submit an extensive application, document its written policies, and provide an analysis of its quality procedures. In addition to a review of its written application, the pharmacy opened its doors for an on-site inspection.

The results, said Sonny Currin, confirm Rx3's commitment to providing safe, personalized solutions that meet its patients' and health care providers' needs.

Rx3, which opened in 1995, is also a teaching site for VCU School of Pharmacy students.

Rounding out this family affair, Shannon Currin—Chris' wife and Sonny's daughter-in-law—joined the business in 2006 as director of marketing and specialty compounding representative. She is a former pharmaceutical sales representative.

For more information on Rx3, visit www.rx3pharmacy.com. For more on PCAB Accreditation, visit www.pcab.org.

REUNION WEEKEND '09: READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Pull out your BlackBerry—or little black book. Reunion Weekend '09 begins April 24. The School of Pharmacy has planned all kinds of events—new and old—this year, including the first-ever all-pharmacy alumni picnic on the MCV Campus Green (behind Bear Hall) with live music by Rare Breed, a band featuring alumnus John Huffman (Pharm.D. '99). You won't want to miss the food and fun, and children are welcome.

The April 24 schedule includes the pharmacy students' golf tournament (also open to alums) at Birkdale Golf Club at 9 a.m.; the Warren Weaver Lectureship featuring Victor Yanchick and Cindy Kirkwood 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.; the pharmacy awards reception in the lobby of the Smith Building at 4 p.m.; and the class of 1959 dinner at 7 p.m.

Go, golden graduates! (Additional class parties are to be announced.)

The school also looks forward to seeing the class of 1984 on campus for its 25th anniversary. Class years ending in "4" and "9" are particularly encouraged

to come ... but hey, silver class, why not talk your classmates from '81 through '87 into joining you?

April 25 activities include tours of the R. Blackwell Smith Jr. Building 9–11 a.m.; the alumni picnic 1–4 p.m.; and grand alumni dinner at 6 p.m.

The university also will offer a plethora of entertainment, including a senior dance recital, a Theatre VCU performance of the Broadway hit "Chicago," and a bus tour of the burgeoning MCV Campus.

Rooms at the Richmond Omni Hotel have been reserved for MCV Campus alums at \$136 a night. If you choose to stay at the Omni, call (800) 843-6664 or visit www.omnihotels.com. Reservations must be made by April 1, and you must identify yourself as an alum to receive the special rate.

Think there's a good chance you'll be joining us? If so, please e-mail

pharmacyalum@vcu.edu and let us know. You don't have to register yet; we just want to let your classmates know who might be here. If you have a news update or a message for your class, send that along as well.

To see who responds, visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu and click on Save the date(s)!

Finally, applications are still being accepted for the Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award and the Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award. For applications, visit www.vcu-mcvalumni.org/mcva and search pharmacy.

To read more about alumni honored at this year's reunion, see page 6.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is with enthusiasm and thanks that I present this issue of the RxExchange. I am so proud of the alumni and faculty featured in this issue for their outstanding accomplishments in research, teaching, and service.

I am especially grateful to Harvey Morgan (B.S. '55) and Chris Jones (B.S. '82) for their work in securing capital funds to renovate the Smith Building. The \$5 million our school received in state allocations will be used to convert the first three floors of the Smith Building into student-exclusive space. Renovation planning is underway.

I am also pleased to report that our 2008 ACPE accreditation visit was a success. Despite a few minor obstacles (many of you know I was hospitalized with a case of acute appendicitis, from which I have fully recovered), our faculty, programs, and students were well-received by the accreditation committee.

Preparing for our review presented an opportunity to reflect on our growth over the past seven years. I am proud of all we have accomplished:

- Our faculty has grown from 65 to 80 members.
- With the expansion of a satellite program on the INOVA Fairfax Hospital campus in Fairfax, Virginia, we increased our Pharm.D. enrollment to 130 students per year.
- The Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program has doubled its enrollment since 2001. Ninety-one students are pursuing master's or Ph.D. degrees in the pharmaceutical sciences.
- Critically, the school has been allocated an additional 36,481 square feet on the MCV Campus since 2001 for faculty offices, research laboratories, and teaching. Two classrooms were converted



Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D., Dean

into one state-of-the-art, 138-seat classroom (Smith Building, Room 103). We extensively renovated two skills laboratories (Smith Building, Rooms 203 and 221) for compounding, sterile preparation, and small-group learning. A student study area (Room 346) was built and is being renovated to include new tables, chairs, and an LCD projector for small-group work. The entire Smith Building has been outfitted with wireless Internet access, and six rooms are now equipped for teleconferencing to off-campus sites.

