

the CAPSULE

PREPARING PHARMACISTS FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Dean's Corner



Dear Alumni
and Friends:

I am glad to report that during the 2011–12 academic year, the College achieved two major milestones in its

existence. The inaugural College of Pharmacy Class of 2012 graduated from Chicago State University during its May commencement ceremony. Subsequently, in June, the College was awarded full accreditation status from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The successes and tremendous growth of the College have been directly related to the continued hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff and students.

The College is a thriving community of scholars. Student organizations have flourished, students and faculty received recognitions (internal and external) for academic as well as professional achievements, faculty research collaborations broadened and professional practice partnerships expanded.

I hope you enjoy reading this special edition of the Capsule newsletter which highlights the graduation activities for the class of 2012. Lastly, I want to thank all of the College's academic, professional, and community partners for their continued support.

Professionally,

Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D.
Dean of the College of Pharmacy

Determination is the key ingredient to newly minted pharmacist's success

Sherry N. Williams's road to graduation from Chicago State University's College of Pharmacy (CSU-COP), with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, was circuitous to say the least. A single parent, she initially postponed college after graduating from Westinghouse Career Academy in order to put her and her son on a more stable financial footing. However, it was at Westinghouse where Williams was introduced to pharmacy as a profession. Although no one in her family was involved in the field, she was interested in learning about ailments like diabetes and heart disease and how drug interactions impacted those, like her grandmother, who suffered with them.

Despite the late start, Williams knew higher education was going to play a major role in her life, and once she'd saved sufficient funds she enrolled at Malcolm X College to obtain her Pharmacy Technician training certificate. But a funny thing happened on the way to attaining her certificate; her success at Malcolm X spawned a desire to do even more and she decided to take her game up another notch.

In 2006, she enrolled at Chicago State University in the College of Arts and Sciences as a biology and education major. Her timing was fortuitous in that the launch of the College of Pharmacy was imminent and Williams knew this was a next logical step for her. She spoke with her dean who gave her candid feedback and encouraged her to focus on raising her GPA and then applying to the program, which she did in 2008. She was accepted and began her journey in earnest.

Williams and her classmates were in a unique position as the inaugural enrollees in the program. "Being part of the inaugural class gave us an opportunity to shape the program and provide



Pictured above:

Sherry Williams at graduation in May,
with Dr. Sneha Srivastava

feedback to the College on its structure and what works and what doesn't work," says Williams. "I loved that they encouraged us to offer our input, and it was obvious that all the instructors poured their heart into making the program successful."

She cites the dedication of the professors and staff as tantamount to contributing to her success – and that of the other 76 graduates of the program. She said that professors worked extra hours to prepare the students for competitions or assist them with interview preparation.

continued on page 2...





Pictured above: Sherry Williams was the valedictorian for the inaugural graduating class of Chicago State University's College of Pharmacy.

continued from page 1...

Williams has won a number of competitions going back to her days at Malcolm X. She downplays which award means the most to her saying her mother keeps them for her. "Each award represents a lot of hard work and I was excited to receive every one," she says.

One of the differentiators of the Chicago State pharmacy program is the diverse student population. It was a plus for Williams who graduated from a predominately black high school. "I learned a lot about people that are different from me and their cultures. Prior to enrolling at the College of Pharmacy I had not had an opportunity to talk to people of different cultures, but I learned we are just the same," she says. "Though we may look different, we're all here with one goal in mind, and I think my class is representative of the real world."

Today, Williams is completing her pharmacy practice residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. One of the things stressed

by the College of Pharmacy faculty was that education does not stop once you've attained a degree. Williams quotes her professors in saying, "You can be smart, but if you don't share that knowledge and continually seek to learn more you are not preparing yourself for the future." She is a member of several pharmacy organizations including the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, American Pharmacists Association, and the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists.

Williams's recommendation of the College has a firm focus on the preparation she and her classmates received for the challenges of the future in the profession. And finally, she shares the same advice she gave to her classmates, family, faculty and friends during her Hooding Ceremony. "I have learned that, no matter where you come from or what obstacles you have to overcome, with hard work and determination you can do anything you put your mind to." ■

College's five year journey culminates in program accreditation

The last five years have been mostly a blur for Dr. Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Dean of the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy (CSU-COP). Starting a department from the ground up is not a task to be undertaken lightly yet, when the first class of 77 students crossed the stage during the College's first Hooding Ceremony on May 16, they were not the only ones to have reached a milestone in their professional career. Smith, her staff and administrators, teachers, partners, sponsors and benefactors, along with the families of the graduates were all in celebration mode.

