
LA PHARMACIE EN LOUISIANE

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI NEWS



Karin Nielsen Ryan, RPh

A PHARMACY LEGACY COMES FULL CIRCLE

PHARMILY SPOTLIGHT: Karin Ryan, RPh

In 1962, as William Wayne Nielsen, Sr. finished pharmacy school at Northeast Louisiana State College (NLSC), his daughter Karin was born in Monroe—beginning a family story in pharmacy that would one day bring her back to ULM to help train the next generation. For Karin Nielsen Ryan, RPh, pharmacy has never been just a profession—it has been a family legacy spanning generations.

Ryan was born in Monroe, LA, on April 30, 1962, while her father was completing his pharmacy degree at NLSC. At the time, her parents lived in a small room attached to a local woman's home, sharing access to a bathroom and kitchen. After graduating in 1962, Nielsen moved his family to Bogalusa, LA, where Ryan spent all of her childhood.

Nielsen went on to own and operate City Drug Store in Bogalusa, where Ryan would spend much of her younger years learning the pharmacy profession firsthand.

Ryan's path toward pharmacy began early. Her father had been inspired by his own uncle, Billy Middleton, who owned a pharmacy in Baton Rouge. Watching his uncle serve the community sparked a lifelong passion for the profession—one that would ultimately shape the entire family.

As a child, Ryan worked in her father's pharmacy, City Drug Store. She started as a soda jerk, later worked as a cashier, and eventually helped in the back prescription department. Those early experiences gave her a firsthand look at the meaningful relationships pharmacists build with their patients and communities.

That influence extended throughout the family. Ryan and her siblings all followed in their father's footsteps, graduating from ULM's College of Pharmacy and entering the profession. Today, her sister, Leisha Nielsen McHugh (NLU '92) works as a pharmacist at Ochsner LSU Outpatient Pharmacy in Monroe, while both of her brothers own pharmacies in Bogalusa. Kevin Nielsen (NLU '90) continues the family tradition as owner of City Drug Store, while William "Bill" Wayne Nielsen, Jr. (NLU '87) founded Nielsen's Pharmacy before recently retiring to spend more time with family, and enjoy hunting and fishing.

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STAY IN TOUCH



UPCOMING EVENTS

ULM Easter/Spring Break

April 3-10, 2026

Alumni Association Wine Over Water

April 16, 2026

Tickets: <https://www.ulm.edu/alumni/wine-over-water.html>

Crawfish Boil

April 17, 2026

Spring Into Health

April 26, 2026

11am - 3pm

Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo

Pharmacy Senior Recognition & White Coat Ceremony

May 8, 2026

6:00 pm

ULM Spring Commencement

May 9, 2026

1:30 pm

LPA Annual Meeting/Alumni Reception

July 9-11, 2026

LIVE! Casino & Hotel

Bossier City, LA

**ULM Alumni reception Friday, July 10, 8:00 - 10:00 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. 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!



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PHARMILY SPOTLIGHT

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Karin Ryan, RPh

The next generation has also carried the legacy forward. Bill's two daughters are pharmacists and graduates of Samford University. Sarah now serves as the pharmacist-in-charge, while her sister Sadie works as one of the clinical pharmacists at Nielsen's.

Ryan's other nieces and nephews have also pursued a variety of professional paths in healthcare. Her brother Kevin's daughters followed healthcare-related careers as well—Victoria, a dentist; Alaina, an occupational therapist; and Kylie, who graduated with a degree in psychology.

Her sister, McHugh, has two children who are also graduates of ULM. Her daughter, Abby, earned a degree in Education and has since returned to ULM to pursue admission to physician assistant school, while her son, Will, graduated with a degree in Risk Management and now works in Chicago.

Across multiple generations, Ryan's extended family has continued a tradition of pharmacy, healthcare, and professional service.

