**The Lowenthal legacy**

Werner Lowenthal, who joined the MCV School of Pharmacy faculty in 1961, will be remembered by many for his Pharmaceutics Ethics course, his rock paperweights, his impressive mustache and his passion for research and scholarship.

He will be remembered as a professor of pharmacy and pharmaceutics, director of continuing education and a true student advocate. Many will remember his evocative nature photography, his love of politics and his loyalty to family. He was shy and introverted but loved modern music and James Bond movies.

Werner Lowenthal most likely wouldn’t be surprised that his widow, Hilda Meth, has kept his name alive in her heart. But he might be surprised to know that his legacy in today’s School of Pharmacy includes a student scholarship called the Lowenthal Award and a biennial Lowenthal Symposium.

Lowenthal and Meth share a wonderful story. They met on a blind date – Jan. 23, 1985, Meth will tell you with precision – via a Jewish dating organization aptly known as Chosen People. Meth was in the market for a scholarly, ethical gentleman with a sense of humor. She and Lowenthal had met years earlier, but he had impressed her then as dry and boring.

This time around, however, they clicked. “He was very playful, funny as anything,” recalls Meth. Within a couple of months, Lowenthal had asked Meth’s hand in marriage … and by late September, they were newlyweds with a blended family. With a big smile, Meth adds, “Every day of marriage was an adventure.”

Unfortunately, the honeymoon lasted just shy of nine years. Two years after he retired, following a short illness, Lowenthal died. Always interested in “orphan diseases” himself, he ironically lost his life to Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease, about which little is known and for which there is no cure.

Meth, who grew up in Romania, was a survivor. She had made it through World War II and a stint in Israel with her family before moving to the States, where she eventually earned four degrees: a B.S. in psychology, one M.S. in clinical psychology and another in rehabilitation counseling, and a Ph.D. in counseling. She practiced for 35 years and had taught in most area schools and universities.

“We both had the soul of a social worker,” she says. Lowenthal, too, had earned four degrees: a B.S. in pharmacy, an M.S. and Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry and, later, a master’s in adult education.

Lowenthal died in 1994. Meth was working as a financial advisor, and her late husband’s annuity had tripled. She says, “I thought, since he got it from the School of Pharmacy, I will give it back to the school. I think education has a tendency to multiply dollars.”

Thus, in 2000, she established the Werner Lowenthal Award which, to date, has been given to eight pharmaceutical sciences Ph.D. students. Her hope was that the research funded by the scholarship would focus on rare neurological disorders and perhaps afford experimental treatment for people diagnosed with them.

Along the same lines, she funded the Lowenthal Symposium. The most recent, which took place in May and attracted about 120 attendees, centered on “Epigenetics of Psychiatric Disorders and Its Potential to Improve Treatment.”

Has BEST progressed? The answer is yes!

If you read about the VCU Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training program (aka BEST) program in the fall 2013 edition of The Pipeline, you know that it was planning a spring debut and was on the lookout for external funding.

Fast forward to the fall 2014 meeting of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Advisory Board. “I am really proud of the board for providing leadership for the BEST program,” said Susanna Wu-Pong, director of the School of Pharmacy’s Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Programs. She reminded board members that the Career Mentoring Network came first, but there was a “gaping hole” in terms of soft-skill learning.

“We do the academic side extremely well,” Wu-Pong said. “But we have a responsibility and a vested interest in training ‘the rest’ of the student. Our mission is to align them with the best possible career path.”

A pilot created to fill that need, the Professional and Personal Development Program, eventually morphed into the BEST program, helping graduate and postdoctoral students identify career paths and learn the skills to achieve them. Among BEST’s components are the GRAD611 class, whose 15 spring-semester students were exposed to areas such as personal branding and managing relationships.

Students enrolled in the class called it “eye-opening” and “empowering.” One student wrote, “This is one of the most helpful courses I have ever taken.”

Over the summer, BEST students took part in informal meetings as well as outings outside the classroom, ranging from cooking for the homeless with the Salvation Army to a James River excursion. This fall, they are looking at non-academic careers. An online course now is available, and a new interdisciplinary course is being added.

