LEADING HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH TEACHING, RESEARCH AND SERVICE

Tremendous achievements are happening at the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. On every page of this magazine you will find truly stunning accomplishments. I want to call your attention to several key areas.

Anytime we talk about our college, the excellence of our students is foremost in our thoughts. In this issue, you will read about Alexis Nyberg and her future PharmTalk at the APhA convention, honored medical laboratory science students, a clinical skills competition national finalist team (Philip Jacobson, Hannah Brokmeier and Zach Muller), Pharmacy Quality Alliance-CVS Health Foundation Scholars Program recipient Chris Kotschevar, the achievements of the Gamma Kappa chapter of Kappa Psi, and specifically Scott Dingus’ accomplishments. The outstanding work of these students is a glimpse into just how impressive our students are and the impact they are making on a state, regional and national level.

Our alumni are also center stage in this magazine. Kevin and Lorie Haarberg have transformed our research efforts in the college, and it was a tremendous pleasure to celebrate Komal Raina’s investiture as the inaugural Haarberg Chair in Cancer Research this fall. If you want to see how endowed positions have impacted our college, take a look at the Highlight Section of this issue. It is truly remarkable.

Other outstanding alumni accomplishments include Barry Markl’s ’68 SDSU Distinguished Alumnus honor. His remarkable career epitomizes all of the wonderful qualities we see in our graduates. We also pause to remember Stanley Shaw ’59, who achieved such a high level of national recognition with his work in nuclear pharmacy. A true trailblazer who continues to inspire all of us. Finally, Ann Byre ’01, whose path started at SDSU, provided valuable insight during a congressional briefing on drug pricing in Washington, D.C.

The group that leads all of the success at our college is the faculty. While there are numerous reports in this issue of their excellent work, I can assure you that there is much more that just won’t fit in the magazine. You will read about Jennifer Ball’s work to improve opioid addiction treatment, Sharrel Pinto’s efforts to transform community pharmacy practice, Josh Reineke’s revolutionary tumor modeling, and all of the new faculty/staff who bring unique talents and skills to our teaching, research and service team.

The college is a leader in improving health care, and it is my great honor to be part of this incredible work. I thank all of you for your support.

Jane Mort, Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor
College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
Assistant professor Joshua Reineke has developed a new 3D pancreatic cancer research model.
Life's paths are rarely straight and the destinations they bring us too often look nothing like what we had envisioned when we began.

That maxim certainly applies to the lives of Kevin and Lorie Haarberg, now of Woodland, California. Kevin spent his early years at Mission Hill, a town of 150 that is 8 miles northeast of Yankton, where he went to high school. There he got involved in DECA, a high school club for students interested in business and entrepreneurship.

He ended up shadowing a pharmacist at Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton and falling in love with the profession. Haarberg enrolled at State in fall 1973, got into the pharmacy program and graduated in 1979. “My aspiration was to open up my corner drugstore,” he said.

Lorie Haarberg grew up in Antioch, California. Her father, Roger, drove a baked goods delivery truck. Her mother, Louise, was a waitress. She envisioned being a nurse.

Kevin’s story changed as the pharmacy industry changed. The concept of a neighborhood druggist in every neighborhood and two more downtown was fading. So upon graduation, he signed on with Eli Lilly as a pharmaceutical salesman. It was a good job and Haarberg’s concentration of business courses aided him in the work.

But he took notice of his brother-in-law, who was with the investment firm Edward Jones. That led to a connection with another Edward Jones representative in Fremont, Nebraska. Soon Haarberg, then living in Omaha, was part of the team.

It was a job for which he was well suited. He quickly climbed the company ladder, eventually moving to California and becoming a general partner.

Lorie owned her own cosmetology salon when the couple met in 1990. They married in 1996.

However, it was during their courtship (1992) that her mother died as a result of breast cancer metastasizing into non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Louise was originally diagnosed with breast cancer in 1983. Her dad was diagnosed with a rare form of stomach cancer in 1995. He died in 1996. Both were in their 50s.

**A SEED BECOMES A TREE**

As the SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions grew its focus on cancer research, making a connection with the Haarbergs made all the more sense.

Kevin had been making the $250 donation to the dean’s club since graduation and later started funding a pharmacy scholarship. As they began to look at their charitable donations, “My heart was with cancer. Kevin had been interested in pharmaceuticals. He was kind enough to let us go in that direction,” Lorie said of their giving to fight cancer.

When SDSU was building the Avera Health and Science Center project in 2010, the Haarbergs donated $250,000 for the cancer research radio isotope lab, cell culture room and an imaging lab.

**A LOFTY GOAL**

HAARBERGS FUND CANCER CHAIR IN HOPES OF FINDING A CURE

Gathered at the investiture for the Haarberg Chair in Cancer Research at the Avera Health and Sciences Center Oct. 4, 2019, are, from left, SDSU President Barry Dunn, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dennis Hedge, Dean Jane Mort, Haarberg Chair Komal Raina and benefactors Lorie and Kevin ’79 Haarberg.
In July 2014, the Haarbergs hosted Mike Birgen, then the development officer for the college with the SDSU Foundation, and Dennis Hedge, pharmacy dean at the time, at their Woodland home. When they bid their visitors farewell, they had a giving proposal to consider. In April 2016, almost two years later, the Haarbergs called to say they were on board with creating the Haarberg Chair in Cancer Research.

It would be a $2 million commitment. It came to fruition in October 2018 when Komal Raina joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

**IMPACT OF ENDOWED FACULTY**

She was officially recognized as the Haarberg Chair at an Oct. 4 investiture in the Avera Health and Science Center. She becomes the third endowed faculty member within the college and the 21st one within the university. The others in pharmacy are Wenfeng An, in his fifth year at SDSU, and Sharrel Pinto, in her second year at SDSU.

At the investiture, Hedge, now provost and vice president of academic affairs, said, “Endowed faculty professorships and chair positions play a key role in recruiting and retaining top-quality faculty, an essential element to strong academic and research programs that you find at premier universities.
“Further, these positions are important symbolically because they attest to the stature of the university and the quality of its faculty, setting the university apart from others and making it more attractive to prospective students.”

**OUR DREAM: CURE CANCER**

The Haarbergs, in an interview after the ceremony, said their motivation in funding the endowed position goes even deeper.

“My hope is they would have a transformational discovery that changes the world. My big dream, our big dream, is this research will help cure cancer,” Kevin Haarberg said. Lorie added, “Get to the root of it (cancer) before it develops.”

Raina, who had been at the University of Colorado-Denver since May 2005, shares that hope.

Her research projects are centered on understanding the whys and hows of cancer stem cells with the goal of targeting these cells with nontoxic approaches. Her research projects range from understanding the role of gut microbiome in colon cancer to fusion genes driving prostate cancer to the role of diet in cancer progression.

“These are all diverse projects but center on targeting the cancer stem cell as the root cause of cancer,” Raina said.

Following the investiture, the Haarbergs had a chance to meet Raina and her research team. “This really opened my eyes today seeing the team (of researchers). Dr. Raina ... I was so very impressed with how she spoke from the heart,” Lorie Haarberg said. Raina said she was drawn into cancer research after witnessing the side effects of cancer treatment on acquaintances.

She told the investiture gathering, “It’s a promise to myself and all Jackrabbit fellows, I will not let you down.”

**‘ALL WALK ON HIGHER GROUND’**

Kevin Haarberg wasn’t concerned about that. In his investiture remarks, he said, “Any institution is only as good as its individuals. We’re not concerned about being good, we’ve got great people.”

He mentioned Hedge, Dean Jane Mort and Omathunu Perumal, head of pharmaceutical sciences, and listed past pharmacy stalwarts such as faculty members Gary Van Riper and Dave Helgeland and former deans Ray Hopponen and Bernie Hietbrink.

“Philanthropy is that opportunity to make a difference ... One of the things I’ve learned over the years, knowing something doesn’t change your life; doing something does,” Kevin Haarberg said. “It has been said that some people so lift the age they live in that all of mankind walks on higher ground. With others, we want to make sure the faculty and students of SDSU all walk on higher ground.”

Dave Graves

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**One-Life Charitable Gift Annuity Rates and Deductions:**

(per $25,000 contributed)

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*Deductions assume quarterly payments. Payout rates as of January 1, 2020. Subject to change. 2-life and deferred payment options also available.*

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More patients in South Dakota can receive medications to help them recover from opioid addiction, thanks to the work of Jennifer Ball, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice.

Opioid addiction is a lifelong chronic condition that can benefit from medical treatment, like diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Ball explained. The Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 allows practitioners who receive specialized training to treat drug dependence with Food and Drug Administration-approved controlled substances, such as methadone and buprenorphine.

“The use of buprenorphine, for instance, diminishes the physical effects of dependence on opioids, including cravings and withdrawal,” said Ball, who is part of a medication-assisted treatment addiction care team at the Center for Family Medicine in Sioux Falls. Dr. James Wilde leads the team that also includes nurse case manager Cindy Genzler and therapists Daniel Felix and Mary Jones.

“When we started in 2016, we were only aware of one other clinic that provided medication-assisted treatment to more than a few patients,” said Ball, noting that some of their patients traveled hundreds of miles to receive treatment. “We felt we needed to do a better job helping doctors obtain waivers and get experience in treating substance-use disorders so they would provide these services across the state and country.”

