

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA / COLLEGE OF PHARMACY / FALL 2024

Gamecock Pharmacist



FROM ALUMNI TO ADVOCATES

The College names its
Outstanding Alumni
and Young Alumni



DEAN STEPHEN J. CUTLER

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As we approach the holiday season, I find myself reflecting on our shared journey and the profound impact you continue to have on the College of Pharmacy. Your unwavering support and engagement have been truly transformative, shaping countless positive experiences for our students, faculty and staff.

This year, I am particularly excited to share with you the tremendous strides we have made in our research endeavors. With nearly 160 years of excellence in pharmacist training and groundbreaking research, our team continues to push the boundaries of pharmaceutical science, seeking innovative treatments for various diseases.

I am also happy to report that in 2023, our research funding grew by an astounding 67%, translating to an additional \$12 million in grants and sponsored awards. This remarkable achievement has propelled us into the Top 25 rankings for both federal funding and total research dollars received among pharmacy programs nationwide. Moreover, we stand proudly as the top-ranked pharmacy program in the state for research funding.

Let me share some impressive figures that underscore our progress:

- Since 2020, our total federal funding has quadrupled from \$4.2 million to \$16.4 million.
- Between 2022 and 2023, our National Institutes of Health funding increased by over \$2 million, a growth of more than 28%.
- Our federally funded grants saw an increase of over \$5.3 million.
- Non-federal funding nearly doubled to \$1.6 million.

These achievements represent expanded opportunities for groundbreaking discoveries, enhanced resources for our talented researchers, and most importantly, enriched educational experiences for our students. This surge in research activity contributes significantly to our students' training, helping them develop critical thinking and research skills essential for their future careers.

As we celebrate these milestones, I am grateful for your continued support. Your contributions, whether through mentorship, industry insights or financial support, play a crucial role in our success.

On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, I extend our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year. Thank you for being an integral part of our pharmacy family. Here's to another year of growth, discovery and excellence!

Forever to thee,

Stephen J. Cutler
Dean, College of Pharmacy



FALL 2024

Dean / Stephen J. Cutler
Senior Associate Dean / Julie M. Sease
Managing Editor / Margaret Gregory
Writers / Margaret Gregory, Gregory Hardy, Chris Horn, Malory Spicer, Alexis Watts
Copy Editor / Kathy Keenan
Photography / Kim Truett
Design / Francesca Novotny

Stay Connected
University Home Page: sc.edu
COP Home Page: sc.edu/pharmacy

Engagement and Philanthropy
Terry Dixon / dixont@cop.sc.edu, 803-777-5426
Sarah Sipes / sosipes@cop.sc.edu, 803-576-8324
Sabrina Rivera / snrivera@sc.edu, 803-576-7829

College of Pharmacy
University of South Carolina
715 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-777-4151



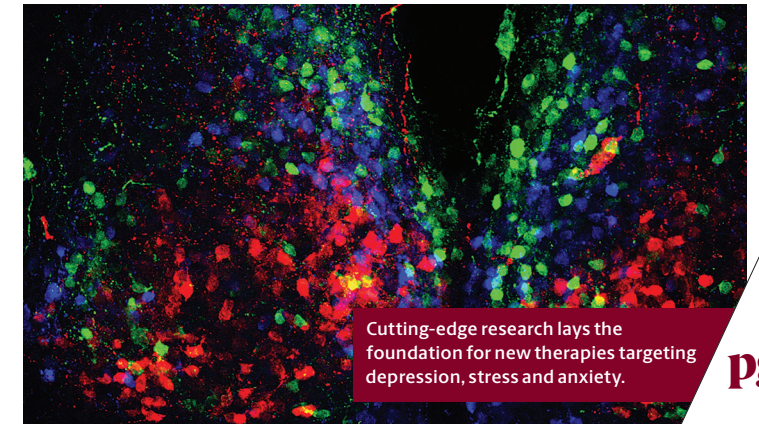
Social: [UofSCPharm](#)

ON THE COVER

Alumni award winners, from left, Ranarda Jones, Pamela and Kyle McHugh.

Communications and Marketing
The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution. 24-13742 11/24

CONTENTS



pg. 18

IN THIS ISSUE

4 / PERSISTENCE DRIVES SUCCESS

Renewed grants and funding growth solidify college's research leadership.

7 / STUDENT GROUP INCREASES INTEREST IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY CAREERS

The Industry Pharmacists Organization fosters an environment of curiosity and interest for industry-minded students.

10 / ADVENTURES IN PHARMACY AT EDVENTURE

Midlands youth learn STEM skills, explore pharmaceutical science thanks to partnership with EdVenture Children's Museum.

12 / FROM ALUMNI TO ADVOCATES

The college names award recipients for Outstanding Alumni of the Year and Outstanding Young Alumni.

20 / LEADING THE CHARGE AGAINST OPIOID ABUSE

Young alumna helps decrease number of opioid prescriptions in the Palmetto State.

Helping students find their ‘why’

by Jennifer Baker

Experiential education in the Pharm.D curriculum is where magic happens. Students practice the skills they learned in the classroom and labs as they discover what kind of pharmacist they aspire to be. The most thrilling part of our day is witnessing a student’s experience that sparks during a rotation – when they find their “why.”

This transformative journey would not be possible without our incredible team. With four members, we support more than 400 students as they navigate scheduling, site onboarding and complete more than 1,200 pharmacy practice experiences each year. We annually collaborate with more than 500 preceptors and practice sites.

Our college and profession owe a great deal to the dedicated preceptors. Your commitment, especially over the past four challenging years, has been invaluable. When we navigated the pandemic, our personal and professional lives were upended, yet our passion for pharmacy remained a beacon for students eager to join this field.



“The most thrilling part of our day is witnessing a student experience that sparks during a rotation – when they find their “why.”

On tough days, look at the nearest pharmacy student and reflect on your own journey. Who influenced your path? When did you find your spark? Be that light for the students you encounter, whether they are considering pharmacy, on rotation or newly graduated. Your mentorship will pay it forward, shaping the future generations who will one day be our personal providers. Let them remind you of your “why.”

Successful relationships are built on open communication and compassion. Remember, you are not alone. The Office of Experiential Education is here to support you, on Day 1 or Day 28. Reach out anytime.

If you have questions, need support or want to become a preceptor, please do not hesitate to contact us at experiential@cop.sc.edu.

Together, we can continue to inspire and shape the future of pharmacy.

Jennifer Baker, Pharm.D., is the director of experiential education and a clinical assistant professor for the College of Pharmacy.

First graduates of the GPA Pathway are on their way



Brice Laney



Jacob King



Chloe McGee

When **Brice Laney** entered the University of South Carolina as a first-year student, he was unsure what path he might take toward his future career. After shadowing his uncle at Prisma Health, he changed his major to pharmacy and received an invitation from the College of Pharmacy’s new initiative, the Gamecock Pharmacy Assurance Pathway.

