DEAR FRIENDS

The future is bright for the college

Warm greetings from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. This winter edition of our magazine touches on the work of our outstanding students, the generous funding that helps them be successful and the committed work of our faculty. These elements converge to create programs we can all be very proud of.

In this issue you will have the opportunity to read about individual students in the medical laboratory science, Pharm.D., and Master of Public Health programs. Their dedication and commitment to their program shines through in all that they say and do. You’ll have a chance to learn what drew them to their chosen field, their experiences and aspirations in the program, and their plans for the future.

The college is celebrating 10 years of students graduating from the Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences program. To date, 25 graduates have received the Ph.D. degree and are employed in academia, industry and regulatory agencies. This graduate work is closely tied to the outstanding research going on in the pharmaceutical sciences department by our faculty through grants (e.g., Josh Reineke’s grant to investigate the use of nanomedicine to fight ALS and cancer) and private funding (e.g., the Markl and the Haarberg endowed chair positions in oncology research).

This year we had a 24 percent increase in the amount of scholarship dollars awarded at the fall scholarship luncheon, bringing the total to nearly $200,000. This is due in part to the very generous contributions we have recently received. In this issue, we honor those new scholarships that helped us achieve such a significant increase. Specifically, Joye Billow, Larry Christensen and the class of 2016 gifts are highlighted. Scholarships remain a fundraising focus for the college.

Thanks to all of you for your interest and support of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. Best wishes for the new year.

Jane Mort, Pharm.D.
Acting Dean and Professor
College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
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If you are looking for Brittany Kramer, or any second-year medical laboratory science student, your search should start in one of the program’s laboratories. Kramer estimates she and her classmates spend up to 18 hours a week in a lab. Most of their time is spent behind a microscope. They also get up close and personal with course content, identify everything from colorful parasites and abnormalities in blood cells, or blood samples drawn from each other.

Kramer describes the program as challenging but rewardingly “hands-on.” “Being able to apply what I am learning is interesting to me,” said Kramer, who was viewing a sample at a microscope. “Class is so much more engaging for that reason. I think that is why I chose the program.”

Kramer, who is from Hartington, Nebraska, was originally considering majoring in pharmacy before she discovered the MLS program and her interest in a future as a lab technician/researcher. “I was never really sold on pharmacy, but had I not been pre-pharmacy, I would have never heard about the MLS program,” she said. “My decision to apply was a big one, but now I know it is definitely where I am supposed to be.”

The MLS program focuses on four core areas: microbiology, hematology, blood banking and chemistry. Kramer enjoys learning about each area but microbiology is her favorite. “It’s like a puzzle,” she said. “You are responsible for putting the pieces together and determining what is causing an infection through various biochemical reactions and other morphological characteristics. It can be difficult, but so rewarding when you reach the right answer.”

Although Kramer enjoys her content, like any other professional program, MLS is accompanied by time commitments, expectations and a hefty workload. “Some days, you are in the lab from about 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other days, it is even longer. You have to be willing to dedicate a lot of time to bookwork, studying and making stacks and stacks of notecards,” she said, breaking into a laugh. “Our exams are also difficult, but the aim is always to challenge us. We are expected to be ethical in making decisions because we will hold a lot of responsibility one day, especially when working with patient samples. That is why it is so important to know all of the information and practice logging and labeling everything correctly.”

According to Kramer, with all the studying and lab hours, it is important to find balance with study hours, but also a social life. “You need to make time for yourself outside the program. Sometimes you can get wrapped up in all the studying, but finding a balance is important,” she said. “The program is definitely challenging in that way, but it is always worth it.”

There are 17 second-year students in the MLS program this year. The program accepts up to 24, but the number varies. The relatively small size allows the students to form relationships and work together both inside and outside the classroom. “As a class, we get really close because we are all in the same classes together,” Kramer said. “During lab, you are doing a lot of your own observations, so the work is individual in that way, but from day to day, when we are learning new methods, we work together a lot.”

The Medical Laboratory Science Club is another way in which the students are able to form and strengthen relationships. Kramer, who serves as the club’s vice president, speaks highly of the experiences the club has brought students. The club works the concession stands at the Jackrabbits’ basketball and football games in order to pay for its American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) membership fees. The organization gives the members opportunities to travel and network. “We try to go to a lot of the ASCLS meetings,” Kramer said. “Last year, we entered the ASCLS video contest and ended up winning, so I got to go with a few other people to the national meeting in Philadelphia this past summer.”

While the club is a requirement, Kramer enjoys it. “Everyone has a part and helps in some way. I really enjoy it because it helps me know what’s going on and allows us to build closer relationships with our class and instructors,” she said.

After graduation, a majority of students work in hospital settings as lab scientists, but Kramer said there is a vast window of research opportunities within the field. “When starting the program, I thought my career field would be confined to a hospital, but what I found after my internship this summer with the Avera Institute of Human Genetics in Sioux Falls, is that there is a need for MLS graduates in a lot of the medical research going on right now. They need people with laboratory experience, so that is something I would considering going into,” she said.

At Avera, Kramer worked primarily with DNA extractions for twin studies and clinical patients, an experience that opened her eyes to the opportunities an MLS degree has to offer. Kramer will be returning to Sioux Falls to work in the Avera McKennan Hospital for her clinicals next semester, in hopes of gaining the experience she needs before determining a field of work to start her career.
Monday and Friday Schedule
6 a.m.—Wake up
7:30-8:30 a.m.—Commute to Brookings
9 a.m.—Immunohematology II
11 a.m.—Advanced Medical Diagnostics
Noon—Diagnostic Microbiology II
1-4 p.m.—Study break
4 p.m.—Hematology II
5 p.m.—Return to Sioux Falls

Wednesday
6 a.m.—Wake up
7-8 a.m.—Commute to Brookings
8-11 a.m.—Advanced Medical Diagnostics lab
11 a.m.-noon—Lunch
Noon—Microbiology lecture
1-4 p.m.—Hematology lab
4 p.m.—Hemostasis
5 p.m.—Return to Sioux Falls

Tuesday and Thursday
6 a.m.—Wake up
7:30-8:30 a.m.—Commute to Brookings
9 a.m.-noon—Microbiology II lab
Noon-1 p.m.—Lunch
1-4 p.m.—(Tuesdays) Diagnostics lab/
(Thursdays) Blood Banking II lab
4 p.m.—Return to Sioux Falls

Kramer spends the remainder of her weekday evenings at home studying, printing notes and preparing for classes until going to sleep around 10 or 11 p.m.
Only a few years ago, Ainiwaer “Kyle” Kawaiusaier did not know South Dakota State University had a bachelor’s degree in medical laboratory science. A native of Urumqi, China, Kawaiusaier was all set to apply to the College of Nursing after spending his first two years on campus taking prenursing classes.

However, that changed after looking at the number of majors available on the SDSU website.

“I’m not sure why I was looking at majors at SDSU at that time, but I came across medical laboratory science. I had never heard of it before,” he said. “I was interested so I clicked on the link, looked at the program’s page, looked at what one could do for a profession, went to YouTube and watched videos about it … it was just perfect for me.

“I love looking at things under the microscope and figuring things out,” he continued. “I knew right then it’d be a better fit for me than nursing.”

Kawaiusaier was one of 17 students who received a white coat during the Medical Laboratory Science White Coat Ceremony and one of six inducted into the Lambda Tau National Medical Laboratory Science Honor Society. MLS Program Director Pat Tille was also inducted as a faculty member.

Also receiving a white coat was Cindy (Loecker) Huether ’86, who earned her degree in medical technology.

“It was special to watch the students and their families,” Huether said. “It was a big deal and should be celebrated. I didn’t realize SDSU held a white coat ceremony and when they asked about me being honored at the event, I was shocked, honored and humbled.