Ryan graduated from ULM (then NLU) with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1985. Her professional career began on the evening shift at North Monroe Hospital as a staff pharmacist, where she worked alongside mentors such as Mike Hymel and Carliss Henderson and gained experience in many aspects of hospital pharmacy practice.

Over the years, Ryan built a diverse career across multiple areas of pharmacy practice. She worked in hospital pharmacy, corporate pharmacy with Cardinal Health as an Area Clinical Manager, retail pharmacy with national chains including Rite Aid and Eckerdts, independent pharmacy with her brother Bill, and compounding pharmacy alongside her sister at IV Solutions in West Monroe. She later served as Director of Pharmacy at Ruston Regional Specialty Hospital.

Yet the role Ryan holds today is the one she says feels most meaningful.

Now serving as Director of Experiential Education at the ULM College of Pharmacy, Ryan helps guide student pharmacists as they transition from the classroom into real-world pharmacy practice experiences. She works closely with preceptors, healthcare partners, and students across Louisiana to ensure future pharmacists gain the skills and perspective needed for the profession. In many ways, the position feels like coming home.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," Ryan says. "At one point I even dreamed of owning my own kindergarten. Looking back, every job I've had prepared me to help students understand the many directions a pharmacy career can take."

Her passion today lies in mentoring and supporting the next generation of pharmacists. "I truly feel this is the job I was meant to have at this time in my life," she says. Ryan also has a vision for the future of pharmacy education and service. One of her dreams is to see ULM develop a dedicated community pharmacy faculty position that could expand into broader healthcare outreach for underserved populations. She hopes partnerships with organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul could help bring pharmacy services and health education to communities with limited access to care.



Ryan and siblings (L to R): Kevin Nielsen, Bill Nielsen, Karin Nielsen Ryan, and Leisha Nielsen McHugh

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PHARMILY SPOTLIGHT

(continued from page 3)

Karin Ryan, RPh

Outside of work, Ryan enjoys spending time with her daughters and their families. Her daughter Whitney Ryan Rogers, PharmD, followed the family tradition and pursued pharmacy, graduating from ULM in 2005, while her daughter Chelsea Ryan Russell earned a BS in Psychology (2013) and Master's Degree in Family Counseling (2017), all from ULM.

Ryan is also a proud grandmother. Whitney has two children, Ryan Luke Rogers and Emersyn Ann Rogers, who keep their grandmother happily busy. The family is also excitedly awaiting the arrival of another granddaughter in August—Chelsea's first child.

When she is not working with students or spending time with family, Ryan enjoys reading, watching movies, and participating in an online Bible college that meets weekly. She also enjoys relaxing with phone games like Monopoly and Match 3D.

Another favorite pastime happens outdoors. Ryan has a poodle who loves water, and since she has a backyard pool, the two spend plenty of time outside in good weather playing fetch with water toys.

Ryan's fondest memories of her time as a student at NLU include football games, weekends with friends, walks along the bayou, and long hours of studying. She proudly notes that she never missed a home football game—even in the freezing cold.

Two faculty members had a lasting influence on her journey: Dean Bourn and Dr. Knott, both of whom she credits with shaping her early professional development. As a student, Ryan was also active in the professional pharmacy fraternity Kappa Epsilon.

Looking back, Ryan says the profession has given her far more than she ever expected.

"Pharmacy has allowed me to serve people, work alongside my family, and now help guide future pharmacists," she says.

More than sixty years after her father graduated from NLSC in Pharmacy, Ryan now helps prepare the next generation of pharmacists to begin their own journeys.



William Wayne Nielsen, Sr., on graduation day from NLSC in 1962.



Nielsen, Sr., serving at the soda counter at City Drug Store in Bogalusa, LA



A sketch of City Drug Store in Bogalusa, LA, originally owned and operated by Nielsen, Sr., now operated by his son, Kevin.

