Tribute to
BOB McCURDY

Movers and Shakers:
MTM: The future of pharmacy
Message from the Dean

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2011 Graduating Class Profile Total of 144 Graduates

Residency 23%
Community 47%
Over the past several months, I have received more questions and statements of concern about the future of pharmacy than ever before. During the same time, several articles have been written calling for a moratorium on new pharmacy schools (Mayer, 2011) and the saturation of the pharmacy marketplace (Doyle, 2011). The Raabe College of Pharmacy also has witnessed a change in the job placement trends for our graduates. Nearly 70 percent of ONU pharmacy graduates typically enter community pharmacy practice. In 2011, however, 50 percent of the graduating class went into community pharmacy practice. (See pie chart.) In 2010, 14 percent of the graduating class completed residencies. However, 23.6 percent of the 2011 class are completing residencies. This number is certainly influenced by the overall match rate, which nationally was approximately 60 percent but was more than 80 percent for ONU’s college. This fact certainly demonstrates the quality of our graduates.

The future of pharmacy will see an increased emphasis on professional services such as medication therapy management (MTM), pharmaceutics and long-term care. As a result, we are increasing our curricular focus in these areas. Currently, our faculty and students provide MTM services for the campus and Hardin County. In the future, we will expand these MTM services with the intention of opening our own clinic here on campus as part of the ONU HealthWise initiative.

Pharmacogenetics is now being taught throughout the six years of the curriculum. Three faculty members are currently writing a pharmacogenetic textbook, and Dr. Mike Kane, visiting research scientist from Purdue University, is taking a sabbatical here at ONU for a year to assist us in expanding our pharmacogenetic focus. (See story page 12.) The faculty also has developed a new required course that focuses on special populations such as geriatrics and pediatrics. I have shared our six-year curriculum (see right), so all our alumni can see the delicate balancing act we have between science, clinical practice and business.

Didactics are not enough! Interpersonal communication skills and a commitment to the profession also are needed for our students to be competitors in the marketplace. Many of you have assisted with our interviewing of prospective students, and we may call on you again to assist our students with mock interviews and IPPE experiences. Our alumni are amazing role models for our students. We thank you for all you do for the Raabe College of Pharmacy and the pharmacy profession.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jon E. Sprague
Professor of Pharmacology and Dean
Raabe College of Pharmacy

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I was a member of University Singers for my five years on campus, and I could always count on seeing Dr. McCurdy in the audience of every choir concert at Presser Hall and in the crowded church basement for each of our spaghetti dinners. Especially since my family could rarely make these events, it meant the world to me that Dr. McCurdy was always there. Dr. McCurdy was a major influence personally and professionally, and I can honestly say that I would not have realized my potential and challenged myself to accomplish as much as I had in school or have since graduation without his mentorship. I would not be the person I am today were it not for him.

Diana Vinh, PharmD ’07
Director, Health Education Center
West Virginia University School of Pharmacy

I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Dr. McCurdy numerous times while at ONU through my involvement in different pharmacy organizations. Dr. McCurdy truly had the interest of the pharmacy students at heart and was excited to assist students and organizations in their endeavors. When I had the idea to start a mentoring program for pharmacy students, Dr. McCurdy helped to make it a reality and pushed me to take it a step further than the simple pairing of a student to a pharmacist. We worked together to establish a dinner for the mentors to meet the mentees, and it was a success. It is through his dedication that the program is still in existence today! Dr. McCurdy always worked hard to improve and expand the opportunities for ONU pharmacy students. I wish him all the best in his retirement!

Kerri (DeNucci) Degenkolb, PharmD ’03
Pharmacy Manager, Clinical Services
Wishard Health Services
Indianapolis, Ind.

I recently graduated from Ohio Northern’s Colleges of Pharmacy and Law, and Dr. McCurdy has been instrumental in facilitating my education from beginning to end. Dr. McCurdy took me on my first tour of the Raabe College of Pharmacy, where his passion for ONU and the profession of pharmacy was immediately evident and infectious. He generously utilized his wealth of relationships with influential professional contacts and alumni to set me up with internships and assist my employment search. Dr. McCurdy is a remarkable ambassador for Ohio Northern who develops personal relationships with his students and went out of his way to help me realize my dreams. I will be forever grateful for his continued support.

James Heisel, PharmD ’11, JD ’11
Staff Research Associate
Mylan Pharmaceuticals
Canonsburg, Pa.

Robert W. McCurdy, BPh 65, Hon. D. ’96, graduated from ONU in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science in pharmacy. While a student, he was a member of the Sigma Pi social fraternity, student senate and Phi Delta Chi, of which he also served as advisor for many years.

He began his pharmacy career in 1974, accepting a position at Red Shield Drug in Pittsburgh. McCurdy also worked with Giant Eagle Markets and became the director of pharmacy of Phar-Mor Inc. in Youngstown, Ohio, where he served as vice president. He served as a member of ONU’s Board of Trustees prior to returning to ONU in 1996 as assistant vice president of development and director of corporate foundation giving.

Since 1997, he has served as the assistant dean and instructor in ONU’s College of Pharmacy and is responsible for student affairs and admission to the college. He is a member of the Ohio Pharmacists Association and the Northwest Ohio Pharmacy Association and is on the advisory board for Managed Care On-Line.

McCurdy announced that he would be leaving his current role to serve the college and ONU in a part-time capacity as assistant to the dean in 2011. McCurdy and his wife, Myrna, BA ’66, will continue to reside in Ada.

As word got out, the tributes came pouring in.

Feature
During my time at Ohio Northern, Bob McCurdy played a critical role in shaping the professional development of students. He treated me not as a student, but as a peer about to enter the profession of pharmacy. The time that I spent with Bob helped me to expand my professional interests and encouraged me to enroll in the pharmacy/law joint degree program. Bob’s mentorship of me has continued beyond my time as a student at Ohio Northern. Whether we are discussing my career goals, the profession of pharmacy or Pittsburgh sports teams, Bob has always been there for me. Bob has opened up both his office and his home to me. He and his wife, Myrna, make my visits to Ada special, and their hospitality is one of the factors that make Ohio Northern special to my family and me.

Michael Yount, BSPh ’98, JD ’00
VP, Regulatory Compliance Counsel
WellCare Health Plans Inc.
Tampa, Fla.

What can you say about Dr. McCurdy? Words cannot express the amount of gratitude and fondness I have for him and all of his support over the years as a pharmacy student and women’s basketball player at Ohio Northern. He remains to this day a staple at most home basketball games... usually sitting courtside. He always had a way of making me realize that there was more to life than a silly basketball game, but we had better beat Capital along the way just for good measure. Dr. McCurdy always gave great advice and guidance and made me realize that there was more to life and becoming a pharmacist than what I received on my last organic chemistry test. I owe my career as a pharmacist, in part, to the encouragement, support and genuine interest I received from Dr. McCurdy.

