PRESCRIPTION for PROGRESS
I’d like to introduce you to a few of our dedicated supporters who are the pillars that make it possible for the University of Florida College of Pharmacy to further its mission and achieve excellence. The gifts of support illustrated here directly impact our students and faculty who seek the knowledge and understanding of medications and therapies — which benefits us all.

Building a foundation for excellence doesn’t happen by chance; it takes forethought, time and resources. The College of Pharmacy — the oldest health science college at UF — has demonstrated this in its enduring quality programs, developed and sustained for more than 85 years.

Our mission is to promote the health and welfare of the people of Florida and the nation by preparing graduates in pharmacy to take independent professional responsibility for the outcome of drug therapy in patients. We are proud that our graduates have the scientific and cultural background necessary to assume leadership roles in the profession and their communities.

In the following pages, we share unique stories that richly illustrate the quiet lives — lived with purpose — of those who have passed through our college halls and returned to open new doors. This is their prescription for progress for those who wish to join our journey.

Dean William H. Riffee, Ph.D.
One of Debbie DeSantis’ favorite professors when she was a pharmacy student at UF was Koppaka V. Rao, who was known for his knowledge of medicinal plants and folk medicine. “The first drugs were derived from nature,” said DeSantis, who earned her bachelor’s degree in pharmacy in 1982. “Studying pharmacognosy was very enlightening for me.” So, she was saddened to see the loss of herbal medicine education and research at UF after Rao died in 1998.

That was why DeSantis and her mother, Sylvia DeSantis, donated $1.5 million to the UF College of Pharmacy in 2002 to establish the Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Professorship in Natural Products. Debbie DeSantis previously made a $2 million gift to the College of Pharmacy in 2001 to enhance technology, and donated another $2.2 million to the college in 2011 to expand herbal research and education.

Veronika Butterweck, Ph.D., a native of Germany, currently holds the DeSantis professorship. She studied herbal medicines for 10 years at the University of Muenster, focusing her research on the safety and side effects of popular herbal medicines. She continued her research at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., and in 2003, she came to UF to help re-establish herbal medicine within the pharmacy curriculum.

Butterweck is also director of the Center for Drug Interaction Research and Education, led by UF and established in 2003 to study possible food and dietary supplement drug interactions.

Her research at UF is focused on investigating plants that can affect the central nervous system and have antidepressive properties, as well as the development of new therapeutic concepts for the treatment of metabolic disorders.

The funding has allowed Butterweck to buy equipment for her lab and pay for postdoctoral students to assist in her research, allowing her to increase the number of projects she can do.

Butterweck’s other goal is focused on educating pharmacists on natural products.

“Because many consumers take natural products, I think it’s very important for pharmacists to be educated in this area,” she said.

Debbie DeSantis is pleased to see her gift rekindle the natural products education and research at UF that Rao started years ago and is excited about the college’s commitment to advancing this important field.

“Natural products are an integral part of our therapeutic culture, and their chemistry is both complex and important,” she said. “That’s why education and research need to continue.”
Lawrence DuBow knows a lot about the pharmacy business. The Illinois native began his career more than 50 years ago working in his father’s Jacksonville drugstore and went on to found one of the country’s largest independently owned wholesale drug companies.

“Pharmacy has just always been very good to me — and pharmacy in the state of Florida has been particularly good to me in my work life,” said DuBow, an entrepreneur in the pharmaceutical field and a partner in the Jacksonville Jaguars NFL franchise. “So what better way to give back than to the University of Florida and its pharmacy program?”

DuBow and his wife, Linda, pledged $1 million to the College of Pharmacy in 2007 to boost graduate research and create the DuBow Family Graduate Student Education endowment. The gift follows a previous $1 million donation by the DuBows in 1991.

The funding will support pharmacy doctoral candidates in the department of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy whose research betters the treatment of children and families.

