

# COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



College of

Pharmacy

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

## OUR MISSION

To advance human health through excellence in collaborative research, scholarship, and clinical education, and to develop outstanding health care professionals and scientists.

## OUR VISION

To be a leader in advancing, promoting, and protecting human health.

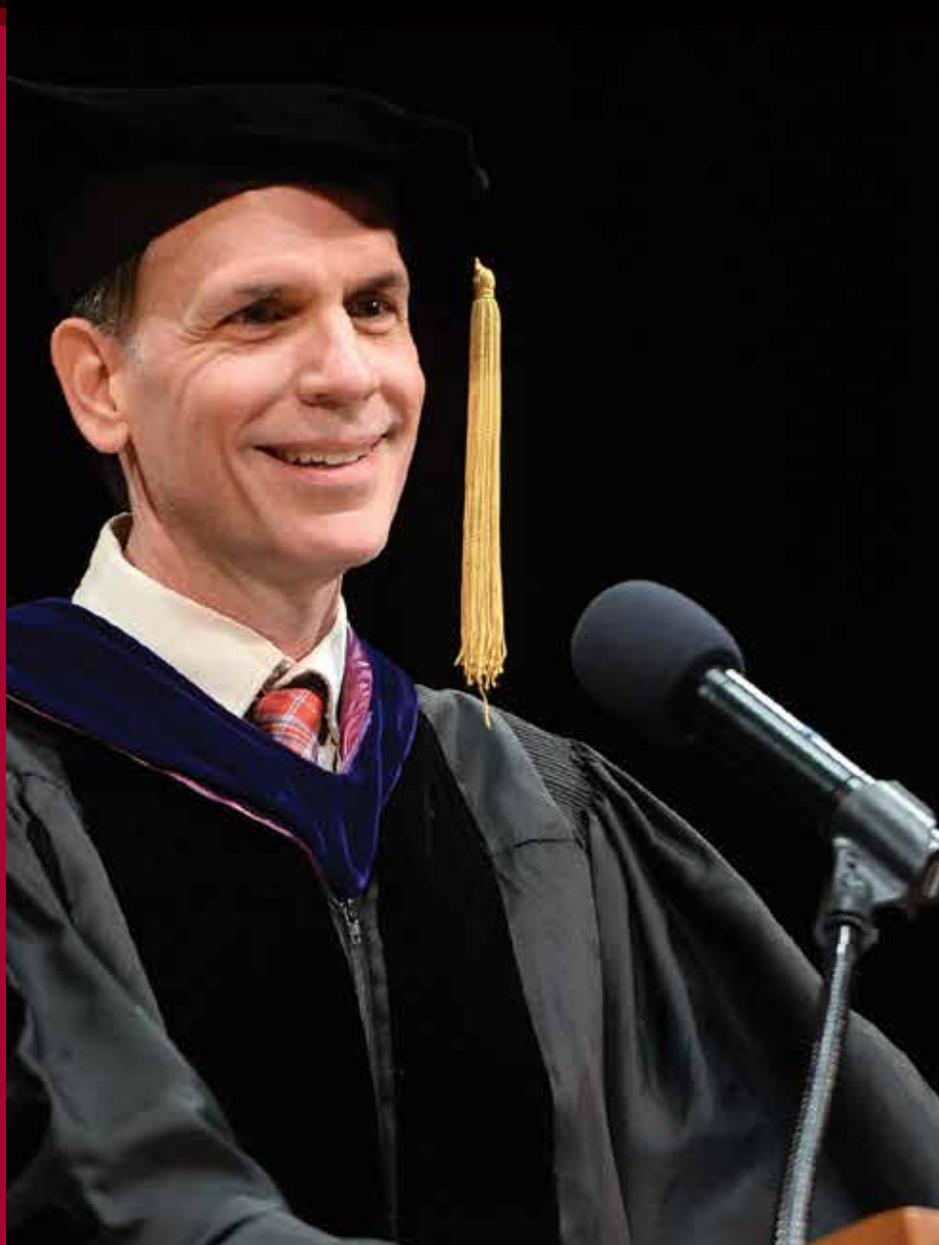
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## ON THE COVER

WSU student pharmacist Oliver Okoye, class of 2018, learns to provide direct patient care services that can be delivered under a collaborative drug therapy agreement.

Cover photo by Jacqueline Q. Garza, WSU Doctor of Pharmacy candidate, class of 2016.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

When I began my appointment as dean of the College of Pharmacy on August 1, 2010, I had—in words—a very simple directive from the provost's office: "Fix research and graduate education in the College of Pharmacy."

The logistics of how to achieve this directive, on the other hand, were not so simple. At the time, the college had approximately \$3.6 million in research expenditures, fewer than 10 Ph.D. seeking students, and we were ranked about 60th nationally out of around 70 pharmacy programs with significant research and graduate education expectations (128 programs total). Further, WSU saw a 54 percent decrease in state funding from fiscal year 2009 to 2012.

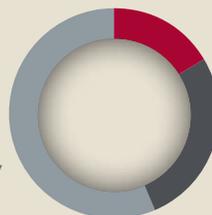
The college was also facing some important initiatives that would need to be tackled very soon, including consolidating the college from two locations to one in Spokane, and preparing for its 2014 accreditation review.

Despite the challenges of this landscape, I saw great opportunity for the college and in 2010 made the commitment to WSU President Elson S. Floyd to do what was necessary to establish a top 10 pharmacy program by the year 2020. This goal has served as the beacon that guides every strategic decision I make as dean.

## COLLEGE QUICK FACTS

### Employees

Staff: 46  
Faculty: 76  
Adjunct faculty: 157



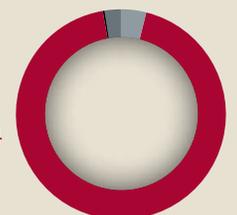
### Preceptors

(2014-2015 programmatic year)  
Primary preceptors: 230  
Ancillary preceptors: 650



### Students

Ph.D.: 22  
Doctor of Pharmacy: 494  
Pharm.D./MBA: 1  
Research Honors: 13



## What it Takes to be on Top

A nationally top-ranked pharmacy program does more than just educate pharmacists. Pharmacy programs are evaluated for rankings based on both research productivity and reputation as an educational institution. Ultimately, activities surrounding research are the dominating factors.

While professional education (a.k.a., training pharmacists to be outstanding health care professionals) remains mission critical, investment in graduate education and research infrastructure needed to be made.

Expanding enrollment in the professional program aligned with our growth plan provides the profession with pharmacists who are prepared to care for patients in expanded roles that support the nation's health care aims. To expand enrollment, we implemented new student recruitment strategies, including the partnership forged with the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. We also expanded the outreach function of our Alumni Relations and Advancement Office, and tapped into an invaluable alumni base to connect with students and serve as professional mentors.

During this same time period, the Washington state legislature made several key commitments to higher education in

Spokane that allowed for the construction of the \$78.6 million Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building.

The new facility allowed for the perfect opportunity to finalize the consolidation of the college to WSU Health Sciences Spokane in November of 2013. The college added 16 new faculty to its ranks that year. These scholars, clinicians and educators added depth and breadth to a core group of faculty that for many years has been offering a professional program second to none.

## Results and the Road Ahead

We have seen measurable success with the innovations of the professional pharmacy curriculum. The college was awarded reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) in February 2015, for the maximum of eight years with no "black marks," or areas of concern. In fact, ACPE has recommended that other pharmacy programs consult with WSU. The college has met or exceeded its enrollment targets for the last two years, while other schools nationally have fallen short.

For fiscal year 2015, research funding grew to \$6.07 million and the WSU College of Pharmacy is ranked 21 in the country according to QS World University Rankings (138 programs total). I believe it is accurate

to say the College of Pharmacy has set itself up well to achieve its 2020 goals.

I completed my initial five-year contract in August of 2015. My appointment has been extended by Interim Co-Provost **Ron Mittelhammer**, and I will now go through the WSU administrative faculty review process (standard five-year review).

The college has also launched an initiative to fund an **endowed professorship in order to honor past, current and future deans of the WSU College of Pharmacy**. The endowment will support current and future innovative projects to ensure the advancement of the pharmacy practice and the college's continued rise as a top-tier pharmacy program. This initiative will be in the spotlight next year as the chief benefactor of the WSU College of Pharmacy 125th anniversary campaign.

I look forward to sharing more information with you about the events and activities that we have planned throughout 2016, but for now **note your calendar for November 4-5, 2016, and please join us in Spokane for the college's 125th birthday party**. We certainly have some good reasons to celebrate.

**Best wishes to all from the WSU College of Pharmacy,  
Gary M. Pollack, Ph.D.**

## STRATEGIC ROAD MAP ADOPTED IN 2010

**Become** a research-active pharmacy college ranked nationally in the top 10.

**Deliver** outstanding professional education for tomorrow's health care providers and leaders.

**Continuously** improve and expand graduate education and postdoctoral training.

**Implement** development and mentoring programs that ensure engaged, successful students, trainees, staff, and faculty.

**Achieve** an organizational culture that promotes diversity, trust and respect.

**SPOKANE NEWS –  
WSU MEDICAL EDUCATION**

By Gary Pollack

Two watershed events in the life cycle of Washington State University’s Health Sciences Spokane occurred this year.



*Elson S. Floyd*

On September 18, the WSU Board of Regents approved changing the name of the university’s College of Medical Sciences to the **Elson S. Floyd College**

**of Medicine.** The naming of the college is a significant and lasting tribute to a president who had a significant and lasting impact on our university. Dr. Floyd is, and will continue to be, missed by many within WSU and around the state.

The second significant event was the naming of Dr. **John Tomkowiak** as founding dean of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. Tomkowiak has expressed significant interest in interprofessional education, instructional innovation, and population-based research, areas in which the College of Pharmacy also has significant interests.

There is no denying the profoundly positive impact that a medical school has on the other health professions programs that surround it. The establishment of a college of medicine has unique importance to the university, to Eastern Washington, and to the College of Pharmacy.

