

# *La Pharmacie en Louisiane*

JANUARY 2015 - DECEMBER 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

Alumni Spotlight.....	1
Dean's Message.....	2
Pharm.D. Career Fair.....	2
White Coat & Commencement.....	4
APhA Annual Meeting.....	6
Students Win EPIC Grants.....	7
SOP Offers New Programs.....	7
Alumnus Named President-Elect.....	8
Symposium Winners.....	9
Alum Wins Science Award.....	9
Organization Updates.....	10
Homecoming 2015.....	11
SOP Awarded \$1.2 Million in Grants.....	12
Alumna's Work Featured.....	13
News & Notes.....	14
Investigator Scholarship Awarded.....	16
MarkYourCalendars.....	16
SupportYourSchoolofPharmacy.....	17
Join the Pharmacy Alumni Chapter.....	17

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### CLASSMATES REUNITE AFTER 50 YEARS

Ken Hebert and Emily Brodnax Hebert became friends in the 1960s while attending ULM (then NLU's) School of Pharmacy. Throughout the years since, they became successful pharmacists, had families and lost spouses. A half-century later they have reunited as husband and wife and are making the most of retirement.

During their time in pharmacy school, Ken lived on campus and worked at Gibson's Pharmacy then Howard Brother's Pharmacy, and Emily worked at Davenport's, a small drug store in Mer Rouge, Louisiana, and commuted to school. Since she drove alone, she usually carried her Doberman with her to school and would let him exercise and play between classes. Emily recalls noticing Ken walking to work from school one rainy day and offering him a ride. To this day Ken shares the story of how terrified he was to get in the car with "that big dog" in the backseat.



Ken Hebert (B.S. Pharm. '65) and Emily Brodnax Hebert (B.S. Pharm. '65) enjoying retirement.

**"Now we fill our lives with the things that seniors get to enjoy."**

**Emily Brodnax Hebert**

# DEAN'S MESSAGE



*Benny L. Blaylock, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Health and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences*

To our ULM alumni, many of you have heard of the optional \$100 fee that has been added to the license renewal process with the LABP. This fee was added by our state legislature as a way to help the School during this time of repeated funding cuts to higher education. We have been assured that the fee is optional, and 100% of all contributions through this mechanism will go directly to the School of Pharmacy. If you choose to donate by any means, your dollars will be used for facility updates and renovations, faculty development, and vital student resources and services. We could not be the ULM School of Pharmacy without your support. We are so proud of our alumni and students, and we ask that you consider helping us continue our mission of educating future pharmacists by giving however you see fit—monetary donations, the gift of your time and expertise, etc. Thank you for being an essential part of our School!

Back in May, we held the annual White Coat Ceremony on the Friday evening before graduation. It's always a privilege to present students with awards signifying outstanding achievement during their time in the School of Pharmacy. Of course, the most significant award is their first "professional" white coat, signifying their move from student to practitioner. Dr. Roy Parish, retired Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was the guest speaker. The next day, I had the privilege of handing Doctor of Pharmacy diplomas to 86 new pharmacists.

In August, the School of Pharmacy welcomed the incoming Class of 2019 with the P1 White Coat Ceremony. This group of 99 new pharmacy students are now well on their way in establishing themselves as professional pharmacy students.

The ULM chapter of APhA received national recognition at the 2015 APhA Annual meeting in San Diego, CA for outstanding programming in the area of Operation Diabetes at the regional level. Operation Diabetes seeks to help pharmacists and student pharmacists identify individuals in the community with previously undiagnosed diabetes and those at risk for developing disease. Drew Register, Chapter President, was also honored at the APhA-ASP Awards Celebration as one of four students nationally to receive the national APhA-ASP Student Leadership Award.

ULM School of Pharmacy Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences professors are currently the recipients of a total of 6 research grants from the National Institutes of Health. These grants total nearly \$3 million. This is an outstanding accomplishment, especially when this number of individual grants is awarded to a school that is not part of a large teaching medical center. Most recently, Drs. Karen Briski, Amal Kaddoumi and Seetharama Jois were awarded NIH grants in 2015 totaling almost \$1.2 million.



