How do you make a pharmacy out of nine suitcases of drugs?

Practical Experience Programs

Pharmacy Students Go Global
As the Dean of one of North America’s largest and most respected faculties of pharmacy, it has been interesting to note how the pharmacy profession has changed and how our educational programs have improved in response to the growing needs of society over the past decade.

From our distinctive vantage point at the forefront of innovation in pharmacy education and research with roots tracing back 140 years, we play an important role in identifying trends, working with government and peer institutions, determining the direction that pharmacy is moving in, and responding to these developments through the education and instruction of the pharmacists of tomorrow. As a result, as the profession has changed, so have we.

Enrolment in our Bachelor of Sciences in Pharmacy program has increased in response to the demand for pharmacists. From a pool of up to 1,900 applicants, we now admit 240 students annually to this program. To keep current with novel practice and developments, we have enriched the curriculum, which now includes courses and classes devoted to self-directed online self-medication, current therapeutics and pharmacy practice innovations, and patient care for diverse populations, as well as advanced scientific courses that support the understanding of medication management. Similarly, we continue to enhance our practical experience programs to ensure that students graduate with considerable hands-on experience before formally embarking on their careers.

We have also increased the number of graduate students at the Faculty, tripling enrolment over the past ten years. This is a significant accomplishment, as graduate students drive their own research projects, attract funding, contribute to the research conducted in other laboratories at the Faculty, and will play a key role in the future as pharmaceutical researchers and instructors.

A number of new programs have also been developed. The Pharmaceutical Chemistry Specialist degree prepares students to work in the pharmaceutical industry by providing them with a broad education in the chemical properties important to drug therapy and an understanding of the pharmaceutical principles underlying it.

Our programs continue to become more flexible to suit the changing needs of our students. In 2004, we introduced a part-time option for our Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program that allows individuals wishing to pursue advanced clinical practice skills an opportunity to do so without having to discontinue their pharmacy practice. Likewise, our Ph.D. program now includes a flex-time option that affords individuals who are unable to undertake full-time studies due to professional obligations the opportunity to pursue this advanced degree.

In 2005, we introduced a Continuous Professional Development component to the Faculty, providing certificate programs, workshops, lectures, and customized training suites. This program has been particularly successful in helping pharmacy professionals acquire new skills and keep abreast of changing trends in the pharmacy/medication field.

Our International Pharmacy Graduate program is another example of the innovative programming now offered at the Faculty. This academically-based bridging program helps prepare internationally trained pharmacists to practice pharmacy in Canada. Over its short lifespan, this program has helped almost 700 graduates prepare for the demands of Canadian practice by arranging a curriculum that allows participants to apply their skills as pharmacists to uniquely Canadian situations.

To accommodate this growth in our academic programs, we have also increased the size of the faculty. In doing so, we have concentrated on attracting award-winning instructors and researchers from around the globe. We have also increased the number of cross-appointments with other faculties at the University of Toronto and the research hospitals in Toronto’s Health Sciences Discovery District. These appointments have led to greater access to leading researchers and instructors, increasing teamwork and research possibilities. The result of this development has been reflected in numerous research advances in cancer therapy, drug delivery, adverse drug reactions, pharmacoeconomics, global health issues, HIV research, physician/pharmacist education and teamwork, among many others.

No assessment would be complete without noting the incredible state-of-the-art facility that is our new home. With over 160,000 square feet of research space, ultra-modern classrooms and teaching laboratories, and all the amenities we could ask for, the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building is truly the ideal setting for our students, faculty and staff. The entire Faculty is now under one roof, and this has led to numerous improvements in the student experience.

As you read through this magazine, I think you will see the changing landscape of pharmacy well represented. Our profession and the role we play within the health care system are changing, as illustrated in the stories about our experiential programs, the participation of one of our instructors in a medical relief mission, and global health care opportunities for students. I am optimistic that this magazine will keep you well informed about everything going on at the Faculty, and help you plan reunions and exchange information. I encourage you to get in touch with the Advancement team with your stories and ideas to help make this magazine meaningful to you since it is ultimately all about you.

When I look back over the last ten years, I am so proud of the tremendous things we’ve been able to accomplish together. As an institution, we have continued our rich history of providing leading-edge pharmacy education and innovation in research, while responding to the increased need for pharmacists by doubling and tripling enrolment in the programs we offer. As alumni, you continue to advance the role of pharmacy in society, embracing new trends and providing increasingly more diverse and important patient care.

