

# Gamecock Pharmacist

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA / COLLEGE OF PHARMACY / SUMMER 2019



**A LEGACY OF  
FAMILY PHARMACY**

Palmetto Poison Center  
Pursuit of the Possible





DEAN STEPHEN J. CUTLER

**Dear Friends of the College of Pharmacy,**

The spring is always an exciting and momentous time of year for the College of Pharmacy, and its arrival brings crucial benchmarks for our students.

Our P1 students reached the end of their first pharmacy year in early May, and through their interactions with advisors, professors, staff and experienced students, have been introduced to the foundations of pharmacy coursework. They have a clearer perspective on what lies ahead of them in their paths to pharmacy careers. I am sure they are grateful, albeit relieved, to have finals behind them and summer ahead of them. Similarly, our 106 newest graduates are preparing for careers, residencies or continued education. My hope for them all is that they choose wisely, live fearlessly and make life-long learning a priority in the years ahead.

The end of spring semester also brings crucial benchmarks for our faculty and staff as we continue to anticipate and meet deadlines for strategic plan deliverables. By now, you should have received information outlining our six strategic initiatives, representing the tip of a pyramid of goals, objectives and action items. I am exceedingly proud of our faculty and staff for their attention to the plan's implementation.

Our college enjoys a unique brand differentiation from other pharmacy programs in the state as a comprehensive and well-respected program at South Carolina's flagship university. We are committed to strengthening our competitiveness and student quality as we keep an active watch on future alternatives and challenges, evident by the valuable impact of the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center.

Our dedication to student success is delivered through support at every level of their academic journey, including our assistance in helping students attend the college. This past academic year represented the highest amount of College of Pharmacy scholarship funding, with more than \$360,000 awarded to students through scholarships.

Our commitment to students continues after graduation as they become alumni. We also remain committed to considering the needs and interests of experienced alumni and would enjoy learning from you. We maintain a promise of service to keep you informed and engaged. As alumni, many of you invest in our success through volunteerism, precepting, and making financial gifts supporting college priorities.

As dean of the College of Pharmacy, I am always interested in hearing from our alumni. Your input can help us increase the value of the pharmacy degree you earned at the University of South Carolina. Do you have feedback about your student experience? Do you have ideas for alumni engagement? Interested in giving back? Reach out and let us know at alumni@cop.sc.edu.

Thank you for your encouragement and dedication. It is my pleasure to serve as your dean.

**Stephen J. Cutler**  
Dean of the College of Pharmacy

**SUMMER 2019**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Stephen J. Cutler** / Dean  
**Skot Garrick** / Director of Communications  
**Skot Garrick, David Lee** / Writers  
**Kathy Keenan with College of Pharmacy staff, Local History Room of Richland Library** / Contributors  
**Arieus Alcide, Skot Garrick, Kim Truett** / Photography

College of Pharmacy  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-777-4151  
Website: sc.edu/pharmacy



Social: UofSCPharm

**ON THE COVER**

Ken Long, an accomplished pharmacist and entrepreneur, was named the College of Pharmacy 2018 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution. 19-10998 6/19

# CONTENTS



**Leadership is a quality that cannot be defined in a single, simple word; there are many aspects to leadership. For my own style, I define myself as a servant leader. I lead by my service to others.** - Dean Stephen J. Cutler



## IN THIS ISSUE

**4 / PALMETTO POISON CENTER**

*The largest contract in the center's history means high standards will continue for the college and state.*

**5 / BUFF LEAVES LASTING IMPACT ON COLLEGE**

*Wayne Buff retires as senior associate dean after many years of visionary service to the College of Pharmacy.*

**6 / A LEGACY OF FAMILY PHARMACY**

*Ken Long recognized as College of Pharmacy 2018 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.*

**8 / STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

**10 / ALUMNI EXPERIENCE - 'WHY I INVEST'**

**15 / PURSUIT OF THE POSSIBLE**

*The Walker Leadership Scholars Program challenges students to discover many paths to leadership.*

**16 / A CATALYST FOR REVOLUTIONIZING PHARMACY EDUCATION**

*Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center: recognition that experience serves as a valuable teacher.*



# PALMETTO POISON CENTER RECEIVES LARGEST PROJECT FUNDING AWARD IN ITS HISTORY

Jill Michels knows from experience that the phone calls can be serious.

Each of the approximately 30,000 annual calls to the Palmetto Poison Center presents a range of possibilities. When the phone rings, a specialized healthcare individual can expect to hear one of many types of situations.

“Until you get in there and listen to the phone calls, it’s a totally different animal,” says Michels, the center’s managing director.

son Center’s impact on the college and state will continue into the future. The funding from Medicaid totals more than \$3.6 million over 4 ½ years.