Faculty members from departments across VCU continue to be involved, and at least 15 alumni have volunteered as mentors.

While still more is needed, funding has begun to arrive by way of donations from the VCU Office of Research and Office of Global Education, a $10,000 sponsorship from Altria and a $50,000 VCU Quest Innovation Fund for “innovative thought and leadership.”

As BEST continues to grow, Wu-Pong envisions it as a model not only for the rest of the university but for schools nationwide.

To learn how you can help, visit rampages.us/vcubest, then click on Contribute. To read the 2013 BEST article, visit news.pharmacy.vcu.edu/publications, click on The Pipeline.
Fall greetings to our graduate alumni, faculty and graduate students of the VCU School of Pharmacy. I am very pleased to be the new dean of the school, taking over for Dean Yanchick who did an outstanding job in the position for 18 years.

Most of this would not have been possible if it weren’t for our graduate education coordinator, Sha-Kim Jackson, and the incredibly hard-working and generous Graduate Advisory Board. And now we have a new dean who will lead us into the future of pharmaceutical sciences R&D!

Our graduate programs have increased in size by about 50 percent. We are much more organized and efficient, especially since we have a great new student data management system created for us by the phenomenal Cosmin Boanca in PhaTech (the School of Pharmacy’s IT group).

Our student development efforts continue to grow through Research and Career Day (attendance was almost 140 this year), conferences such as the Lowenthal Symposium, and the Professional and Personal Development Program, which has evolved into VCU BEST, a university-wide program that includes career development.

We still have the most talented and dedicated faculty, students, alumni and supporters anywhere.

Faculty headlines

Grants, awards and leadership positions: Here are just a few! For news of faculty who also are VCU School of Pharmacy alumni, please visit page 3.

• Current and former faculty Don Abraham, Martin Sato and Richmond Danse-Dangah were honored for their sickle cell disease research with VCU’s 2014 Billy R. Martin Award for Innovation.

• Don Brophy is co-PI on a $1 million Department of Defense grant, in collaboration with VCU School of Medicine’s Ramesh Natarajan, to test the use of vitamin C in preventing hemorrhagic shock-induced death.

• Gretchen Brophy is secretary of the Neurocritical Care Society and will become its first nonphysician president in 2017-18. She also received the ACCP 2014 Critical Care PIN Achievement Award.

• Dean Joseph T. DiPiro received the ACCP 2014 Paul F. Parker Medal for Distinguished Service to the Profession of Pharmacy.

• Keith Ellis received the VCU School of Pharmacy 2014 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching.

• Richard A. Glennon was inducted into the American Chemical Society’s 2014 Division of Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame. He also received the Fifth Annual Philip S. Portoghese Medicinal Chemistry Lectureship Award.

• Michael Hindle and Peter Byron received a $489,297 FDA grant to develop a clinically relevant in vitro performance test for generic orally inhaled drug products.

• David Holdford received the NCPA’s 2014 Outstanding Adherence Educator Award.

• H. Thomas Karnes and Craig Kirkwood each were recognized for 30 years of service to the university. Norman Carroll, Malgorzata Dukat and Glen Kellogg were saluted for 25 years of service each.

• Gary Matzke was elected a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

• Edwin van den Oord and Karolina Aberg received a $3 million NIH grant, in collaboration with Duke University School of Medicine, to study how adverse childhood experiences leave molecular marks in DNA that can predict health risks later in life.

• Benjamin Van Tassell is co-PI, in collaboration with VCU School of Medicine’s Antonio Abbate, on two R34 grants from the NHLBI totaling $1.3 million. The goal is to identify new anti-inflammatory therapies for heart patients.

In other faculty news: Dean Victor Yanchick has returned to VCU as senior executive director of the Center for Interprofessional Education. Jeffrey C. Delafloue, associate dean for academic affairs, retired and has moved to Fort Myers, Fla. Professor H. Thomas Karnes will retire, effective Feb. 28, 2015. Warren E. Weaver, dean of the school from 1956 to 1982, died in July at age 93. He was hired in 1950 as an associate professor of medicinal chemistry. Under his leadership, the school established a doctoral program, awarding the first Ph.D. in 1958, and a postbaccalaureate Pharm.D. program that began in 1976.
Just last year, VCU School of Pharmacy Ph.D. student Poonam Delvadia was the first recipient of the Pfizer Consumer Healthcare R&D Leading for Innovation Award.

