Dr. Jake Thiessen
Our Alumnus of Distinction 2015

On October 5th, the College of Pharmacy presented its 4th Alumni of Distinction award to Dr. Jacob (Jake) J. Thiessen. Originally from Steinbach, Dr. Thiessen earned his B.Sc. (Pharm) degree from the University of Manitoba in 1965, his certificate in Education in 1966 and his M.Sc. in Pharmacy in 1969. He subsequently completed his Ph.D. in 1974 at the University of California, San Francisco in Pharmaceutical Chemistry with specialization in analytics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.

A passionately committed educator, Dr. Thiessen was named Teacher of the Year six times by the University of Toronto Undergraduate Pharmaceutical Society. Dr. Thiessen was the Keynote Speaker at our 2015 White Coat and Student Recognition Ceremony and offered words of advice: “Hope is not a strategy, hard work is. Hope is an attitude.”

Dr. Thiessen joined the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto in 1973. His academic responsibilities, during a 33 year period, included an interval as Graduate Coordinator (1987-1993), Associate Dean (1998-2005), member of the University Governing Council and Business Board (2003-2005) and Chair of the committee for the design and construction of the new Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy building (2000-2004). At the University of Toronto Dr. Thiessen’s research and teaching encompassed quantitative, time-dependent processes defining drug fate in the body (pharmacokinetics) and drug response (pharmacodynamics). His studies also included new approaches to cancer treatment, new molecules to treat patients with iron overload, and advanced technologies to diagnose and treat diseases. Most recently, his studies have explored new applications of imaging and spectroscopy in the pharmaceutical and medical fields.

In 2004, Dr. Thiessen launched a development plan for Ontario’s second academic Pharmacy program. This gave rise to the new University of Waterloo (UW) Pharmacy School, becoming the first pharmacy institution in Canada to offer a cooperative educational program. As the Hallman Founding Director for the school, Dr. Thiessen worked with a small team to craft the undergraduate program, recruit faculty members, and design the new facility, culminating in the arrival of the first pharmacy class in January 2008. In August of 2006, he was given the added role of Director of the new Health Sciences Campus and charged with developing this new UW site in Kitchener, Ontario. The expanded campus facilities featured a large primary care clinic and a location for McMaster University’s distributed medical program. During the 2004-2010 period at UW he managed also to conduct collaborative research with engineers to create new applications of imaging and spectroscopy in the pharmaceutical and medical fields. This led to a start-up company that is publicly traded (TSX Venture Exchange).

While at the University of Toronto, where he has been Professor Emeritus since 2006, and at the University of

Continued on p.3
Another summer has gone again; some faculty took well-earned vacations and caught up on manuscripts and grant proposals. However, our faculty and pharmacy community has had an additional item on their summer to-do list: further developing a proposal for Pharm.D. programs. So there has been no slowing down for any of us here in Pharmacy. Since our last correspondence another academic year is long gone, and we have kicked off the year again on September 1, 2015 with our Pharm.D. Proposal planning retreat with an inspirational opening dialogue from Dr. Robert-Falcon Ouellette. Looking inward the new academic year continued with our University Homecoming a couple of weeks ago. These events gave us an opportunity to acknowledge the Silver and Golden Graduates of 1990 and 1965. Of course, the centerpiece of our “Homecoming Season” is the ‘White Coat” ceremony. This year we were extremely fortunate to have Dr. Jake Thiessen, our 2015 outstanding alumni recipient from the Class of 1965, as our keynote speaker. Talk about modeling success: Dr. Thiessen is a pharmacist with a formidable curriculum vitae as an academic who founded the 10th Pharmacy School in Canada at the University of Waterloo. We are grateful to Dr. Thiessen for making the time to visit us in Winnipeg, and to provide his unique insights to our pharmacy students with his keynote address. We also recognized the successes of pharmacy students who have received scholarships or other honours as well as award-winning faculty and preceptors at this event.

