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## From the college

Dear Friends:



Spring is an exciting time here at the College of Pharmacy, especially in the Office of Pharmacy Student Services. Our office is busy with the closing activities of the fall 2003 admission cycle and 2002-03 academic year, while at the same time gearing up for the next academic year. It has been rewarding to watch the progress of our professional program during the recent expansion efforts to offer the full four degree to students at the Schusterman Center in Tulsa. In fall 2002, 41 first year (P-1) students began the program in Tulsa with 85 classmates in Oklahoma City.

The college is blessed with dedicated and gifted student services staff members who work diligently to assure that our students can successfully meet the demands of the academic program. Heath Burge and Coralee Sons serve as Assistant Directors, respectively, on the Oklahoma City and Schusterman Center campuses. Heath has worked in the office since Parke Largent's retirement approximately three years ago. Coralee joined us in January 2002 and has fronted the efforts to expand our office functions to the Schusterman Center in Tulsa. Many of our alumni will be glad to hear that Jane Langston is still putting the 'service' in Student Services and is currently in her 22<sup>nd</sup> year at the College of Pharmacy. She works with Linette Burton who has been with the office for approximately three years. I encourage you to visit the Student Services web page if you would like to contact us with a question or refer a potential student to our office. (<http://oupharmacy.com/studentsrv/contact/>)

## Admissions

The admissions process is one of the critical activities in the student services office. Each year we process hundreds of applications and the thousands of pieces of supporting documents necessary to evaluate each applicant. The number of applicants for fall 2003 admission is up again this year by 45% after increases of 49% in 2002 and 40% in 2001. See Figure 1.0.

### Admissions Data 1998-2003

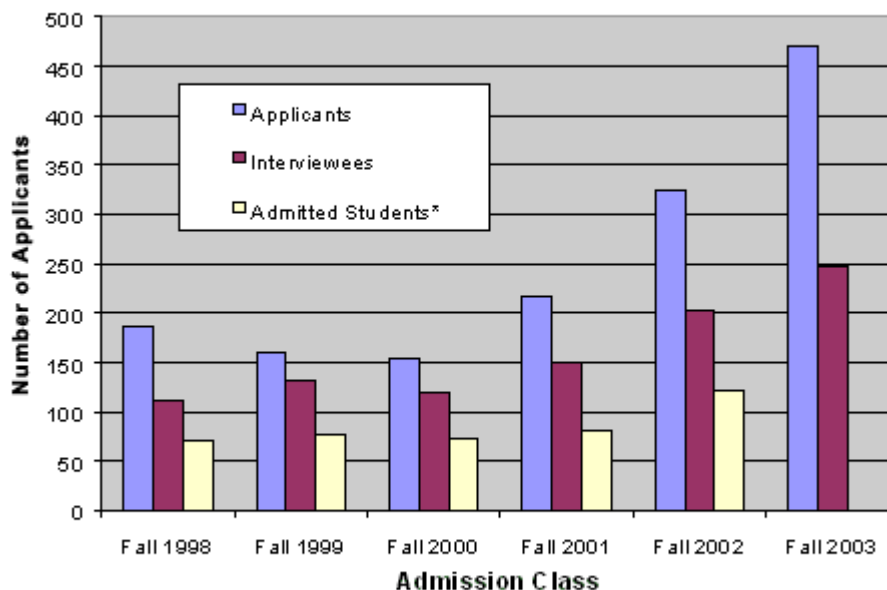


Figure 1: Admissions Demographics 1998 – 2003  
(\*2003 admissions class is not complete)

Although the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy has reported a national increase in applications of 9.1% for 2001 and 24.6% for 2002 after several years of declining applications, we have noted a much stronger increase over the past three years. The dramatic recent increases are likely fueled by our expansion efforts to Tulsa and active recruitment efforts, but we also recognize the exposure pharmacy has received due to the regional and national shortages of pharmacists.

