From the Chancellor

At SIUE, we believe in saying, “Yes.” Yes to academic excellence. Yes to improving our region. Yes to doing the right things and doing them well.

For the second consecutive year, Washington Monthly ranks SIUE among the Top 50 master’s granting colleges and universities in the nation for our contributions to the public good. We are particularly pleased to be 13th among public universities across the United States on the list. U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges 2012 edition recognizes SIUE for numerous achievements. The University is cited as one of 46 “up-and-coming” schools for the third consecutive year and listed among the top 15 public universities in the best Regional Universities Midwest (master’s granting) category for the eighth consecutive year.

SIUE has launched its first major gifts campaign to enhance the scholarship offerings at the University, as well as support the academic programming for which SIUE is gaining increasing national recognition. Defining Excellence – The Campaign for SIUE was announced officially March 19, 2011. Private support is needed to help SIUE expand on the incredible impact it has had on Southwestern Illinois over the past 54 years.

Two campaign priorities have been identified for the School of Pharmacy—the need for support for the Center for Drug Design and Discovery and additional endowed funds. Endowed resources will provide scholarships, advanced training, assistance for visiting professorships and the ability to enhance student services. Support for the Center for Drug Design and Discovery will provide faculty and students access to the latest technologies and scientific instruments needed for pharmaceutical research.

The School of Pharmacy is committed to graduating pharmacists who are ready to serve as responsible members of the health care team. Donor support will allow the School to continue to educate students for a profession that is both centered on community well-being and in high demand regionally and nationally.

Best Wishes,

Vaughn Vandegrift, Ph.D.
SIUE Chancellor

About SIUE

Beautifully situated on 2,660 acres, SIUE is a public university offering a broad choice of degrees and programs, ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences, business, education, engineering and nursing. Professional degrees are available in dental medicine and pharmacy. More than 14,200 students choose SIUE for its enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient location, just 25 minutes from St. Louis.

On the cover:
Christina Ley, class of 2013, relocated from Florida to follow her dream and study pharmacy. See her story on page 9.
Several faculty members have developed beneficial relationships with organizations in the community to augment clinical pharmacy services and create affiliated residency programs. We will continue to find opportunities to contribute to the community and raise the level of pharmacy practice in our area. Our research endeavors in the pharmaceutical sciences have garnered funding from several extramural sources, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH). One of our future goals is to attract resources to create a Center for Drug Design & Discovery to enhance our research infrastructure on a national and international level.

Our growing School of Pharmacy Alumni Association would like to hear from alumni about meaningful ways to stay connected with the School. We look forward to continuing to engage our community and our supporters to create opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and the pharmacy profession.

Warm Regards,

Gireesh V. Gupchup, Ph.D., FAPhA
Professor and Dean, SIUE School of Pharmacy

Our Mission

The mission of the SIUE School of Pharmacy is to prepare professionals capable of providing high-quality health care to meet the diverse pharmaceutical needs of the citizens of Illinois and to serve the profession of pharmacy through a balanced program of education, research, service and patient care. The SIUE School of Pharmacy embraces the educational philosophy of the University, which is dedicated to communication, expansion and integration of knowledge through excellence in its teaching programs; through scholarly, creative and research activity of its faculty, staff and students; and through professional and community service.
About the School of Pharmacy

Students at a Glance

Number of Students Enrolled: 328
Class of 2012 – 82
Class of 2013 – 83
Class of 2014 – 83
Class of 2015 – 80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Averages*</th>
<th>Class of 2012</th>
<th>Class of 2013</th>
<th>Class of 2014</th>
<th>Class of 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative GPA</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>64</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Academic averages are at admission

100%
2011 School of Pharmacy pass rate:
North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX)
Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE)

Serving Illinois
Number of students from:

- 188 Southern Illinois
- 81 Central Illinois
- 33 Northern Illinois
- 23 Missouri
- 3 Other
- Missouri

From the Provost

Dedicated to developing a community of caring pharmacists, the SIUE School of Pharmacy offers students a curriculum which balances education, research, service and patient care. Fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and a full member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The School frequently is considered a model for new pharmacy education programs.

The School’s recognition as the recipient of one of only four national 2011 Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Awards is further evidence of the School’s commitment to providing an excellent pharmacy education program.

