The Class of 2016 White Coat Ceremony
By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.

As with previous years, the White Coat ceremony for the new Class of 2016 took place on the first Friday after the start of the school year at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on September 28, 2012. Dean Palmer Taylor spoke about new thrusts student groups have made in the global arena, which were embraced with passion and drive. “Oh the Places you’ll go” speech by Joe Ennesser, PharmD, Rx Consultant, Target Pharmacy was energizing. “Be a leader, and challenge yourself” urged the alumnus of the Charter Class of 2006 to the class of 2016.

Dr. Candis Morello, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, presented the 58 students in the class of 2016. The ratio of one-third men (21) versus two-thirds women (37) shows the trend of more men going into pharmacy, as noticed in recent years. All recited the Oath of a Pharmacist.

Pharmacy has taken an ever encompassing role in the community, and the first-year students can be prepared now, learning from the excellent faculty, the former members of student organizations, as well as team members and classmates, said Mitch Vitale, student pharmacist, Class of 2015. In closing, Dean Taylor invited the family and guests to tour the facilities, mentioning the virtues of the eucalyptus tree in medicinal uses and as paneling material for the walls in the auditorium, a structure in the basement, where the ceremony was held.
Meet the New Academic Communities of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy

Eduardo Fricovsky, Pharm.D.

With the goal of enhancing pharmacy students’ personal and professional experiences at Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Academic Community Team and Outreach Network (ACTION) and A.S. partnered to reorganize the Big Sib/Little Sib program by grouping P1 and P2 students and faculty advisors into Academic Communities (ACs). On September 26, 2012, ACTION sponsored an ice cream social and students later broke into their distinct ACs, performed ice breakers, and named their new ACs as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Community</th>
<th>AC Names</th>
<th>AC Leader(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rafiki</td>
<td>Francis Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ShaRx</td>
<td>Rawiya Aburas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Skagg Swag</td>
<td>Kevin Gan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ph4rmily</td>
<td>Alan Chin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pillagers</td>
<td>Crystal Zhou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The InDispensables</td>
<td>Brittany Maynard and Phyo Aung</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the goal of the new Academic Communities?
The vision of the new ACs is to improved student-student and student-faculty interactions, and to establish a strong cooperative relationship early within the academic interprofessional community (pharmacy and medical students) with the goal of creating teams capable of better patient outcomes in various health care settings (i.e. UCSD Healthcare Systems and UCSD Student Run Free Clinics). The model for the academic communities complements the academic communities of the School of Medicine (Figure 1).

![Academic Communities Diagram](Image)

How does it work?
Each P1 will be assigned to a P2 Big Sibling and a Faculty Advisor and will be grouped into one of six ACs, which includes other students and faculty. Events for this year will be planned by Academic Community Leaders, who are also members of ACTION. These events will include many social and community outreach events and will also include events that will allow pharmacy ACs and the medical school’s ACs to interact and work with one another. We encourage students to be actively involved with their Academic Community.
Charter Student Organization Promotes Mental Health Awareness
Meghan A. Aslanian, P-3, Kelly C. Lee, Pharm.D., BCPP

The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, a professional organization that promotes excellence in pharmacy practice, education and research to optimize treatment outcomes of individuals affected by psychiatric and neurologic disorders, now has a student chapter at UCSD SSPPS. The Executive Board and Faculty Advisor, Dr. Kelly Lee, are working hard to ensure this charter chapter solidifies its place here at Skaggs. So far, the CPNP UCSD SSPPS Collegiate Chapter has partnered with community organizations such as CHIP (Community Health Improvement Partners) and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) to participate in community outreach events related to mental health.

In September, the chapter took part in CHIP’s Decoding the Doc Mental Health Literacy Outreach, which included a student training and an outreach event at the Gary and Mary West Senior Center (see pictures below). Students received two units of ISP elective credit for participating in this event. To kick off Mental Health Awareness Week, CPNP also sponsored an informational booth with a variety of materials from the San Diego County Mental Health Services and NAMI on identifying and understanding various psychiatric disorders, as well as stress management and coping skills. Finally, CPNP sponsored a Mental Health Awareness Campaign for National Mental Health Awareness Week where students were encouraged to show their support by wearing yellow ribbons provided by the student chapter.

