



# University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy Newsletter

Fall 2007

[www.uri.edu/pharmacy/news](http://www.uri.edu/pharmacy/news)



## Message from the Dean

Greetings Alumni and Friends of the College of Pharmacy: It is an honor to serve as Interim Dean of the College.

I was delighted to welcome over 250 of you to the 50<sup>th</sup> Heber W. Youngken, Jr. Clinic on November 1<sup>st</sup> and to participate in the presentation of the Dr. Norman A. Campbell Award for Ethics and Excellence in Healthcare to Pharmacist Anthony Solomon. We were also honored to have Heber's son Richard Youngken join us to present the scholarship award in his fathers name to Brian MacDonald. Other student award winners were Jeremy Blais, Marco DelBove and Viet Tran. The meeting was also noteworthy as our first collaborative educational meeting with the College of Nursing. We plan more collaboration with Dean Dayle Joseph and her alumni.

In the more than 100 years of pharmacy education within Rhode Island we have created Legacy of Excellence. It is important to preserve that history and accelerate this legacy as we move toward a new facility and increased output from our academic programs, research ventures and outreach efforts.

When you look at our list of 3,600+ graduates in professional degree programs or advanced masters and doctoral programs, you see names of so many leaders and people who have contributed to our RI Pharmacy Excellence, Healthcare excellence beyond our profession and this state, and world class contributions to the pharmaceutical industry! The per capita effect our college had made us one of the leading pharmacy programs in the nation. With your help and renewed connection to the college, I'm convinced that URI College of Pharmacy can become a top ten pharmacy school. Speaking of top ten, two of our fifth year students, Kenny Correia and Sara Brescia were top 10 of ninety one entries

to the ASHP clinical skills competition. Next year they plan to "smoke-em."

The challenge now is to bring all our constituent communities together to move the College to the "next level." Faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and corporate supporters all need to be engaged. The "next level" entails being part of the University's goal of an advanced level in teaching, research and service to the state and the world beyond. URI is investing in a north district of the Kingston campus that will create a new integrated and interactive Health and Life Sciences quad that will include Pharmacy, Biotechnology, Nursing, Chemistry and much more. In addition to this north district, a new public-private partnership Research and Technology park will allow the intellect and intellectual property of URI to be commercialized to the benefit of the state and University. There are truly great things happening that, with your help, will "Make a Difference" right now at URI and the College.

Soon you will be hearing more on the Class Challenge Campaign for the "College of Pharmacy Future Fund." This fund in the URI Foundation is available now for your gifts. We need to raise \$10-15 Million in private funds in the next few years to supplement and leverage the state bond approved \$65 million in funds. Gifts to this fund are completely dedicated to enhancing the new facility. Your timely contributions are appreciated will ensure a successful campaign and future for our College.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming seminars, the 50th Gala in Newport, the groundbreaking and in the Deans Club meeting we have for leaders in our fund raising campaign. Celebrate the great eights and give now! Go Rhody!

Ronald P Jordan, R.Ph.  
Interim Dean

## URI launches new program in pharmaceutical engineering

Thanks to a \$75,000 gift from Altana, Inc., students interested in pursuing careers in the biopharmaceutical industry have a unique new educational option at the University of Rhode Island – one of the nation's first undergraduate programs in pharmaceutical engineering.

"URI is one of the few universities in the country to offer both a pharmacy program and an engineering program, which has enabled us to create this new track within our chemical engineering major," explained Arijit Bose, professor and chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering, who has spearheaded development of the program with Pharmacy professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Clinton Chichester. Bose noted that many chemical engineering students go to work for biopharmaceutical companies like Amgen and Pfizer after graduation, but they require additional training about sterile work environments, FDA regulations and other topics that are taught in the URI College of Pharmacy. Students enrolled in the pharmaceutical engineering track will now receive the necessary training as part of their undergraduate education.

