

School of  
**Pharmacy**



## From the **DEAN**

The SIUE School of Pharmacy enjoyed another highly successful year, as I am proud to share with you in this report. What strikes me most about our School and what I saw highlighted particularly throughout fiscal year 2015 is the way our students, faculty and staff, and alumni endeavor to “pay it forward.”

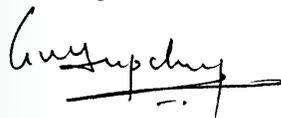
Our students recognize the significance of the education they are receiving, and as such make it a practice to find ways to give back to the community. Whether that is by providing blood pressure screenings, educating community members on prescription drug abuse, or participating in other volunteer initiatives, our students share a drive and dedication to serve.

Our faculty and staff share not only a passion for service to the profession of pharmacy and research, but also to our students. This translates into extraordinary work. Our faculty is making important strides in research, for example in the area of effective Alzheimer’s disease treatment, which emphasizes our School’s commitment to research and drug discovery.

Faculty are also serving on industry-leading boards, and partnering with community health providers and government agencies. Yet, they spend countless hours devoted to our students to motivate and inspire them. They use their own experiences and successes to propel students forward and prepare them for their futures.

Our alumni maintain a deep respect for the education they received here and for the profession of pharmacy as a whole. I am always delighted to talk with former students, and time and again I hear the many ways they are committed to their profession and communities. We have alumni managing regional retail chains, opening their own retail pharmacies, leading clinical divisions in health care systems and giving back to our School.

Warm Regards,



Gireesh V. Gupchup, PhD, FAPhA  
Professor and Dean, SIUE School of Pharmacy



## **SIUE School of Pharmacy Goals**

- Advance innovative education, service and scholarship programs
- Promote faculty and staff development and support
- Foster prospective pharmacy students
- Expand and support professional growth of students and alumni
- Cultivate diversity and inclusiveness
- Identify, develop and sustain external relations and financial support

## **School of Pharmacy Mission**

The SIUE School of Pharmacy is an interdisciplinary educational community dedicated to the preparation of pharmacy professionals, scholars and leaders to improve the health and well being of the region and beyond.

## From the **INTERIM CHANCELLOR**

The SIUE School of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) professional program has received continued accreditation for a full eight years by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The ACPE evaluation team, comprised of pharmacy faculty and administrators from schools across the country, visited the Edwardsville campus in November. This long-term reaccreditation reflects the distinction of the program and is testimony to the School's commitment to excellence in teaching, pharmacy practice, research/scholarship and service.

SIUE faculty, staff and students continue to make significant contributions to the health and well-being of the Southwestern Illinois region and we appreciate the support of area pharmacy professionals as the School strives to maintain the highest level of pharmacy education. On behalf of the University community, I offer congratulations to our dedicated faculty and staff for their commitment and success in exceeding national standards in pharmacy.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen L. Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Stephen L. Hansen, PhD  
Interim Chancellor

## **About SIUE**

Beautifully situated on 2,660 acres, SIUE is a public university offering a broad choice of degrees and programs ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences; business; education, health and human behavior; engineering and nursing. Professional degrees are available in dental medicine and pharmacy. Nearly 14,000 students choose SIUE for the enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient location just 25 minutes from St. Louis.



