



PHARMACY Focus



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Dr. Dewey D. Garner
Interim Chair of Pharmacy
Administration

Dabney Weems
Editor

Longtime chair announces retirement

by **Dabney Weems**

Dr. H. Joseph Byrd, associate dean of clinical affairs and chair of pharmacy practice, is retiring June 30, after 37 years of service with The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy.

A Biloxi native, he received his bachelor's in pharmacy in 1968 and master's in hospital pharmacy in 1969 from UM, and his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science in 1971. Byrd began his career at UM in 1971 as assistant professor of clinical pharmacy practice after spending a year as an instructor in clinical pharmacy at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

"When I graduated from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, I planned on being a director of pharmacy at a hospital," Byrd said. "Interim Dean Joe McCaskill called and offered me a faculty position at the university. The appeal and flattery of coming back to the institution where I received my degree was strong."

At that time, the UM Department of Pharmacy Practice had relocated to the Medical Center campus in Jackson, and Byrd was the lone faculty member. Dr. Michael Vinson and Dr. Rick Fischer were hired shortly after to help build a department that now includes 42 faculty members and 200 voluntary faculty members. The department has also grown from offices at the R&D Center on Ridgewood Road to current offices at the Annex Building on the Medical Center campus, with a new building planned.

In addition to the growth of the department, Byrd has also witnessed many changes in the profession during his career. He has seen the progression to the entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy degree and the increased emphasis on pharmacists in medication-therapy management.

"Dr. Byrd deserves our sincere thanks for building a department that is nationally recognized for innovations in both teaching and practice," said Dean Barbara G. Wells. "He has recruited the very best and brightest to join the faculty and encouraged them to develop novel and advanced practices. He has integrated academic pharmacy practice as a vital part of The University of Mississippi Medical Center campus and has worked with partners within pharmacy and medicine throughout Mississippi. He has always been a strong advocate for the welfare of students and the improvement of patient outcomes."



Dr. H. Joseph Byrd, associate dean for clinical affairs and chair of pharmacy practice, retires with 37 years of service with the school.

During Byrd's tenure, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education recognized the UM School of Pharmacy's curriculum as an innovative teaching model. The department also collaborated with the Japanese Ministry of Health, helping Japan to convert to a six-year pharmacy program. In 2003, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists recognized the Pharmaceutical Care Clinic, staffed by the school's faculty and the medical center's clinical practitioner faculty, as one of six Best Practices in America, and, in 2007, the department, along with North Mississippi Medical Center, received the inaugural Crystal APPLE Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for patient-care teaching.

"I am proud of building a vibrant department from literally nothing in 1971 to a well-recognized

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Message from the Dean

The faculty and I welcome the opportunity to update you on progress at the School of Pharmacy. As I'm sure you noticed, last year we renamed and enhanced our newsletter with a more modern design and better use of color. I hope you find this new format for our print newsletter, *Pharmacy Focus*, and our electronic newsletter, *E-Focus*, to be appealing and informative. If you are not receiving our electronic newsletter, please contact Dabney Weems (dweems@olemiss.edu) to give her your e-mail address.

Once again, our graduation was a grand and inspirational event. More than any other event throughout the year, graduation charges our batteries and reinforces the importance of our work for the young people we serve and for our profession. On May 10, Shepard Smith was our speaker for the commencement in the Grove. At our School of Pharmacy graduation ceremony in the Turner Center, we graduated 90 students with the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences, 74 with the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, two with the Master of Science, and 10 with the Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences. We are extremely proud of the academic and professional accomplishments of these graduates. We have complete faith that they will make meaningful contributions to their profession, their disciplines, and to patient care.



Barbara Wells

We believe it is essential to encourage and support our students in their professional development and in development of their leadership skills. An important part of that is encouraging them to attend meetings of the national and state pharmacy associations as time and resources permit. Our student body had good representation at the APhA and ASHP meetings during the school year, and they will also be well represented at the MPhA and MSHP meetings this summer. At these meetings they learn about the key issues and challenges facing our profession and how important it is to work together to address them. These students truly are the future of our profession; they will be the force that moves our profession forward in a way that enables us to have maximal impact on the health of our patients.

We ultimately hope to be able to increase our enrollment by 28 percent over the next three to four years, and we take the first step in that direction this fall, as we have accepted 100 students into the P3 class. Although we have no commitment of additional state funding, we feel it is our obligation to do everything in our power to increase the number of graduates from our school. It is critical that we continue to increase the amount of scholarship dollars available to our students. Our scholarship disbursements have not kept pace with the escalating costs of living and increasing costs of higher education, and our increase in enrollment further magnifies the need to grow our scholarship endowments. Thus, one of the highest priorities in our capital campaign is to do just that.

