



School of PHARMACY

DEAN'S REPORT 2025



It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year’s SIUE School of Pharmacy Annual Report. Within these pages, you will discover stories highlighting the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty, and friends. From national recognition in public health service and groundbreaking international learning experiences to inspiring leadership in professional organizations, our students demonstrate their dedication to improving lives through pharmacy.

This year marks an exciting new chapter as we moved into the state-of-the-art Health Sciences Complex. For the first time, the Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing share a collaborative home designed to prepare students for interprofessional healthcare. With expanded research labs, immersive clinical training centers, and innovative learning spaces, the Complex strengthens our ability to support students and faculty. Community enthusiasm has been palpable, reflected in a more than 30% increase in our first-year class.

None of this progress would be possible without the steadfast support of our alumni, donors, and friends. Your generosity fueled a record year in scholarship awards, empowered initiatives like the SIUE Pharmacy Alumni Network, and reinforced the foundation carrying our School forward. Together, we are shaping the next generation of pharmacists, researchers, and healthcare leaders. I invite you to explore this report with pride and excitement for what lies ahead.

Mark S. Luer

Mark S. Luer, PharmD, FCCP
School of Pharmacy Dean and Professor

School of Pharmacy BY THE NUMBERS

NAPLEX Success

Our graduates’ **NAPLEX exam pass rates** have consistently exceeded state and national averages across most years since 2014.

Graduation Rate (2009-2024)

90% On time | 96% Overall

30%

Curriculum dedicated to experiential education

96%

Overall graduation rate

8:1

Student-to-faculty ratio

1,289

Total alumni

13

National pharmacy organization student chapters

97%

Class of 2025 graduates pursuing a residency who receive a match

Ranked #1 in Illinois and #6 in the U.S.

Class of 2028

Pre-pharmacy average GPA: 3.43

Pre-pharmacy average math and science GPA: 3.35

Matriculation average cumulative GPA: 3.37

Residence (Class of 2028)

Illinois: 73%

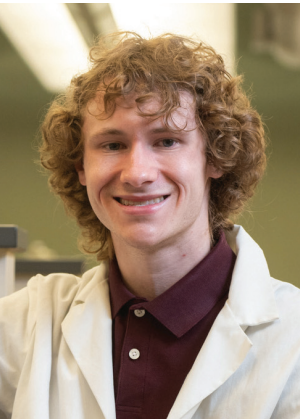
Southern Illinois: 55%

Central Illinois: 34%

Northern Illinois: 11%

Out of state: 27%

Serving with Purpose PHARMACY GRADUATES MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH



Jason Cole,
PharmD '25, MPH '25



Matthew Jacquot,
PharmD '25, MPH '25

Two members of the Class of 2025, Jason Cole, PharmD, and Matthew Jacquot, PharmD, MPH, have stood out through service and recognition tied to the United States Public Health Service (USPHS).

During Cole’s final year at SIUE, he was selected to participate in the **United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP)**.

SRCOSTEP provides financial support and officer-level pay to students in their final year of graduate or professional training in exchange for a commitment to serve in the USPHS Commissioned Corps after graduation. Upon graduating, Cole fulfilled that commitment by entering active duty as a USPHS Commissioned Corps officer. He is currently serving with Indian Health Services at the Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in Belcourt, N.D.

“I would like to take this opportunity to develop my clinical skills and enjoy working in a direct patient-care position,” said Cole. “I wanted a career where I could interact with patients one-on-one or in smaller group settings. I hope to build a career in the USPHS, wherever that may take me.”

Jacquot was honored with the **USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award**, a prestigious national recognition presented by the Assistant Surgeon General. The award, announced during the spring commencement ceremony, recognizes pharmacy students who have demonstrated a commitment to public health and significantly contributed to advancing the USPHS mission to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation.

“This award is incredibly meaningful because it recognizes the connection between pharmacy and public health, two areas I care deeply about,” Jacquot said. “To me, it’s not just an individual honor, it’s a reminder that public health work matters, even if it’s behind the scenes. It motivates me to keep finding ways to serve communities, improve access to care, and advocate for health equity through my pharmacy career.”

During his training while at SIUE, he focused on providing patient-centered care, especially for vulnerable populations, and worked on projects in health education, chronic disease management, and deprescribing. He also served in leadership roles and contributed to clinical and community-based initiatives to support better patient care.

“These experiences have strengthened my commitment to making a real difference in the lives of others,” said Jacquot.