It’s the largest contract the poison center has received from its funding sources, Michels says. She added that the center’s budget is “basically to run the poison center and that’s it.” The funding provides security to hire people who are effective on the phones to manage poison emergencies, as well as for prevention materials and software.

Michels’ presence is an example of the center’s influence on the college. She teaches toxicology as part of the clinical department, and the center provides education and experience for fourth-year students.

“When you hear poison center, you hear the College of Pharmacy, as well, since we’re a part of it,” she says.

There’s a tireless effort at the center to provide free poison and toxicology advice, consultation to physicians for critical patients, education and experience for pharmacy students, and more, all while saving money in healthcare costs.

The largest funding amount in the center’s history means that high standard will continue for the college and state.

“It’s a wonderful thing for us and certainly the state as well,” Michels says.

**WHEN YOU HEAR POISON CENTER, YOU HEAR THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, AS WELL, SINCE WE’RE A PART OF IT.**

The Palmetto Poison Center, in partnership with the College of Pharmacy, is one of only 55 centers in the nation to have earned accreditation by the American Association of Poison Control Centers as a regional poison center. It’s also the only such center in South Carolina.

Its impact on the state is felt with each connection through the phone to help an individual in need, whether it’s a snake-bite victim or a physician asking for knowledge on a drug overdose at an emergency facility. Twenty-five percent of calls are from healthcare professionals, including from school nurses, doctors’ offices and hospitals.

A recent South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services project funding award ensures the Palmetto Poi-

The effects of the poison center’s services are also seen in the numbers. For every dollar spent on the poison center, around \$13 is saved in healthcare costs, including emergency room and physician visits, ambulance services and unnecessary medical treatments.

The poison center, which is open 24 hours per day and 365 days per year, is also involved in educational training and public health education. The center is staffed by healthcare professionals who are formally trained in toxicology as specialists in poison information. It’s an experiential site for fourth-year pharmacy students and is involved in educational training of emergency medicine physicians and pediatricians.



## GAMECOCK PHARMACY CAREER EXPO

The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy was pleased to hold its first Gamecock Pharmacy Career Expo on Jan. 28. The student-centered event provided professional development and networking opportunities for P1, P2 and P3 students, while offering potential employers and internship providers opportunities to meet and interview students.

► All P1-P3 students, approximately 110 per class, were required to attend at specified time periods so that providers had opportunities to meet with them.

► P4 students interested in interviewing for pharmacist positions, or learning about nontraditional career paths, also attended.

► College of Pharmacy students had opportunities to discuss their field of pharmacy studies, their career paths, and career opportunities available through the attending providers and companies.



Wayne Buff retired as senior associate dean in December of 2018, after many years of visionary service to the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. He leaves an impact on the college through his years of dedication, guidance and vision in furthering its mission of providing high-quality pharmacy education to improve the health and wellness of communities.

Buff was born and raised in Lexington, S.C., and graduated with a bachelor’s degree from South Carolina in 1973. He started practicing community pharmacy at Westdale Pharmacy in West Columbia and eventually earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1997. He continued to practice community pharmacy until 1999, and in January 2000, he took a position at the College of Pharmacy as an instructor.

“I enjoyed working with students on rotation and as interns at the College of Pharmacy,” Buff says. “It was something I liked, and the students responded well to me. It opened opportunities that I did not anticipate. Key people guiding my evolving roles at the College of Pharmacy were Gene Reeder, Dr. Mike Dickson, former Dean Farid Sadik (associate dean at the time) and Dean Julian Fincher.”

“My initial responsibilities included helping develop a practice lab experience for students, which we developed as a forward-looking experience and practice. This has been a long-lasting benefit to the college and the basic concepts of this are still in place.”

In addition, Buff handled the continuing education program for graduates and alumni, and taught a non-prescription drug products course, now referred to as self-care. These crucial efforts led to more work in administration, prompting Sadik to ask him to work in the dean’s office, where Buff became assistant dean for student affairs.

Buff served as interim dean for six months during the dean’s search in 2016, and then progressed to senior associate dean for the College of Pharmacy in 2016 when Dean Stephen J. Cutler began. Buff had also served as associate dean for curriculum and assessment.

“I have enjoyed the students and relationships in the College of Pharmacy, and even when working in community pharmacy I always had a desire to teach. So, it has meant a lot to me to be so very involved in the college for so many years, and I hated to walk away, but it was the right timing,” Buff says on his retirement. “Now, I will have the chance to devote time to my family and maybe even my artwork.”