“So many people really don’t know what an MLS person does,” she said. “People go to the office or hospital, see a doctor or see a nurse and that’s the face of the medical field to them. People don’t realize how many people work behind the scenes to get patients better.”

That’s what Kawaiusaier and Emily Young plan to do after receiving their coats.

“I like the fact that medical laboratory scientists directly affect patient diagnosis and care. We help patients get better,” said Young, who is from Hutchinson, Minnesota, and provided the ceremony’s closing remarks. “There are so many advances in the field every day that medical laboratory scientists never stop learning.

“This major directly reflects who I am as a person and what I was looking for in a career. I love science, hands-on learning and the medical field,” she continued. “I discovered MLS when I started volunteering at my local hospital when I was in eighth grade. I had always been
drawn to the medical field, but I was never quite sure what exactly I wanted to do. When I was in high school, I started looking into MLS more and absolutely fell in love with it. This major has so many prospects for the future and depending on what department one is in, you are never doing the same thing.”

After receiving their coats, the students feel they are ready to start the clinical rotation portion of the program. “The coat is a huge symbol and validation of what we have accomplished thus far and it is also a sign that the end of our time on campus is near,” Young said.

“It’s a dream come true. I feel like I became a healthcare professional after receiving the white coat,” Kawaiwaier said. “It’s a milestone in our college career, and, to me, it means we finally accomplished something. It’s not an easy major. We struggled, tried and studied hard and finally received acknowledgement in the white coat ceremony that we accomplished our goals as medical laboratory science students.”

While Young’s family was present for the event, Kawaiwaier invited friends to attend. He sent pictures of the event to China.

“When I showed them a picture of my white coat, my grandmother was in tears,” he said. “No one in my family has ever had a degree in health care. They’re all so proud. I’m proud, too, to be honored and recognized as a professional in health care.”

Young said her talk was a look back on the time the class spent together and the memories made.

“I tried to make it both funny and sentimental,” she said. “It was really nice to have my family on campus celebrating with me. Most of us were really looking forward to the ceremony.”

The class also won a national contest sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. The four-minute video featured the class and appearances by Tille and instructors Stacie Lansink and April Nelsen.

Also participating in the ceremony were: Ashley Clarke, Slayton, Minnesota; Charles Dibang, Brookings; Haylee Erickson, Yankton; Madison Groettum, Alexandria, Minnesota; Erin Harms, Parker; Katelyn Jennings, Rapid City; Miranda Kor, Toronto; Brittanay Kramer, Hartington, Nebraska; Alex McNamara, Sioux Falls; Shelby Nelson, Brookings; Brittany Rustad, Pipestone, Minnesota; Nicholas Schauble, Sioux City, Iowa; and Jade Ternus, Perham, Minnesota.

Matt Schmidt
When Allyson Helms walked onto the South Dakota State University campus in fall 2013, she had plans to earn a degree in pharmacy and not much else.

“I said I was not going to be involved because I was in five choirs my senior year in high school, was on the law team, was on the math team, had danced for 15 years, was in a couple of sports, was a varsity cheerleader, was the lead in our play and was the valedictorian,” Helms said. “But Waseca (Minnesota) is a small town so you do it all. When I came here, I was not going to do any of that.”

However, it did not take long before that mindset changed. Helms, a P2 student, was elected the Students’ Association president last spring, becoming the first student in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions since Dan Hansen was the SA president in the 2002-03 academic year. Helms is also a member of the Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College, was president of the residence hall association, conducts research on small-group communication and is planning two conferences to be held at State during the spring semester.

Even with all of that, she’d still like to do more.

“I would have loved to have been in a production on campus. I want to do Capers. I’ve been asked to do lamb lead for Little International, which happens the same weekend as one of the conferences I’m planning,” she said. “I think it’s a testament to how natural this all came about. I had zero desire to do any of this when I came to campus.

“I always joke with people that there are like five directions I want to go with my life,” Helms continued. “I could go into retail pharmacy and get a job; I could go into hospital administration, which is a two-year residency process; I’ve tossed around going to medical school; I could go to a college of pharmacy, teach and potentially become a dean, provost or president; or I could go into politics. I might end up going into politics regardless of what direction I go.”

Persistence, driven
Helms’ political interest at State started during the 2014 Dad’s Weekend. Her mother, Tracy ’81, said she could see her daughter addressing students just as then-SA president Ben Stout was at the time. Helms was already attending SA meetings as part of the Residence Hall Association and liked her role. After being notified of at-large positions available, she applied. Both Helms and Lane Speirs, the current SA vice president, received the at-large spots.

Speirs immediately noticed Helms’ drive.

“She definitely had aspirations to do more with her career than be a regular senate member,” he recalled. “I think she went into SA with a three-year plan in terms of what she wanted to accomplish and where she wanted to be. I recognized that from the beginning and a lot of us did.”

While Speirs was not surprised when Helms asked him to run with her for SA’s top spots, it was not on the top of his agenda.

“When she approached me, I initially was very, very hesitant and had some push-back because it was earlier than what I had planned,” he said. “Over the months, we sat down and had more talks about it. “Her persistence and care for the student body and the issues they face was huge. It really was a motivating factor for me to be able to say that this is someone I can associate with and align myself with. The Students’ Association is a passion for her,” Speirs continued. “If she has an idea in her mind or if students ask her to be a champion for something, she doesn’t stop until that idea is being handled or a problem has been fixed.”

Miss Minnesota candidate
Helms admits that trait has come from her time competing in pageants. She finished in the top 10 in the 2016 Miss Minnesota contest and was recognized as the overall academic winner for the second-straight year. She recently won the competition for Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter 2017 and will again compete in the upcoming Miss Minnesota.

“The Miss America organization has the four points of the crown and that’s a neat embodiment of who I am,” Helms said. “The first is scholarship. I’m able to stay focused on my academics and invest time there. It’s been a natural part of my life and I’ve been really blessed and lucky to have those talents.

“The second is service. I’ve always been focused on giving back to the community, that public service aspect,” she continued. “I ran a preschool program in my hometown in the summers. It’s a program for kids 4-6. I worked in the program for four years then ran it as the program manager for two years. I planned the curriculum. I love working with kids and giving back.

“Third is style. I try to be classy and show professionalism when I’m representing the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions or representing SDSU at an event or with SA,” Helms said. “The final one is success. They always ask, ‘which one is the most important to you?’ I generally find all of them add up to success. I’ve been really blessed to have what I deem to be success at SDSU. I’m going to get my degree, I’ve finished the honors program, and I’ve been able to present and been recognized nationally for my research. I’ve gotten to do a lot of cool things and gotten to meet even better people along the way.”

Organization
Others state Helms has achieved all of that success due to her drive and organization.
“She is the person who always seems to have their life all put together. She’s the one who has an organized calendar from the moment she wakes up until the moment she goes to bed,” Speirs said. “She’s very composed and put together even though she might be flustered inside. She’s somebody who’s always really, really good at presenting herself and thinking on her feet. I think that comes from her time being in pageants in Minnesota and all of those activities.”

“Ally is a very driven and very goal-oriented person,” said Hansen, who is the college’s assistant dean for student services and an associate professor of pharmacy practice. “She’s always been a busy person, been very involved on campus, and a great student.

“She’s worked hard and done a great job making sure that she’s present at events or where she needs to be. At the same time, she hasn’t lost her commitment to the classroom. She’s done a great job making sure she’s in class and keeping up with her assignments and is still very successful academically,” he continued. “More as a dad than as an administrator, I try to remind her that she needs to sleep and eat sometimes. She’s so driven by what she is trying to accomplish as a pharmacy student and SA president that she tends to forget the need to take care of herself. I think it’s all part of the learning process. Sometimes you forget about taking care of yourself when you’re focused on all of the other obligations. I try to remind her to find that balance a little bit. In all, she’s done a great job of managing everything.”

