THE FOCUSA (SA)

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

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Dr. Charles D. Hufford Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs

Dr. Marvin C. Wilson Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs

Dr. Stephen J. Cutler Chair of Medicinal Chemistry

Dr. Daneel Ferreira Chair of Pharmacognosy

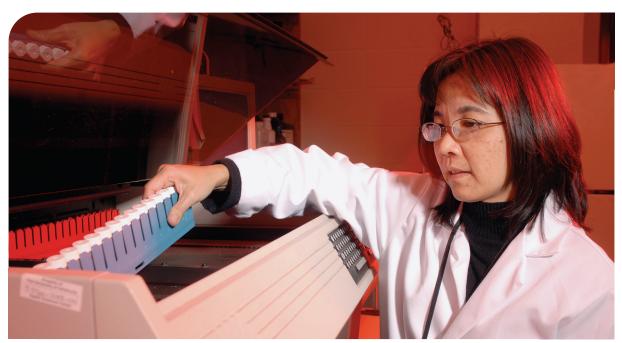
Dr. Michael A. RepkaChair of Pharmaceutics

Dr. Robert C. Speth Chair of Pharmacology

Dr. Noel E. Wilkin Chair of Pharmacy Administration

> Dabney Weems Editor

Biomedical center funded with prestigious grant



Rae Matsumoto

by Edwin Smith

niversity of Mississippi (UM) professor Rae R. Matsumoto was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to establish an \$11 million natural products neuroscience research center.

The Center of Research Excellence in Natural Products Neuroscience (CORE-NPN) is a newly funded research and training program awarded by the National Center for Research Resources at NIH as one of its Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The five-year grant, which is the first COBRE grant awarded to the Oxford campus, will allow investigators to conduct state-of-the-art research to identify components and properties of natural products that affect the nervous system.

"This research will lead to a better understanding of the health-promoting aspects of dietary supplements," said Matsumoto, professor of pharmacology and director of the CORE-NPN. "It will also lead to the development of new medications to treat neurological and psychiatric diseases and the identification of valuable scientific

research tools."

Matsumoto said the center will support individual research projects for faculty members who are in the early stages of developing their careers and establish core research facilities in sourcing/acquisition, chemistry, in vitro pharmacology, and behavioral neuroscience.

The center also will support undergraduate and graduate students performing research and establish a community outreach series to disseminate scientifically accurate information about natural products use, she added.

The university already has received more than \$2.5 million for the first year of funding, including \$500,000 for laboratory renovations. The amount awarded thereafter will be more than \$2 million annually for the remaining four years.

More than two-dozen faculty members from six departments and the university's National Center for Natural Products Research already are involved in the CORE-NPN, Matsumoto said. Approximately 14 new jobs also will be created at the university through the grant.

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Message from the Dean

s we move closer to graduation, the excitement continues to build. Faculty, staff, and students are energized, and many are working hard to wrap up ongoing projects. First-professional-year students are deeply engaged in courses such as physiology and pathophysiology, pharmacogenetics and immunology, pharmacy ethics, pharmacy administration topics, and basic pharmaceutics. Second-professional-year students are studying pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, natural product-derived pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceutics/pharmacokinetics, and pharmacy law.

The students in the third professional year are diligently learning to think critically to solve patient-specific clinical problems through skill building and integration of knowledge from various disciplines, while further advancing their competence as patient-centered, ethical, health-care professionals. These students are the first P5 class to engage in early-practice experiences during the third year of their professional studies. This expansion of the existing early experiential component was added to comply with the new accreditation standards.

Our students in the final year are in their

advanced practice experiences, primarily in Jackson, Tupelo, Memphis, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn., and Oxford, as well as many other sites across Mississippi.

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Pharmacy students at The University of Mississippi are active in their student professional associations, they are growing in their leadership capabilities, and we are extremely proud of their professional growth and their many accomplishments.

The spring semester is a very busy one for all in the School of Pharmacy, as we host a variety of events, including Awards Day, student association induction ceremonies, Career Day, Pharmacy Olympics, Pharmacy Alumni Weekend, the Dean's Advisory Committee meeting, the Ronald F. Borne Lecture, the Preceptor Conference, the spring golf tournament, and, most importantly, graduation.