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## CLASSMATES REUNITE AFTER 50 YEARS (continued from page 1)



*Morris Rabb presents Ken and Emily with their Gold Pharmacist Certificates during the Fifth District Pharmacy Association meeting on October 15, 2015.*

Ken and Emily shared another funny story about their days in pharmacy school. Emily shared that she always sat in the front of class while Ken always sat in the back and tended to fall asleep. She jokingly says that she doesn't know how he made such good grades. On one particular day during a physiology class under Dr. Beryl Franklin, Ken was napping in the back of the classroom, so Dr. Franklin threw a black board eraser at him, hitting his mark, and yelling, "Wake up Hebert!" Naturally, the whole class erupted in laughter. Emily lovingly shares that Ken was always the quiet one and "those are the ones you've got to watch!"

Both Ken and Emily graduated from ULM in 1965, each with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. They both had significant others during their time at school and never dated, but have been professional friends forever, always having a great deal of respect for each other and their professional ethics.

During late September of 2012, Emily attended a pharmacy CE program that one of Ken's sons, Dean Hebert, sponsored at ULM. Upon asking Dean about his

dad, Emily learned that Judy, Ken's wife, had passed away about a year before. Emily had lost her husband, Max, six years before and she called Ken to express her sympathy since she had obviously been traveling and missed the obituary. Several weeks passed and Emily received a call from Ken asking her to lunch.

Exactly two years later, on November 8, 2014, the anniversary of that first lunch date, the couple married in a small ceremony at Dean's home, with both of their families present. Their wedding dinner was catered by Waterfront Grill, where the couple had met for that first lunch date, and they enjoyed a wedding cake made by pharmacist friend, Jo Kaufman.

Today Ken and Emily share a wonderful life, filling it with all of the things that seniors get to enjoy. Emily's stepson from her marriage to Max, and only step granddaughter, live in California so they have visited there several times. Luckily Ken's two son's and six grandchildren live in the Monroe area so the couple gets to spend a lot of time with them. They both love to travel. During the past year they have been on a road trip to California, another to Colorado, and a tour of eastern Canada, plus several short trips. They are very active in Ken's Catholic church and Emily's Methodist church, alternating Sundays between the two. Both Ken and Emily love the outdoors and, when they aren't busy traveling or doing things with friends and family, they love to spend mornings walking the trails on their 16-acres and spending afternoons carting around the property on their golf cart while enjoying a glass of wine.

This year marked another milestone for this great couple. Both Ken and Emily received their Gold Pharmacist Certificates, honoring 50 years in the pharmacy profession. The couple was presented their certificates by Morris Rabb at the Fifth District Pharmacy Association meeting on October 15, 2015.

# WHITE COAT & COMMENCEMENT

## CLASS OF 2015

On May 8, 2015, the ULM School of Pharmacy had the honor of hosting the Senior Recognition Ceremony for the Class of 2015. Each individual was jacketed by the faculty member of his/her choice, pharmacy awards were presented and residencies announced. On May 9, 2015, our Class of 2015 was a part of the official ULM Commencement Ceremony.

### SOP Class of 2015

- |                              |                                 |                            |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Noor Isam Azzawe             | Tam Phuong Le                   | Kristen Elizabeth Rouge    |
| * Tala Badwan                | Hilbert Joseph LeBert           | Mariam Angelique Saadat    |
| * Dominique Nicole Baez      | Laken Michelle Lewis            | Ashley Alana Sanders       |
| Olajide Brandon Bakare       | Jake Auston Matherne            | David Gregory Sawyer       |
| Kaynala LeShay Baker         | ** Christopher William Maxwell  | Heather Lea Seals          |
| *** Jennifer Lynn Ballard    | Katherine Elizabeth McArdle     | Prashant Sharma            |
| Jason Paul Barron            | Aaron Joseph McCall             | Mary McGuire Gray Simmons  |
| Matthew Brent Bullard        | Colin Alexander McRae           | Seng Sisombath             |
| ** Lauren Ashley Coker       | *** Shelby Lane Miller II       | Ahmed Ossama Sleem         |
| ** Elisabeth Leigh Conley    | Angela Denise Moore             | Elizabeth A. Smith         |
| *** Emily Erin Cooke         | Cally Marie Newsom              | Majesta Nicole Smith       |
| Nhan Trong Dang              | ** Julie Nhu Ngo                | Jessica Soape              |
| Katherine Leigh Daniels      | Ha Thi Nguyen                   | Brandon Lee Stokes         |
| Britney Lynette Dyer Hill    | Hai Thanh Nguyen                | Melanie Reed Stracener     |
| Jessica Lynn Earnest         | Quynh Nguyen                    | Diana Kim Tran             |
| Robert Joseph Espouge III    | ** Jacklyn David Olinde         | KimNgoc Thi Tran           |
| Dusty Ray Fallin             | Heather Andrew Ortego           | Heather Marie Tweedel      |
| Katherine Rose Gary          | ** Ankitkumar Prakashbhai Patel | Renee Michelle Vidrine     |
| Ruta Asmelash Gebregiorgis   | ** Kunal Bharat Patel           | Matthew Ernest Vigueira    |
| Steven Vincent Gogola        | Nilay Anil Patel                | ** Mary Ann Vu             |
| *** Jessica Cimino Goodman   | Purna Patel                     | Jacqueline Donham Warner   |
| Megan Elizabeth Guillot      | Jonathan Randall Patterson      | ** Jill Whitney Watson     |
| Destinee Nicole Hebert       | Jennifer Lynn Paylor            | Brandi Lynn Welch          |
| Paul Timothy Hoang           | Ethan Kyle Pippin               | Jordan Mackenzie Young     |
| Atheia Rashanee' Holland     | Deonte' Rashad Powell           |                            |
| Josiah David Howell          | David Michael Price             | * Phi Lambda Sigma         |
| ** Marissa Rachel Israel     | Kory Jennings Reeves            | Leadership Society Members |
| Ricky Adonis Jackson         | Grace Ann Reynolds              | ** Rho Chi Honor Society   |
| Christine Michelle Jeansonne | *** Meghan Renee Roddy          | Members                    |
| Regan Champagne LaCombe      | Whitney Nicole Rogers           | *** Members of Both        |