On June 25, the college realized another significant achievement when the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) bestowed accreditation on the program. Accreditation is a voluntary, independent review of educational programs to determine that the education provided is of uniform and sound quality. Being awarded accreditation ensures that CSU-COP has been evaluated and has met set standards of quality determined by the ACPE.

"Receiving our accreditation provides a tremendous sense of pride to all of our faculty and staff," says Smith. "Our students played a pivotal role in the process and were tremendous ambassadors for what we are achieving, and plan to achieve in the future." The sense of family is strong and pervasive within the college.

Smith speaks passionately about the high level of student involvement, the students' role as part of the community and faculty engagement.

Accreditation is another step on the journey that began in 2007 when the College of Pharmacy was formed. It enrolled its first class in 2008 and has been undergoing steps that led to its initial accreditation that applies until 2014. In 2014 the ACPE will do a follow-up review of the College's curriculum and survey students in the program. Accreditation awards will increasingly be extended in two-year increments up to 10 years.

These milestones are merely steps in the College's journey as one of the most diverse pharmacy programs in Illinois. Program self-sufficiency is important to Smith: It means the College can admit more students, hire additional staff, develop postgraduate and residency programs and formulate innovative direct patient programs. Smith confirms the College is talking with the Dominick's grocery store chain about placing CSU pharmacists in the stores. There is also a partnership with Access Community Health Network and Mercy Hospital.

Smith admits she did not know how tired she was until after graduation, when she was literally able to exhale. However, that will be a short rest as she prepares for the incoming class and her University leadership duties as chair of the criteria committee. "Work-life balance has not been a priority," she concludes. "But certainly it has all been worth it." ■

Receiving our accreditation provides a tremendous sense of pride to all of our faculty and staff, and our students played a pivotal role in the process and were tremendous ambassadors for what we are achieving, and plan to achieve in the future."

*— Dr. Miriam A. Mobley Smith,
Dean of the College of Pharmacy*

Pictured below: Dean Miriam A. Mobley Smith congratulated Chigozirim Mbadugha at graduation for winning the Dean's Award for Exemplary Engagement and Service. That sense of pride never abated and on June 25 the College was awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.



Exacting professor grooms students to be confident advocates for patients



The real work begins when you learn how to apply that learning to patients and begin to make recommendations based on their specific needs and quality of life considerations. Patients come first.”

– Elena Santayana, Pharm.D.

Pictured above: Dr. Elena Santayana (left) is congratulated by Dr. Charisse L. Johnson, Director of Experiential Education, on being named Preceptor of the Year.

Elena Santayana, Pharm.D., is a picky professor. In her role providing Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) to students at Chicago State University College of Pharmacy (CSU-COP) she believes the best pharmacist thinks of their patients as family and treats them accordingly. This exacting standard of professionalism was key to Santayana’s selection as APPE Preceptor of the Year, announced during the College’s inaugural graduation ceremonies.

Santayana, who practices in the Neurosciences ICU at the University of Chicago Medical Center, says her initial reaction to the recognition was a surprise. “I work with a large number of preceptors and I think their dedication equals mine so it could have been any one of us,” she says.

In addition to her faculty appointment with Chicago State University, she also holds the same position with the University of Illinois at Chicago and routinely precepts students on clinical experiential rotations and teaches didactically in therapeutics courses at CSU. She was recognized as Preceptor of the Year for Pharmacy Graduate Education at the University of Chicago in 2011.

PLUGGED INTO STUDENT NEEDS

The University of Chicago serves as the primary site for CSU’s clinical program and she considers the relationship between the two schools to be robust. Santayana also serves on the College’s Faculty Curriculum Committee, so she is very plugged in to what the students need to accomplish as part of their advanced training.

At the time Santayana began her work with CSU in 2009 the students had not gone through a rotation yet, but the close working relationships began to develop almost immediately as the program ramped up. She stresses that clinical rotations are important because there is only so much you can learn in the classroom. “The real work begins when you learn how to apply that learning to patients and begin to make recommendations based on their specific needs and quality of life considerations. Patients come first,” she says.

Santayana believes she is hard on students regarding self-assessment. “Once you are practicing you have to be confident in your abilities. You need to set your own goals and identify your strengths and weaknesses,” she says. “Students need to tell me what those are so we can work on improving those skills together.”

She finds the experience helping to create these programs for the new College of Pharmacy most rewarding because of the ability to provide feedback, which is then incorporated into the program. She values the relationships between the full time faculty and the Preceptors and thinks the communication between the two groups is very good.

