

The Model Pharmacy features a simulated environment where student learners can meet with patients to assess healthcare concerns, discuss medications, and take vital signs.

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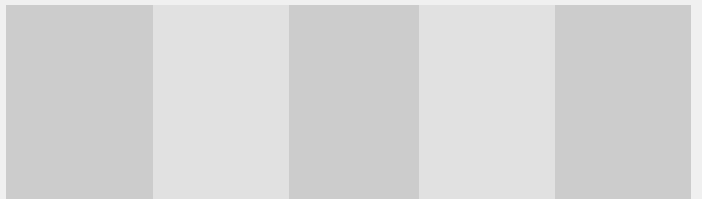
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Greetings from Western New England
University College of Pharmacy! Develop-



Simulation Room Acclimates Learners

to the Sights, Sounds, and even Smells of Clinical Practice

For practicing pharmacists, the professional standard requires participation in simulated practice each year to sharpen their bedside manner, as well as their pharmaceutical knowledge.

It is equally important for pharmacy learners to partake in a similar simulated experience prior to working with actual patients. The Western New England University College of Pharmacy has acquired the latest technology to introduce our learners to the fast-paced environment of clinical care.

The simulation room in the \$40 million Center for Sciences and Pharmacy has been outfitted with a technology-mediated mannequin, as well as the corresponding computer program to control the mannequin's functions.

The 165-lb "Sim Man," as he is nicknamed, can display almost any ailment or bodily function, including experiencing heart failure, bleeding, and vomiting. He reacts physiologically to treatment and can talk to pharmacy students through a microphone controlled by a professor.

"Students don't get a generic computer generated response if they ask how the patient is doing," explained Simulation Technology Manager Ben Hogan. "Patients can react in a variety of ways. Our learners get real experiences that may catch them off guard, just like in a real healthcare setting."

An important feature in the room is a camera that captures and records what happens during the simulation. There is also an observation room outfitted with a two-way mirror for fellow learners to watch a simulation in progress. According to Associate Dean for Pharmacy Academic Affairs Beth Welch, more learning occurs after the simulation, rather than during it.

"One of the most important parts of having a simulated experience is the debriefing," she noted. "So learners can see and learn about what they did well or what they did wrong and what they need to work on. And then they try again."

Ben spends much of his time caring for Sim Man. This includes maintenance, cleaning, and making the mannequin appear as realistic as possible. This can be achieved through Hollywood-style makeup and a book of "recipes" to create wounds and even replicate the various smells in a hospital setting. He said it has been interesting to watch learners work with and react to the mannequin and begin to treat it like a real patient.

It is a little intimidating the first time you walk into the Simulation Lab. Each simulation came more naturally, and by the last one I felt prepared to step up and take control. Having the experience made me feel confident applying classroom knowledge to a fast-paced real world situation.

“At first they are very standoffish because they aren’t comfortable” Ben said. “But by the end they are laughing and joking with the simulator and having a full conversation with it. I’ve heard nothing but positive feedback from the learners.”

As the practice of pharmacy continues to evolve, pharmacists will be engaging with patients and other health professionals in a variety of ways.

“Six years of education teaches you a lot more than just to be able to do those mechanical duties,” Dr. Welch said. “We teach them to become drug experts. So pharmacists are working more in that capacity to help physicians and prescribers to identify the best drugs for certain medical problems and how they should be monitored.”

This team-centered approach has brought interprofessional education to the forefront of pharmacy curriculum. Dr. Welch hopes to include other health-care programs, such as nursing and physician’s assistant programs, in their simulations to give learners the most realistic setting possible, between the life-like patient and a complete medical team.

She's Found Pass

Learner Spotlight:
Christina Andros,
Class of 2017

“Find where you can combine your passion and your strengths,” Christina Andros remembers a high school teacher telling her, “and you’ll know what you want to do with the rest of your life.”

For Christina, Class of 2017, the search is over. As a learner who excelled in math and science, she also “always had a passion for helping others,” she says. “And seeing older family members not always receive the best healthcare made me want to do something about it.” A career in pharmacy seemed an ideal fit.

