Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

During the fall semester our student organizations flourished, students and faculty received recognition for academic and professional achievements, faculty research collaborations broadened, and professional practice partnerships expanded.

I want to acknowledge the many generous ways our alumni and friends have worked this year through their contributions to the alumni mentoring programs, white coat ceremonies/sponsorship, and guest speaking opportunities. Strong relationships among alumni, administration, faculty, staff, students, and friends are crucial to our success. In keeping with this vision, on April 23 the college will recognize the dedication and commitment of Professor Michael S. Torre ’72P, ’77GP; Carl Martorana ’57P, ’62GP; and Brian Malone ’80P at the 2016 CPHS Gala. For more information on the gala, please visit stjohns.edu/pharmacygala.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter, which highlights the many student activities, college ceremonies, and volunteer activities reflecting the University’s Vincentian mission.

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.
Dean

In Memoriam

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences regrets to inform you of the passing of distinguished educator Parshotam Madan, Ph.D. A memorial service will be held on March 31 at 12:15 p.m. in St. Thomas More Church.
Events

First Annual Basketball Fundraiser
March 29 and 30
6 p.m.
Taffner Field House/
Carnesecca Arena

CPHS 2016 Gala
April 23
7 p.m.
Leonard’s Palazzo
Great Neck, NY
stjohns.edu/about/events/2016-
college-pharmacy-and-health-
sciences-gala

Graduate Commencement
May 16
6 p.m.
Carnesecca Arena

University Commencement
May 22

Physician Assistant CE Seminar
June 2016
Dr. Andrew J. Bartilucci Center

CPHS Alumni Reception
June 3
6–8 p.m.
D’Angelo Center, Ballroom 416A

Health Science Award Ceremony
June 14
5:30 p.m.
Faculty Club, Sun Yat Sen

Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Reception
June 16
6 p.m.
KPacho
New Hyde Park, NY

Industrial Pharmacy Ninth Annual Dr. Charles I. Jarowski Symposium
Developments in Drug Delivery
June 23–24
D’Angelo Center Ballroom
stjohns.edu/academics/schools-and-
colleges/college-pharmacy-and-
health-sciences/upcoming-events/
dr-charles-i-jarowski-industrial-
pharmacy-symposium

Clinical Laboratory Science White Coat Ceremony
July 12, 2016
Dr. Andrew J. Bartilucci Center

Physician Assistant White Coat Ceremony
October 3
7 p.m.
Marillac Hall, Auditorium

Undergraduate Pharmacy Awards Night
October 17, 2016
6:30 p.m.
D’Angelo Center, Ballroom 416AB

Radiological Sciences White Coat Ceremony
November 8
6:30 p.m.
D’Angelo Center, Ballroom 416AB

For further information and to RSVP, please contact Diana Patino-Castro at patinocd@stjohns.edu or 718-990-1415.
physician assistants, and public health professionals.

interaction between substance use and its connection (SBIRT), motivational interviewing concepts, and the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for individuals who are at risk for substance abuse disorders.

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The three-year grant in the amount of $944,138 by the US President for Student Affairs; and Luis Manzo, Executive Director of Student Wellness, have been awarded a grant will go toward Reznik’s new project, “Investigations of the Anti-Inflammatory and Potential Tocolytic Activities of N,N-Dimethylacetamide-Related Compounds Using In Vivo and Ex-Vivo Models.”

Christine Chim ’11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was selected as one of two winners of this year’s Tufts Health Care Institute’s Information Mastery Change Agent Award. It is awarded to individuals who attend the conference and implement initiatives at their institutions or training programs based on what they have learned. Chim made changes to the Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) curriculum for the Harlem Residency in Family Medicine at her clinical practice site by integrating active-learning activities into EBM lectures. These changes enable medical residents to enhance their EBM skills so they can make better informed decisions in patient care.

Christine Chim and two family medicine residents were recognized for their poster, “Hypertension Control and Management at a Federally Qualified Health Center: Strategies and Challenges.” It ranked in the top 10 percent of 82 posters presented at the Family Medicine Education Consortium Annual Meeting on October 31 in Danvers, MA.

