Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The University’s dedication to the Vincentian mission is what drew me to accept the position of Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and every year I grow more impressed with the selfless efforts of our students, alumni, faculty, administrators, and staff.

In this issue, you can read the personal reflections of two pharmacy students who traveled to Nueva Santa Rosa, Guatemala, on a nine-day medical mission sponsored by the Glens Falls Medical Mission Foundation. This international experience is incorporated into the elective rotation at Northwell Health’s Monter Cancer Center supervised by Chung-Shien Lee ’11, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Health Professions. Our students were able to learn in a unique way the valuable lesson that service to others improves their own lives, as well as those of the people they help.

Here at home, the College’s participation in University Service Day, held each year close to St. Vincent de Paul’s feast day in late September, was impressive. More than 150 members of our college family—including 18 sixth-year pharmacy students currently studying in Rome—participated in various service activities, many of which focused on children and the elderly.

Although far from campus these days, our alumni continue to live St. Vincent’s mission of service, particularly through our Alumni Mentoring Program, which offers students a real-life view of their chosen professions. Thanks to the generosity of alumni volunteer mentors, the program now includes students in the Radiologic Sciences and Clinical Laboratory Sciences. This newsletter contains a firsthand student account of the mentoring experience that is sure to inspire you.

I would be remiss if I did not point out the academic achievements of our faculty and students. We are blessed with a dedicated and talented faculty who strive every day to make a difference in the lives of others. I know you will enjoy reading about our faculty’s accomplishments and our students’ activities.

Lastly, I hope to greet many of you at the College’s second annual gala on April 1. Our hardworking committee has put together another outstanding event that will honor Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., Provost, ’77P, ’79GP, ’93PD, ’99Ed.D., with the Distinguished Alumni Award; Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., with the Distinguished Faculty Award; and Rocco Stella, R.Ph. ’57P, with the Distinguished Practitioner Award.

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.
Dean
Events

2nd Annual College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gala
April 1, 2017
Leonard’s Palazzo
Great Neck, NY
RSVP: stjohns.edu/pharmacygala
Honorees:
Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D.—Distinguished Alumnus
Rocco Stella, R.Ph.—Distinguished Practitioner
Louis Trombetta, Ph.D.—Distinguished Faculty

National Public Health Week
Empowering Healthy Communities
April 4, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus

Toxicology Expo
April 20, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus
Keynote speaker: Curt Klaassen, Ph.D., Affiliate Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington

Graduate Awards
April 24, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus

Graduate Commencement
May 15, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus

University Commencement
May 22, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus

Physician Assistant White Coat Ceremony
October 3, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens Campus

Alumni Insider’s View
October 11–13, 2017
Washington, DC
Pharmacy, toxicology, and graduate students can apply for one of 20 openings to visit the National Institute of Health, the headquarters of the American Pharmacists Association, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the US Food and Drug Administration, and the United States Pharmacopeia.

Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony
October 21, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Awards
October 30, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus

Pharmaceutical Industry Networking Day
November 1, 2017
St. John’s University, Queens campus
Open to all pharmacy students to network with current St. John’s fellows representing Allergan, Daiichi-Sankyo, and American Regent in various fields including Medical Affairs/Marketing, Clinical Research and Development, and Pharmacovigilance and Regulatory Affairs (including Global Regulatory Strategy, Advertising, and Promotion).

For further event information, contact Diana Patino at patinocd@stjohns.edu or 718-990-1415.
DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL HEALTH

Judith Beizer, Pharm.D., Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was selected for the American Society of Consultant Pharmacy’s 2016 Archambault Award. This is the organization’s highest award and is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to consultant and senior care pharmacy practice. The award was given on November 3 in Dallas, TX.

Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was invited speaker at the African American Women in Pharmacy Conference on November 12 at the University of South Florida. She presented on the Urban Institute’s Changing Faces of Pharmacy Program, which seeks to encourage and educate underrepresented minority students on pharmacy education and profession.

John Conry ’96P, ’98Pharm.D., Chairman and Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was selected as the 2016 RotaCare’s “Champions for Families” third annual fundraiser on November 17, 2016. RotaCare provides free health care for people in need or who can’t afford healthcare. Dr. Conry has been appointed to St. John’s University’s first interdisciplinary Catholic Relief Service Global Campus Committee. The committee is responsible for facilitating campus communication; coordinating and promoting CRS programs, events, and activities; advising CRS on programs and opportunities; and ensuring impact assessment and evaluation.

Laura Gianni ’96P, ’98Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, poster entitled, “Evaluation of Four Factor Prothrombin Complex Concentrate Utilization at a 591-Bed Teaching Hospital,” has been accepted to present at the 46th Annual Society of Critical Care Medicine Conference in Honolulu, HI, on January 21–25, 2017. Coinvestigators include Brian Auditore ’18Pharm.D.; Shan Wang, Pharm.D.; and Adel Hanna, M.D., FCCM.

Pamela Gregory-Fernandez, Associate Professor Industry Professional, will serve as a chair of the NYSSPA Presidential Charity Committee.

Lisa Hochstein ’73P, Associate Professor Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, received the Mary B. Cooper Service Award from ASCLS–NY and has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award from national ASCLS. She also presented a session on “Legionella: A re-emerging Pathogen” at the ASCLS–NY Spring Seminar on June 10, 2016.

Tina Kanmaz ’93Pharm.D., Assistant Dean and Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was appointed to serve on the Board of Governors for the Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs (ACMA).