Pharmacy Leadership AND MILITARY COMMITMENT

Noah Sutliff grew up all over the country. His father, who has served in active duty as a member of the United States Air Force (USAF) for 27 years, moved his family from Maryland to Alaska, and many states in between. His dad is now stationed at Scott Air Force Base, which is how Sutliff was introduced to SIUE.

“I found SIUE to be a good fit for me,” said Sutliff. “I’d be lying if I said SIUE’s price point also didn’t play a role in my decision.”

Now in his third year in the School of Pharmacy, Sutliff says the opportunity to participate in organizations like the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) has been a highlight.

“Participating in the APhA and IPSF has been a joy,” said Sutliff. “Not only have I attended a plethora of conferences and met so many wonderful people, I also have the privilege of guiding our APhA chapter as this year’s president. Then there’s the international travel, of course, which is second to none.”

In July, Sutliff traveled to Portugal through IPSF’s student exchange program.

“Working in a few of the many community pharmacies across the bustling city of Lisbon was an experience that was like no other,” said Sutliff. “Not only was I able to go behind the scenes and understand how medications are received and distributed to patients, but also the many differences between the profession there and back here in the United States.”

What lies ahead may be the most defining chapter of Sutliff’s journey. He has committed to a future as a biomedical officer in the Air Force, representing the fourth generation of his family to serve in the military. With an Air Force scholarship covering his final two years of pharmacy school, Sutliff will serve three on active duty and five in the reserves.

“My father likes to joke around and say that I only joined the Air Force because I’m indoctrinated, and there’s some validity to that statement. Once you get used to the military lifestyle, it’s very hard to transition back to the civilian world,” Sutliff explained. “Add in the fact that I’ll graduate debt-free and already have a job I’m incredibly passionate about? It was a no-brainer.”

Looking ahead, Sutliff hopes that his career will take him to one of the bases overseas. Whether abroad or stateside, he is excited to excel in the field of pharmacy while serving our country.



Get to Know P4 LAUREN WELLS

Lauren Wells was drawn to pharmacy through personal experiences and a deep commitment to helping others. At SIUE, she found a community that matched her drive to lead, learn, and make a difference. Here, she shares her journey in her own words:

I am originally from Park Forest, Ill., where I developed my passion for service and education. My journey into pharmacy was shaped by personal experiences with familial health conditions, which inspired me to make a tangible impact on patients’ lives through healthcare.

I was drawn in by the close-knit connection with faculty and staff, as well as the global outreach experiences such as the Jamaica Dental Mission Trip and the Guatemala Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE). I was inspired by the support and success of SIUE alumni, which motivated me to follow in their footsteps while creating a unique path for myself.

During my time at SIUE, I’ve held several leadership roles at the local level, including membership vice president of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacist, liaison for the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and vice president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA).

I am also honored to serve in a national elected role as the 2024–2025 SNPhA National Recording Secretary. This position pushed me outside of my comfort zone, requiring me to complete interviews, deliver a speech, and campaign to members across the country. Now, I oversee the work of SNPhA chapters nationwide as they serve their communities and uphold our mission of serving the underserved—a major accomplishment in my pharmacy journey.

This year, I was selected for the APhA Board of Pharmacy Specialties APPE. This experience will allow me to explore Washington, D.C. and gain firsthand insight into how pharmacy specializations are developed and advanced at a national level.

I will graduate with a Doctor of Pharmacy and a Master of Business Administration in May 2026. After graduation, my goal is to complete a residency in a diverse and dynamic setting that will allow me to specialize and deliver exceptional, patient-centered care. Long-term, I hope to leverage both degrees to enhance the role of community pharmacies and ensure that pharmacists are equipped to provide high-quality, accessible care to the communities they serve.



“SIUE’s School of Pharmacy presents a unique opportunity.

Lauren Wells
P4 Student

Research, Global Learning, and HOLISTIC HEALTH

Small class sizes, affordability, and supportive faculty are why P3 student Anna Rose Diel chose to attend the SIUE School of Pharmacy and take full advantage of the opportunities offered. She has immersed herself in a variety of initiatives during her three years of study, including active participation in the American Pharmacists Association (APhA).

A highlight has been the internship she completed in Ljubljana, Slovenia, this past summer. The opportunity was offered by the APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP), in partnership with the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). She contributed to cutting-edge antibiotic research, focusing on the synthesis of fluoroquinolone-NBTI hybrid compounds targeting bacterial topoisomerases. Through this experience, she gained hands-on lab skills in synthesis, reaction analysis, and purification techniques.