INCREASING WAIVERED PROVIDERS

First, Ball and Wilde, who serve as faculty for the Sioux Falls and the Pierre Family Medicine Residency programs, focused on training their residents. “All medical residents go through a one-month addiction block in which they spend time with area prevention, treatment and recovery services and as part of our integrated treatment team,” she explained. During this unit, the residents complete the free waiver training through Providers Clinical Support System needed to prescribe medications to treat addiction.

Since September 2018, Ball and her team at the Center for Family Medicine have received more than $490,000 in funding through the state’s targeted response and response to the opioid crisis federal grants. Last year, the CFM team helped train 29 family medicine residents and 11 physicians to provide medication-assisted treatment for drug addiction. Of those, 27 have obtained their waivers.

Furthermore, 14 pharmacy students receive MAT training each year during their clinical rotations. “Our goal is to train the next generation to provide this care,” Ball said.

PROVIDING ADDICTION SERVICES

Tiffany Wolfgang, director of the Division of Behavioral Health in the South Dakota Department of Social Services, said, “Through federal funding (from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), we are able to support the CFM program and others who are making sure we have the capacity to provide addiction services across the state.”

Since the state-funded project began, the number of patients treated for opioid-use disorder at the Center for Family Medicine has grown from 46 to nearly 100. The team has gone from providing team-based care half a day once a month to once a week. In addition, the center has hired a second therapist and a full-time nurse case manager “to provide more consistent care for our patients,” Ball said.

Next, they hope to work with police departments, jails and emergency rooms to identify patients who could benefit from this type of treatment. “This is a life-changing area of practice,” Ball concluded.
Beyond the Pill Bottle: Transforming Practice to Help Patients Manage Their Medications

Medications are effective at combating chronic diseases, but approximately 50% of patients do not take their prescriptions as directed, according to an article in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings journal.

“While most Americans living with diabetes and cardiovascular disease struggle with managing their health, help is on the way for South Dakotans with these conditions,” said Sharrel Pinto, the Hoch Endowed Professor for Community Pharmacy Practice and head of the Department of Allied and Population Health. She leads a team that is working with the South Dakota Department of Health to improve medication management and quality of life for patients with these conditions.

The team has been working with the South Dakota Department of Health’s Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program and the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. Their five-year project, which is in its second year, is funded annually by the South Dakota Department of Health through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions team also includes assistant professors Alex Middendorf, Chamika Hawkins-Taylor, Aaron Hunt and Yen-Ming Huang, associate professor Deidra Van Gilder and Department of Allied and Population Health research coordinator Michaela Seiber. Each year, 20 to 25 students from pharmacy and Master of Public Health programs will also work on the project.

Their goal is to develop statewide programs across various settings and institutions to help South Dakotans more effectively manage and prevent diabetes, heart disease and stroke, thereby reducing health care costs.

Expanding Pharmacist Role

“Pharmacists play a large role in relation to managing heart disease and diabetes, and we are fortunate to work with SDSU faculty who are as passionate about helping patients manage their diseases as we are,” said Rachel Sehr, who coordinates the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program for the SD DOH. “This project will drastically affect the way these patients receive care throughout the state.”

“Once patients are diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol, they have tons of questions,” Pinto said. They ask how long they must take the medications, whether their insurance will cover the costs and if they can still take their herbal supplements. “Pharmacists can provide the answers and tend to have longer conversations with their patients, but their expertise is often underutilized. We need to change this—and fast.”

Identifying Barriers

In the first year of the project, Pinto’s team conducted interviews with 127 patients, practitioners and insurance providers to identify barriers and assess strengths. Practitioners included pharmacists, dieticians, nurses, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, diabetes educators and physicians.

Patients expressed concerns about affording their medication and needing more education to manage their conditions, according to the year-one project report. In general, most South Dakotans are unaware of the many pharmacy-based services they can use.

“One patient stated he had a foot amputated because he had to choose between eating a meal or filling his medications,” Pinto said. “A pharmacist worked with his doctor to get him on a more affordable medication, but this is something that may have been prevented.”

Most nonpharmacist practitioners were also unfamiliar with available services Pinto pointed out. However, when they learned about medication therapy management, for instance, they agreed that their patients could benefit greatly. Furthermore, insurance providers pointed to a need for more training on reimbursement for pharmacy services.

On the pharmacy side, some practitioners wanted to learn more about medication therapy management and how they could develop new programs for patients with diabetes and heart disease.

Developing Programs, Training

This year, Pinto and her team are working to increase awareness of the services that pharmacists can offer patients, as well as develop programs and training for practitioners and insurance providers across the state.

“Pharmacists can lift some of the burdens that providers now carry and help improve outcomes for patients,” Pinto said. “We’ve got to see past the pill bottles and really start utilizing pharmacists as a health-care resource and a pharmacy as a health-care destination where holistic patient care isn’t just another buzz word, but rather a reality.”

Christie Delfanian
NYBERG TO BECOME FIRST
SDSU STUDENT TO GIVE PHARMTALKS

If Alexis Nyberg feels a bit out place when she steps onstage at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, March 20, it’s understandable.

Of the 60 people giving a PharmTalk (10-minute Ted-style Talks) at the four-day American Pharmacists Association convention, Nyberg will be the only one without her Pharm.D. degree.

“This is generally for speakers that have really established themselves. I think it is huge. Usually, this is only reserved for pharmacists or residents. She is going to be sharing the podium with people who have spent several years in practice. It’s an immense honor,” said Sharrel Pinto, head of the Department of Allied and Population Health.

Not surprisingly, “Nyberg will be the first P4 student from our college to present a PharmTalk. This speaks of the high-quality work that was submitted,” Pinto said.

The PharmTalk is an outgrowth of her work with Pinto on her Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/South Dakota Department of Health-funded project to increase the pharmacist’s role in the treatment of chronic diseases, particularly diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Nyberg, of Sioux Falls, began working with the project when it started in fall 2018.

Her talk is “Building Innovative Interprofessional Programs to Address Challenges in Rural Communities.”

EXPANDED ROLES FOR PHARMACISTS?

“Given the distances that some patients must travel in South Dakota to see a physician, we want to see what role a pharmacist can play,” Nyberg said. “This is a time for pharmacists to come in and meet with patients in their hometowns. We’re looking at pharmacists sitting down with patients and looking at their medications and disease states.

“Pharmacists can potentially make a greater impact because we have more time we can spend with the patient.”

Nyberg’s work with the project initially focused on meeting with insurance representatives to test their interest in including such patient counseling in their coverage plans. Later, she worked with other students interviewing patients about their health care needs and transcribing those conversations. There are about 20 to 25 pharmacy and Master of Public Health students involved.

A HESITANT PARTICIPANT

Nyberg wasn’t sure she wanted to be one of them when she was approached by Pinto and Alex Middendorf, an assistant professor in pharmacy practice.

“I was working at a community pharmacy and pharmacy school is challenging in itself,” Nyberg said of the grant work, which is in addition to the students’ curriculum load.

But when she learned more about the project, Nyberg was convinced.

“Community pharmacy is at a turning point. It can go toward the pharmacist having very little connection with the patient or to making sure community pharmacists use their skills to the extent of their capabilities. This really fit my passion. It’s a challenge and an honor” to be selected, Nyberg said.

Pinto knew Nyberg would be a good choice for the project after having the Harrisburg High School graduate in her pharmacy management class.

“Her leadership skills and her passion were evident in my class. Alexis is a modest person who has all these skills. I had a long conversation with her. I see the drive and passion and the students then take on more responsibility. Her jumping in and doing so successfully is really unique. Hopefully, with good mentorship, we will get more and more students that take on these leadership opportunities,” Pinto said.

SURPRISED TO BE ACCEPTED

As a P4, Nyberg needed to gain permission to even submit her PharmTalks proposal and then had to submit a two-page abstract with diagrams.

“I knew I did quality work, but I also knew students are rarely selected for PharmTalks. I actually was not very confident when I submitted my paper in late August. In late October, I still hadn’t heard anything, so I emailed APhA to check. The next week the organization emailed me back to congratulate me. I was very excited to find out,” Nyberg recalled.

In addition to assistance from Pinto and Middendorf, she was assisted by P3 student Abigail Sirek, whose experience in writing professional papers proved valuable.

Nyberg doesn’t have any plans to publicly test her talk before the American Pharmacists Association convention March 20. But the message will be repeated numerous times in front of the bathroom mirror and behind the steering wheel. Fortunately, she said, “I just love to do presentations.” This one will be before a large (upwards of 6,000 attend) and influential audience.

Pinto said, “We’re blessed to have students like Alexis who are willing to do this work outside of their curriculum. It gives them a chance to learn as well as shape the future of pharmacy.”

Dave Graves
Patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer face a poor prognosis because the tumor forms dense scar-like tissue that is difficult for chemotherapy drugs to penetrate. The five-year national survival rate is 9%, according to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

“More than 85% of pancreatic tumors form this fibrous tissue,” said assistant professor Joshua Reineke of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. However, most models used to test new drugs and drug-delivery methods do not have this feature.