Matt Schmidt
“Moderation in all things” is a line attributed to 19th-century philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It’s also a message adhered to by Ronald T. Borchardt, a man who has been anything but moderately successful.

He is a distinguished professor emeritus of pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Kansas, internationally known in biochemistry, medicinal chemistry and drug delivery, a former department head, the author or co-author of more than 500 scientific publications and 460 abstracts, and a consultant to 75 companies in a span of 45 years.

The list could go on and on, and then start on his list of awards.

So where’s the moderation? For years, there was none, Borchardt told more than 300 students and faculty gathered for the college’s fall convocation at Volstorff Ballroom Oct. 24.

After being an average student and avid hunter and fisherman while in high school in northern Wisconsin, he spent a year (1962-63) at the University of Wausau Extension Center in Wausau and then transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It was the first time out of his home region and he became an academic tiger, a one-eyed academic tiger.

“In college, I only focused on academics. I wasn’t involved in anything else,” Borchardt said, displaying his yearbook photo, his only entry in the annual.

He built his academic and verbal skills and got involved in research, initially just as a job because his parents, with grade-school educations and college ambitions for their son, couldn’t finance his schooling. It was while working in the pharmacy research lab that Borchardt typed his first scientific paper and “opened an account in the Reserve Bank for Academic Success.”

His doctorate of philosophy in medicinal chemistry was completed in 2½ years at the University of Kansas and he received a commission in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Success after success

Then Borchardt gained a postdoctoral appointment at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, from 1969-71.

“From that experience, I deposited five additional papers in the Reserve Bank for Academic Success. I expanded my breath of knowledge and refined my writing and verbal skills. ‘Publish or perish,’ there’s a lot of truth to that,” said Borchardt, who became prolific at publishing after arriving at Kansas in 1971.
In his message “Lessons Learned from Five Decades of Teaching, Research and Service Experience in the Pharmaceutical Sciences,” Ronald T. Borchardt offered the following observations on the current state of pharmacy academics:

• “There’s a push in academia for faculty members to go out and start companies, be entrepreneurs. We are being paid at the university to teach.”

• I’m very concerned about the pharmacy profession. The fact that we have so few Pharm.D. students who choose to go into academia. To me, this is a danger. At KU, we have 14 on the faculty, but only 4 with pharmacy degrees. We would like to see more Pharm.D. students choose academia. That’s why my wife and I support four Pharm.D. students at the University of Kansas and three Pharm.D. students at the University of Wisconsin” with research scholarships.

• There is an ethics crisis. “At KU, every student is required to take a course in scientific ethics. In today’s world with computers and the ability to copy and paste, it’s just ridiculous.”

Pharmacists need to be able to work and communicate in an international environment. Borchardt noticed this more than two decades ago. In 1996, he formed the Globalization of Pharmaceutics Education Network between the University of Kansas and other universities around the world. It holds biannual meetings designed to foster and facilitate international scientific exchange in the pharmaceutical sciences.

The first conference in 1996 drew 30 students. This year’s conference drew 300 pre-and postdoctoral students from 52 universities.

Kevin Kephart, left, vice president for research at SDSU, talks with Ronald T. Borchardt, a distinguished professor emeritus in pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Kansas. Borchardt was the fall convocation speaker at the Volstorff Ballroom Oct. 24, 2016. Also pictured are SDSU pharmacy faculty members Xiangming Guan, third from left, and Shafiqur Rahman.

Career development tips

The Oct. 24 fall convocation message by Distinguished Professor Emeritus Ronald T. Borchardt also offered advice to faculty and would-be faculty members, although the points are broad enough to apply to all career focuses. They are:

1. Focus and develop an expertise;
2. Have enough breadth so you can understand everybody else in the room;
3. Work on communication and interpersonal skills; and
4. Quickly identify a mentor.
Joye Ann Billow

Legacy continues through scholarship endowment

Awards of $3,750 each will be given to students who have excellent communication skills and proven leadership abilities as well as demonstrate academic achievement and professional promise.

Joye Ann Billow taught her last students nearly 15 years ago, but in a sense current pharmacy majors Hannah Schmidt and Lea Telkamp are her students. They are the first two to receive funds from the Joye Ann Billow Scholarship Endowment, which was made possible by her will. Billow, who died Dec. 6, 2013, at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls after a brief battle with cancer, taught in the SDSU College of Pharmacy from 1972 to 2002.

(Editor’s note: An initial award of $1,000 was given to Tamara Giese for the 2014-15 school year before the endowed fund was officially started.)

The scholarship memorandum calls for the awards of $3,750 each to be given to students who have excellent communication skills and proven leadership abilities as well as demonstrate academic achievement and professional promise. They must also be in their last two years of the Pharm.D. program.

Schmidt, a P4 student from Milwaukee, and Telkamp, a P4 student originally from Miller, are fitting choices because both exhibit high academic achievement and demonstrate leadership skills through involvement in pharmacy student organizations.

Schmidt is a past president of Kappa Epsilon, holds a high GPA and also is a member of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists.

Telkamp, now of Huron, joined Kappa Epsilon as a pre-pharmacy student and went on to serve as the fraternity’s social co-chair for two years and then vice president for a year. She also was president of Phi Lambda Sigma, the pharmacy leadership society, for a year and served as a representative to the Dean’s Student Advisory Council.

Telkamp also has interned at medical clinics for four summers and has been a peer mentor to pre-pharmacy and pharmacy students at SDSU.
Broke ground for female faculty

When Billow arrived on campus in 1972 she was the only female pharmacy faculty member and only the third one in the history of the college, which dates to 1888. Dorothy Gaston served in 1925-27 and Mildred Jarat served from 1944-49. Billow would continue to be the only female voice on the pharmacy faculty until 1983, when Barbara Mason and current faculty member Deb Farver joined.

Billow’s arrival came at a time of growing female enrollment. The 1972 graduation class had an enrollment of eight females and 33 males. By 1977 the split was 28 females and 41 males. Ever since 1987, there have been more female than male graduates.

Billow mentored many of the female students through her leadership of the local chapter of Kappa Epsilon. When she became adviser in 1973, there were five members. That grew to 63 when she retired in 2002. For three years after her retirement, she continued to serve as adviser.

Billow remembered for dedication to students

Current adviser Teresa Seefeldt, who completed her bachelor’s in 2002 and her Pharm.D. in 2004, remembers Billow as dedicated to her students and to the profession. “In particular, she was committed to developing communication and leadership skills in her students,” Seefeldt said.

At the time of her retirement, then-Dean Danny Lattin said, “Dr. Billow has enthusiastically accepted the role of mentor for our women students—indeed for all students—and she has done so with a caring and professional attitude.

“It was, and continues to be, very important that our female pharmacy students have female faculty as mentors because these female pharmacy students are the faculty of our future.”

In June 2003 at the Kappa Epsilon national convention, Billow received the Career Achievement Award, which she put on the top of her bookshelf. “Whenever I pass it, I can’t help but think of all the students I have met and known through the years,” she said that fall.

KE succeeded under Billow

In 1991 and 1999 she was named National Adviser of the Year by Kappa Epsilon. Under her direction, the SDSU chapter earned many awards, including Outstanding Collegiate Chapter in 1999-2000 and 2002-2003.

Her devotion to Kappa Epsilon and its members also is testified to by the establishment of the Joye Ann Billow Kappa Epsilon Leadership Award.

The leadership award was established in March 2001 for a P3 or P4 student who has been active in Kappa Epsilon as well as being in good academic standing and of good character.