## SENIOR RECOGNITION AWARDS:

**Merck and Company Awards for Excellence in the Basic Sciences:  
Med Chemistry, Pharmaceuticals and Pharmacology:** Ahmed Sleem

**TEVA Pharmaceuticals USA Student Award:** Emily Cooke

**Albert P. Lauve Memorial Award:** Lauren Coker

**Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy Award:** Lauren Coker

**American Pharmacists Association Senior Recognition Certificate:** Emily Cooke

**Award of Excellence in Clinical Communication:** Jennifer Ballard

**Natural Medicine Comprehensive Database Recognition Award:** Katherine Gary

**Joseph Samuel Carso Student Award:** Grace Reynolds

**Lauren Savoy Olinde Award:** Jackie Warner

**APhA-ASP Leadership Training Series Recognition Certificate:** Emily Cooke  
and Brittany Hill

**LSHP/ASHP Outgoing President Award:** Renee Vidrine

**Phi Lambda Sigma Chapter Member of the Year Award:** Brittany Hill

**Lilly Achievement Award:** Joey LeBert

**Class of 2015 Highest GPA:** Jessica Cimino Goodman



## PGY1 RESIDENCIES

Tala Badwan - **E.A. Conway Psych Unit**

Jennifer Lynn Ballard - **G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA, Jackson, MS**

Emily Erin Cooke - **University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS**

Lauren Ashley Coker - **University Health, Shreveport**

Marissa Rachel Israel - **Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, Little Rock, AR**

Tam Le - **The Woman's Hospital**

Aaron Joseph McCall - **The Anastasia Beaverhausen Children's Hospital**

Kunal Patel - **PGY-1 St. Luke's Hosital, Kansas City, MO**

Jennifer Lynn Paylor - **St. Francis Medical Center, Monroe, LA**

Ethan Kyle Pippin - **University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS**

David Michael Price - **Cardinal Health, Houma, LA**

Meghan Renee Roddy - **Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, Ohio**

Whitney Nicole Rogers - **St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson, MS**

Ashley Alana Sanders - **Appalachian College of Pharmacy Community Residency  
Program, Oakwood, VA**

Prashant Sharma - **ULM School of Pharmacy, Shreveport, LA**

## PRECEPTOR & FACULTY AWARDS

**Faculty Preceptor of the Year:** Dr. Mandy Storer

**Non-Faculty Preceptor of the Year:** Dr. Jennifer Nickelson

**1st Year Pharmacy Excellence in Teaching:** Dr. Ron Hill

**2nd Year Pharmacy Excellence in Teaching:** Dr. David Caldwell

**3rd Year Pharmacy Excellence in Teaching:** Dr. Michelle Zagar

# APHA-ASP ATTENDS ANNUAL MEETING



The ULM chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists recently traveled to San Diego, CA for the 2015 APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition. This year, the meeting was held March 27-30 at the San Diego Convention Center overlooking the bay. The chapter had 43 student pharmacists as well as one faculty member in attendance. This national meeting serves as an incredible opportunity for students to learn, network, advocate, and advance. Students are exposed to a variety of educational tracks while at Annual, including advanced training programs, access to care, clinical patient care and services, education for educators, health-system pharmacy, integration of science into practice, nuclear pharmacy, pharmacy law and regulation, and pharmacy management and professional leadership. The diverse educational offerings cater to the needs of a wide array of student pharmacists and provide virtually all students in attendance the opportunity to explore their own individual interests.

