

LA PHARMACIE EN LOUISIANE

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI NEWS



PHARMILY SPOTLIGHT:

Meredith Garner, PharmD

Hometown: Monroe, LA

Education: I obtained my PharmD from ULM in 2009.

Work History: I worked at Walgreens as a pharmacy tech, intern, and after graduation as a registered pharmacist (2003 - 2014). I was at Brookshire's (which later became Walgreen's) on N 18th for 10 years (2014 - 2024). In September 2024, I opened Live Oak Pharmacy on Forsythe.

Why did you pursue pharmacy as a career: For me, pharmacy has always been about people. I have long felt a desire to help others, especially during moments when they are not at their best. Whether it is offering reassurance, clarity, or simply a kind word, being able to bring comfort—or even a smile—to someone during a difficult season has always mattered to me.

That calling began early in life. As a child, I often accompanied my grandmother to the pharmacy, where her pharmacist, Mrs. Peggy Van, provided exceptional care. Mrs. Peggy demonstrated outstanding professionalism, compassion, and knowledge while treating each patient as an individual.

Watching the way she served others left a lasting impression on me and planted the seed for my own career in pharmacy. I knew I wanted to offer that same level of personalized, compassionate care to my future patients.

Areas of pharmacy you are passionate about: I am most passionate about retail community pharmacy, where relationships truly matter. I genuinely enjoy getting to know my patients on a first-name basis, learning about their families, hearing about their vacations, and celebrating milestones while walking alongside them through various seasons of life. I love how retail pharmacy allows me to connect with patients beyond prescriptions.

This personal connection, being able to build meaningful, long-term relationships, is what makes the profession so meaningful to me. Being present for patients not just as a healthcare provider, but as a trusted part of their community, is the foundation of why I love what I do.

Advice for those looking to a career in pharmacy: For students considering a career in pharmacy, my greatest advice is to keep an open mind. The profession offers far more opportunities than many people realize, with pharmacists making meaningful impacts in countless ways and settings.

I strongly encourage students to job shadow, seek internships, and begin working in a pharmacy as early as possible. It is difficult to fully understand the realities and rewards of pharmacy until you experience what happens behind the counter. Seeing the day-to-day interactions with patients often helps clarify where your passions truly lie.

Why you chose ULM College of Pharmacy: Being born and raised in Monroe, I always knew the University of Louisiana Monroe College of Pharmacy had an outstanding reputation. After completing my undergraduate studies at LSU, I felt a strong pull to return home and pursue pharmacy school at ULM.

ULM offered the perfect blend of academic excellence, community connection, and personal growth. Choosing ULM allowed me to build a strong professional foundation while remaining rooted in the place that has always felt like home.

(continued on page 3)

STAY IN TOUCH



UPCOMING EVENTS

9th Annual Poor Man's Run and Car Show

February 28, 2026

Happy Hour from Home

March 5, 2026

6:30 pm

Join the meeting here:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24919061925485?p=7vTgdOkcRtE3D1Uibg>

ULM Mardi Gras Break

March 16-17, 2026

PharmFUTURE

March 11, 2026

PharmJR

March 12, 2026
and March 19, 2026

ULM Easter/Spring Break

April 3-10, 2026

Pharmacy Senior Recognition & White Coat Ceremony

May 8, 2026

6:00 pm

ULM Spring Commencement

May 9, 2026

1:30 pm

As a graduate of ULM's pharmacy, Ph.D. or Toxicology programs, the College of Pharmacy hopes you will stay in touch. There are many events throughout the year to help you re-connect with friends and former classmates. We hope to see you at one of these events and ask that you will take a moment to share any exciting news for upcoming newsletters. Connect today!

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Keep your pharmacy friends and colleagues updated on your latest news. Use the link below to share any news such as new career moves, marriages, births, or condolences.

<https://ulmapps.ulm.edu/webforms/form/college-pharmacy-alumni-news>

FOLLOW US!



CONTACT US!



