



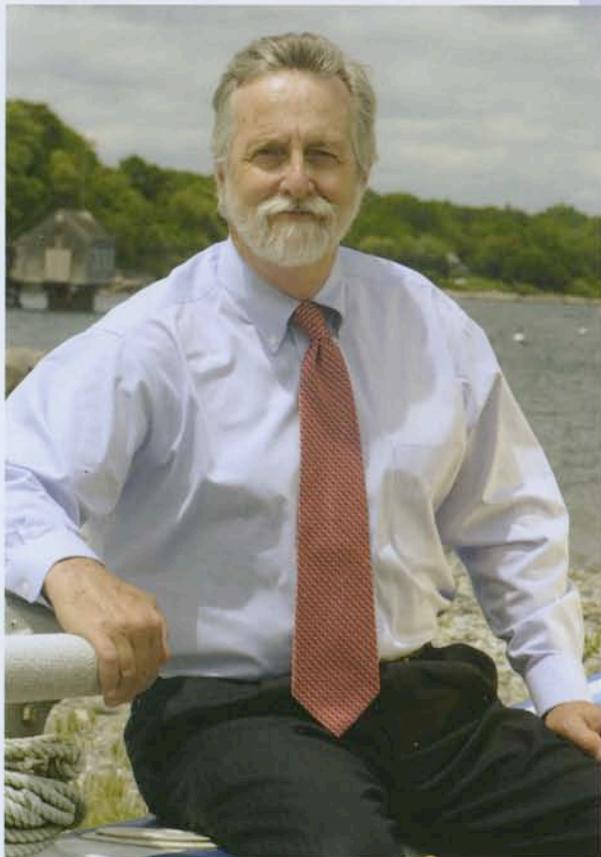
50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
PHARMACY

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
Rhode Island





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On its 50th anniversary, I want to commend the College of Pharmacy and its distinguished faculty, staff, alumni and community partners on its remarkable history. Your reputation for hardworking students and creative faculty is well known and includes prominent alumni as well as three endowed chairs. Today's entry-level Pharm.D. program traces its roots to the four-year curriculum initially offered in 1957. Before joint international degree programs were fashionable, you established the exchange program with France - now more than 20 years old - that allows students the option of earning a bachelor's degree in French while completing the Pharm.D. The College has many similar accomplishments that make us all proud!

We celebrate the College's history and admirable record of making a difference in our Rhode Island community and beyond. Your successful graduates - from pharmacists to researchers to educators to physicians and other medical professionals - have contributed immensely to the welfare of society.

Your longstanding outreach initiatives, such as the Brown Bag Program that helps senior citizens evaluate their medications and those that bring together the federal government and drug industry for the improvement of manufacturing practices, are critical to our well-being. You have made strides in research through your strong enterprise, and in particular, through the successful establishment of the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network grant and the federal IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program. The BRIN grant led to unprecedented collaboration with Brown University, Rhode Island College, Providence College, Salve Regina University, Roger Williams University and Bryant University, while the INBRE grant resulted in the establishment of a center for toxicology studies open to all biomedical researchers in the state.

And the College has been a leader in the use of technology in the learning environment. Six years ago, you were the first College of Pharmacy to purchase a high-fidelity human patient simulator, allowing students to observe the effects of drugs firsthand and to familiarize themselves with clinical settings. More recently, you served as a development partner for the BabySIM (the human infant patient simulator), undertaking the drug programming.

Congratulations to all who have contributed during the past 50 years to the success of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island. It is an inspiration to us all, and we are proud of its many notable achievements.

Happy 50th Anniversary,

Robert L. Carothers  
President

# DONALD LETENDRE

*Dean of Pharmacy*

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## TRULY GOLDEN!!!

We have much to celebrate!

During the past 50 years, we have laid witness to remarkable changes in the delivery of our pharmacy education, having transitioned from four- and then five-year B.S. programs to the graduation of the University's first all-Pharm.D. class in 2004. Substantial growth in the number of clinical faculty and the corresponding development of many new clinical training opportunities have fostered a curriculum that places great emphasis on patient-centered care and students' professional development. A sustained commitment to student engagement and leadership in professional associations and outreach have resulted in many prestigious awards, including being recognized this past year as the nation's leading college of pharmacy in educating the public about access to federal drug programs.

Faculty continue to be at the forefront of research and discovery with its collective efforts, placing the College among the top 20 nationwide in recent years in terms of its level of federal support for research.

Complementing this extraordinary growth in the research enterprise are the many talented graduate students who have labored long and hard in the laboratories of Fogarty and who have gone on to become leaders in the pharmaceutical industry.

Throughout the years, the College has benefited from superb leadership. **Deans Youngken** and **Luzzi** - during their more than four decades of service - proved to be visionaries, statesmen, and champions of progress. Their efforts embraced the legacy of quality pharmacy education as provided from 1902 to 1957 at the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences, and their determination helped forge the foundation for our future.

The College boasts an alumni base that includes pioneers in all segments of the profession. Of course, it is their stories of providing quality patient care, conducting cutting-edge research and pursuing avant-garde avenues of enterprise that make the past 50 years so special. After all, it is our progeny that serves to underscore how truly golden the URI College of Pharmacy has been.

As the College embarks on its next 50 years, it does so with tremendous pride, a wonderful feeling of accomplishment, and a profound sense of appreciation for all of the remarkable achievements and contributions of so many during the past five decades. In the years to come we look forward to a new home for our College and a renewed spirit that truly embraces our legacy of excellence as defined by all that has been accomplished by the URI College of Pharmacy since opening its doors in 1957.

With respect and admiration,

Donald E. Letendre  
Dean and Professor

# INTRODUCTION

## *50 Years of Pharmacy*



As we mark the College of Pharmacy's 50th anniversary, it is fitting to look upon the early years and the farsighted leaders who successfully integrated the former Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences into the University of Rhode Island and set the course for its extraordinary growth. University President **Carl Woodward** and Vice President **Harold Browning** were among the College's most fervent champions, working with the state legislature and the Board of Trustees of State Colleges of Rhode Island to make their dream a reality. Confident that the Rhode Island General Assembly would authorize a new College, Woodward and the Board of Trustees began a search for a new Dean that culminated with an invitation to **Heber Youngken**, a longtime faculty member at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he also chaired the department of pharmacognosy.

For more than two decades, Youngken's name became synonymous with the College. He zealously recruited topnotch faculty that attracted government and industry research funds and established a curriculum that was rigorous, yet flexible enough to change along with trends in the profession. Paramount among the College's innumerable achievements during Youngken's tenure are a medicinal garden - today endowed in his name - used in the teaching and research for pharmacognosy and natural drug products, post-graduate courses for practicing pharmacists and other health professionals that served as the genesis of the College's Continuing Education program, and renowned research that helped the College's reputation expand far beyond the state's boundaries. One noteworthy joint research study in open-heart surgery teamed faculty and graduate students with cardiac surgeons and cardiologists from Providence's Miriam Hospital. Using the College's research facilities, the physicians, Professor **John DeFeo** and his students examined the pharmacology of certain cardioplegic drugs and

experimented with the use of sophisticated techniques in open-heart surgery. Ultimately, the team perfected these techniques and used them for the first time in a three-year-old patient at Miriam Hospital - the first open-heart surgery in the state.

Furthering this legacy upon Youngken's retirement in 1980 would prove challenging, yet his successor, **Louis Luzzi '59, M.S., '63, Ph.D. '66**, capitalized on the momentum and directed the College's growth for the next two decades. During this time, the world outside of Fogarty Hall was embracing the efficiencies of technology, and Luzzi ensured that the College did so as well. To broaden the accessibility of its programs, the College established a non-traditional Pharm.D. distance learning program. Through live broadcasts from the Kingston campus, students in scattered locales throughout the region could pursue this degree on weekends.

Luzzi's term also coincided with the disturbing trend of higher state budget deficits and dwindling financial support to the state colleges and university. Taking a cue from its private counterparts, URI stepped up fundraising efforts and engaged in a capital campaign. With Luzzi at the College's helm, three distinguished graduates - **Ernest Mario, M.S. '63, Ph.D., '66, Hon. '91**; **Thomas Ryan '75**; and **Mostafa Omar, Ph.D. '82** - established endowments in support of pharmaceuticals, community pharmacy and natural product chemistry, respectively. Indeed, upon his retirement as dean, Luzzi returned to the faculty as the first person to hold the Ernest Mario Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutics.