In March 2002, Billow was presented the 2002 Woman of Distinction Award by the university for excellence as a pharmacy faculty member, her work for and with women on campus and in the community, and her service to the university and her discipline through many varied committees and projects.

Through her scholarship endowment, Billow’s mentoring continues in students like Schmidt and Telkamp.

Dave Graves
While Larry Christensen ’61 chose to major in pharmacy when he arrived at South Dakota State University from the family farm near Viborg, he did not know the path that decision would take him. However, he did know he wanted more from his college education than what he learned in the classroom. 

“I’d spent the first half of a semester studying and knew I’d drop out of school if I just kept studying,” Christensen said. “I started walking the campus and went into the Pugsley Union. I saw the radio station and started talking to the manager, who gave me a disc jockey shift from 9 to midnight during the week.”

“The education I got here was more than just the classes. It was a little bit of everything—the social life, broadcasting basketball games and playing music. You get a lot of education outside of the classroom,” he continued.

To help pay back the education he received at State, Christensen started the Larry Christensen Distinguished Scholar Scholarship. Kaitlyn Kuske from Belle Plaine, Minnesota, and Jade Kutzke of Lake Lillian, Minnesota, are the first recipients.

“T"I started walking the campus and went into the Pugsley Union. I saw the radio station and started talking to the manager, who gave me a disc jockey shift from 9 to midnight during the week.”

Kuske is also looking forward to using the scholarship to continue medical mission work and help pay for the SDSU international rotation in Honduras in February 2017. “I was privileged to visit with Mr. Christensen at the scholarship banquet. We discovered our common love for experiencing life in different cultures as he has traveled to many countries throughout the world and I have discovered my passion for global medical mission work,” Kuske said. “This past summer, I chose to spend five weeks in Caiman, Haiti, on a medical mission trip that I coordinated for two pre-medical students and me. We brought medications, medical knowledge and willing hands to help. From answering OTC medication questions for a pregnant mother to helping the local doctor stitch a teenager with a lacerated thigh, I was hugely impressed by this opportunity to serve others with my medical talents.”

Christensen’s vast talents allowed him to have a career that had him work in a hospital, retail stores, a nursing home and time as a consultant. That variety kept him going throughout his 55-year career. “One job just led to another. In 1961, Osco Drug came here and I think hired 17 out of our class to work in Illinois. I just went from place to place as I saw different opportunities,” he said. “I loved the overnight hospital pharmacy. I’d work from 4:30 in the afternoon to 6 in the morning for seven days straight and then have seven days off. There were no bosses and three technicians to help. You had to associate with all of the nurses because you’d get about 200 calls each night. You had to be there and give them help.”

At the end of his career, Christensen said he worked more than 80 hours in a two-week period as a part-time employee. “At 76, that’s too much. I decided if they couldn’t go along with my schedule, that’s enough so I retired,” he said. “I’m not sorry. I’ve been having a great time.”

“I believe South Dakota State gives a better opportunity and a better education. There are so many things to do, so many courses and other activities to keep up with. I fully believe it’s not just the book learning that gives you an education.”

Matt Schmidt
Members of the Class of 2016 have accepted the challenge to be generous givers. Through encouragement from then-Dean Dennis Hedge, who is now serving as the university’s interim provost, and Haylee Brodersen, class representative to the Dean’s Council, the class endeavors to create an endowed scholarship for a third- or fourth-year pharmacy student. A total of $25,000 needs to be raised to create an endowed scholarship, meaning the principal remains intact.

As the close of 2016 approached, giving had reached $12,500, including the 100 percent match from the college’s development committee. Funds have been received or pledged from 34 of the 76 class members and the SDSU Foundation is contacting the other 42 students, according to Mike Birgen, development director for the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

He is optimistic those students will also donate. “I think most of them will be receptive to ‘paying it forward’ now that they have been established in their first career position for a few months,” Birgen said. “In the first year of the Pharmacy Class Gift Program, despite not receiving their first paycheck and carrying a lot of debt, nearly half the class stepped forward. There has been one $750 pledge and a couple at $500.”

Brodersen echoed Birgen’s optimism. “The majority of the class was very interested in the scholarship endowment when I first presented the idea during our P3 year.” The concept was raised again later in the P3 year as well as during P4 class meetings. Brodersen said she also discussed the idea with alums from the 1960s and 1970s. They wished they had set up an endowment years ago when they had just graduated, Brodersen said.

Gearing a scholarship to a P3 or P4 student is especially useful because at that point students are no longer eligible for the Jackrabbit Guarantee Scholarship and tuition and fees increase. “This is something where we can gather years later and celebrate being the first class to do this,” Brodersen said.

Of course, Birgen hopes this is the first of many classes creating a scholarship endowment. “The idea with this endowment, whether it is here or at the University of Texas-Austin, where Dennis first learned of the program, is to create a ‘pay it forward’ attitude among future alumni donors, while improving access to a pharmacy education,” he said.

Among the early donors was Mindy Miller, who, like Brodersen, is spending her first postgraduate year as a pharmacy resident at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls. “I wanted to be a part of it and knew I would be making more money. I thought it was worth the effort. I was giving back to the school that I loved.”

Birgen said students are given three years to fulfill their pledge.

“In the first year of the Pharmacy Class Gift Program, despite not receiving their first paycheck and carrying a lot of debt, nearly half the class stepped forward.”

Mike Birgen, development director for the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.
Antibiotic stewardship
Laible, Avera group aim to control antibiotic resistance

Familiarity breeds contempt,” wrote the second century Roman philosopher Apuleius.

Antibiotic resistance hasn’t been a problem for that long, but Apuleius’ truism certainly applies in the microbial world. Resistance is commonly identified shortly after the introduction of an antibiotic into the healthcare market. The more familiar the bacteria becomes with its man-created enemy, the faster it evolves in its ability to resist the enemy.

Penicillin was introduced during World War II and still is an effective antibiotic. Dozens of antibiotics have been introduced since then and antibiotic resistance has kept up with virtually every one of them. The cycle is natural and to be expected, but when it becomes accelerated, the consequences can be life-threatening for mankind.

That’s where we’re at now, according to Brad Laible, a professor in the pharmacy practice department and a clinical pharmacist at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls.

The issue is being addressed industrywide and guidelines will be released in 2017 from Medicare and Medicaid. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has standards in place that accredited hospitals are to be in compliance with as of Jan. 1, 2017. That covers many of the Avera facilities, Laible said.

Antimicrobial resistance has been an interest of Laible for years, and he actually started addressing the issue at McKennan 12 years ago.

Stewardship program formed
In September 2015, the Avera Health Antimicrobial Stewardship Program was formed to look at the issue throughout the Avera system, which operates 33 hospitals, 208 primary and specialty care clinics, and 40 senior living facilities in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska.

The committee guiding this program is comprised of five infectious disease physicians and numerous pharmacists with Laible as the lead pharmacist.

While many hospitals are working on antibiotic stewardship and infection control measures within their own hospital, Laible said he is “not aware of very many other system-level programs like we have at Avera. Many of our hospitals are very small. In fact, the only hospital in the system that has infectious disease physicians on staff is Avera McKennan.”

“We now have a process by which we look at a patient’s antibiotic use after they have been in the hospital a couple of days and see if they can be transferred to a more specific antibiotic.

Committee members have created dosing protocols and treatment pathways for Avera hospitals participating in the program. It produces a newsletter related to antibiotic stewardship and holds a conference call five days a week to allow pharmacists and physicians to discuss patients.

The vast majority of cases presented at the conference call involve currently hospitalized patients. Usually a pharmacist at a local site calls in to discuss the patient, gets a recommendation from the program members on the call that day, including an infectious disease physician and pharmacist, and then relays the recommendation back to the physician at the local site.

