Celebrating the Pharmacy Educator

AMERICAN PHARMACY EDUCATOR WEEK

SHARING PURSUIT
MENTORSHIP
PASSION
DISCOVER
CREATIVITY
KNOWLEDGE

Pursuit Sharing Mentorship Passion Discover Creativity Knowledge
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Why do pharmacy school faculty love their jobs? Opportunity is a huge part of the answer: Through their research, teaching and service, these professionals shape the future of healthcare. That tremendous opportunity fuels passion on the part of faculty each day in every college of pharmacy around the nation.

Pharmacy educators cultivate dynamic learning environments for their students. With the needs of patients and communities in continual focus, faculty and students collaborate with other health professionals to create team-based approaches to care. As they dramatically influence the science and delivery of healthcare, teachers serve as models and mentors to student pharmacists, many of whom ultimately choose to pursue academic careers of their own.

We honor faculty each October during American Pharmacy Educator Week. After another year of extraordinary accomplishments, faculty had plenty to cheer about in 2011. Featured on the following pages are stories of several pharmacy school celebrations, many of which mirror the spirit and creativity shining through pharmacy education every day.
University of California, San Francisco

During an American Pharmacy Educator Week lunch break, 30 students at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), packed a small classroom as two faculty members shared stories about how they chose a career in academia. Students overflowed into the hallway to hear from Dr. Tina Brock, associate dean of teaching and learning, and Dr. Leslie Floren, associate adjunct professor, bioengineering and therapeutic sciences, as they spoke about their passion for learning, teaching and research.

UCSF faculty wore “Ask me about my career in academic pharmacy” stickers throughout the week to raise student awareness of this important field. “I was thrilled to see such a large turnout for the lunch, and I enjoyed the opportunity to speak one-on-one with several students who stayed to ask further questions,” said Brock. “What a great opportunity to encourage students who are considering a career in academic pharmacy.”

The University of Oklahoma

American Pharmacy Educator Week at The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy is a culmination of a month-long emphasis on pharmacy. October is split into four areas: compassion, philanthropy, community and education. A highlight of the week was having students record a message of appreciation to faculty, giving examples of how certain faculty members influenced them. The clips were assembled into video, which was shown to the faculty at a lunch on both campuses. Several students also performed a song and dance.

Also during the week, two speakers discussed their professional journeys to careers in academic pharmacy. Megan Andrews, PGY1, provided students with the perspective of someone who has recently transitioned from the Pharm.D. curriculum to a residency position. She outlined important tips on how students should prepare for this career path. Dr. Heith Crosby talked about returning to school to pursue a graduate degree and then pursuing a vibrant career.
The College of Pharmacy at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science celebrated American Pharmacy Educator Week by inviting the university community to a brown bag lunch and keynote address from Dr. Kevin Rynn, associate dean for clinical affairs. Rynn’s discussion focused on the history of pharmacy education in America, beginning with the early days of pharmacy leaders who made significant medicinal discoveries, including cinchona and sassafras. He talked about potions, tonics and apprenticeships, which led to residency and fellowship opportunities available today. A passionate educator who has practiced for more than 20 years, Rynn stressed the importance of serving on the healthcare team and being a lifelong learner.

Members of the university community in attendance—faculty and students in pharmacy, medicine, podiatric medicine and other allied health professions—were introduced to the history and rigors of present-day pharmacy education as well as the benefits the pharmacist brings to the healthcare team. The inaugural class of student pharmacists left with a strong sense of pride in the longstanding history of their profession.

Dr. Kevin Rynn addresses the Rosalind Franklin University community during American Pharmacy Educator Week.
At St. Louis College of Pharmacy (STLCOP), four faculty members and students participated in Adopt-a-Student activities. Dr. Tricia M. Berry, professor of pharmacy practice, mentored Katelyn Conklen, a fifth-year student. They talked about the roles and responsibilities of being a faculty member as well as the educational and training requirements. Conklen also attended a research meeting with Berry. Dr. Terry L. Seaton, professor of pharmacy practice, and Kyle Brennan, a fourth-year student, attended an accreditation forum and discussed career planning. Niral Patel, a fifth-year student, attended a lecture by Dr. Theresa R. Prosser, professor of pharmacy practice, to STLCOP residents.