Upcoming activities include the chapter’s first fundraiser with Pick-Me-Up Cupcakes (gourmet cupcakes delivered to you); the Spring Student Wellness Symposium, and a community-based outreach activity focused on education and awareness of mental health disorders. There are multiple opportunities provided by this new organization including and not limited to leadership positions, committee chairs, and project leaders. CPNP is an ideal add-on organization for students who would like to expand their knowledge and professional awareness of mental health disorders, regardless of their career path.

For more information, feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board (President- Meghan Aslanian, Secretary- Lara Lipskey, Treasurer- Sadaf Rowshanrad, Community Affiliate Liaison- Jeri Angelo, or Faculty Advisor Kelly Lee PharmD, BCPP). Membership is still open, and is only $35. You may also visit www.cpnp.org and http://www.facebook.com/ucsdcpnp for more information.
The Third Annual United Domestic Workers of America (UDW) - Home Care Workers Union Health Fair held on August 25, 2012 at the Joan Kroc Community Center in East San Diego was very successful thanks to the efforts of all involved. This was the second time the Asian Pacific Health Foundation participates with the help of Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students in providing free health services for the community. Alexander Tam, Aakash Patel, Pamela Saarikoski and Ibrahim Muradian did an excellent job at the Hypertension and Diabetes screening stations.

Cindy Nguyen helped patients fill out the Survey to Barriers to Hepatitis screening, and Binh Tran processed the lab forms for patients to get blood draws at any Quest Diagnostics site in San Diego. Kristiana ordered and delivered lunch for all.

We were glad to have Greg Nolan from Gilead Sciences and Karen Georgiou from Bristol-Myers-Squibb visit our booths, speaking with Binh and John Swing about current and future activities for APHF.

Editha Adams, organizer of the UDW for the past three years, provided the booths free of charge, and we brought the canopies, tables and chairs.

Trang Pham discussed the periodic meetings of the UDW that rotate through sites in San Diego and at which we can provide screenings for their members. This will certainly be scheduled in the next months. Below are some pictures.
UCSD Team Excels in ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge
By Nathan Painter, Pharm.D., CDE

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) hosted the third Clinical Pharmacy Challenge for student members this year at the Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida. The Clinical Pharmacy Challenge consists of three rounds. The first round—Trivia/Lightning—requires the participants to answer 15 questions as quickly as possible. The second round involves evaluation of a complex clinical case. The third round is based on the popular game show “Jeopardy” with 15 questions of varying difficulty in five different categories. The Clinical Pharmacy Challenge is a team-based competition with each school's team having three members and alternates. The team representing University of California, San Diego (UCSD) consisted of Bill Madden (team leader), Sophie Bordson, Jennifer Lee, Samantha Chang (alternate), and Natasha Gorely (alternate). More than 90 teams competed in the initial online competition. The initial online round was followed by three additional online rounds. Eight quarter-finalists were invited to compete at the annual meeting. This year, the four teams that progressed to the semifinals were UCSD, Northeastern, Purdue, and Samford. Our team made it to the semi-final round for a very close competition with Purdue. We are very proud of our team as they have made their second trip to the ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge out of the three years it has existed. Our students clearly demonstrated their knowledge and speed. Please help us congratulate these students for their excellent clinical skills and professionalism during the competition! It was a true demonstration of the remarkable training and educational program here at SSPPS.

Congratulations to Bill, Sophie, and Jennifer for a terrific performance!!

If you are interested in competing next year or want more information about ACCP, please contact Dr. Nathan Painter, Dr. Sarah, McBane, or Dr. Kelly Lee.
In the July 22, 2012 issue of Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, Dong Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and colleagues further elucidate how transcription is altered by some forms of cytosine. Cytosine, of course, is one of the four main bases that comprise DNA and RNA (along with adenine, guanine and thymine; uracil replacing thymine in RNA). There are at least five forms of cytosine in human DNA. Wang and colleagues have discovered that two recently identified forms of cytosine, known as 5fC and 5caC, significantly reduce the transcription rate in vitro. The finding, said Wang, suggests that some forms of cytosine (and perhaps other players yet-to-be identified) may provide another layer of regulation and fine-tuning to the transcription process. By slowing the activity of RNA polymerase II, a major transcriptional enzyme, 5fC and 5caC may make it easier for other enzymes, proteins and factors to play their parts in the larger act of gene expression.

