

In the Spotlight

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Galdo Wins RESPy Award

Athens, GA – John “Jake” Galdo of Marietta, a third year student at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, is recipient of the 2009 Pharmacy Times/ Wal-Mart RESPy (respect, excellence, and service in pharmacy) Award. The national, competitive award recognizes outstanding student pharmacists who have been nominated by their college deans for their community service efforts.

Galdo is praised for being an outstanding volunteer and advocate for patient care in the Athens community. He is in charge of the prescription assistance program at Mercy Clinic, which identifies the needs of individual patients and secures free medications from manufactures. He also teaches a diabetes education classes to patients in the clinic, which is a local nonprofit organization that provides health care services to uninsured people in the area.

Galdo was also a primary organizer of 2009 PharmFest, a health fair where pharmacy students educated community members on such topics as osteoporosis, diabetes, and smoking cessation. The event placed special emphasis on educating hispanic citizen; Galdo’s fluency in Spanish allowed him to educate patients and help train pharmacy students in their health care.

A third example of his professionalism and public service is his volunteer efforts on a pharmacy team providing service to migrant farm workers in South Georgia. This year, for the first time, the clinic that had already been offering free medical services could also provide pharmaceutical care. In addition the pharmacy students gained experience being part of an interdisciplinary health care team.

“If all pharmacists had Jake’s dedication to helping patients and advancing pharmacy practice, our profession would find itself playing an even greater role in maintaining and improving public health,” said Dr. Alan Wolfgang, assistant dean for Student Affairs at the College of Pharmacy, in his letter of nomination.

As the RESPy award recipient Galdo will receive a \$1,000 tuition scholarship, an original, handcrafted piece of commemorative art and recognition in Pharmacy Times magazine.



Jake Galdo, right, receives congratulations from Dan Bucciarelli, regional talent specialist for Wal-Mart.