PCH established the award to be given to a Department of Pharmaceutics graduate student “who best demonstrates distinguished leadership among peers and the community while benefiting the health care needs of consumers and patients through innovative solutions in science and technology.”

In other words, Mike Peoples said, “These are tomorrow’s health care leaders. We wanted to send a leadership message and an innovation message. … We wanted to recognize emerging and future innovators and strengthen our relationship by building leaders in the field of pharmaceutics. That commitment was the foundation of the award.”

Peoples is a manager for Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, one of the largest over-the-counter health care companies in the world. He’s a graduate alumnus of the School of Pharmacy, as well, having earned his Pharm.D. in 2006. And he’s the perfect example of how Pfizer Consumer Healthcare and the school have maintained such a longstanding academic-industry partnership.

Peoples works for PCH, but he’s still a part of VCU.

He serves as an affiliate graduate faculty member. He has attended Graduate Awards Banquets, including last year’s when Delvadia received the award. He has participated in Research and Career Days as a visiting scientist. He and Susanna Wu-Pong, director of the school’s Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Programs, often have discussed ways to have an effective academic-industrial partnership.

Peoples’ colleague Peter Ramsey has interacted similarly with the school through the years. Ramsey, vice president for the Global R&D Pain Management Franchise and the Pfizer Richmond site leader, is a member of the School of Pharmacy’s National Advisory Council. In fact, Pfizer has played host to an NAC meeting.

Ramsey also has mentored students for Research and Career Days and was on hand to present Delvadia her award.

The synergistic list goes on. Nikhil Parekh, senior vice president and franchise lead for Respiratory and Personal Care, chairs the School of Pharmacy’s Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Advisory Board. He’s an affiliate assistant professor and often volunteers his services as an R&D visiting scientist.

Another alumnus, Mark Vaughan (Pharm.D. ’06) is a senior R&D scientist with PCH. He precepts Pharm.D. students whose fourth-year rotations take them to Pfizer, in 2012, he was named an Outstanding Preceptor. Alumna Denise Walters (Ph.D. ’91) has represented Pfizer at School of Pharmacy functions, including the Graduate Awards Banquet and the 50th Anniversary Graduate Alumni Reunion.

Gayle Silfka (Pharm.D. ’99), a medical outcomes specialist for Pfizer and adjunct clinical assistant professor for the school, has presented on topics such as “Opportunities for Pharmacists with the Pharmaceutical Industry.”

In addition to recruitment and the teaching and learning give-and-take, VCU School of Pharmacy professor Cindy Kirkwood (B.S. ’82, Pharm.D. ’85) received the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists’ 2014 Judith J. Saklad Memorial Award during CPNP’s 2014 Annual Meeting. The award goes to a senior psychiatric pharmacy practitioner who has achieved a level of professional distinction and demonstrates continuing dedication to the practice.

Sheila Wilson Elliott (B.S. ’82, Pharm.D. ’87) was appointed by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to the state Board of Pharmacy. She is a clinical pharmacist with Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

VCU School of Pharmacy professor Patty Slattum (B.S. ’95, Pharm.D./Ph.D. ’92) will receive the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics’ Henry W. Elliott Distinguished Service Award during ASCPT’s 2015 Annual Meeting. The award will recognize her significant contributions to clinical pharmacology and to the organization.

Joseph Grillo (Pharm.D. ’93) is senior clinical pharmacist with the FDA’s Office of Clinical Pharmacology, Office of Translational Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. He also is an affiliate assistant professor with the School of Pharmacy.

VCU School of Pharmacy professor Jeannie Johnson (B.S. ’89, Pharm.D. ’94) has been named president-elect of the American Pharmacists Association. Goode, who will assume the APhA position in March 2016, is a VCU School of Pharmacy professor and director of its Community Pharmacy Residency Program.