Pharmacy has made excellent progress during the past academic year, navigating the latest budget cut process and stitching ourselves back up as best we could. I had some existential time this summer to contemplate our College of Pharmacy. The preparation of future pharmacy practitioners towards the provision of health-care in our province, nation and globally starting here at the University of Manitoba is, of course, our defining characteristic. This year our pharmacy students scored better and higher in the 2015 Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada examinations than ever before and we are proud of this accomplishment. In addition, as we have an intermodal mission and academic culture within Pharmacy in Manitoba, other equally important components of our pursuit and identity is related to the preparation of new pharmaceutical scientists and the creation and dissemination of world-class pharmacy research. I am tremendously proud of the research accomplishments of our faculty, and graduate students and our trajectory continues to look promising. The trinity of our pharmacy vocation that binds us together as a profession is our external relations with our alumni, preceptors, and our pharmaceutical associations and these relationships remain stronger than ever. You will find information on a new scholarship the Marty Sexton Memorial Scholarship and the Ronald F. Guse Scholarship and retirement story and a several other Pharmacy alumni highlighted in this issue.

I recently prepared a talk for the Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Toronto. There is so much to be excited about in Pharmacy that I couldn’t help but serve up a smorgasbord of great things that are happening here because it is just so hard to narrow all of it down. We do so much here, so well and so often, in so many different areas….At the conclusion of that talk in front of about 300 people detailing some of our collective achievements, a Dean of one our closest rivals remarked that with such a fantastic Pharmacy program, it is easy to see why MacLean’s Magazine 2015 highlighted us as one of the most outstanding programs at the University of Manitoba. Indeed it is.

Thank you for having me as your Dean.
Sincerely,
Neal Davies BSc.(Pharm), Ph.D., R.Ph.
Dean and Professor

## 2015 Preceptors of the Year

In a new tradition, Preceptors of the Year awards were given out at the Welcome to the Profession Ceremony in May, instead of the White Coat Ceremony in the autumn. Graduating students are asked to nominate exceptional preceptors who have helped shape their education. Mr. Daniel Rossi and Miss Laura Newlands nominated the St. Boniface Intensive Care Medical Services team as the “Pharmacy Team of the Year.” “Community Preceptor of the Year” went to Britt Kural, nominated by Grace Badejo. The “Hospital Preceptor of the Year” was Mark Friesen, nominated by Joel Hart. The “Elective Preceptor of the Year” was Dr. Chris Louizos nominated by Dustin Reimer.

Our pharmacy program would not be what it is today without the amazing preceptors who educate our students on a daily basis. To all our preceptors, we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation.
The Ronald F. Guse Scholarship

Ronald F. Guse graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba, in 1979. He immediately accepted a position in clinical community practice in Thunder Bay, Ontario but returned to Winnipeg and the inner city as pharmacist/manager of the Mount Carmel Clinic Pharmacy in Point Douglas in 1982. He joined the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (CPhM), formerly known as the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, in 1984 as the Assistant Registrar and Inspector. He was later promoted to Deputy Registrar and Inspector to better reflect his role. In 1999, he was appointed Registrar and in the spring of 2016 he will retire after a long and successful career. Ron and his wife, Naomi, have raised two daughters, both of whom have embarked on careers in health-care. Ron has been involved in coaching his daughters’ soccer teams for many years and is a sports enthusiast. He plans some more time with family and on the links in his retirement. The formal retirement for Ronald Guse will be February 6th, 2016 at the Manitoba Club.

As well as the duties described in provincial legislation and to ensure the CPhM performs the primary mandate of public protection, Ron has been involved with many provincial and national committees and organizations. Importantly he was involved in the Legislation and regulation development, the Manitoba Prescribing Practices program (Triplicate Prescription Program), the knoW DRUGS program, and he and his team received a Centennial Award for the Prescription Information Services of Manitoba (PrIStM) program in 2010. The Canadian Pharmacists Association recognized Ron as one of the top 100 pharmacists who have made significant contributions to leading and building the profession of pharmacy in Canada over the past 100 years. His work in advancing the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Act and implementing the regulations in 2014 was an immense undertaking and contribution to the profession of pharmacy in Manitoba. Ron has participated in the development of provincial and national standards of practice and the development of provincial pharmacy inspection procedures. He is was a long standing Board member and Vice Chair of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety, a liaison Board member to Pharmacists Manitoba and a Clinical Assistant Professor of the College of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba where he has taught jurisprudence to second year Pharmacy students. Ron is a member of the Council of Pharmacy Registrars of Canada which reviews and updates pharmacy practice rules and acts as the national regulatory advisory group to the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA). He has also been active with the American National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) through his work on national and international committees and task forces and received an honorary Doctor of Pharmacy from the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.

