



LA PHARMACIE EN LOUISIANE

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI NEWS



PHARMILY SPOTLIGHT: KOLBY COOK

Hometown: Bossier City, LA

Education: BSPS in December 2023, PharmD/MBA Candidate of 2026

Work History: Pharmacy Intern at CVS Pharmacy for 2 years; Previous: Services Associate at Office Depot, Biology Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader at ULM, Teller at Commercial Capital Bank

Area of Pharmacy I'm Passionate About: After graduation, my current plan is to pursue a PGY-1 and PGY-2 residency, specializing in Pharmacy Administration and Leadership. With this experience, I want to work my way up to hospital administration, and eventually Director of Pharmacy for a hospital system. I have a huge passion for business along with my even larger interest in patient care, so I feel that this is the best career for me to get the "best of both worlds."

Advice for those looking to a career in pharmacy: As a pharmacy student, my biggest piece of advice is to keep your options open. Don't tie yourself down to one aspect of pharmacy and think you're stuck doing that for the rest of your life. There are so many different facets of pharmacy that you're bound to find something that piques your interest and makes you excited to commit yourself to lifelong learning and enjoy the ride.

Why did I choose ULM College of Pharmacy: The easy answer was that ULM is close to home and was the easy option. However, as I completed my undergraduate coursework at ULM, I fell in love with the down to earth, family dynamic of the university and I'm very happy with my decision.

School Organization Involvement: Pharmacy Council President, Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Treasurer, APhA Operation Immunization Co-Chair, Pharmacy Alumni Liaisons (PALs)

Family: I'm the youngest of two children. A couple years after I was born, my family relocated from West Monroe to Longview, TX, where we spent 7 years before moving back home to be with family in my actual hometown of Delhi, LA. About 3 years ago, my dad's job relocated him once again to Bossier, where we now call home. My older brother has a 2-year-old girl, who has my heart, despite the fact that I'm NOT a kid person.

Hobbies: Honestly, it's hard to have hobbies when I stay as busy as I do. Between school, organizations and work, there's not much time for hobbies. I guess you could say when I'm not doing those things, I enjoy sleeping!

I'm extremely excited to represent my pharmilly as the Pharmacy Council President this coming year, and I have so many plans that I can't wait to put into action!

STAY IN TOUCH



As a graduate of ULM's pharmacy, Ph.D. or Toxicology programs, the College of Pharmacy hopes you will stay in touch. There are many events throughout the year to help you re-connect with friends and former classmates. We hope to see you at one of these events and ask that you will take a moment to share any exciting news for upcoming newsletters. Connect today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11-13, 2024

LPA 2024 Annual Convention
DoubleTree by Hilton
Lafayette, Louisiana

July 12, 2024

ULM College of Pharmacy Alumni
Reception, DoubleTree by Hilton,
Lafayette, Louisiana

[RSVP Here](#)

October 11, 2024

ULM Pharm.D. Career Fair

October 11, 2024

ULM Pharmacy Homecoming Party

October 12, 2024

ULM Pharmacy Homecoming Super
Tailgate and ULM Homecoming Game

December 8-12, 2024

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting & Expo,
New Orleans Morial Convention Center,
New Orleans, Louisiana

June 7, 2025

Dufilho Society "An Evening of Thanks"
Monroe, Louisiana

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW POSITION OR HAVE A JOB TO POST

www.ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni/alumnicareer

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Keep your pharmacy friends and colleagues updated on your latest news. Use the link below to share any news such as new career moves, marriages, births, or condolences.
webservices.ulm.edu/webforms/form/college-pharmacy-alumni-news

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CONTACT US!



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ALUMNI NEWS



Welcome to our Newest Alumni

The Class of 2024 was celebrated on May 10 with a Senior Recognition Ceremony. During the ceremony, they were presented with their long white coats and recognized for their achievements. On May 11, 2024, the class walked across the stage at ULM's Commencement Ceremony to receive their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees. Thirty-one graduates received Latin honors, having achieved GPAs exceeding 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Out of those 31 students, 14 graduated cum laude with a 3.5 – 3.749 GPA; Eleven graduated magna cum laude with a 3.75 – 3.89 GPA; Six graduated summa cum laude with a 3.9 – 4.0 GPA; and 1 graduated with a perfect, 4.0 GPA. Lastly, 16 graduates will be pursuing postgraduate residencies or fellowships across the United States. Congrats to the Class of 2024!