I am glad we have shared this experience together and am excited to see what our future holds.

[Signature]
Faculty Welcomes New Advancement and Alumni Affairs Team

The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy’s future depends on its ability to educate students who can stand with the world’s best and to foster research and innovation that is globally competitive. The Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs at the Faculty plays a critical role in meeting this challenge by establishing strong relationships with alumni, friends, industry and government.

The Faculty is delighted to welcome a new Advancement and Alumni Affairs team that will work in close collaboration with the Dean, the Advisory Committee and the academic leadership to communicate with and involve alumni in the life of the Faculty, increase private financial support, strengthen donor relations and ensure effective public relations.

David White is the Faculty’s new Assistant Dean of Advancement, having joined the Faculty in November of 2007. In this position, David is responsible for overseeing all fundraising activities, alumni affairs, marketing and communications. David joins the Faculty from the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation where he was the Senior Director, Campaign & Foundation Operations responsible for the Foundation’s major gift fundraising program, finance, human resources and Board relations and the implementation and execution of the Hospital’s multi-million dollar capital campaign. Prior to this, David was the Director of Research and Operations for the Royal Ontario Museum Foundation.

Jef Ekins is the Faculty’s new Marketing and Communications Officer. Jef joined the Faculty in January of 2008 and is responsible for managing and enhancing the Faculty’s image and visibility and communicating and developing relationships with key internal and external stakeholders. Jef has a strong background in the communications field and joins us from Thomson Carswell, where he held a number of research, editing, and communications positions over the past ten years.

Miriam Stephan is the Faculty’s new Alumni Affairs Officer. Miriam also joined the Faculty in January of 2008 and manages all matters pertaining to alumni including the planning and organizing of all alumni-related events, developing and implementing alumni programs, and preparing a variety of communications materials to enhance the Faculty’s relationship with its alumni. Prior to joining the Faculty, Miriam was a Development Associate at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Music. In this position, Miriam was responsible for planning, developing and implementing advancement and alumni activities at the Faculty.

The team has embarked on a number of new and exciting initiatives, many of which you will hear about more in the upcoming months. Please do not hesitate to contact them as they would appreciate any feedback you may have.

Did you know...
The windows that encase the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy building are so large that they could not be manufactured in Canada. They had to be specially ordered from Luxembourg. The dots (or “fritting”) that appear on many exterior windows help reduce the thermal load (i.e. the amount of heat) that enters the building.
The valuable education our students receive through classroom instruction and laboratory work is augmented by the various hands-on opportunities that today’s students have to put theory into practice. As a result, experiential learning has become an integral component in many of our academic programs.

As part of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program, students are required to complete several practical experience components. During first, second and fourth years, students have an opportunity to practice the skills and apply the knowledge they have acquired in an authentic practice setting.

In first year, students participate in community site visits at pharmacies in the Greater Toronto Area. In their second year of study, students continue their experiences through institutional site visits at hospitals throughout the GTA (and a few other cities). For both programs, students are required to complete structured objectives and activities under the supervision of a Pharmacist Mentor during their four three-hour visits.

The Structured Practical Experience Program (SPEP) occurs in the final year of study for undergraduate students. In this program, students complete sixteen weeks of rotations – eight weeks in both community and institutional practice sites – under the direction of Teaching Associates (preceptors). This program provides students with the opportunity to work with pharmacists who have made a commitment to practice pharmaceutical care.

Students participating in undergraduate experiential programs apply and enhance the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours acquired in previous course work. Moreover, they develop effective relationships with patients, health care practitioners and others. The twenty-four hours of onsite experience gained in first and second years provide students with an introduction to many of the issues and concerns that will arise in pharmacy practice. The sixteen weeks of practical experience gained through the fourth year SPEP program prepares students to become practitioners.

Pharmacist Mentors and Teaching Associates play an integral role in the experiential programs at the Faculty. Teaching Associates for SPEP rotations participate in the Faculty’s Teaching Associate Educational Program (TAEP), which enables them to build on existing knowledge of pharmaceutical care and enhance or acquire teaching and assessment skills. This two-day course helps Teaching Associates learn how the philosophy of pharmaceutical care will...
be applied by students during the rotations, and develop coaching, assessment and evaluation skills.

