



FEIK  
SCHOOL OF  
PHARMACY  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
2022



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
INCARNATE WORD

FEIK SCHOOL of PHARMACY

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SAN ANTONIO



## UIW Receives Major Grant for Cardiovascular Research

*Grant Also Meant to Introduce More Minority Scientists to the Field*

UIW's Feik School of Pharmacy (FSOP) has been awarded a nearly half million-dollar grant to the Feik School of Pharmacy for research on cardiovascular disease. The \$469,428 grant will be disbursed over four years and is funded through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health via the Support for Research Excellence Program.

Organizers say the grant has two main goals. One is to support innovative research in biomedical sciences. The second is to support undergraduate and graduate students. Only minority-serving institutions are allowed to apply for this grant, which is designed to expose and encourage students to conduct research and eventually pursue a career in science.



"This grant is not only awarded based on its scientific merit, but also has a strong research training component that will include our students," says Dr. Helmut Gottlieb, FSOP professor. "My plan is to recruit 5 to 10 students per year to conduct research in our laboratory. Ultimately, we will not only develop new therapies for the treatment of cardiovascular disease (e.g. heart failure), but we will broaden our students' horizons

towards a career in science. This can not only open their minds, but also open doors to a graduate and/or health care programs and contribute to the Mission of our University."

The research project, titled "CNS sites involved in the cardiovascular and renal effects of nociceptin in rats with heart failure," will study the effects of the peptide nociceptin, which is naturally produced in mammalian bodies, including humans. Gottlieb says, nociceptin targets a specific receptor that, when activated, causes marked changes in cardiovascular and renal function which has implications in diseases that affect these organs. Understanding the role of this peptide/receptor is the first step and it is fundamental to the development of new approaches to treat diseases such as hypertension and heart failure.

The award was presented on September 1, 2022, and the research has already begun.

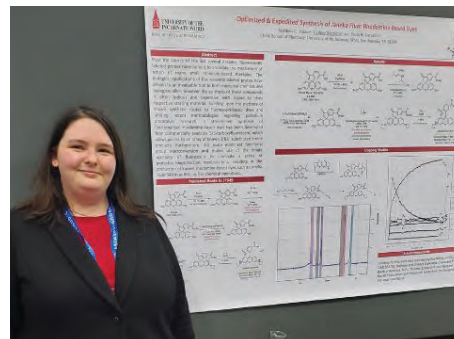
## Assistant Professor Receives IPE Fellows Award



Dr. Nile Barnes, who is a UIW assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice as well as the Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Community Engagement coordinator, received the Texas IPE Consortium 2023 Fellows Award at the annual meeting in Houston in April.

The Texas IPE Consortium recognizes Texas faculty who display an extraordinary breadth of achievement and unwavering dedication to IPE. A Fellows Award is presented annually to outstanding individuals who have demonstrated significant service and leadership within the consortium. These individuals have also made exceptional contributions to the field of IPE across the state of Texas and beyond. The nominee has shown sustained commitment to IPE through inclusive and visionary leadership. They have also demonstrated a commitment to advancing interprofessional education and practice through innovation and life-long learning. Congratulations Dr. Barnes!

## FSOP Students Share Lab Experiences with Colleagues



Third year Feik School of Pharmacy student Cydney Stephens recently presented a poster titled Optimized and Expedited Synthesis of Janelia Fluor Rhodamine-Based Dyes at the American Chemical Society's Crossroads of Chemistry annual meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Stephens, along with Dr. Matthew Valdez, FSOP post-doctoral fellow, and Dr. Paulo Carvalho, professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, discussed her work at the poster session. She discussed the highly powerful dyes in her study, which are capable of highlighting drug-binding cellular structures in very small quantities with a high fluorescence (quantum) yield.

Having undergraduate and FSOP students working in the lab side by side has been a long-standing practice in Carvalho's labs, particularly over the past two years when students have benefited from being trained in lab techniques by Valdez. Valdez has been an active participant in helping lab students prepare their posters for meeting presentations. In addition to the educational value of the experience, Stephens also shared that "working on this project and presenting it to people was fun!"





## Feik School of Pharmacy Celebrates White Coat Ceremony

*Feik Class of 2026*

The UIW Feik School of Pharmacy held its annual White Coat Ceremony on Friday, Aug. 12, 2023 in the McCombs Center Rosenberg Sky Room. Seven hundred attendees, including students, families, UIW administrators, and FSOP alumni, faculty, staff and special guests gathered to celebrate the Class of 2026.

“It’s an exciting time to welcome our 17th class of new pharmacy students,” said Dean David F. Maize, RPh, PhD. “It is special to see their faces as they receive their white coats to begin their journey into the profession.”

Each year, this event honors incoming pharmacy students with a keynote speaker, the donning of their white coats, and a pledge of professionalism to mark the start of their pharmacy school journey.

UIW President Thomas M. Evans, PhD, interim Provost Caroline Goulet, PT, PhD, FNAP and Sr. Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI shared remarks during the ceremony. The event also featured special messages from Maize and keynote speaker Dr. Josefa Benedetti, FSOP alum.

Congratulations to the FSOP Class of 2026!

## FSOP Sponsors Community Health Fair

The Feik School of Pharmacy chapter of the National Hispanic Pharmacists Association (NHPA) and students of the school’s Spanish for Pharmacy courses, taught by Dr. Amalia Mondriguez, recently sponsored a community health fair for the UIW housekeeping staff. Approximately 30 students, observed by pharmacy faculty preceptors, tested blood pressure, serum glucose, A1C and cholesterol levels, provided diabetic foot exams, took a medication history, and provided lifestyle information for attendees. Additionally, a dietetic intern provided nutrition information and important food tips.