In the 21st century, the College continues to move forward, making additional strides in the area of technological advancement. Under the leadership of **Dean Donald Letendre**, the College became one of the first to require all Pharm.D. students to have a laptop computer. Moreover, the Brooks Eckerd 3D Visualization Auditorium has become one of New England's most technologically advanced classrooms. Students and faculty use the facility to create 3D animations depicting drug interactions and biological processes at the molecular level. This high-tech classroom also serves as a harbinger of things to come. The College's plans for its new home - a 130,000-square-foot state-of-the-art building located in the University's north district - include an advanced instrumentation suite and a nuclear magnetic resonance facility.

Though technological sophistication contributes to the College's stellar reputation, accomplished graduates, who enjoy success in retail pharmacy, consulting, academia, industry and research, embody its mission. Alumni from the last five decades are profiled on the next few pages. Whether running a biotech startup, leading research efforts or filling prescriptions at a neighborhood pharmacy, each is patient-focused and aims to improve the health and well-being of society. Their stories clearly demonstrate the College's far-reaching impact and the unlimited potential of its alumni.

# JOHN HARONIAN 1958

## *Transformation of the Retail Pharmacy Landscape*



When the University welcomed the College of Pharmacy into its fold in the fall of 1957, it did so with great pride and promise. Distinguished academics served as faculty, and a challenging curriculum awaited 134 undergraduates. It was an exciting time, particularly for freshmen who came to Kingston for the first time and would have four years to acclimate to the rural environment that would become home away from home. Alternatively, students who transitioned from the former Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences in Providence had less time to adjust, especially the 33 young men of the Class of 1958. John Haronian, a member of that senior class, discussed the change.

"In Providence, the college consisted of two buildings, and we were a close-knit group. Everyone knew each other. All of a sudden in our last year, we were adopted by URI, and our small group began attending a huge university. Five of us carpoled from Providence, so while we didn't come to realize the (true) flavor of campus life, we enjoyed good conversation during our commutes and remained close."

Haronian's final year rapidly passed, and with a degree from the newly established college, he quickly began a career that left an indelible mark on the retail pharmacy landscape in Rhode Island. His legacy began in 1965 when he purchased Douglas Drug, a low-volume, 1,800-square-foot store in North Providence. It generated about \$149,000 in yearly revenue that Haronian describes as "typical of the corner store" popular at the time. Working day and night, Haronian transformed this small neighborhood pharmacy into a multi-state retail operation with 11,000-square-foot stores akin to modern-day CVS or Walgreens pharmacies.

In building this empire, Haronian traveled to pharmacy chains in the Washington, D.C., area and captured ideas for store layout and merchandise mix. He started advertising discount drug prescriptions to address budding consumer concerns about the cost of medications. These concepts were untested in the state, but Haronian's gambles paid off, and business flourished. "My biggest challenge was trying to stay ahead of the curve. I was always looking for something new and was never satisfied with what I had."

Like a chess master, Haronian expertly planned his next business move. He ran a chain of retail optical outlets, became involved in a leasing and management company, and in the '80s decided to take Douglas Drug public. Preparations were under way for a year with the initial public offering scheduled for early October 1987. When the company aiding Douglas Drug in becoming publicly traded delayed the offering, it unwittingly derailed the arrangement. On October 19, or "Black Monday," the Dow lost \$500 billion – the largest one-day stock market crash in history - rendering IPOs nearly impossible. "There was no sense in going forward, so I pulled out," says Haronian. "That was a turning point in my pharmacy career, and I had to make a decision."

Canada's Jean Coutu Group, eager to expand within the United States, had courted Haronian for years, and in 1990, Haronian arranged for the private sale of his 16-store chain to the company's five-store Maxi Drug division. Soon after the completion of the transaction, Haronian, for the first time in his career, was not associated with retail pharmacy. Retirement, however, was not an option. His never-ending drive to experience new challenges motivated his foray into the retail liquor industry. "I saw all of these mom-and-pop liquor stores, and I couldn't tell the difference among the owner, clerk and customer. But, in seeking out new opportunities, I look not at what's there, but at what could be."

Haronian purchased People's Super Liquor Stores, a Massachusetts chain, and applied concepts, such as continual training for managers and employees, that were the foundations of Douglas Drug's success. Trying to replicate the model in Rhode Island, Haronian is thwarted by state laws prohibiting liquor store chains and franchises. He is seeking to overturn the law and is preparing to appeal a recent court ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Though Haronian segued from pharmacy chain executive to liquor store franchisor, he continues to extol the value of a pharmacy degree. "There is so much opportunity in pharmacy – not just retail. With your diploma and your license, you can go on in every direction."

Just like the idealistic young man, who in 1958, was among the first to hold a degree from what would develop into the renowned University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy.

# FRANCIS CASSIDY 1967

## *Independent Study*

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A decade often described as turbulent with the assassination of President Kennedy, race riots and antiwar protests, the 1960s gave rise to social activists and patriots alike. Against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, some college students fled to Canada, some staged sit-ins, and some, like Frank Cassidy, joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

"With Vietnam, I knew there would be a need, so I joined ROTC to be prepared. I had been a member of Junior ROTC at Rogers High School in Newport, so I was familiar with the program."

As expected, the U.S. Army came calling, interrupting his graduate studies.

Captain Cassidy was assigned to the Defense Personnel Support Center in Philadelphia and served as a technical service officer in the procurement branch of the Medical Service Corps.

"It was a great experience. We'd inspect all types of manufacturing facilities at small and large pharmaceutical companies, like Merck and Johnson & Johnson, and affirmed the quality of the vaccines and medicines. Prior to our involvement, there were instances where contracts went to the lowest bidder, and products made for the troops proved inferior."

Upon completion of his military obligation, Cassidy and his classmate, the late **Alan Renner**, wasted no time in buying their own pharmacy, Nutter's Drug, in Somersworth, N.H. Owned by the same family since 1892, the store was embedded in the fabric of this northern New England town. Renamed Care Pharmacy, the store quickly grew to a small chain with a presence in Dover and Durham, N.H., and South Berwick, Maine. "After a while, Alan didn't want a seven-day work week, so I kept the New Hampshire stores, and he took the one in Maine."

Alternatively, Cassidy thrived on the unforgiving schedules and the challenges of multiple business interests. Through the years, Cassidy has owned pharmacies in 12 different communities in New Hampshire and Maine. While operating Care Pharmacies, he owned an O.P.T.I.O.N.

Care home I.V. franchise in the mid-'80s and two closed-shop pharmacies that serviced 80 percent of the New Hampshire nursing home community. He sold the latter to a national chain in 1996. In addition to pharmacies, he has owned or partnered in an Italian restaurant, a pizza shop, an ice cream shop, two Hallmark Gold Crown stores and two radio stations.

Although he gets calls from chains to sell his retail pharmacies, Cassidy remains successful as an independent through differentiation. "I have a compounding center at one, and through my Care Health Services division, I sell what people need to care for themselves or their loved ones at home – items such as wheelchairs and hospital beds. I'd consider a fifth location, but the biggest obstacle is the lack of available pharmacists to staff the store." A fifth store may be out of reach, but Cassidy is unmoved and remains open to new and different opportunities.

In many ways, Cassidy is as driven now as he was as a pharmacy student. "I appreciated URI because I could take up to 21 credits and study various subjects outside of the pharmacy curriculum. My goal was to obtain as much knowledge as possible."

This go-getter spirit typifies his approach to business and has served him well since those heady days of the '60s. With a solid business, a wife of 39 years and three grown children, Cassidy sums it up simply. "I've been very blessed."

# WILLIAM SIMONSON 1970

## *Advocate for the Aged*

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Courses in pharmacognosy, dosage forms and pharmacokinetics are standard fare in the pharmacy curriculum. Yet, it was a special one-credit independent study course for which William Simonson wrote a paper on medication and the elderly that sparked an interest in geriatrics, heavily influencing his career path. Now a certified geriatric pharmacist, Simonson built upon the knowledge gleaned from that course as a young faculty member of Oregon State University College of Pharmacy.