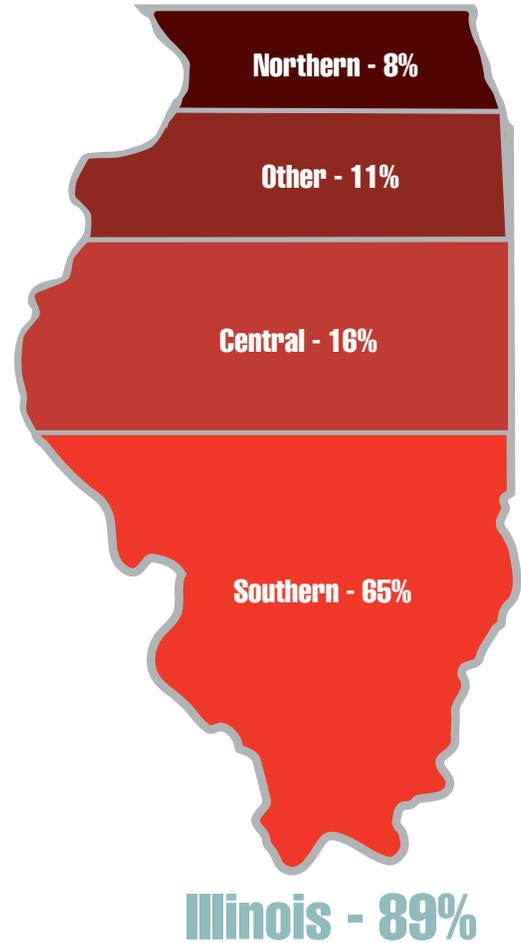
### Total Alumni – 545



**SIE Undergraduates**

**Non-SIE Undergraduates**

### Residence



### Graduation Rate:

**96.3%**

(includes Classes of 2009-2015)

**97.1%**

NAPLEX pass rate for first-time test-takers  
96.6% (2009-2015 average)

**95.6%**

MPJE pass rates for first-time test-takers  
97.0% (2009-2015 average)

Matriculation Average Cumulative GPA: **3.52**

Average PCAT: **58**

## Retirement

**Bill Wuller, RPh, MS, FASHP**  
**Director, Experiential Education**  
**Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice**  
**2006-2015**

Wuller served as director of experiential education and clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice. He came to SIUE from St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Ill., where he was director of inpatient and outpatient pharmacy services.

He is a past director of education and training and a past-president of the Illinois Council of Health System Pharmacists, was a founding member of the pharmacy advisory committee for Consorta, a major national healthcare purchasing organization. He established and served as director of an ASHP-accredited pharmacy practice residency program at St. Elizabeth's hospital.

Wuller received his BS and MS from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and was an adjunct clinical instructor in pharmacy there from 1984 until his appointment at SIUE.



## Pharmacy Advisory Board 2014-2015

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Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, SIUE School of Pharmacy

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**Leighton Wassilak, Retired, St. Louis**

**Travis Willeford, Staff Pharmacist, CVS Pharmacy, Springfield**

**Irene Zollars, Student, SIUE School of Pharmacy**

# Teachers as **MENTORS**

## Costa Rica Elective Provides Global Learning Opportunities

To enhance students' cultural competency and understanding of healthcare delivery across the world, global health education opportunities are part of the School of Pharmacy's strategic initiative. Global partnerships have grown significantly over the years, opening up numerous initiatives for both students and faculty.

One such opportunity is the medicinal plants and tropical diseases in Costa Rica elective. Dr. Cathy Santanello and Dr. Marcelo Nieto, both associate professors of pharmaceutical sciences, offer the two-credit elective to third-year students.

"The first half of the course focuses on enculturation," Santanello said. "Then we travel to Costa Rica for seven to 10 days. Students participate in lectures and seminars at the University of Costa Rica, take a guided walk through the University's medicinal plant garden and a guided tour with plant specialists through Carara National Park Rainforest."

Students interview local healers and experts in alternative medicine treatments, and conduct research in medicinal plant use and tropical diseases. "We also discuss other types of medicinal plants and beliefs, such as Chinese, Ayurvedic and African," Nieto said. "Many of our students go on to work with ethnic populations that use medicinal plants. This opens the door for them to have better firsthand knowledge."

Students also gain a greater knowledge of infectious global diseases, which is imperative for pharmacists who counsel patients who have traveled outside the U.S. or who are non-native residents.

Michael Johnson, third-year student from Baylis, Ill., said the elective helped him in pursuit of his goal to be a well-rounded pharmacist.

"Any time you submerge yourself in a setting that is outside of your norm, you will learn things about yourself and others that you could never learn by staying in your 'box,'" Johnson said. "To paraphrase Albert Einstein, the best source of knowledge is experience."



## Students Excel in Residency Program Matches

Though all students graduating from the School of Pharmacy obtain a doctor of pharmacy, some seek to further advance their education and careers through a residency program.

“Residency is an avenue for more training that leads to a different career path,” said Dr. Lisa Lubsch, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice. “Most pharmacists head into retail. There are a select few, however, who go on to other things. One option is to work at the bedside with physicians.”

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Resident Matching Program (the Match) places applicants in pharmacy residency training positions in the U.S.