A Friend of Pharmacy, who has elected to remain anonymous, has, in recognition of Ron’s dedication to his profession and community, pledged $25,000 to match the contributions of other donors to a scholarship fund in Ron’s name. Additionally, the Manitoba Scholarship & Bursary Initiative (a provincial government program) is also available to re-double the combined contributions and those wishing to take advantage of this program and make their own contribution to the Ronald F. Guse scholarship can do so by contacting Jessica Alkana, Donor Relations Officer, University of Manitoba (204) 789-3537 or Jessica.Alkana@umanitoba.ca

Alumnus of Distinction from p.1

Waterloo, he secured more than $16.5M for research projects. During his academic career he supervised numerous graduate students, opened his laboratory to international scientists and served the professional and scientific community. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles, books, and book chapters, and has frequently been invited to speak at national and international conferences. Dr. Thiessen is also deeply committed to efforts beyond Canada’s borders and has taken assignments to develop and offer educational pharmacy modules in Barbados and Jamaica (Canadian International Development Agency), serve as a consultant within Asian educational and research institutions and provide leadership to institutions in Sudan, Nigeria and Uganda.

His extracurricular responsibilities have included active and leadership roles with the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (1976-1980), the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee of the Ontario Ministry of Health (1982-1991, Chair from 1988-1991), Health Canada’s Scientific Advisory Committee on Bioavailability and Bioequivalence (currently the Scientific Advisory Committee – Pharmaceutical Sciences and Clinical Pharmacology) (1991 to present, Chair from 2001-present), the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (1999-2011 and President from 2003-2004) and the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Board (2008-2013). His stature in the area of pharmacy and medicine was recognized by the Ontario Government through his 2013 appointment to lead the independent review of quality assurance in the province’s Oncology Drug Review of the cancer drug supply chain to safeguard patient care. From 1992-present he has been the owner of J-Mar Scientific, Founding Director of the Board of T-Ray Science (2008-2011) and Founding Director of the Board of Verisanté (2011-present).

In 2014, the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy awarded Dr. Thiessen the 2014 Pillar of Pharmacy Award for this lengthy and distinguished career in academic pharmacy and for his life-long commitment and contribution to the profession of pharmacy in Canada.
Homecoming 2015

One of the best times of year at the University of Manitoba is the fall. With new students in our classrooms, alumni return and remind us why this is such a great institution. The College of Pharmacy welcomed back alumni from multiple years and hosted events for the Classes of 1965 and 1990 who were celebrating the Gold and Silver milestone reunions.

On the Saturday of Homecoming, Dr. Neal Davies was joined by members of the Class of 1990 for a personal tour of the Apotex Centre. This class was part of the Fort Garry campus when they graduated, so a trip to the Bannatyne campus and Apotex Centre was well worth it.

The Homecoming Dinner at the Fort Garry campus was an event to welcome alumni from across the institution. Dr. Neal Davies hosted tables with alumni from the Classes of 1965, as well as several other auspicious alumni who have remained active in pharmacy care and research.

The 2015 Alumni of Distinction winner, Dr. Jake Thiessen, was the keynote speaker at the White Coat Ceremony on Monday, October 5th. He inspired the new Class of 2019 with his message “There is an illuminating path to pharmacy and prestige to this school.” (see full stories on page 1 and 4).

If you’d like to reconnect and reminisce with your classmates during Homecoming 2016, please contact the College of Pharmacy office at 204-474-8794.

Staff Updates

Pat Kopp, Technical Support Manager, retired as of August 14, 2015 after 35 years of service. Her expertise and problem solving will be missed and we wish her the best of luck.

Paola Cordova, Lab Technician, will be on maternity leave starting in late October.

Angela Shank, Administrative Assistant, will be on maternity leave starting in early November. Sandra Enns will be covering this leave.

Amanda Kinnell, Senior Financial Officer, will be on maternity leave starting in December. Holly Madden will be covering this leave in addition to her other duties with the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Sara Smith, Graduate Program Administrator, will be on maternity leave starting in April 2016.
White Coat Ceremony welcomes new Pharmacy Students

Pharmacy faculty, staff, alumni and members of the pharmacy profession were on hand in the Brodie Centre atrium on the Health Sciences Campus to welcome fifty-one new student pharmacists into the pharmacy program, supported by an audience of their family and friends and alumni on October 5, 2015. This year’s incoming class of 2019 welcomed 20 students from rural communities. This is the highest number of students from beyond the perimeter in our history.

