



School of

PHARMACY

Dean's Report 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Our accomplishments this year have focused on creating new and transformative experiences for our students. We have expanded our global partnerships to include India, Guatemala, Haiti, Costa Rica and Jamaica. These international experiences have helped our students embrace new cultures and ideas and spurred critical thinking.

We have also devoted our efforts to having an impact on the community. One of our largest service learning experiences was completed by our students, wherein 40 teams of students visited 378 classrooms in nearly 50 area schools to teach children how to prevent the spread of common childhood viral and bacterial diseases. Also, four of our student organizations collaborated with local authorities to conduct the “Locked In to Stay Out” prescription misuse and abuse event for middle school students in the area.

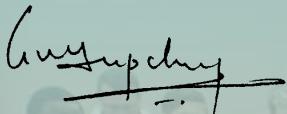
The School has continued making an indelible impact on basic pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice research. Students in the new graduate program are involved in projects related to Alzheimer’s disease, cancer therapy, diabetes and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Our pharmacy practice faculty continue to excel in research that impacts pain education, suicide awareness and asthma, and is combating the opioid crisis. Clearly, our research is helping to change lives.

Our students, faculty, alumni and staff have been active professionally at the state and national levels. We are proud of our students who earned national honors in competitions, and our faculty who have received national awards and lead by example on profession-wide committees and organizations. Additionally, from this year forward we have decided to recognize our alumni for their service to our country.

In all we do, we continue to embody the excellence that is SIUE. A wonderful example is the “Campaign for Connie” (C4C) in which our alumni have decided to raise money for endowed scholarships to honor the contributions of Connie Stamper-Carr, our director of student services.

I hope you will enjoy the stories of the impressive impact that our school has had in the last year.

Warm Regards,



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



ABOUT SIUE

SIUE awards degrees in undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs encompassing the arts, sciences, nursing, education, health, human behavior, business and engineering. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award doctor's first-professional degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and pharmacy (PharmD). Doctoral programs are available in nursing practice and educational leadership. Cooperative PhD programs in history, engineering science, environmental resources and policy, and computer engineering are offered with SIU Carbondale.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The SIUE School of Pharmacy offers students an interprofessional, integrated and team-based learning approach to pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science education. Students gain invaluable experience in real-world settings through the School's experiential approach to education—working side-by-side with faculty members and preceptors who have gained national recognition for industry experience, research innovations and educational leadership.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GOALS

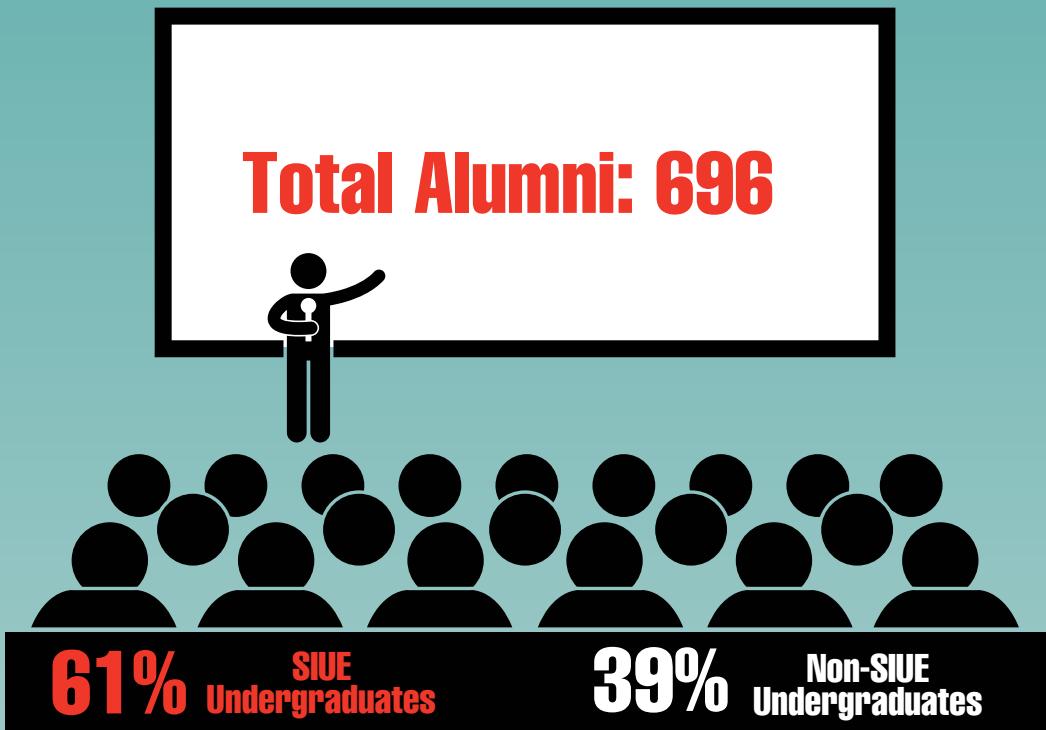
- Advance innovative education, service and scholarship programs
- Promote faculty and staff development and support
- Foster prospective pharmacy students
- Expand and support professional growth of students and alumni
- Cultivate diversity and inclusiveness
- Identify, develop and sustain external relations and financial support

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY MISSION

The SIUE School of Pharmacy is an interdisciplinary educational community dedicated to the preparation of pharmacy professionals, scholars and leaders to improve the health and well-being of the region and beyond.