Sum Lam, Associate Clinical Professor, had an abstract accepted for the 2016 ACCP annual meeting, which was held from October 23 to 26, 2016. This is a research project funded by a two-year Academic Service-Learning minigrant. Title: “Community Outreach Programs to Enhance Health Knowledge in the Elderly.”

Maria Mantione, Program Director of Pharmacy and Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, appointed Chair of the New York State Board of Pharmacy and the NABP Task Force on the new Pharmacist Interactive Communication Skills Examination.

Samantha Moore, Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, poster entitled, “Adjunctive ketamine for selection in the surgical Intensive Care Unit,” was accepted for the 46th Annual Society of Critical Care Medicine Conference in Honolulu, HI, on January 21–25, 2017.

Khusbu Patel, Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, presented interprofessional education in an outpatient clinic at the 2016 Medical Education Subway Summit at Albert Einstein College of Medicine on June 21, 2016.

Mary Jo Perry, Associate Professor Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, was elected to serve as the treasurer of the New York State Society of Radiologic Technologists.

Hira Shafeeq ’09Pharm.D., Assistant Professor Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, poster entitled, “Prescribing Patterns for Prophylactic Anti-epileptic drugs in the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit,” was accepted for the 46th Annual Society of Critical Care Medicine Conference in Honolulu, HI, on January 21–25, 2017.

Candace Smith ’87Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, “Efficacy of Insulin Glargine in Surgical Intensive Care Unit Patients,” has been accepted to be presented at the 46th Annual Society of Critical Care Medicine Conference in Honolulu, HI, on January 21–25, 2017. Coinvestigators Tamara Yunusova ’17Pharm.D.; Wenchun Wu, Ph.D.; M. Denning, M.D.; Rafael Barrera, M.D.; and Ronaldo De LaCruz, M.D.

Joshua Rickard, Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, abstract accepted for poster presentation at the 2016 ACCP Annual meeting from October 23 to 26 entitled, “Frequency of toxicity monitoring in ambulatory patients on amiodarone and dofetilide.”
Blasé Billack, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2015–2016 Fulbright Scholar to Italy. This past June, he received a travel award from the North American Society of Toxicology to visit with students in the Republics of Serbia and Moldova. The purpose was to promote the science of toxicology in developing countries. For more information, visit toxchange.toxicology.org/p/bl/et/blogaaid=2032.

Diane Hardej, Ph.D., was elected Vice President-elect of The Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology (MASOT) to serve a four-year term in the presidential chain.

Abu Serajuddin, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the 2016 Ralph Shangraw Memorial Award from the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council (IPEC) Foundation in November 2016 during the AAPS Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. IPEC is a global trade organization comprised of more than 200 pharmaceutical companies and excipient manufacturers. The award is given “for outstanding research contributions in the study of excipient-related technologies over a number of years, including an understanding of the basic science underlying excipient functionality and the development of new excipients or novel use of existing excipients.” In addition to a plaque, the award carries a cash reward of $10,000.

Sabesan Yoganathan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was the 2016–2017 Faculty Recognition Award. Recipient of the Summer Support Research Grant from the Office of Grant and Sponsored Research.

Preety Gadhoke, Assistant Professor Industry Professional of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, will be a program evaluator on a large Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) grant that has been awarded to the Shinnecock Indian Nation in Long Island.

Monica Hwang, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, received a faculty growth grant from the Center for Teaching and Learning to attend the seminar, “Dialogue on Foundations of Teaching,” offered by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) to enhance teaching effectiveness for pharmacy students. The seminar was held in Anaheim, CA, on July 23, 2016.

Rajesh Nayak, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, has been appointed Adjunct Visiting Faculty at Manipal University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, (India’s top-ranked pharmacy school per latest government release). Dr. Nayak also delivered an invited lecture entitled, “Newer and Evolving Models of Pharmacy in America: Expanding Scope of Practice through CDTM & MTM.”
Ana I. Martinez ’68P was recognized with the International Pharmaceutical Federation’s highest honor for pharmacy practitioners, the André Bédat Award, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Anuprabha Meena ’16Ph.D. received an Outstanding Poster Award during the Graduate Scholarship meeting of NJPhAST in May. More than 20 students from schools of pharmacy as well as chemical engineering from the northeastern United States, competed for the award; Dr. Meena is one of four award winners. The poster was entitled “Improving tabletability of acetaminophen by wet granulation at elevated temperature using twin screw extruder.” In addition to Dr. Meena, Divyakant Desai, Ph.D., Research Fellow of Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Abu Serajuddin ’82GP, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. John’s, were coauthors in the poster presentation.

Grand Alumni Weekend
During the University Grand Alumni Weekend, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences awarded four Young Alumni Awards to Nicole Benoit ’08P, Supervisor of the blood bank at Montefiore Medical Center; Melissa O’Brien ’12Pharm.D., Clinical Ambulatory Care Pharmacist in Adult Internal Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH); Shahper Rahman ’06P, ’08GP, North American Regulatory Strategist at Reckitt Benckiser; and Andriy Vintoyak ’12P, Supervisor of Radiology, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

AAPS Northeast Regional Discussion Group Academic Research Award
Amol Batra ’16GP received the AAPS Northeast Regional Discussion Group Academic Research Award in April for an outstanding podium presentation, “Investigating the use of polymeric binders in twin screw melt granulation process for improvement in compactibility of poorly compactible drugs.” In addition to Dr. Batra, Dipen Desai, Ph.D., Senior Director of Kashiv Laboratories, and Abu Serajuddin ’82GP, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. John’s, coauthored the presentation.

Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Meeting
The 2016 Annual Society of Toxicology meeting was held in New Orleans, LA, on March 13–17. In attendance was Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Frank Barile, Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; along with toxicology faculty, alumni, 17 undergraduate students, and graduate students.

Stay in touch with your classmates, former instructors, and the CPHS family.

Tell us about your recent career and professional achievements. We will publish your good news in our alumni section.

To submit your good news, e-mail Diana Patino at patinocd@stjohns.edu.
Alumni

Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Pharmacist Association (AAPS)

More than 20 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members attended the Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Pharmacists Association (AAPS) at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO, from November 13 through 17. They made 13 poster presentations based on their work at St. John’s:

Pengli Bu, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Damon Dalrymple, and Xingguo Cheng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on “Assessment of cytotoxicity and permeation enhancement of lipid-based self-emulsifying drug delivery systems with Caco-2 cell model: Polysorbate 80 as the surfactant.”

Suhas Gumaste ‘17GP and Abu Serajuddin ’82GP, presented on “Impact of carrier pore size on the extent of drug release from lipid based formulations solidified by adsorption onto silicas.”

Nayan Solanki, Simerdeep Singh Gupta ’15G, and Abu Serajuddin ’82GP presented on “Application of oscillatory Rheology to evaluate miscibility and identify processing conditions for melt extrusion of Soluplus®-Itraconazole mixtures.”

Amol Batra ’16GP, Dipen Desai ’16GP, and Abu Serajuddin ’82GP presented on “Investigating the use of polymeric binders in twin screw melt granulation process for improvement in compactibility of drugs.”

Pulkit Khatri ‘15GP, 11G and Jun Shao, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on “Determination of encapsulation efficiency of O/W nanoemulsions by hydrophilic membrane centrifugation.”

Pulkit Khatri ‘15GP, 11G and Jun Shao, Ph.D., presented on “Mechanism of absorption of lipid nanodroplets through MDCK epithelial cell monolayer.”

Pulkit Khatri ‘15GP, 11G and Jun Shao, Ph.D., presented on “Transport of dextran-loaded nanoemulsion through MDCK epithelial cell monolayer.”

Pulkit Khatri ‘15GP, 11G and Jun Shao, Ph.D., presented on “Mechanism of formation of O/W self-emulsifying nanoemulsions.”

Neha Chavan ‘16GP and Frank A. Barile, Ph.D., Chairman and Associate Professor, presented on “Effect of formulation and physiological factors on oral drug absorption from self-nanoemulsifying drug delivery systems by design of experiments.”

Saurabh Mishra ‘16GP and Bhagwan Rohera, Ph.D., Professor, presented on “Mechanics of tablet formation: A comparative evaluation of classical concepts with percolation theory” and on “Understanding compaction behavior of disordered pharmaceutical binary mixtures: An elucidation based on percolation theory.”

Sravani Koganti and Cesar A. Lau-Cam, Ph.D., Professor, presented on “Investigation of the effect of taurine on the actions of metformin on the renal function of diabetic rats.”

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, hosted an evening reception for alumni and friends attending the meeting. There were approximately 75 attendees from academia, industry, and government agencies at the reception.
More than 30 students attended the annual American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) midyear clinical meeting. They made 29 poster presentations based on their work at St. John’s University.

Rachel Abramov ‘17Pharm.D., Duration of Antibiotic Therapy in Septic Shock Patients with Intra-Abdominal Infections

Rucha Acharya ‘17Pharm.D., Improving Pain Management Knowledge in Palliative Care through Global Education

Michael Aiello ‘17Pharm.D., Framing a Pharmacy Student Congress from the Pharmacy Students’ Perspective

Mina Awad ‘17Pharm.D., Pharmacists’ Attitude Towards Pharmacogenomic Testing

Nirvana Awad ‘17Pharm.D., Evaluation of Prescribing Patterns of Quetiapine Fumarate Extended-Release (XR) at an Inpatient Psychiatric Facility

Hongkai Bao ‘19Pharm.D., Impact of Updated Metformin Renal Dosing Recommendations: a Simulated Study in Elderly Patients

Charlene Fernandez ‘17Pharm.D., Comparison of Dofetilide and Sotalol in Reducing Atrial Fibrillation Related Hospital Re-Admissions

Katherine Gallagher ‘17Pharm.D., Optimization of Treatment of Acute Urinary Cystitis in Emergency Room Patients being Discharged Home

Julia Kamuda ‘17Pharm.D., Pharmacy Students’ Reflections on an Oral Targeted Agents Lecture and Recitation Quiz in an Oncology Drugs and Diseases Course

Ansue Koshy ‘17Pharm.D., Retrospective Analysis on the Incidence of Falls in Patients Taking Medications Associated with Fall Risk

Kimberly Lapierre ‘17Pharm.D., Impact of a Novel Digital Education Process on Hospital Readmissions in Kidney Transplantation

Ruby Lee ‘17Pharm.D., Content, Curriculum, and Design of Clinical Pharmacokinetics Courses in Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-Accredited Colleges of Pharmacy

Sandy Lerner ‘17Pharm.D., Deciphering Pharmacy Students’ Attitudes, Comfort Level, and Knowledge of Substance Use Disorders

Matthew Li ‘17Pharm.D., St. John’s Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy: Pharmacy Speed Networking. Dr. Li currently serves on the Student Society Development Advisory Group, which advises American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) regarding the facilitation of growth and development of Student Societies of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP).