URI College of Pharmacy

50th  
Anniversary  
Gala

**NEW DATE:**  
Saturday,  
March 8th 2008

Newport Marriott  
25 Americas Cup Ave  
Newport, RI

[www.uri.edu/pharmacy/50th](http://www.uri.edu/pharmacy/50th)



Send Gifts to: **URI Foundation COP Future Fund**  
c/o Rich Popovic, 133 Fogarty Hall 41 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881

## **URI pharmacy professor recalls horror, hope of New Orleans after serving on disaster team**

As the vehicle plowed through 3 feet of water, Jeffrey Bratberg saw a body on an interstate highway. At night he slept in an abandoned bar and used toilet paper as a pillow. His showers consisted of wiping his body down with moisturized baby wipes. But after completing his first tour, the assistant professor of pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island didn't hesitate when asked if he would return to New Orleans or go to some other area of the United States battered by a natural disaster. "I would go again," said the Cranston resident who was part of the 35-member Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team that was deployed to Louisiana to assist



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victims of Hurricane Katrina. "It was one of the most important things I have ever done and I didn't want to leave." Well, Bratberg got his chance to return to Louisiana when he was re-deployed to Lafayette with the RI team on Sept. 28.

Bratberg is an infectious disease specialist at Rhode Island Hospital and at Brown Medical School, as well as a RI Dept. of Health consultant on the process of dispensing medications in the event of a bioterrorism event. He was invited to join the disaster team and was called to respond to Florida last year.

He talked about his first tour in the Gulf just days before he got his second call. "I couldn't go (to Florida) because I was in the middle of my teaching duties, and this year, a few weeks before Katrina, I was called again. First, I said no, but then I saw this giant hurricane and realized my students could get by without me for a little while."

His first stop was in Camp Shelby, Miss. and then the team moved on to Baton Rouge. He worked with Megan Sliney, a URI pharmacy grad and chief pharmacist of the team.

"We then got the call to go the Superdome, but we had seen the news and we weren't going anywhere that wasn't safe. We decided to go after the National Guard responded. "I remember going over the Huey Long Bridge and seeing the Mississippi River on fire, and helicopters filling the sky. I've seen tornadoes and I helped sandbag the flooding Red River in North Dakota, but this was inexplicable."

Bratberg was in New Orleans earlier for a conference on infectious disease and to return after it had been destroyed was almost more than he could comprehend. "I've seen military personnel with machine guns in Europe after the first Gulf War, but to see it here, this militaristic environment, was amazing. There were these giant Chinook helicopters in the air all the time."

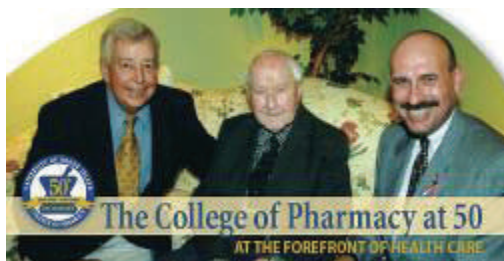
Bratberg and the disaster team set up their operation in a basketball arena across from the Superdome. "We walked in and

the National Guard was treating all these people in cots." Bratberg said the need was so great and the demands so extreme that "I have no memory of what I did in my first four hours there." He said the team's main goal was to provide primary care for those with illnesses and injuries related to the storm and those with chronic conditions who had been without medication for days. "We treated people with seizure disorders, injuries related to being in the contaminated water, such as bacterial infections and those who were victims of violence. I treated a man who had been stabbed in the eye while trying to board a bus." After spending two-and-half days in New Orleans at the basketball arena, the team was relieved and sent east to Jefferson Hospital, which was clean, secure and had power. "I'll never forget walking in there. The hospital chaplain was in there telling people to have hope, have faith."

There, the team set up a clinic and immunized more than 1,000 people who were exposed to the flooding against such things as hepatitis and tetanus. "One person in line asked how long it would take, and the team said it would be two-and-half hours. "To save my life, I will wait as long as I have to," the patient told the team.

## **Brown University professor named Advanced Preceptor of the Year by URI**

The University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy has honored alumnus George Kenna with the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Preceptor of the Year award. Preceptors oversee pharmacy students' clinical experiences and serve as their mentors. This award is given to a preceptor in recognition of excellent teaching during the advanced pharmacy practice experiential coursework. The nomination can come from either a faculty member or a student. Kenna, a resident of North Kingstown, is a practicing pharmacist, researcher, and mentor. He was a 1975 graduate of the URI College of Pharmacy and also received his Ph.D. in psychology from URI in 2003.



## **Class of 76 alumnus appointed Interim of Dean College of Pharmacy**

On September 24, 2007 the University of Rhode Island has appointed Ronald P. Jordan, an international pharmaceutical leader, as Interim Dean of its College of Pharmacy.