PHARMACY BY THE NUMBERS



Graduation Rate:
91% on-time **97%** overall

96%

NAPLEX pass rate
for first-time test-takers
(2009-2016 average)

94.8%

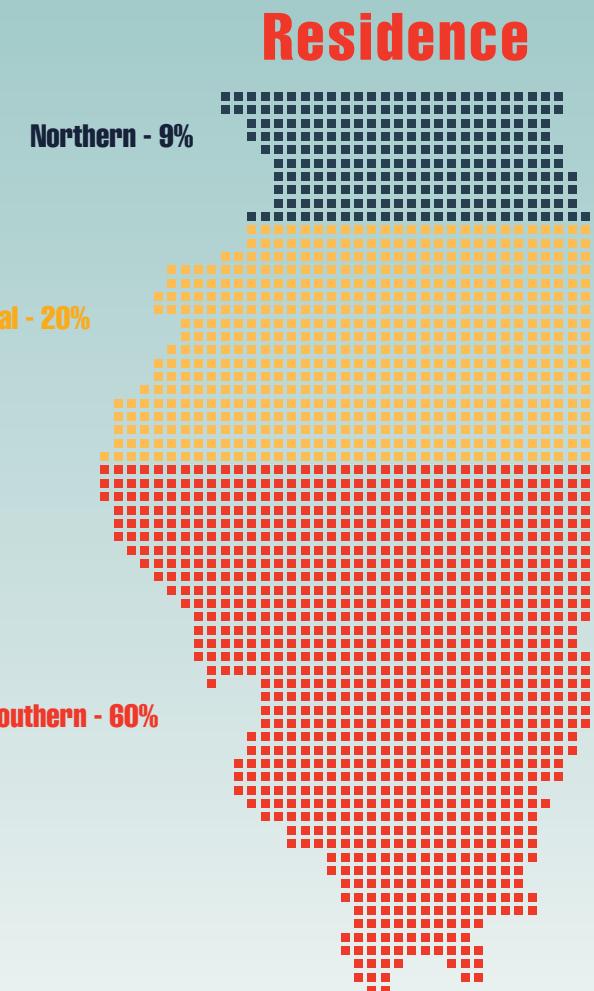
Illinois MPJE pass rates
for first-time test-takers
(2009-2016 average)

3.65

Matriculation Average
Cumulative GPA
(Class of 2021)

60.1

Average PCAT
(Class of 2021)



89% of students are Illinois residents
11% of students are out-of-state residents

RETIREMENTS



Randy Malan, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Pharmacist with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

During his 37 years of service to the IDHS and as a strong supporter of the School since its inception, Malan brought numerous innovative ideas and programs to life. He served as a preceptor for dozens of students on rotations, mentored students with senior capstone projects, and served on the Dean's pharmacy advisory board and several other school committees.



Donna Ireland, Business/Administrative Associate for the Dean's Office

After 13 years of service to the School of Pharmacy and 38 years of service at SIUE, Ireland retired in December 2016. During her time in the Dean's office, Ireland was a member of the founding team of the School. Her knowledge of the University policies and procedures and her work ethic immensely helped the School's success.

WELCOME



Monica Kempland, PhD, Coordinator, Professional and Student Affairs

Kempland joined the staff in March after working in student affairs for 11 years, six of which were at SIUE. Her primary role is assisting prospective and current students in the application process, academic advising, and facilitating events and opportunities for professional student organizations. She also coordinates outreach to high school and college students to help them prepare for a career in pharmacy.



Angie Bayer, Business/Administrative Associate for the Dean's Office

Since joining the staff in January, Bayer has practiced her philosophy of doing her best at all times. Bayer strives to be helpful and respectful in her role as administrative assistant to the dean. She provides support for central administration, as well as communication with the School's advisory board, alumni council, external stakeholders and donors on behalf of the Dean's office.

2017 SIUE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, PHARMACY ADVISORY BOARD

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Travis Willeford, PharmD '09, Staff Pharmacist, CVS Caremark Corporation, Springfield, Ill.

Harry Zollars, PharmD '13, Pharmacy Manager, Sullivan Drugs, Staunton, Ill.

Irene Zollars, Student, SIUE School of Pharmacy

Global Opportunities Continue to Expand

Providing pharmacy care in another culture with few resources is a life-changing opportunity for students, and the School of Pharmacy continues to expand on these rich, international learning experiences.

"Participation can dramatically enhance a student's clinical skill set, as well as build upon a student's compassion and altruism," said Kelly Gable, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and coordinator, global partnerships.

