

Alumni Updates

Professional Update

Randle House (99) was promoted to regional pharmacy vice president with the Rite Aid Corporation in June 2007. His area includes Eastern North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Southern Delaware. **Ronald E. Powell** (70) is retiring from the National Guard.

Births

Brian S. Bain (97, 99) and **Lucy D. Bain** (97, 99) announce the birth of a son, William Dixon, born May 11, 2007. He was welcomed home by big brother Reid Turner. **Tanya Borrell Boman** (95) and Joe E. Boman announce the birth of a daughter, Jessica Nicole, born March 5, 2007. She was welcomed home by big sister Alexis Maria. **Maria N. Johnson** (98, 00) married Jason W. Hurt on May 21, 2005. They announce the birth of a daughter, Ava Marie, born Aug. 24, 2006. **Carla Dear McGuire** (97) and **Henry L. McGuire** (89) announce the birth of a son, William Dempsey, born Feb. 12, 2007.

In Memoriam

William J. Fong (52), March 21, 2007
John T. Grant (59), April 11, 2007
Rickey L. Jones (75), Jan. 15, 2007
Armand M. Karow Jr. (68), Feb. 6, 2007
Joseph L. Masters Jr. (76), March 31, 2007

2007-08 Upcoming Events

Oct. 6—Tailgating before the Louisiana Tech football game (Homecoming)

- Faser Hall front lawn
- Sponsored by Walgreens

Oct. 13—Tailgating before the Alabama football game

- Faser Hall front lawn
- Sponsored by TopRx

Oct. 20—Tailgating before the Arkansas football game

- Faser Hall front lawn
- Sponsored by Harvard Drug Group

Oct. 25—Coy W. Waller Distinguished Lecture
-Guest lecturer: Dr. Carlton E. Turner, president and CEO of Carrington Laboratories, Inc.
-Sponsored by the Department of Medicinal Chemistry
-Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts

Dec. 3—Ole Miss Alumni Reception
-American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting
-Venetian Resort, Las Vegas, Nev.

Feb. 8-9—Pharmacy Weekend

Feb. 14—Charles W. Hartman Memorial Lecture
-Guest lecturer: Dr. Daniel W. Jones, president of the American Heart Association and vice chancellor for health affairs at The University of Mississippi Medical Center
-Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts

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PHARMACY FOCUS



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Dr. Barbara G. Wells
Dean

Dr. H. Joseph Byrd
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Chair of Pharmacy Practice

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. Repka
Chair of Pharmaceutics

Dr. Robert C. Speth
Chair of Pharmacology

Dr. Noel E. Wilkin
Chair of Pharmacy Administration

Dabney Weems
Editor

John Juergens, late Billy Barrios recognized for service to students



Dr. John Juergens (left) receives the Frist Student Service Award.

by Elaine Pugh and Dabney Weems

Each day at The University of Mississippi (UM), students are impacted by words and actions of many faculty and staff who extend their work beyond classrooms, labs, and office space.

For the 13th year, students, alumni, faculty, and staff submitted numerous nomination letters calling attention to some of these special people, and a committee appointed by Chancellor Robert Khayat has chosen two of the nominees as this year's Frist Student Service Award honorees.

They are John P. Juergens, associate professor of pharmacy administration, and the late Billy Barrios, who at the time of his death last year was a staff psychologist at the University Counseling Center.

This year's recipients are exemplary of the criteria for the Frist awards, Khayat said.

"The ultimate measure of a person's life is the impact he has on his fellow man. Billy Barrios was a quiet man blessed with a loving heart. In his presence, a person felt the peace he brought to the

world and the kindness he extended to others.

"Dr. Juergens understands the fiduciary duty faculty owe to their students and that the responsibility goes beyond the subject matter presented in classes. He views the whole person and is sensitive to the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the young men and women with whom he works. He has accepted a leadership role in some of the truly challenging and troubling aspects of our society and, by doing so, has made a lasting impact on the lives of his students and on this university."

The awards, given annually to one faculty member and one staff member, were presented May 12 during the university's commencement. Patricia Barrios accepted the award on behalf of her late husband.

"Billy truly believed that service was a sacred activity, and I know with my whole being that he would have been filled with gratefulness for this touching tribute that demonstrates that the university holds service to its students with the same esteem that he tried to walk every day of his life,"

Juergens, continued on Page 4

Message from the Dean

The faculty of the School of Pharmacy proudly presided over the pharmacy graduation ceremony on May 12, 2007. Eighty-two students were conferred the bachelor's in pharmaceutical sciences degree, 78 received the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, four received the master's in pharmaceutical sciences degree, and nine were conferred the Doctor of Philosophy degree in pharmaceutical sciences. Participating in the graduation ceremony is an honor and an absolute joy for our students, their families, the faculty, and staff. It is the highlight of the academic year and the culmination of all of our work. All alumni and friends of pharmacy have a standing invitation to attend our graduation ceremony. If you do, you will find that it is an uplifting, energizing, and memorable experience.

Curriculum

The new accreditation standards for Doctor of Pharmacy programs became effective on July 1, 2007. These new standards require significant curricular modifications, which will strengthen the pre-pharmacy science requirements. More hours of early practice experience in the first, second, and third professional years are now required. The new

standards also require that we provide skills laboratory experiences in the first two professional years and more elective courses during the first three professional years. Clearly, a very significant curricular revision is required to comply with the new standards.

An important change in our curriculum during the 2006-07 year was the inclusion of early practice experiences into the P5 year (our third professional year). This modification to the curriculum is an excellent first step, and I commend our pharmacy practice faculty for forthrightly responding to the new standards. For several months under the leadership of Dr. Marvin C. Wilson, our faculty members have worked diligently to develop an updated curriculum that fully complies with the new accreditation standards and provides the very best pharmacy education possible. Development of an implementation plan for the new curriculum is currently underway.