To become involved in the experiential component of the undergraduate program for years 1, 2 or 4, you must be a licensed pharmacist involved in a patient-focused practice with good interprofessional relationships, and have a keen interest in teaching and learning.

Pharmacist Mentors and Teaching Associates and their sites are recognized by the Faculty and the University of Toronto in a variety of ways. As well, an awards program sponsored by Wyeth Consumer Healthcare allows students to recognize the outstanding contributions of their Teaching Associates in the SPEP program.

Practical experience is also an integral component of the Doctor of Pharmacy program. The mandate of this program is to outfit participants with the skills and knowledge to become advanced practitioners. To that end, the full-time program is divided between twelve months of academic study and eleven months of rotations (or two years of academic study and 23 months for rotations for the part-time program).

As part of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, students are required to complete eleven four-week experiential rotations. The rotations cover a wide range of topics, including: seven rotations in direct patient care (i.e. general and specialty medicine in ambulatory and in-patient settings); one rotation in drug information in hospital and industry; one rotation in a broad variety of research projects in evaluation of medicines, pharmacoconomics and pharmacoepidemiology and others; and two elective rotations in academic detailing, management, education and government.

Preceptors for the Doctor of Pharmacy program are carefully selected based on their level of expertise and willingness to act as mentors for students. Rotation sites are selected based on the ability of the site to provide opportunities for students to enhance their learning in a supportive environment.

With increased numbers of students in all of our programs, we're always on the lookout for Pharmacy Mentors, Teaching Associates and Preceptors. If you are interested in learning more about or becoming involved in the experiential programs offered by the Faculty, please contact Doris Kalamut for 1st and 2nd year programs at 416-978-0187 or doris.kalamut@utoronto.ca, the SPEP office for 4th year experiential at 416-978-0280 or spep.phm@utoronto.ca, and Lindsay Reeves for Doctor of Pharmacy opportunities at 416-978-0603 or lindsay.reeves@utoronto.ca.
A $100,000 gift from pharmaceutical company Pfizer Canada will allow the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto to establish a new graduate student award designed to produce Canada’s next leaders in pharmacy research and innovation.

The donation will fund the Pfizer Canada Graduate Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Science, which will be awarded annually to one or more outstanding graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Science. “This generous gift from Pfizer will play a critical role in allowing graduate students to pursue their studies. Graduate students play an important role in pharmaceutical research,” noted Professor Wayne Hindmarsh, Dean of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, “and this donation will ensure that this important work continues.” Pfizer Canada’s donation will be matched through a remarkable leveraging opportunity that effectively triples the impact of donations made in support of graduate student awards. The $100,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by the University through a special Graduate Student Endowment Fund (GSEF) resulting in an endowment of $200,000. The endowment will yield an annual payment of $8,000 (at 4% interest) and the Faculty will then match half of the annual payment resulting in a fellowship that will provide approximately $12,000 per annum in perpetuity for the benefit of our graduate students.

Over the past ten years, enrolment in the graduate program at the Faculty has tripled. Financial support from industry partners like Pfizer Canada has facilitated this growth, and helped transform the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy into one of the leading centres of pharmacy education and innovation in the world. “Student awards like the Pfizer Canada Graduate Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Science helps us attract top graduate students from around the world, which in turn allows us continue the strong traditions of education and research at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy,” said Professor Hindmarsh. “Pfizer Canada has been an important partner for the Faculty, and this gift represents another phase in that long relationship.”

“The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto has always been a leader in Canadian pharmacy education and research, and the recent growth of the graduate program confirms this status. We are proud to partner with the Faculty in supporting graduate education and research,” said John Helou, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, Pfizer Canada. “Pfizer Canada has a long history of community and academic involvement, and this gift demonstrates our commitment to continuing that support in the future. We share the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy’s goal of producing skilled graduate students and researchers to improve the health of Canadians through research and practice in the pharmacy field.” Pfizer Canada has a lengthy history of generosity towards the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. Pfizer was a founding program sponsor for the Faculty’s innovative Doctor of Pharmacy program, and has been a supporter of student awards including the Pfizer Canada Bursary and the Pfizer Fellowship in Pharmacy since 1982.
Recent Events @ the Faculty