**College of
Pharmacy**

1800 Bienville Drive, Monroe, LA 71201

Phone: 318.342.3800

Email: pharmacy@ulm.edu

News & Social Media:

Michelle White, Student Affairs Coordinator

Phone: (318) 342-3804

Email: mmassey@ulm.edu

Alumni Information or Questions:

Katie Scogin, Alumni Relations Coordinator

Phone: (318) 342-6010

Email: kkelley@ulm.edu

PHARMILY SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from page 1)

Meredith Garner, PharmD

Who were some influential professors during your time at ULM? Two professors who had a particularly strong influence on me during my time at ULM and beyond were Dr. Michele Zagar and Dr. Roxie Stewart. Their compassion, professionalism, and attention to detail in patient care truly stood out.

They consistently went above and beyond for their patients and students, leading by example in a way that left a lasting impact on me. Their influence continues to shape the way I practice pharmacy today and motivates me to continually strive for excellence.

Family: Family is at the center of everything I do. My husband, Rob, and I have been married for 21 years, and we are blessed with four wonderful children: Robert (14), Caroline (11, almost 12), Ryan (9), and Reid (6).

Rob is an attorney and co-owner of NELA Title Company. He shares my desire to serve our community and does so through his work in real estate and law. Together, we strive to balance family life, faith, and service, while supporting one another in the work we are called to do.

Hobbies/Fun: Between running a pharmacy and raising a family, free time is limited, but we make the most of it. I have always loved scuba diving, and when we travel, I enjoy visiting destinations that allow me to dive. As a family, we also enjoy snow skiing together, making memories whenever we can carve out time away.

Our family is also very involved at First Monroe, where we enjoy serving and doing life alongside our church family. I am active in the women's ministry and love teaching Sunday school to my kindergarten friends. Serving through our church has been a meaningful and grounding part of our lives.

Dream Big! The College of Pharmacy hopes to share, support and celebrate the dreams of our alumni, faculty, staff and students no matter what they are!

Over the past two years, I have been dreaming big and watching those dreams come to fruition. In September 2024, my husband and I opened Live Oak Pharmacy—something we never imagined would be part of our story.

Through much prayer and discernment, we felt the Lord opening doors and guiding us forward. We simply tried to be obedient. Today, we are grateful to see the pharmacy growing, to meet new patients daily, and to continue caring for individuals and families we have served for many years.

Tell us a little about Live Oak Pharmacy: Live Oak Pharmacy was never part of my original life plan. I began my career working at a chain pharmacy and later joined Brookshire's Pharmacy on North 18th Street. Brookshire's allowed me the autonomy to practice pharmacy in a way I truly believed in—personalized, patient-centered, and deeply connected to the community. I was content and even envisioned retiring there.

As life often does, circumstances changed. After a season of prayer and reflection, I felt led to trust the Lord with the next chapter of my career. From that season of obedience, Live Oak Pharmacy was born.

My longtime pharmacy partner, Ben Orlando, and I were able to transition to Live Oak Pharmacy along with many of our staff. It has been a joy and an honor to continue caring for our patients—meeting their needs, going above and beyond, and walking with them through different seasons of life.

Ben has been in the pharmacy profession for nearly 50 years and is an alumnus of the NLU School of Pharmacy. He is widely respected for his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication to patient care. His honors include Louisiana Pharmacists Association Pharmacist of the Year (2018), Chain Pharmacist of the Year (2008 and 2018), the Pharmacist Achievement Award as outgoing president (2013), and the ULM Meritorious Award (2017). His experience and leadership have been invaluable to Live Oak Pharmacy.

Ben and I are excited about the possibilities and the growth that lies ahead.



Live Oak Pharmacy staff. Back row (L-R): Cristian Brown, CPhT, Shayne Carter, CPhT, Layla Aymond, Intern (ULM Class of '29), Rachel Graves, CPhT. Front row (L-R): Connie Milam, Ben Orlando, RPh (NLU '77), Meredith Garner, PharmD (ULM '09), Samantha McGuffee, Intern (ULM Class of '26)

ALUMNI NEWS

Catherine Oliver (Pharm.D. '09) was promoted to Assistant Vice President - Clinical Pharmacy Services at Ochsner Health.

Taylor Robicheaux (Pharm.D. '22) was part of a team whose paper was published in the January 9 online issue of JADPRO titled "Recombinant ADAMTS13: An Enzyme Replacement Therapy for the Management of Congenital Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura"

Charles Keith Prejean (B.S. Pharmacy '87) was recently one of several pharmacists featured in Drug Store News (DSN) Health, Wellness and Beauty, in an article written by Mark Hamstra, titled "Pharmacy heroes answer the call." The article can be viewed at: <https://drugstorenews.com/pharmacy-heroes-answer-call>

Lauren Dieck McAdams (Pharm.D. '18) and husband, Ian, welcomed their second son, Nicholas Kevin McAdams, on September 22nd, 2025.