- We successfully implemented a student laptop initiative and then a PDA initiative. We were the first school at the university to require technology of our students.
- Most significantly, academic year 2008–09 introduced a new Pharm.D. curriculum. This curriculum employs innovative, effective practice models for the care delivery and student education. Students will receive 300 hours of introductory pharmacy experience in the first three years and 1,600 hours in the fourth year.

Although we have accomplished much, great opportunities are still available. With your help, I am confident we will have even more successes to report at our next accreditation cycle.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I wish you all a joyful holiday season and a happy 2009.

Best wishes,

Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D., Dean



The RxExchange is a publication of the VCU School of Pharmacy. Readers are encouraged to submit comments or questions to Ellen Leverich by calling (804) 828-3016 or e-mailing emleverich@vcu.edu.

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Endowed Scholarship Winners and Benefactors Recognized

Several School of Pharmacy endowed scholarship recipients and benefactors were honored at an MCV Foundation brunch at Richmond's Jefferson Hotel in November. The brunch recognized scholarship winners from across the MCV Campus.

Nicholas Hall (Pharm.D. '08), a 2007 **Henry Addington Academy of Independent Pharmacy Scholarship** recipient, addressed the crowd. Benefactor Henry Addington (B.S. '51) and Olivia Longest (P4), also a 2007 Addington AIP Scholar, supported Hall from the audience.

Other endowed scholarship recipients (students, whose class years are indicated) and donors at the brunch included:

- **Class of 1953 Scholarship:** Jonathan Lafrenaye (P4); Fred Rahal (B.S. '53)
- **Edward E. Willey Scholarship:** Huyen Nguyen (P4)
- **George E. and Carries S. Schlosser Endowed Scholarship:** Deanna Flora (P3) and Christina Wong (P4)
- **John W. Hasty and Kelly Hasty Kale Scholarship:** John Hasty (B.S. '56) and Pat Hasty
- **M. Bruce Rose Memorial Scholarship:** Jessica Boyd (P4)
- **Nick Nicholas Memorial Scholarship:** Kristen Duke (P4); Mary K. Nicholas and Florence W. Tunstall
- **Richard T. Jacobs Memorial Scholarship:** Heather Greene (Pharm.D. '04) and Lisa B. Phipps (Pharm.D./Ph.D. '06)

- **Robert J. Woods Sr. and Florence E. Woods Endowed Scholarship:** Elaine Woods Lorenzo (B.S. '70), Jose Lorenzo, R. John Woods (B.S. '60) and Donna Winkler
- **Russell H. Fiske Sr. Scholarship:** Yinka Ojutalayo (P4) and Michaiiah Parker (P4); Linda Fiske Wehrle, George E. Wehrle, Eric Fiske and Judy Fiske
- **Ukrop's Pharmacy Scholarship:** Toni Coe (P4); John O. Beckner (B.S. '78) and Pamela B. Beckner
- **Walgreen Company Endowed Scholarship:** Solomon Ogunware (Pharm.D. '08) and Peter Wills (P4); Rusty Maney (B.S. '87)
- **William W. and Patsy S. Gray Scholarship:** Lina Saliba (P3); Cathryn G. Paul, Wayne Gray (B.S. '65) and Barbara Gray
- **W. Roy Smith Scholarship:** Virginia Lee Smith

Representing the School of Pharmacy were William E. Smith, executive associate dean; Ellen Leverich, director of development; and MCV Foundation pharmacy alumni trustees Frederick Rahal (B.S. '53) and Preston Hale (B.S. '72).

For a full list of School of Pharmacy endowed scholarships, visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu. To learn how you can create an endowed scholarship, contact Ellen Leverich at (804) 828-3016.



VCU School of Pharmacy, Class of 2012

MEET THE *Class of 2012*

Despite threats made by Hurricane Hanna, the class of 2012 officially became members of VCU School of Pharmacy in September.

By the time the White Coat Ceremony began at Greater Richmond Convention Center, the hard, steady rains had given in to a blustery, sauna-like afternoon.

“Welcome to the White Coat Ceremony ... or maybe we should call it the wet-coat ceremony,” said Dean Victor Yanchick to laughs from the near standing-room-only audience of students, family, friends, and faculty.