I am pleased to say that our students have voted to adopt a new code of professional and ethical conduct, which became effective fall semester of 2006. This code was developed by the Faculty-Student Relations Committee as a follow-up to the regional conference on pharmacy student professionalism, which was planned by and hosted on our campus by Dr. Marvin C. Wilson and his staff. I believe the new code is more clear and relevant to the challenges of modern-day professional education and will serve our students well.

The 2005-06 year was a highly productive one from the standpoint of extramural funding for research. A total of \$15.74 million was garnered by our very capable and competitive faculty and research scientists. The portion of this amount that came from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation was the highest in our history. The NIH/American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy rankings of pharmacy schools based on extramural funding have just been released. Among the 99 pharmacy

schools, we rank second for total funding, first for non-NIH federal funding, and 16th for NIH funding.

This is a remarkable record for any school, and this accomplishment speaks volumes about the dedication and capability of our faculty. We have 24 active U.S. patents, and 18 of these are licensed or under research and development collaborations. In addition, we have 35 pending U.S. patent applications. Clearly, our faculty

members are highly productive in their research efforts and are committed to the commercialization of their discoveries. A strong research program supports high-quality graduate education, helps us to attract the most accomplished teachers for our professional students, boosts faculty morale, helps to keep our equipment and facilities up to date, and elevates the national reputation of our school and university.

The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (RIPS), a unit of the School of Pharmacy, established by an act of the Mississippi Legislature in 1964, remains deeply committed to discovery of new knowledge of natural drug products and to commercialization of those discoveries to improve health and stimulate the economy of Mississippi. The two centers within RIPS are the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management (CPMM) and the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR). These centers contribute immeasurably to the school, the state, and to the greater community throughout the year. RIPS also contributes to the salary support of approximately 20 academic faculty and supports stipends of many graduate students.

After two years of capable direction of the CPMM by Dr. David J. McCaffrey, Dr. Noel E. Wilkin, chair of the Department of Pharmacy Administration, assumed the directorship last October. At the end of fiscal year 2006, faculty and staff of the CPMM moved into new space on the first floor of the newly built wing in Faser Hall.

Congratulations are due to Dr. Daniel M. Riche and Dr. Katie S. McClendon, both of whom are based in Jackson within the Department of Pharmacy Practice. These fine faculty members became board-certified pharmacotherapy specialists, by virtue of passing the specialty exam administered annually by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. The mission of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties is to improve patient care through recognition and promotion of high-level training, knowledge, and skills in pharmacy through board certification of pharmacists. This is a rigorous, peer-established exam, which allows pharmacists practicing in specialty areas to demonstrate a measure of competency, which enables them to optimize complex pharmacotherapy.

Research at the NCNPR focuses on the

Barbara Wells

discovery and development of new lead compounds with therapeutic potential for cancer, infectious diseases, and immunomodulation. The center also conducts studies to elucidate the biology and chemistry of medicinal plants. During the 2005-06 fiscal year, NCNPR scientists were awarded more than \$4.9 million in external funds for 16 research projects sponsored by agencies and industry.

We have initiated in earnest a process for revision of our comprehensive strategic plan. This is a broad-based process involving faculty, staff, and students who will consider the feedback from our accreditation team and our self-study report prepared for our reaccreditation, as well as recent guidelines put forth by AACP. We hope to finalize and vote to adopt the new plan by the end of the semester. I want to sincerely thank Dr. Alicia S. Bouldin for her leadership in chairing the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

We have also initiated the process for revision of our curriculum. Although fine-tuning of the curriculum is ongoing, it is critical to do an in-depth evaluation and revision of the curriculum at regular intervals to ensure that it remains relevant and cutting edge. This is a tedious and broad-based process, but it is absolutely essential to enable us to fulfill our responsibilities to our students to provide the best education possible. The new accreditation standards are more prescriptive than past standards, and they challenge us to be innovative in our approach. Our curriculum committee, chaired by Dr. Bonnie A. Avery, is up to the challenge.

To assist and support Mississippi pharmacy practitioners in adopting new roles, Dr. Thomas E. Spell has joined the faculty as coordinator of clinical community pharmacy development. Dr. Spell will develop educational programs and provide field assistance to Mississippi pharmacists as needed to facilitate implementation of new clinical pharmacy services, including medication therapy management services, which improve health outcomes for citizens of Mississippi.