I wanted to ensure a well-rounded education and feel prepared to enter the workforce, and I believe the SIUE School of Pharmacy is setting me up for a successful career.

*Anna Rose Diel
P3 Student*

Once Diel earns her degree, she hopes to pursue a path in holistic health, helping individuals cultivate a healthy lifestyle.

"I have such a love for healthy living and want to share this passion with my patients," she said. "I ultimately want to make a positive impact on my patient's overall health and provide care that will increase their longevity through physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing."

Building a Career in PHARMACY

Pharmacy student Jarret Morgan, from Bethalto, first worked in construction but found his passion after taking a job at Alton Memorial Hospital's inpatient pharmacy.

"I developed a genuine curiosity about how medications interact with the body and how pharmacists can make a difference in patients' lives," said Morgan. "At Alton Memorial, I met some incredible SIUE pharmacy students who shared their passions with me and helped in sparking my own."

Now a highly engaged P4 student, Morgan works part-time at the hospital and has achieved much, including:

- Conducting research with Bhargav Patel, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Joseph Schober, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, to develop a fluorescence polarization assay to screen EIF4F inhibitory compounds
- Holding leadership roles in the Industry Pharmacists Organization (P1 Liaison, President-Elect, President) and strengthening industry engagement through presentations, competitions, and guest events
- Volunteering with RxTeach, a nonprofit founded by an SIUE alumnus, authoring science-based healthcare articles on atherosclerosis, caffeine pharmacology, and telomerase in cancer
- Leading SIUE's team to third place nationally in the 2024 American College of Clinical Pharmacy Clinical Research Challenge with a mock trial on pharmacist-led post-liver transplant diabetes care
- Completing a Merck summer internship on the Global Scientific Content team in thoracic oncology, supporting clinical trial communications
- Launching a research symposium as Rho Chi Academic Chair
- Creating a P3/P4 mentorship system
- Organizing research talks for pre-pharmacy students
- Co-founding a wellness Run Club with classmate Riley Jackson through the Local American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists chapter

Morgan aims for a pharmaceutical industry career in medical affairs, focusing on oncology and communicating emerging clinical trial data as a subject matter expert.



Jarret has a strong passion for the fundamentals of pharmaceutical sciences, including pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, and pharmaceuticals. He excels at applying these foundational sciences to various areas of pharmacy practice.

*Joseph Schober, PhD
Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences*

A New Era for THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The new state-of-the-art, 176,000-square-foot Health Sciences Complex (HSC) at SIUE marks the start of a transformative chapter, housing the SIUE Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing in the same building for the first time. This three-story facility is designed to mirror real-world healthcare settings, offering exam rooms, skill labs, immersive virtual reality experiences, and collaborative learning spaces.

“We are doubling our research capabilities, increasing our teaching and clinical training facilities, and creating space for true interprofessional education to thrive,” said Marc Luer, PharmD, FCCP, dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Classes officially began in the new complex this fall—and the excitement is tangible. First-year enrollment in the School of Pharmacy is up more than 30%, a testament to the draw of this groundbreaking facility.



Twice the Research Space

Cutting-edge laboratories and technologies are devoted to breakthrough discoveries in pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, and synthetic medicinal chemistry. Faculty will advance knowledge in critical areas such as pain management, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, mental health, substance abuse, and prescription monitoring.

Pharmaceutical Compounding Laboratory

Top-tier compounding space allows for the study of how physical and chemical properties of compounds interact—supporting the creation of accurate, safe, and personalized medication delivery systems that meet the specific needs of individual patients.

Pharmacy Clinical Training Center

The center simulates real clinical encounters and prepares students for patient-centered care. In this controlled environment, students learn to recommend over-the-counter medications and counsel patients about both self-care and prescription medications.

Grand Lecture Suites

These suites facilitate interprofessional education across the health sciences, support continuing education for regional professionals, and serve as a venue for industry conferences and events.

Learn more about the Health Science Complex



siue.edu/health-sciences-complex

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The greatest strength of our program has always been its people. Now we have a facility that matches their talents.

Mark Luer, PharmD, FCCP
Dean, School of Pharmacy





The School of Pharmacy celebrated a record-breaking year at its annual Awards Ceremony, awarding \$38,750 in scholarships thanks to the generous support of alumni and donors!