Kelli Waggoner, PharmD ’04
Pharmacy Manager
Kroger Pharmacy
Middletown, Ohio

I was always inspired and challenged by the great humbleness that defines how Dr. McCurdy carries himself. Dr. McCurdy’s heart of servanthood is evident in everything he does both on and off campus. He has helped with the coordination of many service projects for both the Ada and global communities, including planting flowers at the houses of individuals who were going through a hard time and sending children’s vitamins to third-world countries. I will never forget my parents’ surprise when I told them the nice man congratulating me at an awards reception was the assistant dean of the pharmacy college. My life has been forever touched by the kindness of Dr. McCurdy.

Kelsey Marvin, a fifth-year pharmacy student from Swanton, Ohio

Going to another country for school can be very exciting and scary. The feeling of homesickness from missing your home, family and friends can be very overwhelming for international students.

However, finding a person who can help you cope in such difficult times is a great gift. For international students, Dr. McCurdy is that person who helps alleviate these kinds of feelings. His greetings and smiles on a daily basis bring light to our day. His jokes always make us forget our tension in a bad day. His challenges make us stronger to face the change in our lives. Even though Dr. McCurdy is leaving, he will never leave our hearts.

Saad Fallatah, a fifth-year pharmacy student from Medina, Saudi Arabia

Dr. McCurdy was more to me than merely a professor who taught Contemporary Pharmacy Practice. He was a mentor and a role model who never lacked words of counsel, encouragement and wisdom. He was always eager to listen, and patient enough to hear you narrate your struggles. At the end of each discussion, he would always have the right answer and remind me that there was light at the end of the tunnel and that I could accomplish anything I had set out to do. He was adamant that, in order to accomplish great things, it was not only necessary to act but also to dream and believe in one’s dreams.

Chinwe Uduh, a fifth-year pharmacy student from BelleRiver, Ontario, Canada

To read more McCurdy memories, please visit www.onu.edu/pharmacy

In July, alumni and friends surprised Dr. McCurdy with a celebration and presentation of more than $100,000 in his honor to support current and future pharmacy students. To make a contribution, return the enclosed reply envelope. If you have questions, contact Scott Wills, BSBA ’87, director of development, s-wills@onu.edu or 419-772-2705.
Meet the Ohio Northern University pharmacists who are shaping the future of the pharmacy profession.

Timothy S. Tracy
Dean, University of Kentucky
College of Pharmacy

Behind every successful person lies a strong support system, says Timothy Tracy, BSPh ’83. He credits his parents, wife and ONU for his career achievements. Now he’s paying it forward. As dean of one of the country’s top-ranking pharmacy schools, he leads and encourages countless seasoned and budding pharmacy professionals. Possessing an invaluable blend of expertise in business, pharmacy and research, Tracy searches for ways to help pharmacists improve their practice and prepare for the future. For 20 years, he’s investigated the cytochrome P450 enzyme system, uncovering new knowledge about the role of genetics in the body’s metabolism of drugs. Today, he oversees efforts to deliver professional development education to pharmacists through an Internet channel that can be accessed through an iPad, iPhone, Android phone or Internet-enabled TV or computer. “The next few years may be a little bumpy for pharmacists, but if we are willing to open our eyes to the new opportunities to improve health, the future is still very bright.”

James Reiselman
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice,
Ohio Northern University

James Reiselman utilizes the power of technology to help students prepare for their future careers. He leads efforts to redesign a computer simulation program that teaches pharmacy students how to successfully manage a community pharmacy operation. The new program will emphasize financial decision-making skills. “National pharmacy organizations and colleges of pharmacy have been encouraging and supporting innovative thinking and developing a culture of entrepreneurship,” says Reiselman. “The topics and decision-making skills in this simulation are applicable to all practice sites, although we are basing it on the community setting.” Reiselman foresees the program being used by colleges of pharmacy across the United States, demonstrating ONU’s continued leadership role in serving the retail pharmacy arena. Apotex Corp., a global leader in generic pharmaceuticals, is partnering with ONU to develop and promote the new simulation program.

Al Barber
President, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
Director of Pharmacy, Golden Living Nursing Centers
Owner, Clinical Rx Consulting

Al Barber, BSPh ’73, PharmD ’01, never lets himself get distracted from his central mission: providing exceptional, individualized care to his patients. A geriatric pharmacist, he serves elderly patients and people of all ages struggling with multiple diseases that require careful drug selection and dosing. “The benefits and risks of treatment for this patient population require a patient-centric approach,” he says. “It is critical to listen carefully to the patient story. Gathering subjective data, including patient goals, consumes over half of my time during patient interviews.” Barber uses his platform as current president of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists to promote ways to optimize drug therapy outcomes and healthy aging in older adults. “I hope to inspire the next generation of clinical pharmacy entrepreneurs and leave behind a professional landscape where they can prosper.”

Susan M. Meyer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Education and Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Susan (Pawlak) Meyer, BSPh ’83, champions teamwork between pharmacists, doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. At the University of Pittsburgh, she and colleagues in the schools of medicine and nursing develop education models that teach students how to communicate, solve problems and work together to better meet patient needs. She’s also involved in “The Pennsylvania Project,” a collaborative initiative between the seven schools of pharmacy in Pennsylvania to implement and teach a model of pharmacist-delivered direct patient care. “I enjoy making a difference,” she says. “Whether it is across the country in areas of interprofessional education or with individual students, I explore how they can contribute to improved patient care and promote health in the community.”
Renee Coffman
Dean, University of Southern Nevada
College of Pharmacy

Renee Coffman, BSPh ’87, makes it her number one priority of helping students become successful pharmacists. She often enlightens them to the many diverse opportunities available in the field. “Pharmacists need to nurture their curiosity and their entrepreneurial spirit and recognize that their unique education and training can be a value-add in health care and in other businesses and industries,” she says. Coffman is expanding her own horizons through her involvement with a university-wide initiative to provide better care to diabetic and obese patients. “We are working to eliminate the fractionation of care by involving pharmacists on the health care team from examination and treatment, through management of medication therapies, to assistance with diabetic goods and supplies.”

