White Coat Ceremony
The newest class of CU Pharmacy students are now on campus, see page 6.

Edible Chemotherapy
CU Pharmacy faculty member Tom Anchordoquy, PhD, has received a $2 million grant to research edible chemotherapy. Read about the research starting on page 2.

The Class of 2018
Our graduates have unique experiences and stories that help make them great, read more about them starting on page 9.

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4-7 Student Life
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15 In Memoriam - Dr. Steven Henke
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Welcome!
Class of 2022
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“For example, when you eat a steak or any kind of protein, you digest it and it gets chewed up into tiny amino acids that are absorbed. This is why you can’t swallow vaccines or many other types of drugs; the environment in the stomach is simply too harsh. You have to get them injected or else they get chewed up,” says Tom Anchordoquy, PhD, investigator at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and professor at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Edible Chemotherapy: Could Particles From Milk Lead to the End of Infusions?

BY GARTH SUNDEM

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“For example, when you eat a steak or any kind of protein, you digest it and it gets chewed up into tiny amino acids that are absorbed. This is why you can’t swallow vaccines or many other types of drugs; the environment in the stomach is simply too harsh. You have to get them injected or else they get chewed up,” says Tom Anchordoquy, PhD, investigator at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and professor at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
However, there is an exception to this rule. A mother’s milk helps the baby resist infection by giving the baby antibodies, which help the immune system to recognize and respond aggressively to certain types of infections. And, importantly, these antibodies contained in milk are not degraded by the digestive system. Instead, after they are ingested, they make their way intact into the blood stream.

The idea that components in mother’s milk avoid being completely broken down and instead deliver intact, functional molecules into a baby’s blood stream isn’t entirely new. Anchordoquy points to a 2014 study in which RNA contained in special particles known as exosomes found in cow’s milk were shown to alter the expression of genes in humans who drank the milk.

“But nobody believed it,” Anchordoquy says. “Of course, it’s common knowledge that the things you ingest are degraded, so even after this study, nobody really thought these particles in milk could survive the digestive system.”

A major reason that no one believed this study is that no one could understand how it could possibly work. Anchordoquy’s work provides an answer.

“Your body’s endothelium, including the cells that line your intestine, has these receptors that recognize antibodies on milk exosomes. These receptors in the gut bind antibodies on milk exosomes, and transport the particles across the gut into blood,” Anchordoquy says. It’s as if the handshake between antibody and receptor opens a tiny portal, allowing only the antibody and its attached exosome to pass. Importantly, the receptor involved in this process is present in the human gut all throughout life, not just when we are babies.

There’s another very important point: “Instead of just these little particles, you can put a drug in them,” Anchordoquy says. (Other studies, which Anchordoquy says were also not widely believed, showed that drugs incorporated into milk exosomes fed to mice could later be found in the mouse bloodstream.) These exosomes in milk encase and transport the things a mother’s body wants to give to her baby. Instead, Anchordoquy hopes to encapsulate molecules of chemotherapy.

“Cows and humans are similar enough that cow proteins bind to the human receptors and are transported by the same mechanism. When you drink milk, cow exosomes bind to these receptors and it moves cow molecules into your blood,” says Anchordoquy.

In terms of clearing the hurdles toward becoming an actual drug delivery strategy, the idea of using milk exosomes to deliver chemotherapy has two important things going for it: First, many chemotherapy drugs have already earned FDA approval for use in humans; and second, humans have consumed cow’s milk for thousands of years and it is known to be safe.

Of course, a nod from the FDA to test milk-based chemotherapy isn’t the only hurdle. Another challenge is the processes needed to load chemotherapeutics into these particles.

“That’s the trick – the process by which you load the drug,” Anchordoquy says. “That’s what we’ve got to figure out. The real barrier here is how efficiently you can load the drug into the exosome and what drugs can you load in.”

Some drugs may work, while others may not. And different variations of drug design techniques may work better with some chemotherapies than others.

Anchordoquy, along with collaborator Michael Graner, PhD, associate professor in the CU School of Medicine Department of Neurosurgery, were recently awarded a research grant from the National Institutes of Health to discover and design the best possible combinations. In fact, the team is already sourcing milk from Mucca Bella Dairy (Carr, CO) and running experiments to test strategies for loading drugs into milk exosomes.

“Chemotherapy requires going to the hospital. It’s inconvenient, it forces cancer patients to be around other sick people, and it costs the healthcare industry billions of dollars every year. But now we have the prospect of stuffing cow’s milk with chemotherapeutics,” Anchordoquy says. “And who wouldn’t love to just drink a glass of milk or eat an ice cream cone instead of being infused?”
It’s a passion that’s made me the person I am today.” For Carmine Hernandez, a second-year CU Pharmacy student, that passion is rugby. He’s been playing since he was 15 years old, trained for seven months in New Zealand after high school; and his team, the Denver Barbarians, recently won the Men’s Division II National Championship, beating the Detroit Tradesmen 39-38! “We won the national championship for rugby fifteens, which is huge. It’s a D-2 championship, the ultimate pinnacle that everyone fights for,” declared Hernandez.

The championship game was a close one with the Barbarians trailing for most of the match, gaining a one-point lead with three minutes left in the game. Hernandez plays at the scrumhalf position for the rugby team, similar to the quarterback role in American football.

“Scrumhalf is considered the general of the forwards and helps ensure the flow of the offense in close quarters on the field. Organization is key to a successful offense, and my job is to make sure the forwards are structured so that we can be fluid in our attack when moving the ball down the field. Awareness is key when playing scrumhalf because being able to quickly assess all your options and make a decision in a fast-paced situation makes all the difference in breaching the defense. I feel like this is a huge area where clinical pharmacy and rugby coincide because they both require this skill to be proficient,” Hernandez explained.

Being in pharmacy school and on a rugby team (almost at a professional level) means Hernandez is certainly busy. With practices multiple times a week for two hours or more at a time, after a long day at school, and also fitting in time for games and homework, he said he’s found a way to balance it all, “I couldn’t miss Friday classes, sometimes we have quizzes, so I would kind of plan around it. I think one of the biggest things that helped me is just taking it one day at a time. I also like to attribute it to all the support from my mom and my aunt, my friends, teammates, and my girlfriend especially.”

Hernandez is also a pharmacist intern at the Medical Center of Aurora, “I love the clinical setting, helping patients and making a difference, that’s what interests me. I like being in the emergency department because you never know what’s going to happen, but I also like cardiology. How the heart works is just something that interests me a lot,” he related.