More than 400 recommendations have been delivered to physicians at participating sites since the calls began in September 2015 and the acceptance rate is 92 percent.

Slow but encouraging progress
As an example of the systemwide policies implemented as part of the program, Laible said, “We now have a process by which we look at a patient’s antibiotic use after they have been in the hospital a couple of days and see if they can be transferred to a more specific antibiotic. The narrower the spectrum, the less problem with resistance to an antibiotic you’re going to have.

“The key goal for us is to curtail the resistance problem. It may take months or years until we see a widespread improvement in our resistance susceptibility. However, we’re already seeing some bacteria that had become resistant to specific antibiotics become susceptible again.”

He cited the antibiotic levofloxacin, which is commonly used to fight anything from pneumonia to skin infections.

This antibiotic was targeted at Avera McKennan even before the committee was formed. Through more carefully monitoring of its use, the committee is slowly seeing an improvement in susceptibility among some key bacteria, Laible said.

“A lot of what we do is monitor lab reports and patient charts. Since we don’t go in and explain what we’re doing, it largely goes unseen” by the patient but the efforts can result in more precise treatment to the patient and prevent health care from losing a valuable bacteria fighter in the future, he said.

Dave Graves
Students in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions continue to achieve educational and career success. Highlights include:

- The college’s student organizations are impacting patients on campus and in the community through their outreach efforts.
- Expanded academic support services and resources enhance the student experience in medical laboratory science.
- SDSU enrollment in the Master of Public Health program has grown rapidly since its start in 2015.
- 25 students have graduated from the pharmaceutical sciences Ph.D. program in its first 10 years and are impacting education and research around the world.
- SDSU Pharm.D. graduates continued their tradition of success on the licensure exams, while national pass rates significantly declined.
Student Organizations Make Impact On Campus and In The Community

The student organizations in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions continue to make significant impacts on campus and in the community through health screenings, immunizations and patient education carried out by pharmacy and medical laboratory science students.

During the 2015-2016 academic year:

- American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) conducted more than 1,300 health screenings and immunizations.
- Growth in the number of influenza immunizations administered by student pharmacists in APhA-ASP has been particularly significant, reaching 312 last year.
- The Medical Laboratory Science Club registered over 150 people for the bone marrow donation registry as part of the “Be The Match” campaign last year.
- Student pharmacists also conducted educational sessions on a variety of topics including over-the-counter medications, poison prevention and breast cancer awareness.

Number of screenings conducted by APhA-ASP during 2015-2016

Number of influenza immunizations administered by APhA-ASP members
The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions has expanded academic support services, purchased equipment and updated space to enhance the medical laboratory science (MLS) students’ experience.

Specific efforts over the last year:

- A laboratory support specialist was hired last spring to help with lab preparation and tutor students.
- Regular tutoring sessions were started in August 2016 and 18 sessions have been held through the beginning of November.
- All of the MLS students participated in at least one tutoring session this year.
- $30,000 in equipment was purchased for the MLS teaching labs.
- A new resource room for MLS students was completed this fall.

The college continues to seek opportunities to enhance the very successful MLS program.

Master of Public Health Program Grows Rapidly

The Master of Public Health program began in spring 2015 as a joint program between South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota.

Students from around the nation participate in the online program, which entails 42 credits. At present, students are from California, Florida, Kansas, Oklahoma and, of course, South Dakota.

The number of SDSU students in the program has grown rapidly to 24. (See figure)

SDSU students’ successes include the following:

- Two students were elected to positions with the South Dakota Public Health Association.
- First student graduated in fall 2016.
- Three students have progressed to the point of working on their final projects. The three projects address healthy relationships for at-risk youth, tuberculosis testing protocol and social determinants of health within American Indian communities.

Master of Public Health SDSU Total Enrollment

Students’ Experience in Medical Laboratory Science Program Enhanced by Additional Resources

The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions has expanded academic support services, purchased equipment and updated space to enhance the medical laboratory science (MLS) students’ experience.

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The college continues to seek opportunities to enhance the very successful MLS program.
10 Years of Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Education

2016 marked 10 years of students graduating from the pharmaceutical sciences Ph.D. program. In those 10 years, 25 students have graduated with their Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from South Dakota State University, and our alumni are impacting education and research throughout the world.

Noteworthy aspects of the SDSU Ph.D. graduates:
- Our Ph.D. graduates are currently working in 13 states and the District of Columbia as well as China, India and Saudi Arabia.
- Careers of our graduates include:
  - Six alumni currently hold faculty positions in the pharmaceutical sciences or chemistry.
  - Seven alumni hold research scientist positions in academia.
  - Nine graduates established careers in the pharmaceutical industry.
  - Two graduates are employed in regulatory agencies.
  - One graduate is an entrepreneur.
- Currently, 18 graduate students are enrolled in the program with similarly bright futures ahead.

Pharmacy Licensure Exam Changes in Late 2015

On Nov. 1, 2015, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) implemented their revised testing blueprint and passing standards for the NAPLEX. The blueprint changes were based on the spring 2014 NABP Pharmacy Practice Analysis Survey results. The passing standard was modified based on work of a 20-member panel in spring 2015 and was approved by the executive committee in May 2015.

While these changes went into effect in November 2015, the first large cohort to take the exam was in the summer of 2016, following graduation. Nationally, the percentage of graduates passing the exam declined to 87.8 percent, while the passing rate for South Dakota State University graduates was 98.7 percent. The trends in passing rates over time are shown in the figure.

More changes have occurred for the NAPLEX testing process. Effective Nov. 1, 2016, the exam increased from 185 questions to 250, the duration extended from four hours and 15 minutes to six hours, and a linear testing design was employed (no longer adaptive testing). While these changes were officially implemented November 2016, graduates in 2017 will be the first cohort participating in the new testing format with more questions and a longer duration.
A n elective course pointed Aly Becker toward a different career. While completing classes to earn a bachelor’s degree from South Dakota State in 2013, Becker took an epidemiology course. Instead of using her coursework from majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry to attend dental school as she had planned, that elective class got her thinking about a career in public health.

“Something just clicked,” said Becker, who started pursuing a Master of Public Health degree in January 2015. “I always thought I wanted to be a dentist but after I took that class, I was drawn to public health.

“I never got the epidemiology class out of my head and when the MPH program got started, they just meshed together so perfectly.”

Becker graduated from the program in December and will work at Sanford Research as a clinical research specialist. She spent her hours for a practicum course at Sanford Research, where she started a project on technology-assisted adolescent dating violence and abuse.

“It looks at how adolescents use cellphones to potentially harass their partners,” Becker said. “There have been several studies on cyberbullying, but not so much within the dynamic of an adolescent relationship. That’s important to note because bullies are not necessarily friends; whereas when one is in a romantic relationship, the parties are thinking ‘they’re doing this because they love me.’ That’s not good behavior; it’s not normal behavior.

“There’s an awkward disconnect right now,” she continued. “Since their parents didn’t grow up in this era of technology, they don’t know it’s happening or how to stop it.”

Becker’s project taught her more than just trends in dating.

“I learned the process of wanting to perform research, creating the study, getting institutional review board approval and actually doing the modifications for approval is just as important as doing the research itself. And it almost takes just as long, too,” she said.

“I feel like public health is a very specific calling—it’s not all ribbons and rainbows. “I realized public health is really all about trying to make a difference, whether it’s in your community with some individuals or at a national level making public policy,” Becker continued. “Regardless, you’re working hard toward a greater good and that’s what I want to do.”

Becker is the second graduate from the MPH program, which started in June 2014 after the South Dakota Board of Regents approved the online degree, which is a partnership of the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State. Michaela Seiber ’13, an enrolled tribal member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, graduated earlier this year.