“Nine students from the class of 2014 are currently in residency,” said Dr. Jingyang Fan, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice. “Of those, six have decided to pursue postgraduate year two residency, and all six got matched. We are extremely proud of their success.”

Fan and Lubsch concur that while their student population is outstanding, the faculty must also be credited for the support and time it devotes to the students.

“Some students were not planning to do a residency but were inspired by our faculty,” Fan said. “Many of our faculty members are also mentors to the students. They help them refine their curricula vitae, conduct practice interviews and truly prepare for their next steps.”

**“The student-faculty interaction here is different from anywhere I’ve ever worked.”**

**Dr. Lisa Lubsch, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice**

“I know these students on a personal level. We work one-on-one together, and I love that they see something in my own career that they want for themselves.”



**Class of 2015 Residency Match Rate**  
**SIUE School of Pharmacy: 72%**  
**National Average: 65%**

## Ilcewicz Makes History as Student-Athlete

Haley Ilcewicz became the first student-athlete at SIUE to complete her athletic eligibility while enrolled in the School of Pharmacy. Not only did the Lockport, Ill., native manage the challenges of her first two years of pharmacy school while playing intercollegiate tennis, she excelled.

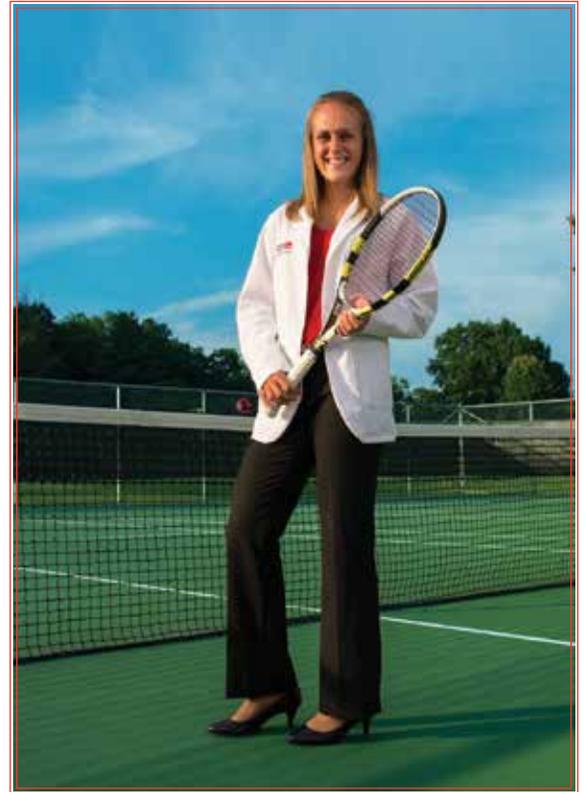
Ilcewicz amassed 46 singles victories during four years at SIUE, including 16 victories during Ohio Valley Conference play. In April, she was inducted into Rho Chi, the national academic honor society in pharmacy. Membership in the Rho Chi Society is accorded to the few who distinguish themselves by academic and professional achievements.

“Haley’s accomplishments speak volumes for the School and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics,” said Professor Bill Wuller, director of experiential education and Rho Chi faculty advisor. “It definitely says something that we have students who compete at such a high level, both academically and athletically.”

Frequently juggling academics and athletics for 12-hour days, Ilcewicz took teamwork and competitiveness, two traits that served her well on the courts, and applied them to her work as a pharmacy student.

“I wasn’t competing with teammates or classmates but more so with myself,” she said. “I also had a good support system of family, friends and teammates.”

She chose SIUE as a high school senior seeking a college with a Division 1 tennis team and a pharmacy school. She recalled coaches who were willing to take on the challenge of having her on the team and in pharmacy school, and faculty who were ready and willing to accommodate her tennis schedule.



