On August 11, 2014, fifty-one students from 7 states and 1 foreign country arrived in Searcy, Arkansas to begin their academic training to become doctors of pharmacy. This unique group of individuals comprises the Class of 2018. For the next four years, this group will spend countless hours working together as they traverse the terrain of their pharmacy education.

The week of orientation began with Dean Julie Hixson-Wallace greeting the Class of 2018, followed by a welcome from the faculty and staff. Simmons First Bank graciously hosted a “Welcome to Searcy” luncheon for everyone. Later in the week, Dr. Bruce McLarty, the president of Harding University met with the class and spoke with them regarding what it means to be a student at Harding University.

Throughout the week, students learned what the transition to professional school entails. Upper level students led discussions in orientation sessions to provide the students with the tools that promote success in school, professional, and spiritual life. Dr. John Kirtley of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy completed the orientation sessions by explaining the rules that govern pharmacy interns and guided the students through the Arkansas Pharmacist Intern licensing process.

The week culminated with the White Coat Ceremony (WCC) on August 15, which was presided over by Dean Hixson-Wallace. This year’s ceremony was nearly standing room only with more than 300 excited family, friends, university faculty and staff, and community visitors in attendance. The ceremony represents the educational transition from the general studies of the undergraduate level to professional pharmacy education. Cloaking a student in the white coat symbolizes the student’s active participation in providing health care.

Dr. McLarty provided the University welcome and Dr. Jody Smotherman, Director of Hospital Medicine at White River Medical Center in Batesville, Arkansas, gave the keynote address. As Ms. Susan Grace, Director of Student Affairs called each student’s name, HUCOP department chairs, Dr. Julie Kissack and Dr. Bill Yates, gave them a white coat and name tag. Dr. Jeff Mercer, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, led the students in the Pledge of Professionalism and Dr. Mark Riley, Executive Vice President of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) welcomed the students to the pharmacy community. Following the WCC, a reception was held in the Founders Room of the David B. Burks American Heritage building for faculty, staff, students, and guests to commemorate this new beginning in the lives of the Class of 2018. HUCOP would like to thank the APA for generously sponsoring the ceremony and reception.
Get to Know the Faculty...Dr. Jeanie Smith

1) Where were you born? Lubbock, TX
2) When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? An astronaut
3) Siblings: Christy—a public school administrator in Texas
4) Where did you attend college? Abilene Christian University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University
5) Spouse: David—10 years
6) Children: Aaron, Emily, Kaylee, Amon, and Eli
7) Somewhere you would like to visit and why? Yellowstone—people say there is no place like it on earth.
8) If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why? My closest college girlfriends who are the most wonderful women in the world. So loving, so encouraging, so fun!
9) Something not many people know about you: I love to bake. It makes me happy and relieves stress.
10) Favorite color: Red
11) Favorite movie: Dances with Wolves
12) Favorite sport and/or team: Duke Men’s Basketball—I’ve loved them since I was in high school. The work ethic, the legacy...I love it!
13) Favorite thing about Searcy: It’s a great place to raise a family.
14) Favorite book (other than the Bible): I don’t get to read much but I loved Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand.
15) How long have you been employed with Harding? 7 years
16) Biggest challenge or obstacle: Getting through the early years of the college and having a large teaching load. It’s all been worth it but there were some long hours in the beginning!
17) Proudest moment or accomplishment: Receiving the Teacher Achievement Award and promotion to Associate Professor in the same year.
18) Person who had the biggest impact on your life and why? My mother—there is no greater prayer warrior and peacemaker. She is my biggest fan.
19) Favorite scripture: I love Psalm 139. The description of how deeply the Father knows and loves me—I love it. It brings me peace when I think about it.
20) Words of wisdom for our students: Work hard. Never give up. We want you to succeed.

“I love to bake. It makes me happy and relieves stress.”
Harding University College of Pharmacy recently awarded scholarships totaling $70,700 to 37 students within the College. The annual Honors, Awards and Scholarship Luncheon was held on September 10, 2014, to recognize student recipients and the donors who made these scholarships available.

The scholarship luncheon provided an opportunity to thank donors for their generous support while reminding students that their work ethic and scholastic achievements are valued by the College.