The CHEA award recognizes institutions that have been exceptional in developing and applying evidence of student learning outcomes to improve higher education quality and accountability. CHEA is a national advocate and institutional voice for self-regulation of academic quality through accreditation.

The dean, faculty, staff, alumni and students of the SIUE School of Pharmacy are to be congratulated for this remarkable achievement.

Ann M. Boyle, D.M.D., M.A.
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Recognizing Excellence

The School of Pharmacy recently became one of four institutions in the country to receive the 2011 Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes. It is the first school of pharmacy to be presented with this honor.

“Being recognized with this award is very exciting for the SIUE School of Pharmacy,” said Dr. Erin Timpe, Director of the SIUE Drug Information and Wellness Center, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Assessment Coordinator for the School of Pharmacy. “We are thrilled to be in the company of other programs known for great efforts in assessment and to be the first School of Pharmacy recognized with this award.” Timpe, along with Clinical Professor and Capstone Coordinator Cindy Wuller, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr. Radhika Devraj and Professor of Pharmacy Practice and chair of that department Dr. Mark Luer, was instrumental in bringing the award to SIUE.

The team of professors applied for the CHEA Award with a focus on the Senior Assignment Program, which has been nationally recognized as an outstanding senior capstone experience by U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges and the Association of American Colleges and Universities. In this project, fourth-year students complete a research project or develop a business plan related to an aspect of pharmacy. The goal is to exhibit the extensive knowledge the students gained throughout their time at the SIUE School of Pharmacy. Professors also use the project as a way to assess their methods of education.

“Asessment practices are very important to ensure that our students are well prepared to be the best pharmacists that they can be,” said Timpe. “Many of our methods of assessment take additional time commitments from faculty, staff and preceptors and being recognized for these efforts is another way of letting us know that these efforts are highly valued.”

As the only downstate Illinois pharmacy doctorate program, the SIUE School of Pharmacy is addressing the growing need for well-trained pharmacists in a career field that is experiencing rapid and dramatic growth.
Pharmacy Practice

Gaining Valuable Experience

Through Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE), School of Pharmacy students gain valuable pharmacy practice experience that enhances their classroom learning.

Students in their first two years of pharmacy school complete IPPEs, developing proper practice skills through 300 hours of observation and hands-on active learning. Fourth-year students complete APPEs, which require them to demonstrate proficiency through more than 1,500 hours of actual practice under the guidance of a pharmacy practitioner.

With so many hours scheduled for experiential rotations, students have the opportunity to learn and practice in a number of diverse settings.

The St. Louis-based pharmaceuticals segment of Covidien introduces students to the industry side of pharmacy. Covidien Pharmaceuticals is the world’s largest supplier of controlled substance pain medication and acetaminophen, and is a leader in helping diagnose disease through imaging procedures.

“Students work with Covidien staff on everything from drug information to drug regulation,” said Bill Wuller, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of experiential education in the SIUE School of Pharmacy. “They see products start in their crude form and watch them transform through sophisticated production and refinement processes. It is a very unique and inclusive experience.”

From South Dakota to Alaska, Indian Health Service clinics offer unique practice experiences for those students who are able to travel further from home. “The predominately Native American population is typically underserved,” said Wuller. “Students get a comprehensive look at rural healthcare, while providing much-needed education on medicines.”

Fourth-year pharmacy student Stasha Goodin traveled to Alaska to complete her APPE. “My rotation involved a lot of interaction with health care providers who had questions or needed recommendations,” Goodin said. “I also worked directly with native Alaskan patients, reviewing lab results and medications in detail.”

Goodin traveled to Alaska to be close to family—her aunt and uncle live there—but she left with so much more. “My experience enhanced my communication skills,” she said. “I was able to interact with Alaskan natives, which was a population I knew little about prior to the rotation.”

Preceptor Excellence Award

The Preceptor Excellence Awards are given each year to Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) preceptors who have demonstrated great commitment to educating P-4 students.

