Celebrate 100 Years of Formal Pharmacy Education in the Maritimes

We are fast approaching a very exciting and special milestone – the 100th anniversary of the College of Pharmacy. Flashback to September 1911. That’s when classes began at the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacy, marking the beginning of formal pharmacy education in the Maritimes. The College was housed in the Forrest Building, Dalhousie University, and George A. Burbidge was one of the instructors. The five students in the first class took the “Qualifying Course” a program that included coursework designed to meet the needs of those wanting to take the exams of the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society. In 1917 the College became the Maritime College of Pharmacy with pharmacists from the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society joining in support of operations. It became truly a maritime college in 1950, when the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association also became affiliated. In 1961 the Maritime College of Pharmacy was incorporated into Dalhousie University as the College of Pharmacy, one of two constituents in the newly formed Faculty of Health Professions.

Turning 100 brings with it the opportunity to reflect on what a wonderful College of Pharmacy we have and reminds us of the many people who have played a role in making it so. Individuals – students, alumni, staff, faculty, preceptors, tutors – professional organizations and industry have all played a part in our development. We owe much to the outstanding leadership of our Deans and Directors, who played a major role in promoting our tradition of excellence in pharmacy education.

Let’s all plan to celebrate this amazing milestone together, in Halifax, October 28 – 30, 2011. Events will be held in conjunction with the 47th Annual Dalhousie Pharmacy Refresher. Please watch the College of Pharmacy’s website or follow us on Facebook to find out what is happening as the details unfold. We’d love to see you back home at the College of Pharmacy!
It is hard to believe another busy year has flown by at the College of Pharmacy. It is my pleasure to update you on some of our recent activities.

We recently conducted a review of our admissions policies and have made the following changes for the 2011/2012 academic year. The College receives over 600 applications per year for 90 seats. The new admission requirements for 2011 are:

1. A minimum grade of 70% will be required in each prerequisite course (B-).
2. Applicants must present at least one year of study in which they successfully completed five full credits of study (30 credit hours) over the fall and winter terms.
3. Academic performance will be calculated on cumulative GPA.

We have adopted the Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) process developed and widely studied by the School of Medicine at McMaster University. This change is a result of our experience with our behavioral interview and the result of recent research focusing on health professional schools/faculties. The MMI will address all the same non-academic criteria as our behavioral interviews. I would like to thank all our community of pharmacists and senior pharmacy students for their assistance in selecting the Class of 2014.

We have accepted our first graduate students into our new Masters of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences program. The College of Pharmacy received approval from the Dalhousie Board of Governors for the new graduate program in June 2010. The goal of this program is to educate students to become high quality research-based scientists who can contribute to drug discovery and development in academia and the pharmaceutical industry.

The Annual Dalhousie College of Pharmacy Refresher Course will be held at the Westin Hotel in Halifax on October 15-17, 2010, in conjunction with the annual Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia Conference. Plans are underway to celebrate the 100 years of formal pharmacy education in the Maritimes in conjunction with the 2011 Refresher Course; mark your calendar and plan to attend, October 28-30, 2011, in Halifax.

The Dalhousie Board of Governors has approved a new Interprofessional Education Building. Architecture plans are being developed and the Board has established a number of planning committees to guide the construction. The Building will support interprofessional health education and will be designed with classrooms, tutorial rooms, labs, common lounge and eating spaces, common library facilities, and an enhanced Learning Resource Centre to support interprofessional clinical/community simulations (as well as a small interprofessional student clinic). The Building will provide for additional space for the College of Pharmacy.

In September 2009, we had a positive site visit from the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). In late August, the CCAPP Board awarded the College full accreditation for the six year term (2010-2016), the highest award available!
Honorary Degree

Murray Koffler, founder of Shoppers Drug Mart, was the recipient of a Honorary Degree from Dalhousie University at the 2010 convocation. This honour is the latest in many designations and awards that Mr. Koffler has received over his illustrious career. A member of the Order of Canada since 1977, Officer of the Order of Canada since 1995 and a member of the Order of Ontario since 1992, a member of the Canadian Business Hall of Fame, recipient of the Canadian Retailer of the Year Award and the list goes on.