The renovation of the fourth floor of Faser Hall is now completed, and renovation of the third floor will begin during the summer of 2007. Construction has begun on a new 250-seat auditorium, which will accommodate meetings of all of the pharmacy students and faculty based on the Oxford campus. It will be located immediately behind the lobby of the Thad Cochran Research Center,

and it will be completed by fall semester 2008. This auditorium will serve the needs of the NCNPR and allow the school to modestly increase the class size in the pharmacy program if additional resources can be identified to support program expansion. We are very grateful to Senator Cochran and his staff for their assistance to us in identifying the funding for construction of this critically needed facility.

We are continuing to work diligently to plan for construction of a new pharmacy building on the medical center campus in Jackson to meet the needs of our Jacksonbased students and faculty. This new space will significantly improve student and faculty morale, the quality of student learning, and faculty research productivity. The need for patient-centered pharmacists who will assume the mantle of leadership within our profession and their communities. We are committed to continuous improvement of our curriculum; our applicant pool is strong; our faculty is accomplished and dedicated; our presence is valued on The University of Mississippi Medical Center campus; and we have the strong support of our loyal alumni. Our future is bright, only to the extent that we can continue to come together as a community of professionals, informed by the past and cognizant of our opportunities and challenges, and work together to realize our potential. As we approach our centennial year, we will work collaboratively with all of our constituents to benefit our students and lay the groundwork for the next 100 years. I want to



Construction on National Center for Natural Products Research

this space was underscored by our accrediting body last year. Funding for this facility will come from a partnership of government, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the School of Pharmacy. Planning for Phase II of the NCNPR, a new 104,000-square-foot building, is completed, and we are currently working to identify funding for construction of this essential new research space on the Oxford campus, which will enable us to move to the next level of research accomplishment.

In closing, we graduate highly capable

thank each and every member of our faculty and staff for their dedication and diligence, our students for their commitment to learning and to becoming the best that they can be for their patients and their profession, and all of our alumni and friends of pharmacy for their love of and loyalty to the School of Pharmacy. I

invite all of our alumni and

friends to visit us in Oxford or Jackson whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wells

New chair takes seat in medicinal chemistry

by Dabney Weems

tephen J. Cutler was named chair and professor of medicinal chemistry at The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy. He comes to UM from Mercer University, where he was a faculty member for 13 years.

"My interest in The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy stems from the international reputation it has as one of the strongest institutions in pharmacy education and research," Cutler said. "In addition, the Department of Medicinal Chemistry ranks as one of the best in the United States, which puts it in an elite group on a global level. I'm very excited about the opportunity to direct such a reputable program and am deeply humbled to have been chosen for this responsibility."

Cutler, who grew up in southern Georgia, received a bachelor's in chemistry in 1984 and doctorate in medicinal chemistry in 1989 from the University of Georgia (UGA). Upon completion of a postdoctoral position at UGA, he served on the faculty at Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy from 1991-93.



Stephen J. Cutler

His research interests include drug design and development of agents to treat cancerous disorders and infectious diseases. His teaching assignments have included all areas of pharmacy, with emphasis on biochemistry, infectious disease, and cardiovascular medicine.

Cutler has

earned numerous research, teaching, and service awards and has published more than 60 articles in scholarly and professional journals. He has secured more than 20 patents and has approximately 20 patent applications awaiting approval. Cutler is a member of 11 professional societies and is also fluent in French and German. He has authored several book chapters, edited two books, and

made numerous presentations at the national, state, and local conferences.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Cutler join our ranks," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "He is an excellent educator, an accomplished scholar, and an exceptional leader. He not only understands well the needs of his department, but he is also very well-informed about the challenges confronting pharmacy education and the vision and mission of our school. He will be a wonderful addition to our leadership team."

As department chair, Cutler said he plans to build upon the reputation that interim chair Dr. Mitchell A. Avery has helped to establish.

"This will include providing the best graduate and professional education possible while also diversifying the research projects that are currently being performed in the department," he said.

