THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR THE COLLEGE

Amazing things are happening in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. In this issue of Jackrabbits Script & Scope, you will find a multitude of exciting stories.

We are so proud to have Sharrel Pinto join us as the Hoch Endowed Professor of Community Pharmacy Practice. Her work will not only change the way pharmacy is practiced but will also serve as a training ground for innovative future practitioners. Speaking of training pharmacists, please check out the new lab renovations featured in this issue. While it is fun to read about the renovation and see the pictures, I invite each of you to stop by the college and check it out. It looks even better in person.

Excellence is present in our MLS and MPH programs. We are proud to have Stacie Lansink now leading the MLS program, to celebrate the students’ journey as professionals with our MLS White Coat Ceremony, and to honor a founder of the program, Deb Pravecek, with an honorary white coat. In addition, our MPH program is showcased with a week in the life of a student, which reminds us all of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by our students on a daily basis.

Of course, an issue of our magazine isn’t complete without honoring the truly outstanding alumni, students and friends associated with our programs. Honors fall to our alumni, including Dana Darger (College’s Distinguished Alumnus), Gary Van Riper (Kappa Psi Grand Council Deputy Outstanding Achievement Award) and Stanley Shaw (Honorary President of American Pharmacists Association). The awards earned by our student organizations are too numerous to list, so I simply call your attention to the excellence these groups have achieved. These awards reflect the students’ hard work and the impactful guidance they receive from their advisers. Finally, the outstanding generosity of our alumni is highlighted in the stories of scholarship endowments and stock gift opportunities. As I have said many times, our alumni, friends and students are truly what make the difference for our programs.

Reports from the college’s leadership team serve as a testament to the hard work they carry out to make sure we are on the cutting edge of education, research and community service. I hope you enjoy this edition as much as I have.

Jane Mort, Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor
College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
Through Innovation Pharmacy, students are gaining a new experience in renovated laboratory space.
Generosity and commitment were seated front and center at the investiture of the William R. Hoch Endowed Professorship in Community Pharmacy Practice Oct. 11.

Sharrel Pinto, an internationally recognized expert in patient care, is the initial recipient of the position created by the longtime Tyndall pharmacist’s family. Pinto arrived on campus April 2 from the University of Toledo, where she had been since December 2004. At Toledo, she was head of the Health Outcomes and Socioeconomic Sciences Division and research director for the Center for Pharmaceutical Care and Outcomes Research.

She spent three years at the University of Florida, where she received her doctorate in pharmacy health-care administration in December 2004. She also holds a master’s degree in pharmacy health-care administration from the University of Toledo (2001). Her bachelor’s degree in pharmacy and a postgraduate degree in marketing management come from the University of Bombay, India, in 1997 and 1999, respectively.

As the Hoch Endowed Professor, she will be responsible for leading innovation in the college’s community practice program in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Pinto told a gathering on the third floor of the Avera Health and Science Center that she is ready to make that commitment.

“The value of serving others was instilled in me by my family and, especially, my grandfather, who served his farming community back in India. I wanted to make a big difference to those I serve. Pharmacy has allowed me to do that,” Pinto said. “In order to implement change, you don’t just have to institute new programs; you have to train the next generation and provide resources to the current and future generations, to help them implement these programs.

“I firmly believe we are blessed with a wonderful life and just one opportunity to live it to the fullest, but we are given numerous chances to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.”

She has already begun doing just that.

In less than six months, Pinto was able to secure a multimillion dollar grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a five-year project in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Health. Pinto and a team of faculty and students will work with South Dakota patients, practitioners and payers to develop and implement customized community-based programs that focus on improving outcomes and quality of life for patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

In the classroom, Pinto brings in aspects of the real world and provides students hands-on learning opportunities.

In one course, students are paired with pharmacy leaders. Pinto encourages students to use problem-solving and critical thinking to apply the concepts they learn in class to develop a realistic solution that can be implemented at a pharmacy.

“This type of learning doesn’t limit pharmacy students to theoretical concepts, but rather prepares them to address real-world challenges, especially as they enter the ever-changing and clinically driven health-care environment,” Pinto said.
HOCH: NEARLY A CENTURY OF COMMITMENT

Pinto’s willingness to invest in students reflects that of the Hoch family, whose pharmaceutical lineage dates to 1908, when Joseph Hoch graduated from the pharmacy program at State. He was one of four in his pharmacy class, which was the 16th one since the first State pharmacy grad in 1890. (No graduates in 1900 and 1907.)

In 1914, Joseph Hoch purchased an existing pharmacy in the south-central South Dakota town of Tyndall. He worked at Hoch Drug until age 80. Many of the years he worked alongside William Hoch, a 1947 State grad. When William’s son, Greg, graduated from pharmacy college in 1970, there were three State pharmacists at Hoch Drug for a short time.

By 1986, Joseph had died and William had retired, but he kept active with relief work.

In the early 1990s, Greg was diagnosed with melanoma. William picked up some of his hours and took over the store in 2005, when Greg died. William ran the store another five years, before retiring a final time Oct. 1, 2010.

ENDOWMENT: ‘AN AMAZING GIFT’

William Hoch died May 4, 2015, at age 93 and Jeanne Hoch, his only surviving child, made what Dennis Hedge, the former pharmacy dean and current provost and vice president of academic affairs, called “an amazing
gift.” The $1 million donation created an endowment that can be used for salary enhancement, salaries for student positions, research needs, conference travel and related expenses.

Hedge said, “We should all understand that endowed faculty positions are critically important to achieving premier levels of success and distinction in both academic programs and research, not just at our university, at all universities. These positions are so important because they allow us to do things that we otherwise would not be able to do in our quest for academic and research excellence.”

Pinto becomes the college’s second endowed scholar. Wenfeng An joined the pharmaceutical sciences department in 2014 as the Markl Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research.

RECRUITING ENDOWED SCHOLAR CHALLENGING

Dean Jane Mort shared some of the struggles in recruiting a pharmacist of Pinto’s stature.

“In our journey to find our Hoch Endowed Professor, we had multiple challenges. Anyone in education will tell you, finding the right person to be your endowed professor is an arduous task. And I can assure you that without the Hoch Endowed Professor position, we would not have been able to recruit Dr. Pinto, a nationally recognized leader in community pharmacy care, to our campus.

“Even as we worked on the details to hire Dr. Pinto, on three separate occasions we met a challenge that seemed insurmountable. I still hear the words ringing in my ears, ‘We have done all we can, it just isn’t going to happen’ and miraculously each time a solution was found to the challenge. That is more than chance. We are truly fortunate to have Dr. Pinto as our Hoch Endowed Professor.”

PINTO’S ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUE

Mort added that Pinto “specializes in practice-based research and studying the impact of various interventions on patient outcomes and quality of care. Dr. Pinto has built or modified five academic programs over the past 14 years. Many of her students are currently in leadership positions within various pharmacy-based organizations and are leading the profession through innovative changes in health care.

“She founded the Center for Pharmaceutical Care and Outcomes Research in Toledo in 2006 to provide an infrastructure for enhanced student learning and research, and to help foster collaboration between pharmacists and other health-care providers.

“This center has been a huge resource to student learning and provided her with a great opportunity to combine her passion for research, teaching and community service by working on multiple projects.”

Pinto was selected in June as a Harvard Macy Scholar for Leading Innovations in Healthcare and Education, which only takes 40 leaders from around the world.

Dave Graves
Working in a laboratory was fun for Stacie Lansink and she carries that attitude to the classroom and everything she does as the new director of South Dakota State’s medical laboratory science program.

“The best part about working with Ms. Lansink is that she always incorporates a bit of fun into a lab or lecture,” said Hannah Palmer, a MLS2 student from Delano, Minnesota. “Whether it’s joking with the students or providing that mischievous smile to a question we ask, she shows us how to stay lively and relaxed even when presented with stressful situations.

“Ms. Lansink is such a valuable asset to our program. I believe that she plays an enormous role in developing and streamlining the program into how it operates today,” Palmer continued. “While juggling multiple classes, labs and being program director, Ms. Lansink never fails to display a positive attitude despite her workload. I have such a deep respect for her and all she does for us.”

Lansink is ready for her role as the chief in an area that’s been called the detectives of health care. Lansink, who had worked as an instructor in the program, took over as its director this past summer.

“I am excited to see Ms. Lansink move into this role. She has always had a passion for this program and does everything she can to help our students succeed,” said Dan Hansen, the college’s associate dean for student services. “I have no doubt that the MLS program will take the next step forward and grow under her leadership.”

Part of that step is to help increase awareness of the program.