Although he is best known for the founding of the Shoppers Drug Mart empire, which began as Koffler Drug Stores which he first began in as a pharmacist upon his graduation from the University of Toronto in 1946. His legacy perhaps is better found in his numerous philanthropic undertakings. Along with his wife Marvelle, Mr. Koffler has made many contributions to various projects and places across the entire world. Koffler Centre of the Arts at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, The Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre and the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, The Koffler Student Services Centre and the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Management at the University of Toronto are just some of the personal pledges they have made. Along with these are the numerous contributions that Shoppers Drug Mart has made and continues to make as they strive to continue the Legacy that Mr. Koffler instilled of giving back to the profession and the community.

Because of his clear commitments to the profession and to bettering the world as a whole in every aspect, Mr. Koffler was a natural choice as the recipient of a Honourary Degree and it was a pleasure to have him present at the convocation as well as to meet and greet the graduates after the ceremony.

We wish Mr. Koffler continued success and hope that he continues to enjoy life and make a difference in all he comes in contact with.

Dean Reappointed

Dr. William Webster has been reappointed as Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions for a further 5-year term.

When announcing the reappointment, President Traves noted Dr. Webster’s accomplishments during his first term as Dean including leading the Faculty in a major initiative to develop interprofessional curricula both internally, and in collaboration with the Faculties of Dentistry and Medicine; acting as Presiding Dean of the three health Deans in the Tri-Faculty Interprofessional Health Education Initiative and playing an important role in the new Interprofessional Health Education Building project. He also commented on Dr. Webster’s leadership and interpersonal skills, his support for Faculty researchers and his success in building relationships with government departments and external foundations.
Preceptors of the Year

Each year students have the opportunity to nominate their preceptors for recognition as community and hospital preceptors of the year. Students submitted nominations to the College of Pharmacy Awards Committee which selects the winning recipients each year.

The winners for 2010 are both graduates from the Class of 2001, Chris Daley (hospital) and Kimberly Joyce (community).

Chris Daley (2001) currently works as a clinical pharmacist at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax NS. In the nomination letter, the student detailed how Chris had been “devoted to ensuring I was properly educated in pharmaceutical care and was ready to practice” from the very beginning of the six-week rotation. Daily discussions on disease states, inclusion in clinical rounds and assistance in preparing for PEBC’s are just a few of the reasons behind the nomination of Chris. The nominator had never considered hospital pharmacy as a career but his experience with Chris has made it an attractive option to consider in the future. It is clear from the letter that Chris’ “enthusiasm and dedication to promoting and advancing the profession of pharmacy is infectious.” It is because of this he has been named Hospital Preceptor of the Year. Congratulations Chris!

Kimberly Joyce (2001) currently works as a community pharmacist at the Sobeys Pharmacy, Bedford NS. Kim was the “perfect example of what a preceptor should be for a student.” The nomination letter was a whole-hearted endorsement of not only Kim’s professionalism but her heart for the patients. Kim “places the overall wellness of her patients first” and “she treats all patients as if they are her family.” Kim pushed the nominating student to excel as a future pharmacist, including inspiring her to form relationships with the patients and to “put herself in the patient’s shoes.” Working at the rotation site for the student was a professional and pleasant experience and showed not only that Kim had excellent leadership skills but that she valued her opportunity to give back to the students that she was mentoring. The rotation made the student “eager to help every patient she encounters” and “to follow in Kim’s footsteps because of her interactions with patients.” It is for this that she has been named Community Preceptor of the Year. Congratulations Kim!