Holly Maples
Associate Professor and Jeff and Kathy Lewis Sanders College of Pharmacy Endowed Chair in Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Director of the Pediatric Pharmacy Practice and Infectious Disease Residency; Co-director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Arkansas Children’s Hospital

For Holly Maples, PharmD ’00, her day doesn’t end until all her little patients are tucked in at night. A clinician, teacher and researcher specializing in pediatrics, she impacts the lives of children by treating and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. “I treat each patient as a special individual,” she says, “always keeping in mind how I would want to be treated.” Maples discovered at a young age that she loved being around children. In high school and college, she often coached and mentored young athletes. Because she abhorred public speaking, however, she never imagined she’d end up teaching and promoting pediatric pharmacy at a leading school and children’s hospital. But her passion for the subject matter outweighed her discomfort. “I have the best job,” she says. “I get to practice, research and teach future pharmacists about how to care for kids and prevent medication errors.” Each day brings new challenges, but Maples faces them with an open mind and team attitude. “I want to be remembered as a person who cared, a person who made a difference.”

Cynthia Nguyen
Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellow

Cynthia Nguyen, PharmD ’11, recently received one of the pharmacy field’s most prestigious and oldest fellowships. As a Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellow, she will spend two intensive years training at Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., a leading pharmaceutical and bio-tech company. While there, she’ll participate on global and cross-functional teams involved in all stages of drug development, from clinical trials to Food and Drug Administration approval. “My time and experiences at ONU have shaped who I am and have opened so many opportunities for my future.”

Christopher McCurdy
Medicinal Chemistry Professor, University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy

Christopher McCurdy, BSPh ’94, is not only a remarkable teacher, revered by his students and colleagues, but also a distinguished and well-funded researcher. He credits his father, Dr. Robert McCurdy, BSPh ’65, Hon. D. ’96, and a long list of mentors, for instilling in him a passion for pharmacy, teaching and research. “My dad and my mom, a high school science teacher, made me realize that providing education was a noble and important duty to society,” he says. “My greatest enjoyment in my career is watching students develop and seeing the ‘light bulb’ go on.” Last year, McCurdy received the University of Mississippi’s prestigious Faculty Achievement Award for his scholarship and service to students. He also was selected as Teacher of the Year in 2003, 2006, and 2010 by pharmacy students completing their second year. On the research front, McCurdy is exploring ways to block people’s tolerance development to opioid (morphine) drugs and is investigating a natural product to treat opioid addiction more effectively and safely than current treatments. His groundbreaking work, widely published in professional journals, is funded by leading organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Science Foundation. “I hope to touch and influence as many practicing pharmacists and pharmacy students as I can, so that the profession continues to improve and I continue to grow because of their success.”

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The pharmacy profession has evolved and changed dramatically in the century and a quarter since Ohio Northern University founded its pharmacy school. As one of the nation’s oldest and premier pharmacy schools, the Raabe College of Pharmacy has strived to stay ahead of the curve, continually adapting its curriculum to prepare students to be leaders in the profession.

Today, medication therapy management (MTM) represents the new direction of pharmacy in the 21st century. ONU professors and alumni find themselves once again at the forefront of change. They are shaping the profession by creating, delivering and promoting MTM services. They are equipping current and future pharmacists with the skills and knowledge they need for this exciting new role on the health care team.

**DEFINING MTM**

MTM is defined as a patient-centered service that leads to a better medication outcome and improved health. MTM services include medication reviews, pharmacotherapy consults, anticoagulation management, immunizations, health and wellness services, and much more.

The U.S. Congress coined the term “medication therapy management” in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, a bill that recognized the advantages of providing MTM services to elderly people with multiple chronic conditions. But MTM services can benefit more than just the elderly population. According to the American Pharmacists Association, “medication-related problems and medication mismanagement are a massive public health problem in the United States.” Each year, 1.5 million preventable drug adverse events occur, costing approximately $177 billion in injury and death.

**MTM: The Future of Pharmacy**

Dr. Michael Rush, PharmD ’05, views MTM as the natural evolution of the profession. “Historically, pharmacists formulated medications from raw materials. Eventually, we moved to dispensing medications manufactured in factories. We are now shifting our focus from the product to the patient and taking more responsibility for the outcomes related to the medications we provide,” he says. Rush, director of ONU HealthWise, a disease state and MTM clinic, trains ONU pharmacy students in the delivery of MTM services.

“With MTM, we’re working more with our minds and voices and less with our hands,” says Scott Hall, BSPh ’81, MTM Lead for Kmart’s North Division. “I describe MTM as pharmacy done right.” Hall was featured in the December 2010 issue of Pharmacy Today as a leading expert on MTM. In addition to his MTM role at Kmart, Hall practices pharmacy part-time at Akron General Medical Center.

“I see pharmacists as equal partners in medication therapeutics,” Hall adds. “At my hospital job, our pharmacotherapy specialists are deeply involved in most of the medication-prescribing decisions. Ten years from now, I see this as the norm for our profession, in both institutional and community practice.”

**BEETTER OUTCOMES**

Pharmacists are poised to make a big impact as the health care system becomes increasingly cost-conscious and overloaded, says Catherine (Paik) Kuhn, PharmD ’06, an MTM coordinator at Kroger. She oversees MTM services in 121 stores in three states, training and supporting pharmacists, residents and student pharmacists as they learn how to meet patient needs. She won the American Pharmacists Association’s “Distinguished New Practitioner Award” in 2011, after earning the admiration of her colleagues and patients for her dedication and innovation in the MTM field.

Kuhn explains that, by providing MTM services, pharmacists can help to reduce costs, relieve the burden on physicians and improve the patient experience. “Pharmacists (and MTM) have shown that they can help reduce medical costs by addressing drug-related problems,” she says. “Patients are able to use pharmacists as another health care resource to prevent and address medication-related issues. And physicians are able to utilize pharmacists as an extender of their services, helping to alleviate their workload.”
KEYS TO SUCCESS
Pharmacists must develop exceptional listening skills and rapport with patients to be successful at MTM. Pharmacists not only are some of the most accessible health care practitioners, but also have the distinct advantage of seeing the bigger picture. Patients often speak more openly with their pharmacist than they do with their physician. While patients may see several specialists for different medical conditions, they usually patronize just one pharmacy.

Hall treats each patient with the same care and concern he would show his parents or children. “My job requires me to talk a lot, but I learn a lot more when I am listening,” he says. Often, he’s surprised by what he’s discovered about patients he thought he knew well. “It’s essential that both the patient and myself understand the indication for each med, verify the effectiveness of each med for that indication, that each is dosed appropriately, and that the patient can comply with the therapy and tolerate any adverse effects,” he adds.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES
While MTM has a proven track record, pharmacists still face obstacles as they try to implement MTM on a wider scale. The biggest hurdles appear to be time, compensation, skill set and acceptance within the wider medical community.

According to Rush, many pharmacists are already overworked, so freeing up time for new tasks can be difficult. “The solution may be to re-examine our workflow and allow pharmacy technicians and interns to help where they are qualified,” he says.