- Community Pharmacy—Don Sullivan, CVS Pharmacy, Edwardsville
- Hospital Pharmacy—Linda Fred, Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana
- Patient Care Practice—OSF St. Francis Hospital Pharmacy Department, OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria
- Non-Traditional Practice—Beth Kaufman, CVS Pharmacy, Southern Illinois
- Faculty Preceptor—Stacey Thacker, Scott Air Force Base Medical Center, Belleville

Above and Beyond Preceptor Award

The Above and Beyond Preceptor Awards are given each year to Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) preceptors who have gone above and beyond in their pharmacy education of P-2 students.

- Community Preceptor—Katrina Denardo, Target Pharmacy, Springfield, Ill.
- Health System Pharmacy Preceptor—David Hurley, Harrisburg Medical Center, Harrisburg

Stasha Goodin, class of 2012
SIHF and SIUE Partner to Make a Difference

The Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF) assists the region’s diverse population by creating access to primary care, dental, behavioral and support services. Through SIHF centers, patients receive much-needed medical attention while healthcare professionals, educators and students get the opportunity to provide care to the underserved.

Since 2006, SIHF and the SIUE School of Pharmacy have been working together to provide medical care to the area while allowing SIUE faculty and students to grow in their teaching and learning. The Pharmacy Outreach Program is a collaboration between SIHF medical providers and SIUE faculty and students with the goal of developing direct care plans for patients with chronic disease states while also providing hands-on learning opportunities to students.

SIHF centers serve as experiential learning sites for SIUE pharmacy students, with clinical pharmacists providing mentorship and significant learning opportunities.

“The relationship that has been forged between SIHF and the SIUE School of Pharmacy is valued on multiple levels,” said Larry McCulley, CEO and President of SIHF. “Not only have patient outcomes improved, but the opportunity for professional growth and experience for our staff and students is immeasurable. This collaboration has allowed for the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experiences which can only result from such a strong team approach.”

Dr. Amanda Hofstetter, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, said that her experiences working in SIHF centers greatly impacts her teaching. “Practicing pharmacy while also teaching better prepares my students, because it enhances my knowledge and strengthens my ability to teach,” she said. “Every patient tests my abilities and brings new challenges, which gives me experiences I can then bring back to the classroom and share with future pharmacists.”

Through this partnership, SIHF and the SIUE School of Pharmacy clearly benefit in a multitude of ways. Ultimately, the focus of the two organizations is to enhance the lives of those in need. “The real benefit of the partnership is to the region, the patients and the future health care structure,” McCulley said. “Anytime we can create synergy between entities that further their respective missions, we have succeeded.”

“The opportunity for professional growth and experience for our staff and students is immeasurable.”

—Larry McCulley
President and CEO, SIHF

Pictured here with Dr. Chris Lynch, Acting Associate Dean for Student Affairs (left) and Patrice Howard, Vice President of Administration, SIHF
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Innovative Technology Improves the Future

To most people, the idea of computer-aided drug design sounds like a foreign concept. But for Dr. Maria Kontoyianni, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, it is a way of life.

“As a young graduate student, I was intrigued by the novelty of computer-aided drug design and the momentum it was gaining, especially in the pharmaceutical industry,” she said. “Now, it is an integral part of drug discovery and can serve as a catalyst between chemists and pharmacologists.

“We use high-power computing to study the drug-receptor interactions in three-dimensional space in order to understand the recognition of a drug by a protein or an enzyme.”

Computer-aided drug design is an innovative and progressive part of the pharmaceutical field. “My area of expertise is a promising, rapidly expanding field with directions yet unexplored. Computer-aided drug design allows drug discovery to occur at faster, cheaper and safer rates. This impacts a lot of people.”

Kontoyianni feels that computer-aided drug design not only contributes to the pharmaceutical sector, but also has the ability to enhance her students’ learning. “Conducting research gives students the opportunity to think more critically,” she said. “The more they are challenged, the more they expand their potential.”

As an educator, Kontoyianni uses her active research as a way to stay up-to-date with the most modern methodologies and techniques. She carries this knowledge directly into the classroom. “Doing research keeps me current and competitive. Those qualities are transparent—and hopefully inspiring—for the students.”

Even more than that, Kontoyianni uses her research in computer-aided drug design to instill life lessons in her students. “Dedication, passion for their profession, continuous expansion of their skill-set and the development of strong ethics are all values that will be appreciated by their peers.”