Kristen E Seaux (Pharm.D. '19) has accepted the Pharmacy Director position at Boudreaux's New Drug Store in Lake Charles, LA.

Charles 'Robert' Stimson (Pharm.D. '11) and wife, Lyndsey Butler Stimson (Pharm.D. '14) are partnering with Community Pharmacy to open the independent chain's third location in Swartz, LA. Robert will be the PIC of this location.

Condolences to Dr. Laurel Sampognaro (Pharm.D. '04) for the loss of her stepfather, Ray Anthony "Tony" Inman.

Brittany Parker (Pharm.D. '17) started a new position as THR Medication Safety Pharmacist at Texas Health Resources.

Amber Broussard (Pharm.D. '12) was promoted to Senior Director of Pharmacy Operations for FMOL.

Karin Ryan (B.S. Pharm. '85) obtained a new certification: Certificate in Leadership Excellence for Academic Pharmacy (CLEAR) from American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)!

Destinee Wright (Pharm.D. '15) was promoted to Specialty Pharmacy Manager at Elevance Health.

Davey Legendre (Pharm.D. '06) started a new position as the pharmacy operations manager at Wellstar Health System Kennestone Regional Medical Center.

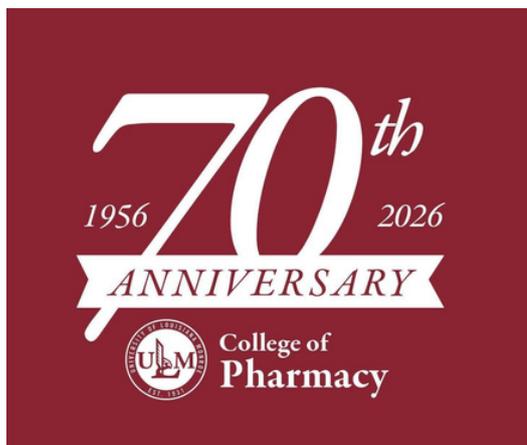
Michael Cockerham (B.S. Pharmacy '89) has a new title of Senior Associate Dean in the ULM College of Pharmacy and celebrated 30 years on faculty in September 2025. He also began serving as the President of the Louisiana Pharmacists Association in July 2025.

Jassoni Martin (Pharm.D. '11) started a new position as Executive Director of Pharmacy and Retail Services at Lane Regional Medical Center!

Kara Trisler (Pharm.D. '25) started a new position as Hospital Pharmacist at St. Francis Health.

PHARMACY NEWS

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY CELEBRATES 70 YEARS



The ULM College of Pharmacy is celebrating 70 years of excellence in 2026! Please share your memories and stories to help us make this birthday special. The College is gathering information to be used in social media posts or print publications throughout the year. Answer as many questions as you'd like.

Take five minutes and access the questionnaire here:

[ULM/NLU College of Pharmacy memories - 70th Anniversary.](#)

**If you would like to include a jpg image with your response, please email to Michelle at mmassey@ulm.edu or Katie at kkelley@ulm.edu and include your name and graduation year in the subject line.*

COP LAUNCHES "SHARE YOUR DREAM" INITIATIVE

The graphic features the words 'DREAM' and 'BIG!' stacked vertically. 'DREAM' is in a light blue, bubbly font with a yellow outline. 'BIG!' is in a pink, bubbly font with a yellow outline. The background is a soft, pink, cloud-like shape.

Dream Big! Have you ever dreamed of being in a movie, writing a bestseller, performing on Broadway, or seeing the seven wonders of the world? No matter what your dream, big or small, share it with us.

The College of Pharmacy has an initiative for alumni, faculty, staff and students to "share our dreams" by fostering a culture in which dreams are shared, supported, and celebrated!

What is a personal dream of yours? Share it with us by emailing gautreaux@ulm.edu. List "My Dream" in the subject line and be sure to include your name and graduation year!