“Because we’re so behind the scenes, we’re always educating people on what we do. Somebody said the other day we’re the detectives of health care,” Lansink said. “We know a lot, have to figure things out and help the physician diagnose the patient.”

Similar to that detective role, Lansink has been learning more and more about the MLS program.

“When I started here in 2011, I was teaching and really liked the teaching aspect of the program,” Lansink said, who worked 10 years at Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center and served as a clinical preceptor before coming to State.

“While I’ve always been a part of this program, I didn’t realize everything that’s involved with running the entire program,” she continued. “It’s been a big learning curve, particularly the day-to-day stuff.”

The MLS program can accept up to 24 students in each class. Lansink would like to see the program grow but admits there are limitations.

“A number of people are starting to retire in the labs and there are many specialty clinics and labs where our graduates can work,” she said. “We know there is a demand for our graduates. However, the big issue is the lab space. We have the classroom space to accommodate more students, but need more lab space.”

The online aspect of the program had its first student participate in the 2017 White Coat Ceremony and three were honored this fall.

“We’ve been recruiting at national meetings and letting employers know it’s there and an option,” Lansink said. “A big selling point is that it’s all online so students don’t have to leave their job and come to campus for a lab or class.”

With her years of industry experience, the Ida Grove, Iowa, native knows the importance of preparing students to enter the field.

“Our position is integral to health care. Some people like or prefer the aspect that there is minimal patient interaction,” she said. “While we’re behind the scenes, we try to show people what we can do. Whether it’s taking microscopes to a science festival or painting petri plates with bacteria so people can see what causes strep throat, we’re doing what we can to sell the program to the younger generation.

“Being in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions has been great to help tell the story of what we do,” Lansink continued. “The college and its staff allows us to concentrate on the students and make sure they’re OK and during the fall we can prepare the students for clinicals.”

Matt Schmidt
“What if we had a working pharmacy in our pharmacy skills lab?” was the question then-interim Dean Jane Mort posed in fall 2017.

In addition, she challenged the faculty to think of all practice aspects students should experience, the space that would be required to do that task, and how to create a dynamic space that could meet multiple needs.

The faculty stepped up to the challenge, according to students who are now learning to process scripts, counsel customers, call a provider and recommend over-the-counter products in Innovation Pharmacy.

During summer 2018, Mort was able to identify the money needed to completely renovate the pharmacy skills and compounding labs on the first floor of the Avera Health and Science Center. The project, which didn’t change the lab’s square footage (about 1,200 square feet), was completed in time for student use in late August.

The biggest changes are the replacement of fixed, chemistry-lab style benches with movable tables and the addition of several pieces of technology.

“Lack of technology was a barrier to teaching our pharmacy skills labs to the best of our abilities,” said Associate Professor Brittney Meyer, coordinator for the pharmacy skills labs. “The current arrangement allows for more repetition of skills within one lab period, which are two to three hours, depending on the lab.

“The feedback we had received from students was the labs were previously ‘one and done.’ They would get one chance to perform the skill and then other people needed to have a turn. Now, the lab lets students rotate through several stations and practice different scenarios. Also, our new curriculum, which began this fall, has more time for labs.”

P1 and P2 students take one pharmacy skills lab per semester—Pharmacy Skills I-IV.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A new lab began this spring. The integrated lab will be taught in the spring semester for P1 and P2 students and it’s in the fall for P3.

“This lab will draw upon what students have already learned in class and utilize lab skills already taught. Students may be presented a patient case and then asked ‘Why use injections over orals?’ To answer, students draw on their pharmaceutics lessons. When recommending a particular product or appropriately counseling patients on a medication, ‘why it is specifically the right medication for them?’ They draw on their pharmacogenomics lessons.

“It’s pulling all of the topics together so students can see what they’re learning in the classroom is important to their practice.

“We’re also applying active-learning strategies within the labs to emphasize application of the content as well as teamwork and problem-solving skills.

“Both lab spaces can be utilized during the integrated lab, which will have up to 40 students per section. Our previous setup in the lab space would not have been able to accommodate that many students or this type of group work,” Meyer said.

Nikki Carr, a P2 student from Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, said, “The renovated lab space has allowed for a better simulation of what real practice entails. This allows us, as students, to be properly equipped with not only the knowledge but also the hands-on skills necessary to be prepared for experiential learning outside of the classroom.

“The new lab also provides a much more practical and integrative space for group work, which is an essential skill to have entering the pharmacy profession.”
‘VERY FUN ADDITION’

Naturally, learning is better if students actually enjoy it.
“It’s so helpful to be able to move furniture, especially for group work. It’s also a comfortable area. After class time, students ask to study in here during breaks. It’s much easier to work in small groups. Students like to be in this space rather than hurrying to finish lab and get it over with,” Meyer said.

Rachel Propst, a P2 student from Pierre, said, “I appreciate the versatility of the new lab compared to the old lab. The new space allows us to use the mock pharmacy to simulate an actual pharmacy environment. The pharmacy counter is also a very fun addition.”

Nathan Graves, a P1 student from Jefferson, Iowa, adds, “The new labs are modeled after a real and modernized pharmacy, so I have really enjoyed the true pharmacy experience this provides.”

WORKING IN HOSPITAL ROOM

The skills of a hospital pharmacist are now taught in a mock hospital room.

Sim Man, who previously had been tucked away in a storage room, now is in his own hospital room, which is equipped with a two-way mirror for faculty observers as well as a camera so the simulation can be recorded and viewed in the classroom. Faculty can program Sim Man to imitate any number of conditions and responses to medications.

Work with Sim Man often is a joint activity with nursing students, who receive earlier and more frequent training on simulation mannequins.

“Now we can introduce this to our students before they interact with nursing students,” Meyer said.

Dave Graves
COMPOUNDING LAB FEATURES

NONSTERILE ROOM
- Movable tables with six-outlet power towers beside each table.
- Five wall monitors so lessons can be posted on the monitors.

STERILE ROOM
- The aseptic room, where students wash hands and put on hair nets, lab coats and gloves, is also equipped with a camera so faculty can observe.
- The clean room contains three hooded workbenches (already owned). Cameras are mounted to the glass fronts of the workbenches so their techniques can be recorded and then evaluated by the student and faculty.

SKILLS LAB FEATURES
- Moveable tables with six-outlet power towers beside each table grouping, which is essential for the new requirement that students have a laptop.
- Seven counseling areas—one in the open, six individual rooms (three on each end of the room) that can comfortably seat four and are equipped with web cameras and large television screens for individual laptop screen sharing to the group.
- Patient assessment supplies—the equipment needed to take blood pressure and glucose readings—also are in the counseling areas as well as phones with in-room calling to “call in” prescriptions or call a provider.
- Large white boards in each counseling room and individual boards at each table that can be used for calculations or diagramming processes, such as the life of a medication from pharmaceutical production to patient administration.
- Innovation Pharmacy, a roomy area that is equipped with a ScriptPro dispensing robot and ProPharm dispensing software (already owned by the college) and a camera that can begin recording a “customer” from the time one enters the store (classroom) and through the time spent interacting with the pharmacist at the counter during drop off, pick up and patient counseling. Custom-built shelving is filled with simulated medications.
NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR THE
DISTINGUISHED PHARMACY ALUMNUS AWARD

The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Advisory Council requests nominations for the Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award. This award recognizes a graduate of the SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions who has served and advanced the profession of pharmacy and has been involved in community service.

The Advisory Council requests nominations come from a colleague in the profession and include the following:

1. A brief cover letter explaining the nominee’s contributions to the profession of pharmacy (past and continuing) and ways the individual has shown a commitment to the profession and the community.
2. A brief biographical sketch (resume or curriculum vitae would be helpful).
3. An additional letter of support from a colleague or a member of the community.

Send materials to: Jane Mort, SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, Box 2202C, Brookings, SD 57007-0099; or by email at jane.mort@sdstate.edu. The annual deadline for submitting nominations is March 1, 2019. The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Advisory Council will select an award winner from the nominees based on the above criteria.

The award will be presented at the annual College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Scholarship Luncheon. Nominees not selected for the award are still eligible for three years following the nomination.
MPH—most commonly understood as miles per hour. In the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, it’s Master of Public Health.

For MPH student Michael Dunn, the common usage of mph also applies. With a full-time job, a full load of graduate courses and a new marriage, it’s definitely life in the fast lane. But the son of Barry and Jane Dunn seems to be negotiating the course like a race driver. Script & Scope spent some time with the 2006 Brookings High School graduate to get a feel for what it’s like behind the wheel of Master of Public Health vehicle.