He and his wife, Jill, have three children: Jack, James, and Elizabeth. ●

Oxford native hired as development officer

arah Sloan Hollis joined The University of Mississippi Office of Development as a major gifts officer. An Oxford native, Hollis is responsible for securing financial support benefiting the School of Pharmacy.

"Sarah Hollis is committed to the success of the School of Pharmacy and the university," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the pharmacy school. "By virtue of her education, background, and experience, she is exquisitely prepared for her new responsibilities. She understands the pivotal role of alumni and friends in helping students and faculty realize their potential. She joins us at a critical time in the history of the School of Pharmacy, and there is no doubt that she is up to the task."

Before joining the Ole Miss family, Hollis served as director of marketing and physician services at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi. She has



Sarah Sloan Hollis

extensive experience in all aspects of healthcare marketing, including board development.

"We are very pleased to have Sarah join our team," said Ted Smith, assistant director of University Development. "She has hit the ground running and shows great skill in working

with pharmacy alumni and friends."

The shift to fundraising is an exciting opportunity, Hollis said. "Having grown up

in Oxford, I have seen firsthand the difference alumni make in the educational, capital, and research opportunities," she said. "I am honored to play a role in shaping the future of Ole Miss."

Hollis holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and public relations from the University of Alabama, and she earned summa cum laude honors while pursuing a master's degree in journalism from UM.

She serves on the Lafayette-Oxford-University United Way board of directors and is active in various community activities. She and her husband, Jeffrey, are members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and are outdoors enthusiasts.

Professor's expertise helps shape health-care policy

by Dabney Weems

School of Pharmacy faculty member is serving as health fellow and legislative assistant for health care, labor, and economic development issues for U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran.

Leigh Ann Ross, assistant professor of pharmacy practice in the School of Pharmacy, joined Cochran's office in 2006 as a health fellow, and, after one year, she was offered the opportunity to expand her responsibilities to include her current role of legislative assistant. In this role, Ross meets with advocates and constituents, works with legislative committees and non-government organizations, and serves as a mediator for various healthcare providers and groups with different research priorities.

"I have enjoyed learning about health care from a national perspective," Ross said. "I have been able to do this while discovering a great deal I did not know about my home state. It has been rewarding to work on programs that are important to Mississippi. In particular, I have enjoyed visiting university campuses in Mississippi and learning about their research efforts."

Ross earned her doctorate in pharmacy from UM in 1998. She is a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist and a certified diabetes educator. She is also a certified disease manager in the areas of anticoagulation, asthma, diabetes, and dyslipidemia. Her research interests are primary care, particularly medication therapy management in diabetes and dyslipidemia.

Ross completed the Academic Leadership Fellows Program within the American



Leigh Ann Ross

Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in July 2006. Her faculty responsibilities include ambulatory pharmacy programs, pharmacy residency training at The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson, and service as a preceptor for the primary care residency and phar-

macy practice residency. She also acts as faculty adviser for the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter on the UMMC campus and was president of the Mississippi Pharmacists Association in 2003-04. In 2004, she received the Faculty Service Award from the pharmacy school.

"The educational experience she has in the health sciences, coupled with her knowledge of the legislative process and the executive branch agencies that deal with health issues, has given her unique qualifications for her job as health fellow in my office," said Cochran.

Ross advises Cochran on policies and legislation that affect the medical profession as well as federal agencies' policies and programs that involve the health-care community. Such legislation has included SB 2563, Pharmacist Access and Recognition in Medicare Act of 2006, which addressed short-term payment issues and helped to advance the practice of pharmacy through implementation of pharmacy medication therapy



services.

"Dr. Ross's many accomplishments are truly impressive, and her contributions to the school, the university, and to her profession are quite remarkable," stated School of Pharmacy Dean Barbara G. Wells. "Not only is she a highly effective and innovative teacher, her scholarly contributions are, indeed, notable. In addition, she is an excellent board-certified clinical practitioner who provides important direction for our ambulatory-care pharmacy programs. She has served on and chaired committees appointed by two governors. Now in her second year in Sen. Thad Cochran's office, she is providing leadership and expert knowledge to shape national health policy that will benefit all of our citizens."

Cochran's health-fellow program began in 2000 and was initiated to give those studying or working at The University of Mississippi in a health-related profession an opportunity to better understand health-care policy.