Dr. Janice McKean, a 2012 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, addressed the scholarship recipients and donors. She stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between achieving academically and developing a compassionate heart for the patients we serve.

A Dean’s Scholarship was awarded to the academic top 10% of each class. Recipients of the Dean’s Scholarship were: Adam Bellcock, Sonya Burton, Colin Carroll, Bethany Chandler, Aulora Fay, Jeff Fowers, David Gerick, Kyle Hively, Chinyere Irdoni, Chris Karr, Rebekah Knudson, Khuong Ly, Alyssa McClard, Brette McDonald, Michelle Ngo-Wenang, Shivam Patel, Katie Patterson, Anina Rasaphangthong, Karen Rorex, Jake Rye and Daniel White.

Other organizations and individuals offering scholarships and their recipients included:

**Agatha Culpepper Wallace Memorial Scholarship** – Anina Rasaphangthong

**Alex Reed Memorial Scholarship** – Zach Taylor and Chris Hill

**Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation** – Abby Everett

**CVS** – Greg South

**Joey Baker/Emerson, Arkansas Scholarship** – Carey Windle

**National Association of Chain Drug Stores** – Chelsea Pense and Krystal Frossard

**Pharmacists Mutual** – Abby Everett

**Richie’s Specialty Pharmacy** – Adam Bellock, Brady Clark and Hannah Wright

**U.S. Public Health Service** – YoonJung Lee

**Walgreens Diversity Scholarship** – YoonJung Lee

**Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award** – Josephine Richardson

**Wal-Mart Scholarship** – Kejal Patel

**Faculty-Staff Scholarship** – Ellen Jones

The College of Pharmacy would like to increase the number of scholarships and awards to be disbursed in the coming years. For more information about making an annual scholarship available or establishing an endowed scholarship for the College of Pharmacy, please contact the Dean’s office at 501-279-5205, or email jahixson@harding.edu.
HUCOP Officers for 2014—2015

**Council of Students (COS)**
Advisor: Ms. Susan Grace
President: Andrew Dollins
Vice President: Tu Ngo
Secretary: Queenie Wan
Treasurer: Phu Pham
Parliamentarian: Elizabeth Vang

![Council of Students (COS) - image](image1)

**Class of 2015**
Advisor: Mr. Rodney Richmond
President: Monica Pope
Vice President: Elizabeth Scott
Secretary/Treasurer: Amy Tan

**Class of 2016**
Advisor: Dr. Kaci Bohn
President: Kristen Powers
VP/Historian: Anina Rasaphangthong
Secretary/Treasurer: Jenner Chang

**Class of 2017**
Advisor: Dr. Melissa Max
President: Jared Richardson
Vice President: Jennifer Grimes
Secretary/Treasurer: Kaitlyn Smith

**Class of 2018—** to be determined

![Council of Students (COS) - image](image2)

**APhA-ASP**
Advisors: Dr. Jeanie Smith & Dr. Gabriella Douglass
President: Meredith Mitchell
President-Elect: Tu Ngo
VP Membership: Shelly Sharma
VP Finance: Jared Richardson
VP Patient Projects: Britney Cothren
VP Communications: Shunika Bryant
Secretary: Misty McRae

**ASHP-SSHP**
Advisor: Dr. Rayanne Story
President: Ellen Jones
President-Elect: Lindsey McGary
Vice President: Meeyung Joo
Secretary: Parisa Khan
Treasurer: Paul Nguyen
Membership Chair: Thien Ly
Historian: Clare Carter
ASHP Liaison: Jennifer Grimes

![APhA-ASP - image](image3)

**Mark S. Riley Chapter**
Advisors: Dr. Tim Howard & Dr. Ashley Earley
President: Krystal Frossard
Vice President: Samantha Morrison
Secretary: Laura Simpson
VP of Finance: Jimmy Skaggs
VP of Membership: Kaitlyn Smith
VP of Student Activities: Clare Carter
VP of Legislative Affairs: Kelsey Maloch
VP of Public Relations: Shea Wilkerson
VP of Community Service: Nora Martin

**Delta Omicron Chapter**
Advisor: Mr. Rodney Richmond
President: Parisa Khan
Vice President: Daniel Bailey
Secretary: Brette McDonald
Treasurer: Shivam Patel
Historian: Karen Rorex

![Mark S. Riley Chapter - image](image4)

![Delta Omicron Chapter - image](image5)
July 2014 marked the inaugural trip for HUCOP’s Nicaragua International APPE to Mision Para Cristo in Jinotega, Nicaragua. The brave P4 student pioneers were Josh Kellett and his wife Elizabeth, Katie Patterson, Brandon Green, Holly Wilkerson, Alicia Simpson, Bethany Chandler, and Chelsa Painter along with Dr. Debbie Waggoner of the Pharmacy Practice department leading the group.