Hernandez completed his undergraduate degree at Colorado State University (CSU) and said it was one of his teammates who introduced him to pharmacy, “Going into college, I didn’t know what I wanted to do. One of my close friends on the rugby team, he was in biochemistry at the time and noticed that I enjoyed science and he helped me join the Pharmacy Club at CSU. I realized that I liked the complex situations in pharmacy, almost like puzzles, and I wanted a job where I could help improve the lives of others.”

Hernandez also credits all the coaches he’s had with his success on and off the field, especially the late Rod Hartley, his rugby coach at CSU. “He (Hartley) passed away in May from ALS, and he was one of the most pinnacle coaches at CSU. He helped me grow as a man, helped me with pharmacy school, helped me with rugby and really helped make me into who I am now,” remembered Hernandez.

Pro pharmacist or pro rugby player? “Both!” he said, since winning the championship, “My drive and fire is there even more, and I know that’ll bleed into pharmacy school because I need them both. If I didn’t have the other, I think I’d almost feel kind of lost.”
am kind of like the Spider-Man of the hospital. When I tell people I’m a pharmacist during the week and then I DJ on the weekends, they think I’m joking. They think it’s me playing off the superhero alter-ego thing.

During the week, I don my scrubs and work in the nuclear pharmacy handling radioactive drugs. As a nuclear pharmacist, I work with injections or tracers that help diagnose and find cancer and other conditions. I make sure that the dose that each patient gets is the right calibration for the imaging and diagnostic procedure. After an injection, the patient goes through a scan to track the medication that is laced with radiation.

I’ve been a pharmacist since 1995. I used to be an oncology pharmacist at the hospital, compounding and creating the injections and infusions for cancer patients receiving chemotherapy treatments. I’ve also continued to study, and I will get my pharmacy doctorate in December.

On the weekends, I DJ. I travel all over the U.S. and Canada, and every year I go to Sydney, Australia, to spin for Mardi Gras. I’ve done pride events all over the U.S., including Los Angeles, San Diego, and Atlanta. Pride is actually a season of DJ traveling gigs for me. Some people call me a Pride DJ.

At the NYC Pride parade, with NewYork-Presbyterian as a sponsor, both my careers are converging, and I’ll be wearing both hats when I DJ at the after-party that closes out the annual NYC Pride celebration with music, fireworks, and a special performance by Kylie Minogue. It is part of a weekend event called Pride Island held on Pier 97 at Hudson River Park.

I’m openly out myself. It’s not just a job for me. I am part of the community. I’m vocal when it comes to LGBT rights. I’m not afraid to say what I need to say or point out things that are wrong. With both parts of my life, I feel like I’m helping people. Sometimes music is the medicine. And sometimes medicine is the medicine.

As far as music goes, if I can bring people together and take their mind off whatever is going on in the world or their lives and make them dance and be happy for at least an hour or so, then I’ve done my job.”

- COREY CRAIG

I got into music because of my uncle. I grew up in Oklahoma and Texas, and my mother is the oldest of eight. Music was always playing around the house, and I listened to what my grandparents, aunts, and uncles listened to. After school, I would sneak into my uncle’s room and play around with the turntables. He taught me all about musical selections.

We listened to everything. There was always this stereotype that this little black kid from Oklahoma would only listen to rap, but we listened to everything: the J. Geils Band, Journey. He taught me to never be ashamed of what you like, musically. To this day I blame him because he didn’t keep his little pesky nephew out of his room.

I got my big break in DJing after I moved to New York. A talent agent friend told me there was an opening for a DJ on The Ellen DeGeneres Show. I made a creative and highly polished audition video. I didn’t get the job, but a lot of people saw that video, and I started getting gigs around the city and on Fire Island. Everybody knows me these days as Coreyography.

But it was the NYC Pride parade that was the biggest springboard for me. I began in 2009 when I did the after-party closing sunset set, which was very high profile. In 2013, I struck up a Twitter conversation with Whoopi Goldberg about the Defense of Marriage Act. I made a meme of her from Ghost, saying “DOMA, you’re in danger, girl.” And she saw it. I invited her to Pride, she came and met me backstage and introduced Cher to the audience.

Medicine has been a part of my life since I was a young boy. When I was growing up, my mom would talk to the pharmacist before she’d go see a doctor. Many people really trust their pharmacist. And so I always felt like pharmacists are helpful in ways that people don’t always give them credit for.

As far as music goes, if I can bring people together and take their mind off whatever is going on in the world or their lives and make them dance and be happy for at least an hour or so, then I’ve done my job.

Originally published by NewYork-Presbyterian’s HealthMatters.nyp.org
CU Pharmacy Wins National Awards

RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE IN ASSESSMENT

The University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was recently recognized with two national awards at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s (AACP) annual meeting.

“I am very happy that we were recognized on a national stage for the good work we and our students do at our school and in our community,” said Dean Ralph Altiere.

The school received the 2017 Lawrence C. Weaver Transformative Community Service Award along with the AACP Award for Excellence in Assessment.

TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Lawrence C. Weaver Transformative Community Service Awards presented annually to a school of pharmacy that demonstrates a commitment to addressing unmet community needs through education, practice, and research. This is demonstrated through the development of exceptional programs that go beyond the traditional service role of academic pharmacy.

During a site visit with AACP, we showcased several programs, referred to as our Colorado Commitment, including prescription drug abuse prevention and combating the opioid epidemic, rural health programs, commitment to community health centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers through faculty positions, student rotations, and scholarly work, the Aurora Elementary Schools Nutrition Program – in which over 1,500 pharmacy students and 8,000 elementary students have participated since program inception, and finally our work with the Community Campus Partnership and the work of Robert McGranaghan, MPH.

CU Pharmacy faculty member, Gina Moore, PharmD, gathered all the elements needed for the award submission, “Thanks to Dr. Moore’s commitment and persistence over the years in preparing our award application and arranging our site visits and the great work of our faculty and students,” said Dean Altiere.

“Gina and everyone at the School of Pharmacy – congratulations! The School of Pharmacy has been a great champion and leader on the campus for community engagement and this award gives further evidence of that,” added Robert McGranaghan.

The award consists of a commemorative sculpture honoring the school’s extraordinary social commitment and $5,000 to distribute to our community partners to support continuation or expansion of our collaboration.

EXCELLENCE IN ASSESSMENT

The school received the AACP Award for Excellence in Assessment thanks to work by faculty members Eric Gilliam, PharmD, Jason Brunner, PhD, Wesley Nuffer, PharmD, Toral Patel, PharmD and Megan Thompson, PharmD.