Stephanie Lim ‘17Pharm.D., Aprepitant use Evaluation in the Prevention of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting in Bariatric Patients at Huntington Hospital

Lina Lin ‘17Pharm.D., Analysis of Student Research Programs Across Pharmacy Schools and Hospitals

Aswin Mathew ‘17Pharm.D., Significance of New Metformin Renal Dosing Recommendations: A Retrospective Study Comparing Previous and Updated Guideline

Kenny Ng ‘17Pharm.D., Evaluation of Clinical vs. Administrative Barriers in Prior Authorization Requests for Hepatitis C Therapy in the HIV/AIDS Medicaid Population

Sheeba Paul ‘17Pharm.D., Personalized Pharmacotherapy in a Patient with Cytochrome P450 2D6 Polymorphism

Victoria Polla ‘17Pharm.D., Measuring the Impact of Pharmacist Interventions to Smart Infusion Pump Drug Library Parameters for the High Alert Medication Dexmedetomidine

Rohan Ramnarain ‘17Pharm.D., Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha Safety in Inflammatory-Mediated Diseases using FAERS

Jimmy Seo ‘18Pharm.D., Sustainability of an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) to Reduce Antibiotic Prescribing in Children Admitted to the Hospital for Asthma

Ilana Shemaev ‘17Pharm.D., Evaluation of Tamsulosin use for Urolithiasis at an Academic Teaching Hospital

Pavit Singh ‘17Pharm.D., Cost-Analysis of Pharmacologic Management of Gastroparesis-Related Symptoms

Frances Sousonis ‘17Pharm.D., Risperidone-Induced Hepatotoxicity in a Schizophrenic Patient Unresolved After Switching to Paliperidone

Vincent Tao ‘17Pharm.D., Hypertonic Saline for the Treatment of Bronchiolitis in Infants and Children: The Saga Continues

Derrick Wong ‘17Pharm.D., Retrospective Evaluation of Post Market Data Regarding GLP-1 Agonists and DPP-4 Inhibitors Incidence Rates of Pancreatitis


Tamara Yunusova ‘17Pharm.D., Pharmacy Students’ Perception of Taking Drug-Induced Diseases Course Before Versus After Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Rotations
Discover the World

By Holly Sokol ’20Pharm.D.

Studying abroad through the Discover the World program was very surreal for me. I got to experience many things, from trying escargot in Paris, making homemade pasta in Rome, riding camels in Morocco, and attending a Barcelona soccer game, to receiving communion during Mass at Notre Dame Easter Mass at the Vatican, and Mass at La Sagrada Familia. It still astonishes me how much I experienced. Every day I am grateful for the opportunity I was given, and hope one day to return to those countries.

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Alumni Mentoring Program

By Ji Min Son ’19Pharm.D.

The transition from student to working professional is unpredictable—or at least that’s how it can feel. Often students are not aware of the different career paths they can pursue within their major. Networking and mentoring are tools they can use to find their niche.

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Alumni Mentoring Program brings students and alumni together for an exchange of information on education and professional pathways. This program helps students connect with alumni working in various careers. While talking with their mentor, students often learn about opportunities so they can make the most productive use of their time at St. John’s. Students also learn about their mentor’s daily activities and responsibilities. Monthly meetings, held either in person or via Skype or phone, allow students and mentors to develop a relationship where they can discuss academic challenges and their perspectives on the healthcare industry. The College also hosts networking events for students, mentors, and other health care professionals.

My experience with the program has been invaluable. I reached out to my mentor during the first milestone event, the Meet and Greet Reception, where I was highly encouraged to attend panel events and participate in pharmacy organizations that would help me connect with people in various areas of the pharmaceutical industry. I began attending meetings and events arranged by the College while juggling a busy schedule. The professional organizations that I have joined, as well as the College, have provided me with resources to investigate nontraditional career paths in pharmacy. For example, I never knew that pharmacists can work in clinics outside of their hospitals, manage the hospital medication formularies as members of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee, and oversee reports on drug adverse reactions.

Regardless of where you are in your academic career, mentoring and networking help pave the road to success at St. John’s University and beyond. It was enlightening to see the extensiveness of career opportunities available in the health care field. I truly hope all students build dynamic and continuous relationships by taking advantage of this mentoring program.

Gabriella Kurkcu ’17Pharm.D., and Nirvana Awad ’17Pharm.D., represented St. John’s University to compete in the national Clinical Skills Competition at the ASHP Midyear Conference.
By Raisa Rahman ’19P

I was one out of 22 pharmacy and toxicology majors selected to participate in the 65th Annual Alumni Insider’s View Capitol Hill…College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Track. As a current toxicology undergraduate, I had the opportunity to spend time with pharmacy students, better understand the role of pharmacists, and network with college alumni and speakers.

Before going on this trip, I thought that I wanted to pursue a premed track to eventually go to medical school. However, after spending three days in Washington, DC, I am reevaluating and taking the time to learn more about other career paths.

The group visited the National Institute of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and United States Pharmacopeia. The NIH was the most eye-opening, and my favorite of all the institutions we visited. The NIH visit has inspired me to consider working on clinical trials to help cancer patients, which will allow me to make a difference by possibly saving someone’s life. Daniel Zlott, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, emphasized that it’s not just about saving one person’s life, but saving the life of someone’s mother, sister, wife, or cousin.

On the final day of our trip, we visited the FDA, where I had the opportunity to speak with Hanan Ghanous, Ph.D., Pharmacology and Toxicology Supervisor at the Division of Antiviral Products. Dr. Ghanous shared her personal experience, discussed the role of a toxicologist in the FDA, and offered future opportunities and possible career paths to consider. In March, I will be attending the Society of Toxicology’s 56th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo, where I will have another opportunity to see Dr. Ghanous.

