

# La Pharmacie en Louisiane

## School of Pharmacy's Alumni Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2016

### IN THIS ISSUE

Alumni Spotlight.....	1
Dean's Message.....	2
LPA Board of Directors .....	4
APhA's Director of Student	
Development Visits Monroe.....	4
Students Awarded Grants .....	5
"Back to School" Health Fair.....	5
Briski Awarded \$1.7M Grant.....	6
SOP Receives Estate Gift.....	7
Pharmacists Volunteer During Flood.....	8
Pharmacists Get the Job Done.....	9
Class of 2020 .....	9
Giving Back to the Community.....	10
Organization Updates.....	12
Mark Your Calendar.....	14
SOP Career Fair.....	15
LSHP Mid-Year Meeting.....	15
Homecoming 2016.....	16
News & Notes.....	18
Support Your School of Pharmacy.....	19
Join the SOP Alumni Chapter.....	19

## ALUMNI

### SPOTLIGHT

#### GRADUATE'S DOUBLE LIFE PUTS "JOY IN HER SOLES"

New Orleans native, Destiney Robinson Moore, seems to have found the perfect niche for two important passions to fit into her everyday life. As a pharmacist, she gets to work in the healthcare field, using her love for math and science to help others medically. When she isn't working as a medical professional, she helps others look good by offering fashion and beauty advice through her blog "Joy in my Soles."

This pharmacist fashionista always knew she wanted to do something in the medical field so, after being intrigued by the diversity a pharmacy career offered and getting firsthand knowledge from a family friend, decided to pursue a pharmacy degree. She applied to three different pharmacy schools but chose ULM because of its reputation and it was far enough away from home to allow her to grow and develop as an independent, young adult. Destiney made the most of her time at ULM. She was a member of the Pre-Pharmacy Organization, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Lambda Sigma, APhA-ASP, LSHP, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Secretary of Campus Activities Board (CAB,) and Treasurer of



Destiney Robinson Moore (Pharm.D. '10)



Cont. Page 3

# DEAN'S MESSAGE



*Benny L. Blaylock, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Health and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences*

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to those of you who generously support the ULM School of Pharmacy with both your time and talents. We are once again faced with the potential for state funding reductions, making your support a critical part of our operation. We continue to attract the “best and brightest” to our pharmacy program, with an incoming P1 class of 86 for Fall, 2016. Approximately 70% of our graduates remain in Louisiana as retail and/or hospital pharmacists. We continue to do this despite the ongoing challenges in state funding.

We have welcomed three new faculty members to the School of Pharmacy this academic year. Drs. Georgios Matthaiolampakis joined the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences while Drs. Beth Cady and Kristi Lowery have joined the Department of Clinical Sciences.



The University of Louisiana Monroe  
School of Pharmacy  
1800 Bienville Avenue  
Monroe, Louisiana 71201  
Phone: (318) 342-1600

## GRADUATE'S DOUBLE LIFE PUTS "JOY IN HER SOLES" (continued from page 1)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her free time on campus was usually spent hanging with her sorority sisters or participating in programs or activities put on by the school or her sorority. She was a ULM student during many historical events, both good and bad. She saw NLU's Indians become ULM's Warhawks, the moving of ULM's School of Pharmacy from Sugar Hall to the off-campus site on Bienville Drive, and the implosion of Olin Hall. Her worst memory of her time at ULM is Hurricane Katrina, which hit Louisiana during her first semester of pharmacy school. Destiney's New Orleans family was displaced for a month so they stayed with her in Monroe, making it tough to concentrate on school.

Destiney is not the only person from her family who attended ULM. Her cousin Kenneth Averette attended ULM from 2007-2010. Kenneth played on ULM's basketball team and graduated with a degree in Political Science, minoring in Sociology. Destiney's husband, Aaron Moore, also attended ULM from 2006-2010, where he played football and earned a degree in Communication.

Destiney received her Pharm.D. in 2010 and moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, where she was a staff pharmacist for Rite Aid in Ocean Springs for two and a half years. While working for Rite Aid, she received a Customer Service Star award and was recognized for exhibiting outstanding customer service. She also received a RAPSTAR award for exceptional demonstration of Rite Aid's core values and working well with others.

Upon leaving Mississippi, Destiney moved to Dallas, Texas, where she worked in compounding and then as a screening pharmacist for Humana. She received an award for Perfect Quality, being recognized for maintaining zero Class 1 errors for the year. She worked for Humana for about a year and a half then accepted a position as a floating pharmacist with Metrocare Services, which services the mental health community in the Dallas area.

Destiney and her husband recently moved to Chicago, Illinois, where her free time is spent jogging/walking with her husband, shopping, and trying out new restaurants. She is currently studying for the Illinois MPJE, which will be her fourth license. She also loves reading, blogging, and learning new things. Destiney jokes about learning to knit from a pharmacist while working as a student in a pharmacy. Destiney launched her blog, "Joy in My Soles



(JIMS), several months ago. It is a personal sneaker style, beauty, and inspiration blog. She says her aim for JIMS is to help women look and feel their best, by providing fashion tips and outfit inspiration that mainly centers around styling sneakers, as well as makeup tips for beginners.