# A LEGACY OF FAMILY PHARMACY

## Long's Drugs continues impact as multigenerational business

Long's Drugs has an evocative history tied to family, hard work and the quintessential American dream. Knowing this backstory is important to fully appreciate College of Pharmacy 2018 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Ken Long's professional inspiration and rise to success, which he largely attributes to his father, Eugene Long.

Eugene was a University of South Carolina freshman when he took a job at Campbell's Drugs in the Cornell Arms

near his dormitory on the Horseshoe. It proved to be a fortuitous decision that would later touch the lives of his beloved family and the community he loved. The family business grew to 23 stores spread across three states to provide personalized, community-based healthcare for almost 50 years.

Pharmacy owner John Campbell would have a profound influence on Eugene, encouraging him to change his major to pharmacy after his first semester. After

in the small store in the Cornell Arms Building, or in the other Long's Drugs stores as the company grew. Ken's older brother, Gene Long, became a full-time pharmacist in the Cornell Arms store after graduating from the College of Pharmacy in 1978. When younger brother Ken joined the team after graduating in 1980, the small family business had to expand.

"My dad had to buy store No. 2 so I would have a place to work," Ken says. "We only had the one store, and we didn't need another pharmacist, so my dad bought the store at the corner of Kilbourne and Devine Street, which became our flagship store."

Ken is quick to emphasize that working in the drug stores "was always a family affair." He does not hesitate in attributing the success of the business to his father. Just as Campbell served as the fount of inspiration and guidance to Eugene, Ken found that motivation and encouragement from his father.

"I worked in (the Cornell Arms location) as a kid and watched my dad do it, and it's all I ever wanted to do," Ken says. "I didn't consider any other school of profession. I would not have been a pharma-

***It has been a huge honor to receive this recognition. The honor arrives from becoming a member of a great group of men and women who have also had the same recognition. Contributions made to the profession, for the practice of pharmacy, for other pharmacists and leaving a legacy that allows others a path for success are important and I believe that is what this award recognizes. - Ken Long***

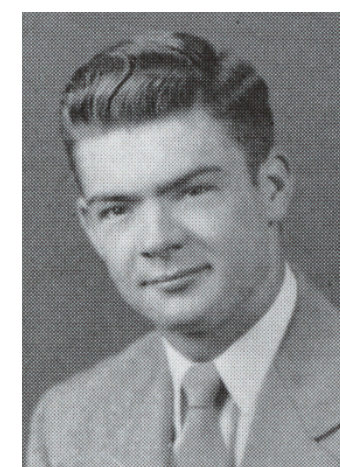
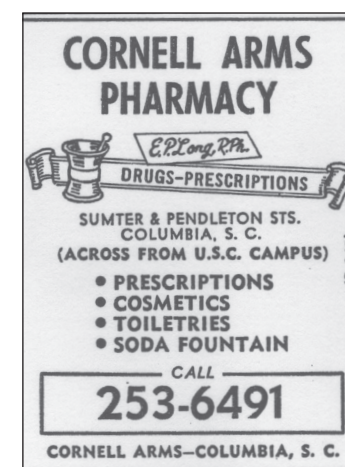
Building in 1951. Unsure of what major to choose, the young man from Estill, S.C., did know he needed an income to sustain his college career. When he boarded the bus in Estill for Columbia, his path had been blessed with "\$100 and a handshake" from his father.

He secured a job at Campbell's Drugs because it was the closest place to work

setting Eugene on the course to study pharmacy, Campbell ended up selling him the store in 1968, ensuring it would remain a family drug store.

Family is at the center of the legacy and history of Long's Drugs. Eugene met his wife, Lorraine Moore, while he was working in the store. Over the years, nearly all of their children would work

“Ken Long is an exceedingly accomplished pharmacist, entrepreneur and alumnus of the College of Pharmacy. He is a tremendous role model for our students, faculty members and alumni.”  
- Dean Stephen J. Cutler



Top, from left: Ken Long, Rebecca Long Gillespie, Eugene Long. Bottom left: 1969 Long's Drugs ad in Columbia phone book. Bottom right: Eugene Long, Gamecock yearbook, '55.

cist if it wasn't for my father. We were business partners for 20 years. During that time, he was a real example, a mentor to me; everything from taking care of people, taking care of patients, business practices, and he does not get enough credit for the success we have had. John Campbell had created the opportunity, but my dad created the desire."

Encouraged by the success of the Devine Street store, the family continued to find opportunities to purchase stores and build the business until it encompassed 23 stores. Ken took on the role of CEO and would visit every store each week until selling the company in 2014. He currently serves as chairman of the board and members of his family, as well as other College of Pharmacy alumni, still work for Long's Drugs: Christie Epps, '92 and '97, as CEO; daughter Rebecca Long Gillespie, '97, as director of operations; nephew Daniel Long, '15, pharmacist; and niece Lauren Long, '16, pharmacist.