Jordan, chair of the College of Pharmacy's Leadership Council and the former president of the American Pharmacists Association, succeeds Donald Letendre, who has accepted an appointment to become dean of the University of Iowa's Academic Health Services Center.

"President Carothers and I have asked Ron to play a leadership role in securing the major gifts necessary for the completion of the new pharmacy building," said M. Beverly Swan, URI provost and vice president for academic affairs, in a message to the URI community. "We feel he is in an excellent position to help us with this undertaking."

Rhode Island voters passed a \$65 million bond referendum in 2006 for construction of a state-of-the-art facility to house the URI College of Pharmacy.

Jordan is an entrepreneur who has been an executive in several start-up companies in the pharmaceutical industry during the last 18 years. He was president of Drug Benefit Management Systems Inc., founder and senior vice president of Excellerx Inc. (formerly Hospice Pharmacia), senior vice president of PharmasMarket.com, and president and chief executive officer of HCidea, LLC.

In 2002 he founded Healthation, LLC, which markets a comprehensive benefit management system for all lines of health care, and in 2006 he was recruited to serve as chief operating officer of BidRx, LLC, to launch its consumer electronic marketplace for prescription drugs.

A 1976 alumnus of the College of Pharmacy, Jordan served on the board of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs and

was the 2006 recipient of the Norman A. Campbell Award for Ethics and Excellence in Healthcare. He has won the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award, the Bowl of Hygeia and the Guido Pettinichio Award from the RIPA, and in 2006 he received the Grand Council Citation and Award from Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity for "inspiring leadership and appreciation for unselfish service to pharmacy and pharmacy education."

## **Spotlight on URI College Of Pharmacy Alumni**

Anthony Delsignore, Class of '04 has started his third year of Medical School at Brown University.

Kelly Orr, Class of '01 was installed as the President of the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association on June 22, 2007 at the Quonset Officers Club.

John Grossomanides, Class of '84, and '00, is the Pharmacy Director for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont in Berlin, VT.

Anthony Palmieri III, Class of '71, and '73, has returned to academia as Professor of Pharmaceutics at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in Gainesville, FL.

Brian Russell, Class of '81, is Director of Medical Education at Roche Laboratories, Inc. in Nutley, NJ.

### **We want to hear from you!!!! What are you doing?**

*Alumni news (new job, marriage, births, etc.) should be sent to C.E. Director Michael L. Simeone at [msimeone@uri.edu](mailto:msimeone@uri.edu).*



## **URI alumnus awarded pharmacy's highest honor**

Dr. Ernest Mario received APhA's highest award, the Remington Medal of Honor. His out-

standing career has led him to many successful leadership positions and he is currently chairman of Capnia Inc., Palo Alto, CA. He was formerly the CEO of both Reliant Pharmaceuticals (N.J.) and Pharmaceutical Product Development (N.C.). He has also been a longtime supporter of major pharmacy, education, and healthcare organizations, reflecting his commitment to the future of pharmacy, pharmaceutical education, and public health. In 1996, he donated \$1.5 million to the URI College of Pharmacy to establish the Ernest Mario Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutics.

## **URI Nursing & Pharmacy students learn from each other**

A patient with diabetes seeks an alternative to insulin injections. So a new inhaler that provides a painless alternative is the answer, right? It isn't if the patient has severe arthritis and trouble with dexterity. It might not be an alternative for a patient with memory or concentration issues, either, because it is a complex device with many preparation steps. That was just one topic as University of Rhode Island nursing and pharmacy students joined for the first time to share their knowledge and different perspectives on caring for patients with diabetes. This spring, 100 fifth-year pharmacy students and 75 junior nursing students participated in the cross-disciplinary program.

At four separate stations, they learned about different methods for checking blood-sugar levels and insulin delivery methods such as traditional insulin injections, insulin pens, and insulin powder inhalers. Nursing students gave pharmacy students injections of saline to simulate insulin



shots while pharmacy students and faculty led small group sessions on different medication delivery and monitoring systems.

Celia MacDonnell of Newport, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy, and Mary Lavin of Middletown, clinical assistant professor of nursing, said the students gained awareness of the benefits of teamwork.