Destiney said "I started Joy In My Soles to express the creative part of me. Working in pharmacy can be very routine and leave very little room for creativity. Blogging has helped me create an outlet for expressing my love for fashion. In pharmacy, my day is pretty constant, sometimes chaotic, but yet still constant. I'm typically doing the same thing the same way everyday and there are rules and laws that I must abide by. With blogging, I create the rules. It's a clear canvas that I get to paint on with whatever colors I choose. From designing my website to each blog post, it's my own personal touch. I've often felt like I was living a double life. From taking pictures on the weekend with a photographer as though I were a model to filling prescriptions Monday through Friday as a pharmacist. It's two different worlds, but I love it!"

Note: Be sure to check out Destiney's blog "Joy in My Soles" at [www.joymysoles.com](http://www.joymysoles.com).

# SOP GRADS APPOINTED TO LPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Louisiana Pharmacists Association installed its 2016-2017 Board of Directors, Regional directors and Directors-at-Large during the 134th Annual Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Fifteen of the members graduated from the ULM School of Pharmacy and one a former Dean of the School.

## Elected to the 2016-17 Board of Directors are:

President – Bill Kirchain, PharmD, Xavier University College of Pharmacy, New Orleans, LA;  
Immediate Past President – **Errol Duplantis (BS '94)**, RPh, Lloyd's Remedies, Gray, LA;  
President-Elect – **Julie W. Breithaupt (BS '94)**, PharmD, MBA, Red River Pharmacy, Alexandria, LA;  
Treasurer – **Kenny Wilson (BS '84)**, RPh, Don's Pharmasave, Marksville, LA;  
Parliamentarian – Malcolm Broussard, RPh, LA Board of Pharmacy, Baton Rouge, LA;

## Regional Directors for 2016-17 are:

Bayou Region – **Jason Bergeron (BS '94)**, PharmD, Houma.  
Capital Region – **J. Scott Black (BS 92)**, RPh, Gulfcoast Pharmaceutical Specialty, Prairieville.  
Central Region – **Kimberly Wixson (BS 95)**, RPh, Cottonport Corner Drug, LLC, Cottonport.  
Northeast Region – **Ben Orlando (BS 77)**, RPh, Brookshire's Pharmacy, Monroe.  
Orleans Region – LaKeisha Williams, PharmD, Xavier University College of Pharmacy, New Orleans.  
Pontchartrain Region – Steve Ritter, RPh, Rite Aid #7268, Harahan.  
Red River Region – **Leah Snyder (PharmD '11)**, PharmD, Montgomery Pharmacy, Montgomery.  
Southwest Region – **Aurdie Bellard (BS 88)**, RPh, Bellard's Family Pharmacy, Eunice.

## Directors-at-Large for 2016-17 are:

**Bill Bourn, PhD, Retired Dean and Professor of ULM School of Pharmacy**, Monroe.  
**Maurice Gold (BS '63)**, RPh, Retired, Lake Charles.  
**Robert Scelfo (BS '75)**, RPh, Comprehensive Pharmacy Services, Mandeville.  
**Christie Soileau (BS '97)**, RPh, Soileau's Pharmacy, New Iberia.  
**Anthony Walker (BS '98)**, PharmD, University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Pharmacy, Monroe.  
**Beverly Walker (BS '94)**, PharmD, University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Pharmacy, Monroe.  
Pharmacy Technician Representative for 2016-17 is:  
**Dana Fontenot**, CPhT, Evangeline Drug Store, Ville Platte.

## APHA'S DIRECTOR OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT VISITS MONROE

APhA-ASP's Director of Student Development, Crystal Atwell, visited the ULM School of Pharmacy and shared her APhA story during the second general meeting! What a special way to celebrate American Pharmacist Month!

#TogetherWeCan #APhA #APhM — with Natalie Kern, Victoria Burleigh, Dr. Anthony L. Walker, Dr. Stephen Hill, Chelsie Nicole Morein, Crystal Atwell, Emma Braddock and Crystal Hong.



# TWO SOP STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS

Two University of Louisiana Monroe pharmacy students were recently awarded grants by EPIC Pharmacies, Inc., a national network of over 1,400 independently owned pharmacies.

The 2016 Student Grant Awards were awarded to outstanding students who plan to practice in an independent pharmacy after graduation. Twelve students nationwide were awarded in total, including brother and sister Elee and Torrence Barber, both students in ULM's School of Pharmacy.

Elee Barber was awarded a \$1,000 grant for a year period that she plans to use for tuition during pharmacy school.

"I have received this grant for the last three years," Barber said. "This grant has helped me fund my education so that I am able to graduate with a doctorate of pharmacy degree."

Torrence Barber has received the grant for the first time. He was also awarded a \$1,000

grant for a year period that he plans to use for tuition.