"You know, I'm proud that we developed a family business that was really good for our family — our genetic family," Ken says. "But we also built a family of 375 employees that we really treated like family, and they responded to that. I am really proud of the reputation we have in the community, in small towns all over South Carolina. I'm really proud of the people we hired, and the way they represented Long's; really quality folks, the pharmacists, the majority of which were graduates of the College of Pharmacy. The legacy left behind is who we took care of, all those patients for multiple generations."

Grateful for the important role that community pharmacy, as well as the College of Pharmacy, has been to their family, Ken established the Eugene P. and Lorraine M. Long Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2009. This scholarship provides support for College of Pharmacy students who are interested in pursuing a career in independent, community pharmacy.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE



MARY CREEK BORGELT, '21



At the UofSC College of Pharmacy, I have the opportunity to work alongside passionate and knowledgeable faculty who motivate me to become the most impactful pharmacist and healthcare provider. I look forward to the variety of opportunities the pharmacy profession has to offer.



ABIGAIL BOUKNIGHT, '20



Through both the Pharm.D. curriculum and co-curricular activities, the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy has given me numerous opportunities to foster my passion for patient care in our community. I'm looking forward to a year full of rotations to learn more about the impact pharmaceutical care can have on my patients, whether it be in the retail, hospital or ambulatory care setting.



COURTNEY JACKSON-JONES, '21



One of the best parts about being a student at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy is being afforded opportunities of awareness. I have attended events such as the KPIC Pharmacy Career Innovation Summit and the Gamecock Pharmacy Career Expo, each of which exposed me to opportunities in pharmacy that I never imagined. Being a student here has truly been a rewarding experience. I love having classmates that are my 'PHARM-ily', and feeling confident that I will leave here being able to make a positive impact in the healthcare of those in my community.



TYLER D. WAGNER, '19



I'll remember my time at the College of Pharmacy by the superb faculty members who go above and beyond to provide mentorship and guidance to students. Their impact on my future has been invaluable and this dedication to invest in students differentiates the college from others.



BEL IWEGBUE, '20



My self-confidence has grown tremendously over the past three years with faculty members and, I believe, the curriculum pushing me to meet deadlines and accomplish goals I never thought I could achieve. I feel privileged to have experienced the numerous learning opportunities offered by the college that are not available at other pharmacy schools, especially in the following areas: pharmacy ownership training, international experiential programs, leadership skill development and the pre-residency program.



JONATHAN HUI, '21



With my first step on campus, how could you not fall absolutely in love with the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy? With its comprehensive curriculum, leadership development programs and extracurricular activities, the college not only trains us to be great pharmacists but challenges us to think critically in order to become the best pharmacists in the nation, impacting both our community and the profession at large.



KENNEDY FREEMAN, '22



The College of Pharmacy has shown me how career pathways for a pharmacist are limitless. Additionally, I have loved being able to make a difference in the community by simply being involved in the college's organizations, such as SNPhA, PDC and PPAG.



JAMES E. ORBAN III, '22



The College of Pharmacy has been, in a word, astounding. I have gotten to learn so much from the wonderful faculty, my fellow students, and I am excited to continue my journey through the college to hopefully see everything it has to offer. I am truly blessed to have been selected for a program as prestigious as the Walker Leadership Scholars. They are some of the nicest people I have met at the College of Pharmacy, and the opportunity to connect with them on a higher level is very exciting.





ALUMNI EXPERIENCE



GENE REEDER

*"The USC College of Pharmacy gave me a career path, new friends, great experiences and wonderful memories. I owe so much to the College of Pharmacy and the university, and I am happy to give back to my alma mater to help grow our college and support the next generation of students and alumni."*



CHRISTINA DERIENZO

*"I give back to the USC College of Pharmacy not only because of all of the amazing mentors, teachers and preceptors that I had from the USC College of Pharmacy, but also because I love to share my experiences and love for pharmacy and pediatric hematology/oncology with students. Nothing is more rewarding than to see them be a sponge and absorb all of the teachings that you have shared with them and for the light bulb to come on."*



LINDSAY COBBS

*"As a USC COP alum, I have a vested interest in ensuring and growing the prestige associated with the USC COP. I aim to inspire students to follow their passions. This drives me to support future generations of pharmacy students so that I have a stake in shaping the future of pharmacy and steering the vision of the USC COP."*