"We tell our students in our respective colleges to work as a team with other health care professionals, but we haven't been able to foster that in an interactive setting that brings together students from each discipline," MacDonnell said. "We have been trying to do this for years, but it has been very difficult because of the off-campus clinical demands on both groups of students. But we can't expect people to be a team if they have never worked together as students."

### **14th Annual Louis A. Luzzi Seminar on the Links Highlights**

The University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy held its Annual Golf Outing on Monday, September 10, 2007 at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown, RI.

One hundred and fifteen golfers enjoyed a beautiful day by the bay. This year there were several sponsors: Platinum Level-Walgreens; Gold Level-Rite Aid and Curascrypts, CVS/Caremark. Bronze-Stop & Shop.

There were 25 tee sign sponsors and a very successful live and silent auction was held. This year the event raised \$32,151!!! The winner foursome was comprised of Mike Pirri, Matt Mears, Wes Zemrak (Class of 2007), and John Grossomanides (Class of 1984). The Longest Drive winner was Rick Angeli.

### **Recent URI Pharm.D. graduate to pursue residency training, Masters in Public Health**

Konping Khang, a May 2005 graduate of the Pharm.D. program at the University of Rhode Island, has started her year-long pharmacy practice residency in ambulatory care at the West Side Community Health Services located in St. Paul, MN, and she plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health Administration at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Khang exemplifies the motivation and enthusiasm of the URI students.

Konping initiated the Indigent Drug program at the RI Free Clinic about 3 years ago, and expanded the program to provide hundreds of patients continuing prescriptions. Konping maintained all related data bases for the program, and is familiar with over 20 different pharmaceutical companies' policies regarding free drugs. Konping accomplished all this as a volunteer, while still maintaining an excellent GPA, and working part time for a community pharmacy. As an example of her motivation, Konping took it upon herself to learn to speak Spanish so that she could communicate with her patients at her community practice site, and at the free clinic. Where she was the only Spanish speaking employee in the pharmacy-which has many Spanish-speaking patients.

"It's amazing how one changes in the four years of pharmacy school. I had entered it with the single objective of gaining a 100K+ salary. It's incredibly amazing how insidiously, through my work and volunteer experiences in pharmacy, a sense of humanism had set roots." Konping said during a recent conversation regarding her experiences at URI.

Konping further explains: "I love being a pharmacist, however, an MPH would aid me in breaking down barriers that trouble our healthcare system and access to it. Therefore, I plan to pursue a Masters of Public Health in Public Health Administration and Policy at the University of Minnesota."

### **URI Health Services Pharmacist named Preceptor of the Year**

The University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy has honored alumnus Sean O'Donnell with the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Preceptor of the Year award. Preceptors oversee pharmacy students' clinical experiences and serve as their mentors. O'Donnell, a resident of Wakefield, graduated from the URI College of Pharmacy in 1987 and is currently a pharmacist at the University's Health Services. He received his Doctor of Pharmacy from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 2000. O'Donnell has worked as a staff pharmacist at Delta Drug, Pequot Pharmaceutical Network, and Newport Hospital. He was also a consultant pharmacist at Delta Medical Nursing Home. "I am very proud to receive this award," said O'Donnell. "It is gratifying working with the students and being able to teach them about this profession." O'Donnell, who mentors about eight students a year, is honored that the students recognized and nominated him for this award.

### **WANTED — CLASS CAPTAINS!**

URI-COP is seeking volunteers to serve as Class Captains. Specifically, we believe that the best method for us to reconnect with all alumni and friends will require a grass-roots effort. We are asking that anyone who would be willing to assist us in locating and communicating with your classmates to please step forward and volunteer your services.

Those interested in volunteering can do so by contacting Dean Jordan's Executive Assistant, Dawne Strickland. She can be reached at [dstrickland@uri.edu](mailto:dstrickland@uri.edu) or at telephone # 401-874-2761. Thank you!

[www.uri.edu/pharmacy/newbuilding](http://www.uri.edu/pharmacy/newbuilding)

### New College of Pharmacy Building

The pharmacy program is one of the most competitive programs at URI. Each year, more than 1,000 highly qualified applicants pursue 90 available spots in the six-year Pharm.D. program. Construction of a new building for our prestigious program will commence in 2008.