The Alumni Insider’s View (AIV) is not only a wonderful opportunity to learn about traditional and nontraditional career paths, it’s a great opportunity to network with experienced professionals and college faculty and administrators. I would highly recommend that toxicology students consider applying for the 66th Annual AIV scheduled for October 11–13. Special thanks to Diana Patino-Castro, Assistant to the Academic Dean, and Matt Furnari, Director of Employer Relations and Career Advisement, for all of their coordination efforts, and being great chaperones who made the experience even better.

Global Academic Service-Learning in Nueva Santa Rosa, Guatemala, for Pharmacy Program

Chung-Shien Lee ’11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Matthew Li ’17Pharm.D., and Selina Hom ’17Pharm.D., embarked on a unique experience this past October—a nine-day medical mission serving the local population of Nueva Santa Rosa, Guatemala. The medical mission was conducted by the Glens Falls Medical Mission Foundation and was incorporated into Dr. Lee’s elective rotation at Northwell Health’s Monter Cancer Center. The medical mission is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of practitioners treating an average of 200 to 250 patients per day for five days every six months. During the visit to Guatemala, the team provides eye examinations, fluoride treatments, and tooth extractions in addition to their pediatric, women’s, and general medicine clinic. At the end of the patient’s visit, they are provided with a six-month supply of medication by the pharmacy that was ordered by a provider. Below are the personal reflections of the two students who embarked on this journey.

Matthew Li ’17Pharm.D.

During the nine-day medical mission we provided health care services to an underserved population in Nueva Santa Rosa, Guatemala. This trip highlighted the disparity in healthcare between the United States and many other parts of the world. On the first day, the pharmacy team transformed an empty room into a fully functioning pharmacy that was dispensing close to 1,000 prescriptions per day. The days were long and the pharmacy was very busy. However, seeing the gratitude and appreciation for our work gave me more fuel than any cup of coffee could. The feeling of being able to make a difference to each individual stepping foot into the pharmacy is indescribable.

The experience was incredible. One of the unique takeaways from this trip was the personal interaction I had with many of the team members. The bus ride from the hotel to the clinic was about an hour each way, which meant that you were allotted plenty of time to get acquainted with whomever you sat next to that day. It was a great opportunity to meet new people from different backgrounds and to hear their stories. I connected with amazing individuals whom I never would have met if it had not been for this mission. This was a great opportunity to utilize the knowledge from our pharmacy curriculum and to apply it to serve and educate those in need.

Selina Hom ’17Pharm.D.

When you think of an APPE rotation, what comes to mind? Prior to starting my APPE rotations, I would imagine only two scenarios: rounding the hospital floors with a clinical pharmacist and other medical staff, or counseling patients under the supervision of a pharmacist in a community pharmacy. However, this Global Academic Service-Learning (ASL) rotation started off with two weeks of counseling on chemotherapy, visiting patients during clinic hours, and assessing patient cases at Monter Cancer Center. Upon arriving in Nueva Santa Rosa, the rotation transformed into a medical mission consisting of an interdisciplinary team of nurses, physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and healthcare students. Together we physically built and operated a makeshift clinic and community pharmacy within the walls of a church building.

Every day in Nueva Santa Rosa offered new learning opportunities. I’ve experienced and witnessed the cohesive nature of an interdisciplinary healthcare team. Every healthcare provider valued and placed their complete trust on the recommendations of the pharmacists. In the same way, I have visited our team providers in their respective clinics regarding prescription misunderstandings, knowing that I will receive their full attention and trust. In addition to being a part of this dynamic team, I began to understand some of the healthcare disparities and common health problems in this community. Tap water is contaminated, which results in a higher risk for illnesses. Poverty is as a barrier healthcare for this entire community. Families are unable to afford visits to the primary care doctor, and the local hospital is unable to afford equipment such as CT scanners, which are available in nearly every hospital in the United States. For the majority of patients at this clinic, this biannual mission is their primary and only healthcare service. This experience has also taught me about myself. This mission helped me to rediscover my ability to speak Spanish, a skill I had not practiced since my high school AP Spanish class.

This rotation primarily served people in need, but also offered me a humbling and rewarding month of personal and professional growth. I have discovered the positive impact I can make in the lives of others, and this discovery has helped me to develop confidence in myself. I hope to challenge myself and other pharmacy students to begin every rotation with an open mind, compassion for others, and willingness to explore the new opportunities.
Physician Assistant
White Coat Ceremony

On September 19, the College celebrated the Physician Assistant White Coat Ceremony. The keynote speaker was David J. Davis, D.O., ABDFP, Medical Director at Covenant House New York Wellness Center.
Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony

The Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony was celebrated on October 1. This year’s keynote speaker was Magaly Rodriquez de Bittner, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, FAPhA, Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical Services and Practice Transformation at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. This year the three preceptors of the year were recognized, Howard Jacobson ’79P, Eleni Michael ‘99P, and Rose Lee ‘88GI, ’06Pharm.D.
Radiological Sciences 
White Coat Ceremony

This year the College was pleased to celebrate the Radiological Sciences White Coat Ceremony on November 7. The keynote speaker was St. John’s alumna Laura Nappi ’13P, Radiation Therapist at the Valley Hospital.
Clinical Laboratory Sciences White Coat Ceremony

