Year in Review
2012–13

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
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Dear Friends,

As you’ve undoubtedly noticed, during this past academic year we became the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. This change was prompted by our desire to highlight both our academic and research traditions. Rest assured, however, that the student-focused philosophy that fosters lifelong learning and our emphasis on excellence remain at the heart of all we do.

In the pages of our first year-in-review publication, you will learn about the remarkable accomplishments of our faculty, alumni and students in research, scholarship and service to both the community-at-large and the profession. It is this level of achievement that continues to bring prestige to our College, as evidenced by the fact that all of our programs received maximum continuing accreditation by their respective accrediting bodies.

I would be remiss in not acknowledging the contributions of Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., R.Ph., who is well-known to many of you and who has been named Provost of St. John’s. Bob joined our faculty in 1979 and was named Dean in 1999. His commitment to academic excellence and to the University’s Vincentian mission has inspired us all, and we wish him much success in his new position.

I hope that you enjoy this publication and that you will share it with friends, family and colleagues. The faculty, administrators, students and staff of the College are extremely proud of what we do each day. We sincerely thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of our mission.

I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving our efforts to keep you engaged in our quest to make St. John’s the top private College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in New York State.

Sincerely,

S. William Zito ’66P, Ph.D.

Acting Dean and Professor
Our New Name Reflects Our Broader Mission

In May 2012, the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions became the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, a name that more accurately reflects its dual focus on research and career preparation.

“For generations, the College has been known as a leader not only in preparing pharmacists and other health professionals, but also in generating scientific research that has a positive impact on industry and the sciences,” said Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., R.Ph., University Provost and former Dean of the College. “The new name reflects that reality and is also fitting as we plan new programs of study in the future.”

Acting Dean S. William Zito ’66P, Ph.D., concurred, adding, “Our faculty, staff and students are all delighted by this recognition of the broad, research-based activities that always have been part of the College’s educational mission and reputation.”

Time to Celebrate!

The College’s new name also offered a great opportunity for more than 850 students, faculty, staff and guests to gather on the Queens campus’ Great Lawn for an official celebration last September.

A variety of campus organizations turned out for the luncheon, including Rho Chi, the pharmacy academic honor society; the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists; and the Lambda Kappa Sigma Sorority.

Dean Mangione becomes Provost

During the past academic year, Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., R.Ph., Pharmacy College Dean since 1999, was named University Provost by the St. John’s Board of Trustees. He had served as Interim Provost for several months before that.

In announcing Mangione’s appointment, Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M., University President, said, “His commitment to academic excellence, dedication to our special Vincentian and Catholic mission, scholarly accomplishments and concern for our students make him an exemplary choice for this position.”

Having joined our faculty in 1979, Mangione is a familiar face and esteemed teacher to many students and alumni. Pharmacy students voted him Teacher of the Year in 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1996. A prolific scholar, he has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications in a variety of journals. His most recent work has been in the field of celiac disease and adverse effects associated with gluten in medications.
Meet our Acting Dean

With Robert Mangione’s move into University-wide administration, President Harrington appointed S. William Zito ’66P, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean for Assessment and Planning, to serve as Acting Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Zito served as Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences from 1993 to 1999. A mentor to many graduate students, he received several Teacher of the Year awards, as well as the St. John’s University Outstanding Faculty Achievement Medal.

“His commitment to academic excellence, dedication to our special Vincentian and Catholic mission, scholarly accomplishments and concern for our students make him an exemplary choice for this position.”
**MPH Program Welcomes First Class this Fall**

To meet the growing demand for professionals to address the complex issues affecting human health in the United States and abroad, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences inaugurated a Master of Public Health degree program last year. The first class will enter in Fall 2013.

In announcing the program, S. William Zito, Ph.D., Acting Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, said, “It gives us the opportunity to develop trained public health professionals with expertise in preventable health conditions, public health analysis and the global dimensions of public health.”

Heather Mavronicolas, Ph.D., MPH, who joined our faculty last October, will direct the program. Previously, she had been Director of Quality Management and Special Projects for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s HIV Care, Treatment and Housing Program.