- In December and in April, the Division of Pharmacy Practice invited Dr. Linda Strand, Professor, University of Minnesota, to engage in discussions related to curricular development in pharmacy practice.
- In January, the Faculty hosted Conquering Pain: The Hidden Cost of Immunization, a one-day workshop organized by Associate Professor Anna Taddio. Sponsored by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the SickKids Foundation and the Faculty, the event brought together researchers, vaccine experts, healthcare workers, educators, government officials, pharmaceutical company representatives, parents and media representatives to examine the evidence for pain reduction strategies during routine immunization and make recommendations for knowledge translation strategies to improve current practices. This meeting included expert overviews of the current guidelines for childhood immunization in Canada, sequelae of untreated procedural pain in childhood, current analgesic practices during childhood immunization, barriers to pain management in children, and the clinical efficacy for various pharmacological, psychological and vaccine-administration techniques. As well, gaps in knowledge and barriers to optimal pain management were identified and discussed. Speakers and participants worked together to identify areas where there was sufficient evidence to recommend changes in practice, and the group prioritized next steps and developed an action plan for future work.
- In March, COLD-fX® co-inventor Dr. Jacqueline Shan visited the Faculty to deliver a presentation on the history of herbal remedies and the challenges inherent in the development of modern natural health products. Using COLD-fX® as an example, Dr. Shan illustrated how a well-standardized natural health product can be examined in both laboratory and clinical studies using ChemBioPrint®, applying the same rigor as that used to study pharmaceutical agents. A lively discussion followed.
- Also in March, Jean-Michel Lavoie, former President of Pharmacists Without Borders/Pharmaciens Sans Frontières, visited the Faculty to discuss his experiences in PSF-Canada humanitarian missions and the opportunities available with PSF.
- In April, Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, President of the University Allied for Essential Medicines and former Director of Médecins sans Frontières Access to Medicines Campaign Canada came to the Faculty to discuss humanitarian policy, medicine innovation, and current solutions to the global access to medicines gap. In this lecture, she spoke about the role and responsibilities of universities in medicine access, and what university students and faculty can do to become involved.

Student Awards Night

On April 7th, the Undergraduate Pharmacy Society held its annual Awards Night. During the event, a record number of awards were distributed to students for athletic, extracurricular, volunteer and pharmacy-related activities. Various industry representatives and award-sponsors were in attendance to present awards, and students, faculty and staff were on hand to show their support to the deserving recipients.

*Photos by Shaun Lee.*
In March, Pharm.D. Assistant Professor Linda Dresser (B.Sc.Phm. 87) packed her bags full of medicine and flew to Guyana. As part of a medical aid team organized by Ve’ahavta, a Toronto–based organization that promotes humanitarian aid and relief, Linda put her skills as a Pharmacy Practitioner – Infectious Diseases at North York General Hospital in Toronto to work.

Linda became involved in this program rather serendipitously several years ago, learning about it through colleagues seeking assistance with drug procurement for previous trips. Through this activity, she thought about volunteering on similar medical missions, but never actively pursued it until she heard that Ve’ahavta required a pharmacist for their next trip as the pharmacist on previous trips would not be returning. Without much hesitation, Linda decided to apply and was accepted to the team.

Reaching the Guyanese interior from Canada isn’t easy. It requires three flights to get there, and, once they’ve arrived, the team must travel by boat to move through the interior from community to community. Joined by Lion’s Club members and sometimes local health workers who also act as translators, the team of Ve’ahavta volunteers, as well as all of their luggage and supplies, travel down the Upper Mazaruni in a hollowed out canoe called the River Princess that is powered by a 48 horsepower engine.

Now a veteran of three trips to the interior from community to community, Linda remembers her first visit vividly. “The first time I went, I had no idea what to expect. I had packed the medicines that I thought would be useful, but wasn’t aware how difficult or challenging it would be. I ended up borrowing a spoon and a bowl, from the cook every day to make suspensions.”

Likewise, the trip was physically demanding. Sleeping in tents, travelling by boat, and carrying 6,000 lbs of supplies to and from the boat every day, often up and down steep riverbanks and through dense rainforest to nearby villages, took its toll. On top of that, “once you’ve set up clinic, you have to switch gears and start treating patients. Often there isn’t a lot of breathing room, as soon as the clinic is more or less ready we are open for business and you hope someone else will have time to set up the tents and pump some water as we will generally be busy until well after it gets dark.”