"I am excited to receive this grant so that I may focus on my journey to become a doctor of pharmacy," Barber said.

EPIC Pharmacies Chief Executive Officer, Jay Romero, R.Ph., said the company is excited to support the next generation of independent pharmacists.

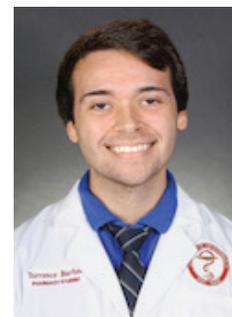
"In recognizing these pharmacy students, EPIC Pharmacies is acknowledging their dedication to independent pharmacy, patient care, and their community," Romero said.

Applications for the 2017 program will be available on January 1, 2017.

To learn more about the EPIC Pharmacies Inc. and the application process, visit [epicrx.com](http://epicrx.com).



*Elee Barber,  
2018 Pharm.D. Candidate*



*Torrence Barber,  
2020 Pharm.D. Candidate*

<http://www.ulm.edu/news/2016/1220-two-ulm-pharmacy-students-awarded-prestigious-grants.html>

## UHC "BACK TO SCHOOL" HEALTH FAIR



The Family Medicine Clinic at University Health Conway in Monroe held a free medical screening on August 11th to ensure area children were up to date on all required immunizations prior to the beginning of the school year. Along with the screenings, the Ouachita Parish Coroner's Office lent a helping hand by donating school supplies to families in need. Supplies included backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils, and various other school products to ensure the families participating in the immunization event had what they needed when school resumes. Families attending the Back to School fair received copies of children's immunization records for school, and the staff determined if any other immunizations were needed which could then be given on site.

The University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Pharmacy students Trang-Dai Nguyen, Hannah Holbrook, and Trista LeBeouf were present at the event to provide additional information about immunizations and address any parental concerns. The students handed out information, answered questions, and awarded school supplies or candy to those families that stopped by the booth. Specific information was provided about the HPV vaccine and its vital role in reducing genital warts and certain types of cancer later in life as well as facts about the flu vaccine and the importance of yearly vaccination.

# BRISKI AWARDED \$1.7 MILLION NIH GRANT TO STUDY DIABETES

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded University of Louisiana Monroe professor Dr. Karen Briski a five-year \$1.7 million grant that may one day lead to a life-changing treatment of Type-1 diabetes.

This research project grant (R01) is the largest single grant awarded to a faculty member in the history of ULM.

“The competition for federal research dollars is fierce, with award rates in the 10 to 30% range. R01 funding from NIH is one of the more competitive instruments, so this award signals how well-respected scientists view the quality of Dr. Briski’s previous research and the importance of the discoveries anticipated from her laboratory’s work,” said Dr. Eric Pani, ULM’s VP of Academic Affairs.

Briski’s research will focus on a completely novel way of protecting nerve cells from injury due to hypoglycemia by investigating how estrogen can increase energy stored in the brain.

Hypoglycemia is a recurring side effect of strict insulin therapy to stabilize blood glucose (sugar) levels in Type-1 diabetes patients. It poses a significant risk for nerve cell damage and neurological dysfunction.

Fear of hypoglycemia can deter diabetic patients from rigorous management of glucose, which can result in overly-high blood sugar, or hyperglycemia. In the long-term, repeated hyperglycemia can lead to blindness, skin infections, organ damage and nerve damage in the feet and hands. Studies have shown that the stress and anxiety of maintaining proper

glucose levels can lower a patient’s quality of life. But Briski hopes to improve the quality of life of these patients by reducing harmful effects of hypoglycemia.

“Diabetic patients are found in every community. Hypoglycemia is an unavoidable aspect of their daily lives. If our outcomes here can lead us on the road to developing a therapeutic strategy whereby their brain is less vulnerable to injury and damage during hypoglycemic episodes, then it is going to have a major benefit to their quality of life,” Briski said.

Briski’s studies suggest that estrogen plays a beneficial role in increasing the amount of glycogen (stored glucose) in the brain and facilitating its release during episodes of hypoglycemia.

Estrogen is best known as a major sex hormone in women but it is also present in males at lower levels. However, it also has other uses in the body. Briski believes that estrogen releases stored glucose in specific regions of the brain, so she plans to target her research to these areas.

Briski credits this innovative approach to the “unparalleled level of resolution” that the School of Pharmacy has brought to this field of research by being able to dissect individual nerve cells and measure proteins produced by single populations of these cells.

This level of “microdissection” is accomplished through the use of state-of-the-art laser catapult technology that ULM president Dr. Nick J. Bruno helped acquire several years ago.

“Dr. Bruno was instrumental in procuring as part of my startup what is called the Zeiss Laser Catapult Microdissection instrument as well as a confocal microscope. Both are two state-of-the-art instruments and much of my scholarly and grantsmanship success over the last couple years has been the use of these instruments,” said Briski.



Briski

Over the next five years, Briski will be joined by four other ULM researchers, who served as co-investigators on the grant: Dr. Paul Sylvester, Dr. Seetharama Jois, Dr. Christopher Gissendanner, and Dr. Sami Nazzal.