Greetings!

Our alumni and friends are truly the heart and soul of the SIUE School of Pharmacy, and your continued engagement is vital to our collective success. Thanks to your incredible support, we have seen yet another record-breaking year in scholarship dollars awarded — directly benefiting our students and empowering them to advance the future of pharmacy practice.

This year also marked the successful first year of the SIUE Pharmacy Alumni Network, which co-hosted four fantastic alumni and friends events nationwide. These gatherings have strengthened connections, built new partnerships, and celebrated the amazing accomplishments of our graduates. **Interested in being part of future Alumni Network event planning?** Contact Suzi Schieferdecker, '19, '21, development associate, at sseaton@siue.edu for more details.

We are also filled with excitement as we have moved into the SIUE Health Sciences Complex — the new permanent home for both the School of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing. This state-of-the-art facility expands opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, enriches the student experience, and further positions SIUE as a leader in healthcare education. If you find yourself back in Edwardsville, reach out to us for a tour of the new building!

Alumni engagement is far more than simply reconnecting — it is an opportunity to maintain and deepen the bonds between you and the School. Whether you choose to serve as a preceptor, mentor a student, participate in our events, or support our initiatives, you are making a meaningful impact on our students' education and the profession.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to consider maximizing your support through **employer matching gift opportunities**. Many companies offer matching programs, doubling or even tripling the impact of your gift and helping us continue to advance our mission. If you are interested in exploring further, reach out to me!

Dean Luer and I are grateful for your involvement, and we welcome your continued ideas and input as we grow and evolve. Together, we can shape the future of pharmacy education, empowering our students to thrive, and strengthening our shared legacy. **Thank you for being such an essential part of our journey.**

Nick Niemerg '15
Director of Development
SIUE School of Pharmacy
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Donor Spotlight FROM DEAN TO DONOR



When Gireesh Gupchup, PhD, immigrated to the United States in 1988, he arrived with limited resources and faced challenges common to many international students. Despite those early obstacles, he persevered and earned a PhD in Pharmacy Practice from Purdue University in 1996, laying the foundation for a distinguished career in pharmacy and academic leadership.

He went on to serve as director of the New Mexico Medicaid Retrospective Drug Utilization Review Program and chair of the Pharmacoeconomics, Pharmaceutical Policy, and Outcomes Research Graduate Program at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. Gupchup later joined the SIUE School of Pharmacy, as a professor and founding associate dean from 2004-2010, dean from 2010-2018, and SIUE Director of University-Community Initiatives from 2018-2020.

As dean, Gupchup led a period of exceptional growth—expanding enrollment, research funding, and national visibility; launching new degree programs and residencies; and achieving top board pass rates in Illinois and Missouri. His leadership strengthened the School's reputation and laid the foundation for continued innovation.

Today, Gupchup serves as Vice President for Academic Innovation, Planning, and Partnerships for the SIU System. While his role now spans across the System, his commitment to the School of Pharmacy remains steadfast. He is giving back to the School he helped shape by establishing an endowment for international students and/or children of first-generation U.S. residents.

"When I immigrated to the United States, I knew very little and had very little money," he said. "Several altruistic individuals helped me along the way. So, I thought that I could help those re-living my story in a small way. I hope the scholarship can help international students and/or children of first-generation U.S. residents to defray some of the costs of college so they can be the successful leaders of tomorrow."



This award didn't just bring financial relief, it made me feel seen. That recognition means everything to international students like me.

Kizito Nwauwa
P3 PharmD Student
Gupchup Family School of Pharmacy
Scholarship Endowment Recipient

Donor Spotlight

A HISTORIC COMMITMENT

Chris and Debbie Smith, long time friends and advocates of the School of Pharmacy, have deepened their commitment to the School with a generous \$125,000 contribution, the largest one-time donation in the School's history.

The gift established a second renewable scholarship, identical to the scholarship they first created in 2022: The Chris and Debbie Smith Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment. Together, the scholarships reflect the Smiths' mission to expand educational access for students with financial need and to foster long-term success for future pharmacy leaders.

“Whenever there is learning, there is always the possibility to grow and evolve.”

Chris and Debbie Smith

“Opportunities for higher education do not just provide avenues to secure futures for those who learn, but a brighter, more inclusive, sustainable future for us all,” said Debbie Smith. “Educational opportunities provide incentives and strategies for aspiring to our highest possible expression.”