Feeling that she got more out of the experience than she contributed during her first visit, Linda wanted to go back for a second year. She knew she had more to offer, and was confident she could streamline processes and enhance the experience for patients. Between the first and second trips, she found ways to improve the way medicines were collected, inventoried, and distributed, and strove to improve communication and patient education efforts. This year, Linda went back for a third time, and plans to return again next year.

During the most recent visit, the Ve’ahavta team included seven physicians, three nurses, an ultrasonographer, two lab technicians, two family planning counsellors, a teen peer educator, a pharmacist and logistics support personnel. In addition, the team was joined by a Guyanese dental technician, a rehabilitation technician and a laboratory assistant from the Bartica Hospital, as well as three members from the Lion’s Club of Bartica. On average, the team saw between 150 - 200 patients a day, treating a total of just under 1000 patients. Additionally, 70 children had echocardiography screening for rheumatic heart disease, more than 300 children under the age of 5 received deworming with pyrantel pamoate and multivitamin supplements (which include Vitamin A), and hundreds of men, women and teens were offered individual or group safe sex counselling and free condoms. Women also received birth control tablets, Depo Provera and, for the first time this year, some had IUDs inserted by the team. A couple of hundred prescriptions a day may not seem that busy to many pharmacists but this is a completely manual system – no computer and printer to generate labels. To facilitate work flow, Linda prepared packages at the start of the day for each of the physicians that included multivitamins, Advil, Tylenol, and perhaps some topicals. This way, the physicians were able to do some dispensing themselves, and didn’t have to send every patient to the lone pharmacist allowing Linda to have more time for patient counselling in more complex cases.

Although English is the official language of Guyana, many individuals in the Guyanese interior only know Akawaio and other indigenous spoken languages. As a result, the support that the team gets from the Lion’s Club members from Bartica and the local health care workers is crucial to help communicate with the people being treated so that they understand how and when to take their medications. Effective communication is a challenge for the team, and continues to be an increasing focus for improvement in future trips.

Each year, Linda notices a change. During her first excursion, the team would see up to 30 cases of malaria daily. Thanks to the past efforts of the team and
the Guyanese government to provide mosquito nets and educate people about disease prevention, the team only treated one case of malaria on the most recent trip. Likewise, simple things like providing multi-vitamins and administering de-
worming medications to children have reduced the cases of blindness caused by Vitamin A deficiency in the populations the team is serving.

During these trips, Linda has encountered many different medical conditions. Often patients are treated for common ailments such as hypertension or diabetes. Others are less so. Once, a young girl was brought to their camp at night after falling in a pot of boiling water over an open cooking fire. She had second degree burns all over her torso, legs, and one arm. The team debrided and dressed the wounds with only headlamps to provide light. Linda mixed the intravenous antibiotics, and split morphine tablets, mixing them with guava jelly as they didn’t have any injectable narcotics with them. All this went on while someone was on the satellite phone with Sick Kids to confirm they were doing the right things.

“These trips test all your skills as a Pharmacist. From planning and packing the right medications, to proper diagnosis and dispensing, to on-the-spot problem solving, medical relief missions allow you to put all of your training as a Pharmacist into practice.”

As physically and mentally demanding as these trips are, the hard work begins long before the plane touches down in Guyana or the boat takes them to their first stop. Before departing, Linda works with the international director from Ve’ahavta to procure the medications and organize the suitcases with all of the medications they will need for the trip: oral antibiotics, topicals, inhalers, etc. In anticipation of the needs of the patients she’ll see, Linda will also supervise the repackaging and labelling small bags of vitamins, Tylenol, etc. She’ll also pre-package common topicals like hydrocortisone and clotrimazole, and create label templates that can be filled in when the medications are dispensed. But it’s not easy pulling everything together, as Linda notes when she asks “How do you make a pharmacy out of nine suitcases of drugs?”

