

MUSOP BULLETIN

Marshall University School of Pharmacy

February 2026

From the Dean



**DR. ERIC BLOUGH, PHD
DEAN**

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the MUSOP Bulletin. As we usher in the new year amid the crisp winter air of Huntington, our Marshall University School of Pharmacy community celebrates a strong close to 2025, and looks ahead with renewed energy and purpose.

In this issue, we're thrilled to share the latest 2025 NAPLEX results, spotlight groundbreaking faculty research including Dr. ARM Ruhul Amin's recent publication, and recap innovative events like our MUSOP Shark Tank and holiday festivities - from door decorations to the Ugly Sweater Contest.

You'll also meet Student of the Month Thomas Newsome, hear from inspiring alumni like Dr. Brooke Williamson, and catch highlights of our students' and alumni's successes at the ASHP Midyear Conference. With nods to the National Blood Donor Month and the vital role of ambulatory care pharmacists, we honor our shared commitment to excellence in education, patient care, and community impact.

Thank you for being part of the MUSOP family - let's carry this momentum forward. Go HERD!



2025 NAPLEX Report Is In!

Record-Breaking NAPLEX and MPJE Performance

We're proud to announce extraordinary results from our Class of 2025 on the NAPLEX and MPJE exams, showcasing a remarkable trajectory of improvement driven by our dedicated faculty.

NAPLEX First-Time Pass Rates:

- 2023: 56.9%
- 2024: 68.9%
- **2025: 92%** (a staggering ~35 point increase over 3 years!)

MPJE First-Time Pass Rates:

- 2023: 67.9%
- 2024: 76.5%
- **2025: 100%** (believed to be the only pharmacy school in the nation to achieve this milestone)

These achievements are a testament to the tireless efforts of our incredible MUSOP faculty, with special recognition to the capstone team led by Dr. Angel Kimble and Dr. Tiffany Davis. Their innovative teaching, rigorous preparation, and unwavering commitment to student success have transformed our program and positioned our graduates for excellence in pharmacy practice.

Congratulations to our students, faculty, and the entire MUSOP family - Go HERD!

Faculty Spotlight

An abstract was recently published online with *Biochem Cell Bio* from the lab of Dr. ARM Ruhul Amin. The article entitled "In vitro and in vivo anticancer efficacy of the combination of Actinomycin D and resveratrol" was a collaborative effort involving Raji LM, Afrin R, Amin JF, Lamichhane R, Denning KL, and Amin R. "Actinomycin D (Act D) was the first FDA-approved anticancer antibiotic. However, its widespread application was hindered by dose-limiting toxicities." To read more, click the link below. It was published on January 8, 2026. doi: 10.1139/bcb-2025-0310.

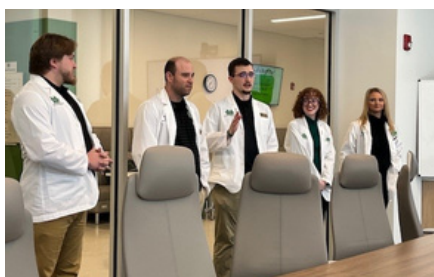
[Pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)



This digital newsletter connects you to many of our other online sources of information. As this newsletter continues to evolve, we encourage your feedback and story ideas by emailing sopnews@marshall.edu.

Shark Tank Event

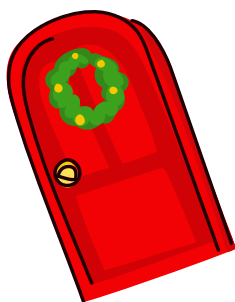
MUSOP utilizes an active learning tool, “MUSOP Shark Tank,” which is developed based on the popular NBC show “Shark Tank” with a pharmacy or healthcare-related spin. It is implemented as part of the required coursework for the pharmacy administration module. This approach supports students’ use of evidence-based practice skills and effective domain competencies identified in COEPA, the ACPE Standards 2020, and achievement of the school’s terminal abilities. In this class, students learn a variety of management-related topics, including leadership, budgeting, pharmacoeconomics, accounting, finance, marketing, merchandising, inventory management, and entrepreneurship. As preparation for the semester project, students develop their formal business plan idea, with creativity encouraged in terms of the selection of an idea. This year, a pharmacy service component was a requirement. This plan is presented in an “MUSOP Shark Tank” format, taking a very complex healthcare-related item and presenting the project to a varied group of “guest celebrity sharks”. Students are assessed on creativity, presentation skills, writing ability, knowledge, professionalism, and ability to confidently deliver complex content to a varied audience in a limited amount of time. Our goal with this approach is to motivate students to solve complex problems, improve presentation, communication, and management skills, and to make learning in a pharmacy management course more fun.