**7 A.M.**
Waken, shower and leave his Brookings townhome near the bowling alley for the five-minute drive to work.

**8 A.M.**
Arrives on campus. Dunn works as a senior microbiologist at the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostics Laboratory in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Science’s molecular diagnostics section. He has worked there since his sophomore year at State, from which he graduated in 2010 with a microbiology degree.

The section receives 700 to 1,000 livestock samples daily. Livestock operators, primarily swine producers but also cattlemen, want to know if their herds have been infected with Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus, Bovine Viral Diarrhea, Johne’s Disease, influenza or other common diseases.

Samples are sorted. Dunn and five other lab employees plus student workers run approximately 400 reactions per day with one run first thing in the morning, another run before lunch and a third after lunch.

“Most clients need same-day results,” said Dunn, who has advanced from student worker to emergency temporary worker to microbiologist to senior biologist.

**NOON**
Dunn and his wife, Marlee, who works in the bacteriology section doing culture tests, usually go home for lunch.

**1-5 P.M.**
The afternoon looks a lot like the morning—preparing reactions, extracting results, completing paperwork and notifying producers. “Oh geez, it’s 5 already,” Dunn said he often finds himself saying.

**6 P.M.**
Dinner at home followed by homework, which oftentimes is accomplished downtown at Cottonwood Coffee. The online program is heavy on reading—textbooks, scientific papers, journal articles. The required discussion must be evidenced-based reactions with sources cited. An initial posting early in the week precedes a follow-up posting after others have reacted.

Group projects also are an online effort. One semester, Dunn completed a public health policy analysis group project with a cohort living in Washington state.

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
The end of the week means time to take tests on the week’s material.

Dunn had two online classes while earning his bachelor’s degree and has been thankful for the online opportunity to earn his master’s degree so he could keep his day job to pay for tuition and fees.

After completing core classwork—courses such as biostatistics for public health, epidemiology and intro to U.S. health systems—Dunn has focused on social and behavioral science classes.

Between work and his bachelor’s work, he already had a firm grasp on the hard sciences.

His goal after completing his master’s degree in May 2019 is to gain a position in community health, perhaps serving as liaison between public health groups or some type of advocacy position, particularly in the field of mental health.

Whether at Cottonwood or at home, his workbench is a Dell laptop. Late this fall, evenings were spent processing community surveys on behalf of the Brookings Mental Health Task Force. Mary Beth Fishback, his adviser and the Master of Public Health program coordinator, serves on the committee, which is tasked with determining current levels of service compared to community needs.

**SUNDAY**
Dinner with his parents, either at the President’s Home or at their farm (depending on the day’s schedule) is a standing order.

**TUESDAY**
Team trivia at Wooden Legs Brewing Co. in downtown Brookings also is an absolute for Michael and Marlee. He’s the “nerd guy” on the five-member team. “I’m decent at video game questions, comic books, sci-fi and some movie questions. I have an odd knowledge base,” he admits.
Despite a 35-year career with the medical laboratory science program, Deb Pravecek never expected to get a white coat. The longtime adviser, instructor and mentor received one at the 2018 White Coat Ceremony, held Oct. 22 in the University Student Union’s Hobo Day Gallery.

“It was quite humbling to receive the honorary white coat at the MLS White Coat Ceremony. This honor is even more special to me because it is also a recognition of all the work that was required to make this program successful,” Pravecek said. “Even though I have been retired for many years, it is still an honor to be recognized for my efforts. I was caught a bit off guard, so I hope I was able to express exactly how grateful I was to be recognized.”

She was able to do that, according to Michael Miller, one of the 24 white coat recipients.

“Deb Pravecek’s message was inspiring, hearing from someone who has been in so many parts of the field, and played such a pivotal role in the MLS program at SDSU,” he said. “I am astounded how much technology has advanced in her lifetime and continues to exponentially progress. What struck me most from her speech was how you could tell how much she loves the career. It is my goal to have the passion she showed and to put my energy into making my field and the lives of those around me better.

“The white coat is the epitome of health care,” Miller continued. “It carries a command and comfort to those who see it, and an expectation of professionalism to the wearer. When a person comes into a health-care facility, they are at their most vulnerable. It is our job as health-care professionals to do everything in our power to use our knowledge and expertise to help them. Receiving my white coat created a tangible outcome to all my studying. The grades you receive can become abstract and start to lose meaning, but receiving the coat gave me a renewed sense of what all this hard work is for.”

Miller, the MLS student organization president, hopes to earn a Master of Business Administration degree after graduation and eventually become a laboratory director.

All goals within reach, thanks to the efforts of Pravecek, who started the program.

“Most people have no idea what we as laboratory professionals actually do; nor do they realize the academic rigor that is
Sydney Bassing and Michael Miller were two of the students who received awards at the ceremony.

"There has also been a lot of change in the profession—from instrumentation advances to new testing, etc.,” Pravecek continued. “It is essential that our professionals keep current, and SDSU can be proud that their graduates are given the skills necessary to be successful in this field. I am proud to have been a part of the growth of this program and also proud of its success. My successors have worked tirelessly without the recognition or praise for what they have also contributed to the education of our laboratory professionals.”

Matt Schmidt

required for this degree,” she said. “I tried to be an advocate for my students during my tenure at SDSU and I hope that I was instrumental in their successes. It is very gratifying to see that the fruits of my labors have paid off. This program is the first (and only) university-based program in medical laboratory science in the state of South Dakota, and it makes me very proud that it is so successful in helping meet the demand for highly qualified laboratory professionals in our state. In a sense I do feel very much like a parent who has seen his/her child grow into a responsible adult.

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Matt Schmidt
Growing up in a family of six children, the Dargers could count on Dana being the one to push the envelope, including the time he fell from a 50-foot cliff at Palisades State Park.

Today, as director of pharmacy at Regional Health, Darger continues to push the envelope. That means things like developing the first telepharmacy in South Dakota, advancing health-care analytics at Regional Health in Rapid City and beginning a home infusion pharmacy for Regional Health.

“One of his best leadership features is his forward-thinking ability. He is constantly thinking of ideas that will improve our department and isn’t hesitant to take on any challenges,” according to Joe Strain, professor of pharmacy practice and a member of clinical faculty at Regional Health.

Strain ’02 nominated Darger for the college’s Alumnus of the Year Award, which was presented to Darger at the Sept. 15 Scholarship Luncheon.

While it’s not a surprise that Darger is pushing the envelope, it’s a surprise even to the Sioux Falls native that he is in hospital pharmacy. “I wanted to own my own drugstore,” he said of his post-1979 graduation plans. He took the steps to do that, gaining two years of experience with Osco Drug in Iowa and another two-plus years with Vilas Drug in Pierre, the hometown of his wife, Julie.

When he found himself in need of a job and not wanting to leave Pierre, he signed on with St. Mary’s Hospital. “I could do anything for a year,” he told himself at the time.

BAPTISM BY FIRE

That year had become 19 when he left the 35-bed Pierre hospital to become assistant director of pharmacy at Rapid City Regional Hospital, which had a census of 200 to 250 patients. Within six months, the director had resigned. It was 2003 and he was pharmacy director. “It was baptism under fire the first year,” said Darger, soon approaching his 16th year in the position.

In that span, the number of pharmacists has grown from 20 to 60 and the pharmacy staff has grown from 80 to 150, including about 70 pharmacy techs.

Part of the growth can be attributed to the hospital’s expanding footprint and part to developments within health care. However, part of it also can be attributed to the envelope pusher. One reason Darger has been able to expand pharmacy’s role within Regional Health is because of his astute study of the profession.

“I really enjoy the history of our profession. I’ve spent a lot of time looking at the last 40 years—‘How did we get here today?’—and then trying to decide where we’re going. You can never get it exact, but you can come close. You can anticipate the rules changes and be prepared rather than think what am I going to do now after the rules have already changed. I’ve planned on the rules changing,” Darger said.

SELF-CONFESSED DATA NERD

He also admits to becoming a data nerd. “You can get a million lines of data on an Excel spreadsheet. I will take a million lines of data and splice it and dice it to get the information I need,” he said.

The two-time president of the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists said he got into health-care analytics “out of necessity.

“We run a pharmacy in a hospital. The pharmacy is a very large expense. In a hospital, it’s really hard to figure out what you get paid and what you don’t get paid. To provide an effective representation of what the pharmacy was able to do for the hospital, I had to capture data and determine our inpatient expenses and outpatient expenses and revenue.

“On the inpatient side of the hospital we don’t control what we
get paid. So controlling expenses is the only way to improve the bottom line.”