Through funding from the South Dakota Board of Regents, Reineke and his research team developed a 3D pancreatic cancer model in which the tumor surrounds itself with the fibrous tissue, known as a desmoplastic stroma reaction.

In addition, the researchers compared the new model with tumor tissue donated by patients undergoing surgery for pancreatic cancer through collaboration with Avera Medical Group Oncology and Hematology. “Every patient we met with consented, knowing the research would not help them, but future patients,” Reineke said. “These patients have made a critical contribution.”

According to the most recent statistics on the South Dakota Cancer Registry, 152 patients were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2016—that’s an all-time high. Furthermore, pancreatic cancer was the third-leading cause of cancer deaths in South Dakota.

“We know the surrounding stroma contributes to reduced penetration of drugs into the tumor itself, so being able to mimic that in preclinical models is super important,” said Liz O’Neill, a certified nurse practitioner at Avera Medical Group Oncology and Hematology. She coordinated the study for Avera.
REPRODUCING FIBROUS TISSUE

Postdoctoral research associate Mikhail Durymanov, whose expertise is in molecular and cellular biology, developed, characterized and tested the models, with assistance from postdoctoral research associate Anastasia Permyakova and Christian Kroll, a 2019 Pharm.D. graduate. The study results are published in Translational Oncology.

To evaluate the model, Reineke and his team compared the protein makeup of the scarlike tissue in the model and that of the Avera patients’ pancreatic tumor tissue. “We see that we have a very nice fit—they are very similar,” Reineke said. In addition, the researchers successfully transferred the tumor to a mouse model. “We can also do the animal study with the tumor and know it will have this robust scar tissue.”

Reineke and his team are using the model to test therapies developed at SDSU and by other research groups to find more effective ways to treat pancreatic cancer.

IMPROVING THE MODEL

One of the limitations of the current model is that it does not contain a component that would account for the body’s immune response to the cancer and the treatment. This may be an important limitation as some of the most significant advancements in cancer therapy have recently come from understanding and enhancing the involvement of a patient’s immune system in regulating tumors, Reineke explained.

The research team is working with Avera scientists to improve the model, possibly by using patient tissues rather than cell culture lines.

“This model is a screening tool—it’s not the golden ticket, but it can be used to identify things that work or don’t work at an earlier stage,” Reineke concluded.

Christie Delfanian
SCHOLARSHIPS

Presented Sept. 21, 2019, at the scholarship luncheon at the University Student Union,
the following awards total more than $260,000.

Thank you alumni and supporters.

Steven M. Aamot and Robbie D. Aamot Scholarship in Pharmacy
Trevor Treglia
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Oliver G. and Nelle K. Anderson Scholarship
Haley Mendel
James A. Armbruster and Nancy E. Armbruster Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Tiffany Nguyen
Avera Excellence Scholarship in Medical Laboratory Science
Jenni Blue, Isaac Harris, Reese Simons
Avera Excellence Scholarship in Pharmacy
Christopher Kotschevar, Micah McCoy
Dr. Harold S. Bailey and Barbara A. Bailey Endowed Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Brittany Kludt
Jack M. Bailey Scholarship
Kaisa Fuerst
Brad and Dawn Bargmann Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Madalyne Schulte
Keith and Lynn Bartels Scholarship Endowment in Medical Laboratory Science
Matthew Larson
Ruth Kohlmeier Bassett Pharmacy Endowment
Brooke Nibbelink
Benson/Glascock Scholarship in Pharmacy
Allie Thompson
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Jean Bibby Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship
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Samantha Franzoi
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Ellen Hulterstrum, Holly Polak, Natalie Sovell
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Joseph J. and Coral (Coffey) Bonnemann Scholarship in Medical Technology
Nicole Solvie
Scot J. Brost College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Scholarship
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Lawrence C. and Winnibert Bradshaw France Memorial Scholarship
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Milton and Elaine Freier Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
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Shirley and Lyle Glascock Pharmacy Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
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Gross Scholarship in Pharmacy
Kristopher Nguyen
Sandra Grover Memorial Scholarship
Breanna Attema
Ping He and Xiangming Guan Academic Performance Excellence Scholarship in Pharmacy
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Bruce Johnson and David Johnson Pharmacy Legacy Scholarship
Nathan Tveden
Jodi K. and Thomas J. Johnson Scholarship in Pharmacy
Natalie Gray
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Jacob Kelzer
Galen D. Jordre and Ann M. Jordre Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
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Emma Smith

Kay Cofield Pearson Scholarship in Pharmacy
Hannah Brkmeier, Scott Dungus, Sarah Jesse

Mark Eric Petersen Scholarship
Quinten Glass

Alford O. and Dolores J. Peterson Endowed Scholarship
Jordan Thompson

Allen A. Pfeifle Scholarship in Pharmacy
Nicholas Smith

Chase Metzger

Kenneth and Elizabeth Redman Scholarship
Ashley Lacey

William J. Regan Scholarship
Ashley Bernardy, Hannah Sorestad

Daniel and Robin Remund Scholarship in Pharmacy
Whitney Hutchison

Gayleen S. Riedemann Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship
Michael Sees

Hannah D. Schmiedt Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy
Dustin Moon

Craig and Carolyn Schnell Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Tate Broksieck, Benjamin Ostebee, Abigail Stormo

Craig and Carolyn Schnell Pharmacy Scholarship
Khalil Ford, Lily Koob, Holden Sjogren

Elizabeth A. L. Scholl Scholarship
Mikaela Stanley

Tim and Jennifer Schut Pharmacy Scholarship
Abby Lingle

Jane and Norbert Sebade Scholarship
Ramsey Standy

Chuck and Dorie Sendelbach Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Allie Thompson

Laurence C. (Bud) Sendelbach College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Endowment
Kayla Kniefel

Earl and Daphne Serles Scholarship Fund
Paul Schwasinger

James Sheets Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy
Anna Mohr

Shopko Scholarship
Brittany Kludt

Ephriam 'Ep' and Hilda Sieler and Beth R. and Justin Joachim Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Makayla Kroeplin

Sinclair Family Pharmacy Scholarship
Madison Hodgon

Sioux Falls VA Practice Site Scholarship
Miranda Boraas

Dwight E. & Keo Glidden Smith Scholarship in Pharmacy
Autumn Klaudt

Richard A. Smith Scholarship in Pharmacy in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee
Allison Bich

Zachary Smith and Deborah Mack-Smith Pharmacy Scholarship
Hannah Juracek

Anna Lange

Van Hove Scholarship in Pharmacy at South Dakota State University
Kaisa Fuerst

Julie C. Stevens M.D., Scholarship in Pharmacy at South Dakota State University
Rachel Mitchell, Shelby Van Driel

Joe and Sarah Strain Pharmacy Scholarship
Zachary Birchem

Stutz Family Pharmacy Scholarship
Laiten Nelson

Ed and Louise Swanson Pharmacy Scholarship
Marah Burggraaf, Bridget Stewart

Medor A. and Florence M. Thibodeau Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Hansmann

Dr. Deidra and Ryan Van Gilder Scholarship
Samantha Boeck

Van Hove Scholarship in Pharmacy at South Dakota State University
Anna Lange

Gary and Sharon Van Riper Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment
Savannah Suchor

Visions for the Future Scholarship
Tiffany Nguyen

Walgreens Multilingual Scholarship
Joseph Keryakos

Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award
Tyler Leng

Murray D. Widdis Jr. Pharmacy Scholarship
Victoria Peta

Steven A. Williams and Dan Phillip Gardner Pharmacy Scholarship
Caitlin Daly
When Caleb Cooke ’12 walked across the stage at graduation, he did not think his career would turn out the way it has.

Cooke, a laboratory supervisor at the Avera Specialty Hospital, was the keynote speaker at the medical laboratory science white coat ceremony, held Oct. 28 in the University Student Union’s Hobo Day Gallery.

Taking cues from his professional career, Cooke told the audience to make the most of the opportunities that arise.

Throughout his time at Avera, he has volunteered for various projects that has allowed him to add various responsibilities. He helped plan and oversaw operations at the lab in South Dakota’s first freestanding emergency room. Three years later, he had a role in the Avera Specialty Hospital’s startup and operations.

“There is a lot of opportunity in this field,” said Cooke, who completed his MBA in the fall semester. “I wouldn’t have fathomed that I’d open two labs in seven years.

“I wanted the students to know that their success depends on the actions and choices they make,” he continued. “No one is going to hand you success. You need to put in the hours, work hard and get the experiences so you can be prepared when the opportunity arrives.”

Cooke knew he wanted to be in a medical-related field when he entered South Dakota State. He started in pharmacy and then learned about majoring in medical laboratory science as a freshman.

“It was more of what I wanted to do as it was more analytical in nature,” he said. “It’s hard work but rewarding work. What has made it easier for me, is that I find joy in what I do so it doesn’t seem as busy or crazy. If you can find a purpose, you can set yourself up for more success.”

Those successes could be saving a life or discovering a disease.

“We medical laboratory scientists don’t often talk about what we do,” Cooke said. “We do a lot of cool things that no one ever hears about. For us, it’s another day in the office. You might save a life with a transfusion or find an undiagnosed disease.

“The work we do carries a lot of weight as much of a patient’s diagnoses comes from our results,” he continued. “This makes our work very rewarding knowing we are making an impact for the providers and their patients.”