Sandra Reznik, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the 2015 Lumara Health Research Grant, which supports research focused on reducing the rate of premature birth and/or improving neonatal health in the United States. The funding will go toward Reznik’s new project, “Investigations of the Anti-Inflammatory and Potential Tocolytic Activities of N,N-Dimethylacetamide-Related Compounds Using In Vivo and Ex-Vivo Models.”

Gregory Hughes ’08Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, served on the 2015 American College of Clinical Pharmacy Challenge Item-Author Panel. Hughes’ contribution of writing items in the area of geriatrics was highly valued, helping to create rigorous exams for each round at the 2015 competition.

Olga Hilas ’03Pharm.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Health Professions; Kathryn T. Hutchinson, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs; and Luis Manzo, Executive Director of Student Wellness, have been awarded a three-year grant in the amount of $944,138 by the US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant will go toward an initiative aimed to strengthen future health professionals’ identification of and intervention with individuals who are at risk for substance abuse disorders. This program will integrate a working knowledge of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), motivational interviewing concepts, and the interaction between substance use and its connection to healthcare systems into the curricula for pharmacists, physician assistants, and public health professionals.

Frank Barile, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was a coauthor of a review article titled Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology Also Govern Effects of Chemicals on the Endocrine System. The manuscript compiles the toxicological expertise from 15 different research facilities across the globe. The goal of this collaborative project was to address the need to update worldwide standards of risk assessment related to how environmental chemicals alter the endocrine system and impact hormone activity.

Abu Serajuddin ’82Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was selected by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) for the Outstanding Research Achievement Award in Lipid-based Drug Delivery. The award was given on October 25 during the Opening General Session of the AAPS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Louise Lee, Director of the Physician Assistant program, journal “Pelvic Inflammatory Disease,” which was accepted for publication by the Journal of American Academy of Physician Assistants (JAAPA).

Lisa Hochstein ’92P, Associate Professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, received the 2015 ASCLS Region I “One in I” Award at the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science annual meeting in July. This award is given to a member of Region I to acknowledge unique or ground-breaking actions of the person. Hochstein has been a moving force in cochairing the Annual Region 1 Seminar that was reinstituted four years ago, and serving as secretary/treasurer of Region 1 for the last 11 years.

John Conry, ’96P, ’98Pharm.D., Assistant Dean and Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was named “Queens Person of the Week” by Time Warner Cable News NY1 on November 27, 2015. Conry was selected for this award due to his innovative and sustained work with Project Renewal, a nonprofit organization dedicated to renewing the lives of the homeless and indigent in New York City. He has served on the interprofessional Project Renewal medical team for 14 years, utilizing his pharmacy knowledge and skills to optimize the delivery of patient care to the homeless/indigent aboard Project Renewal’s mobile medical vans. He routinely incorporates St. John’s student pharmacists onto the medical team for their ambulatory care advanced pharmacy practice experiential course. Conry’s help extends beyond patient care: in 2015 he completed the TCS New York City Marathon, raising $2,625 for Project Renewal.
William Maidhof ’03Pharm.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Health Professions, presented the College poster, “Interprofessional Education (IPE) Initiatives Incorporated into Doctor of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Programs.” A team effort by collaborating faculty members, the poster highlighted the many exciting activities that have student pharmacists and physician assistants (PA) working together to improve their communication skills and clinical knowledge, as well as better understand the roles of each others’ professions. Activities such as a prescription writing and evaluation exercise, IPE in an introductory pharmacy and PA course, and a cocurricular activity utilizing human patient simulation.

Ebtesam Ahmed ’07Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, presented her research on “Demystifying Pharmacists, Perceptions of Palliative Care: An Innovative Tool for Educational Development.” This important research took her to Egypt to improve the understanding of palliative care among pharmacists there and to remove the stigmas associated with palliative care services so patients can benefit.

Blase Billack, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was honored at the Teacher of the Year Awards Luncheon at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual (AACP) meeting on June 12–15 in National Harbor, MD.