VALUE OF DIVERSITY

Santayana says the diversity of the student body very much represents the local community. “At the University of Chicago we serve patients of many different cultures and ethnicities as well as international patients. The students can see how that diversity plays out in health care in a large city like Chicago,” she says. “Training in a diverse environment will help them better relate to their patients.”

She reflects that the College’s accreditation is a big achievement and one she had no doubt would happen. She was pleased to be a part of the process through her involvement on the curriculum committee. “It was an interesting learning experience going through the process as a faculty member. It validates what the students have accomplished over the past four years,” she says.

“Students will remember me as the picky one,” she concludes. “If there is only one thing they learn from me, I hope it is to craft treatment from the patient’s perspective and treat them as if they were members of their own family.” ■

Instructor provides real-life look at the everyday practice of pharmacy

Dr. John Esterly did not envision a teaching career when he received his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Illinois Chicago in 2007. But he found the interaction he had with students during his postgraduate studies very rewarding. Flash forward just five years and the Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Chicago State University College of Pharmacy (csu-cop) has been selected as the csu-cop Faculty Preceptor of the Year.

AWARD-WINNING INSTRUCTOR

Despite sitting on the scholarship awards committee, Esterly was flabbergasted when his name was called during the graduation banquet following the College's first Hooding Ceremony. "I was so stunned I forgot to acknowledge my colleagues," he remembers.

Yet, it's clear that Esterly has developed a love for teaching, and especially for providing the experiential training required for every fourth-year pharmacy student. This includes a rotation centered on hands-on training with other pharmacists in clinics, hospitals and other situations interacting directly with patients, and as Dr. Esterly states, "the focus is real-life training that links the students to what it is to be a working pharmacist."

A LOVE FOR TEACHING

In 2008, Esterly completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Mercy Hospital followed by a two-year Infectious Diseases (ID) Fellowship at Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy in conjunction with Northwestern Memorial Hospital. While at Midwestern University, Esterly also held the title of Clinical Visiting Instructor. In 2009, he earned board certification as a pharmacotherapy specialist and joined the faculty at csu in July 2010 just as the first class was entering their third year.

"If you'd asked me in pharmacy school I would not have envisioned teaching," he says. "When I entered postgraduate training I got interested in ID and then went on to a second year of training. Because I was at a teaching hospital with students I found it very rewarding. As I thought about my career, the mix of clinical practice and teaching seemed right for me."

When asked what appeals to him most about the College, he says the College's mission and bringing more diversity to the profession of pharmacy really connected for him. He talks about his upbringing in one of the most multiracial areas of the city and how his work with students at the College just "feels right." He also had prior experience with Dean Miriam Mobley Smith who was leading experiential training at the University of Illinois when Esterly was a student there.

Esterly is also a classroom teacher providing didactic instruction, but the core of his work is the hands-on instruction provided in real world, real-time situations. A typical day for a csu pharmacy student includes more in-depth training, going on rounds with patients and presenting their findings to him and a team of infectious disease pharmacists.

While he was not there at the inception of the program, he is certainly invested in what has been accomplished to date. "To create something new and sustaining is exciting and it's particularly rewarding to see students come through this program who may not have ever entered the pharmacy profession," he says. At the time of this interview Esterly had just received the word that the program had attained full accreditation, something he was extremely excited about.

ADVOCATING GROWTH

Esterly is committed to providing guidance and advice to his students and pushing them to the next level. "A big passion of mine is pushing students to delve into postgraduate opportunities – rotations and residencies – that enhance their opportunities. I think it's worth it as a long-term investment in their future," he says.

He is firmly focused on providing a real-life look at the everyday practice of pharmacy while continuing to push his students to the next level. Esterly believes that pharmacy is a progressive area in the field of medicine with unlimited opportunities for professional development. "This is not about going through the motions, but about learning something everyday and continuing to grow personally in your career," he says. "Don't stop when you get out of school. There is so much more if you focus on the next level." ■



A big passion of mine is pushing students to delve into postgraduate opportunities – rotations and residencies – that enhance their opportunities. I think it's worth it as a long-term investment in their future."

– Dr. John Esterly

Pictured above: Dr. John Esterly with Dr. Dolores Nobles-Knight

Preceptor instills student passion for personalized patient care



I get to know my patients very well and derive a lot of satisfaction in helping them live their lives fully.”

– **Andrius Cepenas, Pharm. D.**

Pictured above: Dr. Andrius Cepenas with Dr. Charisse L. Johnson, Director of Experiential Education.

When IPPE Preceptor of the Year Dr. Andrius Cepenas goes home, the conversation around the dinner table inevitably turns to pharmacy. That’s because the clinical pharmacist is also married to a pharmacist and his sister is engaged in the field as well.

