Helping the helpers

Study could prove effective in treating PTSD

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can have a debilitating effect on relationships, jobs and quality of life. Questions remain about whether certain people are more predisposed to PTSD and, if so, could be treated before trauma occurs. Christine Rabinak, assistant professor of pharmacy practice in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, has spent the last year working with first responders to find answers.

"The limitation with current research is that we don’t know if the brain changes seen in those with PTSD are there prior to developing the condition or as a result of it. We collect data after people have already experienced trauma and developed PTSD, so it’s very difficult to come up with a model," said Rabinak.

Working with first responders — in this case, student police officers at the Detroit Police Academy — allows researchers to identify a baseline period before trauma exposure occurs. First responders undergo psychological examination prior to enrollment, which helps Rabinak’s team to any pre-existing psychological issues. The nature of first responders’ work also means that they will likely experience a traumatic event during their career, giving researchers a higher probability of observing PTSD.

"You could do this with a variety of first-responder groups, such as paramedics, the fire department or military. We chose law enforcement because we were able to establish strong relationships with the Detroit Police Academy," said Rabinak. "They were very interested and willing to participate. I think Detroit police are unique in that they’re probably going to encounter more critical incidents than your typical police officer in suburbia."

Upon entering the academy, student police officers met with researchers, who monitored brain activity through an electroencephalogram (EEG) as the officers conducted various emotional exercises. The officers also filled out questionnaires discussing their anxiety levels and mental health. At both six months and a year after graduation from the academy and service in the field, they were brought back to participate in the same tests.

The goal of the study is to look at changes in these test results as police officers encounter traumatic events during their careers. Should an officer develop PTSD, researchers can look back for any biomarkers or protective behaviors that existed before traumatic exposure, which could identify a predisposition for PTSD.

"Potentially, if we can identify things that might be dysfunctional, we can intervene and do some preventative treatment that can steer them away from going down a negative path," said Rabinak. "I think sometimes this group gets overlooked so far as their mental health needs. They get trained on how to deal with mental health issues with victims, but there’s not a whole lot that happens to treat their own mental health."

Currently, pharmacological treatments for PTSD are not as reliable as they are for anxiety disorders, and exposure therapy — while effective — requires patients to re-experience their trauma several times — a painful procedure that causes many to quit treatment. The Wayne State study could shed light on why medication might not work with PTSD patients and help lead the way toward a solution.

"Identifying mechanisms underlying these conditions is really the way research is moving and needs to go," Rabinak said. "Too often, you get a drug, you try it out, you see some effects, it gets approved by FDA and you start using it. But we don’t really know how it’s working. How is it changing things to make people feel better? The National Institutes of Health has recognized this, and a lot of their funding mechanisms have changed to make researchers identify these mechanisms before going into a clinical trial."

Rabinak said the Detroit Police Academy has responded eagerly and enthusiastically to the study, which presents the student research assistants with an opportunity for real-world interaction that they can’t get in a classroom.

"It’s really a team effort. The students play a big role in collecting everything for us," said Rabinak. "We typically go to the police academy to collect data, so they’re exposed to an environment outside of this research lab, which is very different. It’s a way to see a group of people and what they’re experiencing and going through."

"There are incidents that a police officer experiences in just six months that you couldn’t even make up. It’s eye-opening, and it gives [students] an appreciation for that job. They realize that not everybody is the same and experiences don’t affect everyone the same way. The brain is not fixed or color-coded like in a textbook.”

Rabinak and her team are currently compiling data to apply for funding to continue the study.
Warriors for Flint

EACPHS professor helping address water crisis

The Flint, Michigan, drinking water crisis has commanded national attention for more than a year and impacted the lives of thousands. As questions continue to swirl about the cause of the crisis and who to hold accountable, Wayne State University has taken a lead role in educating and treating Flint residents.

In March, the university formed the Flint Area Community Health and Environment Partnership (FACHEP). Led by Wayne State researchers specializing in environmental engineering and public health, FACHEP is conducting an independent study to evaluate the possible association between changes in Flint’s water system and public health, specifically the recent Legionnaires’ disease outbreak.

Paul Kilgore, associate professor of pharmacy practice in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, leads FACHEP’s enhanced epidemiologic surveillance for Legionnaires’ disease. Kilgore works closely with local health care providers, the Genesee County Health Department, and state and federal partners to reach populations most at risk for Legionnaires’ disease.

His team works with local and state resources during household visits to collect water samples. Additionally, the team collaborates with community leaders and service organizations to identify high-risk groups — including the disabled and the elderly — to enhance understanding of Legionnaires’ disease.

“The goal is to find out how much people know about Legionnaires’ disease and develop communication materials to help prevent its spread,” said Kilgore. “We’re also engaging doctors and clinics so that they can have a better understanding of the disease, collect better information and properly treat it.”

