

The Daily Dose



Harding University College of Pharmacy

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Welcome to the Class of 2014!

On August 16, 2010, sixty-four students from 19 states and 2 foreign countries arrived in Searcy, Arkansas to begin their academic training to become doctors of pharmacy. This unique group of individuals comprises the Class of 2014. For the next four years, this group will spend countless hours working together as they traverse the terrain of their pharmacy education.

Orientation marks the beginning of a student's education at Harding University College of Pharmacy (HUCOP). The week is designed as a time for students to gain knowledge, appreciation and respect for the program and the profession. Not only do orientation activities provide students with an overview of pharmacy education and its rigors, they also prepare and equip students with the tools necessary to be successful.

The week began with a greeting from Dean Julie Hixson-Wallace and was followed by faculty and staff introductions. Simmons First Bank graciously hosted a "Welcome to Searcy" luncheon for the students, faculty and staff on Monday. The following days were filled with the many things necessary to get started including a library tour, laptop setup, and textbooks. The end of the week emphasized the importance of being professional. Activities included an Interprofessional Professionalism Panel comprised of local health care providers and a session with Dr. John Kirtley of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy.

The White Coat Ceremony (WCC), culminating the week's activities, was held on the afternoon of August 20th. This ceremony symbolizes a student's educational transition from general study to the professional level of pharmacy education and serves as an important milestone in this advancement. Dr. David Burks, President of Harding University, provided the University welcome and Dr. Mark Riley, Executive Vice President of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, provided the keynote address. Dr. Julie Kissack and Dr. Bill Yates, the Department

Chairs within the College, cloaked each student with their white coat and name tag as their name was called by Mrs. Susan Grace, Director of Student Affairs. Dr. Jeff Mercer, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, led the students in the Pledge of Professionalism. Dr. Scott Pace, Associate Executive Vice President of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, welcomed the students to the pharmacy community. Walmart generously sponsored the ceremony and reception for the third consecutive year and greetings from Walmart were provided by Dr. Brad Nelson, Walmart Health and Wellness Regional Director. Following the WCC, a reception was held in the Cone Chapel. Faculty, staff, students, family and friends gathered to commemorate this momentous event in the lives of the Class of 2014.



Dr. Bill Yates presents Cory Copen-sky with his white coat.



Class of 2014

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Get to Know the Faculty. . . Dr. Todd Brackins



Dr. Todd Brackins

“My proudest (and most humbling) moment is seeing my children embrace being a Christ-follower on their own and growing in their own relationship with Jesus.”

1) Where were you born? Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

2) When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I recall telling someone when I was about 4 I wanted to be a bus driver....

3) Siblings: I have one younger sister in Jackson, Mississippi.

4) Where did you attend college? I attended Oklahoma State University and the University of Arkansas, before finally figuring out what I wanted to be when I grew up and graduating from Northeast Louisiana University (now the University of Louisiana at Monroe). I also attended the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where I earned my Pharm.D. degree.

5) Spouse and how long you have been married: Kimberly, from Booneville, Arkansas. We will be married 24 years this December 2010. We met on a blind date while students at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

6) Children: Alexandra Jane Dixon, a senior at UAMS School of Dental Hygiene who recently married on July 3, to her high school sweetheart; Tucker, 18, a senior at Searcy High School, and like his dad, trying to figure out what he wants to be when he grows

up.

7) Somewhere you would like to visit and why? Italy and Greece for the food and the history.

8) If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why? Any of the founding fathers of the US, so I could hear first hand the story of their own faith.

9) Something not many people know about you: I like to sing. I'm teaching myself to play the harmonica.

10) Favorite color: Purple

11) Favorite movie: 3:10 to Yuma

12) Favorite sport and/or team: Sport-college basketball. Team—Indianapolis Colts.

13) Favorite thing about Searcy: Proximity to world-class fly fishing.

14) Favorite book (other than the Bible): *Undaunted Courage* (well written biography of Lewis and Clark).

15) How long have you been employed at Harding? Since June 1, 2010.

16) Biggest challenge or obstacle: Living the remainder of my life emptying it of "me" as I give away to others.

17) Proudest moment or accomplishment: Proudest (and most humbling) moment is seeing my children embrace being a Christ-follower on their own and growing in their own relationship with Jesus.

18) Person who had the biggest impact on your life and why? My church youth pastor, who himself, and with those supporting him, watered the seed in me that God is still growing today.

19) Favorite scripture: Matthew 25:34-40 A sobering reminder that by meeting physical needs of others, I could be looking into the face of Jesus "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me"

20) Words of wisdom for our students: Be a giver...it's not about you.

What's happening in Pharmaceutical Sciences? By: Dr. Josh Brown

My research program here in the Harding University College of Pharmacy is not up and running yet, but hopefully it will be soon. Once my research gets started, it will involve the organic synthesis of novel antibacterial agents. The exact target I want to pursue is still unknown, but I am currently browsing the literature trying to find something that really grabs my attention. During my graduate school career, I worked primarily on discovering new drugs to combat *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. However, toward the end of my tenure in graduate school I was working on finding new agents to help fight gram-negative bacteria.