Admission requirements to the College of Pharmacy are described in detail on the college's web site (<http://oupharmacy.com/pharmdadmission/>). The application deadline is November 1 each year for the following fall. A complete application packet includes submission of the campus application form and fees via U.S. Mail or by completing the entire application on line using the link provided on the college's website. Applicants must provide a personal statement/letter of intent, three letters of recommendation and official transcripts from each institution they attend. Applicants must also sit for the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT) and complete a personal interview. Applicants may still be in the process of completing prerequisite coursework at the time of application, but each applicant is expected to complete all prerequisites prior to enrolling into the professional program in the fall.

The Admissions Committee expects to admit 75 to 80 students in Oklahoma City and 40 to 60 students in Tulsa for fall 2003. By the time this article is published, we will have interviewed over 200 applicants for the incoming class. The committee has already recommended admission to a number of applicants and will meet the first week in April to finalize their recommendations. To date, the individuals offered admission have very strong academic credentials with an average prepharmacy GPA of 3.80 and an average PCAT composite score at the 78<sup>th</sup> percentile.

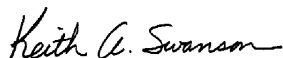
As you can see, the incoming class is expected to possess some remarkable credentials once the class is finalized. The increase in applications has allowed the Admissions Committee to recommend more stringent academic criteria for individuals to be invited to interview for the program. Essentially, by raising the "bar a couple notches" the committee expects to admit the most academically gifted class in recent years. After interviewing over two hundred of these individuals, we are also pleased to say that these applicants also demonstrate strong communications skills and a desire to enter the profession.

### **Graduation**

With only five weeks remaining in the spring term, finals week and graduation are fast approaching. We invite any interested alumni and friends to attend the 2003 Pharmacy Day Banquet scheduled on Friday, April 25, 2003 at the National Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. In addition to recognizing our graduating seniors and current students, the graduating classes of 1953 and 1978 will be honored at this event. For reservations and ticket information please contact Rita Pierce at (405) 271-6485. We are pleased to announce that 107 doctor of pharmacy graduates will earn their degrees during the 2002-03 academic year. This number includes 66 new pharmacists and 51 pharmacists who returned to school to earn their degree through our alternate pathway program. The Class of 2003 will receive their diplomas at graduation exercises held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2003 at the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. We invite all alumni and friends of the college to attend these convocation exercises.

This is indeed an exciting time to be a part of the College of Pharmacy. We invite you to stop in and visit with our staff and catch up on what's happening at your college. Should you have any questions or comments for the Office of Student Services, we would welcome your phone call (405) 271-6598 or e-mail me at: [keith-swanson@ouhsc.edu](mailto:keith-swanson@ouhsc.edu).

Sincerely,



Keith A. Swanson, Pharm.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences  
Director, Pharmacy Student Services



## College News

### ▪ **NIPCO First Affiliate-of-the-Month: Jack Coffey**

Jack, Associate Dean for External and Professional Affairs, was chosen the National Institute for Pharmacist Care Outcomes' (NIPCO) first Affiliate-of-the-Month.

From the inception of NIPCO Affiliate, the primary goal has been to provide pharmacists with a specialized education, mentoring and networking experience to help advance the implementation of disease management and wellness services in pharmacy settings.

See also [NIPCO website](#)

## Alumni News

### ▪ **John A. Calcaterra ('77) Promoted**

John was recently promoted to Lt. Colonel, AFRES. He serves with the 932d Medical Squadron, Scott AFB, IL. as a pharmacist and physician assistant. He was on active duty last July in support of Operation Northern Watch.

Friends and classmates can communicate with him via email at [cutter@apci.net](mailto:cutter@apci.net). Congratulations John!

## Job Openings

### **OU MEDICAL CENTER, Children's Hospital**

- **Clinical Assistant Professor**

### **The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City**

- **Pharmacy Technician**
- **Nuclear Staff Pharmacist**

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

- **Clinical Assistant Professor**
- **Clinical Assistant Professor**

### **Eckerd Drug Company**

- **Pharmacist**

### **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc**

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