**SPOKANE HEALTH SCIENCES  
INTERPROFESSIONAL INITIATIVE**

The WSU College of Pharmacy is partnering with the Colleges of Nursing and Medicine on an interprofessional education initiative funded this year with nearly \$250,000 from Health and Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The initiative is called the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Health Professions Student Training Program at the Spokane Teaching Health Center (STHC), and will integrate training for recognizing and treating substance use disorders into interprofessional training programs at WSU Health Sciences Spokane.

**WSU COLLEGE OF PHARMACY  
ACCREDITATION RENEWED  
THROUGH 2023**

By Lori Maricle

The Washington State University College of Pharmacy has been awarded reaccreditation for its Doctor of Pharmacy program through June 2023 from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) effective February 5, 2015. The ACPE also endorsed the college’s extension of the Doctor of Pharmacy program to Yakima, Washington, which began in August 2015. The accreditation covers both Spokane and Yakima locations, but WSU will continue to provide updates to the ACPE after student pharmacists in Yakima complete their first year and the program continues to grow. The College of Pharmacy was founded in 1891 and has been accredited since 1912.



**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE  
BILL 5557**

By Lori Maricle

The College of Pharmacy celebrated in May with colleagues from across the state as Governor **Jay Inslee** signed ESSB 5557 into law. The law, sponsored by Senator



*Linda Evans Parlette*

**Linda Evans Parlette** (WSU alumna class of 1968), goes into full effect by January 2017. It will allow pharmacists to apply to be included in the participating provider networks like all other health care providers.

“Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5557 is a very significant piece of legislation, the first in the nation that credentials pharmacists. As a registered pharmacist I am extremely proud that

our profession will be recognized for all of its capabilities,” said Parlette.

Within the state of Washington, pharmacists can dispense medications and provide patient care, as allowed by their scope of practice. While commercial health plans recognized pharmacists for dispensing medications, they routinely refused to include pharmacists in their participating provider networks. ESSB 5557 requires commercial health plans to treat pharmacists as patient care providers, consistent with the Every Category of Provider law and the attorney general’s opinion statement released in 2013. This effectively closes a loophole commercial health plans used to deny patients’ access to pharmacist-provided care, and opens doors that will allow pharmacists to be integral members of the patient care team alongside the primary care provider.

## NEW FACULTY



Alyson Blum

**Alyson Blum,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy,  
clinical assistant  
professor

Blum received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from WSU. She then completed a one-year postgraduate specialty residency in obstetrics care. Blum will guest lecture across the Doctor of Pharmacy program, providing obstetrics expertise for many courses. She will instruct the online OB course that WSU offers to students as an elective and to health care practitioners for continuing education. In addition to teaching and research, Blum will serve as a faculty preceptor for student pharmacists on fourth-year elective rotations.



Jean-Baptiste Roulet

**Jean-Baptiste Roulet,**  
Experimental  
and Systems  
Pharmacology,  
clinical professor

Roulet studies autism and rare diseases caused by impaired cholesterol metabolism. He joins WSU from Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU). He will continue his research and teach first and second-year student pharmacists in the Doctor of Pharmacy program. He received his pharmacy degree from Paris V University, holds professional certifications in laboratory medicine (immunology, hematology, bacteriology, virology, and parasitology), and has two doctoral degrees in biochemistry.



Carl Mikota

**Carl Mikota,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy  
(Yakima), clinical  
associate professor

Mikota has a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is a registered pharmacist in Illinois and Washington. He holds certifications in pharmacy-based immunization, advanced cardiovascular life support, and pediatric advanced life support. Prior to WSU, he spent five years as a staff pharmacist at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen, Illinois, where he also served as a pharmacy preceptor. He will teach in the Doctor of Pharmacy program in Yakima.



Damianne Brand-Eubanks

**Damianne Brand-Eubanks,**  
Experimental  
& Systems  
Pharmacology  
(Yakima), clinical  
assistant professor

Brand-Eubanks earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from WSU and completed a postgraduate residency at Yakima Memorial Hospital. She is also a Washington certified pharmacy preceptor and holds additional certifications in CPR/AED, pharmaceutical compounding, emergency contraception, and immunization/vaccination distribution. Prior to WSU, she spent six years working as a clinical pharmacist for the community health clinic, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services. She will teach in the Doctor of Pharmacy program in Yakima.



Christina Buchman

**Christina Buchman,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy  
(Yakima), clinical  
assistant professor

Buchman earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Montana and has completed two yearlong postgraduate residencies in pharmacy practice at Oregon State University and in drug information at the University of Montana, respectively. She is a licensed pharmacist in Washington, Oregon and Montana. She also holds certifications in basic life support, adult immunization, aseptic technique, and teaching. She will teach in the Doctor of Pharmacy program in Yakima.

## PROMOTIONS



Jennifer Robinson

**Jennifer Robinson,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy,  
was promoted to  
the rank of clinical  
associate professor.  
Robinson joined  
the WSU faculty in  
2008, and has served as the director  
of student services for the Doctor of  
Pharmacy program since 2011.



Megan Willson

**Megan Willson,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy,  
was promoted to  
the rank of clinical  
associate professor.  
Willson joined the  
WSU faculty in 2007.

Willson holds dual appointments with WSU and Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center where she serves as the pharmacist on the internal medicine residency team.

## NEW ROLES



Danial Baker

**Danial Baker,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy,  
was appointed to a  
five-year term on the  
U.S. Pharmacopeial  
Convention's  
Healthcare Quality

Expert Committee. Baker was also appointed to serve on U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention's Medicare Model Guidelines.



Kimberly McKeirnan

**Kimberly McKeirnan,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy,  
was selected for the  
National Association  
of Chain Drug  
Stores (NACDS)  
Foundation Faculty  
Scholars program.



Joshua Neumiller

**Joshua Neumiller,**  
Department of  
Pharmacotherapy,  
was appointed to  
serve as the director  
for the Doctor of  
Pharmacy Office of  
Experiential Services.



*Dr. Phil Lazarus, pharmaceutical sciences chair, congratulates Dr. Meadows at his retirement party during the summer of 2015.*

## CANCER RESEARCHER RETIRES FROM WSU PHARMACY

By Lori Maricle



*Gary Meadows*

Pharmacy research leader **Gary Meadows, Ph.D.**, retired this year from the WSU College of Pharmacy after 39 years of service, though his affiliation with WSU as an emeritus professor

continues. His research has focused mainly on tumor biology and immunology.

He was the first WSU researcher to receive an investigator-initiated grant from the American Cancer Society. He studied alcohol's effect on immune responses that

influence tumor growth and metastasis. His validation of a model for administration of alcohol in research mice is referred to as the "Meadows Model of Alcohol Administration in Rodents." He maintained continuous research funding from a variety of sources since 1979, and he received two research development awards from the National Institutes of Health.

Meadows was part of the group that founded the volunteer Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership, now known as the Washington CARES About Cancer Partnership. He has been on two sabbaticals—as a visiting scientist at the Experimental Immunology Branch at the National Institutes of Health and as a professor at the University of British Columbia.

He helped establish the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at WSU and served four years as its first chair. He was director of the College of Pharmacy's pharmacology/toxicology graduate program from 1992-96 and later served two years as associate dean for graduate education and scholarship. Upon his retirement in June, he held the position of Dorothy Otto Kennedy Distinguished Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

He will continue to serve on committees for students who are in the WSU pharmacy graduate program, and continue on the advisory board in North Dakota for the IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), an organization that supports undergraduate biomedical research.



*July 1988, Dr. Gary Meadows working in his research in Wegner Hall, Pullman, Washington.*

### TEACHERS OF THE YEAR (2014-15)

Teachers of the year are nominated and voted on by the student pharmacists in each class. Chosen teachers were PY1: **Connie Remsberg**, PY2: **Kimberly McKeirnan**, PY3: **Joshua Neumiller**, and PY4: **Brian Gates**.



Connie Remsberg



Kimberly McKeirnan



Joshua Neumiller



Brian Gates

#### Teaching Assistant:

**Solomon Agere**, Ph.D. pharmaceutical sciences candidate, Ahmed research lab



Solomon Agere

### PHI LAMBDA SIGMA AWARD

**Brian Gates**, Department of Pharmacotherapy, was named an honorary member by the pharmacy leadership fraternity Phi Lambda Sigma, WSU chapter, for his service and dedication to helping student pharmacists develop their leadership skills.



*Christopher Greer, class of 1991, of St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute in Spokane.*



*Angelo Ballasiotes (center), class of 1995, was presented the Preceptor of the Year award by Assistant Director of Experiential Services Luke Rice (left), and 2015 pharmacy graduate Glen Chase, before the 2015 White Coat Ceremony in Yakima.*

### PRECEPTOR AWARDS

By Lori Maricle

Preceptors supervise student pharmacists while they move through a series of six-week practice rotations that make up the final year of the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

#### WSU Pharmacy Preceptor Receives National Teaching Award

Pharmacy Manager **Christopher Greer** of Spokane was one of eight pharmacy preceptors nationally to receive the Master Preceptor Recognition from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy this year. Greer was nominated by his colleagues at the WSU College of Pharmacy and was selected for his humility, genuine care for people, integrity, passion for pharmacy, and

servant leadership, which creates a learning environment where each student pharmacist receives teaching, coaching, and mentorship to become an outstanding health care professional.

Greer was also recognized this year as Washington State Health System Pharmacist of the Year by the Washington State Pharmacy Association. The award honors outstanding pharmacists and their service to the profession of pharmacy, specifically hospital pharmacy.

#### WSU Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year

Clinical Pharmacist **Angelo Ballasiotes** of Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health in Yakima was named the 2015 Preceptor of the Year. The award is given annually to a WSU pharmacy preceptor for outstanding contributions

to the educational development of future pharmacists by demonstrating high standards of professionalism, ethics, and clinical practice within the experiential training environment. Ballasiotes was selected for his consistent commitment to mentoring and empowering student pharmacists on rotation, and his continuous efforts to innovatively expand pharmacy services and care to patients at Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health.