(from left) Dr. Maria Kontoyianni and students Daniel Ansbro and Christine Hayes
Grant Supports Cancer Research and Student Learning

Researchers in the SIUE School of Pharmacy recently received a prestigious Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The $215,000 grant will fund a three-year cancer research project, with Dr. Joseph Schober, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, leading the work.

“Grants from NIH really enhance the education, training and overall experience of our students,” Schober said. “Only the top pharmacy schools in the country are performing this type of high-impact research. I couldn’t be more proud that SIUE is part of that group.”

The primary focus of the study is examining the mechanism by which EB1 protein regulates cell movement. Results of the research will significantly advance understanding of the molecular basis by which cancer cells move during tumor metastasis.

“We think EB1 promotes growth and metastasis of tumors. The question we are trying to answer is: ‘How does EB1 do that?’” Schober said. “We want to figure out how these cells move.”

The research received support from the AREA grant program in part because it fulfills the three goals of the program:
• Support meritorious research
• Strengthen the research environment of the institution
• Expose students to research

Exposing students to research is one benefit that Schober says is in full effect in his classroom. He works with third-year pharmacy students and feels strongly that the connection between the lab and the classroom is important.

“Pharmacy students are getting first-hand experience in biomedical research through working in my lab on the NIH project,” Schober said. “Additionally, I’m bringing the knowledge I gain in the lab into the classroom.” In class, cs in Schober’s lectures include the pathophysiology of disease and the mechanism by which medications work.

“These are topics that are essential for students to grasp,” he said. “We are fortunate that we have the opportunity to impart this knowledge with the support of a major cancer research project.”

Dr. Joseph Schober

Center for Drug Design and Discovery
To keep pace with rapid advancements in the pharmacy field, faculty and students need access to the latest technologies and equipment. Opportunities to assist in establishing the Center for Drug Design and Discovery include adding additional laboratory space or purchasing highly sophisticated scientific equipment.

Interested in learning how you can be involved?
Contact Jade Venditte at jvendit@siue.edu

Help us define excellence in the School of Pharmacy.

Defining Excellence
THE CAMPAIGN FOR SIUE
siue.edu/definingexcellence
Student Focus

Following a Dream
Kathy Holmes graduated from SIUE with a bachelor of science in sociology. After graduation, she worked as a manager in the mortgage industry, but quickly realized her real interest was in the health care industry. She decided to return to her alma mater where she was comfortable with the atmosphere and student life to pursue a degree in pharmacy.

Holmes began pharmacy school in 2008 as a nontraditional student. Not only has she had to worry about the stresses of being a full-time student, but she is raising a family. “My experience at SIUE has been challenging, yet rewarding,” she said. “It has forced me to balance all of the facets of my life—school, family, work and social life.”

Her daughter helped her realize her passion. “When my daughter was diagnosed with asthma, I wanted to know everything about the medications that were being used to treat her. That’s where my interest really began.”

Since going back to school, Holmes said the School of Pharmacy faculty has made her efforts worthwhile. “The faculty has taught me how to become an independent learner. That has not only helped me during school, but will also ensure me continued success throughout my career.”

Giving back to the community has made her experience at the School of Pharmacy a positive one. “There have been several opportunities to reach out to the community and promote health and awareness,” she said. “It is fulfilling to know that I have had a small part in helping others improve their lives.”

Even though it took time for Holmes to realize her interest in pharmacy, she is certain she made the right choice. “I have been able to see myself grow and succeed in areas I did not think were possible. SIUE has given me a strong background to work in the career of my choice.”

“It is fulfilling to know that I have had a small part in helping others improve their lives.”

– Kathy Holmes, class of 2012

Endowed Scholarships
Endowed scholarship support will allow the School of Pharmacy to guarantee deserving students financial support as long as they maintain good academic standing.

Interested in learning how you can be involved?
Contact Jade Venditte at jvendit@siue.edu

Help us define excellence in the School of Pharmacy.

Defining Excellence
THE CAMPAIGN FOR SIUE
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Going the Distance

When Christina Ley was 16, she knew she had a decision to make. She was not going to let her parents help pay for her college education unless she was completely committed to her career choice. Like most kids her age, Christina was uncertain of her future aspirations. So, she began exploring her interests and quickly discovered that her passion was pharmacy.