Martha Mackey ’68C, ’71G, ’80MBA, ’77L, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, served as the College’s faculty delegate when she represented the College in advocating important resolutions of the organization that will affect the future of pharmacy education.

Vibhuti Arya ’06Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was inducted as Chair of the Public Health Special Interest Group (SIG) and served as moderator for a special collaborative session between the Public Health and Global Health SIGs. The session, “Expanding Global Pharmacy Practice, Getting Started,” offered valuable tips for faculty on how to implement pharmacy experiences for students in other parts of the world. St. John’s is the nation’s only university with two faculty leaders for this impressive group of scholars.

John Conry ’96P, ’98Pharm.D., Assistant Dean and Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, previously served as Chair of the SIG in 2010.

Arya also serves as a clinical advisor to the New York City Health Department to help increase access to naloxone through community pharmacies. This project came to fruition on December 7, 2015, when Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner, issued a standing order allowing pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription to anyone who requests it, or to recommend naloxone to patients who may be at high-risk of opioid overdose themselves. She is making use of an opportunity for pharmacists to be part of public health efforts to help save the lives of New Yorkers. The opioid overdose epidemic has affected many communities across the United States, including NYC, with Staten Island and the South Bronx experiencing high rates of deaths due to opioid overdoses. Naloxone is a safe, life-saving medication that can prevent death from opioid overdose. The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Control, and Treatment at the New York City Health Department is developing ways to help reduce deaths due to opioid overdose through various mechanisms.
Preceptors

Richard M. Williams, Pharm.D., preceptor at the Hamilton Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, was recently recognized by American College of Clinical Pharmacy for his work in the Series Editors of the 2013–2015 Pharmacotherapy Self-Assessment Program (PSAP). This is an important home-study series for clinical pharmacists.

David Davis, M.D., has served as a family practice and primary care preceptor for our physician assistant program for the past two years. He assists our students as the medical director, educator, and mentor at Covenant House in New York City.

Todd Freedman, PA-C, has been an emergency medicine preceptor for our physician assistant program for the past eight years. He serves our students as an educator and mentor at Flushing Hospital Medical Center in Flushing, Queens.

Wyannie Cruz, R.T.(R), is a Technical Director at Doshi Diagnostic Imaging Center in Washington Heights and is one of our most valued preceptors. She has been a clinical preceptor for the Radiologic Sciences program since 2009. Every student that has a rotation at her site commends her dedication and is thankful for the great learning experience under her preceptorship. Students consistently make comments such as: “She gave me confidence! I felt comfortable working with her and felt she genuinely appreciated us and had a great interest in our learning. She was a large part of molding me into the technologist I am today.”

“Working with the students is exciting and challenging,” Cruz said. “It is very rewarding to watch them grow and develop confidence as they progress through their rotations. Their enthusiasm is contagious and their questions keep me on my toes.”

At this year’s American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, students and faculty from industrial pharmacy and pharmacy programs represented the college by presenting posters.

Nayan Solanki ’20Ph.D. received a travel award from the AAPS Manufacturing Science and Engineering section, for the poster entitled, “Effect of added polymers on viscoelastic properties of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate (HPMC-AS) relevant to melt extrusion.”

Nayan Solanki presented a poster on “Investigation of thermal and viscoelastic properties of polymers relevant to hot melt extrusion, IV: affinsisol HME polymers.”

Pulkit Khatri ’16Ph.D. presented “Effect of surfactant molecular structure on the formation of nanoemulsion of medium chain triglycerides.”

Ankita Shah ’16Ph.D. presented “A novel approach to develop solid dispersions by using acid-base supersolubilization technique.”

Anuja Paprika ’20Ph.D. presented “Development, Characterization, and Evaluation of Colon Targeted Tablet for Poorly Water Soluble Indomethacin by Complexation with Cyclodextrin.”

Ravikumar Sitapara received a travel award to attend the AAPS conference in Orlando, FL, to present his research.