ALUMNI NEWS



Dylan LeBoeuf (Pharm.D./MBA '25) presented his Grand Rounds on antimicrobial resistance and represented the Baylor University Medical Center PGY1 residency program at ASHP Midyear in Las Vegas. He will be continuing his training next year as a PGY2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Resident with Baylor.

Catherine Oliver (Pharm.D. '09) renewed her certification: Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist from BPS - Board of Pharmacy Specialties!

Michael Savoy (Pharm.D. '14) was issued the ASHP Pharmacogenomics Professional Certificate.

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

Kristen Seaux (Pharm.D. '19) completed the Core Compounding Training at PCCA.

Sandra Joiner (Pharm.D. '05) and husband, Courtney Joiner, were featured as ULM Alumni Spotlights in the February issue of Bayou Life Magazine.

https://issuu.com/bayoulifemagazine/docs/bayoulife_magazine_february_26



Taylor Pollard Boothe (Pharm.D. '25) received an ICARE Award for exemplifying Advocacy in caring for our Veteran population. Advocating for Veterans and working to ensure they receive high-quality, patient-centered care is something Taylor is passionate about and deeply committed to.

Aaron Head (Pharm.D. '17) and wife Chelsie Morein Head (Pharm.D. '18) just welcomed the newest addition to their family on March 21, Hudson Alexander Head. They are beyond excited and very thankful for all of their many blessings.

PHARMACY NEWS

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.

MATCH DAY HELD ON MARCH 18



College of
Pharmacy

RESIDENCY MATCHES

PGY1

Kaitlyn Williams: Memorial Hermann- Texas Medical Center in Houston, TX

Jordan Chenevert: University Medical Center- New Orleans

Carson Wilkie Rigby: Manning Family Children's Hospital in New Orleans, LA

PGY2 (COP 2025 GRADUATES)

Meg Hamilton: UT Southwestern Medical Center critical care pharmacy residency in Dallas, TX

Maggie Brian: Regional One Health/ University of Tennessee Health Science Center critical care pharmacy residency

Dylan Leboeuf: Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX Emergency Medicine residency

Alex Domingue: Health First Holmes Regional Medical Center, Melbourne, FL, PGY2-Critical Care

KeAnna Kimble: VA-Little Rock, AR- Central Arkansas Veterans HCS, PGY2-Geriatric, Little Rock, AR

Kylie Michot: University of Mississippi Medical Center, PGY2-Critical Care, Jackson, MS

Katie Turner: ULM PGY-1 Resident and COP instructor matched to a PGY-2 residency program at JPS Health Network in Fort Worth, Texas

PHARMACY NEWS

9TH ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL POOR MAN'S RUN A HUGE SUCCESS

On Saturday, February 28, the Student Pharmacy Council put on an outstanding 9th Annual Poor Man's Run and the first ever car show, benefitting St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Community Pharmacy in Monroe, which provides no-cost medications to patients who otherwise could not afford them. This student-led event, with a 5K, 1-mile Fun Run, and car show raised \$14,500 for SVDP, the largest donation to date!

This year's run drew 55 sponsors and 115 race registrants, with support from many community partners and multiple ULM graduate programs offering booths and activities. The car show was also a huge success, with 40 car registrations, jambalaya sales, and lots of spectators! Attendees voted on their favorite cars and a top 10 and Best of Show was announced. Winner and Top 10 (in no particular order) were as follows: Best in Show: Keith Parker (1953 Ford Ranch Wagon); Derrill Hymel (1966 F100); Jimmy Worley (1956 Ford Thunderbird); Terry Adkins (1965 Chevy C10); Bill Avant (1986 Chevy C10); Ken Cooper (1955 Chevrolet Belair); Beau Bourgeois (1949 Ford F1); Marty Phillips (1941 Studebaker rat rod); Jayce Bryan (1981 Chevy C10); Bobby Hobson (1967 Chevella); Greg Kincaid (1946 Ford Panel Truck).

