

In the Spotlight



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September 17, 2009

Pharmacy South Dedication Takes Place

A standing-room-only crowd of some 250 people gathered into the 194-seat auditorium on September 10 to witness the dedication of the long-awaited Pharmacy South addition to the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Officiating were UGA President Michael Adams, Dean Svein Øie, VisionPlus board member Robert Thompson ('76), and Mike Dorchak, chair of the Dean's Student Advisory Council. Also attending were current and former Georgia state legislators, Eddie Madden ('71), Earl "Buddy" Carter ('80) and Oren "Buddy" Harden ('62), along with the VisionPlus Capital Campaign, UGA vice presidents, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College.

"Everyone in the state has a vested interest in the progress of the pharmacy school addition, and our citizens deserve the first-rate care that will come from the students educated here," said Adams as he greeted the audience.

Øie thanked former deans Howard Ansel and Stuart Feldman for their vision in conceiving and implementing the plan to build the new facility.

"The idea for the new building originated in 1979, some 30 years ago, during Howard Ansel's tenure as dean; Stuart Feldman and I carried this vision forward with us," said Øie, noting that the groundbreaking ceremony for Pharmacy South occurred in November 2007. "It has been a fantastic, joyous voyage to achieve what we call Pharmacy South, but it has also been long and torturous. Our voyage was not just about a building, though, it was about transforming the College of Pharmacy. It was not just about the physical, it was about the people in the building who are leading the way for the profession."

High Tech Facility

The \$44 million, 93,288 square foot addition, built adjacent to the Robert C. Wilson pharmacy building, has biodiesel generators and is the first building on campus to be registered for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification, the national benchmark for design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. In addition its high tech research labs utilize a chemical fume hood control system that is integrated with the building's heating and air conditioning system to minimize energy consumption.

Pharmacy South features state-of-the-art classrooms and teaching labs, complete with video recording and distance learning capabilities and sensor-driven lighting for efficiency and programmed control. Points of pride include the Student Learning Center with its wireless Internet computer stations, small-group seating areas and technology support area, plus a complete Community Pharmacy Care Center and Skills Lab, and a Hospital Pharmacy Care Center. In addition to the two 194-seat auditoria are three 30-seat classrooms, one 15-seat seminar room and seven small discussion rooms, all designed to provide critical classroom and laboratory space to support the Doctor of Pharmacy and graduate programs. Other highlights include a student affairs office suite, a lounge, an executive conference room and two large open research labs, allowing for the expansion of research programs in drug discovery and delivery.

Vision 2003 and VisionPlus Campaigns

In 1995 the College created the Vision 2003 board to raise private funds for the new building and help secure appropriations from the state of Georgia. After the College's centennial celebration in 2003, the board's name was changed to VisionPlus.

The 14-year campaign raised \$11.2 million in donations from alumni, corporations and friends of the College toward the construction of the addition to the 31-year-old pharmacy building. As part of UGA's Archway to Excellence campaign, which began in 2001, the board originally set its goal at \$7.6 million and reached that goal in 2006.

"Moving up and down the Board of Regents' list of priorities, after having started at Number 25, seemed like following the Dawgs up and down the football polls," said Jeff Lurey, chair of the VisionPlus board. "However it felt like 1980 all over again, winning the national championship, when our College's vision for a new facility became the Regents' Number One priority. Seeing Pharmacy South come to fruition has been a wonderfully rewarding experience."

The original members of Vision 2003 and VisionPlus boards are Lurey, Ashley Dukes ('71) and Harris Morgan, Jr. ('75). Other current and past members are Dennis Bloodworth, Bryan Brown ('70), Nabil Elkareh, Samee Ellerbee ('74), Stuart Feldman, Stewart Flanagin, Jr. ('72), co-chair Michael Gigandet ('72), Jim Gore, Valerie Green, Alton Greenway ('51), Renee Hay ('84), Susan Kane ('93), Jan Mackey ('78), Scott Miller, Sheila Miller ('87), Steve Moore, Elizabeth Mottern, Dean Svein Øie, Larry "Butch" Parrish ('64), Steven Purvis ('98), Dana Strickland ('81), Robert Tamplin ('70), Robert Thompson ('76) and Kevin Woody (95).

"If it weren't for the dedicated members of our VisionPlus board, I don't think we would've done nearly as well. Their attendance at our quarterly meetings has been exemplary, as well as their outreach efforts with our alumni. Their own personal contributions exceeded \$1 million," said Dana Strickland, the College's director of development who was credited by Lurey as being "the glue, the inspiration and the driving force for all our efforts."

Naming Opportunities

Part of the funds raised by Pharmacy alumni included specific donations in the form of Naming Opportunities for the new building project. They were:

Kroger Pharmacy – Student Learning Center, \$250,000

Billy ('65) and Dennis ('88) Strickland – Community Pharmacy Care Center, \$125,000,

Richard F. Bryan estate – Hospital Pharmacy Care Center, \$125,000

Hubert F. Chancy Family – Lounge, \$125,000

Dennis and Beverly Bloodworth – Executive Conference Room, \$100,000

Publix Super Market Charities – Three Discussion Rooms, \$100,000

Michael Gigandet ('72) – Alumni Suite, \$75,000

Henry Holland Memorial Fund – Dean's Office, \$50,000

Walgreens – Classroom, \$50,000

Al ('51) and Shirley Greenway – Faculty Office, \$25,000

Class of 2009 – Book Shelf, \$525

Numerous donors, Auditorium Chairs, \$250 each

[Photos of the Dedication and Pharmacy South tour can be viewed in the Photo Gallery at www.rx.uga.edu.]