First Residential Pharmacy Students Begin Study on Albany Campus

An inaugural class of pharmacy students began its third-year classes this week at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy’s Southwest Georgia Clinical campus in Albany and will remain there for two years of study.

The six students will complete the third and fourth years on the Albany campus as part of the College’s 2+2 program, which entails spending the first two years of undergraduate training in Athens followed by two years at an alternate site.

The College of Pharmacy officially opened the new campus in April 2011 with the critical classroom and student laboratory space needed to support the Doctor of Pharmacy program and the Graduate Certificate Residency Program in South Georgia.

Southwest Georgia, for a long time, has not had an adequate number of pharmacists,” said Dean Svein Øie about the need for the new program. “We aim to train them there in hopes they will stay in the area.”

The space includes faculty offices, a classroom equipped for video conferencing with other campuses in the state, including Athens and Augusta, as well as a student lounge and computer area. The space is designed to promote and foster interactions between alumni, students, residents and faculty members in South Georgia.

The newly renovated campus space is within short walking distance of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Georgia Health Sciences University School of Medicine Clinical Campus and Phoebe Healthworks, a state-of-the art wellness center. This learning environment provides opportunities for professional student development as well as interdisciplinary healthcare education and training.

The program eventually expects to accommodate 50 students and five faculty members at the Albany campus.

Pictured from left are: First row: Erica Barfield, administrative associate; students Abhishek Amin and Josh Breeden; Second row: Carolyn Hunter, clinical assistant professor; students Sarah Smith and Emily Whitney, and Vivian Liao, clinical assistant professor Third row: Iqbal Khan, Assistant Dean, Southwest Georgia Clinical Campus; students Nicole Alberton and Brett Daniel, and Brad Phillips, Milliken-Reeve Professor and Head, Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. Not pictured are Stephanie Phan, clinical assistant professor, and Melody Sheffield, public service associate.