ELEVATING LEADERS

Alumni lend a helping hand to develop student leadership.

PASSION

ADVOCACY

KNOWLEDGE

INSPIRATION

LEADERSHIP

COLLABORATION
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

It is hard to believe that I have been serving as interim dean of our college for six months! We are, though, already at the beginning of the spring semester and I continue to be in awe of the amazing work being done by our students, faculty and staff members.

While fulfilling our mission to prepare the next generation of innovative and collaborative pharmacists and health scientists, our faculty members are hard at work pioneering clinical, entrepreneurial and research endeavors that are certain to improve health outcomes for all residents of South Carolina and beyond.

Michael Shabtayan, Scott Sutton and Michael Wyatt received a $2.1 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop and apply an integrative artificial intelligence-based approach to analyze biomedical datasets and electronic health records related to HIV and drugs of abuse interactions. This grant represents a first-time collaboration between the college’s Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences and Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences departments.

Ozgur Sahin was selected as a 2021 Cancer Research Grant recipient on behalf of the Mary Kay Ash Foundation. This award will support his breast cancer research over the next two years.

In August, we welcomed 109 new Pharm.D. students with an average GPA of 3.65. Ethnic minorities make up 36.7 percent of this class, a significant increase over recent years. The class of 2023 boasted a 70 percent residency match rate, compared with a national rate of 65 percent, as well as a 93 percent four-year on-time graduation rate. Third-year students Jordan Jones and Emily Brackett took first place in the state-level American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Clinical Skills Challenge, representing South Carolina at the Midyear conference. I am so grateful for the chance to get to know and work with such excellent student pharmacists each day.

I am even more excited for what is to come. The Diagnostic Genomics Lab, established to provide COVID-19 saliva testing for the university, offers immense potential for our students and researchers. From conducting genomic sequencing to cancer testing, such as liquid biopsy, the future is bright for this initiative, and we are moving toward a model that will place the lab in a position to become self-sustaining.

It has been some time since we have come together as a college family, and I am looking forward to the day when we will again enjoy in-person fellowship with our alumni, donors and supporters. It is, indeed, an exciting time to be a Gamecock pharmacist!

Forever to Thee,

Julie M. Sease
Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy

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Let’s take a moment to step back in time. The department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences (formerly Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences) decreased by seven faculty members, totaling nearly 50 percent, between 2006 and 2009. There were a multitude of reasons, including the retirements of long-term stalwarts Walter Sowell, Joe Kosh and Joe Roberts. Over the next decade, under the leadership of Kim Creek, faculty numbers strengthened, and research funding grew substantially. During this time, I witnessed and contributed to the growth, but more importantly, I learned a great deal from Kim. After serving as interim chair during the depths of the pandemic, I am excited about accepting the role as chair for a five-year term. I felt compelled to serve as interim chair because the department is filled with hard-working colleagues who are a joy to work with. This past year proved how exceptional the department is with its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences faculty members stepped up in the very earliest days of the pandemic to apply their knowledge in the aid of our community, not just for the university but for the local community, including hospitals. It is hard to overstate the accomplishment of establishing the Diagnostic Genomics Lab in our college, and there are too many people to thank in this space. The Diagnostic Genomics Lab has the capacity to test more than 2,000 saliva samples per day for the novel coronavirus and has tested more than 150,000 samples in its one year of existence. And this occurred on top of many other exciting accomplishments, including multiple R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health and other competitive grants. I am especially excited about the recent five-year NIH R01 award totaling $2.1 million as a result of a first-ever collaboration between DDBS and the Clinical Pharmacy Outcomes Sciences department. This is an exciting time for our College of Pharmacy with the accomplishments in research, teaching and service that DDBS is achieving, and I cannot wait to share more about these developments in future correspondence.

FORGING AHEAD
BY MICHAEL WYATT, Ph.D.

The College of Pharmacy has continued its efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our campus and in our communities across the state. Carolyn Banister’s team in the Diagnostic Genomics Lab has worked around the clock, processing as many as 2,000 saliva samples in a day for students, faculty and staff members and university employees’ family members.