In addition to the educational sessions, students enjoy the opportunity to actively engage in the policy process. Each fall at the APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meetings, chapters from across the country draft resolutions to advance the profession of pharmacy. These resolutions are then voted upon at the regional level. Resolutions that pass the regional level reach the national policy standing committee. Finally, a handful of these resolutions are voted upon at the national level at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition. Each chapter is represented at

the national level by one member, known as the Chapter Delegate. Each chapter is allotted one vote within the House of Delegates, cast by the Chapter Delegate. This year, ULM was represented by President-Elect, Kelsie Stark. As an academy, students discussed the potential impact of four resolutions during the House of Delegates sessions this year. The topics discussed included medication synchronization, labeling and measurement of oral liquid medications, point of care testing, and increased access to opioid reversal agents.

The ULM chapter also enjoyed national recognition this year due to their success in patient care programming. The chapter was recognized for outstanding programming in the area of Operation Diabetes at the regional level. Operation Diabetes seeks to help pharmacists and student pharmacists identify individuals in the community with previously undiagnosed diabetes and those who are at risk for developing the disease. In addition, the program seeks to increase overall awareness of diabetes and the role pharmacists play in prevention and managing the effects of diabetes. Chapter President, Drew Register, was also honored at the APhA-ASP Awards Celebration. Drew was one of four students in the nation to receive the national APhA-ASP Student Leadership Award. Overall, the meeting energized student pharmacists and provided numerous opportunities for academic and professional growth. Students also enjoyed visiting area attractions during their downtime between meetings.

# TWO ULM PHARMACY STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS

EPIC Pharmacies awarded grants to 16 students nationwide and two of those 16 are students in ULM's School of Pharmacy. They are Elee Barber (class of 2018) and Geena Nellis (class of 2017). The grants are awarded to outstanding students who plan to practice in an independent pharmacy after graduation.

"I'm thrilled that EPIC Pharmacies can once again support future independent pharmacists. These students will carry on the traditions of quality care

and personal service representative of independent pharmacy that are practiced in each EPIC Pharmacies co-op location," says EPIC Pharmacies Chief Executive Officer Jay Romero, R.Ph.

For the official announcement and full list of grant recipients, [click here](#).

<http://www.ulm.edu/news/2015/1119-epicpharmaciesgrants.html>

## NEW SOP PROGRAMS INTRODUCE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO PHARMACY

**ULM's School of Pharmacy offers new programs that introduce prospective students to the world of pharmacy and offer guidance toward pharmacy school.**

High school graduation is followed by one of the biggest decisions a young person will make during his/her lifetime - a career choice. Those who choose to dedicate their lives to pharmacy are then faced with the daunting tasks of finding and applying to an undergraduate program and then professional pharmacy school. This not only comes with applications and interviews, but also the financial aspects and what options they will have after completing pharmacy school. Many people think all pharmacists work in retail and have no idea of the vast career options available to someone with a pharmacy degree. The School of Pharmacy has tried to help these future pharmacists by implementing two new programs for students at different stages of their academic pursuits. These programs are designed to help students get a feel for pharmacy and make smart decisions about their futures and how to accomplish their goals.

PharmFUTURE is a program designed for high school students who may already know that they want to pursue pharmacy, or who may just be curious about what pharmacy has to offer. Eligible students must be entering their junior or senior years of high school and have an ACT score of 24 or above. PharmFUTURE days are offered once during the spring and once during the fall. Each session is limited to approximately 50 students so that everyone receives a more individualized experience.

PharmFUTURE participants get to work in our lab, our classrooms, and meet our professional pharmacy students and faculty. They are introduced to some of the exciting and diverse job opportunities for pharmacists and given guidance through the application and interview processes. Interested parties can find more information at <http://ulm.edu/pharmacy/prospective/pharmfuture.html>.

Applicant Day is for students already attending a university or community college. This program provides students with more in-depth information on the pre-pharmacy and professional pharmacy curriculums, as well as the application and interview processes. Students attending Applicant Day are also given the opportunity to interact with current professional pharmacy students and schedule a one-on-one transcript evaluation with one of our admissions officers. More information on this program can be found at <http://www.ulm.edu/pharmacy/prospective/applicantday.html>.