After graduating from Florida State University with a bachelor of science in biochemistry and a minor in biological sciences, Christina decided she wanted to leave Florida to pursue her dream of becoming a pharmacist.

“I heard about the SIUE School of Pharmacy from a friend who was in the inaugural class. He introduced me to several professors and showed me around the school,” Ley said. “I immediately loved the fact that the professors were so available and that people who didn’t even know me took time out of their day to talk with me.”

Most would think that traveling thousands of miles away from home to go to school would be tough, but many factors helped Ley along the way.

“The availability and flexibility of the School of Pharmacy faculty and staff create a welcoming environment that helped me feel like I could be myself,” she said. “Being surrounded by people I trust and respect made the transition from Florida to Illinois a lot easier.”

Christina also said that getting involved in organizations helped her adjust to her new surroundings. “Since I didn’t know many people when I walked through the doors, getting involved was a great place to start.” Vice president of the pharmacy class of 2013, Christina is also a student council representative, and member of the Rho Chi Honor Society and Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists.

Her involvement quickly became more than just a social experience. It became a way to give back. “I want to help the School in any way I can,” Ley said. “There is so much more satisfaction from an education when you are involved.”

Though she had to travel half way across the country, Ley is pleased she made the journey to SIUE. “Through my experiences here, there is no doubt in my mind I made the right choice. The School of Pharmacy has given me everything I need to get through whatever comes my way.”

“Being surrounded by people I trust and respect made the transition from Florida to Illinois a lot easier.”

—Christina Ley, class of 2013
Alumni Focus

Giving Back

Dr. Travis Willeford graduated from the SIUE School of Pharmacy in 2009. In that time, he has become a driving force in the School of Pharmacy alumni community.

“I chose to get involved early because I wanted to continue to give my time and talents to the school,” he said. “I felt that helping to get the School’s alumni association off the ground would be the best way to do that.”

Willeford works for CVS Pharmacy in Springfield, Ill., but he has not let distance come between him and his alma mater. He is the current president of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Council, a member of the SIUE Alumni Association Board and serves on the School of Pharmacy Advisory Board. He said that his involvement with the SIUE Alumni Association has helped him to establish an alumni association for the School of Pharmacy.

The primary goal of the new organization is to foster more involvement from School of Pharmacy alumni, building mutually beneficial relationships between the School and its graduates. Willeford is working hard to build momentum for the group.

“Strong involvement is especially important for the School of Pharmacy because it is a younger school,” he said.

Willeford glows with enthusiasm when he talks about the benefits of staying connected to SIUE. “Many alumni don’t realize that there are a variety of discounts to area and national merchants available to SIUE Alumni Association members, he said. “And of course there are the intangible benefits of pride and honor for your alma mater.”

For Willeford, the biggest reward is knowing that he is giving back to the institution that gave him so much. “I received an excellent education from SIUE,” he said. “The faculty and staff are some of the best and brightest educators I have ever met. They are extremely devoted to preparing their students to be the best pharmacists that they can be.”

As members of the School of Pharmacy’s inaugural class, Willeford and his classmates have a unique perspective on the School. They were there at the beginning of something big, and as he said, they are in the position to continue that tradition by helping to grow the new School of Pharmacy Alumni Association.

“My experience in the SIUE School of Pharmacy felt like being part of a family. I want to maintain those connections.”

– Dr. Travis Willeford, class of 2009

Pictured above right with fellow SIUE alumni
On a Mission

Since Dr. Deonna Madison-Wooten was young, she knew she wanted to be involved in the community. “I have been active in extracurricular activities all my life,” she said. “I just like making a difference in people’s lives.”

When Madison-Wooten entered the SIUE School of Pharmacy in 2005, her perspective was no different. As one of the few minority students in her class, she saw a need to reach out to this population. “I felt that if I took a stand and tried to educate the minority youth about pharmacy and other healthcare professions, one day the field would be more diverse.”

In order to reach her goal, Madison-Wooten helped to start an SIUE chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) with the purpose being to plan, organize, coordinate and execute programs geared toward the improvement of health, educational and social environments in the community.

“One of my main objectives was to get involved with a diversity camp at SIUE. I wanted minority students to get the chance to experience life as a pharmacy student.”