Phase one of the study was completed in May, after FACHEP finalized an assessment of the resources needed in Flint and Genesee County to understand the risk of Legionnaires’ disease outbreaks. The research team — which includes nationally renowned experts in engineering and water quality, epidemiological investigation, microbiology, social work, and public health communication — recently began implementing an 18-month plan to address community risk for Legionnaires’ disease, including the creation of multilingual communication materials.

“Our job is to engage members of the community. The health department has been working on materials in English, Spanish and Arabic, but we also really need to develop communications for American Sign Language,” said Kilgore. “Many folks don’t realize the diversity of the Flint area. There are probably several thousand Spanish speakers in the area alone. A really important part of the project is being able to communicate with these communities.”

To help educate and understand the needs of residents, Kilgore and FACHEP members attend community meetings, where those who live in the city can bring their questions, voice their frustrations and obtain information on avoiding the spread of Legionnaires’ disease.

“It’s really important to listen and hear what residents say and what they need,” Kilgore said. “Attending community meetings has been really eye-opening. When people attend these meetings and voice their needs, they really feel like they’re being heard.”

In addition to preparing multilingual materials to educate community members, Kilgore and his team are also working with local and state government representatives and organizations like the United Way to help make informational websites more accessible and user friendly for the public. The team is also educating clinicians on how to diagnose Legionnaires’ disease, what to look for and what questions to ask.

Community engagement, communication and social services support will be led by Kettering University’s Laura Sullivan, WSU communication professor and crisis and emergency risk expert Matthew Seeger, and WSU social work professor Jeannine Sobek. The team also includes participants from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Colorado State University. Funding for phase two of FACHEP’s independent study is provided through a contract between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Wayne State University.

Anatomy of an education

New anatomy lab features state-of-the-art models and equipment

EACPHS students now have a variety of enhanced tools to help them understand the inner workings of the human body in the college’s redesigned Anatomy Laboratory.

Located in the Mortuary Science Building, the updated laboratory features projected cadavers, 3-D models, high-definition computer simulations and autopsies stations. The enhancements were made possible through a nearly $40,000 innovation grant awarded by the Wayne State Graduate School in December 2014. Additional funding allowed for updates to the building’s auditorium, including a “smart board” that integrates advanced visual technologies. Students began using the new lab in fall 2013.

“We wanted to take the projection of cadavers from the students and provide a small number of cadavers already projected, and transition the instruction of the anatomy from solely cadaver-based to more technology-based,” said Veracilia Mendes-Kramer, assistant professor in the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences.

Transferring to projected cadavers, simulation and 3-D models is more efficient and allows students to learn about specific systems in more depth. They no longer have to spend time opening the cadavers, and the projected models allow them to quickly locate organs, tissues and other structures. Dissection and anatomy software available via computer and mobile devices allows them to learn outside of the traditional laboratory environment at their own pace.

“You save time when the student doesn’t have to open the cadaver and look for a particular structure. They now have time to see the anatomy with integrated physiology and how it correlates to the work they’ll do in the hospital,” said Peter D. Frade, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences and director of Wayne State’s pathologists’ assistant program. “Students don’t have to knock on a lab door to make someone’s in there. We don’t have to worry about someone slapping themselves with needles. All that they learn in the classroom is available to them, 24/7.”

In addition to the new tools and software, Kramer has changed the structure of the class to maximize student engagement and facilitate hands-on learning. The lab is set up into “learning zones,” in which students rotate through various modules, simulations and models. These zones allow students to constantly challenge themselves and engage with different types of learning. In addition, Kramer institutes a program called “Teach Me,” in which the randomly selects students to give a mini-lecture to the rest of the laboratory.
Doctor of pharmacy program introduces new research concentration

Research Scholars program allows students to customize educational experience and increase competitiveness for academic and career opportunities

Albert Einstein said, “Imagination is the highest form of research.” According to writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, “Research is formalized curiosity.”

This fall, 10 first-year doctor of pharmacy students will have the opportunity to explore their curiosity and imagination through the Research Scholars program, a selective research-intensive concentration. The initiative — which was birthed out of revisions to the pharmacy strategic plan, renewal of the pharmacy curriculum and the college’s desire to make students highly competitive — aims to provide pharmacy students with a challenging research experience and to enhance their professional education.

“Research is already part of our mission, and we wanted to provide opportunities for students to engage in it as well. We felt like this program was a great opportunity to marry the research mission and the renewed curriculum,” said Candice Garwood, clinical associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and clinical pharmacy specialist in ambulatory care at Harper University Hospital. “It gives a group of students the opportunity to pursue research — if that is where their interest lies. Instead of taking a one-size-fits-all approach, they can tailor their educational experience.”