Most of the medications required for the medical mission are donated. Apotex and Novopharm (through CANMAP), are major contributors to these efforts. Health Partners International of Canada helps acquire drugs from innovative drug companies and are another key donator. This year the team also secured a significant donation through Global Medic. The entire pharmacy budget for the two-week medical mission is between $4,000 - $5,000. As a result, the team physicians and their colleagues are a big help by donating samples provided through drug representatives to their offices. Linda also orders some items through her hospital department, which is then reimbursed by Ve’ahavta.

Volunteers aren’t paid for these trips. Each volunteer is responsible for either fundraising to cover their trip or to pay their own way and, as it is considered a charitable donation, tax receipts are issued. Most of the volunteers like Linda use vacation time to make the trip, or, for some of the physicians, volunteering means closing their office or finding locums. Whatever you have to do to get there, Linda observes that “It’s a fascinating and rewarding thing to do. You gain experiences, forge friendships and grow personally and professionally. Even if you are so overwhelmed by the experience while you are travelling, once you get home and are able to reflect, you will realize that you have been part of something that is helping to repair the world, if only in a very small way, and that is a pretty good feeling.”

As an Infectious Diseases specialist at North York General Hospital, Linda doesn’t dispense medications. However, when she travels with Ve’ahavta, she goes back to her roots and functions in all the rolls of a pharmacist: inventory control, dispensing, physician consulting and patient counselling. It is an opportunity to deal with disease states she doesn’t in her day-to-day practice – hypertension, diabetes, chronic pain, etc. “This experience always makes me appreciate how much I don’t know again,” jokes Linda.

It also provides an opportunity for physicians to work closely with a pharmacist, who might never have had that experience in their everyday lives. These medical missions are very much a collaborative process. Frequently, and especially as the trip progresses, instead of prescribing a specific medication, the physicians will simply write down a class of drugs for Linda to deliver (a “dispenser’s choice,” according to Linda). In these mobile clinics, the physicians place their trust in Linda, who knows what medications they have and can determine the appropriate regimen.

There are all kinds of opportunities for pharmacists to contribute to teams on medical missions around the world. If Linda has any advice for pharmacists thinking of volunteering their time and expertise, it’s “do it.”

So, what did you do for your Spring break?
On April 3rd, students from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy put on a spectacular show at the Hart House Music Room. This event featured musical creations from students in the Faculty, including a selection of choral pieces from the Pharmacy Choir, and a number of other performances by talented musicians. Selected works performed included: Banquet Fugue, Tell Him, Concerto in D Minor for 2 Violins, Fairytale, You Can’t Stop the Beat, Fantasie Impromptu, Come What May, Arabesque, the Lion Sleeps Tonight, Ave Verum, Blue Tango, and Apologize.

The night also featured artwork in different media, including watercolour, pencil, charcoal, and acrylic works. Poetry and creative writing pieces were also on display.

Congratulations to all who participated in and organized the event – your hard work and dedication paid off with a tremendous evening.

The works and performances of the many of the talented students who participated in this event were photographed by Shaun Lee.
On May 6th, GlaxoSmithKline hosted the Faculty's 19th annual Graduate Research in Progress (GRIP) symposium. During this day long event, graduate students delivered oral and poster presentations on their current research to an audience of 165 fellow students, faculty, staff and industry representatives. The presenters covered a wide range of topics in the research areas of the pharmaceutical sciences.

A keynote address was delivered by Dr. John E. Dick, Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Biology, Senior Scientist, University Health Network; Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto; and Director, Program in Cancer Stem Cells, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, which captured the attention of everyone in the packed auditorium.

The student presentations were the highlight of the day, with a broad range of topics covered by knowledgeable and enthusiastic presenters. Congratulations to the students who received the following awards:

Oral Presentations
- Helen Lee  1st Prize
  Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics
- Patricia Nguyen  2nd Prize
  Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics
- Kinsley Wilson  1st Prize
  Social & Administrative Pharmacy

Poster Presentations
- Nan Ma  1st Prize
  Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics
- Zhichao Fang  2nd Prize
  Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics
- Ivana Todorovic  1st Prize
  Social & Administrative Pharmacy

This year's event was “a tremendous success and provided an excellent opportunity for the students to showcase their science and interact with each other,” noted GRIP Chair Dr. Christine Allen. “Opportunities of this kind encourage collaboration amongst laboratories within the Faculty and generate new research ideas. We are very grateful to GlaxoSmithKline for having hosted and sponsored the event, and Pfizer who provided sponsorship as well.”

In her opening remarks, Dr. Reina Bendayan, Associate Dean of Graduate Education, noted that “the Faculty is proud of the hard work accomplished by our graduate students. We know that all of you work extremely hard and constitute the driving force of laboratories and the future of the research in Pharmaceutical Sciences.” It was clear from the innovative and engaging research showcased by students that the future of pharmaceutical science research is in good hands with this talented group of graduate student researchers.

This year’s GRIP was a great success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the GRIP Committee, the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Association, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, and the presenters.

Did you know...

Graduate student enrolment is at an all-time high. There are 148 students currently pursuing M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees at the Faculty. This represents triple the number of graduate students enrolled in these programs ten years ago.
Likewise, I developed a greater understanding of how medicines that are intended to benefit our health can do quite the opposite through this experience,” says Stacy. “I’m really grateful for the opportunity to intern at the WHO, and really see the work that is done there and how such an organization works.”

Stacy is optimistic about the results of this project, noting that “I hope that in some very small way, this work will indirectly benefit people who are unfairly denied access to life-saving medicines because of corrupt behaviour.”

This is not the first time that Stacy has gone overseas in an international health capacity. In 2004, as a second year student in Human Biology and Zoology, Stacy became involved in the University of Toronto’s International Health Program (UTIHP), which was offering a scholarship opportunity for students to develop and conduct research projects on international health issues. UTIHP is a student-run non-profit organization that provides an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of international health issues, develops resources for international health outreach, and offers students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and become further involved in international health.

Stacy was working at Mount Sinai Hospital in a prenatal clinic when she came across an article about obstetric fistulas that referenced the prevalence of this condition in Ethiopia. Interested in this issue, Stacy prepared an application for the UTIHP scholarship based on going to Ethiopia to study this condition. Her application was accepted and Stacy travelled to Ethiopia for two months that summer.

Stacy notes that “going to Ethiopia and seeing first hand how improved health care programs would dramatically help a population solidified my desire to become more involved in global health.”

When Stacy joined the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy a few years later, she applied to work for Dr. Cohen-Köhler as a student Research Assistant. Knowing of Dr. Cohen-Köhler’s interest and background in global health care and access to medication, Stacy was eager to become more involved in these areas.

Part of the goal of Dr. Cohen-Köhler’s IDEA collective is to provide students with increased exposure to global pharmacy policy. Dr. Cohen-Köhler’s disciplinary background is in political science, with an emphasis on the politics of intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical sector. Through policy work advising governments on pharmaceutical public policy, Dr. Cohen-Köhler became acutely aware of the gap between pharmaceutical policy and its practice and the inequitable access of pharmaceutical supplies globally.

Dr. Cohen-Köhler notes, “The amount of students in Pharmacy who are interested in doing global health work is impressive. It is really heartening to see the enthusiasm students have for this area and their desire to contribute to the world at large.”

As a result, IDEA was formed based on a desire to improve access to medications for the global poor. To that end, Dr. Cohen-Köhler has been utilizing her affiliations with global health organizations to create opportunities for Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy students to get experience working with international organizations that focus on global health care. Recognizing the important role to be played by pharmacists in advancing global health,
Dr. Cohen-Köhler has passionately campaigned to create opportunities for students to become intimately involved in international health organizations.

To this end, Dr. Cohen-Köhler has worked to make the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy an officially recognized Scientific and Strategic Partner of the WHO in the area of pharmaceutical governance. She is also a member of the WHO’s Global Advisory Group on Good Governance for Medicines. The project Stacy worked on during her internship supported this group, and strengthened the relationship between the Faculty and the WHO.

As a pharmacy student, the experience interning at the WHO was invaluable to Stacy. In addition to acquiring a greater understanding of pharmacy and health care in a global context, she was able to develop a strong network of international friends who share global health as an interest. These former WHO interns keep in touch through Facebook, and hope to hold a reunion at some point.

Her experience at the WHO exposed Stacy to opportunities in international health for pharmacists, and broadened her perspective about what a pharmacist can be. Since returning from her internship, Stacy has become a strong proponent of the WHO internship and other summer programs for students operated out of IDEA that provide students with an opportunity to explore the role of pharmacists in international health.