Although Madison-Wooten helped institute the Diversity Summer Camp while still in school, funding was not available until after she graduated. Now, as a manager of a Walgreens Pharmacy in Jennings, Mo., she still has a connection to the camp.

“Each year, Walgreens donates $10,000 to the Diversity Summer Camp and Walgreens Diversity Scholarship at SIUE,” she said.

Through Walgreens’ and the School of Pharmacy’s commitment, high school minorities get the opportunity to live in the residence halls and learn about the profession of pharmacy by shadowing both retail and hospital pharmacists, at no charge to the students’ families.

“The camp shows the students that, with a lot of hard work and commitment, the lifestyle of a healthcare professional is obtainable,” Madison-Wooten said.

She takes pride in her career and her continued commitment to the School, the camp and the profession. “Walgreens serves diverse communities across the country, and the company recognizes the value of fostering diversity in pharmacy education. That dedication allows me to continue my mission.”

“Walgreens recognizes the value of fostering diversity in pharmacy education.”

– Dr. Deonna Madison-Wooten, class of 2009
Faculty Excellence

Recognizing Excellence

Each year, the SIUE School of Pharmacy nominates candidates for the SIUE Teaching Excellence Award and the Teaching Distinction Awards. These honors recognize faculty for their commitment to educating future pharmacists, as well as their service to the profession. This year, Dr. Lisa Lubsch, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, was nominated by the School of Pharmacy for the Teaching Distinction Award and Dr. Chris Herndon, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, was honored with one of four the Teaching Distinction Awards.

“I’m incredibly honored, given the company with which I work,” Herndon said. “I believe SIUE to have some of the best instructors out there. I have learned a great deal from all of my colleagues and hope to continue to do so.”

Lubsch said, “Winning this award is motivating for me to continue to develop as a teacher. It is an honor to assist students as they find their futures in pharmacy.”

As practicing pharmacists, Herndon and Lubsch bring their knowledge and experiences into the classroom. Herndon operates a chronic pain clinic within the Belleville Family Health Center while Lubsch works at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center caring for children with pulmonary disease or other general medical problems. “I learn from the children I care for everyday, and then I try to convey this experience to students in the classroom,” she said.

Herndon agrees that his experience in the clinical setting improves his skills as an educator. “Inevitably, I have patients with certain healthcare problems or medication problems that directly fit into my classroom lectures,” he said. “The students learn so much more when I am able to supplement the information in textbooks and databases with real-life scenarios.”

Whether in the clinical setting or the classroom, Herndon and Lubsch both concur that the ultimate goal is to impact others. “It’s incredibly rewarding when you complete a lecture, lab or clerkship and know that you’ve reached the students in a meaningful way,” said Herndon.

Dr. Lisa Lubsch and Dr. Chris Herndon
Furthering Pharmacy Certification

Since 1982, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) has assisted international pharmacy graduates seeking licensure in the U.S. The NABP administers the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Exam (FPGEE), a rigorous test that assesses baseline pharmaceutical knowledge in comparison to that which is required of a pharmacy graduate in the U.S.

A review committee ensures the quality of the exam. Two SIUE faculty members, Dr. Bill Kolling, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Dr. Ron Worthington, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, are members of this committee.

“If proposed questions are too hard or too easy, we adjust them so they are suitable for the exam,” Kolling said. “We also verify the suitability of a question. Each question undergoes a great deal of critiquing.”

As the field of pharmacy has evolved, so has the FPGEE and the review committee. The committee has grown from five members to 20 members from across the country. Currently, SIUE is the only university with two faculty members on the committee. The increase in members has been necessary in order to fully encompass expertise in different areas within the pharmaceutical field.

“When I went to pharmacy school, there was no genomics,” Kolling said. “Genomics is a component of variability in drug response among patients that is attributable to variations in genes. It is a newer subject, and the knowledge on this topic is increasing at a great rate.” It is also Worthington’s area of expertise, which is why he was added to the review committee two years ago.

Kolling and Worthington agree that their involvement with the FPGEE review committee has had a positive impact on their role as educators.

“The time we spend analyzing questions has been instructive to me for my own question writing and test giving,” Worthington said. Kolling concurred, saying, “Globally, it impacts a lot of things that we do. It makes us better writers.”