Yanchick’s opening remarks concentrated on nine professional behaviors a student pharmacist should exhibit, ranging from basic ethics to nondiscrimination, from compassion to respect.

The white coat isn’t magic, he said, but it will clearly identify its owners as professionals, ready to help others, from one of the best pharmacy schools in the world.

“If you get into trouble, the headlines will read, ‘Student pharmacist from VCU arrested,’” he said. “I don’t want to read that ... and neither do you! ... Each and every fiber of your white coat is woven with integrity.”

As Thomas Reinders, associate dean for admissions and student services, called out their names, students threaded their way around the room, climbed the few steps onstage, and presented their coats to Yanchick.

Deanna Flora (P3), student body president, administered the Oath of a Student Pharmacist.

“I hope I see each and every one of you four years from now,” said Yanchick. To accept the challenge of change in the profession is one of the most exciting aspects to which students can look forward to, he said.

Brad Martin, a member of the incoming class of 2012, and his wife Kim moved to Richmond from Utah. Their five-and-a-half-month old daughter, Mylah, behaved beautifully during the White Coat Ceremony.

As students chatted with their families and friends at a post-ceremony reception, some of those white coats looked a tad roomy.

That’s OK. As Yanchick said in his earlier remarks, “You are going to grow into that coat ... along with the people before you.”

About 20 percent of this year’s White Coats were paid for by alumni donations. Interested in providing a coat for a member of the class of ’13? E-mail Ellen Leverich, director of development, at emleverich@vcu.edu or call (804) 828-3016.

2012 by the numbers

129	full-time students
68%	female
32%	male
53%	Caucasian
47%	underrepresented minorities
82%	ages 21 to 25
18%	older than 25
82%	Virginia residents
91%	earned degrees (89% baccalaureate, 2% master’s or doctoral)
76%	of those attended Virginia colleges and universities (52% at VCU, Virginia Tech, and U.Va.)
3.27	mean cumulative GPA

Pharmacy Students Reach Far and Wide

Over the years, students and occasionally faculty members have participated in medical outreach trips.

“People hear about them after the fact,” said Evan Sisson (B.S. ‘92, Pharm.D. ‘94). “They say, ‘Oh, wow, that sounds great! I would like to have done that.’”

When Sisson came on board as an assistant professor of pharmacy two years ago, the School of Pharmacy’s student body president, Michaiiah Parker (now P4), asked if he’d like to participate in a RAM (Remote Area Medical) project in Wise.

Sisson already was interested in medical outreach. So he and nine SOP students traveled to Wise in the summer of 2007 for what is believed to be the largest event of its kind in this country.

This summer, Sisson, fellow faculty member Rebeccah Collins (Pharm.D. ‘00), and 14 students went to Wise. They joined the nearly 1,600 volunteers who provided 5,475 services to 2,670 patients in a two-and-a-half-day “help-a-thon.”

“It was an excellent experience for me,” said Collins, “and something I want to continue.”

According to RAM—which was founded in 1985 to help Americans without medical insurance—\$1,725,418 worth of free medical care was provided.

RAM, in and of itself, is a huge outreach. In fact, the School of Pharmacy’s participation in this summer’s event garnered it recognition as one of the 40 Acts of Caring, part of VCU’s 40th anniversary celebration.

Still, Sisson was open to more—and farther—outreach.

“Gary Matzke [associate dean for clinical research and public policy] put me in contact with some folks at the Department of Family Medicine who go to Honduras,” he said. That’s the School of Medicine’s student-operated HOMBRE (Honduras Outreach Medical Brigada Relief Effort).

The Department of Family Medicine then put Sisson in touch with Mark Ryan, who leads outreach trips to the Dominican Republic. Ryan practices at VCU Medical Center’s Hayes E. Willis Health Center.

El Salvador is another possible destination (though not through a formal affiliation) for School of Pharmacy students.

“It was an excellent experience for me and something I want to continue.”

Having developed a student application process for medical outreach and global health initiatives, Sisson said two students will work in the Dominican Republic in January and six of ten applicants will participate in HOMBRE next summer. HOMBRE also offers an elective course, now open to pharmacy as well as medical students, that better prepares them for the journey.

“The purpose of the application process,” Sisson said, “is to make sure that word gets out and everybody knows about it.” Also, he said, it ensures that a variety of students are allowed to participate.