“We are also conducting sequencing of the entire viral genome to determine if any variants might appear that haven’t yet been described,” Banister says. The College of Pharmacy went further, providing testing for other institutes of higher learning and for organizations across the state including the South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina Philharmonic.

Banister is especially grateful for the ongoing support that students provide to the initiative.

“Students have been supporting the collection sites and working in the lab to help process samples,” Banister says. “Some College of Pharmacy students have been with us from the first day. It is good to have the consistency, and they realize they are contributing to an important public health service.”

Banister says the lab will provide tremendous value for students and researchers within the college long after the pandemic ends.

“The opportunity to work in a lab such as this opens their eyes to new career opportunities,” she says. Students and researchers will benefit from having this lab available for future learning opportunities. Researchers may even use the lab for advanced testing abilities for cancer, such as liquid biopsy, a cutting-edge test that can find new cancer growth containing as few as one million cells.

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Social Media in Pharmacy

It is an undeniable fact that social media has infiltrated nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Whether it is Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn — and even our website — most of us log in to social media for personal or professional use.

In the world of pharmacy, social media has transcended the traditional boundaries of drug dispensing and patient care. It has become a touchpoint for their health information and networking among colleagues, patients, and the public.

Equipment in Columbia, South Carolina, Health-System Pharmacists have developed guidelines on best practices in using social media. In the world of pharmacy, social media has become a useful promotional tool in retail and business as well as academic and clinical settings. Professional organizations such as the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists have developed guidelines on best practices in using social media.

For community pharmacies, social media has become a touchpoint for their patients and customers, informing them of important events such as vaccination clinics, patient and customer education seminars and sale specials, and helping customers learn more about the pharmacy and infectious diseases.

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“For pharmacy professionals, social media is a great source of content,” says Jarrod Tippins, ’19, opened THE Pharmacy in Florence, South Carolina, in 2016, has used social media to promote his pharmacy primarily through Facebook and Instagram. 

“We use Facebook and Instagram — and with one click, I can post to all our platforms — Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn — and even our website,” Jarrod Tippins, ’09, opened THE Pharmacy in Florence, South Carolina, in 2016, has used social media to promote his pharmacy primarily through Facebook and Instagram. We used targeted advertising and saw an immediate impact, starting from day one, filling around 53 prescriptions a day to several hundred daily,” he says. “I’ve tried all methods and I feel I get more bang for my advertising dollar by boosting posts through social media advertising.”

“Clinical pharmacists are finding social media to be helpful in sharing information and networking among colleagues, patients and the public.”

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GAMECOCK PHARMACIST

Andy McColl pursued a pharmacy degree in McColl, South Carolina. And yes, he is distance-related to the town’s founder and namesake.

“You and I sat next to each other in Dr. Bean’s class” Diane McColl says. “I think he wanted to be friends so he could borrow my student I.D. to take Columbia College classes.”

Andy McColl pursued a pharmacy degree after working in his hometown drugstore. Andy completed his law degree in 1981, then began searching for an opportunity to hire his friend. So Andy continued working as a pharmacist until April 1982, when he was sent to Quantico, Virginia, for 15 weeks of training. Then, when Diane was expecting their first child during her second year of law school, life threw them another curve — Andy was transferred to Houston, Texas.

The FBI had a permanent hiring freeze, so Andy continued working as a pharmacist until April 1982, when he was sent to Quantico, Virginia, for 15 weeks of training. Then, when Diane was expecting their first child during her second year of law school, life threw them another curve — Andy was transferred to Houston, Texas.

“With Andy’s transfer to the nation’s capital, she was approached by law firms intrigued by her background in pharmacy, encouraging her to consider food and drug law. She eventually joined the firm of Hyman, Phelps & McNamara, PC, the nation’s largest boutique food and drug law firm, becoming the firm’s ninth director and its first female director.

She was a member of the U.S. Pharmacopeia Food Ingredients Expert Committee and served as president of the Council of the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology. Among other distinguished professional memberships, Both Diane and Andy credit their backgrounds in pharmacy for their success in their careers.

“I never could have become the type of food and drug lawyer that I am without my pharmacy education and experience,” Diane says. “Our pharmacy degrees have been integral to everything we have done,” Andy says. “I had a unique niche in the work that I did. I helped bring a different perspective to the cases I worked.”

“I’ve learned that you have to keep your mind open in other pathways where you can use your pharmacy degree as a jumping point. You never know where your opportunities will come from.”

Diane and Andy McColl met as students in biochemistry class at UofSC College of Pharmacy.

Andy graduated with his Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in August 1976, and they were married in September. The newlyweds moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they worked in retail pharmacies. At the time, Andy thought about opening his own pharmacy.

“I always had an interest in law, and it was just something I wanted to do,” he says. Andy completed his law degree in 1981, then began searching for an opportunity to put both degrees to use. He applied to join the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“The FBI was able to combine their law enforcement efforts with drug enforcement and that was a no-brainer for me,” he says.

In the meantime, he encouraged Diane to seek a law degree as well, as she had become discouraged in the retail setting.

“They really was no opportunity to advance unless you became a supervisor over several stores,” she says. “That means you are on the road, and I didn’t want to do that.”

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Fortunately, Diane was able to complete her final year of law school in Houston, meeting all the requirements for the South Carolina School of Law, graduating in 1984.

That same year, the McColls relocated to Washington, D.C. Andy spent the next 21 years working on drug enforcement and public corruption cases, including the Strategic Information and Operations Command Center at FBI headquarters.

Andy was involved in several high-profile cases during his career, including the investigation into the drug-related death of former University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias and the corruption investigation of Michael Deaver, former White House deputy chief of staff who was accused of conflict-of-interest violations.

After graduation, Diane focused on public product liability defense work. With Andy’s transfer to the nation’s capital, she was approached by law firms intrigued by her background in pharmacy, encouraging her to consider food and drug law. She eventually joined the firm of Hyman, Phelps & McNamara, PC, the nation’s largest boutique food and drug law firm, becoming the firm’s ninth director and its first female director.

In the field office in Houston, Andy became one of the first members of the Gulf Coast Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, where he investigated a variety of cases, ranging from outlaw motorcycle gangs to Colombian drug lords.

During her second year of law school, Hurricane Alicia hit just two weeks later!” Diane says. “And Hurricane Alicia hit just two weeks later!”

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Mentoring our next leaders

College of Pharmacy alumni help students build leadership skills

Just as important are their leadership abilities, which can take on many distinct roles. While some students have a natural tendency to lead, others step into leadership gradually by participating in extracurricular programs, getting involved in professional organizations or joining study groups. No matter how a student gains leadership skills, those abilities will serve them throughout their career.

Jennifer Bair, ’99, executive director of Pharmacy for Prisma Health—Midlands, did not recognize how much she would gain from her leadership roles in college until she began her career. Active in several organizations as a student, Bair advocates that networking is the key to getting things done.

“Creating relationships is important to leadership,” she says, “and getting involved is a way to create those relationships throughout your entire career.”

Bair, who helped launch the college’s chapter of the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists and was a member of Kappa Psi, Kappa Epsilon and the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, says that observing how others led influenced her style of leadership.

Diverse people have different leadership skillsets, and watching others helped her determine how she wanted to be as a leader,” she says. “What other ways will students learn except by having mentors who came before them? Being a mentor renewsignifies me.”

Meg Freiter, ’18, is a senior manager of pharmacy practice with the American Pharmacists Association. She completed a legislative internship with the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and rotations in health care advocacy with APHA and the National Community Pharmacists Association.

Freiter served as class president, vice president of Rho Chi and graduated with leadership distinction as a Walker Leadership Scholar.

“My career has been entirely impacted by the Walker Leadership Scholars program,” Freiter says. “I had the chance to collaborate with students in their goals, and it’s important to remember that someone did it for them.”

Sam McCallum, class of 2023, is president of the Student Government Association, along with a host of other student organizations, including KE, PLS, APNA, RSPH and AACP.

“Taking part in all these organizations taught me so much about myself,” she says. “Interacting with others helped me learn how to communicate with various personalities and gather context on the best way to work with others.”

Jordan Jones, class of 2023, is a member of the Pediatric Pharmacy Association, PLS, president of Rho Chi and a Walker Leadership Scholar. She also volunteers for the Gamecock Pharmacy Assurance program, providing insight to pre-pharmacy students as they transition to the professional program.

“She also feels supported by alumni of the Walker Leadership Scholars program. Prior scholars who have graduated have reached out to us and shared their experiences,” she says. “To have their insight helps me discern what I want to do, and I hope to be able to do the same for others after I graduate.”

Emily Brackett, class of 2023, is the current Student Government Association president and is active with SNPhA as chair for Carolina Cares 4 Kids, among other leadership roles. “When I get to rotations, preceptors will be looking for problem solvers, and serving in these roles has taught me how to work under pressure,” Brackett says. “I want to encourage alumni to stay active with the college. We love to hear from them in how they chose their goals, and it’s important to remember that someone did it for them.”

To learn more about supporting students at the College of Pharmacy as a mentor, friend of the college or through financial support, contact Terry Dixon, senior director of development at tedixon@cop.sc.edu or 803-777-5426.
Certificate program trains pharmacists to share knowledge

In recognizing the need for pharmacists to impart their expertise and knowledge to others, the Clinical Teaching Certificate program helps pharmacy residents hone their skills as mentors, preceptors and academicians. The year-long program produces life-long educators through professional development workshops, hands-on learning activities and opportunities to create educational experiences in academic and clinical practice settings.

The program is led by codirectors Brandon Bookstaver, ’94, associate professor and director of Residency and Fellowship Training and Brie Dunn, associate dean for Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation for the College of Pharmacy.

Bookstaver says the program offers tracks in academia and precepting and teaches robust skills.

“We cover the gamut of meaningful skills for both tracks,” he says. “Including developing a syllabus for a didactic course, transitioning from a resident to a new practitioner and getting them engaged in the classroom.”

Reagan Barfield, ’98, is a clinical assistant professor and program coordinator for the Tandem Health-UofSC Postgraduate Year 1 Residency program. She believed her first student, Reagan Barfield says the program offers tracks in academia and precepting and teaches robust skills.

“After completing her residency at the Medical University of South Carolina, Karig worked at Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. She returned to MUSC as a unit dose decentralized pharmacist on the pediatric floor, a novel practice concept at the time.

In honor of her achievements, the Dianne Rauch Karig Scholarship Endowment was established in 2017 by her husband, Arnold, to support young pharmacists. “He mentored many students and pharmacists in their careers,” she says, “and he loved the university.” Together, they established a scholarship fund within the College of Pharmacy. Hyatt received the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2010.

Marvin Hyatt died May 7, at age 87.

Marvin Hyatt earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1959 from the College of Pharmacy. In 1963, Hyatt opened Good Pharmacy in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he was known for his warm smile. Hyatt took an active role in promoting the profession of pharmacy, serving on the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy for 12 years and one term as chair. He was honored with a commendation from the South Carolina Legislature.

His wife, Lois, recalls that he was dedicated to the people of his community as a leader with the Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Association, the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy, the Benedict College Health Center and the Eau Claire Community Development Council, among others. In 2015, Finklin received the UofSC Outstanding Black Alumni Award.

“I knew that I wanted to be in the same community as my customers,” Finklin says. “I honestly couldn’t have done this without the support of my wife. My wife supported me in everything I did. She took care of the house and the kids while I was working.”

Leon Finklin Jr. died April 29, 2020, at age 70.

Leon Finklin Jr. graduated from the College of Pharmacy with a bachelor’s degree in Pharmacy in 1972. He began his career at the Medical College of Georgia, then with K-Mart Pharmacy and Roche Pharmaceuticals. In 1986, Finklin became franchise owner of The Medicine Shoppe, and in 2006, he fulfilled his dream of opening his namesake pharmacy, Finklin Pharmacy in Columbia, South Carolina. Finklin served his profession and his community as a leader with the Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Association, the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy, the Benedict College Health Center and the Eau Claire Community Development Council, among others. In 2013, Finklin received the UofSC Outstanding Black Alumni Award.

“My husband loved what he did. He dedicated his life to serving his customers,” says his wife, Linda. “He even made a point to move our family from Dentsville to the Eau Claire area so that he could be in the same community as his customers. I miss him so much.”

To learn more about the CTC program, visit bit.ly/cop-ctc or contact Brandon Bookstaver at bookstaver@cop.sc.edu.
COLLABORATION

INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS OVERCOME ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Pharmacy alumni work with pediatric infectious disease physician to battle bacterial diseases

One of the hallmarks of finding answers to unique problems in the world of science is interprofessional collaboration. Two alumni from the UofSC College of Pharmacy joined with an alumna from the School of Medicine to tackle an ever-increasing health care dilemma—helping patients who are resistant to antibiotics that would traditionally be used in their treatment.

Bacteriophage, viruses that infect bacteria, might sound like a novel approach. But the use of bacteriophages has been around for more than 100 years. While more research is needed, bacteriophage is beginning to gain ground in the fight against antibiotic-resistant diseases.

Robert Daniels, ’95, and Andrew Gainey, ’11, have teamed with Anna-Kathryn Burch, M.D., ’12, to treat patients using bacteriophages at Prisma Health Children’s Hospital. To date, they have successfully treated two patients and are treating a third patient, with hopes of finding a bacteriophage to treat a fourth patient.

Daniels, who is codirector of the Antimicrobial Stewardship program at Prisma Health, says phages are viruses that invade bacterial cells, disrupting the bacterial metabolism, thus causing the bacterium to collapse.

“These phages can only multiply and grow inside a specific bacterium, meaning they are not dangerous to humans,” he says. “Once the bacterium collapse, they stop multiplying.”

Gainey, a pediatric infectious diseases pharmacist and director of the Pediatric Specialty PCY-2 Pharmacy Residency at Prisma Health Children’s Hospital, says bacteriophages seem to work where traditional methods of treatment fail against antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections in certain patient populations.

“We have treated one patient who was immuno-suppressed,” he says. “The others have been patients with cystic fibrosis, which tends to present the most complex and resistant bacteria. Because of their disease, these patients are constantly placed on antibiotics and that drives the resistance.”

Phages are unique in that, while there are many types of phages, only one specific phage will attack a specific bacterium, and it may take months to grow a particular phage to match that bacterium.

“That means a phage can be used to directly target disease-causing bacteria,” Daniels says. “For example, a bacteriophage specific to group A streptococcus will only kill bacteria that cause strep throat infections.”

We are one of the few pediatric institutions in the U.S. that has this much experience with phage therapy according to published literature,” Burch says. “To our knowledge, no one else in South Carolina nor in the Southeast is doing this type of treatment in the pediatric population. We want to let other practitioners know we have this capability so their patients can be referred for phage therapy if no other treatments of the resistant bacteria are available.”

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Erin Anderson began her journey to earn her doctoral degree in 2017. This past December, she fulfilled that ambition as she graduated with a doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences.

After completing her undergraduate work at North Carolina State University with a double major in chemistry and biochemistry, Anderson spent several years working in the drug discovery industry. She came to the University of South Carolina when her husband accepted a position as a rhetoric and composition professor in the Department of English Language and Literature.

Anderson joined the Immunogen and Biomedical Sciences Graduate program at the university’s School of Medicine and the lab of Jill Turner, a bacteriophage researcher. She was one of the hallmarks of finding answers to unique problems in the world of science is interprofessional collaboration. Two alumni from the UofSC College of Pharmacy joined with an alumna from the School of Medicine to tackle an ever-increasing health care dilemma—helping patients who are resistant to antibiotics that would traditionally be used in their treatment.

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In addition to learning essential knowledge of pharmacy principles, the UofSC College of Pharmacy has given me invaluable mentors, wonderful memories, lifelong friends, pharmacy connections, and most importantly, a firm passion for serving others throughout my career. The past four years have equipped me with the tools necessary to pursue, with confidence, my future as a pharmacist.

My time with the UofSC College of Pharmacy has been the best years of my life. Between the phenomenal professors and diverse organizations that this college has, I have been able to expand my knowledge and love for pharmacy more than I ever expected. I am so excited to see what the next year has in store for me.