The students participated in a myriad of activities such as a wound care clinical trial, the Good Neighbor Project (promoting parasite prevention and treatment as well as overall health), visiting remote schools for medical treatment, and operating a pharmacy as part of a traveling medical brigade for rural communities. The group worked in a little fun as well such as getting to make pottery at a native working pottery operation, zip lining through the jungle canopy, visiting an active volcano, and shopping at a local market.

Overall, the lives touched were boundless, including those of the participants. Several of the students shared their reflections on the experience.

Holly: “What an opportunity!!! While this was my 3rd trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua, never have I had an experience quite like this. I did not realize the rewarding feeling that would be felt after helping the people of that special city. While on the trip, we all grew closer together and the talents that God gave each one of us were displayed as we worked. I cannot imagine the experience with anyone else than those who went on the trip. This is a journey that I will never forget!”

Katie: “Seeing the needs of the people in Nicaragua, along with their strength, kindness and unselfishness helps to encourage me to work harder to learn more and be more grateful for the opportunities I have as a pharmacist in the United States.”

Chelsa: “Nicaragua was a fun-filled, action packed adventure! What a blessing to have the opportunity to provide pharmacy care to the Nicaraguan people! I believe experiencing a culture and healthcare system so different from the one in the United States aided in diversifying our interpersonal skills and more efficiently equipped us for a successful pharmaceutical career.”

Bethany: “Having the opportunity to apply my pharmacy knowledge and serve the people of Nicaragua was a very rewarding experience.”

Alicia: “Mission work and service is something that has always been dear to my heart and I was thankful for the opportunity to travel to Nicaragua. Immersing myself in the culture and fellowshipping and loving on the people of Nicaragua was a wonderful experience. We were able to use the gifts and abilities that God has blessed us with to help heal others. Being in that environment was truly a blessing to me because although we were there to help others, they truly enhanced my spiritual growth. I recommend students partake in a medical mission trip because the experience is beyond what any words can express.”

We are very grateful to have the support of HUCOP to be able to serve while learning in such a unique way.
HUCOP Serving at the White County Fair

Harding University College of Pharmacy has been serving the White County community over the past several years. In September, the students and faculty took the opportunity once again to serve at the local county fair.

Amidst their busy schedules, the P1, P2, and P3 students gladly filled the positions to offer free blood pressure readings, blood glucose, body mass index and cholesterol screenings. This year over 500 people were screened and counseled. The participants who took advantage of the free screenings were counseled about the importance of getting vaccinated against the flu and were provided a schedule of the flu clinics to be held in White County by the health department. Lastly, HUCOP offered information on tobacco cessation and HIV.

The College of Pharmacy is always excited to be able to give back to the community. It is such a blessing to be able to help even one patient!

Get Down Downtown 2014

Along with serving at the WC Fair last month, HUCOP students also volunteered their services at the Get Down Downtown festival. This annual 2-day event sponsored by Main Street Searcy is held in the heart of Searcy and filled with vendors, food, live music, and fellowship.

The booth was much like the one at the fair, offering free blood pressure checks, free blood glucose readings, and body mass index readings. In addition, P1 students presented posters from their Patient Centered Care class and talked with people about various health topics.

This year over three hundred people took advantage of the free health screenings and many of those had visited HUCOP’s booth at the fair and returned to receive a follow-up check. Both of these fall events provide excellent opportunities for HUCOP students to utilize the knowledge, skills, and training they are receiving while making an impact on their community.
On September 27, 2014, Harding University College of Pharmacy hosted a Medication Cleanout (MCO) event. The community response was great with donations from 45 participants/households. Over 200 pounds of unused or expired medications were disposed of including 5.2 pounds of controlled substances. Thank you to the Searcy Police Department, Chick-fil-A, and Shipley Do-Nuts for partnering with us in this effort.