By capturing big data, Darger was able to make a business case that home infusion pharmacy would be profitable. He also has used data to develop a specialty pharmacy for his employer as well as bringing pharmacy into its long-term care operations.

**BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE**

However, Darger doesn’t claim to be Midas. In fact, he said, “I’m not afraid of failing.” He offers the example of when the hospital had the contract to serve the Pennington County Detention Center. “We thought it would be similar to nursing home coverage in that it was institutional care. We tried it for four years and decided it wasn’t working.”

Darger’s policy is “If it doesn’t work, we step back and see what went wrong.”

He puts a heavy emphasis on the “we,” whom he considers peers, not subordinates. “I don’t invent things, I invent processes. How can we do this better? I’m able to do this because the staff is willing to risk and talk to me and hold me accountable for what I did wrong. I’ll bounce ideas off them, and they will tell me why it won’t work and if I think it’s important, I will come back with a revamped idea.”

**THE FIRST TELEPHARMACY**

A former staff member he holds in high regard is Marilyn Schwaner, who was a pharmacy tech at Deadwood about eight years ago.

Darger had oversight of the Lead-Deadwood hospital, which was staffed by a half-time pharmacist. “We lost that person and I couldn’t find anyone to go there half-time.” At the same time, Darger was serving on the South Dakota Health Commission. He made a presentation on why the state needed to approve telepharmacy. The commission’s agreement started a lengthy process.

Before it became reality in 2010, the Legislature had to amend the Pharmacy Practice Act and the Board of Pharmacy had to write its accompanying regulations. The Legislative Research Council then ruled that the act only pertained to retail pharmacy. Darger requested and was granted a variance from the board to practice hospital telepharmacy. The Spearfish hospital was equipped with audio-visual equipment to connect with the Lead-Deadwood hospital. The pharmacy tech position at Deadwood went from working four hours a day to eight hours.

For Darger, it’s a matter of being inquisitive and collaborative.

“I just have the ideas and I find people who can help me. I paint ideas of what it looks like and then find someone to help me make it come true. I can fix almost anything, but I’ve never tried to fix a computer,” he said.

**AND DARGER’S NEXT DISCOVERY?**

“It will be a challenge to reinvent rules that make hospital pharmacy more virtual friendly. CVS and Walgreens might be fine for Sioux Falls and Rapid City, but what about Highmore and Winner? With telepharmacy, we can continue to provide local care. Current rules lock pharmacists into a location to take care of patients. It’s no different taking care of a patient 10 floors up than 45 miles away.

“We can literally take care of the patient remotely these days. Between data sharing and phone calls, there is no need to be present,” Darger said.

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**DARGER DATA**

- He got his first taste of retail pharmacy as a 14-year-old, working as a stock boy at Grange Drug in Sioux Falls. He stayed at the store until college graduation, finishing as a pharmacy extern.
- Previous awards include SDSU Preceptor of the Year, 1992; Merck Outstanding Achievement in the Profession of Pharmacy, 2006; South Dakota Pharmacists Association Honorary President Award, 2007; Rapid City Regional Hospital Luminary Star Award, 2010; South Dakota Pharmacists Association Innovative Pharmacist of the Year Award, 2011.
- Darger and his wife, Julie, have two children, both of Rapid City, and seven grandchildren.
- The Dargers are a four-generation SDSU family. Dana’s grandfather graduated from Aggie School in 1922. His mother earned a master’s degree in counseling in 1981. His daughter earned a psychology and sociology degree in 1999 and a nursing degree in 2013.
- Community service has included Rushmore Rotary, Rapid City United Way board and Lutheran Memorial Board of Education. He currently chairs the South Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.
A dozen years after he retired from the faculty, Gary Van Riper continues to win awards for the work he does with students.

In summer 2018, the assistant professor emeritus from the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions was awarded the Grand Council Deputy Outstanding Achievement Award by Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. Van Riper has been adviser for 45 years, longer than anyone else in the national organization.

The Brookings resident also has won the adviser of the year award more than anyone else—2005, when it was first presented, 2015 and 2018.

“He encourages us to continue to try for new opportunities through the fraternity to help us grow as leaders in the profession of pharmacy. You can really tell he cares about each and every one of us as a brother in the fraternity,” Suchor said.

Van Riper scored a perfect 1,400 points on objective categories like years as a Grand Council Deputy (the group’s term for adviser), percentage of chapter meetings attended and number of chapter social events attended. A committee then subjectively ranks essays written by chapter presidents, according to Van Riper, who actually is committee co-chair.

Committee members don’t evaluate applications from their own chapter, he clarified.

Kappa Psi, the largest professional pharmaceutical fraternity in the world, has 111 collegiate chapters and 24 of them submitted applications to honor their Grand Council Deputy.

Van Riper, who retired in 2006 after 34 years on the faculty, said he continues to advise the chapter because “We enjoy the interaction with the students. (My wife) Sharon 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.”

In addition to Kappa Psi, Van Riper also stays in touch with the South Dakota Pharmacists Association, where leaders are often former Kappa Psi brothers, and has served as secretary of the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists for 44 years.

Suchor wrote, “Gary Van Riper has been a longtime standing role model for all of us brothers. He routinely follows up with the executive board by making sure the officers are ahead of their tasks for the semester. I can’t think of a time when he ever missed a meeting or was unprepared for any activity that was going on in the Gamma Kappa chapter.”

“GVR always made an effort to make an appearance at nearly every event we had going on throughout the year. He was a major staple in the success of our chapter and our brothers on the collegiate level.”

His work in the chapter also is evidenced in awards won by the chapter—five times (1997-98, 2009-11) it has had the best academic record of any chapter. In addition, the chapter has numerous top 10 placings for overall excellence, fueled in part by the group’s extensive community service.

Van Riper, who is now 72, plans to continue “as long as I’m able to do so.”

Dave Graves
ALUMNUS SHAW NAMED
HONORARY PRESIDENT FOR APHA

Stanley Shaw, a 1957 graduate of the SDSU College of Pharmacy and an early leader in the field of nuclear pharmacy, was honored as the 2018-19 honorary president of the American Pharmacists Association.

Shaw, who was chosen in 1991 as a distinguished alumnus by the SDSU Alumni Association, was installed as honorary president at the association’s March 16-19 annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Shaw spent his entire career (1962-2005) at the Purdue College of Pharmacy, which has one of only a half-dozen nuclear pharmacy training programs in the United States.

Shaw worked with other nuclear pharmacists and APhA staff members to make nuclear pharmacy the first practice area recognized as a specialty by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties in 1978.

Shaw intended to earn his degree, become a community pharmacist in Minnesota and fish for walleye. That changed when pharmacy practice department head Harold Bailey and faculty member Norval Webb convinced him to go to graduate school at State. He worked with Bailey conducting research on radioactivity (“I’d never heard of it”) and earned a master’s in pharmaceutical chemistry in 1959.

Reflecting, Shaw said, “Dr. Bailey was a kind and patient mentor. He taught me the methods to approach research, conduct studies and write in a scientific manner. He worked with me in the laboratory. Dr. Bailey and his wife treated me like family and so did Dr. Norval Webb and his wife. Because of the efforts of Dr. Bailey, I was prepared to move on to Purdue University College of Pharmacy and direct graduate students and provide graduate education in the Department of Bionucleonics.”

Shaw taught at State in 1960-61 and 1961-62 while working with Bailey on a research project for his doctorate from Purdue. In 1962, he earned his doctorate in pharmaceutical chemistry with an emphasis in research with radioactivity. He spent the remainder of his career at Purdue, where the professor retired as head of Division of Nuclear Pharmacy. He started the nuclear pharmacy training program there in 1972.

To illustrate Shaw’s legacy, he received the Founders Award from the Academy of Pharmacy Practice in 1981, which was 24 years before he retired. In 1998, he received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Nuclear Pharmacy Practice. In 2000, he received the Smith Practice Excellence Award from the American Pharmaceutical Association for his work in nuclear pharmacy. He also is a fellow of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutic.

Shaw and his wife, Excellda, a retail pharmacist most of her life, have three daughters. At his induction in March, Shaw gave thanks to his wife for her contribution to his career.

Dave Graves

Welcome NEW FACULTY

Sarah McGill, a 2011 Pharm.D. graduate, returned to her alma mater Sept. 4 as an assistant professor in pharmacy practice. Duties include teaching pharmacy practice law, establishing a pharmacy ambulatory care program at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, where she is collaborating with Avera’s primary care team, and precepting fourth-year pharmacy students in ambulatory care.