Students in the Research Scholars program will receive hands-on experience in applying contemporary scientific methodologies in research study design and modern analytic methods within the areas of basic pharmaceutical sciences, clinical and translational research, practice-based research, and health outcomes research. The knowledge students will gain through the program will better prepare them for graduate studies, post-graduate residencies, fellowships and research careers — especially those requiring evidence-based approaches.

“Students who do not apply for the research concentration can still participate in research projects through directed study courses. However, these experiences are less formal and have time limits. ‘Students who complete the Research Scholars program will obtain a concentration in research, which will be noted on their university transcript. This will demonstrate to employers, graduate schools and others that they have specialized experience in research — something that is increasingly in demand in health care,’” said Garwood. “The job market is becoming increasingly competitive, and participation in this program will differentiate our students from their peers and make them stronger candidates for whatever academic and career opportunities they choose to pursue.”

Based on their interests, students will be paired with a faculty mentor, who they will work with to complete an individual development plan and research projects. Students will also receive individualized counseling about interests, advanced training and potential career options in the field of research. Students must prepare — and secure approval for — a publication-ready manuscript in order to complete the program successfully. They will be strongly encouraged to submit abstracts to national meetings and manuscripts to scientific journals as well as present their research projects to get a broader view of research as a potential profession and gain a better understanding of the impact research can have in the health care industry and on society.

Timothy Steemler, professor and director of research in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean for postdoctoral studies, said, “This initiative gives faculty members increased opportunities to communicate and collaborate with students. As their advisors and mentors, we look forward to helping them position themselves to achieve even greater academic, personal and professional success by providing them with quality educational, career and research experiences that will prepare them to make a positive impact on people and communities around the world.”

For more information, including application deadlines and eligibility requirements, please visit cphs.wayne.edu/pharmd/research-scholars.php.

Pathologists’ assistant program gains master’s-level status

Students in the pathologists’ assistant program will soon take classes at a higher level. The degree will become a 71-credit program in 2017. Currently, the program — one of only 17 accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) — operates at the bachelor’s level. New laboratory tools (see page 3) have enhanced research opportunities within the program, strengthening an already rigorous curriculum.

“We will be on par with the same programs offered across the nation,” said Veradiha Mendes-Kramer, assistant professor in the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences. “But while we are educating our students at the bachelor’s level academically, they are currently performing at the same level as students nationwide who train at the master’s level.”

The move to the master’s level will give students another tool to compete for jobs in a competitive field. This will make an already successful cadre of graduates even more formidable.

“This is the right time to move our program up to the same level as universities nationally,” said Peter D. Frade, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences and director of Wayne State University’s pathologists’ assistant program. “It gives another boost to students who are already successful. All of our students are employed nationally at well-renowned laboratories, hospitals and research centers, and they’re now hitting other graduates from the program.”

The Wayne State University Board of Governors formally approved the program changes in summer 2016. The new master’s in pathologists’ assistant degree will be available to EARCHS students in fall 2017.
Synergy

In Memoriam:
Richard L. Slaughter

Associate dean of pharmacy and Professor Richard (Rick) L. Slaughter died Feb. 23, 2016, at the age of 64, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He passed away at his home surrounded by family, friends and loved ones.

“Rick was a valued member of the college’s leadership team and faculty for 27 years,” said Dean Serrine S. Lau. “He was deeply committed to the success of the college and to our students, and his contributions to the pharmacy program and profession are immeasurable.”

The college supported and encouraged Rick—a beloved colleague and professor to many—in numerous ways throughout his illness. Pharmacy students sold wristbands inscribed with the message, “No one fights alone – RLS” and donated proceeds to a charity of Rick’s choice. Faculty, staff and students sent cards, gift baskets and other messages of encouragement and made frequent visits during his treatments.

Eight of Rick’s friends and colleagues honored him by creating a scholarship (see sidebar). The group raised $50,000 in two weeks, and additional contributions ensured that two scholarships could be awarded this year. The goal is to raise $100,000.

Although donors wanted to name the scholarship after Rick, in his usual humble fashion, he asked that it simply be called the Academic Leadership Scholarship. In accordance with his wishes—which illustrate his emphasis on academic excellence and leadership and service in pharmacy—recipients must demonstrate high academic achievement, hold office in a student chapter of a professional organization, and provide evidence of community engagement through a project they initiated.

“While the college is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague, we are celebrating Rick’s life, leadership and legacy,” said Lau. “I am proud that the Academic Leadership Scholarship has been established in Rick’s honor. I am comforted by the fact that he knew how much the faculty, staff and students here loved and admired him. He will continue to touch the lives of future pharmacists through this wonderful, thoughtful and much appreciated gift.”