Global opportunities for School of Pharmacy students include:

Public Health Experiential Rotation in Haiti

Set to begin in spring 2018, two fourth-year students will spend one week in Haiti, actively participating in a medical mission. The mission team will provide preventative and acute medical care to children and adults through a pop-up pharmacy.

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Elective in Guatemala

This five-week experience focuses on public health education and outreach through pop-up clinics in rural mountain towns. The School partners with Saint Louis University School of Medicine physicians and medical students, as well as local Guatemalan healthcare providers.

Medical Plants and Tropical Diseases Elective Course in Costa Rica

Pharmacy students enrolled in this course explore medicinal plants, tropical diseases and climate changes in Costa Rica. Through this two-credit course, students experience hands-on research in medicinal plant use and tropical diseases.

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Elective in India

A partnership with JSS College of Pharmacy in India allows for student exchanges between the two programs. Each year, two students complete an elective rotation at each respective institution, focusing on specialized areas such as infectious diseases, psychiatric medicine and pharmacovigilance.

Dental Mission Trip in Rural Jamaica

Pharmacy students, faculty and alumni participate in the School of Dental Medicine's Jamaica Dental Mission. Pharmacy participants screen patients prior to seeing the dentists, provide post-operative education, dispense medications, distribute toys to children, and partner with the dentists to optimize medication therapies where indicated.

Visit siue.edu/pharmacy/global-opportunities for more information.



"Students have an amazing opportunity to immerse themselves in another culture, to learn to speak or improve upon a foreign language, and to have interesting experiences in what is a truly unique rotation."

Thomas Kelly, PharmD '17, former student in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Elective in Guatemala

Ferguson Receives Teaching Excellence Award

For the second time in four years, a faculty member from the School of Pharmacy has been awarded the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a tenure-track faculty member at SIUE.

McKenzie Ferguson, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, received the 2017 Teaching Excellence Award. She joins fellow faculty member Kelly Gable, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and coordinator, global partnerships, who received the award in 2014.

"These professors exemplify the School's tradition of excellence," said Gireesh Gupchup, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "We are fortunate to have teachers of this caliber at SIUE." Director of the Drug Information and Wellness Center, Ferguson was recognized for her teaching methods and engagement of students in active learning.

"Dr. Ferguson is an exceptional teacher and mentor. Her innovative teaching methods keep students interested and make class material extremely relevant to pharmacy practice."



Students Earn National Honors in Clinical Skills Competition

Fourth-year pharmacy students Abby Buchman, of Springfield, Ill., and Jessica Lorenson, of Chatham, Ill., earned third place in the Clinical Skills Competition at the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists' (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting. The event included all Student Societies of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP). The competition and meeting were held in December in Las Vegas.

Buchman and Lorenson competed among 129 teams from across the country. Each team was given a complex patient case and two hours to formulate a complete care plan.

"This experience gave us the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-life patient scenarios," Buchman said. "As pharmacists are becoming integral members of healthcare teams, working in teams prepares us for collaborative environments."



The School's SSHP students received the Outstanding Professional Development Project Award during the ASHP-SSHP recognition program. The award honors the success of the student organization's Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI), which provides education and guidance for pharmacy students prior to starting their required Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

Students Make Quarterfinals in ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge

School of Pharmacy students reached the quarterfinal rounds of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Clinical Pharmacy Challenge, an annual academic competition. The School team was comprised of fourth-year students Adam Schulte, O'Fallon, Mo.; Haley Ilcewicz, Lockport, Ill.; and Ashley Marchello, Greenville, Ill.

For the second time, SIUE's team was among the final eight teams in the contest. The contest included a record-breaking 112 teams from pharmacy schools nationwide. Following four initial online rounds, the top eight teams competed live in October during the ACCP Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Fla.

"It is an honor for SIUE to have been among the top eight teams," said Keith Hecht, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and faculty advisor for the team. "It reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, and the quality of the education they receive."

This was the seventh year the ACCP hosted the competition. The School also made the semifinals in 2014, making it one of only 11 teams to advance to the live rounds at least twice.



Faculty Awards and Accolades

- **Lakesha Butler**, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice – SIUE Advisor of the Year
- **McKenzie Ferguson**, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice; and **Katie Ronald**, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice – SIUE Pharmacy Practice Teachers of the Year (tied)
- **Gireesh Gupchup**, BPharm, PhD, FAPhA, and Dean – American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists Outstanding Dean Award
- **Maria Kontoyianni**, PhD, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and **Ken Witt**, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences – SIUE Scholarship Recognition Award
- **Terri Poirier**, PharmD, Senior Scholar and Professor of Pharmacy Practice – American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Award for Excellence in PharmD Program-Level Assessment
- **Marcelo Nieto**, PhD, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences – SIUE Pharmaceutical Sciences Teacher of the Year
- **Miranda Wilhelm**, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice – SIUE Teaching Recognition Award, SIUE Faculty Service Recognition Award
- **Student National Pharmaceutical Association** – SIUE Student Organization of the Year Award



Student Pharmacists Educate Thousands of Local Children

“Today, we’re going to talk about germs and hand washing,” first-year pharmacy student Andrew Moore told a group of third-graders at Woodland Elementary School in Edwardsville. “Germs are like tiny invaders that get into your body and make you feel sick.”