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"The awarding of this most prestigious NIH funding is primarily due to the expertise and leadership of Dr. Matsumoto," said Charles Hufford, UM professor of pharmacognosy and associate dean for research and graduate programs in the School of Pharmacy. "As a senior-level researcher, she wrote and submitted a top-notch proposal within a very brief period after her hiring two years ago."

Hufford said he anticipates more investigators will compete for and be awarded NIH funding as a result of the center. He explained that the number of NIH grants awarded to the university weighs heavily in its ranking as

a research institution. The UM School of Pharmacy is ranked nationally among the top five pharmacy schools for total external funding.

"As far as NIH rankings go, the School of Pharmacy consistently falls in the top 25 of all schools of pharmacy in the country," said Barbara Wells, dean of the school. "This grant will benefit many junior investigators by helping to prepare them to submit RO1 grants to the NIH. Their funded research has the long-term potential to make our rankings even higher."

The COBRE-NPN will greatly benefit the

school, junior investigators, and the university in general, Wells said. In the long term, it should favorably impact the health of citizens across the globe.

"In many ways, this center is an altruistic effort on Dr. Matsumoto's part, in that an important thrust of the grant is to develop young scientists," Wells said. "She is also an excellent classroom teacher, and our students love to learn from her. I look forward to working with her in the years ahead and to this center getting better and stronger each year."

UM pharmacy professors collaborate to complete late colleague's book

by Lydia Hailman

hen W. Marvin Davis, professor emeritus of pharmacology at the University of Mississippi (UM), died in October 2005, he left a book unfinished that he had worked on for several years.

Davis had submitted his 500-page text to a publishing company, but the manuscript had not been edited and proofread. So a group of UM pharmacology faculty decided to share their varied expertise and assist in its completion. Hence, "Consumer's Guide to Dietary Supplements and Alternative Medicines: Servings of Hope" was published late last year by Haworth Press.

Wade Waters, UM professor emeritus of pharmacology, coordinated the project. When he asked several colleagues if they would be willing to proofread sections of Davis' manuscript, they all agreed to lend a hand. Waters describes editing Davis' last book as a work of remembrance and understanding.

"It was a great joy to work with that text, as if I heard Marvin speaking," Waters said. "I limited my need to change parts of it out of respect and care for him. In the end, despite the fact I'd lost him, it was a great pleasure to complete a project that he'd worked on for so long. It was very special, and I am pleased to have had the chance to guide the text toward its completion with the assistance of numerous colleagues."

The book discusses the benefits and hazards of certain dietary supplements, which

can include vitamins, minerals, herbal, and botanical products. It provides consumers with advice about various sup-

plements' interactions with W. Marvin Davis prescription drugs through

illustrative clinical case studies in simplified, easy-to-understand language. It also carefully addresses major myths about dietary supplements and cancer "cures."

Mickey Smith, Barnard distinguished professor emeritus in pharmacy administration, talked daily with Davis about the manuscript's publication. It was Smith who suggested Davis publish his book with Haworth Press, the company for which Smith had been a consultant, author, and editor for over 20 years. After Davis' death, Smith worked with the publishers to ensure they maintained the book's original subheading, "Servings of Hope," as Davis had wished.

Bob Speth, chair and professor of pharmacology, also collaborated on the project and edited the book's first chapter.

"This is an incredibly scholarly work that is very valuable and appeals to a broad readership," Speth said. "The editing process was a fantastic effort by a group of our faculty, all of whom wanted to pay respect to Marvin by helping bring his book to fruition."

Other pharmacy faculty who helped edit Davis' book were Smith, Larry Walker,

Charles Hufford, Alice Clark, Tony Verlangieri, and Dennis Feller.

Davis joined the UM faculty in 1964 as an associate professor of pharmacology and earned the title of professor in 1965. In 1968, he became the Department of Pharmacology's founding chair and served in that capacity until 1983.

Walker, director of the National Center for Natural Products Research at UM, wrote the book's foreword, in which he describes Davis as a "mentor, professional colleague, and friend," who anchored the pharmacology department and over the years taught thousands about this "fascinating discipline."