Brian Primeaux (Pharm.D. '14) Promoted to Manager, Clinical Pharmacy Services at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Thomas J. Bergeron (B.S. '75) retired on January 4, 2021.

Emily McGee (Pharm.D. '18) accepted a faculty position with the ULM College of Pharmacy School of Clinical Sciences. She is on the Monroe campus and will practice with the inpatient medicine teams at Ochsner LSU Monroe.

Lauren Belleau (Pharm.D. '22) Celebrated one year as pharmacy director at Byrd Regional Hospital in Leesville, LA.

Kelsey Dearman Beatrous (Pharm.D. '18) and husband, Dr. Britton Beatrous, welcomed a beautiful baby girl on March 26, 2024. Baby girl's grandfather, **Dr. Clyde Dearman (B.S. Pharmacy '88)** is also a ULM graduate.

Harlee Richardson Cox (Pharm.D. '23) and husband, Chance, welcomed a beautiful baby girl on May 7, 2024.

Dustin Becnel (Pharm.D. '20) started a new position as Pharmacy Manager at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Covington, LA.

Ryan Boe-Ashley (Pharm.D. '16) was promoted to Pharmacy Manager at CVS Health.

Carlos Iruja (Pharm.D. '14) was awarded the Excellence in Innovation award by the Texas Pharmacy Association.

Jami Jenkins (Pharm.D. '16) started a new position as Walmart Market Health and Wellness Director .

Stephen Hill (Pharm.D. '08) was awarded Faculty Preceptor of the Year by the ULM College of Pharmacy Class of 2024.

Christina Tubberville McCormick (Pharm.D. '05) was awarded Non-Faculty Preceptor of the Year by the ULM College of Pharmacy Class of 2024.

Blake Pitre (B.S. Pharmacy '62) and **Juanita Pitre** Celebrated 66 years of marriage, June 1, 2024.

Robert Hollier (B.S. Pharmacy '93) and **Nikki Hilton Hollier (B.S. Pharmacy '93)** - After 22 years in business in Breaux Bridge, LA, Rob and Nikki have sold Hollier's Family Pharmacy and retired. The Pharmacy will continue to be a proud independent pharmacy.

Britney Dyer Hill (Pharm.D. '15) was promoted to PIC for Good Day Farm in Natchitoches, LA! They opened May 22, 2024.

Aaron Head (Pharm.D. '17) Was recently recognized as Pharmacy Manager of the Year for Walmart Pharmacy out of region 13. Based out of store #309 in Abbeville, LA. We love working with our citizens and patients of Vermillion Parish.

Chelsie Head (Pharm.D. '18) and husband, **Aaron Head (Pharm.D. '17)** welcomed baby girl, Amelia Anne, in June.

Rufus Romero (B.S. Pharmacy '72) celebrated 50 years of service as a registered pharmacist in Louisiana on September 13, 2023. He received a Gold Certificate from the Board of Pharmacy in honor of this achievement. He has retired as of January 1, 2024 and resides with his wife, Faye, in Acadia Parish.

Logan Murray (Pharm.D. '18) completed his Master of Health Administration at LSU Shreveport.

Savannah Parker (Pharm.D. '19) started a new position as Medical Science Liaison at Sandi.

John Timothy Smith (B.S. Pharmacy '83) Retired from Walgreens in April 2024.

Mike Scott (B.S. Pharmacy '78) Graduated from pharmacy school at NLU in 1978, and completed anesthesia training in Florida in August 1985. For the last 39 years I have been on the anesthesia staff at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, where I am still working. My wife, Anita, Of 38 years and I have three grown daughters. I cherish my great memories of my Rx school days.

Chandra Mitchell Savage (B.S. Toxicology '00) - Mid 2023, promoted to Director of Research Services at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Earned an MBA from Christian Brother University in Memphis, TN, and also earned the prestigious certification of Certified Manager of Animal Resources (CMAR). "The background knowledge I gained at ULM has carried me far and I use most of the knowledge I obtained from the College of Pharmacy while completing my Tox degree. Thank you Dr. Blaylock for changing my life when he introduced me into the world of Lab animal science. It is an amazing world to be in. "

Lauren Ragan (Pharm.D. '13) promoted to Pharmacy Manager at Walgreens.



Dr. Karen Briski pictured with ULM President, Dr. Ron Berry

Briski awarded Ken Clow Award for Excellence in Research

The University of Louisiana Monroe celebrated the successes of its faculty and staff at the annual Foundation Awards for Excellence on Monday, April 30, at Bayou Pointe Event Center. The Ken Clow Award for Excellence in Research went to Dr. Karen Briski, professor of pharmacology and neuroanatomy.