Photo: Structure of RNA Polymerase II, a key enzyme in mammalian cells that catalyzes the transcription of DNA into messenger RNA, the molecule that in turn dictates the order of amino acids in proteins. Courtesy of National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Moving Tributes to Dr. Dong To
Former Dean of the Saigon School of Pharmacy

A large number of colleagues, former pharmacists from the Saigon School of Pharmacy, family and friends attended Dr. Dong To’s funeral services at the Del Mar Gardens, Pacific View Memorial Park, Corona del Mar, California. Coming from San Diego were Dean Palmer Taylor, Associate Dean David Adler and Mrs. Penny Adler along with Drs. Ton and Binh Nhung Tran. Dr Elvera Richardson came with her son Christopher.

Many classmates of the 1984-85 Review classes at UCSD joined in the gathering to say farewell to a respected and loved professor who has done so much for the pharmacists and the profession.

Dr. Thuy Le, former lecturer at those review classes, was the master of ceremonies. Dr. Le highlighted Dr. To’s biography then invited the family members to share loving memories of their father and grandfather. Pharmacist Lan-Huong Vuong was grateful for the experience gained at Pharmakon Laboratories when working closely with Dr. To, owner of the company, and Mrs. Dong To, also a pharmacist. Said Dean Taylor, first among the guests to express their thoughts: “I think we have formed a special relationship with Dong To’s family and the many students, pharmacists, and scientists that his career in Vietnam and the United States has impacted. What I said at Del Mar Gardens was extemporaneous and without notes, but nonetheless heartfelt.”
A Tribute to Dr. Tom Tozer
By Gail Gipson and Loralyn Cross

Dr. Tom Tozer was responsible for creating and launching the SSPPS Pharmaceutics curriculum at UC San Diego SSPPS with the Charter Class in 2002. This entailed developing the curriculum with its workshops, student presentations and poster sessions. There is a long legacy here dating back to his faculty service at UC San Francisco, where several SSPPS faculty got their first dose of “Tozer Pharmaceutics”. -Dr. Palmer Taylor, Dean of the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

On Monday, October 22nd, students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Dr. Tom Tozer and his wife, Margaret, gathered at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for a sit-down dinner to honor Dr. Tozer’s legacy. Dr. Tozer was in La Jolla for a seminar and workshop with the faculty on October 23rd and 24th at Pfizer, La Jolla, and UC San Diego. Dean Taylor saw a rare opportunity to gather our current P4 class (the last one where Tom had full course involvement) together with Dr. Tozer and his wife, along with workshop leaders in the community and the faculty engaged in teaching pharmaceutics at UC San Diego.

The dinner with the Tozers was a celebration of renewed friendships, camaraderie and love, peppered with funny anecdotes from Tom’s childhood friends. It was as if time had not passed and just that day, Dr. Tozer had walked through the halls of SSPPS on his way to class, his smile and good cheer lighting the way, bringing a smile to others’ faces. Seeing the depth of feeling between Dr. Tozer and Margaret and the love and respect his childhood friends have for him was a touching moment that stood out to those who attended the dinner. Dr. Tozer is a wonderful man and is a wonderful addition to SSPPS. His presence is greatly missed, but his legacy lives on.
The Dean’s Letter:
August 23, 2012

To the SSPPS Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends

I am saddened to relate to you the message of Dr. Dong To’s passing today. As many of you know, Dong To was the former Dean of the Saigon School of Pharmacy and was instrumental in organizing extended educational programs for Vietnamese pharmacy refugees coming to the United States after the fall of Saigon. These programs enabled the Vietnamese pharmacists to obtain the license to practice and reestablish their professional activities in the US.

Dong To was a strong community supporter of the development of our school and for providing opportunities in pharmacy for new citizens and residents of the United States coming from Vietnam. We have all been enriched by his commitment to education in pharmacy and indeed we are fortunate to have established in 2006 a Dr. Dong To Endowed Scholarship. The endowment provides in perpetuity yearly merit-based awards to students attending the Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences that emulate the excellence in educational and professional standards of Dr. Dong To, Saigon School of Pharmacy Dean.