**“SIUE allowed me to compete at a high level both on the tennis court and in the classroom.”**

### **Haley Ilcewicz, pharmacy student**

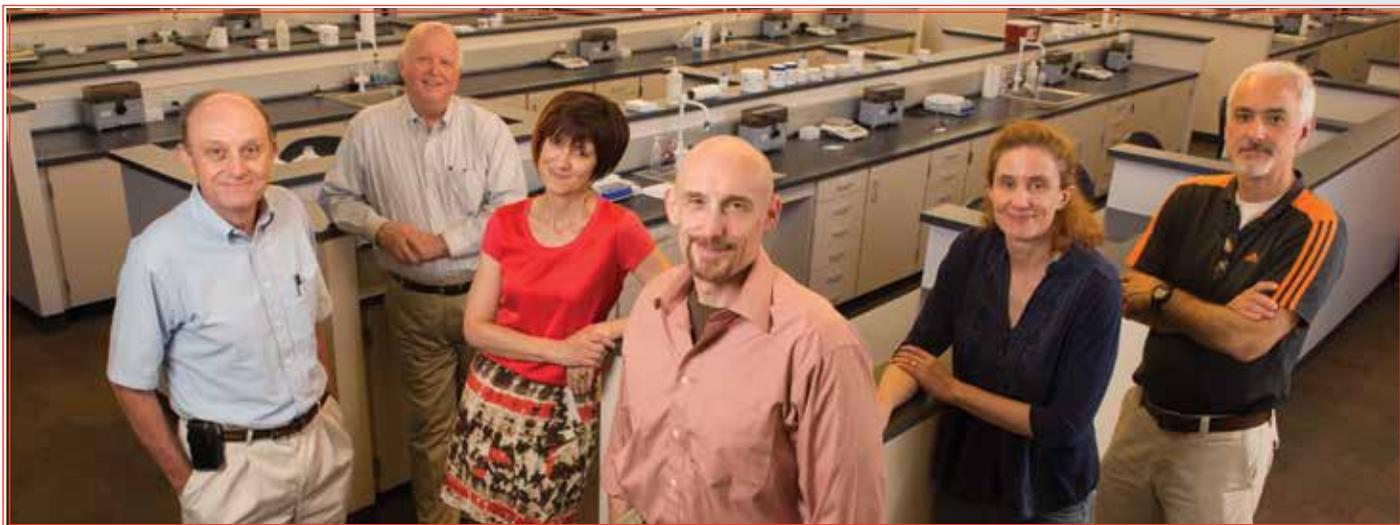
Ilcewicz intends to use the coming year to explore career options now that she has completed her athletic eligibility at SIUE. While excited to gain additional time to focus on pharmacy, she is sad to say goodbye to tennis, a sadness shared by her coaches and team.

“Without question, Haley will be missed on the court,” said Amanda Pratzel, head tennis coach. “I know the mark she has left will continue to make an impact on our success. She is the definition of a true student-athlete.”



# RESEARCH

## School Awarded \$2.65 Million Grant for Alzheimer's Research



School of Pharmacy researchers have been awarded a five-year, \$2.65 million grant from the National Institute of Aging, a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to strengthen their efforts in combating Alzheimer's disease.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans are battling Alzheimer's disease, identified as the nation's sixth leading cause of death with no cure and limited means of treatment. The enormous impact of this devastating disease was highlighted in President Obama's 2015 State of the Union address, in which he targeted it as a research priority.

"Alzheimer's disease represents an enormous threat, given its limited treatment options, enormous costs and increased prevalence in our aging population," said Dr. Ken Witt, principal investigator and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the School of Pharmacy. "Focused efforts to combat this devastating disease have been at the forefront of our research at the School."

The School research team, comprised of medicinal chemists, pharmacologists and pharmaceuticals experts, will use the funding to develop a drug for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

"The NIH has placed a significant amount of responsibility in our hands," said Witt. "Now, we can truly make things happen. Securing the funding is merely putting needed fuel in the tank and getting those tires moving faster."

Initial investigations by the research team began more than 10 years ago. Witt notes the program has now reached the critical lead-optimization stage as it begins a period of testing and retesting various drug candidates in a series of early stage models.

"While this process is admittedly complex when viewed from the outside, it is actually highly regulated and based on well-established criteria for moving drugs forward, and eventually getting them to early stage human trials," Witt said.

### Alzheimer's Research Team

Dr. Ken Witt, principal investigator  
Dr. Karin Sandoval  
Dr. Mike Crider  
Dr. Bill Neumann  
Dr. Maria Kontoyianni

Dr. Bill Kolling  
Dr. Tim McPherson  
Dr. Sue Farr of Saint Louis University  
School of Medicine

# RESEARCH

## Bergman Partners on IDPH Campaign

Dr. Scott Bergman, associate professor of pharmacy practice, is collaborating with the Illinois Department of Public Health on a new statewide initiative to promote appropriate use of antibiotics in outpatient health care settings.