This summer we begin the renovation of the third floor of Faser Hall, which will likely require about one-and-one-half years to complete. This undertaking will create disruption for our faculty, staff, and graduate students working there, but the impact on our professional students should be minimal. The unrenovated parts of Faser Hall remain in a dire state of repair, and it is critical that this space be improved as soon as possible. The new pharmacy auditorium, which was constructed with federal dollars for the National Center for Natural Products Research and the school, is nearing completion. It will be ready

for use in fall 2008. Fundraising continues for construction of the new 26,000-square-foot clinical sciences building on the campus of The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). As you recall, the importance of constructing this facility was underscored by our accrediting agency in 2006. We are beginning to experience progress in this regard and hope to begin construction of the first phase of this vitally needed building in 2009. This building will include a classroom, small group learning rooms, offices, and research space to meet the needs of our Jackson based students and faculty, and allow us to vacate the Jackson Medical Mall. Lastly, we have received initial funds from the federal government to support construction of the second research building for the National Center for Natural Products Research on the Oxford campus, which also will be constructed in phases. We are extremely encouraged and excited about the prospect of making this much-needed research building a reality over the next few years. We are very grateful to Sen. Thad Cochran and his staff for their essential help in identifying sources of federal funding to support our facility expansion.

The new national rankings for schools of pharmacy based on research productivity were released recently by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. These rankings are based on extramural funding dollars. Your school of pharmacy ranks No. 3 for total extramural funding for research and 14th for funding from the National Institutes of Health. These rankings are clear testimony to the dedication and extraordinary ability of our faculty to generate important new knowledge and bring their discoveries to the marketplace.

I also want to report to you some leadership changes within the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Noel E. Wilkin has moved to the Lyceum to serve as interim associate provost, working with our new interim provost, Dr. Morris Stocks. We have complete faith in the inspired leadership of both Dr. Wilkin and Dr. Stocks. We will very much miss Dr. Wilkin's leadership within the Department of Pharmacy Administration and the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management (CPMM). Dr. Dewey D. Garner has kindly consented to serve as interim department chair in pharmacy administration and as interim director of the CPMM. In addition, Dr. Anthony J. Verlangieri has agreed to serve as interim chair of the Department of Pharmacology. We appreciate so much the willingness of both Dr. Garner and Dr.

Verlangieri to serve the school in this way. Lastly, as was previously announced, Dr. H. Joseph Byrd plans to retire effective July 2008. We very much appreciate his leadership over the past 37 years. A search is currently underway for a new associate dean for clinical affairs and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice to step into this critical leadership position vacated by Dr. Byrd.

It has been such a pleasure to host six alumni receptions this year as part of our centennial celebration of the school. The faculty and I immensely enjoyed having a chance to talk with alumni at these receptions. The faculty and staff of the School of Pharmacy have the best jobs in the world. What better job could there be than contributing to the professional development and dream fulfillment of young people? It is our honor to provide a pharmacy education that is among the very best available in the world. I hope you will drop in to visit with us in Oxford and in Jackson when your schedule permits. We love to host our alums on both campuses, and we welcome your comments and questions at any time. •

Sincerely,



Barbara Wells

Blogging used as a learning tool

by Dabney Weems

In recent years, blogs have become popular tools to distribute information quickly across the Internet. Journalists use them to update stories, political groups use them to communicate with supporters, and everyday people use them to share thoughts and activities with friends.

Now, a University of Mississippi professor is using blogs as a tool to teach pharmacy students to communicate more effectively. Alicia S. Bouldin, associate professor of pharmacy administration, has incorporated blogging into her pharmacy communications class.

A blog, short for Web log, is sort of an online journal, a Web page on which users produce a narrative that is updated regularly. In Bouldin's class, students comment on their real-world communication experiences. The objective is for students to identify communication observations, self-assess communication performance, and apply course concepts outside the classroom.

"Maintaining a Web log or course journal actually offers opportunities to foster several of the abilities that are educational outcomes for PHAD 490: communication skills, social skills, self- and social awareness, critical thinking, self-learning, empathy, sensitivity to cultural differences, and probably even more," Bouldin said. "Thinking about communication issues and situations outside the classroom will certainly improve one's communication skills and may even influence one's attitude toward certain aspects of communication by enhancing understanding of the implications of communication in practice."