As the elementary students listened intently and engaged in activities about the importance of good hand-washing and other hygienic practices, pharmacy students were gaining valuable training through the annual service learning experience. In February and March, 40 teams of students visited 378 classrooms in nearly 50 area schools to teach children how to prevent the spread of common childhood viral and bacterial diseases.

“Teaching children how to decrease their exposure to germs may decrease common childhood illnesses, possibly leading to benefits such as fewer absences from school, better nutrition, and more energy for growth and development,” said Jennifer Arnoldi, PharmD, clinical associate professor and experiential education coordinator. “This program trains students to provide community-focused education.”

Moore, of Rochester, Ill., and fellow first-year pharmacy student Aaron Burge, of Mt. Vernon, agree this experience has taken them a little out of their comfort zone, but will surely enhance their skills as pharmacists.

“This opportunity takes us out of the classroom and into the community so we can interact,” Moore said. “The students have been engaged and are enjoying our activities, which include putting the hand-washing steps in order, standing up and sitting down to answer true and false questions, and listening to the books we read.”

“While this opportunity helps pharmacy students further their ability to work with others, build communication skills and practice public speaking, the greatest benefit may come from the experience of breaking down a large, complex topic into an understandable and meaningful format for their audience,” Arnoldi said. “As future pharmacists, this skill is invaluable for communicating with patients about complicated disease states and medications.”

“Students find this experience extremely rewarding and can appreciate that, even early in their schooling, they can have a significant impact on the community.”

2017 APPE Preceptor Excellence Awards

The advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) provides fourth-year pharmacy students the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge base in pharmacy practice through rotations. Congratulations to the following preceptors for their significant contributions in preparing the next generation of pharmacists.

Health System Pharmacy

Jill Kellerman, Pinckneyville Community Hospital, Pinckneyville, Ill.

Patient Care Practice

Kris Keplar, HSHS St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital, Effingham, Ill.

Community Pharmacy

Max Weiler, PharmD, '14, CVS Pharmacy inside Target, Belleville, Ill.

Faculty Award

Andrea Wooley, PharmD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Centreville Health Center, Centreville, Ill.

Alternative Practice

Trevor Beal, PharmD, '12, Walgreens, Springfield, Ill.; St. Louis

Capstone Mentor Award

Miranda Wilhelm, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Schnucks Pharmacy, Edwardsville

On a Mission to Impact Health

Along the Volta River in southern Ghana, residents live with significant health disparities. One in three people live on less than a dollar per day, and immediate needs such as food and water take precedence over medications and other healthcare essentials. Although Ghana has a national health care program available to all citizens, most residents cannot afford the 66 cents per day that it costs.

Furthermore, one in four Ghanaians live more than nine miles from the nearest health facility. Many have never attended school, increasing the likelihood for low literacy, which in turn increases the likelihood of poor health.

It was here that pharmacy student Rachel Kozinski spent 12 days of her 2016 summer on a Global Health Outreach medical mission trip. Kozinski's team collaborated with Ghana Christian Mission (GCM), a local Ghanaian ministry that has planted 180 churches, nine medical clinics, and three schools, all of which offer free services to Ghanaians living in poverty.

"I spent the majority of my time in the pharmacy, where I put into practice many skills I acquired in school and during my internship at Walgreens," Kozinski said. "I counseled patients on their medications, filled prescriptions, and even steriley reconstituted antibiotics for injection."

Kozinski had many new experiences as well, such as intramuscularly administering antibiotics and determining if the suggested drugs were right for each patient. She directed technicians in the pharmacy, reviewed medication orders and each filled prescription. Compared to the United States, the team worked with vastly meager resources, which required creativity in order to provide patients with optimal care.

"We had nothing to contain reconstituted oral rehydration solution for dehydrated patients, so we cleaned used water bottles with isopropyl alcohol and gave these to patients to drink their medication," Kozinski said. "We also had no private area in the pharmacy to administer shots to patients' bare flanks, so we shielded them against a wall. If they were wearing a wrap skirt, we used it as a curtain."

The team provided health education, particularly on the importance of clean drinking water and musculoskeletal health. Many of the area people gather water from the Volta River, which is infested with typhoid fever and other parasites. Regarding musculoskeletal health, many have never learned to properly bend when lifting heavy objects to prevent back strain. Preventative health education in these areas stands to make long-term impact toward improving the health and well-being of the people.

Now a fourth-year pharmacy student, Kozinsky, of Peoria, Ill., received independent study credit for the mission experience.



2017 IPPE Above and Beyond Awards

The introductory pharmacy practice experience (IPPE) enhances first- and second-year pharmacy students' awareness of the role of pharmacists in various pharmacy practice settings. Along with classroom preparation, these courses include on-site rotations. Congratulations to the following preceptors for going above and beyond for our IPPE students.