Saurabh Vispute ’15Ph.D. presented “Fibroblast Growth Factor (Fgf) 21 is a Novel Target Gene of Glucocorticoid Receptor.”
Leigh Briscoe-Dwyer ’92Pharm.D. was recently appointed Chair of the New York State Board of Pharmacy and will serve a one-year term.

Mansoor Khan ’92Ph.D., was named Vice Dean and Director of the Formulations Design and Development Core Laboratory at the College Station campus of Texas A&M University’s Health Science Center, Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy.

Sean Carrig ’15P delivered an oral presentation at the annual conference for the American Society of Gene and Cellular Therapy held in New Orleans, LA. The research showed that insulin signaling improves gene delivery using a viral vector system—a novel finding. In addition, Carrig received a travel award.

Neil Huber ’08B.S., R.T. (R), has made strides in radiology by specializing in Musculoskeletal Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. Recently, he has launched Pulse Radiology Education, a start-up company that focuses on providing web-based secondary education for radiology technologists. The program aims to provide the knowledge and confidence to sit for the MRI certification exam administered by the American Registry of Radiological Technologists.

Ashwini Gore ’11Ph.D., received a travel award from the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine. Gore and Lin Mantell, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented four papers.

On September 10, pharmacy alumni, faculty, and administrators gathered for their first reunion.
The transition from being a student to a working professional is rough, unpredictable, and virtually impossible with didactic preparation alone. As we all know, real-life work experience, networking, and mentoring are essential to leading a successful career.

However, students frequently struggle to “access” these resources. For 20 St. John’s University students in the Pharmacy, Pharmacology, and Toxicology programs, the 35th Annual Alumni Insider’s View Event–Pharmacy Track served as a venue to network and explore career pathways. This event helped students connect with alumni working in nontraditional sectors of pharmacy practice. During the event, from October 14 through 16, students visited the National Institute of Health, American Pharmacist Association, and the US Food and Drug Administration headquarters and met with practicing pharmacists, pharmacy residents, and pharmacy fellows working in diverse areas including clinical trial investigation and policy management.

Personal experience with the event has shown its value. Regardless of where you stand in career planning and preparedness, information is gold. Just the mere knowledge of the vast variety of career opportunities available for pharmacists is empowering. Unfortunately, students often have a very limited understanding of their post-graduation options which the Alumni Insider’s View event opened our eyes to. I walked away from the trip understanding that perseverance pays off, no job is impossible, networking is a powerful tool, and that it’s important to keep an open mind about all opportunities.

I strongly encourage all interested students to inquire about applying. If you have any vested interest in leading a successful career related to pharmacy, you should attend.
Zankhana Desai ‘16Pharm.D., presented on “Standard 14 day triple therapy vs. 10 day sequential therapy in H.pylori eradication: a systematic review and meta analysis.”

Irene Li ‘16Pharm.D. and Soobin Lee ‘16Pharm.D. presented on “Evaluation of the vancomycin pharmacokinetic calculator for empiric dosing and attainment of goal trough levels at a community hospital.”

Karissa Johnson ‘16Pharm.D., with co-investigators Sara Hammad, Pharm.D. and Demetra Tsapepas, Pharm.D., presented on “Immunoglobulin G levels: common renal transplant infectious complications.”

Jaclyn Tripptree ‘16Pharm.D., with co-investigators Sahar Rabbat ‘16Pharm.D. and Erika Culotta ‘16Pharm.D., presented on “Pharmacy student use of smartphone applications for drug information.”

Paula Baichoo ‘16Pharm.D., with co-investigators Gladys El-Chaar, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, and Arsenia Asuncion, M.D., presented on the “Effectiveness of intravenous acetaminophen in the management of pain and in reducing opioid requirements in children presenting with a sickle cell pain crisis.”

Sveltana Akbasheva ‘16Pharm.D., presented on “Retrospective analysis of the use and clinical applications of the VerifyNow P2Y12 platelet reactivity test in patients on P2Y12 inhibitors.”

Shivani Kapadia ‘16Pharm.D., with co-investigator Jaclyn Tripptree ‘16Pharm.D., presented on “A case of near miss medication error due to deviation from protocol-driven insulin infusion treatment of hyperosmolar hyperglycemia.”