The Smiths emphasized that their gift is rooted in admiration for the School's excellence.

“It feels good to support this excellent pharmacy school and its outstanding management and faculty,” they said. “We hope our support helps students receive a great education, build a strong foundation for a successful career, and develop a commitment to pay it forward.”

The Smiths' generosity was recognized during the University's One Day, One SIUE celebration in April 2025. This annual fundraising event brings together alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community members to support SIUE's mission and initiatives. The 2025 event surpassed expectations by raising more than \$2.8 million from over 2,300 donors.

This year's Chris and Debbie Smith Endowed Scholarship recipient is Jamia Whitehorn, a fourth-year PharmD student and MBA candidate. A first-generation college student from Chicago, Whitehorn arrived at SIUE with a bachelor's degree in criminology and a master's in biotechnology.



Donor Spotlight

THE CLASS OF 2020'S ENDURING GIFT

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted their long-awaited graduation plans, the School of Pharmacy Class of 2020 did not just adapt—they innovated. Forced to move their commencement to a virtual platform, these resilient graduates turned their disappointment into an enduring legacy by creating a scholarship.

Redirecting funds originally meant for graduation festivities, the Class of 2020 launched the scholarship as a meaningful act of solidarity with future students. What began as a short-term initiative soon grew into a lasting achievement. With additional support from alumni and matching funds from Therese Poirier, PharmD, MPH, FASHP, FCCP, BCPS—professor emeritus of pharmacy practice and Class of 2020 advisor—the scholarship reached \$25,000, qualifying it as an endowed fund. This milestone ensures that their impact will continue for future pharmacy students.

“We tried to instill in this class from the beginning the importance of giving back and leaving a lasting legacy,” said Poirier. “They were the first class to prioritize fundraising for a class gift. Even before graduation, they collected pill bottles to recycle into a bench for the medicinal garden, a gift presented in 2019.”

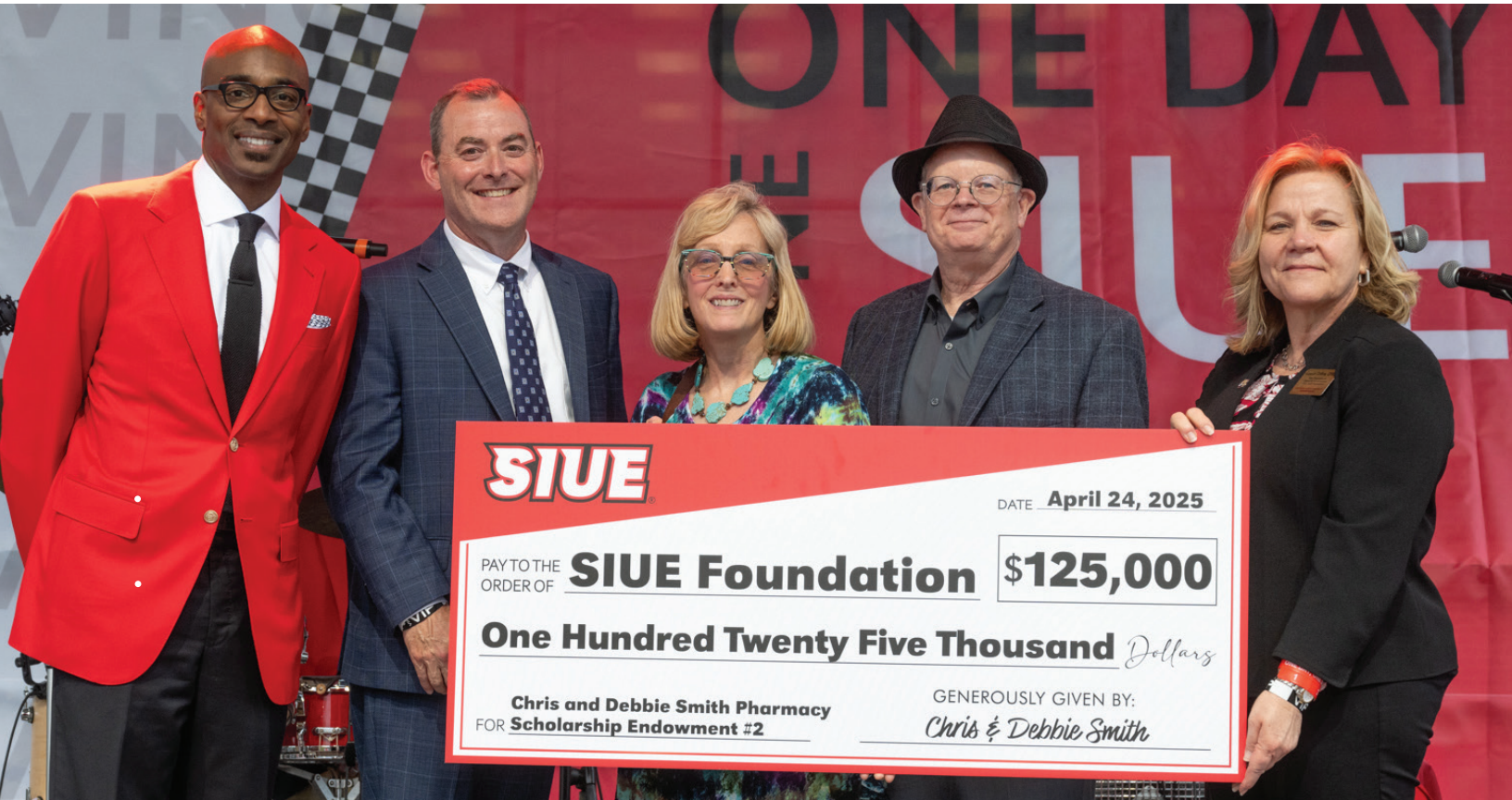
Poirier shared that the idea for an endowed scholarship had been in discussion even before the pandemic canceled their banquet. “The class officers were optimistic about raising enough, and I pledged to match their contributions,” she said.