Community Pharmacy

Steve Wightman, Wightman Pharmacy, Waterloo, Ill.

Hospital Pharmacy

Todd Davis, SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Centralia, Ill.

Inaugural Glow Golf Tournament Raises \$10,000

The School of Pharmacy celebrated the grand return of its popular golf scramble event, but this time with a colorful twist. On an April evening, students, alumni, faculty, board members, parents, recruiters and friends gathered at the Yorktown Golf Course in Belleville for the inaugural Glow Golf Scramble and After Party.

"The Student Representative Council stepped forward to host an event that would bring together the entire School of Pharmacy community," said Hannah Seeger, second-year pharmacy student and event organizer. "The School has hosted golf scrambles in the past, but we wanted to shake things up by introducing the glow golf component."

In the tournament, which served as a fundraiser for the School, four-member teams played the course in the dark by following glowing markers, golf balls and tees. The after-party featured food and musical entertainment.

With the generous support of Hole Sponsors, Platinum Sponsors and raffle prize donors, the event raised a total of \$10,000. Proceeds from the event will be split between the School's student organizations, which provide important co-curricular professional development, and service-learning experiences that prepare students to become lifelong contributors in the complex healthcare environment of the future.

"The School takes pride in being a tight-knit community, so the event served as a reunion of sorts," Seeger said. "It was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow classmates and faculty, but also to network. Overall, a great time was had by all."

A second annual Glow Golf Scramble is planned for April 13, 2018.



Support for the Next Generation of Pharmacists

Pharmacists play a vital role in delivering high-quality, affordable and accessible healthcare. As the only pharmacy school located in downstate Illinois, the School of Pharmacy is the leading provider of highly competent and caring pharmacists.

Contributions to the School make a meaningful difference in preparing the next generation of pharmacy leaders who will meet the diverse healthcare needs of not only our region, but the world. The following two funding needs represent important and emerging strategic priorities for the School.

Clinical Training Center (CTC) Development

To take the School to the next level of excellence in preparing a workforce for the complex and evolving healthcare environment of the future, it is an important strategic priority to build a state-of-the-art clinical training facility (CTC) for our students.

The CTC will offer students the opportunity to experience practical application of the knowledge they have attained, ultimately advancing pharmacy practice and patient outcomes. This facility, along with several top-tier research grants, will assist students and faculty members in making significant advances in areas such as neuroscience, psychiatry and pain management.

Global Pharmacy Education Experiences

Global experience offerings for the School have significantly grown over the years, opening up numerous opportunities for both students and faculty (see page 4 article). These opportunities provide cultural awareness, exposure to health disparities, world perspective, an understanding of diverse healthcare systems, alternative medicine knowledge, maturity and compassion.

By exploring more sites and global partnerships, the School continues to work toward its mission of providing global pharmacy experiences that enhance students' cultural competency and understanding of healthcare delivery around the world.

To help support these and other important funding priorities, see the enclosed envelope or visit siue.edu/pharmacy/give.

DONOR LIST

We are grateful to the following alumni, board members, faculty, staff, partner organizations and friends for generously supporting the School of Pharmacy during FY17. You are valued partners in our mission to provide transformative pharmacy education, research and service opportunities that are positively impacting our changing world.

Asclepius Society (\$10,000+)

Shop'n Save Pharmacies and
SuperValu Pharmacies, Inc.
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Hygeia Society (\$5,000+)

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H.D. Smith Foundation
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Stephen and Judith Peipert
JSP Pharmacy
Schnuck Markets, Inc.

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Monsanto Fund
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program

Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Spotlight

Michael Crider, PhD
Associate Dean for Research
Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Over the course of his academic career, Crider has focused his research on the discovery of novel compounds with potential therapeutic effects in the central nervous system, prodrugs, and peptidomimetics.

In 1998, Crider and collaborators at Novo Nordisk in Copenhagen reported the first nonpeptide somatostatin agonist at a cloned human somatostatin receptor. The results of this work were published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

After joining the School in 2004, Crider began collaborating with Ken Witt, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Karin Sandoval, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, to study somatostatin. Witt speculated that somatostatin, a cyclic tetradecapeptide that inhibits the secretion of numerous hormones, could be potentially useful in treating Alzheimer's disease.

Crider's initial work 20 years ago was directed toward nonpeptide somatostatin analogs to stimulate growth hormone or insulin release. Witt's speculation led the project to evolve into promising research on potential therapeutic agents for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

"Without founding dean Phil Medon's vision to build a research component into our program, none of this would have taken place," Crider said. "Dean Gupchup has continued to support our research efforts with the implementation of the master's program in pharmaceutical sciences."

Visit siue.edu/pharmacy/research for more details.



Pharmacy Practice Research Spotlight

Kelly Gable, PharmD
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

In October, Gable completed intensive training and became one of the few health care providers across the globe to be invited to join the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT).

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based, patient-centered communication style that focuses on addressing the ambivalence surrounding change-behavior. First described in the context of treating addiction and substance use, MI has since proven to be applicable to ambivalence surrounding all aspects of health care change and wellness.