"All who read this book will sense Dr. Davis' love of sound science, his grasp of the discipline of pharmacology, and his commitment to ethical principles," Walker wrote. "Here is a dose of realistic assessment on dietary supplement myths, tempered with an appreciation of the proven (and potential) value, medicinal and otherwise, of many marvelous designs in the fabric of our natural world."





School's 100-year history put to paper

by Dabney Weems

o celebrate the centennial birthday of The University of Mississippi's (UM) School of Pharmacy, Dr. Mickey C. Smith, F.A.P. Barnard

Professor Emeritus of Pharmacy Administration, has edited a book that is an overview of the first 100 years of the school.

Smith collaborated with various faculty and staff within the school to bring together

"Pharmacy Education at the University of Mississippi" (Haworth Press, 2006). The book includes details on the beginning of the school, as well as information on each department (medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutics, pharmacognosy, pharmacology, pharmacy administration, and pharmacy practice), school facilities, the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the National Center for Natural Products Research, and the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management (CPMM).

The book is a collection of "sketches,

highlights, and memories," many of which were penned by former and current faculty, including associate dean emeritus Joe B. McCaskill, the late Dr. W. Marvin Davis, former deans Wallace L. Guess and Kenneth B. Roberts, Dr. W. Franklin Gilmore, the late Dr. Robert W. Cleary, Drs. Marvin C. Wilson, Mahmoud A. ElSohly, Charles D. Hufford, Thomas R. Brown, Alice M. Clark, and Larry A. Walker, instructor emeritus Kerby E. Ladner, and professor emeritus Ronald F.

Accomplishments under each dean are

History, continued from previous page

discussed, and the evolution of teaching, research, and service programs are detailed from the early days until the present. The book concludes with reflections on the past and a look forward to a bright future.

"Dr. Mickey C. Smith, whose contributions to the School of Pharmacy have taken many forms over the years, now offers us a new opportunity to learn about our beloved school," said School of Pharmacy Dean Barbara G. Wells. "His new book is a collection of materials and commentaries from our distant and more recent past. It is a fascinating read and provides broad perspectives, which are available nowhere else. This greater understanding is provided through the stories and very personal reflections of a host of contributors who themselves have made pivotal and selfless contributions while living the history of the School of Pharmacy. What a wonderful gift Dr. Smith has given us for our school's 100th birthday.'

Smith retired from the university in 2003 after 37 years of service with the School of Pharmacy. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and his doctorate in pharmacy administration from UM. He served as chair of UM's Department of Pharmacy Administration and as founding director of the CPMM at UM.

He holds membership in numerous pharmacy professional societies and has won several national honors for his teaching and scholarship. He was awarded the 2003 Pellegrino Medal for contributions to healthcare ethics by Samford University's Healthcare Ethics and Law Institute and the 2005 Tyler Stimulation of Research Award from the American Pharmacists Association. In 2005, he was also named a UM School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus.

He has published more than 400 papers in more than 100 different research and professional journals, and his textbooks, which include "Pharmaceutical Marketing: Strategy and Cases," are considered key texts in the field.

Smith's book, "Pharmacy Education at the University of Mississippi," is available for \$34.95 through Haworth Press. It can be purchased online at http://www.haworth-press.com. Royalties from the sale of the book will benefit the School of Pharmacy.

New Faces



Stephen J. Cutler, chair and professor of medicinal chemistry and research professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry and doctorate in medicinal chemistry from the University of Georgia. He held a postdoctoral

appointment in the College of Agriculture at the University of Georgia, and he served on the faculty at Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy and at Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy. Currently, he serves as editor of "Medicinal Chemistry Research."



Nickole N. Henyan, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. She completed a one-year ASHP/ACCP accredited specialty residency in pharmacotherapy practice at Shore Health System in Easton, Md. She also held a two-year fel-

lowship in cardiovascular pharmacology at Hartford Hospital and the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy.



Seongbong Jo, assistant professor of pharmaceutics and research assistant professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, earned his master's in physical pharmacy from Seoul National University, Korea, and a doctorate in industrial and physical pharmacy from Purdue

University. He held a postdoctoral appointment in the Department of Bioengineering at Rice University. He was employed at Desmogen Inc. in Houston, Texas, and Macromed Inc. in Sandy, Utah, and also worked at the Center for Controlled Chemical Delivery for polymeric gene and protein delivery.