The “Precious Drugs & Scary Bugs” campaign aims to increase health care provider and patient knowledge related to antibiotic resistance and appropriate antibiotic use. It also provides resources to support clinicians in improving antibiotic prescribing, particularly for upper respiratory infections.

“Antimicrobial resistance is a huge problem worldwide, and in America it’s hitting home, because we now have infections that no antibiotic is effective against,” Bergman said. “A lot of resistance stems from overuse in the community. Many times antibiotics aren’t even appropriate for infections, but they’re often prescribed, because the health provider and the patient are grasping for something in hopes that it will make the patient happy.”

Bergman is involved with campaign implementation and research. His focus is measuring judicious antibiotic use among health care providers across the state.

Health care providers who take part in the campaign take a baseline survey prior to participating in educational sessions. They place customized public commitment posters in exam rooms designed to inform patients and remind health care providers of appropriate antibiotic use. A follow-up survey will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign.



## Research Addresses Communication with Deaf Patients

When a community pharmacist mentioned to Dr. Gireesh Gupchup, dean of the School of Pharmacy, that there was a possible barrier between pharmacists and the deaf and hearing impaired population, Gupchup turned to Dr. McKenzie Ferguson, associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of the SIUE Drug Information & Wellness Center, who has an interest in health literacy.

Ferguson and a group of pharmacy students began by conducting basic survey research to understand how both students and pharmacists communicate with this population. They found most pharmacists rely on written drug information. Yet with the average literacy level among the deaf population at a low level, pharmacists are unaware this is often an ineffective means of communication.

“Communicating with the deaf population is an area that has not been researched within the profession of pharmacy,” Ferguson said. “My students and I were not too surprised to find out the pharmacists we surveyed feel ill-equipped.”

Next, Ferguson and her co-investigator, Dr. Min Liu, associate professor of applied community studies in the SIUE College of Arts and Sciences, interviewed members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community to better understand their pharmacy experiences.

As a result of her research, Ferguson has identified three focus areas: challenges of the deaf population, cultural training for pharmacists, and communication between pharmacists and deaf patients.

“Our next step is to find external funding,” she said. “As pharmacists, it is important for us to understand and adapt to different patients’ needs. This is an opportunity to make a significant impact for deaf patients.”



**“I’d like to explore creating medication literacy assessment tools for the deaf population. That would allow us to get to the root of their challenges in understanding written information from the pharmacist. It would be ideal if I could tie that to a clinical outcome.”**

**Dr. McKenzie Ferguson, associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of the SIUE Drug Information & Wellness Center**

## Meeting Community Needs

As a student in the School of Pharmacy, Kendra Shields, PharmD '12, paid close attention in the community pharmacy business class.

“That was one of my favorite classes,” she said. “Different pharmacists and people from the community were brought in as guest speakers. The advice they gave us on why and how to run a pharmacy business was something I didn’t forget.”

Shields knew even then that opening a pharmacy was a career goal. Though she envisioned reaching that goal further on in her career, she seized the opportunity when it presented itself. She and her husband, Chris, opened Shields Family Pharmacy in Alton in December 2014.

“There was an independent pharmacist in the same neighborhood as the CVS where I worked,” she said. “He was retiring after more than 30 years and sold to CVS. It was clear to me that a lot of his customers and other members of the community really wanted an independent pharmacist back in this area of town.”

Shields provides pharmacy services, and her husband handles the business management. Though the store is still in its early stages, she believes it is off to an excellent start.

**“The most rewarding thing has been the response from customers. We’ve developed a loyal following of customers who seem happy to come in. It’s really great to form those relationships with people.”**

### **Kendra Shields, PharmD '12**

In addition to the personal connections, Shields said her pharmacy stands apart from others in the area with a few select offerings. In response to customer requests, they began offering blister packaging.

“Essentially we fill the prescriptions week by week in packages labeled morning, noon, evening and bedtime,” Shields said. “It really helps with compliance and adherence.”

By year-end, Shields Family Pharmacy will be a compounding pharmacy, enabling them to compound medications their competitors cannot, including hormone replacement therapy and pain cream. Shields gained first-hand knowledge of compounding pharmacies while in clinical rotations at the School.