MARIBETH KOWALSKI

*"From an early age, I knew I wanted to be a pharmacist. I still remember the excitement of receiving my letter of acceptance to USC and two years later to the College of Pharmacy. I was fortunate to receive scholarships, one specifically from the USC College of Pharmacy, to assist with funding my education. Every day, I give thanks to the excellent education and preparation for my professional field that I received at USC COP. I am honored to give back to help our future pharmacists achieve their educational and career goals!"*



CARL DUNN

*"I give because, as a first-generation college graduate, I understand how a college education can change lives. The College of Pharmacy provided me with a career that allows me to make a difference in the lives of others through healthcare and through gifts to my alma mater."*



CHRISTINE EPPS

*"As I reflect on my career, I realize how much the College of Pharmacy has contributed to my success. If my contributions and investments can provide the same opportunities and help shape the lives of others in our profession, it is my pleasure to give back."*



KYLE MCHUGH

*"Without the College of Pharmacy, I would not be where I am today. Most importantly, I met my wife there, but I also had the opportunity to face many challenges and develop leadership skills in a diverse way. I feel everyone who has ever been a part of the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy needs to give back either financially or with their time. Pam and I have been blessed enough to be able to do both."*



MIKE ROSS

*"After having success in the independent community pharmacy setting, it became clear to me that my academic background had made this possible. (There was) an encouraging faculty that never wavered their belief in me, even though I had them worried from time to time. It has become natural for me to give back and hope another Mike Ross gets that benefit and help from the USC College of Pharmacy. I have found it a great joy in life to GIVE BACK!"*

'WHY I INVEST'





### Hembree eyes small-town pharmacy impact with help of scholarships

Walker Pharmacy Leadership Scholar **Heather Hembree** was awarded the Foundation Presidential Scholarship for Academic and Leadership Excellence this year from the National Community Pharmacy Association (NCPA), as well as the 2019-20 Pharmacists Mutual Community Scholarship.

Hembree attended the NCPA Annual Convention this past October to accept its scholarship, and she had the opportunity to engage with pharmacists already working in her preferred field of independently owned community pharmacy. While attending the conference, she also learned of the Pharmacists Mutual Community Scholarship and applied, submitting a 492-word essay articulating her passion for small-town pharmacy. In the essay, the Class of 2020 student expressed her dream of “opening my own compounding pharmacy in Ware Shoals or a comparable small town where I can make a difference in the lives of the underserved.”

In March, Hembree was notified she had earned the Pharmacists Mutual Community Scholarship, and in the confirmation letter, Pharmacists Mutual Senior Vice President Paul T. Luckman said: “We commend your commitment to practice in either an independent community pharmacy, small-chain community pharmacy, or in an underserved geographic or cultural community.”

Hembree enjoys the individual patient involvement that comes from community pharmacy. Working in her small, hometown pharmacy in Ware Shoals, S.C., which still features a soda fountain, she enjoys talking with the people who come in to eat breakfast every morning.

“That’s a really neat way to interact with the patients, outside of just filling their prescription,” says Hembree, who explained how close, personal connections provide a deeper level of patient care. “We get to hear all their stories. Having that patient interaction is why I want to be a pharmacist.”



### Student Accomplishments

University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy students earned first place in the United States Medisca Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition on March 19. The team was comprised of **Rebecca Caughman**, **Amee Shah**, **Jessica Shue**, and assistant professor and advisor **Kathy Quarles Moore**.

**Matthew Hendrix** and **James Orban** were chosen as the Class of 2022 Walker Leadership Scholars.

**Kendyl Johnson Huber** has been selected to the NCPA Student Leadership Council as a Region 5 Representative.

**Lauren Simons Beard** has been awarded a USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award.

KPIC Pharmacy Ownership Business Plan Competition first-place winners were **Tej Patel**, **Amee Shah**, **Victoria Phan** and **Trent Quinn** for “Your World Pharmacy.”

**Madison Oswalt** has been named a 2019 Magellan Scholar by the UofSC Office of Undergraduate Research.



From left: Kathy Quarles Moore, Jessica Shue, Rebecca Caughman, Amee Shah

# COLLEGE OF PHARMACY NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Alumni

- The South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists named **Krutika Mediwala**, '15, the 2019 Young Pharmacist of the Year.