Richard earned his bachelor of science in pharmacy from the University of Colorado in 1975 and his master of science with concurrent residency in hospital clinical pharmacy from The Ohio State University in 1977. His academic career began at the University of Buffalo, where he developed one of the nation’s first applied clinical pharmacokinetics services at Buffalo General Hospital. In 1989, Richard was recruited to the Department of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions—now the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences—where he served as chair and professor. Richard was named assistant dean for assessment and accreditation in 2002 and associate dean for pharmacy in 2009. Under his leadership, the pharmacy program thrived, with graduates consistently exceeding the national and state pass rates on the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination.

“Professor Richard Slaughter was an academic leader who dedicated his career to the students and colleagues of Wayne State University and the community we serve,” said Brian L. Crabtree, interim associate dean for pharmacy and professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. “For more than 30 years, he improved the lives of people through pharmacy education and practice. Even greater than these fine qualities, he was a man of humility and grace, a man who placed the needs and welfare of others above his own and who simply yearned to leave the world a better place. All of us in the academy of pharmacy are profoundly influenced by his example.”

A leader in the pharmacy profession, Richard published more than 100 peer-reviewed professional and scientific papers and abstracts in the areas of pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics, the cost and quality of clinical pharmacy services, and effective implementation of academic assessment. His work has been cited more than 1,600 times. He was editor-in-chief of the journal Advances in Pharmacopsychiatriy and Drug Safety, a member of the editorial board of Expert Reviews in Clinical Pharmacology, and served as chair of the Therapeutic Drug Monitoring panel of the Annals of Pharmacotherapy for nine years. Richard was also co-author of an influential and highly regarded textbook, Evaluating Drug Literature: A Statistical Approach. In addition, he was an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Pharmacist’s Association, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and Michigan Pharmacists Association.

“Rick Slaughter was one of the finest educators and role models I have had the privilege of knowing during my 35 years in academia,” said George B. Corcoran, associate dean of graduate and public affairs and professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. “His thirst for truth produced a body of scholarship that is important and enviable. Always the visionary, he was on the leading edge of several of our profession’s beginning with pharmacokinetics and drug monitoring before it became commonplace, pharmacoeconomics and cost relevance as it was emerging, and assessment-driven quality improvement of education. As I have often found, those who are near the pinnacle like Rick are also uncomplaining and humble. Rick was a force for good and I deeply miss him.”

Richard was deeply committed to advancing pharmacy in the developing world. He collaborated on projects in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Cape Town, South Africa. Richard is survived by his wife, Deborah LeFaux; two sons, Jason (Connie) and Andrew (Kristen); four grandchildren, Mason, Mallory, Easton, and Greyson; his brothers; and a host of relatives, friends, colleagues, and students.

To obtain more information about the Academic Leadership Endowed Scholarship or to contribute to the fund, contact Denise Thomas, director of philanthropy and alumni relations, at deniselee@wayne.edu or 313-577-1095. To make a donation online, visit go.wayne.edu/give-pharmacy.

Friendships fuel fundraising to create endowed scholarship

What began as updates and conversations of concern about Rick Slaughter’s battle with cancer turned into a plan of action as former Dean Beverly Schmoll (’67) and Professor Geri Smith rallied many of his friends and colleagues to assist in creating a scholarship in his honor. In a matter of days, they secured gifts from eight others, obtained his feedback on scholarship criteria, completed the endowment paperwork, and shared the final product with Richard and his family.

The Academic Leadership Scholarship honors Richard’s leadership and dedication to the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the pharmacy program, and doctor of pharmacy students in particular, and serves as a reminder of the power of friendship.

Founding members:
- Arab American Pharmacist Association
- David Bach
- Randall Commissaris
- George Corcoran
- Brian and Mary Crabtree
- David Edwards
- Pramodini B. Kale-Pradhan and Deepak Pradhan
- Beverly Schmoll and Frank Ascone
- Geri and Alan Smith
- James C. Stevenson

Jason Slaughter (far left), the son of Rick Slaughter, his wife Connie, and their son Mason, congratulate Makel Abbas (2nd from right) and Ali Khalil (far right), the first two recipients of the Academic Leadership Scholarship.
Assistant Professor Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller awarded President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller, Ph.D., DROT, OTRL, CDR, assistant professor of occupational therapy, was one of seven faculty members awarded a President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching during a special recognition program on April 28 at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center in Detroit. The first professor in the occupational therapy program and Department of Health Care Sciences to receive this distinction, DiZazzo-Miller was recognized for her enthusiasm, drive and commitment to mentoring students, even beyond graduation. In addition to receiving a plaque, DiZazzo-Miller and the other honorees also received a $2,500 cash award.