“The exposure to different pharmacy settings definitely helped me decide what I wanted to offer here,” Shields said.



## Father and Daughter Both Pursue Pharmacy at SIUE

The unconventional path to pharmacy school for Keith Gibson of Olney and Amber Crouch of Cottage Hills is inspirational for those who want to follow their dreams.

Gibson and Crouch are the first father-daughter duo to attend SIUE's School of Pharmacy. Gibson graduated with the School of Pharmacy's inaugural class in 2009 and now works for Walgreens as a community pharmacist in Illinois and Missouri. Crouch has completed her second year of the program.

After receiving his associate's degree in 1981, Gibson decided not to pursue more schooling for financial reasons. He settled into a job at an automobile factory where he worked for 20 years.

"I always felt like I had underachieved," Gibson said. "When the company started downsizing, I realized, for the first time, I could seriously consider going back to school. So at 44 years old, I decided it was time to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up."

That began Gibson's journey with the School of Pharmacy. "Pharmacy school was challenging, but it was one of the most personally gratifying things I have ever done," he said. "If I could go back and do it all over again, I would. Only this time, I'd do it sooner. It's such a rewarding profession."

Crouch, whose academic career parallels her father's, will graduate in 2017. After one year pursuing an undergraduate degree after high school, Crouch decided to take a break until she knew what she truly wanted to study. She spent the next 11 years in retail management and manufacturing.

"I really enjoyed retail and interacting with people," Crouch said. "I felt like I was contributing to something meaningful, but healthcare was always in the back of my mind."

When Crouch's husband was laid off and he returned to school, Crouch decided she, too, would pursue her undergraduate degree from SIUE. After job-shadowing her father and visiting the School of Pharmacy's open house, she realized pharmacy was the right fit.

"Having a good role model like my father and seeing that it can be done, even after 20 years, proves that anyone can go back to school at any time," Crouch said.

**"If you have a desire to do it, you can. Don't give up on your dreams, because it is never too late."**

**Keith Gibson, PharmD '09**



## Students' Generation Rx Efforts Receive National Recognition

The SIUE chapter of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) received national recognition at the APhA conference in San Diego in March when it was awarded "Best Implementation of Generation Rx Activities for Region 4." Generation Rx increases public awareness of prescription medication abuse and encourages health care providers, community leaders, parents, teens and college students to actively work to prevent abuse.

In 2014, the SIUE chapter provided educational outreach to more than 4,100 elementary through high school students through presentations on the consequences of prescription drug abuse. Additionally, students developed a Generation Rx carnival to educate SIUE students, faculty and alumni on the dangers and consequences of prescription drugs, alcohol and illicit drug abuse and misuse. The carnival, which was held on the SIUE campus during Homecoming in October, reached more than 350 individuals.



## School Hosts 9th Annual Diabetes Patient Education Symposium

More than 200 community members participated in the 9th annual Diabetes Patient Education Symposium on the SIUE campus in January. The program was hosted by the SIUE School of Pharmacy American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists. They partnered with Novo Nordisk, American Diabetes Association and Alton Memorial Hospital.

"The success of the event would not have been possible without the faculty, community supporters and more than 30 students who generously volunteered their time at the event," said Dr. Jennifer Rosselli, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice.

Developed and organized by Rosselli and her colleagues Dr. Jessica Kerr, associate professor of pharmacy practice, and Dr. Andrea Wooley, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, the symposium provides participants with knowledge and empowerment to improve their diabetes control, overall health and quality of life.

This year's program offered an expert panel of speakers, one-on-one counseling sessions with health care providers, health screenings, and informational booths featuring 18 businesses and organizations that offer health-related services locally.

## Blood Pressure Event Provides More Than 400 Screenings

To reach people who do not have the time or inclination to visit traditional health fair events, School of Pharmacy students and faculty traveled to businesses in Edwardsville and Glen Carbon in May offering blood pressure checks to employees. The group, comprised of 12 faculty members and 32 students, conducted screenings on 426 individuals during the four-hour community service event.

"Participating businesses benefit through hopefully having a healthier and better educated workforce," said Dr. Christopher Lynch, clinical programs director and professor of pharmacy practice. "Our students gain valuable experience in caring for the public and in practicing their blood pressure measurement technique."