Bouldin chose blogging as an instructional tool because of its advantages over hard copy papers.

"Using blogs takes advantage of this current interest in using technology as a major means of communication," she said. "Plus, for the instructor, blogs have added benefits not possible with paper assignments, such as passworded accounts to assure independent authoring, and automatic date and time stamps on blog entries to help me see that they were done consistently across time and not all the night before a set was due."

During the semester, students are assigned to submit two entries each week. Most blog entries can be on communication-related topics chosen by the individual, but "bloggable

ideas" are provided to help prompt them. Ideas included identifying communication barriers in a situation, how the practice environment affects pharmacist and patient communication, observations from daily interactions with classmates or roommates, and how silence is interpreted as a nonverbal message.

Students creatively identified communication scenarios in television shows, song lyrics, and comic strips, applying them to relevant course content. In some cases, students were assigned a specific topic for a week's entries, such as responses to sample job interview questions or reflection on a guest speaker's comments.

By identifying and reflecting on communication situations in various aspects of their experience, students deepen their knowledge of concepts that may be applied to a pharmacy care setting.

"Blogs allow us to assess a level of understanding of material that is difficult to assess with exams," said Dr. Erin Holmes, who assisted with the class. "Students have to explain their answers in words, and it demonstrates to us that they have a better grasp of the information."

The students find they enjoy and learn from the experience, as well.

"Not only was [blogging] effective in learning class material, but it [also] was a chance to truly process the information and apply it in the blogging exercise," said Mary Claire Crowson, a fourth-year pharmacy student from Oxford. "I actually miss blogging this semester because I did not realize how, at the same time I was learning communication skills, I was also relieving stress by writing."

Students often do not get writing practice in pharmacy school, and blogging offers a way to practice writing skills in a nonscientific manner, Crowson said.

"I believe the ability to communicate in a nonscientific way is critical to improving a pharmacist's interpersonal communication skills, and these skills are of utmost importance in pharmacist/patient relationships," she said. •

Exemplary patient care delivered by WWII hero

by Sonia Thompson

The storefront sits empty now, but Ben Quintana remembers the days when Rayner Drugs & Gifts was the centerpiece of downtown Meridian.

For more than 60 years, Quintana chatted with his regulars over the phone, filling orders, and telling stories. His wife, Sarah, oversaw the gift section, taking special care to stock only the finest collectibles. In the summers, his three children helped out.

"It was known as a family establishment," said Quintana, 86. "We gave our customers the best of care. We would deliver even at night after we closed if people needed medicine."

The road to Rayner Drugs from his hometown of McComb wasn't a straight one.

In early 1942, Quintana left home to serve in the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, which took part in an offensive attack against Japanese forces at the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II.

"When we took Guadalcanal, it was the first offensive the U.S. led against Japan," he said. "If the Japanese were able to develop an airstrip in the area, they could have easily taken Australia and New Zealand because they had no defense. It was an emergency situation."

During the attack, his unit came under heavy fire; the blast from an enemy hand grenade broke both his legs, both arms, and resulted in the loss of his right eye.

He was discharged and awarded a Purple Heart and a presidential citation. After a long recovery, Quintana returned to Mississippi and became the first WWII veteran to enroll at Ole Miss.

"I'd tell the girls in medical school that I had a purple heart, and they would ask what they could do to help me," he laughed, remembering how no one in Oxford had heard of his decoration.

He graduated from the Ole Miss School of Pharmacy in 1947 and went to work for H.S. Rayner in Meridian. It was there he fell in love, not just with pharmacy but also with Sarah. They met (where else?) in the pharmacy, introduced by Rayner. The couple married in 1949.

In 1973, the Quintanas bought the drugstore from the Rayner family, electing to keep the Rayner name because of its good reputation and longevity.

"I've always said that Rayner's was like no other store in the state. It's always had that reputation," Quintana said.

Rayner Drugs officially closed its doors in 2006, but Quintana's dedication to his chosen profession never waned. He made

sure all of his customers were placed with other pharmacies before his last day in business. He still owns the building on Front Street. And he still goes in every day, filing

paperwork and doing what he can to restore the building, which is a bit bruised from Hurricane Katrina. He dotes on the place just like he did his customers. It's part of who he is.