**Developing Tomorrow’s Pharmacists**

In keeping with its mission to help prepare New York City high school students for pharmacy professions, the College has entered into a formal affiliation with the newly opened Union Square Academy for Health Sciences (U.S.A.).

Representatives from the College and the academy signed the agreement in December 2012. Located in Manhattan’s former Washington Irving High School in the Union Square neighborhood, the academy educates students for careers as dental assistants, dentists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacists. Its advisory board includes associate professors from the Clinical Pharmacy Practice Department at St. John’s: Sharon See, Pharm.D., BCPS; Regina Ginzburg ’99P, ’01Pharm.D.; and John Conry ’96P, ’98Pharm.D. They assist U.S.A.’s principal, Bernardo Ascona, in developing a strong pharmacy-based curriculum.

“Minorities and especially women are underrepresented in the pharmacy profession,” Ascona said. “To build a workforce that represents the multiculturalism of New York City, we need high schools to partner with industries and universities engaged in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This way, students will learn the latest trends in fields like pharmacy.”

This latest partnership builds upon existing initiatives of the Urban Pharmaceutical Care, Research and Education Institute, directed by Conry, which has relationships with many high schools in the New York area.

**Sixty Pounds of Outdated Prescriptions Collected at DEA Event**

Students and faculty of the College once again participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, collecting nearly 60 pounds of old prescriptions in just a few hours.

Studies show that many adolescents who went on to abuse prescription drugs as adults originally obtained them from a family medicine cabinet. Sheila Brocavich, Assistant Clinical Professor, said, “Yes, they are a growing concern—especially among our youth, and the most important thing we can do is get rid of them.”
Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Candace Smith, Pharm.D.,
Clinical Pharmacy Practice Department Chair, reports that numerous faculty were recognized for their professional achievements in the 2012–13 academic year:

Judy Beizer, Pharm.D., CGP, AGSF,
earned fellowship status from the American Geriatrics Society and won the American Geriatrics Society Presidential Poster Award with her work titled, “Should We Still Use Insulin Sliding Scale for Diabetic Older Adults in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)?”

Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D., CGP, BCPS,
was honored with the Association of Black Health-System Pharmacist’s President’s Award.

Tomasz Z. Jodlowski, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), AAHIVP,
won the Board of Trustees Award for Quality and Patient Safety at Beth Israel Medical Center, NY, and earned American Academy of HIV Pharmacist (AAHIVP) certification from the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

Maria Leibfried, Pharm.D., BCNSP, CCP,
was named co-editor of the New Jersey Journal of Pharmacy, the journal of the New Jersey Pharmacists Association.

Nissa Mazzola, Pharm.D., CGP, CDE,
became a certified diabetes educator.

Maria Marzella Mantione, Pharm.D., CGP,
Pharm.D., CGP, was recently interviewed by the Washington Post on the topic of the need for more consumer-oriented information on the side effects of prescription drugs and by iVillage for an article on over-the-counter allergy medication. Mantione is a spokesperson for the American Pharmacists Association.

Michele Pisano, Pharm.D., CGP,
became certified in geriatric pharmacy practice.

Sharon See, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP,
was appointed to the Pharmacotherapy Specialty Council of Pharmacy Specialties (2013–16).

Carmela Avena Woods, Pharm.D., CGP,
was named Coordinator-elect of the APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) Medication Management Special Interest Group (SIG).
Pharmaceutical Sciences

The faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences have undertaken significant research projects during this past academic year, according to Department Chair Louis Trombetta, Ph.D. Below is a sampling of what is currently in progress:

Cancer Treatment

The laboratory of Professor Zhe-Sheng Chen, M.D., seeks, through international collaboration, to develop more effective chemotherapeutic agents for cancer patients. Multidrug resistance (MDR) represents a major obstacle to the treatment of cancer. Understanding the resistance mechanisms and knowing how to reverse the resistance hold the promise of providing insights that may lead to improvements in the use of currently available anticancer drugs.