## Faculty and staff members

- **Jill Michels** with the Palmetto Poison Center has received a South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services award, which provides more than 4 1/2 years of project funding for Palmetto Poison Center Prevention Outreach and Education to the Public and Healthcare Professionals.
- **Phillip Buckhaults** received notice that his Department of Defense application, TP53 Synthetic Lethal Screen in Organoid Avatars to Discover Novel Therapeutic Targets for Colon Cancer, would be funded. This is a substantial two-year award.
- **Jing Fang** has received a \$100,000 grant from the St. Baldrick's Foundation for childhood cancer research.
- The Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences hired **Joe Magagnoli** and **Jordan Cooler** as new clinical assistant professors and **Sarah Beth Tucker** as administrative coordinator. **Michaela Almgren** is launching a new initiative with partner Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation. In addition, CPOS was proud to see multiple awards and honors bestowed on faculty members, including:

- **Betsy Blake** | SCCP Midlands Region APPE Preceptor of the Year (Ambulatory Care) and UofSC College of Pharmacy P3 Teacher of the Year.

- **Brie Dunn** | P2 Class Professor of the Year and AACP Walmart Scholars Program Faculty Mentor.

- **Julie Ann Justo** | Midlands Region APPE Preceptor of the Year in Acute/General Medicine.

- **Brandon Bookstaver**, student mentee **Chelsea Drennan** and resident mentee **Megan Seddon** | ASM Microbe Travel awards (mentored research study).

- **LeAnn Norris** | “40 under 40 in Cancer”, The Lynx Group, “Forty of the nation’s most promising young oncology professionals.”

- **Brandon Bookstaver**, **Julie Ann Justo** and **Nicole Griffith** are part of a collaborative group published in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy with their article, “A practical guide for pharmacists to successfully implement penicillin allergy testing.”

- The College of Pharmacy’s Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences (DDBS) received more than \$6.5 million in external funding, including awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) for research in drug discovery and biomedical sciences, which represents the highest individual departmental funding amount ever received at

the College of Pharmacy. Further, DDBS hired **Yangmei Li** as a new tenure-tracked assistant professor of medicinal chemistry.

- The UofSC Office of the Vice President for Research announced that **Michael Wyatt** from DDBS is a 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Research Service Award. This award honors UofSC faculty who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the office of the vice president for internal research programs.

- **Doug Pittman** received the 2018 Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award as well as the 2018 Distinguished Research Service Award from the UofSC Office of the Vice President for Research. Wyatt received the College of Pharmacy P1 Professor of the Year Award.

- DDBS produced 37 unique publications, including several in high-impact journals such as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and Cancer Research.





# “It’s consistently challenging but constantly supporting.”

- Cassidy Hall, '21

The Walker Leadership Scholars Program (WLSP) has been identifying, guiding and nurturing College of Pharmacy students to become industry leaders since 2013, furthering the college's vision to “empower pharmacy students ... to transform healthcare.”

Each year, the WLSP selects two high-caliber students from the College of Pharmacy to participate in this enlightening leadership development program that provides experiential learning and mentorship, all geared toward developing critical thinkers who drive innovation and positive change. Pharmacy students are made aware of WLSP during their first year and encouraged to apply through the application and interview process. If selected, these students participate in the program throughout their P2, P3 and P4 academic years.

College of Pharmacy alumna Donna J. Walker, '79, created the Walker Pharmacy Leadership Scholars Endowment Fund with a generous endowed gift in the fall of 2013

as part of President Harris Pastides' and Carolina Promise's capital campaign. Upon hearing that one of the campaign's pillars was leadership, Walker “knew that was my affinity; that was the area where I wanted to give back.”

Walker maintains an active role in WLSP, regularly visiting the College of Pharmacy to speak with students, as well as engaging with college staff. She provides mentoring to scholars and connects them with national leaders for career development opportunities. Introducing WLSP to a group of pharmacy students, Walker detailed the importance of identifying leadership opportunities, which often occur outside of the classroom environment, and pursuing avenues to enhance and grow leadership potential. These opportunities produce expansive individual growth and development.

“You're all going to have a fabulous education, and you're going to be very well-prepared to counsel patients, to work collaboratively with your colleagues, to help make sure that healthcare is delivered in a meaningful and practical way,” Walker said during the presentation to students. “But what I found when I was at the university is, my experience outside the classroom was just as valuable to the person I am today, to the career I had, and to the opportunities that I explored.”

Based on her College of Pharmacy experience, as well as traits she has observed in other student leaders, Walker wants

to ensure WLSP offers real life skills that directly apply to their early career paths, offering networking and team building. Also, through the program, students have opportunities to serve on an advisory board, work with professors, and work with chief executive officers outside of the college. They can engage with national leaders in Washington such as the American Pharmacists Association through policy, advocacy and legislative development. These extracurricular opportunities augment the skills that students need professionally and allow them to practice and refine these skills early in their careers with the goal of boosting confidence and motivation to be a self-directed contributor.

“The diversity of experiences opens the scholars' minds to alternative processes and different points of view, all to make better decisions and (learn) how to solve problems,” Walker says.