Sincerely,
Palmer Taylor, Ph.D., Dean, Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Other Tributes

Dr. David Adler, Associate Dean for Academic Studies, was a UCSF Professor teaching at UCSD, thus has had a long working relationship with many members of the group. Dr. Adler recapped many deeply moving moments during the long process of validating the pharmacy education from Vietnam. Dr. and Mrs. Adler attended nearly every Tet celebration of the Vietnamese Pharmacist Association in the USA and other community events in Southern California.

Dr. Elvera Richardson, Coordinator of the Review and Board examination classes, and affectionately called “mother” by the pharmacist students, expressed her thoughts so vibrantly that when asked to put in writing for all to read, simply said: “Thank you for your note. To be honest, as I said yesterday, I did not have a prepared text and just spoke from my heart. I was really so emotional, the words just poured out of my heart”. We love you, Dr. Richardson.

Many students from successive years presented tributes: Mr. Man Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA spoke of the association formed in 1980 by a group of faculty of the former Saigon School of Pharmacy and pharmacists in all parts of the world. VPhA –USA is indeed a legacy of Dr. To’s to the Vietnamese pharmacists in the US and abroad. Mr. Man and some others were asked to follow the procession closely with the family members. At the graveside, Dr. Thuy Le and Daniel To, on behalf of Mrs. Loan To and the family, thanked all who have accompanied Dr. Dong To to his final resting place.

The love, kindness and thoughtful gestures bestowed on the family during this time of their great loss are deeply appreciated.

Binh Nhung Tran
San Diego, August 27, 2012
Becoming a faculty member means never giving up. You must have this attitude to pursue a professorship. Otherwise, the process will quickly demoralize you and you will essentially defeat yourself. I applied for faculty positions during the worst recession in decades, when many people were applying for any job that they could get.

The first round of applications began in 2006 as a postdoc at the University of Washington. It felt like I was thrown into a boxing ring without any training. I applied to over 60 positions and received nothing but rejections. With the help of my graduate advisor, I was offered a single interview. My research talk was awkward and the faculty tore my research proposal apart. I was beaten down by the experience, but I took a deep breath, and continued applying.

For the second round of applications, I applied to 60 more positions and was offered three interviews. At my first interview, I impressed the faculty with my research proposal, but I disappointed them with my research talk performance. Despite this mixed reaction, I was cautiously optimistic. A month later the head of the department told me that I was not going to get the position. For my second interview, there were so many red flags with the university that I was hesitant to accept that position. I would have still considered the position to get my foot in the door, but I never had to make that decision. A few weeks later, I received a poorly written rejection letter that left me relieved and disappointed at the same time. At my third interview, I was whisked away into a tornado of faculty introductions. I think the reaction from the faculty during the interview was luke-warm. About four months later, I was told that I had not made the short list. Round two of the job hunt ended as a draw.

I really wanted to stay in academia, but with so many discouraging rejections, I applied for industry positions as well. I got two industry interviews that year, which was excellent considering the number of applicants, but both companies rejected me. I was beginning to think there was no hope. In retrospect, it was for the best because I felt that I belonged in academia.

However, funding at my current position was running out, so I needed to make some decisions quickly. The season for applying for assistant professorships was over, so I applied for several postdoc and research scientist positions.
Jim Halpert from UC San Diego accepted me as an assistant project scientist and began coaching me through the application process. I knew that I had to change my strategy for applying. I asked for advice from everyone. I practiced interviewing whenever I could. I asked people to critique my applications. I knew that I needed to be at the top of my game. As Jim put it, I was not going to be given the job, but I was going to have to take it.

The application process started moving ahead. Every application that I sent was better than the previous application. Every interview that I went to was better than the previous interview. My last interview at the University of Georgia in the spring of 2011 was by far the best. The research talk went smoothly. I interfaced well with the faculty in the department. I was taking this position. A couple of days after the interview I received a call from the department head offering me the position.

After 3 rounds of applying, 5 years, hundreds of applications, 7 interviews, and the help of many people, I had finally done it. I am now an Assistant Professor with a research group of talented future scientists.