Associate Professor Tanaji Talele, Ph.D., is working on a project to develop Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors for the treatment of cancer, which involves structure-based in silico approaches to identify new chemical entities for further synthesis and in vitro evaluation against PARP enzymes. Professor Talele is also working on an initiative to develop Nek2 kinase inhibitors for cancer treatment. In silico virtual screening of the drug database against the catalytic site of nek2 resulted in identification of neratinib, an EGFR/HER2 inhibitor, as a highly potent inhibitor of Nek2. Currently, his laboratory is focusing on optimizing neratinib toward increasing its selectivity for all three kinases with simultaneous improvement in inhibitory activity. These optimized inhibitors will be investigated in a Drosophila fly cancer model.

Effects of Pesticides

Environmental toxicologists are concerned about the exposure of individuals to pesticides, either occupationally or through food consumption. Assistant Professor Diane Hardej, Ph.D., leads a lab investigating the effects of metal containing ethylene bisdithiocarbamate (EBDC) pesticides on human colon cells to characterize mechanisms of injury and cellular responses with exposure to these agents. The lab also investigates the effects of the metalloids tellurium and selenium on cells of the central nervous system and gastrointestinal tract in order to understand the mechanisms of toxicity of these metalloids.

Drug Delivery Systems

A team led by Professor Senshang Lin, Ph.D., is researching the development of rate-controlled drug delivery systems to optimize the systemic delivery of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals involving the study of the effects of system designs and physicochemical parameters on the enhancement of biomembrane permeability, the modulation of delivery rate, as well as the effects of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics parameters on the improvement of systemic bioavailability and therapeutic utilization.

The laboratory of Professor Abu Serajuddin, Ph.D., is researching ways to improve delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs. He is active in enhancing dissolution rates of drugs by modulating microenvironmental pH and by applying nanotechnology. His research on pharmaceutical processing involves melt granulation; enhancement of drug and excipient compatibility; and continuous processing. He is also working on the development of osmotic tablets for controlled drug release.

Treatment of Respiratory Illnesses

Oxygen therapy with mechanical ventilation using supraphysiological concentrations of oxygen (hyperoxia) is often necessary to treat patients with respiratory distress, premature babies and patients undergoing surgeries. However, prolonged exposure to hyperoxia causes chronic and acute inflammatory lung injury. In addition, a significant number of patients on mechanical ventilation develop ventilator-associated pneumonia.

Lin Mantell, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor and her colleagues are focused on identifying and characterizing molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying oxidative inflammatory lung injury and pulmonary infection associated with exposure to hyperoxia and cystic fibrosis. The research is supported by the National Institutes of Health.

Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences

New and reaccredited programs and honors for several faculty members headlined the activities of the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences this past year.

The University Board of Trustees approved a new Physician Assistant Master of Science program, which the department is working to implement soon.

The Master of Public Health degree program was approved by the New York State Education Department in December 2012 and will greet its first students in Fall 2013. The 45-credit program offers a concentration in either community health or global health and is built to meet the educational demands of both recent graduates and working professionals.

The Physician Assistant program received continuing accreditation for the next seven years, and the Radiologic Science program received continuing accreditation with positive response.

Several faculty were recognized for their professional achievements in the 2012–2013 academic year.

Jennifer Chiu, M.B.A., RT, Assistant Professor of Radiologic Sciences, was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences.

Somnath Pal, Ph.D., Professor, has been appointed to the United States Pharmacopoeia’s Advisory Group for Knowledge, Education and Training in Regulatory/Compendial Science.

Lisa Hochstein, B.S. M.S., Assistant Professor, received the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences-New York Mary B. Cooper Service Award in 2012. The award recognizes contributions made to the chapter by a member of more than 15 years.

In addition, Wenchen Kenneth Wu, Ph.D., R.Ph., Department Chair, received two Merck Fellowship Grants totaling $323,875 that will fund work in pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research training.
Meet Our New Faculty

The following professors joined the College faculty during the 2012–13 academic year:

Xingguo Cheng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Zoology from Wuhan University, China; and earned his Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of Kansas Medical Center.