A variety of outstanding achievements of pharmacy students were also recognized in addition to outstanding teaching faculty members and preceptors. In a new twist to the occasion Dr. Jake Thiessen as the Outstanding Alumnus for 2015 from the Class of 1965 gave the students an inspirational key note lecture and Mr. Ronald Guse, Registrar of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba, was also an invited speaker, noting that “The White Coat Ceremony is the start of your journey.” As this was the last White Coat Ceremony for Mr. Guse, who is retiring in January 2016, he was also given a special white coat during the ceremony. Students from all four years of the program were presented with awards, including the Summer Student Research Awards.

The White Coat ceremony is a tradition at the University of Manitoba. “The white coat represents a commitment to health care and the profession,” said Dr. Davies in his opening address. The ceremony formally welcomed the students, and instilled a sense of pride and belonging in the profession of pharmacy. Dean Davies, who remains a registered pharmacist, proudly wore his own white coat and told the students: “Our biochemistry tells us what we are but our traditions tell us who we are”. Dr. Davies also reminded the students that we are some of the most privileged members of society working and studying here in this electoral district of Winnipeg Centre, the poorest constituency and most disadvantaged riding in the whole of Canada.

Dr. Lavern Vercaigne, Associate Dean (Academic), invited alumni to act as drapers for the first year students, including Senior Stick Dr. J. David Murray, Ron Corrigal, Robert Paul and Dr. Jake Thiessen from the Class of 1965 and Lyle Merrell from the Class of 1958. However, before they did, Mr. Ronald Guse presented a personalized white coat to each of the distinguished graduate alumni drapers with their name and year of graduation.

Junior co-stick, Harris Sohail welcomed the first year student pharmacists to the stage to be coated. Ms. Drena Dunford led the first year students in reciting the Pledge of Professionalism, publicly acknowledging their commitment to professionalism, integrity, and ethical conduct. Senior co-stick Maira Ahmed addressed the first year students. “You will become leaders and pioneers.” Dean Davies invited all the guests back across the street for a reception to our home of Pharmacy education in Manitoba at the Apotex Centre.
Pharmacy students participate in the CanU REACH program

The University of Manitoba offers unique opportunities to elementary school students, allowing them to learn more about their options for post-secondary studies. For the second year, College of Pharmacy students Danielle Chu and Katlyn Taylor are hosting grade seven students as part of the CanU-REACH program at the Bannatyne Campus. This program provides opportunities to Winnipeg youth who might not otherwise have exposure to a career in health care. In addition to Pharmacy, the participants learn about Dentistry, Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Danielle and Katlyn, 3rd year students in Pharmacy, facilitate activities with small groups of students on a weekly basis as an after-school program. Both got involved with this program because of their positive experience with the “Let’s Talk Science” program offered at the Fort Garry campus. “I like that I get to expose kids to areas of pharmacy they had no idea about,” said Katlyn. “And a lot of these people are from my junior high school.” Danielle’s favourite participant in last year’s program might just end up in pharmacy. “She was so keen! She took lots of notes and asked a ton of questions.”

The groups are assigned to different stations over the course of 13 weeks. During their weeks with Pharmacy, students learn how to decode and prepare prescriptions using candy as a substitute, make a calamine cream that they can take home and use, and how to turn a tablet into a suspension. Overall, the Pharmacy stations were ranked very highly by participants. Danielle and Katlyn also find the program useful. “It’s really cool to teach skills we learned in first year. It helps solidify what we know.”

The CanU REACH program continues to grow. “It’s gone so well that we really hope it can continue.” This year an expected 70 grade seven students will participate compared to 40 last year.

Martin Sexton Memorial Scholarship

Martin Irwin Sexton was a 1988 graduate of the Faculty of Pharmacy. He was the pharmacist-owner of the Interlake Pharmacy in Stonewall, Manitoba before his passing on February 16, 2015 in an accident at the age of 51. Marty embodied the best characteristics of a community pharmacist: clinical excellence, compassion, a positive attitude, strong work ethic, leadership, and a genuine interest in the care of his patients. Marty instilled these attributes in his colleagues and the countless pharmacy students he mentored.

In 1995, he purchased Interlake Pharmacy and moved to Stonewall. The Interlake Pharmacy practices pharmacy at the highest levels, in part because of Marty’s teachings and mentorship. In honour of Marty Sexton, the Interlake Pharmacy in Stonewall has established an annually funded scholarship to recognize students in the College of Pharmacy who have demonstrated community service and an interest in practicing community pharmacy. Each year, beginning in 2015-2016, a scholarship will be offered to a deserving undergraduate student who demonstrates that which made Marty an amazing pharmacist.