Several HUCOP students also worked with preceptor and pharmacist, Eric Shoffner, at an MCO event in the Walmart parking lot in Newport, AR. While the DEA recently ruled to no longer host national drug take back days, HUCOP plans to continue partnering with the Searcy Police Department and White County Sheriff’s Department to provide future events to help reduce drug abuse/misuse and provide a safer environment.

Congratulations to...

**SSHP on winning the Outstanding Professional Development Project Award from ASHP for their technician training program.**

**2014 SSHP Clinical Skills Competition Winners**

- Mark Egbuka (P4)
- Brandon Green (P4)

**2014 AAHP Jeopardy Team**

- Bethany Chandler (P4)
- Meekjung Joo (P3)
- Shivam Patel (P3)
- Katie Patterson (P4)
Student Spotlight...Ellen Jones (P3)

I’m originally from Pine Bluff, AR. I received my Bachelors in Music and Theatre from Harding in 1997. I’ve been married to Ben, a theatre professor at Harding, for 18 years. I have two daughters, Aubrey (11) and Stella (10), and a dog, Rico.

My past careers include a professional costumer in Branson, MO, a missionary in Florence, Italy, a musical director and choreographer in Franklin, TN, and a piano and voice teacher here in Searcy. I still try to stay as involved in theatre as I can. I’m currently choreographing the tap dancing for Shrek, Harding’s Homecoming musical. I’m the nursery coordinator at my church, which is a lot of fun. I also enjoy working out at Searcy CrossFit and competing in obstacle runs like the Warrior Dash.

Pharmacy school has been a great adventure. I really had no idea what I was getting myself into. But I have always had faith that things would work out the way they were supposed to, and I believe that they have. I’m looking forward to finding out just where this path leads me.

Student Spotlight...Zach Taylor (P4)

I am originally from Russellville, AR, where my family still resides. I attended undergrad at Arkansas Tech University and in 2011, I graduated with a degree in Chemistry. In December 2013, I married my wife, Stephanie, who is a Mental Health Therapist. My mother, Susan, is a kindergarten teacher; my father, Tracy, works at the nuclear plant in Russellville; and my brother, Grayson, just graduated from Arkansas Tech University.

In my free time, I enjoy sports, hanging with friends, working out, and anything that has to do with the outdoors. My proudest moment to date has to be when I got married, because my wife is way out of my league! The biggest influence I have had throughout my life is my family. Without my family’s constant support and guidance, I would not be on the path I am today. They all have influenced my earthly life but more importantly, my spiritual life.

I first decided to become a pharmacist when I was in the seventh grade. I knew some pharmacists from church and they all seemed very happy, so I wanted to have the same job that they had. I have always been interested in serving people and learning about science, so pharmacy fills both of those. My experience at HUCOP has been wonderful. I have met tons of great people, many of whom I will continue to be friends with for my entire life. I am definitely glad that I chose to attend HUCOP!
Class of 2018 White Coat Ceremony Photos
HUCOP Kudos Korner

Congratulations to HUCOP Pharmacy Practice faculty Dr. Ashley Earley and Mr. Rodney Richmond on their recent achievements.

Dr. Earley was named the 2014 National Community Pharmacists Association Outstanding Faculty Liaison of the Year. This award recognizes a faculty liaison who demonstrates exceptional leadership and commitment to independent pharmacy, his or her NCPA Student Chapter, and the community. Dr. Earley received the award during the 2014 NCPA Annual Convention in Austin, TX at the awards ceremony on October 19.

Mr. Richmond has been confirmed as the new at-large member of the Executive Committee for the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy through the rest of this term.

Calendar of Events—Fall/Winter 2014-2015

AR Student Pharmacist Career Fair.................................................................October 30-31
Registration for Spring 2015........................................................................November 4-5
Thanksgiving Break......................................................................................November 24-28
ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.................................................................December 7-11
Finals..........................................................................................................December 8-12
Spring Classes Begin..................................................................................January 12
IHCF Medical Missions Seminar...............................................................January 16-17
MLK Day (no classes)..................................................................................January 19

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