“When faced with challenging issues, the diverse exposure to alternative opinions and processes allows scholars to develop more creative and dynamic solutions. This gives our scholars a high level of confidence in their ability to work with teams, as well as in their problem-solving and leadership skills. We encourage Walker leader scholars to communicate with their preceptors while on rotation to volunteer to lead activities to build additional leadership skills.”

# Pursuit of the POSSIBLE



CASSIDY HALL, '21

“It’s very hard to teach leadership. Are you born with it, or do you learn it? I definitely think it’s both. You can be born with it, but it’s all about developing it, and I think that’s what this program is here to do. We’re so lucky through this college, the faculty we have, that are there to grow us and help us find our way. It’s consistently challenging but constantly supporting. This program really is what you make it. It’s all about growth.”



ALEXIS CARONIS, '21

“I was motivated to apply for the Walker Leadership Scholar Program because of my passion for leadership and desire to constantly develop myself. Furthermore, this program allows each student to explore opportunities unique to their interests. The scholars, advisory committee and Mrs. Donna all understand that each person, and their leadership style, is unique and work to make each scholar’s experience unique as well.”



MEGHAN FREITER, '19

“As a Walker Leadership Scholar, I had the opportunity to fail in small-scale ways. This program asks scholars to collaborate with faculty, to interview candidates, to network with leaders and to take risks both personally and professionally. The chance to grow and practice in these roles as a student helped me gain perspective as a leader and challenge myself in ways I never previously would have thought possible. Without the Walker Leadership Scholars Program, I never would have thought about starting my career in association management or developed what it takes to be selected as the next APhA Foundation Executive Resident in Association Management and Leadership. I can’t think of a better place to start my career than in Washington, D.C. at an organization that leads the profession forward each day.”



ROBBIE OUZTS, '20

“The WLS program gives the opportunity for two highly driven students in each pharmacy school class to grow in leadership and distinguish future leadership roles throughout our careers. For me, personally, it has enhanced my commitment to independent pharmacy and the personal care I will provide to each patient as well as a great working environment for staff. We have the unique opportunity to attend multiple different annual meetings and seminars to develop new skills in certain career paths or to be exposed to something in pharmacy we had never thought about. This allows us to find our own niche in the occupation all while being given a great support staff in committee members here at the college to answer any questions we may have.”

## The Walker Leadership Scholars Program Mission

- 1 To develop leaders in the profession of pharmacy who will make substantial contributions during their careers through exceptional leadership in business, education, health policy and advocacy.
- 2 To promote the training of critical leadership skills such as teamwork, decision-making, conflict management, problem solving, planning and communication.
- 3 To engage students and develop networking skills through meetings with local and national leaders both in, and outside of, the pharmacy profession.



Donna J. Walker



# A Catalyst for Revolutionizing Pharmacy Education

**KPIC: An ongoing commitment to furthering pharmacy students' career paths**

**VISION |** KPIC's vision is that the College of Pharmacy is the recognized leader in transforming pharmacy education and practice.

**MISSION |** To be a catalyst that partners with faculty and students to revolutionize pharmacy education at College of Pharmacy in order to dramatically impact the personal and professional fulfillment of our graduates.

Since its founding in 2011, the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center (KPIC) has positively impacted the lives and career aspirations of hundreds of University of South Carolina students and alumni.

KPIC continues to educate students about future pharmacy careers while equipping them with skills to meet the future challenges of the field. The center remains nimble in its ability to identify these challenges and provide students with business-focused skill sets needed to pursue entrepreneurial or alternative career paths. Thanks to the vision of founders Bill and Lou Kennedy, KPIC is a catalyst for revolutionizing pharmacy education by positively influencing the personal and professional fulfillment of future pharmacists.

The Kennedy Pharmacy Business and Entrepreneurship Program has steadily grown in recent years, offering a business track for students seeking knowledge beyond clinical and science educa-

tion. Both options work in collaboration with South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business. There are currently 50 pharmacy students enrolled in KPIC's business track.

Recognizing that experience is a valuable teacher for growth and development, KPIC offers the KPIC Pharmacy Ownership Boot Camp presented in partnership with the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), the KPIC Pharmacy Innovation Career Summit, the Medisca Student Compounding Boot Camp and a Pharmacy Ownership Student Business Plan Competition.

KPIC has also partnered with Medicine Mart Pharmacy of West Columbia, a residency site since 2013, for a PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program. In addition, THE Pharmacy in Florence began service as a residency site in 2018, and Hawthorne Pharmacy in Columbia will become a new site starting this year.

The NCPA Pharmacy Ownership Boot Camp is designed for students and recent graduates considering pharmacy ownership and



*KPIC Executive Director Patti Fabel with students at the Pharmacy Ownership Business Plan Competition*

desiring advanced pharmacy financial management skills. The next boot camp is scheduled for September.