The DuBows’ award currently supports the work of pharmacy doctoral student Stephan Linden, who is researching the safety of drugs prescribed for youths with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder who are Medicaid recipients.

Linden, who worked as a pharmacist in his home country of Germany, is pursuing a doctorate in pharmacoepidemiology at UF and received a 2010-11 universitywide graduate teaching award.

Helping to further education and improve the lives of children has been a big focus for the DuBows. They support several programs in the Jacksonville area through their family foundation.

But advancing the field of pharmacy is where DuBow has made his largest impact.

Graduating in 1953 from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy, DuBow moved to Jacksonville in 1957 to work in his father’s pharmacy. Soon, he founded Lawrence Pharmaceuticals, which he built into one of the largest independently owned drug companies in the country. He sold the Jacksonville-based company in 1986 to FoxMeyer Drug Co.

In 1991, DuBow founded HMS Sales and Marketing Inc., a Jacksonville-based pharmaceutical products sales and marketing company, which he sold to Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in 2000. He is now a consultant to Ranbaxy.

In 2010, DuBow received the UF Distinguished Achievement Award for his many contributions to the university, the pharmacy profession and his community.

“We are particularly interested in helping families and children,” said DuBow. “You get the opportunities to see meaningful outcomes and it’s really rewarding.”
Because they received scholarships themselves while attending the UF College of Pharmacy, Shawn Anderson, Pharm.D., and Katherine Vogel Anderson, Pharm.D., decided early on that they wanted to provide financial support to other students.

“We both appreciated the help so much and wanted to give back,” said Vogel Anderson, a 2003 graduate who is a clinical assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy’s department of pharmacotherapy and translational research.

The couple, both in their 30s, donated $10,500 in 2009 to establish the Vogel Anderson Exceptional Leader Fund. It awards an annual $1,000 scholarship to a third-year student in good academic standing who is active in the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

“We wanted to give back to the school, but we also wanted to encourage leadership in the profession,” said Anderson, a 2006 graduate who is a clinical pharmacy specialist at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville.

Robert Persaud, president of the Gainesville student chapter of the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists, is a recipient of the Vogel Anderson scholarship.

“I was so thankful to have that recognition and the financial help that comes with it,” he said. “(They have) definitely made me think about how to give back when I graduate.”

The Andersons are the second couple to start a scholarship fund for students after receiving assistance themselves. Shawn Anderson received the William “Terry” and Jackie C. Reid Pharmacy Scholarship, which financially assists second-year pharmacy students who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need.

“We decided to do something early on, so we’d have the thrill and the pleasure of meeting the students who are so motivated, like Shawn,” said Terry Reid, who graduated from UF in 1966 with honors from the College of Pharmacy. He later got his degree in dentistry at Emory University in Atlanta and has had his own dental practice in Stone Mountain, Ga., for almost 40 years. Jackie Reid, earning her degree in 1965 from UF’s College of Journalism and Communications, is a former editor.

Terry Reid said he had three scholarships and a part-time job during pharmacy school. “So I know that the money being there is just very important,” he said. Reid said it makes him proud to know that the Andersons feel the same way.

“It is a culmination of our dream to see them being involved, completing the circle and paying it forward — you can’t ask for more,” he said.
Jeanne L. Scheibler

THIRD-YEAR PHARMACY STUDENT ADINA SOLIS WITH HER SON, ADRIAN
University of Florida College of Pharmacy student Adina Solis never met Jeanne L. Scheibler. But Scheibler, a 1941 alumna who died in 2006, has made a big impact on her life.

Solis is the recipient of the Jeanne Scheibler Scholarship, which was established in 2007 by Scheibler’s estate. The scholarship will allow Solis, a 25-year-old wife and mother, to worry less about finances as she starts her third year of pharmacy school.

“I’m the mom of a 4-year-old son and it’s really going to help me,” said Solis. “I’ll be able to cut back on work and focus more on my studies.”