He’s still accepting applications for 12 slots in next summer’s RAM event. The last two years, student participants spent much of their time collecting patient histories, dispensing patient information, and conducting tests and screenings.

“We’re trying to carve out a niche for the pharmacy practice that’s separate and apart from just dispensing drugs,” Sisson said. “What are the needs of patients and how can we satisfy them?”

To that end, one student is already putting together a smoking-cessation booth. And Collins is looking at the possibility of providing immunizations.

“The thing that impresses everybody [at RAM] is how grateful all the patients are ... and how patient they are!” Sisson said, laughing.

“They don’t grumble, they don’t complain [despite the long lines]. It’s just amazing.”

Just as amazing is the growing variety of service projects available to School of Pharmacy students.



School of Pharmacy student Maria Koumas (P3) works with one of the more than 2,600 RAM patients.



Third-year students Teresa Nguyen and Michael Sinks provide medical information and services.



Stephen Milam (P3) collects patient information at the Remote Area Medical event in Wise County.

Slattum's a Star, *an Alumni Star*

Patty Slattum (B.S. '85, Pharm.D./Ph.D. '92) was named one of Virginia Commonwealth University's 14 Alumni Stars this year. Her star? Community and university service.

Slattum always had close relationships with older adults in her family. She didn't think about it until she worked as a teaching assistant in the pharmacy skills lab as part of her graduate work at VCU School of Pharmacy. Her lab instructor, Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, was working on her degree in gerontology and was passionate about the subject.

"I decided to take a course in gerontology to learn more about it," Slattum says. "I began to feel that I had found my true calling!"

"VCU provided me with an outstanding foundation as a student and an excellent work environment as a professional to realize my potential and make a difference in my community."

As the third graduate of the school's combined degree program, Slattum learned to serve as a bridge between practice and science by engaging in professional and graduate education simultaneously. She credits faculty members who graduated from similar degree programs with helping her reach her goals.

"The faculty in the Department of Gerontology helped me see how caring for the elderly could fit into my other professional interests."



Patty Slattum spoke at the graduate program's alumni lecture series in October.

In 1999, Slattum returned to VCU as a full-time faculty member. One of the main reasons was to join the school's new Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Program. "With the aging of our population and the increasing use of medications to manage chronic health conditions, there is a great need for health professionals with expertise in aging," she says.

She now serves as the Department of Pharmacy's vice chairman for graduate studies, an associate professor for the Departments of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics, and the school's director of geriatric programs.

Slattum, who remains committed to the Combined Degree Program, works with its students while doing research. She primarily studies the effect of medications on cognitive functioning in older adults, particularly medications that might worsen memory. Currently, she is conducting a study of patients with

Alzheimer's disease who are receiving medications for other health conditions that might adversely affect their memory, behavior, and functioning.

"My goal is to better understand risks associated with medication use in older adults and to identify strategies to reduce medication-related problems in the elderly."

In the Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Program, Slattum has had the opportunity to work with other faculty to increase the geriatric content in the curriculum and mentor students for careers in geriatric pharmacy. She was co-advisor for the first doctoral graduate of the School of Pharmacy's pharmacotherapy track, Lisa B. Phipps (Pharm.D./Ph.D. '06). For her efforts, Slattum was selected the 2005 Teacher of the Year in the School of Pharmacy and as the 2005 Outstanding Gerontology Educator by the Virginia Association on Aging.

At the community level, Slattum lends her expertise to organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association, the Area Agency on Aging, and state agencies. "Helping to address the significant issues in health care related to our aging population and to prepare the next generation of scientists and clinicians to improve the quality of health care for the elderly are certainly worth spending my time on," she says.

Slattum attributes much of her success to her VCU experience, which helped clarify her chosen profession.

"VCU provided me with an outstanding foundation as a student and an excellent work environment as a professional to realize my potential and make a difference in my community."

"I am fortunate to have been surrounded by great colleagues in many different disciplines who are committed to improving the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens."

New Pharm.D. Curriculum off to a Good Start

"The faculty is very excited."

It takes a village to build a curriculum.

It also takes time. VCU School of Pharmacy's curriculum committee began planning for a new Pharm.D. curriculum back in the fall of 2005.

Sixteen people were on the committee helmed by Cynthia Kirkwood, associate professor of pharmacy and vice-chairman of education. But the project was also a "family affair."