“I saw that as a sign that this was what I was supposed to be doing, like all the stars were aligning,” says Laney.

Launched in 2018, the GPA Pathway targets exceptional high school students who have achieved academic distinction by issuing a provisional early acceptance into the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Laney, along with 53 other GPA students, spent the next two years focused on their undergraduate studies as well as established pathway criteria. Upon completing the requirements, 38 students matriculated into the Pharm.D. program at the beginning of their third collegiate year without having to participate in the traditional pharmacy school admissions process.

Jacob King thought he might pursue pre-med when he applied to USC, but reconsidered after receiving an invitation to apply to the GPA Pathway.

“After interviewing for GPA and getting to know everyone at the College of Pharmacy, it was something I fell in love with, and I felt like I was in the right place,” King says. “I was still a senior in high school, and I learned what the college has to offer, the career paths, the schedule. It was as if the next six years of my life were planned in advance. It made everything easier.”

The recent graduates credit taking part in the GPA Pathway in helping them excel in their studies.

Chloe McGee, another of the first cohorts to be part of the GPA Pathway, began making connections and building long-lasting relationships with her mentors before starting the Pharm.D. program.

“I felt comfortable bringing my research ideas to one of my mentors who guided me through the development and execution of an independent study during my third and fourth years of pharmacy school,” McGee says.

The graduates have each progressed to the next phase of their careers. Laney is in his first year of postgraduate residency at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; King is a PGY-1 resident with the USC College of Pharmacy Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program; and McGee is a PGY-1 resident at Wellstar MCG Health in Augusta, Georgia.

Julie Sease, senior associate dean of the College of Pharmacy, and her team, Director of Pre-Professional Studies and Recruitment Kristi Kinslow and Director of Admissions Nikki Mellen, have focused on evolving the program.



“The benefits and requirements have become more intentional and structured through the GPA preparation course sequence,” Sease says. “We want students entering their first year of the professional Pharm.D. program as prepared as possible for academic and professional success.”

► Learn more about the GPA pathway at sc.edu/pharmacy/gpa.

Persistence *drives* success

Renewed grants and funding growth
solidify college's research leadership

Pharmacy professor Jun Zhu in his lab.

Pharmacy professor **Jun Zhu**, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded his first R-01 grant from the National Institutes of Health in 2009 to improve cognitive care for survivors of HIV. Since then, he and his colleagues at the College of Pharmacy have consistently maintained major federal funding, driving advancements in global health care.

Ongoing research funding, exemplified by Zhu's work, enabled the College of Pharmacy to secure nearly \$13 million in sponsored awards last year—a 67% increase from 2023. This success played a crucial role in the university achieving a record research funding milestone of \$309 million in sponsored awards.

"I've never had a gap without funding," Zhu says of his 15 years of study. "When I receive R-01 funding, I am already thinking about the next phase. I look at the whole story."

Zhu's success stems from gathering robust preliminary data before submitting grant applications. He emphasizes that those who have a reputation for

well-prepared proposals have the highest likelihood of securing funding.

"Don't use your scientific NIH grant to try your idea. You should try your idea in your laboratory to get a premium of data," he says. "When you submit your grant application to NIH, you should have full confidence this project is the most important."

For Zhu, a drug discovery and biomedical sciences professor, that means putting in the hours of hard work beforehand during free time, weekends and holidays. "Your intelligence is the most important part," Zhu says.

His lab aims to be at the forefront of understanding how HIV affects the brain, particularly through its impact on neurotransmitters, the chemical messengers that carry signals between neurons and other cells in the body.

His recent funding renewal, a \$3.8 million R-01 grant from the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse, will continue Zhu's exploration of connections between decreased mental functions in people living with HIV.

A shared dedication

Zhu's persistence and meticulous approach to writing proposals and securing funding is shared by **Hippokratis Kiaris**, who leads the college's COBRE Center for Targeted Therapeutics.

In July, the center secured a renewal of its NIH grant of \$1,117,500 that will extend phase three through 2029. The phase two funding of \$2,235,000 came one year prior in May 2023.

"We develop essentially new knowledge and infrastructure," Kiaris says. "We have five years remaining through direct support from NIH. Our hope is that the center is not going to cease after phase three and will continue to operate."

The COBRE Center's mission began in 2014, and under Kiaris' leadership for the past two years has expanded its impact into USC's School of Medicine Columbia, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing.

Kiaris estimates the center has facilitated more than \$50 million in research funding, which underscores its role as a catalyst for attracting additional resources through competitive grants and supplements.

Funding the future

According to Kiaris, faculty associated with the COBRE center have published at least 200 scientific papers and earned patents to commercialize the work.

It's also been instrumental in supporting rising scholars, Kiaris says. "The center has provided funding for salaries, research and mentorship to at least 15 junior faculty members, fostering the next generation of researchers."

The center also has secured multiple grants for women's health projects focused on behavioral studies and aging-related research—key areas of impact for the Palmetto State.

It also supports 25 pilot projects across the university. Five were initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which demonstrates its adaptability and relevance in addressing urgent public health challenges.



Hippokratis Kiaris and his student review lab notes.

"It provides the level of readiness if we face something similar," Kiaris says. "I am aware of specific lines of research that continue again to treat COVID-associated conditions. Inflammation, for example, and viral infections."

USC ranks among the top 25 colleges of pharmacy nationwide for capturing both federal research dollars and total research dollars.

Thanks to the persistent work of faculty members like Zhu and Kiaris, the college is continuing its trajectory in securing future federal funding and solidifying its reputation as a leader in pharmaceutical research and education.

Reflections of what's to come always enter Zhu's thoughts when he and his team receive news of a grant renewal.

"After the first taste of my champagne with my colleagues, I immediately come down," he says. "I'm thinking about now, once you finish the answer to this question, what is your next?"

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION



Caroline Asbill combines a love of pharmacy and teaching

Caroline Asbill's journey at the University of South Carolina began in orientation as a nursing student. By the end of the day, she had switched her major to exercise science.

"I always knew I wanted to go into health care in some capacity and I was always fascinated by the human body and its physiology," she says.

After completing her undergraduate studies, Asbill explored her future career options. She shadowed a pharmacist and felt that pharmacy school would be a good fit. She went on to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2016. While committed to a career in health care, she held a deep respect for the field of education.

"My mom is one of three sisters who were all educators. I have always had a great appreciation for teaching. Now I have been able to marry health care and academia," she says.

Asbill is the course coordinator for the health-systems pharmacy laboratory courses. She also maintains her practice as a staffing pharmacist with Prisma Health Richland.

"Having a practice site and being in academia is of great benefit because I can provide my students with the

most up-to-date information and real-life applications," says Asbill. "We try to expose the students to various health-system pharmacy settings, including hospital, long-term care and home infusion pharmacy."

Asbill emphasizes the significance of the ACE Lab in enhancing student learning.