“I am honored and humbled to receive a 2016 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching from Wayne State University,” said DiZazzo-Miller. “It is nice to be acknowledged by the administration, your peers and your students for your efforts to provide exceptional instruction and promote learning. I am happy I am able to touch the lives of so many students who have — and will continue to — become leaders in the health care industry.”

Administered by the Office of the Provost and the senior vice president for academic affairs, the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching annually celebrates outstanding faculty who, to an exceptionally high degree, demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of their subject, superior classroom performance, and high educational standards; communicate their subject matter accurately, clearly, and effectively; generate enthusiasm and respect for learning; motivate their students to excel; and are accessible to students. Full- and part-time faculty who have taught at the university for at least three consecutive years are eligible to earn the award and must be nominated by their peers. Nominees were selected based on letters of support from faculty and students, student evaluation data, professional record, and teaching portfolio, including a statement of teaching philosophy.

Sharing the gift of life
Sharon L. Gee-Mascarello honored by Gift of Life and Eversight Michigan for organ, eye and tissue donation advocacy

Twenty-year, part-time mortuary science faculty member Sharon L. Gee-Mascarello is the first recipient of the Gift of Life Michigan Eversight Michigan Donation Champion Award for professionals in the funeral service industry. The award was presented at a donor reception held during the Michigan Funeral Directors Association Convention in Detroit in April. Gee-Mascarello — a funeral director and embalmer — was recognized for her commitment to saving and improving lives by advocating for organ, tissue and eye donation.

“I am humbled and honored to receive this award,” said Gee-Mascarello. “Increasing organ, tissue and eye donations is critically important. By working in partnership with families who have lost loved ones, we can save, change and improve lives. These final acts of kindness allow their loved ones to live on as they share the gift of life with others.”

For the past two years, Gee-Mascarello has hosted the Tapestry of Giving Organ and Tissue Donation Symposium in collaboration with Gift of Life, Eversight and the Michigan Embalmer Society at Wayne State University. She also presented The Role of the Embalmer in Support of Organ and Tissue Donation workshop at the 2015 National Funeral Directors Association convention in Indianapolis.

In addition, Gee-Mascarello is the author of the article “Organ, Tissue and Eye Donation, What I’m Teaching My Students,” which was published in the Michigan Funeral Directors Association’s quarterly journal. In the article, she wrote: “My role is to mold my students into exemplary practitioners — knowledgeable, ethical, compassionate and empathetic funeral directors who are courteous and well-manneured and play well in the sandbox.”

“Someone once said, ‘It’s all about families and choices and supporting those choices.’ That person was Sharon Gee-Mascarello,” said Stephanie Sommer, Gift of Life’s funeral home liaison. “Families want to donate. They find comfort in knowing that something good came from the death of their loved one and knowing that many recipients will benefit from their loved one’s gift of life, sight or mobility. Sharon helps make that happen for so many.”

Sommer said Gee-Mascarello teaches her students that funeral directors serve families best by supporting their decisions and working hard to also support donors in their care.

Last year, Gift of Life and Eversight fulfilled the wishes of 285 organ donors, nearly 1,000 tissue donors and almost 2,000 eye donors.
Annual Donors and Scholars Luncheon focuses on the gift of giving

Donors and student speakers share the impact of giving

The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences hosted its annual Donors and Scholars Luncheon in May. The event recognized donors for their generous contributions in support of scholarships and honored students for their academic, community and leadership activities. Because of the continued commitment and kindness of donors, the college presented more than $222,000 in financial assistance to 146 students.

“We are grateful to our donors for your continued generosity and support of the college,” said Dean Serine Lau, Ph.D. “Thank you for the positive impact you have on our students, the college and the university. You help our students accomplish their goals and expand their opportunities.”

Beverly Schmoll (physical therapy 67), donor and former dean of the college, delivered remarks focused on the joy of giving during the program for students in the health sciences. One of the college’s biggest supporters (see page 18), Schmoll contributed to the newly created Academic Leadership Endowed Scholarship and established the Physical Therapy Founders Endowment, which provides funding for students to attend conferences. Schmoll encouraged students to give back so they, too, could experience the happiness associated with helping others.

“It is not the amount of the gift that one gives; it is just the giving,” she said. “It is really a privilege to be able to give and to support others. When I receive the notes and descriptions of how students use the gift, I am just so awed and impressed. You bring me joy. And when you take the time to send those personal notes, you have no idea of the difference they make, but they really reinforce that sense of the joy of giving.”