Every faculty member had an opportunity to participate and help design courses.

The committee's job was to jumpstart the curriculum based on new Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education guidelines. The ACPE standards, which weren't available until February 2007, were published that July; any pharmacy school undergoing accreditation after that would be held to those standards.

VCU School of Pharmacy was due for accreditation in October 2008, so there was no time to waste. The new curriculum was in place when the class of 2012 hit campus.

One of the big changes, Kirkwood explained, is that all the basic sciences, about 17 credits' worth, became prerequisites. "That gave us more time to

focus on issues that are related to contemporary pharmacy practice."

Among the major differences in the new curriculum:

- More social and behavioral science topics have been incorporated, such as epidemiology and pharmacy practice and patient medication safety. Originally, a lecture or two might have sufficed where now an entire course exists. Many previous elective courses were integrated into the new courses.
- The Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences allow students 300 hours of direct contact with patients before their fourth year. As P1s, they will visit community pharmacies every other week for three hours. Their second year requires two weeks of a hospital visit and the third year, two weeks of a clinical pharmacy visit. "Dr. [Beverly] Talluto is working miracles out there!" Kirkwood said. As assistant dean for Experiential Education, Talluto and her staff are responsible for placing students in the IPPE program.
- A sequence of scholarship courses on each class level will introduce students to the research process in various areas, from practice-based pharmacy to bench research. As students progress, they will be introduced to didactic courses including drug information, statistics, and drug literature evaluation. "They will learn the foundations to come up with a hypothesis and design a research project," said Kirkwood.

"Some may actually go on to conduct the study."

During their second year, students will work in groups and some will attend and/or present posters at research seminars or local, state, or national meetings.

- Foundations courses, previously known as skills laboratories, have been completely restructured. With these courses and their IPPE activities, students will practice counseling with pharmacists and actors, participate in simulations with SIMMAN, learn how to dispense drugs, and prepare total parenteral nutrition solutions. They still will be involved in traditional dispensing activities, but the overall experience will be much more hands-on. This goes along with the shift in the field toward patient-centered care: how to take care of each patient individually, identify drug-related problems, solve those problems, and so forth.
- A number of courses will be taught in modules, integrating pharmacology, medicinal chemistry and pharmacotherapy topics. For example: an infectious diseases module and a respiratory module. Faculty will use new teaching methods, such as student-centered learning, audience response systems, case-based learning, and team-based learning.

It's too soon to evaluate the new curriculum's efficacy, but it's definitely in place, all systems go. "The faculty," Kirkwood said, "is very excited."



Amy Whitaker and Stephen Fuller accept their 2008 alumni awards. The 2009 awards will be presented at a reception on April 24 in the Smith Building lobby.

Alumni Honored for Career, Service

Amy Whitaker (Pharm.D. '98) and Stephen H. Fuller (B.S. '85, Pharm.D. '88) were honored during Reunion Weekend 2008. Following are their nominations:

PHARMACY ALUMNUS SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Amy Whitaker embodies service. As a practitioner, as a faculty member, and as an alumnus, she has kept service at the core of her activities. She is a servant leader to her patients, her students, and her alma mater.

Since completing her Pharm.D. in 1998 and her residency in community practice in 1999, both at VCU, Amy spent nearly two years at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as a clinical assistant professor. She returned to Richmond, joining the VCU School of Pharmacy faculty as an assistant professor in community pharmacy, in 2001.

Amy's legacy of leadership to the School of Pharmacy began before she even graduated. As a student, she received the 1997 and 1998 Roche Pharmacy Communications Award, and in 1998 was also honored with the VCU School of Pharmacy's Dean's Award.

Amy became a member of the MCV Alumni Association upon graduation and a member of the MCVAA Board of Trustees in 1999. From 2001 to 2003, she served as the MCVAA Board of Trustees' Program Committee Chairwoman and she served for four years as vice president of the Pharmacy Division beginning in 2002. Currently, Amy chairs the MCVAA Board Nominations Committee, a position she's held since 2003.

Recognition for her leadership and scholarly accomplishments has come from local, state, and national organizations. Amy received the 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award and the 2003 Ralph E. Small Faculty Award, both from the Virginia Academy of Student Pharmacists. In 2004, she was honored with the Distinguished Scientific Literary Award from the Lupus Foundation. That year, she also received the Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award from the Virginia Pharmacists Association.

