Greetings from West Lafayette

There is much interest these days to rank and otherwise compare educational programs. In reality, a “program” is a nebulous concept that has no inherent value in itself. Instead, the value and impact of a program is determined by the people associated with the program. Our reputation as a program of excellence is built upon the reputation and impact of two specific groups: our graduates and our faculty. In this issue of Mortar & Pestle, you will read about individuals who make our program one of distinction. High among these are our Distinguished Alumni who were recently inducted at a special award ceremony on campus. This year’s inductees have and continue to make an important impact in pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences. We also highlight several of our noted faculty whose excellence has been recently recognized in a special way. Of particular note is the receipt of the Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award by Dr. Kim Plake. This is the highest teaching award that is given by the University. Dr. Plake joins a very special group of previous recipients of this award among our faculty. Sustaining the excellent reputation of the College requires recruiting outstanding faculty and students who will continue the tradition of excellence. Also in this newsletter are examples of a young faculty member and young alumni who demonstrate their ability to sustain the tradition of
excellence for which Purdue Pharmacy has long been recognized.

I hope you will take the time to read these highlights and stay informed about the excellent people who are sustaining the outstanding reputation of your College of Pharmacy.

Hail Purdue!

Craig Svensson
Dean

2015 Distinguished Alumni (L to R) Charles Goodall, Susan Brown, Dale Wurster, and Barbara Hayes

Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni Program was held on Friday, April 10, 2015. The Purdue College of Pharmacy is pleased to name the following individuals Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni in recognition of their outstanding achievements in professional and scientific endeavors.

- **Susan K. Brown** (BS 1972, MS 1974) is retired as Administrative Director of Pharmacy for Franciscan St. Francis Health.
- **Charles L. Goodall** (BS 1984) is Senior Vice-President or Pharmacy and Member Services Technology at the Catamaran Corporation.
- **Barbara E. Hayes** (MS 1977) is Professor Emeritus of Texas Southern University.
- **Dale E. Wurster** (PhD 1979) is Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Iowa Graduate College.

You may read more about the Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni Program and full biographies of the recipients [here](#).
Dr. Alan Zillich Named Bucke Professor

The appointment of Dr. Alan J. Zillich as the William S. Bucke Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice was ratified by the Purdue University Board of Directors on December 19, 2014.

Dr. Zillich holds a BS and PharmD from the College of Pharmacy at Purdue University. He completed two years of post-graduate residency training in Pharmacy Practice and Ambulatory and Primary Care at the University of Kentucky. After residency, he completed a two-year health outcomes research fellowship at the University of Iowa Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine.

His research interests, for which he has obtained almost $2 million in grant funding, involve the roles of professional collaborative relationships between pharmacists and other health care providers, the effectiveness of pharmacy-based services on improved medication prescribing, patient safety, and patient health outcomes, and methods to improve prescribing and utilization of medications through systems redesign and health informatics.

Dr. Zillich began his academic career with Purdue University in 2003 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and was subsequently promoted to Associate Professor. He also holds a Research Scientist appointment at the Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Center for Health Information and Communication at the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Zillich is the author over 60 peer-reviewed publications and has presented at 80 national and international meetings. He is the recipient of various professional honors including: Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (FCCP), the American Medical Informatics Association Annual Meeting, Distinguished Poster Nominee, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy New Investigator Award, the Award for Outstanding CME Collaboration, Alliance for CME, and the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting Presentation Merit Award. His professional activities include serving as a scientific reviewer of the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice, Pharmacotherapy, Annals of Pharmacotherapy, Journal of the American Pharmacist Association, American Journal of Health Systems Pharmacists, Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research, Nicotine and Tobacco Research, and the Journal of General Internal Medicine. His current and previous professional affiliations include the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, where he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for their Research Institute, the International Society of Pharmaceutical and Outcomes Research, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Indiana College of...
Clinical Pharmacy, and the Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Dr. Kim Plake Receives Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Dr. Kim Plake, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, is a 2015 recipient of the Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. The Murphy Award, named after Charles Murphy, a history professor at Purdue from 1927 to 1970, is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding teaching in all phases of undergraduate instruction at the West Lafayette campus. The Murphy Award is the University's highest undergraduate teaching honor is a wonderful recognition of Dr. Plake’s excellence as a teacher in our program at the College of Pharmacy. You can view a video and read more in Purdue Today.
Faculty Research Spotlight on Dr. Yoon Yeo

The College of Pharmacy is pleased to highlight Dr. Yoon Yeo, whose specializations include controlled drug delivery, bio-nanotechnology, and therapeutic particle engineering, as well as inhalation drug delivery. Dr. Yeo, who received her PhD in Pharmaceutics from Purdue in 2003, returned in 2007 to join the faculty in the Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy after completing a post-doctoral associate position in chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. She also holds a courtesy appointment as Associate Professor in the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering at Purdue.