VCU School of Pharmacy’s participation in the Remote Area Medical event in Wise County, Va., spearheaded by Evan Sisson (B.S. ’92, Pharm.D. ’94) was one of four student-led community engagement programs to receive the 2013-14 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Student Community Engaged Service Award. (continued on page 5)
The 17th Annual Pharmaceutical Sciences Research and Career Day drew a record number -- nearly 140 -- School of Pharmacy faculty, students, alumni and friends in October. "Adaptation" was the topic for keynote speaker Vijay Anne, medical affairs review officer and manager for Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals Inc.

It was an appropriate topic for this annual event designed to help postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and Pharm.D. students develop the skills and contacts necessary to find jobs … and keep them, too.

Among Anne’s recommendations were to keep a clear focus on your goals. Find an industry where services are lacking, and make yourself indispensable. "Develop the next treatment, make your own niche," he encouraged.

Job-seekers also should demonstrate flexibility, said Anne. Becoming familiar with other disciplines that relate to your own will allow you to adapt to change, when it comes, and add value to your career. Taking a proactive approach can help you stay abreast of societal, environmental and technological changes.

"Take responsibility for managing your own career," he advised. "You should be able to bend and not break."

And once you have embraced change, Anne said, be sure to use it wisely.

Mock interviews gave attendees the chance to practice behavioral interviewing, and informal group meetings allowed them the opportunity to spend time with scientists practicing in a variety of fields.

Participating scientists included alumni Gene Cefali (Pharm.D./Ph.D. ‘87) of E.A. Cefali Pharmaceutical Consulting; Eric Edwards (Ph.D. ‘11) of Kaleo; Dwight Flammia (Ph.D. ‘99), of the Virginia Department of Health; Kenneth Kolb (Pharm.D. ‘82) of the Kolotti Group; Susan Learned (Pharm.D./Ph.D. ‘97) of Stiefel; and Shanaz Tejani-Butt (Ph.D. ‘84) of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Also providing expertise were Patrick Noonan of PK Noonan & Associates and Nikhil Parekh of Pfizer Consumer Healthcare.

Nearly 40 projects were submitted for the poster session. Posters were judged by faculty Phillip Gerk, Rong Huang, Mary Jayne Kennedy, Aaron May and Benjamin Van Tassell as well as Graduate Advisory Board members Cefali and Flammia.

2014 poster session winners were:

- Pharm.D.: Michael Lee; honorable mention, Dan Nichols
- Graduate: Tien Truong; honorable mention, Yaena Min
- Postdoctoral: Nehru Viji Sankaranarayanan; honorable mention, Kai Liu

The Jyotsna and Manvi Thakker Award went to Hebing Liu, with honorable mentions to Mandana Azimi, Sneha Dhapare and Neha Maharrar. Mengyao Li and Tien Truong received Joseph Schwartz Graduate Student Travel Awards.

Student podium presentations were made by Emmanuel Cudjo, Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science; Farhana Sakloth, Medicinal Chemistry; and Xiangyin Wei, Pharmaceutics.

A "Networking Approaches" panel discussion with Edwards, Learned, Noonan and Tejani-Butt discussed their own experiences and fielded questions from students.

"Take responsibility for managing your own career,” keynote speaker Vijay Anne advised. “You should be able to bend and not break.”

Parekh opened by noting that networking is a continuous variable in finding a job, keeping a job, salary growth and job satisfaction. The most important key to success is your approach.

Learned prefers in-person contacts to virtual connections, although it’s fine to introduce yourself via email if, for example, you’ve previously met at a professional conference.

"Do not assume that everybody else is trying to network with the same people that you are," Edwards said.

"When somebody sees that you are passionate about the same thing they are, the connection will be natural." One of the most powerful networking questions you can ask, he said, is this: "Is there anyone else you think I should talk to?"

However, Parekh cautioned, don’t start a relationship by asking for a favor. When you introduce yourself, ask for an opinion or find out what you can do for the person with whom you’d like to connect. “Look at their profiles,” he said. “Find a common interest.”