Professor Emerita Geralyn B. Smith discussed the importance of “paying it forward” in her comments during the ceremony for students in pharmacy programs. “Pay it forward”—to respond to a person’s kindness to oneself by being kind to someone else—can be applied to scholarship recipients and the scholarship donors. This phrase unquestionably describes my personal story. As the beneficiary of a scholarship as an undergraduate college student, I have a first-hand understanding of the value of scholarships in assisting me in attaining my degree in pharmacy,” said Smith. “As scholarship donors, my husband and I desire to support students in achieving their academic goals by helping them financially, and we hope that our recipients would view us as role models and follow our example, so they too will ‘pay it forward’ in the future.”

Nurse anesthesia student Olutolulope Lawal, recipient of the EACPHS Board of Visitors Annual Scholarship and EACPHS Diversity Advisory Board endowed scholarships, and second-year doctor of pharmacy student Nobor Ghamrawi, recipient of the Arab American Pharmacists Association, Nazh Jawad Life Rx and Kinast Pharmacy endowed scholarships, also expressed their gratitude to donors during their speeches.

Throughout both days, students’ messages of appreciation were displayed on digital signs throughout the college. Many thanked donors for allowing them to focus on academics instead of worrying about their rising student loan debt or working multiple jobs or longer hours to pay tuition.

Aline Tcholakan, recipient of an Arab American Pharmacists Association Scholarship, wrote, “This scholarship is going to help me continue my education at this amazing school, and it will help to provide me with more opportunities. Your generosity inspires me to continue giving back to the community, and I hope to also give back to future pharmacy students one day.”

“Receiving this scholarship is such a blessing,” wrote Lukasha Davis, recipient of the Barbara Henderson Miller Scholarship in Occupational Therapy. “It will allow me to continue my education and focus on doing well in my classes without the financial burden. It also allows me to continue working toward my goals and dreams of helping others.”

Alisha Alnubari, who was awarded a Clinical Laboratory Sciences Scholarship, wrote, “The CLS Scholarship will always remind me that great individuals believe in me; it is a stepping stone that, despite obstacles, will allow me to achieve my dreams; and it is a difference made in my life today that will allow me to make a difference in lives tomorrow.”

For more information about supporting scholarships or establishing a named scholarship at the college, please contact Denise Thomas, director of philanthropy and alumni affairs, at deniseleel@wayne.edu or 533-577-1095.

To view the photo albums from the donors and scholars events, visit flickr.com/photos/wisueacphs/albums.
A difference down the street

OT partnership with Covenant House is changing lives

Every day, Wayne State University faculty members bring innovative approaches to the classroom. But there’s no substitute for real-world experience.

For nearly a decade, occupational therapy students have helped at-risk local youth through a partnership with Covenant House Michigan.

The collaboration began when Doreen Head, academic program director for occupational therapy, was looking for community members to present guest lectures for her students. A Detroit area native, Head was familiar with Covenant House, and asked the organization to take part.

“I wanted real-life examples of people going through traumatic situations and facilities that help them get back on their feet,” said Head. “I’ve worked in mental health all my clinical OT career, and I can tell the students stories about the clients I’ve worked with, but there’s nothing like having someone tell their own story.”

The partnership soon grew, as students became more involved with Covenant House. Some volunteered to work with the shelter’s youth. For the past eight years, Head’s classes have also created care packages filled with essential items, such as toiletries, that are then distributed throughout the community.

“Each year, I bring in a box of Ziploc bags — one for each student — and send students out to get toothpaste, washcloths, deodorant and other items,” said Head. “Students get the items and then do a mass assembly of the bags, which we have ready when Covenant House comes for their guest lecture. Covenant House then distributes them to homeless youth. The students love to give.”

This fall, the program offered a Cyber Cafe program, where six students taught computer skills that Covenant House residents could use for job searches. Head said the program was a success, and discussions are underway for future collaboration.

“Youth know how to use electronics, but the goal is to have them use the computer for something more than Facebook,” said Head. “We created a mini-curriculum to help them use the computer properly, create a PDF, and upload and download files. We reviewed basic software, virus protection, résumés and cover letters.”

Many of Covenant House’s residents have needs that go beyond computer skills and require the knowledge of occupational therapists. As they navigate their situations, they’ll receive help from peers trained to assist them in becoming independent and getting back on their feet.

“Our youth experience a lot of trauma. Because of that, job retention is often very low. This partnership treats that trauma,” said Cynthia Adams, Covenant House Michigan’s associate executive director. “In many cases, they worked with students who were almost the same age, which gave them hope that things can get better.”

Adams said the partnership has been positive, and has already helped Covenant House.

“Wayne State has been nothing but supportive,” Adams said. “They often call to check on them, they’ve visited the center, and they’ve offered solutions I hadn’t thought of.”