The Clinical Laboratory Sciences White Coat Ceremony was celebrated on July 12. The keynote speaker was alumna Melinda Liu ’14P, Clinical Laboratory Scientist in hematology at New York-Presbyterian Queens.
American Pharmacists Association (APhA–ASP) focuses on Networking

APhA–ASP kicked off the fall semester with a Welcoming Social to encourage members to network and build relationships with each other. This year the executive board introduced the “APhA Pathways” event series aimed at bringing pharmacists from different pharmaceutical backgrounds, including community, managed care, industry, and other fields, back to campus to talk about their own experiences in their respective fields. Student were able to learn more about the expectations and realities of being a community pharmacist in an independent setting with Philip Cherian, Pharm.D., of Jericho Pharmacy; in an industry setting with Kristin Cheng, Pharm.D., of Pfizer, and Fawad Piracha ’16Pharm.D., of Regeneron; and, in collaboration with the Academy of Managed Care, at various managed care settings with Marianna C. Bruno, Pharm.D., M.P.H.; Lisa Anzisi, Pharm.D., Jacqueline Mullakary ’11Pharm.D.; Tasmiya Khan ’15Pharm.D.; and Swati Shah, Pharm.D. We also collaborated with multiple organizations and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to bring back many current and past residents and fellows to speak about their experience at ASHP Midyear and give advice to students who will be attending the meeting.

St. John’s University and Long Island University (LIU) Visit Pfizer

On March 10, 2016, the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPHO) organized the first company site visit at Pfizer in the company’s New York City headquarters. A total of 28 students from St. John’s University and Long Island University attended. Speakers included Dave DeMicco, Pharm.D., Medical Affairs Lead, and Praneeta Nagraj ’15Pharm.D., Post-Doctoral Fellow at Pfizer. Students were able to learn about the various opportunities within pharmacy, and had the opportunity to network with managers, directors, and industry professionals. More importantly, the visit focused on showcasing the various roles that pharmacists can take within the industry, and explaining the different departments where they can work in an industrial setting.

Phi Delta Chi Leadership Development Seminar

Every other year, Phi Delta Chi (PDC) hosts the Leadership Development Seminar. Andrew Piracha ’20Pharm.D., PDC President, attended this year’s seminar in August in St. Louis, MO. He wanted to learn many things at the seminar, including what it means to be a leader, and what is needed to be a successful leader.

The event consisted of many workshops which targeted different areas of thought and character. Some of these exercises consisted of organizing flow charts, “how would you handle this situation,” charades, and at one point coloring a pie chart. One of the best exercises was the “peaks and troughs,” which consisted of identifying both your highest and lowest point in life. It was very electrifying to hear others talk about their highest points; however, not many others were as apt to divulge their lowest point. As a leader, it is important to be able to cherish the high points, but also be able to persevere and grow through the low points. He admired how even the simplest tasks can reveal the strength of traits which are pivotal to being a leader. Listening was one trait that he strongly identified with. In today’s world, it seems that some people do not fully listen to one another while talking. Listening is critical to being a good leader.
Pharmaceutical Industry Networking Day
sponsored by Phi Delta Chi (PDC), the Industrial Pharmacy Organization (IPhO), and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA–ASP)

Three pharmacy organizations, the College’s Office of the Dean, and University Career Service hosted St. John’s first Pharmaceutical Industry Networking Day, or PIN Day, on November 1. At this event, St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Pharmacy fellows working at Allergan, American Regent, and Daiichi-Sankyo came together to provide all pharmacy students with informational sessions to further understand the fellowship process. At the event, students were able to learn about Effective Networking, Midyear 101, and How to Interview. This year’s keynote speaker was Michael Olchaskey, Executive Director of Global Regulatory Affairs at Allergan. After, at a networking reception that mirrored fellowship receptions at the annual American Society of Health System Pharmacists Midyear, students had the opportunity to network with the fellows in a casual business setting. Students from Rutgers University and LIU also attended this event.

APhA–ASP Summer Leadership Institute

The APhA–ASP Summer Leadership Institute is an outstanding and educational experience organized by the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists. This weekend conference is held every summer in Washington, DC APhA–ASP chapter officers gather to hone their leadership skills and further strengthen the bond student pharmacists share across the country. The student pharmacists also have the opportunity to meet with their state’s members of Congress to advocate for pharmacy-specific legislative issues.

As a member of St. John’s University’s chapter of APhA–ASP, it was an honor to be invited to attend the Summer Leadership Institute along with our President, Jamie Lei, and President-elect, Stephanie Peng. The event consisted of a series of informative and interactive sessions where I was challenged to develop my personal style of leadership. I was also pushed to improve upon my communication skills and work on team-building exercises that I could use in the future of my leadership career. All of the event’s attendees had the opportunity to meet with members of Congress to further APhA’s endeavor to raise awareness of pharmacy legislation on several different issues, including provider status of pharmacists. Our region had the honor of meeting with Congressman Paul Tonko to discuss with him our view of the world of pharmacy today. Congressman Tonko addressed the entire Summer Leadership Institute on his strong support of our mission and cause, and explained that he and other officials on Capitol Hill are actively fighting to further the pharmacy profession.

The conference allowed the leaders of many colleges of pharmacy across the country to exchange insight and ideas on how to be better leaders on campus and even better leaders in pharmacy. I was able to spend time with so many different student pharmacists like myself from my region and beyond. We had the opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our chapters, learn from each other’s experiences, and apply that knowledge to our chapters back home. The relationships that I made while on this trip are going to last a lifetime. The lessons and experiences I received while attending the APhA–ASP Summer Leadership Institute are going to make an impact on my continuing effort to be a leader in pharmacy. I could not be more thankful to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences for providing me with the opportunity to attend this incredible experience.
Tau Omega Chi Induction Ceremony

On May 3, Tau Omega Chi and faculty mentor Diane Hardej, Ph.D., held the organization’s annual Induction Ceremony, in which Madeeha Habeeb ’19P was inducted. Ms. Habeeb has been a member of Tau Omega Chi since September, 2015, and has greatly provided support in all meetings and events.