# ALUMNUS NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF PHARMACY ACADEMY BOARD

University of Louisiana at Monroe alumnus Gary McCrory, RPh, CCN, has been named president-elect of the 2015 International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP) Board of Directors by the IACP membership. His term will begin in January 2016.



Gary McCrory, R.Ph., CCN  
(B.S. Pharm, '77)

The IACP is an association representing more than 4,000 pharmacists, technicians, students, and members of the compounding community who focus upon the specialty practice of pharmacy compounding.

Pharmacy compounding is the long-established tradition in pharmacy practice that enables physicians to prescribe, and patients to take medicines that are specially prepared by pharmacists to meet patients' individual needs.

In a statement released by the IACP, David G. Miller, IACP executive vice president and CEO said, "Having the clinical and professional expertise of individuals like Gary McCrory is essential to IACP's role in developing the best practices of compounding pharmacists everywhere. Each of our volunteer board members brings unique experience as both practitioners and business managers to guide IACP and its membership. We are fortunate to have Gary as part of our leadership team."

McCrory is currently a Pharmacy Management Consultant with the Professional Compounding Centers of America (PCCA) in Houston.

McCrory has been active in community pharmacy since 1977 and is in his fourth term on the IACP Board of Directors. He has been a PCCA member since 1984, and was awarded PCCA Pharmacist of Month in May 1997. Additionally, he serves on the PCCA Advisory Council. He also is a former PCCA Pharmacist of the Year.

He has served as consultant with Smart Strategies (Pharmacy Customer Service) and Genetic Testing Laboratories. He is a Certified Clinical Nutritionist, AmerisourceBergen Good Neighbor Pharmacy Regional Advisor, and a Pharmacist Preceptor Certification. He also previously served as the Texas Pharmacy Compounding Section Chairperson.

<http://www.ulm.edu/news/2015/0504-gary-mccrory.html>

# WINNERS OF ULM STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED

The University of Louisiana at Monroe recently announced the winners of the 15th annual Student Research Symposium. Used as a vehicle to showcase the outstanding research being conducted by graduate and undergraduate students at ULM, the symposium presents the unique and high quality work of ULM students.

The symposium has provided a platform for the presentation of research conducted by over 3,000 student researchers since the inaugural Student Research Symposium in 2001.

Students are required to conceptualize a research question, work with a faculty mentor to address the question, design a research method, identify the subjects, correctly and objectively collect and analyze data, reach

conclusions, and make recommendations.

Student researchers presented their work either by presentation poster or by a platform presentation in which they read their research aloud to the audience.

In both cases, student researchers were expected to answer questions from judges who have credentials in the student's research field.

## Pharmacy Graduate Student Poster Presentations

First Place: Salman B. Hosain

Presentation Title: Heterozygous missense p53-mutant leads to drug resistance, epithelial-mesenchymal transition and stemness in colon cancer cells.

Second Place: Hassan Ebrahim

Presentation Title: The Louisiana lichen-derived depsidone norstictic acid inhibits invasive breast cancer cell proliferation in vitro and in vivo through targeting the proto-oncogene receptor tyrosine kinase c-Met.

Third Place: Yazan S. Batarseh

Presentation Title: In vitro studies on amyloid  $\beta$  handling by astrocytes.

### Pharmacy Graduate Student Oral Presentations

First Place: Osama Alawin

Presentation Title: The antiproliferative effect of  $\gamma$ -tocotrienol on HER2 breast cancer cells is associated with lipid raft mediated mechanism.

Second Place: Loqman Mohamed

Presentation Title: Donepezil and rivastigmine enhance brain A $\beta$  clearance in aged rats: a novel mechanism for cholinesterase inhibitors against Alzheimer's disease

### Pharmacy Undergraduate Poster Presentation

First Place: Ashley Depaula and Courtney Langley Flick

Presentation Title: Discovery of Compounds Using High Throughput Screening to Enhance the Integrity of Blood-Brain Barrier and Potential Efficacy for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease.