“We want our students to know that they can use their skills to help others in a creative way, in nontraditional settings. We want them to know that they are valuable, and that they’re going to help someone become independent,” said Head. “Our mission is an urban mission, and we want to connect our students to the community. What better place than right down the street?”

Students donate items for care kits like those pictured, which are distributed to community members in need.
WSU chapter of APhA-ASP receives 2016 Generation Rx Champions Award

Student pharmacists recognized for efforts to prevent prescription drug abuse

Earlier this year, Brittany Stewart, Pharm.D., B.D., assistant professor (clinical) in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and the Wayne State University chapter of the American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) received the 2016 Generation Rx Champions Award from the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA). The presentation took place during the annual banquet and awards ceremony at the MPA’s annual convention and exposition at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

This is the second year the MPA and Cardinal Health Foundation presented the Generation Rx Champions award, which recognizes a pharmacist who has demonstrated excellence in community-based prescription drug abuse prevention. The award honors those who have promoted collaboration and exhibited innovation and creativity in their efforts to raise awareness about serious public health problems to target audiences, including youth, parents and senior citizens. The award recipient receives a $500 donation to the charity of their choice.

Stewart, who serves as a co-advocate for the APhA-ASP chapter along with Amber Lasae Smith, assistant professor (clinical) in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and Randall Commissaris, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, participated in the 2014-15 Michigan Pharmacy Foundation Leadership Academy and focused her yearlong leadership project on Generation Rx initiatives. She and the APhA-ASP Generation Rx committee planned and implemented numerous activities aimed at raising awareness about prescription drug abuse and prevention in metropolitan Detroit. Student pharmacists provided information to WSU faculty and students and the public at community events, including immunization clinics and health fairs. They also collaborated with local agencies to raise awareness about the dangers of nonmedical use of prescription drugs.

“Nonmedical use of prescription drugs, diversion and underage drinking are major public health concerns, and pharmacists can play an important role in combating these challenges,” said Stewart, also a practicing pharmacist. “This program provides our students with an opportunity to examine real-world issues, enhance their leadership skills and be creative in solving problems. They experience what it is like to be a community educator working to improve the health of communities and the larger population.”

Last year, the APhA-ASP developed several initiatives — many of which were held at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences — in partnership with the Love Detroit Prevention Coalition (LDPC), a community-based substance abuse prevention organization. In April, Generation Rx and the LDPC hosted “Medication Generation: Just Say Know,” a peer-to-peer educational program aimed at helping Detroit adolescents understand the risks associated with prescription drug abuse. WSU student pharmacists led interactive activities, including a “Family Feud”-style game, “pharm” party, skits and role playing scenarios. Teens also had the opportunity to experience the effects of drinking and driving in the college’s Driving Simulator Lab. In August, Generation Rx students presented the “Truth Fairy” — a program aimed at educating students about the facts and myths related to prescription drug abuse — to youth and parents at a back-to-school fair on Belle Isle in Detroit.

“Medication Generation: Just Say Know” was developed by Wayne State University, the Love Detroit Prevention Coalition, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and APhA-ASP — a group of organizations committed to raising awareness about and reducing the growing epidemic of prescription drug abuse and underage drinking among young people. The groups also facilitated a Key Leaders Roundtable at Wayne State, which brought together physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, students, substance abuse and prevention counselors, and representatives from the Drug Enforcement Agency and National Institute on Drug Abuse to generate solutions. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that 52 million people over the age of 12 in the United States have used prescription drugs nonmedically in their lifetime. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, 23 percent of teenagers report having abused prescription medication at least once, and 31 percent think it is acceptable to use someone else’s prescription as long as they are not getting high. An alarming 73 percent of teens indicated that it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents’ medicine cabinets.

“When we are young, we think we are invincible and may not consider what will happen to us long term,” said Michael Frei, a student in the doctor of pharmacy program. “Medications are dangerous, and I hope young people will learn to step back and really think about what they are doing.”

To learn more about the work pharmacy students are doing to address prescription drug abuse in the community, watch a video at youtu.be/MNPtJngGcGo. ▼
The gift that doesn’t stop
Professor helps students even after passing

A Wayne State professor is providing inspiration to students, even after her passing.

For several years, students in the clinical laboratory science program have had the opportunity to receive awards from the Alexander Wallace III Scholarship Fund. This year, due to an estate gift from a former professor, more money was awarded to this fund than in years past, making it one of the college’s largest scholarships. The scholarship was originally established by Ann Wallace, a former professor in the clinical laboratory science program at Wayne State, in memory of her brother, Alexander. Upon Ann Wallace’s death in 2013, she left an estate gift to EACPHS, which created the endowed scholarship, allowing the college to present more substantial gifts in her name. It’s a legacy that speaks to her high regard for the university and the charitable nature that she possessed before she even set foot on Wayne State’s campus.