The award recognizes outstanding Doctor of Pharmacy assessment programs for their progress in developing and applying evidence of outcomes as part of the ongoing evaluation and improvement of pharmacy professional education. The manuscript CU Pharmacy faculty submitted was titled: Unique Assessments for Unique Experiences: Content Validation of Three Assessment Tools for Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Rotations.

“The Experiential Education Committee at CU Pharmacy used a data-driven validation and assessment plan to guide the design, testing, and implementation of five high-stakes advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) student assessments,” explained Jason Brunner, PhD.

The use of a four-year validation plan to guide the design, testing, and implementation of new final APPE student performance evaluations resulted in significant and positive changes to the experiential education program.

“Students must demonstrate a readiness to practice pharmacy prior to graduation, and we are now better able to document each student’s level of skill during each experiential program. Compared to our prior performance evaluations, the value of the feedback to the student has much improved. We trust when a preceptor indicates a student is ready to practice, that the student truly is ready to advance in their career,” said Eric Gilliam, PharmD.

Ultimately, the five new APPE assessment tools, each unique to its own practice setting and designed by input of active preceptors, have proven to be effective in providing reliable and meaningful feedback for students.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM AACP’S ANNUAL MEETING

- Four Walmart Scholars from CU Pharmacy, the most of any school! Congratulations to Kyle Troska, Marina Maes, Natalie Rosario and Fiona Wong.
- 12 presentations were given by 12 unique CU Pharmacy faculty and staff.
- 11 faculty posters and one school poster involving 21 CU Pharmacy faculty and staff, along with 19 collaborators from other schools or institutions.
Meet DR. BRIAN HEMSTREET
New Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

A fter being away for nearly five years, it's truly exciting to return as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at CU Pharmacy. I'm grateful for the opportunity to once again work with the students, faculty, and staff at one of the best programs in the country.

As we start the new academic year, this is always a time filled with both excitement and anticipation. For students, some will be entering the program for the first time; others starting a new series of courses, or even contemplating what your next step is following graduation. As faculty members, this may involve teaching a new course, starting a new research project, or transitioning into a new role. No matter what our roles, it's always fulfilling to know that we are working toward a common goal of positively impacting the health and lives of our patients and community.

This is also a great opportunity to reflect on past successes and challenges, and how we may use these experiences to work toward meeting both our professional and personal goals for the upcoming year. I look forward to working with all of you, and continuing to enhance the student experience and successes in the program.

OATH OF PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY STUDENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2022
• Create and nurture professional interactions with peers and patients built upon a foundation of trust, respect and humility.
• Learn, maintain, and advance our pharmaceutical knowledge to be capable of continuously providing the highest quality of patient care.
• Serve our patients with empathy and selfless dedication while promoting the wellbeing of our community.
• Exemplify a strong moral character through exceptional ethics and integrity.
• Become trustworthy leaders who continually strive toward personal development and cultural sensitivity.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2022!
Orientation week for the Class of 2022 wrapped up Friday, Aug. 3, 2018 with a marshmallow challenge, White Coat ceremony, and annual barbecue. 143 first-year students received their white coats and then signed and recited the Oath of the Professional Pharmacy Student, which they created as a class. Fellow first-year student, Jessica Brady led the reciting of the oath; selected by her classmates to officiate.

CU Pharmacy at HOSA
Several CU Pharmacy faculty members, students and staff attended the HOSA International Leadership Conference June 27-30 in Dallas, Texas.
We introduced pharmacy to 10,000 plus high school students, interested in health professions, at our exhibit booth and through presentations from student ambassadors Nedra Chijioke, Armen Fstkhian, Ryan Sutherlan, and Mary Reilly and faculty members Jacci Bainbridge, PharmD, and Morgan Payne, PharmD.
Congratulations
Class of 2018!

Over 200 doctoral degrees (5 PhD, 152 traditional entry level PharmD, and 44 distance PharmD program) were conferred for 2018. The Commencement Ceremony was held May 25th at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Armed with your PharmD or PhD you are on your way to your next adventure, enjoy it!

Learn more about your fellow classmates and their stories – where they’ve come from, what they’ve already accomplished and where they are going – in this special graduation section.
Having spent the last seven years earning his PharmD through the Distance Degrees & Programs, Lokendra Upadhyay is ecstatic to be able to spend his weekends not studying. “For me, it’s been a great investment of time and energy,” says Upadhyay.

Twenty-five years ago, Upadhyay had the opportunity to tack one more year onto his BS and obtain his PharmD from CU but declined. “I was ready to go out and start earning money. In retrospect, it would have been a lot easier, but then I wouldn’t have all my life experiences,” says Upadhyay.

Throughout the last 25 years, Upadhyay’s career has been varied, including informatics, sales, marketing and consulting for a Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) firm. Except for the first seven years, he’s done “just about everything but count pills.”

Now, as a consultant with Willows, Towers, and Watson (WTW), he helps large employers like the University of Colorado analyze their total drug span, review drug utilization of their workforce and make suggestions about why a program is a good fit. His recommendations filter up to the C-suite level through the HR department. “I represent the client; challenging the PBM to prove why a specific program is good for the company and its employees,” says Upadhyay.

At WTW, he determines how many people the program would affect, and the savings the company might gain. But savings is a very small portion of what he ascertains. “Contrary to what people might think, employers want to provide benefits. They don’t want to interrupt members. I have to assess the culture, the philosophy, the client’s appetite for disruption and if the program makes sense culturally. It’s not just about dollars and cents,” he says. “There are a lot of nuances and that’s what I like about it.”

Upadhyay’s philosophy is that there’s a lot more choice in pharmacy than people realize. “There’s more even in retail. You just have to look for it.” And even though he’s been involved in various aspects of pharmacy practice, he’s come full circle to where he began.

In addition to his day job, Upadhyay recently opened an independent pharmacy where he is using the marketing and business skills he’s acquired over the years. He’s hired a pharmacist to oversee and fill the prescriptions, while he focuses on building and managing the business – in his spare time! Of course, he has more of it now that he has completed his PharmD. “I’m so happy I went through the program. What I learned will be very helpful in building my business and addressing the distinct market needs, providing personalized service like prescription delivery and volume immunizations to local companies,” says Upadhyay.