Amy's personal accomplishments have had an impact on hundreds of students, as has her natural ability as a teacher. She has a gift in effectively translating her clinical practice and scholarly work in the classroom and a true passion as an educator. She has been a leader by example, greatly contributing to the professionalization and training of both Pharm.D. and residency students. She has continued to have an impact on VCU pharmacy alumni, introducing new programs to raise awareness about the key opportunities embedded in MCVAA membership.

Dr. Amy Whitaker's tireless commitment to the MCVAA has made a significant impact on the organization. The MCV Alumni Association and the VCU School of Pharmacy are proud to recognize the contributions she has made to pharmacy and her alma mater by honoring her with the 2008 Pharmacy Alumnus Service Award.

DISTINGUISHED PHARMACY ALUMNUS

Dr. Stephen Fuller is a triple pharmacy alumnus, completing his B.S. in 1985, his hospital pharmacy residency in 1986, and his Pharm.D. in 1988. The one word to describe Steve's career since leaving the MCV Campus is "passionate."

After leaving MCV, Steve joined the faculty at Campbell University in North Carolina. During his 20 years on the Campbell University faculty, he has distinguished himself with over 20 publications, numerous presentations at the local, state, and national level, and is actively involved at Campbell and many pharmacy organizations. Two things really distinguish Steve from his peers: his passion for clinical practice and for teaching.

Steve is passionate about the pharmacy profession and vigorously promotes it. He entered clinical practice by setting up a clinic in Fayetteville and became heavily involved in the North Carolina Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (NCSHSP). He promoted pharmacy across the state, receiving grant funding to support events like Brown Bags for Pharmacy Week. Efforts such as this culminated with the NCSHSP presenting Steve the Presidential Award in 1992 as its Pharmacist of the Year. He also received the NCSHSP's Continuing Excellence Award each year between 1993 and 1998.

Campbell University has lauded Steve's dedication to his work, presenting him with seven teaching awards for both didactic and experiential teaching, including Preceptor of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and the Dean's Teaching Award for Excellence. Because he holds his students and residents to high standards, he expects nothing but the same from himself. Steve became a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist in 1995.

Dr. Stephen Fuller is an innovative pharmacist in the classroom and clinical arena. The MCV Alumni Association and the VCU School of Pharmacy are proud to recognize the contributions Steve has made to the profession of pharmacy by honoring him with the 2008 Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award.

NEWS CAPSULES

The accomplishments 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 this year.

ALUMNI

Harvey Morgan (B.S. '55) and **S. Chris Jones** (B.S. '82) were honored at an August reception for their help in securing funding for the university, specifically the \$5 million allocated by the state for renovations to the R. Blackwell Smith Building. Morgan is a Virginia delegate (R-98th District) and the school's director of alumni relations. Jones is also a Virginia delegate (R-76th District). Renovations on the first three floors of the building will begin next year.

Bronwyn Burnham (B.S. '89) received the National Community Pharmacists Association Leadership Award at the 2008 Virginia Pharmacists Association annual convention. Also: **M. Keith Hodges** (B.S. '89), Bowl of Hygeia Award; **Tonya Price Miyano** (Pharm.D. '04), the Ilene B. Stiff VPhA Local Association President's Award; **R. Baylor Rice** (B.S. '94), the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award; and **Rebecca Snead** (B.S. '85), the Outstanding Pharmacist Award.

Bob Carson (B.S. '78), **Ron Davis** (B.S. '73), **Jean-Venable "Kelly" Goode** (B.S. '89, Pharm.D. '94), **Heather Raddin** (Pharm.D. '01), **J. Tyler Stevens** (Pharm.D. '06), and **Michelle Herbert Thomas** (B.S. '90) are featured in a video, "You and Your Pharmacist: A Winning Team," by the American Pharmacists Association. To view the video, which was created for American Pharmacists Month, visit <http://pharmacist.blip.tv/#1275186>. Goode and Stevens also are School of Pharmacy faculty.

Bertha Rolfe (B.S. '47) was honored for her decades-long dedication to and volunteer work with the university by the School of Pharmacy, VCU Massey Cancer Center, and MCV Foundation. The event took place in August on her 83rd birthday. Rolfe also is a former faculty member.



Birthday girl Bertha Rolfe (right) celebrates with Dean Emeritus Warren Weaver and his wife, Esther. (Photo by Fran Householder)

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

FACULTY AND STAFF

Eighteen School of Pharmacy faculty and staff members were recognized in October as part of the 37th VCU Annual Service Awards ceremony. Pharmacy employees honored this year for their dedication and commitment had worked a total of 295 years.