UofSC’s College of Pharmacy has set me on various pathways within the pharmacy field. Under the mentorship of Kathy Quarel Moore and other incredible faculty members, I have developed greatly as a leader and discovered a passion for academia and clinical pharmacy. I have made invaluable connections during my time here and look forward to incorporating everything I learned into practice.

With each year of advancement in the program, I take a moment to reflect on my personal and professional development. There have been many ups and downs in navigating the uncertainty of the world, but the perseverance of my professors and colleagues is a daily reminder that anything we set to accomplish is possible.

As a P2 this year, coming back on campus has shown me innumerable resources and opportunities our college has to give. Thanks to the professors at the college, I work at Nephron Pharmaceuticals in regulatory affairs as I hope to pursue a job in industry in the future.

The UofSC College of Pharmacy has taught me the importance of being a lifelong learner. We are exposed to a variety of pharmacists at the college. While their practices differ, their underlying passion to learn is the bond that unites them all. Because of this, I am encouraged to become a better version of myself every day, personally and clinically.

As a student at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, I have been provided with numerous leadership, professional, and research opportunities that have helped me grow as a future pharmacist. Because of these opportunities, I feel prepared to take on the role of a pharmacist once I graduate from the College of Pharmacy.

It has been an honor to be a part of the inaugural Gamecock Pharmacy Assurance program and to hold many leadership positions within the College of Pharmacy. Attending pharmacy school during a global pandemic has been an eye-opener into the role and the impact that pharmacists can have within the health care profession.

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The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy changed my life. I am the first person in my family to graduate from college, and this university opened so many opportunities for me that others in my family were not afforded. I now own two pharmacies and am blessed to be able to give back to the university. I love this university and hope to have started a tradition of Gamecock graduates with my own children.

Jamie Mathis | ’04
The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy changed my life. I am the first person in my family to graduate from college, and this university opened so many opportunities for me that others in my family were not afforded. I now own two pharmacies and am blessed to be able to give back to the university. I love this university and hope to have started a tradition of Gamecock graduates with my own children.

Susan Mosier | ’95
I support the UofSC College of Pharmacy because of the impact pharmacy has allowed me to make in my patients’ lives. From patient counseling to making OTC recommendations or just lending an ear, every day is unique and gratifying. At this year’s white coat ceremony, I had the opportunity to sponsor a coat for an aspiring pharmacist. I hope that student will find their journey and career as satisfying as mine has been.

Dennis Burdette | ’79
I was very fortunate to attend the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. Great professors prepared me for my career in pharmacy. I was able to meet other students and have some that have now become lifelong friends. Pharmacy has rewarded me in many ways, and it is a pleasure to give back to our future pharmacists.

Brian and Deanna Duffie | ’94 & ’93
We chose to support the College of Pharmacy because of our passion for our profession. Graduating from pharmacy school allowed us to help others and give back every day. We love South Carolina and the opportunities that the College of Pharmacy allowed us to pursue!

Sarah Waller | ’16
I continue to donate and support our students at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy because it has provided me opportunities that the college opened for me. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the support of the staff and alumni and want to do my part by investing in the future generations of our profession.

April Thompkins | ’18
I support the College of Pharmacy because I want to support future generations of Gamecock pharmacists. UofSC played a huge role in my career, particularly through mentorship by my professors, opportunities for involvement in professional organizations, and the development of friendships that have lasted beyond my college years.

Morgan Mace | ’08
I remember how excited I was for my white coat ceremony, and it’s just one small way to give back to the future generations of pharmacists. It is a special feeling, putting your white coat on for the first time and how it symbolizes the start of your journey to become a pharmacist.
Tessa Hastings was named a High Scholar for the HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Implementation Research Institute through the Center for Dissemination and Implementation at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

**ALUMNI**

- **Tyler Wagner,** ’19, received the 2021 Predoctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes Disparities from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education.
- **J. Lynn Bass,** ’16, received the 2021 America’s Inspire Award from the Drug Information Association.
- **Taylor Meyers,** ’15, was chosen as speaker-elect for the 2021-2022 South Carolina Pharmacy Association Board of Directors.
- **Rananda Jones,** ’15, received the Excellence in Innovation Award from SCPhA.
- **J. Tommy Johnson,** ’15, received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from SCPhA.
- **Jennifer Baker,** ’02, is SCPhA 2021-2022 president and chair of the Board of Directors.
- **Kayla Autroz,** ’19, has been named lead pharmacist for the Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative of South Carolina within the College of Pharmacy.
- **Nicole Booskever,** ’09, was named 2021 Health System Woman Pharmacist of the Year by the Pharmacist Moms Group of America.
- **Bryan Ziegler,** ’01, received the 2021 George Rovenstijn New Innovator Award from Professional Compounding Centers of America.
- **Donna Avant,** ’85, was named as Pharmacist of the Year by SCPhA.
- **Alyssa Norwood,** ’95, received the Keno Couch Distinguished Mentor Award from SCPhA.

**FACULTY**

- **Michael Wyatt** was named chair of the Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences Department.
- **Jennifer Baker,** ’02, is SCPhA 2021-2022 president and chair of the Board of Directors.
- **Tessa Hastings** was named a High Scholar for the HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Implementation Research Institute through the Center for Dissemination and Implementation at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.
- **Michael Shrumman, Scott Sutton and Michael Wyatt** received a five-year $3.1 million National Institutes of Health R01 grant. This is the first known collaborative grant between the college’s Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences and Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences departments.

- **Donna Avant,** ’85, was named as Pharmacist of the Year by SCPhA.

**Do you have news to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your updates at bit.ly/usccop-alumni**
PHARMACY IN ACTION

COMING TOGETHER

Dean’s Dialogue
At the Dean’s Dialogue, faculty and staff meet informally with the interim dean to discuss various topics. The Dean’s dialogue occurs monthly with both in-person and Teams meetings.

JUNETEENTH VACCINE CONFIDENCE EVENT
The College of Pharmacy supported an on-site health clinic at the Juneteenth Freedom Festival June 19. The clinic offered COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, diabetes screening and information on sickle cell disease.

WHITE COAT CEREMONY
The class of 2025 received their white coats in a rite-of-passage ceremony commemorating their transition to a career in health care. Putting on the white coat symbolizes that they are putting on the responsibility of their profession.

ALUMNI VISITS
Staying connected to our alumni is a priority. Please share your professional and personal updates at bit.ly/usccop-alumni.

 Outstanding Alumna of the Year Julia Mims, ’74, ’96, poses a “spurs up” with student volunteers at the 2023 White Coat Ceremony.

Sarah Sipes, associate director of development and Matt Dixon, senior advancement officer, meet with alumna and School of Pharmacy alumnus Walter M. Hughes Jr., ’73, at the opening of Sadler-Hughes Apothecary’s new location in Clinton, South Carolina.

Sarah Sipes, ’73, and pharmacy techs at Prisma Health Richland celebrate American Pharmacists Month with goodies delivered by the College of Pharmacy.

Jeanie Sutton, ’01, and pharmacy techs at Prisma Health Richland celebrate American Pharmacists Month with goodies delivered by the College of Pharmacy.

Sarah Sipes, associate director of development and Matt Dixon, senior advancement officer, meet with alumna and School of Pharmacy alumnus Walter M. Hughes Jr., ’73, at the opening of Sadler-Hughes Apothecary’s new location in Clinton, South Carolina.

Outstanding Alumna of the Year Julia Mims, ’74, ’96, poses a “spurs up” with student volunteers at the 2023 White Coat Ceremony.
As a loyal, lifelong Gamecock, Julian A. Reynolds Jr. gives back to the college and university because he remembers how his education opened doors for him — and he wants to give those same opportunities to others. After earning his bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1967, Reynolds began practicing in Andrews, South Carolina — a community he still serves. He is the past president and owner of Reynolds Drug Store Inc., which was started by his father in 1950 and is now run by his niece. He has served on the Tidelands Health board of trustees for 45 years. A leader in his town and his profession, Reynolds is the recipient of numerous statewide awards and received the college’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 2013. I AM SOUTH CAROLINA.