Housed in a building that Upadhyay and his wife (a pediatrician) purchased, and nestled in an industrial area, “I will need to be more creative than a traditional community pharmacy,” says Upadhyay. A task which shouldn’t be too difficult for this non-traditional student who will now add business owner and entrepreneur to his resume. The building is already fully leased out with three tenants including a pediatric cardiology group, his wife’s practice, and the pharmacy.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

BY DANA BRANDORFF

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DISTANCE DEGREES & PROGRAMS

43 PharmD degrees conferred through the DDP program
8 August 2017 graduates
13 December 2017 graduates
22 May 2018 graduates

GRADUATES BY NAME
(May candidates in bold)
Gloria Agunanne
Rita Anyanwu
Ngozi Azu
Ashra Chatterjee
Tina Chellakudam
Chibogwu Chika
Irene Croswell
Patricia Dool
Drena Dunford
Marwa Edi
Kevin Edwards
Jennifer Fotti
Solomon Hailu
Jaya Johnson
Susan King
Tania Klachan
Tammie Le
Yeongsoon Lee
Sara Mahmoud
Lisa Marcus
Mengyan Li
Sulayma Naser Agha
Sheila Ng
Neveen Nofal
Doris Obiri
Da Oh
Obinna Okereke
Anu Ommen
Cordelia Osdele
Islam Osman
Neha Parmar
Kirti Patil
Beth Ritenour
Klip Tanabe
Melissa Taylor
Bhikhu Tejura
Lokendra Upadhyay
Alice Varkey
Jing Wang
Brenda Williams
Julie Williams
Qiong (Joan) Wu
Mena Yaft


“‘For me, it’s been a great investment of time and energy.’

- LOKENDRA UPADHYAY

www.ucdenver.edu/pharmacy
Graduation:

When Joe Oropeza was 17 years old he wanted to become an Army Ranger, one of the most elite soldiers in the US Army. But two strokes and open heart surgery – prior to his high school graduation – put an end to his military career before it started.

“I was 17 and invincible,” says Oropeza, who recently celebrated his 12th anniversary post-surgery. After experiencing a “funny feeling” in his left arm and leg, he told his dad. Eight hours and another stroke later, he finally went to his primary care physician who ordered he go to the hospital for a brain scan. “In my family you didn’t go to the hospital unless you were dying. Well, I was,” recalls Oropeza.

According to Oropeza, “It was a very minor event from which I could physically recover, but my dreams of becoming an Army Ranger were dashed.”

The MRI revealed damage to the right side of his brain, which was consistent with a stroke. His medical team was perplexed as to why a healthy teen would suffer a series of strokes at his age. So, they conducted myriad of tests that yielded nothing. Then, one of his cardiologists suggested checking his heart via transesophageal echocardiogram. Oropeza underwent the procedure on his 18th birthday and received quite the birthday present. A little tumor of fibrous tissue – called a myxoma – was causing his problems. “Every time my heart valve opened it would suck up the tumor into the valve and cause blood clots,” says Oropeza.

He was given two choices. He could be on lifelong warfarin or get the tumor surgically removed. As an active person who enjoyed playing contact sports, he didn’t think blood thinning medication was a good option. So, he chose the surgical route.

“Everything was moving so fast that day. I was terrified. I had a sense of ‘this cannot be happening,’” remembers Oropeza. Just hours into his 18th birthday, he signed all the legal documents to undergo open heart surgery, including what he calls the “death waiver.”

“My surgeon tried to assuage my fears. He told me there was less than a 1 percent chance of dying. You know, as a teen confronted with open heart surgery that really wasn’t that reassuring. It still meant I could die,” he says.

“I’ve been blessed with the way everything turned out. Faith got me through and because I was in such great shape my road to recovery was not as difficult for me.”

Once again, however, Oropeza was in unchartered territory. “Physical therapists don’t normally see young adults in great shape raring to run after heart surgery. I turned all their treatment plans upside down,” says Oropeza.

Two and a half months’ post-surgery, he was given full clearance. For most heart surgery patients it averages about six months before they are green-lighted to regular activity.

After Oropeza’s brush with death put the kibosh on his plans, he decided to go to college for a degree in fire science and firefighting. “It was the closest to Army Ranger training that I could envision,” says Oropeza, who worked as an EMT while in school. The EMT experience allowed him to see health care up close and what he saw intrigued him. He realized the landscape of health care was changing from a physician-centric model to something more team based, which was very attractive to him. “It seemed very similar to my first love of being an Army Ranger where the team works together to bring outcomes and help communities. As an EMT I saw that non physician partners were valued and could make bigger impacts,” reminisces Oropeza.

His exposure to pharmacists as medications experts caused him to do a double take. “I loved everything I saw about pharmacists. I saw this as an opportunity to be involved in patient care and thought it could be limitless,” he says.

Once his father heard about his goals, he pointed out that during Oropeza’s recovery from heart surgery a pharmacist was instrumental in ensuring his healing. By mistake, Oropeza had been prescribed two different and conflicting beta blockers, which could have caused major problems. The pharmacist warned the cardiologist and changes were made. “I didn’t recall that, but my dad did. So, it’s a bit serendipitous that pharmacy played a significant role in my recovery and now here I am ready to embark on my pharmacy career,” says Oropeza.

Oropeza has joined his wife in Texas where she is a Physician’s Assistant (PA) and he will begin a PGY-1 residency at Baylor University Medical Center. The two will finally be together after three years of separation while she was in PA school in Dallas and he was pursuing his PharmD at CU. “Patience, understanding and a lot of love have gotten us through,” says Oropeza.
**MILITARY MUSICIAN HITS HIGH NOTE IN PHARMACY**

**By Dana Brandorff**

For seven years, Dan Galipeau served in the US Army as a military musician, playing saxophone and sometimes piano. Performing for deployed troops, their families at home, international audiences and dignitaries including the President of the United States offered Galipeau a window to the world. “My military career took me to more than 15 countries representing the US Army and NATO,” says Galipeau.

In addition to performing, he also had other duties which at times included being a sound reinforcement specialist, librarian, HR specialist, operation and logistics coordinator, music arranger and hazardous materials duty driver! “There wasn’t a dull moment. I even had the opportunity to perform on the same stage as musical groups such as Earth, Wind and Fire and Tower of Power,” recalls Galipeau.

But when the music stopped and his career in the military was over, Galipeau found himself at a loss. “I really didn’t have an exact idea of what I wanted to do,” says Galipeau. After auditioning and being accepted at several colleges of music, he decided that, “I wanted to do something more than music. And after my experiences in the military traveling around the world and seeing the desperate need for healthcare, I wanted to pursue that interest and help address that need.”

While working on his Bachelor’s degree, he worked as a phlebotomist, shadowed PAs, trained as an EMT – all before he stumbled on pharmacy and began volunteering in a hospital pharmacy.

While volunteering, he discovered the concept of ‘pharmily’ – the strong support system within pharmacy. “It was during my volunteering experience that I realized that I didn’t see myself doing anything else besides pursuing a career in pharmacy. From there, I worked as a pharmacy technician for a year before starting pharmacy school and here I am!”