Planning

Forty faculty, staff, students, and practitioners worked for approximately seven months to develop a new, comprehensive, five-year strategic plan for the School of Pharmacy, which was adopted by a unanimous vote of the faculty in May. I am very proud of the plan and of the broad-based process that was undertaken to develop it. It elucidates our vision, mission, values, goals, and objectives. The plan articulates the goals and objectives for which we stand accountable. I want to sincerely thank Dr. Alicia S. Bouldin for her leadership in chairing the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. She worked hard to ensure that the plan is a high quality one and that all constituents had appropriate opportunity for input.

Facilities

Construction has begun on a new 250-seat auditorium adjacent to the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR), which will accommodate meetings of all of the pharmacy students and faculty based on the Oxford campus at one time. Construction is progressing according to schedule, and it should be completed by fall semester 2008. This audi-

School of Pharmacy



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torium is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, and it will serve the needs of the NCNPR and allow the school to modestly increase the class size in the pharmacy program if additional funds can be identified to support program expansion. We are very grateful to U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran and his staff for their assistance in identifying the funding for construction of this critically needed facility.

By early fall, temporary space behind Faser Hall will be modified to accommodate our aquatic research center. After relocation of that research program, renovation of the third floor of Faser, which accommodates our pharmacology department, will begin in earnest. The third-floor renovation is projected to be completed early in 2009.

We continue to work diligently to plan for construction of a critically needed new pharmacy building on the Medical Center campus in Jackson. Our accrediting agency has informed us that our current rented facilities in Jackson do not comply with accreditation standards, and that we must make other arrangements as soon as feasible to provide for the needs of students and faculty in Jackson. The agency recommended that the best solution would be to construct a new building in Jackson on the Medical Center campus. A primary goal of our newly approved capital campaign is to raise funds to build that facility for our students.

Funding for this new building will come from a partnership of government (both state and federal), faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the School of Pharmacy, as well as from corporate support. This new space in Jackson



Dean Barbara Wells

will be a giant step forward for the school, as it will significantly improve student and faculty morale, improve the quality of student learning, provide a student lounge and student association meeting space, a first-rate classroom, and inter-professional learning opportunities for our students. In addition, it will provide critically needed research space for our faculty and more collaborative research opportunities.

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. We are seeking federal funds to construct this new facility. I am very grateful to Dr. Charles D. Hufford for his leadership and oversight of all of our facility expansion and improvement projects.

Capital Campaign

We recently undertook a planning study to evaluate the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign to address critical student needs and urgent accreditation issues. The alumni interviewed in our feasibility study strongly encouraged us to move forward with the campaign. They understood and supported the

information in the case statement and concurred that the time is right to implement the campaign.

As our continuing accreditation is contingent upon providing new space in Jackson to meet student needs, funding for that new building, as noted above, is a primary target for the campaign. Other key goals are endowments to meet the scholarship needs of students and to support the needs of faculty. We will be in the quiet stage of the capital campaign throughout 2008, and in the public phase throughout calendar year 2009.

In closing, let me say that we graduate

highly capable, patient-centered pharmacists who will assume the mantle of leadership within the pharmacy profession and within their communities. We are committed to continuous improvement of our curriculum. Our student applicant pool is strong, and our faculty members are accomplished and dedicated. Our presence is valued on The University of Mississippi Medical Center campus, and its administration will provide space on which to build our new clinical sciences instructional facility. We have the strong and unwavering commitment of our loyal alumni. In short, our future is very bright.

I owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of our alumni for their love and support of the School of Pharmacy. The school could not be what it is without their allegiance and good ambassadorship. As a part of the 100th birthday of the School of Pharmacy, I am planning to host a series of alumni receptions during the 2007-08 academic year. The dates and locations of these events will be announced soon. I look very much forward to seeing good friends more frequently this year and to meeting some alumni that I have not yet had the opportunity to meet. As always, please drop in for a visit whenever you are in Oxford or Jackson. We would love to see you. ●

Sincerely,

Barbara Wells

Barbara Wells



The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson

NCNPR head resigns as editor of leading drug discovery journal

by Edwin Smith

Larry A. Walker, director of The University of Mississippi's (UM) National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR), is stepping down from his long-time editorship of a leading scholarly journal.

The pharmacologist became editor in chief of the "Journal of Biomolecular Screening" in 1999. Under Walker's leadership, the official journal of the Society for Biomolecular Sciences has come to be recognized as the premier journal in the drug discovery field. Submissions from biochemical research sectors increased 260 percent since 2000, and submissions from academic laboratories increased 500 percent during that same period.

Published eight times per year, the journal has recorded a 500 percent increase in institutional subscriptions since 2003. Its circulation is approximately 2,000.

Renowned for his scientific research and respected for his academic scholarship, Walker is praised by his peers at UM for his excellence while editor.

"Dr. Walker has provided extraordinary leadership in making JBS the premier journal on drug discovery," said Alice M. Clark, vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs. "The position of editor in chief of a major scientific journal is vested only in individuals with a broad vision of the field and the respect of their peers. This particular journal brings together scientists from many disci-

plines, the public and private sectors, and the international arena."