"I would recommend pharmacy for students today looking for a good life," he said. "It's changed so much, but it's still a very rewarding career. You feel good when you see that you helped a person." •



Ben Quintana



Alumni Spotlight

Alumni Updates

Professional Update

Randle House (97, 99) of Greensboro, N.C., was promoted to regional pharmacy vice president with the Rite Aid Corporation in June 2007.

Lyanne St. Laurent (80, 87) of North Carolina is retiring after 20 years as Medical Service Corps officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Jo Ellen Sullivan (96) of Taylorville was appointed to the Mississippi Autism Task Force by Gov. Haley Barbour.

Stan Williams (89) was promoted to director of sales for the central United States with Abbott Vascular's Endovascular Group, a division of Abbott Labs.

Births

Eric McKinley (99, 01) and **Jamie H. McKinley** (99, 01) announce the birth of a daughter, Sarah Crawford, born Aug. 13, 2007.

Patricia McNeil King (97) and **Justin Warren King** announce the birth of a daughter, Emma

Kathryn, born March 12, 2007. She was welcomed home by big brother Charles Reece. **Cara Pumphreys Scott** (99, 01) and **Shea S. Scott** announce the birth of a son, Cooper Aubrey, born August 14, 2007.

In Memoriam

David I. Bridgers Sr. (48), Aug. 23, 2007
W. Lewis Nobles (48, 49), May 25, 2007
Frank D. Sticht (48), July 5, 2007

Alumni honored for service to alma mater and communities

by Dabney Weems

The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy honored three graduates for their career accomplishments and professional service.

Burnis Breland of Columbus, Ga., Sam Daniel of Orange Park, Fla., and Gene Hoover of Deerfield, Ill., were named 2008 Distinguished Alumni of the Year during Pharmacy Alumni Weekend activities on Feb. 9 in Oxford. Selection for the honor is based on professional achievements and service to the pharmacy school, including its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

"These three individuals have served their alma mater, their profession, and their communities in extraordinary ways," said Dean Barbara G. Wells. "They are exemplary role models for their colleagues and for those who follow them into the profession. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments, and we are inspired by their vision and selfless service."

Breland is director of pharmacy for the Columbus Regional Healthcare System and affiliate clinical professor of pharmacy practice at Auburn University. He received his bachelor's in pharmacy in 1974 and master's in hospital pharmacy in 1976, both from UM, and his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Tennessee. He worked at the UM Medical Center in Jackson from 1979 to 1984 before joining Columbus Regional.

During his career, Breland has been active with the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). He has served as chairman of the ASHP Practice Management Group, member and chair of the Council of Professional Affairs, and member of the Council on Administrative Affairs.

In 1991, he was recognized as a fellow of ASHP. The Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists recognized him as Pharmacist of the Year in 1990 and again in 2002, making

him the only person to receive the award twice. He received the 2005 Innovative Pharmacy Practice award from the Georgia Pharmacy Association and received the ASHP Best Practices Award in 2002. In 2006, he was the recipient of the John W. Webb Lecture Award from ASHP and Northeastern University.

A native of McComb, Daniel is regional segment manager for Amgen's senior care department. He received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1972 and served as president of the pharmacy student body. He is a recipient of the Wyeth-Ayerst Bowl of Hygeia and Syntex Preceptor of the Year Award, and is a member of the School of Pharmacy Hall of Fame.

Daniel has served as a preceptor for the pharmacy school and is a member of the Florida Pharmacists Association and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. He has been a member of the dean's advisory boards for pharmacy schools at the University of Texas, Texas Tech University, University of Florida, Nova Southeastern University, and UM. He also has served as a trustee on the Florida Pharmacy Foundation and the Mississippi Pharmacists Association Foundation. He is also a former president of the



Dean Barbara G. Wells congratulates the 2008 School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni: Sam Daniel (left), Burnis Breland, and Gene Hoover.

UM Pike County Alumni Association and the Pharmacy Alumni Chapter.

Hoover is divisional director of pharmacy operations for the Midwest Division of Walgreens. In his position, he oversees the pharmacy operations of nine states and more than 700 stores. He received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1985 and serves on the Dean's Advisory Committee for the pharmacy school. He has more than 34 years of experience in pharmacy, 23 with Walgreens. While at Walgreens, Hoover helped open the company's Jackson market and has served as the key contact to the UM pharmacy school during the last five years for the company. He also coordinated Walgreens' relief effort in Mississippi during the Hurricane Katrina aftermath. •

Continued from Page 1

and accomplished unit," said Byrd. "I was happy to be able to make a difference in the profession with the Mississippi Medicaid amendment, which allowed pharmacists to be paid for their cognitive service as opposed to their product. I've been part of the development of the problem-based learning curriculum and assisting Japan in converting to a six-year degree program."