Both Seiber and Becker said the collaboration between SDSU and USD and having the coursework online allowed them to succeed in the program.

“One thing I like about the classes is that it’s not purely MPH students. It’s nice to see and learn what they’re thinking and their response to a problem,” said Becker, noting she has taken classes with students pursuing doctorate of nursing practice or Master of Business Administration degrees.

“I really like how SDSU and USD put aside differences to put this program together,” she continued. “They took the best part of each university to make this program. It really is a collaborative effort.”

Matt Schmidt
SCHOLARSHIPS

Presented Sept. 17, 2016, at the scholarship luncheon in the University Student Union to 161 students. The awards total nearly $200,000, an increase of 24 percent from 2015-16. Thank you alumni and supporters.

Steven M. Aamot and Robbie D. Aamot Scholarship in Pharmacy
Courtney Neubert

Aberdeen District SDPhA Scholarship
Adam Goetz

Oliver G. and Nelle K. Anderson Scholarship
Shelby Olson

James A. Armbruster and Nancy E. Armbruster Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Chelsea Hoffm aann

Dr. Harold S. Bailey and Barbara A. Bailey Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Kassandra Frieze

Jack M. Bailey Scholarship
McKayla Thieman

Brad and Dawn Bargmann Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Abigail Waiz

Ruth Kohlmeyer Bassett Pharmacy Endowment
Fang Chen

Benson/Glascock Scholarship in Pharmacy
Nicholas Elgersma

Scott and Jessie Bergman Scholarship for Academic Leadership
Luke Klugherz

Jean Bibby Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship
Allison Weinacht

Joye Ann Billow Kappa Epsilon Leadership Award
Kara Benson

Joye Ann Billow Scholarship Endowment
Hannah Schmidt, Lea Telkamp

Darrel and Peggy Bjornson Scholarship in Pharmacy
Kendra Haase

Black Hills District (SDPhA) Scholarship
Alex Olson

Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann Scholarship in Medical Technology
Emily Young

Scott J. Brost College of Pharmacy Scholarship
Nicole Heeren, Lauren Kuschel

Marlin R. and Linda J. Brozik Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Austin Oyen

Cardinal Health Independent Pharmacy Scholarship
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Larry Christensen Distinguished Scholar Scholarship
Kaitlyn Kuske, Jade Kutke

Class of 1957 Scholarship in Pharmacy
Alex Ogren

James and Marilyn Clem Pharmacy Scholarship
Margit Hansen

Pharmacy Endowed Scholarships
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CVS Caremark Charitable Trust Pharmacy School Grants Scholarship
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Jade Kutke

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Marvin E. Foss Scholarship in Pharmacy
Maggie Orn

Lawrence C. and Winnibert Bradshaw France Memorial Scholarship
Taylor Kelsey

Milton and Elaine Freier Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy
Savannah Suchor

Cliff Garrett Memorial Scholarship Sponsored by the Medicine Shoppe of Troy, Missouri
Chelsea Anderson Patton

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Mike, Cindy and Kyle Huether Scholarship in Medical Laboratory Science
Elizabeth Scholl

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Austin Block

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Luke Iglinski

Iowa Pharmacy Association Distinguished Pharmacist Award in Honor of Lloyd Jesson
Kayte Kurfth

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Matthew Wlodzya

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Ron Johnson Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy
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Kmart Scholarship for Excellence in Community Pharmacy
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Kubly Excel Through Involvement Scholarship
Taylor Thooft

Jeffrey James Kuper Scholarship
Kaya Borg

Susan Lahr and Gordon Niva Scholarship in Pharmacy
Hadley Cropsy, Alyssa Larson

Terry Larvie Scholarship
Shelby Thompson

J. Bruce Laughrey Scholarship
Taylor Rothenberger, Shelby Van Driel

Floyd LeBlanc Scholarship
Meghan Perry

Harry M. Lee Scholarship
Alexis Karow

Larry Leighton Memorial Scholarship
Levi Hattervig

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Mackenzie Klinkhammer

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Joshua Collett

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Lauren Metzger

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Alexis Karow

William J. Regan Scholarship
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Jenna Donnelly

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Casey Hettinger

Gene Van Pelt Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy
Riley Georges

Gary and Sharon Van Riper Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment
Cassidy Latusek

Visions for the Future Scholarship
Anishni Jain

Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award
Nicole Schaberg

Walgreens Diversity Scholarship
Ashraf Amadou

Wal-Mart Pharmacy Scholarship
Janelle Anderson

Watertown District (SDPhA) Scholarship
Alex Ogren

Murray D. Widdis Jr. Pharmacy Scholarship
Matthew Wiemann

Yankton District (SDPhA) Award
Traci Eilers
Pat Tille, director of the medical laboratory science program since 2009, was notified Oct. 25, 2016, that she had been appointed chair of the microbiology advisory group for the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science.

Tille will serve a two-year, renewable term.

The newly formed advisory group will assist in document development on behalf of the federation to the World Health Organization and assist in the federation’s scientific publication. The committee will report to the federation’s president and board of directors on issues pertaining to medical microbiology.

The goals and charges of the advisory board include reviewing any draft documents from the World Health Organization or International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science in medical microbiology, reviewing draft documents from the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, and bringing relevant and urgent issues regarding medical microbiology to the attention of the board as well as assisting the editor of the International Journal of Biomedical Laboratory Science when required.

The federation seeks to promote good laboratory practice through high-quality standards in diverse environments throughout the world.

Tille holds many honors in the field of medical laboratory science, including selection as a fellow of the Association of Clinical Scientists at its May 2016 meeting.

Josh Reineke, an assistant professor in pharmaceutical science, will lead a team that received a $75,000 grant in summer 2016 from the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and the South Dakota Board of Regents to investigate the use of nanomedicine in fighting ALS and cancer metastasis.

Reineke, the principal investigator, is partnering with researchers from Sanford Research, the University of South Dakota, Georgia Southern and SynZyme Technologies LLC of Sioux Falls.

Nanomedicines can play an important role in ensuring enough of the drug enters and stays in the body long enough for it to be effective and that the drug is targeted specifically to the areas that need treatment. Eventually, Reineke hopes to gain grant funding to create the South Dakota Center for Translational Nanomedicine.

He arrived at SDSU July 1, 2015, as the third researcher in the field of drug delivery, coming from Wayne State University in Detroit.
KARI TAGGART

Finding fulfillment in precepting, clinical ICU pharmacist Kari (Bitzer) Taggart decided to switch to a job where precepting and teaching made up a bigger part of her duties.

Taggart began Nov. 30, 2015, as the critical care clinical pharmacist at Avera McKennan ICU in Sioux Falls and an assistant professor in pharmacy practice.

A 2005 Pharm.D. graduate of SDSU, Taggart joined Sanford Hospital as a clinical ICU pharmacist after a one-year residency at Avera. “I became the lead critical care preceptor (at Sanford) about six years ago and found that my most fulfilling days were those where I got to spend time precepting residents and students and teaching them. My student interactions at Sanford drew me to my current position,” she said.

Taggart now precepts two P4 students per rotation with seven rotations in a year. Additionally, she teaches P3 students in therapeutics and handles a portion of the critical care elective that is offered each spring.

Her Avera duties include mentoring first- and second-year pharmacy residents as they rotate through the intensive care unit, participating in interdisciplinary team rounds, and providing medication-related recommendations for all patients admitted to the ICU.

Ten percent of her SDSU contract involves research. Currently, Taggart is developing research projects and is a mentor for residency projects at Avera.