In April 2014, Dr. Yeo was named a Showalter University Faculty Scholar at Purdue University. The award recognizes early to mid-career faculty members of exceptional promise and provides research support for five years. More recently, she was featured in Purdue Today (January 27, 2015) in which she discusses her dedication to researching novel drug delivery systems. This ongoing research could improve therapies for diseases such as cancer and cystic fibrosis. You may read more about her research here.

Betty J. Bell (BS 1948): An Unlikely Journey and Story of Friendship

Betty Bell (BS 1948), now 87 years old, is originally from Princeton, Indiana, the only child of a railroad conductor and stay-at-home mother. She graduated from high school in 1944 and began her college career at Indiana University with her goal of becoming a chemist, but soon decided she could not afford to pursue a PhD. Someone recommended that she consider Pharmacy at Purdue as an alternative, so Betty went on to receive her BS in Pharmacy in 1948. She was one of eight women in her graduating class.

Upon graduation, Betty began working at a professional pharmacy store in Hammond, Indiana. “I recognized that the men were making substantially more money than the women,” she recalls. “Years
later, I saw a note in a pharmacy magazine that a hospital in Hawaii had created a new clinic and was in need of a pharmacist. “After 18 years working in Indiana, she decided she was ready to embark on a new journey. Betty contacted the hospital administrator at four o’clock in the morning (Hawaii-Aleutian time zone), but still managed to get the job. She became the first pharmacist on the island of Kauai in 1966.

Betty estimates that she and her team filled 10,000 prescriptions the first year and a half the clinic was open. The clinic was associated with Wilcox Memorial Hospital, a community non-profit hospital, with many of its patients being sugar field workers. In 1968, Betty introduced an innovative unit dose system of distribution involving a safer and more efficient delivery of patient medication. That system was recognized nationally and adopted by other Hawaii hospitals. Betty also served as Administrator from 1975-1980. During that time, she led the effort to build an affordable long-term care facility (still called Sun Village) on 9.3 acres of land adjacent to the hospital. Realizing she had a knack for real estate, she went on to become a real estate agent, eventually starting her own company, PSS Realty. As if practicing pharmacy and selling real estate wasn’t enough to keep her busy, she also sang in various choral groups, as she had while at Purdue.

Now to introduce the Weists. Robert “Bob” (BS 1962, Chemical Engineering) and Sally (BS 1961, Education) are Purdue sweethearts. In 1990, they decided to look for a seasonal home in Hawaii, and Betty ended up becoming their realtor. It didn’t take long for the three to realize that they all had a common connection—Purdue—and a friendship was born.

Their friendship grew, and Bob and Sally wanted to show Betty just how special she was to them and thank her for being such a wonderful neighbor and friend. “Over the years, Betty has become part of our Ohana (family). She is a wonderful role model for our kids, grandkids, and others—demonstrating that an education and hard work can lead to a very rewarding and satisfying life,” says Bob. “Betty has the most positive outlook on life of anyone we know and a passion for continuing education and helping others,” adds Sally. Although they are not pharmacy alumni, the Weists decided to establish the Betty J. Bell Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy in her honor during the inaugural Purdue Day of Giving on April 30, 2014. The intention of the endowment is to support a pharmacy student with the preference of it assisting a female student from Indiana who has overcome adversity.
(L to R) Carolyn Weist, Sally Weist, Betty Bell, Dr. Rodolfo Pinal, and Bob Weist during their tour of the Pharmacy building in November 2014. Carolyn and Betty have become close friends and world-wide travel companions.

Betty, who never married and became legally blind about seven years ago, still manages to function almost independently with the aid of various tools and technology developed for the sight-impaired. She doesn’t let that slow her down, though. In November 2014, she traveled from Hawaii back to Purdue country in order to attend the College of Pharmacy Donor Recognition Brunch with the Weists, receiving a round of applause for being the donor who traveled the farthest! Betty decided to accept the brunch invitation so that she could experience firsthand some of the changes at the College since her last visit in 1948. She also decided to arrange visits with three of her girlhood friends still living in the Midwest. “I was awestruck by the modern pharmacy facilities, and impressed with the students, faculty, and administrators with whom I had a chance to visit,” says Betty.

During the campus visit, Dr. Rodolfo Pinal, Associate Professor of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy, gave Betty, Sally, Bob, and Bob’s sister, Carolyn, a tour of his laboratory and explained some of the research that he has been conducting. The group agrees that seeing and hearing about the exciting work being done in Dr. Pinal’s laboratory was a highlight of their tour. Betty knows firsthand the positive benefits of being able to combine multiple drugs into a single dosage form, especially for elderly patients. “I’m absolutely proud of today’s Pharmacy program,” comments Betty.