Daniel Mathan ‘16Pharm.D., with co-investigator Daniel Bernstein, presented on “Trends in polymyxin B use and resistance at an academic medical center resistance.”

Megan Lee ‘16Pharm.D. presented on “Evaluation of warfarin interactions and frequency of international normalized ratio (INR) monitoring with chemotherapy at Queens Cancer Center.”

Kiet Dang Mai ‘16Pharm.D., with coinvestigators Shereen Said; Candace Smith, Chair and Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; Wenchun Wu, Chair and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health; and Rafael Barrera, M.D., presented on “Evaluation of unfractionated heparin in surgical intensive care unit patients with low body mass index.”

Kristina Bryce ‘16Pharm.D. presented on “Evaluation of community pharmacists recommendations regarding the use of probiotics.”

Gabrielle Plaia ‘16Pharm.D., along with coinvestigators Donna Sym, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions and James McGowan, M.D., Loyce Mol, Pharm.D., presented on “Comparative assessment of two primary treatment options for hepatitis C virus (HCV) in patients co-infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus): a retrospective chart review.”

Lewey Chan ‘16Pharm.D. delivered a paper on “Evaluation of antimicrobial order stacking after the implementation of computerized physician order entry (CPOE) in a health system.”

Sherin Pathickal ‘16Pharm.D. presented on “Role of community pharmacists in the propriateness of zolpidem prescribing and counseling.”

Rachna Burman ‘16Pharm.D. presented on “Role of community pharmacists in the propriateness of zolpidem prescribing and counseling.”

Irene Li ‘16Pharm.D. and coinvestigator Soobin Lee ‘16Pharm.D. presented on the “Evaluation of the vancomycin pharmacokinetic calculator for empiric dosing and attainment of goal trough levels at a community hospital.”

Dimitrios Savva ‘16Pharm.D., with coinvestigator Tina Kanmaz, Pharm.D., Assistant Dean and Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, presented on “Pharmacy students’ performance and perceptions in an active learning drug literature evaluation course.”
Grace Yoon ’16 Pharm.D. and coinvestigator

Maximilian Magun, 16 Pharm.D., working with co-investigators Ebstesam Ahmed, ’07 Pharm.D. Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; Laura Antonia de Jess Ajcet Reye; and Nancy Judith Vielman Cuyn, presented a poster at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear conference on “Providing pharmacy services to help improve pharmaceutical care in an underserved community in Antigua, Guatemala.”

Bejoy Maniara ’16 Pharm.D. with coinvestigators Christine Kubin, Susan Kokura, and Cheng Hsiao Tai, presented on “Using pharmacy informatics in the acute care setting to optimize antimicrobial prescribing and stewardship program process measures.”

Hye Jin Lee ’16 Pharm.D. presented on “Calciphylaxis, an unusual adverse drug reaction to warfarin therapy.”

Maryam Ahmed ’16 Pharm.D., with coinvestigators Farah Khorassani, Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, and Michelle Su, presented on “Comparison of rehospitalization rates of schizophrenic patients discharged after receiving paliperidon palmitate versus risperidone long-acting injection.”

Nancy Simon ’16 Pharm.D., with coinvestigator Svetlana Akbasheva ’16 Pharm.D., presented on “Pharmacy student involvement in the pre-screening of patients for a clinical trial as part of an advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE).”

Jacqueline Chirico ’16 Pharm.D. presented on “Evaluating the incidence of hypoglycemia after the removal of sulfonylureas from a hospital formulary.”

Oishi Rahma ’16 Pharm.D., with coinvestigators Chung-Shien-Lee, ’11 Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions and Margaret Kemeny, M.D., presented on “Complementary and alternative medicine use in an oncology clinic.”

Anthony Vecchione ’16 Pharm.D. presented on “Prescribing patterns of prophylactic anti-epileptic drugs in the neurosurgical intensive care unit.”

Tasnima Nabi ’16 Pharm.D. presented on “Midodrine as adjuvant therapy for weaning intravenous vasopressors in septic shock.”

