On August 15, 2016, sixty students from 14 states arrived in Searcy, Arkansas to begin their academic training to become doctors of pharmacy. This unique group of individuals comprises the Class of 2020. Over the next four years, these diverse students will spend countless hours working together traversing the terrain of their pharmacy education.

The week of orientation began with Dean Jeff Mercer greeting the Class of 2020. Simmons Bank graciously hosted a “Welcome to Searcy” luncheon for everyone. Later in the week, Dr. Bruce McLarty, President of Harding University, met with the class and spoke with them regarding what it means to be a member of the Harding community of mission. As an introduction to the interprofessional education achieved within the health sciences programs, pharmacy students were jointly oriented alongside students from the Physician Assistant and Communication Sciences and Disorders Programs.

Throughout the week, students learned what it is to be a “professional” and how to develop professionalism. During this time, upper level students led discussions and assisted in orientation sessions to provide the new students with tools that promote success in their school, professional, and spiritual lives. Dr. John Kirtley of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy met with the class and explained 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 19, which was presided over by Dean Mercer. 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. Steve Sparks (’13), Senior Manager of Health and Wellness Practice Compliance for Walmart Corporate, gave the keynote address. Ms. Susan Grace, Director of Student Affairs, called each student’s name, as Drs. Julie Kissack and Forrest Smith, respective Chairs of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Sciences, gave them a white coat and name tag. Dr. Rayanne Story, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, led the students in the Pledge of Professionalism, and Dr. Scott Pace, 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 Cone Chapel of the David B. Burks American Heritage Center. We express our deepest appreciation to the APA for generously sponsoring this year’s White Coat Ceremony and reception.

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Get to Know the Faculty...Dr. Jeff Mercer

1) Where were you born? Rome, Georgia. Although, I consider North Alabama (Huntsville) to be my childhood home.

2) When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Youth minister

3) Siblings: Two brothers—Jim (10 years older) and Steve (6 years older)

4) Where did you attend college? Auburn University (War Eagle)

5) Spouse: Emmie - married 20 wonderful years

6) Children: Jeffrey (14), Levi (11), and Anderson (8)

7) Somewhere you would like to visit and why? New Zealand to fly fish

8) If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why? Ronald Reagan. I am sure it would be filled with great stories, laughter, and the assurance that we have a great purpose in life.

9) Something not many people know about you: I am a first-generation college graduate.

10) Favorite color: Green

11) Favorite movie: Shawshank Redemption

12) Favorite sport and/or team: Auburn (War Eagle always!)

13) Favorite thing about Searcy: Harding University!

14) Favorite book (other than the Bible): All Over but the Shoutin’ by Rick Bragg

15) How long have you been employed with Harding? 10 great years

16) Biggest challenge or obstacle: Accepting God’s grace

17) Proudest moment or accomplishment: Baptism and marriage

18) Person who had the biggest impact on your life and why? My grandfather, Clifford M. Smith. He taught me positivity, perseverance, and a love for others.

19) Favorite scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

20) Words of wisdom for our students: Work hard and honor God with the gifts that he has given you. The Golden Rule applies to Pharmacy — seek to serve your patients first, and your rewards will follow.

Did you know?

Dr. Mercer wanted to be a youth minister when he grew up.
2016 Honors, Awards, and Scholarship Luncheon

Harding University College of Pharmacy recently awarded scholarships totaling $91,660 to 40 students within the College. The number of scholarships is remarkable, but they represent so much more than dollars and cents. Scholarships provide access and opportunity for student pharmacists to achieve their goals. The annual Honors, Awards, and Scholarship Luncheon was held on September 9, 2016, 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 and to remind students that their work ethic and scholastic achievements are valued by the college.

Dr. Ellen Jones, HUCOP Class of 2016 and PGY1 resident at White River Medical Center, addressed the scholarship recipients and donors. She told the story of her unconventional path to residency and how weathering difficult situations ultimately led to her success. While encouraging the students to appreciate the recognition they received that day, she reminded them that God’s plan for their future may look different and be better than their own.

The Dean’s Scholarship was awarded to the academic top 10% of each class. Recipients of the Dean’s Scholarship were: Shelby Adams, Colin Carroll, Brady Clark, Schrell Crockett, Alexandria Duffield, Aulora Fay, David Gerick, Meghan Hedden, Chinyere Ironti, Kolton Kelly, Rebekah Knudson, Khuong Ly, Michelle Ngo-Wenang, Kadyn Pace, Christy Skinner, Russ Ward, Rob Welch, Charlie Wright, and Hannah Wright.

Academic scholarships were awarded to P1 students: Jessica Carter, Kailey Claunch, Bradley Cowdrey, Allison Garcia Martinez, Kyla Feather, Clayton House, Kelsey Martin, Taylor Mertin, John Posey, Lindsey Reimer, and Taher Yusufali.