Extra Yearbooks & Videos

The DSPS currently have the following extra yearbooks and videos. If you are interested in any item(s), please email Tracy.Jollymore@dal.ca to make your request and ensure the item is still available. We are asking $10 for the yearbooks and $5.00 for the videos to cover the cost of postage and packaging.

| Yearbooks: |
| 1999 - 2 copies | 2000 - 10 copies | 2001 - 3 copies | 2003 - 1 copy |
| 2004 - 8 copies | 2005 - 10 copies | 2006 - 10 copies | 2007 - 12 copies |
| 2008 - 10 copies | 2009 - 15 copies |

| Videos: |
| Burbridge Idol 2004 VHS - 15 copies | Skit Night 2005 DVD - 1 copy |
| Skit Night 2004 DVD - 3 copies | Skit Night 2009 DVD - 4 copies |
We are pleased to announce that a new graduate program in the College of Pharmacy in the pharmaceutical sciences has been approved by the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University. This Master's degree program has accepted its first two students for a September 2010 start. The goal of this program is to educate students to become high quality research-based scientists who can contribute to drug discovery and development in academia and the pharmaceutical industry.

As some of you may recall, in the past there was a graduate program at the College of Pharmacy. However, this program was suspended as we transitioned to a problem-based learning curriculum. In recent years, with our transition complete and with the recruitment of new faculty members in the area of pharmaceutical sciences, we felt the time was right to begin anew with our program. The process of developing a new program took approximately three years so we are very excited to be at this stage.

Dr. Neil MacKinnon will serve as the graduate coordinator of this new program as part of his role of Associate Director for Research. The five core faculty who will be supervising students and teaching classes in this area are Drs. Remi Agu, Kerry Goralski, David Jakeman, Tannis Jurgens, and Pollen Yeung. These faculty have, in the past, or currently, supervise graduate students. Other cross-appointed and adjunct faculty will also play a prominent role. Tracy Jollymore will provide administrative support for the program.

All graduate students admitted into the program are required to carry out novel, original research. In addition, all graduate students are required, as part of their training, to present and participate in graduate student seminars, and to attend invited speaker seminars.

Students can complete the program in full-time or part-time status. If enrolled as a full-time student, it is anticipated that most students should be able to complete the program in two years. The program will be structured using a combination of courses and thesis-based research, with a supervisor and supervisory committee overseeing progress. Also, of interest to potential candidates, there is financial support available for students who have a strong academic background.

It likely goes without saying that we would love to have any alumni interested in graduate work in the pharmaceutical sciences contact us about the program. All inquiries can be sent to tracy.jollymore@dal.ca.
**Golf Classic**

The 15th Annual College of Pharmacy Alumni Golf Classic was held on July 15, 2010, at Granite Springs Golf Club, Halifax NS. Please visit [www.pharmacy.dal.ca](http://www.pharmacy.dal.ca) for details of the event, sponsors, committee members and winners.

(L-R) Peter Lynch, Alvin Thompkins, Ron Lirette, Brent Evans

A huge Thank You to our sponsors for the 15th Alumni Golf Classic:
Alumnum of the Year

At the May 2010 convocation brunch, Paula MacNeil was recognized as the Alumnus of the Year. Paula graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1987. After graduation she joined Shoppers Drug Mart as a staff pharmacist, and later moved into a pharmacy manager role. Today she is the Director of Pharmacy for Atlantic Canada.

Her professional memberships include: NB Pharmacy Association and supporting member of NS, NL and PEI Pharmacy Associations; member of NS and NB Economic Committees; consultant to PEI Association Economics Committee, and NB Professional Affairs Committee. Paula also sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association as the NB Representative.

Paula has served as a board member for the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund from 2003-2008. She served as chair from 2005-2006 and as interim chair in 2007. She also chaired the selection committee for the new Executive Director.

Paula is a strong advocate for our students and their professional development. She has made an outstanding contribution to both the College of Pharmacy and the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund.

Join us in thanking Paula for her contributions and recognizing her as the 2010 Alumnus of the Year.