"My department head provided services to two local nursing homes and asked me to assist him on a part-time basis. The exposure to elderly patients helped me develop a nice sequence of courses on the pharmaceutical needs of the aged.

"I also recognized geriatric pharmacy as a growing field. During the 1970s through the '80s, the Veterans Administration did some studies on its aging population and concluded that the system would soon be overwhelmed."

Through his work in academia as well as his associations with the United States Pharmacopeia Advisory Panel on Geriatrics, the National Council on Aging, the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy and other organizations dedicated to the well-being of the elderly, Simonson is a renowned expert with more than three decades of experience in the field. An author of more than 100 publications, including two books, *Medications and the Elderly: A Guide for Promoting Proper Use* and *Consultant Pharmacy Practice* (editions 1 and 2), Simonson is called upon frequently to present at local, national and international symposia, traveling about 100,000 miles annually to do so.

Paramount among the numerous awards bestowed upon him are the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists' George F. Archambault Award - in recognition of his outstanding contributions to consultant and senior care pharmacy - and the Janssen ElderCare Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in improving the health care of the elderly.

When he is not traveling to award ceremonies or to speaking engagements, he is involved in a host of projects as an independent consultant pharmacist. In Virginia where he resides, he works on a contract basis with nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

"It is not uncommon for residents to be taking an average of 11 different medications. It is my responsibility to ensure appropriate use, to prevent complications and make sure the patients will not experience any adverse reactions.

"Today's pharmacist has a more formalized role, serving as a risk manager for these facilities. With so many new drug therapies and rules that influence drug delivery, I have to ensure that the facility is in compliance by adhering to the regulations."

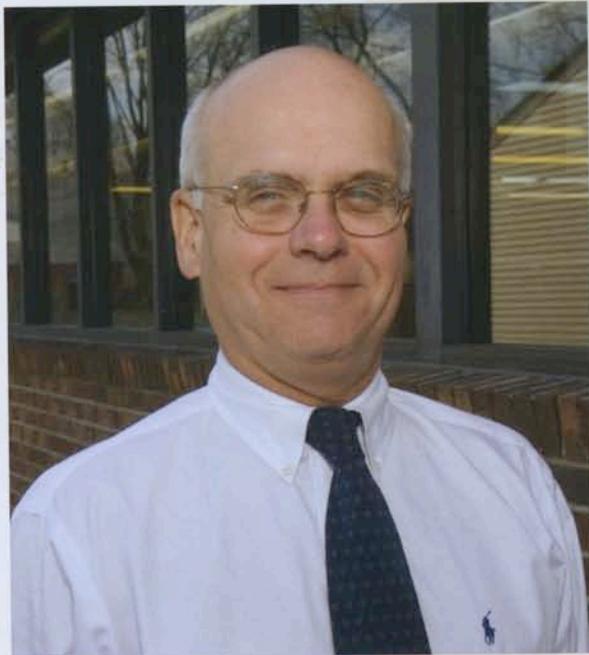
Whether he is keeping assisted living facilities out of regulatory trouble, writing content for a video that demonstrates the proper way to administer medications to nursing home patients or serving as a legal expert, Simonson serves a population for which he holds great affection.

"I had the good fortune to be raised in close contact with a number of elderly great aunts and great uncles who were vibrant and always quick with a joke. We need to take care of these people who are such an important part of our society."

## DAVID FEENEY 1971

### *Pay It Forward*

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Work for an established pharmacist, and buy the business when the proprietor retires. That was the recommendation the College of Pharmacy faculty gave to students through the 1970s. In an era of successful, independent pharmacies, it was sound advice. For David Feeney, those words of wisdom molded his decades-long career as an independent pharmacy owner.

Taking the suggestion to heart, Feeney, upon graduation, began working at Oxnard Pharmacy in Warwick, R.I., under the tutelage of Bradford Oxnard. Mr. Oxnard not only helped Feeney learn the business of pharmacy, but also gave him the freedom to provide clinical services, such as evaluating patient profiles and counseling customers.

In 1986, Oxnard decided to retire, giving Feeney the opportunity to own and operate the long-established business. Amid the pharmacy chains that surround it, Oxnard is a valuable resource to the community. The first pharmacy in the state to be certified as a Diabetic Outpatient Education Center, it offers weekly pharmacist diabetes education programs led by **Paul DiBiase '93**. **Gina Policelli-Halvorsen '96** holds asthma management and smoking cessation classes, and **Justin Lamboy '06** offers bilingual pharmacy counseling services. Feeney also works closely with the city's elderly, delivering prescriptions to those who cannot get to the pharmacy and offering educational programs at a local senior center. For these outreach initiatives, the Buttonwoods Senior Enrichment Center honored him with its first annual Business Award.

Feeney also offers his time and talent to the College of Pharmacy, providing hand-on experience to students and training his pharmacists to be preceptors. In recognition of his dedication to the profession, the National Community Pharmacists Association named him National Preceptor of the Year in 1999.

Modestly, Feeney explains his motivation for helping aspiring pharmacists. "I was really fortunate that my educators were my mentors. I have a lot of gratitude and respect for (the late) **Dean Heber Youngken**, **Dr. Leonard Worthen**, **Dr. Norman Campbell** and the other faculty members. They inspired me to leave the profession better than when I came in. The future lies with the students, so being a preceptor is

something you just do. They also inspired me to be involved with national and state professional organizations to help shape the profession." Feeney became associated with these organizations while a student, and currently, he serves on a number of national advisory boards and many Rhode Island pharmacy committees.

In addition to training the next generation of pharmacists and actively participating in professional organizations, Feeney is advancing the profession through technology. A leading example of the efficiency and capabilities gained through technology, Oxnard Pharmacy utilizes state-of-the-art computers, imaging, bar code scanning and workflow technology to enhance the prescription-processing functions. An early adopter of e-prescriptions, Feeney serves on the national advisory board for SureScripts, a nonprofit telecommunications network that manages the electronic exchange of prescription information between doctor and pharmacy. Oxnard was the first independent pharmacy in Rhode Island to go live with the system four years ago. Although the physician population has not adopted e-prescriptions fully, Oxnard fulfills about 25 percent of its new prescriptions and refills electronically.

"It's the way to go," says Feeney. "On average, we spent two hours per day trying to get through to doctors' offices or faxing prescriptions, sometimes waiting up to two days for a response. With e-scripts, that wait time has been reduced to 20 minutes, giving us more time to counsel patients."

Focusing on improving his customers' health is Feeney's priority and his primary motivation for heeding the faculty's advice to run his own business. "As an independent pharmacist, I can practice what the College of Pharmacy teaches. Meeting numbers and profit structure are important, but they're not everything. It's important to make sure that the business of pharmacy does not ruin the fun of being a pharmacist."

# JUSTINA MOLZON 1973, M.S., 1976

## *Global Harmony*

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Nurse, teacher or pharmacist. Those were the choices Justina Molzon's parents gave her as career options. Pharmacist was included in the mix simply because her mother had spoken earlier in the day to her neighborhood pharmacist who endorsed the profession. Although her alternatives were limited, Molzon wisely chose pharmacy, as her accomplishments are many. She is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service and currently holds a senior management position in the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Molzon first considered joining the Public Health Service while she was pursuing her master's degree in pharmaceuticals. Responsible for the dispensing lab, she tried to expose her fifth-year students to the many professional paths available and invited a Corps member to speak to her class. "He did such a good job that I ended up joining."

Assigned to a Navajo Indian Reservation in Tuba City, Ariz., her skills were challenged by what some may consider primitive traditions.

"Medications had to be taken at timed intervals, yet the Indians tell time by the sun. Taking drugs with food was also problematic, as they ate one meal."

After serving this population for five years, Molzon reassessed her career. Many of her colleagues were pursuing M.B.A. degrees, but she wanted something different. Encouraged by Norm Campbell, Ph.D., J.D., Molzon earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

A newly minted attorney, she maintained a law practice in Chicago and worked with a pro bono legal program for persons with AIDS. While the work was interesting, Molzon rejoined the Public Health Service, and through a series of promotions, found herself in the international arena.