“I am excited for this joint opportunity of clinical practice at Avera McKennan and with SDSU in the teaching environment. I look forward to continuing to develop my rotation and make it as strong as possible, providing opportunities for students and residents to get the full experience in the ICU,” Taggart said. “I also look forward to advancing myself and my career in the areas of research and academia.”

She is a native of Seneca and a graduate of Faulkton High School. She now lives in Sioux Falls with her husband of 10 years, Jason. They have three children—sons Madden, 7, and Rohen, 3; and daughter Irelyn, 5.

KYLE LAPORTE

Fresh out of two years of postgraduate residencies, Kyle LaPorte finds himself not only with a new job, but also breaking ground in a new position.

LaPorte, who joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice in July 2016, also is an ambulatory care pharmacist in oncology at Avera Cancer Institute in Sioux Falls. He works with the hematology/bone marrow transplant clinic there, providing recommendations for medicinal treatments for people going through bone marrow transplants.

A pharmaceutical oncologist is a new position on the transplant team, said LaPorte, who served the second year of his postgraduate residency at Avera Cancer Institute.

“There’s a steep learning curve getting up to speed with procedures for the college and developing a new clinical practice, but I am loving every minute of it,” said LaPorte, a Fergus Falls, Minnesota, native who earned his Pharm.D. from North Dakota State University in 2014. LaPorte’s PGY1 residency was at the VA Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota.

His SDSU duties include precepting P4 students through their five-week rotations and lecturing P3 students on various oncology topics, he said. While he did some lecturing in the fall, most of his SDSU hours were spent in preparation for this spring’s lectures. “I enjoy lecturing.”

In fact, the biggest attraction to the position “is being able to teach, to provide continual learning opportunities not only for the students but also myself and finding new ways to teach and make sure students are more grounded as a pharmaceutical practitioner. Every day is a busy day and a satisfying day because I have the ability to play an integral role as a pharmacy practitioner and as an educator,” LaPorte said.

After he gets a little more settled in his position, he also will have research work to balance. “I’m interested in anything in the oncology/hematology/bone marrow transplant area,” LaPorte said.

His interest in health care can be tied to his parents, both of whom are registered nurses. His interest in the outdoors is translated into hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and skiing.
In 2013, the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP), which is composed of 11 organizations (e.g., ASHP, APhA, ASCP), adopted a vision for pharmacists’ practice activities that is patient centered, assures pharmacist’s accountability and is practiced within a team. By creating a single approach, expectations for pharmacists’ practice activities would be consistent, predictable and measurable. Through a consensus-base process, JCPP created the Pharmacists’ Patient Care Process (PPCP) in 2014. This process was subsequently adopted by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) in the new 2016 accreditation standards, and colleges/schools of pharmacy were required to report on implementation of the PPCP.

The PPCP is composed of five steps: collect, assess, plan, implement and follow-up (monitor/evaluate). The full process can be found at http://jcpp.net/patient-care-process/. The process may look similar to previous practice models. This makes sense because Hepler and Strand’s Drug-related Process provided foundational work for the new process. To discuss all aspects of the PPCP is far beyond the scope of this column. However, some notable differences found in this process include requiring the pharmacist to take greater responsibility for various aspects of patient care such as obtaining information relevant to drug therapy, utilizing a more robust set of patient-specific information to create a unique plan, generating action steps for implementation and taking responsibility for follow-up on goal achievement.

The college began planning implementation of the PPCP model in the 2015 fall semester. This began with a faculty development session overviewing the PPCP model. Following that presentation, a faculty committee was formed to develop/modify current curricular content to incorporate the PPCP model. The integration of the PPCP involved creating didactic materials, a template to guide students in their execution of the process and a rubric to evaluate student performance.

Subsequently, the PPCP was fully integrated into classroom-based and experiential activities as of the 2016-17 academic year. Classroom integration starts with the first year (P1) pharmacy practice course that serves as the cornerstone for our longitudinal PPCP program. Subsequent classroom courses include the pharmacy practice course sequence (P1, P2 and P3 years), pharmacotherapeutics courses (P2 and P3 years), and patient assessment and self care (P3 OTC activities). In addition, care plan assignments in Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience I (community) and II (institutional) employ the PPCP format and help students gain skills using PPCP in both settings. These courses and assignments prepare students to use the PPCP format in Advance Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs). All required P4 APPEs under the direction of faculty use PPCP. We plan to expand the use of PPCP to other APPEs.

In the spring of 2016, we were required to report on the status of our PPCP implementation as part of our report to ACPE outlining our readiness for Standards 2016. In response to our report, ACPE indicated support for our approach, noting our didactic work, creation of a template and incorporation into experiential education. The rapid incorporation of this new model is indicative of our faculty members’ commitment to providing a state-of-the-art curriculum and willingness to work together to execute a shared plan.

Additional steps in the implementation process included a preceptor development session on the PPCP at the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists meeting in April 2016. Going forward, additional educational materials on PPCP will be provided to preceptors and practitioners. These steps help to fulfill our commitment not only to educate students but also serve the needs of practitioners and patients of our state.

Jane R. Mort, Pharm.D.
Acting dean and professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice
Master of Public Health Program

South Dakota State University (SDSU) & the University of South Dakota (USD) partner to offer a Master of Public Health program (MPH) that uniquely benefits from expertise in the specialty of rural public health.

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I am happy to share news of the exciting growth of our graduate program in pharmaceutical sciences. The doctorate program in pharmaceutical sciences was started in 2007 through the efforts of Professor Emeritus Chandradhar Dwivedi, who also was a former department head, former Dean Brian Kaatz, and Professor and Assistant Dean for Research Xiangming Guan. Among the 136 colleges of pharmacy in the U.S., nearly 70 schools offer a Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical or biomedical sciences. SDSU is one of the few schools that offers a comprehensive Ph.D. program covering all disciplines of pharmaceutical sciences. The program includes coursework in pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences, along with a dissertation focused on a specific research area. The research areas include drug design and development, cancer biology, novel drug/vaccine delivery systems, molecular genetics, neuropharmacology, cardiovascular pharmacology and eye diseases. The program also offers cocurricular activities to enhance the soft skills of our graduate students. The faculty mentors play a key role in developing the scientific and professional skills of our graduate students.

The history of the graduate program in pharmaceutical sciences goes back to the 1930s when the master’s program in pharmaceutical sciences started. The program was terminated in 1997 due to budgetary issues and low student numbers. The graduate program was restarted in 2000 as a master’s and a Ph.D program in biological sciences with specialization in pharmaceutical sciences. This program then evolved into a stand-alone Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical sciences in 2007. The program has since grown from less than 10 students in 2007 to 20 students today. The students are supported through an assistantship from the state, college, grants and government scholarships. Many of our graduate students serve as teaching assistants and support the faculty members’ work in Pharm.D. courses.

The Ph.D. program attracts students from all over the world. Over the last 10 years, 25 students have graduated from this program. Our graduates are employed in academia (i.e., faculty and research scientists), while the rest are employed in pharmaceutical/biotechnology industry and regulatory agencies. Several students are also employed as research scientists at various universities and research institutes. Some graduates are employed at the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention. Please see the Highlights insert for more details on our graduates.

Our graduate students are actively involved in various professional and scientific organizations. This includes American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), Controlled Release Society, Biomaterials Society, American Chemical Society, American Association of Cancer Researchers, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The SDSU student chapter of AAPS recently received the South Dakota Board of Regents Award for Academic Excellence. The chapter was also recognized by AAPS as the third-best chapter among more than 100 AAPS student chapters around the world. Our students have presented research work at various national and international meetings and have received several travel awards from professional and scientific organizations. Some of our graduate students have also received research grants from SDSU.