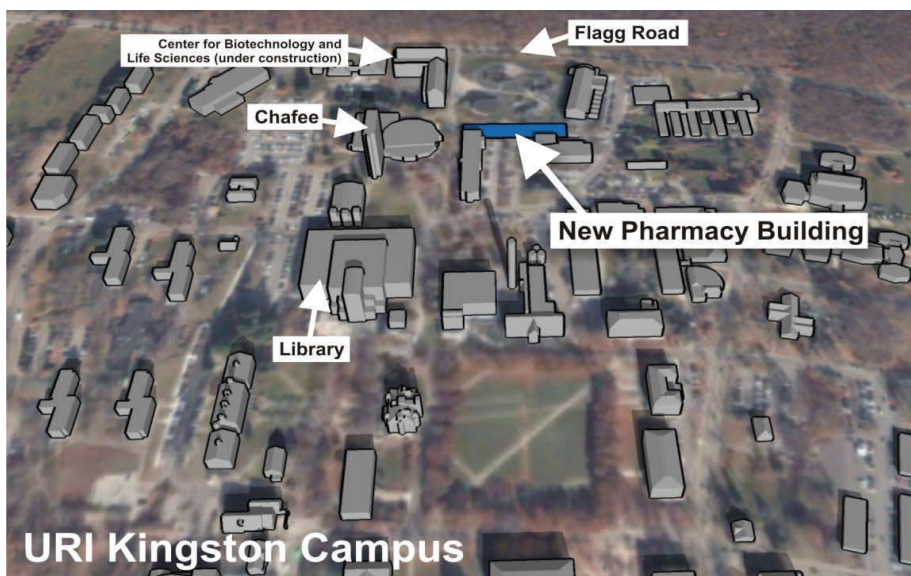
The building will be primarily funded by a \$65 million voter-approved state bond initiative. Private and industry gifts totaling \$15 million are sought to enhance the building and support the leading-edge teaching, research, and service activities that will take place there.

The new 140,000-square-foot building will replace the college's current home, Fogarty Hall, which was completed in 1964 when the pharmacy program had just 150 students.

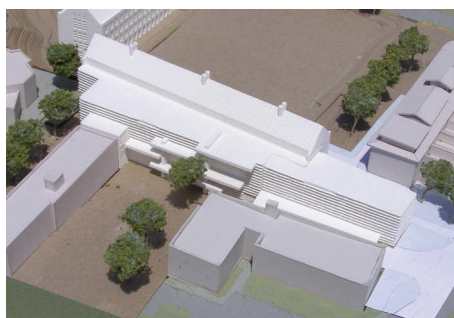
With enrollment now in excess of 580 professional degree students, and plans to expand further, the college has far exceeded the capacity of its current building.

The new building will be located in the life and health sciences quadrangle in the North District of URI's Kingston campus, along with the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences and new buildings for nursing and chemistry.

The College of Pharmacy's new home will be a green building that meets LEED certification standards, resulting in lower energy costs and less environmental impact. The new University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy building project has moved along swiftly over the past few months. The design process is on schedule and, so



far, on budget. We have approved the schematic design for the building (the floor plans) and are now immersed in the design development stage of the project. During this stage we will be working through the details of the design and preparing plans that are one step away from the final construction set.



Above: Architect's rendition of the New College of Pharmacy Building



Above: (Left to right) **Kerry LaPlante** Pharm.D., **Kevin McConeghy** (P2 Pharm.D.), and **Ryan Atwood** (Class of '06) from the 2006 Annual meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) in St. Louis

### Upcoming Events

**January 27-29, 2008**

*CE and Snow '08*  
Sunday River Resort, Bethel, ME



**March 5-7, 2008**

*23rd Annual Seminar by the Sea*  
Hyatt Regency Newport Hotel  
Goat Island, Newport, RI  
Wednesday - Workshops  
Thursday - CE Program  
Friday - CE Program

**Saturday, March 8, 2008**

*College of Pharmacy 50th Anniversary Gala*  
Newport Marriott  
Newport, RI

**Monday, March 17, 2008**

*URI Alumni/Friends Breakfast*  
American Pharmacists Assoc. Annual Meeting,  
San Diego, CA

**Monday September 8, 2008**

*15th Annual Louis A. Luzzi Seminar on the Links*  
Quidnessett Country Club  
North Kingstown, RI



### URI College of Pharmacy Alumni Newsletter

#### Editors

John Grossomanides. Michael Simeone

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