Nehali Parikh ’16 Pharm.D. and Ruby Lee ’17 Pharm.D. presented on “Medication use evaluation of the novel oral anticoagulants in Long Island Jewish Hospital.”

Lovdeep Kaur ’16 Pharm.D. and Rahul Patel ’17 Pharm.D. presented on “Drug use evaluation of oral vancomycin in the treatment of recurrent Clostridium difficile associated diarrhea (CDAD) at Long Island Jewish (LIJ) Hospital.”

Alesia Khafizova ’16 Pharm.D. presented on “Preserving culture in dietary choices while implementing lifestyle modifications in South Asian patients with type 2 diabetes: a recipe exchange plan.”

Neha Kuma ’16 Pharm.D. presented on “Electronic cigarette use, awareness and knowledge in collegiate students.”

William Heuser ’16 Pharm.D. on “Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT): a retrospective analysis of the true incidence and evaluation of the appropriateness of sending heparin antibody immunoassays in patients over 2 years thrombocytopenia (HIT): a retrospective analysis of the true incidence and evaluation of the appropriateness of sending heparin antibody immunoassays in patients over.”

Highlights

Ravikumar Sitapara ’15 Ph.D. received the Best Poster and Abstract Award for “The α7nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonist GTS-21 attenuates hyperoxia-induced acute lung injury by decreasing hyperacetylation and the release of nuclear HMGB1” at the Seventh International DAMPS and HMGB1 Symposium in Bonn, Germany. The conference is very specialized on investigating the role of DAMPS and HMGB1 biological signaling molecules on tissue damage caused by serve immunological responses. His research focuses on how HMGB1 is involved with immunological complications and bacterial infections that occur in the lungs of hospitalized patients on oxygen ventilation.

Sitapara also received a travel award from the Society of Toxicology, where he presented five papers.

Jessica Langton ’17 Pharm.D. and Francis Sousnis ’16 Pharm.D. attended the 35th Annual Alumni Insider’s View–U.S. Capitol program. During the three-day trip, Laura Cranston ’84P, R.Ph., member of the Board of Governors, awarded each a scholarship for their outstanding essays.
Pharmacy Undergraduate Awards

At the College’s annual Pharmacy Awards Night on October 8, 2015, 38 students in the professional years of the Doctor of Pharmacy program were recognized with awards and scholarships provided through the generosity of alumni, benefactors, pharmacy corporations, and professional organizations. Award recipients were selected through a competitive application process that considered a variety of criteria including academic achievement, scholarly pursuits, extracurricular activities, and a commitment to the pharmacy profession.
Physician Assistant White Coat

October 6 was National Physician Assistant Day, an occasion to recognize all physician assistants from our College. There were online trivia contests and celebrations at the Dr. Andrew J. Bartilucci Center and the Physician Assistant White Coat ceremony was held. The keynote speaker was St. John’s alumna Maureen Regan, MBA, PA-C. Students were joined by many of their family and friends. For the first time, every PA student was sponsored by graduates from the PA and other programs. Alumni who attended the ceremony participated in a special lapel-pinning ceremony as the students received their white coat.
Pharmacy White Coat

On October 10, the College celebrated the Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. This year’s keynote speaker was Evan T. Robinson, Ph.D., Dean of Western New England College School of Pharmacy.
Activities

Dean’s Hour

On November 9, 2015, the first “Dean’s Hour: Careers in Toxicology and Pharmacology” event, was hosted by St. John’s University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Tau Omega Chi, and University Career Services. This event was an invaluable experience for both undergraduate and graduate students. Hearing and networking with a panel of experts and professionals offered a candid insight on how a degree in toxicology and pharmacology plays a role in the real world.

Alumni panelists included Alando Hall, Environmental Analyst at Schiavonne Construction; Shu-Yuan Cheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Researcher at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Judith Audrain, Senior Manager at Pfizer Inc.; and Mark Maddaloni, Ph.D., Regional Risk Coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Each panelist was given 15 minutes to present on their current positions and why they decided to pursue a degree in toxicology. Following these presentations, panelists were then able to visit each table of students for 12-minute intervals. Students spent time individually with each panelist, asking specific questions about their experience as previous students of the toxicology program and for any advice they could provide to current students interested in the field.