SHARK TANK



MUSOP Happenings



Our annual Holiday Door Decorating contest winner was Karrie Lykins. She decorated her door in honor of her favorite Christmas Little Debbie snack.



We had our first annual Ugly Sweater Contest for faculty and staff this year. First place went to Karrie Lykins, second place went to David Kalinoski, and third place went to Megan Russell.



UGLY SWEATER party

Student of the Month

Our Student of the Month for January is Thomas Newsome

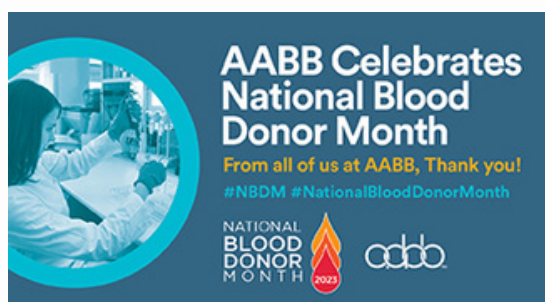
“During his APPE rotation with me, he consistently demonstrated professionalism, strong clinical reasoning, a strong work ethic, and a genuine passion for advancing pharmacy practice. He frequently went above and beyond expectations, including staying late, taking on additional assignments, and volunteering to assist with active learning activities outside of rotation to support both faculty and his peers. His intelligence, drive, and positive attitude reflect true leadership and position him for continued success in pharmacy,” states Dr. Katie Burns.



National Blood Donor Month

National Blood Donor Month (NBDM) was first proclaimed by President Richard Nixon in January 1970 to pay tribute to voluntary blood donors and to encourage new donors to join the cause. This observance aims to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation, especially during the winter months when donations typically decline due to holidays and inclement weather.

aabb.org



Pharmacy Ambulatory Care



Ambulatory care pharmacists work in outpatient clinics, health systems, and community-based settings where they manage chronic conditions, optimize medication therapy, and provide patient-centered care. Click the link below to learn more.

www.pharmacist.com

Alumni Spotlight



Dr. Brooke Williamson is our January 2026 alumni of the month. Born and raised in Huntington, Brooke has proudly called the tri-state area home for her entire life. When Marshall University announced the opening of its School of Pharmacy, she was thrilled to pursue her professional dreams without leaving the community she loves.

Brooke's passion for pharmacy began in high school, where she recognized the field as the perfect blend of challenge and accessibility within STEM. At 18, she began working as a pharmacy technician and has never looked back. Today, she serves as Supervisor of Specialty Pharmacy at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland, KY, where her team help patients and providers overcome access barriers to high-cost, complex specialty medications. They also provide ongoing clinical support to ensure safe and effective therapy - a role she describes as both unique and deeply rewarding.



Reflecting on her career, Brooke emphasizes the diversity of opportunities within pharmacy. From retail and critical care to outpatient clinics and informatics, she notes that pharmacists can pursue specialized roles at any stage in their careers. "Pharmacy is anything but boring - the possibilities are endless, and the field is expanding all the time," she shares.

Her most defining MUSOP experiences came through hands-on learning in rotations and community service. "Applying classroom knowledge in real-world settings was incredibly fulfilling," she recalls. "I'm grateful for the opportunities I wouldn't have known to seek out on my own." Above all, she treasures the sense of community at MUSOP. "Everyone wants you to succeed, and I felt that immediately. I made lifelong friends, and even professionally, our alumni network is strong and supportive."



Her advice to future pharmacists is simple yet powerful: relationships matter. "Pharmacy is a small world, and having trusted professionals who will advocate for you goes further than any credential. Every encounter - whether at school, work, rotations, or conferences - is a chance to build connections. Taking that seriously will serve you well."