After receiving his doctorate, he worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow, and later as a Research Assistant Professor, in the laboratory of Curtis D. Klaassen, Ph.D., at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Cheng’s research interests include using in vivo approaches to investigate toxicokinetics and toxicodynamics of therapeutic drugs and persistent environmental chemicals, and especially the mechanistic roles of transcription factors (such as AhR, CAR, PXR, PPARs, Nrf2 and Fgfs) and drug transporters (such as Oatps, Mdrs and Mrps) in the disposition and action of drugs and nutrients.

Irene Eng
Instructor/Industry Professional

comes to St. John’s in the Physician Assistant Program. She received her B.S. from Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, WV, and has more than 25 years of clinical experience as a physician assistant (PA). During this time, she worked in several health care settings—in a rural setting as a solo practitioner, in a multi-physician office and in community health centers, hospitals and private practice.

Sen (Anna) Gu, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences, has more than eight years of experience in designing, leading and conducting studies in comparative effectiveness research (CER), epidemiology and advanced methodological issues in health services research. In the past five years, she has published 10 articles in peer-reviewed journals and two book chapters.

Gu received her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and an M.S. in Epidemiology from the University of Maryland; she also holds an M.D. from Tongji Medical University, China.

Monica Hwang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences, earned her Ph.D. in Social and Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her primary research interest is in enhancing communication in health care to increase quality of care and to reduce health disparities. She is also interested in expanding pharmacists’ roles to increase their involvement in public health.

Maria Leibfried, Pharm.D., BCNSP, CCP, Assistant Professor/Industry Professional, Clinical Pharmacy Practice Department, earned both a B.S. in Pharmacy and a Pharm.D. from Rutgers University. She completed a General Pharmacy Practice residency at Montefiore Medical Center. Her practice has included hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy, consulting pharmacy and continuing pharmacy education.

Leibfried is Board Certified in Nutrition Support and is a Certified Consultant Pharmacist. She was also an adjunct professor in the College of Pharmacy at Rutgers University.
Ashley Thomas Martino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, earned his B.A. in Biology from California State University, Northridge, completed his Ph.D. in Genetics and postdoctoral training in immunology at the University of Florida. His research focuses on the improvement of viral gene therapy for the correction of genetic abnormalities using recombinant Adeno-Associated viruses (rAAV). These efforts include bypassing host immune responses, modification of the rAAV viral vector, increasing the permissibility of the host cells to rAAV infection and altering the fate of intracellular trafficking of AAV to shuttle more rAAV genome encoding corrective transgene products to the nucleus of the host cell.

Heather Mavronicolas, Ph.D., MPH, Assistant Professor/Industry Professor, Department of Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences, earned a Ph.D. from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, a Master of International Public Health degree from the University of Sydney (Australia) School of Public Health and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Before joining the faculty at St. John’s, she worked as a Radiologic Technologist for 11 years and specializes in orthopedics. She has worked in hospitals such as Lenox Hill Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering Center, Mount Sinai Hospital and Bronx Lebanon Hospital. In addition, she was an adjunct clinical instructor for Hostos Community College and New York City College of Technology, helping students to apply their didactic coursework in a clinical setting. Her goal is to continue to aid students in learning and applying the knowledge necessary to become successful Radiologic Technologists.

Zaidalynet Morales, RT (R), Instructor/Industry Professional in the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences, has a B.S. in Health Service Administration from Lehman College. She has been a Radiologic Technologist for 11 years and specializes in orthopedics. She has worked in hospitals such as Lenox Hill Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering Center, Mount Sinai Hospital and Bronx Lebanon Hospital. In addition, she was an adjunct clinical instructor for Hostos Community College and New York City College of Technology, helping students to apply their didactic coursework in a clinical setting. Her goal is to continue to aid students in learning and applying the knowledge necessary to become successful Radiologic Technologists.

Khusbu Patel, Pharm.D., BCACP, Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice, received her Pharm.D. from St. John’s University. She has completed a PGY-1 residency at New York Harbor Healthcare System and a PGY-2 geriatrics specialty residency at James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx, NY. Her primary areas of interest include ambulatory care and geriatrics.