Noonan agreed. "The more you help people, the more it will come back to you."

Tejani-Butt commented on the importance of quality. It doesn’t matter how good you are at making connections, she said, if you aren’t good at what you do.

"Be curious and put yourself out there," she added. That’s something that can be harder for international students, she said. But do it, anyway. “Get to know who you are!”
Graduate Advisory Board: Charting a new path

Thanks to Nikhil Parekh for providing the following update on the activities of the School of Pharmacy’s Graduate Advisory Board. It is my privilege and an honor to write this report as incoming chair of the GAB. I want to first acknowledge the key contributions of an outgoing chair, Seina Lee, and the board members who provided their support and wisdom for making yet another successful year for SOP graduate and professional programs. Without their leadership, relentless efforts and time commitment, the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Programs would not be able to achieve things that they have been able to for their students and postdocs.

The program director, Susanna Wu-Pong, has commended the board on their leadership for these initiatives.

The key highlight of the year was bidding farewell to a long-term member and a great supporter of the GAB, Dean Victor Yanchick, as he retired after a long and illustrious career at the VCU School of Pharmacy. The board will certainly miss his wisdom and friendship.

Simultaneously, we welcomed the new dean, Joseph DiPiro. I had the privilege to spend some time with Dean DiPiro to understand his vision for the future and get his insight on what it will take to emerge as a best-in-class graduate program. The GAB will incorporate many of the ideas we discussed into future initiatives.

This year was no exception to the advancement the board has made in the four years it has been in existence.

An External Advisory Board (EAB) under the leadership of Eugenio Cefali, a past chair of GAB, was established to advise the VCU BEST Executive Committee. On the day of the fall meeting, GAB members participated in a BEST seminar course, a panel discussion on “Non-Academic Careers for Biomedical Scientists.”

Panel members shared their career paths and the various career opportunities that are available for biomedical scientists in non-academic fields. The panel encouraged students to think about their careers broadly, to take any available opportunities as a means to get broader experience and not to be afraid to take risks.

In continuation of the themes of CONNECT and SUPPORT, established last year, a LinkedIn subgroup was established for GAB members in addition to existing alumni subgroups. All groups were encouraged to rally classmates’ participation on LinkedIn pages for the BEST program and SOP Links to past presentations from Research and Career Day as well as biannual symposiums, including videos and events, have now been posted to promote additional interactions.

To support the postdoctoral students’ engagement with SOP events, they were formally invited to the annual Graduate Awards Banquet and were recognized for their support and accomplishments.

A travel grant was established by Gopichand Gottipati, a graduate alumnus, to encourage students to pursue internships and to attend professional meetings. GAB applauded him for his leadership and kind gesture and further strengthened the initiative by supplementing travel funds for graduate student/postdoctoral associates intending to travel to annual meetings and conferences. These experiences can create unlimited opportunities for students and postdocs to be recognized for their research and to network with other thought leaders in academia, government and industry.

The GAB has also created a directory of existing internship opportunities in industry and academia. Look for a post about the directory on SOP’s LinkedIn Graduate Advisory Board subgroup.

The GAB welcomed five new members in 2014: Jody Allen (Pharm. D. ’91), vice president for clinical account management, Express Scripts; Leslie Edinboro, director of toxicology, Quest Diagnostics; Kenneth Kolb (Pharm.D. ’82), principal, Kolotti Group; Katyleth Lee, associate director, VCU Health Sciences Career and Professional Development; and John Worth, VCU director of graduate professional development.

At the 17th Annual Pharmaceutical Sciences Research and Career Day, a networking forum was hosted by the GAB members: Eric Edwards, Susan Learned, Patrick Noonan, Shanaz Tejani-Butt and me. The wisdom they shared with the students includes:

1. Networking is more than just making connections; it is about building genuine relationships with people.
2. Networking is vital to finding a job, staying in a job, for career/salary growth and for job satisfaction.
3. Networking can be face-to-face or through technology (LinkedIn, for example).
4. Offer help before asking for help.
5. Set aside time and money to network.
6. Reassess your network as your career grows.

Our goal is to continue to expand the network of membership with students and alumni and to secure funds for many important programs such as BEST, student travel grants and student internships. We also need to focus on new initiatives, such as recruiting strategies for new graduate applicants, combined degree programs across different schools and novel funding models for these programs.

Graduate alumni news (continued from page 3)

Sisson, a VCU School School of Pharmacy associate professor, also was part of a faculty team that won AACPs 2014 Innovations in Teaching Competition for using video-recorded clinic visits to improve assessment of students’ clinical interviewing skills.

Amy Pakyz (B.S. ’93, Pharm. D. ’96) has earned her Ph.D. in health services organization and research from the VCU School of Allied Health Professions. She is an associate professor with VCU School of Pharmacy.

Susan Learned (Pharm.D./Ph.D. ’97) was appointed to the board of trustees at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, her undergraduate pharmacy school. To learn more, visit acphs.edu/press/two-new-trustees-appointed-board.

Min Li (Ph.D. ’13) is employed by the FDA in Maryland. She and her husband welcomed their first child, Emma Runxuan Shi, on Nov. 27, Thanksgiving morning!

Jagadeesh Babu Rangisetty (postdoc ’98-’03) and Manik Reddy Pullagurta (Ph.D. ’03) founded Biophore, a pharmaceutical technology development center based in Balanagar, Hyderabad, India, with a registered office in New Jersey. Earlier this year, Biophore donated an unrestricted gift to support the research of VCU School of Pharmacy associate professor Malgorzata Dakat.

Abhishek Gulati (M.S. ’09) earned his Ph.D. in 2013 from the University of Otago School of Pharmacy in Dunedin, New Zealand. He is a postdoctoral research fellow with the Indiana University School of Medicine’s Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute Disease and Therapeutic Response Modeling Program, Division of Clinical Pharmacology.

VCU School of Pharmacy postdoctoral fellow and alumnus Aurijit Sarkar (Ph.D. ’10) was one of two recipients worldwide of the International Society for Matrix Biology’s Young Scientists Award. He was selected based on his oral presentation at the 2014 Proteoglycans Gordon Research Conference.

Bavna Saluja (Ph.D. ’10) is a chemist with the FDA’s regulatory science policy and development staff, Office of Generic Drugs. Earlier this year, she married Dustin Price, who is a senior public health analyst with HRSA’s Office of the Director for the Division of Nursing and Public Health. He also is a commissioned corps officer with the U.S. Public Health Service.

Kaleo (formerly InteliJect Inc.), the Richmond-based company founded by Eric Edwards (Ph.D. ’11) and his brother Evan, announced the commercial release of EVZIO, an auto-injector now available for emergency treatment of opioid overdose.

Amal Akour (Ph.D. ’12) is an assistant professor at the University of Jordan Faculty of Pharmacy’s Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Biopharmaceutics. In November, she met SOP Dean Joe DiPiro while he was attending the Seventh International Conference of the Royal Medical Services.

Gopichand Gottipati (Ph.D. ’14) sends greetings from Sweden! He is a postdoc with the pharmacoemetrics research group at Uppsala University. He writes, “The people are quite friendly and welcome (and bike a lot, almost everyone!). The temperatures started to drop, and I’ve heard it is going to get worse really fast.”
Congratulations to the following graduate students who completed their degrees during the last year.

**Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences**
(name followed by dissertation title and advisor):
- Mostafa Ahmed: "Hydropathic Interactions and Protein Structure: Utilizing the HINT Force Field in Structure Prediction and Protein-Protein Docking" (Martin Sako)
- Rio Boothello: "Studies on Rationally Designed, Allosteric, Coagulation Inhibitors" (Umesh Desai)
- Ruba Darweesh: "In Vitro Lung Epithelial Cell Transport and Anti-Inflammatory Activity for Liposomal Ciprofloxacin" (Masahiro Sakagami)
- Morse Faria: "Quantitative Mass Spectrometric Investigation of Protein Biomarker: Serum Thymidine Kinase 1 and Human Osteopontin" (Thomas Karnes)
- Christine Farthing: "Modulation of CNS Neurotransmitter Levels and Associated Behaviors in Organic Anion Transporter 1 (Slc22a6) and Organic Anion Transporter 3 (Slc22a8) Knockout Mice" (Douglas Sweet)
- Gopichand Gottipati: "Prediction of Human Systemic and Biologically Relevant Pharmacokinetic (PK) Properties Using Quantitative Structure Pharmacokinetic Relationships (QSPKR) and Interspecies PK Allometric Scaling Approaches for Four Different Pharmacokinetic Classes of Compounds" (Uljungi Venitz)
- Yingzi Jin: "Biophysical studies on Macromolecule-Ligand Interactions" (Umesh Desai)
- Min Li: "Tobramycin Disposition in the Lung Following Airway Administration" (Peter Byron)
- Akul Yugesh Mehta: "Synthetic, Sulfated, Lignin-Based Anticoagulants" (Umesh Desai)
- Yaeeni Min: "The Effect of Sleep Medication Use and Poor Sleep Quality on Risk of Falls in Community-Dwelling Older Adults" (Patty Slattum)
- Maitreyee Mohanty: "Alcohol Use in Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A Focus on Effects of Alcohol and Central Nervous System Medications on the Risk of Injurious Falls" (Patricia Slattum)
- Abner Nyandege: "Association Between Concomitant Use of Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors and Bisphosphonates and the Risk of Osteoporotic-Related Fractures" (Patricia Slattum)
- Jenson Vergheze: "Development of a Covalent Inhibitor for Protein Kinase B (Akt)" (Keith Ellis)
- Saheem Asghar Zaidi: "Molecular Modeling: Applications in GPCR Ligand Design" (Glen Kellogg and Yan Zhang)
- Da Zhang: "Evaluation of the Allometric Exponents in Prediction of Human Drug Clearance" (Doug Boudinot)

**Master of Science in pharmaceutical sciences**
(name followed by thesis title and advisor):
- Alabbas Alhumaidi: "Reversed-Phase Ion-Pairing Ultra Performance Liquid-Chromatography Mass Spectrometry for Characterization of Heparin" (Umesh Desai)
- Ahmed Obaidullah: "A Route To Discover Small Molecules Inhibitors of PsaA, a Potential Target for Streptococcus Pneumoniae" (Glen Kellogg)
- Thomas Rabor: "Development of Bivalent Ligands Targeting the Putative CCR5-MOR Heterodimer" (Yan Zhang)

**Master of Pharmaceutical Science**
(name followed by project title and advisor):
- Michael Kent Bedenbaugh: "Implementing and Assessing the Impact of Cost Control and Supply Chain Strategies on Pharmaceutical Expenditures at an Academic Medical Center" (David Holdford)
- Jaleesa Mayo: "The hCMEC/D3 Cell Line as a Model of the Human Blood Brain Barrier" (Phillip Gerk)

**Pharm.D./Master of Public Health**
(name followed by capstone project and advisor):
- Andrea Gayle Scott: "Evaluation of Metabolic Syndrome in a Medically Underserved Population" (Amy Pakyz)

**Combined degree Certificate in Aging Studies:**
Kristin Rebecca Bell
Danielle Lindstrom Blaser
Amanda Bagley Cofield
Chad Mason Harte
Michael Ta-Tao Shen
Stephanie May Umphlette
Dale Marie M. Vaughan
Andrew Mark Whitman
Whitney Zentgraf

**Recognizing graduate student achievements**
Congratulations to award-winning graduate students and/or organizations, a few of whom are listed as follows:
- Jeremy Chojnacki and Akul Mehta: J. Doyle Smith Award, given to the student in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry who has achieved the greatest distinction in scholarship, research, teaching and service. Advisors: Yan Zhang and Umesh Desai, respectively.
Graduate News

2014 Graduate Awards Banquet winners included Jeremy Chojnacki (left), Akul Mehta, Morse Faria and Gopichand Gottipati.

Morse Faria: Charles T. Rector and Thomas W. Rorrer Jr. Dean’s Award, established by Jacqueline V. Rorrer in memory of her late husband, Charles Rector, and in honor of her current husband, Thomas Rorrer (B.S. ’52), for a graduate student who best demonstrates excellence in scholarship, research, teaching and service. Advisor: Thomas Karnes. Faria also received the John Wood Award, given to the student in the Department of Pharmaceutics who has achieved the greatest distinction in scholarship, research, teaching and service.