Students interested in learning from young, successful entrepreneurs enjoyed participating in the first KPIC Innovation Summit held in January. The Medisca Student Compounding Boot Camp provided 12 teams of pharmacy students the opportunity to compete in a series of compounding exercises to determine local winners, with the winning team taking first place at the national competition in March.

The Pharmacy Ownership Business Plan Competition is held in February to facilitate the development of the business planning process, develop creative practice models for the community pharmacy setting, and ultimately result in more pharmacy entrepreneurs. The top SCCP/USCCOP team is selected to represent the school in the Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition.

Residency partnership will remain a focus, as well, to further bolster an abundance of opportunities for development. KPIC recently secured a partnership with Premise Health, resulting in unique residency opportunities and highlighting the ongoing momentum in securing new partnerships that offer professional fulfillment for College of Pharmacy students.

"KPIC partnered with Premise Health in 2017 to start a two-year Community-Based Pharmacy Administration and Leadership residency program at their BMW plant in Greer," KPIC Executive Director Patti Fabel says. "The resident pharmacists at this location are embedded in primary care and provide comprehensive medication management in collaboration with the medical providers. This program will be expanding to Premise Health's Disney World location in 2019."





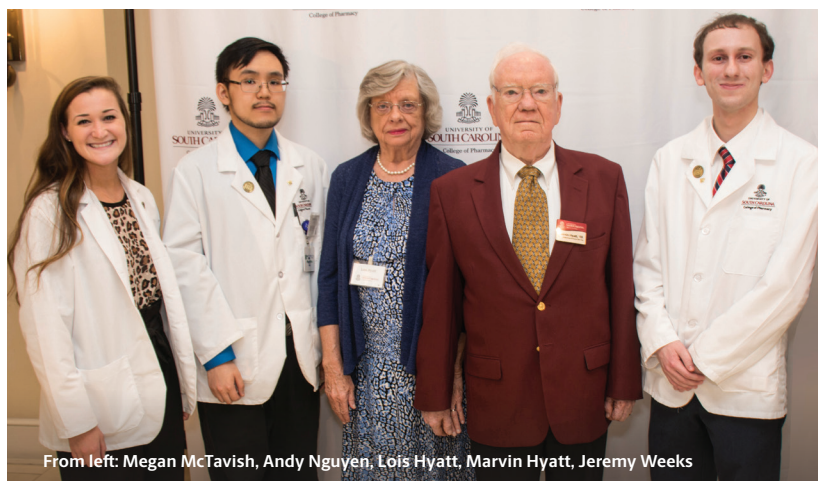
From left: Julian Reynolds, Martha Reynolds, Jacob Avant, Catherine Haley Cave



From left: Steve Patton, Raegan Kennedy, Janis Patton



From left: Abigail Bouknight, Debbie Francis, Debbie Tapley



From left: Megan McTavish, Andy Nguyen, Lois Hyatt, Marvin Hyatt, Jeremy Weeks



From left: Davis Hook, Brenda Hook, Mary Elizabeth Sheffield, Leah Marie Carlisle



From left: Liana Nguyen, Mason Park, Ken Long, Cyndi Long, Lily Hear, Ronald Crocker, Lauren Longaker



From left: Barry Bryant, Tej Patel, Charlene Bryant



From left: Jessica Shue, Rebecca Medlin, Lynn Connelly, Frances Owen Connelly, Stephen J. Cutler

**RECOGNIZING ALUMNI GENEROSITY**

University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy alumni have a rich history of generosity. Thanks to the support of our scholarship donors, more than \$359,950 in scholarship awards were presented to pharmacy students last year. The Scholarship Donor Appreciation Dinner held in October recognized our scholarship donors and connected these donors with their student recipients.

To learn how you can establish a named scholarship, contact Terry Dixon, senior director of development at 803-777-5426 or [tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:tedixon@mailbox.sc.edu).





**WE ARE MADE OF  
HANDS-ON COMMITMENT.**



**At the University of South Carolina**, we believe that experiential learning is how a classroom education comes to life. Jennifer Baker (Pharm.D., 2002) leads her team and a strong network of alumni preceptors to provide experiences that hone skills, boost confidence and show our College of Pharmacy students how their chosen career can impact people's lives.

Learn more about our preceptor and other experiential programs by contacting Jennifer at [jbaker@cop.sc.edu](mailto:jbaker@cop.sc.edu) or 803-777-5123.

*From left: Kathryn Kenard, Whitney D. Maxwell, Jennifer Baker, Nancy Blaisdell*