The graduate students are major contributors to the faculty-directed research program and the graduate students also serve as mentors for undergraduate research students. In addition, graduate students have contributed to the creation of several new technologies and intellectual property. Some of these technologies have been licensed to startup companies.

With the support of our students, faculty, alumni and stakeholders, the Ph.D. program will continue to strengthen and enhance our research program for decades to come.

Best wishes for a prosperous new year 2017.

Om Perumal, Ph.D.
Department head and associate professor
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
In order to meet the requirements of the new accreditation standards, we have embarked on our curriculum revision for the professional pharmacy program. Curriculum revision involves more than simply changing course offerings and content. It also entails a review and critique of instructional approaches, desired outcomes and more contemporary approaches to evaluate and assess students. When thinking about evaluation and assessment of students, one often thinks of paper examinations. Examinations certainly play a significant role in assessing student knowledge and will continue to play an important role. However, with the changes occurring in health care and the practice of pharmacy, it is also important to effectively evaluate skills as they relate to the delivery of state-of-the-art pharmacy care.

Different levels and types of skills assessments have been part of our professional pharmacy program curriculum since we first started offering the Pharm.D. degree. The types of skills assessments have varied over the years due to continuous evaluation of what we have felt to be the most beneficial skills that graduates of our program obtain. One of the common difficulties of skills assessments however is inter-rater reliability, which can occur when you have different evaluators for the same skills assessment. One way to help improve inter-rater reliability is to have a well-developed evaluation rubric to reduce the difference in scores between raters on a topic. Over the years, we have developed skills-assessment evaluation rubrics that improve inter-rater reliability for some of the skills assessments we do. As we continue to look at adding more skills assessments because of the direction the practice of pharmacy is going, it will be important to develop strong skills assessments.

As you know, to become licensed as a pharmacist in the U.S., pharmacy graduates need to pass the North American Pharmacy Licensure Exam (NAPLEX) and the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE). Both assess a graduate’s knowledge in order to become licensed. Skills assessments have not been a part of this national licensing examination. However in Canada, skills assessments have been used as part of their national licensing process. The skills assessments have been done by way of Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, referred to as OSCEs. OSCEs were first used by medical schools in the assessment of medical students and have evolved into being used in the education of other healthcare professions. As part of our curriculum revision, we will be looking at the possibility of incorporating more OSCEs. We are particularly interested in developing OSCEs to assess APPE readiness of our students before the experiential year (P4 year).

To assist us in being better prepared in the area of OSCE development, I attended OSCEology training with two faculty members at the University of Toronto this past June. Deidra Van Gilder and Jennifer Ball joined me at the three-day training session. It was a very busy and productive session where we collectively developed eight different OSCE stations with a validated evaluation rubric for each station with good inter-rater reliability. Not only did we return with eight OSCE stations, we also came back with the knowledge and understanding of the process to create additional OSCE stations. The process to create the OSCE and evaluation rubric is a much-prescribed process. By having gained this knowledge within our college, we will be able to create OSCEs to meet the needs of our curriculum in order to provide our students with the highest quality education upon entering the profession of pharmacy.

James Clem, Pharm.D.
Department head and professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice
Gary Van Riper
Distinguished Alum

Gary Van Riper, a well-known retired member of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, was honored as the college’s Distinguished Alumnus at its Scholarship and Distinguished Alumnus Luncheon Sept. 17, 2016.

In addition to honoring Van Riper, more than 150 students were recognized for their 2016-17 scholarships.

Van Riper, of Brookings, a member of the pharmacy class of 1969, joined the SDSU faculty in 1972 and served until his retirement in June 2006.

He remains connected with the college through fundraising efforts and as an adviser for the SDSU chapter of Kappa Psi fraternity. In 2015, the assistant professor emeritus was honored as the National Adviser of the Year by Kappa Psi. He also received the award, formally known as the Grand Council Deputy Outstanding Achievement Award, in 2005, when it was created.

Acting Dean Jane Mort, who served with Van Riper for 20 years while they were faculty together, said Van Riper “has worked tirelessly over the years to help achieve outstanding educational quality. I can think of few people who have invested more of themselves in the work of the pharmacy profession and the college.”

Continues to serve Kappa Psi
Van Riper has been adviser of the Gamma Kappa chapter at South Dakota State University since 1973, an incredible 43 years, and isn’t ready to quit.

This year marks Van Riper’s 50th year as a Kappa Psi brother and the Groton native said he has no plans in the short term to step down as grand council deputy.

“We enjoy the interaction with the students. Sharon (his wife) and I say it keeps us young. It keeps us in touch with the university, and we’ve made a tremendous number of friends in the Northern Plains.” He noted that many he mentored in the local chapter have taken their leadership skills to professional organizations at the state level.

Van Riper, who turned 70 Nov. 19, plans to continue “as long as I’m able to do so” and wants to be able to mentor his replacement for a year or two.

Under his guidance, the local chapter has won the Scholarship Tray four times for having the best GPA of any chapter in the United States and Canada. Frequently Gamma Kappa has been on the list of the top 10 chapters nationwide. In addition, Van Riper serves on the Grand Council Deputy Development Committee.

According to Scott Bergman, who nominated Van Riper, “GVR has left an indelible impression on hundreds of brothers of the fraternity at SDSU.”

Bergman, a 2004 SDSU graduate who now is an associate professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said Van Riper “has lived a life of service to the college and the profession.”

“GVR has left an indelible impression on hundreds of brothers of the fraternity at SDSU.”

Scott Bergman, associate professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

Faithful giver to SDSU
Van Riper also has shown his heart for the college through his giving. Appropriately, the Pharmacy Student Organization Office in the Avera Health and Science Center is named after Gary and Sharon Van Riper in recognition of their giving. They both sit on their college’s development councils (Sharon with the College of Education and Human Sciences).

The Van Ripers are avid Jackrabbits fans, especially basketball, and have been donors to SDSU Athletics as well as to the SDSU preschool renovation, the Women & Giving Program, and the South Dakota Art Museum, with Sharon Van Riper a former officer of the art museum guild.

SDSU career began in ’72
After graduation, Van Riper was only away from SDSU for one year.

He worked as a pharmacy intern as Revco Drug in Phoenix in 1969-70 and then returned to SDSU to pursue his master’s in pharmaceutical chemistry. After earning the degree in 1972, he was asked by Dean Ray Hopponen to organize what was then called the externship program. That job, which was to be a two- or three-year appointment, turned into a 34-year career.

In addition to faculty duties, Van Riper spent 10 years as the assistant to the dean under Hopponen and Bernie Hietbrink.

Among other faculty duties, Van Riper also served 11 years as coordinator for pre-pharmacy recruitment and 13 years as coordinator for alumni affairs.

Career highlights include receiving the Outstanding Hospital Pharmacist Award from the South Dakota Hospital Pharmacists (1989) and the Hustead Award as South Dakota Pharmacist of the Year from the South Dakota Pharmacists Association.

He is best known for his affable personality and the connections he has made and maintains with students and alumni.

“You would be hard pressed to find a pharmacist in South Dakota who is better known than GVR,” Mort said.

Dave Graves
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The Class of 1966 returned to Brookings while the South Dakota Pharmacists Association held its 130th annual convention Sept. 16-17.

The Class of 1961 also toured the Avera Health and Science Center while back on campus for a reunion Sept. 10.
Thank you
Jan. 1, 2015, to Nov. 23, 2016

Dean’s club membership consists of alumni and friends who have contributed $500 or more annually to the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. Dean’s club members are recognized as devoted friends of the college who make significant impact on the college’s future. Member names will be listed in the SDSU Honor Roll and the college newsletters. They also will receive invitations to special college and university functions, updates from the college dean.

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We value and appreciate every donor. Thank you for enabling us to do what we do.

Kindly,
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