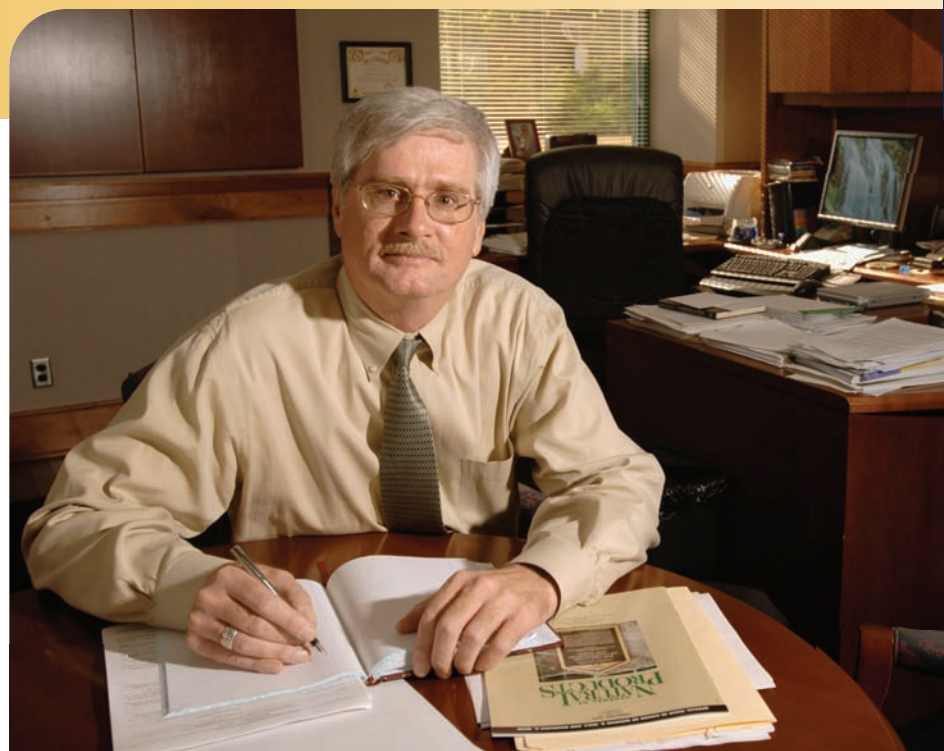
Walker expects to end his tenure with the publication within the year.

"I will continue for a few months as editor in chief," he said. "I am turning over the bulk of the editor duties to an executive editor, who will probably have all of [the duties] in the near future."

Said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the School of Pharmacy, "Dr. Walker has taken this nascent journal and developed it into a first-rate periodical [that] has truly moved the discipline forward."

Susan P. Manly, associate director of NCNPR, concurred, saying, "This journal serves as a focal point for the growing community of scientists interested in making drug discovery a less difficult task. Dr. Walker is highly regarded as the person with the foresight, determination, and talent to get the journal and the society off the ground and into its current vigorous status."

After serving a year as interim director of NCNPR, Walker was named the center's



Dr. Larry Walker

director in 2002. Before that, he was the center's associate director and research professor in the pharmacy school.

Walker earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Oglethorpe University, a bachelor's in pharmacy from Mercer University, and a doctorate in pharmacology from Vanderbilt University. He joined the UM faculty in 1981.

His research interests are in natural products drug discovery, including development of laboratory techniques to test potential new drugs for biological activity, defining their physical and chemical properties and their toxicity. He has been principal investigator for several research projects and published dozens of journal papers. ●

Juergens, continued from Page 1

Patricia Barrios said.

Barrios joined the UM psychology faculty in 1981 after earning his doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Utah, his master's in clinical psychology at Mississippi State University, and his bachelor's in psychology at Louisiana State University. He received UM's highest teaching honor, the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, in 1995. He joined the Counseling Center staff in 1995.

A nomination letter for Barrios, written by a former colleague, stated: "Dr. Billy Barrios was a great light on this campus, and he illuminated most specifically the humanity of his students. He could often be seen counseling students in some sunlit corner of the campus, walking slowly to another class, or in the classroom."

Juergens, coordinator of student professional development in the School of Pharmacy, joined the pharmacy faculty in 1988. His involvement in student professional development and pre-pharmacy advising includes assemblies that inform students of various career opportunities in pharmacy, and other issues critical to their development as professionals.

"I try to take the time and interest in students because I'm helping to guide their careers," he said. "I want them to be successful, and I try to set them up for that success."

Juergens received his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati. He earned his Master of Science in health care administration and doctorate from UM. He is retired from federal government service.

Letters of nomination for the award highlighted Juergens' concern for students.

"It is not simply a job to him; you can immediately see that he takes a great deal of pride in making you the best that you can be," wrote one student.

Another student mentioned being guided by Juergens through the admissions process and attaining her goal of acceptance into pharmacy school.

"It is because of him that I did not give up on my dreams of becoming a pharmacist, and it is with his encouragement that I pushed myself through these challenging semesters in order to attain that goal," she wrote.

The Frist awards were established in 1995 with a gift from the late Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr. of Nashville, a 1930 UM graduate. ●

Natural Products Research Center, Shanghai institute form agreement

by Edwin Smith

Two of the world's leading botanical products research institutes are joining to study and promote the value, safety, and utilization of traditional Chinese medicine commonly found in the multibillion-dollar herbal industry.

The National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR) in The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy entered into a formal agreement April 30 with the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica/Chinese Academy of Sciences. The pact calls for the two entities to jointly develop a Sino-U.S. traditional Chinese medicine research center.

The collective efforts of the Indian, Chinese, and U.S. academicians, industries, and government agencies are of great interest in the field of natural-products research, said Alice M. Clark, UM's vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs.

"For more than a decade, the center has been an international leader in understanding the chemistry and biology of medicinal plants and their impact on human health," Clark said.

