

**Pacific
Pharmacists
Have the**

Rx **FOR SUCCESS**



Dean Phillip R. Oppenheimer spends some time with students of the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences after a springtime of success.

The list of accolades is long and impressive for students, faculty and alumni of the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. It includes:

NATIONAL DEAN OF THE YEAR
TOP PHARMACIST
TOP STUDENT PHARMACIST
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP-MENTOR AWARD

But the list shows more than just the honors bestowed on Pacific pharmacists this spring, when they swept national and state awards from their professional associations.

It also underscores the impact Pacific's pharmacy school has had on patients, communities and an entire profession since the school's founding in 1955.

By Sarah E. Higgins and Dua Moua '09

“These recognitions reflect what a truly exceptional school we have. Our students receive an unsurpassed education and unrivaled opportunities for experiential learning. They leave our doors practice-ready, prepared to make a profound difference in the health of their patients and communities.”

—Phillip R. Oppenheimer

Dean of the Year, **Phillip R. Oppenheimer**

With nearly two decades at the helm of Pacific’s pharmacy school, Oppenheimer was honored by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacists for promoting the education of student pharmacists through community service, leadership and professional activities. The APhA awards and honors program is the most comprehensive recognition program in the profession of pharmacy.



He’s a dean who knows his students’ names. Oppenheimer walks with Alicia Yeh ‘15, Liliya Koloizian ‘15 and Sarkis Kavarian ‘15.

Seven current and former students and faculty colleagues nominated Oppenheimer for the Dean of the Year award, among them Liliya Koloizian ‘15, current president of Pacific’s chapter of the APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists.

“Dean Oppenheimer has an open door policy and encourages students to approach him with any concerns or questions they might have,” she wrote in her nomination letter. “His welcoming personality allows students to open up to him and feel comfortable to ask for help or advice.”

Sarkis Kavarian ‘15, vice president of communications for the student chapter, cited Oppenheimer’s emphasis on developing students as professionals.

“His support and dedication to our student body, his willingness to aid in student projects, and his selfless collaborative nature have all helped foster a spirit of excitement and compassion at our campus,” Kavarian wrote.

Pharmacist Michael Pastrick ‘73, past president of the California Pharmacists Association, cited such curricular innovations as Pacific’s combined PharmD/PhD and PharmD/MBA degree programs; its AmerisourceBergen Good Neighbor Pharmacy Entrepreneurial Pharmacy Practice Program, the first of its kind in pharmacy education; and its incorporation of traditional basic sciences coursework into an integrated approach to pharmaceutical care and disease state management.

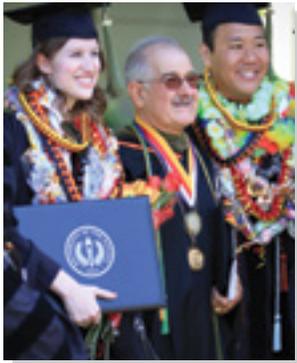
Oppenheimer also established opportunities for students to gain early clinical practice in community and long-term care practice settings, well before such experiences became a requirement of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

What will be next on his list of accomplishments?

“I want to continue to strengthen Pacific’s school of pharmacy by enhancing our use of technology, strengthening our multidisciplinary education, and providing each student with the education and skills to have a rewarding 40-year career in pharmacy,” Oppenheimer said.

▶ See these students talk about Dean Oppenheimer’s impact in a video at go.Pacific.edu/DeanoftheYear

Under Oppenheimer’s leadership, the school has become a leading provider of care for underserved communities. Pharmacy students, working with faculty and preceptors, last year provided more than 100 free health care programs and served thousands of patients throughout Northern California, offering health screenings, immunizations and Medicare Part D clinics to help the elderly lower their annual prescription drug costs.



Ralph L. Saroyan (center) with Ashley Rummel '12 (l) and Christopher Chow '12 (r)

Gloria Niemeyer Francke Leadership Mentor Award

Ralph L. Saroyan '64

With an impressive 50-year career of exceptional leadership and mentorship, Ralph L. Saroyan '64 received the 2014 APhA Gloria Niemeyer Francke Leadership Mentor Award.

"Although this award recognizes me for leadership and mentoring, I feel that I am the

one who has been truly blessed by all those students and brothers who have touched my life," said Saroyan.

Saroyan retired from Pacific in 2002, where he most recently served as assistant to the dean and director of Pacific's pre-health programs. During his faculty years, Saroyan taught, advised and mentored more than 3,000 Pacific students. Saroyan has been recognized with the Linwood F. Tice Friend of APhA-ASP Award and the California Pharmacist of the Year Award and through his induction into the California Pharmacists Association Hall of Fame.

"There are so many opportunities to get involved at Pacific, and my experiences here have really shaped me to be a better student and leader. I'm always learning and growing, whether in the classroom or during practical outreach."

—Alicia Yeh '15

Student Leadership Alicia Yeh '15



Yeh is one of four students nationwide to be recognized for academic achievements and leadership with the prestigious American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Student Leadership Award.

Yeh has been deeply involved with several on-campus professional organizations and is the coordinator for SALUD Outreach, an organization that coordinates events that provide free health services to the community such as screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. Yeh is also a part of all four pharmacy organizations on campus: the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP), the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), and the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP).

They've Found the RX FOR SUCCESS

Other APhA recognitions for Pacific pharmacists at the organization's national meeting in March include:

- APhA fellow, for demonstrating exemplary professional achievements and service to the profession: **Michael Pavlovich '89**
- Chapter Achievement Award, for pharmacy schools with more than 550 students: Pacific Chapter of the Academy of Student Pharmacists
- Regional awards, for patient care initiatives: Pacific's Operation Heart and Operation Diabetes programs
- Certificate of Recognition, for serving on the 2013–14 APhA-ASP National Communications Standing Committee: **Shawlien Lie '14**
- 2014–15 APhA-ASP National Communications Standing Committee: **Linda Kalamkeryan '15**

On the state level, Pacific students and alumni were bestowed with four of the top honors from the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA):

- Pharmacist of the Year, the Association's highest honor: **Douglas Hillblom '78**, vice president for professional practice and pharmacy policy at Optum-Rx/United Health Group
- California Pharmacy Hall of Fame: **Michael Pastrick '73**, clinical pharmacist at John Muir Medical Center, Concord Campus, previous California Pharmacist of the Year
- Distinguished New Practitioner: **Michael Conner '12**, executive team leader and pharmacist-in-charge for Target in Clovis
- California's Student Pharmacist of the Year: **Scott Harada '14**

i Find out more about these and the other Pacific award winners at Pacific.edu/PHS