The school also featured three exemplary pharmacy practice faculty members and alumni on their Web site. Dr. Patrick Finnegan spends his instructional time at the John Cochran VA Medical Center teaching and leading in-depth healthcare discussions with sixth-year students. He enjoys helping aspiring pharmacists translate textbook information into applicable knowledge and useful medical solutions during their five-week rotations. Dr. Alicia Forinash enjoys discussing issues related to women’s health and providing medication therapy options and treatments to improve their quality of life. Along with teaching at STLCOP, she practices at Saint Mary’s Health Center.

Dr. Janelle Mann is enjoying the opportunity of a lifetime now that she is back at her alma mater as an assistant professor. Mann specializes in oncology and practices at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine. Like the first time around, she hopes to leave an imprint on the college’s culture.
Wingate University

Faculty members greeted students as they entered the lobby of the Wingate University School of Pharmacy on the first day of American Pharmacy Educator Week. They answered questions about careers in academic pharmacy and shared personal stories at a table for nearly five hours. Students asked about the role of residency training and how to advance in an academic career. The AACP Walmart Scholars Program and elective P4 rotations were highlighted for students as ways to expand their experience base. Faculty greeting the students represented the pharmaceutical sciences, clinical teaching faculty and pharmacy administration faculty.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

During American Pharmacy Educator Week at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy, the Center for Educational Excellence in Pharmacy and Phi Lambda Sigma expressed thanks to the school’s educators in a grand way, cooking a huge breakfast. The feast included 15 dozen eggs, 8 pounds of bacon, 7 dozen biscuits, 7 dozen waffles and 4 gallons of orange juice for 70 faculty, students and staff.
The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy celebrated the week with presentations, receptions, electronic billboards and a new faculty shadowing program for students. The week kicked off with a presentation on careers in academic pharmacy by Dr. Richard A. Helms, professor and chair for the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, to first-year student pharmacists at the Memphis campus.

The Knoxville campus held two receptions during which faculty, staff and students discussed opportunities and challenges of careers in pharmacy education. Both campuses displayed an electronic billboard throughout the week showcasing 18 College of Pharmacy faculty members. Individuals provided a picture, indicated where they completed their pharmacy education and postdoctoral training, and listed their current position and their favorite aspect of being an educator. “It keeps me young and I get to learn something new every day,” said Dr. Andrea S. Franks, associate professor of clinical pharmacy. Dr. Junling Wang, associate professor of health outcomes and policy research, added, “Knowing that I contribute to the education of the best pharmacists in the nation,” is the greatest part of her career as an educator.

This year, “Did You Know” slides were added to the display sharing interesting facts about faculty members. One example asked, “Did You Know that Dr. Dickerson will be the first pharmacist to receive the prestigious Jonathan Rhoads Research Lecturer Award from the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition in January 2012?” For the first time, the college offered a faculty shadowing program to help students learn first-hand what a career in academia entails. The program matched 10 students with faculty to introduce them to the teaching, research, service and practice responsibilities of academia. The week concluded with a faculty breakfast.
Top: Dr. Shaunta’ Ray, associate professor (seated left), talks with students about her practice and academic responsibilities.

Bottom: Dr. Debbie Byrd, professor and associate dean for professional affairs (seated right), discussed academic opportunities with students during an American Pharmacy Educator Week reception in Knoxville.
The Pharmacotherapy Division at The University of Texas at Austin spent the week focused on careers and initiatives. The College of Pharmacy hosted informal networking sessions where faculty (both full-time and practitioner) discussed their background, why they chose education as their career and why they pursued a full-time academic career or a full-time pharmacy practitioner position. During the week, the division also highlighted new initiatives, such as the longitudinal Community Pharmacy Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience, which results in medication therapy management certification for the students.

During a one-hour breakfast session, San Antonio third-year students participating in this community IPPE model shared their experiences with faculty and other students. Another breakfast session focused on postgraduate academic and training programs within the Pharmacotherapy Division. Later in the week, the UT College of Pharmacy San Antonio Regional Internship Program and the South Central Area Health Education Center hosted a celebratory luncheon for all faculty, students and residents. Several faculty members and preceptors spoke about their involvement in pharmacy education. At the conclusion of the program, the Preceptor of the Year for the San Antonio Regional Internship Program was awarded to Dr. Veronica S.L. Young.
University of Houston

Student pharmacists at the University of Houston turned into amateur gumshoes for a week to learn about careers in academic pharmacy while competing for prizes. Project organizer Dr. Julie E. Szilagyi, associate professor, developed a list of 20 clues for students to decipher and identify the faculty member to whom each clue referred. Students interviewed faculty members and scoured through their profiles on the school’s Web site. The winning student received a leather portfolio with the college logo, plus gift certificates to restaurants and coffee houses.

The clues hinted at faculty members’ research activities, education, or extracurricular hobbies and interests. One clue read, “Hold the Mayo, but pass the vino,” which referenced faculty member Dr. Jason Eriksen, who joined the college from the Mayo Clinic and received grant support from the California Table Grape Council. Another clue said, “Went to school in Vancouver, where the atmosphere got under her skin,” which referenced faculty member Dr. Diana S. Chow, a graduate of The University of British Columbia, whose research interests include transdermal drug delivery systems. “The idea was to create a fun contest that encouraged the students to learn more about the faculty members and why they chose a career in academia,” Szilagyi said. This year’s winner was first-year Pharm.D. student Jacqueline Shiao, who said the experience broadened her awareness of the many career paths available in academia and the desire of faculty members to help students succeed.

Jacqueline Shiao, first-year student pharmacist at the University of Houston, won the school’s American Pharmacy Educator Week faculty detective contest.
“I Became a Pharmacy Educator Because…”

The ways in which faculty are honored during American Pharmacy Educator Week vary—and so do their reasons for pursuing teaching as a career. AACP asked several members to finish the sentence “I Became a Pharmacy Educator Because… .” As the responses reveal, whether it was a special mentor or a desire to enhance the profession, pharmacy educators are without a doubt passionate about their work.

“I became a pharmacy educator because of early exposure to mentoring by a number of the pioneers of the clinical pharmacy movement. Experience with teaching during my third year of residency at Kentucky cemented my career decision. I would make the same decision again in a heartbeat! Shaping the future of pharmacy—one student at a time.”

Dr. Jeffrey N. Baldwin
Professor and Vice Chair
Department of Pharmacy Practice
AACP Past President
University of Nebraska Medical Center

“I wanted to enhance the profession and the patients we serve by educating the decision makers, both state and federal, that through the extensive education our students receive, pharmacists are capable of doing so much more than they are currently allowed to do. It is my desire to leave this profession better than I found it.”

Ms. Loretta Brickman
Temple University
“I became a pharmacy educator because of the excellent faculty mentors I had at The University of Tennessee.”

Dr. Susan (Staggs) Vos
Assistant Professor
The University of Iowa

“I sincerely enjoy working with the students to help them understand difficult concepts and, even better, to see them succeed in the future.”

Dr. John E. Murphy
Associate Dean and Professor
The University of Arizona
Pursuing a Career in Academic Pharmacy

Perhaps no other career in pharmacy has the potential to make such far-reaching contributions to the profession as teaching. Within academia, you can excite individuals about pharmacy and lay the groundwork for continuing advances in science and education.

Disciplines within academic pharmacy include social and administrative sciences, biological sciences, pharmacy practice and clinical sciences, continuing education, experiential education, pharmaceutics, medicinal/natural products chemistry and pharmacology.

While the specific requirements vary based on the desired academic position, successful applicants may be required to:

- hold an advanced degree such as a Pharm.D., Ph.D. or master’s degree in a related field, such as public health;
- complete a postdoctoral research position or a PGY1 or PGY2 pharmacy residency with experience in a related field;
- obtain licensure in the state in which the position resides for practice faculty;
- possess strong quantitative and interprofessional skills for interacting effectively with students, faculty, health professionals and patients;
- provide a promising publication record; and
- demonstrate experience with extramural funding.

To view a complete list of pharmacy residency and internship opportunities, visit www.aacp.org and click on Resources, then Student Center.
AACP Resources

- AACP Student Membership—visit www.aacp.org and click on About AACP, then Membership
- AACP Walmart Scholars Program—go to www.aacp.org and click on Career Development, then Research Grants, Fellowships and Scholarship Programs
- Academic Life Series: “A Guide for Prospective Faculty” and “Mentoring—On Having One and Being One”—visit www.aacp.org and click on Career Development, then Faculty Recruitment and Retention
- Education Scholar—go to www.EducationScholar.org
- Faculty Recruitment and Retention Brochure—visit www.aacp.org and click on Career Development, then Faculty Recruitment and Retention
- AACP Online Career Center, a comprehensive job bank that lists open academic positions from all over the country—go to www.aacp.org and click on Career Development, then Career Center
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

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