The Class of 2020 Scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates leadership and the ability to inspire others toward a common goal. This year's recipient, Matthew Jacquot, PharmD, graduated in May with Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Public Health degrees. He is now pursuing residency at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

“Even though the Class of 2020 couldn't celebrate in person, they made sure their legacy would endure, which is truly remarkable.”

Therese Poirier, PharmD, MPH, FASHP, FCCP, BCPS
Professor Emeritus of Pharmacy Practice and Class of 2020 Advisor

The Class of 2020's scholarship embodies the spirit of resilience and ensures that their generosity will echo for generations of pharmacy students to come.



Donor Spotlight

THE IMPACT OF RXTEACH



Brentsen Wolf, PharmD, '21



Kristen Lindauer, PharmD, '21

RxTeach, founded by Brentsen Wolf, PharmD, '21, is on a mission to close major gaps in healthcare education through free, accessible, evidence-based content. What began as a side project during a postdoctoral fellowship has blossomed into a nonprofit platform that is making waves across the healthcare landscape.

Originally launched by Wolf during his fellowship, RxTeach began as a platform to share insights on healthcare topics he felt were under researched.

"RxTeach covers a breadth of topics including clinical pharmacy, health and wellness, journal clubs, basic sciences, industry pharmacy, and professional and student development," said Wolf. "We simply want to provide free information to students, patients, and professionals and give back to our community through education."

As its readership grew, the RxTeach team expanded. Kristen Lindauer, PharmD, '21, helped co-found RxTeach as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is the sitting Vice President. She is responsible for most of the clinical content on RxTeach, including the very popular Journal Club articles. Together, Lindauer and Wolf oversee a team of three PharmD authors and one student author.

"RxTeach is an accessible resource for patients and professionals for evidence-based medicine," she said. "We pride ourselves on the autonomy we give our contributors and the credibility of our articles. We research our topics and reference our materials to create a robust library of information."

True to its mission of advancing education, RxTeach donates all profits to fund pharmacy student scholarships, two of which are awarded each year to SIUE School of Pharmacy students:

- RxTeach Health and Wellness through Pharmacy Scholarship supports students interested in lifestyle medicine, chronic disease prevention, and the role of pharmacists in promoting long-term health through nutrition, exercise, and wellness.
- RxTeach Future Oncology Pharmacist Award supports students pursuing careers in oncology or the pharmaceutical industry.
- This past spring, the two scholarships were awarded to Anna Krienert, PharmD, '25, and Brayden Shirley, PharmD, '25, respectively.

As RxTeach continues to grow, Wolf and Lindauer envision an even broader impact.

"We have ambitious goals for RxTeach in the next few years," said Lindauer. "We want to involve more students, whether in article writing or in a more comprehensive way, by forming a full experiential education opportunity. We also want to expand our scholarship reach to additional schools of pharmacy across the country."