2004 Alumni Reunion

On the weekend of October 16-17, 2009, the Class of 2004 held their five year reunion in Halifax. The festivities began on Friday evening with a welcome dinner at Niche restaurant followed by some dancing and fun at the Pacifico. Saturday started off with brunch at the Argyle Bar & Grill and continued with a Pub Crawl Saturday night at various pubs around the Halifax downtown core. About 20 of the original 59 graduates attended the events. Everyone had a great time catching up on old times. Thanks goes out to Mary Abriel-Sangster, Sabrina McLean (Warren), Jen Cummings and Christina Barton-Clark who were involved in the planning of the weekend events. It was a blast!

Back (L-R): Harold Boudreau, Jason Hagar, Mary Abriel-Sangster, Tania Wadden (MacKeen), Jenna Mann, Meika Brogden (Westlake), Sabrina McLean (Warren), Tracy Thompson Doucet, Julia Green-Clements Front (L-R): Christina Barton-Clark, Debbie White-Lamont, Heather Palmer, Kirk Daurie
New Faculty

Sean Gorman (1998) joined the College as Associate Professor in November 2009. He has a cross-appointment as Clinical Coordinator – Critical Care in the Pharmacy Department of the Capital District Health Authority, Halifax.

Sean is from Stanley NB; he earned his BSc (Pharm) degree from Dalhousie in 1998, followed by a hospital pharmacy residency at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax. Travelling west, he earned his PharmD degree from UBC in 2001. Since then, until moving back to Nova Scotia, Sean was affiliated with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority at the Vancouver General Hospital site as Clinical Pharmacotherapeutic Specialist – Critical Care. In addition, Sean was affiliated with the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, first as Clinical Assistant Professor and subsequently as Clinical Associate Professor.

At the College, Sean is responsible for teaching in the areas of respiratory, seizure and gastrointestinal disorders, clinical pharmacokinetics and critical appraisal. In addition, he precepts some of our students who do placements in the intensive care unit at the QEII HSC and he is involved in precepting CDHA pharmacy residents.

When not working, Sean enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Nicole, a nurse practitioner, their one-year old daughter, Abbie and their dog, Lucy. His hobbies include playing basketball, volleyball and snowboarding. He also is a closet sports history buff, with a particular interest in the origins of football in North America. However, his favourite hobby is heading to the family cottage on the east coast of New Brunswick to spend time with family and friends.

Jennifer Isenor (2003) joined the College in August 2009 as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacotherapeutics and the Skills Lab Administrator. In addition, she also works part-time with the College’s Continuing Pharmacy Education Division.

Jennifer, originally from Dartmouth, graduated with her BSc (Pharm) degree from Dalhousie in 2003 and her PharmD degree from UBC in 2009. She is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist, with a diverse clinical background, which includes long-term care, hospital and community practice. Jennifer has a variety of professional and research interests, including, interprofessional education, expanded scope of practice for pharmacists, and geriatrics.

Jenn lives in Dartmouth, with her husband, Darrell, a Salesman for Engineered Air, and their two cats – Gabby and MJ. They are very happy to be back home in Nova Scotia after spending the last six years living in different provinces, including, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Jennifer’s hobbies are always changing, but currently include golfing, cycling, gardening, and should soon include kayaking and boating.

Lisa Walker (2002) was appointed as the College’s First Year Skills Lab Coordinator in September 2009.

Lisa was born in Hong Kong, and moved to New Minas NS when she was 10-months old; she earned her BSc (Pharm) degree from Dalhousie in 2002. Since that time she has been affiliated with Lawtons & Sobeys Pharmacy, primarily practicing as a consultant pharmacist in long-term care at Lawtons Drugs Northwood in Halifax. In addition, she was a consultant pharmacist with Managed Health Care Services, Inc. in Dartmouth from 2004 to 2009.

Before joining the College faculty, Lisa was a College skills lab tutor, a skills lab OSCE assessor, she assisted with admissions interviews, precepted our students in their community placements and was a guest speaker in our fourth year program.