Molzon coordinates CDER's efforts related to the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH). The ICH Steering Committee's goal is to reduce duplicate testing during the research and development of new drugs and to get products to market more quickly throughout Canada, Europe, Japan, Switzerland and the United States.

"ICH started in the '90s. It's unique in that industry and regulators, which have had an adversarial relationship, work together to create harmonized guidelines. One of ICH's major accomplishments is the Common Technical Document that allows submission of marketing applications to ICH regions in the same format. Our success spawned the ICH Global Cooperation Group that aims to assist other harmonization initiatives, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group and other initiatives from Africa, the Gulf Region and Latin America."

In addition to her work with ICH, Molzon directs CDER's involvement with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a \$15 billion initiative designed to give HIV-positive individuals in third-world countries access to safe and effective antiretroviral drugs. In so doing, she interacts with drug manufacturers in India and Africa that have not worked with the FDA previously and encourages them to submit applications for single entity, fixed-dose combinations. In return, the FDA has developed a fast-track approval process, whereby USAID can purchase drugs that are still on patent for use in Africa and other areas where they are needed most. "The best part of this program is that it was proposed by President Bush, and for the first time, politics and public health are on the same wavelength."

Although Molzon describes her professional experiences as a "patchwork quilt," she has no regrets. "Working with international governments and regulatory agencies is rewarding; I'm doing something meaningful.

"The best thing I ever did was become a pharmacist, and I am blessed that my mom picked it out for me."

## DONALD BRIEN 1973

### *A Dose of Magic*

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When Don Brien was stocking shelves as a teenager at a discount department store, he was asked to work in the store's pharmacy on weekends. To be helpful, he accepted but gave little thought to pursuing a pharmacy degree. Alternatively, the late **Arnie Sidel '58**, a staff pharmacist, recognized Brien's potential and exposed him to the field. As a participant in URI's preceptor program, teaching came naturally to Sidel.

"The College hosted an open house. Arnie took me and convinced me to go so that I could serve the public."

By the time Brien earned his degree, Sidel had established Moshassuck Pharmacy which catered to nursing homes in Providence, R.I. Once more, Sidel took Brien under his wing, and soon, he was servicing nearly 500 beds. Brien was grateful to Sidel for his guidance and for giving him his start, yet he was lured to CVS by a more flexible schedule.

Brien was first assigned to a brand-new store filling 30 prescriptions per day. Eventually, he worked at Rhode Island's busiest CVS and ultimately became a district supervisor overseeing 26 stores. Brien's primary responsibility was to train other pharmacists to achieve success in high-volume stores.

"It was important to tell the pharmacists not to get discouraged with disgruntled customers. The customers are unhappy because of the system and not because of the pharmacist."

In addition to dispensing advice, Brien was also accountable for identifying independent stores for CVS to acquire. When he approached Earnshaw Drug in Wickford, R.I., the owner was not willing to sell, but he was interested in taking on a partner. Accepting an offer that was too good to refuse, Brien transitioned back to the independent pharmacy, and like his mentor Sidel, served as a preceptor to many URI students, including his daughter **Courtney '02**.

"I loved teaching. It's been the best experience of my career. The students made me smarter because they asked hard questions. I always had to stay on top of things."

In time, a chain purchased Earnshaw Drug, but Brien remained independent, becoming a partner at Central Drug in Central Falls, R.I. Combination pharmacy, grocery and liquor store, Central Drug offers one-stop shopping for residents of this densely populated city. Located 35 miles from campus, it attracts students participating in the new entrepreneurial rotation. The program is geared toward students considering a career as an independent pharmacy owner.

"This is a critical element of their education. In a chain, you are concerned with getting the work done. As an independent, you worry about that as well as making more money."

Addressing those concerns, Brien recently partnered with the Health Mart franchise. While remaining independent, he will realize the benefits of buying power and more favorable contracts with health insurance companies. Despite the challenges of operating an independent pharmacy, Brien remains optimistic.

"I've enjoyed being a pharmacist all these years. Jimmy Buffet sums it up for me. 'Some of it's magic, some of it's tragic, but I had a good life all the way.'"

## PHILIP FONG 1975

### *Decades of Dedication to Community Pharmacy*

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The pharmacy curriculum, with its demanding course load and internship and externship requirements, can be overwhelming to many students. It presents even greater challenges to foreign students, like Philip Fong, who came to America for the first time to attend the University. A Hong Kong native, Fong had to adjust not only to a new country but also to the culture of the pharmacy profession in America.

"In Hong Kong, retail pharmacy does not exist as it does here. Doctors diagnose patients and write prescriptions at their offices, where technicians or nurses - not trained pharmacists - dispense medications. Doctors only carry the medicines unique to their specialty, so a patient cannot obtain dermatologic prescriptions from their pediatrician.

"It was a totally new experience just to understand how this part of the profession was carried out in America. The FDA rules and regulations were confusing to me. I had to think through them and compare them to what I was brought up with."

With help from his classmates and fraternity brothers, Fong quickly adapted to the American way of life and developed firsthand a keen understanding of the role of the community pharmacist in America. To fulfill the externship required for the state's licensing examination, he joined Moshassuck Pharmacy in Providence, R.I., under the tutelage of his fraternity brother and mentor, **Don Brien '73**, and became a staff pharmacist upon passing the test.

A group of nine nursing homes held exclusive contracts with Moshassuck, and Fong soon found himself fitting knee and leg braces, adjusting lumbar supports and helping patients put on surgical stockings. As the pharmacy grew to become a 24/7 operation and its service offerings expanded, so did Fong's responsibilities. Although he earned a well-deserved promotion to manager, he contemplated the future of the independent pharmacy and decided to transition to a chain drug store at a time when they were not looked upon favorably. Independent pharmacy owners bristled at the thought of displaying cosmetics in their stores. In spite of that philosophy, Fong joined CVS to achieve greater financial stability and to strengthen his managerial skills.

After 26 years, Fong still works for CVS and describes his experience as "very positive". "The customer base is consistent, so by working in one location for a long time, I find myself intertwined in the lives of my customers. I end up serving generations of the same family.

"Another interesting part of working in retail is the interaction with a variety of people - doctors, nurses, insurance companies, customers, insurance adjusters. My job is so much more than dispensing medication."

After three decades in the profession, Fong still possesses an admirable passion for his work. "I value my position in the community and know people trust me and rely on my knowledge and service for their welfare. There are few occupations as rewarding when it comes time to being an integral part in the wellness of the daily lives of people."

## SANDRA AND WILLIAM ROSA 1975

### *Committed to Each Other and to the Good Health of the Community*

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According to The Family Institute, more than 30 percent of family owned businesses survive into the second generation. In the third generation, however, that figure drops dramatically to 12 percent. These statistics support Sandy and Bill Rosa's opinion concerning the decline in independently owned pharmacies. "Many of the independent pharmacies in my generation were family owned. The owners' children observed the struggles of running a business – working long hours and holidays – and chose different career paths. It was difficult to see beyond that," says Bill.

Adds Sandy, "That was true in our own family. Our daughter, **Katie '04**, grew up watching us run (the former) LaSalle Pharmacy (in Providence). When she was 16 and thinking about career options, she said, 'You people work too hard!' (With that declaration), she pursued a degree in the environmental and life sciences and now works as a groundwater specialist."

Although the Rosas had no legacy to succeed them in family business, they remained independent. Yet in time, low pharmacy reimbursements, a large staff and competition for front store merchandising led Bill and his partner, **John Capuano '76**, to sell LaSalle to CVS in 2003. To walk away from the only pharmacy at which each had worked was a heartbreaking decision, but the sale gave them the time to examine their career choices and formulate plans for the future.

"We tried working for someone else, but we missed being our own bosses," says Bill. "We still thought we had something to give back, and to be an independent pharmacist is in my soul."

After careful thought, the former business partners developed a business model centered solely on prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. The end result was JB Pharmacy, a "no-frills" store where the owners greet patients by name and guarantee virtually no wait time for prescriptions. What they lack in general merchandise is more than made up for with personal attention and sought-after amenities, including delivery service and an after-hours call number for emergencies. Rosa and Capuano's goal was to make their second attempt at running a business "fun". By all accounts, they are enjoying themselves. Without

the challenges of a larger store, such as merchandising and overhead, they have more time to advise and counsel their patients. They relish their role as an integral part of a health-care team that improves quality of life.