Celebrating 15 Years of THE CLASS OF 2010

Fifteen years ago, the School of Pharmacy's Class of 2010 embarked on their professional journeys. These alumni have since made lasting contributions to the healthcare landscape and their profession. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor their achievements and continued commitment to excellence in pharmacy.



Vince Oluwaleke, PharmD, MBA
Clinical Instructor at University of Illinois Chicago's Retzky College of Pharmacy; Assistant Director of Pharmacy at University of Illinois Health

Most significant experience as a SIUE pharmacy student:
"My most significant experience during pharmacy school was the mentorship I received from Dr. Gupchup. His guidance played a crucial role in shaping both my academic and professional development. Through his mentorship, I gained a deeper understanding of the pharmacy field, strengthened my leadership skills, and learned the importance of serving the community with compassion and integrity. Dr. Gupchup's support and encouragement inspired me to pursue opportunities beyond the classroom and reinforced my commitment to making a meaningful impact in healthcare."



Matt Hammer, PharmD
Epic Willow Ambulatory Application Analyst for Center for Global Health Epicenter

Proudest professional accomplishment:
"Completing a PGY1 residency and becoming director of pharmacy at my health system."

Most significant experience as a SIUE pharmacy student:
"Dr. Herndon's pain elective and his teaching style really struck a chord with me. The patient examples he used in class resonated with me. Their complexity and intertwined mental health disorders inspired me to chase residency. Lastly, doing poison prevention talks in elementary schools in East St. Louis, was eye opening and impactful. The children in the East St. Louis elementary school were bilingual, better behaved, and more appreciative than any of the other schools we visited."



Nicole Yocum, PharmD
Registered Store Manager at Walgreens

Proudest personal and professional accomplishment since graduating from SIUE:
"Personally, it would have to be my husband and our amazing 10-year-old twins. Professionally, it would be promoting out of the pharmacy to Store Manager a little over a year ago and being able to support multiple pharmacies and help train/support other pharmacy managers/pharmacists and their technicians."



Building Future Pharmacists THROUGH RESIDENCY PREPARATION

The School of Pharmacy achieved a 97% residency match rate for the Class of 2025 through the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). This achievement ranks SIUE #1 in Illinois and Missouri and #6 nationally among more than 140 pharmacy schools.

One driving force behind this success is the School’s Residency Happy Hour series led by Lisa Lubsch, PharmD, BCPPS, clinical professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. This extracurricular program is an impactful resource that helps students navigate the competitive residency application process.

“These sessions help our students identify where they want to go and how to get there,” said Lubsch.

Held once or twice a month, the series covers a wide range of essential topics, including how to research residency programs, prepare for interviews, understand the National Matching Service, and build strong application materials. Sessions also feature insights from faculty, alumni, and current residents.

The Residency Happy Hour continues to prepare students not just to match, but to thrive in the next phase of their pharmacy careers.

How School of Pharmacy Staff ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

School of Pharmacy staff contribute to the School’s success in various meaningful ways, serving an essential role in supporting students and shaping the overall academic experience.

“Our staff’s work is not just behind-the-scenes. They’re deeply embedded in the curriculum, leading debriefings, teaching, coordinating courses, and even acting as standardized patients. They’re essential to how we support students and continually improve the program,” said Jingyang Fan, PharmD, assistant dean of academic affairs.

In Spring 2024, the School implemented annual debriefings to gather student feedback on the curriculum, faculty, staff, administration, and the overall program experience. These debriefings are distinct from existing Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) and course reviews, which primarily provide standardized, quantitative data.

Unlike surveys administered at graduation, debriefings offer insights that allow for more timely and meaningful course improvements. Staff members facilitated these sessions, creating a comfortable environment for students to share honest feedback.

“Staff members play an important role in these conversations because we are not directly involved in curriculum development or course instruction,” said Tessa Keys, Improving

Patient Care for Tomorrow (ImPaCT) coordinator. “This distance helps students feel more comfortable sharing honest feedback. This feedback is shared with faculty and staff who use it to make timely and meaningful improvements that continue to strengthen the program and its outcomes.”

“*We want students to see that their feedback matters and it leads to tangible changes in how we deliver the curriculum.*”

*Jingyang Fan, PharmD
Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs*

“Student feedback is essential. We need to know the needs of our students,” added Monica Kempland, PhD, experiential education coordinator. “Our students’ needs are prioritized, and decisions are made with their needs at the forefront. We seek and value input from them.”