One of the new center's major objectives is to develop science-based standards and references for the quality and safety assessment of traditional Chinese medicine or TCM. The effort involves isolating and analyzing the compounds in the herbal medicines that are responsible for any biological activity. This gives scientists a standard chemical profile to evaluate the product's health benefits and to duplicate the studies for verification.

"A concentrated collaborative effort by leading natural-products institutions is needed



Dr. De-an Guo (left), director of the Sino side of the center, Dr. Larry A. Walker, NCNPR director, and Dr. Ikhlas A. Khan, director of the U.S. side of the center, pictured during the signing ceremony.

standardization process is the need to properly voucher and identify the plant species from which the extract, and ultimately the compound, is taken.

"This process—referred to as good botanical practices—is the only way results can conform to the scientific requirement of reproducibility," said pharmacognosist Ikhlas Khan, director of NCNPR's Food and Drug Administration Program.

Khan, who has been named director of the U.S. side of the new center, noted that the Shanghai institute initiated the official agreement. His fellow pharmacognosists, Xing-Cong Li and Troy Smillie, have been designat-

ed as co-director and project manager, respectively. "As millions of people throughout the world utilize TCMs for medicinal purposes, there is still a significant lack of scientific understanding of the compounds within many plants that are responsible for the desired biological effects," Smillie said. "As a result, many dietary supplements lack standardization or are standardized to a marker that has no meaningful biological effect."

Other objectives of the center include developing and validating analytical methods for TCMs; identifying and qualifying new analytical techniques; hosting workshops on standardization, safety, and other quality control issues; maintaining a repository of plant voucher specimens, extracts, and reference standards; and promoting research through the exchange of visiting scientists. NCNPR has seven visiting researchers from China.

Director of the new center's Sino side is De-an Guo, chair and professor of Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences and director of the Shanghai Research Center for Modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The co-director and project manager in China are yet to be named.

The planned center is the second formal collaboration NCNPR has made with another leading natural-products institution. The first such pact was made in 2005 with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in India. ●

to address these issues related to TCM," said Larry A. Walker, director of the Ole Miss natural-products center. "These combined interests and efforts in the area of natural-products chemistry and herbal drugs have great potential."

An often-overlooked part of the standardization process is the need to properly voucher and identify the plant species from which the extract, and ultimately the compound, is taken.

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Two faculty board certified as pharmacotherapy specialists

by Dabney Weems

Katie S. McClendon and Daniel M. Riche, both clinical assistant professors of pharmacy practice at The University of Mississippi (UM), have earned specialty certification in pharmacotherapy from the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS).

BPS certification is voluntary and awards a peer-established credential that validates specialized knowledge, skills, advanced training, and experience. As certified professionals, these practitioners demonstrate a high level of expertise and trustworthiness to their patients, students, and colleagues. In 2006,

564 of 818 candidates were certified, bringing the number of board-certified pharmacotherapy specialists to 3,688.

"We are very proud of these faculty members for this accomplishment," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "They set a high standard for themselves as clinical practitioners and as faculty members. The School of Pharmacy benefits in many ways from the high standards they set, but the biggest winners are the patients they serve."

McClendon earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from University of South Carolina College

of Pharmacy. She completed a one-year specialty residency in primary care with John Cochran Veterans Affairs Medical Center, an affiliate of St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

Riche received his Doctor of Pharmacy in 2005 from University of Louisiana at Monroe. Upon graduation, he completed a specialty residency in family medicine with St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

McClendon and Riche joined the UM faculty last summer, and both work with students and patients at the UM Medical Center in Jackson. ●

Scientist's discovery featured on Thai stamp

by Lauren Freeman

For most people, finding a previously undiscovered species of plant and being honored with a postage stamp are unimaginably rare events. But a University of Mississippi (UM) research scientist has accomplished both, thanks to a little luck and a lot of hard work.

Aruna D. Weerasooriya, a scientist at the UM National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR), was surprised recently when Thailand issued a new postage stamp featuring *Mitrephora sirikitiae*, a flowering plant he discovered in the mountains of that country. He found the plant in the Mae Hong Son province of Northwest Thailand while doing independent research on the genus *Mitrephora* for a world monograph. The genus includes 48 species of shrubs and trees in tropical Southeast Asia.

"He was lucky. There are many botanists who will work their whole lives without finding an undiscovered plant," said Ikhlal A. Khan, assistant director of NCNPR. "It was really novel."

Weerasooriya did not know that the Thai government was honoring his discovery with a postage stamp until he got a pack of the embossed stamps in the mail. The plant most likely was chosen for a stamp because it is

named in honor of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, he said.

Encouraged by a local horticulturalist in Thailand, Weerasooriya named the plant for the queen because she

provides financial support for botanical research in her country. The queen, who is trained in chemistry, also is dedicated to preserving the country's plants and environment, he said.

This particular species stands out among the *Mitrephora* genus because it has larger and more fragrant flowers.

"It was the most beautiful of the genus," Weerasooriya said. "It was just magnificent."

Tree-like in appearance, the plant grows 4-to-6 meters tall. It has large flowers with white and purple petals that bloom in April and May, and it bears fruit in August and September.

Like most of the species in this genus, *Mitrephora sirikitiae* grows exclusively in a small area, so habitat destruction could threaten its survival.

Weerasooriya began his research of the *Mitrephora* genus in 1998 and traveled to parts of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia (Kalimantan and Java), India, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Southern China.

"No scientist had comprehensively worked on this genus before," he said.

He studied all the different species in this genus. He completed his research four years later and discovered 18 new species. *Mitrephora sirikitiae* was one of them, and it was officially confirmed as a new species in 2004.

Weerasooriya joined the university's research staff in 2002 to work on the center's partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to develop standards for botanical dietary supplements.