Wallace came to Wayne State from California in the 1970s to pursue a graduate degree in medical technology. Prior to coming to Detroit, Wallace had been a nun in a Roman Catholic convent. She then taught and later worked as a medical technologist in a hospital laboratory. Upon coming to Detroit, she took a job in hematology at Henry Ford Hospital; after her master’s, she offered a position teaching hematology. She was a faculty member for more than 20 years, and had a passion for her students.

“She never married, and never had any children. Her brother and sisters remained out on the west coast. She may have had some relatives a bit closer, but nobody local,” said Janet Brown, assistant professor in the clinical laboratory science program. “And she loved Wayne State.”

Always a Warrior
Former student and EACPHS dean now helps students achieve success

From her college days, through her career and into retirement, Wayne State University has been a major part of Beverly Schmoll’s life.

Schmoll began her association with WSU as a member of the physical therapy program’s inaugural class, which will celebrate its 50th reunion in 2017. Today, four of the five classmates still keep in touch.

Following graduation, Schmoll worked at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan and in Roseville Public Schools. She received her master’s in human development and relationships from Wayne State while serving as director of physical therapy at Children’s Hospital of Michigan. After earning her Ph.D. in higher education from Michigan State University, she began working at University of Michigan – Flint, where she served for 18 years as professor, director of the physical therapy program, dean of programs and research, and interim chancellor. But Wayne State called again.

“The dean’s position at EACPHS opened, and some colleagues encouraged me to apply, and I became dean in 2001,” said Schmoll. “It’s a very special opportunity to serve as a dean at your alma mater.”

Schmoll became dean at an eventual time for the college, which was readying a move into its current building and had been renamed in honor of alumnus, Detroit-area businessman and philanthropist Eugene Applebaum, with whom Schmoll struck up a strong relationship.

“I enjoyed Mr. Applebaum immensely,” said Schmoll. “We met on a monthly basis and had the most wonderful conversations. We talked about every topic you could think of, not just about what was happening at the college. He was a wonderful supporter.”

During Schmoll’s time as dean, EACPHS went through several changes, particularly in its atmosphere and approach to collaboration.

“We were able to really create some synergies. While there are differences among the disciplines, as people got to know one another, they realized they had much in common. You began to see faculty from pharmacy working with faculty from the physician assistant program or physical therapy,” she said. “Opportunities present themselves through this interdisciplinary work. This college is made-to-order to do really creative things.”

In 2008, Schmoll left Wayne State to become dean at the University of Toledo, where she oversaw the merger of two colleges as a result of the merger of that university and the Medical College of Ohio. She hadn’t planned to leave Wayne State, but the opportunity to merge two colleges presented a rare challenge.

Although she retired in January, Schmoll remains closely tied to Wayne State. In 2008, she helped establish the Physical Therapy Founders Endowment to assist physical therapy students to attend meetings where they have posters or papers accepted. She said the endowment — named in honor of the founders of the physical therapy program, George Andrews and Jean Cudhbertson — captures the spirit of her former professors.

“George Andrews was heavily involved in the eastern district of the Michigan Physical Therapy program and convinced me to attend some meetings,” said Schmoll. “He planted the seeds in me in terms of professional involvement, so this is a way to plant similar seeds for students in his spirit.”

This year, six students received awards from the fund, which were presented at the Donors and Scholars Luncheon in May.

“I never want a student to have a paper accepted and not be able to deliver it because they don’t have the funds,” Schmoll said. “When students have an opportunity to attend either a statewide or national meeting, it’s such an eye-opening experience. They get a view of the profession that is much broader than they can obtain as a student, and they get to meet the leaders in the profession. It’s an enriching experience.”

Beverly Schmoll addresses attendees at May’s Donors and Scholars Luncheon.
Upcoming EACPHS Events

Locations and specific times TBD. Visit cphs.wayne.edu for the latest information.

January 2017

PHARMACY MENTORING PROGRAM ROLL-OUT
Pharmacy alumni and students come together to build relationships during the first week of the winter 2017 semester.

Feb. 24, 2017

MPA RECEPTION
Alumni and friends gather for the Michigan Pharmacists Association’s annual conference.

March 8, 2017

MOCK INTERVIEWS
Students have the opportunity to hone their interviewing skills with EACPHS alumni.

March 9, 2017

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES HAPPY HOUR
Annual alumni networking event.

March 31, 2017

AOTA — OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ALUMNI GATHERING (PHILADELPHIA)
Applebaum alumni will gather for dinner during this national convention for occupational therapists.

Send us your news! The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences wants to know what you have been doing, what award you recently received or your fully realized retirement plans. Email updates to synergy@wayne.edu.

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