

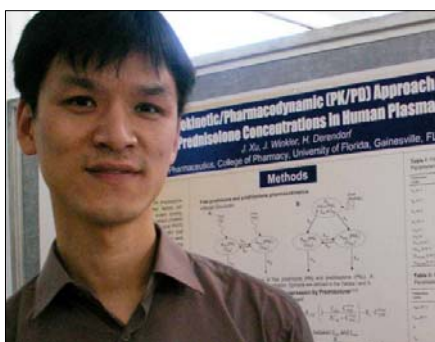
► **Graduate Student Education**

*“Teaching at the professional and graduate level is our legacy as a university.
My beliefs are to set the bar high and assist the student to reach the goal.”*

Jeffrey Hughes, Ph.D., Associate Professor, *Pharmaceutics*

All leading academic research programs are driven by the fruitful interactions of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with their faculty mentors. It is only through recruitment of the most gifted and qualified candidates that the college can be successful in research and graduate endeavors. In order for us to achieve this, we must be able to offer competitive packages to attract the best and the brightest from across the nation.

Furthermore, a nationally renowned graduate program supports and retains crucial faculty by providing the resources for faculty to continue their cutting-edge research. In essence, it is the fuel that runs our research engine and makes new discoveries possible. Discoveries that are



currently creating new compounds and more efficient ways to bring drugs to market, thereby enhancing medication therapy management and decreasing errors, resulting in better drug therapies that improve patient care and quality of life.

► *“My research focuses on practical improvements of older, successful drugs already on the market. We are finding these drugs can often be used in new ways, but it’s hard to get funding.”*
– **Jian Xu**, Graduate Student, *Pharmaceutics*

Generating student interest in research at the undergraduate and/or professional level is vital to the growth and development of research in the college and the profession. Providing undergraduate pharmacy students opportunities to explore research allows them to make career decisions very early in their educational program. The college offers two initiatives for early research experience.

The Annual Research Showcase brings experts from the pharmaceutical industry to campus to speak and interact with students. More importantly, it provides students much-needed experience in the formulation and presentation of research findings to their peers and industry judges. In 2007, we had a record number of 50 entries in four competitions.

The Summer Research Internships provides a 10-week immersion into disciplines such as pharmacy practice, pharmacogenomics, pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacoconomics, drug discovery and patient safety. Students shadow a faculty member and undertake various aspects of research while gaining an appreciation for alternative career paths for advanced post-Pharm.D. training (e.g., fellowship training and graduate education).

Our goal is to create the College of Pharmacy “Graduate Student Education and Research Endowment” which will be the cornerstone to sustainability by reducing the dependence on fluctuating revenues. The income from the endowment will sustain activities that have previously been supported by uncertain government funding, grants and sponsorship. In addition, it would be able to support fellowships, new activities, and program enhancements.