The first project I worked on involved the design and synthesis of novel nucleoside analogs as novel agents to help combat tuberculosis. These agents were designed to target the rhamnose biosynthetic cascade within *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bulk of my graduate work was designing and synthesizing a library of compounds around a hit compound that targeted the epoxide hydrolase enzyme in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. These compounds have shown promise and are still

under investigation by my former lab members. The last project I worked on in graduate school involved designing and synthesizing new agents to fight gram-negative infections. This project involved synthesizing a type of hybrid molecule where I joined two agents known to have antibacterial activity into one molecule in an effort to improve penetration of the gram-negative cell wall.

Conducting organic chemistry research in the field of medicinal chemistry is very exciting and rewarding. You have the opportunity to get into the lab and synthesize new compounds that have the potential of becoming new therapeutic agents.



Chirag Javia (P3 student) working on a pharmaceutical sciences research elective in the lab.



Dr. Josh Brown

“Conducting organic chemistry research in the field of medicinal chemistry is very exciting and rewarding.”

Dr. Josh Brown received his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with an emphasis on medicinal chemistry from the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center. He joined Harding University College of Pharmacy in July.

What's happening in Pharmacy Practice?

My name is Marty Lute, and I am the pharmacy practice resident for Harding University College of Pharmacy and ARcare community health center. I was raised in rural Arkansas in McCrory, and I graduated from McCrory High School. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harding University in 2006. I received my doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy this year. My current community service includes serving on the Board of Directors for the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas. I also participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure every year. I currently live in Jacksonville. I love to paint, play the French Horn, and sing in church. I have one daughter. Her name is Tori, and she is in sixth grade at Central Arkansas Christian School in Sherwood. She loves to read, sing, and dance.

I am the first pharmacy practice resident affiliated with Harding University College of Phar-



macy. The residency is a 12-month program that involves both academic and clinical pursuits and is sponsored by ARcare. A

year-long research project is another major component of my residency. In the academic realm, the residency will afford me the opportunity to serve as an instructor in several classes for student pharmacists. Some of those opportunities are quickly approaching! I also practice clinical pharmacy at several different ARcare clinics. I work with an interdisciplinary team to improve patient outcomes through education and drug therapy optimization in an ambulatory care setting. I have the opportunity to interact with patients and health care providers to ensure better health outcomes and understanding for those that I serve. My focus in the clinics is the overall care of each patient taking into consideration comorbidities and other chronic disease states that effect pharmacotherapy recommendations. I am also working with ARcare to develop a collaborative practice agreement with physicians, which includes prescriptive authority that would allow me to manage chronic disease states for patients in clinic. I also work with ARcare and other college faculty as part of a team participating in a national collaborative effort, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC), which tracks data on patients in a defined "population of focus" or a group of patients with a specific chronic con-

dition. The population we are looking at is patients with diabetes. This national effort will improve the quality of healthcare across America while at the same time show the benefit provided by the provision of clinical pharmacy services. I have a position that is very gratifying, and I am thankful that God has placed me here to be of optimal service to my fellow man.



Dr. Marty Lute

"I work with an interdisciplinary team to improve patient outcomes through education and drug therapy optimization in an ambulatory care setting."

Student Spotlight - Tri Duong (P1)



Tri Duong

My name is Tri Duong and I am a proud Vietnamese-American. I lived in Vietnam until I was fifteen when my father married an American citizen. Then we moved to Southern California. I remember my first day at La Quinta high school as a sophomore. It was difficult to come to America to start a new life; I did not have any friends, could not speak the language, and hated the food. Eventually I made friends, learned a little English, although with an accent, and began to love Big Macs. I was on my own when I turned sixteen because my father went to work in Iowa. It was difficult, but I managed to live on my own and eventually started college. Now I am here giving an introduction of myself at HUCOP.

My biological mother, who still lives in Vietnam, is the biggest influence in my life. She taught me to live my life free of worries and do the things that I want to do without hurting anybody along the way. My mother is the reason I chose a career in healthcare; however, a manager at Walgreen pharmacy, Bobby Ho, encouraged me to commit to pharmacy. He was so kind and generous. He made me believe that pharmacists are able to help all patients, regardless of their situations. Anyone can come to a pharmacy counter at anytime and receive help.

In the summer of 2008, I discovered what is now my favorite hobby and interest. During a trip to Yosemite National Park in California, I discovered that I have a burning desire for nature. Maybe one day I will have the chance to work at a pharmacy that sits in the middle of a grand National Park.

My experience with HUCOP has been wonderful so far. Everybody is so nice and willing to go the extra mile to help students like myself to succeed. I understand that the next four years of my life will be challenging, but these challenges will make me a stronger person and a better pharmacist. It know it will be a wonderful experience.