Betty fondly remembers Dean Glenn Jenkins and Professor George Spratto from her time at Purdue. One of her most cherished memories was Graduation Day. Her proud mother was “dressed to the nines” and both mother and daughter first learned that Betty’s graduation was “with honors”. The College of Pharmacy is certainly proud of Betty, too.
Collin Hanson (BSPS 2014) Named Fulbright Scholar

“I couldn’t have asked for a better undergraduate career that the College of Pharmacy provided me.

All of the opportunities both in and out of class were exceptional, and I fully enjoyed my education at Purdue.“
- Collin Hanson

Collin Hanson completed his BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences, as well as a minor in Spanish, from Purdue University in May 2014. While a dean’s list and semester honors student, he was active in the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, Greek InterVarsity, Caduceus Club, Philharmonic Orchestra, Swim Club, and the Triathlon Club on campus. His hobbies include involvement in church, playing the violin, listening to music, learning about and participating in other cultures, and staying active. Collin was selected as a William Fulbright Scholar and is currently working in Ecuador. Upon his return to the U.S. in August of 2015, Collin will begin his medical studies at the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science with the hopes of pursuing a future career in pediatrics.

Briefly describe your experience thus far as a Fulbright Scholar. What are you doing during this time? I have really enjoyed my time here in Ecuador. My main responsibilities consist of my English Teaching Assistant (ETA) position at la Universidad Laica Vicente Rocafuerte in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Each week I give English instruction to eight different classes and levels of students. Lessons range from grammar exercises to video clip discussions, skit and role-play activities, and much more.
Outside of the classroom I have really enjoyed immersing myself in Ecuadorian culture. Some of my weekly activities involve going to various meetings at different universities for Campus Crusade, a university Christian organization. I also found a church to be involved in and often play violin at Sunday services. I have done a lot of interpreting for various groups that travel from the U.S. to Ecuador as well as gone on some service trips to hospitals and local communities. I am excited to participate in medical brigades with Timmy Global Health as a medical interpreter for the month of March. This will be my secondary project where I will investigate the differences in health care in the three principal regions of Ecuador—the Amazon, the Coast, and the Highlands.

Has your experience changed any of your perspectives (healthcare, worldview), and if so, how? This experience has definitely increased my understanding of cultural diversity and expanded my world view. I have enjoyed living a life that is more relaxed than our fast-paced American lifestyle. I have learned to take time to appreciate the little things in life, and not be so rushed to try to fit too many things in one day. Culturally, there is just so much to learn about our international friends. I feel like I have only scratched the surface on this profound, deep journey. I am looking forward to every moment left to experience.

What does it mean to you to be named a Fulbright Scholar? It is a true honor to participate in the Fulbright program. More than anything, I have enjoyed the opportunity to be a cultural ambassador between the U.S. and Ecuador. I hope I have been able to inspire an attitude of diplomacy between two cultures while encouraging international cooperation and multiculturalism. The Fulbright program will allow me to embrace the cultural complexities the world has to offer, while helping others to do the same.
ACS Symposium Honors Dr. Richard Gibbs (1961-2014)

The Division of Medicinal Chemistry of the American Chemical Society (ACS) hosted a “Symposium in Honor of Richard Gibbs” during the American Chemical Society National Meeting in Denver, Colorado, on March 24, 2015. Approximately 100 members of the ACS were in attendance.

The symposium was organized by Professors Brian Blagg and Thomas Prisinzano, both of the University of Kansas. Dr. Richard Gibbs, who served as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in November, 2013, and sadly lost his battle to the disease on February 10, 2014. The symposium honored Dr. Gibb’s lifetime work on the design and synthesis of anticancer agents, and for research probing the post-translational modifications of GTPases that are involved in cancer cell signaling. He served as an academic councilor to the Division of Medicinal Chemistry of the ACS from 2008-2013.

Dr. Mark Cushman, Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, was invited as one of five speakers at the symposium where he discussed “Targeting indenoisoquinoline topoisomerase I inhibitors to cancer cells” in honor of his late colleague. He also highlighted some of Dr. Gibbs’ major scientific accomplishments on the development of inhibitors of prenylation of Ras-GTPases and inhibitors of isoprenylcysteine carboxyl methyltransferase.
The 2014 BoileRx Golf Classic 1st Place Team (L to R) Mike Sievers (BS 1979), Mike Ankenbruck (BS 1984), Andy Ault, and Ray Calisto (BS 2001)

19th Annual BoileRx Golf Classic

The big day is almost here! Join us on June 5, 2015, at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex.

Additional information can be found here. Please contact Dana Neary, Manager of Alumni Relations and Special Events, with questions at nearyd@purdue.edu or (765) 494-2632.