Participants in the 2015 CanU REACH program.

Alexis Wanner, the winner of the first Martin Irwin Sexton Memorial Scholarship, with Dr. Neal Davies
The Pharmacy Road Less Travelled

Pharmacy is a respected profession full of humility. There are many notable Pharmacists in a variety of different fields. We might not realize it, but pharmacists and our craft have had a dramatic influence upon the world we live in, both within pharmacy and beyond…

Pharmacists have made an impact on community/hospital pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry and pharmaceutical research.

The periodic table would be without bromine, chromium, beryllium, oxygen, barium, manganese, chlorine, molybdenum, and tungsten if not for the pharmacists Antoine Balard, Nicolas Vauquelin, and Carl Wilhelm Scheele. German pharmacists Friedrich Wilhelm Adam Sertürner discovered morphine, Theodor Salzer bisphosphonates, and Gunda George developed Lusedra.


We have many international pharmacists in Manitoba serving our communities, including a sizeable and dedicated Coptic Egyptian health care group. The Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, Pope Tawadros II, studied at the University of Alexandria, where he received a degree in pharmacy. After a few years of managing a state-owned pharmaceutical factory, he joined a monastery to study theology.

Pharmacists have distinguished themselves in sports as well. Our own Jimmy Ball competed for Canada in several summer Olympics winning two silver and a bronze medal. William Crothers from the University of Toronto also won an Olympic silver medal. Charlie Speeding, a British long-distance runner, won the London Marathon in 1984 and an Olympic bronze medal. Marie-Hélène Prémont from Laval, Quebec won Olympic silver in cross-country mountain biking.

The influence of pharmacists are all around us; however, it often goes unnoticed. Many of us have visited one of pharmacist Bernard “Bernie” Marcus’ Home Depot stores without ever knowing the connection and put on a pair of Jim Jannard’s (another pharmacy drop out) “Oakley” sunglasses.

Many of our own University of Manitoba pharmacy graduates have gone on to other careers in a variety of disciplines including academia, medicine, dentistry, law and business. A few have taken other roads less travelled including:

Continued on p.8
Road Less Travelled from p.7

Bishop Reverend Eric Bays is a retired Anglican Bishop. He was the Class of 1955’s senior stick and received a BSc.(Pharm) from the University of Manitoba. He was ordained in 1959 after a curacy at All Saints’ Winnipeg. He was Priest-in-charge at Burns Lake and then in Masset, British Columbia. Later he was Vicar of St. Saviour’s, Winnipeg and a Professor of Theology at the College of Emmanuel St. Claud after that. In 1986 he was appointed the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Qu’Aeppelle, a post he held for 11 years.

Peter Danakas, BSc(Pharm) 1982, is a restaurateur and pharmacist. He worked at his father’s restaurant, Dal’s Drive Inn Restaurant and Lounge, growing up. Peter has had a distinguished career in Pharmacy practice at Shopper’s Drug Mart and Sobeys. He is still a practicing at Walmart Transcona, but is also the owner of Pizza & Pasta Della Piazza in Winnipeg Square, which has most addictive pizza in town and the best bread in the city.

After spending a sometime as a Pharmacist Joe Krol BSc(Pharm) 1977 realized comic books were his passion. Comics America on Academy Road in Winnipeg is the world’s source for new and collectible comics, magazines, back issues, action figures, graphic novels, limited edition statues and lithographs and much more. Joe’s store has products from every publisher and manufacturer in the history of comics and popular media. Comics America is the oldest continuously-running comic service in the world. They offer one of the largest major warehouses of comic books and related products anywhere, comprising of some 3.5 million items.

Ed Dale BSc(Pharm) 1973 is an award winning real estate agent. After graduating from pharmacy Ed realized sales were his passion and he joined Ayerst Pharmaceuticals and became their #1 salesman in Canada in just one year. Real estate became his next goal. Earning countless awards, such as #1 Realtor in Winnipeg in 1979 and 1982, his first two years were spent with J.J. Gi bbons which was bought out by NRS Block Bros. There he spent fifteen years. RE/MAX Real Estate in Winnipeg has been his home for the last ten years.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and their careers in pharmacy and sometimes beyond. Serving the community in many different ways, our contributions as pharmacists are both world changing and world class.

If you have an idea for a story in PharmaNews, let us know!
Call 204-474-8794 or email pharmacy@umanitoba.ca.