Pani

## About the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Founded in 1887, the National Institutes of Health today is one of the world’s foremost medical research centers, and the Federal focal point for medical research in the United States. The NIH, comprising 27 separate Institutes and Centers, is one of eight health agencies of the Public Health Service which, in turn, is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<http://www.ulm.edu/news/2016/927-ulm-pharmacy-researcher-awarded-1-7-million-nih-grant>

# SOP RECEIVES \$600,000 ESTATE GIFT

The University of Louisiana Monroe School of Pharmacy is the recipient of a \$600,000 estate gift from Mildred Maurer, the school announced at a press conference Friday.



Left to right: Blaylock, Sylvester, Wilson

Monroe resident Mildred Maurer passed away in 2014 at the age of 97. She was a former elementary school teacher and Regional Director of the northeast Louisiana Restaurant Association.

In her will, Maurer divided her estate among several entities, including the ULM School of Pharmacy. The funds will go toward the establishment of the Mark and Mildred Maurer Cancer Research Enhancement Fund, the Mark and Mildred Maurer Lecture Series, and the Mark and Mildred Cancer Research Lab.

Maurer was a breast cancer survivor and had developed a keen interest in the breast cancer research of Dr. Paul Sylvester, the B. J. Robison/Pfizer Endowed Professor of Pharmacology at ULM, whom she met 10 years ago at an event hosted at the School of Pharmacy.

"Mildred became such a very dear and close friend of mine. I took her out to lunch several times, and I was always amazed at how many people she knew. She would always introduce me to new people. She truly was a remarkable woman," said Sylvester.

When Sylvester learned that Maurer left portions of her estate to him for his research efforts, he was surprised.

"The donation was such a great surprise. I knew she

was going to donate to the School of Pharmacy, but I didn't know she was going to donate it to my research. When I learned about her wishes, I wanted to make this about her and not about me. I wanted to make something more permanent out of this to honor her and her husband's legacy, so we established a lecture series, lab, and research fund all in honor of Mark and Mildred Maurer," Sylvester said.

Dr. Wilson Campbell, Mildred Maurer's neighbor, former ULM professor and department head for Kinesiology, was named the trustee of the Mildred Summers Maurer Testamentary Trust. This trust was created solely for the purpose of supporting the ULM School of Pharmacy.

"She loved the Monroe community and in particular she loved ULM. I think I can say with confidence that, within the last few years of her life, one of the most exciting times for her was coming onto the ULM campus and attending many of the functions here that the university puts on...She wanted to give a gift that would keep on giving long after she was gone and I think that she has done that so well in her gift here to ULM," said Campbell.

Dr. Benny Blaylock, Dean of the ULM School of Pharmacy, also expressed his appreciation for the generosity of the Maurer estate, noting that it is donations like this that keep higher education moving forward.

"This estate gift facilitates the high quality cancer research being conducted by Dr. Sylvester in the School of Pharmacy. Gifts such as this provide monetary support for talented researchers, graduate students, equipment and supplies necessary to perform research at a level that results in breakthroughs in new and/or improved cancer treatments. The ULM School of Pharmacy is very grateful for this most generous gift," said Blaylock.

In addition to her gift to ULM, Maurer also donated nearly \$200,000 to the Shriners and \$200,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Sylvester's current research analyzes Vitamin E compounds and their potential for preventing and/or reducing the risk of breast cancer in women.

<http://www.ulm.edu/news/2016/114-ulm-school-of-pharmacy-receives-600000-estate-gift>.

# HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS VOLUNTEER AT SHELTER FOR LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS

By: Amy k. Erickson

Hospital pharmacist Kristin Howell (PharmD '16), was supposed to go to a class to learn about electrocardiograms, but catastrophic flooding in Louisiana caused by heavy August rains turned an ordinary day into an extraordinary opportunity to help patients in an emergency shelter housed in a movie studio.

## 'Hundreds and hundreds' of patients

"It was amazing to be part of a team of volunteer doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals who were all working on the fly to triage and treat patients," said Howell, a postgraduate year 1 pharmacy resident at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, LA.

The shelter where Howell and her colleagues, Danielle Thomas, PharmD, and Laura Carrell, PharmD, volunteered was one of three shelters Our Lady of the Lake set up in the large warehouses of the Celtic Movie Studios to house and treat flood victims. "They even had one warehouse totally devoted to people with animals so they could stay with their dogs or cats," said Howell in an interview with Pharmacy Today.

Howell volunteered at the shelter's emergency medical clinic from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for 2 days, during which she saw "hundreds and hundreds" of patients. During the overnight hours, emergency medical services personnel staffed the shelter's clinic. "They didn't dispense any medications unless it was an emergency," explained

Howell.

## Pharmacist interventions

Patients who came to the emergency clinic were first seen by volunteer nurses who triaged patients and made notes on index cards about their conditions and medications. Patients were then seen by a physician or pharmacist based on the level of care needed. "Many of the patients we saw needed serious medication therapy, such as a blood pressure medication or a diabetes medication," explained Howell.