“Pharmacists should not be afraid to showcase their abilities,” says Kuhn. “We are often good at letting each other know what we can do, but we can’t be afraid to step out from behind the counter and show patients what we know.”

Hall has faith in the adaptability of the pharmacy profession. Ultimately, he says, pharmacists will overcome the challenges. “Our colleges are training new professionals that have the skills and the will to do MTM. Our profession has always shown the ability to work smarter. It’ll get done.”

CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION
This article’s participants welcome you to contact them with questions or to share ideas or best practices.

Scott Hall
North Division MTM Lead, Kmart
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Catherine Kuhn
MTM Coordinator, Kroger Pharmacy, Columbus Division
cathy.kuhn@stores.kroger.com

Dr. Michael Rush
Director, ONU HealthWise
m-rush@onu.edu

“There is no doubt that MTM, done right, involves a time commitment,” agrees Hall. “Sometimes this is a hurdle, but I’ve found that probably 75 percent of the time I spend on an MTM case, scheduling or documenting the service, can be performed by a well-trained technician or student.”

Rush and Kuhn also believe that pharmacists need to prove their worth to physicians, nurses and patients. “We need to demonstrate that we are competent and capable providers, so physicians and others see us as a valuable part of the health care team,” says Rush.

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Rush and Kuhn also believe that pharmacists need to prove their worth to physicians, nurses and patients. “We need to demonstrate that we are competent and capable providers, so physicians and others see us as a valuable part of the health care team,” says Rush.
Ohio Northern University’s pharmaceutical business program merges the fields of science, health care and business, delivering a solid background in the foundational sciences of biology and chemistry. The dynamics of the pharmaceutical industry are learned through courses in the Raabe College of Pharmacy. At the same time, The James F. Dicke College of Business Administration provides comprehensive knowledge of business principles and practices. Majors can select a concentration in management, marketing or economics.

After graduation, pharmaceutical business majors seek jobs in the rapidly growing pharmaceutical, biotechnology and health care fields. They find careers as corporate benefits managers, marketing or sales executives for global pharmaceutical companies, or industry analysts and consultants on pharmacy and health issues for the government and investment banks.

Two key insights emerged from this focus group. First, pharmaceutical and health care companies routinely hire pharmacists for their knowledge of the health care industry, and they hire MBAs for their business expertise. These companies must train the pharmacists about the business world and the MBAs about the health care side.

“An opportunity existed for individuals with health care and business expertise and an undergraduate degree,” Kleine says. “Such individuals would potentially be a better fit to the organization’s needs and be less expensive to acquire (relative to MBAs or pharmacists).”

The second insight developed into the key pillars of ONU’s pharmaceutical business program: a solid business foundation complemented by familiarity with the health care industry, familiarity with the basic biological sciences relevant to the pharmaceutical and health care industries, and experience.

A faculty committee met throughout the summer of 2006, with Kleine as chair, to develop a proposal for a new pharmaceutical business program. The committee included Prof. Randall L. Ewing, associate professor of marketing, Dr. Michele Govekar, professor of management, Dr. Kay Zekany, associate professor of accounting, and Fenton. This committee conducted a market potential study and developed the proposal for the curriculum and the addition of the pharmaceutical business major.

The program was fully approved by the University by November 2006, and its first students were admitted in fall 2007. “This was a light-speed program development and approval effort,” Kleine says.

While the program’s startup required much collaboration, the Colleges of Pharmacy and Business Administration continue to work together. McCurdy has served on the program’s Advisory Board. Dr. Donald Sullivan, professor of pharmacy practice, and Dr. David Kisor, professor of pharmacokinetics, assist with curriculum revision.

Dr. Natalie DiPietro, PharmD ’01, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, has co-coordinated the Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences course with Kleine and has served with Kleine as co-adviser of the Pharmaceutical Business Club (student organization).

Dr. Jon Sprague, dean of the College of Pharmacy, teaches a module in the Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences course (along with several other members of the College of Pharmacy faculty).

“Both the pharmacy and business faculty are engaged and attentive to the needs of the students and the program,” DiPietro says. “I have personally enjoyed serving as a liaison between the two colleges.”
In May 2009, an Ohio Northern University team, including Patrick Acheampong, PharmD ’11, Dr. Jeff Talbot, assistant professor of pharmacology, and Dee Dee Shine, director of international admissions, traveled to Ghana for an admissions trip using the Pharmacy Skills Enrichment Fund. The delegation met with 3,000 students, spent time with the deputy minister of the Health and Pharmacy Council of Ghana, and toured a number of health care sites.

This trip furthered the growing relationship between the Raabe College of Pharmacy, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana, and the pharmacy council as the three groups help KNUST transition its pharmacy education from a bachelor’s degree to a PharmD program.

This new partnership was sparked by a West African Health Organization initiative to standardize medical education and the standard of care. With the continent’s most advanced social, educational and political structures, Ghana has been selected to take the lead in moving Africa’s pharmacy education forward.

During their visit, the ONU team members met with Daniel and Cynthia Amaning. Daniel is a senior inspecting pharmacist at the Pharmacy Council of Ghana and is responsible for all of the continuing education and pharmacy licensure in Ghana. He also owns four pharmacies in Accra and Kumasi. Cynthia is a practicing pharmacist and is on the KNUST pharmacy faculty.

The Amanings visited ONU’s campus in May 2011 for commencement, spending time with faculty and touring several area pharmacies. The Amanings reached out to ONU for guidance based on the first-hand account that Acheampong shared with his former Ghana classmate, Daniel.

Two ONU pharmacy alumni, Tim Danilov, PharmD ’11, and Chris Westrick, PharmD ’11, each participated in one-month rotations in Ghana as part of ONU’s experiential program.

“Ghana is making the commitment as a nation to elevate the standard of care and asked ONU to help provide guidance and input in pharmacy,” said Talbot. “We hope the partnership will strengthen our relationship and provide opportunities for student rotations and training at KNUSTA.”

“ONU is poised to influence pharmacy care across a subcontinent. Our role is to provide guidance and expertise in three specific areas: shape curriculum, contribute to the continuing education of pharmacists and develop experiential learning for students.”

— Dr. Jeff Talbot
ON SABBATICAL FROM PURDUE UNIVERSITY

In an effort to further enhance the Raabe College of Pharmacy’s focus on pharmacogenetics, beginning with 2011’s fall semester, Michael D. Kane, associate professor, university faculty scholar, and graduate education chair in Purdue University’s Department of Computer and Information Technology, has begun a yearlong sabbatical at Ohio Northern University’s College of Pharmacy. Kane is here at the invitation of Dr. Jon Sprague, dean of ONU’s College of Pharmacy, to “improve the educational, data management and methods of patient intervention associated with the utilization of clinical genetic testing for the purposes of reducing adverse drug reactions and improving drug efficacy in health care.”