You may think that being a professional musician and being a pharmacist are opposites, but Galipeau says there are similarities. “Musicians don’t just aim to hit the correct note. They also want to do so at the right time with appropriate intonation, attack, volume, quality and duration,” says Galipeau. Pharmacy also requires strong attention to detail to make sure the right medication is given to the right patient, at the right dose, with the right route at the right time.

According to Galipeau, success in either profession depends on a high level of attention to detail, as well as teamwork. “As a musician, you have a sense of what other musicians are doing, and what they are going to do, to make music that is in sync,” says Galipeau. Pharmacy also involves working as part of a team, “ensuring that we are all doing what’s in the best interest of the patient.”

Galipeau’s next adventure is at Houston Methodist Hospital where he is sure to hit all the right notes as a PGY-1 resident.

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**Pharmacy Graduate Looks Forward to a Career of Service**

**By Blair Ilsley**

Growing up with a pharmacist for a grandfather, Megan Wary always knew she wanted to work in the medical field. So, after earning her undergraduate degree at the University of Arkansas, she had a crucial decision to make: Where would she call home for the next four years and continue her education? Ultimately, the pull of Colorado’s outdoors coupled with the high reputation of the pharmacy school and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus attracted Wary to the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Today, Wary will join her fellow graduates in the 2018 Spring Commencement Ceremonies. Looking back, she said she’s glad she chose the top-ranked veteran-friendly university and the outdoor-oriented state, both of which helped shape Wary’s future.

**TICKET TO OUTDOOR PARADISE**

Wary enjoyed spending her spare time at Breckenridge snowboarding with classmates. “I knew I was ready to move out of Arkansas,” Wary said. “I wanted to be able to hike and snowboard, to spend time in the sunshine. There’s no better place.”

In between studying for her challenging courses, Wary enjoyed all that Colorado has to offer, especially hiking fourteeners and snowboarding Peak 6 at Breckenridge. “There is such a special vibe about Coloradans,” she said of meeting new friends. “Everyone that moves here has something in common, whether it be hitting the trails or the slopes.”

**OVERCOMING INJURY**

While taking full advantage of Colorado’s outdoor sports and recreation two years ago, Wary slipped during a kickball match and tore her ACL. She didn’t let her serious injury hold her back. One year after the tear, Wary participated in a “Tough Mudder,” a grueling race that involved trudging through thick mud while tackling a challenging obstacle course.

“Tough Mudder is something that I was really proud of,” she said. “If soldiers can recover from traumatic injuries and live their everyday lives, then I can heal from this ACL injury and finish this race.”

The symbolic victory highlights Wary’s passion for working with veterans.

**SERVICE THROUGH PHARMACY**

“It has always been a sweet spot for me,” she said. “I have a lot of family members in different military branches. I just really love working with that population. I know that I want to be with these people and serve them as they have served us.”

Faced with leaving Colorado, she will miss the great outdoors and the people she’s met along her journey, said Wary, who intends to complete a pharmacy residency with the Veterans Administration, her top choice. “It’s going to be tough to leave this wonderful place,” she said. “But, I know that my education and training will help me achieve my goals in the years to come,” said Wary, who advises incoming pharmacy students to keep their studies first. “But, enjoy Colorado. Denver and the surrounding areas have so much to offer. Keep the faith. You will make it.”

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www.ucdenver.edu/pharmacy
Lee Amaya, stage name SouLeePharmD, is our very own rapping pharmacist. Amaya fell in love with rap music and poetry during high school. “I became infatuated with the flow and rhyme schemes of songs while listening to my favorite artists. The raw passion displayed and the topics they rapped about resonated with me,” says Amaya.

Inspired, he began writing and producing his own rap music that he shared over the Internet. “Rap provided me with an outlet to voice my grief and frustrations with the world. Being a science nerd, this allowed me to express a side of me that I rarely revealed.”

One of his first live performances was in front of his entire high school. “No pressure there!” says Amaya.

The performance was part of a Senior Project that was required to graduate. Consisting of an internship, mentorship, faculty-run seminar or independent project of the student’s design, the project is quite the undertaking. Instead of the usual fare, Amaya asked if he could compose a rap album and the school agreed – of course with the oversight of his honors English teacher. Most would choose creating and producing one song in five weeks, but Amaya chose an album! Then, he selected one song to perform at a school-wide assembly. That project solidified his interest in the art form and he’s been writing, performing and producing ever since.

“Because my time was extremely limited during pharmacy school, I didn’t have a lot of time to be creative and write raps during the program,” says Amaya. He did, however, write and record one rap during his fourth year for a reflection project. The song, which highlights his experiences as a pharmacy student, is the basis for a music video being developed by the school.

Future goals for Amaya include creating educational raps about pharmacy-related topics in a similar fashion to ZDoggMD, who raps about medical issues and conditions and releases them to the public through social media.

“I would love nothing more than to be able to combine my musical talents with my pharmacy knowledge by writing songs about various health care topics to educate those who learn in an auditory manner,” says Amaya.

In the meantime, Amaya has lined up a PGY-1 residency at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, which is sure to consume a lot of his time. “Once I’m finished with residency and have more free time on my hands, I will definitely try to become the rapping pharmacist!”

Mic drop.

Lee Amaya, aka SouLeePharmD, strikes a pose in front of CU Pharmacy.

PHD STUDENT COUNTS HIS BLESSINGS

BY DANA BRANDORFF

A
dedoyin D. Abraham is one lucky guy. Of Nigerian heritage, Abraham won a diversity immigrant visa in 2005 through the US visa lottery system. The visa lottery allows foreign-born nationals to migrate, and eventually become US citizens.

Up to 50,000 visas are available annually – through a random process – to individuals from countries with low rates of immigration to the US. More than 2 million Nigerians apply each year and a little over 6,000 win this distinction. Despite those odds, Abraham was a lucky recipient of a visa. “I was so happy. The visa created a lot of opportunities for me,” Abraham says.

Coincidentally, Abraham’s sister and her family also won the visa lottery in 2001 and moved to Colorado. “A major requirement of the visa is to have somewhere to stay in the US,” he says. For Abraham, that meant moving in with his sister and her family.

Armed with a BS in Biochemistry from the University of Ilorin in Nigeria, Abraham began
VERSE 1
Let’s take a trip down memory lane
To recognize the school that left me better than I came
Now professionalism is steady flowing through the veins
And infected with wisdom to analyze gram stains

At the University of Colorado
Leadership in pharmacy has always been the motto
Faculty members have set examples we can follow
Phi Delta Chi Sigma Brothers yelling “bravo!”