"It provides an immersive experience that allows for supervised exploration and hands-on training to make them successful practitioners," she says.

She credits her team – Carl Dunn and Lori Rotola, both alumni of the College of Pharmacy – for the lab's smooth operation and success.

"They offer such valuable expertise because they have filled a variety of roles, working with patients and in administration and operations."

At the end of the day, seeing the students connect the dots is Asbill's reward.

"The human connection, interacting with students, allows me to invest in them and see them grow," she says. "To understand and to put into practice the skills and abilities that we pour into them, that is a defining piece of our profession for which I am so passionate."

Student group increases interest in pharmaceutical industry careers

Student organizations play a vital role in a pharmacy student's development. Leadership, communication skills and personal growth are essential for a professional path.

The Industry Pharmacists Organization is one of the newest student organizations at the USC College of Pharmacy. It recently was named the top overall student group for 2023-2024 by the national organization.

Launched in 2022 through the efforts of Clinical Associate Professor **Michaela Almgren**, Ph.D., and **Nikki Chen**, Pharm.D., '24. Almgren serves as faculty advisor while Chen was its first student president.

The idea emerged when students expressed a growing interest in learning about the pharmaceutical industry during internships at Nephron Pharmaceuticals, where Almgren maintains her clinical practice and developed and now directs the student internship program.

The IPhO group is open to pre-pharmacy, pharmacy and graduate students and has continually grown in membership.

"We provide a lot of networking opportunities and a platform for students to learn about the drug industry," Almgren says. "Many students are looking for non-traditional roles in pharmacy, such as clinical research, education, regulatory affairs and marketing."

Chen, now in a fellowship with Eli Lilly Regulatory Affairs International and U.S. Policy, was searching for more resources to learn about industry careers as a student.

"There are so many fellowships and internships in industry, and IPhO creates a database to connect students to those opportunities," she says. "Being part of IPhO helped prepare me for a role in industry with the baseline knowledge needed to understand the many gears that work together to make medication development a reality."



Students taking part in a drug discovery workshop.

Maddie Zediker, Class of 2025, served as the organization's second president during the 2023-2024 academic year and helped organize the group's first drug discovery workshop. The educational outreach event, sponsored by Pfizer, demonstrated the stages of taking a drug from inception to market.

"This workshop allowed students to see how integral pharmacists are to every step of the drug development process," Zediker says. "I hope we can continue to make these types of industry connections to create more rotation opportunities for students."

For current IPhO President **Sydney Chason**, Class of 2026, there is no equivalent in the curriculum to gain the knowledge that students learn as members of IPhO.

"We provide those resources and opportunities to industry-minded students that help foster an environment of curiosity and interest," Chason says. "I hope our alumni who are working in this amazing field will reach out to share their wealth of knowledge with us."

GIVING BACK TO HIS ROOTS

The Herbal Pharmacist's gratitude fuels his generosity

David Foreman, a 1987 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, has built a successful career as The Herbal Pharmacist®, using a popular radio show and multimedia education to explain how anyone can blend natural remedies with traditional medicine. His passion for integrating the best of both worlds has made him a well-known and respected voice in the field of pharmacy.

Foreman's deep connection to the College of Pharmacy shines in the many ways he gives back, whether through his named scholarship endowment, supporting the annual white coat ceremony or participating in Give4Garnet. His generosity proves the power of alumni giving and the difference it makes in the lives of students. As a member of the Carolina Guardian Society, Foreman's commitment highlights how legacy gifts will shape the future.

"I try to support it any way I can," Foreman says.

"Everybody that's a graduate of the University of South Carolina is where they are today in large part because of those years spent at the university. You may not be doing what you studied, but it was a launch pad."

Now, with a deep sense of gratitude for the education that shaped him, Foreman is committed to giving back to the university that laid the foundation for his unique approach to health care.



As a student, Foreman never expected his career to move beyond traditional pharmacy. He had a clear vision to open his own store and the assistant dean at the time helped him take upper-level business courses to make that vision a reality.

"They were very supportive of the path I wanted to go on and really gave us a broad vision of pharmacy," Foreman says.

After a decade of running a thriving pharmacy, a visit with his health-conscious brother-in-law sparked a new direction. Inspired by the power of natural products, he revamped his inventory, making room for herbs and supplements. This reshaped his career path, leading him to become a multimedia educator in the world of natural medicine.

Healing Through Nature and Giving

"Pharmacists are the No. 1 point of contact," Foreman says. "If somebody has a health issue, they go to their pharmacist before they go anywhere else. We're in health care because we know what that means, it means you care for people."

Foreman founded The Herbal Pharmacist® to educate others on natural health, including hosting a Sirius/XM radio show. Recognizing the need for better nutritional products, he launched a company focused on educating product formulators about natural ingredients with proven clinical effectiveness.



David Foreman travels around the world as a multimedia educator of natural medicine.



"I want to leave this legacy where people will see why they should be open to this natural health thing," Foreman says. "It does fit with hospital pharmacy and retail pharmacy. At the end of the day, we're trying to help people get back the health they lost or keep the health they have."

Foreman says his pharmacy degree allows him to understand the pharmaceutical and natural side of treatment options. Although he traded his traditional pharmacy coat for the title of Herbal Pharmacist, his commitment to the College of Pharmacy white coat fund continues every year. He believes every donation is like writing a prescription for a future filled with opportunity and innovation for the next generation of pharmacists.

"It's always really good to go back and meet the students and let them know that there are alumni here to support them, that they're not in this thing alone, that we've been there, we've done that," Foreman says. "We know the joy and the pain that goes along with it."

Though Foreman retired his popular radio show, his voice is still heard nationwide through television and radio appearances, as well as his active blog and social media presence. As a sought-after speaker, he lectures around

the globe at conferences or webinars and has written numerous books.

He credits his education at Carolina for enhancing his critical-thinking and communication skills—a foundation that helps him educate people about the best products for their well-being.

"I still use my pharmacy degree every day in what I do, and I think that is the biggest blessing," Foreman says.

Foreman hopes his support of the College of Pharmacy through his endowment and Guardian Society planned giving will continue to plant seeds that grow new pathways for students and shape a healthier future. "My goal was really to be able to have it pay for at least one person's tuition for every year after I'm gone," says Foreman.

As Foreman continues to educate the world on natural remedies, his heart remains firmly rooted in the place that started it all.

"I love to give to USC, but I don't like being public about it, but I know that it makes a big difference to other people to see other stories of why people give back. I hope there might be part of my story that resonates with somebody else and inspires them to give," Foreman says.

ADVENTURES

in Pharmacy at EdVenture

Kristi Kinslow's mission is to seek out students who might be interested in a career in pharmacy. As director of pre-professional studies and recruitment, she travels across South Carolina to encourage students to consider attending USC's College of Pharmacy.