Dr. Briski's career has spanned over 40 years. She has worked in the ULM College of Pharmacy since 1999. She has maintained a highly successful independent biomedical research program, which has yielded 167 peer-reviewed publications.

"Dr. Briski is exactly the type of professor that should be honored with this award," said ULM Chief Research and Innovation Office Dr. John Sutherlin. "Dr. Briski's involvement with students and teaching abilities have all been enhanced by her research. Yet, the thing I value most with Dr. Briski is her commitment to research integrity and honesty," continued Sutherlin.

Pharmacy Faculty Recognized for Promotions

College of Pharmacy faculty were recently recognized during the 2024 Foundation Awards for Excellence. Those recognized include Dr. Oscar Garza and Dr. Alexis Horace, promoted to Professor; Clinical Professor, Dr. Anthony Walker; and Associate Professor, Dr. Nektarios Barabutis. Dr. Bryan Donald and Dr. Victoria Miller. Professors and Associate Professors awarded tenure included Barabutis, Donald, Garza and Miller.

Dr. Nektarios Barabutis Named Researcher of the Semester

Dr. Nektarios Barabutis has been named Researcher of the Semester for Spring 2024 by the ULM Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPR.) Dr. Barabutis is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the College of Pharmacy at ULM. He joined forces with the School of Basic Pharmaceutical and Toxicological Sciences in October 2017 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor.

His basic research endeavors are focused on elucidating cellular mechanisms involved in human disease in order to try to promote our understanding of disease pathogenesis and contribute to the development of new pharmacotherapies against severe disorders. Special emphasis is given to delineating the molecular network dictating endothelial barrier function since vascular leak is the hallmark of potentially lethal conditions. Based on that expertise, he was invited to participate as an ad-hoc reviewer in The Respiratory Integrative Biology and Translational Research standing study section of the National Institutes of Health.

Since joining the University of Louisiana Monroe, Dr. Barabutis has published 68 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, including *Endocrinology*, *American Journal of Physiology - Cell Physiology*, *Trends in Endocrinology and Metabolism*. The investigator was recently invited to submit an article to *Trends in Cell Biology* (Impact Factor: 19), in order to review and articulate deliberations on the topic of endothelium regulation and advanced therapeutics. He also serves as a Section Editor in *Data in Brief* (Elsevier) and *MethodsX* (Elsevier), as an Associate Editor in *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, and participates in the editorial board of *BMC Pulmonary Medicine* (Springer Nature). His research program has been continuously funded by extramural resources since 2018, and it is currently supported by the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (NIGMS/NIH P20 GM103424-21).

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research commends Dr. Barabutis for the important research and work he is doing on behalf of the University of Louisiana Monroe and his impact on the world.

See article at: www.ulm.edu/news/2024/barabutis_researcher_052424

TOXICOLOGY NEWS

Scholarship established in Memory of Dr. Sharon Meyer

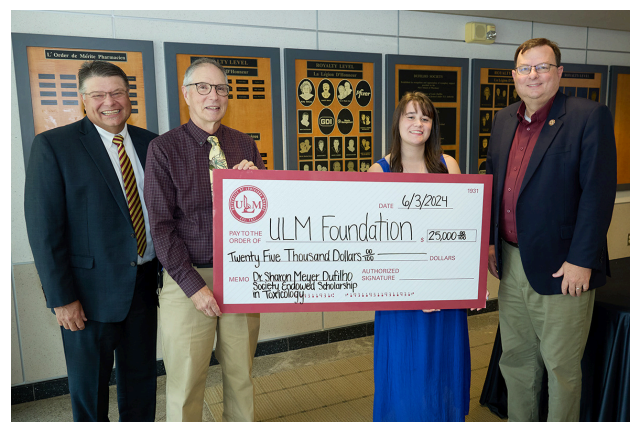
Dr. Robert Meyer, widowed husband of ULM's Dr. Sharon Meyer, donated \$25,000 to establish the Sharon Meyer Dufilho Society Endowed Scholarship in Toxicology. A check presentation was held at the ULM College of Pharmacy on June 3, 2024.

"ULM is where Sharon got a chance to be an academician and researcher. We knew we had to set up a memorial in her name, seeing as this is where she made her career," said husband, Robert Meyer. Sharon impacted the lives of students, faculty, and her community of toxicology colleagues across the nation.