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**Dr. George Nicola Receives American Chemical Society Award**

Dr. George Nicola, a Project Scientist in Dr. Michael Gilson’s laboratory, won an American Chemical Society (ACS) award for a competition entry to the Teach-Discover-Treat initiative. This competition seeks to provide high quality computational chemistry tutorials that impact education and drug discovery for neglected diseases.

Dr. Nicola and colleagues designed a tutorial to help students better understand the use of computer tools in discovering drugs for neglected diseases. In the tutorial, public domain databases were discussed in the context of determining potential targets and discovering new drugs for malaria. The tutorial showcased the use of specific computational tools to perform virtual screening of a catalogue of commercial compounds by applying a predictive model, and prioritizing compounds based on structural similarity to known actives. By completing the tutorial, students will become familiar with using the database servers ChEMBL, ZINC, BindingDB, and Reactome, as well as the pipeline software suite KNIME.

Dr. Nicola was awarded a travel grant to present a seminar on this tutorial at the national meeting of the ACS in New Orleans in April, 2013. See the following for more information on the TDT initiative: [http://www.teach-discover-treat.org/](http://www.teach-discover-treat.org/), for the ACS: [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org), for the Gilson lab: [http://gilson.ucsd.edu](http://gilson.ucsd.edu), and for BindingDB: [http://www.bindingdb.org](http://www.bindingdb.org).
SSPPS students and faculty have always been very involved in pharmacy advocacy issues and these efforts are especially notable in recent weeks. We have supported the passing of legislation to advance the scope of pharmacy practice, hosted a legislator at SSPPS, met with another legislator at a local restaurant, and held the 3rd annual UCSD Legislative Day. These activities are particularly notable in 2012, an election year, but SSPPS students and faculty are involved in advocating for the profession of pharmacy every year.

At the end of September, SB 1481 (Negrete-McLeod): Laboratory Tests in Community Pharmacies was signed by Governor Brown. SB 1481 was introduced by the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA), and eliminates the need for pharmacists to have a laboratory director when performing CLIA-waived tests. CLIA-waived tests are simple point-of-care tests such as blood glucose, hemoglobin A1C, and cholesterol. Patients can purchase these testing kits for use at home. Until SB 1481 passed, pharmacists needed the oversight of a laboratory director to perform these same tests for patients. This was particularly a challenge for pharmacists practicing in rural areas without close physician collaboration, and prevented patients from receiving the pharmacist’s counseling that would accompany these tests. SSPPS students and faculty perform CLIA-waived tests and provided patient education at many health fairs every year; removal of this barrier may allow expanded outreach. Additionally, SB 1481 represents legislative recognition of pharmacists’ contributions to patient care.

On October 16th, SSPPS students and faculty partnered with the local pharmacy organizations SDCPhA and SDSHP to meet with California Assemblyman Marty Block (D). In his campaign to represent the 39th district (which includes SSPPS) in the state senate, Mr. Block released a radio advertisement that portrayed pharmacists very poorly. The ad featured a stand-up comedian...
challenging the pharmacist’s right to refuse to dispense contraception, and closed with a remark that effectively stated “Why would you want your right to have a child decided by the same person who rings up your shampoo?” Dr. Helen Park, PharmD (VA, La Jolla) contacted Mr. Block and his campaign manager to alert them of the ad’s negative implications about pharmacy. In addition, staff from CPhA reached out to Mr. Block’s office concerning the ad. Mr. Block immediately apologized for the ad and had it pulled from the radio. CPhA and SSPPS faculty arranged a meeting with Mr. Block to provide an opportunity for him to learn more about pharmacists and the profession of pharmacy. Over 50 people were present at the meeting, and Dean Taylor, Stephanie Chauv (P4), Dr. David Bao, and Dr. Winnie Thi provided Mr. Block with vignettes about pharmacy education and the many contributions pharmacists make to patient care.

Several SSPPS students, faculty, and local pharmacist members of CPhA met with State Controller John Chiang on Friday, October 26. The meeting was arranged by CPhA and provided an excellent venue for the students to interact on a personal level with Mr. Chiang. Attendees included: Michelle Lew (P3), Jennifer Lee, Sophie Bordson, Chris Mapes (all P4), Kevin Vu (P1), Dr. Rachel Sperling (alumna, 2010), Dr. Sarah McBane, Dr. Chris Woo, Dr. David Truong (Santarus), Dr. Victor Law (CA Board of Pharmacy), and Brian Warren (CPhA).

