In Memory of Dr. Charles A. Walton
The profession of pharmacy, lost one of its true legends with the July 31 death of Dr. Charles A. Walton, the William J Sheffield Professor Emeritus. Dr. Walton was a true visionary and inspirational leader for the profession of pharmacy. His 1970s vision that pharmacists would one day become direct patient care providers optimizing the use of medications and improve patient outcomes has been realized, due in large measure to his dedication toward developing clinical programs to train pharmacists for these responsibilities.

Young named as Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award recipient
Dr. Veronica Young, director of interprofessional education and community engagement and clinical associate professor, has been named one of 27 Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award recipients from The University of Texas at Austin. Young, who recently was named to the director position, has served the college for several years in the Pharmacotherapy Division in San Antonio. The awards program is one of the nation’s largest monetary teaching recognition programs in higher education, honoring outstanding performance in the classroom and dedication to innovation in undergraduate instruction.

Class of 2014 celebrates graduation
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy saluted the Pharm.D. Class of 2014 on Friday, May 16 and joined the rest of the university's graduate program in celebrating its Ph.D. and Master's students on Saturday, May 17. Pharmacy graduates also participated in the university-wide commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 17. Tony Vu was recognized for having the highest grade point average while Stephanie Martinez was announced as having the second highest GPA. Several other students were cited for special awards and recognition.

New Student Orientation
Before the last member of the Class of 2014 walked the stage, plans were gearing up to welcome the entering Class of 2018. Members of the new P1 class will step onto the UT campus on August 25, two days prior to the start of classes, for New Student Orientation. Here they will meet administrators, faculty, staff, learn their way around the college, and begin bonding with their fellow class members. Highlight of NSO include the August 25 White Coat Ceremony and the Gone to Texas Celebration on August 26, the eve to the first day of classes.
Rascati honored by ISPOR
Dr. Karen Rascati, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, is the first recipient of the Marilyn Dix Smith Leadership Award presented by the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). The award, established in 2014, honors its namesake, the founding executive director of ISPOR. Dix Smith is credited with extraordinary leadership in helping to establish ISPOR, and recipients of the award are selected to recognize their own extraordinary leadership to ISPOR.

NACDS selects Rush for scholars program
Sharon Rush, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, has been selected as a 2014-2015 Foundation Faculty Scholar by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation. Launched in 2012, the program educates assistant professors from U.S. schools and colleges of pharmacy about designing, implementing and publishing community pharmacy-based patient care research. Nathan Pope, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, was a 2013-2014 participant in the program.

Gore pegged to lead Faculty Council
Dr. Andrea Gore, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, has been named chair-elect of the Faculty Council of The University of Texas at Austin. She will serve in this capacity for one year before advancing to chair of the council. The Faculty Council serves as a governance leadership body for the general faculty. It has the authority to consider matters of educational policy including regulations dealing with student activities, requirements for admission, honors or degrees, approval of degree candidates, catalog changes, and reports of special and standing committees.

Smyth tapped to edit research journal
Hugh Smyth, associate professor of pharmaceutics, has been named as the new editor-in-chief of Informa Healthcare’s premier research journal Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy (DDIP). The journal is one of the oldest and most established journals in the fields of drug development and pharmaceutical technology. Smyth replaces Bill Williams, head of the Division of Pharmaceutics. The journal publishes 12 issues annually.
Lam honored for teaching excellence
Dr. Francis Lam, clinical associate professor of pharmacotherapy, was awarded a 2014 Faculty Assembly Teaching Excellence Award in May by the UT Health Science Center San Antonio Dental School. In addition to teaching pharmacy students in San Antonio, Dr. Lam, and other pharmacotherapy faculty, also teach dental and medical students.

Gonzales to lead alcohol group
Dr. Rueben Gonzales, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, has been named president-elect to the Research Society on Alcoholism. The election means that he will serve this year as president-elect, a one-year term beginning in June 2015 as president, and a third year as past president.

AACP taps two to fellows program
Renee Acosta, clinical associate professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, and Dr. Hugh Smyth, associate professor of pharmaceutics, have been tapped to participate in fellows programs sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Acosta will participate in the AACP Academic Leadership Program designed to develop the nation’s most promising pharmacy faculty for roles as future leaders in academic pharmacy and higher education. Smyth has been named to the Academic Research Fellows Program that is designed to develop the nation’s most promising pharmacy faculty research investigators.

Staff members honored at annual celebration
The staff recognition celebration showcases the efforts of staff in support of the college. This year’s event included an afternoon of food and fellowship at Austin’s Dart Bowl. Highlight of the event is the recognition of staff awards including service anniversaries (included in our last issue) as well as awards for staff merit and staff excellence. Recipients of 2014 Staff Merit Awards included Danette Adams, Mirna Benhamou, Amanda Fox, Chuck Guajardo, Belinda Lehmkuhle and Vanessa Lopez. Staff Excellence Awards went to Elisa Fischer, Debbie Foulds, Vicki Matustik, and John Reineke.
Walmart Scholars

Jaclyn Hutzly and Anne Nguyen were recognized as Walmart Scholars at the recent meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Jaclyn Hutzly, an incoming P4 student, was joined by her faculty mentor Dr. Rochelle Roberts while Anne Nguyen, Pharm.D. ‘13 and current completing an MS/Residency program at the Veterans Affairs in Houston with the University of Houston, was joined by her faculty mentor Dr. Ken Lawson. The program provides scholarships to 85 student/faculty pairs from AACP member institutions to attend the AACP annual meeting.

Student ISPOR honors

The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research recognized two UT graduate scholars at its annual meeting this summer. A research poster by Dawn Kim was recognized among the best student poster research presentations. It was entitled, “Measures of Medication Adherence in Oral versus Long-acting Risperidin in Texas Medicaid Patients with Schizophrenia.” Lung-I Cheng earned distinction as the best student podium research presentation for his work entitled “Validation of the Updated Charlson Comorbidity Index to predict Healthcare Utilization for Diabetic Patients Using Administrative Data.” Kim is a graduate student working with Dr. Karen Rascati while Cheng is a recent graduate who also studied with Rascati.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August
25  New Student Orientation
    White Coat Ceremony
26  Gone to Texas celebration
27  First day of Fall 2014 classes

September
1    Labor Day, campus closed

October
23  Pharmacy Career Day
24  Senior Interview Day

November
3    Luncheon for alumni and friends during AAPS meeting, San Diego
7    Alumni Reception and Awards Ceremony
8    Tailgate Party