By creating structured opportunities for feedback and ensuring student voices are heard throughout their academic journey—not just at the end—School of Pharmacy staff play a critical role in fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Their efforts not only enhance the program but also show students that their experiences and opinions truly matter.



ACCOLADES

Awards

- Beth Cady, PharmD, SIUE Excellence in Teaching Award and Early Transformative Teaching Award
- Kate Newman, PharmD '10, SIUE School of Pharmacy Scholarship Recognition Award
- Jenny Rosselli-Lynch, PharmD, IPhA Educator of the Year
- Carrie Vogler, PharmD, SIUE School of Pharmacy Distinguished Service Award
- Lisa Lubsch, PharmD, invited speaker for The Garrett Andrew Helms Memorial Lecture, Pediatric Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting

National Leadership

- Jen Arnoldi, PharmD, Chair, ASHP Section of Pharmacy Educators
- Kelly Gable, PharmD, Board Member, American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP); Inaugural Distinguished Fellow
- Chris Herndon, PharmD, Advisory Board Member, BPS Council on Pain Management Specialty; Academic Leadership Fellow, AACP
- Stephanie Hunziker, PharmD, Chair-Elect, Laboratory Instructors Special Interest Group, AACP
- Jess Kerr, PharmD, Board of Directors, IPhA
- Kate Newman, PharmD '10, Chair, Experiential Education Section, AACP
- Jenny Rosselli-Lynch, PharmD, Advisory Board Member, ACCP Pharmacotherapeutics Toolkit and Certificate Program on Billing for Outpatient Services
- Miranda Wilhelm, PharmD, Chair, IPhA Annual Conference Planning Committee
- Jennifer Hookstra, PharmD, Board Member, AACP

School of Pharmacy Awards

- Joe Schober, PhD, Teacher of the Year – Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Beth Cady, PharmD, Teacher of the Year – Pharmacy Practice
- Carrie Vogler, PharmD, Faculty Service Award
- Kate Newman, PharmD '10, Pharmacy Research Award
- Sydnie Twillman, PharmD, Preceptor of the Year Award

Grants and Funding

- Jen Arnoldi, PharmD; Shannon Compton-McBride, DNP; Amanda Ma, PharmD; Stephanie Chleboun, PhD
- “Resilience Training for Graduate Students: Building Skills for School and Beyond,” SIUE Innovation and Excellence in Graduate Education Program Award, \$9,700
- Deja Finley, PharmD '20; Gena Jones, PharmD; Stephanie Hunziker, PharmD; Jennifer Hookstra, PharmD
- “Enhancing Pharmacy Students’ Team Decision-Making through Empathy and Medical Improvisation: A Workshop-Based Approach,” SIUE School of Pharmacy Research Grant, \$5,000
- Amanda Reed, PharmD; Lindsey Baecht, PharmD; Julie Tebbenkamp, PharmD; Deja Finley, PharmD
- “Collaborating for Maternal Health Awareness and Advocacy,” SIUE Emeritus College Award, \$2,000
- Chris Herndon, PharmD; Cassandra Butts-Wilmsmeyer, PhD
- “Validation of a cumulative prescriber reference score for the identification of risky opioid prescribing,” Illinois Department of Health Services Prescription Monitoring Program, \$14,017
- Danelle Butts-Wilmsmeyer, PhD; Chris Herndon, PharmD
- “Development and validation of a patient-based opioid risk score,” Illinois Department of Public Health, \$75,000
- Ken Witt, PhD; Michael Crider, PhD
- “Dopamine and Sigma Mixed Modulators for the Treatment of Alzheimer’s”, NIH-NIA, \$575,000. 2024-2028.
- Bhargav Patel, PhD; Joe Schober, PhD
- “Targeting eIF4E for cancer treatment”, NIH, \$722,500. 2023-2027.

NEW FACES



Monica Cunningham
Office Manager
Experiential Education



Chris Hubbard-Jackson '06
Director of Assessment
Academic Affairs



Riley Konitzer
Academic Advisor II
Office of Professional and Student Affairs



Suzanne Schieferdecker '19, '21
Development Associate
Dean’s Office



Mary Ettling
Coordinator of Student Services
Office of Professional and Student Affairs

PROMOTIONS



Kate Newman '10
PharmD
Clinical Professor



Cathy Santanello
Professor
Pharmaceutical Sciences
19 years of service

RETIREMENTS

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