The 3rd Annual UCSD Legislative Day occurred on October 27th, and featured discussion about health care reform. UCSD Legislative Day, or “Leg Day”, is an entirely student-driven event, and the culmination of months of planning led by planning committee co-chairs Andrea Bechtold and Kevin Gan. Nearly 60 students and pharmacists participated in presentations delivered by Dean Taylor, Brian Warren, Sophie Bordson, Dr. Helen Park, Aaron Byzak, and Dr. John Cronin. Leg Day continues to be successful with increasing turnout each year.
The Asian Heritage Society (AHS) is a distinctive organization in San Diego dedicated to promoting the culture and achievement of Asians in many fields of endeavor. Since 2003, the Society has organized annual gala events:

”To honor these men, women and organizations who have dedicated their lives for the betterment of humanity and community. We honor their work and integrity, their embrace of cultural differences, their accomplishments and achievements and their inspiration to others. By promoting harmony and understanding, and empowering others to follow in their pursuit of worthwhile endeavors, we honor their contributions and their legacy”.

For nine years, the AHS founders, Rosalynn Carmen and Leonard Novarro have done so through the publication ASIA and the Asian Heritage Awards. On September 15th, at the Marriott Marquis and Marina, downtown San Diego, the following individuals received the Awards in 14 categories:

- **Business Enterprise**: The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) South Coast to foster entrepreneurship throughout the community

- **Entrepreneurship**: Wendy Urushima-Conn, president and CEO of the Asian Business Association of San Diego

- **Government**: Michael Vu, Assistant Registrar for the County of San Diego Government

- **Innovation and Technology**: Helen Chen, MD, Vice-president of business development for Ambryx Biotechnology Inc. in Riverside

2012 Asian Heritage Awards A Night to Remember
By Binh Tran, Pharm.D.
- **Education**: Edward Park, principal of Barnard Elementary School, a K-6 Mandarin Chinese Magnet School in the Point Loma area of San Diego

- **Legal Affairs**: Audie de Castro, corporate counsel to public and private companies

- **Health and Medicine**: Grace Kuo, PharmD, PhD, Program Director for PharmGenEd™, Associate Dean for Academic Clinical Affairs, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

- **Media & Film**: Michael Chen, reporter covering a wide range of stories that yearn to be told

- **Art and Literature**: Grand master Akiko Bourland, President of Ohara Ikebana Society of San Diego

- **Cultural Preservation**: Thanom Sterritt, one of the founders of the Thai Buddhist Temple in Escondido

- **Military**: Colonel Mylene Huynh, MD, Director of the US Air Force Medical Service International Health Specialist (IHS) program

- **Performing Arts**: Seema Sueko, Co-founder and Executive Artistic Director of Mo’olelo Performing Arts Company

- **Humanitarian Outreach**: Tzu-Chi Foundation, active in medical, dental and other services for the underserved and homeless people across the US

- **Community Service**: Taiwanese American Foundation of San Diego, sponsor of cultural and educational events including a Hepatitis B seminar and testing services for the community during the Taiwanese American Heritage Week (May 12-19, 2012)

Dr. Robert Gish, Chief of Hepatology and Medical Director of the Center for Hepatobiliary Disease and Abdominal Transplantation at UCSD, received the *Diversity Pioneer Award* for his tireless campaign against Hepatitis B, which disproportionately strikes Asian communities. Dr. Shu Chien, Presidential Medal of Science winner was the presenter of the award.
Thank you to our volunteer faculty!

Victoria Adams
Leonna Akbrich
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Anisa Arjmand
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Bill Murray
Brandon Mutrux
Ann Nakahira

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Emily Lee, graduating class of 2008, is awarded Pharmacist of the Year by Orange County Society of Health System Pharmacists (OCSHP). She currently serves as the treasurer of OCSHP and is inpatient pharmacist at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital.

William Wong’s thesis project has been published in Contemporary Clinical Trials August edition, please see below: