Dr. Sal Scaccia, originally from Marrero and a 2002 ULM grad, has developed something quite unique. Sal says that Total Life Care Pharmacy (TLC Rx), located in Harvey, is the “first and only specialty pharmacy of its kind founded and fully operated in Louisiana. TLC Rx was created with the idea of bringing advanced specialty pharmacy practice to the New Orleans area and the state of Louisiana. The dream came from the idea of dispelling the myths that healthcare in Louisiana is not progressive enough.” After Hurricane Katrina, Sal moved to Texas to learn about specialty pharmacy. He took a job there with the thought of being able to one day return to his hometown to bring progressive pharmacy back to New Orleans.

In just five short years, TLC Rx has grown from two employees, Sal and one other, to over 76 employees today. They have 14 clinical pharmacists to care for their over 8,000 active patients spanning 16 states. There is a vast team of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, patient care coordinators, shipping and billing personnel, social workers, as well as a large sales force. The idea was always to care for the people of New Orleans; however, their services were so needed across many areas that their growth spread rapidly across the South and now beyond.
DEAN’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the
First Edition

of our new biannual “La Pharmacie en Louisiane” online newsletter. It is our intent to keep you informed about the College of Pharmacy on a regular basis using this format. As we send this inaugural edition out, much has and is happening in the College of Pharmacy. We just graduated our Class of 2013, the first class to go through the new curriculum adopted four years ago. We are bringing in the new Class of 2017, a group of 106 outstanding young people, for the Fall 2013 semester.

As you can see in the newsletter, our current students have been very busy with several endeavors during the past academic year. Our students never cease to amaze me with their intellect, spirit and willingness to reach out and help others. They are truly our pride and joy.

Our faculty continues to include outstanding teachers and researchers, bringing innovative methods of education to the College. Several of our clinical faculty members produced, directed and “starred in” a film about zombies invading Monroe, causing various injuries and providing an interesting teaching mechanism for assessing injury and providing pharmaceutical care. Several of our Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences professors have been successful in procuring extramural grant funding for a variety of research areas. Over the past five years, COP researchers have brought in almost $5 million in funding for cancer research.

SCACCIA GROWS SPECIALTY PHARMACY (continued from page 1)

The motto upon which TLC Rx strives is that caring is a necessity, not just an option. The ideal was always to focus on patient care. Sal says, “We wanted to bring back the days of the old time apothecary, mixed with the marvels of modern day medicine. In our fast-paced world, where insurance companies dictate how we practice medicine, the focus seems to have shifted from patient care, and we wanted to make that a priority again.” TLC Rx works with patients that have chronic and complex medical conditions, including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, cancer, psoriasis, Crohn’s Disease, and rheumatoid arthritis, among others.

The more complex and complicated the patient, the more challenging for TLC Rx. Sal attributes much of their success to the depth in which patient care is delivered. They handle all benefits investigations, prior authorization work, letters of medical necessity, refill reminder calls, disease state management and training, and much more. The idea is to bring “Total Life Care” to the patients. According to Sal, “They are already going through enough challenges that getting and taking their medications should be easy.”

To learn more about TLC Rx, visit their website at tlcrxpharmacy.com

CARING IS A NECESSITY
NOT JUST AN OPTION

TLC Rx Motto
ULM PHARMACY STUDENTS TRAVEL TO PUERTO PLATA TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE

Over the spring break, eight pharmacy students and three faculty members from the ULM College of Pharmacy traveled to Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic to provide medical care as part of an elective class medical outreach experience. Every day the teams traveled to different villages throughout Puerto Plata visiting sick patients in their homes. These patients have little access to medical care, and their living conditions are very poor.

The students were split among three teams, each consisting of a practitioner, pharmacist, and two pharmacy students. Pharmacy student jobs consisted of checking blood pressure and blood glucose, making medication recommendations, counseling patients with the help of translators, dispensing medications and answering any questions their practitioner may have. The following excerpts were taken from students’ reflections following the trip, and it provides a firsthand look at the impact the trip made on a personal and professional level.