Michele Pisano, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional, Clinical Pharmacy Practice, received her Pharm.D. from St. John’s University in 2004. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in marketing research at Johnson & Johnson, with a focus on anemia related to chronic kidney disease. She has practiced in both community and outpatient settings. In 2008, she was an adjunct at St. John’s University and served as a preceptor for pharmacy students while working at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Vladimir Poltoratsky, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, received an M.S. from St. Petersburg University, Russia, and a Ph.D. from St. Petersburg Institute of Cytology, Russia. He conducts research in the following areas: cross-board of immunopharmacology and immunotoxicology; antibody maturation; impact of pathological environment mutagens on the immune system and origins of autoimmune diseases.
Faculty Highlights

Lin L. Mantell, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor and a full-time faculty member since 2005, was the subject of a profile in Focus—A Series of Discussions on Research at St John’s, an online series produced by the University Office of Marketing and Communications.

The Chinese-born scientist, whose family includes many healthcare professionals, received her medical training in China and completed her Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology at Stony Brook University under a grant from the World Health Organization. Her postdoctoral work was completed at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY, with Dr. Carol Greider, a 2009 Nobel Prize winner in “physiology or medicine.”

Her research focuses on oxidative stress as a side effect of mechanical ventilation.

MaryAnn Howland, Pharm.D,
DABAT, FAACT,

Clinical Professor and one of the nation’s leading clinical toxicologists, was honored by the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, Inc. (AACT) with a Distinguished Service Award. “The award recognizes Dr. Howland’s great contributions to our profession of clinical toxicology,” said Alan Woolf, M.D., Immediate Past President of AACT.

Since joining the St. John’s faculty in 1979, her expertise in clinical toxicology—and her work at a local teaching hospital and a regional poison control center—has benefited scores of pharmacy students. Howland is affiliated with the New York City Poison Control Center and the Bellevue Hospital Emergency Department in Manhattan. She mentors St. John’s pharmacy students who attend their clinical rotations at both institutions.

Abu Serajuddin, Ph.D.

Serajuddin enjoyed a long and illustrious career in the pharmaceutical industry, rising to the position of executive director of R&D at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., and was recognized as a Leading Scientist by Novartis, a top research and development honor. He also received the AAPS Research Achievement Award for his contribution to drug product development. Yet the dream of working in academia never left him, and when the opportunity to teach arose at St. John’s in 2008, he seized it.

Here at the College, Professor Serajuddin oversees the work of 12 graduate students researching drug delivery and pharmaceutical processing technologies in a state-of-the-art industrial pharmacy laboratory that he helped establish.

John Conry, B.S. Phm., Pharm.D.,
BCPS, AAHIVP

The work of John Conry, Clinical Professor and Assistant Dean for Service Programs, and his students in caring for New York City’s homeless population was featured in the medication therapy management (MTM) section of Pharmacy Today, the official publication of the American Pharmacists Association. Working with the nonprofit organization Project Renewal and a team of healthcare professionals, Conry and his students travel around the city in the CareVan, a specially-equipped, RV-sized vehicle, providing MTM, adherence assessment, adherence interventions and education to homeless individuals.

The article included Conry’s advice to pharmacists interested in playing a greater role in improving healthcare delivery for those in need in their communities.
“...great contributions to our profession of clinical toxicology.”
Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., R.Ph., Professor and University Provost, served as Co-Primary Investigator of the first major research study on gluten in medications—work supported by a highly competitive $50,000 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Acting Dean William Zito, Ph.D., and Somnath Pal, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacy and Administrative Sciences, were collaborators.

An estimated three million people nationwide have celiac disease, underscoring the need for this research, which was undertaken as a collaboration between the College and the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness.

With the help of one of his students, Priyanka Gaitonde ’11GP, Mangione, a celiac patient himself, also participated in a recent study evaluating the quality of care pharmacists provide to people who have celiac disease or other forms of gluten sensitivity. The study was conducted in partnership with Peter H.R. Green, Ph.D., Director of the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University.

