Dear Friends of UCSOP,

Since our last communication the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy (UCSOP) faculty, students, staff, and alumni continue to be extremely active and productive within the University, Greater Charleston area and the state. This productivity is reflected in the many accolades received because of their contributions to academia and healthcare. As you are aware, the University of Charleston is leading the way with the concept of innovation in the Kanawha Valley and region. UCSOP has embedded innovation into our curriculum and we are incredibly proud of the awards that our faculty, staff, and students are earning for their academic and innovative endeavors, in such a short period of time.

Substance abuse, particularly the misuse of opioids, has reached epidemic proportions in West Virginia. We have worked in several arenas to educate all age groups about medication misuse, we are on the front-line of training first responders on the use of NARCAN, and have been recognized for our efforts by the United States Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency.

I hope you enjoy reading about the variety and scope of our most recent successes. We appreciate your support as it has helped us in numerous ways. We would love for you to visit our campus and meet members of our SOP community.

Please contact my assistant, Mrs. Jan Kessler at (304) 357-4728 or janicekessler@ucwv.edu to let us know when you would like to visit.

Until next time, remember Our best is yet to come!

Michelle R. Easton, Dean
A total of 34 UCSOP student pharmacists entered their ideas in the 2018 West Virginia Business Plan Competition. The competition affords college students around the state the unique opportunity to make a business idea come to life with the support of state institutions of higher education and seasoned business professionals from around the country. UCSOP students represented 6 of the 30 semifinal teams and 4 of the final 18 teams.

Two teams from UCSOP earned first place in the competition, which was held in Morgantown, WV April 20, 2018. Hemeworks Technologies, submitted by Taylor Clemons, Jawanda Davis (Class of 2019) and Obi Ezekwesili (Class of 2020), took first place in the STEM category. VoixRx, submitted by Koffi Amegadje, Rawlings Ebot Enow and Stephanie Turner (Class of 2020), was awarded first place in the Lifestyle and Innovation category. This is the second year that teams from UCSOP have entered the competition.

UCSOP won the 2018 National Challenge Award in the seventh annual Script Your Future Medication Adherence Team Challenge. The two-month long competition is designed to engage health profession students and faculty across the nation by encouraging teams to develop creative ideas, events, and initiatives to raise public awareness about the importance of medication adherence. This is the fourth National Challenge Award earned by the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy, the fourth consecutive win for the school and UCSOP’s fifth overall win. UCSOP has has achieved national recognition in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

David Bowyer, Chair, UCSOP Department of Pharmacy Practice, was appointed to the WV Board of Pharmacy by WV Governor Jim Justice in July 2017.

Dr. Michelle Easton, Dean, UCSOP, was awarded the Lena Lowe Yost “Educating Women” Award at the March 2018 West Virginia Women’s Commission Legacy of Women Awards Ceremony, she received the Sharp Shooter designation by the West Virginia Executive Magazine in May 2018 and the 2018 Dean Gold Award from the Medical University of South Carolina in June 2018. She was also appointed by WV Governor Jim Justice to the WV Medical Cannabis Advisory Board in June 2017.

UCSOP is proud to have six faculty members who have earned the coveted title of Fellow:

• David Bowyer, Fellow, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
• Dr. Michelle Easton, Fellow, National Pharmaceutical Association
• Dr. Tamer Fandy, Fellow, American College of Clinical Pharmacology
• Dr. David Latif, Fellow, American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education
• Dr. Kristy Lucas, Fellow, American College of Clinical Pharmacy
• Dr. Julie Testman, Fellow, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

“Fellow designates one who has exhibited sustained commitment and/or contributions at a high level of performance to the hallmarks of the organization and distinguished themselves through service, contribution, and/or through demonstrating leadership to the organization.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Carissa Dotson, Class of 2018, was named the UC Graduate Student of the Year. She was also one of 27 national recipients of the US Public Health Services Excellence in Pharmacy Award.

Brandi Keaton, Class of 2021, represented UCSOP at the 10th Annual NACDS RX Impact Day in Washington, DC, March 7-8, 2018. During RX Impact students are aligned with community pharmacy executives, state pharmacy association leaders, and others as part of a joint effort to promote pro-pharmacy legislation on Capitol Hill.

Andrew Van Deusen, Class of 2018, created StudyLex -a new study application for Amazon Echo. His product earned first place in the 2017 UC Innovation Showcase and after competing in a global technology competition in Silicon Valley, Amazon presented an offer to invest in the idea. Andrew is currently completing a two-year Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship with Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

John Hudson, Class of 2011, was named the WV Pharmacist Association Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year in September 2017, which recognized his excellence and outstanding contributions to the WVPA and his community.

Matt Rafa, Class of 2010, was named a Generation Rx Pharmacist by the WV Pharmacists Association in September 2017 for demonstrating specific efforts to prevent drug abuse and diversion.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

As a result of the numerous activities in which UCSOP has been involved in preventing substance abuse, the faculty and student pharmacists have been recognized for their many contributions in this area.

• Certificate of Appreciation for “Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Drug Law Enforcement” from the DEA.

• UCSOP’s West Virginia Partnership for Generation Rx Expansion & Statewide Media Campaign, has been selected as a 2018 Cardinal Health Foundation’s Generation Rx Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention Education for Youth Program grantee and approved for funding in the amount of $35,500.

• A live blog talk radio series discussing medication adherence topics was launched in February 2018.

• The CDC is partnering with UCSOP to be a national resource for Academic Detailing. Academic detailing is a one-on-one outreach education technique which allows pharmacists, pharmacy students and other health care professionals to educate prescribers on the dangers of overprescribing opioids and, also recognize the signs of opioid abuse.

• Cardinal Health has made 7800 doses of Naloxone available to UCSOP for distribution to and training of first responders throughout the state of West Virginia.

• Several UCSOP faculty have been invited as keynote speakers or expert panelists for community coordinated town halls, luncheons, and/or newspaper/television commentaries discussing substance abuse and proper use of prescription medications.

• During the past year UCSOP faculty and students have provided over 200 volunteer hours at harm reduction events throughout the area.
2018 POST GRADUATE EDUCATION NEWS
NEW GRADUATES AND ALUMNI

Dr. Amy Bateman – PGY-1 – Community - UCSOP/Fruth Pharmacy, Nitro, West Virginia
Dr. Doug Criado – PGY-1 – VA Medical Center, Huntington, West Virginia
Dr. Domonique Dobson – PGY-1 – Charleston Area Medical Center, Charleston, West Virginia
Dr. Samantha Farah – PGY-1 – VA Medical Center in Beckley, West Virginia.
Dr. Adam Fife – PGY-1 – Euclid Hospital – Cleveland Clinic, Euclid, Ohio
Dr. Anthony Hill – PGY-1 – Bethesda North Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio
Dr. Kathryn Markus – PGY-1 – Community – Marshall Health, Huntington, West Virginia
Dr. Stephanie Morgan – PGY-1 – TON-Sells Hospital on the Tohono O’odham Nation Indian Reservation through the US Public Health Services
Dr. Victoria Oyewole – PGY-1 – St. Joseph Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington
Dr. Suyasha Pradhan – PGY-1 – Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Lumberton, North Carolina
Dr. John Robinson (c/o 2017) – PGY-2 – Critical Care, Nebraska Medicine, Omaha, Nebraska
Dr. Andrew Van Deusen – Fellow at Novartis in the commercial marketing, business development and licensing area/department

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