A proud MUSOP alumna, Brooke is married to her high school sweetheart, Tanner, and together they share life with two beloved dogs - Gypsy, a hound mix, and Shooter, an Australian Shepherd. After both Brooke and Shooter underwent knee surgery last year, they have since officially retired from running but continue to enjoy the outdoors. Whether it's hiking, paddleboarding, or attending music festivals, she finds joy in staying active and connected to nature.



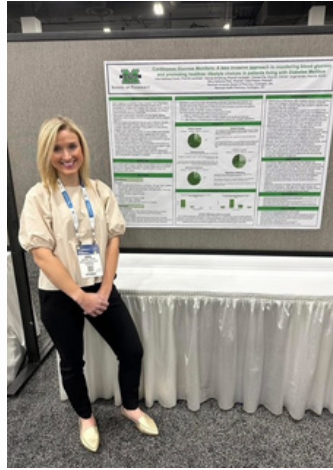
ASHP Midyear Conference 2025

In December 2025, our students and alumni made their mark in Las Vegas, NV, presenting research, sharing poster presentations, and showcasing their skills in the Clinical Skills Competition. Their dedication and professionalism shone on a national stage, and we couldn't be prouder.

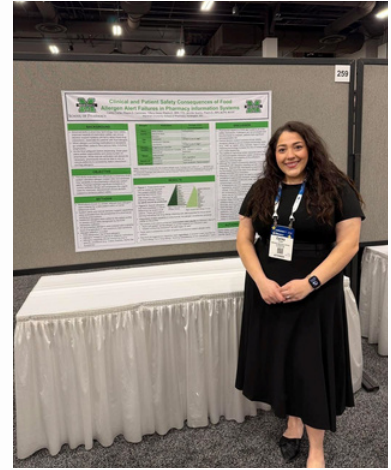
Here's a look at some of the participants and their works.



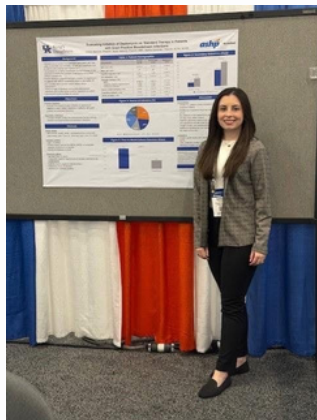
P4s Mackenzie Phipps and Brittany Vaught



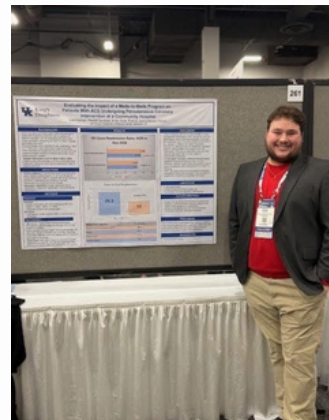
P4 Student Julia Galloway-Fanelli



P4 student Carley Carter



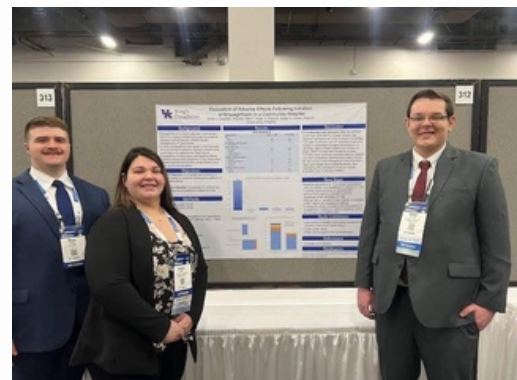
2024 alumna Ashton Rexroad



P3 student Grant Harrison



Dr. Lori-belle Slone, Dr. Amber Gross, and P1 student Matt Elswick



2025 alumni Mark Angel and Amber Daniel

Looking to hire a MUSOP Alumni?

Does your company or organization have opportunities, such as FT or PT jobs, internships, fellowships, or volunteer opportunities that our student pharmacists and alumni may be qualified for? If so, we would love to share with them. Please submit your opportunities through the following link:

<https://www.marshall.edu/pharmacy/opportunity-form/>