Khan, who serves as director of the FDA program, said Weerasooriya's expertise has been a tremendous asset to the work.

"He has a great deal of international experience, and his taxonomic expertise is very rare," Khan said. "It was the kind of expertise we needed."

Weerasooriya is in charge of the UM's medicinal plant garden. His work at the university also includes identifying and growing medicinally important plants for drug discovery research at NCNPR, studying their biology, and trying to introduce medicinally important cash crops for Mississippi farmers. He established a living collection of nearly 1,000

medicinally important plant species and a seed bank at the medicinal plant garden, and initiated an active germplasm exchange program with several international botanical research institutes.

He is writing a book on the entire *Mitrephora* genus that will be submitted to the American Society of Plant Taxonomists for publication.

A native of Sri Lanka, Weerasooriya studied at University of Peradeniya in his home country and earned his doctorate in plant systematics at University of Hong Kong. He also trained in plant systematics, germplasm conservation, and botanic garden management at the world's largest botanical institute, Royal Botanic Garden Kew in England. He is an associate faculty member of Missouri Botanical Garden and a fellow of the esteemed Linnean Society of London, the world's oldest biological society that embraces biological diversity, ecology, and evolution.

The NCNPR, which is administered through the UM School of Pharmacy, is the nation's only university research center devoted to improving human health and agricultural productivity through the discovery, development, and commercialization of pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals derived from plants, marine organisms, and other natural products. ●



Dr. Aruna Weerasooriya

University of Oklahoma commencement address delivered by pharmacy administration chair

by Dabney Weems

The University of Mississippi (UM) Chair of Pharmacy Administration Noel E. Wilkin delivered the commencement address at the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Pharmacy on June 2.

Wilkin addressed the 113 Doctor of Pharmacy graduates and nearly 2,000 guests at the Thelma Gaylord Performing Arts Center in Oklahoma City.

"I recommended him to our dean, Dr. Douglas Voth," said OU Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Mark L. Britton. "He and I participated in the inaugural American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellows Program. I liked his energy, enthusiasm, commitment to the profession, and engaging personality."

Referencing the life of Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, Wilkin's address focused on persevering to succeed and to impact others' lives.

"Your rejections and accomplishments, your endeavors and perspectives, your ideas and creativity, your restarts and victories will lead us all in new and wonderful directions ... and, all the while, you will be influencing lives and helping patients to get better," Wilkin said.

While on his visit to Oklahoma, Wilkin met with OU faculty members, clinicians, students, and administrators. He also toured the university's facilities, including its nuclear pharmacy facility.

"I was honored to have had this opportunity to share this special celebration with these new practitioners and the faculty who educated them," Wilkin said. "This was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career."

Previous OU commencement speakers include Peter H. Vlasses, Pharm.D., executive director of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education; Lucinda L. Maine, Ph.D., executive vice president of AACP; and JoLaine R. Draugalis, Ph.D., AACP Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award recipient and newly appointed dean of the OU College of Pharmacy.

Wilkin received his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy and doctorate in pharmacy administration from University of Maryland. He joined the UM faculty in 1996 and also serves as associate professor of pharmacy administration, research associate professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director of the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management.

He received the school's Pharmaceutical Science Teaching Award in 2004, 2006, and 2007 for teaching Pharmacy Management and Business Methods to the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences class. In addition to teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, he conducts research on the social and behavioral aspects of pharmacy

and health care. Wilkin also serves on several university, community, and School of Pharmacy committees. In 2004, he was chosen as part of the inaugural class of the Academic Leadership Fellows Program with AACP. ●



Dr. Noel Wilkin

Pharmacy school surpasses its NIH funding record

by Dabney Weems

The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy ranks No. 2 in the nation among pharmacy schools in total extramural funding awarded and No. 17 in funding awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to a report compiled by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).

During fiscal year 2006, the School of Pharmacy garnered \$18.4 million in total extramural funding for its second-place ranking, and the amount included \$6.1 million in research funding from the NIH.

"This year we had the most NIH dollars in the history of the school and the second most total extramural funding dollars ever received

by the school," stated Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs Charles D. Hufford. "We have been ranked first or second in total funding four out of the last five years."

Included in the \$18.4 million is funding from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology, and the NIH, among others.

University of California at San Francisco holds the top spot among pharmacy schools this year, garnering \$23.3 million in extramural funding. Following UM and rounding out the top five are the University of Utah, University of Kansas, and University of Washing-

ton, respectively.

Garnering funds from national agencies, especially the NIH, is highly competitive and is usually used as a means to gauge a pharmacy school's research program.

"Our faculty are high[ly] capable and competitive researchers, and their research efforts serve to improve global health, advance the profession of pharmacy, and increase the national standing of the school and the university," said Dean Barbara G. Wells. "Furthermore, their research findings inform and energize their teaching. I am honored to work with these committed individuals." ●

Recent pharmacy graduate completes rotation with FDA

by Dabney Weems

Rachel Delcambre, a 2007 graduate of The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy, recently completed a novel rotation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Special Health Issues (OSHI).

Delcambre, a Gulfport native who earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, is the first UM student to complete a rotation with the agency.

"We are very proud of Rachel pursuing the initiative and receiving the invitation for participation in such a distinguished rotation," said Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Marvin C. Wilson. "This is further evidence of the national prominence of the school's professional degree program."

During their last year of pharmacy school, students are required to complete seven six-week rotations. Delcambre became aware of the FDA rotation during an assembly in the fall semester of the previous year at which rotation options were described.