MI has been extensively studied and implemented within smoking cessation treatment models. There is also a great deal of research supporting MI and improved health outcomes within diabetes, hypertension, and other long-term, primary-care disease states.

"I train pharmacy students, pharmacists and other healthcare providers to approach patient care in a collaborative and compassionate manner," Gable said. "The science behind human-behavior change shows us that when a provider is more confrontational and directive in approaching a patient's need to change, the patient is often more resistant, resulting in poorer treatment outcomes. MI is working along with the patient to evoke their own intrinsic motivations for change."

Gable is currently leading MI training in the greater St. Louis region at nonprofit organizations and health clinics, and plans to expand the MI training for students within the School. Additionally, the School will host a one-day, MI skills-focused training in September for pharmacists and pharmacy students.

See page 15 for more on continuing pharmacy education events.



"The foundational skills of Motivational Interviewing are being incorporated into primary medical care. Because the pharmacist is an integral member of the healthcare team, it is equally important to integrate these same skills into pharmacy training."

Kelly Gable, PharmD and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Graduate Students' Projects Further Research

Understanding the biological mechanisms behind illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and even cancer have become top research priorities for the School of Pharmacy's five pharmaceutical sciences graduate students. The cohort is working diligently alongside faculty mentors on several research projects in the School's state-of-the-art laboratories.

Raife Deniz Demirer

Diabetes, in its various types, currently affects at least 29.1 million Americans each year. Reduction of insulin-secreting pancreatic beta (β) cells is the culminating factor in the development of diabetes. Demirer's research project, "The role of peroxynitrite in insulin secretion and storage in human islets," has focused on clarifying specific molecular mechanisms by which pancreatic β -cells alter metabolic responses under nutrient overload. By studying how peroxynitrite affects insulin secretion and storage, Demirer hopes to better understand the role of this hormone in β -cell function and survival in normal physiology and pathophysiology of diabetes. Guim Kwon, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is Demirer's advisor.

Lanie Conner

Vector-borne infectious diseases that arise in animals are a serious health threat to humans and mammalian species. Although Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is the most common tick-borne illness reported in the Midwest, the occurrence of *Rickettsia rickettsia*, the causative agent behind the potentially dangerous bacterial infection, is rarely found in the ticks studied in this region. To better understand this particular agent in ticks, Conner will screen ticks collected from the region for spotted fever DNA, determine the presence or absence of various rickettsia types, and determine genetic similarities to strains in other parts of the country. She is working under the advisement of Cathy Santanello, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

Michael Cusack

Fusarochromanone (FC101) is a mycotoxin isolated from *Fusarium equiseti*, a fungus commonly found on decaying cereal in northern latitudes. This molecule has been found to inhibit cell growth and blood vessel formation in human cancer cells. In his project, Cusack hopes to design novel compounds using the analog-based drug design technique, synthesize a small focused library of fusarochromanone analogs, test the compounds using standard cell lines, and establish structure-activity relationships (SAR) for further optimization of the analogs as anticancer and anti-infective drugs. Cusack's advisor is Marcelo Nieto, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences.

Melinda Schnietz and Stephen Kukielski

Several studies have shown that the natural peptide hormone somatostatin levels are reduced in the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients. Abnormal clumps of protein, called A β -plaques, can build up between nerve cells and may disrupt cell function, causing pathology.

Schnietz is working with Mike Crider, PhD, associate dean for research, and professor and chair of pharmaceutical sciences, who has previously developed several highly potent somatostatin subtype 4 (sst4) agonists, to optimize the current lead molecules as a possible treatment for Alzheimer's disease. Her project involves synthesizing new drug candidates to study their structure-activity relationships.

Kukielski is continuing SAR studies of sst4 agonist drug candidates with William Neumann, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences. He has synthesized a number of new compounds with the goal of increasing or maintaining drug potency and selectivity, while blocking metabolism. He is also developing new organic synthesis methods for the more efficient modular construction of functionalized drug candidates for the sst4 Alzheimer's project. The secondary goal of this project is to invent new chemistries that can be applied generally to other drug discovery projects.



Alumni Serve Country and Patients

Being part of the School of Pharmacy's inaugural class is not all Nathan Wear, PharmD '09, and Ryan Massey, PharmD '09, have in common. The path to pharmacy school for both alumni included a four-year tour of duty in the military.

For Massey, a native of Troy, Ill., the United States Coast Guard was the "family business." He followed in the footsteps of his father, who retired after 26 years of service, and his older brother, who is still on active duty.

"There are a lot of lessons to be learned from serving in the military," Massey said. "The military requires a high level of integrity and teaches you how to work hard. Those are universal traits that certainly contributed to my success both in school and in my career."

Now the pharmacy operations manager for Memorial Hospital Belleville, Massey is responsible for operations, inventory and managing pharmacy staff.