Her latest initiative reaches even younger future pharmacists. Kinslow had the idea to partner with EdVenture Children's Museum, located across the Gervais Street Bridge from the university.

"We are always looking for new and creative ways to recruit prospective students," she says. "We were looking for ways to interact with kids outside of schools. We learned EdVenture has a biolab on site where they feature STEM-related activities."

Along with fourth-year students who are on rotation, faculty members attended the first few sessions. Kinslow plans to engage student ambassadors for future presentations.

"This is hands-on experience, not only for the kids at EdVenture, but for our students as well," she says.

"Education and counseling are significant parts of what pharmacists do, so this helps provide that experience for our students."

Peter Hiller and Lillian James, class of 2025, were excited to see children interested in activities where they learned about compounding, dosing and counseling.

"Working with the kids was amazing," says James. "All the kids were knowledgeable and open to learning. They were excited to compound amoxicillin, or as they called it, 'the pink medicine.'"

Hiller wants to be a better advocate for the pharmacy profession to children.

"It was fulfilling to help young kids learn important skills in math and science and give them a taste of what a real pharmacist does."

EdVenture's director of community and family health, Kathie Williams, welcomed the opportunity to work with the College of Pharmacy.

"We want children to think about their future careers. They can better envision their futures when they meet people working in those exciting careers," Williams says.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pharmacy students volunteered more than **1,900 SERVICE HOURS** to the community during the 2023-2024 academic year.



Peter Hiller and Julie Sease teach kids about pharmacy at EdVenture Children's Museum.

FROM ALUMNI TO ADVOCATES

Meet this year's Outstanding Alumni honorees



In 1982, Jack Watts, '55, received the College of Pharmacy's inaugural Outstanding Alumni Award. For 52 years, Watts exemplified what it meant to be a pharmacist. He worked for the Eli Lilly & Company for 31 years, shared his passion as a pharmacy educator after retirement and served as the president of the USC Pharmaceutical Association for over 50 years.

Since that initial award, the college has bestowed this prestigious honor 43 times to alumni who have distinguished themselves through personal and professional achievements, made significant contributions to pharmacy and been a loyal supporter of the college.

In 2023, the college added two additional awards to recognize an Outstanding Young Alumni of the Year and an Outstanding Friend of the College.

Alumni who are chosen for these honors come from all corners of the profession of pharmacy – including independent community and retail pharmacy, hospital clinicians and administrators, the pharmaceutical industry and pharmacy academia.

"As we honor the remarkable achievements of our alumni, we celebrate not only their individual

contributions but also the collective impact they've made on the pharmacy profession," says Stephen J. Cutler, dean of the College of Pharmacy.

Honorees' impacts on policy development and advocacy have improved how pharmacy is practiced and how patients are supported. They've worked to address health disparities and find solutions for underserved areas and provided invaluable mentorship and support of pharmacy students.

"This year's recipients share a profound connection as Gamecock Pharmacists, and together, they embody the true essence of service and excellence," says Cutler. "Their collective efforts ensure that the practice of pharmacy will not only flourish today but will thrive for generations to come."

"This year's recipients share a profound connection as Gamecock Pharmacists, and together, they embody the true essence of service and excellence."

Dean Stephen J. Cutler

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Kyle and Pamela McHugh met at the College of Pharmacy, but their paths to the profession were notably different.

"I started as a stockboy at Revco when I was around 15," Kyle says. "I filled the drink machines, carted the trash and eventually was promoted to the cash register. When they needed one, I became a pharmacy technician."

When Pamela was sick as a child, she paid attention to the pharmacist.

"I always had an ear infection or strep throat, so I was frequently at the pharmacist getting medications," she says. "In my mind, it was the pharmacist who made me feel better, not the doctor."

After graduating from the College of Pharmacy in 1995, both Kyle and Pamela moved into supervisory roles with different pharmacies—Kyle with Revco and Pamela

with Walmart. After they started their family, the McHughs moved to Columbia, South Carolina.

"I learned about balance sheets and cash flow while working with chain drug stores," Kyle says.

One day, while working as a troubleshooter for CVS, Kyle was approached about becoming an independent pharmacist for another company. Instead, he chose to buy the store, marking the beginning of their careers as independent pharmacy owners.

Kyle and Pamela have since grown the McHugh Pharmacy Group to 15 locations across North and South Carolina.



Continued on next page ▶

"We have bought stores, closed stores and opened stores from scratch," Kyle says. "We have learned something from every business decision we have made. As independent pharmacists, we can do what is right for our customers and our employees, and provide for communities that otherwise would not have health care."

"That's why being an independent pharmacist is important to me, to not only give our patients prescriptions but also to help them understand their medications and feel better. I want to give back, just like I was helped when I was little," Pamela says.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

Ranarda Jones has been a lifelong Gamecock fan, which made her college decision easy.

"It was a no-brainer," Jones says. "Even at a young age, I knew USC was where I wanted to go."

Jones had an algebra teacher whose husband was a pharmacist, and he encouraged Jones to consider a pharmaceutical career.

"I started working with him in the afternoons at the hospital, and then I followed him to his long-term care dispensing pharmacy," she says. "I've been in pharmacy ever since."

It was during her time in pharmacy school that Jones found her voice.

"I learned that someone is going to rise to the top," she says. "I learned that I was as unique as everyone else, but you have a chance to be vocal and to become a leader."

Jones always has exhibited an entrepreneurial spirit. Her career roles have included pharmacy manager, floater pharmacist, director of Medicare pharmacy services and pharmacy consultant. These experiences led to her latest career move as CEO of PSyn Inc., a managed care consulting company, and co-owner of Medi Save Pharmacy, both in Camden, South Carolina.

She credits her success to her relationship with Kyle and Pamela McHugh, owners of the McHugh Pharmacy Group.

"As soon as I purchased my independent pharmacy, the first person I went to was Kyle," she says. "Had it not been

Kyle and Pamela are deeply committed to supporting the college. They serve as mentors to students and participate as judges in the annual business plan competition, along with establishing an endowed scholarship.

"Without the College of Pharmacy, I would not be where I am today. I faced many challenges and developed my leadership skills," Kyle says. "I feel everyone who has ever been a part of the USC College of Pharmacy needs to give back, either financially or with their time. Pamela and I have been blessed to be able to do both."



for my connections through our alumni, I would not have known where to go to seek help in running my business."

In recognition of her achievements, Jones earned the 2022 Excellence in Innovation Award from the South Carolina Pharmacy Association and was selected as the 2024 Outstanding Young Alumna for the College of Pharmacy.

Jones is passionate about supporting the college and the students who are the future of her profession. She strongly believes that alumni have a responsibility to share their experiences and wisdom.

She mentored students, shared her experiences in the college's Career Expo, addressed student organizations and supported the college's Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Development retreat.

"I am a firm believer that if you have been through it, your experience can help the next generation. You have to give back to the foundation," Jones says. "Forty years from now, I'll be the one going to the pharmacy needing care, and I can't complain about the pharmacist who I didn't mentor."