Upon retirement, he hopes to continue work in pharmacy practice as a pharmacy consultant to nursing homes and also in geriatric drug therapy and drug safety. He also wishes to continue to be a legal expert witness for medical and pharmaceutical cases. Retirement plans also include spending time on the golf course.

"The school was and is a prestigious one, and it has been a privilege to be a part of

making it even better over the last 37 years," Byrd said. "I will miss the staff and faculty I have assimilated over the years, being in the medical-center environment and [part of] the everyday events that occur in a large health-science center. I also will miss the students, who are always intellectually stimulating and challenging." •

Endowment established to honor Henry Cecil Caldwell

by Sonia Thompson

Like most little girls, Cecilia Caldwell adored her daddy. From the time she was a 2-year-old sitting beside him as he drove, to fishing with him and her brothers on Wissahickon Creek, Cecilia could usually be found by his side. He was her hero.

"He is still my hero," she said. "He always will be. Over all these years, my love and admiration for him and my appreciation of him have steadily grown. I am so thankful that he was my father."

Now, because of a scholarship in his name, Caldwell's legacy will live on. Cecilia, along with her mother, Bettye, and other family members and friends, have created the Henry Cecil Caldwell Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment to honor a man they love and dearly miss.

"Dad always encouraged people to do their best. That's what he was all about, encouraging people and building them up," Cecilia said. "That's why we thought this scholarship to assist pharmacy students from Mississippi with financial need is a fitting way to honor him. Dad achieved great academic and professional success in his field, and we hope to make that level of success possible for future generations of deserving students."

Recipients of the Caldwell Scholarship will be full-time pharmacy students who are Mississippi residents.

Henry Cecil Caldwell, a Walnut Grove native, earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy in 1952 and a master's degree in pharmaceutical organic chemistry from UM in 1954. He later earned his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical organic chemistry from the University of Kansas. In 1954, he married Bettye Sue Caldwell, a native of Lena and an alumna of Mississippi College.

His family remembers him as a hard worker and devoted family man. From his humble beginnings on a chicken farm in rural Mississippi, he became the first in his family to graduate from college. He instilled in his children a love and appreciation for the outdoors, and they recall happy days walking in the woods, canoeing, tubing, fishing, and rock collecting.

"His Mississippi roots were a big part of him," Cecilia said. "He loved this place."

Caldwell had a long and successful



Marty Beasley (left), a Caldwell family friend, Bettye Caldwell, Cecilia Caldwell and her husband, Paul Scavotto, help establish the Henry Cecil Caldwell Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment.

career, working for much of it at SmithKline & French labs (now GlaxoSmithKline) in Philadelphia, Pa., and later at AAI in Wilmington, N.C. He published many significant technical and scientific papers and held 23 U.S. patents.

"All who knew him felt he was the kindest, most supportive person they could ever meet," said Marty Beasley, a colleague and family friend. "He was humble even though his career was very fruitful, and he held many important patents in his name."

All three of Caldwell's children have connections to pharmacy. After attending pharmacy school, Cecilia worked in the pharmaceutical industry before going to medical school. She practices as an obstetrician and gynecologist at the Maine Medical Center in Portland. Brent is a chemist in Germany for Boehringer Ingelheim, a pharmaceutical company based in Connecticut. Mark is an architectural engineer who does a great deal of consulting with pharmaceutical companies.

"My dad was an enthusiastic supporter of education," Cecilia said. "He believed strongly that all deserving students, even in the face of economic obstacles, should have access to higher education."

To give to the Henry Cecil Caldwell Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment, send a check so designated to the UM Foundation/H.C. Caldwell Endowment, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. For more information about the scholarship or giving to the School of Pharmacy, contact Sarah Hollis at shollis@olemiss.edu or 800-340-9542. •

School ranks 3rd in extramural research funding

by Dabney Weems

The University of Mississippi (UM) School of Pharmacy ranks third in the nation in total extramural funding awarded to pharmacy schools and No. 14 in funding awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to a report from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).

The school received \$17.8 million in total extramural funding, which includes \$5.99 million from research funding awarded by the NIH. All of these funds are granted for specific research projects.