For a complete list of winners go to: <http://www.ulm.edu/news/2015/0318-symposium.html>

# ORGANIZATION UPDATES

## *AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION (APHA-ASP)*

Over the past year, APhA-ASP has been busy making a difference in our patient community and advancing our field of pharmacy. We have recently been acknowledged by Representative Doug Collins in his address on provider status as being one of the most active chapters in the country. From town festivals to Walmart Wednesdays to health fairs to school visits, our members have been providing health screenings and education to all ages across northeast Louisiana. For American Pharmacist Month, we started a social media campaign with APhA-ASP's theme for the year, "Live

Your Why". Each member of our Board of Directors shared their why on Facebook accompanied by the hashtags #LiveYourWhy, #LouisianalsOurWhy, and #GeauxAPhA. We have also added a new project, OTC Literacy, which focuses on educating the public on safe use and disposal of OTC medications. Focuses of this project include reading medication labels, following OTC directions, properly measuring medications, and safe storage and disposal of medications. Like our Facebook page ULM APhA-ASP for regular updates on what we're up to!

## *LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACISTS (LSHP)*

The members of LSHP have been working on a couple projects this semester. We have been providing our members with opportunities to work on their CVs and other various professional developments. A group of members recently visited Sterlington High School to talk

to high school seniors about health-system pharmacy and opportunities that pharmacy holds. LSHP is also planning to participate in some community service events over the rest of the school year.

## *PHI LAMBDA SIGMA (PLS)*

Phi Lambda Sigma has been actively participating in the ULM Up 'til Dawn program, which raises money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Thank you to the alumni who participated in the silent auction during

homecoming weekend. All of the proceeds will be contributed to the St. Jude Children's Hospital. If you would like to make a donation to our cause, please contact Annie Miller at millerpa@warhawks.ulm.edu.

# SOP ALUMNI EVENT & ULM HOMECOMING 2015



# SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AWARDED \$1.2 MILLION IN NIH GRANTS

**The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded grants to three faculty members in the School of Pharmacy's Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS), totaling nearly \$1.2 million.**

"Grants from the National Institutes of Health are some of the most prestigious and difficult grants to obtain," said Dr. Benny Blaylock, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "This funding signifies the recognition of our Basic Sciences faculty by the NIH as upper echelon researchers in the area of pharmaceutical sciences."

The mission of ULM's BPS is to advance health care through cutting-edge research and instruction on the utilization of chemicals as medicines, chemical interactions with biological systems, and modes of delivery of therapeutic agents. The NIH grants will enable the BPS to carry out this mission through innovative pharmaceutical and neurological research.

Among those awarded is Dr. Karen Briski, professor and BPS department head. Briski will investigate neural mechanisms that are responsible for suppressing reproduction during energy deficiency. Fertility in females declines when energy supply does not meet metabolic demands. This cross-disciplinary project combines ULM neuroscience expertise with state-of-the-art atomic physics technology at the University of North Texas. "Combining the expertise from ULM and the University of North Texas, the investigators will develop a mapping tool to identify nerve pathways that mediate control of reproduction by a specialized brain energy sensor," Dr. Briski said. All of this will be done in an effort to improve human

and livestock reproductive outcomes.

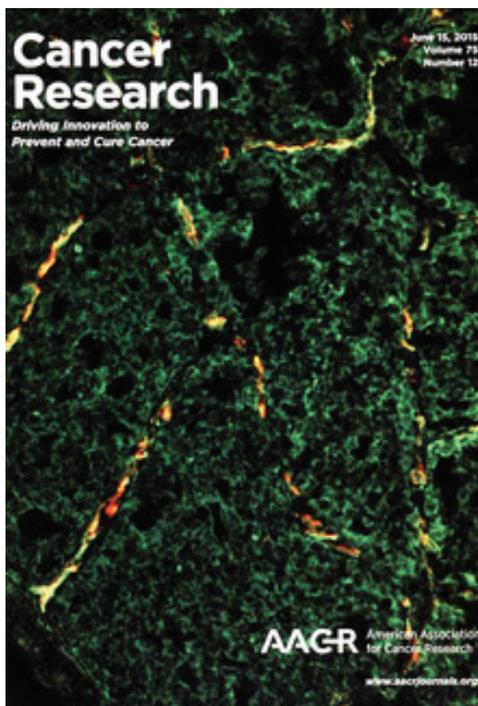
Dr. Amal K. Kaddoumi, associate professor of Pharmaceutics, received a grant for a project that seeks to identify therapeutics that will target the blood-brain barrier (BBB) in an effort to prevent and/or slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Agents that can improve BBB function offer promising new lines of treatment for alleviation of neurodegenerative diseases. Kaddoumi's research will permit multiple compounds of potential therapeutic value to be screened using an experimental BBB model developed in her ULM laboratory.