“We should not confine ourselves to working only within the walls of a hospital, a community pharmacy, or the industry but instead, we can each define how we would like our pharmacy degrees to work for us and our individual talents and strengths.”

Stacy is tremendously appreciative of the unique opportunity she had, and is quick to thank Dr. Cohen-Köhler and Dr. Guitelle Baghdadi-Sabeti at the WHO for providing her with the chance to expand her horizons and “showing me what great things pharmacists can do in the realm of international health.”
Class of 8T8 – 20 Year Reunion

The Class of 8T8 20 year reunion was held April 19-20, 2008 at Queen’s Landing Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake. An impressive turnout of 41 classmates travelled from distances as far as Thunder Bay and Los Angeles to celebrate with an afternoon wine country tour and an evening dinner at the Inn. A welcome address was provided by Donnie Edwards and a breakfast lecture was given by Zubin Austin, both 8T8 grads. Thanks to all who attended and made the event such a great success. And thanks to this year’s organizing team of Deanna Yee-Chu, Linda Snyder, Heather Poland and Jane Bamford. See you in Toronto in 2013!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2008 Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy Golf Classic will be held on Wednesday, August 20th.

All funds raised through this tournament will go towards the creation of the K. Wayne Hindmarsh Award of Excellence. This award will be conferred upon students who show outstanding achievement in the areas Dean Hindmarsh has excelled in – leadership, academics and the advancement of the pharmacy profession.

If you are interested in participating in the golf tournament, please contact Miriam Stephan at 416-946-3985 or miriam.stephan@utoronto.ca.
**Continuous Professional Development**

Registration is currently underway for an OSCE-ology workshop hosted by the Office of Continuous Professional Development. Running from June 11-13, 2008, this workshop provides a primer on performance-based teaching, learning and assessment in pharmacy. Performance-based teaching, learning and assessment have been used in Canadian pharmacy education for over a decade. OSCEs have been used as part of the national licensing examination in pharmacy for over five years, and have been used in continuing competency assessment in various parts of Canada since the 1980s. As a result, Canadian pharmacy schools have developed unique expertise in the design, development and implementation of performance-based teaching and testing techniques. In this workshop, participants will gain the knowledge and skills to position themselves at the leading edge of proven practices in pharmacy education, and learn how to apply these principles to their own curriculum.

For more information, please visit http://cpd.phm.utoronto.ca.

**New Visual Identity for the Faculty**

As part of the University’s decision to promote a single, unified brand, the University of Toronto and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy have new visual identities. As shown below, our new logo features the University of Toronto crest, along with the name of the University and the Faculty. Going forward, you can expect to see this new visual identity on all correspondence from the Faculty.

---

**Name Your Magazine**

As a result of the transformation of the Faculty over the past ten years, we thought it might be a good idea to change the name of the Alumni magazine to something that better reflects the Faculty and the students, professors, researchers and alumni associated with it. Since this is your magazine, we wanted to get your thoughts.

In thinking about possible names, we came up with a few options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescriptions</th>
<th>Apothecary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmanotes</td>
<td>Scripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indispensable</td>
<td>Capsule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podnotes</td>
<td>Dispensings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please let us know if you like any of the options listed above, or if you have any other suggestions. We’re really interested to hear what you think. Please contact Miriam Stephan at 416-946-3985 or miriam.stephan@utoronto.ca to share your thoughts. Thank you.

---

**COMING SOON!**

**Online Community for Alumni and Friends**

In 2008, the University of Toronto will launch a new online community for all your social and professional networking needs. Once it is up and running, you will be able to:

- create a profile page
- find classmates
- register for upcoming events
- share photos
- share class notes
- post your CV
- blog
- network for other alumni
- search for jobs

Stay in the loop. Visit the U of T alumni website at http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/address.asp and update your profile so that we have your email address and can contact you when the new community is ready.

**Get into it**

In an effort to make this magazine more about you, we’d like to begin including alumni updates. If you’ve been in the media recently, have had a piece of research published, or have delivered a speech or presentation, let us know. Likewise, if you have any personal news that you think your fellow alums would be interested in, send us an update. We’re anxious to know what you’re up to, and think your friends and peers will be as well.

---

**Did you know...**

The Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building was designed to maximize natural light. As a result, a void runs from the top of the building to the basement levels, ensuring that light reaches all floors within the facility.