STEP INTO THE DEAN'S CIRCLE

An Opportunity to Empower Excellence

Help sustain and strengthen our college from year to year as a member of the USC College of Pharmacy Dean's Circle.

The Dean's Circle recognizes donors who give \$1,000+ annually to the Dean's Excellence Fund or, if preferred, another College of Pharmacy fund of their choice.

Dean's Circle members receive special invitations during the year to engage with college leadership and student pharmacists.

The College of Pharmacy Dean's Excellence Fund provides vital unrestricted financial support to fund needs that are sometimes immediate and critical. Substantial unrestricted funding also has the ability to be transformative.

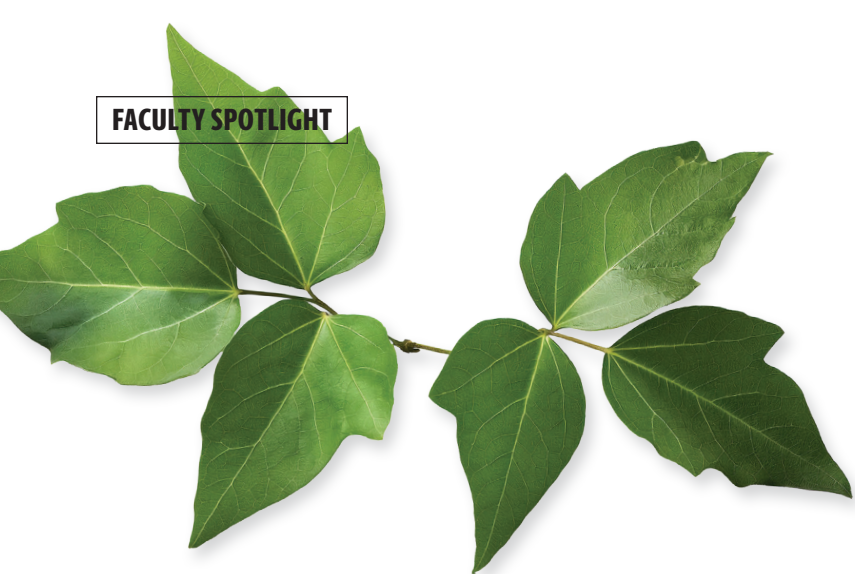
These unrestricted funds may help expand opportunities for students, enrich professional development, enhance technological assets and support alumni events. Funds are allocated to the greatest area of need by the dean.



College of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

To learn more, please contact:

Sabrina Rivera, Assistant Director of Development
(803) 576-7829 · snrivera@sc.edu



WHAT PHARMACY IS ALL ABOUT

John Holladay shares his passion for patient care and education

It was a case of poison ivy that led **John Holladay** to a career in pharmacy.

"I managed to get a severe case of poison ivy while fishing on a creek bank when I was about 12 years old," Holladay says. "As the pharmacist explained how the medicine that he prescribed would counteract what the poison ivy was doing to my body, I was really intrigued."

A few years later when he was in chemistry class at Sumter High School, Holladay saw a brochure tacked to the wall that asked 'Is Pharmacy Right for You?' and remembered that encounter with the pharmacist.

Holladay graduated from the USC College of Pharmacy in 1992, then pursued a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutics. He continued to work in community pharmacy and at the Palmetto Poison Center until he completed his Ph.D. in 1997.

His academic career took him and his wife, Susan, also a graduate of the college, to Howard University in Washington, D.C. and the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Arkansas before returning to Sumter to become a partner in an independent pharmacy.



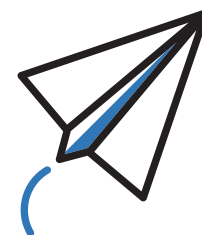
"Our kids were able to enjoy growing up near all of their family, and I was able to help tons of patients over the past 23 years," he says. "I did not regret leaving academics for a second."

In 2015, the university offered him a faculty position. Holladay retired from full-time community pharmacy work in 2023 to devote more time to teaching. His background provides students with a valuable connection between basic sciences and clinical pharmacy.

"I like introducing basic science topics to the students and showing them the relevance," he says. "I like to see the students engaged in the process of how these concepts are intertwined to help people live longer and better lives. And isn't that why we're in pharmacy?"

Holladay is proud of his chosen profession and hopes fellow alumni will continue to help advance pharmacy as a career option.

"An encouraging word to support students goes a long way, and we need to share the positivity of our profession because we do good things," he says. "Find a way to help, to get involved with the college if for no other reason than remembering how this place helped prepare you for a career to help others."



Ph.D. alumna pays it forward



Phyllis Perkins once considered attending medical school. After volunteering at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, she found herself more intrigued by pharmacy.

"We were required to complete 40 hours of community service at Cardinal Newman High School," she says. "I would work a few hours every Friday in the pharmacy, so that was my introduction."

After arriving at USC, she learned more about pharmacy and its career options, so she earned her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2000.

"I decided that if I wanted to pursue academia or work in an alternative setting, I should pursue a Ph.D.," she says.

Since achieving that in 2005, Perkins' career has taken her down many paths. She continues to work as a pharmacist at Moncrief Army Health Clinic, based at Fort Jackson.

"As the daughter and granddaughter of veterans, I saw firsthand the commitment my father and grandfather had to serving their country," she says. "Working with active-duty soldiers is a way to give back to others who have given so much."

Perkins also works as a pharmacy consultant and has taught business classes at Benedict College. She serves as a judge for poster competitions at the annual Joint Forces Federal Seminar, which brings together federal pharmacy professionals for educational training.

Perkins is grateful for the support she received as a College of Pharmacy student. As a member of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Council, she feels it is important to help others pass through the doors that were opened for her, whether as a mentor to students or through financial support.

"Growing up in New York, I never encountered a minority pharmacist. I never saw anyone who looked like me behind the counter until I came to college and got into pharmacy," she says. "I think it is especially important for our students of color to see someone who looks like them."

"I want the next generation of pharmacists to have access to the same high-quality education that I was afforded," Perkins says. "It is my way of saying thank you."

“I want the next generation of pharmacists to have access to the same high-quality education that I was afforded.”

Phyllis Perkins

BRAIN FOCUSED

Research by two COP assistant professors aimed at new therapies for depression, stress and anxiety.

Alessandra Porcu had her sights set on being a forensic detective, analyzing crime scenes for chemical clues. Her colleague Chase Francis once dreamed of becoming an astrophysicist.

Their respective academic journeys led them to new interests and, ultimately, to joining the faculty of USC's College of Pharmacy, pursuing research aimed at helping people affected by depression, stress and anxiety. That focus is the basis for a developmental research grant from the National Institute of Mental Health shared by the two assistant professors.

Porcu is studying the effects of circadian rhythms, including their effects on administering medications at optimal times of day for maximal efficacy. She also studies how blue light emitted from screen devices affects the adolescent brain.