Nathan Wear, PharmD '09,
and Ryan Massey, PharmD '09



For Wear, a lack of clear direction after high school made enlisting with the United States Marine Corps a sensible option. Following his tour, Wear returned to his hometown of Herrin, Ill., and began general studies at John A. Logan Community College. He took a part-time job at Kroger, where a pharmacist encouraged him to consider the profession.

"I transferred from frozen foods to the pharmacy, found it was a great fit and decided to pursue pharmacy school," Wear said.

Conversely, Captain Michael Johnson, PharmD '16, was enrolled in the School when he became interested in the military. Job-shadowing opportunities at Scott Air Force Base gave him valuable insight into a pharmacy career with the United States Air Force. Johnson, of Pittsfield, Ill., took office as a second lieutenant while completing his education. He received a highly coveted Health Professions Scholarship from the U.S. Air Force, which was awarded to only 10 students nationwide that year. Upon graduating and completing his boards, Johnson completed Commissioned Officer Training and is now an active duty officer, working as a clinical pharmacist on Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

"I'm able to utilize my expertise and education to not only support active duty members who may deploy ahead or with me, but also the retirees who have served before," Johnson said. "I have a hand in their healthcare, and I have been able to do things right out of the gate that would have taken much more time in the civilian setting."

"At face value, it may not seem like military experience and healthcare have anything in common," Massey said. "But you are not able to do your job unless the rest of the people do their jobs. Teamwork is a common thread."

"My time in the Marines definitely sharpened my attention to detail," Wear said. "Marines and pharmacists both pride themselves on this. It also instilled discipline, maturity and self-motivation to do the job right the first time."



Did You Serve?

The School of Pharmacy would like to hear from students and alumni who are or have served in the military. Please take a moment to let us know!

siue.edu/pharmacy/alumniupdate

Captain Michael Johnson, PharmD '16

Featured Alumni

Abbey Manfucci, PharmD '10

Current position: Associate Director, Health Economics and Outcomes Research at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (BI)

I recently joined BI, one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies, where I am responsible for supporting optimal reimbursement for, patient access to, and appropriate use of BI products. We look at evidence-based clinical, economic, and humanistic value propositions, and communicate with our customers so they may act in patients' best interest.

Biggest challenge: In our industry, things are constantly changing. Every day we are tackling new challenges, which helps me continue to learn and grow, as well as develop my team.

Professional goals: To learn something new on a daily basis, and continue to grow and develop my team.

Most rewarding aspect of your career: Seeing my team grow and develop. Working together to overcome challenges as a team is very fulfilling.

Favorite School of Pharmacy memory: It's hard to name just one, but I made lifetime friendships in the four years I spent at SIUE that I will cherish forever.

How the School of Pharmacy equipped you for your career: I completed an APPE rotation in managed care, and I focused my capstone rotation on a formulary management project. Both of these experiences, along with the faculty prepping us well for residencies, prepared me well for my managed care pharmacy residency.



Trevor Beal, PharmD '12

Current position: District Manager, Walgreen Co., St. Louis City

I support store managers and pharmacy managers to offer the best possible experience to our team members and patients.

Biggest challenge: Prioritizing what is most important for my team and our customers while facing time constraints.

Professional goals: To never stop learning new things. I push myself to try new experiences and work with new teams of people. My favorite challenge is bringing together large groups of people to work together, so I would love to help roll a new process out across the entire company.

Most rewarding aspect of your career: Helping others reach their own professional goals.

Favorite School of Pharmacy memory: My favorite rotation was Internal Medicine with Dr. (Jennifer) Arnoldi. She has a great sense of humor and once told me that if she ever saw me behind a pharmacy counter she would "run for the hills." I think she was joking.

How the School of Pharmacy equipped you for your career: Throughout my rotations, all of my preceptors demonstrated strong leadership qualities and were always willing to offer advice for my interests in people leadership. I also feel that SIUE's curriculum is a step ahead in developing students to be leaders in addition to being pharmacists.



Attention Alumni

Where are you now? The School of Pharmacy would love to know! Please take a few minutes to tell us about yourself!

siue.edu/pharmacy/alumniupdate



'Locked In to Stay Out' Event Educates Middle School Students on Risks of Prescription Misuse, Abuse

Over the past decade, there has been an increase in documented cases of misuse and abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications among adolescents. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 16.9 percent of high school students in the United States use one or more prescription medications, including opioids, stimulants or anti-anxiety drugs, in non-medical manners.

In this time of increasing misuse and abuse, the need for drug education is critical. The School of Pharmacy's chapter of the American Pharmacists Association - Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), along with the help of other pharmacy student organizations, hosted more than 70 middle-school students and their parents in its "Locked In to Stay Out" event, held on campus in April.

The School's APhA-ASP chapter developed and executed the prescription drug abuse prevention event from funding awarded by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Students engaged in interactive sessions and games that encouraged active learning about the health, social and legal consequences surrounding the misuse and abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Parents were encouraged to stay for an orientation and message from Jennifer Mudge, first assistant state's attorney in the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, which included suggestions to continue the discussion with their children following the event.