Matt Schmidt
Caleb Cooke ’12 was the keynote speaker at the 2019 MLS White Coat Ceremony.

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STUDENT AWARDS

CAMRYN BEAL
PRE-MLS STUDENT AWARD

TESSA ANDERSON
OUTSTANDING MLS 2 AWARD

TESSA ROEMAN
MLS STUDENT OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP AWARD

COURTNEY REMICK
MLS STUDENT SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AWARD

SARAH LEADER (ADJUNCT FOR THE MLS PROGRAM FALL 2018)
MLS FACULTY AWARD

MLS Director Stacie Lansink, left, and student Daniel Bockenstedt.
Barry Markl, a member of the Class of ‘68 who rose through the ranks at Walgreens and has become a major benefactor for the college, was honored by the SDSU Alumni Association as a Distinguished Alumnus at Hobo Day 2019.

Markl grew up on a family farm near Edgerton, Minnesota, and attended State when the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions’ faculty included Guilford Gross and Bernie Hietbrink, with Ray Hopponen as dean.

Markl was active in the Statesmen chorus all five years (pharmacy was a five-year program then) and served as junior class treasurer in 1966, senior class president in 1967 and the American Pharmaceutical Association SDSU chapter president in 1966. In 1968 he received a letter of confirmation from Dean of Men Orlin Walder that he was elected to “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.”

He joined Walgreens as an intern in 1967 and rose through the ranks, retiring as senior vice president of store operations in 2007. The company was rapidly expanding, and he was responsible for 1,350 stores that generated more than $12 billion in sales annually.

It was while he was senior vice president that Markl met the man who would nominate him for the Distinguished Alumni honor—Associate Dean for Student Services Dan Hansen. At the time, 2005, Hansen was a brand-new pharmacist working at a Milwaukee Walgreens.

He recalled, “Barry was taking a tour of the store and came up to introduce himself. When he found out that I was a graduate of SDSU, his face lit up. He immediately began asking questions about the school, campus and faculty within the program. You could tell he was a proud alum.

“In my time with Walgreens, it was evident from my interactions with our district and regional managers, just how much respect people within the company had for Barry. Many had worked alongside him during his time in the Milwaukee market. While he had high expectations, everyone appreciated his vision, dedication to patients and the support he offered along the way.”

Laurie Meyer, a former professional colleague, spoke similarly of Markl.

“As Barry rose through the store operations ranks to become one of the top officers of our fast-growing company, I learned the respect of his Milwaukee store managers was no fluke. Barry treated everyone with the same respect,” she said.

As the professional demands of his time lessened, he became very engaged with serving his alma mater, particularly the pharmacy program.

He served on the Dean’s Advisory Council from 2000 to 2005 and has been on the Dean’s Development Council since 2012. He joined the SDSU Foundation’s Council of Trustees in 2013 and now serves as chair of the development committee.

For all that he and his wife, Sharon, have accomplished, perhaps the greatest lasting legacy will be the creation of an endowed scholar focused on oncology within the college. At the time this funding started, both of their mothers were cancer survivors.

In 2009, they created a charitable remainder trust that would fund the position upon their deaths. But they decided they wanted to see the work begin now, so they made a 10-year commitment to provide annual funding. Consequently, Wenfang An, a genome scholar, was recruited to become the first Markl Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research.

In addition to the endowed scholar position, the Markls have supported pharmacy scholarships, the resource room in the Avera Health and Science Center and the Alumni Green project.

Dave Graves
IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Shaw

Stanley Shaw, a 1957 graduate of the SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions and an early leader in the field of nuclear pharmacy, died Oct. 26, 2019, at Mulberry Healthcare Center in Mulberry, Indiana, at age 84.

Born July 4, 1935, in Parkston, the soft-spoken Shaw received the award for Distinguished Service to Education from the SDSU Alumni Association in 1991. He was honored as the SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions’ Distinguished Alumnus in 2006. Shaw was installed as 2018-19 honorary president of the American Pharmacists Association at its annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Shaw spent most of his 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 American Pharmacists Association 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 in an 2018 interview, Shaw said, “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 the Division of Nuclear Pharmacy. He started its nuclear pharmacy training program in 1972.

To illustrate Shaw’s legacy, he received the Founders Award from the Academy of Pharmacy Practice in 1981, which is 24 years before he retired. In 1998, he received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Nuclear Pharmacy Practice.

In 2000, Shaw 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.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Excellda, a retail pharmacist in the Purdue area most of her life, three daughters and four grandchildren. Shaw was a graduate student and Excellda was a senior pharmacy major when they met in 1960. They married in 1961.

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Dave Graves

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 23 | Student Organization Meetings
Jan. 28-29 | Pharmacy Legislative Days – Pierre
Feb. 6 | Student Organization Meetings
Feb. 27-29 | Clinical Laboratory Educator’s Conference – Orlando
Feb. 27 | Student Organization Meetings
March 19 | Student Organization Meetings
March 20-23 | American Pharmacists Association/Academy of Student Pharmacists Annual Meeting – National Harbor, Maryland
April 2 | Student Organization Meetings
April 3-4 | South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists Annual Meeting – Sioux Falls
April 15 | Spring Convocation and College Achievement and Recognition Program – University Student Union
April 16 | Student Organization Meetings
April 24 | Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony – University Student Union
April 29-May 2 | PPAG Annual Meeting – Norfolk, Virginia
April 30 | Student Organization Meetings
May 8-9 | ASCLS-S.D. State Meeting – Sioux Falls
May 8 | Pharm.D. Hooding Ceremony – Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center
May 9 | Graduation
Creating bipartisan legislation in the nation’s capital can be more challenging than finding the proverbial four-leaf clover.

One issue that has the potential to defy odds is prescription drug pricing legislation. The complicated issue has the attention of Democrats and Republicans and was the focus of a June 26, 2019, congressional briefing that included a presentation from 2001 Pharm.D. graduate Ann Byre, vice president of pharmacy services at Allina Health in Minneapolis.

She was one of four speakers at the briefing, which was attended by nearly 100 staffers from both Democratic and Republican representatives.

Held in the Longworth House Office Building, the one-hour briefing generated an overflow crowd and a lot of audience questions.

“There was so much engagement from the audience the briefing definitely could have gone longer. We had to cut it off,” said Byre, who has been with Allina since 2009 and in her current position since 2016. “It certainly helped educate staff. There are a number of bills sitting in the House or Senate right now that address drug pricing.”

Predicting which, if any, of them will generate the bipartisan steam to flow through the legislative channels makes long-term weather forecasting seem like exact science.

However, the topic of prescription drug prices has frustrated constituents on both sides of the political aisle and one that could score points with both red and blue voters. Solutions need to include health care providers, which are “critically important, but sometimes an overlooked piece of this puzzle. Understanding our point of view is crucial to solutions,” Byre said in her call to action to legislative staffers.

FROM A PATIENT’S PERSPECTIVE

Byre’s presentation relayed concerns from three perspectives—the patient, the health system pharmacist leader and the health system chief executive officer.

Creating three fictitious patients with the goal of connecting with attendees in a more personal manner, Byre told how drug pricing impacted each. For example, “Steve” and “Maria” each received infusions for arthritis every six to eight weeks. Steve’s insurance only covers the brand name. Its higher price forces him to hit his maximum out-of-pocket sooner. The insurance doesn’t allow it to be taken at the center most convenient to him. Maria’s insurance covers a biosimilar medication, so her maximum out-of-pocket takes longer to hit and she can receive the infusion at a local center.

“Nancy’s” daughter has a complicated diagnosis that requires specialty medications. The medication is covered by insurance, but her 25% share is still greater than her $1,000 per month out-of-pocket, which makes finances difficult. She also is forced to fill her prescription at a mail order specialty pharmacy rather than her health system pharmacy that has her complete medical record.
That means the health system that cares for the girl is unable to provide the integrated care to optimize her outcomes, Byre said. These are just a few relevant scenarios impacting patients regularly, she said.

FROM PHARMACIST’S, CEO’S PERSPECTIVE

These scenarios create a number of concerns for the health system pharmacist. Among them:

• needing to stock both brand name and multiple biosimilar products;
• having to manage complicated insurance processes for each patient; and
• a lack of transparency at point-of-sale for prescriptions due to rebates and direct and indirect remuneration fees.

“Barriers to patient access and affordability of medications leads to adverse health outcomes and increases health care costs,” Byre said.

From the CEO’s perspective, these patient scenarios represent annually growing expenditures on drug costs, now representing more than 5% of operating revenue. “When more money is spent on drugs, there is less to spend on improving other important parts of patient care and readmissions increase due to patients not affording medications,” Byre said.

“Not knowing who would be in the audience, I tried to connect in a more personal way. It was very well received,” she said.

A ‘BUCKET LIST’ OPPORTUNITY

Other speakers were Christine Collins, director of pharmacy with Lifespan, a Rhode Island health care provider; Dan Kistner, senior vice president of Vizient, a group purchasing organization; and Angie Craig, the Democratic U.S. representative that represents Byre’s south Twin Cities district and someone who has sponsored a number of bills on the topic.

“Angie Craig’s portion was spot on, and it is very apparent she fully understands all the complicated issues driving medication costs up,” Byre said.