"We were briefed on all of the options for the sixth-year clinical-year rotations," she said. "I was really hoping to branch out and complete rotations in other states. I had spent the last three-and-a-half years working in retail and hospital pharmacy settings, and I figured the FDA would be something new and different. There are so many other opportunities for pharmacists outside of the traditional hospital and retail setting, and the FDA could

show some of these opportunities to me firsthand."

OSHI answers questions about the FDA's activities related to HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other special health issues. The office works with patients and their advocates to encourage and support participation in forming FDA regulatory policy. The staff also provides information about the FDA drug approval process and clinical trials.

During her rotation, Delcambre helped revise treatment information charts and worked on a project involving the various organizations with which OSHI corresponds. She was responsible for conducting Web searches to ensure that those organizations were using information provided to them from OSHI on Web sites or in publications.

She, along with students from other pharmacy schools on other rotations with the FDA, also participated in daily seminars delivered by FDA pharmacists. The purpose of the seminars was to provide an overview of the FDA and how the organization works to achieve its mission, and to offer insight into what it is like for a pharmacist to work there. Students also attended meetings with representatives from organizations such as the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, American Pharmacists Association, United States Pharmacopeia, and the National Institutes of Health, and they attended congressional hearings regarding Pharmaceutical

Market Access and the Drug Safety Act of 2007.

"Rachel served an excellent rotation with the FDA Office of Special Health Issues," said Teresa Toigo, director of OSHI, who also served as Delcambre's preceptor. "She worked hard and productively on OSHI projects. Rachel's cheerful and approachable personality made her easy to work with, and she will be a valuable asset to any organization."

"I had such a great time, and it's a fantastic opportunity to learn so much," Delcambre said. "You learn about yourself and what your areas of interest truly are. You get to learn about other pharmacy programs from the other students and how the practice of pharmacy differs from state to state. Also, you learn about public policy, the lawmaking process, and how Congress can directly or indirectly affect the practice of pharmacy in the U.S."

Delcambre received her Bachelor of Science in biological sciences from University of Southern Mississippi and Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences from UM. She is a member of the National Community Pharmacists Association, American Pharmacists Association, Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and Kappa Epsilon professional pharmacy fraternity.

She plans to start work soon at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport. ●

Professor with continuing education expertise directs pharmacists' professional development

by Dabney Weems

Dr. Randy Pittman was named director of the Division of Pharmacy Professional Development (DPPD) at The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy.

He previously held the appointment of clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice. From 2001-2003, he was associate director of the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Services at UM, assisting with continuing education opportunities for pharmacists. He received his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy from UM. His areas of practice

include geriatrics and consulting pharmacy.

"Dr. Pittman has an in-depth understanding of the professional-development needs of Mississippi pharmacists," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "He is committed to helping pharmacists develop the abilities they need to advance their practices to the next level to include medication therapy management services, which ensure that patients receive optimal medication effectiveness and minimal risk. He is a tremendous asset to the School of Pharmacy and to our profession."

Continuing Education, continued on next page



Dr. Randy Pittman

As director, Pittman is responsible for creating professional-development opportunities for practicing pharmacists. These opportunities include educational opportunities, live and printed, at the local and national level such as continuing education, certificate programs, and distance learning programs.

The DPPD will continue popular programs such as the annual Keep Up Conference, intended to educate pharmacists on new drugs introduced to the market during the previous

year, and the continuing education opportunities provided during Pharmacy Alumni Weekend and throughout the year. Pittman also plans to expand upon the renewed interest in disease state management with the evolution of medication therapy management.

"I feel honored to work in this capacity," Pittman said. "The division is very important in (the school) maintaining ties with the practicing pharmacists of Mississippi, and I want to be a source for pharmacists all over the

state to help them develop and expand their practice to include new and expanding roles for the future."

Established in 2005 and located at The University of Mississippi Medical Center, the DPPD provides continuing education and professional-development opportunities for pharmacists throughout Mississippi. The DPPD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. ●

School of Pharmacy honors distinguished alumni

by Dabney Weems

Three graduates of The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy were honored by the school for their career accomplishments and professional service.

Henry Frazer of Montgomery, Ala., Harold Kornfuhrer of Tupelo, and Kerby Ladner of Oxford were named 2007 Distinguished Alumni of the Year during Pharmacy Alumni Weekend on March 3 in Oxford. Selection is based on professional accomplishments and service to the pharmacy school, including its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

"These three highly accomplished individuals represent the best of the best," said Barbara G. Wells, pharmacy dean. "They are exemplary professionals whose work has advanced their fields of endeavor. Our students learn through their example just what can be achieved for the greater good through hard work, focused preparation, and dedication to lofty goals."

Frazer is founder and president of Drug Research and Analysis Corp. He received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from UM in 1963 and Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Mercer University in 1975. He has chaired the board of the Montgomery Regional Medical Center and is a member of the School of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Committee and a sustaining member of its Galen Order.

Frazer was president of the Central Alabama Community Foundation, Landmarks Foundation, Medical Outreach Ministries, Montgomery Ole Miss Alumni Club, and Kiwanis Club of Montgomery. In 2005, he was inducted into the UM Alumni Hall of Fame.

Kornfuhrer, a 1973 graduate of the school, is director of pharmacy and administrator for

Oncology/Behavioral Health Service Line for North Mississippi Medical Center. He has served as president, program chair, and northern region vice president of the Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP). He also has served on the pharmacy school's Alumni Board of Directors, Dean's Advisory Committee, and Curriculum Committee.

Pharmacy students named Kornfuhrer Preceptor of the Year in 1991 and 2003. He was named MSHP Pharmacist of the Year and received the group's Innovative Practice Award. He was named a fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in 1994 and designated as the Webb Leadership Lecturer for 2002 at Northeastern University in Boston.