"We are blessed to have faculty members who are not only exceedingly bright and competitive but also committed to commercialization of their discoveries," said Dean Barbara G. Wells. "Our No. 3 national ranking for extramural funding for research and No. 1 ranking for student pass rate on the national licensure exam speak volumes about The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Our research programs improve health worldwide, and our educational and patient-care programs develop leaders in pharmacy who not only improve the health and quality of life of patients but also advance the profession that we love."

The University of California at San Francisco took the top spot with \$27.6 million, followed by University of Utah, Ole Miss, University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of North Carolina. UM is the only Southeastern Conference school listed in the top 15.

Receiving extramural funds from agencies such as NIH is vital to the accomplishment of the research mission and critical to the national reputation of the university and School of Pharmacy. The awards garnered are highly competitive and are used to gauge a pharmacy school's research program.

"All competitive research funding requires a hard-working and dedicated faculty with innovative solutions to important and complex research problems," said Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs Charles D. Hufford. "The School of Pharmacy has an extremely talented faculty [who] competes very effectively at the national level." •

Scholarship honors family's many pharmacy graduates

by Sonia Thompson

One of Allen Linton's favorite childhood memories is of visiting her grandfather's drugstore in Isola and watching as he stood behind the counter, carefully compounding prescriptions with a mortar and pestle. It's an image that has defined the Linton family.

Pharmacy school at The University of Mississippi (UM) brought together Allen's mother and father; they met there in 1946 and were married in 1948. Pharmacy is the career many others in the family chose. And it's the reason Allen and her mother, Sara LeMaster Linton, have given \$25,000 to the UM School of Pharmacy to seed the Linton Family Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment.

"We have such pride in our family's pharmacy background," said Allen, who works as a cancer navigator at Baptist Centers for Cancer Care-North Mississippi. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Ole Miss.

"Ole Miss is very dear to all of us," she said. "It's a big part of our family. We feel a lot of loyalty to the school. Having the gift of an Ole Miss education is a treasure, especially if passed on to future generations. My mother wanted to do this to help enrich the lives of others."

The scholarship honors the notable number of Linton family members who attended UM's pharmacy school. It is to be awarded to full-time students from Mississippi enrolled in the school, with preference going to students from Humphreys, Lee, and Panola counties, where most of the Linton family members call home.

"I am deeply appreciative of this generous gift from the Linton family," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of the pharmacy school. "The example provided by their wonderful family is an inspiration to pharmacists and pharmacy educators everywhere. Their dedication to help those who follow them into the profession will make a meaningful difference in the personal lives and academic experience of deserving pharmacy students."

The tradition began with Anderson Maltraverse Linton Sr., Allen's grandfather. In 1911, he became the first member of the family to graduate from the UM pharmacy school. A dedicated student, he served as president of his pharmacy class.

He established a reputation of treating his work as a calling rather than simply a job. He was known for keeping prices as low as

possible in his store in the Humphreys County town of Isola. Sometimes he didn't charge at all and routinely waited for payment until the Delta cotton was picked, baled, and sold. In some ways, with this gift from his family, that legacy of giving lives on.

Family members say they believe he would be humbled and honored to have a scholarship bear his name.

"He was an extraordinary, humble, and gracious man," Allen said. "This is such an appropriate way to honor his legacy. He valued education, and he was always trying to help people better their lives."