"We're especially interested in understanding how the adolescent brain changes in response to very common environmental stimuli: stress and blue light," says Porcu,

a native of the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, who earned a Pharm.D. from the University of Cagliari and a doctoral degree in neuroscience from that university and the University of Basel in Switzerland.

Francis' research is focused on the nucleus accumbens, a motivation-related area of the brain that is heavily affected in people who have depression. Francis' study of the nucleus accumbens and Porcu's research on circadian disruption are the intersection point for their shared NIMH grant in which they are working to better understand how circadian-driven changes in the nucleus accumbens contribute to susceptibility to mood disorders.

"We're trying to find new ways of stimulating the exterior of the brain to affect the nucleus accumbens," says Francis, a Charlotte, North Carolina, native who earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Maryland. "There also are targets that we're interested in that affect the circuits of the nucleus accumbens and could be the basis for novel therapeutics for depression."

◀ *Neurons in the hypothalamus responsible for regulating the body's circadian rhythms.*

As assistant professors in the drug discovery and biomedical sciences department in the College of Pharmacy, Porcu and Francis are laying the basic science foundations in their respective research areas for future development of new pharmaceutical therapies.

To that end, Francis is collaborating with psychology faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and with USC School of Medicine Columbia faculty in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience. "What I'm focused on would be like an add-on therapy to typical anti-depressants with the goal of preventing a depression relapse," Francis says. "The hope would be that this new therapeutic would help people with depression get to remission."

Francis is focused on pathways that emerge from the nucleus accumbens that mediate depression-related symptoms. He's particularly interested in a peptide called Substance P that has a major role in mediating how animals perceive stress. Francis points to the possibility of off-label use of existing drugs that suppress the activity of Substance P.

"Substance P enhances attention to stressful stimuli, and so, by blocking it, we hope to decrease reactivity to these significant life stressors," Francis says.

Francis' research group uses a technique called whole-cell patch clamp electrophysiology to measure activity in single brain cells of rodent models that have been exposed to different environmental stimuli. The technique lends a better understanding of individual neuron's response to stress and other stimuli important for survival.

Porcu is using rodent models to study how nocturnal blue light exposure affects stress and anxiety levels in the adolescent brain. Blue light emitted from screen devices — particularly phones and laptops — adversely affects mood, cognition and sleep when the exposure occurs after sunset, a function of circadian rhythms.

"Cells in the back of our retina are very sensitive to the blue wavelength, and they activate brain regions that are not supposed to be active at night. This is what leads to problems in the development of the neural circuit during adolescence," says Porcu, adding that research has shown dramatic increases in adolescent anxiety since the advent of smart phones in 2008.



ALESSANDRA PORCU



CHASE FRANCIS

Porcu's team uses a technique called fiber photometry, inserting optical fibers in a mouse's brain to measure neuronal activity while exposed to different stimuli, including blue light. They also use molecular biology assays to screen for RNA and cellular proteins that change because of environmental exposure.

"It's like having a microscope inside the brain cell to see what is happening," Porcu says.

Porcu and Francis devoted their first year in the college to establishing their research labs and both are now teaching College of Pharmacy students. Francis primarily teaches first-year pharmacy students fundamental pathophysiology and pharmacology, including neurotransmission, neuroanatomy and basic principles of neurological and psychiatric disorders.

"I believe in active learning — that's the best way for students to learn," Francis says. "I also try to provide materials outside such as textbook videos so students can see a topic explained in a slightly different way. Instead of just hearing me drone on or ask them a bunch of questions in class, they can get somebody else's perspective."

Porcu teaches third-year students pharmacology and pathophysiology, including epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, spasticity, Parkinson's disease and other neural pathologies.

"In our first class, I tell them that pharmacology is like math — if you understand it, you don't need to memorize anything," she says. "My goal is to make them understand what is happening because it's just like a mechanism."

"I like them to ask questions, to have them involved as much as I can. If they come to the board and interact with the class, they get a prize. And the prize is coming to my lab and doing some brain sectioning, some microscopy, maybe some immunofluorescence with us. And they love it!"

Leading the charge against opioid abuse

— Young alumna helps decrease number of opioid prescriptions in the Palmetto State.

Her aunt's breast cancer diagnosis first opened **Chelsea Townsend's** eyes to the world of pharmacy and how medicine can heal. As she watched her aunt progress through chemotherapy treatment, so did Townsend's fascination with medicine.

Townsend earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2015. While working in retail pharmacy, Townsend championed an initiative to make naloxone available to counteract the effects of opioid overdose.

"Naloxone was made available via protocol, and it was something new," she says. "Pharmacists had to go through several steps, developing counseling materials and prescription orders."

Townsend helped develop a standardized process for her retail pharmacy location and later expanded it throughout her district.

In 2021, Townsend joined the South Carolina Department of Public Health in the Bureau of Drug Control as director of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the only position that is not law-enforcement related. Focused on improving the state's ability to identify and stop the unintended distribution of prescription drugs without impacting the intended use of medications, the program provides quarterly updates to online dashboards with actionable data for a rolling two-year period for opioids, benzodiazepines and stimulants.

"These are public dashboards to help discover county and state level trends," Townsend says. "The trends can even show where we may need to focus on targeted education to county level officials, specific patient demographic populations or health care providers located in counties whose numbers may trend higher than the state average."

"Year-over-year, we have seen a slight decrease in the number of opioid prescriptions."

Townsend credits her career growth to her College of Pharmacy professors and her experiential education.

"I also worked two jobs throughout pharmacy school, which provided lasting connections," she says. "All of this combined helped set me up for success."

Townsend's advice to current students is to focus on making connections.

"It is essential to get that experience while you are in school so you can apply what you are learning to real-life situations," Townsend says,

She encourages alumni to serve as mentors. Townsend still has pharmacists she mentored as students come to her for advice.

"Students are always looking for someone to share their experiences and guide them," she says. "Our pharmacy community is so small that those relationships you make with students turn into lasting relationships."

Thomas Cusmano | '73

“I am forever grateful for the special education and training offered by the USC College of Pharmacy. Giving back to a special place in my life is important to help further our profession. As written in the alma mater, 'We hail thee, Carolina, and sing thy high praise; with loyal devotion, rememb'ring the days.' ”



Katie McClendon | '05

“As a student, I was always grateful for the scholarships from the College, which were a huge support to me. Now that I am an alumna, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to give back. I know the financial needs of institutions can change, so I wanted to donate to the Dean's Excellence Fund so Dean Cutler has the flexibility to make the most impact with my donation.”



John Matthews | '06

“My wife and I support the College of Pharmacy because it gave me the education and resources to build a fulfilling career in one of health care's most trusted professions and allowed me the opportunity to answer the call to serve and care for others. We ask alumni to consider supporting our university as it strives to provide these same lasting opportunities to future generations of Gamecock Pharmacists.”