According to Lynch, more than half of people with high blood pressure are not aware they have the disease. This is the second year the School has staged this initiative as a way to give back to the community.



# PARTNERSHIP

## Partnership with Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation Flourishes

Without being located on or near a medical campus, the School of Pharmacy required a creative approach to gain patient access, which led to the unique and growing partnership with Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF). The partnership enables the School to provide programs and research at SIHF's West Belleville and Belleville Family Health Centers, and Touchette Regional Hospital in Centerville.

"Our greatest need was patient access. SIHF's greatest need was for people experienced in implementing research projects," said Dr. Chris Lynch, director of clinical programs and professor of pharmacy practice. "The partnership has flourished because of how well we complement each other."

SIHF and the School collaborate to provide pain management consultation to family practice residents, medication therapy management services, diabetes care, and numerous research projects. A recently awarded grant funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute will provide development of a patient-centered research project on behavioral health outcomes.

"We are expanding our behavioral health services at Touchette, and this research will help us deliver the best care possible," said Dale Fiedler, SIHF corporate director of planning and development. "I cannot overemphasize the School's responsiveness and willingness to partner with us to meet our needs."

While SIHF benefits from the School's research expertise, its patients benefit from education and medication management services provided by faculty and students. Students benefit from real-world experience. Each year, SIHF identifies research topics to improve quality of care, many of which are selected for students' capstone projects.

"Many capstone projects focus on analyzing data," Lynch said. "Here the students know their research has real impact on the lives of real people."



**"SIHF provides invaluable health care services for residents of the metro-east St. Louis area regardless of their ability to pay."**

**Dr. Chris Herndon, associate professor of pharmacy practice,  
SIUE School of Pharmacy, and pharmacist clinician at  
SIHF's Belleville Family Health Center**

## Pharmacy's Best and Brightest Endowed Scholarship Campaign and Paver Drive

To honor the School of Pharmacy's leading role in pharmacy education, research and service now and in generations to come, a pathway will be built - both figuratively and literally - for pharmacy's "best and brightest" around the medicinal garden between our two main buildings.

Gifts and pledges provide endowed scholarships for pharmacy students in the region through merit-based and hardship-based awards. The Alumni Council invites support of this campaign through the purchase of a personalized engraved brick on the pathway that surrounds the School's medicinal garden.

J. Christopher Smith, CEO of H.D. Smith, and Charlie Dragovich, director of business development at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, have each given significant leadership gifts to the campaign. They have generously stepped forward to challenge alumni, parents, peers and friends to join them in support of the endowed scholarship campaign.

Campaign gifts and paver purchases may be sent using the envelope included in this publication or online at [siue.edu/pharmacy/give](http://siue.edu/pharmacy/give). Patricia McDonald, senior director of development, is available to provide additional information and take an order for your personalized, engraved paver at [pmcdona@siue.edu](mailto:pmcdona@siue.edu) or 618-650-5154.

J. Christopher Smith, CEO of H.D. Smith, began serving on the School of Pharmacy advisory board in 2008. Now chair of the board, Smith recently stepped forward with a significant leadership gift toward the endowed scholarship campaign. He challenges others to support the campaign as well.

"I was excited when I was first invited to participate on the board because of the newness of the program at SIUE and the need for pharmacists at that time," Smith said. "I am even more excited today to work on the board with Dean Gupchup because of the ongoing commitment he and the School have to maintaining cutting-edge approaches to learning, driving institutional excellence, and meeting the future needs of pharmacy. I encourage all board members and the organizations they represent to support the endowment campaign."



Charlie Dragovich, director of business development at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy and former advisory board member, urges people to remember that higher education is in crisis regarding access and the cost burden to students and families. He believes even small gifts to the endowed scholarship campaign add up to make high-quality pharmacy education accessible.

"With the recent receipt of a National Institutes of Health R01 research grant and more research funding coming in each year, it is clear that while SIUE is affordable, quality is not compromised," Dragovich said. "Our challenge is keeping education at the School of Pharmacy affordable, especially for students from Illinois."

# Donor LIST

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## Mortar & Pestle Society (\$1,000+)

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## Matching Gifts

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## Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Peer-Reviewed Publications

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