This event enabled students to gain a better understanding of career options within the field of toxicology, while also becoming more comfortable networking with professionals. Naila Habeeb ’16P, Vice President of Tau Omega Chi, said, “This event opened my eyes to what I can do with my degree. I truly felt like the speakers cared about coming back to speak to current students, and I look forward to following up with each speaker after the event!” We would like to thank Diane Hardej ‘03 Ph.D., ’95GP for all her support in making this Dean’s Hour Series a success.

The Hearty Games

by Cyril Collantes, ’16 Pharm.D.

It is not as easy as some would think to educate the public on general health. As a Patient Care Project Chair in the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), I find it highly rewarding and exciting to give back to the community. At this year’s Hearty Games, APhA focused on educating students, faculty, and members of the University on numerous heart related problems.

The Hearty Games is an event focusing on getting the students of St. John’s to be more active and participate in physical activity. The event consisted of several aerobic games and obstacles for students. Completing a certain objective at each booth would earn them a sticker and collecting a certain amount of stickers would earn them various prizes, from themed pens to stress balls and even a custom-made APhA Hearty Games shirt. The games varied from simple backyard-style games such as football, soccer, and volleyball to tasks such as an obstacle course, sack racing, and a three-legged race. The University’s Department of Student Wellness promotes healthy eating and showcased healthier food choices available on campus.

The Office of Campus Recreation provided personal trainers to demonstrate a few yoga moves and pre- and post-workout stretches. In addition to games and workouts, some members made poster boards to educate participants on AHA guidelines for aerobic exercise needs and share healthy eating tips and diets, such as the Mediterranean diet. Such a significant event could only be possible with the combined efforts of other participating pharmacy organizations on campus, such as Phi Delta Chi, Lambda Kappa Sigma, and Phi Lambda Sigma.
The St. John’s University chapter of SSHP hosted the annual residency/fellowship showcase, where representatives from 30 local institutions participated and spoke with students about their respective programs. With support from the faculty advisor, Maha Saad, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, the residency/fellowship showcase yielded a great turnout of more than 150 students.

Even though applying for a residency or fellowship is often geared toward the later years of pharmacy school, we hosted “What is a Residency and How to Prepare for It” to provide information on different career options and what can be done to become a competitive applicant. Kimberly Ng, Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, discussed the general process of applying and matching, what to expect as a resident, and what options await residents after completing a PGY1 and/or a PGY2.

We hosted the local Clinical Skills Competition, which allowed students the opportunity to utilize the clinical knowledge they have acquired in their coursework and experiential rotations. First place team member Michele Lee and Grace Yoon attended the Midyear Clinical Meeting in December.

Finally, SSHP cohosted “Midyear for Pharmacy Students,” with American Pharmacist Association (APhA), The Rho Chi Society, and the Drug Information Association (DIA), to prepare students who are attending the Midyear Clinical Meeting. At this event, Ashley Richardson-Galla; Olga Hilas, Pharm.D.; Christine Chim, Pharm.D.; Celia Lu, Pharm.D.; Donna Sym, Pharm.D.; and Matthew Furnari served as panelists, answering questions and offering advice on how to make the most out of Midyear.
September 26: University Service Day

The 14th Annual University Service Day (USD) took place on Saturday, September 26. As a Vincentian University, St. John’s schedules University Service Day on or around the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, whose compassion and zeal for service continues to inspire so many to work toward social justice and the reduction of poverty. On this day, the St. John’s University family routinely joins together to serve our communities locally, nationally, and globally.