Faculty and staff hired this year included:

- Business Office: **James Friday**, fiscal administrator; **David Plunkett**, fiscal administrator
- Dean's Office: **Cosmin Boanca**, Web developer; **Denise Emminger**, program coordinator for Experiential Education; **Suzie Fairman**, assistant to the dean and office manager; **Lauren Fend**, administrative assistant, Experiential Education; **Cynthia McMullen**, director of public relations and communications
- Department of Medicinal Chemistry: **Jennifer DeGarmo**, administrative assistant to the chairman; **Keith Ellis**, assistant professor; **Donna Schulze**, editorial assistant to **Richard Glennon** (department chairman) for the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry
- Department of Pharmacy: **Akash Alexander**, assistant professor; **Chanda Diep**, administrative assistant; **Connie Faraone**, executive secretary to the chairman and office manager; **Mary Jayne Kennedy**, assistant professor; **Leticia "Tish" Moczygemba**, assistant professor; **Lisa B. Phipps**, assistant professor; **Thomas W. Smith Jr.**, office services specialist; **J. Tyler Stevens**, assistant professor; **Benjamin Van Tassell**, assistant professor; **James X. Zhang**, associate professor
- Department of Pharmaceutics: **Douglas Sweet**, associate professor

William E. Smith, executive associate dean, was appointed to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Advisory Council. He is the first pharmacist to be named to the council.

Victor A. Yanchick, dean, was installed as president of the American Association of Colleges at its annual meeting in July. Also, he has edited a new book, *The Dean's Compass: Practical Advice for Achieving Excellence*, along with **Barbara E. Hayes**, dean of Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and **Patricia A. Chase**, dean of West Virginia University School of Pharmacy. The book is published by American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. On a personal note, the dean wishes to express his appreciation for your thoughts and prayers following his recent emergency appendectomy. He has recuperated and is back on the job.

For more faculty news, visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu and click on Departments.

ANNIVERSARIES



Bill Barr shares memories of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program. (Photo by Chnoic Adams Clarke)

Mixing, mingling, and memories were on the agenda at an October reunion reception celebrating the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program. The graduate program, directed by **Susanna Wu-Pong** since 2004, observed its 50th anniversary (and second formal reunion) in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy's 11th Annual Research and Career Day. Also featured at the Scott House event were brief presentations by Wu-Pong; **Bill Barr**, Department of Pharmacy professor; and **Victor Yanchick**, School of Pharmacy dean. Other faculty and alumni also shared stories of their days in the graduate program. Wu-Pong's recent history concluded with the fact that enrollment has doubled in the last decade. One of the purposes of the reunion reception, she said, was "to share with graduate students how fantastic our alumni are." Among the emeriti faculty in attendance were **Marvin Boots**, **Bill Soine**, and **Jim Stubbins** (medicinal chemistry); **John Ruggiero** and **Harold Smith** (pharmaceutics); and **Norman Hilliard** (pharmacy). Ruggiero also was dean of the school from 1982 to 1996.

The School of Pharmacy and VCUHS Department of Pharmacy Services celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Pharmacy Services Clinic in November. The event featured comments by **Rita Willett**, associate professor of internal medicine. Willett was a proponent of the clinic as a teaching tool. The Pharmacy Services Clinic sees about 7,000 patients annually in approximately 20 examination rooms on the second floor of the Ambulatory Care Center. **Ron Ballentine**, associate professor of pharmacy and assistant director of admissions and student services, said the clinic has been of real help in recruiting residents.

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VCU President Eugene P. Trani joins pharmacy alumni in renovation-funding celebration. Page 7.



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COVER STORY

School of Pharmacy alumni and Virginia legislators Harvey Morgan and Chris Jones helped secure \$5 million in state funding for the Smith Building's upcoming renovations. Portions of your contributions to the school's recent capital campaign also went to renovations, as well as to scholarships, professorships, and more. Your continuing gifts are welcome. If you are age 70½ or older, did you know you can transfer funds (up to \$100,000 per year) from your IRA directly to your alma mater without increasing taxes? The deadline is Dec. 31, 2009. Details? Visit www.pharmacy.vcu.edu and click on "Make a Gift to the School," or call Ellen Leverich at (804) 828-3016.



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