The College of Pharmacy is proud of the exceptional leadership, organization, and service these students demonstrated as they worked for months to plan and execute the largest annual fundraiser supporting this vital community resource.



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.*



STUDENTS RECEIVE WALGREENS SCHOLARSHIPS



Thank you to Walgreens for their continued support of ULM Pharmacy students! Pictured here holding the check are Walgreens' student scholarship recipients, Aleksander "Sasha" Burk (Class of 2028) and Naomi Wilson (Class of 2027), along with Walgreens leadership and College of Pharmacy Interim Dean Dr. Gina Craft.

COP CELEBRATES FIRST-ATTEMPT PASS RATES

We are proud to announce the Class of 2025 first-attempt pass rates on the NAPLEX and MPJE exceed the nation average.

	ULM	National
MPJE	85.2%	74.5%
NAPLEX	89.0%	86.8%

These results reflect the dedication of our students, the commitment of our faculty, and the strength of our program. We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2025 and their achievement as they transition into professional practice!

PHARMACY NEWS

Hall of Fame nominations now open

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:

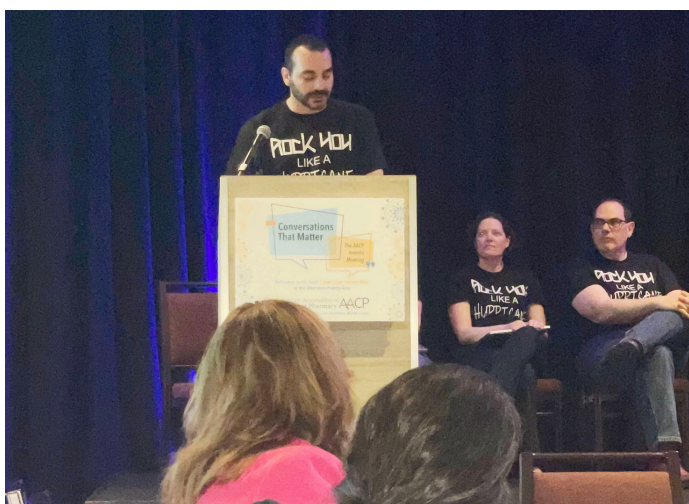
https://ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni/alumnihall_fame.html

Online nomination form is now open and will close on May 31, 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."



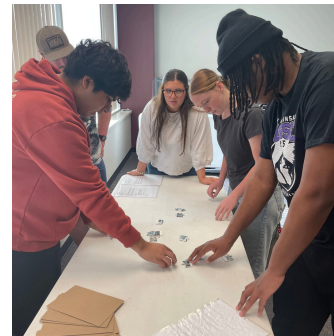
Dr. Georgios Matthiaolampakis, Associate Professor of BPTS, presented in a debate at the AACP #Interim26 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as part of the Academic Leadership Fellows Program. His team debated the idea of shared instructional resources through a centralized database to free faculty time for research, service, clinical practice, and other duties.

PHARMACY NEWS

SPRING RECRUITMENT EVENTS TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT PHARMACY

PharmFUTURE

The Spring PharmFuture event was held on Wednesday, March 11, with nearly 30 students participating. High school juniors, seniors, and college students, curious about pharmacy or healthcare, attended this half-day event to learn about the many career opportunities pharmacy has to offer. Students had the chance to work in our lab, participate in fun pharmacy-related activities, and hear from faculty and current students. It is a great opportunity for aspiring healthcare professionals to be introduced to the dynamic world of pharmacy and see if it's the future for them!



PharmJr.

Local junior high schools sent up to four academically superior 6th, 7th or 8th grade students to this free event. Two sessions were held, one on March 12 and one on March 19, to be able to accommodate as many local schools that wanted to participate. This is a great opportunity to introduce pharmacy to young minds and get them thinking about pursuing pharmacy as they get into high school and college. Students enjoyed participating in a pill relay competition, escape room, and lab activity while learning more about the profession of pharmacy.



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.

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.