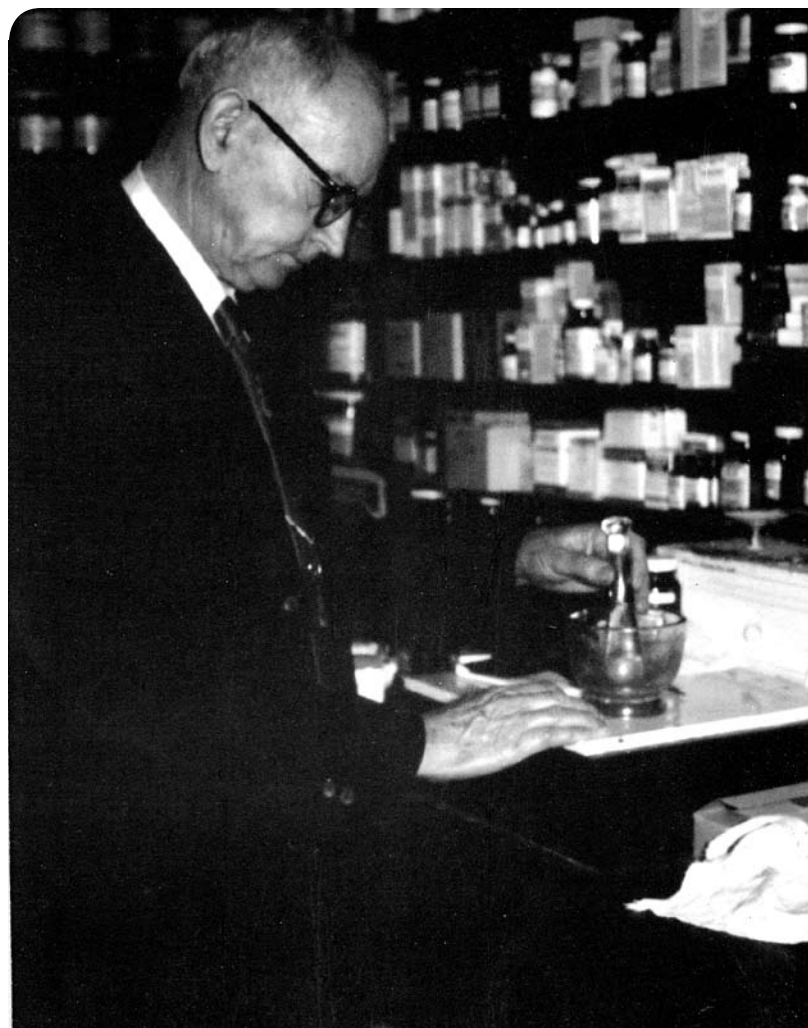
It was a lesson passed to future generations. His son, Anderson Maltraverse "A.M." Linton Jr., attended Ole Miss on the GI Bill after serving in the U.S. Army Air Force, flying transport supply missions in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II. He graduated from the pharmacy school in 1948 and devoted his entire 33-year career to pharmaceutical service as a Parke-Davis representative. He passed away in 1988 at age 65.

Sara LeMaster Linton, originally from Batesville, graduated from Ole Miss with a pharmacy degree in 1948, when pharmacy was considered a nontraditional career choice for women. She was one of only four women in her class.

After graduation, Sara began working retail at various drugstores in and around Tupelo. In 1967, she was the first pharmacist hired at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. She worked there for 33 years before retiring at age 73.

"I can honestly say that every day I went to work I enjoyed it," Sara said. "This was definitely the right professional career choice for me."

The family traditions continue both at Ole



Anderson Maltraverse Linton Sr., a 1911 graduate of The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, compounds prescriptions in his Isola drugstore.

Miss and in the profession.

Allen's first cousin, Camille Shofner Roberts (B.S.Ph. 65), originally from Isola, is a pharmacist at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Camille's son, Robert R. Roberts III (B.S.Ph. 94), works for Compound Pharmaceutical Technologies, a new compounding-only pharmacy in Daphne, Ala. Robert's wife, Julie Giddings Roberts (B.S.Ph. 95), works for Mobile Mental Health as the director of pharmacy for BayPointe Hospital in Mobile, Ala. She was also instrumental in starting and managing the pharmacy at Mobile Mental Health's inpatient division. Allen's first cousin, Samuel Cook "Sandy" Sugg Jr. (B.S.Ph. 76), also originally from Isola, works in Memphis at Delta Medical Center. •

Graduates celebrate Commencement



Doctor of Pharmacy graduates pose together before morning commencement ceremonies. Front row: Rachel Leigh Camburn (left), Meredith Kay Gross, Emily Ann Frye, Alyssa Jill Brawner; second row: Darren Lester Hillis (left), Grant Hamilton Smith, Jameka M. Stuckey, Christopher Eric Ables, John R. Welborn, Douglas Evan Kormondy



2008 Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduates

Jessica Michelle Allen
Emily Kristen Anderson
John Patrick Ballard
Mary Anastasia Ballas
Amanda Kaye Bennett
Mary Beth Boler
Amanda Hope Boozer
Stephanie Ann Bosarge
Lindsey Elizabeth Bowen
Jana Leigh Brand
Andria Brook Budwine
Matthew Allan Ceasar
Robert Justin Clark
Cassie Jayne Cole
Adriane Lea Compston
Phillip Brian Conn
Jennifer Carrie Crane
Jennifer Louise Crowley
Mary Claire Crowson
Krystle Eve Darnell
Stephanie Marie Davis
Kathryn Darden Dimos
Alicia Gail Donald
Alan Vinson Dukes
Elizabeth Robbins Edwards
Amanda Jane Feldhaus
Candace Michelle Frazier
Michael David French