McGill, a native of Gettysburg, returned to Brookings after serving as an ambulatory pharmacist at Mayo Clinic Health System in Sparta, Wisconsin, from October 2015 to August 2018. While there, she became a board-certified ambulatory care pharmacist (2016). She also served as a clinical pharmacy specialist in anticoagulation at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tomah, Wis., from October 2012 to October 2015.

After graduation, she had a one-year residency at Mercy Medical Center North Iowa in Mason City, Iowa.

McGill is married to Seth McGill of Beresford. They have a son, Isaac, who will be 2 in March. Outside interests include hiking, cooking, baking and reading.
Presented Sept. 15, 2018, at the scholarship luncheon in the University Student Union to 204 pharmacy and medical laboratory science students. The awards total nearly $250,000. In the last three years, the number of scholarship awarded has grown by almost 41 percent (+58) and total dollars awarded has grown by 95 percent (+$121,575).

Thank you alumni and supporters.

Steven M. Aamot and Robbie D. Aamot Scholarship in Pharmacy
Katie Ferguson
Aberdeen District SDPhA Scholarship
Kathleen Groeblinghoff
Oliver G. and Nelle K. Anderson Scholarship
Kathleen Groeblinghoff
James A. Armbruster and Nancy E. Armbruster Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Tate Broksieck
Jack M. Bailey Scholarship
Kaisa Fuerst
Brad and Dawn Bargmann Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Hailey Kloiber
Keith and Glynn Bartels Scholarship Endowment in Medical Laboratory Science
Courtney Remick
Ruth Kohlmeyer Bassett Pharmacy Endowment
Chelsea Anderson Patton
Benson/Glasscock Scholarship in Pharmacy
Grace Goehrings
Scott and Jessie Bergman Scholarship for Academic Leadership
Savannah Suchor
Jean Bibby Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship
Alexandra Lakness
Joye Ann Bilbow Kappa Epsilon Leadership Award
Lily Koob
Joye Ann Bilbow Scholarship Endowment
Bailey Buenger
Megan Ingebrietson
Shelby Van Driel
Darrel and Peggy Bjornson Scholarship in Pharmacy
Scott Dingus
Black Hills District (SDPhA) Scholarship
Scott Dingus
Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann Scholarship in Medical Technology
Allison Hieb
Scot J. Brost College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Scholarship
Abigale Ferdinand
Marin R. and Linda J. Brozik Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Joshua Thurow
Cardinal Health Independent Pharmacy Scholarship
Analisa Buysse
Janae Sampson
Larry Christensen Distinguished Scholar Program
Kaya Borg
Allyson Helms
Class of 1957 Scholarship in Pharmacy
Matthew Wiemann
James and Marilyn Clem Pharmacy Scholarship
Holly Polak
College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Endowed Scholarships
Seth Golden
Lizzy Hagen
Rachel Johnson
Anna Lange
Jacob Lieberg
Ramsey Standy
College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Scholarship Fund
Ashraf Amadou
Breanna Attema
Mackenzie Carlborn
Abigale Ferdinand
Khali Ford
Brant Haase
Michaela Hertz
Lily Koob
Bailey Lear
Tyler Leng
Alexandra Peters
Rachel Propst
Madalynne Schultz
Taylor Severson
Derek Timm
Shelby Wagner
CVS Caremark Charitable Trust Pharmacy School Grants Scholarship
Sarada Kuppireddy
Lloyd Daniels and Helen Daniels Bader Scholarship
Melanie Heeren
Bill R. Darrah Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Grace Heikens
Bill R. Darrah Scholarship at the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at South Dakota State University
Michaela Jacobsen
Deckert Pharmacy Scholarship
Christopher Kotschevar
Mary M. Pullman Dodge Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee at South Dakota State University
Dustin Moon
Richard J. Duffner Memorial Scholarship
Lily Koob
Pundit Abhaya Narayan Dwivedi Scholarship in Pharmacology
Scott Dingus
Clark T. and Alice H. Eidsmo Scholarships
Samantha Hoppe
Addyson Rosa
Debra Farver Pharmacy Scholarship
Christian Farrell
Fleeger/Lovely Scholarship in Pharmacy
Chelsey Fast
Kay and Bill Folkerts Medical and Health Sciences Scholarship
Hadley Meyer
Marvin E. Foss Scholarship in Pharmacy
Ashley Jensen
Lawrence C. and Winnibert Bradshaw France Memorial Scholarship
Benjamin Ostebee
Milton and Elaine Freier Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
Kaisa Fuerst
Shirley and Lyle Glasscock Pharmacy Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Abigail Blok
Gross Scholarship in Pharmacy
Taylor Rothenberger
Sandra Grover Memorial Scholarship
Whitney Hutchison
Ping He and Xiangming Guan Academic Performance Excellence Scholarship in Pharmacy
Alyssa Boesche
Kevin and Lorie Haarberg Scholarship in Pharmacy
Whitney Specht
Dorothy Nelson Haas Memorial Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Tannika Ingalls
Daniel J. and Jessica L. Hansen Scholarship in Pharmacy
Bethany Zeug
Laurilynn D. Helmers Helping Hands Pharmacy Scholarship
Katelyn Norton
Emilee Pierson
Bernard E. Hietbrink Scholarship
Austin Oyen
Lloyd D. Higley Scholarship
Whitney Hutchison
Nancy and Seth Hildebrand Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Sean Curley
Hoch Drug Scholarship in Pharmacy
Mariah Burggraaff
Jhett Finkbeiner
Quinten Glass
Autumn Klaudt
Ashley Lacey
Dusan Mirkovic
Michelle Sestak
Jacob Steckelberg
Hannah Sorestad
Jordan Thompson
Mike, Cindy and Kylie Huether Scholarship in Medical Laboratory Science
Sydney Bassing
Janae Osborne
Ted and Bill Hustead Memorial Scholarship
Shelby Wagner
Kathleen Ingalls Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee at South Dakota State University
Caitlin Daly
Bruce R. Johnson Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee at South Dakota State University
Tessa Wiens
Bruce Johnson and David Johnson Pharmacy Legacy Scholarship
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Matthew Wiemann
Julie Hanlon-Johnson and Matthew Johnson Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Sarah Eich
Galen D. Jordre and Ann M. Jordre Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Abby Lingle

Dolly Mettler Jorgensen (Class of 1945) Legacy Scholarship Endowment
Chelsea Hoffman

Juhnke Pharmacy Scholarship
Nikki Carr

Linda and Gary Karel Scholarship in Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions
Heidi Ringling

Emily Spates

Kmart Scholarship for Excellence in Community Pharmacy
Samantha Franzoi

Duwayne and Joan Knauf Pharmacy Scholarship
Lindsay Newenhouse

Cheri A. Kraemer Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Kayla Pardy

Kubly Excel Through Involvement Scholarship
Brittany Kludt

Jeffrey James Kuper Scholarship Endowment
Kaila Kuehn

Susan Lahr and Gordon Niva Scholarship in Pharmacy
Hadley Cropsey

Chelsea Morken

Terry Larvie Scholarship
Emily Davison

J. Bruce Laughrey Scholarship
Emma Brumfield

Maggie Scheffler

Floyd LeBlanc Scholarship
Sydney Hirschkorn

Harry M. Lee Scholarship
Sydney Hirschkorn

Larry Leighton Memorial Scholarship
Samantha Boeck

Gary and Karen Lesch Scholarship in Pharmacy
Rachel Zacher

Donald M. Lien Scholarship
Elizabeth Hansmann

Edgar and Gladys Light Scholarship in Pharmacy
Bridge Stewart

Lounsbery Professional Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
Samuel Koob

Robert J. Manning Pharmacy Scholarship
Janae Putz

Barry and Sharon Markl Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Shelby Buller

Anna Mohr

Don McRoberts Scholarship Endowment in Chemistry, Medical Technology, and Nursing
Hadley Meyer

Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship
Daniel Bockenstedt

Barry Duane Melegard Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy at South Dakota State University
Miranda Boraas

B.A. Meyer Professional Pharmacy Scholarship
Sarah Jungers

Glenn C. Miller Memorial Scholarship
Natalie McConnell

Tom and Marie Mills Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at South Dakota State University
Natalie MeCullum

John Mouriarty Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy
Sarah Jesse

Holden Sjogren

Clyde Mork Honorary Scholarship
Christian Kroll

Anne Morstad Scholarship in Pharmacy
Natalie McConnell

Don Mort College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Scholarship
Jenna Lund

Carney and Margaret (Maggie) Nelson Memorial Scholarship
Mackenzie Feyersien

Odenbrett Laboratory Leadership Scholarship
Haley Hansen

Robert W. and Ardith G. Olson Scholarship in Pharmacy
Alexandra Lakness

Alka and Raja Patel Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy
Kailyn Hochstein