To accomplish this goal while at ONU, Kane, along with Sprague, will focus on pharmacogenomics research aimed at the implementation, utilization and cost-effective strategies for the successful adoption of clinical genotyping and personalized medicine within the practice of pharmacy. The collaborative relationship between Kane and Sprague dates back many years and includes many different research projects that utilize molecular biology methods to examine various aspects of pharmacology.

More recently, Kane and Sprague were awarded a grant from Microsoft Research to develop an online portal for teaching/training pharmacy students and health care professionals in the emerging field of personalized medicine. This project, which included Dr. John Springer from Purdue as well as Kane’s graduate student Nicholas Iannotti, led to the development of Genescription (www.genescription.com), which is cost-free and available online. Genescription is used by many pharmacy schools around the U.S. in both lecture and laboratory settings; it allows students to better understand the relationship between human genetic variability and differences in the response to prescription drugs in the population, as well as the ability to use patient-specific genomic screening to reduce the risk of adverse drug reactions in health care.

“IT is clear that the pharmacy profession will soon include the practice of personalized medicine, and pharmacists will be leaders in patient counseling of genetic testing results and how these results will improve health outcomes for their patients,” Kane says.

During the sabbatical, Kane and Sprague will create a number of educational and outreach materials, including:

• Core curricular teaching units in clinical genotyping and pharmacogenomics for pharmacy students at Ohio Northern University (with the potential for adoption and dissemination in other programs)
• An elective course and training module in clinical genotyping and pharmacogenomics with online components for adoption by other systems and universities
• A scientifically, clinically and technically focused educating/training program specifically for health care professionals, to be offered to health care professionals through online and physical distribution
• Completion of a pharmacogenetics textbook that interfaces pharmacogenetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics. This textbook is being written in collaboration with pharmacy faculty members Dr. David Kisor and Dr. Jeff Talbot

Kane grew up in Peoria, Ill., and graduated from Illinois State University in 1988 with a BS in biological sciences. He worked at Abbott Laboratories in Chicago until he returned to school and earned a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry and molecular pharmacology from Purdue University in 1996. Kane has served as an adjunct assistant professor of pharmacology at Ohio Northern since 1997.

In addition to his educational roles at Purdue, Kane serves as the lead genomic scientist in the Bindley Bioscience Center at Purdue’s Discovery Park, with applied expertise in genomics and biomedical informatics. He is a co-founder of Broadband Antenna Tracking Systems Inc. in Indianapolis and a co-founder of Genomic Guidance LLC.
Give thanks at year-end ... and support your Raabe College of Pharmacy

Your gift makes all the difference!

In addition to providing much-needed annual support for pharmacy scholarships, great teaching, and pharmacy outreach and professional activities, your annual contribution is key to helping the college and ONU receive integral foundation and corporate support.

Help make the College of Pharmacy’s alumni participation rate No. 1 in the country! Your annual contribution to The Northern Fund for the pharmacy college is used in determining the distribution of grants and other commitments. Grant-makers place a high priority on the percentage of pharmacy alumni who contribute annually. In addition, alumni participation is one of the important criteria used to determine the University’s ranking in U.S. News & World Report.

Please make your gift today using the inserted envelope or by giving online at www.onugive.com

As you consider your giving opportunities between now and the end of the year, remember that supporting the College of Pharmacy today can help reduce your 2011 tax bill. Please contact Scott Wills, BSBA ’87, director of development, at s-wills@onu.edu or 419-772-2705 for more information on how you can help the Raabe College of Pharmacy and help yourself at calendar year-end.
Academic achievement recognized at Honors Day

Honors Day has a 39-year tradition of ONU departments and colleges recognizing students and faculty for their distinguished scholarly achievement and service. As part of the day, the Raabe College of Pharmacy held its annual Professional Commitment Ceremony, during which third-year pharmacy students receive their white coats. This ceremony officially marks the students’ transition from the first three years of their ONU pharmacy education to the last three professional years.

THE PURPOSE OF HONORS: STEPPING-STONE OR LEGACY

When I was asked to give the address at the Honors Day Convocation, I must admit that I was caught by surprise. It seems to me that these addresses are generally given by a faculty member who has been here for 20 or 25 years – folks who have much more life experience than me. Thus, I am privileged to be standing here today to help honor our students, to recognize their achievements, to celebrate your successes, and to recognize the milestone that this day represents in your lives.

Today, I want to talk about two types of honors. The first group consists of those that we receive for something that we have accomplished, a goal that we have obtained or a challenge that we have overcome. These awards are displayed prominently in our offices, homes and trophy cases. All of these honors, diplomas and certificates represent stepping-stones.

What role do these awards and honors play in our lives? What is their significance? Why are they important? How long do they last? Most importantly, how do they impact the world around us? These awards are stepping-stones toward reaching one’s desired destination. However, unless we review our résumé, stepping-stone awards are often forgotten once we have used them to achieve our goals.

The Ampul
Raabe College of Pharmacy students are able to give back to the community through its various pharmacy student organizations. One of these pharmacy organizations, the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), offers countless opportunities for service, including the heartburn awareness challenge, operation immunization and operation diabetes.

“The students are always looking for new ways to help patients and support wellness in the local community,” says Dr. Kelly Reilly Kroustos, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and ASP advisor. “It is always exciting to see what innovative idea the students develop each year and watch them succeed.”

Heartburn Awareness Challenge plans to focus its efforts in the upcoming 2011-12 academic year on having a presence at a local pregnancy clinic to help educate women about safe and effective treatments for heartburn during pregnancy. Student members plan to sponsor a food drive and work at a men’s homeless shelter to serve heartburn-friendly meals to its residents. Additionally, students will distribute information to fans at football tailgates in the surrounding area and other universities.

Pharmacy Outreach Corner

During flu shot season, Operation Immunization is teaming up with CVS Pharmacy in northeast Ohio. Pamphlets containing information about the seasonal flu vaccine, preventative measures and a listing of high-risk groups will be distributed to more than 75 companies and residents that CVS pharmacists will immunize. In addition, Operation Immunization plans to train and provide a certification course to new student members. Students will continue to educate people on vaccinations, including shingles, flu, meningitis and pertussis.

Operation Diabetes plans to collaborate with other outreach groups within the college to provide various health-related screening services to the Spanish-speaking population in Columbus, Ohio. They also will participate in various health fairs and host monthly blood glucose clinics at Ray’s Market in Lima, Ohio.

“Students involved in ASP continue to amaze me with their devotion to clinical practice,” says Dr. David Bright, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and ASP advisor. “The level of creativity for developing patient care opportunities is quite impressive, and the students’ execution of these events while working full-time as students shows a strong level of dedication and maturity.”