While Byre has done some pharmacy advocacy work at the state level, particularly through her role as a Minnesota Pharmacist’s Association board member, this was her first opportunity to present in Washington, D.C. “It was a bucket list opportunity for me. I hope to have future opportunities to continue to advocate for our patients and our profession nationally,” the Bloomington, Minnesota, native said.


These meetings provided a chance to share some highlights from the briefing as well as explain Allina Health, which had $4.3 billion in operating revenue in 2018 and 29,000 employees in 12 hospitals, more than 90 clinics, 15 retail pharmacies and two ambulatory care centers. Byre arrived at Allina Health in 2009 after beginning her career in a variety of pharmacist and leadership roles with Target Corporation upon graduating from SDSU in 2001.

“The wide variety of bills on this topic in Washington right now encourages me. Drug pricing is a major issue for pharmacists, health care administrators and patients,” Byre said.

Dave Graves
Part of the new allied and population health department, Yen-Ming Huang began work here Sept. 4, after earning his doctorate. He has a 50-50 teaching-research load. He instructs on research methods, cultural competencies and applying elements of health literacy into daily pharmacy practice. In addition to teaching two classes per semester, he works with department head Sharrel Pinto’s grant project that seeks to improve patients’ awareness in the role of pharmacists in the care of chronic illnesses. His focus is on patient behavior.

That also was the focus of his doctoral education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His degree was in social and administrative sciences in pharmacy with a minor in educational psychology. He investigated the barriers and facilitators of medication adherence in people with Type 2 diabetes across different health literacy levels.

“I researched what’s going on regarding patients’ psycho-social factors. The findings reveal that the patient experience or the experiences of family members or friends shape their attitude regarding medication taking. If we apply some points regarding psycho-social factors in the clinic, we can influence their medication adherence,” Huang said.

He began his pharmaceutical education at National Taiwan University, receiving a bachelor’s in pharmacy and a master’s in clinical pharmacy. Before heading to the United States in 2014, he practiced pharmacy for a couple of years in Taiwan. During the week he worked as a clinical hospital pharmacist in the respiratory care unit and at an outpatient clinic for patients using anticoagulants. He worked weekends at a community pharmacy. “I liked talking to the patients,” Huang said.

He also was an adjunct faculty member at National Taiwan University teaching students how to communicate with patients and how to deal with hurdles in the health care system. Because Taiwan doesn’t have a doctoral program focusing on patient care for pharmacists, Huang headed to UW-Madison for his doctorate. That also was where he first encountered snow—and he took a liking to it. He learned to snowboard in 2015 and now lists that among his hobbies. That list also includes tennis, badminton and exploring state parks.

It was a national park—Mount Rushmore—that first brought him to South Dakota. That tourist visit in 2015 left a favorable impression and made him inclined to apply for his current position when he saw the opening. He also was influenced by his advisor, Olayinka Shiyanbola, who taught at SDSU for a couple of years. “There is a supportive team at the college here. I like the people and environment in the Midwest—the people are friendly, and in South Dakota there are a lot of state parks,” Huang said.

Christmas and summer breaks are spent in Taiwan, where his parents and sister and brother live. 

Dave Graves
MICHAELA SEIBER
Allied and Population Health research coordinator

Michaela Seiber, an enrolled tribal member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, of Sioux Falls, brings four years of experience into her position as research coordinator within the Department of Allied and Population Health. Her position is based in Sioux Falls.

She began her position in July after spending two years with Sanford Research doing population health research with tribal communities. For two years prior to that, she was an assistant coordinator with clinical cancer trials with Avera Research. She said a former colleague recruited her for the SDSU position.

Much of the focus of the newly created department is an effort to increase medication adherence and patient outcomes.

The federally funded project utilizes about 20 to 25 students—P3s and P4s as well as Master of Public Health students. Seiber mentors the group and sets up one-on-one interviews with pharmacists and insurers. Other tasks include writing abstracts for conferences project leaders will attend, some data analysis and writing manuscripts for peer-review journal articles.

In addition, the project is looking to include a couple of tribal communities in its research effort. With Seiber's Sanford background and tribal research experience, she is in a good position to handle the associated logistics.

Other faculty members within the college who are working on the project are Aaron Hunt and Yen-Ming Huang, both in Brookings, and Sharrel Pinto in Sioux Falls.

Seiber's educational background dates to Sisseton High School (2007) and an interdisciplinary degree at SDSU (2013) with an emphasis in health sciences, nutrition and psychology. She followed that with a Master of Public Health degree through the joint SDSU/University of South Dakota online program. Seiber was a 2016 USD grad.

Apart from her work, Seiber also received a Bush Fellowship for a two-year program in leadership development. "I talk with a leadership coach once a month, receive online instruction and am working to build skills and research methods to work with the LGBTQ community, of which I am a member," Seiber said.

Other outside interests include reading and community involvement.

Dave Graves

MICHELLE M. JOHNSON
Pharmaceutical Sciences program assistant

Michelle M. Johnson joined the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions family Oct. 7, 2019, after operating her own family day care for the past eight years.

The position provides day-to-day secretarial support for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

She said she was drawn to the position by the campus atmosphere.

Before relocating to Brookings in 2015, Johnson lived in northeast Nebraska. She had a day care there for four years and continued it another four years in Brookings.

Prior to that, she was an admitting clerk at Providence Medical Center in Wayne for three years and an office manager for her husband's trucking company in Wakefield, Salmon Well drilling in Wakefield and Midwest Land Co. in Wayne.

A native of Allen, Nebr., 20 miles north of Wayne, Johnson is a graduate of Allen Consolidated School and will graduate in May with an online degree in business from Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.

She and her husband, Larry, a Brookings truck driver, have two children—a son, Layten, 8, and a daughter, Sadie, 5. Interests include camping and spending time with family and friends.

Johnson replaces Emily Trias, who had served in the position since 2016.

Dave Graves
AARON HUNT
Master of Public Health coordinator

After working on HIV projects in Las Vegas and Nigeria as well as with medical students in Phoenix, Aaron Hunt has stepped out of the rat race to become the coordinator of the Master of Public Health program with the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Hunt, a native of Missoula, Montana, began in September 2019, filling a vacancy left by Mary Beth Fishback, who now works full time as executive director of Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness.

In addition to coordinating the joint USD-SDSU online program, Hunt, an assistant professor, also teaches four public health courses.

Hunt, who lives in south Brookings, said he is enjoying the switch to small-town living after being in the 4.3 million person Phoenix metropolis for the past year and in the 2 million person Las Vegas metropolis for the eight years prior to that.

Since moving to Brookings, a college town he considers similar to Missoula, Hunt and his family have explored outdoor attractions and recently discovered the Children’s Museum of South Dakota. He and his wife, Jada, have a son, Finn, 4, and a daughter, Ellie, 3. His wife works from home as a third-party administrator for a health insurer.

PROGRAM SEEKING ACCREDITATION

In overseeing the Master of Public Health program, Hunt works with students to develop their plans of study, guides them through the administrative paperwork, helps them find places for their practicums and thinks of ideas for their capstone projects. The program has 77 active students with 22 enrolled through SDSU and 55 through USD.

Beginning its sixth year, the program enrolls a new cohort every fall, which is a change from every semester. Most students are working professionals, so it often takes them three years to complete the degree, he said.

Hunt steps in at a time when the program is seeking its initial accreditation through the Council of Education for Public Health. Currently in the self-study phase, the council will visit campus this fall.

JOINT PERINATAL COUNCIL TO LAUNCH

As the program administrator, Hunt also has gotten involved in the North and South Dakota Perinatal Quality Collaborative, which is a new effort to improve health outcomes for women and newborns. In addition to his counterpart at North Dakota State University, the coalition also includes medical doctors and officials with the departments of health in both states, tribal councils, Indian Health Service and Avera and Sanford hospitals.

The initial quality improvement program will be addressing severe hypertension among pregnant and postpartum women. “This is a major risk for maternal death and other serious health outcomes,” Hunt said.

An all-volunteer effort, the coalition plans a formal launch in March. Hunt is seeking grant funding for a coordinator who would be housed at SDSU and oversee the program’s initiatives.

With an extensive background in public health, it’s also a natural for Hunt to work with Hoch Endowed Professor Sharrel Pinto on her Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/South Dakota Department of Health five-year grant to increase the role of pharmacists in the treatment of chronic diseases, particularly diabetes and high blood pressure.

In the future, Hunt would be interested in partnering with Avera’s telehealth program to help with breastfeeding by making lactation consultants available via a phone app.

While in Las Vegas, he worked on such a project in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Health.

EXTENSIVE WORK IN HIV PREVENTION

Hunt’s most immediate experience was serving as research coordinator at the A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Mesa, Arizona, (2018-19), where he sought training grants for medical students.

He was at the University of Nevada Las Vegas from 2010 to 2018, where he received his Master of Public Health in 2013 and his doctorate in public health in 2018. He held several positions while there, including research analyst, research/program coordinator and public health lecturer.

Much of his time was spent in HIV prevention projects—one working with the Ryan White Part D Program with pregnant moms in Las Vegas and the other working with a UNLV faculty member on a federal grant serving women in Nigeria.