Students interested in being inducted into the club must complete five service credits and attend at least three club meetings during the academic year. Undergraduate toxicology students interested in learning more about the club should e-mail sjutauomegachi@gmail.com.
Tau Omega Chi
Sponsors Dean’s Hours: Careers in Toxicology

On November 10, in collaboration with the College’s Office of the Dean and assisted by University Career Services, Tau Omega Chi hosted four former alumni of the College working in toxicology-related careers. The speakers shared their experiences with more than 50 graduate and undergraduate students. This year’s panelists included Aditya Bissoonauth ’13P, M.P.H., Research Coordinator at Northwell Health; Maggie Tsang, ’03GP, ’07Ph.D., Technical Associate at Colgate-Palmolive; Lisa Hoffman ’15Ph.D., Toxicologist II at Avon Products; and Roshani Shah ’13P, M.P.H., Research Study Assistant II at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Student College of Clinical Pharmacy Networking with Touro College of Pharmacy’s SCCP

The Student College of Clinical Pharmacy, a student organization at Touro College, and St. John’s held a joint event in Manhattan on February 25. The guest speaker was Monica Mehta, Pharm.D., BCPS, M.P.H., Clinical Pharmacist in Infectious Disease at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, Vice President of Public Policy for NYSCHP, and a board member of the Initiative for Medicines, Access, and Knowledge (I-MAK). Dr. Mehta spoke to students about the importance of being involved in legislation and advocating for the pharmacy profession. She also shared the current information on policies that will be presented in Albany. In addition, St. John’s students had the opportunity to network with Touro College of Pharmacy students.
**Industrial Pharmacy Organization (IPhO)**

**Friends of the Poor Walk for University Service Day**

On September 24, student members of the Industrial Pharmacy Organization (IPhO) participated in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s Friends of the Poor Walk in Bethpage, NY. Our members helped support this event to raise money for churches, homeless shelters, and food programs. From registration to supporting the walkers (directions, water, etc.), we were excited to help.

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**APhA–ASP USP: Operation Health and I Love Pharmacy Projects**

For University Service Day, members of APhA–ASP participated in a health fair at New Life Community Health Center with Christine Chim ’11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Health Professions. As part of Operation Health, all of our patient care project committees, including Operation Heart, Operation Diabetes, Operation Immunization, Operation Public Health, Generation Rx, and OTC Medication Safety came together to raise awareness among students in the D’Angelo Center about important healthcare topics like smoking cessation, the importance of immunizations, and Adderall addiction. The I Love Pharmacy project was created for American Pharmacists Month (APhM) in October and was a video featuring students, faculty members, and pharmacists in the metropolitan area. The participants were asked to complete a simple sentence: “I love pharmacy because ________.” This video reached more than 4,000 people and promoted our passion for pharmacy.
4th Annual Changing Faces of Pharmacy: Student Enrichment Program

On Saturday, October 22, the College’s Urban Institute successfully launched the fourth annual Changing Faces of Pharmacy: Student Enrichment Program. The program aims to expose underrepresented minority high school students interested in pharmacy and/or healthcare to the pharmacy profession. High school students are selected through an application process to participate in a year-long program, spanning the fall and spring semesters of the academic year. Students are assigned a current St. John’s University Doctor of Pharmacy student mentor, and participate in three on-campus activities, as well as one off-campus service activity, with their mentors.

The program begins with an on-campus orientation session comprised of presentations on pharmacy education, curricular structures, and careers. In the second session, high school students first attend the University Open House, and engage in discussions with their mentors. They then participate in a hands-on medication compounding activity supervised by pharmacy practice faculty. In the third session, high school students and their mentors are invited to attend a competitive collegiate athletic program for a social college experience. In the final off-campus service activity, students and mentors plan an education campaign on a health-related service activity. Throughout the year, program participants communicate virtually with their assigned pharmacy student mentors for continued enrichment and education on the pharmacy program. Participants conclude by attending a closing ceremony with their mentors and parents during the spring semester of that academic year, at which time students and their mentors present their electronic portfolio to chronicle their time in the program.

This year, the CFPP enrolled 47 students from six different high schools in Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. These students are being mentored by 12 pharmacy students enrolled in the fourth, fifth, and sixth year of program.

For more information about the program contact

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Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) Fundraises for Relay for Life

Relay for Life is one of the biggest events held every year at St. John’s University. This past year, the LKS team raised more than $17,000 out of the $140,341.76 raised in total by St. John’s. The pharmacy sorority has consistently been the top fundraiser every year for this event, and we are so proud to have brought so much awareness and support to such an amazing cause.

Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) Participates in University Service Day at New Life Fellowship Church Health Fair

In collaboration with APhA, SCCP members volunteered at the New Life Fellowship Church. Students practiced taking community members’ blood pressure, height, and weight, as well as gained some experience conducting a brown bag review of medicines.
We would like to recognize the generosity of our Clinical Laboratory Science, Pharmacy, Physician Assistant, and Radiological Science white coat sponsors. Thank you for taking the time to attend the ceremony. We look forward to seeing more alumni.

Clinical Laboratory Science
Steven Bellows ’74P
Jennifer Chiu
Joan Kelly ’86P
Gail D. Konesni ’72P
Barbara Mergner-Dunn ’87P
Joycelyn Persaud ’82P, ’85GP
Theresa Thompson Rossetti ’70P
Angela Tomei Robinson ’79P, ’85GP
Genny Wittenbach
Charlotte Zuniga ’95P

Pharmacy
James Abberton ’74P
Jason Abraham ’16Pharm.D.
Amy Adler ’16Pharm.D.
Sayyem Akbar ’15Pharm.D.
Lisa Anzisi ’82P
Laura Augusto ’96Pharm.D.
Paula Baichoo ’16Pharm.D.
Arnold Barakayev
Francis Barletta ’59P
Andrew Bartilucci
Lisa Borbee ’83P
Beth Brennan ’04P
Rachna Burman ’16Pharm.D.
Nancy Cai ’16Pharm.D.
Tina Caliendo ’97Pharm.D.
David Carver ’79P
Jenny Chan ’16Pharm.D.
Lewey Chan ’16Pharm.D.
Christine Cheung ’16Pharm.D.
Nelson Chou ’16Pharm.D.
Jacqueline M. Chirico ’16Pharm.D.
Cyril Collantes ’16Pharm.D.
Leonard Colluro ’70P
Tai Colodny ’19Pharm.D.
Caitlyn Cummings ’16Pharm.D.
Antonio Curcio ’74P (deceased)
Nicolle DiStefano ’16Pharm.D.
Christine Dizon ’16Pharm.D.
Anamarija Djordjevic ’16Pharm.D.
Warren Drezen ’79P
Danielle Ezzo ’02Pharm.D.
Tiffany Feng ’16Pharm.D.
Iris Filippi ’88P
Fenley French ’57P
Tracy Gazzerwitz ’16Pharm.D.
Frank Gentile ’16Pharm.D.
Matt Goldstein ’94Pharm.D.
Jewel Gomez ’16Pharm.D.
Eddie Hon ’16Pharm.D.
Caroline Hong ’16Pharm.D.
Lawrence Irene ’84P
Robert Irene ’85P
Sandy Irene ’57P
Viral Jani ’15Pharm.D.
Donney John ’04Pharm.D.
Karissa Johnson ’16Pharm.D.
Anita V. Kachappilly ’16Pharm.D.
Tina Kanmaz ’95Pharm.D.
Barbara Kenealy ’87P
Richard Kent ’73P
Donna Kesselman ’86P
Glenn Koehler ’79P
Neha Kumar ’16Pharm.D.
John Kuzmik ’74P
Lisa Lam ’16Pharm.D.
Thomas Lavrigata ’06Pharm.D.
Chung-Shien Lee ’11Pharm.D.
Danielle Lee ’16Pharm.D.
Hye Jin Lee ’16Pharm.D.
Soobin Lee ’16Pharm.D.
Charlene Leonardo ’16Pharm.D.
Michael LoCascio ’16Pharm.D.
Celia Lu ’11Pharm.D.
Maximilian Magun ’16Pharm.D.
William Maidhof ’03Pharm.D.
Francis Malizia ’59P
Frank E. Maniaci ‘54P
Bejoy Maniara ‘16Pharm.D.
Deepa Manivannan ‘16Pharm.D.
Maria Marzella Mantione ‘96Pharm.D.
Charlie Martinelli ‘70P
Michael Megna ‘66P
Peter Mongiove ‘80P (deceased)
Anthony Monte ‘61P
Jacqueline Mullakary ‘11Pharm.D.
Tasnima Nabi ‘16Pharm.D.
Joseph P. Navarra ‘92P
Jennifer Oh ‘15Pharm.D.
Christopher Orlando ‘89P
Steven Yogesh Pak ‘16Pharm.D.
Fred Pane ‘81P
Alissa Pantorno ‘16Pharm.D.
Maria Antonietta Pino
Sherin Pathickal ‘16Pharm.D.
Alyssa C. Perez ‘16Pharm.D.
Salvatore Peritore ‘67P
Fawad Piracha ‘16Pharm.D.
Michelle Duffy Quinlan ‘02Pharm.D.
Moisey Rafailov ‘16Pharm.D.
Oishi Rahman ‘16Pharm.D.
Zamir Rahman ‘09Pharm.D.
Shanta Ramkeesoon ‘16Pharm.D.
Deirdre Ring ‘96P
Robert Rosener ‘62P
Dana Rucco ‘87P, ‘91GP
Dimitri Savva ‘16Pharm.D.
Robert Scalise ‘56P
Craig Schmidt ‘06Pharm.D.
Kristen Scotti
Michael Sforza ‘16Pharm.D.
Ashir Shumunov ‘16Pharm.D.
Barbara Simon ‘83P
Pavithra Singh ‘17Pharm.D.
Maureen Stasi ‘81P
Rocco Stella ‘57P

Mark Stutman ‘75P
Donna Sym M.S. ‘83, B.S., ‘00P
Damary Torres ‘96Pharm.D.
Kristi Truong ‘16Pharm.D.
Steven Truong ‘16Pharm.D.
Stephen Urciuoli ‘78
Elisa R. Valenti ‘06Pharm.D.
Anthony Vecchione ‘16Pharm.D.
Peter Waibel ‘87P
Lita Wang ‘16Pharm.D.
Wenchen Wu
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Zinnia Yu ‘15Pharm.D.
S. William Zito ‘66Ph.D.
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