Kay Coffield Pearson Scholarship in Pharmacy
Nicholas Elgersma

Lauren Metzger

Kiara Oltman

Monica Pillatzki

Trevor Treglia

Calwin Werth

Mark Eric Petersen Scholarship
Ashley DeSmet

Alford O. and Dolores J. Peterson Endowed Scholarship
Kirstyn Polasky

Allen A. Pfeifle Scholarship in Pharmacy
Nicholas Cook

Kenneth and Elizabeth Redman Scholarship
Bridget Stewart

William J. Regan Scholarship
Kayla Kniefel

Alexandra Noble

Rho Lambda Tau Scholarship for Medical Laboratory Science
Andrea Cable

Gayleen S. Riedemann Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship
Heather Moser

Elizabeth A. L. Scholl Scholarship
Payton Boerboom

Rochelle N. Roberts Family Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Kristopher Nguyen

Sanford Pharmacy Faculty Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Kjersten Sankey

Stanford D. Schmiedt Memorial Scholarship
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Craig and Carolyn Schnell Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Kyle Hess

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Allie Thompson

Ephriam “Ep” and Hilda Sieler Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Lauren Dolly

Dwight and Keo Smith Scholarship
Sydney Hirschkorn

Richard A. Smith Scholarship in Pharmacy in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Lauren Dolly

Natalie Soell

Merlin J. Snyder Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Robert Kranz

Abigail Sirek

South Dakota Pharmacists Association (SDPhA) Legacy Scholarship
Khia Warzecha

South Dakota Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Scholarship
Khia Warzecha

Dick Spielman Scholarship in Medical Lab Science in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Laiken Nelson

Angelica Topete

Dr. Fred and Mary Stahmann Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy and Nursing
Paul Schwasinger

Statz Family Pharmacy Scholarship at South Dakota State University
Abigail Mechtenberg

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Hilary Deragisch

Brooke Nibbelink

Joe and Sarah Strain Pharmacy Scholarship
Brant Haase

Stubben Family Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship
Emily Quaal

Ed and Louise Swanson Pharmacy Scholarship
Kelli Semerd

Medor A. and Florence M. Thibodeau Memorial Scholarship
Joshua Collett

Dr. Deirdra and Ryan Van Gilder Scholarship
Graham Protexter

Van Hove Scholarship in Pharmacy at South Dakota State University
Sarah Kruckenberg

Gary and Sharon Van Riper Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment
Matthew Smith

Visions for the Future Scholarship Muhammed Ceesay
Walgreens Multilingual Scholarship
Anh Do

Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award
Joseph Keryakos

Watertown District (SDPhA) Scholarship
Bailey Lear

Murray D. Widdis Jr. Pharmacy Scholarship
Faith Mildenberger
The insight of a family friend and town pharmacist and a desire to help people was the impetus that drove Jim Armbruster ’70 into choosing to major in pharmacy at South Dakota State University.

That desire to help people still continues as he and his wife, Nancy, contribute to the James A. and Nancy E. Armbruster Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee and have since 2007. They chose to endow the scholarship in 2018.

“Throughout my career, I have been put in a position to help people, and I hope that I have served our patients and their families well,” Armbruster said. “We are grateful for the ability to provide assistance to pharmacy students, so that they too may experience the satisfaction of helping our fellow human beings.”

Jim Schneider, the family friend and pharmacist in Comfrey, Minnesota, provided some insight to the Armbruster family, who was about to send their oldest child to college.

“My dad came home that evening and said, ‘Jim Schneider thinks you should go into pharmacy.’ That pretty much settled it,” Armbruster said. “My parents did not have a chance to attend college, so the idea that I, the oldest child, could attend college after high school was new for our family. Everything about attending college was new and mostly unknown. I had little exposure to any job requiring a college education other than my teachers, so I was uncertain of what degree to pursue. I only knew that I wanted to help people in some way.”

After graduation, Armbruster was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and started as a pharmacist intern for Walgreens in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He became a registered pharmacist, working in several Iowa cities and in Sterling and Rock Falls, Illinois, before resigning to enter the Army in January 1972. Armbruster had various roles at Moncrief Army Hospital on his way to promotions to first lieutenant and captain before being honorably discharged in 1974.

Armbruster returned to Minnesota in 1974 and started as a staff pharmacist at Madsens Pharmacy in New Ulm, Minn., before being named manager of Madsens’ location in Mankato in October that year. He managed that pharmacy until retiring in July 2011. During that time, he served as president of the Minnesota Pharmacists Association and was on its board of directors.

It was during his time at Madsens that he and Nancy chose to donate to South Dakota State.

“Nancy and I began donating in support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee because of the wonderful career that I/we have enjoyed over the years,” Armbruster said, noting Nancy was an elementary education teacher in Lake Crystal, Minn., before retiring in 2008. “We have enjoyed meeting some of our recipients and have always felt that the pharmacy profession is in good hands after enjoyable conversations with those students.

“All of our recipients have sent us notes or letters thanking us for providing the scholarship, and we are pleased that we have been able to help them in this way,” he continued. “Providing a scholarship is a good way to give back, or, in other words, pay it forward to the next generation of young pharmacists.”

Dave Graves
Remembering what it was like to struggle paying tuition and fees and buying books made Gayleen Riedemann ’73/’80 M.S. and her husband, Karl ’72, want to reduce that worry for South Dakota State University students.

“I can’t say that it was a bad thing to not have money; you get to appreciate what you accomplish, and I think you’re more appreciative of what you have when you had nothing,” said Riedemann, who recently endowed the Gayleen S. Riedemann Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship. Her husband supports the Karl K. Riedemann Animal Science Scholarship. “If we’re going to commit to helping kids who need financial assistance to get through school, why not endow it and make sure it keeps happening after we’re gone?

“It was really fun when we both met the recipients of our scholarships,” she said. “You can put a face to the name, get to know them personally, learn a little on why they chose what they’re doing and where they’re at. If we can keep helping kids like that, we’re as much of a beneficiary as they are.

“I think education is the most important thing anybody can do for themselves or for others,” Riedemann continued. “If it wasn’t for education, my husband and I wouldn’t be where we’re at today. Fortunately, we had parents who taught us how to work hard and how to manage money. My parents were also people who gave; they set an example. If there’s somebody who needs help getting an education to improve their life or the life of their family, it’s the best thing you can do for somebody.”

Riedemann earned a bachelor’s degree in medical technology before adding a master’s degree in zoology. She served as a graduate assistant and thought about pursuing a doctorate, but options were limited at that time.

“I enjoyed teaching because every once in a while you’d get a student who was really struggling, and by spending a little more time with them, you could help them turn the corner. I remember one student, and this was in a sophomore-level class, said he didn’t know how to study for an exam. We set aside an hour one day, and I showed how to study for his anatomy exams. He got a B on his exam. The little things like that are really rewarding for someone who’s teaching.

“I was fortunate because I had Sylva Trautman as my mentor for teaching anatomy labs.” Riedemann continued. “I’d sit in on her lab, take lots of notes on what she was doing and how she was doing it, then I replicated it. She was just a joy. Anyone who took anatomy those years when she was there knew Sylva. She loved the coursework she was teaching, she loved the students, good students and poor students. You could tell she loved her job.”

After working in management for 20 years at the Central Plains Clinic, she switched careers and became a financial adviser, a move that was rewarding because she was still able to help people, just in another way.

“When you’re working one-on-one with people who are very motivated, it’s very rewarding to see they’re going to be on the right track or that you’re fixing things that were poor decisions,” she said.
Kappa Psi honored three members of the Class of 2018 for having the top GPA in the class. Alyssa Larson, who was selected by the college as the class’s distinguished graduate and who carried a 4.0 GPA, was joined by Nicole Carr and Jack Kerner.

The students were recognized in the Kappa Psi magazine Mask and received the Henry J. Goeckel Grand Council Scholarship Key, a 14-karat, engraved gold key and a scholarship certificate.

The SDSU chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists was awarded the Operation Heart award at the APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting in Fargo, North Dakota, Oct. 27-28. The chapter was recognized for the blood pressure and cholesterol screenings conducted by students throughout the year.

In addition, P3 student Chris Kotschevar was elected regional delegate. He will be representing the schools in Region V during the APhA-ASP policy process for the next year.
The 2018-2023 Strategic Plan for the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions was developed with input from many constituencies including college faculty and staff, students and practitioners. The eleven goals represent the college’s commitment to excellence in teaching, research, service and patient care.