Other organizations and individuals offering scholarships and their recipients included:

- Agatha Culpepper Wallace Memorial Scholarship – Brady Clark
- Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship – Shelbie Stickels
- Joey Baker/Emerson, Arkansas Scholarship – Sara Goodson
- CVS Caremark Charitable Trust Scholarship – Magy Abdelmalik, Melissa Dinh, Alexandria Duffield, Queenie Wan
- NABP-AACP District 6 Scholarship – Clare Carter
- Richies Specialty Pharmacy Scholarship
  - Jessica Carter, Bradley Cowdrey, Kelsey Martin
- Walgreens Diversity Scholarship – Marie Naho
- Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award – Jazmin Culpepper
- Faculty-Staff Scholarship – Natividad Sandoval

The College of Pharmacy celebrates the scholastic and professional achievements of our students and 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 jmercer1@harding.edu.
**Council of Students (COS)**
Advisor: Ms. Susan Grace  
President: Natividad Sandoval  
Vice President: Kofi Boakye  
Secretary: Imi Mvere  
Treasurer: Dominique Deveaux  
Parliamentarian: Magy Abdelmalik

**Class of 2017**
Advisor: Dr. Melissa Max  
President: Jared Richardson  
Vice President: Shellbie Stickels  
Secretary/Treasurer: Phillip Beach

**APhA-ASP**
Advisor: Dr. Jeanie Smith  
President: Alyssa Stormes  
President-Elect: Chithien Le  
VP Membership: Hannah Wright  
VP Finance: Kent Nguyen  
VP Patient Projects: Taryn Eubank  
VP Communications: Melissa Dinh  
VP Student Activities: Paola Quijano  
VP Policy: David Gerick  
VP Int'l Affairs: Marie Naho  
Secretary: Shirley Cheung

**Class of 2018**
Advisor: Dr. Todd Brackins  
President: Brady Clark  
Vice President: Natividad Sandoval  
Secretary/Treasurer: Heidi Falconer

**NCPA**
Mark S. Riley Chapter  
Advisors: Dr. Tim Howard and Dr. Ashley Earley  
President: Heidi Falconer  
Vice President: Mary Ann McAllen  
VP Finance: Kyshia Ward  
VP Membership: Susana Villalba  
VP Student Activities: Rebecca Jeffus  
VP Legislative Affairs: Christy Skinner  
VP Public Relations: Mallory Sansom  
VP Community Service: Candace Duncan  
Secretary: Morgan Moody

**Class of 2019**
Advisor: Dr. Jim Tarrant  
President: Mary Ann McAllen  
Vice President: Joshua Park  
Secretary/Treasurer: Taryn Eubank

**The Rho Chi Society**
Delta Omicron Chapter  
Advisors: Mr. Rodney Richmond and Dr. Debbie Waggoner  
President: David Gerick  
Vice President: Colin Carroll  
Secretary: Hannah Wright  
Treasurer: Shelby Adams  
Historian: Carly Edwards

**Class of 2020**
Elections Pending

**ASHP-SSHP**
Advisors: Dr. Todd Brackins and Dr. Rayanne Story  
President: Brady Clark  
President-Elect: Joshua Park  
Vice President: Jamie Currier  
Secretary: Carly Edwards  
Treasurer: Kadyn Pace  
Membership Chair: Magy Abdelmalik  
Projects Chair: Caleb Uebelein  
ASHP Liaison: Adam Bellcock

**ACCP**
Advisor: Dr. Sarah Griffin  
Liaison: Jamie Currier

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**The Daily Dose**
Summer/Fall 2016 Photos
In July, I received the privilege to travel with a great group of people to Jinotega, Nicaragua, as part of my Health and Wellness rotation. Our group partnered with Mision Para Cristo to provide medical care to those who do not normally have access to a provider for their basic medical needs. While there, we helped over 700 patients through medical brigades in two remote villages and a nursing home in Jinotega and also through working at the clinic sponsored by the Mision. Through this medical mission, I was able to use and improve the skills I have developed over the last three years for a good purpose. I and others on the trip were given the opportunity to staff the pharmacy and counsel patients on their medications, perform triage duties, and assess patients as a provider would to determine the proper intervention and medication for them. It was hard but very gratifying work, and I am very blessed spiritually and academically to have gone. One of my favorite memories from the trip was treating wounds at the nursing home in Jinotega. It was very hard to witness the conditions that they lived in and a lot of what they needed was out of our control and abilities to provide, however, we were able to set up a station to do wound care for some of their patients. We used CelaCare Antimicrobial Wound Gel developed by Dr. Kenneth Yates to help these patients feel relief and receive healing. The patients we helped at the nursing home were so grateful and appreciative of our help. One lady felt relief instantly and was smiling from ear to ear telling us how her foot felt so much better; it was truly a rewarding experience.

“Each person who went on this trip had different experiences, and I feel each of us were individually blessed through different situations, experiences, and most importantly, interactions with the people of Nicaragua. I would also like to share some of my classmates’ experiences through their favorite memories and reflections in order to give a more complete story of our trip.

My favorite day of the medical mission was in a little town near El Gobiado. That day we mostly saw women and children. As we were setting up, a little boy approached us with his puppy but we couldn’t understand what he was asking. A while later he came back and handed us a piece of paper to prove he had gotten his puppy vaccinated. I'll never forget how pleased he looked that he was able to take care of his little friend. Afterwards, he sat with us and his smile just brightened up the day.

-Jenner Chang, P4

My favorite part of this experience was being able to see how much we, as pharmacy students, can change the world for the better. Being able to help such gracious people was a true blessing.

-Samantha Gauthier, P4

My trip to Nicaragua was a life changing event. It made me realize all the blessings that I have in my life as I helped those less fortunate and in need. The thanks and love that these patients gave me in return was the best response that anyone could get. Thanks to their love and kisses, I am now a better person.

-Nour Hussein, P4

There is a saying that states, “The best feeling of happiness is when you’re happy because you’ve made someone else happy.” This saying definitely relates to this trip and sums up many of the memories and experiences I had. The trip was truly a blessing in my life, and I am so glad that Harding encourages its students to go on medical mission trips as part of their fourth year rotations and experiences. I look forward to hopefully returning to Jinotega to further help the Mision and the people that they bless.”
My name is Queenie Wan. I grew up in British Hong Kong, and came to the United States in 1997. We settled in the suburban city of Cerritos, California. Later when I attended the University of California Riverside, one of my favorite hobbies became experiencing new countries and their culture. Within these countries, I loved going to see what different kinds of cuisines they have to offer. The greatest obstacle for me has been coming to Arkansas. Coming from a metropolitan area, I had to adapt to driving an hour to the nearest Asian market and to maintain motivation without my family nearby. Although being far away from my family is difficult, my brother Keith, my parents, and my boyfriend Steven have continued to support me from afar. However, my greatest accomplishment is that I am thriving at Harding. The reason is that I have supplemented my education through regular participation with the community. At Harding interacting within the community has been an integral part of my education and directly contributed to overcoming my greatest obstacle. The friends and mentors I have made here continue to support me and became my surrogate out of state family.

I would like to thank everyone at Harding, my family, my "Pharmily", and especially my boyfriend for supporting me through all the stresses and the triumphs.

“At Harding interacting within the community has been an integral part of my education and directly contributed to overcoming my greatest obstacle. The friends and mentors I have made here continue to support me and became my surrogate out of state family.”

I am a third year pharmacy student originally from south-central Oklahoma. I graduated from Harding University with a bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences and a minor in Medical Missions. I have been married to my wife Erin for 3 years. I enjoy playing basketball, tennis, hunting, and fishing.

The biggest influence I have in my life is my mother. She has had a brain tumor since she was in high school that has lead to her having multiple surgeries. Five years ago she had a hemorrhagic stroke. That was the toughest time in my life, but that event was what solidified my interest in clinical pharmacy and strengthened my faith in God. I remembered asking the doctors why they were giving her certain medications and the effect they were supposed to have. My mother is doing great today, and I love the servant attitude she exhibits in the face of the trials she has overcome.

One thing that really makes my experience at HUCOP stand out is the opportunity I had to do medical missions. Last summer I was able to go to Haiti with some of my classmates and teachers. I loved being able to use what I had learned in pharmacy school to help others. It was also great to be able to spend time with some of my professors outside of class and create/strengthen friendships. I think one thing that makes HUCOP different from other colleges is the fact that the faculty really invest in your life and become really good friends.

“I loved being able to use what I had learned in pharmacy school to help others.”
Class of 2020 White Coat Ceremony Photos
HUCOP Kudos Corner

Congratulations to HUCOP faculty Dr. Kaci Bohn (pharmaceutical sciences). Dr. Bohn has been elected as secretary for the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

Accolades to the winners of the 2016 SSHP Clinical Skills Competition, P4s Meredith Mitchell and Jared Richardson.

HUCOP students were recently inducted into the Alpha Chi Honor Society. They were: Shelby Adams (P3), Colin Carroll (P3), Alexandria Duffield (P4), and Hannah Wright (P3).

Keep in Touch—Please email pharmacy@harding.edu if you...

Married * Moved * Added to your family *
Received an award * Have a story idea

Calendar of Events—Fall/Winter 2016-17

APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting.................................................................Nov. 4-6
Registration for Spring 2017..............................................................................November 8-9
Thanksgiving Break.........................................................................................November 21-25
ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting...................................................................December 4-8
Harding Reception at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting..............................December 5
Final Exams......................................................................................................December 12-16
Spring Classes Begin......................................................................................January 9
IHCF Medical Missions Seminar....................................................................January 13-14
MLK Day (no classes)....................................................................................January 16

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Linked In: Harding University College of Pharmacy Alumni