If you would like ONU’s pharmacy students to host an outreach event in your practice, please contact Dr. Kristen Finley Sobota, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, at k-finley.1@onu.edu
PHARMACY PRESENTATION EARNED MERIT AWARD

Ohio Northern University’s presentation of “Preliminary Results from a University-Based Disease State Management Program Focused on Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia, and Diabetes” was honored with a 2011 APhA-APPM (Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management) Presentation Merit Award.

The presentation merit awards were created by the APhA-APPM to recognize exceptional poster presentations at the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition, which was held in Seattle, Wash., this year.

This poster exposition offers practitioners, scientists and student pharmacists the opportunity to share innovative practice information, disseminate research findings and share educational tools. At this year’s meeting, 317 posters demonstrating innovation, insight and contribution to pharmacy practice were selected to be displayed in the Contributed Papers Poster Session.

Members of the team that submitted the award-winning presentation were David Bright, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, Michael Rush, PharmD ’05, director of ONU’s Healthwise, Kelly Reilly Kroustos, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, Sara Terrell, assistant professor of exercise physiology, Scott Swanson, associate professor of exercise physiology, Amy Stockert, assistant professor of biochemistry, Karen (Hillegass) Kier, BSPh ’82, director of assessment, Rhonda Thompson, assistant professor of nursing, Michael Milks, BSPh ’76, professor of pharmacology, Bethany (Lance) Murphy, PharmD ’10, pharmacy practice resident, and Natalie DiPietro, PharmD ’01, assistant professor of pharmacy practice.

ONU PHARMACY ALUMNI RECEIVE RECOGNITION AT OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Ohio Northern University pharmacy alumni received awards at the 133rd Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA) Annual Conference & Trade Show April 8-10 in Columbus, Ohio.

Jeffery Bartone, PharmD ’08 – Executive Committee member-at-large Hock’s Pharmacy in Vandalia, Ohio

Kevin Fuschetto, PharmD ’07 – Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award Giant Eagle, and diabetes educator, Diabetes Ten City Challenge in Canfield, Ohio

Justin P. Friesner, PharmD ’06 – Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award Pharmacy manager, Kroger Pharmacy in Columbus, Ohio

Eric Graf, BSPh ’82 – Good Government Award CEO, Ritzman Pharmacies in Wadsworth, Ohio

Ronald Henderson, BSPh ’75 – Trustee representing District 7 Owner, Henderson Pharmacy Services in Chillicothe, Ohio

Gregory Krieger, BSPh ’77 – Trustee representing District 14 Area sales specialist, Care Point Partners in Canfield, Ohio

Catherine (Paik) Kuhn, PharmD ’06 – Trustee representing District 8 Medication therapy management coordinator and patient care pharmacist, Kroger Company’s Columbus Division

WOMEN’S HEALTH PROGRAM RECEIVES FUNDING

“Heart-to-Heart for Women’s Health,” a project directed by Dr. Natalie DiPietro, PharmD ’01, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received funding of $2,100 from John Snow Inc. The project goal is to educate between 250-350 women in Hardin and Allen counties about primary and secondary prevention measures for cardiovascular disease. Educational events took place during the first two weeks in May to coincide with National Women’s Health Week. Funding for this program was made possible in part by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women’s Health.

“It is important to have educational programs that target heart disease awareness,” said DiPietro. “Only half of all women experience the usual symptoms of a heart attack, and heart disease is currently the number one cause of death for women in the United States.”

Blood pressure measurements were taken by pharmacy students, and each participant received verbal counseling and written education materials. Educational topics included modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors, lifestyle modifications, and proper use of medications.
PHARMACY PROFESSOR AWARDED OHIO PACE GRANT

Dr. Andrew Roecker, PharmD ‘01, RPh, BCPS, associate professor of pharmacy practice, has received a $73,950 grant from the Ohio Partnership for Adherence through Collaborative Education (Ohio PACE), a group associated with the Cleveland Clinic, for his proposal, “Improving Patient Adherence – Tools for Success.”

This grant will fund an educational program put together by Raabe College of Pharmacy faculty to be delivered to various health care professionals. This program will specifically focus on educating health care professionals on the tools available to improve patient adherence, the ways to implement these tools within their practice settings, and methods for evaluating an individual patient’s adherence to medications. It also will provide tools and a matrix for appropriate follow-up in terms of patient adherence. The targeted audience will be individual practice settings, including, but not limited to, physician offices, local health departments and outpatient ambulatory clinics in the communities and counties surrounding Ohio Northern University.

According to 2008 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, 14.7 percent of people in Hardin and Allen counties live below the poverty line, which is above the national and state averages of 13.2 percent and 13.3 percent, respectively. Targeting the patients and health care settings in these communities would be an important step in reaching patients for whom adherence can be increasingly beneficial.

The subject of all proposals was to address the issue of patient non-adherence, a problem Ohio PACE finds to be the costliest element in the medical field. Health care providers, payers, employers and the patients themselves are at a financial disadvantage when medical instructions are not observed; however, the causes for this phenomenon are so varied and complex, it is difficult to find a solution.

Funds for the grants are made available through an educational grant from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

NEW COLLEGE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Michael Kane, visiting research scientist, Purdue University

Dr. Karen (Hilegass) Kier, BSPh ‘82, director of assessment

Dr. Robert McCurdy, BSPh ‘65, Hon. D. ‘96, assistant to the dean

Dr. Michelle Musser, assistant professor of pharmacy practice

Dr. Andrew Roecker, PharmD ‘01, chair of pharmacy practice and director of continuing education

Erin Scott, sponsored research specialist

Dr. Kelly Shields, assistant dean and director of Pharmacy Student Services

PPA ADDS MEMBER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul T. Kocis, BSPh ‘88, PharmD ‘03, was elected director of the Academy of Health System Pharmacists for the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA). This position involves a two-year term as the academy’s representative on the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Executive Council. The Executive Council is charged with establishing policy and direction for the association. A member of the Raabe College of Pharmacy Advisory Board, Kocis is a clinical pharmacist at the Anticoagulation Clinic Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Penn State University.
SEBOK LECTURE SERIES
Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, at 1 p.m.
Freed Center for the Performing Arts
Thomas E. Menighan, American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

Thomas E. Menighan, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), will headline the 2012 Sebok Pharmacy Lecture.

Menighan received his bachelor of science in pharmacy (BPharm) in 1974 from West Virginia University School of Pharmacy and master of business administration (MBA) in 1990 from Averett College. In 2011, he received an honorary doctor of science (ScD) degree from West Virginia University, and he was awarded an ScD by the University of Charleston (West Virginia) in 2010.