Ladner received his bachelor's in pharmacy with honors in 1967. As a student, he was inducted into Rho Chi pharmacy honor society and the school's Hall of Fame. He received the Bowl of Hygeia award in 1997 and the School of Pharmacy Faculty Service Award in 1993.

He joined the school's faculty in 1967 and served for 31 years. During that time, he developed continuing education opportunities for pharmacists, serving as director of the



Dean Barbara G. Wells congratulates 2007 Distinguished Alumni Harold Kornfuhrer (left), Henry Frazer, and Kerby Ladner.

Bureau of Pharmaceutical Services for 26 years.

At the bureau, he began the annual Keep Up seminars that introduce new drugs and laws impacting the practice of pharmacy, initiated the first certificate programs in disease management offered by the school, and helped the school obtain a contract with "Drug Topics" to offer home study continuing education courses to pharmacists. During the life of the contract, more than 70,000 pharmacists obtained CE credit through the UM pharmacy school. ●

University's first confocal microscope obtained

by Lydia Hailman

Thanks to a new, powerful, state-of-the-art microscope, University of Mississippi (UM) researchers can better understand how cells work and diseases originate. They can even inspect nonliving cells and minerals that make up everyday items such as computers, batteries, and tires.

This valuable new tool is a confocal microscope, recently acquired by the university to enhance faculty and student research. It is the first microscope of its kind on the Oxford campus, and, with a price tag of more than \$400,000, it is also the most expensive.

"This confocal microscope is now the major instrument that is central to The University of Mississippi's Light Microscopy Core," said Charles D. Hufford, associate dean of research and graduate programs, and professor of pharmacognosy. "It is so important for our research programs in the biological sciences. The acquisition of this shared-use light microscope is significant since there are none currently at the university."

Sean M. Wilson, assistant professor of pharmacology and director of the UM Light Microscopy Core, was awarded a \$504,000 National Science Foundation grant last August, along with co-investigators Zia Shariat-Madar, assistant professor of pharmacology, and Bradley Jones, assistant professor of biology, providing funds to purchase the high-tech instrument.

A confocal microscope differs from a conventional microscope in that it produces high-resolution images by shining a high-energy beam of focused laser light into specimens. One of its key features is the ability to pro-

duce clear images of thick specimens at various depths. Images are taken point by point and reconstructed with a computer, rather than projected through an eyepiece.

The Zeiss 510 model acquired by UM is the company's flagship instrument. Made in Germany to Wilson's specifications, the system uses the latest technologies available. A computer connected to the microscope has two large side-by-side screens that allow scientists to clearly examine specimens.

"We are extremely pleased that Dr. Wilson successfully garnered the funding to acquire the confocal microscope," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the pharmacy school. "We in the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Pharmacology are very excited about the impact that this instrument will have on our research programs and the research of other scientists across campus. We are also appreciative of the support of Dr. Alice Clark in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs in making this facility a reality for our campus. We are very fortunate that Dr. Wilson chose The University of Mississippi as his home institution."

Wilson, who worked with confocal microscopes for eight years at other institutions, estimates that eight or nine UM faculty members will regularly use the new instrument, with more than 25 faculty utilizing it periodically. In the future, he hopes to offer a microscopy course in which UM students can learn confocal microscope techniques for use in their own research projects.

"It is kind of like flying an airplane," Wilson said. "There are lots of different steps to



Dr. Sean Wilson

go through."

A room on Faser Hall's second floor was specially renovated to house the sensitive and expensive microscope. Two new air-conditioning units keep the room at a constant temperature. The equipment must remain thermally stable since a change in temperature could damage the microscope or cause a deflection off the microscope's glass, therefore altering scientific results. Besides the confocal microscope, the university also acquired a fluorescent microscope, which is to be housed in the same room.

The university also employs a confocal microscope specialist, Noah Osman, as a full-time technician. Supported by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Osman assists faculty and students in use of the new equipment.

The only other confocal microscopes in the state are located at the UM Medical Center in Jackson and University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. ●

Student receives national scholarship from pharmaceutical fraternity

by Dabney Weems

University of Mississippi (UM) Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate Terry Lynn Zepponi of Indiana is among six students to receive a national Zada M. Cooper Scholarship from the Kappa Epsilon (KE) Foundation.

"Terry Lynn is a highly motivated and extremely focused young woman," said Rachel C. Robinson, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and adviser to the UM chapter of Kappa Epsilon pharmaceutical fraternity. "She has been a great mentor and

tutor to her fellow classmates, as well as an effective leader for Kappa Epsilon."

Zepponi is the first Ole Miss student to receive the scholarship.

Established in 1955 to honor KE's founder, the \$500 unrestricted scholarship recognizes superior achievement in pharmacy students who have superior academic standards and who have also contributed substantially to the activities of their KE chapter and pharmacy school. Applicants must have completed six semesters of undergraduate educa-

tion with at least two of these in an accredited school of pharmacy.

Zepponi is the daughter of Terry and Donna Zepponi. Besides serving as president of the campus KE chapter, she is also a member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists, National Community Pharmacists Association, and Phi Kappa Phi honor society. ●



Dr. Marvin C. Wilson (left) with Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences class marshal Meredith Hegi, Doctor of Pharmacy class marshal Susan Hamblin, and Dean Barbara G. Wells.