The program partnered with more than 200 churches within Enugu state in southeast Nigeria to introduce the communities to baby showers. During those gatherings women were provided basic maternity and malaria prevention education as well as testing for HIV and other diseases. Lay health care workers from the churches were used to take blood draws. Utilizing a baby shower and community involvement through the church helped reduce the social stigma of HIV, which kept many Nigerians from being tested or even treated, Hunt explained.

The results were favorable—only a 2.43% positive rate and half of them were linked up with care and were taking medication during their pregnancy, Hunt reported.

Dave Graves
Armed with encyclopedic brains and instantaneous recall, the SDSU entry in the Clinical Skills Competition advanced to the national level for the first time since 2014.

The team of P4 students Philip Jacobson, Dakota Dunes; Hannah Brokmeier, Brookings; and Zach Muller, Big Lake, Minnesota; advanced to the top eight teams through online contests and then competed at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s annual meeting in New York City Oct. 26.

The competition is conducted online for the first several rounds, said adviser Tadd Hellwig, who noted that about 125 schools enter each year.

Both the online and national contests consist of three rounds—a lightning round, a clinical case analysis and jeopardy.

In the lightning round, the students have five minutes to complete 15 questions from random topics, from pharmacology to clinical pharmacy history. Then students are given a clinical case and have eight minutes to answer five questions of increasing difficulty.

In jeopardy, the students have five categories of three questions each and 12 minutes to complete them. The questions are of varying difficulty. The categories may consist of one of 22 different therapeutic topics, such as anticoagulation and endocrinology.

Mueller, the team captain, said to prepare for the contest they “divided up a variety of clinical topics between the three of us such as heart failure, infectious disease, pediatrics and many others. Each person reviewed and studied their own topics so that there was a better chance that at least one of us would know answer.”

Competing at the Midtown Hilton in New York City, the SDSU team lost by one question in the opening round and didn’t advance.

But it was by no means an empty venture, Muller said. “We also attended other educational sessions on clinical topics and sessions for students pursuing pharmacy residencies. Besides the conference, we walked through Central Park, explored the city on bicycles, went to The Lion King broadway show, enjoyed some delicious food and made connections with other teams and pharmacists,” he said.

All P4 students were eligible to compete in the local contest, which the trio of Jacobson, Brokmeier and Muller won.

The 2014 team finished second nationally, the school’s top finish.
SDSU PHARMACY STUDENT
TABBED FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM

Chris Kotschevar, who is in the final year of his doctorate in pharmacy, was selected as one of nine pharmacy students from around the nation to participate in a prestigious scholars program.

Kotschevar, from Rochester, Minnesota, is the first SDSU student to be selected for the Pharmacy Quality Alliance-CVS Health Foundation Scholars Program.

He attended a leadership summit in Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 20-21, is working with SDSU professor Sharrel Pinto on a federally funded grant and then will present his findings at the national meeting of the Pharmacy Quality Alliance in Baltimore May 13-15, just a few days after he completes his six years of pharmaceutical training at South Dakota State.

His work will primarily focus on increasing awareness of the pharmacist’s role in improving patient adherence to their prescribed medications.

“The role of the pharmacist goes beyond dispensing medications to helping patients understand why they are taking the medication and how to get its greatest effectiveness,” Kotschevar said. In addition to in-pharmacy counseling with patients, pharmacists now are looking at ways to lower barriers that keep people from following through with their medications, he said.

“We want to decrease how often patients forget to take their medication. That could be programs like auto refill, calls reminding patients that they have a refill ready for pickup or having mail order within the pharmacy,” Kotschevar said.

WORKING WITH MAJOR GRANT

Pinto is coordinating an effort to build community-based programs statewide that will help improve medication adherence and patient outcomes. The five-year grant comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is administered by the South Dakota Department of Health. A major focus is the underserved portions of South Dakota.

A survey of patients with diabetes or cardiovascular disease will seek to determine their awareness of programs offered through pharmacists, Kotschevar said.

“Medication management, sitting down with patients, offering vaccinations—it doesn’t do any good to have the services if patients don’t use them,” Kotschevar said. “The cost of those services is oftentimes covered by an insurance company. The survey will measure awareness and how patients can be better educated.”

An awareness campaign will be conducted with a follow-up survey to determine the campaign’s effectiveness, he said.

Pinto worked with the Pharmacy Quality Alliance-CVS Health Foundation Scholars Program when she was at the University of Toledo and is excited to have Kotschevar selected.

AN INTEREST IN RESEARCH

As a senior in the Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College, Kotschevar conducted a survey to find out what previous Fishback Honors College students gained from the program.

“I wanted to expand into pharmacy research and pursue research at a level beyond the SDSU campus and serve the state of South Dakota at a tangible level as well as present at a national level,” said Kotschevar, explaining why he sought to be a Pharmacy Quality Alliance-CVS Health Foundation Scholar. It is not connected with any of his classes.

He became acquainted with the program after talking with Laura Cranston, head of Pharmacy Quality Alliance and the spring 2019 pharmacy convocation speaker.

During his time at State, Kotschevar has been heavily involved in the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists. In 2017, he served as the campus delegate for policy development and in 2018 he was the regional delegate. Currently, he is the student delegate on the APhA policy development committee.

After graduation, Kotschevar is looking at two years of residency including one focusing on pharmacy administration and policy development.

Dave Graves
GAMMA KAPPA EARNS
HIGH HONORS AT CONVENTION

P3 student Scott Dingus and adviser Gary Van Riper returned with top awards from the 59th Grand Council Convention of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity July 17-21, 2019. The Gamma Kappa chapter itself was also honored at the event.

Gamma Kappa and South Dakota Graduate chapters were among those recognized as top performing chapters, which are determined by their scores on the annual chapter report. Chapters need to score at least 85 percent in areas such as community service, meeting fraternity deadlines for reports, payment of dues and following chapter rituals.

Gamma Kappa had 149 members at the end of spring semester 2019, making it among the largest pharmacy groups on campus.

Dingus teamed with classmate Zach Muller to win the best professional poster honor. They used a poster created in their research methods class on “Use of Ticagrelor and Aspirin Combination Therapy for Secondary Prevention of Non-cardioembolic Stroke.”

Dingus also received the 2019 Reisetter Kappa Psi Foundation Scholarship, a $2,000 award that is the foundation’s top scholarship.

Van Riper was one of 10 advisors to receive a Grand Council Deputy Certificate of Excellence after being nominated by their chapters. He also was inducted into the Society 1879 for being a long-term financial donor to the fraternity.

Dingus and Kaila Kuehn were the official delegates to the biennial convention.

Dave Graves
Described as “the epitome of what it is to be a brother of Kappa Psi,” Scott Dingus, a P4 student from Rapid City, has left an impressive mark with the nation’s oldest pharmaceutical fraternity.

In July 2019, he became only the second SDSU student to receive the Reisetter Kappa Psi Foundation Scholarship, a $2,000 award that is the foundation’s top scholarship. Awarded since 2009, the only other SDSU student to receive the honor was Haylee (Brodersen) Allen in 2014.

In November 2019, Dingus completed a one-year term as satrap (president) of the six-state Northern Plains Province of Kappa Psi. It encompasses 10 collegiate chapters and six graduate chapters. Dingus is the first SDSU student to hold the position in recent memory, according to Gary Van Riper, who has served as adviser to SDSU’s Gamma Kappa chapter of Kappa Psi since 1973.

In his scholarship recommendation letter on behalf of Dingus, Van Riper wrote, “Scott has maintained a 4.0 GPA during his time at SDSU. That is an outstanding accomplishment given the amount of time that he gives to the fraternity, the college and the university. Brother Dingus is the epitome of what it is to be a brother of Kappa Psi.”

Dingus rates selecting a pharmacy education and joining Kappa Psi among the wisest decisions of his young life.

His interest in the medical field stemmed from his chemistry teacher at Rapid City Central. That interest grew when he lost his father to a heart attack when Dingus was 16. He opted for pharmacy because “I saw there was a big need for people to be encouraged to take their medications appropriately because that’s the No. 1 way to keep people out of the hospital.”

QUICKLY TOOK LEADERSHIP ROLE

Dingus joined Kappa Psi as soon as he was eligible—the fall semester of his junior year.

“I liked the atmosphere of the organization and that they do a lot of philanthropy; supporting the community through the Reach Out and Read program and supporting the student,” said Dingus, who was honored as the outstanding pledge at his initiation the following spring. He also was elected vice regent of the chapter that spring.

Van Riper noted, “He was elected Northern Plains Province satrap in fall 2018 even though he was planning on running for vice satrap.”

Dingus said he got involved in Kappa Psi at the regional level “to reach out and meet a lot of different people, to collaborate with a lot of different people.” He had already been to three prior regional assemblies before fall 2018 and was on the committee that organized province assembly when it was in Brookings, so his face was familiar to attendees. However, his face was full of surprise when his name was read as the incoming satrap.

“It took me a few days for it to set in that I was now the leader of Kappa Psi in the region. I really can’t thank the other SDSU students in Kappa Psi enough for inspiring me to run for the position,” he said.

The brothers balloting on behalf of Dingus proved wise, according to Van Riper, who also attends the gatherings.