ALUMNI NEWS

UPDATE ON COP DEAN SEARCH WITH SPECIAL GUESTS PRESIDENT CASTILLE, PROVOST MCEACHARN, AND DEAN PRATTE



It's a new year, and that means it's time to catch up on all the things happening at the College!

Join us for the first quarter virtual happy hour where you can visit with other alumni and hear directly from pharmacy administration. We will reserve the first 30 minutes of the call for catching up and getting a brief update on the COP from Interim Dean Gina Craft.

We are excited to announce we will be joined by ULM President Dr. Carrie Castille, ULM Provost Dr. Michelle McEacharn, and Dr. John Pratte, Dean of the College of Arts, Education, and Sciences, for an update on ULM and the College of Pharmacy Dean search. Dr. Pratte serves as chairman of this committee. This will be a great opportunity for you to hear from new ULM leadership if you haven't had a chance to meet them yet!

Save the date and join us on Teams via the link below!

Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 pm, [Join the meeting here!](#)

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY SEEKING ALUMNI AMBASSADORS



The College of Pharmacy is seeking alumni to help recruit future pharmacists right where they are. We believe our best ambassadors are alumni who live the mission every day. Here are easy ways to make a big impact:

- Give a short talk at a high school, community college, or pre-pharmacy club; host a shadowing visit at your site.
- Provide a brief testimonial we can use on web and socials (why ULM, your current role, one tip for students).
- Know someone who's curious about pharmacy? Send them our way and we'll personally follow up.
- Connect us with a teacher, counselor, or organization that welcomes health-career speakers.

The College can provide talking points, slides, handouts, and support.

Thank you for paying it forward and helping us grow the Pharmily. Your voice is exactly what future students need to hear. If you're in, just take 60 seconds here: [Alumni Recruiter Interest Form](#)

Questions? Please don't hesitate to reach out to Mary at mrhea@ulm.edu or (318) 342-3803.

PHARMACY NEWS

9th Annual Poor Man's Run set for February 28.

Run for a cause!!

Registration is now open for the **9th Annual Poor Man's Run** and **FIRST EVER** car show!

All proceeds go to our local charity pharmacy, St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Community Pharmacy, a local nonprofit dedicated to providing prescription medications to the uninsured and medically underserved in our community.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00 am Fun Run

8:30 am 5K at the ULM College of Pharmacy

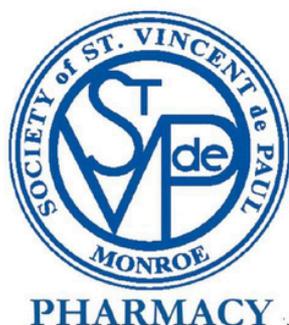
Sign-up HERE!

Register by February 13 to get a t-shirt included with your registration!

Can't run but would like to support as a SPONSOR? Contact Shelby at (504) 812-0888 or estesssl@warhawks.ulm.edu by February 13!

Stay after the race to attend the first ever Car Show, also benefitting SVDP! Admission to car show included in your race packet. Separate wristbands can be purchased on site for \$5.

Got a car you're proud of?! Sign up to show it off HERE. Whether it's classic, custom, or just cool, we want to see it.



2026 Car Show

In conjunction with the
9th Annual Poor Man's Run



For information about the car show, please reach out to Jodi Bourgeois at (225) 206-4670 or bourgeoisjl@warhawks.ulm.edu.

PHARMACY NEWS

Hall of Fame nominations to open March 1

The ULM College of Pharmacy (COP) Hall of Fame, established in 2025, aims to honor up to three alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College annually whose careers or professional achievements have contributed positively to the COP and/or profession of pharmacy.

Inductees are honored each year in the Fall during ULM Homecoming activities.

Hall of Fame information, including criteria and a link to the nomination form, can be found here:

https://ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni/alumnihall_fame.html

*Online nomination form will be available beginning March 1, 2026. Questions? Contact Katie at kkelley@ulm.edu or (318) 342-6010



Connect with the College of Pharmacy on LinkedIn

The College of Pharmacy has a new LinkedIn page and would love for you to give us a follow! You can connect with your school, alumni, colleagues, and potential employers. It is also a great way to showcase your experience, education, achievements and skills while staying updated on industry news.

Click the icon below or find us on LinkedIn by searching "University of Louisiana Monroe College of Pharmacy."