A native of Wilbraham, MA, who grew up not far from Western New England University, Christina originally thought she’d travel further from home for college, but a visit to the campus won her over. She entered the University’s Pre-pharmacy program, and applied and was accepted into the College of Pharmacy in 2013. She is simultaneously working towards both a PharmD and MBA. The combined degree program is a unique offering that capitalizes on the cross-disciplinary strengths of Western New England University, and one she believes will leave her best equipped to pursue a career in pharmaceutical administration.

“In pharmacy you’re able to connect with patients and make a difference in their lives,” says Christina, who works part-time in both the Pharmacy Department at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield and a Big Y Pharmacy.

She makes connections that impact her community on campus as well. Andros tutors students in math and science. She was the founder and past president of the Pre-Pharmacy Club, a group that has quickly swelled to more than 100 members. She’s also policy vice president of the College’s chapter of American Pharmacists Association, a group for learner pharmacists dedicated to advocating for pharmacists and healthcare providers. She’s also current president of the College’s Student Society of Health System Pharmacy (SSHP).

“In pharmacy you’re able to connect with patients and make a difference in their lives.”

Her passion and involvement recently earned her a Skookum Award of Excellence from the University. The award recognizes Western New England University students who shine in leadership roles on campus, community service/volunteer experiences, and participation in athletics and cocurricular programs.

“This school is amazing,” she says. “It’s so reassuring to work with professors who care so deeply about their learners.” One of those professors is Dr. Daniel Kennedy, assistant professor of Pharma-

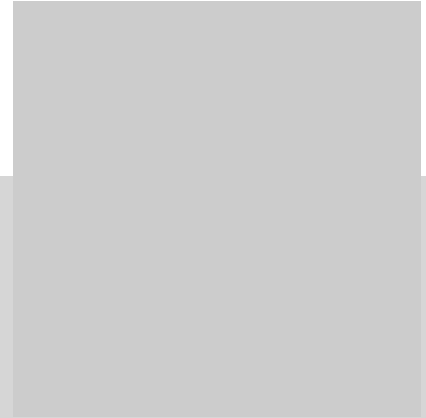
cology. Christina credits his guidance over the past three years in a research project investigating cancer therapy medications and their possible anti-microbial properties. During the 10-15 hours she spends on research each week, Christina searches for new combinations of drugs that might be used to create improved antibiotics in this era of increasing antibiotic resistance. She recently presented findings with Dr. Kennedy at American Society of Microbiology meetings in San Francisco and Boston.

After graduation, Christina plans to pursue a pharmacy residency to gain more exposure to the clinical or pharmacy administration environment she hopes to work in some day. “While retail pharmacy is great, there are other options I’d like to explore,” she says.

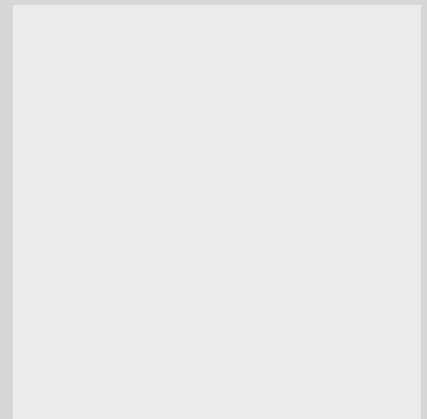
“In the hospital setting I feel I’ll be practicing ‘at the top of my license.’ I look forward to working with doctors, making recommendations, having the opportunity to capitalize on my strengths as a pharmacist, and using those strengths to make worthwhile decisions for patients. I know I’ll see a great return on all I’ve put into earning my degrees.”

Learner Accomplishment

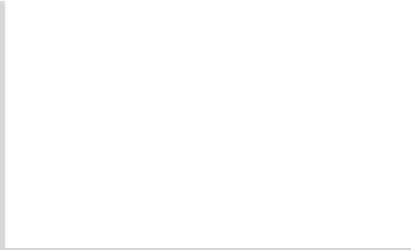
College of Pharmacy learners have been in the spotlight since the program first opened. Here are some highlights of their recent successes, both as individuals and in groups.



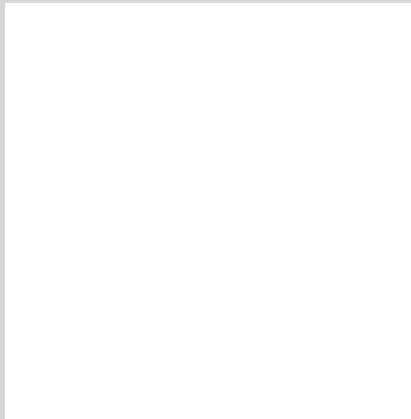
Meaghan Paris, Class of 2016, (shown with Dr. Shabnam Sani) was awarded a travel scholarship by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research to attend the 2014 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program in Washington, DC, in June.