LED REACH OUT AND READ EFFORTS

“Dingus was one of the most organized persons to serve as satrap of the Northern Plains Province. He drove to Fargo, North Dakota, to meet with Beta Sigma to help plan the spring 2019 assembly. He sent out timely reminders regarding committee
responsibilities and continuing education programming. Also, Scott has followed up with requests for volunteers for committees for the fall 2019 assembly,” Van Riper wrote.

As Dingus reflects on his year as satrap, he sees two crowning achievements—organizing the 2019 assemblies and overseeing the Reach Out and Read program.

Chapters in the Northern Plains Province lead Kappa Psi regions nationwide in money raised ($8,643) and hours donated (27) and were second in books donated (3,504). Reach Out and Read is a nonprofit effort that gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encourages families to read aloud together.

Kappa Psi is a philanthropic partner of Reach Out and Read and donated $50,000 in 2018-19.

In spring 2019, the Gamma Kappa chapter at SDSU equipped the children’s waiting area at Avera Medical Group Brookings with three tables, six chairs, book holders and several hardcover books and tabletop animal figures for children ages 2 to 10.

The chapter received a $1,000 grant from Kappa Psi after its application was selected for the Upper Midwest region.

**LED GAMMA KAPPA HOUSE DRIVE**

Among Dingus’ efforts as vice regent of the Gamma Kappa chapter was organizing a phone-a-thon to raise funds to build a new house for the fraternity. “He developed the training materials, calling script and payment information to be used by the callers. He also called a number of alumni brothers during the event. The phone-a-thon raised over $40,000 in donations and pledges ...

“Scott would volunteer to help with any committee or event without asking as long as it was for the good of the fraternity,” Van Riper wrote.

As Dingus looks beyond graduation in May, he plans to take a year in residency and then begin a career in hospital pharmacy.

*Dave Graves*

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**FALL CONVOCATION**

Above: Josh Reineke, right, an assistant professor in pharmaceutical sciences, listens during the 29th annual Pharmacy Research Presentation as pharmacy student Patrick Watchorn explains his project, which examined the addition of a hospital unit-based experience to an internal medicine rotation for fourth-year pharmacy students.

Left: Wenfeng An, an associate professor in pharmaceutical sciences, listens during the 29th annual Pharmacy Research Presentation as graduate student Robin Kumar explains his project, which was an in vivo study of the molecule silibinin in effectiveness against colon cancer stem cells.

Left Below: SDSU pharmacy leaders gather with fall convocation speaker Vassilios Papadopoulos after his Oct. 21 message. Pictured, from left, are Jim Clem, head of pharmacy practice; Dean Jane Mort; Papadopoulos; Om Perumal, head of pharmaceutical sciences; Wenfeng An, who met Papadopoulos at a conference; and Xiaming Guan, associate dean for research.
MPH STUDENTS IMPACT
COMMUNITIES THROUGH CAPSTONE PROJECTS

The online Master of Public Health program at SDSU is a joint program with the University of South Dakota committed to improving health in rural and underserved communities through high quality learning, scholarship and community engagement.

The program was established in 2014 as the first master of public health program in the state and is currently working to obtain accreditation through the Council on Education for Public Health. Obtaining accreditation will allow the program to continue to recruit diverse students within the state and nationally. The program has 22 SDSU students and plans to continue to grow enrollment.

Additionally, the Master of Public Health program has had 13 SDSU students graduate from the program that culminates with an innovative public health capstone project. These projects focused on improving the health of underserved or rural populations and had positive impacts in the communities. Project titles are listed below.

The program plans to continue partnering with health departments, nonprofits, hospitals and other community organizations to build strong partnerships and empower students to succeed in their bright futures.

CAPSTONE TITLE

- Technology-Assisted Adolescent Dating Violence and Abuse Among At-Risk Teens and Young Adults
- Champions for Health, Helping the Underserved of San Diego: An Evaluation of Volunteer Engagement
- A Thematic and Quantitative Analysis of the Brookings Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey
- Health Disparities in South Dakota: Evaluation of Key Indicators
- A Manual for Healing Lakota Hearts
- Improving Tuberculosis Diagnosis, Outcomes and Cost-Savings at a Regional Hospital by Molecular Based Laboratory Methods
- Barriers to Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in the WIC Program: Counselor vs. Client Perceptions
- Healing Lakota Hearts: Planting a Seed on the Pine Ridge Reservation
- WIC Transportation Study for Tri-County Health Department
- Theoretical Clinical Grade Multi-Analysis Validation for Patient Assessment Questionnaire Across Ontology Domains for Computational Laboratory Diagnostic Testing
- Program Improvement Evaluation of the Relationship University Program offered by the Volunteers of America, Dakotas
- Food-Pantry Client Diet Quality By Degree of Choice in Pantries in Six Rural Midwest States
- The Big Squeeze Program Evaluation
NAPLEX PERFORMANCE CONTINUES TO EXCEED NATIONAL AVERAGE

Seventy-six graduates from the Pharm.D. class of 2019 took the NAPLEX in the second trimester. SDSU graduates had a first time NAPLEX pass rate of 97.4%. This exceeded the national average of 90.6%. Graduates of the SDSU Pharm.D. program also exceeded the national average in NAPLEX scores. The SDSU average score was 102.7 compared to 96.8 nationally.
Endowed Faculty Positions Facilitate Increased Research Productivity

Since 2014, the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions has established three endowed faculty positions, two in pharmaceutical sciences and one in pharmacy practice.

The Markel Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research was the first endowed position, established in 2014. In 2018, the Haarberg Chair in Cancer Research and the Hoch Family Endowed Professor in Community Pharmacy Practice were established. The endowment money is utilized to support faculty research efforts, including salaries, research supplies, and travel.

Since the establishment of the first endowed faculty position, the average annual grant funding in the college has increased substantially. In addition, the endowed faculty positions have led to improved research infrastructure within the pharmaceutical sciences department.

The Hoch Family Endowed Professor in Community Pharmacy Practice has led to new collaborations with health systems and community pharmacies in the state of South Dakota to develop innovative pharmacy practice models to improve patient outcomes and population health.

Finally, the creation of the endowed positions has provided new research opportunities for students at SDSU. Graduate students, Pharm.D. students and undergraduate students are engaged in the research led by these faculty.

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Students in the health professions must learn the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to practice as members of interprofessional healthcare teams. Knowledge in the discipline is often assessed through examinations; however, skill-based assessments are necessary to evaluate student performance in other areas.

Both the medical laboratory science and pharmacy students complete skill-based assessments prior to clinical experiences.

The on-campus medical laboratory science program started using a simulated lab final four years ago. The simulated lab final is conducted in a manner that mimics the work environment in a medical laboratory setting. The students are given specimens throughout the lab final in hematology, microbiology, chemistry and immunohematology.

Similar to the clinical setting, the students do not know when to expect to receive a specimen, but they have to perform the laboratory testing within a specific time. This final prepares MLS2 students for the clinical experiences that they will begin in the following semester. Feedback on the lab final from both students and laboratory managers/directors has been positive.

Similarly, the pharmacy students complete skill-based assessments throughout the didactic portion of the curriculum. These skill-based assessments include immunization administration, ability to perform health screenings, patient counseling, sterile product preparation and medication dispensing.

As an example, the P1 fall lab final asks students to take a phoned-in prescription, dispense a medication, conduct final verification of a dispensed product, and take a blood pressure. This assessment ensures students have the necessary community pharmacy practice skills to succeed in their introductory pharmacy practice experience the following summer.
The mission of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions is to provide high quality, interprofessional, student-centered education; foster discovery through innovative research and scholarship; and advance the provision of health care.

Evaluation of this mission occurs through a comprehensive evaluation plan. The plan consists of these parts:

• The curricular assessment plans, which assess student learning and the effectiveness of the curricula for each of the college’s academic programs;
• The mission evaluation plan, which addresses all elements of the mission besides curricula; and
• The strategic plan, which evaluates achievement of the specific goals outlined in the five-year strategic plan.

Each academic program has developed a curricular assessment plan. Its purpose is to evaluate how well the curriculum is preparing students and identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. As an example, the curricular assessment plan for the Pharm.D. program utilizes a three-tier system to assess the curriculum. The three-tier system was designed by Jane Mort in 1999 and achieved national recognition through publications, presentations and consultation with other colleges.

Tier I assessments are course-specific activities that measure student performance on specific student learning outcomes, including skill-based assessments, papers, projects and exams. Tier II assessment activities are not specific to a particular student learning outcome but provide an evaluation of the curriculum as a whole; performance on the NAPLEX and results from surveys of students and alumni are examples of assessments from this tier.

Tier III assessments allow focus on a specific question that the program chooses to study. Assessment activities in this tier are designed similarly to research studies and are limited to a specific time frame. Assessment data is regularly reviewed by the program assessment committee, shared with faculty, students and other stakeholders, and utilized by the curriculum committee to guide curricular revision.

Monitoring of the other aspects of the college’s mission, including admissions, research and service, is completed through the mission evaluation plan. Data related to the college’s mission is collected annually and tracked using a series of dashboards.

The dashboard process allows for tracking change over time and facilitates identification of areas for improvement. When areas for improvement are identified, quality initiatives are designed and implemented to address the issue. The program assessment committee utilizes a quality initiative tracking form to monitor the impact of the implemented initiatives.