1. Meet the workforce needs with new or expanded high-quality medical laboratory science programs.
2. Grow the Master of Public Health program to respond to public health challenges.
3. Evolve the Pharm.D. curriculum to meet the changing needs of patients and the profession.
4. Build on excellence in the Ph.D. program to meet the needs of the discipline.
5. Expand postgraduate educational opportunities.
6. Recruit a high quality and diverse student body.
7. Enhance student academic success.
8. Recruit, develop and retain high-quality faculty and staff.
9. Increase pharmaceutical sciences-based innovative and translational research and scholarship.
10. Increase practice-based research and scholarship.
11. Innovate pharmacy practice.

A LOOK BACK AT IMPACT 2018

As the college embarks on Imagine 2023, it also reviewed the progress on the five strategic goals from the 2013-2018 strategic plan.

Here are a few highlighted accomplishments from IMPACT 2018:

**STRATEGIC GOAL 1:** Enhance the quality of the professional and graduate programs through engaged learning, a welcoming community and innovative teaching and learning environment.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 2:** Recruit, develop and retain high-quality faculty.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 3:** Conduct quality research and generate scholarship that contributes to economic development and advancement of societal well-being.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 4:** Enhance and expand the college’s involvement in service and outreach.
The Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2017. Since the program started, 29 students have graduated from the program, and currently, there are 18 students enrolled. In 2016, the pharmaceutical sciences department began the process of updating the curriculum and assessment plan to reflect the changing needs of the discipline. This process started with the development of new student learning outcomes for the program. The curriculum was revised to include greater emphasis on the biomedical sciences and pharmacogenomics. The revised assessment plan includes increased focus on written communication, professionalism, ethical reasoning and scientific literature evaluation.

**STUDENT-LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Graduates of this program will:

1. Integrate and apply knowledge of the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences to problems in drug discovery and development.
2. Conduct research with skill and competence, including hypothesis development, experimental design, data analysis and interpretation.
3. Critically evaluate scientific literature and analyze contemporary scientific issues.
4. Communicate effectively in both written and oral forms to a wide range of audiences.
5. Demonstrate professionalism and ethical conduct.

The major assessments in the Ph.D. program are the comprehensive written and oral examinations, a final oral examination and the dissertation. The program tracks the percentage of students that pass each of these assessments on the first try. As of 2018, more than 90 percent of the students pass each of these milestone assessments on their first attempt.

**MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

**GRADUATE OUTCOMES**

The South Dakota State University medical laboratory science program is a Bachelor of Science degree program that prepares students for careers in medical laboratory science and related fields. The curriculum emphasizes basic sciences, medical laboratory sciences, critical-thinking skills and communication skills, including structured learning in the laboratories of clinical affiliated hospitals. The program’s graduates have achieved excellent results on the board certification examination and in job placement after graduation.

**2014-2017**

- 100 percent American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board Examination Pass Rate
- 100 percent job placement rate
Results from the national pharmacy licensing exam have been tabulated, and they show that every 2018 graduate of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at South Dakota State University who took the exam passed on the first attempt.

That 100 percent pass rate for the May graduates of the Pharm.D. pharmacy program compares with a national average of 91.64 percent. The average score for the 76 SDSU students was 102.17 compared to 97.54 nationally.

Since the first Pharm.D. students graduated from South Dakota State University in 1998, 1,266 have taken the exam and 1,258 have passed on the first attempt (99.4 percent pass rate). In fact, for the most recently available data (2015-2017) State is number one in the nation for first-time pass rate (99.1 percent).

Dean Jane Mort said “The consistent successes point to a program where expectations are high, faculty and staff are committed to excellence and students are focused on being great practitioners. Those factors have been in place since the beginning of the Pharm.D. program and are a tradition everyone within the college wants to see continue. We take great pride in our students’ success.

“We continuously work to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and improve our curriculum and facilities to make sure our graduates are getting a state-of-the-art experience. This is one example of their success.”

When South Dakota State posted a 100 percent mark in 2015, it was one of only two schools to hit that mark. The comprehensive numbers for 2018 haven’t been posted.

The NAPLEX is one component of the licensure process and is used by state boards of pharmacy as part of their assessment of a candidate’s competence to practice as a pharmacist.
## Student Organizations Continue

**Tradition of Excellence**

The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions has a long tradition of outstanding student organizations. These organizations benefit patients, the community and the student members through a variety of activities and events. These activities include health screenings, immunizations, education on poison prevention and drug abuse, fundraising for Reach Out and Read, breast cancer awareness, bone marrow donation registration and student leadership development. The efforts of these student organizations have been recognized through local, regional and national awards.

### 2018 Highlights

<table>
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<th>Student Organization</th>
<th>Award Received</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td><strong>American Pharmacists Association of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)</strong></td>
<td>Region V Operation Heart Award</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>South Dakota Board of Regents Award for Organizational Leadership</td>
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<td>South Dakota Board of Regents Award for Organizational Leadership</td>
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<td>APhA-ASP Division AAA Chapter Achievement Award Second Runner-up</td>
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<td>Student Leadership Award (Ashley Potter)</td>
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<td>National Patient Counseling Competition First Runner-up (Joe Berendse)</td>
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<td>APhA Foundation Scholarship (Colleen O’Connell)</td>
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<td>APhA-ASP Division AAA Chapter Achievement Award Second Runner-up</td>
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| **American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)** | Third-Best Student Chapter in Country | 2016 |
| | South Dakota Board of Regents Award for Academic Excellence | 2016 |
| | SDSU Outstanding Programming Award | 2016 |
| | Student Chapter of the Year Award Honorable Mention | 2014 |

| **American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)** | Clinical Pharmacy Challenge National Runners-up (Keely Hamann, April Pottebaum, Alex Olinger) | 2014 |
| | Clinical Pharmacy Challenge Final 16 (Lauren Kuschel, Elizabeth Murray, Kendra Ernste) | 2014 |

| **Kappa Psi** | Top Chapter Northern Plains Province | 2018 |
| | Northern Plains Province Philanthropy Award | 2018 |
| | Kappa Psi Foundation Scholarships (Kaya Borg and Kelly Beneke) | 2018 |
| | Henry J. Goeckel Grand Council Scholarship Key Award (Jack Kerier, Nicole Carr, Alyssa Larson) | 2018 |
| | Grand Council Deputy Outstanding Achievement Award (Gary Van Riper) | 2018 |
| | Top Performing Chapter | 2017 |
| | Kappa Psi Scholarship Award (Kelley Beneke) | 2017 |
| | Top Performing Chapter | 2016 |
| | Henry J. Goeckel Grand Council Scholarship Key Award (Brittany Williams, Alyson Schevebach) | 2016 |
| | Top Performing Chapter | 2015 |
| | Grand Council Deputy Outstanding Achievement Award (Gary Van Riper) | 2015 |
| | Henry J. Goeckel Grand Council Scholarship Key Award (Katherine Aman, Joseph Berendse, Alex Olinger) | 2015 |
| | Top Performing Chapter | 2014 |
| | Nicholas W. Fenney Industry Improvement Award | 2014 |
| | Top Chapter Northern Plains Province | 2014 |
| | Kappa Psi MME Reisetter Scholarship (Haylee Brodersen) | 2014 |
| | Henry J. Goeckel Grand Council Scholarship Key Award (Jessica Harris, Elizabeth Korenig) | 2014 |

| **Kappa Epsilon** | South Dakota Board of Regents Award for Academic Excellence | 2018 |
| | National Community Service Award | 2017 |
| | Zada M. Cooper Scholarship (Lauren Darjo) | 2015 |
The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education’s Standards 2016 requires Pharm.D. programs to evaluate student readiness to “provide direct patient care in a variety of health-care settings” (practice readiness). In order to assess students’ readiness to enter pharmacy practice, the Pharm.D. program uses a variety of assessments of student knowledge, skills and attitudes. The program is currently in the process of adding a new tool for assessment of practice readiness: the Entrustable Professional Activities.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy developed the 15 core EPA statements and published them in 2017. The EPAs are a set of specific tasks performed by pharmacists and are used to guide assessment of practice readiness. They are intended to be tasks or responsibilities that all entry-level pharmacists should be able to complete independently (without direct supervision), regardless of practice setting. Each EPA statement includes supporting tasks, which further break down the steps required to successfully perform the EPA. For example, in order to perform the EPA on collecting information about a patient’s medication and health problems, the student pharmacist needs to be able to interview patients, communicate with other health professionals and access information in an electronic health record.