“Going into this trip, I was so focused on the medications…the side effects, interactions, dosing, etc. However, after seeing my first few patients, I realized that my focus was all wrong. What I really should have been focusing on was my patients. You see, my patients didn’t care that I knew everything about every medication. Rather, they cared that I listened intently to what they were telling me. They cared that I was there. Sure, the ibuprofen we left throughout the villages of Puerto Plata will relieve some of their physical pain for a time, but our visit, our touch, our smiles, our love, that is what will relieve their worries and give them hope for a longer period of time.”

“I’m so very grateful for this trip. It has left its beautiful mark on me and was the perfect beginning to a life of loving patients. It has helped me so much in the area of patient interaction, and I am so glad that I was able to experience this right before I begin my fourth year rotations. But if there is one thing that I could say I took away from this trip, it would be that no matter what area of pharmacy I find myself, my calling is very simple: love people.”

The eight students who went were Steven Metz, Sara DeJong, Victoria Vince, Carlitos Irula, Abbi Wright, Danielle Jones, Nicole Witmyer and Brooke Ardoin. ULM faculty members were Dr. Elizabeth Perry, Dr. David Caldwell and Dr. Jennifer Smith.

Concerning the trip, Dr. Perry said, “I feel the students who participated on this medical outreach trip were presented with a great opportunity to practice the clinical skills gained throughout pharmacy school. In addition, they were able to leave a lasting impact on the lives of the patients they served in the Dominican Republic. I truly believe that this trip is not only an educational opportunity, but a life changing experience for all involved.”

“I’m so very grateful for this trip. It has left its beautiful mark on me and was the perfect beginning to a life of loving patients.”

Danielle Jones
ULM PHARMACY STUDENTS VISIT THE CAPITOL

Approximately 50 pharmacy students, faculty, staff and administrators traveled to Baton Rouge on April 11, 2013, for ULM Pharmacy State Legislative Day. Students set up tables in the Capitol Rotunda and provided health services to legislators and visitors such as blood pressure and blood glucose screenings, body fat analysis, heartburn awareness, immunization education and information on safe medical use with children.

Dean Benny Blaylock said, “This was a great day for our College of Pharmacy and for our university. Our students got to see the legislative process in action, and our legislators got to see our outstanding pharmacy students and faculty in action.” He also expressed appreciation to the faculty that assisted, including Dr. Adam Pate, Dr. Mary Lewis, Dr. Alexis Horace, Dr. Brice Mohundro, Dr. Susan Sirmans, Dr. Jennifer Smith and to Dr. Candace Chelette for helping to organize the event. Dean Blaylock also commented, “We couldn’t have had this day in Baton Rouge without our outstanding sponsors, the Louisiana Pharmacists Association, Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association, as well as Rob and Sue Toups.”

Dr. Chelette said that “ULM’s State Legislative Day was a terrific opportunity for faculty, students, and our alumni to interact with our state’s Legislature. The students were so excited to be a part of the committee meetings, and then to speak one-on-one to our legislators as the students performed various health screenings and education. One student commented, ‘This enlightening experience has given me confidence in knowing my voice can be heard in the policy making process.’ As a faculty member, I was most impressed with the students’ professionalism and commitment to ULM.”

Representative Jeff R. Thompson talks to ULM COP students.

STUDENTS TO REPRESENT COP IN AACP CLINICAL PHARMACY CHALLENGE

The ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge is a national student competition hosted annually by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP). This is a team-based competition in which teams of three students compete against teams from other schools and colleges of pharmacy in a “quiz bowl” type format. Only one team per institution may enter the competition.

In order to determine which team will represent the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) College of Pharmacy during the national competition, ULM held its 2nd annual ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge Local Competition on April 22, 2013. Five teams participated in the local competition. The winning team consists of the following students: Steven Metz, Sara DeJong, and Chuong Nguyen. The overall highest individual score was obtained by Sara DeJong. Our 1st alternate is Caleb Stephenson; Michael Savoy and Kunal Patel tied for the position of 2nd alternate.

Preliminary rounds of the national competition will be conducted virtually in September. There are four online rounds, and the top eight teams will advance to the live quarterfinal competition at the 2013 ACCP Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, N.M. in October. We are proud of all of the students that participated in the local competition, and wish the best of luck to our winning team in the national competition!
ULM PHARMACY PROFESSORS WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD IN TEACHING INNOVATIONS

Zombies took over the College of Pharmacy, leading to a prestigious award for two of our professors. Dr. David Caldwell and Dr. Laurel Sampognaro won an Innovations in Teaching Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. It was presented at the AACP Annual Meeting in Kissimmee, Fla., which is the largest gathering of pharmacy administrators, faculty and staff in the nation.

Dr. Caldwell and Dr. Andrews presented a portfolio at the Innovations in Teaching Special Session as a creative way to enhance student engagement for an actual hands-on activity. They co-coordinate a pharmacy course, PHRD 5008 Self Care II, dealing with nonprescription medicine and basic physical assessment techniques.

“The ZAPA (Zombie Apocalypse Practical Activity) was created to serve as a review of most of the semester’s material,” Dr. Caldwell said.

The core innovation of the ZAPA was the use of a themed video setting up each clinical scenario with which the students were presented during the semester. The video flowed directly into the practical itself, adding a sense of realism to the activity.

Dr. Caldwell said that despite the fun zombie theme, students took the practical seriously and performed extremely well.

Over ten faculty members were involved (including Dean Blaylock) in approximately 11 hours of filming.

Dr. Sampognaro stated, “The students enjoyed and learned from the practical, and greatly appreciated the effort of the involved faculty.”

According to Dr. Caldwell, “It provided an opportunity to get out of the office and work as a team on a logistically complicated, but very rewarding project, and its success was due to the great help of many members of our department and community.”

(Portions of this story taken from an article by Laura J. Clark, Director of Media Relations for the University of Louisiana at Monroe.)

ZOMBIES TAKE OVER COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dr. Laurel Sampognaro

Dr. David Caldwell
The weekend of May 10 was a bittersweet one for the COP as we said farewell to the Class of 2013. It is exciting to see these students finally fulfill their dreams, but we are sad to see them go. Activities began Friday with a luncheon in their honor, including a music video produced by Dr. David Caldwell and performed by P3 students and COP faculty/staff members, and a slideshow highlighting their time with the College of Pharmacy. Everyone shared stories, laughter and tears. The Senior Recognition Program was held Friday evening in Fant-Ewing Coliseum where awards were given for outstanding achievements and candidates were presented with their long coats. The commencement ceremony was held Saturday morning and our Pharm.D. candidates received their degrees along with other ULM graduates.

The ULM Doctor of Pharmacy Degree recipients were:

Dina Hussein Abdelhalim
Jessica Ann Akbarian-Tefaghi
Anthony Joseph Alpha
Charlie Marie Arvel
Matthew Anthony Autin
Clint Jenkins Bell
Bryan Joseph Bordelon
Carly Kristin Bordelon
Matthew John Bordelon
Tara Lynn Bostick
Ryan Matthew Burke
Barbara Fay Caraway
Richard Ross Freeman
Monica Marie Hartman
Verlencia Danielle Jordan
Brittney Kay Joseph
Kacie Dore’ Keith
Josiah David Land
Sara Lee LeDoux
Michael James McCauley
Marisa Lauren McCoy

Tina (Yuan) Tian Melancon
Maxwell Alex Mullins
Nhi Thanh Nguyen
Nicholas Drew O’Connell
Brooke Renee Oglesby
Rebecca Jeanette Overmier
Scott Alan Overmier
Kenneth Michael Parker
Zeena Rajendra Patel
Lauren Alicia Ragan
Ashley Elizabeth Reynolds
Alison Leigh Seaman
Michelle Marie Soileau
Logan Scott Thibodeaux
Binh Huy Tran
Thao Thi Thu Tran
Brandt Gerard Webre
William Edward Whited
Samantha Tomette Womack
Hoang-Yen Ngoc Wong
James Yingbo Zhang
2013 Senior Recognition Awards:

Merk and Co. Awards for Excellence in the Basic Sciences: Monica Hartman, Kacie Keith, Tina Melancon

TEVA Pharmaceuticals USA Student Award: Bryan Bordelon

Albert P. Lauve Memorial Award: Tina Melancon

Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy Award: Logan Thibodeaux

American Pharmacists Assoc. Sr. Recognition Certificate: Josiah Land

Facts and Comparisons ® Award of Excellence in Clinical Communication: Tina Melancon

Natural Medicine Comprehensive Database Recognition Award: Anthony Alpha

Joseph Samuel Carso Student Award: Nick O’Connell

Lauren Savoy Olinde Award: Samantha Womack

APhA-ASP Leadership Training Series Recognition Certificate: Josiah Land

LSHP/SSHP Outgoing President Award: Monica Hartman

Phi Lambda Sigma “Chapter Member of the Year Award”: Ryan Burke

Lilly Achievement Award: Tina Melancon

NCPA Outstanding Student: Bryan Bordelon

Highest GPA: Tina Melancon

2013 Residencies:

BRYAN BORDELON
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency

RYAN BURKE
American Pharmacists Assoc. Foundation Executive Residency

MONICA HARTMAN
Our Lady of the Lake, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency

JOSIAH LAND
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency

TINA MELANCON
University of Kansas Hospital, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency

ALISON SEAMAN
West Virginia University Hospitals, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency

LOGAN THIBODEAUX
Shands Jacksonville Medical Center, PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency
Friday afternoon, April 19th the grounds behind the Bienville Building were filled with students, faculty and staff participating in this year’s Rx Rally.

Six teams, P1, P2, P3, P4, Graduate Students and Faculty, were formed to compete for the trophy and bragging rights. Competitions included volleyball, tug-of-war, egg race, sack race, water balloon toss and other traditional field day type games. It was hard to tell if the teams or the cheering squad, which included alumni from the Classes of 1982, ’83 and ’84, were having more fun.

Pharmacy Council organized this event last year as an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to experience fellowship and to work off some stress after a rigorous academic semester.

At the end of the day, scores were tallied and the P3’s, Class of 2014, was crowned the victor again this year. Following their victory, all students, faculty and staff were invited to join in a celebratory crawfish boil sponsored by CVS.
2013 COP REUNION BRINGS ALUMNI BACK HOME

It had been 30 years, and Simone Ginn couldn’t stand it any longer. She was ready for a class reunion, so she got on Facebook and generated interest from other classmates. On Saturday, April 20, Simone’s dream of a reunion became reality.

Approximately 40 classmates, former faculty, current Pharmacy faculty, staff, students, and administration, as well as ULM administration were on hand for a great time. Some came from as far away as Oregon, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Texas. Several classmates arrived a day early and attended the Rx Games on Friday afternoon, which is a fun competition among P1’s, P2’s, P3’s, graduate students, as well as faculty and staff.

The reunion began on Saturday morning at the Bienville Building (home of the College of Pharmacy) with coffee and Shipley’s Donuts. Dean Blaylock and Simone welcomed everyone, followed by a welcome and university update by ULM President Dr. Nick Bruno. Lisa Miller, Assistant VP for Enrollment, then gave an interesting and detailed PowerPoint presentation on the university academic improvements made over the last ten years. Special guests were recognized, including Dr. Harvey Rappaport, Dr. Mike Degennaro, Mr. Walter Pierron, and former dean William Bourn. Simone was recognized for her leadership in making the reunion possible.

Current outstanding pharmacy students then led all the classmates on a tour of the Bienville Building. Those students were Michael Savoy, Jenny Ballard, Emily Richard, and Michael Nguyen. Following the tour, Dean Blaylock gave an update on the College of Pharmacy. For lunch, everyone had, what else…Johnny’s Pizza!

