

Volume 2, Issue 23, November 15, 2002, From [The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy](#)

From the Dean

Dear Friends:

This issue of the E-news coincides with the announcement of my departure as dean of the OU College of Pharmacy. It has been a fabulous 5 years, filled with events and changes that I hope will endure for a long time. I plan to remain as a member of the faculty in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and look forward to a very positive future for the college. You will be kept posted regarding interim measures and I know that you will continue to support the numerous activities of the college.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,





Alumni News

▪ Rita Benischek ('65) Recently Married

John E. Hall, New York City, and Rita L. Benischek ('65) celebrated their marriage on October 29, 2002 in Oklahoma City. Federal Judge, the Honorable Steve Friot, conducted the ceremony.

The couple graduated from high school together in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rita graduated from the University of Oklahoma, College of Pharmacy and practiced hospital pharmacy. She was formerly associated with the University of New Mexico and is currently a doctoral student in the Department of History at OU. She serves as the Curator of the Lemuel Dorrance Pharmacy Museum. John attended Eastman School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard Band, he was associated with the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Symphonies. More recently his associations included Avery Fisher Hall and Carnegie Hall. The couple will reside in Oklahoma City.



▪ Carl Darnell ('66) Visit

Carl stopped by the college in Oklahoma City recently during a visit to his hometown of Lawton. This was his first time in the building and he was impressed by how the college has grown since the days he was in school in Norman. Carl lives in Colorado and is currently CEO of Chinook Medical Gear, Inc. (<http://www.chinookmed.com>).

▪ Welcome Kaleigh Elizabeth Dennis

Vince ('93,'95) and Kristen Dennis recently welcomed Kaleigh to the family. She was born on Saturday, October 26th at 7:32 P.M. and, at 18 inches long, weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces. Congratulations to the Dennis family.

▪ Cothran's New Baby

Rhonda ('92) and Terry ('91) report the arrival of a baby girl, Sarah, on August 9, 2002. Sarah's 4 year old brother, Spencer, is also very proud of the new family member. The Cothran family can be congratulated at cothran@cox.net.

Continuing Education News

▪ Pharmacy Law Seminar

This seminar will be held at The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City campus in Room 103 on December 1st, 2002. It is intended for pharmacists, regardless of their practice setting who wish to increase and enhance their knowledge and skills as they relate to their knowledge of Federal and Oklahoma law.

See [brochure](#) (PDF format) for more information.

Oklahoma Poison Control Center News

▪ Prevent Accidental Medication Overdoses This Cold and Cough Season

Cough and cold season means more medicine in the home and possibly more opportunities for accidental poisonings, warns experts at the Oklahoma Poison Control Center, a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy and the Children's Hospital at OU MEDICAL CENTER. To prevent accidental medication poisonings, know what drugs are in your over-the-counter medication and learn exactly how to administer them. The poison center also advises to always read labels and keep medicines out of sight and reach of children.

"Sometimes parents do not realize that some products, especially multisymptom products, already contain pain relievers or fever reducers," McKeown says. "Giving children pain relievers or fever reducers in addition to multisymptom products can cause an overdose." Irritability or drowsiness may be the symptoms of cough and cold medicine overdose. In severe cases, these drugs can seriously increase blood pressure or cause seizures.



Overdoses can also result when multiple caretakers give extra doses of medicine, McKeown says. She recommends caretakers write down the time that each medicine is given so that the next caretaker will know exactly when to give the next dose.

Using the right dosing or measuring device is important. Some medicines come with their own dosing devices. "Household teaspoons come in all different shapes and sizes. They should not be used to measure medicine," explains McKeown. Dosing devices that are easy to use and have easy-to-read numbers are available at pharmacies. Check with your pharmacist or physician if unsure about the type of measuring device to use or exactly how much medicine to give, McKeown recommends.

"Children are attracted to medicines that look and taste like their favorite juice," warns Tracy McKeown, Poison Center education coordinator. "Some pills look like candy, too. Never call medicine candy because this will give children the false impression that they can eat as many as they want. Always keep medicines locked up and out of the reach of children even if they have child resistant caps. Child resistant caps only slow children down and will not prevent an accidental poisoning." McKeown recommends locking medicine up in an inexpensive tackle or tool box located out of reach and site of children.

Keep the Oklahoma Poison Control Center number next to the telephone and call immediately if you suspect a poisoning, McKeown says. Do not wait for symptoms to occur. The Oklahoma Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by calling 1-800-222-1222. Staffed by nurses and pharmacists, the poison center answers calls from the public as well as health care professionals on the treatment of poisonings, overdoses, medication problems, environmental and occupational exposures, and other poison-related concerns. For additional information or free resources, visit the center's Web site at www.oklahomapoison.org



Job Openings

OU MEDICAL CENTER, Children's Hospital

- Clinical Assistant Professor

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Schusterman Center, Tulsa

- Clinical Assistant Professor
- Clinical Assistant Professor

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City

- Assistant or Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics
- Assistant or Associate Professor

Eckerd Drug Company

- Pharmacist

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc

- Staff Pharmacist and/or Assistant Pharmacy Manager
- Staff Pharmacist

USPHS/Indian Health Service

- Staff Pharmacist

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma

- Clinical Pharmacist