ULM COP hosts 8th Annual Research Symposium

On November 20, 2025, the ULM College of Pharmacy hosted the 8th Annual Student Research Symposium, organized by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) ULM Student Chapter. Guest speakers included Dr. Peter Dedon (Department of Biological Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Dr. Abir Absar (Senior Director, Global Regulatory Strategy at AstraZeneca). Opening remarks were made by AAPS Chapter Advisor, Dr. Khalid El Sayed, with the award ceremony and closing remarks by Dr. Carrie Castille, ULM President, and Dr. Michelle McEacharn, ULM Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Symposium winners were:

First Place

Md Towhidul Islam Tarun: The Olive Oil Phenolic S-(-)-Oleocanthal Suppresses Colorectal Cancer Progression and Recurrence by Modulating SMYD2-EZH2 and c-MET Activation.

Second Place

Md Anamul Haque: Eudragit Coating of Lipid Nanoparticles for Oral Delivery of RNA.

Third Place

Ashiq Mahmud: Olive phenolics for the control of psoriasis via targeting SMYD2 and IL17-A protein-protein interactions.

PHARMACY NEWS

COP Spring Recruitment Events Scheduled

The College of Pharmacy (COP) releases Spring dates for two of its popular recruitment events.

PHARM
FUTURE

Wednesday, March 11

8:30am - 1:30pm

High school juniors, seniors, and college students, curious about pharmacy or healthcare, attend this half-day event to learn about the many career opportunities pharmacy has to offer. Students get to work in our lab and participate in other pharmacy activities. It is a great way for aspiring healthcare professionals to be introduced to the dynamic world of pharmacy and see if it's the future for them! Parents are also welcome to attend. There is no cost to attend. and students can learn more at: <https://www.ulm.edu/pharmacy/prospective/events.html>



Thursday, March 12 and Thursday, March 19

9:00 - 1:00pm

Local junior high schools are invited to select up to four academically superior 6th, 7th or 8th grade students and accompany them to this free event. Students will learn about pharmacy and participate in fun pharmacy-related games and lab activities. Learn more at: <https://www.ulm.edu/pharmacy/prospective/events.html>

College of Pharmacy Announces 2025 Faculty Awards

Educational Innovation of the Year: Dr. Emily McGee

Manuscript of the Year (Clinical Sciences): Dr. Alexis Horace

Manuscript of the Year (Basic Pharmaceutical & Toxicological Sciences): Dr. Karen Briski

Excellence in Mentoring Award: Dr. Stephen Hill

Excellence in Leadership: Dr. Jessica Brady

Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Jeffery Evans

Excellence in Research: Dr. Karen Briski

Excellence in Clinical Care: Dr. Jill Comeau

Excellence in Service: Dr. Hilary Tice

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS



When you support pharmacy education, you invest in our students and the future of the profession.

Your gift helps fund student education, facility improvements, faculty development, community outreach and other programs that strengthen the mission of the ULM College of Pharmacy.

**If you choose, you can show support through one of the current active giving campaigns outlined below. Both are in memory of the late Dean Emeritus Bill Bourn.*

Ways to Give

ANNUAL GIVING

You can give directly to the Dufilho Society by check or online.

Check

Payable to ULM Foundation and mailed to:

ULM Foundation
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201

*Specify Dufilho Society in memo line

Online

www.ulm.edu/give

Click "Give to Academics"

Designation: Academics: Select a College, School or Program
Scroll down to select "Dufilho Society" from the second drop-down list

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Other ways to give include stock or security gifts, IRA gifts, endowments such as chairs and professorships, planned giving through a will or estate, or a naming opportunity.

For more information or to learn how to leave a lasting legacy to ULM, please contact the ULM Foundation by phone at (318) 342-3636 or by email at foundation@ulm.edu.

Thank you for supporting

Pharmacy

education!

If you participated in the optional licensing renewal fee during your recent pharmacy license renewal, please know that your support makes a huge impact on educating future pharmacists.

The students, faculty and staff at the ULM College of Pharmacy greatly appreciate your contribution to the pharmacy profession.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Now Hiring Pharmacists

Come work with us!



CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini
3330 Masonic Dr
Alexandria, LA 71301
Shelly Suttles
318-319-5429

Your career. Your life. Our journey.