Dr. Seetharama D.S. Jois, associate professor of Medicinal Chemistry, received a grant that will support his research to identify pharmacotherapeutic tools to combat lung cancer. He intends to advance alternative therapies capable of improving lung cancer patient survival rates.

According to Dr. Nick J. Bruno, ULM president, "The research efforts by ULM faculty continue to be a credit to their expertise and commitment to expanding the knowledge and understanding of their respective pursuits. The NIH grants awarded to three of our faculty attest to the high caliber of healthcare research that we value here at ULM."

## ULM ALUMNA'S WORK FEATURED ON PRESTIGIOUS JOURNAL COVER

Dr. Sunitha V. Bachawal, a 2010 Ph.D. graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe's Pharmacy Ph.D. program, received a prestigious honor when her photo was chosen as the cover image for the June issue of the journal, "Cancer Research: Driving Innovation to Prevent and Cure Cancer."



can be significantly improved using B7-H3.

According to Sylvester, studies show that B7-H3 is differentially expressed in breast cancer-associated vascular cells as compared to normal or benign breast tissue. B7-H3-targeted ultrasound molecular imaging allows for the detection of breast cancer at early stages of breast cancer development.

Bachawal is currently working in the Department of Radiology Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford, Stanford University School of Medicine, in Stanford, Calif.

<http://www.ulm.edu/news/2015/0715-sunitha.html>

Dr. Paul Sylvester—the B.J. Robison/Pfizer Endowed Professor of Pharmacy, and Director of Graduate Studies and Research in Pharmacy at ULM—served as Bachawal's major professor of pharmacology during her doctoral studies.

He said "Cancer Research" is considered one of the most highly cited and respected cancer journals in the world.

The cover image, an "immunohistochemical microphotograph," is taken from Bachawal's research article published in the same issue titled "Breast Cancer Detection by B7-H3- Targeted Ultrasound Molecular Imaging."

Immunohistochemical imaging uses B7-H3, a contrasting chemical agent, to target the tumor vascular system during an ultrasound.

The agent serves as a complementary imaging method for detection of breast cancer, and can be highly useful in patients with dense breast tissue. Diagnostic accuracy of ultrasound in these patients



Sunitha Bachawal  
(Ph.D. 2010)



Dr. Paul Sylvester

# NEWS & NOTES



Faculty and student pharmacists from our ULM School of Pharmacy volunteered at the Annual Men's Health fair August 22nd, 2015! They collaborated with the Baton Rouge Cardiology Center to provide blood pressure and cholesterol screenings to 278 men at the event, which was located at Pennington Research Center. Baton Rouge, LA. WAY TO GO TEAM!



Kappa Epsilon's "Race for the Cure" team supported the fight against breast cancer in Forsythe Park on September 19, 2015.



Members of ULM SOP's faculty attended AACP's Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.



The ULM SOP APhA-ASP Patient Care Vice President Hannah Holbrook, Chapter President Kelsie Stark, and Communications Vice President Katelyn Horn, went on Good Morning ArkLaMiss to promote American Pharmacist Month! It's important to know your pharmacist and know your medicine!

*Let us hear from you!*

*Add your alumni news to our next newsletter.*

*Contact: Michelle Massey, School of Pharmacy Student Affairs Coordinator*

*Email: mmassey@ulm.edu; Phone: (318) 342-3804*

Dr. Courtney Robertson, (Pharm D. 2009), husband, Melan, and big brother, Graham, welcomed baby girl, Eden Catherine in May.

Dr. Elizabeth Perry and family welcomed Sutton Franklin Perry, born July 6.

Dr. Andrew Ducote (Pharm.D. 2011) was promoted to inpatient pharmacy supervisor at Ochsner Medical Center Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Katie Aymond Ducote, BCPS, (Pharm.D. 2012) accepted a position with Our Lady of the Lake Baton Rouge as a Clinical pharmacist.

Dr. Anthony Walker (B.S. Pharm '98 ) helped carry out the DREAMS Camp. DREAMS: Desire - Readiness - Empowerment - Action - Mastery for Success, was a week-long camp designed to empower at risk middle school students, leading them toward success.

Dr. C. Eugene Watkins, who served as a respected NLSC/ NLU Pharmacy School faculty member for 28 years, passed away on May 20, 2015.

Condolences to Dr. Beverly Walker (B.S. Pharmacy 1994) who lost her sister, Elnora Wells, in June 2015, and mother, Bessie L. McNulty, in October 2015.