Gopichand Gottipati: Pfizer Consumer Healthcare R&D Leading for Innovation Award. Advisor: Jörgen Venitz. He also received a 2014 American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Presidential Trainee Award.

Yaena Min: Victor A. Yanchick Award, given to the student in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science who has achieved the greatest distinction in scholarship, research, teaching and service. Advisors: Cindy Kirkwood and Patricia Slattum.

John Saathoff: Lowenthal Award, established to support Ph.D. students participating in hands-on research in genetically based neurological diseases. Advisor: Shijun Zhang.

Daniel Afsah, Urjita Shah, Anisha Patel, Mandana Azimi and Sneha Dhapare: inducted into the Alpha Phi Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda.

Daniel Afsah and Urjita Shah: inducted into the VCU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Xiaolei Pan, Emmanuel Cudjoe and Daniel Afsah: Phi Kappa Phi scholarships. Pan also received a 2013 Pfizer Consumer Healthcare William Garnett Scholarship.

Ph.D. student Anne Masich (right), pictured with Patty Slattum, is the first beneficiary of the William Garnett Scholarship.

AAPS Pharmaceuticals in Global Health Focus Group Travelship Award.

Christine Farthing received the University Leadership Award during the 2014 VCU Leadership and Service Awards Ceremony, which honors students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and service to the community.

Megha Mohan received an ORISE fellowship from the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Tien Truong was one of four dual-degree pharmacy students nationwide to be named an Express Scripts Scholar by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

The School of Pharmacy’s ISPOR chapter ranked second, worldwide, during the 19th Annual International Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. Batul Electricwala, Yaena Min, Kunal Saxena and Della Varghese reached the final four in the Student Research Competition. Chapter President Saxena received an ISPOR Distinguished Service Award. Norman Carroll serves as the group’s faculty advisor.

The school’s three Atria Regulatory Sciences fellows – Morse Faria, Christina Farthing and Kunal Saxena – presented their research earlier this year to scientists at Atria’s Center for Research and Technology in Richmond.

Anne Masich, a third-year Pharm.D. student, was presented the first William Garnett Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2012 by the postbaccalaureate Pharm.D. alumni in honor of Garnett as he prepared to retire from the school.

The Lowenthal legacy

representative, has left her personal imprint on our program.”

Wu-Pong sees the Lowenthal Award as encouragement and inspiration for the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists in the neurosciences. “And the symposium inspires us all by providing state-of-the-art, cutting-edge research in the area.”

She notes that Meth also has donated her time and talent as a psychologist and specialist in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test “to help students become the best scientists they can be.”

Meanwhile, Meth enjoys seeing “her students” when visiting campus. “Our selection of students has been very good!”

The most recent, John Saathoff, is focusing his research on the design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel curcumin/melatonin hybrids as neuroprotectant agents for Alzheimer’s Disease. “Dr. Meth is one of the most kindhearted people I have ever met,” he said. “I am truly moved by her passion to help students succeed in science.”

Her generous donation, he said, has helped him substantially. “It not only helped in the purchasing of materials for research and the cost of everyday living but also increased my confidence. Receiving the Lowenthal Award has shown me that I possess the mental and physical ability to obtain funding for my research.”

It’s clear that Meth’s efforts on her late husband’s behalf ensure that the Lowenthal legacy lives.
After losing her husband, emeritus professor Werner Lowenthal, to a rare neurological disease, Hilda Meth wanted to honor his memory by giving back to the School of Pharmacy. Her gifts have funded a biennial research symposium and a graduate student award whose three most recent recipients were pleased to see her at Research and Career Day 2014: Kavita Iyer (left), Jeremy Chojnacki and John Saathoff. For more, see page 1.