Prior to his current leadership roles at APhA, Menighan was founder and president of SynTegra Solutions Inc. in Germantown, Md. The company provides supply chain and chargeback auditing and consulting in risk management, 340B systems, anti-counterfeiting, and the technology of medication information. Menighan also founded SymRx Inc. and developed CornerDrugstore.com.

Throughout his career, Menighan has served volunteer roles within the profession of pharmacy, including president of APhA from 2001-02 and a member of the APhA Board of Trustees between 1995-2003. He was a senior staff member of APhA from 1987-92. While on staff as senior director of external affairs, he managed state affairs, public relations, new business development and practice management issues.

His other professional experiences include management of the PharMark Corporation, creator of RationalMed and licensor of systems for states to conduct drug utilization review for millions of state Medicaid enrollees. Menighan also founded and was a 20-year Medicine Shoppe owner in Huntington, W.Va., and he is a current partner in Pharmacy Associates Inc., a multistate specialty pharmacy that today serves patients in much of the United States.

ONU RECEIVES PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING FROM CARDINAL HEALTH
The Raabe College of Pharmacy is one of 13 pharmacy schools from across the nation selected to receive funding from the new $1.1 million Cardinal Health Pharmacy Scholarship Program.

Universities selected to participate in the Cardinal Health Pharmacy Scholarship Program offer strong nuclear, independent or hospital pharmacy curricula. Each school received an endowed scholarship ranging from $50,000-125,000.

“Cardinal Health serves more than 7,000 community pharmacists across the country, and we’re one of the nation’s largest employers of nuclear and hospital pharmacists,” said Mike Kaufmann, BSBA ’85, chief executive officer of Cardinal Health’s Pharmaceutical segment. “We passionately believe in the essential role pharmacists play in making sure patients receive safe, high quality health care. That’s why we’re proud to partner with Ohio Northern University to invest in developing tomorrow’s pharmacy leaders.”

“We’re very appreciative of Cardinal Health’s leadership and their vote of support for our college and the profession of pharmacy overall,” said Dr. Jon Sprague, dean of the college. “The Cardinal Health Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship will provide much-needed support to deserving pharmacy students in their academic preparation to serve as the future leaders of the profession.”

Ranked No. 19 on the Fortune 500, Cardinal Health is a health care services company that improves the cost-effectiveness of health care. As the business behind health care, Cardinal Health helps pharmacies, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and physician offices focus on patient care while reducing costs, enhancing efficiency and improving quality.

UPCOMING EVENTS
JAN. 20
SEBOK PHARMACY LECTURE
Thomas E. Menighan, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

MARCH 11
ONU ALUMNI RECEPTION APHA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION,
New Orleans. Location to be announced
5-7 p.m. – Reception and program

MARCH 17
EXPLORE PHARMACY VISIT DAY
Intended for students in the class of 2013, this event allows students and their families to learn about the unique blend of quality liberal-arts and professional programs ONU offers, as well as the abundant, diverse opportunities available to ONU students. Activities include a campus tour, a parent financial-aid session, a student panel and a chance to eat in the ONU dining hall. Please complete the registration form at onu.edu/visitus

MARCH 29
PHARMACY MENTOR DINNER
Third-year pharmacy students have the opportunity to meet ONU pharmacy alumni who have volunteered to assist students in selecting their career paths.
TWO OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SELECTED AS GOLDWATER SCHOLARS

Two Ohio Northern University students have been selected as Goldwater Scholars by the trustees of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. This marks the seventh consecutive year that Ohio Northern students have received this honor, the premier undergraduate award of its type in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

Nathaniel Mabe, a third-year pharmacy and German major from Ashville, Ohio, was honored for his Goldwater research essay, “Regulator of G-protein Signaling (RGS) Proteins Modulate Protection from Ischemic Injury in the Mouse Heart.” Mabe is conducting his research at ONU under the guidance of Dr. Boyd Rorabaugh, associate professor of pharmacology and cell biology. Mabe presented his research at the Experimental Biology 2011 meeting in Washington, D.C., in April.

Mitchell Thayer, a senior chemistry and physics major (with minors in astronomy and applied mathematics) from Painesville, Ohio, was honored for “Synthesis of Benzofluorenone Derivatives and Analysis of Biological Activity.” Thayer is conducting his research at ONU with Dr. Tevye Celius, associate professor of chemistry.

This year, the Foundation awarded 275 scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year to undergraduate sophomores and juniors from the United States. The Goldwater Scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,095 students nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.

U.S. REP. JIM JORDAN SPEAKS AT LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The student chapter of the National Community Pharmacist Association held its first Legislative Reception with U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan as its keynote speaker. Jordan represents Ohio’s 4th District, in which Ohio Northern is located, and he spoke on current legislative, political and advocacy issues that affect the pharmacy profession.
ONU FINISHES FIRST IN OPA’S INNOVATIVE PHARMACY BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

Three student members of the Ohio Northern University National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) took first place in the Ohio Pharmacists Association’s Innovative Pharmacy Business Plan Competition (IPBPC).

The students, Lauren Anderson, a fourth-year pharmacy major from Monroe, Mich., Elizabeth Crandall, a fourth-year pharmacy major from Cattaraugus, N.Y., and Andrea Stan, a fifth-year pharmacy major from New Carlisle, Ohio, presented their plan, “The Farmacy,” during the 133rd Ohio Pharmacists Association Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

Seven plans were submitted from the University of Cincinnati and Ohio Northern University, and three groups were selected to present their plans in a 20-minute presentation at the conference. The first runner-up was “West Jefferson Pharmacy,” and the second runner-up was “Anticoagulation Clinic for Pills ‘N Packages Pharmacy,” both from the University of Cincinnati.

“The Farmacy” is an idea for an eco-friendly, integrative medicine specializing in natural products and compounding. The students, along with Katie Westgerdes, a fourth-year pharmacy major from Coldwater, Ohio, developed the plan independently but consulted experts Deirdre (Mozdy) Myers, BSPh ’83, ONU pharmacy and laboratory instructor, Randy Myers, BSPh ’81, owner of Harry’s Pharmacy in Carey, Ohio, Jenelle Sobotka, ONU’s endowed chair of pharmacy practice, and Jill (Ringelman) Christopher, BSBA ’82, associate professor of accounting at ONU.

This inaugural IPBPC event was designed to give pharmacy students the opportunity to develop an attainable business plan for pharmacy practice. The business plan served as a formal set of business goals, along with the plan to reach those goals, and students were responsible for being able to discuss the overall vision, marketing, financing and operational aspects of the business.

PHARMACY ALUMNA AND STUDENT RECEIVE OSHP AWARDS

An Ohio Northern University pharmacy alumna and an ONU pharmacy student received awards during the 133rd annual Ohio Pharmacist Association (OPA) Conference.