Now looking back to first year
I get real sense of what I learned here
Communication skills, how to make the pills
And a genuine devotion to reshape the field

Through interprofessional education
Got to work with students of different healthcare occupations
Determining the plan of patient simulations

VERSE 2
We are the Skaggs School of Pharmacy
In the mile-high city where it’s hard to breathe
Whether asthma, infection, or heart disease
We stay monitoring meds in the chart with ease

Don’t forget the creatinine clearance
Calling all our patients to verify their adherence
And giving way too many case presentations

HOOK 1
Now I’m dosing Vanco
Pharmacokinetics is a pharmacy staple
Ensuring safety, and our patients are stable
Crash cart filled and the meds are labeled

We do more than count by fives
Always taking time saving patient lives
Looking over DDIs
And the prodrugs that need to hydrolyze

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We stay monitoring meds in the chart with ease

Don’t forget the creatinine clearance
Calling all our patients to verify their adherence
And giving way too many case presentations

HOOK 2
And I sit here grateful
For every teacher that was willing to provide me guidance, education ‘til I got a brain full
Can’t contain appreciative-ness inside me
And let’s not forget my peers
Who throughout the years gave me lots of cheer
I am ready for my career
And to practice at the pharmacy frontier

Looking for a job and discovered that an advanced degree was a requirement for the positions for which he was applying. “This knowledge instilled a desire to continue my academic career,” recalls Abraham.

He took the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) and sent for his transcripts, and then enrolled at CU Denver where he earned an MS degree in Chemistry. While Abraham continued with his educational pursuits he also found time to return to Nigeria and marry his college sweetheart, Blessing, who had also attained her BS in Biochemistry.

He then began knocking on doors at the Anschutz Medical Campus and eventually crossed paths with Associate Professor Dan LaBarbera, PhD, who gave Abraham an opportunity to work in his lab at CU Pharmacy.

After a year working on novel anti-tumor agents for colorectal cancer, LaBarbera recommended Abraham enroll in the PhD program where he received an NIH diversity grant that covered his stipend and tuition for four years. He then received another grant from the Toxicology program, which covered his stipend and tuition for his final year. “I am so grateful for the awards I received. I couldn’t have afforded school without them,” says Abraham. During the time Abraham was working on his PhD, Blessing was accepted into and began the PharmD program. Husband and wife both graduated in May from CU Pharmacy – as doctors – Adedoyin with a PhD and Blessing with a PharmD. Counting their blessings, the Abrahams want to give back, “The US government believed in me, so I need to contribute to benefit this country.” Fingers crossed, they will be able to do so with Blessing in community pharmacy and Adedoyin pursuing cancer research.
When Erlynn Frankson was a teen, her grandfather moved in with her family so her mother could take care of him. “She was a nurse and the most equipped of her five siblings to be his caregiver,” says Frankson. Frankson experienced palliative and hospice care on a personal level.

She began the program in 2014 with some trepidation. “I was used to rolling out of bed, taking the kids to school and then back to bed for 1-2 hours.” Acclimating to pharmacy school was a challenge. She continues, “I felt old and that I didn’t belong. Then I found a group of students with similar life experiences and senses of humor and it all clicked.”

Then came her rotations where she saw the pharmacist’s role in several different settings. “I bugged Dr. Gilliam over and over again about hospice rotations. But there really weren’t any,” recalls Frankson. So, she cobbled together her own choice rotation where she was able to see a variety of settings including hospice, cancer and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). “Palliative care is the intersection of geriatrics, palliative care, and hospice and that really appeals to me,” says Frankson.

According to Frankson, “People have been so helpful and accommodating. I’m getting exposure to a burgeoning field. It’s really exciting to see the opportunity. But there’s no real path, no guidelines to go by, and that’s what I like. I can create it myself.”

During her rotation she shadowed inpatient and outpatient (palliative care) teams at University of Colorado Health and also conducted home visits. While at the ICU, she noticed that the care team seems “to treat the chart or the disease. Palliative care is intriguing because it focuses on really treating the patient as a person.” For Frankson, getting to know the patient, the family, and how, as a team, she can help get them through this challenging time is what attracts her. “It means making the patient the happiest they can be at the end versus continuing to treat and treat and treat. In medicine, you’re sworn to save lives. We don’t have exposure to fields such as palliative care and hospice,” says Jury.

Jury encourages others to do what Frankson has done. “Expand your horizons. See what’s out there and create your own rotation. You never know, that might be your future path,” says Jury. And now that the University is offering a certificate and a Master’s degree in Palliative Care, both Frankson and Jury agree, “That opens up more opportunities that didn’t exist a few years ago.”

Frankson will continue to direct her career as a PGY-1 resident at Duquesne University with a focus on geriatrics and long-term care. “I’m really excited because I will be able to work closely with ambulatory oncology,” says Frankson.
In Memoriam:

Steven Henke at the Grand Canyon during a road trip he took with classmates Andrea Jones and Megan Wary.

In Memoriam:

On Monday, August 6, 2018, Dr. Steven Henke, a 2018 graduate of the PharmD program at CU Pharmacy passed away unexpectedly. In his obituary, his family says he passed due to complications from a muscle deterioration disease. A Celebration of Life and reception was held Thursday, August 9th in Parker, CO and it was attended by his family and his many friends.

A couple of his really good friends has this to say about him:

“First and foremost, Steve lived to make others laugh - even at his own expense. You could rely on him to goof off with you if you wanted to procrastinate, but he was so inherently smart and hardworking that you could’ve found him covering a shift at Walgreens the night before an exam and yet he’d still outscore you. Then if he could, he would’ve tried to give you some of his exam points if it meant you’d be happy and successful. He always knew a way to ease your worries, make you feel better, or cheer you up. Steve was such a light to so many people and left an incredible impact on all of the lives he touched. It’s rare to find a person as selfless as him, and I can’t put into words how much he will be missed.”

- Andrea Jones, Class of 2018

The rest of his obituary is below:

Our deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of Dr. Henke.

Steve was very smart, compassionate, and had a great sense of humor. He decided that he wanted to become a pharmacist when he was giving injections to patients during a mission trip to Kenya. In May 2018 Steve earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Colorado Medical Campus, Skaggs School of Pharmacy. He then passed all of his State exams and was ready to begin a pharmacy job at Walgreens which he had previously secured. Although he worked very hard to achieve his degree, he never missed an opportunity to have some fun. For example, he won the class Halloween costume contest twice, once for his dinosaur outfit and once for his mail-order bride outfit.

Other notable characteristics of Steve:

He loved African giraffes and dearly loved his mini-dachshund, Kiwi. He wore many outrageous t-shirts. As a master salesman, he could sell anything on eBay. He knew how to consistently get free pizzas by being the most vocal fan at CSU volleyball games. He was a video game aficionado. He personally installed an absolutely awesome sound system in his car and played his music really loud (the bass could almost knock you out of your seat).

Steve was quite an athlete and kept himself in great shape. He loved riding his bike, weightlifting and conditioning, snowboarding, kayaking, hiking in Moab, kickball, jumping on a trampoline (he was really good at this), and soccer.

Steve is survived by his parents, Dave and Beverly Henke of Centennial, Colorado; his brother, Brad Henke (wife Elise) of Vancouver, Canada; his aunt, Diane Zikes of Aurora, Colorado; his uncle, Paul Henke (wife Bonnie) of Tinley Park, Illinois; and his uncle, Mark Henke of Ocean Shores, Washington. He also is survived by his great-uncle, Ralph Jones of Bryan, Texas; his great-aunt, Pauline Brown, of Channelview, Texas; and many close friends and cousins. He was preceded in death by his uncle, Frank Zikes of Aurora, Colorado and his grandparents.

Most importantly, Steve was a Christian, and although he will be greatly missed, we know he is with Jesus now and we will see him again someday.

When You don't move the mountains
I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers
As I cry out to You
I will trust, I will trust
I will trust in You
I will trust in You
Lyrics from Trust in You by Lauren Daigle and Michael Farren
In many countries, healthcare reimbursements for drugs are directly related to their value or net health benefits in treating disease. But a new study by researchers at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, in collaboration with a group of international clinical and economic experts, shows that’s not the case in the U.S.

The study was published Monday in the August issue of the journal Health Affairs. “In the United Kingdom, for example, cost effectiveness is a driver of decisions to pay for, or decline to pay for, health interventions,” said the study’s lead author Jon Campbell, PhD, associate professor of pharmacy. “They generally do not pay more than £30,000 to £40,000 per quality-adjusted-life-year (QALY) for new medical interventions, thus signaling to manufacturers and other innovators what their country is willing to pay for additional health improvements.”

QALY is used to measure one year of perfect health. In the U.S., there is no formally agreed-upon cost-effectiveness threshold, due mostly to its fragmented health care system.

Using a forecasting model, they calculated the cost-effectiveness for commonly reimbursed cardiovascular drugs by estimating the cost per health outcome achieved. They wanted to see if the U.S. had an observed payment threshold, if even implicitly.

Instead, they found a wide spectrum of cost-effectiveness, suggesting that drug prices are not consistently associated with what they produce in terms of health gains. Prices were, in short, not consistently aligned with value.

“When we purchase a medical treatment, we expect to get something in return, such as living a longer life or having fewer symptoms,” said study co-author Melanie Whittington, PhD, research faculty at the CU School of Pharmacy. “The results of our study show the amount insurance providers pay to get one more unit of health, such as one additional year of life in perfect health, varies considerably and can exceed what is considered good value in other parts of the world. This contributes to higher-priced medical treatments.”

She noted that the study used data from 1985-2011 and that in recent years healthcare leaders have been talking more about value-driven health care.

Campbell said the U.S. pays up to twice as much for branded drugs and health care services compared to other wealthy nations.

The reason, he said, may be due to the difference in price paid with little difference in the quantity of drugs or health services actually used. “The U.S. gets very little in terms of additional health outcomes for this added price paid,” said Campbell, director of the pharmaceutical outcomes research graduate track at the Center for Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research at CU Anschutz. “In the pharmaceutical space, the U.S. has done a poor job at signaling to manufacturers what we are willing to pay for improvements in health and what improvements in health we care about.”

He and Whittington hope the study will stimulate more debate in this country about what constitutes an acceptable cost per unit of health gained for drugs and how to achieve value-driven health care delivery in the U.S.

“Solutions toward fair drug pricing include the U.S. sending more signals about what we value in health and U.S. decision makers being willing and able to walk away from unfair pricing,” Campbell said. The study co-authors include Vasily Belozeroff, health economist at Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Robert Rubin, distinguished professor of medicine at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.; Paolo Raggi, professor of medicine at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute and the University of Alberta in Edmonton; Andrew Briggs, professor of health economics at the University of Glasgow in Scotland and visiting investigator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.  ●
CU Pharmacy alumnus Richard Onufrock balanced two worlds – the worlds of pharmacy and art. Throughout his life, the graduate of the Class of 1961 worked as a pharmacist and an accomplished illustrator.

In 1962, just after graduation, Onufrock was commissioned by former CU Pharmacy faculty member Dr. F.C. Hammerness to create illustrations for the Colorado Journal of Pharmacy. His daughter, Amy Owsenek, contacted the school on her father’s behalf to donate some of his work. “My father has always been a huge supporter of his Alma Mater. He has donated what he can over the years to ensure others can live as rewarding a life in pharmacy as he has. At 84, he is still a registered pharmacist in three states.”

Onufrock asked that his daughter and granddaughter, Anya Owsenek, a current CU Boulder student, present the pieces to the school. Six framed original pharmacy illustrations were donated and will now be preserved and displayed at CU Pharmacy.

Thank you to Richard Onufrock and his family for the generous, historical contribution.
Organize Your Class Reunion With This Skaggs Prescription

With Commencement passing and Homecoming just around the corner, it’s high season for class reunions. Consider the following steps in arranging a reunion with the classmates you remember fondly:

1 IDENTIFY A LEAD CLASSMATE  This could be yourself, one of the former class officers or the classmate who has remained in contact with other classmates over time.

2 IDENTIFY MEMBERS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE  With the many tasks associated with organizing a reunion, it’s helpful to have 3-5 members of the class help with the coordination of the event. It can take a village and busy professionals need a little help from their friends to make your reunion special.

3 SET UP PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULE  It can take up to a year or two to organize a reunion, so a few meetings with the planning committee is essential as a means of checking in on tasks completed and further work to be done. Meeting every quarter of the year (about 4 meetings a year) up until the event should be sufficient, but it wouldn’t hurt to have a follow-up meeting after the event in order to assess how things went (see more details in step 13).

4 ESTABLISH THE REUNION EVENT DATE  It’s probably a good idea to allow 6-12 months of planning before the event date. Considering the time needed for participants to arrange travel, venue wait lists, and other time sensitive details, having sufficient notice to prepare for the event is a must.

5 CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL FOR AN ALUMNI LIST  Your alma mater is the best resource for obtaining a list of alumni in the graduating class. Not only can the alumni affairs office provide you contact lists, the office can also help develop a communication plan to assist with inviting alumni to the event. Alumni Affairs can also offer assistance with organizing campus or building tours. Contact Jaron Bryant at 303-724-0415 or by email jaron.bryant@ucdenver.edu if you need assistance from Alumni Affairs.