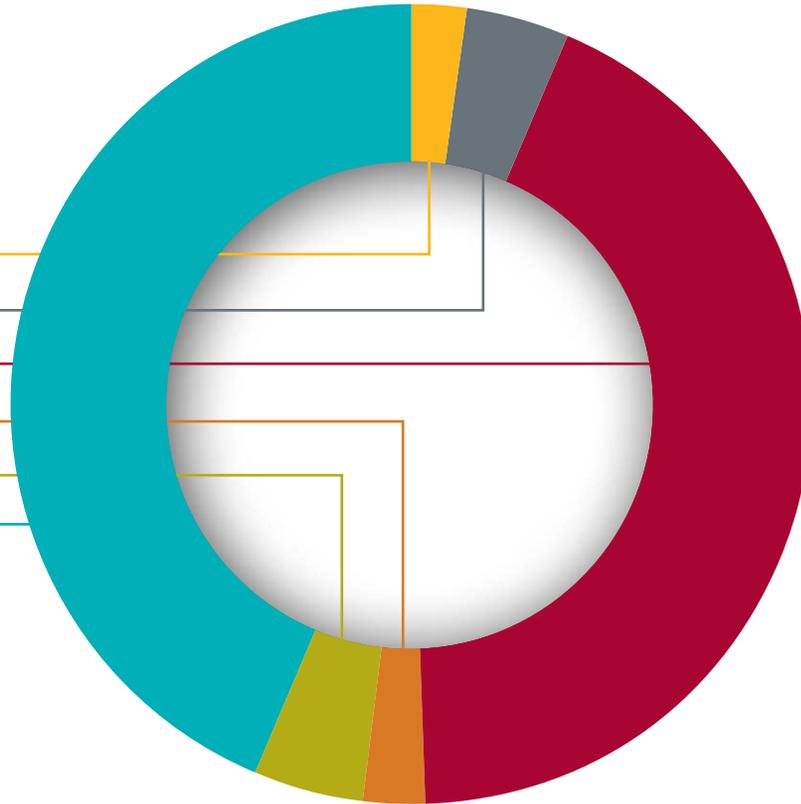
#### Past Recipients:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2014: Patrick O'Connor | 2008: Tom Stanley      |
| 2013: Donald Spedden   | 2007: Warren Hall      |
| 2012: Roger Yamaguchi  | 2006: Chris Greer      |
| 2011: John Landkammer  | 2005: Rhonda Kerr      |
| 2010: Doug Crafton     | 2004: Jennifer Edwards |
| 2009: Brent Albertson  | 2003: Ron Jennings     |

WSU COLLEGE OF PHARMACY  
TOTAL BUDGET  
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

- Endowment Earnings: \$404,342
- Gifts (not grants): \$646,871
- Grants & Contracts: \$7,014,325
- Services: \$391,203
- Overhead Returns: \$747,229
- State Allocation & Tuition: \$7,059,571

**Total Revenue: \$16,263,541**



**RANKINGS**

Total NIH, Other Federal, and Non-Federal Principal Investigator Grants

(October 1–September 30)

	WSU Rank	# of Ranked Colleges of Pharmacy
FY 2012	44	86
FY 2013	38	96
FY 2014	35	97

source: [aacp.org/resources](http://aacp.org/resources)



## DOCTOR OF PHARMACY PROGRAM UPHOLDING EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

By Gary Pollack

The WSU College of Pharmacy has a long history of being committed to preparing pharmacists not only to enter the practice of pharmacy today, but to lead the changes in the practice of pharmacy that are certain to come tomorrow. The college's accreditation review and the extension of the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program to Yakima gave the college opportunities to assess the health care landscape across the nation and adjust the college's professional education initiatives to better prepare our graduates to contribute to the health care solutions of today and tomorrow.

The initiative to extend the Pharm.D. program to Yakima supports the WSU land-grant mission to increase access to education and access to care across the state. The Pharm.D. program has a menu of programmatic options to support students' professional goals including:

- A research-based honors program,
- The Pharm.D./Ph.D. program track within the College of Pharmacy,
- The Pharm.D./MBA program track with the WSU Carson College of Business.

Further, the college made the shift to competency-based assessment of student performance beginning in the fall of 2013. With the college's competency-based (Honors-Satisfactory-Fail) grading model, in order to achieve the "satisfactory"

designation, students must score at least 80 percent on assessments (the benchmark is higher for some content). If a student does not demonstrate competency on initial assessment, they are offered support through our student services office and encouraged to re-engage with the material and faculty, followed by a retest. If the student does not demonstrate competency a second time, the student is diverted into an extended learning experience. This assessment model is currently in the third year of a three-year transition and has led to a measurable increase in student retention and cohort performance.

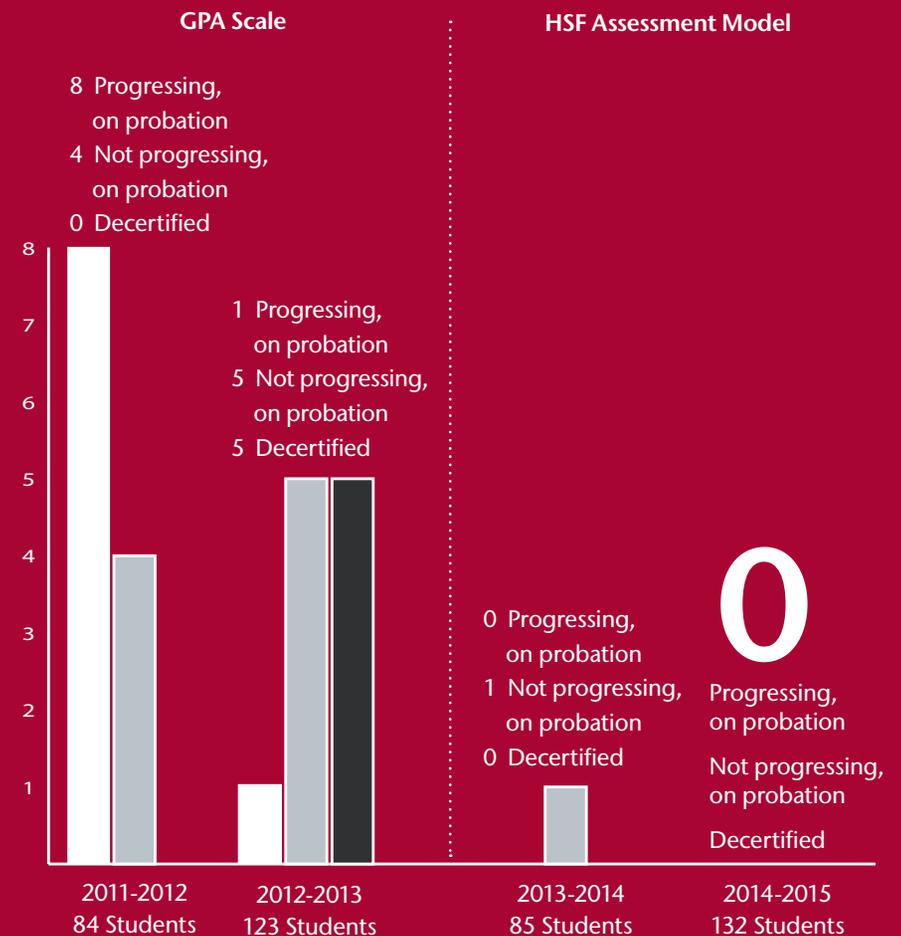
Pharmacy students are most likely to fall behind between the fall and spring semesters of their first year. The national average "fall behind" rate for pharmacy education is about 10 percent, so about one in 10 students normally fall behind in their first year, nationally. Historically, the WSU College of Pharmacy had a slightly better-than-average rate of around seven percent. However, within the HSF grading model all student pharmacists have progressed through to the spring semester in their first year ("fall behind" rate equals zero percent) for the last two years running.

The next professional education initiative for the college is a shift to a comprehensive, active/collaborative curricular delivery model. This initiative places WSU among the most progressive pharmacy programs in the country and aligns with our commitment to the best possible educational experience for all students.

## OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN EXTENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES SPRING SEMESTER 2015:



### PY1 PROGRESSION COMPARISON BY ACADEMIC YEAR





CLASS OF 2019 (PY1) INCOMING CLASS STATS:

Total Students: 152  
Spokane: 122  
Yakima: 30



63 Male  
89 Female

Average Age: 23  
Average GPA: 3.3-3.4



Other states represented:

- California: 14
- Idaho: 4
- Oregon: 4
- Nevada: 3
- Hawaii: 3
- Minnesota: 2
- Arizona: 1
- Colorado: 1
- Indiana: 1
- Missouri: 1
- Montana: 1
- New Jersey: 1
- Pennsylvania: 1
- Tennessee: 1

FIRST PROFESSIONAL YEAR (PY1) PHARMACY EDUCATION EXTENDS TO YAKIMA

By Stuart Muller

This fall, in partnership with Pacific Northwest University (PNWU) of Health Sciences, the WSU College of Pharmacy successfully launched an extension of our Doctor of Pharmacy program in Yakima. PNWU provides us with cutting edge classrooms, and 2015 marked the formal opening of our new pharmacy laboratory. The renovated space includes a model

pharmacy, three counseling suites for patient care simulations, a clean room for practicing parenteral compounding techniques in two laminar flow hoods, and a large central laboratory for compounding and parenterals labs. There are three new WSU teaching faculty already in Yakima, and four more planned to join them over the next two years. Our recruitment team enrolled 30 outstanding students to pioneer the site, and these self-described “pharmaneers” are now helping us to reimagine what pharmacy education at a partner location looks like.

Good to Know

**Competency:** The ability to do something successfully or efficiently. According to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, graduating pharmacists are expected to demonstrate competency in the following categories:

- Foundational Knowledge
- Essentials for Practice and Care
- Approach to Practice and Care
- Personal & Professional Development

**Active Learning:** A model of instruction whereby students participate in activities that facilitate a high level of engagement to maximize knowledge transfer and retention.

Introductory materials are provided to students as pre-class content (short videos, readings, worksheets, etc.), and in-class time is dedicated to collaborative and participatory learning activities facilitated by faculty. Active learning is known to promote better retention, engage higher-level learning, and support personal and professional development.



*Student pharmacists practice sterile compounding techniques in the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building's parenterals lab in Spokane, Washington.*



*Student pharmacists learn and practice providing patient services during Applied Patient Care lab.*

## CLASS OF 2018 (PY2) MASTERY OF THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND APPLICATION

The second professional year focuses on theoretical background and application of pharmacy practice, including mastery of skills required to provide clinical pharmacy services. Student pharmacists engage in increased peer-to-peer role play which includes faculty-led feedback and discussion. Key concepts include sterile and complex compounding, patient assessment and documentation skills,

principles of designing effective drug regimens, understanding of drug discovery and development, and ethical and professional aspects of health care delivery.

WSU dedicates itself to developing outstanding health care professionals through providing business management, leadership, and professional advocacy opportunities, as well as upholding the highest standards in patient safety, quality assurance, medication error avoidance, and risk management.

## PY2 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

**Kiranjot Brar** was a co-author on the research poster, "Immune cell responses to combined treatment of murine melanoma with ALT-803 and Sunitinib in normal and chronic alcohol consuming mice," presented at the American Association of Immunologist meeting in New Orleans.



*Kiranjot Brar*



*Karl Nacalaban*

**Karl Nacalaban** was elected student body vice president by the Associated Students of WSU Spokane (ASWSUS) for 2015-16.

## PY3 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Jeff Crouch



Derek Matlock

Jeff Crouch received the 2015 Outstanding Student Member Award from the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Foundation.

Derek Matlock was selected as one of fourteen student pharmacists from across the U.S. to participate in the 2015 Live Oak Pharmacy Student Program, a week long intensive business training for student pharmacists who want to become pharmacy owners.



Pierce Robledo



Jared Kavanaugh

Pierce Robledo was elected president of the Associated Students of WSU Spokane (ASWSUS) for 2015-16.

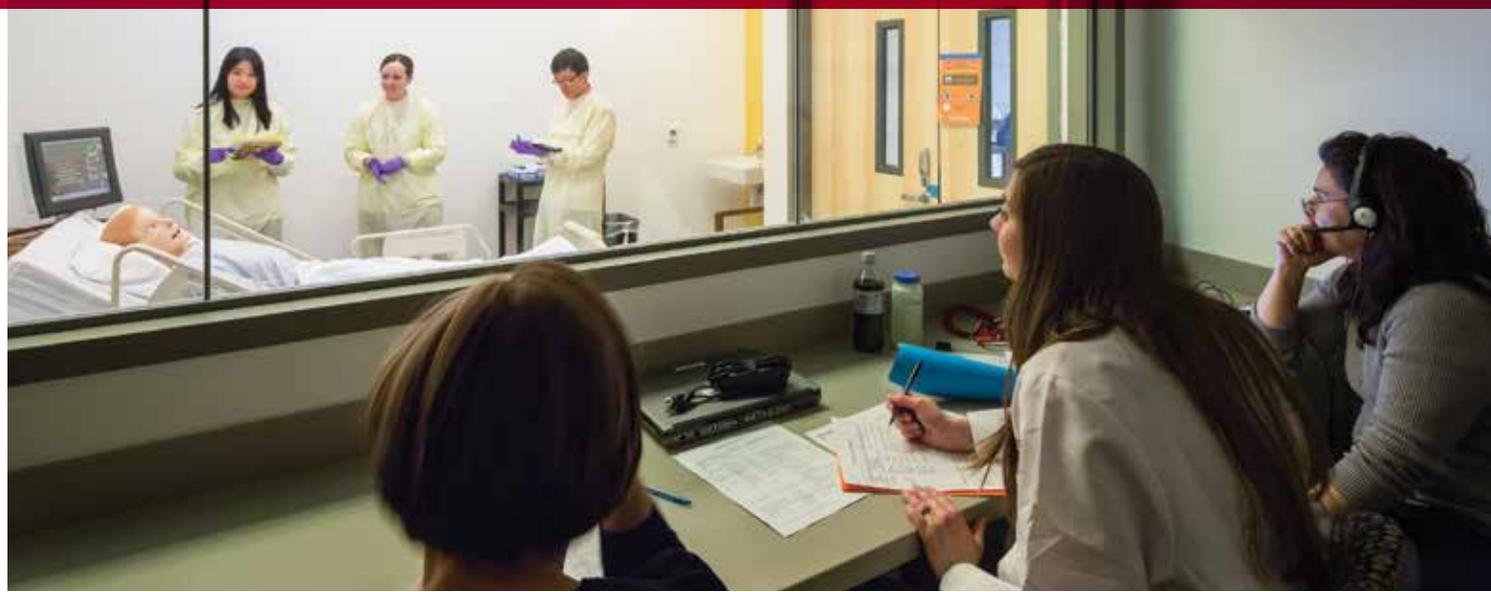
Current ASWSUS President Jared

Kavanaugh was elected to the student body senate for 2015-16.

Kim Paulsen was selected to serve a two-year term on the NCPA Student Leadership Council.



Kim Paulsen



## CLASS OF 2017 (PY3) EMPOWERING INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM COLLABORATION

The third professional year integrates an interprofessional emphasis on health care teams into pharmaceutical care to achieve positive health outcomes for individuals,

communities and populations. Student pharmacists practice converting patient assessment and evaluation into action through recommendation or emergency intervention. We use advanced, high-fidelity technology to engage students in authentic practice situations utilizing human patient simulation and interdisciplinary teams. Key concepts include the use of medications in the

prevention, mitigation or cure of disease, special therapeutic needs of unique populations, and advanced medication therapy management for complex patients.

WSU student pharmacists must demonstrate understanding of legal and ethical pharmacy practice including licensing, patient privacy protection, and regulatory affairs.



**CLASS OF 2016 (PY4)  
ADVANCED PHARMACY  
PRACTICE EXPERIENCES (APPE)**

In the final year of pharmacy school (PY4), students complete six pharmacy practice rotations based in one of eight geographic locations. A seventh rotation is optional. A significant portion of the fourth

year focuses on a way of thinking: a process of integrating, applying, recognizing, and arriving at decisions that are equally—if not more—important than remembering specific facts. Student pharmacists participate in the care of real patients under the supervision of a preceptor.

**Total students assigned per APPE geographic location:**

Class of 2015	Class of 2016	Class of 2017
Olympia: 2	Olympia: 12	Olympia: 12
Pullman: 3	Pullman: 6	Pullman: 3
Spokane: 50	Spokane: 55	Spokane: 45
Tacoma: 8	Tacoma: 10	Tacoma: 5
Tri-Cities: 3	Tri-Cities: 7	Tri-Cities: 3
Vancouver: 0	Vancouver: 0	Vancouver: 3
Wenatchee: 2	Wenatchee: 3	Wenatchee: 0
Yakima: 15	Yakima: 21	Yakima: 20

**86%**  
of students report:  
“At this site I was able to  
collaborate with other  
health care professionals  
when/if necessary.”

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR COLLEGE AND OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENT PHARMACISTS.**

Cougars are notoriously generous when it comes to mentoring, precepting, and volunteering with the next generation of WSU student pharmacists.

The WSU College of Pharmacy has also seen a year-over-year increase in our total number of annual donors. Over the last four years our donor base has grown 10 percent, and the college has seen a higher alumni participation rate than any other unit within Washington State University.

**A BILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE!**

**\$1,065,091,919 (to be exact)**

Thanks to generous donors, we celebrate the success of WSU's largest fundraising effort—the \$1 billion Campaign for Washington State University:

*Because the World Needs Big Ideas.*

**TOTAL RAISED FOR THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY: \$19 MILLION**

[campaign.wsu.edu](http://campaign.wsu.edu)

**THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

By Kelly Sylvester

Many of the financial donations to the College of Pharmacy during the \$1 billion Campaign for Washington State University were in support of student scholarships. These contributions have made it possible for the college to select over 180 student pharmacists to receive over \$330,000 in scholarships this past year. In fact, every student pharmacist who applied and met our qualifications received at least \$1,200 in scholarship support.

Scholarships are not just about money, they are a vote of confidence in our students' abilities and their chosen profession. Here are some examples of what scholarships mean to our students:



Janae Rame

“Finding out that I was selected for a scholarship made me not only excited, but I felt great honor in you choosing me. I sincerely appreciate your support for my next great adventure into pharmacy school. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this great scholarship, and I promise that hard work will come along with this amazing gift you have given me. I hope one day that I will be able to start my own scholarship to give students like me a great opportunity.”

—Janae Rame, class of 2019:  
Margit Garthe Harrison  
Memorial Scholarship



Jessica Marrs

“It means a lot to me that you are willing to invest in me as a future pharmacist and in my future goals. My motivation for pursuing pharmacy as a career is because I lost my own father when I was little. There is sometimes a lack of quality in health care in Vietnam. As a result, when my father passed away from malaria, I knew I wanted to do something in the health care profession. As a pharmacist, I hope to work with the Vietnamese community to improve their overall health and hopefully travel to Vietnam one day to help people in need of better health care. Thank you for this great opportunity and support that you are giving me.”

—Jessica Marrs, class of 2017:  
Mabel E. Bement Scholarship



Patrick Stolz

“It is difficult for words to express how honored I feel to be recognized as a future pharmacy owner by a company that works with so many other brilliant minds in hospitals, independent pharmacies, ambulatory clinics, and much more. This award is not only a big aid to help launch my career, but a powerful motivator and confidence booster.”

—Patrick Stolz, class of 2016:  
Cardinal Health Corporation  
Scholarship



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## NEW ENDOWMENTS IN 2015

Endowments are important because the principal sum generates interest that is spent according to the donor's gift use agreement.

Most of the college's endowments are for student scholarships. Others support professorships, research, lectureships, as well as expenses associated with scholarly work.

### Endowments created in 2015:

- WSU College of Pharmacy Class of 1965 Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy
- WSU College of Pharmacy Dean's Endowed Professorship (endowment pending)

## NEW SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2015

- RX Pharmacies Plus Scholarship (Corporate)
- Suellyn Olson Memorial Scholarship

## FLEXIBLE ENDOWMENTS

Establishing an endowed scholarship requires a minimum principal sum of \$25,000. For those who want to invest over time instead of one lump sum, a flexible endowment is a great solution, plus you are able to create this lasting scholarship fund while seeing students benefit now. Please contact the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office for more information on creating a flexible endowment: [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu) or 509-368-6675.

## NEW BENEFACTORS

By Lori Maricle

BeneFACTORS are those who have reached the cumulative giving milestone of \$100,000 or more to the College of Pharmacy. This year **Gerald Briggs**, class of 1968, was recognized as our newest benefactor. Briggs has been a longtime contributor to WSU and has been instrumental in the establishment of a course in obstetrics pharmacy, which is offered through the college online as either an elective or continuing education. Briggs personally

funded a one-year OB pharmacy residency with the goal to demonstrate the value of a pharmacist on the OB team and develop a "best practice" model of care that can be duplicated in other hospitals. That pharmacy resident, Dr. **Alyson Blum**, was hired this year by the College of Pharmacy into a faculty appointment also supported by Briggs. As a clinical assistant professor, Blum is inserting pregnancy topics into many WSU Doctor of Pharmacy courses. Eventually, she will take over as Instructor of Record for the online OB course.

## DISEASES, COMPLICATIONS, & DRUG THERAPY IN OBSTETRICS

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2014-2015

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### **Lifetime gifts of \$1 million or more**

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## **Crimson Benefactor**

### **Lifetime gifts of \$500,000 to \$999,999**

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## **Benefactors**

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## **Heritage Society**

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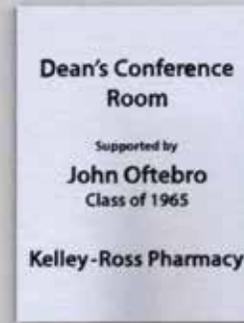
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† = deceased

*This Donor Roll is a list of those who invested in us during the 12-month period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. We strive to be accurate, but if we have made a mistake with any detail of your gift or your name, please accept our apology and please let us know about it. You may reach our Advancement and Alumni Relations Office at [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu) or 509-368-6675. If you made a gift after June 30, 2015, your gift will be reflected in next year's annual report.*



John Oftebro '65

## CREATE A LEGACY, SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

Something very special is happening at the College of Pharmacy, and this is your chance to be part of it. The opening of our new building on the WSU Health Sciences Spokane campus has created a rare opportunity for you to have a permanent legacy in the College of Pharmacy by naming a teaching area, conference room, student gathering area, or laboratory in the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building. For more information contact 509-368-6675 or [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu).

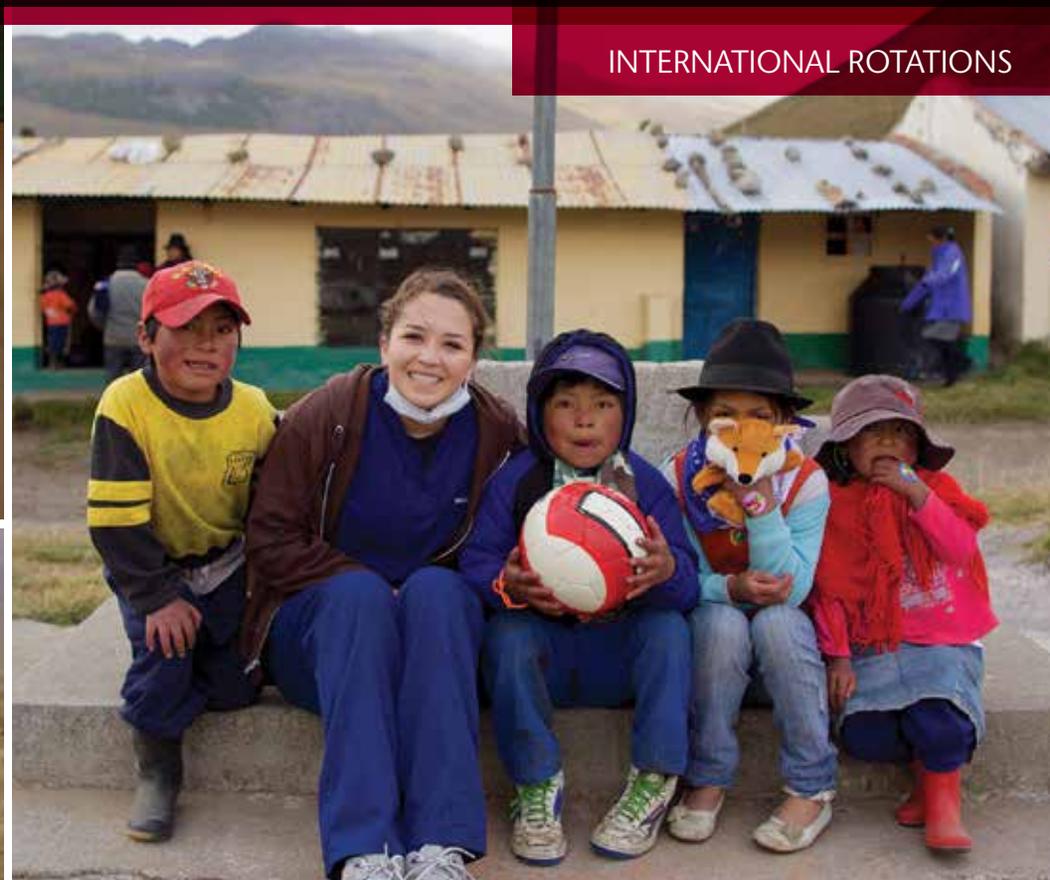
## COLLEGE OF PHARMACY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT JOHN OFTEBRO '65

*"I have chosen to give back to a program that provided me with a foundation for creating a wonderfully rewarding professional practice. I am extremely grateful for the financial aid I received during my undergraduate years, and am glad to now assist our students. Go Cougs!"*

John Oftebro contributed to name the dean's conference room the "John Oftebro, Kelley-Ross Pharmacy Dean's Conference Room."



WSU partners with the organization Hearts in Motion and the Ecuador military to coordinate the APPE international rotation to Ecuador. The 2015 rotation group is pictured here waving the Cougar flag in Ecuador this summer.



WSU student pharmacist Jacqueline Q. Garza pictured with children from the village of Pachancho, in Ecuador.

### WSU APPE ECUADOR: BETTER UNDERSTANDING OUR PATIENTS AND PRESCRIBING PRACTICES

By Madison Block, Iulia Vartolomei, Jacqueline Garza, Amanda Hack, and Joshua Burwell

Every year, student pharmacists from WSU travel to remote villages in the Ecuadorian Andes Mountains and set up medical camps as part of their fourth-year APPE rotations.

In 2015, the medical team included five student pharmacists, two pharmacists, two nurse practitioners, one physician, two

medical students, and a social worker.

Preparatory work included a review of medications from past trips to create a formulary that would treat most anticipated medical conditions. The medication was divided into three groups, one for each village we were scheduled to visit. Villages were chosen by the Ecuador military, who gave priority based on need. Upon arrival to each village, we set up exams rooms, a lab, and the pharmacy.

The medical team ended up visiting four villages instead of three due to increased need while we were there. In order to better prepare future students and

providers to bring the necessary resources to meet the needs of the communities and avoid over treating, data from the 2015 rotation was collected and compiled upon returning to the United States.

The WSU College of Pharmacy provides opportunities for student pharmacists to participate in optional international rotations in order to provide an intercultural pharmacy experience encompassing medical, social and humanitarian issues. In the past, international sites have included Ecuador, Peru, Vietnam, and Wales.

Days in Ecuador: **14**  
Villages visited: **4**  
Patients: **751**

60% were adults  
40% were children under 12



Common services: well checks: **26%**

Common ailments: pain: **22%**  
arthritis: **12%**

Top 5 medications dispensed:

multivitamins  
mebendazole  
eye washes  
acetaminophen  
ibuprofen

Other items dispensed:

eye glasses  
socks and shoes  
sunglasses  
toothbrushes



## CAREER SEMINAR SERIES

By Lori Maricle

The *Preparing For Your Career In Pharmacy Seminar Series* introduces student pharmacists to thought-leaders and entrepreneurs who give insights on career opportunities available to future pharmacists. The lectures support the college's mission to educate outstanding health care professionals by exposing student pharmacists to leaders across the country who are driving innovation, advancing health care practice, and improving people's lives. The career seminar series is funded through the Dean's Fund for Excellence and the college's community partner, the Spokane Teachers Credit Union.

## 2015 Career Seminar Speakers

**Heidi Ecker**, Director, Government Affairs and Grassroots Programs, NACDS

**Alexander Garrard**, Pharm.D., DABAT Clinical Managing Director, Washington Poison Center

**Jeff Rochon**, Pharm.D. Chief Executive Officer, Washington State Pharmacy Association

**Lisa Garza**, Pharm.D. Resident Pharmacist, Middleport Family Health Center, Buffalo NY

**Tim Bonino**, RPh, MBA, Retired Senior Clinical Specialist, Genetech Inc.

**Bindhu Batra**, Pharm.D., RPh, Director of Academic Affairs, Professional Compounding Centers of America Institute

**Darrell Jackson**, BS, PhD Researcher, University of Montana, College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences

**Sarah Beaty-VanDeMark**, Pharm.D., MBA, BCPS Director, System Pharmacy Program Development, Providence Health Services

**Michael Johnson**, B.Pharm., Pharm.D., D.O., MMI Candidate Confluence Health Systems

## NAPLEX PASS RATE COMPARISONS

Average first-time test taker pass rate for WSU classes 2010-2014:

National average first-time test taker for 2010-2014:

96%

95%

Preliminary results for class of 2015 with 90% of the cohort having tested:

97%

average first-time test taker pass rate.



The WSU Professional Pharmacy Student Organization (PPSO) received the Washington State University 2015 President's Award for Leadership, in recognition of the organization's impact on advancing student leadership and engagement at WSU.



Pictured from left: Dean Gary M. Pollack, James Leonard, Daniel Holland, Kathleen Nusbaum, David Butler, and Associate Dean Brian Gates.

## MPJE PASS RATES COMPARISONS

Average first-time test taker pass rate for WSU classes 2010-2014:

National average first-time test taker for 2010-2014:

94%

94%

Preliminary results for class of 2015 with 77% of the cohort having tested:

95%

average first-time test taker pass rate.



## PHARM.D./MBA

By Lori Maricle

The college launched a Pharm.D./MBA joint degree program this year, resulting from a collaboration between the WSU College of Pharmacy and WSU Carson College of Business. This partnership will allow eligible student pharmacists to earn both the Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration degrees in as little as four years.

The joint degree program will allow student pharmacists to complete six of the nine required business electives within the pharmacy curriculum. The rest of the MBA curriculum is completed online and allows student pharmacists to complete their business courses synchronously with their Doctor of Pharmacy courses. This collaboration allows WSU pharmacy graduates to come out of school with the credentials—including business plan creation—to not only be outstanding pharmacists, but also successful health system leaders, business owners, and entrepreneurs.

## STUDENT PHARMACISTS SCORE WELL ON NATIONAL EXAM

By Lori Maricle

The national Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) Exam is a tool used by pharmacy schools to evaluate their curricula and to provide individual student feedback regarding strengths and weaknesses. Four student pharmacists from the class of 2016 scored in the 90th percentile or higher on the exam administered last spring by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. A score in the 90th percentile means the students scored the same or higher than 90 percent of other third-year student pharmacists in the normed reference sample. College of Pharmacy Dean **Gary M. Pollack** recognized the student pharmacists who scored well on the PCOA this year with dinner at Clinkerdagger, a popular restaurant in Spokane. The students (pictured above) recognized were: **David Butler, Daniel Holland, James Leonard, and Kathleen Nusbaum.**



Jeff Nye



Patrick Stolz

## PY4 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Student pharmacists **Jeff Nye** and **Patrick Stolz** each received a \$5,000 scholarship from Cardinal Health.



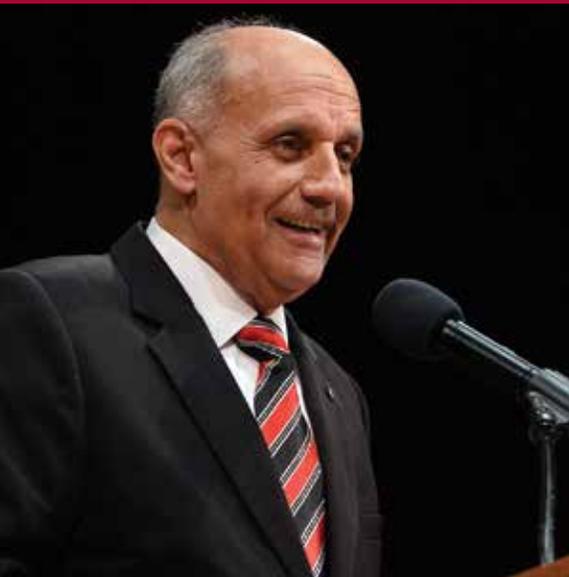
Ryan Nottingham



James Leonard

**Ryan Nottingham**, with faculty mentor **Jennifer Robinson**, won one of eighty five national spots for the 2015 AACP Walmart Scholars Program.

**James Leonard** was selected for a summer internship with the Division of Drug Information at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



PHARM.D.  
DEGREES  
AWARDED  
IN 2015:

82

*The College of Pharmacy would like to express its appreciation to Safeway-Albertsons for sponsoring this year's commencement ceremony.*

## FORMER U.S. SURGEON GENERAL GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS

By Lori Maricle

On Thursday, May 7, 2015, family and friends joined the WSU College of Pharmacy at the Fox Theater in downtown Spokane to honor the newest alumni of the Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Pharmacy programs.

Former U.S. Surgeon General **Richard Carmona** (pictured above) gave the keynote address. He challenged the graduates to look to addressing preventable disease in order to improve public health.

"I think you're coming into pharmacy at no better time in the history of pharmacy," said Carmona. "I've been very closely aligned with the pharmacy profession for many years, including my time as surgeon general. The pharmacists were some of my best leaders, not just as pharmacists but as leaders in the diverse set of opportunities that came up."

Carmona spoke of how pharmacists brought a special analytic, thoughtful and scientific ability to the table that made them great leaders.

"The pharmacist of the future will continue to be a leader and equal partner in a diverse multidisciplinary prevention and health care team within the medical or health care home," said Carmona.

He challenged the graduates to pick up the baton as health counselor, as pharmacy becomes more complex with the development of pharmacogenomics, individualized pharmacology, and personalized medicine.

"You have the opportunity, privilege and responsibility to make the world a healthier, safer and more secure place," said Carmona. "Keep your dreams just beyond your reach and your integrity beyond reproach, and the world will prosper from your presence."



*Graduates take the "Oath of a Pharmacist" at the 2015 Commencement Ceremony.*

INTERPROFESSIONAL  
COLLABORATION:

98%

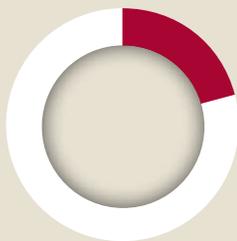
of the Class of 2015 reported to AACP that the WSU Pharm.D. program prepared them to communicate with health care providers.



Associate Dean Kathryn Meier hoods Ph.D. graduate Mandi Hopkins at the 2015 Commencement Ceremony.

AT THE TIME OF GRADUATION:

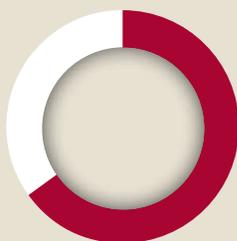
21% of the Class of 2015 accepted a residency.



12/17 of the accepted residencies are in Institutional Pharmacy.



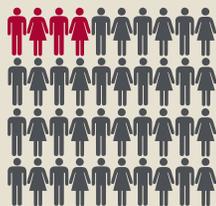
Accepted residencies within the state of Washington rose from 10 for the Class of 2013 to 13 for the Class of 2015.



65% of the Class of 2015 reported accepting employment. Three-quarters of those positions are in Community Pharmacy chains.

61% of the Class of 2015 indicated that their plans were to remain in Washington; this includes both residencies and employment. Of those students planning to remain in Washington,

4/50 will be serving in a rural and medically underserved area.



SENIOR AWARDS

APhA-ASP Senior Recognition: **Cassandra Song**

WSU College of Pharmacy Faculty Award: **Azuka Nwude**

Lilly & Co. Achievement Award: **Naon Shin**

Natural Medicines Recognition: **Mark Goff**

TEVA Pharmaceuticals USA Outstanding Student: **Alla Aldughli**

U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award: **Shurrie Morris**

Facts and Comparisons Excellence in Clinical Communication Award: **Nolan Koller**

Merck Award for Outstanding Students: **Clell Hasenbank and Alex Jensen**

Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy: **Michelle Fehrstrom**

Cardinal Health Award: **Mark Goff, Skeinah Samadi, Cassandra Song, Mynogoc Son, and Bridget Eller**

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Ph.D. Degrees Awarded In 2015:

**Heidi Medford, Mandi Hopkins, Brandon Gufford, Dustin Rae, Emily Johnson**

New Graduate Students:

**Yadira Xitlalli Perez Paramo, Panshak Dakup, Shannon Kozlovich, Mahamudul Haque, Xinyue Dong**

OTHER PHARM.D. AWARDS

**Sean Leonard** received the Larry G. Bettsworth Health System Pharmacy Student Award from the Providence Health Care Foundation in Spokane. She received a \$2,000 scholarship.

**Brandon Adam** received the Kappy Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity's Grant Council Scholarship Key, which is awarded annually to those who graduate with first honors or who stand highest in their entire class of graduates.

PH.D. STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

By Lori Maricle



Brandon Gufford

**Brandon Gufford**  
(Paine lab, experimental and systems pharmacology)

Brandon Gufford received a Presidential Trainee Award from the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT) in March, and was highlighted in the Showcase of Top Trainee Abstracts during the organization’s 2015 annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was the second year in a row for him to receive this honor.

Gufford’s collaborative research project, under the mentorship of Drs. **Mary F. Paine** and **John R. White**, measured pupil diameter as a marker of pharmacodynamic effect to be used as an alternative to blood samples. This “sharps-free” model supports the development of new rescue therapies for opioid overdose and new combination therapies that make medical opioid use safer.

Gufford was selected for this award in 2014 for his participation in research on an integrated in vitro-in silico-in vivo (meaning, test tube, computer simulation, live subject) framework for the prediction of an herb-drug interaction in healthy volunteers.



Solomon Agere

**Solomon Agere**  
(Ahmed lab, pharmaceutical sciences)

Solomon Agere received a Health Professional Research Preceptorship Award

from the Rheumatology Research Foundation to do research in rheumatic disease under the mentorship of Dr. **Salah-uddin Ahmed**. This award included a \$3,500 stipend and a \$1,000 travel award to attend the American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. Agere studies the role of chemokines and hopes to discover how a specific chemokine (RANTES/CCL5) activates enzymes that contribute to the tissue destruction observed in osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

**Emily Johnson**  
(Marsh lab, experimental and systems pharmacology)



Emily Johnson

Emily Johnson won Washington State University’s first university-wide Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition in March 2015. The event was part of WSU’s annual Showcase celebration of faculty, staff and student excellence. 3MT was developed by the University of Queensland, and is a competition for doctoral candidates to practice communicating their research objectives to a non-science audience. Johnson had three minutes to deliver her thesis to the audience and a panel of judges. Johnson received \$3,000 from the Office of the Provost to attend the research conference of her choice.

Johnson studies how anticancer drugs affect sugar metabolism and heart health under the mentorship of Dr. **Susan A. Marsh**. She hopes her research will lead to a new way of combating heart disease in diabetics.



**RESEARCH NEWS**

By Gary Pollack

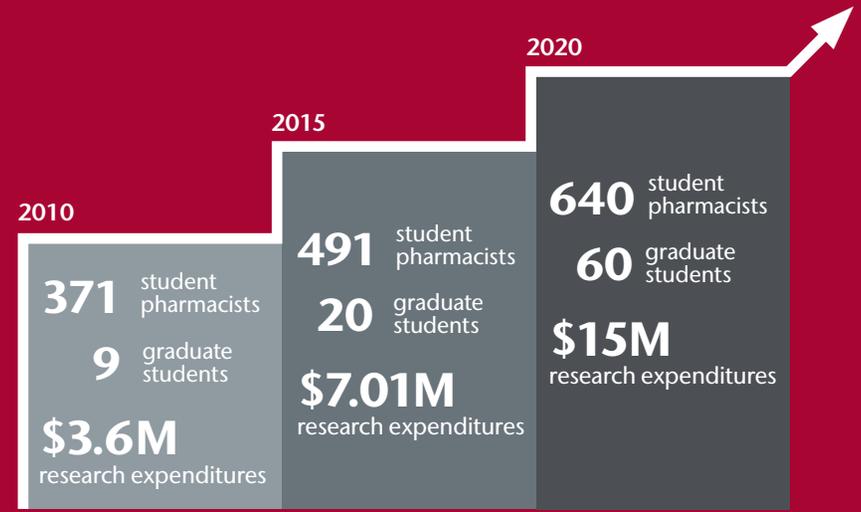
Half of our mission at the WSU College of Pharmacy is to improve human health through excellence in collaborative research and scholarship. What this means is the College of Pharmacy is dedicated to being a leader in protecting, promoting and improving human health through contributions in applied, translational and basic research.

To improve the college’s research funding portfolio, we adopted a set of strategies in 2010 that included recruiting faculty with existing research funding, setting expectations for productivity and holding researchers accountable, investing in research infrastructure, supporting faculty development, and rewarding performance. The college also restructured to reflect our “bimodal” mission of the college: excellence in, and access to, professional education, impactful research, and graduate education.

In order to support the rise of the college as a top-ranked pharmacy program, I established the Office of Research in 2013 to develop resources to assist faculty in identifying and applying for external funding, and to support infrastructure to conduct research efficiently and safely.

Over the last five years, the College of Pharmacy has successfully kept on track to achieve its strategic goals for 2020. In the most recent QS World University rankings, the WSU pharmacy program placed 21 among all pharmacy programs nationally, which represents a significant improvement for our program over the past few years. However, among pharmacy schools that do not share their campus with a medical school, we are ranked second (behind only Purdue University and tied with Northeastern University). How far we can go once we partner with the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, only time will tell.

**WSU COLLEGE OF PHARMACY PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC GOALS**



**NEW RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDED TO THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY**

	Total Funding	NIH Funding
FFY 2010	\$2,748,663	\$820,308
FFY 2011	\$2,788,332	\$973,312
FFY 2012	\$3,314,016	\$447,642
FFY 2013	\$4,557,213	\$3,160,877
FFY 2014	\$8,099,962	\$3,203,572
FFY 2015	\$6,074,039	\$3,452,198

*This table reports total federal research funding reported on the federal fiscal year (FFY) starting October 1 and ending September 30. This is different from the College of Pharmacy’s fiscal year starting July 1 and ending June 30. AACP calculates rankings for colleges of pharmacy based on a different reporting list as well. Therefore, these figures vary from the College’s total revenues previously listed in this report.*

**PHARMACOTHERAPY:  
JOSH NEUMILLER**

By Lori Maricle



Joshua Neumiller

Being handed the diagnosis of a chronic medical condition can have a profound impact on a person's daily life. It could mean the overhaul of diet and

exercise habits to combat the onset of diabetes, or rearranging a daily routine to make it easier to remember to take medication that brings high blood pressure under control.

For patients who have two, three or more medical conditions, the impact on their lives is multiplied two, three or more times.

"Persons who take multiple medications create an identity around medication use that affects lifestyle, well-being, physical and psychological health," said **Joshua Neumiller**, associate professor in pharmacotherapy. This is part of his recent study of the impact of managing multiple chronic medical conditions in older populations.

The study recruited participants who were at least 65, currently taking at least five medications, and getting a new medication from their

health care provider. The research team found that, for a large portion of study participants, their doctor is one of the most important people in their lives. Some study participants reported they wouldn't consider relocating, even if it would mean being closer to family or friends, because they "couldn't leave their doctor."

Participants said one of the most common barriers to taking medications as prescribed was not being able to fill the prescription (reasons given included lack of transportation and finances). The second-largest barrier was simply forgetting, said Neumiller.

The initial research was funded by a \$230,000 grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The team received an additional \$49,960 from PCORI at the end of 2015 to develop a set of educational resources that will be made available to both health care providers and patients.

The goal of this educational "tool kit" is to empower older persons with multiple chronic conditions to better communicate with their health care providers regarding their medication therapies, with the aim of improving quality of life and reducing interactions and adverse side effects.



Since 2012, the Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County has awarded a total of \$3 million to the college in support of new facilities and recruiting top faculty to the College of Pharmacy at WSU Health Sciences Spokane. The success and growth of pharmacy research initiatives we have seen in the past few years would not have been possible without this critical support.

## EXPERIMENTAL AND SYSTEMS PHARMACOLOGY: JEAN-BAPTISTE ROULLET

By Lori Maricle



Jean-Baptiste Roulet

**Jean-Baptiste Roulet**, clinical professor in experimental and systems pharmacology, studies autism and rare diseases caused by impaired cholesterol metabolism.

Roulet is an investigator with the Sterol and Isoprenoid Research (STAIR) Consortium. STAIR is one of 21 consortia in the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network, which is an initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health. The consortium includes clinicians and scientists who have teamed up from nine academic institutions across the United States and internationally to discover causes and formulate treatments for diseases like the Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome (SLOS).

“SLOS is a genetic disorder that prevents a person’s body from making cholesterol,” said Roulet. “The cholesterol synthesis pathway is a central metabolic pathway that guides the function of all cells in humans. If it doesn’t work, then not much else does.”

Roulet is also interested in studying the role of the cholesterol pathway in the regulation of fat cell formation from adipose-tissue-derived stem cells, a process called adipogenesis.

“Down the road, this research may lead to the identification of novel compounds that slow down the formation of fat cells and could be used to fight obesity,” said Roulet. “Studying rare diseases—something very specific—allows us to understand more common diseases.”

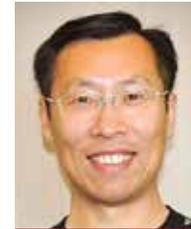
A third arm of Roulet’s research focuses on autism. His team has been using stem cells made from skin cells isolated from individuals with autism to study autistic neurons and the autistic brain.

Roulet grew up and was trained in France. He received his pharmacy degree from Paris V University, holds professional certifications in laboratory medicine (immunology, hematology, bacteriology, virology, and parasitology), and has two doctoral degrees in biochemistry. He has extensive experience as a clinical researcher and contributed to three U.S. patents in the health sciences.

Roulet came to the United States in 1985 for a visiting professor position at Oregon for Health Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon. After a short stay back in France, he returned to the OHSU Department of Medicine in 1989. In 2006, he joined the Division of Metabolism in the OHSU Department of Pediatrics and started his research on rare diseases and autism. In addition to continuing his research at WSU, he teaches first- and second-year student pharmacists in the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES: DAVID LIU

By Lori Maricle



David Liu

Pharmaceutical sciences researchers at Washington State University have discovered a protein’s previously unknown role in cell division.

The protein ATF5 controls how often specific genes that control cell survival are expressed. But the research team has identified this protein playing a part that is not related to its role as a transcription factor. Within the area of the cell called the centrosome, ATF5 is also acting as a structural protein. Structural proteins perform much like their name suggests: they maintain cell shape and make up connective tissues like cartilage and bone.

This discovery provides the first evidence of structural interactions within the centrosome and the role of ATF5.

“This is an eye opener for people working in the field,” said **David Liu**, associate professor in pharmaceutical sciences. Liu is the corresponding author on the research published in the July 2015 issue of *Cell Magazine*.

Liu and five pharmaceutical sciences colleagues at WSU teamed with scientists from Penn State, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University,

and the University of Texas to complete the study that was funded in part by the American Cancer Society and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The centrosome is the cell component vital to successful cell division and duplication, which effects a wide spectrum of larger processes from healing to cancer growth to fighting off disease. Failure of centrosome duplication can result in malformation of mitotic spindles, causing a variety of genomic instabilities. Malformed cells contribute to tumor development and conditions such as dwarfism, ciliopathy, microcephaly, and problems with cilia movement.

Liu is hoping this research will expand understanding of cell survival.

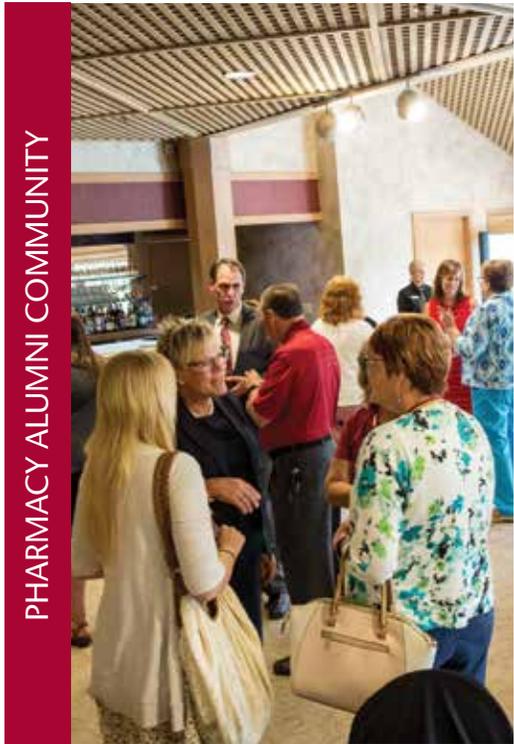
In a previous study, Liu tagged the ATF5 protein with green dye, a fluorescent protein produced by jellyfish, and discovered ATF5’s presence in an area of the cell that didn’t seem to make sense. He wanted to show that the presence of ATF5 outside its “normal place” was irrelevant so he could get back to studying what he was originally focused on: ATF5’s role as a transcription factor.

“After finding this, I wanted to disprove it. But the more we worked on it, the more it was apparent it had real purpose,” said Liu. “Ultimately, it became a big discovery.”

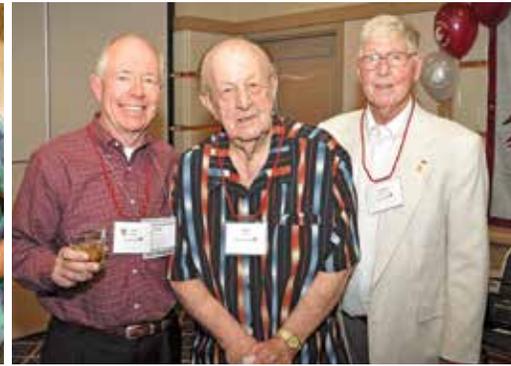
### COUGARx NATION

Being a Cougar pharmacist is unique, so we started a group just for WSU pharmacy alumni because we believe Cougar pharmacists deserve something special. The College of Pharmacy Alumni Community is a WSU alumni organization with the mission of expanding the ways alumni and friends of the WSU College of Pharmacy can become meaningfully engaged with the college and support its strategic mission to improve human health and develop outstanding health care professionals.

Join us at one of our upcoming gatherings! Access the CougaRx Nation calendar of events at [bit.ly/coug-rxnation-events](http://bit.ly/coug-rxnation-events).



PHARMACY ALUMNI COMMUNITY



[PHARMACY.WSU.EDU/ALUMNIFRIENDS](http://PHARMACY.WSU.EDU/ALUMNIFRIENDS)





*Merrie Kay Alzola was presented with the Alumna of the Year award by Dean Gary M. Pollack at the Northwest Pharmacy Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on May 29. Pictured from left: Gary Pollack, Butch T. Cougar, Merrie Kay Alzola, and Leon Alzola (class of 1991).*



*Pictured above from left: Dick Dietz, Jerry Braun, Nick Proctor, Kaye Snyder Mueller, John Oftebro, Tom Siron, Dave Repp, Gerry Danquist, Julia Puterbaugh Marshall, Bob Redmond, Jim Els (Ken Jasman - not pictured).*

## ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

By Lori Maricle

**Merrie Kay Alzola**, of Washougal, was named the 2014 Outstanding Alumna of the Year by the College of Pharmacy. She was selected for the Alumna of Year recognition for her contributions towards establishing the college's Alumni and Student Mentor Program. Alzola championed the program to Fred Meyer Pharmacy and helped the college secure the funding needed to get the program up and running. She also advocated for participation from other WSU partners and alumni. Her efforts contributed to recruiting enough volunteers to assign a mentor to every incoming student in the program's inaugural year.

"We are privileged to have Merrie Kay in our profession and working with our student pharmacists. She is committed

to identifying opportunities for student pharmacists to network and build relationships with alumni and other thought leaders," said **Linda Garrelts MacLean** at the award presentation.

Alzola received her pharmacy degree from WSU in 1993. She is a past president of the Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA), and received the WSPA Pharmacist of the Year award in 2014. Prior to that, she received the Pharmacy Leadership award for the state of Washington in 2011, was named Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year in 2002, and the Innovative Pharmacist of the Year in 2001. She has been a member of the WSU College of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council since 2004. She is active in the CougaRx Nation pharmacy alumni community, serving as vice chair for its regional coordinator's board.

## Past Recipients

- 2013, Wayne Clemens, class of 1970
- 2012, Nancy Gerstad, class of 1974
- 2011, Greg Gibbons, class of 1982
- 2010, Fred (Fritz) H. McGinnis, class of 1971
- 2009, Robert W. Higgins, class of 1957
- 2008, Gerald Briggs, class of 1968
- 2007, Marshall P. Roberts, class of 1957 and Bert Porter, class of 1950
- 2002, Linda Garrelts MacLean, class of 1978
- 2001, Marvin Chamberlain, class of 1975
- 2000, John Swenson, class of 1968
- 1999, Holly Whitcomb Henry, class of 1978
- 1998, John Oftebro, class of 1965
- 1997, Raymond Olson, class of 1957
- 1996, Rick Doane, class of 1971
- 1995, William Gaskins, class of 1968
- 1994, Ron Doane, class of 1950
- 1993, Jim Reavis, class of 1939 and Trudy Reavis, class of 1938
- 1992, Richard Fowler, class of 1950
- 1991, R. Keith Campbell, class of 1964

## GOLDEN GRADS

Each year the WSU Alumni Association coordinates a class reunion for 50 and 60 year WSU graduates. The three-day event in Pullman allows for WSU Golden and Diamond Graduates to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. This year, Golden Grads from the College of Pharmacy made a detour up to Spokane to visit with the dean and tour the college's new home at WSU Health Sciences Spokane.

Special thanks to John Oftebro for his efforts to lead this year's Golden Grads reunion, and to the class of 1965 for establishing a new scholarship to benefit student pharmacists. For more information on the Class of 1965 Endowed Scholarship, please email [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu).



*The WSU College of Pharmacy advisory councils convened at the PNWU campus in Yakima, Washington, this August. Pictured from left: Gerald Danquist, Kathleen Ross, John Oftebro (back), Linda Garrelts MacLean, Jackie Widhalm (back), Daniel Ferguson, Angela Stewart, Dennis Hoover (back), Merrie Kay Alzola, Nick Bruck (back), Manpreet Chahal, Gary M. Pollack.*

**COLLEGE ADVISORY COUNCILS**

**Dean’s Advisory Council**

Chair: John Oftebro, class of 1965, Kelley-Ross Pharmacy

Merrie Kay Alzola, class of 1993, senior health system account manager, Novo Nordisk

David Bell, class of 1976, retired hospital pharmacist, Madigan Army Medical Center

Nick Bruck, class of 2004, district pharmacy supervisor, Walgreens

Manpreet Chahal, class of 2008 and class of 2010, oncology pharmacist, Medical Oncology Associates

Gerald Danquist, class of 1965, retired pharmacy consultant for Eli Lilly and Co.

David Doane, class of 1986, vice president, pharmacy services and EC sales, Talyst Company

Jill Kerrick Walker, class of 1987, senior medical science liaison, Eisai

Janet Kusler, class of 1980, owner, Kusler’s Pharmacy

Steven Riddle, class of 1984, vice president of clinical affairs, Pharmacy OneSource

**Yakima Advisory Council**

Jim Aberle, vice president operations, Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital

Micah Cawley, mayor, City of Yakima

Anita Cleary, director of library services, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences

Tanny Davenport, chief medical officer, SignalHealth

Joseph Farina, class of 1974

Daniel Ferguson, director, Allied Health Center of Excellence, Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital

Dennis Hoover, class of 1980, senior director, Cardiac and Orthopedic Service Line, Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital

Mary Johnson, associate dean for academic affairs, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences

Kathleen McAteer, assistant vice chancellor, Office of Academic Affairs, Washington State University Tri-Cities

Timothy Melhorn, consulting physician, Memorial Physicians

Patrick O’Connor, class of 1995, director of pharmacy, Community Health Systems/ Toppenish Community Hospital

Kathleen Ross, director, Institute for Student Identity and Success, Heritage University

Joel Thome, assistant professor of pharmacology, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pacific Northwest University

TJ Tjarnberg, consultant pharmacist, Omnicare of Yakima

Jackie Widhalm, pharmacist, Shopko



*The CougarRx Nation Alumni Board met this year during the WSPA annual meeting in Suquamish, Washington. Pictured from left: Deborah Oftebro (guest), Steve Riddle (back), John Oftebro, Leon Alzola (back), Merrie Kay Alzola, Manpreet Chahal, Dallari Allington, Brandon Arthur, and WSPA president Steve Boulanger and his wife.*

## COUGARx NATION ALUMNI BOARD

**Chair:** Manpreet Chahal, class of 2008, 2010  
**Co-chair:** Merrie Kay Alzola, class of 1993

### Western Washington

Brandon Arthur, class of 2011  
John Oftebro, class of 1965  
Chuck Paulsen, class of 1984  
Steve Riddle, class of 1984

### Oregon

Leon Alzola, class of 1991

### Eastern Washington/ Northern Idaho

Dallari Allington, class of 2008  
Keith Campbell, class of 1964  
Eleanor Carbett  
Jason Doss, class of 2009

### California/Southwest U.S.

Patrick Tapon, class of 2012  
Mary Wen, class of 2008

### Midwest

Gerry Danquist, class of 1965

## COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Dean

Gary M. Pollack

Area Finance Officer

Sarah Kohler

Associate Dean for Advancement

Linda Garrelts MacLean

Associate Dean for External Professional  
and Continuing Education

Daniel Baker

Associate Dean for Graduate Education

Katheryn E. Meier

Associate Dean for Professional Education

Brian Gates

Assistant Vice President for Research

Andrea Lazarus

Department of Pharmaceutical  
Sciences Chair

Philip Lazarus

Department of Pharmacotherapy Chair

John R. White

Section of Experimental and Systems  
Pharmacology Chair

K. Michael Gibson

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Office of Research

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Student Services Office

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**125**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2016**

WSU College of Pharmacy  
125th Anniversary Gala  
[pharmacy.wsu.edu/125](http://pharmacy.wsu.edu/125)