Bethany (Lance) Murphy, PharmD ’10, a pharmacy practice resident from Fayetteville, Tenn., received the Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP) Resident of the Year Award. Ashley Overy, a fifth-year pharmacy student from Grafton, Ohio, was awarded the Scholarship for Non-Graduating PharmD Students.

The OSHP Resident of the Year award is given to a pharmacy resident who has demonstrated exceptional skills in the area of residency practice. A member of OSHP, the OSHP Board of Directors or a local affiliated chapter must nominate the recipient. In addition to the nomination, the student’s residency director must write a letter of recommendation. Murphy received an award plaque, registration to the OSHP Annual Meeting and a one-year OSHP membership.

Murphy graduated from ONU with a degree in pharmacy in 2010 and completed a one-year post-graduate residency with Ohio Northern’s employee health and wellness program, ONU HealthWise.

Overy received a $250 scholarship. The recipient of the scholarship must be an outstanding student enrolled in a doctor of pharmacy program at an Ohio-based college of pharmacy. The student is selected based on academic achievements, leadership abilities, professional activities, references and interest in pharmacy.
KATHY KARAS INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AWARD SUPPORTS ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR PHARMACY

Dr. Jeff Christoff, professor of medicinal chemistry, earned the 2010-11 Kathy Karas Innovations in Teaching Award for his development and implementation of a nuclear pharmacy course and laboratory at the Raabe College of Pharmacy. His award-winning proposal was titled “The Evolution of a Nuclear Pharmacy Elective Course and Associated ‘Hot’ Laboratory is Enhanced by a Collaborative Practice Agreement.” The award is named for advisory board member Katherine Karas, BA ’75, BSPh ’75, ACIT ‘10.

Christoff’s proposal discussed the initial development of a live lecture-based elective course that evolved over a five-year period into the current course offering. It includes asynchronous recorded lectures as well as weekly laboratory sessions involving hands-on exercises with radiopharmaceuticals. The radioactive laboratory experiences are possible as a direct result of the collaborative practice agreement between Christoff, the College of Pharmacy and HeartLight Pharmacy Services in Lima, Ohio.

HeartLight has supported the college by consulting with Christoff during the development of course content, donating critical equipment and selected materials for use in the teaching laboratory, providing affordable supplies of radiopharmaceuticals and related services, and serving as an advanced practice educational site for sixth-year pharmacy students. In addition, a portion of the funds earned by Christoff for the college has been reinvested into further development of the nuclear pharmacy teaching laboratory.

Student interest and learning enthusiasm for the nuclear pharmacy elective course continues to grow. Christoff soon will begin teaching introductory concepts associated with nuclear pharmacy, nuclear medicine and other types of diagnostic imaging techniques as part of the required curriculum in the Applied Sciences of Pharmacy. This new course will be offered for the first time in spring semester 2012.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HANYANG UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAM

Eleven undergraduate students from Ohio Northern University spent four weeks this summer in the Hanyang University Summer Program in Seoul, South Korea. This is the fifth year for the exchange agreement.

With 20 colleges and 12 postgraduate schools, Hanyang University is one of the leading private universities in Korea. Located in Seoul, the undergraduate student population is approximately 32,000, which includes 3,500 postgraduate students enrolled in a wide variety of disciplines.

Selected from the Raabe College of Pharmacy were Tiffany Dao, a fourth-year pharmacy major from Troy, Ohio, and Gabriella Gegenheimer, a second-year pharmacy major from Upper Arlington, Ohio.

As part of the exchange, four students from Hanyang University are attending ONU for the 2011-12 academic year.
The Campaign for Ohio Northern University’s Tomorrow will close at the end of the academic year. Currently at $95 million, the campaign will ensure a bright and strong future for the University and its students.

During this last stretch of the campaign, the largest in ONU history, we’re asking all pharmacy graduates to help us reach new heights in fundraising with a gift to The Northern Fund.

“Can we count on your participation in The Campaign for Ohio Northern University’s Tomorrow with a gift today?”

– President Dan DiBiasio

WWW.ONUGIVE.COM
Meet an Advisory Board Member

Dr. Shawn Eaton
PharmD ’01
Manager of Professional and College Relations, CVS Caremark

Q: Tell us about your work.
A: I oversee CVS Caremark’s hiring processes and training for interns and pharmacists in my markets of responsibility, which are Ohio, West Virginia, western Pennsylvania and Minnesota. I also work with colleges of pharmacy to provide learning experiences outside of the classroom in our stores. My position allows me to network not only with our corporate office and internal employees, but also with colleges of pharmacy and professional associations.

Q: What are the keys to your career success?
A: Adaptability and relationship building. Change has occurred frequently throughout my career. Curiosity has driven me to learn and experience new things, and this has allowed me to adapt to a changing work environment. I was lucky to have mentors who were committed to teaching and guiding me along the way. The relationships I have built in my career have made a world of difference.

Q: Why do you find your work enjoyable?
A: I have always enjoyed the opportunity to work with people, helping them to achieve their goals. I am fortunate to be in a position that is people-focused and allows me to have this impact.

Q: What trends have you noticed in the pharmacy field?
A: Pharmacy has been evolving for some time into a patient-care and outcomes-focused practice. Pharmacists are trained not only to evaluate medication profiles and recommend appropriate therapies, but also to engage the patient in discussions about their health and medication regimens, resulting in improvements in compliance and outcomes. As a result, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to have a tremendous role in reducing overall health care costs and improving the quality of human life.

Q: Share your vision for the Raabe College of Pharmacy.
A: The Raabe College of Pharmacy will continue to develop top-level pharmacy practitioners who will be leaders in the profession, agents of positive change and providers of unmatched patient-focused care that makes a difference in people’s lives.
Upcoming Continuing Education and Alumni Events

**Pharmacy Law for ONU Alumni: New Orleans**

A Recap of Ohio and Federal Pharmacy Law: ASHP 2011  
Monday, Dec. 5 – Mulate's Party Hall, 743 Convention Center Boulevard  
Presented by Dr. Donnie L. Sullivan, R.Ph., professor of pharmacy practice at Ohio Northern University

6-6:30 p.m. – Reception for alumni and friends  
6:30-7 p.m. – College update from Dr. Jon Sprague, dean  
7-8 p.m. – Continuing Education program  
RSVP by Dec. 1

**ONU Alumni Reception**

APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans  
Sunday, March 11 – Location to be announced  
5-7 p.m. – Reception and program

RSVP to alumni@onu.edu or register by calling 866-ONU-ALUM.  
Please indicate ASHP New Orleans Pharmacy CE in subject line.