6 DIVIDE LIST AMONG PLANNING COMMITTEE TO MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT  This step adds the personal touch. Email can often feel impersonal, so having the opportunity to connect with a voice or see a face helps bridge the connection. Split up the names among the planning committee in order for them to focus on the classmates they are the most familiar.

7 IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES TO COMPLEMENT THE REUNION  Whether the reunion is for one day or spans a few days, you’ll want a number of activities for your classmates to participate in. Consider a picnic, a wine tasting, or a city excursion. The reunion could also be tied to a larger event such as a Homecoming football game or a Commencement ceremony. As mentioned earlier, your alma mater’s alumni affairs office can help with ideas for activities. Take advantage of them as a resource.

8 SCOUT LOCATIONS FOR THE EVENT  This can easily just be an excuse to get out and be social, but you’ll also accomplish the task of finding a great venue that would be perfect for the activities you’d like to plan. Most restaurants and event halls should have a dedicated event planner who would welcome a conversation with you about plans for a group gathering.

9 ESTABLISH A BUDGET FOR EVENT  You may want to shoot for the moon or perhaps you’re the thrifty kind. In either case, having a sense of the expense involved helps to gauge the size and scale of the event you’d like to pursue.

10 DETERMINE YOUR COMMUNICATION PLAN  You don’t have to be alone on this one. Alumni Affairs is an incredible ally for helping you get the word out. As a general rule, the following should be a part of communication plan:
   • Send a Save the Date within 6-12 months of the event
   • Send the official invitation within 3-6 months of the event with an RSVP deadline
   • Send a reminder within 30-14 days of RSVP date

11 FINALIZE CATERING, HOTEL LODGING, FLIGHTS, EVENT VENUE, AND DECORATIONS  A few check points should be scheduled along the way to assure commitment dates and contracts are satisfied. There may be the need to make modifications and contracts should spell out any deadline dates for making changes to pre-planned arrangements without a penalty.

12 ESTABLISH A CONTINGENCY PLAN  As with any project, its good practice to have a contingency plan. As Murphy’s Law cautions what can go wrong, will go wrong. As much as possible, you want to be prepared for things that slip under the radar and reset your course.

13 SET ASIDE TIME FOR A POST-EVENT ASSESSMENT  The post-event meeting is a great way to prepare for the next time around. Perhaps, you can even pre-plan for the next reunion by identifying future committee members. Gathering as much feedback as possible from all involved will make organizing the next gathering a breeze.

Jaron Bryant is a communications specialist and the Alumni Affairs liaison for CU Pharmacy. Since 2009, Jaron has been building and forging relationships with alumni, faculty, and the student body.
Members of the class of 1968 during tour of CU Pharmacy building

HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE: CLASS OF 1968 50TH REUNION

17 members of the class of 1968 and their family gathered May 25 and 26, 2018 to celebrate their 50th class reunion with a number of activities, including a tour of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building.

Ronald Kennedy, the organizer of the reunions, recruited five classmates to contact the class and generate interest in the reunion. Along with Ron, the planning committee consisted of Tom Byrnes, Bonnie Carmean, Steve Claycomb, Don Di Domenico, and Ron Manuello.

In their recruitment efforts, the committee utilized the services of Alumni Affairs at CU Pharmacy to obtain a list of classmates and coordinate a tour of the school building. Student ambassadors Nedra Chijioke (P3) and Elizabeth Ko (P2) provided the tour, encompassing all four floors in both the research and faculty areas.

The tour drew several comparisons to the education of pharmacy students in the late 1960s. The alumni also reflected on the differences in expectations in the 60s compared to the present.

“Back then, women were required to wear dresses or skirts to class,” Roberta Myer recounted. She often found herself challenging the dress code.

Bonnie Carmean remarked on how much the classroom setting itself has evolved. “We generally found ourselves working out of the professor’s laboratory then going to classes just across the hall from the laboratory,” Bonnie said.

“It is interesting to learn firsthand what pharmacy education was like in our school 50 years ago. In the 1960s, the curriculum was very science focused and today it is much more clinical pharmacy focused incorporating sciences in the context of practice. The curriculum reflects the evolving nature of practice and education. It is important to be mindful of trends and shifts in thinking, such as team-based learning and practice, so that we build on our strong foundation while remaining forward thinking and innovative in our approach towards education,” offered Dean Ralph Altieri.

The Class of 1968 consisted of 29 graduates who completed pharmacy courses on the Boulder campus when Dr. Harold Heim was dean of the pharmacy school. A conference room in the CU Pharmacy building is dedicated to Dr. Heim in recognition of his contribution towards the growth of the school.

If you are interested in organizing a class reunion, please contact the Marketing Communications Office for CU Pharmacy at 303-724-0415 or email Alumni Communications Specialist Jaron Bryant at jaron.bryant@ucdenver.edu for assistance. Alumni Affairs would be happy to work with you.

Editor’s Note: Since the reunion, the Class of 1968 continues to gather. A wine tasting on Friday, Aug. 24, 2018 was organized by classmate Jose Carranza and another “mini” reunion is in the works. Proving that the class that plays together, stays together.
Are you looking for ways to engage the next generation of pharmacists and positively influence their professional and career development? We would like to request your participation in the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy fall career events. Your attendance will broaden students’ perspective of pharmacy career pathways, and add value as our students navigate IPPE/APPE site selections, residencies, company profiles and the employment landscape.

Contact CU Pharmacy Career Services Manager Laurie Sein at Laurie.Sein@ucdenver.edu or 303-724-0250 for more information.

- **Pueblo Alumni & Friends Luncheon**
  - **Date:** September 29, 2018
  - **Where:** Table 67, 102 S Union Ave., Pueblo, CO

- **Class of 1978 – 40th Class Reunion**
  - **Date:** October 26-27, 2018
  - **Where:** Denver and Boulder (various locations)

- **Homecoming Tailgate & Football Game**
  - **Date:** October 27, 2018
  - **Where:** CU Boulder Folsom Field.

- **Tucson Alumni & Friends Dinner**
  - **Date:** November 2, 2018
  - **Where:** Venue to be announced

**ALUM SIGHTINGS:**

- Dean Ralph Altiere and CU Pharmacy faculty members Gina Moore, Laura Borgelt, Kari Franson dine with Philip Shockman (’60) and his wife Joan during AACP in Boston.

- Philip Shockman (’60) and Kandarp Mehta, the inaugural recipient of the Philip C. Shockman International Pharmacy Educator Scholarship.