Yorika Hammett | '17

“I support the College of Pharmacy because I believe in investing in the future generations of leaders and innovators. Giving back to the College helps to strengthen the educational community and provide students with the tools they need to be successful. My contribution is a way to give others the same chance I had to learn, grow and succeed.”



FROM PHARM.D. TO PH.D.



Macie Goodman was meant to be a Gamecock. Her parents met at Carolina, and her brother and several uncles attended USC.

"I have huge family ties to USC. I originally thought I might go to that other school in the Upstate just for spite," she says. "Then I realized they don't offer the programs that I wanted to pursue."

Goodman played trombone in the Carolina band while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2021. She completed a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2023 and is now pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a focus on implementation sciences.

"I was interested in chemistry in high school," she says. "My grandmother was a fourth-grade teacher, so I have always had an interest in teaching as well."

It was **Gene Reeder**, distinguished professor emeritus, who convinced Goodman to consider the Ph.D. program.

"I thought I might pursue residency because I knew I wanted additional training after pharmacy school, and Dr. Reeder walked me through the graduate program," she says. "He is the reason I am here."

As part of her Ph.D. training, Goodman is also a graduate teaching assistant, working with **Scott Sutton**, director of the Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences department, and conducting research with Assistant Professor **Tessa Hastings**.

"Macie's background as a pharmacist provided her with the opportunity to assist the department in unique ways," Sutton says. "However, it was Macie's ability, determination and desire that led to her teaching success. I am hesitant to call Macie a mentee because she is so much more than that."

"Macie has shown ambition and a genuine eagerness to learn, qualities that are essential for success in research. I have no doubt she will continue to develop into a highly skilled and innovative researcher, and I am excited to see where her talents will take her in the future," Hastings says.

Goodman earned the 2024 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, sponsored by the USC Graduate School. She was also recognized by the Center for Teaching Excellence's Preparing Future Faculty program, and she earned the College of Pharmacy's Unsung Hero Award in 2021.

Goodman plans to continue teaching and conducting research, especially concerning pharmacists' impact on HIV.

"I truly enjoy the teaching aspect," she says. "I have had some students who decided to do research with me. Sometimes I feel I learn more from my students than I can ever teach them."

Rebecca Axson | '25

"The College of Pharmacy GPA pathway provided me with incredible opportunities to kickstart my pharmacy journey as an undergraduate. In my first year, I jumped into leadership positions and began developing into the pharmacist I aspire to become. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had at USC and am proud to soon become a Gamecock Pharmacist."

Dalan Solomon | '25

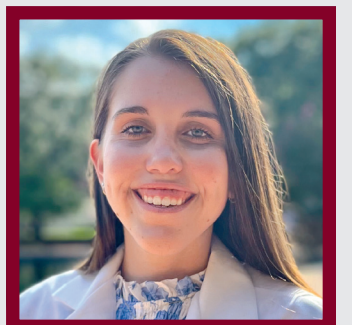
"Studying pharmacy at the USC College of Pharmacy feels like home, offering unparalleled opportunities, a supportive atmosphere, and a curriculum that has fueled my passion for clinical research and development. Being born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, I chose this program to gain the knowledge and connections needed to make a meaningful impact in the pharmaceutical industry."

Dania Asmar | '26

"I chose to study at the USC College of Pharmacy because of the opportunities they provide to students - unwavering support from college faculty and staff, numerous opportunities for involvement, and a sense of belonging to the pharmacy and larger USC community. My values align with those of the college and its mission to prepare students through fostering a culture of compassion, inclusivity, engagement in the community and optimization of student experiences."

Emily Fisher | '27

"Studying at the USC College of Pharmacy has allowed me to be part of a greater culture that fosters curiosity, growth and unparalleled passion. This environment has provided me with the support needed to pursue opportunities outside the traditional curriculum that has shaped me into a leader who can make a significant impact on patients' lives."



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FACULTY



Jordan Ballou earned a Clinical Innovation Award from the ACCP and was selected to join the 21st cohort of the Academic Leadership Fellows Program with AACP.



Brie Dunn has been named University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy Professor of the Year. She also was named a USC Improvement Leader Program 2024-2025 Cohort and P2 Class Teacher of the Year 2023-2024.



Patti Fabel received the 2024 SCPHA Excellence in Innovation Award at the SCPHA Annual Conference.

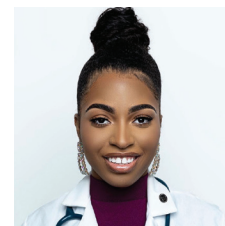


Whitney Maxwell earned the Innovation in Continuing Professional Development Award from AACP for her work with the AACP Leadership Development Special Interest Group on "Leadership Circles."



Igor Roninson earned the USC Educational Foundation Research Award in Health Sciences.

STUDENTS



Alex Coleman, '25, was awarded the NCPA Foundation Neil Pruitt Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Entrepreneurism.



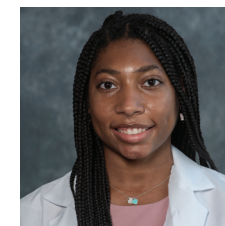
Abby Davies, Ph.D. candidate, earned the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education/American Pharmacists Association Community Pharmacy Practice Fellowship for 2024-2025.



Emily Fisher, '27, was awarded a travel scholarship for the NCPA Foundation Owner Workshop.



Elizaveta Korunova, Ph.D. candidate, was awarded a 2024-2025 Graduate Teaching Assistant Resource Development Grant from the USC Center for Teaching Excellence, the first teaching development grant awarded to a graduate student in the College of Pharmacy.



Bethany 'Maegan' Lamb, '25, has been appointed to the ACCP National Student Advisory Committee.



The USC COP student team—**Paige Dionysius Litton**, **Anabelle Clothiaux**, **Caleb Warden** and **Lanie West** won first place at the SC Pharmacy Association Annual Convention's Self-Care Bowl.

Reaching New Heights

90%

of 2023 graduates were employed within 6 months of graduation

90%

of USC pharmacy students have a four-year on-time graduation rate

96%

Class of 2024's ASHP PGY1 residency match rate

#1

in the SEC, class of 2024's ASHP PGY1 residency match rate

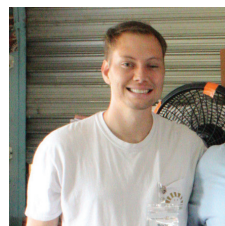
ALUMNI



Zoe Ayers, '21, was named a District Paragon recipient for CVS Health.



Nikki Chen, '24, was named Student Pharmacist of the Year by the South Carolina Pharmacy Association. She also earned the John F. (Jack) Schlegel Leadership Development Award.



Bryan Eberl, '22, travels quarterly to villages in Belize, Central America to support medical clinics.



Catherine Helms, '18, is clinical team lead pharmacist at Atrium Health's CarolinaCARE pharmacy, specializing in medication management and clinical support.



Angela Kao, '16, serves as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid's accountable care organization coordinator for the Medicare Shared Savings Program under the Division of Value-Based Care Operations.



Hugh Mobley, '78, was awarded the Bowl of Hygeia from the South Carolina Pharmacy Association.



Johnny Nguyen, '24, has been named to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy resident advisory committee.



Erika Tillery, '10, won the Ken Couch Distinguished Mentor Award from the South Carolina Pharmacy Association.



Jacob King, CharLeigh Steverson and Fay Hussain, '24, have been named to the Top 3 teams in the nation for the NCPA Business Competition for the second year in a row.

Kennedy Freeman, '22, relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico to begin a new position as a pediatric critical care pharmacist at UNM Health.

Kinsey McClure Johannemann, '22, earned her BCPS and AAHIVP certifications and completed her infectious diseases pharmacy residency.

Ryan McCormick, '22, completed a PGY-2 residency in Infectious Diseases at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist.

Madison Peach-Keen, '14, has opened a compounding pharmacy, Peachy-Keen Pharmacy in Meridian, Idaho.

Makaela Premont, '20, developed the program titled "Novel Approaches to the Management of Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma – a JEOPARDY! Game," which won a gold award for medical education at the Spring 2024 Digital Health Awards.

► Do you have news to share with fellow alumni? Send us your updates at bit.ly/usccop-alumni.

Meet our Alumni Council Members

The College of Pharmacy relaunched its Alumni Council in 2024. These alumni shared why they joined and their favorite pharmacy school memory.

Favorite memory:

Amanda Capino, Pharm.D. 2014, clinical associate professor, Marshall University School of Pharmacy



"It is hard to pick just one! I enjoyed being involved in a number of organizations and being able to represent the university through outreach events and at conferences. I think some of my most favorite moments were volunteering during the USC Service Saturdays with SNPhA."

Ashley Godwin, Pharm.D. 2021, consultant



"Brainstorming sessions with my committee members. Having supportive and enthusiastic mentors makes ALL the difference. Sometimes you just need mentors to be excited about your ideas, and this will motivate you to take your work to the next level."

Crystal Watts, Pharm.D. 2009, pharmacy technician program director, Trident Technical College



"At the beginning of the semester when Stan Papajohn would stand in front of your class, introducing himself with his Papa John's Pizza box, you knew you were going to have an awesome semester. We learned so much from him, and his support meant so much, especially in the early part of the program when we were still figuring everything out."

Why I joined:

Michael Bedenbaugh, Pharm.D. 2012, MBA 2012, director, Pharmacy & Purchasing Intramed Plus



"It is an opportunity to give back to a profession and institution that has provided me many blessings."

Sam Glenn, Pharm.D. 2020, clinical pharmacist with Bon Secours



"I want to help ensure the continued availability of education and resources to recent graduates. I believe this is especially important to students interested in the residency path."

Cassidy Kemp, Pharm.D. 2021, pharmacy operations project coordinator, Prisma Health



"I loved my time in the College of Pharmacy being involved in a variety of opportunities that helped me grow personally, academically, and professionally. I feel like this committee allows me to give back to the college in a way."

Phyllis Perkins, Pharm.D. 2000, Ph.D. 2005, pharmacist, Moncrief Army Health Clinic



"I wanted to become more connected with the Carolina Rx Community."

Bryan Mayer, Pharm.D. 2005, executive director, Pharmacy Operations, Coram/CVS Specialty Infusion



"I am looking forward to re-engaging with students and faculty to help our next generation of pharmacists."

Janet Thames, Pharm.D. 2000, owner/pharmacist, Blythewood Pharmacy



"I wanted to stay more connected to the College of Pharmacy and to encourage other alumni to do the same as well."

Eduardo Seijo, Pharm.D. 2011, assistant vice president, Advocate Health



"Pharmacy school has opened many doors for me, beyond what I knew or understood when I started. I joined in hopes of being able to engage with new students and provide them guidance on what is possible beyond the 'standard' pharmacy practice to see them take our profession even farther."

Colin Hungerpiller, Pharm.D. 2021, MBA 2022, consultant pharmacist, PharmcareUSA



"I wanted to be able to give back to the College of Pharmacy and University of South Carolina as a whole. This council will be a great opportunity for me to stay connected, help engage fellow alumni with our college and encourage future alumni to stay involved with their alma mater."

► Contact Sarah Sipes, associate director of Development and Alumni Engagement, at sosipes@cop.sc.edu to learn more.

PHARMACY CELEBRATIONS

HOODING CEREMONY

The Class of 2024 at their Hooding Ceremony at the Koger Center for the Arts in May.



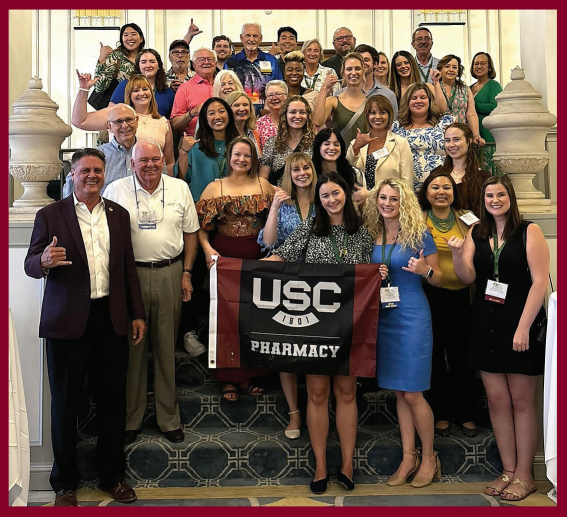
WHITE COAT CEREMONY

The College of Pharmacy welcomed the 102 new students to the Class of 2028 at its traditional White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 23 at the Koger Center for the Arts.



GAMECOCK PHARMACIST PRIDE

Alumni show their Gamecock Pharmacy pride at the SCPhA Conference in June.



2024 graduates CharLeigh Steverson and Chandler Fullington convey their Gamecock pharmacy pride.



It's spurs up at the back-to-school barbecue!



Dean Cutler and our CVS friends who sponsored the back-to-school barbecue.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BARBECUE

Students explored the college's many professional organizations at the annual back-to-school barbecue.



College of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #766
Columbia, SC

715 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29208



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHARMACISTS

Kathy Quarles Moore, '86, has greeted every student with a smile and an infectious passion for pharmacy since joining the college in 2008. A clinical associate professor and director of the Community and Compounding Laboratories, she was awarded the university's Clinical Practice in Teaching Award in 2021 and the S.C. Pharmacy Association's 2023 Bowl of Hygeia Award. As a respected educator, alumna and community pharmacist, her Gamecock roots run deep. "My father, also a USC Pharmacy alum, modeled the passion for our profession, as well as the love for our alma mater. I give back because I have been given many opportunities with the exceptional education I received."