If a patient didn't know their medication information, Howell and her colleagues tried to call the patient's local community pharmacist to verify the dose and other medication details. However, it was often difficult to get through because the cell phone towers were damaged by the flooding.

If the patient's pharmacist couldn't be contacted, Howell was allowed to dispense medications under guidance from the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The agency issued a statement that allowed licensed pharmacists in the state to dispense a one-time emergency prescription of up to a 30-day supply of a prescribed medication if the patient met certain criteria.

Howell and the team saw many patients with hypertension, diabetes, and psychological disorders. The group also dispensed antibiotics to treat cellulitis infections. "People hurt their legs or feet and then had to walk through dirty flood water,

and the open wounds got infected," said Howell. "We gave them a full course of antibiotics because we wanted to make sure they were treated before they were transported to a different area."

## Collaboration

Brittany Wagner, DO, a third-year pediatric resident, also volunteered at the emergency clinic at the Celtic Movie Studios shelter. She spent most of her time providing care to children. "There were several patients with type 1 diabetes who required frequent [checks] and insulin dosing," Wagner told Today. Numerous children also had lacerations, abrasions, and abscesses that required attention.

"The emergency clinic was blessed to have the pharmacists at hand to discuss various medications and substitutes for home medications that were lost in the flood. The pharmacists were amazing," Wagner added.

The multidisciplinary care team also coordinated care among the studio's different warehouses. "If a patient in need of medical attention was in another warehouse and they couldn't get to the emergency medical clinic, we sent out a little medical team to assess the patients and report to us what they think they need," said Howell. "We worked together to come up with a good medication plan, and everyone valued having the pharmacists there."

Amy K. Erickson, MA, Senior Editor Pharmacy Today, October 2016, Volume 22, Issue 10, Page 12, © 2016 American Pharmacists Association. Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

# PHARMACISTS GET THE JOB DONE DURING HISTORIC FLOODING

Swamped by historic flooding, most of Louisiana has received at least a foot of rain since Friday (August 12, 2016) with some areas receiving as much as 30 inches, according to the NWS. And the resulting impact from some of the worst flooding to ever hit the state has been devastating — 13 dead, 8,400 people in shelters, 40,000 homes damaged, and 30,000 people rescued.

Armed with rain boots and a smile, Jami Jenkins (PharmD '16) at a chain drug store in Crowley, Louisiana shares how Louisiana pharmacists are rising to the occasion to ensure community members receive the medications and patient care services they need during this tragedy...

"Almost every patient I've come into contact with over the last few days is an evacuee from the floods or is picking up prescriptions for someone who is trapped in their home. We haven't been able to receive our

drug orders because the trucks can't pass through the floodwaters. The emergency prescription dispensing rule has been a lifesaver, because we are able to make sure patients are going home with their necessary medications. It's truly making a difference. So many people are stranded and in need. At times, our pharmacy has just been a GPS system, helping patients navigate around road closures to us safely or helping them find a pharmacy they can reach and transferring their prescriptions for them. Many patients have been unable to fill prescriptions at their primary pharmacy due to closures resulting from the flooding. The emergency prescription dispensing rule has been critical in ensuring that patients are able to get the medicine they need. We often call ourselves the "most accessible healthcare professionals," but this experience has truly allowed me to see the impact that accessibility has



Jami Stelly Jenkins, PharmD '16

on our patients' lives. These last few days at work have been an extremely humbling and rewarding experience, an experience that I won't soon forget."

From: <https://www.facebook.com/APhAPharmacists/>

## SOP WELCOMES CLASS OF 2020

On August 19, 2016, the ULM School of Pharmacy welcomed its newest group of professional pharmacy students during the P1 White Coat Ceremony held at Brown

Auditorium. The event, sponsored by Walgreen's Pharmacy, signifies the beginning of the students' pharmacy school careers in the presence of SOP faculty, staff, other

students, family and friends. The incoming Class of 2020 consists of 86 students.



# SOP STUDENTS AND FACULTY GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



## *KOMEN N.E.L.A. RACE FOR THE CURE*

On Saturday, September 17, 2016, students, faculty and staff of the ULM School of Pharmacy showed up for the Komen Northeast Louisiana Race for the Cure® at Forsythe Park. In addition to those participating in the race, there were also several School of Pharmacy student organizations set up to provide information and health screenings.



## *POOR MAN'S SUPPER*

On September 21, 2017, a group of our students made soup for the "Poor Man's Supper" fundraiser at Jesus the Good Shepherd.



## *BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB*

The ULM SOP Chapter of SNPhA had the opportunity to work with over 100 children at the Boys and Girls Club on September 23, 2016. Their Chronic Kidney Disease, Diabetes, Operation Immunization and Remember the Ribbon Initiatives were able to interact with the children to discuss a wide range of topics including healthy hygiene, how germs spread, diabetes, healthy eating, chronic kidney awareness, exercising, sex ed & HIV prevention. Our members enjoyed performing educational activities along with connecting with the children in the community.