While a pharmacy student, Lisa twice volunteered with the Neema Project at the Kiromo Dispensary in Tanzania, where she helped set up a village medical clinic and pharmacy. In 2006, Lisa received Honourable Mention in the Pharmacy Practice Commitment to Care Award Health Promotion category, for implementing and evaluating the Managed Health Care Services, Inc. Health-Risk Assessment Program.

Lisa lives in Hammonds Plains with her husband, Mark, a Paramedic Clinical Learning Coordinator and their two-year old daughter, Maddy and dog Rudy. Her hobbies include cycling, walking and gardening.
Faculty News

Elizabeth “Liz” Foy received the DSPS Honorary Life Member Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society at the DSPS Awards Banquet held on April 12, 2010. Previous recipients of this award are Rita Caldwell (1974), Neil MacKinnon (1993) and Harriet Davies (1996).

David Gardner and David Jakeman were both promoted to Professor on July 1, 2010.

David Jakeman and Kerry Goralski are two of the co-investigators for a project titled: “Structural, enzymatic and cellular mechanism of action studies on new jadomycins” that was jointly funded as a Collaborative Health Research Project (CHRP) by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Their co-investigators are Sherri McFarland (Acadia University) and Raymond Syvitski (National Research Council Canada and Dalhousie Chemistry). The grant is worth $483,260 for a three-year period, beginning April 2010.

Susan Mansour received an Ambassador Award from Destination Halifax for her role as local co-chair of the 2009 Canada-U.S. conference titled Collaborating Across Borders II, Building Bridges Between Interprofessional Education and Practice. In June 2010, she also received a Special Service Award from the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada “in recognition of distinguished service.” Susan is currently serving as the President of the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs and on July 1st became one of the Faculty of Health Professions senators on the Dalhousie Senate.

Ingrid Sketris was elected as a Distinguished Scholar in the Pharmacy Academy of the National Academies of Practice in March 2010. This award acknowledges significant contributions to the professional practice of pharmacy, public policy advocacy, and/or scholarly achievements. Ingrid is one of two Canadians elected to this 150 member Academy. Ingrid also received the Pfizer/AFPC Research Career Award in June 2010. This award recognizes the research excellence of members of the academic staff of faculties, colleges/schools of pharmacy in Canada.

Anne Marie Whelan was appointed Associate Director, Program Evaluation for the College of Pharmacy in March 2010. She was also awarded Fellow status by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacy in February 2010.

Thank You Wal-Mart

Wal-Mart Pharmacy Canada has generously provided the College of Pharmacy, with a set of stethoscopes and sphygmomanometers for the Skills Lab. The stethoscopes and sphygmomanometers will allow us to expand the hands-on component of patient assessment and monitoring that is taught and practiced within the Skills Lab curriculum. The skills learned will aid our students in entering practice prepared to practice in enhanced pharmacist roles in the health care system.

We were pleased to have Wal-Mart representatives visit the College on two separate occasions to present the stethoscopes and sphygmomanometers to the Director, Rita Caldwell, and the Skills Lab Faculty.

Back (L-R): David Squires, Terry Ramsey, Jennifer Isenor, Glenn Rodrigues, Kim Sponagle
Middle (L-R): Paula Soper, Susan Manuel, Heidi Deal
Front: Kamran Nisar
Pharmacy Carries the Olympic Torch

Louis Deveau (2005) ran with the Olympic Torch in Wagmatcook, NS on day 18 of the Torch Relay. He submitted his name in a contest with Coca Cola and was picked a few months later to run. He describes his experience as amazing and unforgettable, a memory that he will talk about for the rest of his life. “The moment I was passed the torch and raised it up high made me proud to be from Nova Scotia and proud to be a Canadian. I still think about it all the time.” Louis owns Cheticamp Pharmacy in Cape Breton NS.

Michael Hatt (2004) was running a half marathon in Halifax last year when a friend nominated him to run with the Olympic Torch. In June 2009 he was selected to run with the torch and accepted the opportunity. Michael did a 300 metre run with the torch in Glace Bay NS. He describes the opportunity as “the experience of a lifetime.” Michael owns a Medicine Shoppe in Port Hawkesbury NS.

Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Kerry Goralski, Assistant Professor, was selected by the Class of 2010 as the recipient of the 2010 Dr. Jessie I. MacKnight Award for Excellence in Pharmaceutical Teaching. This award, sponsored annually by Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, is based on knowledge, preparation, enthusiasm, motivation, accessibility and communication. Kerry is the instructor for the Pharmacokinetics class in the second year of the pharmacy curriculum. Kerry has been described by his nominators as having a teaching style that makes kinetics stimulating. He demonstrates a passion for teaching and is able to establish clinical relevance.

A testament to establishing relevance was twice offered during his acceptance speech at the convocation brunch. During his speech, Kerry shared a motivational story comparing the feelings of his grandmother as she arrived at Pier 21 during immigration from Poland to the feelings the Class of 2010 may have as they leave Dalhousie to embark on the adventure of the pharmacy profession.

He also delivered one last kinetic lecture which would be great for all of us to remember: “When you graduate the quantity of knowledge from Dalhousie is at its maximum concentration, it is the professional’s responsibility to keep “re-dosing” to ensure the quantity of knowledge does not fall below the minimum effective concentration!”

In addition to Kerry’s teaching ability he is a strong student supporter. He readily makes himself available to students outside of class hours. He also supports initiatives such as the professor auction with enthusiasm. The combination of his cooking talents and good company have students competing for the coveted dinner “Chez Goralski.”
We have Meghan Hayes (2012) and her then finance Jakob Mueller to thank for giving us the idea of a Dalhousie Pharmacy Ottawa alumni reunion; they invited Laura MacLean (2012) and Elizabeth “Liz” Foy to their August 28, 2009 wedding. Liz had observed that over the years many of our alumni had moved to the Ottawa area and most recently to Kingston, so many in fact that she wondered if there were any pharmacists working in Kingston who were NOT Dal alumni.

She contacted Harold Boudreau (2004) and Amanda Jacques (2010) who agreed to organize an event from the Ottawa perspective. Tracy Jollymore of the College of Pharmacy and Shawna Burgess of Dalhousie’s External Relations Office helped out in Halifax with Facebook also being used to track down alumni.

As a result, on the evening of August 29, 2009, a group of more than 50 Dalhousie Pharmacy alumni and friends gathered at the Canal Ritz restaurant in Ottawa for a reunion dinner with some guests traveling from Cornwall, Kingston and suburbs of Ottawa.

Each person who attended the dinner was asked to fill out a form having questions designed to gather current information about our alumni. When asked to Give an example of a personal (non-job-related) accomplishment that you are proud of, many answered their children and participating in sports-related competitions, including half-marathons and marathons. To another question What is your favourite pastime or hobby, answers included participating in and coaching sports, travelling, reading, playing and listening to music, ballroom dancing, baking, oil painting, making jewelry, planning parties and shopping. To the question What is a fond memory of your four years at the College?, several persons listed frosh week, skit night, HPLs and many lasting pharmacy friendships.
History of the College

Did you attend the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University or the Maritime College of Pharmacy? If so, Mary MacCara and Alyson Toole would like to hear from you. They are compiling a history of formal pharmacy education in the Maritimes from 1911 to present and are interested in hearing your memories of being a pharmacy student.

What were your classes and labs like? What were the social activities? Do you have stories, pictures or mementoes of interest that you are willing to share?

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Reunion News continued

Ottawa Alumni Reunion

A mini-luncheon reunion was hosted by Lorne Richardson (1975) at the Merivale Fish Market & Seafood Grill for those who could not attend the dinner. Listed below are the names of alumni, faculty and future alumni who attended these events:

(L-R): Lorne Richardson, David Yung, Louiselle Godbout and Elizabeth Foy


Have you Moved?

If you have not received this newsletter at your home address we may need your updated mailing address. Please email us at pharmacy.alumni@dal.ca or call the Alumni Office at 902-494-8801. Thanks!