The award is given to pharmacy students in need of financial assistance and helps pay for their tuition, books, and room and board expenses. Solis is determined to reach her goal of becoming a pharmacist, juggling a busy work, school and family schedule. Over the summer, she worked full time in the pharmacy at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg and part time at a local Publix pharmacy.

“I had no hospital experience at all — it’s totally different, rewarding and challenging,” she said.

Scheibler’s own focus and determination has been an inspiration to Solis. At a time when many women did not pursue higher education or work professionally, Scheibler earned two bachelor degrees, graduated first in her pharmacy class and owned her own business.

Known for her playful sense of humor, Scheibler left a personal message to her future scholarship recipients, saying: “I wish them good luck and want them to study hard. You have to concentrate, even if your professor is boring, not go out and be playboys or playgirls.”

Scheibler grew up in Miami, where her father was a pharmacist. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Miami in 1937, she earned another bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from UF in 1941. After graduation, she went to work at James Drug Shop in downtown Miami in 1947. She later went on to buy the pharmacy. Selling the store in 1977, she retired at the age of 62 and traveled around the world.

Solis said she appreciates Scheibler’s decision to invest part of her livelihood in future UF pharmacy students, so individuals like herself could fulfill their dreams.

“She was a very amazing lady,” Solis said. “I wish I could tell her thank you.”
What kind and how much medication a patient receives can be a matter of life or death.

That’s why Bob Crisafi, who received his doctorate in pharmacy from UF in 1956, has spent his career focused on patient safety and the role pharmacists can play in reducing medical error rates in hospitals.

He has developed better ways of packaging and dispensing medication in hospitals, founding 12 successful companies over the years that have designed innovative systems to improve drug distribution.

“For the past 40 years, my passion has been to play a role in lowering the drug error rate in our nation’s hospitals,” said Crisafi. “I want my university, the University of Florida, to carry on my vision.”

Through the sale of their Boston home deeded over to UF, Crisafi and his wife, Barbara, donated $1 million to the college to create a chair in the department of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy to look at how medication is administered in hospitals and to create systems that prevent medication errors.

The gift established an endowed chair at the College of Pharmacy, which will work in conjunction with Shands at UF to generate new studies and processes to further reduce hospital drug errors and improve patient safety at Shands and other U.S. hospitals.

“Bob’s passion is safety,” said Alan K. Knudsen, director of pharmacy services at Shands at UF. “I think his passion lines up perfectly with the university’s and Shands’ core missions.”

Richard Segal, Ph.D., a professor in the college’s department of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, holds the new chair and will use the funding to research how new technology can be used to reduce medication errors and improve patient outcomes.

Medication errors began increasing in hospitals in the 1950s, Crisafi said. Physicians would write a prescription order, and the nurse would interpret the order, measure out the dosage from the floor’s drug closet and administer the drug to the patient.

Arguing that a better process was needed, Crisafi pioneered unit dosing, which involves a pharmacist interpreting the prescription and dispensing the drug in a repackaged, personalized dose for the nurse to administer to the patient.

Crisafi hopes his gift will ultimately lead to hospitals adopting new procedures that will dramatically reduce medication errors, which are estimated to kill thousands of people annually.

“By continuing this research ... I hope more hospitals will change and fewer people will die,” he said.
It’s been almost 60 years since he graduated from the UF College of Pharmacy, but today David L. Bean’s impact on students is stronger than ever.

Through Bean’s visionary gift of property south of Orlando to the college, the pharmacist and entrepreneur helped create a UF influence within an emerging biomedical research community and brought UF pharmacy education to his hometown.

The seed of Bean’s philanthropy to support UF pharmacy education grew from humble beginnings in 1952 with his pharmacy degree and a $10 commercial bank account.

“I worked for 14 years in Orlando pharmacies, saving my money for a day when I could buy my own pharmacy,” Bean said. “In 1966, I bought the Altamonte Pharmacy for $11,000, including the previous owner’s commercial bank account.”