"Providing drug abuse education to adolescents before they enter high school will provide them with the necessary skills to handle future high-risk situations when they are around others who misuse and abuse drugs," said Jessica Kerr, PharmD, assistant chair and associate professor of pharmacy practice.

Other organizations or initiatives that assisted with the program include: College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group, Student National Pharmaceutical Association, the SIUE School of Pharmacy Class of 2019 and the SIUE iCARE team—Suicide Prevention Initiative.

The SIUE Police Department, the City of Edwardsville Police Department, Madison County State's Attorney Office and the Illinois Pharmacists Association provided input or sponsorship for the special event.

"We hope to offer this event on an annual basis," Kerr said. "However, that will take resources. We will continue to find grant money to help fund this, as well as nurture partnerships in the community for financial support."

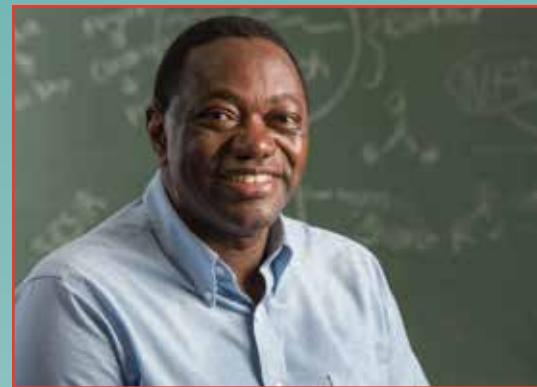
"It was great to see the interactions between our SIUE students and the community children. The attending kids asked amazingly thought-provoking questions, and we challenged them to create solutions for their own questions."

Jessica Kerr, PharmD, Assistant Chair and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Meeting Practitioners' Current and Emerging Needs through Continuing Pharmacy Education

With the rapid changes in the profession of pharmacy, now more than ever pharmacists must stay current with advancements in practice to meet their professional needs and state licensing requirements. Pharmacists meet these demands by completing required continuing pharmacy education (CPE) activities. The School of Pharmacy is committed to providing professional resources to pharmacy practitioners in formats that meet their learning needs.

"The activities we offer are designed to help practitioners develop new skills, acquire knowledge, maintain professional competence and stay current with changes in practice," said Walter Siganga, PhD, director of continuing pharmacy education and professor of pharmaceutical sciences.



"We evaluate the environment, study the literature, conduct needs assessments, and consult with individuals and groups to understand their educational needs," Siganga said. "Then we develop and deliver quality CPE programs in a cost-effective manner."

CPE activities are offered in both live and home-based formats. Live activities are scheduled in various locations throughout central and southern Illinois. Home-based activities are made available for three years and can be completed at any time. More than a dozen live CPE activities were held this last fiscal year, and there are over 45 home-based activities available for completion, with topics ranging from pharmacy law, therapeutics, pharmacy management and specialty pharmacy.

By registering on the CPE website, practitioners receive announcements of upcoming activities. An app is also available so participants can complete CPE activities on their smartphones or tablets.

Visit siue.edu/pharmacy/professionals for more information.

Lubsch Appointed Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group President

After serving as the organization's president-elect for the past year, Lisa Lubsch, PharmD, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, has been officially appointed president of the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG).

PPAG, the primary resource for pediatric medication therapy in children, develops educational programs for practitioners and families to influence the safe and effective use of medications in children.

"I am excited and honored to accept this role," Lubsch said. "To be amongst the previous PPAG presidents, all of whom are major players in the field of pediatric pharmacy, is humbling."

As an active PPAG member for more than 15 years, she has served on the advocacy and education committees, board of directors, as secretary and most recently, president-elect.



Throughout her tenure with the organization, she is proud to have established the PPAG-University (PPAG-U), a source to enhance the professional competencies of pediatric pharmacists. PPAG-U provides live conferences and meetings, webinars and on-demand programs in an online environment for Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialists through continued education and professional development programs.

"I can't imagine anything more rewarding than making a difference in a child's life," Lubsch said. "PPAG is a passionate group, and we radiate that in what we do, from advocacy to drug safety and research to education endeavors. I look forward to seeing this organization continue to impact pediatric pharmacy all over the world."

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

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Since the School of Pharmacy was established in 2003, Connie Stamper-Carr, director of student services and an SIUE alumna, has contributed to the personal and professional success of hundreds of students. Now the School's first class of alumni are leading a "Campaign 4 Connie" to establish the "Connie Stamper-Carr Endowed PharmD Scholarship."

The annual award, created in honor of Stamper-Carr's enthusiasm for students' growth and changes as pharmacists throughout their academic and professional careers, will benefit students pursing their PharmD degree.

"Connie was the mother, teacher, counselor and friend every student needed," said Maggie Krumwiede, PharmD '09. "She was always willing to help any student and had such a vast knowledge of SIUE and student affairs that she was the one we all turned to for answers."

The campaign is set to run until 2018 with a goal of raising \$25,000. At its conclusion, a special recognition event will be held to honor Stamper-Carr, and a plaque in her honor will be placed in the School of Pharmacy Student Affairs wing.