William Anthony Frost
Keisha Kristopher Fulcher
Abby Elizabeth Furr
Jessica Nicole Gibbs
Andrea Malone Green
Amanda Emmeline Griffin
Daniel Nathan Hamil
Amanda Rayner Harper
Anna Claire Heindl
Tamisha Nekedra Hendrix
Daniel Wayne Hinton
Viola Hreish
Terri Lynn Humphreys
Lindsay Jane Humphries
Quint Laroy Hunt
Jon Grant Jackson
Tristen Harmon Jackson
Melissa James
Amanda Grace Johnson
Raymond William Joyner
Mollie McGinnis Kidder
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Bachelor of Science class marshal Andrea Malone Green (left) and Doctor of Pharmacy class marshal Brittany Candice Crawford carry the school's banner during morning commencement ceremonies in the Grove.



Dr. Brandi Aatoria Wise is hooded by Dean Barbara G. Wells.



Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate Lauren Ann Kimmons is congratulated by Dean Barbara G. Wells.

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Wendie Rose Baggett
Stephanie Strayham Baker
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Thomas Eric Boone
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Raymond Lee Young



Doctor of Pharmacy graduates take a minute to look over the commencement program before lining up for the processional.

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Students help nonprofit's clients with medication needs

by Dabney Weems

The University of Mississippi (UM) pharmacy student body is teaming up with Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM) in Lafayette County to make a difference in the lives of others.

ICM is a nonprofit organization that provides financial and referral assistance to needy residents in the county. The two groups came together when ICM board member Suzanne Wilkin realized that a number of clients needed assistance paying for their medications. She knew of programs, such as Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), that help patients pay for prescription medications but did not know how to go about getting help for the clients.

She contacted Sandra Bentley, director of UM's Student Health Center Pharmacy, to see if students on rotation could assist ICM. The two groups worked together to develop a system to help ICM clients receive their medications at little to no cost.

"Students will meet with client[s] and go over their medication history and what medicines they need," Wilkin said. "The P6 students then go back to the pharmacy and research what kinds of discounts are available through the pharmaceutical companies and what the requirements are to apply for assistance. The students then work with the client[s] and their physician[s] to fill out the necessary forms; then it all goes in the mail, and, usually, within six to eight weeks, the clients get their medication in the mail."

Besides the financial benefits for the clients, the pharmacy students themselves are receiving invaluable real-life training, Bentley said.

"I wanted the students to be exposed to

the programs available to low-income and uninsured patients," she said. "The feedback I get from the students has overwhelmed me. It seems the students are more understanding of the patients. They seem to empathize more."

For some students, the experience has been eye-opening.

"I think every pharmacy student should work with these patients and see just how some people have to struggle to choose whether to use their small incomes to buy food or medication," said Kimberly Steinman, a P6 student from Senatobia. "It made me appreciate my circumstances even more. Also, it feels good at the end of the day to know that you have helped someone."

Besides helping as pharmacists-in-training, the pharmacy student body also sponsored the ICM as its philanthropy project for the year.

"We were looking for a way to create a lasting legacy at Ole Miss," said Jon Jackson, president of the pharmacy student body. "Around that same time, Dr. [Marvin] Wilson heard about an opportunity to help the ICM. The P6 students were already working with the ICM, so it seemed like a good fit for the student body to support the ICM financially, as well."

The pharmacy student body has already donated \$3,000 to the ICM this year. The funds will be used to help provide medications for those who do not qualify for PPA and to help pay for physician visits, Wilkin said.

The help from the students provides an all-around better life for the clients. Wilkin recalled a client who suffered from seizures, lupus, anxiety, depression, and diabetes but was able to take medications only when a physician



Suzanne Wilkin (third from left), board member for Interfaith Compassion Ministry, accepts a check from Jessica Gibbs (left), Jon Jackson and Ronald Kim.

provided samples. The pharmacy students helped the client obtain the medications regularly at little to no cost. Through the pharmacy student body's financial support, the client is able to pay for visits to a neurologist and is doing much better, Wilkin said.

The pharmacy students are also focusing fundraising efforts to help the ICM. Besides collecting donations, they are selling red polo shirts embroidered with the pharmacy school's logo. The shirts are \$55.95, with all profits benefiting the ICM.

"It is hard to put into words what the students have done for some of our clients," Wilkin said. "Literally, some people would not have their medicine at all if it had not been for the students. This program has really helped to improve people's lives and in some cases, I believe, saved them."

To purchase a shirt, contact Jon Jackson at jgjackso@olemiss.edu. For more information about the ICM, call 662-281-1002. •

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