## *POWER TO END STROKE INITIATIVE*

September 30th, 2016, ULM SNPhA's Power to End Stroke Initiative helped serve food, clean up and provided blood pressure screenings and information on how to "Spot A Stroke F.A.S.T." at Grace Place Ministries Soup Kitchen. We were able to interact with many people in the community and give vital information on blood pressure readings!

# SOP STUDENTS AND FACULTY GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

## *DR. WALKER TEACHES CPR*

Dr. Anthony Walker taught American Heart Association's new Family and Friends CPR class to patrons at Anna Meyer Branch Library on Thursday, October 27, 2016. This course teaches participants how to save lives by delivering compressions-only CPR and using an automated external defibrillator (AED). This course is not for certification, but used a lot at schools, churches, and for the lay public.



## *PRESCRIPTION "DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY"*

On October 29, 2016, the ULM Chapter of APhA-ASP partnered with the Children's Coalition to help the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This program aims to get harmful substances out of the hands of children and adults that could abuse them.

## *GOCARE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL*

Some students from APhA and SNPhA helped out with GOCare's candlelight vigil in honor of world AIDS day. A total of 718 candles were lit in remembrance of the people who have died since the 1980s due to AIDS related illnesses. Under 10 of these candles were from this year alone, we hope that soon this number can be reduced to zero!



## *ROBINSON ELEMENTARY*

On November 11, 2016, ULM SNPhA went to Robinson Elementary to discuss diabetes and the importance of having a healthy diet and exercising with Ms. Wallace's 2nd grade class! Members enjoyed interacting with the students.



# ORGANIZATION UPDATES

## *AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION (APHA-ASP)*

Over the past semester, APhA-ASP has been busy educating patients within and around the community. The chapter has held numerous events such as the Anna Meyer Library health fair, National Prescription Take-Back Day, and a free flu clinic for ULM students. Along with our patient care events and community service, the chapter had 36 members travel to Little Rock, AR for Region 6 Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM) in November. The chapter won two regional awards for 2015-2016 Operation Immunization and OTC Medicine Safety. Lac Nguyen was also elected to serve as MRM-Coordinator for the 2017 Region 6 MRM. We know she will represent our chapter well.

Here are a few updates from three of our operations:

### **Operation Diabetes**

Over the past month of November, Operation Diabetes posted tips for healthy snacks every Tuesday to our chapter Facebook page. Additionally, two Operation Diabetes co-chairs, Anri Lemoine and Morgan

Johnson, appeared on Good Morning ArkLaMiss to educate the community about diabetes and showed how to properly test blood glucose with the help of the news anchor. The interview can be viewed

here: <http://www.knoe.com/content/news/Interview-National-Diabetes-Awareness-Month-401951345.html>.

### **Generation Rx**

This year, Generation Rx collaborated with several other local organizations in helping host the first National Prescription Take-Back Day for the NELA area with drop

off locations in Farmerville, West Monroe, Monroe, and Bastrop. The event was very successful in collecting over 223 pounds of medication. Students were also able

to educate patients on proper drug storage and disposal. Generation Rx is excited to help host another Drug Take Back Day in the spring.

### **Operation Immunization**

APhA-ASP hosted their first flu clinic for ULM students! Through donations provided by the Student Enhancement Activity Fee and the help of fourth year students, Operation Immunization was able to provide 70 students with a flu vaccine completely free of charge. This is the first time our student pharmacists were able to show

students on main campus another side of pharmacists and providing immunizations in addition to education. Operation Immunization hopes to provide another 30 vaccinations at the beginning of the spring semester to reach their goal of 100 free flu vaccinations for ULM students. A local news station, KTVE, captured

our event and shared it with the local community as well. You can watch the news spotlight here: <http://www.myarklamiss.com/news/local-news/ulm-school-of-pharmacy-offers-free-flu-shots#.WC01C8VdaZI.facebook>.

During the month of October, our chapter participated in a Student Outreach Visit and hosted Dr. Crystal Atwell, PharmD, APhA Director of Student Development. She provided members with an insight of APhA and all the opportunities it has to offer and what she gained as a student member. She also met with several officers on the Board of Directors to discuss new ideas and answered any questions officers had in hopes of strengthening our chapter even more.

Overall, APhA-ASP had a fantastic semester and school year. We can't wait to see what next semester has in store for us as we continue to educate patients and advocate for this wonderful profession. Like our Facebook page, ULM School of Pharmacy APhA-ASP Chapter, for regular updates on what we are up to!

# ORGANIZATION UPDATES

## *CHRISTIAN PHARMACISTS FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (CPFI)*

This semester CPFI increased our community service outreach and events. In September, we collected donations for the flood victims in South Louisiana. In the month of October, we held our first annual Harvest Festival

at Harvest Assembly Church in West Monroe. Harvest Assembly served as an event for children in the community to play carnival games and win candy as opposed to Trick-Or-Treating. In November, we partnered with Kappa Epsilon to

participate in Operation Christmas Child where we were able to collect 24 boxes that will be sent overseas to less fortunate children for Christmas. Next semester, we hope to increase fellowship and community service!

## *STUDENT NATIONAL PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION (SNPHA)*

Our national motto this year is “We Stand Together. One Mission. No Barriers.” It has been our chapter’s mission to uphold this motto. This semester, our SNPhA chapter has taken a completely new approach on service and education in our community. We have participated in several community service projects, such as Grace Place Soup Kitchen where we educated the community on the power to end stroke and provided free blood pressure screenings, we participated in the Omicron Iota Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated’s Annual Health Fair, where we provided the community with free blood pressure screenings and information about how a healthy diet and exercise can decrease their risk for diabetes, and we also participated in Emily P. Robinson Community Center’s Family Day back to school drive

where we packed and provided over 300 students with school supplies and information about diabetes and a healthy diet including healthy snacks options. We have also hosted a flu clinic at Walgreens of West Monroe, provided HIV education at Monroe’s Corner Bar, as well as held HIV workshop series on ULM’s main campus. We were also able to attend St. Francis Medical Center to provide fruit and diabetes education to promote Diabetes Awareness. In addition, we have also taken a very proactive stand on children’s education stressing the prevention of diabetes and chronic kidney disease, the importance of immunizations, and HIV prevention for young adults by hosting an outreach at the Boys and Girls Club and Ouachita Parish High School. To complete the semester, our Remember the Ribbon Initiative celebrated



World AID’s Day by participating in the GoCare candlelight vigil and providing red ribbons to help raise awareness. As the year progresses, we will continue to uphold our motto by standing together to move this organization forward and provide education and service to the underserved community with no barriers.

# ORGANIZATION

## UPDATES

### *KAPPA EPSILON (KE)*

Kappa Epsilon invited incoming P1 students, family, and friends to Family Day in August. KE members gave building tours, provided refreshments, and partnered with APhA to show off our patient care projects.

In September and October, KE promoted Ovarian and Breast Cancer Awareness in our community. In September, participated in the Northeast Louisiana Race for the Cure. KE girls raced, cheered racers on, provided drinks and snacks, as well as breast cancer education. In

October, KE held a Breast Cancer Awareness Event at Brookshire's Pharmacy of Monroe.

KE partnered with Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International to hold an Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive open to the whole school. Together, we donated 24 boxes to children in need.

Kappa Epsilon initiated 30 new members in November. KE was so excited to welcome these awesome new girls into our fraternity! The new members are: Ellen Albritton,

Taylor Ashworth, Brooke Barringer, Kristen Baudoin, Teresa Bridges, Katie Bruce, Allison Burney, Kelly Caulk, Ellen Cook, Olivia Dumestre, Christine Foto, Lysie Fulkerson, Taylor Goree, Emily Harvey, Amanda Hikes, Victoria Hutson, Kelsey Johns, Lindsay Kravchuk, Kolleen McWilliams, Cally Miller, Trelles Mitchell, Amanda Mooney, Marissa Murphy, Alexis Parham, Katie Pizzolato, Carleigh Roberts, Frankie Tarantino, Abby Thibodeaux, Kristyn Turner, and Cassidy Voinche.

### *RHO CHI*

The Beta Chi Chapter of the Rho Chi Society has continued its service to the ULM School of Pharmacy by offering exam reviews and quizzes to P1 students in Pathophysiology and Drug Action. The P1 students were extremely

appreciative of our efforts, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue on their journey to receive their Pharm.D.! We also had a successful Fall fundraiser, in which we sold ULM School of Pharmacy license plates. We are looking

forward to our Annual Bingo Night fundraiser in the near future and want to thank all students, faculty, and staff for another great Fall semester!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

03/12/17: Sun Belt Basketball Championship  
03/16/17: 5th District Pharmaceutical Assc. Meeting  
04/10/17: SOP Legislative Day / Baton Rouge  
04/13/17: PCOA Exam  
04/20/17: 5th District Pharmaceutical Assc. Meeting  
04/20/17: ULM "Wine Over Water"  
04/28/17: SOP Spring Career Fair Interview Day  
04/28/17: Rx Rally  
05/12/17: School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony  
05/13/17: ULM Commencement

# SOP HOLDS 2016 CAREER FAIR



Our 2016 Pharm.D. Career Fair took place on October 27. We had over 50 company representatives, from over 20 companies, attend this event to meet our future pharmacists. Our Spring Interview Day will be held on Friday, April 28, 2017.

# LSHP MID-YEAR MEETING SHREVEPORT, LA



# HOMECOMING 2016



# HOMECOMING 2016



ULM SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

# NEWS & NOTES

Whitney Rogers (Pharm.D. '15) graduated PGY-1 Residency from St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, MS, in June 2016 and accepted a position as a Clinical Pharmacist in Critical Care and Infectious Disease at North Oaks Medical Center in Hammond, Louisiana. She sat for the BPS - Pharmacotherapy exam in October 2016 and is now a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. She and her husband, Matt, recently purchased their first home in Madisonville, LA.