Awards presented during Awards Day and Graduation

Pharmaceutical Science Teaching Award

Dr. Noel E. Wilkin

Clinical Science Teaching Award

Dr. G. Phillip Ayers

Doctor of Pharmacy Hall of Fame

Lanny T. Mize

Laurie Elizabeth Warrington

Faculty Instructional Innovation Award

Dr. Gary D. Theilman

Faculty Research Award

Dr. Christopher R. McCurdy

Faculty Service Award

Dr. Brian L. Crabtree

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Mr. Louie Smith

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Erin Holmes

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Ashley Jasmine Stubblefield

Perrigo Award for Excellence in

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School of Pharmacy Award for Scholarship

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Meredith Mansfield Hegi

Joshua B. Manning

Anna Marie Smith

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American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists Mortar and Pestle Professionalism Award

Brandon Cross Deterding

Bruce Parks Memorial MSHP Student Award

Brandon Cross Deterding

Mylan Institute of Pharmacy Excellence in Pharmacy Award

Susan Elizabeth Hamblin

School of Pharmacy Award for Scholarship

Susan Elizabeth Hamblin

Shawn Bankston Memorial Award

Adrian Compston

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Achievement in Medicinal Chemistry

Meredith Mansfield Hegi

Distinguished Citation for Outstanding Con- tributions to Research in Medicinal Chemistry

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Achievement in Pharmaceutics

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Meredith Mansfield Hegi

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Meredith Mansfield Hegi

Joshua B. Manning

Anna Marie Smith

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Ashlee Marie Cole

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Sarah Beth Heard

Meredith Mansfield Hegi

Heather Hills

Deidra Michelle Hodges

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Sally R. Putt

Andrea Marie Rolwing

Mary Margaret Schuchard

Maureen Shorter

Amber Smithers

Vikki M. Steward

Ashley Jasmine Stubblefield

Joshua Swan

Terence E. Downer Healthcare Communications Scholarship

Ashley Jasmine Stubblefield

Zada M. Cooper Scholarship

Terry Lynn Zepponi



Austin Bullard



Amanda James



Dr. Rachel Robinson (left) and Vikki Steward

SCHOOL Gr



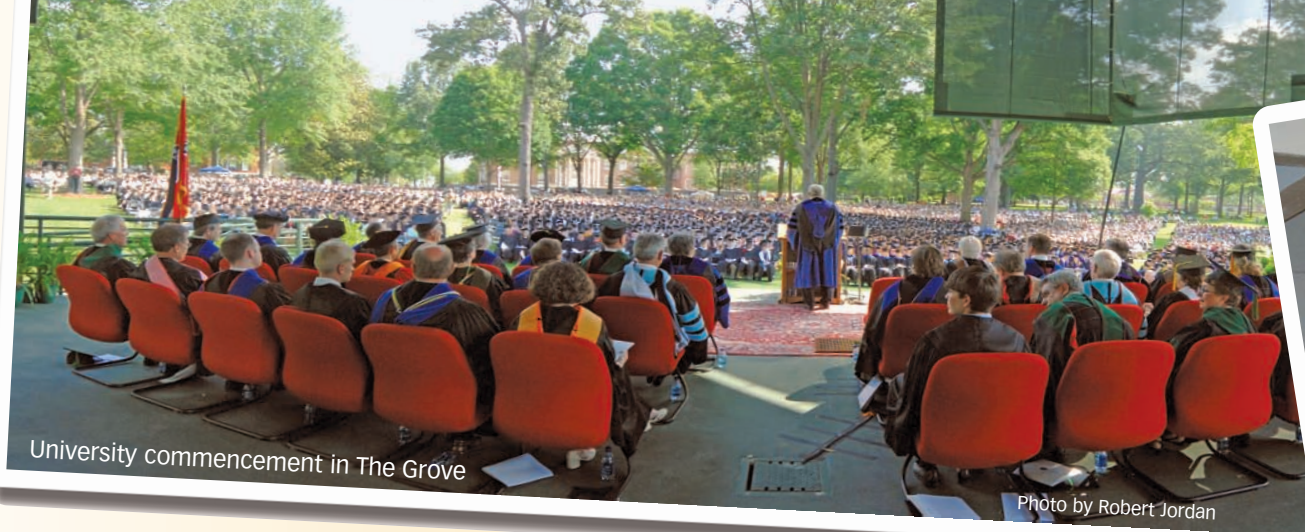
Bailey Melton and Tanya Griffin



Back row: Alexander Quesenberry (left) and Josh Chady
Front row: Josh Swan (left), Carmen Hayden, Sally Putt, and Ashley Stubblefield



Larry T. Mize



University commencement in The Grove

Photo by Robert Jordan



Deidra Hodges

OF PHARMACY graduation

The University of Mississippi and School of Pharmacy commencement exercises were held Saturday, May 12. The weather was picture perfect as activities began at 9 a.m. in the Grove with Frederick W. Smith, founder, president, and CEO of FedEx Corp., delivering the address to a full crowd. School of Pharmacy exercises were held at 11:30 in the Thomas N. Turner Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Center.

More than 1,700 family and friends were in attendance as the school graduated 82 students with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree, 78 students with a Doctor of Pharmacy, four students with a Master of Science in pharmaceutical sciences degree, and nine students with a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

2007 Doctor of Pharmacy Graduates

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Irby McClellan Albriton
Gary Dane Austin~*

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Class Historian

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Class Marshal

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Pamela Diane Hunt
Jennifer K. Hutchinson
Cory D. Hutto
Amanda Leigh James
Amber Nicole James#
Heather Jetton#

Class Secretary/Treasurer

Janelle Elaine Joe~*

Taylor Medalist

Heath S. Johnson
Sarah R. Kirby

Doctor of Pharmacy, continued on Page 14

*Doctor of Pharmacy, continued
from Page 13*

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Mary Katherine Lutz

Richard Scott McCay

Mary L. McMullan

Tiffany Melancon*

April McAdory Miller~*

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Phi Lambda Sigma

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