No wonder then that he is passionate about the profession and has been extremely successful in passing that passion along to his students. His role is to give csu pharmacy students an introduction to the hospital practice and what hospital pharmacies do. Cepenas practices at Mercy Hospital where he is a clinical specialist in ambulatory care. He received his PharmD from the uc College of Pharmacy and did his residency at the Jesse Brown VA Hospital. He also spent two years at the University of Chicago in ambulatory care.

SHARING HIS EXPERIENCE

Cepenas said he always wanted to teach and was very pleased when the opportunity to work with Chicago State University presented itself. He works with second year students and leads discussions with upwards of 15, but works most closely with four student pharmacist. The students, he says have a “strong work ethic” and come to the rotation with a great foundation. “They are all extremely hard workers,” he says. In his role at Mercy, Cepenas runs the hospital’s clinic, administering prescriptions to patients suffering from a myriad of ailments including hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol.

“I work with patients on both their short- and long-term medical goals. I get to know my patients very well and derive a lot of satisfaction in helping them live their lives fully,” Cepenas continues, “and I derive both personal and job satisfaction from my work.”

For the past two years Cepenas has been teaching nine pharmaceutical lectures centered on men and women’s health. He says he enjoys reaching a large number of students in his classroom work but also relishes the one-on-one time with the students. “I’m an enthusiastic person and want the students to feel that I’m approachable.”

PREPARATION IS KEY

When asked what he tries to instill in his students he says, “I want them to push their boundaries, continuously set new goals for themselves and involve themselves in new areas of pharmacy.” By the time they complete their rotation with him he says he wants them to be well rounded and well prepared.

Cepenas was himself well prepared and studied under Dr. Miriam Mobley Smith during his second year in pharmacy, but he says it was his sister’s influence that captured his attention and brought him to the profession. “I was always interested in math and science and seeing her career in critical care pharmacy was inspiring.

When asked his reaction to being named IPPE Preceptor of the Year he says, “It’s an honor to be recognized for something you love to do.” And where is that award now? “It sits prominently in my living room,” he says. That certainly provides another topic of discussion for the pharmacist around his dinner table. ■

2012 David J. Slatkin Symposium

Honoring a Career that Bridged the Divide Between Practice & Research

October 19–20, 2012
At the University of Chicago College of Pharmacy

This day-and-a-half symposium highlighting the career and accomplishments of David J. Slatkin, Ph.D., R.Ph., Founding Dean and Dean Emeritus of the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy, will take place in the year of the College's inaugural pharmacy class graduation. The Symposium will feature distinguished educators in the field of pharmacy who will discuss and explore how current and future trends will impact pharmacy practice and research.

WHY ATTEND?

Very few academicians have made as great an impact on their field of expertise as Dr. David Slatkin has in pharmacy education. Dr. Slatkin is also recognized for his 31-year tenure as the treasurer of The American Society of Pharmacognosy. To honor these accomplishments and his impact on the careers of faculty and students in pharmacy and pharmacognosy, we are bringing together Dr. Slatkin's colleagues and longtime friends.

To register, or for more information, please go to
www.slatkinsymposium.com

**David J. Slatkin,
Ph.D., R.Ph.**

*Founding Dean
and Dean Emeritus
Chicago State University
College of Pharmacy*

Dr. David J. Slatkin is one of the country's most influential pharmacists and has made tremendous contributions to the field of pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacognosy, and pharmaceutical education. He is the founding dean of three schools of pharmacy, including the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy. His distinguished career as a teacher and administrator includes service at Northeast Louisiana University School of Pharmacy, the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, and the Midwestern University College of Pharmacy, Glendale.



PLENARY LECTURERS

Douglas Kinghorn, Ph.D., D.Sc.
*Jack L. Beal Professor and Chair
Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy
The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy*

Janis J. MacKichan, Pharm.D., FAPhA
*Vice Chair, Professor Pharmacy Practice
Northeast Ohio Medical University
College of Pharmacy*

INVITED LECTURERS

Paul L. Schiff, Ph.D.
*Professor
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy*

Denise L. Howrie Schiff, Pharm.D.
*Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy*

John H. Cardellina II, Ph.D.
*Distinguished Scientist
Technical Innovation Center
McCormick & Co., Inc.*

John Pezzuto, Ph.D.
*Dean and Professor
University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy*

Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D.
*Dean
Chicago State University College of Pharmacy*

James McAlpine, Ph.D.
*Adjunct Faculty Member
University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Pharmacy*

EVENT SPONSORS:

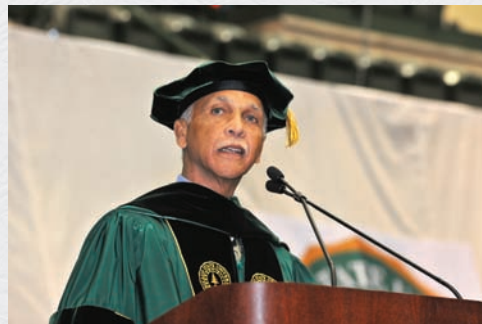
 **SHIMADZU**
Excellence in Science



Oath and Hooding Ceremony 2012

The 77 students in the inaugural class of the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy took their oaths as Doctors of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) and received their hoods on May 16, 2012 at the Oath and Hooding Ceremony at the Emil & Patricia Jones Convocation Center.

Phillip Burgess, BPharm, MBA Chair of the Illinois State Board of Pharmacy lead the class in the Oath of the Pharmacist.



Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D., Dean of the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy, and Wayne D. Watson, Ph.D., President of the Chicago State University addressed the inaugural graduating class.

College of Pharmacy faculty along with Chicago State University President Wayne D. Watson, Provost Sandra Westbrooks, and Dean Miriam A. Mobley Smith congratulated the inaugural graduating class.



Mortar and Pestle Reception and Dinner 2012

Newly minted pharmacists and their guests enjoyed the Mortar and Pestle Graduation Reception and Dinner at the Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom following the Hooding Ceremony.



Graduates, faculty, staff and guests enjoyed a relaxed reception.



The evening was filled with good food, camaraderie, a sense of accomplishment and excitement as pharmacy graduates looked forward to the university-wide commencement the following day.



Graduation 2012

Chicago State University graduated its largest class to date at its 145th commencement in May.

Retired State Senator Emil Jones and Bishop Horace Smith, M.D. were featured speakers at the commencement.



President Wayne D. Watson, Ph.D., congratulates Tahir Vora '12, Chicago State University School of Pharmacy.

Friends and family joined with graduates for the commencement ceremony at the Emil & Patricia A. Jones Convocation Center.



Chicago State University congratulates its inaugural graduating class from the College of Pharmacy.

Rebecca Adorable
Gina Agelonidis
Setor Akati
Sima Akbarpour
Folasade Akinyele
Peter Akudo
Charles Anderson
Matthew Biszewski
Chintan Brahmhatt
Robin Carney
Jose Carrasco
Jennifer Cashmore
Cody Chan
Anish Choksi
Mary Corso
Cassandra Cruz
Alvi Cyriac
Ketur Darji
Laurits Dunham
Kathy Espada
Dathao Esthappan
Carlos Gomez
Samia Haider
Maria Harmon
Wing Ho
Bilal Hussain

Daniel Huynh
Ioan Ionescu
Matthew Joachim
Lubna Judeh
Tina Jun
Sana Khan
Nora Kirby-Swenson
James Lott
Chigozirim Mbadugha
Pooja Mehta
Mary Miller
Obinna Moemenam
Bineesh Moyeed
Enkhtuul Natsagdorj
Vadim Nikitin
Nneka Nnamdi
Roberta Nyblom
Sherri Ojikutu
Fidah Othman
Stephanie Pape
Neha Patel
Shital Patel
Agne Petrus
Veronica Posey
Rajesh Punnoose
Jason Ramirez

Heather Roberts
Keon Ryu
Paul Serafin
Seema Shah
Justine Shanak
Maurice Shaw
Alice Sheen
Marianne Shenouda
Erum Siddiqui
Baljit Singh
Lia Skandamis
Andrew Skripac
Kecia Thomas
Sharon Thomas
Ash Trivedi
Vaishali Trivedi
Tahir Vora
Brett Walker
Mai Wazwaz
Sherry Williams
Andrew Wojcik
Dianna Wood
Elizabeth Yetter
Roudi Youkhana
Jurgita Zeimys



Illiterate societies are plagued by poverty and violence. What are your values, above what money you're going to make? What will you do to make others better? It's the beginning of adulthood to ask not only what am I doing, why am I doing it?"

*– Bishop Horace Smith, M.D.,
Commencement speaker*

@Thinkstock

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy

9501 S. King Drive

206 Douglass Hall

Chicago, IL 60628-1598

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
PERMIT NO. 2653

***Congratulations to the 2012 Inaugural
Graduating Class, Chicago State University
College of Pharmacy.***



The Capsule is published every quarter using state funds by Chicago State University College of Pharmacy Marketing Committee.
9501 S. King Dr., DH 206, Chicago, IL 60628