Katie S. McClendon, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. She completed a one-year specialty residency in primary care with the John Cochran Veterans Affairs Medical Center, an affiliate of St. Louis

College of Pharmacy. She recently received specialty certification in pharmacotherapy from the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties.



S. Narasimha Murthy, assistant professor of pharmaceutics and research assistant professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, earned his master's and doctoral degrees in pharmaceutics from Bangalore University, India. He conducted his postdoctoral research in

the Department of Biophysics at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, and he was an assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Ohio Northern University.



Daniel M. Riche, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, earned his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He completed a one-year specialty residency in family medicine at St. Louis College of Pharmacy, affiliated with Mercy Family Medicine. He recently

received specialty certification in pharmacotherapy from the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties.

Accomplished graduate student receives predoctoral fellowship

by Dabney Weems

niversity of Mississippi (UM) graduate student Erin Holmes was awarded a predoctoral fellowship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE).

"Erin is an outstanding graduate student and promising young scientist," said Noel E. Wilkin, UM chair of pharmacy administration. "Many of Erin's activities, accomplishments, and awards have brought distinction to our program. More importantly, this is a well-deserved honor for Erin."

The fellowship is awarded to a maximum of 70 students annually and includes a \$6,000 stipend. Students are selected based on applications submitted to AFPE. Those eligible for

the award must have completed at least three semesters of graduate study toward a Ph.D. and have no more than three years remaining to obtain a degree in the pharmaceutical sciences.

"I am honored to be a part of the community of AFPE fellows, many of whom are in our own School of Pharmacy," Holmes said. "These fellows have made significant contributions to the pharmacy profession. I look forward to encouraging and helping other graduate students to apply for future AFPE predoctoral fellowships."

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Holmes received her Doctor of Pharmacy and master's in pharmacy administration from Duquesne

University. She was selected as Teaching Assistant of the Year in 2004 and 2005 by the second-professional-year pharmacy class. In 2006, Holmes received the UM Graduate Achievement Award in Pharmacy Administration. She has also been named a 2005 Top Quality Peer Reviewer for the journal "Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy."

Holmes' research focuses on understanding the role of emotions on pharmacists' work-life outcomes and improving outcomes of pharmacy student mentoring.

Pharmacy dean and husband establish endowed professorship

by Mitchell Diggs

he dean of The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy and her husband have created an endowed professorship in pharmacy practice, the first of its kind at the school.

Barbara G. Wells and husband, Richard M. Wells, have purchased a paid-up life insurance policy and directed the \$500,000 proceeds to the endowment, which will supplement the salary and/or support research activities of the holder of the professorship.

"We wanted to do something that was significant and enduring to advance the School of Pharmacy," said Wells, who has been pharmacy dean since January 2001. The couple established a scholarship fund in late 2001 that awards an annual grant to a UM pharmacy student.

As the school prepares to launch a capital campaign, raising funds for faculty and student support are vital goals, she said.

"We decided that by putting our money into an endowed professorship, we could have an impact on both faculty and students," Wells said. "And we hope this gift will inspire other faculty, alumni, and friends of the school to consider what they can do to support the teaching and research activities that have brought the School of Pharmacy to where it is."

The endowment will help ensure that the pharmacy school remains among the nation's



Richard M. Wells Barbara G. Wells

best, UM Chancellor Robert Khayat said.

"Dean Wells has provided exceptional leadership for the School of Pharmacy for the past five years, building on a legacy of outstanding educational opportunities for our pharmacists," Khayat said.

"This generous gift reflects the dedication and commitment of Dean Wells and her husband to the field of pharmacy and to The University of Mississippi. We thank both of them for committing their resources to the future of the school and the state."

Wells said the endowment should help to recruit and retain outstanding faculty. To be considered for the professorship, a candidate must be an excellent teacher who demonstrates genuine concern for students' welfare, a solid researcher, and a good citizen of the pharmacy school and the university, she said.

The couple chose to establish the professorship with a paid-up life insurance policy

because it allowed them to maximize the endowment's funding.