Kolling and Worthington also said their work with the FPGEE has allowed them to stay current and balanced in their pharmacy knowledge.

“Before you can critique a question, you have to have the base knowledge,” Worthington said. “Being a part of the committee has helped me expand my knowledge base. I have gained a great deal of information about the different areas within the field.”

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy consider the SIUE School of Pharmacy a model for both established and new pharmacy education programs.
Supporting the Vision

Enhancing the Learning Environment

The Express Scripts Drug Information and Wellness Center (DIWC), a unit of the Department of Pharmacy Practice in the SIUE School of Pharmacy, is a unique resource for health care providers, students and the community. The DIWC provides SIUE preceptors and faculty with comprehensive medical information, educates students about resources and medical literature analysis, and promotes health education to benefit the community.

Since 2005, Express Scripts has supported the SIUE School of Pharmacy to make this resource possible. “Express Scripts is strongly committed to making a positive difference in communities where we have a significant presence,” said Brian Henry, senior director of public affairs at Express Scripts. “We are proud to support the efforts of the School of Pharmacy and the Center to help build stronger, healthier communities.”

Founded in 1986, Express Scripts is a St. Louis-based healthcare company dedicated to making the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable by managing drug spending, while maximizing health outcomes. It is also a company devoted to supporting pharmacy education. Over the last five years, the Express Scripts Foundation has donated $300,000 for the development and operations of the DIWC.

“We are both interested in producing pharmacists with the knowledge and skill to deliver the very best care to patients.”

– Susan Schlichter, Executive Director, Express Scripts Foundation

Through the DIWC, students at the School of Pharmacy get the opportunity to learn the most current and accurate information in their field. They also receive strong workforce training, which leaves them even more prepared for their futures in pharmacy.

“Most pharmacy students associate their profession with a retail pharmacy setting,” said Karen Matteuzzi, vice president of human resources at Express Scripts and member of the School of Pharmacy advisory board. “By taking an active role in their education and training, we can broaden students’ horizons, while also helping to develop our next generation of leaders.”

And in the end, that is what both institutions are working for.
Faculty Scholarly Activity

Peer-Reviewed Publications


**Book Chapters**


**Grants**

Bergman S.J., “Sequential and combination antibiotic therapy for biofilm infections,” SIUE Graduate School Seed grant for Translational and Exploratory research Projects (STEP) award, $16,000.

Butler L.M., “Pharmacy Services and Medications for Uninsured Patients- Volunteers in Medicine Clinic,” Express Scripts Foundation, $18,000.


Neumann, W.L. NIH/NIAMS, 2009-2012, Targeting the Relief of Chronic Pain with Orally Active Peroxynitrite Decomposition Catalysts, $975,000.

Rosselli J.; Lynch J.C., “Pharmacy Outreach Program,” HRSA/SIHF, $24,999.96.

Ruscin J.M.; Tabassum V., “Impact of resolving medication discrepancies on 30-day readmission rates among seniors,” Memorial Medical Center Foundation, $19,184.


Timpe E.M.; Ferguson M.C., “Drug information support services,” Mallinckrodt, Inc., $1657.50.


Witt, K.A.; Sandoval, K.E., NIH/NIA, August 1, 2009-July 31, 2011, Somatostatin Agonist Treatment for Cognitive Aging and Dementia, $322,150.

**Illinois Pharmacist of the Year**

Dr. Jessica Kerr, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was named Illinois Pharmacist of the Year by the Illinois Pharmacists Association. Kerr received her doctorate in pharmacy in 2001 from St. Louis College of Pharmacy and came to SIUE in 2005. Kerr also works with the St. Louis Veterans Affairs Medical Center in their Belleville office, where she helps patients improve their cardiovascular outcomes and empowers patients with diabetes to take ownership of their condition. Kerr has worked collectively with the Illinois Pharmacists Association to train pharmacists to manage patients’ diabetes within the Patient Self-Monitoring Program. “It’s hard to find a job that you love, that is also your hobby,” said Kerr, who also won the Illinois Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2007. “But that’s what I found in pharmacy.”
“I appreciate the connections I’ve made with my professors. They challenge me to look at things in a different way.”

—Morris Pearson, 3rd year pharmacy student, Glenwood, Ill.