As is our tradition, the CPHS continued its participation. More than 160 students, faculty, administrators, and staff provided service at nine different service locations. The CPHS is one of the most active colleges/schools participating in USD at St. John’s. Participants provided music and recreational activities for children at St. Mary’s Hospital for Children; health-related educational outreach initiatives (“brown bag events”) at the Malverne Volunteer Ambulance Corps, New Life Community Health Center, Department of Aging, and Senior Centers; “Drug Take Back Day” services on the Queens campus of St. John’s; and fundraising walks/runs for the Alzheimer’s Association; and painting/clean-up services at churches. Many thanks to our volunteers. It was a great day for all!
Urban Institute’s Changing Faces of Pharmacy: A High School Student Enrichment Program

The College’s Urban Pharmaceutical Care, Research, and Education Institute offered its innovative, third annual “Changing Faces of Pharmacy: A Student Enrichment Program” in December. This popular, student enrichment program for current high school students interested in pharmacy provides programming on college preparation, pharmacy education/careers, simulated pharmacy experiences, and one-on-one mentoring by current pharmacy students. Since its inception, high school participants have consistently provided very positive feedback on the program and unanimously recommended the program to other interested students. The current cohort of students represented the largest applicant pool to date, with 45 applicants from public, Catholic, and private high schools from New York City and surrounding areas. The dedicated program faculty includes John Conry ’96P, ’98Pharm.D., Assistant Dean and Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; and Vibhuti Arya, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, along with the enthusiastic volunteer pharmacy student mentors. They all committed to provide high school students with a truly unique, informative, and productive experience.

Survey feedback from the current cohort of students revealed that high school students have improved their understanding of pharmacy education and career options, with many of the students identifying that they now intend to apply for admission to pharmacy schools. The program is financially supported by the Walgreens Diversity Fund.

Radiologic Sciences Students Service Day

Students Victoria Goulbourne ’16P, Amanda Ibanez-Arias ’16P, Rahul Kumar ’16P, Ruchita Patel ’16P, Tracey Ramcharan ’16P, and Keyona White ’16P, joined Angie Eaton, Assistant Professor of Radiologic Sciences, and Mary Jo Perry, Associate Professor of Radiologic Sciences, as “nature’s artists” at this year’s University Service Day on September 26.

The radiologic sciences students and faculty visited Community Board 5 (CBSQ) in Glendale, Queens, for their service project. The plan was to clean up some of the more prominent graffiti on local area fences. All St John’s participants were outfitted in their distinctive SJU service shirts, enthusiastic and eager to start the project.

After meeting with Gary Giordano, CBSQ District Manager, the group carpooled to a site several streets away to begin creating their blank canvases. Students were supplied with the essential tools to create tranquil landscapes out of the graffiti-covered fences and building facades. Students and faculty divided into teams to tackle the project.

In short order, fences and walls were completed and the group moved on to another project. With the completion of graffiti removal at multiples sites, the students performed a valuable service to the community. Local residents stopped and thanked the students for their time and effort and the valuable contribution they were making to the neighborhood. Participants expressed satisfaction at having a positive impact on the neighborhood. Radiologic science students and faculty will work on a new project in the spring semester focusing on the restoration of an American flag painting under a nearby railroad trestle.

To get involved or for more information on the Urban Institute, please visit stjohns.edu.
The eighth annual Dr. Charles I. Jarowski Industrial Pharmacy Symposium on the “Application of Hot-Melt Extrusion (HME) Technology in Drug Development” was held on June 17–18. The conference focused on an advanced pharmaceutical technique that improves the delivery medication to targeted areas within the body. More than 125 attendees from industry and academia gathered to learn and discuss the advantage of using HME technology, understand how to preformulate, and discuss future areas for HME expansion. Thank you to our sponsors and speakers, who included Navnit H. Shah ’81Ph.D., President and Chief Scientific Officer of Kashiv Pharma LLC; Larry Acquarulo, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, Foster Corporation; Michael Crowley, Ph.D., President, Theridian Technologies LLC; James DiNunzio, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Merck & Co.; and Jay Lakshman, Ph.D., Global Technical Project Leader, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation.
**Donors**

We would like to recognize the generosity of our Pharmacy and Physician Assistant white coat sponsors. Thank you for taking the time to attend the ceremony. We look forward to seeing more alumni.

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Chantal Keypour ’15
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