Finally, the strategic plan outlines the college’s goals over the next five-year period. The current strategic plan was developed in 2018 and is aligned with the university’s strategic plan, Imagine 2023. The development of the strategic plan was led by the college’s strategic planning committee with input from faculty, staff, administrators, students and practitioners.

The strategic plan includes 11 goals. Strategies that will be implemented to achieve each goal are also outlined within the strategic plan. The goals are:

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.
As I write this, I reflect on all the blessings over the past few months. First, the South Dakota Board of Regents approved a new college department to start July 1, 2019. On July 8, I humbly accepted the offer to lead this new department. The Department of Allied and Population Health brings together faculty from various disciplines that share a common interest to transform health care through teaching, research, program development and offering clinical services. The department houses faculty, staff and students from medical laboratory sciences, medical laboratory sciences-upward mobility, Master of Public Health and the Doctor of Pharmacy. Together, our department serves more than 400 students through teaching, scholarship and service.

As Americans age, health care becomes more complex, and the country struggles to find ways to impact this crisis. We continue to see a rise in practitioner workforce shortages that only serves to compound the problem. As an academic institution, the onus falls on us to train the next generation of innovative practitioners who can help solve these problems. It is inspiring to note that while colleges around the country have struggled with keeping programs up and running, the leadership at SDSU has taken this challenge to heart and has truly invested in these programs by creating this departmental infrastructure.

While each program was already in existence, they were housed independently within the college. Housing programs within a department offers them the infrastructure and provides a much-needed sense of identity, security and most importantly stability that comes with the ability to garner resources, which in turn, can help these programs grow and thrive.

A driving force is the thriving body of research bringing interdisciplinary teams of practitioners and researchers together. Funding offers resources to further innovation and identify unique ways of practice that can then be taught in the classroom.

Four faculty within the department are on a Center for Disease Control and Prevention-funded, five-year, multimillion-dollar project in collaboration with the South Dakota Department of Health. Additionally, Chamika Hawkins-Taylor’s HRSA-funded project on opioids is well on its way to completing some landmark work.

Currently, 10 research proposals are in various phases of development. This work doesn’t just help with addressing some of the major health-care challenges but also helps bring in resources that can be invested toward the departmental infrastructure.

Since July, we have hired five members. In addition to those profiled on pages 20-22, they are:

- Rebecca Richardson is our program assistant who will offer administrative assistance on academic and research projects; and
- Erin Miller is a residency-trained pharmacist with a passion for leadership and furthering community-based programs. She joined us in January.

Also, Kassandra Erickson joined the medical laboratory science team in February 2019 and has led the MLS Club on a number of successful projects.

Previously, the Master of Public Health program had one coordinator but will now have four faculty members. We are currently working on streamlining processes within each program and reaching out to schools and colleges to talk about our programs.

We’ve also been working on a proposal for a new center. The proposal for the Community Practice Innovation Center is in its final stages and will be presented to the Board of Regents this spring.

The center will expand the work done within our department with an overall vision to become an internationally recognized center that advances pharmacy practice and specializes in developing innovative and sustainable community-based programs.

I am excited to see each program thrive in 2020. I am inspired by our amazing team and believe we are one step closer to improving patient care and minimizing the workforce shortage.
As we enter the new year, I would like to highlight some of the major accomplishments of the department in 2019.

The department had a successful site visit as part of the institutional program review of the Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences. A comprehensive self-study was prepared with input from all stakeholders, including the department faculty, graduate students and alumni. The site visit team commented positively about the Ph.D. program, including the strong commitment from all stakeholders, the research facility, and the research productivity of graduate students and faculty.

One recommendation was to enhance the process for graduate student admission and assignment of students to faculty. The site visit team also suggested exploring starting a master's program in pharmaceutical sciences. The department is in the process of implementing the recommendations of the site visit team.

While we are on the subject of the Ph.D. program, I also want to highlight the number of students who have graduated from this program. A record number of 10 Ph.D. students graduated from the program in 2019. To date, 42 students have graduated from the program in the last 12 years.

Another significant milestone is the establishment of the second endowed faculty position in the department. Komal Raina was named as the inaugural Haarberg Chair in Cancer Research in an investiture ceremony Oct. 4. (For more on her, see p 4). The first endowed faculty position was established in the department in 2016, when Wenfeng An began serving as the Markl Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research. We are extremely grateful for the generous support and commitment from the Markl and Haarberg families.

These two endowed faculty positions are transformative in elevating the college's cancer research efforts to the next level. In the last four years, the investments made through these endowed faculty positions have resulted in a 5:1 return on investment in terms of extramural grant funding. Most recently, the Haarberg funds were leveraged to secure additional state funding for the expansion of the research space. The construction of the new lab was completed in fall 2019. This lab will support Raina's research program.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of many people, including our outstanding faculty, students and alumni. I cannot thank them enough for what they do every day to elevate SDSU and make it a vibrant place.
EXPLORING VENUES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Greetings from the Department of Pharmacy Practice. The academic year has been moving incredibly quickly as we are looking at the spring semester. With that in mind, I wanted to share some news related to new endeavors we have embarked on.

Last fall, we worked to begin providing more live continuing education offerings outside of the traditional venues we have used, for example, statewide pharmacy organization meetings. One of the main purposes of doing this is to allow pharmacists additional opportunities to attend live continuing education events in a variety of settings that we historically have not used to our advantage.

For the past two years, we have offered continuing education programs on a selected Saturday during the fall in Brookings in the Avera Health and Science Center. We enjoy getting people back to campus on a football Saturday and providing continuing education in our state-of-the-art pharmacy practice labs and compounding labs.

We only scratched the surface of the potential continuing education offerings as we continue to incorporate and use the technology available in these spaces. We intend to use active-learning approaches in our continuing education delivery methods similar to how we teach in our pharmacy program.

This approach has been successful the first two years, but we hope to make it even better. We have focused on preceptor development at these Saturday events, but we are certainly considering expanding on whom we connect with at these events.

A second new venue for us has been starting to utilize space available in Sioux Falls where we teach the third year of the professional program. We have access to classroom space, which allows us to provide continuing education in close proximity to many pharmacists. We launched our first continuing education event in November at our Sioux Falls location.

We contacted pharmacists and nurse practitioners who live in the area to offer our first-ever interprofessional continuing education event. The topic was Pharmacogenomics 101. The feedback was extremely positive and attendees said they would really like to see additional events scheduled via this venue. We are planning to work jointly with the College of Nursing to provide an event this spring that builds on the initial session.

We also hope to expand into on-demand online offerings for continuing education. With all of the available technology, this mode of continuing education delivery is now easier than ever for us. Providing access to our continuing education offerings at times when it is convenient for the person seeking the content will allow us to reach a broader audience.

As part of our mission as a land-grant university, it is important to continue to look at ways to improve and grow continuing education offerings to assist others in receiving cutting-edge pharmacy information. We are always seeking feedback for what types of continuing education people would like and also content that is sought by practitioners.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with feedback as it relates to our continuing education programming.
Thank you

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Jan. 1-Nov. 29, 2019

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.
“NEW LEADER, SAME FOCUS”

Historically, two of the cornerstones of the SDSU College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions have been quality and collaboration.

For generations, students, faculty, industry partners and proud alumni have forged strong relationships that have shaped our college and the profession. This spirit of cooperation has led to high academic achievement and outstanding performance. Our pharmacy graduates ranked first in the nation in terms of first-time pass rate of the NAPLEX.

This team-oriented focus on excellence has made a profound impact at SDSU and around the world. Over the years, team members have changed, but the mission has not. Our campus leaders created a culture that embraces challenge and change and sees them as opportunities to grow and improve.

The SDSU Foundation is a proud partner with the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. We also embrace transition and are relentless in our pursuit to provide the best support possible for SDSU.

We greatly value being a member of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions team and have news to share. In July, Lisa Otterson left her role as the college’s development director for a new career opportunity.

In November, Scott Crane assumed the position to lead the college’s development efforts. By working closely with Dean Jane Mort, her leadership team and all of you, he looks to provide resources necessary to fulfill the college’s vision and mission.

Scott brings a breadth of experience, having worked in philanthropy for nearly three decades. He will bring new thoughts and ideas to our development team, while embracing our rich tradition.

This transition provides an excellent opportunity for all of us to engage at a deeper level. Thank you for your devotion and loyalty. Your continued commitment is greatly appreciated. Help us welcome Scott to our team. Happy New Year!

— Mike Birgen

Mike Birgen
associate vice president for development, SDSU

Scott Crane joined the SDSU Foundation Nov. 14 as the development director for the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. A South Dakota native, Scott graduated from SDSU in 1980 with a bachelor’s degree in history. He served in the U.S. Air Force and also earned a Master of Business Administration from Eastern New Mexico University. Before joining the Foundation, Crane spent 28 years in the United Way system in four communities: Sioux Falls; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Fargo, North Dakota; and Davenport, Iowa. He and his wife, Lea Ann, have two children and two grandchildren.
## College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Results:

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$94,390 raised

203 donors

www.sdstatefoundation.org/odfs
Avera Health and Science Center overlooks the set for ESPN's College GameDay program Oct. 25-26. It was a rare small campus visit for the highly rated national production.