Sharon was raised on a farm in Panora, Iowa, often attempting to make chemicals with items purchased from her local family. After receiving her undergraduate and master's degrees at Iowa State University, she went on to complete a Ph.D. in Physiology at Cornell University and two postdoctoral fellowships, one at Harvard Medical School and one at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Her career led her to ULM in 2000, where she was recognized as a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences, honored with an endowed professorship from the University of Louisiana System Foundation and Willis-Knighton Health Systems, and was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success.

She retired from ULM in January 2023. Prior to retirement, she was studying the risks of exposure to complex chemical mixtures and deciphering their toxicologically "active" agents using multivariate statistics. As an 8-year breast cancer survivor and undergoing treatment for metastatic uterine cancer, a personal research interest for her was examining the dietary supplement Echinacea as a means to boost the production of white blood cells when bone marrow has been compromised, such as during chemotherapy. She passed away in July 2023.



(L-R): Dean of the ULM College of Pharmacy Dr. Glenn Anderson, Dr. Robert Meyer, scholarship recipient Cara Juneau, ULM President Dr. Ron Berry

Dr. Sindhura Ramasahayam, one of Sharon's graduate students, shared "Her endless support and encouragement have made many of us succeed in our Ph.D. and her passion and dedication towards research has shaped many students towards high expectations and achievements. I truly appreciate her for her valuable and tireless guidance. She left behind a legacy in the field of toxicology."

Robert and the 2024-2025 recipient, Cara Juneau, met at the event for the first time. Cara is pursuing a bachelor's degree in toxicology.

The endowed status of the scholarship will live on in perpetuity to ensure financial support for future toxicology students. Robert is hopeful that this scholarship will evolve into a Superior Graduate Scholarship, totaling \$60,000, and be awarded to Ph.D. students pursuing toxicology.

Cara is the daughter of Mark Juneau (B.S. Toxicology '97) and Angela Juneau (ULM Financial Aid).

By ULM Office of Marketing and Communications

Spring '24 B.S. Toxicology degrees awarded

Eleven students were awarded Bachelor of Science in Toxicology degrees during ULM's Spring Commencement Ceremony held on May 11, 2024.

Herrock receives award

Mr. John Herrock, Toxicology Instructor, recently received the Excellence in Teaching award for the College of Pharmacy.

Toxicology welcomes new faculty

The School of BPTS has completed the hiring process for the Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutics faculty positions. Dr. Andrew Bolinger will begin in July 2024, and Dr. Huy Dao and Dr. Meng Su will begin in September 2024.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS



When you support pharmacy education, you invest in our students and the future of the profession.

Your gift helps fund student education, facility improvements, faculty development, community outreach and other programs that strengthen the mission of the ULM College of Pharmacy.

Help name the College of Pharmacy Dean's suite to honor Dr. Bill Bourn and the late Marsha Bourn.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the legacy of Dean Emeritus William "Bill" Bourn, Ph.D., and the late Marsha Bourn. Bill served as the Dean of Pharmacy at the University of Louisiana Monroe (formerly NLU) for an impressive 17 years (1986-2003) and retired from the university after 34 years. The late Marsha Bourn retired from ULM after 20 years of service, but remained an active part of the College of Pharmacy until her death in 2017. Bill was the founder of the College's Dufilho Society, an endowed fund to support student achievements and innovation and to provide scholarship funding for ULM College of Pharmacy students.

The Bourns' unwavering commitment to excellence, leadership, and innovation has left an indelible mark on our college and the field of pharmacy. To honor these remarkable contributions, there is a campaign to name the dean's suite after the couple. Your generous support will help perpetuate the Bourns' legacy and provide a lasting tribute to their dedication. If your life has been touched, in any way, through professional or personal relationships, or through Dufilho Society or Bourn scholarships, please consider supporting this effort. Together we can make this vision a reality!

Ways to Give

ANNUAL GIVING

You can give directly to the Dufilho Society by check or online.

Check

Payable to ULM Foundation and mailed to:
ULM Foundation
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201
*Specify Dufilho Society in memo line

Online

www.ulm.edu/give

Click "Give to Academics"

Designation: Academics: Select a College, School or Program

Scroll down to select "Dufilho Society" from the second drop-down list

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Other ways to give include stock or security gifts, IRA gifts, endowments such as chairs and professorships, planned giving through a will or estate, or a naming opportunity.

For more information or to learn how to leave a lasting legacy to ULM, please contact the ULM Foundation by phone at (318) 342-3636 or by email at foundation@ulm.edu.



Show your support by giving [HERE](#) or scan the QR code below:



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