"One thing we discovered long before coming to The University of Mississippi is that you don't have to be wealthy to have a real and lasting impact on the lives of students and faculty," Wells said. "If you start with a small endowment and make sure it gets regularly supplemented over time, you can see it grow into a significant fund that can make a difference in the quality of pharmacy education."

A Memphis native, Wells came to UM from Idaho State University College of Pharmacy, where she also served as dean. Since coming to Ole Miss, she has served as president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Earlier this year, she was honored with the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award.

After earning her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the University of Tennessee (UT) College of Pharmacy, she began her academic career as an assistant professor at the UT College of Pharmacy. She also served on the pharmacy faculty at Samford University.

Richard Wells, also a graduate of the University of Tennessee, is a retired community pharmacist. He owned and operated Bartlett Pharmacy in Bartlett, Tenn., for more than 28 years. •

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Alumni Updates

Professional Update

Stan Illich (69) was selected as the Department of the Army Civilian Pharmacist of the Year for 2006.

Roland E. Mullins Jr. (73) was named president of the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy for 2006-07.

Burnis D. Breland (74, 76) is the recipient of the ASHP John W. Webb Visiting Professor Lecture Award for 2006. Breland is director of pharmacy, clinical research, and residency programs at Columbus Regional Healthcare System, and clinical professor of pharmacy practice at Auburn University.

Kevin Mocklin (74) was listed by *Louisiana Life Magazine* as one of the top doctors in endocrinology and metabolism.

Rusty Hailey (79) was awarded the Fellow of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy and was presented this designation at the AMCP annual meeting in April 2007.

Virginia Luke Wallace (80) received her certification as a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. She is currently a clinical pharmacist with Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

Marriages

Mollie Cannon (02, 04) and Gaston Carby on Sept. 16, 2006.

Carol Anne Emmons (03, 05) and Daniel Paul Kennedy on May 6, 2006.

Peter S. Ross (02, 04) and Darcy R. Perkins on Aug. 12, 2006.

Births

Bridgett Hathcock Chisolm (98) and Richard P. Chisolm announce the birth of a daughter, Morgan Louise, born Nov. 9, 2005.

Tina W. Dancer (93, 96) and Steven Dancer (92) announce the birth of a son, John Parker, born Jan. 24, 2006.

Lindsey Jane Gillette (02, 04) and Wesley A. Gillette announce the birth of a daughter, Ali Jane, born Feb. 8, 2006.

Lee Ann Harper Griffin (99, 01) and Bradley Griffin announce the birth of a daughter, Harper Claire, born March 27, 2006.

Kaye Dearman Jones (96) and Matthew B. Jones announce the birth of a daughter, Reagan Emily, born June 29, 2006. She was welcomed home by big sister Macey Nicole. Cheryll A. Ray (94) and Brian Ray announce the birth of Layton Ramsey, born Feb. 3, 2006. Julie G. Roberts (95) and Robert R. Roberts III (94) announce the birth of a daughter, Jacelyn Brooks, born Feb. 9, 2006.

Deanna L. Seabolt (96, 99) and Brian R. Seabolt announce the birth of a son, Solomon

Scott Suhor (93) and Reagan Suhor announce the birth of a daughter, Avery Loren, born Nov. 11, 2006.

Amanda Pitts Summers (93) and Mark Summers announce the birth of a son, Lincoln Brownlee, born Feb. 8, 2006.

In Memoriam

William Rawls (33), Dec. 26, 2006 George Pitalo (48), July 20, 2006 Clifford L. Bailey Jr. (52), Sept. 5, 2006 George Preston Booth (52), June 17, 2006 Richard F. McCarthy (55), June 9, 2006 Stanley Frank Applebaum (59), Nov. 27, 2005 Allen W. Nelson (60), Oct. 10, 2006 Ronald William Sartain (73), March 20, 2006 Gary S. Cole (74), July 28, 2006 Rickey L. Jones (75), Jan. 15, 2007 Joe F. Beatty (78), Oct. 24, 2006 Eugene E. Pepper Jr. (78), Dec. 30, 2006 Harris Bronson Jr. (79), Aug. 19, 2006

Pharmacy Focus is a publication of The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. It is funded by the Galen Order of The University of Mississippi Foundation. Please contact the dean's office at 662-915-7265 if you have any questions or comments.

James, born March 9, 2006.



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