Nichole Witmyer (Pharm.D. 14') moved to the Richmond, VA, area in October, 2016. Her husband took a CFO job at Southside Regional Medical Center in Petersburg, VA, and she accepted a clinical pharmacist job at Chippenham Hospital (part of the CJW Medical Campus-758 licensed beds.) in Richmond, VA. Chippenham is a Level II Trauma Center and serves more ER patients than any other community hospital in Virginia.

Lauren Ragan (Pharm.D. '13) married Carson Kolbenschlag on March 19, 2016. Upon graduation she started working for Brookshire Grocery Company in Bossier City where she is currently on the Medication Therapy Management Clinical Pharmacists team. Lauren and her team were featured in the Texas Pharmacy Associations quarterly magazine, "Texas Pharmacy," for their efforts in becoming a part of the healthcare team by providing MTM in a retail pharmacy setting.

Jennifer Ballard (Pharm.D. '15) completed her PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS, in June 2016. She began working as a clinical pharmacist at the Alexandria VA Healthcare System in Pineville, LA, in July of 2016. In the fall of 2016, she also became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

Condolences to Lance Nickelson (B.P. '92) and Jennifer Nickelson Medon (B.S. '99, Pharm.D. '02) on the loss of their father, John Nickelson, on November 18, 2016.

Congratulations to Dr. Savannah Posey (Pharm.D. '12) and husband on the birth of their son, Abram Kade, born October 28, 2016.

Christine Humphries McKinstry passed away on September 14, 2016. Christine worked in the Dean's Office in the School of Pharmacy for Dr. Kee, then went on to work in Student Affairs with Dr. Philip Medon, before retiring.

Margaret Broussard Song (Pharm.D. '14) Recently obtained her BCPS certification and is working as a clinical pharmacist/PGY-1 Cardiology preceptor at Baptist Health Medical Center in North Little Rock, AR.

Shane Paul Desselle (B.S. '90, Ph.D. '95,) Professor of Pharmacy Administration, will be the first American to keynote the Nordic Social Pharmacy and Health Sciences Conference, taking place in Kuopio, Finland, in June of 2017. He will then be guest lecturing at Universities of Helsinki, Oslo, Tartu (Estonia), Copenhagen, Geneva, Utrecht (Netherlands), and Iceland throughout the month of June.

Congratulations to Kenneth W. Wilson (B.S. '84,) named Pharmacist of the Year 2016 by the Louisiana Pharmacists Association.

*Let us hear from you!*

*Add your news to our next newsletter.*

*Contact: Michelle Massey, School of Pharmacy Student Affairs Coordinator*

*Email: mmassey@ulm.edu; Phone: (318) 342-3804*

## SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The ULM School of Pharmacy is Louisiana's only state-supported pharmacy school. Alumni support and involvement are critical as we plan exciting cutting edge educational experiences for our students and faculty.

Join us, so that through your direct donations we can provide the absolute best pharmacists in the nation. Our current students stand on the foundation of excellence established by you, our alums. Maintenance of that established excellence is not our goal, we want to grow and expand it. With your involvement, we can do that.

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

There are several ways to give to the ULM School of Pharmacy. They include:

### ANNUAL GIVING

- **DUFILHO SOCIETY**  
Annual unrestricted gifts for the dean's priorities
- **DEPARTMENTAL GIFTS**  
Check: payable to  
ULM Foundation/Pharmacy  
(please specify Dufilho Society or specific department)  
mail to  
Dr. Benny L. Blaylock, Dean, 1800 Bienville Dr., Monroe, LA 71201  
Online: [ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni.html](http://ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni.html)

### MAJOR GIFTS

- **NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**  
Endowments such as chairs and professorships, as well as facilities (building, college, classrooms, labs)

### ESTATE GIFTS

- **BEQUESTS**
- **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES**
- **CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Dr. Benny L. Blaylock, Dean  
318.342.1600 • [blaylock@ulm.edu](mailto:blaylock@ulm.edu)

[ulm.edu/pharmacy](http://ulm.edu/pharmacy)

ULM is a member of the UL System • AA/EOE

## ULM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PHARMACY CHAPTER



Did you know that the ULM School of Pharmacy has an alumni chapter?

If you are not already a member, be sure to join. Reconnect with old classmates and network with other SOP graduates.

To become a member:

1. Go to <http://www.ulm.edu/alumni>
2. Select "Alumni Chapters"
3. Select "Pharmacy"

### CHAPTER CONTACT / CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mary Rhea, M.Ed., NCC, LPC-S  
School of Pharmacy  
Director of Student Affairs  
Phone: 318-342-3803  
Email: [caldwell@ulm.edu](mailto:caldwell@ulm.edu)

University of Louisiana Monroe  
School of Pharmacy  
1800 Bienville Drive  
Monroe, LA 71201  
(318) 342-3800