After 11 years in Altamonte, Bean moved his business to the Longwood Professional Center on Palm Springs Drive. He operated under the new Palm Springs Pharmacy for 19 more years.

Bean said he relied on his faith in God, help from friends and the work of his late wife, Helen, who kept his accounts in order as he grew his business to aid doctors’ practices. He expanded his business through the development of compounding pharmacy, a technique in mixing chemical compounds to create liquids, ointments or capsules to fill prescriptions tailored to patient needs.

Through the course of 30 years in business, the Beans acquired a five-acre parcel in Osceola County. After Helen died in 2000, Bean initiated steps to donate the land to UF.

In 2007, the sale of this parcel brought a $1.2 million gift to the UF College of Pharmacy to begin searching for a new campus home for its Orlando students and faculty.

The new Helen and David Bean Campus of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Orlando, along with the college’s research programs, will be an integral part of the UF Research and Academic Center in Lake Nona, Fla. UF joins a developing biomedical research community in Lake Nona with institutions including the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, Nemours Children’s Hospital, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

“My education from the University of Florida gave me a great opportunity to pursue a business I loved,” Bean said. “There comes a time to give back to the university, which has been so influential in my life.”
Priya Thoguluva, a UF College of Pharmacy student, has thought about owning her own pharmacy one day, but had no idea if it was a realistic option for her. But after a 10-week summer internship at Bay Street Pharmacy Inc. in Sebastian, Fla., which is owned by 1988 UF pharmacy graduate Theresa Tolle, Thoguluva says she knows now that ownership is possible.

“I learned owning a pharmacy is a real option for me, and I may be able to own my own business early in my career,” said the second-year student.

The UF College of Pharmacy received a gift from AmerisourceBergen, one of the largest wholesale drug companies in the world, for $100,000 to help establish the Community Pharmacy Business and Entrepreneurial Endowment to encourage pharmacy ownership and business and entrepreneurial practices in pharmacy. The program includes a summer internship for students that allows them to gain business experience and knowledge from independent pharmacy owners in the community.

“It made sense to partner with the UF College of Pharmacy in promoting this program, based on our commitment to community pharmacy,” said Joe Brecko, vice president and distribution center manager of AmerisourceBergen’s Orlando division.

“Community pharmacy is vital to our health care system.”

Independent pharmacies provide important niche services to communities like personal service, home delivery and the compounding of medications, said Earlene Lipowski, Ph.D., a professor in the department of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, who oversees the internship program.

Many independent pharmacy owners are retiring, and there has been a decline in the number of independent community pharmacies in Florida, she said. But that also means opportunities exist for young pharmacy graduates to buy these established pharmacies.

“If we can connect a young pharmacist to one that is phasing out, it’s a win-win,” said Lipowski.

Tolle said she welcomed the chance to mentor students and share her entrepreneurial experiences. She became part owner of her pharmacy in 1999, then full owner in 2005.

It’s not easy competing against larger chain pharmacies, but she said she loves knowing her customers on a first-name basis and being a part of the community.

For Thoguluva, Tolle has become a valuable mentor and role model, even showing her how to juggle family and work.

“This internship has definitely had a big impact on me,” Thoguluva said. “I now know that this is a realistic goal for me to pursue.”
Aas you can see from these stories, support from individuals, corporations and foundations has long provided stability and strength to the college. Private funding allows us to fulfill our mission by directing resources where they will have the greatest impact. We strive to ensure the process is equally satisfying for our donors by working together to identify the areas of need that resonate with their personal goals and desires. As result, the legacy they create not only benefits the college, faculty and students but their families as well.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps the college expand its tradition of excellence and increases its value to society.

For more information about how you may create your legacy and impact future generations of pharmacists, contact us or go to www.cop.ufl.edu/alumni-friends/giving.

I look forward to getting to know you and helping you to write your own prescription for progress.

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