The assessment of EPAs is built on the concept of entrustability. The degree of entrustability increases as students move through the program, starting with only being able to observe a task being completed to performing the task under direct supervision. If a student pharmacist is practice ready, the student has achieved sufficient competence to be trusted to perform the task independently.

The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions is currently implementing EPAs within the Pharm.D. curriculum. In May 2018, faculty attended an AACP Institute on EPAs and experiential education. Following this meeting, the EPA supporting tasks were mapped to the required Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences and the various levels of entrustability were defined. Current efforts are focused on revising the APPE evaluation forms to assess student performance on the EPAs.

**PATIENT-CARE PROVIDER DOMAIN:**

1. Collect information to identify a patient’s medication-related problems and health-related needs.
2. Analyze information to determine the effects of medication therapy, identify medication-related problems and prioritize health-related needs.
3. Establish patient-centered goals and create a care plan for a patient in collaboration with the patient, caregiver(s), and other health professionals that is evidence-based and cost-effective.
4. Implement a care plan in collaboration with the patient, caregivers and other health professionals.
5. Follow-up and monitor a care plan.

**INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM MEMBER DOMAIN:**

6. Collaborate as a member of an interprofessional team.

**POPULATION HEALTH PROMOTER DOMAIN:**

7. Identify patients at risk for prevalent diseases in a population.
8. Minimize adverse drug events and medication errors.
9. Maximize the appropriate use of medications in a population.
10. Ensure that patients have been immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases.

**INFORMATION MASTER DOMAIN:**

11. Educate patients and professional colleagues regarding the appropriate use of medications.
12. Use evidence-based information to advance patient care.

**PRACTICE MANAGER DOMAIN:**

13. Oversee the pharmacy operations for an assigned work shift.
14. Fulfill a medication order.

**SELF-DEVELOPER DOMAIN:**

15. Create a written plan for continuous professional development.
RAINA JOINS THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

I’m excited to report the addition of Komal Raina as the inaugural Haarberg Chair in Cancer Research. Prior to joining SDSU, she was a research assistant professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy at the University of Colorado. Raina’s research focuses on developing natural compounds for the prevention and treatment of cancer. Her current NIH funded research is aimed at understanding dietary rice bran-human gut microbiota interactions vis-à-vis its impact in preventing colon cancer.

The Haarberg funding was also instrumental in securing a research infrastructure development grant from the South Dakota Board of Regents. This grant, along with the Haarberg funds, will help the department to expand the research space for Raina’s cancer research program. In addition, the SDBOR grant will be used to upgrade SDSU’s animal research facility for cancer research.

Along the same lines, Wenfeng An, the inaugural Markl Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research, received an NIH grant to develop new mouse models for studying genetic changes.

The doctor of philosophy program in pharmaceutical sciences will undergo institutional review during this academic year. The department has started preparing a self-study for the institutional program review. The self-study report will be reviewed by two external reviewers, followed by a site visit this spring. The review’s primary purpose is to enhance the academic quality of the Ph.D. program, which will inform curriculum changes and resource allocation for the Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical sciences.

The Ph.D. program started in 2007, and 28 students have graduated in the last 10 years. Our graduate students have been hired in the pharmaceutical industry, academia and regulatory agencies. The graduate program has grown from less than 10 students to the current strength of 18 students. Meanwhile, the graduate program has also evolved. The department revised and implemented the new Ph.D. curriculum in 2017 and revised and implemented the new Ph.D. assessment plan in fall 2018. The new student learning outcomes are consistent with the competencies formulated by the Graduate Studies and Research Committee of American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead.
Best wishes for a great 2019.

NAME __________________________ YEAR GRADUATED _________
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Greetings from the Department of Pharmacy Practice. As I write this column for our department, we have just finished 2018, and we are at the beginning of the next year. I wanted to address a couple of items that are going on within our department that may be of interest.

Without a doubt, this past year has had some significant developments that have affected our profession. One of the most significant areas of focus this past year has been the opioid crisis. As a pharmacist and having practiced for many years, I have paid close attention to this recent crisis. Without a doubt, we are facing something that has impacted all of those who work with people related to pain control. One of the interesting facts related to this crisis is how it has affected our region. Based on information at the National Institute of Drug Abuse website, the Midwestern region has seen the nation’s greatest increase in opioid overdoses with an increase of 70 percent from July 2016 to September 2017—this is more than double the national average. So often we think of issues like this only occurring in larger cities, but clearly, this isn’t just a large metropolitan issue, but an issue facing and impacting all of us.

The cause of this crisis is not from any one single factor. The origin of the opioid crisis has resulted from causes that are multifactorial, some of which include the medications themselves, prescribing practices, and health-care provider and patient education. Because multiple issues are involved, it will take a variety of different solutions and approaches to solve this problem, making it even more difficult.

This is where we come into the picture. Since SDSU is a land-grant university and as part of the tripartite mission of a land-grant institution, it is important for us to be involved in issues facing our state, region and country. The opioid crisis is one such issue and has certainly been something our department and college has become involved in on several fronts.

In the area of assigned professional service, several faculty members are working with the health-care systems where they have their clinical practice sites. Those efforts are looking at health system approaches to educate and train health-care providers on better use and management of pain control therapies. Additional pieces include providing patients with more education related to pain control and the use of opioid-containing medications. In the area of research and scholarship, Jennifer Ball received grant funding from the State Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health for the project she and other health-care professionals at the Center for Family Medicine are working on related to the opioid crisis. In addition, Chamia Hawkins-Taylor is working on a research project on this crisis. They are hopeful the results will have a positive impact toward helping turn the tide.

Other faculty members are collaborating with other SDSU colleges and departments on other projects. Taking an interdisciplinary approach to address issues and related causes will be an important strategy as this issue crosses many medical and behavioral disciplines. The interdisciplinary group is working on strategies and project ideas that will also have an impact on resolving this crisis.

The opioid crisis has taken a tremendous toll on the country, region and our state. The human life toll is tremendous and most important. The negative financial impact this crisis has had is also significant with an estimated cost of $78 billion due to prescription opioid misuse due to treatment of addiction, health-care costs and lost productivity, just to name a few things.

The current opioid crisis is having a substantial impact on our country. It is something we are taking steps to help to reverse our nation’s current course. As is consistent with our land-grant mission, our department and college are doing what we can to make a positive impact on this crisis.
Thank you

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Dec. 1, 2017, to May 17, 2018

Alumni and friends on this list have contributed $500 or more toward the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. They are recognized as devoted friends of the college who make significant impact on the college’s future. Their names will be listed in the SDSU Honor Roll and the college newsletters. They also will receive invitations to special college and university functions and updates from the college dean.

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SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS CREATE PERMANENT STUDENT AND COLLEGE SUPPORT

With 2018 in the rearview mirror, the windshield provides a full view of the opportunities for 2019 and beyond.

As the scholarship endowment articles featuring Jim and Nancy Armbruster of Mankato, Minnesota, and Karl and Gayleen Riedemann of Sioux Falls demonstrate, many of last year’s donor decisions will impact our college many years into the future. Their scholarship endowments ensure support in perpetuity—and that’s a very long time.

The motivation for donors to establish scholarship endowments vary, but there are some common themes:

• A recognition of the financial need and the burden of the cost of an education on students and their family, as Gayleen Riedemann expresses;
• A sense of gratitude for their own education and for the professional opportunities they experienced. As Jim Armbruster put it, a chance to “pay it forward;”
• An interest in helping the college attract and retain high-achieving students or a desire to reward the best and brightest students; and
• An expression of legacy or the legacy of someone you love.

All of these are exemplary reasons to support a scholarship. Indeed, scholarship support is the greatest need and the highest priority at SDSU. The reality is that SDSU is lowest among its peer institutions in the average scholarship support awarded to students who receive scholarships.

Given the added cost of the pharmacy and the medical laboratory science programs, the need is even greater for students in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

In 2018, the university and the SDSU Foundation engaged in an extensive evaluation of its scholarship program. The result is a more streamlined process, a quicker awarding timeline and increased minimum amounts for annually supported and endowed scholarships. The changes are designed to provide students and their families with earlier notification and more generous awards. Ultimately, it rewards academic performance, recognizes financial need and helps minimizes the debt load of its graduates.

I encourage you to consider starting an annually supported scholarship or, if possible, setting your sights on an endowed scholarship. You can make a decision in 2019—an action that will one day be in the rearview mirror—yet impacts students and the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions forever.

I encourage you to call or email me if you are interested in starting or increasing your scholarship support. What’s in your windshield for 2019?

– Lisa Otterson

Lisa Otterson
Development Director
Lisa.Otterson@SDStateFoundation.org
Toll-free: (888) 747-7378
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