Condolences to Rob Toupes (B.S. Pharm. '68) on the loss of his grandson, Todd "T.J." Toupes, Jr., on October 10, 2015.

Congratulations to Dr. Michael DeGennaro, Associate Professor in the Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Pharmacy. Dr. DeGennaro retired after 40 years of service at ULM.

Mrs. Kathy Kelly, Administrative Assistant 3 for the SOP Dean's Office retired on December 31, 2015.



On January 24, 2015, ULM School of Pharmacy alumni, Dr. Bryan Bordelon (Pharm.D. 2013) and Dr. Stacie LaHaye (Pharm.D. 2014) wed at Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Eunice, Louisiana, with their reception being held at Le Grand Hall in Crowley, Louisiana.

# ULM GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDED YOUNG INVESTIGATOR SCHOLARSHIP

**Loqman Mohamed, a graduate student in the University of Louisiana at Monroe's School of Pharmacy, was awarded the 2015 Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) Young Investigator Scholarship.**

Mohamed earned the scholarship after presenting his research on the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Mohamed's project, titled "Donepezil and rivastigmine enhance brain and hepatic clearances of amyloid: a novel mechanism for their neuroprotective effect against Alzheimer's disease," was presented at the 9th Annual Drug Discovery for Neurodegeneration Conference, in San Diego, Calif., in March.

Mohamed is advised by Dr. Amal Kaddoumi, associate professor of pharmaceuticals.

The scholarship provides registration to attend the annual conference; the opportunity to present at the annual conference; and recognition in the conference program and on the ADDF website.

<http://ulm.edu/news/2015/0409-loqman.html>

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### ULM's 11th Annual Wine Over Water

Thursday, March 31, 2016

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

ULM Bridge

Watch <http://ulm.edu/alumni/event/index.html> for more information

### ULM Spring Fever Week

April 18 - 27, 2016

### School of Pharmacy Spring Career Fair Interviews

Friday, April 29, 2016

ULM School of Pharmacy

### Warhawk Classic/Caddo Bossier Golf Tournament

Friday, May 6, 2016

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Stonebridge - Bossier, LA

Watch <http://ulm.edu/alumni/event/index.html> for more information

## SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The ULM School of Pharmacy is Louisiana's only state-supported pharmacy school. Alumni support and involvement are critical as we plan exciting cutting edge educational experiences for our students and faculty.

Join us, so that through your direct donations we can provide the absolute best pharmacists in the nation. Our current students stand on the foundation of excellence established by you, our alums. Maintenance of that established excellence is not our goal, we want to grow and expand it. With your involvement, we can do that.

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

There are several ways to give to the ULM School of Pharmacy. They include:

### ANNUAL GIVING

- **DUFILHO SOCIETY**  
Annual unrestricted gifts for the dean's priorities
- **DEPARTMENTAL GIFTS**  
Check: payable to  
ULM Foundation/Pharmacy  
(please specify Dufilho Society or specific department)  
mail to  
Dr. Benny L. Blaylock, Dean, 1800 Bienville Dr., Monroe, LA 71201  
Online: [ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni.html](http://ulm.edu/pharmacy/alumni.html)

### MAJOR GIFTS

- **NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**  
Endowments such as chairs and professorships, as well as facilities (building, college, classrooms, labs)

### ESTATE GIFTS

- **BEQUESTS**
- **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES**
- **CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

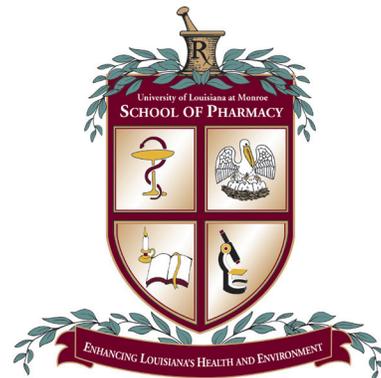
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Dr. Benny L. Blaylock, Dean  
318.342.1600 • [blaylock@ulm.edu](mailto:blaylock@ulm.edu)

[ulm.edu/pharmacy](http://ulm.edu/pharmacy)

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## ULM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PHARMACY CHAPTER



Did you know that the ULM School of Pharmacy has an alumni chapter?

If you are not already a member, be sure to join. Reconnect with old classmates and network with other SOP graduates.

To become a member:

1. Go to <http://www.ulm.edu/alumni>
2. Select "Alumni Chapters"
3. Select "Pharmacy"

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