After lunch, the classmates drove to the main campus and toured Sugar Hall. Many photos were taken in front of Sugar Hall! Once inside, the memories began coming back, and that culminated in Room 351. All the classmates found their seats, and began a fun 45 minutes of laughter and story-telling. Joe Andrepont made a poignant request that everyone pause and remember the classmates and faculty who are no longer with us.

It was a great day full of fun and memories. Sherry Poss said she “enjoyed the reunion very much. I know everyone who attended felt the same way.” Brian Wilson said that “it was great fun to come back and reminisce with fellow classmates. The new school is impressive, in fact I say state of the art.” Troy Neck said that the new location on Bienville “is truly amazing and I really enjoyed my day there…I hope to be back sooner than later.” Dean Blaylock expressed appreciation to all who came, and to the pharmacy faculty, staff and students, particularly Mary Caldwell, who helped make the day successful.
admission criteria in 1998. Throughout the years, the structure of this process has changed to better meet the needs of the college and profession. Currently, applicants participate in a forty-five minute interview with two faculty and one senior student. Interviewers are provided a script of questions directed to evaluate the applicant’s ability to communicate in ten different areas. Applicants receive a score from 1 to 10 in each of the ten areas. This year, 127 applicants participated in the interview process.

Each applicant receives an admission score calculated from Math/Science GPA, Pre-requisite GPA, PCAT composite score and interview scores. They are ranked in numerical order then selected for admission, placed on the admission wait list or their admission is denied. Mary Caldwell, Director of the Office of Student and Professional Affairs, reports this year’s admitted class of 106 has an average Math/Science GPA of 3.316, Pre-requisite GPA of 3.454 and PCAT composite score of 57.
Pharmacy student, Alaadin Al Ayoubi won second place at PharmForum for his presentation “Preparation and Characterization of Intravenous Stealth Tocotrienol Nanoemulsions.” The graduate student’s presentation focused on the use of Tocotrienol as a cancer treatment delivered through a nanotechnology formulation that allows it to stay in the body longer, making it more effective.

OTHER EXCITING COP STORIES:

- ULM’s El Sayed receives drug discovery innovation award from pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly: ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/feb13/elsayed.html
- ULM professor awarded over $420,000 to develop olive-based cancer inhibitor: ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/jan13/el-sayed.html
- ULM pharmacy professor invited to share his cancer research expertise: ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/jan13/shah.html
- ULM pharmacy professor awarded grant for disease research: ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/jan13/gissendanner.html
Support the ULM College of Pharmacy

The ULM College 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 College 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. Richard Hood, 1800 Bienville Dr., Monroe, LA 71201
  Online: 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 MAJOR GIFTS OR ESTATE PLANNING, CONTACT:
Dr. Richard Hood
318.342.1897 • hood@ulm.edu

ulm.edu/pharmacy

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Fall 2013 ULM Home Football Games

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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>ULM vs. Grambling</td>
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<td>ULM vs. Tulane</td>
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<td>Oct. 3 (Thu)</td>
<td>ULM vs. Western Kentucky</td>
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<td>ULM vs. Georgia State</td>
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NEWS & NOTES

Pete Aucoin has retired after 46 years in pharmacy. He is a former president of LPA and served on the State Board of Pharmacy for 13 years. Congratulations to Pete and Sandra!

Carl Aron, president of the State Board of Pharmacy, was the recipient of the 2013 Honorary President Award from NAPB at its annual meeting in St. Louis. Congratulations Carl!

ULM extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Stephen L. LaFrance. Steve died on June 5, 2013, in Pine Bluff, AR. A 1964 graduate of ULM, Steve started USA Drug from one store to over 140 stores, the largest privately-owned chain of drugstores in the United States.

To add your alumni news to our next newsletter, email information to Dr. Richard Hood at hood@ulm.edu