Sandy shares their enthusiasm for educating the public and serving as a resource to the community. In her role as coordinator of the College's Pharmacy Outreach Program, a position she describes as her "dream job," Sandy is tasked with developing and delivering educational programs, medication counseling and health screenings throughout Rhode Island. Among these varied initiatives, the Brown Bag Program is most famous and popular with the state's elderly. Residents put all of their prescription and over-the-counter medications in a bag and bring it to a screening, where a pharmacist will review for potential adverse reactions and examine with the patient the purpose for the drugs.

"The seniors' biggest concerns are whether they are taking appropriate medications and whether they are taking too much. Sitting in an examination room in a johnny, patients are scared to ask doctors, so they are eager to ask a pharmacist. It's very gratifying to answer their questions and ease their fears."

While she joined the College of Pharmacy seven years ago, Sandy is no stranger to promoting pharmacy in the community. Through her involvement with the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association and LaSalle Pharmacy, she has been involved in a host of community activities – from speaking at career days to screening patients during an encephalitis outbreak of 1997. In recognition of her dedication to the community and the association, RIPA presented her with the McKesson Presidents Award last year.

The Rosas' passion for their profession is matched by their love for the University. "URI was the glory days. Our class was a close-knit group, and we cherish those relationships. To this day, they have provided continuity in our lives."

# ANDREA PANAGGIO 1976, M.S., 1978, PH.D., 1982

## *Plan B: Graduate School*

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If, in the early '70s, someone told Andrea Panaggio, who entered URI as a medical technology major, that she would remain at the University for a decade and ultimately earn a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences, she would have laughed heartily.

"I didn't plan for any of this. I transferred into Pharmacy after a semester. The reality of getting a job occurred to me as spring approached during my fifth year. I decided that going to graduate school sounded like a good idea."

In that same year, she started working in a College of Pharmacy lab, setting it up for students in **Dr. Joan Lausier's** cosmetics formulation course. In gathering the necessary ingredients for makeup recipes, she decided that she "liked the art of pharmacy". This helped reinforce her interest in making dose forms (e.g., tablets, capsules) that began when taking **Dr. George Osborne's** General Pharmacy and Dose Forms courses.

Having completed a master's degree program in the area of emulsion technology, she was ready for the real world and accepted a summer research assistant's position that **Dr. Christopher Rhodes** arranged for her at Baxter Travenol Laboratories in Illinois. This experience heightened her interest in dose forms and drove her decision to work in industry. Encouragement from Drs. Lausier and Rhodes motivated her to begin a Ph.D. program.

Earning a Ph.D. opened the door at Bristol-Myers Squibb, where she began her career in dose form development in the area of semi-solids and sterile formulations for drugs used in clinical trials.

"I was responsible for the operation of a new sterile suite after an older one had been demolished. This was a tremendous experience. I learned a great deal about aseptic techniques and current good manufacturing processes."

In addition to her work in the aseptic area, Panaggio, along with her colleagues, was granted patents for steroid cream and ointment formulations as well as for dosage forms for oral administration of ephothilones (a class of compounds used to attack chemotherapy-resistant cells).

Having achieved success with the sterile products formulation team and with patent approval, Panaggio transitioned to the company's stability group that evaluates the chemical and physical characteristics of pharmaceuticals over time. "Initially, I was reluctant to move. I knew about stability but never had to write protocol to defend to the FDA."

Her concerns were unfounded. Within five years, she rose to the top and presently manages the function. Her team supports stability studies for small molecules and biologics. Its many responsibilities include writing the stability portion of the Chemistry Manufacturing & Controls regulatory dossiers (a critical element of new drug applications filed with the FDA) and ensuring that the data they have developed to support stability studies can be applied globally.

Panaggio's shift from drug formulation to stability, like her decision to study pharmacy, was unplanned, yet her accomplishments as a practicing scientist and as a leader at one of the country's largest pharmaceutical companies are laudable. She credits the College of Pharmacy for her professional happiness. "I enjoy my career so much. I owe a lot to them and wouldn't be where I am today without the encouragement and support I received as a graduate student."

## PAULINE LEVASSEUR 1980, B.S., 2000, PHARM.D.

### *Stepping Outside of the Comfort Zone*

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Ask anyone what sea kayaking and home building courses have to do with pharmacy practice, and most would respond with a blank stare. Polly LeVasseur, on the other hand, would say that each in its own way helped mold the professional she is today. A pharmacy consultant to Maine's Department of Health and Human Services and a clinical pharmacist at Parkview Adventist Medical Center, a 55-bed facility in Brunswick, LeVasseur describes these classes as influential.

"Taking the home building class in the early 1980s gave me much more of a can-do attitude, pushing me to get involved with professional organizations in Maine."

Encouraged by this new sense of self-confidence, LeVasseur joined the Maine Pharmacy Association and the Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists, serving as president of the latter. For both organizations, she coordinated numerous continuing education seminars. "I believe that you have to give back the space you take up in the profession, and these organizations allowed me to do that."

Complementing her can-do attitude is the inspiration to change the status quo that derived from sea kayaking instruction. "Since learning to sea kayak 15 years ago, I've been able to hone my critical thinking skills and use the resources available – no matter how limited – to solve problems. Nothing is an obstacle. The class took away the fear of doing new things."

This newfound outlook fueled LeVasseur's decision to assume the challenge of teaching pharmacology classes to cardiovascular technician students at Southern Maine Community College. An adjunct instructor, LeVasseur learned quickly that there was little correlation between her understanding of the subject matter and her ability to teach it to students, many of whom did not have a medical background. Given her obstacle-free philosophy, she managed the situation by speaking to students individually at the beginning of the semester to determine their comfort level with the material.

Seeking to satisfy her own intellectual curiosity, LeVasseur furthered her education through the College of Pharmacy's non-traditional Pharm.D. program. From Bangor, she participated in weekend classes broadcast live from the Kingston campus to "broaden horizons and become more informed in terms of Medication Therapy Management and other clinical topics".

Working for the Department of Health and Human Services also provides LeVasseur with an educational opportunity, as she performs state and federal relicensure surveys for hospitals and ambulatory centers. Part of a team consisting of physicians, nurses and laboratory and engineering professionals, LeVasseur conducts scheduled and non-scheduled physical inspections, interviews staff and reviews policies and procedures to ensure that facilities adhere to the rigid standards set by the local and federal governments. "It is interesting to see the other side of hospital pharmacy – from the regulatory standpoint. It's enjoyable to visit the hospital and learn about processes that enhance safety that I can apply at Parkview," says LeVasseur. "In Maine, hospitals work together under the umbrella of larger health-care organizations, so we have to rely on one another and share best practices."

Whether she is utilizing a skill set fine-tuned at sea in a kayak or drawing upon knowledge garnered from a site inspection, LeVasseur constantly strives to advance quality of care. This intense focus on continuous improvement has made her a better pharmacist whom the state of Maine is lucky to count among its most committed health-care professionals.

## SUSAN NETTESHEIM 1980

### *A Topical Expert in Skin Care Research*

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"I wasn't committed to graduate school," says Susan Nettesheim, who considered a Ph.D. in marine biology before deciding upon pharmacy at a friend's suggestion. "Pharmacy's broad curriculum provides a solid foundation for a great career. If I earned a B.S. in zoology, it would have been harder to get a job without an advanced degree."

Grateful for her friend's advice, she has risen through the ranks of research and development at some of the country's largest pharmaceutical companies. Nettesheim, who serves as vice president, R&D for the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies Baby Global Business Unit, traces her interest in R&D to a conversation she had as a student with **Associate Dean Joan Lausier**.

"I worked in retail and hospital pharmacies during the summer and wasn't sure that either was right for me. I wanted a job that combined the practical and the scientific, and Dean Lausier recommended R&D. That conversation led to independent studies in the area of personal care, and I liked it."

An on-campus interview with Chesebrough-Pond's served as the genesis of her 15-year tenure at the company during which she developed and launched a variety of skin care products, including the Erno Laszlo cosmetics line.

"Working on these high-end skin care products was an exciting learning experience. The innovative technology and product line forced me to develop a better understanding of skin biology. I enjoyed the challenge of translating the scientific elements of the products and benefits to my marketing partners and ultimately, our customers. Scientists are good at the science part, but the challenge is to be able to explain the science in terms that everyone can understand."

By developing this in-depth knowledge of skin care, Nettesheim established a professional niche that made her attractive to other pharmaceutical giants, like Bristol-Myers Squibb, where she served as director, R&D, Skin Care, for the Worldwide Consumer Medicine Group. In this role, she was part of a senior management team that traveled globally to develop entry strategies in emerging markets, such as Russia.

Although fascinated by the cultural differences that drove consumers' skin care preferences, Nettesheim seized the opportunity to join the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies which she terms "the gold standard in the (skin care) industry". Invited to direct its Global Wound Care R&D team, Nettesheim subsequently relocated to Brazil to lead R&D efforts in Latin America. Upon returning to the United States, she assumed her current role and is involved in groundbreaking research.

Nettesheim describes the 2005 JOHNSON'S® Skin Maturation Study as "the most fascinating research I have ever been a part of in my 25-year career". The novel research examined infant skin more thoroughly than any prior study, and its results dispelled previously held beliefs.

"There was very little research on the structure and function of infant skin because the available techniques were not appropriate for use on a baby. We have developed new breakthrough, non-invasive methodologies that highlighted that infant skin is drier than people think and more different from adult skin than imagined." From this research, Nettesheim's team developed the JOHNSON'S® SOOTHING NATURALS™ line, designed to maintain the developing skin barrier and add moisture to babies' skin.

Nettesheim is proud of the JOHNSON'S® Brand's reputation as parents' "most trusted partner" in baby care. She looks forward to ongoing research efforts into understanding the unique needs of baby's developing skin, as well as continuing to provide mothers with best-in-care solutions, such as the JOHNSON'S® Bedtime routine that has been clinically proven to help babies sleep better.

# PAUL HASTINGS 1984

## *Risk and Rewards*

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At every turn, life presents risk - financial, professional and personal. Tolerance for the unknown varies according to individual, and the most averse shun what is unfamiliar, preferring the tried-and-true path. Others, like Paul Hastings, embrace the possibilities inherent to each new challenge.

Hastings' career has been marked by a series of chances he took at several biotechnology startups, beginning with a move to Synergen in the early '90s, when he left a secure position as senior product manager at Hoffmann-La Roche.

"I've never had a job that I didn't like, but Hoffmann-La Roche was a conservative, stable company. Its president - who is still a mentor to me - said, 'We develop small molecules. Let the biotech companies take risks with proteins.'

"Synergen was representative of the entrepreneurial companies I read about in *Forbes* and *Business Week*, and I got to be involved in the early stages (of marketing Antril - a treatment for sepsis). It was everything I wanted it to be."

Since then, Hastings never looked back. Subsequent career moves brought him to Genzyme - then a fledgling company in the mid-'90s - and out to California, where he held executive leadership positions at Chiron Pharmaceuticals and Axys Pharmaceuticals.

Reflecting upon his storied career, Hastings describes his time at Genzyme as a highlight.

"I worked under the influence of CEO Henri Termeer, and he taught me the most about building a biotech company and building the culture of a biotech."

Tapped to help establish OncoMed Pharmaceuticals in Redwood City, Calif., in 2005, Hastings was given the opportunity to capitalize on Termeer's expertise.

"Throughout my career, I joined companies long after they were up and running. With OncoMed, I was part of a 10-person group pulled together from some of the country's best biotech companies - like Amgen - to start something from the onset. OncoMed is engaged in pioneering research involving cancer stem cells that initiate solid tumor growth. By

developing therapeutics which attacks the root cause of cancer, we can prevent the stem cells from mutating into cancer tissue," says Hastings. "This is a new highlight in my life."

From Synergen to OncoMed, each risk Hastings took was professionally and personally rewarding. Earlier this year, he opted to share those rewards with the University by pledging \$100,000 to the Norman A. and Mary Campbell Scholarship that supports students who demonstrate academic proficiency and leadership in pharmacy student organizations. Hastings cites **Norm Campbell**, one his favorite professors, as a critical reason for his success. When his studies were interrupted by major surgeries and, as a result, extended by a year, Campbell helped him face the challenges and complete the program.

Hastings said the persistence that was so crucial to his University success is necessary in the biomedical industry as well. Equally important are flexibility and an entrepreneurial spirit.

"A number of things could happen to OncoMed. It may even get sold or merged before it brings a product to market, but that's OK. That's part of the biotech landscape, and I can say I was part of something that will have a major impact on people fighting cancer."

## KATHLEEN JAEGER 1987

### *Improving Access to Lower-cost Alternatives*

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Washing the glass front door. Restocking shelves. Keeping the books. Kathleen Jaeger, growing up in a family owned community pharmacy, did all of these jobs and more. The work may not have been glamorous, but watching her father counsel patients and collaborate with physicians through the years inspired her to follow in his footsteps. Jaeger's career path veered, however, from the track that funneled students from the College to retail pharmacy.

"Dr. Norm Campbell, a great mentor to many students in our class, taught both pharmacy law and business and encouraged us to consider careers in manufacturing, law and business. Discussions with Dr. Campbell during my fourth year led me to explore law school."

Jaeger earned her J.D. from Catholic University Law School and has worked for the law firms of McKenna & Cuneo L.L.P. and Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP. With her unique blend of experience in pharmacy and law, Jaeger was well-suited to serve as the chairperson of these firms' Food and Drug Practice groups.

"As partner with these firms, I was privileged to represent both U.S. and foreign corporations in a wide variety of pharmaceutical matters involving the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and related governmental bodies. I learned a great deal working with clients on regulatory due diligence investigations for financing and mergers and acquisitions and the development of corporate policies and FDA submissions.

"Additionally, I developed Congressional testimony and position papers for both the National Pharmaceutical Alliance and the Generic Pharmaceutical Industry Association, helping our industry define national positions on such critical issues as increased funding for the FDA's Office of Generic Drugs and the emerging debate on the establishment of an approval process for biogenerics."

Jaeger's comprehensive background with federal and state legislative and regulatory bodies on the generic approval process prepared her well for the position she holds today – president and CEO of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, the trade association that was formed by merger of the three predecessor associations. Today, the group - made up of manufacturers of generic drugs and suppliers to the generic pharmaceutical industry - advocates for the consumer's right to timely access of affordable medicine. As health-care costs continue to rise, Jaeger expects that consumers will continue to turn to safe and affordable generics to improve their lives for less.

"Currently, generics represent 63 percent of the total prescriptions dispensed in the United States. Given the enormous pressure to hold down health-care costs, generic drugs will continue to offer payers the opportunity to lower monthly insurance premiums and out-of-pocket consumer costs," says Jaeger. "Other factors influencing the ever-growing popularity of generics are the Medicare prescription drug benefit that strongly encourages the use of generics as a way to reduce older Americans' health-care expenses as well as the record number of traditional pharmaceutical products that will lose patent protection in the next five years. Analysts predict that the loss of patent protection will cause the overall market for generic drugs to grow at double-digit rates."

A bipartisan bill introduced in Congress that would give the FDA the authority to review and approve generic versions of biotech drugs also holds promise for consumers and the generic drug industry. Jaeger is optimistic about its chances for approval given the broad support it is receiving from major corporations, such as General Motors, and influential advocacy groups, including the American Association of Retired Persons, the AFL-CIO and major consumer and patients groups.

A tireless champion of increased consumer access to affordable medicine, Jaeger derives strength from her humble beginnings as a door washer and a pharmacy student. "There isn't a day that goes by that I do not draw upon the experiences and knowledge I gained at URI. And when challenges appear insurmountable for our industry, I think of the patients in my father's store who needed medicine that they had difficulty affording. That enables me to focus in on our ongoing battle to make medicines available to all consumers at a cost they can afford."

# KENNETH LAWRENCE 1988, B.S., 1990, PHARM.D.

## *Mirroring His Mentors*



"You're going to have to break your back to graduate from here," said Professor **George Osborne** in a meeting with Kenneth Lawrence. Such a blunt statement may have sent some third-year students into a panic, scrambling to find another major to which they could apply earned credits. While Lawrence did consider changing his course of study, he ultimately decided to persevere and pursue a degree in pharmacy.

"I thought that since I had come this far, I'd take what he said to heart and go forward. In my third year, I pared down with a core group of friends to study with, and they were indispensable."

With his friends' help, Lawrence succeeded in his studies, and in his fifth year, guidance and support from Professors **Marilyn Barbour**, **Norma Owens** and **Anne Hume** drove decisions he made about his future. Placed at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, R.I., for his clerkship, Lawrence observed and learned from Barbour and Hume at their clinical practice site.

"They were excellent teachers. They showed me how a pharmacist impacts direct patient care, stressed the importance of research and promoted positive relationship building with physicians. I've used them as a model to develop my career," says Lawrence, who was inspired to earn a Pharm.D. degree and to complete a one-year residency program at Detroit Receiving Hospital, a Level 1 Trauma Center.

Collectively, these experiences served as the cornerstone upon which he built his career as a clinical pharmacist in teaching hospitals. Upon his return from Detroit, Lawrence joined the 10-bed adult surgical intensive care unit team of Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. His days were split between dispensing and clinical care. Lawrence rounded with physicians, provided pharmaceutical care for patients in the unit, and participated in several hospital committees. He also performed scholarly activities and precepted pharmacy students.

Though challenged, he left to find a position that offered more time for patient care and joined the Deaconess Hospital as an ICU pharmacist. Upon its merger with Beth Israel Medical Center, Lawrence was named manager of clinical programs. As Lawrence assumed an administrative

post, medical liaison positions were gaining popularity in the pharmaceutical industry. Hired by pharmaceutical companies, medical liaisons have doctoral degrees in medicine, pharmacy or other related areas and serve as a link between physicians and other prescribers and the pharmaceutical industry. They discuss and educate health-care providers about the appropriate uses of different drugs and often assist in the designing and funding of clinical studies.

Attracted to this novel opportunity, Lawrence signed on as a medical liaison with Bristol-Myers Squibb, and for about two years, he lectured to and interacted with the health-care community, outlining the differences among the company's products and building product awareness. Lawrence describes this experience as "worthwhile," as he learned a great deal about the relationship between the Food and Drug Administration and the pharmaceutical industry. Yet, missing direct patient care, he returned to Tufts-New England Medical Center, where he serves as a clinical pharmacy specialist in infectious diseases and holds an academic appointment as assistant professor at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Lawrence is happy to have journeyed back from the pharmaceutical industry. "(Here) I can see how I can make them better," he says. "When a doctor calls, it makes me feel good to be a respected partner on the health-care team.

"I am very fortunate to have this position and plan to do more clinical research to develop my skills further. As the best pharmacists at the Miriam Hospital (in Providence) told me, 'It's not a job. It's a career – a profession.' That's the way I treat it."

# PETER ANDERSON 1989, B.S., 1996, PHARM.D.

## *A Man for All Seasons*



"Just like the American Express cards that offer unlimited credit, I have unlimited career options," says Peter Anderson. "I don't have preset career goals."

Anderson's "come-what-may" philosophy has steered him in numerous directions – often simultaneously – and he wouldn't have it any other way. "I have many interests, and I don't like doing the same thing every day."

To add as much variety to his career as possible, Anderson is a U.S. Army Reservist, provides forensic and general pharmacy consultations through private practice, teaches at URI, Harvard Medical School and Bunker Hill Community College and works full-time as a clinical pharmacy coordinator at Taunton State Hospital, a 169-bed adult psychiatric facility in southeastern Massachusetts.

Despite Anderson's modest contention that "he's not as busy as it seems," his responsibilities are numerous. In addition to interviewing patients and suggesting drug therapies to their physicians at the hospital, he also serves as a toxicology consultant to the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Office of Investigations.

Anderson has marketed his toxicology background to the legal community, and as a result, attorneys have called upon him to review a broad range of cases and serve as an expert witness, if necessary. In a drunken driving situation, Anderson had to determine whether the driver's medications influenced his blood-alcohol levels. For a date rape case, he was asked to identify the drug used.

He is also widely known for providing Attention Deficit Disorder consultations. Beginning with a \$2,000 grant from the American Pharmaceutical Association Foundation to design and implement a pharmaceutical care program for ADD and related conditions, Anderson established a company, Med-ADD Services, providing counsel for patients and their families. His work garnered interest from national publications, and he became a sought-after presenter on the topic.

Now regarded by some as a "walking encyclopedia of ADD information," Anderson, who was diagnosed with ADD as a child and has a vested interest in helping others adapt, has called working with these patients and their families as "one of the most rewarding parts" of his career. "I saw patients who could excel, and after working with them and their physicians to determine the optimal treatment plan, it was the difference between night and day."

Trying to make a difference on a broader scale, Anderson uses his pharmaceutical training to serve his country. Motivated by 9/11 to join the military, Captain Anderson is a member of a Homeland Security Unit responsible for preparing a response to the unthinkable – a biological, chemical or nuclear attack. His role is to determine which antidotes would be most effective in combating these weapons of mass destruction and to identify drugs that would mitigate the health risks of radiation exposure.

From the hospital corridors to the courtroom to the military base, Anderson continually challenges himself to utilize his training and clinical skills. By his own admission, he may still have "a trace of ADD," the possible root of his need to seek diversity in his profession.

"People with ADD are usually very creative, and the right job can help remedy the symptoms," says Anderson. "Pharmacy (training) is a solid foundation. It depends on one's creativity on how they use it." Seemingly, Anderson has capitalized on the infinite opportunities pharmacy degrees afford and eagerly awaits an even brighter future.

## HEATHER LARCH 1999

### *From the Community Pharmacy to the Corporate Office*

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If Heather Larch were a student today, she undoubtedly would be pursuing a minor in leadership, a program of study that includes internships and core courses in leadership skill development. Having attended the University before the minor was developed, Larch received no course credits for her roles in the Student Senate or the Student Activities Office. Yet, her efforts were not left unnoticed. A recipient of the Rainville Student Leadership Award, one of the most prestigious at the University, Larch was the first pharmacy student to be honored for her success in various leadership positions while maintaining a good academic record.

Transferring these skills honed as a student to her professional life, Larch rose to the top of the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association and transitioned from staff pharmacist to the corporate office of Brooks Eckerd Pharmacy in Warwick, R.I.

"It was important for me to get involved with RIPA because even as a professional, you still need extracurricular activities. During my tenure as president, I was involved in many high-profile issues, including the licensing of Canadian pharmacies. While the licensing was passed, we ensured that the criteria Canadian pharmacies had to meet were equal to or higher than those for Rhode Island pharmacies."

Senior management at Brooks Eckerd looked favorably upon Larch's experience with RIPA and promoted her to a corporate position. As Manager of Pharmacy Affairs, Larch is responsible for monitoring the regulatory activities of Boards of Pharmacy in the 18 states where Brooks Eckerd has a presence. In this role, Larch reviews proposed legislation from the community pharmacy perspective to ensure that new or modified laws are reasonably attainable for pharmacists and support the best interests of the patient.

In addition, Larch is also responsible for developing relationships with Colleges of Pharmacy. Working with the deans, faculty and students at the four schools throughout New England – Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Northeastern University, University of Connecticut and URI – Larch places students in internships and externships, evaluates and maintains program sponsorships at each institution and plans and presents at recruiting functions.

"In this role, I showcase the company in a positive light to make it attractive to students. This part of my job is energizing and uplifting." By working so closely with students, Larch has many opportunities to counsel them and bases her advice on the experiences that have helped her succeed in a rapidly changing profession.

"Today, the role of the pharmacist has less to do with dispensing a product and is more focused on providing a service to patients through a variety of programs, such as Medication Therapy Management. Students have to learn that their job is to care for patients.

"However, they also have to care for their profession. They have to keep a pulse on what is going on in the industry. They can do this by joining a state or national professional organization. Even if their time is limited and they cannot take an active role, it is important for them to support those who do. This effort is critical to moving the profession in the right direction."

# VIRGINIA LEMAY 2000

## *Innovation Yields Rewards for the Community*



At high-volume community pharmacies, it is often a challenge for pharmacists to practice the clinical component of their profession – educating and counseling patients. In spite of their best intentions, pharmacists sometimes struggle to find a balance between filling hundreds of prescriptions daily and engaging in meaningful dialogue with their patients.

As manager of pharmaceutical care at Brooks Eckerd Pharmacy, Ginger Lemay, Pharm.D., CDOE, addressed this problem by creating and coordinating the chain's clinical programs, including diabetes education classes, pharmacist-administered immunization, and Medication Therapy Management. (MTM, available at no cost to targeted Medicare Part D individuals, offers patients an initial one-hour private

consultation and several 30-minute follow-up sessions with a Brooks Eckerd pharmacist who conducts a comprehensive medication review.)

Implementing the MTM program throughout the 1,800-store chain was a challenging task that Lemay handled with aplomb. Working with health benefits company Humana that identified its patients in greatest need among those eligible, she designed MTM with flexibility in mind. Pharmacists would travel if necessary to meet the needs of patients, including meeting them at their homes. As the result of her efforts, Brooks Eckerd was the first chain pharmacy in the country to offer MTM services in all of its stores.

In getting the program up and running, Lemay organized training for 170 pharmacists who set up appointments with hundreds of patients.

"All of our pharmacists have clinical skills, but they had to become better attuned to the needs of senior citizens." Through online courses, created by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and in-house training, pharmacists learned not only about drug therapy for ailments common to the elderly but also about the social skills necessary for successful interaction with the patients. "The training covered topics such as cultural sensitivity and interviewing skills. For example, some seniors have difficulty hearing high-pitched voices, so pharmacists learned how to adjust their voices accordingly."

The response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive, and its success has spawned an expansion to include a greater number of eligible patients. Grateful for the personal attention, referrals are asking many questions. During every session, pharmacists have been able to identify at least one issue about which they can educate patients. For example, in Georgia, one of the states in the Brooks Eckerd footprint where pharmacists are authorized to provide immunizations, the pharmacist identified a patient in need of the pneumococcal vaccine and administered the injection at the session.

Lemay, who won the Innovative Pharmacist of the Year Award from the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association for her role in creating the program, transitioned from administration to a more hands-on role earlier this year. To focus on her young and growing family, Lemay, on a part-time basis, performs MTM consults, works as a staff pharmacist and administers flu shots at the pharmacy's flu clinics in Massachusetts. A Certified Diabetes Outpatient Educator, she also conducts diabetes care clinics the pharmacy holds in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Health Diabetes Control Program.

By developing, managing and participating in the chain's clinical programs, Lemay's goals were twofold: add value to the community pharmacy and advance pharmacy as a profession.

"One of my platforms has always been recognition of the pharmacist as a drug expert. Insurance companies have begun to acknowledge pharmacists as health-care providers and offer reimbursement for these programs. Previously, reimbursement was never tied to the cognitive services (we offer), and now it is. That is the direction I was working toward, and I went above and beyond (reaching that objective)."

## TRISHA MORIN 2006

### *Program of Study and Student Organizations Smooth Transition to the Real World*

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Pharmacy majors often join the Academy of Student Pharmacists, the student arm of the American Pharmacists Association, to explore opportunities in the field and to network with professionals. For Trisha Morin, the ASP afforded her these prospects as well as the chance to hone leadership skills.

As vice president, Morin was in charge of Operation Immunization, an APhA campaign designed to increase awareness of the importance of flu vaccines and to convince state legislators to allow pharmacists to administer flu shots. While the General Assembly did not amend the law at the time, Morin succeeded in motivating many students to get vaccinated.

Even greater challenges awaited Morin when she assumed the role of ASP chapter president and strove to increase membership.

"Your third year of pharmacy is really your first year because freshmen and sophomores take general education requirements outside the college of pharmacy, so I reached out to the younger students to help them feel engaged.

"The older students in the chapter helped them set their schedules, gave them study tips and remained available as they became upper classmen."

As a result of her efforts, membership more than doubled to 175 students. To ensure the pharmacy students remained active in the organization, Morin developed a "point system," whereby points were awarded to students for their participation in events and meetings. These points translated into money that offset the cost of attending the APhA Annual Meeting. Under Morin's leadership, a record 43 students attended the national conference.

In addition to her work with ASP, Morin served as chapter president of the Phi Lambda Sigma – Pharmacy Leadership Society, an organization dedicated to promoting future pharmacy leaders. Among the many initiatives she championed were CPR and first aid programs for the pharmacy student body. In recognition of her dedication, Morin was named Chapter Member of the Year by the URI membership.

Now a registered pharmacist, Morin retains the energy and enthusiasm from her days as a student. Working in Lowell, Mass., at the same store where she worked as a cashier in her teen years, she faces the challenges of filling about 700 prescriptions daily in a 24-hour Walgreens while, at the same time, providing advice to patients.

"It's hard to pull away from the bench, but I have great technicians who offer everyone the opportunity to talk to us. It can be difficult at times, but URI absolutely prepared me. The program was hands-on with interactive labs, forcing us every day to work as a pharmacist."

## *In Memoriam*

LOUIS A. LUZZI 1959, M.S., 1963, PH.D., 1966

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Retired dean and the first faculty member to become the Ernest Mario Distinguished Professor in Pharmaceutics, Louis Luzzi died on May 12, 2007. Dr. Luzzi, who relinquished the position in 2001, returned to his alma mater to pursue graduate degrees after working as a research scientist at Abbott Laboratories in Chicago.

Upon earning his doctorate degree, he joined the faculty of the University of Georgia's School of Pharmacy, where he established a research program in the area of microencapsulation, a drug-delivery system often used to slow the release of a drug into the body. Researching this system at the earliest stages of its development earned him the title "father of microencapsulation".

Dr. Luzzi left the University of Georgia in 1974 to become dean of the College of Pharmacy at West Virginia University, and in 1981, he came back to his native Rhode Island to succeed Heber Youngken as the second dean of the University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy. Continuing the legacy Dr. Youngken began in 1957, Dean Luzzi liaised with Rhode Island hospitals and pharmacies where his students worked and raised millions of dollars in funding from individual and corporate donors. Three endowed chairs were established during his tenure: the Ernest Mario Professorship, The Thomas M. Ryan/CVS Chair in Community Pharmacy and the Omar-Youngken Distinguished Chair in Natural Product Chemistry.

Well-respected for his work as an academician as well as a researcher, Dr. Luzzi received numerous recognitions. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Academy of Pharmaceutical Scientists and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. In 1988, he received the Rhode Island Governor's Science and Technology Award.

He is survived by his wife Joyce '64, M.S. '85, two daughters and a granddaughter. Memorial donations may be made to The Louis A. and Joyce K. Luzzi Endowment at the University of Rhode Island Foundation, 79 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881 or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Church Street Station, PO Box 780, New York, NY 10008.

# EPILOGUE

## *The Next 50 Years of Pharmacy*

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In 1957, the College of Pharmacy opened its doors in borrowed space in Pastore and Ranger Halls. Since then, it has enjoyed five decades of distinction through extraordinary teaching, research and outreach programs. It has achieved a remarkable reputation, in part, through challenging undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students for diverse careers in pharmacy practice, industry, academia and government. Distinguished faculty attracts research dollars and spearheads the acquisition of modern technology. Students and professors are invaluable resources to the community that benefits from numerous public services, including continuing education classes and bilingual health information Web sites.



*Proposed renderings of the new 130,000-square-foot facility for the College of Pharmacy.*

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In looking forward to the next 50 years, the College eagerly awaits the completion of a technologically sophisticated facility. Further, with the College currently generating 12 percent of URI's research dollars, College administrators anticipate an increase in funding for research that crosses the boundaries of pharmacy and involves multiple disciplines. Curricula will continue to be enhanced to keep pace with the rapid advancements in health care. And using its celebrated past as a guide, it will groom the next generation of leaders in the profession - those who will become accomplished and compassionate practitioners of pharmaceutical care in traditional and emerging roles in all practice environments.

To celebrate this milestone in the College's history, a number of events will take place on the Kingston campus. To learn more, check the College's Web site at [www.uri.edu/pharmacy](http://www.uri.edu/pharmacy), and click the 50th Anniversary link under the rendering of the new building.

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