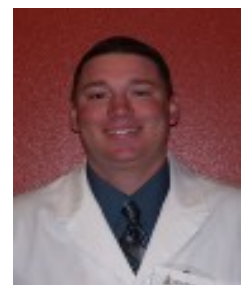


Student Spotlight - Jerrod Cusick (P1)

My name is William Jerrod Cusick, but everyone calls me Jerrod. I originally grew up in Delta Junction, Alaska. My family and I moved to Texas when I was seven, which is where I have been until now. I have been married to my wonderful wife for 11 years and I have two children. My daughter, Kendall, is seven, and my son, Evan, is four. My proudest moment has to be the birth of my two children. Family is my strength and I feel blessed to have their love and support through all of life's endeavors. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and exploring the outdoors. I am an avid fisherman and enjoy fishing with friends and my father.

I feel that my parents have been the biggest influence in my life. They have pushed me to be a better person, and I have strived to achieve more than they thought I was capable of. I started out my career by obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. Several years later, I was alternatively certified to teach. I decided to pursue my Master's in Educational Administration, and while I was working on my degree, I realized what I ultimately wanted to do, pharmacy.

When I think about all of the obstacles in life, I feel that making the decision to pursue my Pharm.D. is the hardest and best decision that I have made. Although, I know that there is a long and possibly rough road ahead of me at HUCOP, I am certain that these experiences will lead to a wealth of knowledge, self-discovery, and success.



Jerrod Cusick

Spring & Summer 2010 Photos...





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NCPA Student Chapter is Started!

by: Terra Fagala



On August 24, 2010, a third student chapter of a professional organization was formed at Harding University College of Pharmacy. The National Community Pharmacists Association, NCPA, was founded in 1898 as the National Association of Retail Druggists. NCPA represents pharmacy owners and managers, as well as employees of over 23,000 independent pharmacies nationwide. Arkansas currently has 567 independent pharmacies compared to 366 chain, mass merchant, and grocery pharmacies, and is one of the few states where the number of independent pharmacies surpasses that of all other arenas of pharmacy combined.

The mission of Harding University College of Pharmacy NCPA Chapter is to advocate growth and prosperity of independent pharmacy, support and assist independent pharmacists, legislate on behalf of independent pharmacy, and promote health and well being to the public. The following pharmacy students were inducted as officers in the HUCOP NCPA Chapter: Aakash Patel, President; Lindsey Holloway, Vice President; Candice Simmons, Secretary; Umair Ansari, Vice President of Finance; Jonas Strobel, Vice President of Membership; Aisheik Woody, Vice President of Student Activities; Tyler Staten, Vice President of Legislative Affairs; Terra Fagala, Vice President of Public Relations; Grace Marable, Vice President of Community Service. Guest speakers included HUCOP Dean, Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace, Harding University President, Dr. David Burks, NCPA Associate Director of Management and Student Affairs, Dr. Afton Yurkon, former Executive Vice President of NCPA, Dr. Charles West, and long-time NCPA member, Dr. Mark Riley. In addition, chapter co-sponsors, Dr. Tim Howard and Dr. Jeff Mercer, along with local pharmacists who are NCPA members, were in attendance to show their support of the college and its new chapter. NCPA Chapter Officers are eagerly planning several activities for the fall semester, which include both a local prescription take-back program in collaboration with the White County Sheriff's Department and an NCPA mid-year meeting in October. We are excited about building this new chapter, and look forward to becoming active in the community to promote the continued growth of independent pharmacy.



Keep in Touch

Have You:

- Married?
- Moved?
- Added to your family?
- Received an award?
- Got an idea for a story?

Tell Us!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Our History

In October 2004, a former Harding University administrator suggested that pharmacy be investigated as an addition to the offerings of the University. Over the next several months, research was conducted and consultants were secured to study the question of whether pharmacy would be consistent with the mission and goals of the University. Constituents outside the University including local pharmacists, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, and the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education were also involved in initial discussions regarding the establishment of a College of Pharmacy. Following the endorsement of two formal consultant reports in May 2005, the Board of Trustees of Harding University approved the creation of a College of Pharmacy at its campus in Searcy, Arkansas. Thus was born the first College of Pharmacy at a church of Christ-affiliated institution, and the second Doctor of Pharmacy program in the state of Arkansas. The College of Pharmacy's inaugural class of students matriculated in the fall of 2008.



David B. Burks, Ph.D.
 President, Harding University

Julie Hixson-Wallace, Pharm.D., BCPS
 Dean, College of Pharmacy

Angela English
 Newsletter Editor/Designer



We're on the Web!

www.harding.edu/pharmacy

Fall 2010 Calendar

White Coat Ceremony	August 20
Classes Begin.....	August 23
Race for the Cure.....	October 16
Fall Break.....	October 22
Thanksgiving Break.....	November 22-26
Final Exams.....	December 13-17
Harding Graduation.....	December 18