Maha Saad, CGP, BCPS, Assistant Clinical Professor of the Clinical Pharmacy Department was honored as the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Professor of the Year for 2013. Each year, Student Government, Inc. (SGI), extends the honor of the Dr. John W. Dobbins Professor of the Year to one professor from each of the University’s five undergraduate colleges and schools. The SGI Academic Affairs Committee selected the honorees from among 112 professors nominated. In proposing Professor Saad, her students cited her promotion of high professional standards and willingness to mentor students.
Student Initiatives

Student Harnesses Social Media to Highlight Community Pharmacy

If there’s increased public awareness of the benefits of allowing pharmacists to be considered health care providers under Medicare, Steve Soman ’13Pharm.D., is owed a share of the credit.

Pharmacy organizations around the country have turned out in support of the petition effort, and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) recognized Soman’s efforts by naming him the 2013 winner of the NACDS RxImpact “U” Award.

APhA-ASP Members Raise Heart Health Awareness

Runners and walkers, many dressed in red, participated in St. John’s Second Annual Run for the Health of It! on a Saturday in April. The event was sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists as an Operation Heart patient care project. Walkers completed a 2.13-mile course and runners ran for 4.3 miles.

The event raised funds for the American Heart Association and offered the community information about heart health. APhA-ASP provided consumer-oriented materials on heart health, a healthy lifestyle, smoking cessation and other important issues. Runners and walkers enjoyed music, raffles, fresh air, exercise and a competition for “best dressed,” defined as the participant wearing the most red. The event was underwritten by a grant from Target.

St. John’s Students Advocate for Greater Patient Access to Healthcare

Some 45 St. John’s pharmacy students and four faculty members traveled to Albany to join students and colleagues from pharmacy colleges statewide to meet with state legislators on April 16. During the event, students and faculty met with members of the Assembly and Senate who serve on the Committee on Higher Education. The primary concerns raised at the meeting were expansion of the Pharmacist as Immunizer legislation and the Collaborative Drug Therapy Management bill, which allows pharmacists in certain healthcare settings to collaborate with physicians in managing patients’ drug therapies.
Student Organizations

AAPS Chapter Initiates Student–Industry Collaboration
The St. John’s student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) continues to provide innovative programs to connect students with pharmaceutical industry experts and trends. The chapter hosted presentations by Fernando Alvarez-Nuñez, Ph.D., Scientific Director at Amgen, who traveled from Los Angeles to address the group, and Changquan Calvin Sun, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, University of Minnesota, whose research focuses on manufacturing science of solid dosage forms, such as tablets and capsules. In addition, the chapter initiated a hot melt extruder equipment demonstration.

In 2014, the AAPS student chapter will organize and host the Graduate Research Association of Students in Pharmacy (GRASP) meeting, an event that attracts scientists from across the country. The chapter boasts more than 100 members and is one of the largest in the world.

APhA–ASP Career Day Draws Crowds
Over 150 students attended the 2013 Pharmacy Career Day hosted in March by the St. John’s chapter of the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists. More than 15 community and institutional pharmacies gathered in Taffner Field House to discuss job opportunities and offer career advice to student pharmacists. Clinical faculty members Carmela Avena-Woods, ’99P, ’07Pharm.D. and Danielle Ezzo, ’01P, ’02Pharm.D. helped the group’s executive board organize the event.

Drug Information Association Debuts on Campus
During the past academic year, a group of motivated students established a St. John’s student chapter of the Drug Information Association (DIA), a
neutral, global association focused on providing information to advance careers, skills and innovation in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and related fields.

The chapter met many of its foundational goals, including recognition by Student Government, Inc.; attendance at the DIA 2012 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia; the democratic appointment of the 2013 Executive Board; and completion of community service requirements by chapter members through participation in the Drug Enforcement Administration Drug Take-Back Day.

DIA’s event calendar was highlighted by a Pharm.D. fellowship showcase, as well as a session directed by St. John’s alumnus Jason Lee illustrating different pathways to cultivating an industry pharmacist career. Twenty-one chapter members will attend the 2013 DIA Annual Meeting in Boston.

ISPOR Members Present at International Meeting

The Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 18th Annual International Meeting, held in New Orleans, LA, provided a showcase for St. John’s student chapter members. At the conference, six ISPOR members presented posters while a seventh, Tarun Bhagnani, was selected to make a podium presentation at the Student Research Showcase. In addition, Ankit Shah, 2012–13 chapter president, received an ISPOR Distinguished Student Award for service to the chapter.