Christina Andro, Class of 2017, was a recipient of the Skookum Award of Excellence, given to University students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, cocurricular activities, athletics, volunteer work, and community service.



Desirae Daniel, Class of 2017, (pictured with Dr. James Knittel) and Assistant Professor Shabnam Sani were honored with a poster presentation competi-



Harmony Hill, Class of 2015, (shown with Eric Nemecek) was a recipient of the Massachusetts Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Student Excellence Award.



The College of Pharmacy chapter of the American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists, under the supervision of faculty advisor David Baker, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, and student director Tereza Felchka, Class of 2016, were finalists for the “Best Video” award in the Change a Life video contest sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association.

Continuing Pharmacy Education and Preceptor Development Conference

The College of Pharmacy held its fourth annual Continuing Pharmacy Education and Preceptor Development Conference on May 20. Eighty-one local pharmacists attended. Sessions included a Pharmacy Law Update, and presentations on Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Guidelines, Gout Management, and Electronic Cigarettes. The conference is a way for the College to thank its preceptors for their participation in various ex-

After three years of service, Bob, a semiretired pharmacist, recently stepped down from the University's Board of Trustees to enjoy more time with family. He will remain active on several subcommittees, as a preceptor, and on the Advisory Committee of the College of Pharmacy.

Bob earned his bachelor's degree in Pharmacy at Hampden College of Pharmacy, a proving ground for many of the region's pharmacists in the 20th century. Hampden was the brainchild of Dr. Joseph Gagne, known affectionately by his students as "Doc," who made it his personal mission to fill an important educational void in western Massachusetts.

According to Bob, Doc Gagne put his heart and soul into the school, which began in a backroom of his family's pharmacy on Cabot Street in Holyoke, MA. After WWII, admissions soared and the school was relocated to Chicopee, MA, becoming the foundation that launched the careers of scores of pharmacists who established neighborhood pharmacies in their communities. As he grew older, Doc began to worry about succession planning. His ultimate goal was to see a pharmacy school on the Western New England campus. While Doc Gagne didn't live to see his dream become a reality, Bob Dobek, one of his protégés, became an important bridge from the past to the future of pharmacy education.

"It was Doc Gagne's dream that there would one day be a pharmacy school on the Western New England campus."

As a well-respected area pharmacist and longtime owner of Buckley's Pharmacy in East Longmeadow, MA, Bob was

an ideal addition to the Western New England University Board of Trustees during the early development of the College of Pharmacy. He is a registered pharmacist (RPh) in Massachusetts and Connecticut and has served as a longtime member and treasurer of Western Massachusetts Pharmacy Association. In 1995, Bob became semiretired, selling Buckley's and going to work part-time for Costco Wholesale in its Pharmacy Department. He assisted in opening Costco's pharmacy in Enfield in 2004.

Bob first suggested that he get involved in the politics of the Board of Trustees when he was formally asked to join.

Bob is a member of the Western New England University Board of Trustees and the Western New England University Board of Trustees.

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Yoonsun Mo, clinical assistant professor of acute care, and Anthony Zimmerman, chair and professor of pharmacy practice, authored "Role of Dexmedetomidine for the Prevention and Treatment of Delirium in Intensive Care Unit Patients" in the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* (2013; 47, pp. 869-876).

Jared Ostroff, clinical assistant professor of ambulatory care published the following:

"Description of a Medical Writing Rotation for a Postgraduate Pharmacy Residency Program. 2013." The paper appears online at <http://jpp.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/12/27/08-97190013516366>.

With H. Anksorus, "Implementation of a PGY-2 Academia Rotation: View from a Resident's Perspective" in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*

Dr. Clinton Mathias Continues His H!

won poster awards at national and regional conferences. Furthermore, Dr. Mathias also won a travel award which provided funds for him and a learner to present their work at the national conference of the American Association of Immunologists.

This type of applied experience is helping prepare our learners to take on the challenges of the rapidly changing pharmacy pro-

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