The goal of the health fair was twofold. It focused on providing UIW housekeepers with insights into their health status and it also provided education on nutrition, medications and healthy lifestyles to those who participated. Community insurance providers attended to share information about and registration for the Affordable Care Act insurance plans or Medicaid for those attending who needed insurance for themselves or their families. These providers also distributed masks and COVID-19 testing kits.

Through this health fair, the students had the opportunity to practice important patient care activities and communication skills, while the preceptors had a chance to observe students in a healthcare setting.

## ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2023

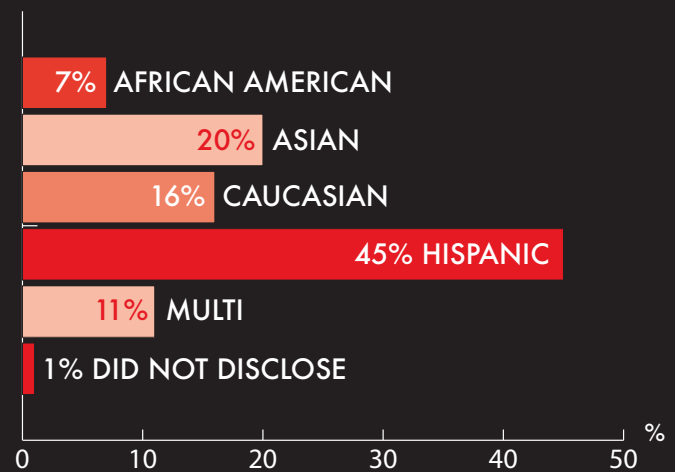
# 93

students started class on August 19, 2019 at the John & Rita Feik School of Pharmacy on the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word

# 93

participated in the thirteenth Feik School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony on August 16, 2019

## OUR CLASS IS:



# 75%

OF US ARE FEMALE

# 46%

OF US CALL SAN ANTONIO HOME

# 50%

OF US HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

IN 2019, WE RANGED IN AGE FROM

# 18 TO 53 YEARS OLD

# 100%

of us are **100%** committed to the profession of pharmacy and to the healthcare of each individual whom we will serve

## Strength in Unity, Hope in Understanding: Feik Students and Faculty Live the Mission in Puerto Rico

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 2:10*

Ten learners and three faculty members from the UIW Feik School of Pharmacy lived out this command, using the gifts of medicine and compassion on a mission trip held from May 14 – 21. The group travelled to Las Piedras, Puerto Rico, where they served the Celia Mondriguez Elderly Center and residents of the local community. The trip was a collaborative effort with the National Hispanic Pharmacy Association and the UIW Ettling Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability.

During the trip, the future pharmacists met with approximately 50 elderly participants at the facility and offered medical reconciliation and health awareness seminars. According to Luis Delgado, a 2023 PharmD candidate, seeing their smiles and happiness was the most memorable part of the trip.

“Although we were there to serve them, they were extremely grateful for our mission, and even offered us a place to stay if we ever went back,” shared Delgado.



“Their hearts were full of hospitality and care.”

These types of trips are particularly important in healthcare, he says, because it helps remind the learners of why they began this journey. Medical school and the hardships of life can weigh them down but seeing the joy of their patients helped inspire Delgado to keep his focus on his love of people and medicine.

“This service mission taught us that happiness is intrinsic, and we must always fill our hearts with joy to be the best version of ourselves,” he noted. “It’s one thing to hear about hardship and adversity, but another to see it in action. Leaving Las Piedras knowing there is more to be done allows us to reflect and grow from the first experience to return with a much bigger impact!”

During the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, trips like this have been rare. Delgado and his classmates welcomed the opportunity to resume this important mission work. He says it aligns “perfectly” with the UIW Mission of producing concerned and enlightened citizens within the global community.

“Our students’ continued passion to

serve underserved communities reflects what the first Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word were here to do in 1869. At UIW, we are blessed to have the means to exchange our hearts’ wealth with the people we have the privilege of serving.”

In addition to helping members of the Celia Mondriguez Elderly Center, the group also attended a meet and greet with the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy, opening the door for future collaborations.

Meeting with these students and learning about their desire to serve the underserved was heartwarming, added Delgado, and he is excited about the possibility of future projects throughout Texas and Puerto Rico.

“Their eagerness to impact their community is what united us, far more than conversations about pharmacy school. Having students from all over the world come to heal Texas, while allowing us to do the same for their communities, would be an accomplishment that serves as an example for future generations. There is hope and strength in unity and understanding.”

## Residency Acceptance Committee

The **Residency Acceptance Committee** was created in 2020 to design and organize a variety of initiatives that would increase Feik School of Pharmacy (FSOP) students’ rate of successful matching to residency programs upon graduation. These initiatives sought to improve early communication and awareness about the requirements for application to residency training, assist students in building their application credentials throughout their time in pharmacy school, and strategically place events throughout the year to guide students through the process of application. The committee also created a “Guide to Residency Training” flyer with recommended residency-preparation activities for each class year, available FSOP programs, and additional resources that is posted in each classroom and on monitors throughout the school. Additionally, they developed a program to increase student access to and involvement in research poster, presentation, and publication

opportunities and manage the FSOP Residency Preparation Mentorship Program, which partners residency-trained faculty with residency-interested students. This program provides students with a mentor for the development of necessary skills and experience prior to application in their P4 year and for the arduous application and interview process itself, including a review of their Curriculum Vitae, letter of intent, and interview presentations and a point person with whom to talk through application questions. The Residency Acceptance Committee is extremely proud of this year’s residency Match rate for the FSOP Class of 2023, especially in the context of an increasingly competitive process, as 85.2% of students pursuing postgraduate year one (PGY1) pharmacy residency training matched to a residency program this year, increased from 2022, 2021, and 2020 Match rates of 63.2%, 47%, and 51.7%, respectively.