Now in its sixth year, the chapter promotes professional development among Pharmacy Administration graduate students.

Lambda Kappa Sigma Members Set Cancer Fundraising Record

Members of the Alpha Pi chapter of Lambda Kappa Sigma, the professional pharmacy fraternity for women, raised a record $16,000 for the American Cancer Society through their participation in Relay for Life in April. Alpha Pi, which celebrates its centennial in 2013, has been a top fundraising team for the past eight years.

Phi Delta Chi Raises Consumer Awareness of Proper Drug Disposal

Members of the Phi Delta Chi pharmacy fraternity believe that the duties and responsibilities of a pharmacist do not rest solely behind the counter. Working with Assistant Clinical Professor Sheila Brocavich, Pharm.D., the fraternity initiated a campus advertising campaign to raise awareness of the importance of proper drug disposal, which resulted in one of the most successful National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events on campus. Their efforts were covered by Fox News, further spreading awareness of this issue.

Rho Chi Members Shine

The Beta Delta chapter of the Rho Chi honor society welcomed 44 new members at the annual induction ceremony held at Verdi’s of Whitestone in January. The inductees included fourth- and fifth-year Pharm.D. students and candidates for master’s and Ph.D. degrees. The keynote speaker at the event was Mansoor Khan ’92Ph.D., Director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Division of Product Quality Research.

In addition, the chapter was well-represented among the student presenters at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) midyear conference held in Las Vegas. The College’s contingent included Rho Chi members Mohamed Jameel Dungerisi, Shannon Telier and Adolorata Ciccone.

Tau Omega Chi Promotes Toxicology Careers

Ten members of the Tau Omega Chi toxicology club attended the Society of Toxicology 52nd Annual Meeting and ToxExpo in San Antonio, TX. In addition to attending lectures and participating in career development activities, several St. John’s students were invited to participate in a meeting of the Society’s Subcommittee on Undergraduate Education. The subcommittee is exploring ways to further engage undergraduates in the Society’s events and offer advice and information about graduate programs.
“...nice chance to mingle with everyone after the stress and pressure of getting grades together.

“I enjoyed this event because by bringing all the people from the Pharmacy program together, it allowed me to meet new people from my major.

“...great way for the college community to gather and have some fun together. Memories for a lifetime!”
Degrees conferred in Academic Year 2012–2013

**Graduate degrees**

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**Undergraduate and entry-level degrees**

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<tr>
<td>B.S., Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.S., Physician Assistant</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.S., Radiologic Sciences</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.S., Toxicology</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total undergraduate degrees</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total of degrees</td>
<td>389</td>
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Colonel John Spain ’88P Keynotes Hooding Ceremony

This year’s Hooding Ceremony for our newest Pharm.D. graduates featured a speech by Colonel John Spain ’88P (right), a native of Floral Park, NY.

Spain has served as an Army pharmacy officer for the past 24 years within the United States, Korea, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. His most recent positions include Pharmacy Director, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Deputy Commander for Clinical Support, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He currently serves as the Army Pharmacy Consultant and Program Manager for the Army Surgeon General. Spain is a credentialed provider with a clinical practice at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C.

Louis Spinelli ’81P is honored by The Valley Hospital

Louis Spinelli ’81P Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, The Valley Hospital, received an award in appreciation of the exemplary cognitive clinical talent he shows in the care he provides to surgical patients.

Alumni Offer Advice on Nontraditional Careers

The Lunch with a Leader series aims to acquaint students with the wide range of career options available to pharmacists. This year’s theme was “Nontraditional Career Paths in Pharmacy Practice,” and, once again, our alumni generously shared their time and expertise.

Laura Cranston ’84P, R.Ph., Executive Director, Pharmacy Quality Alliance, moderated a panel comprising Steve Cosentino ’78P, CRA, CEO of Rockwell Compounding; John M. Coster ’84P, Ph.D., R.Ph., Senior Vice President, Government and Policy, National Community Pharmacists Association; Daniel Nam ’04P, ’13L, Congressional Fellow, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Joseph P. Navarra ’92P, owner and managing member, Town Total Compounding Center.