

# APPE UPDATE



Skaggs School of Pharmacy and College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 12

NOVEMBER 12, 2008

We are at the end of the third fall APPE rotation. It's the halfway point for all of you! Remember to call your new instructor/preceptor, if you are going to a new site on November 17, to confirm your starting time, place, etc.

Gayle A. Hudgins  
Director  
Experiential Education  
Pharmacy Practice



## PASSING THE NAPLEX EXAM

In the four years since the Pharm. D. became the only entry level pharmacy degree, the NAPLEX licensing exam has become more difficult to pass, particularly on the first try. Not only has the difficulty of the questions increased, but the number of questions that must be answered correctly to achieve the 75% required for passing has been increased. As a result, the number of applicants passing the exam on the first try has declined.

While some UM pharmacy grads struggled with the NAPLEX and MPJE exams in 2006, overall performance by UM grads improved in 2007. The most recent NAPLEX statistics for 2008 showed UM grads scoring above the national rate (113.76 vs. 96.76) with a 100% pass rate (national pass rate 83.11%) in the first 4

months (January – April 30, 2008). In the second 4 months of 2008, two UM grads failed the exam, dropping the UM average score to 108.25 (national average 112.08). The school's pass rate was 93.75% while the national pass rate was 95.48%. For the MPJE during the first 6 months of 2008, two UM grads failed the law exam. UM's average score was 81.80 while the national average score was 81.59. The UM pass rate on MPJE was 97.67% vs. a national pass rate of 90.31%.

In the upcoming fall issues of the APPE Update, we'll take a look at some of the reasons for exam failure and how to avoid it. We'll also review the many resources that are available to help you prepare for the exam.

When reviewing the reasons graduates don't pass NAPLEX on the first attempt, we think we see three groups of students who run into difficulty passing the exams. The first group is those who do not prepare for the exam, walking it and taking it more or less "cold". While some do take it that way and pass it on the first try, most students do need to spend time reviewing material and studying for the exam. Many will start this process during the last semester of the APPE year; others will delay taking the exam for a couple of months to study after graduation. In later APPE Update issues, we will review various

study guides and resources available for preparation for the exams.

The second group would be those with a limited drug knowledge base. Some students complete the first three years of the program without mastering the information, often by depending on memorization of facts for exams. The APPE year presents an excellent opportunity to expand your drug knowledge base, both by working closely with your preceptors to learn as much as possible, as well as by recognizing your weak areas and studying to correct them.

Finally, a third group appears to be impacted by test anxiety which hampers performance on the exam. The exam is on the computer and the applicant is limited to a little over 4 hours to answer 185 questions. A clock on the computer screen tracks the applicant's remaining time. Because of the computer format, you are not able to go back to previous questions once you have answered them. If the applicant isn't familiar with this format, it can be anxiety-inducing. If anxiety is felt to be the primary reason for failing the exam, the applicant can have the condition documented by a physician and can apply for accommodation. If approved, the time limit is increased and the clock removed from the screen.

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside News

<http://www.health.umn.edu/schools/practice/current/appe newsletters.htm>

APPE Calendar	2	Midpoint Exit Interviews	3
Holiday Hour Requirement	2	Birth Announcement	3
ASHP Residencies	2	Registration for Spring Semester	4
ASHP Mid-Year Clinical Meeting	2	Criminal Background Check Requirement	4
End of Rotation Paperwork	3	Miscellaneous Information	4

## HOLIDAY HOUR REQUIREMENT

We have been operating so far with the understanding that a 4-week rotation contains 160 hours of practical experience and that a student could have one day each rotation where time missed would not have to be made up. That day can be used to make up for a holiday within the rotation, for illness, for doctor's or other appointments, for interviewing, etc. It must be used within that rotation and can not be saved up for use in another rotation under normal circumstances.

**Because of the Thanksgiving holiday during the fourth rotation, we are adding a second day that does not have to be made up in that 4-week period.** Thus, in late Novem-

## PASSING THE NAPLEX EXAM.....

*(Continued from page 1)*

For those students with documented learning or other disabilities listed in the American Disabilities Act, it is possible to apply for accommodation before the initial exam. NABP has process for accommodation, which can be initiated at the state board level. In the next issue of the APPE Update, we will review other factors that can impact performance on the exam.

**DIS/LSS will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, and closed Thursday, November 27, through Sunday, November 30, for Thanksgiving. Keys are available on Wednesday, November 26, from Shannon SB 316 or Jenny, SB 340.**

## APPE CALENDAR

<b>Nov</b>		<b>14th</b> End of the third fall rotation	<b>17th</b> Start of the fourth fall rotation	<b>26th-28th</b> Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>Dec</b>	<b>7-11th</b> ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, Orlando, Florida	<b>12th</b> End of the fourth fall rotation		

ber/December, you can have up to two days in that rotation that don't have to be made up. **However, except in an emergency, you must notify your instructor in advance and arrange to make up any assignments or tasks missed.** Any time missed beyond those two days must be made up through arrangements with the instructor. If the amount of time missed is going to be more than can be made up easily, please contact me immediately so that we can discuss the situation and attempt to find a solution. Remember, you need to return with at least 144 hours in the fourth rotation.

## ASHP RESIDENCIES

The 2008 ASHP Residency Directory is now available on the ASHP web site. This is the compilation of all of the ASHP affiliated residency programs in the country.

Log onto the following websites to find the latest information on ASHP Residencies if you are interested in doing a residency next year or in the future:

<http://www.ashp.org/rtp/index.cfm>  
or  
<http://www.natmatch.com/ashprmp>

The following is a checklist for residency applicants that you will find in more detail on the web.

### November:

- finalize CV and using the preliminary PPS listing, select the residency pro-

grams for possible Interviews;

### December:

- attend the ASHP Mid-year Clinical Meeting in Orlando, FL, Dec 7-11, 2008;
- request letters of recommendation, remembering to enclose any forms required;
- complete all paperwork for applications, including ordering transcripts;
- schedule on-site interviews;

### January:

- on-site interviews begin;
- submit application agreement form to the National Matching Service by January 9, 2009;

### February:

- complete interviews and narrow residency choices to programs that best meet your professional and personal needs and goals;

## ASHP MID-YEAR CLINICAL MEETING

**The ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida, December 7-11, 2008.** This is an excellent meeting to attend, not only for the continuing education and exhibits, but for the chance to obtain information on residencies, visit with residency preceptors, interview for pharmacy positions and network with practitioners from all over

the country.

Student registration fee before Nov 24th is \$200 member and \$250 non-member. Pre-meeting registration closes on November 24th. Rates may increase up to \$100 for on-site registration.

Mike Rivey and Kendra Keeley will hold an informa-

*(Continued on page 3)*

### March:

- submit Rank Order Form to be received by National Matching Service, March 6;
- receive "Match" outcome on or about March 18;
- unmatched candidates resubmit application to programs with positions remaining.

### July:

- most residencies begin July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## END OF ROTATION PAPERWORK

If you are finishing a rotation this week, it's time to complete your evaluations on your experience and on your clinical instructor(s). Your instructor will be completing his or her evaluation of your performance. Try to sit down with your instructor this week and review your evaluations together. Your instructor should also complete the next section of the yellow **Evaluation Summary form**.

Your instructor can give his or her evaluation to you to return to school or it can be sent to Gayle at school. **Remember, turn in all of your evaluations and a copy of your Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experi-**

**ence Affidavit at the end of each 4 or 8 week APPE rotation.** However, be sure to retain a copy of your instructor(s)' evaluation of your performance for each rotation in your portfolio.

Your **portfolio** should contain any required or elective experience materials from this rotation. If you are in a required rotation (inpatient/hospital, community, or ambulatory care), please make sure you have copies in your portfolio of those materials noted in the Portfolio section of the APPE manual. If you are in an elective rotation, you should include a representative sample of your work as agreed upon with your instructor.

## ASHP MID-YEAR CLINICAL MEETING.....

*(Continued from page 2)*

tional question and answer session (date and time to be announced) for those planning to attend. If you are on rotation outside Missoula, you can participate via telephone conference call.

**The ASHP Clinical Skills Competition** was held this past spring. **The winners, Christina Craft and Amanda Pokorny**, will represent the school in the annual Clinical Skills Competition that will be held on December 6th and 7th.

The dean's office will pay a portion of the early member student registration fee upon presentation of a registration receipt after the meeting. The exact amount of avail-

able funding will be determined by the dean's office in the near future.

If you are in rotation during the last fall rotation period, November 17th-December 12th, you will need to negotiate with your preceptor regarding the time you would miss going to the midyear meeting. In the past we have allowed students to count the time at the meeting (but not travel days) as APPE hours, as long as all of the rotation requirements are met. For a registration form and more information, go to: [www.ashp.org/midyear08](http://www.ashp.org/midyear08)

If you have any questions about the ASHP meeting or residency programs, please contact Kendra Keely at

## MIDPOINT EXIT INTERVIEWS

Each student has two "exit" interviews during the APPE year in the pharmacy program. One is done at the midpoint (after four or five months of rotations); the other is done at the end of the year over the second set of rotations. Depending on student location and schedule, the midpoint exit interview may be done as early as after three months of rotations or as late as six months. The midpoint meetings are a valuable part of the school's quality assurance program for the APPE year. It also provides an opportunity to turn in your evaluations and a sample of your portfolio materials, and to finalize your internship hours on your APPE Affidavit which eventually is sent to the Board of Pharmacy.

Midpoint exit interviews have begun; you will receive a memo, a survey to complete and bring in, and a checklist of materials in your APPE file prior to our

meeting.

In Missoula, I hold the midpoint exit interviews in my office, usually in the late afternoon when you can leave your current APPE site a little early. Students leaving Missoula for an extended period of time will meet with me before their departure. For students located outside Missoula, we will meet as I visit your community during the fall semester and early spring semester. In any event, I will let you know when you are due for a midpoint exit meeting so that we can schedule it.

Please remember that we do not use the traditional Board of Pharmacy Internship Program paperwork (Internship Experience Affidavit and Evaluation of Internship Site) in the APPE year. You need to be recording your hours daily on the Experiential Log and transferring them weekly to the APPE Affidavit where your preceptor of record will sign for each week's hours. Do not send any paperwork to the Board of Pharmacy, either before or after our midpoint exit meeting. All APPE hours are reported to the Board at the end of the APPE year, when all work is complete.

Questions? Call (243-6495) or e-mail ([gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu](mailto:gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu)) me!

Welcome to **Sigmund Lee Burbach, son of Joy (P4) and Dan Burbach. Born October 29th, weighing in at 8 lbs. 3 oz.**

**Congratulations!**

Kendra.keeley@umontana.edu

## REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER

If you need to register for your remaining rotations for spring 2009, you have received your registration form, advising number and other registration information in a recent mailing.

Please review your APPE rotation schedule and contact Gayle if you have any questions. Preregistration is done through Cyber Bear starting October 22 and registration/bills will be available on Cyber Bear after December 1. Your

schedule/bill must be finalized by January 16 or your preregistration will be cancelled, and you will need to start over and pay a late fee of \$40. Late registration via Cyber Bear runs January 21 to January 30; registration must be finalized by midnight February 1 to avoid a \$40 late fee. Fee payment will be via Cyber Bear with any financial aid refund mailed to you. Final registration runs from February 2 through February 13 with a \$40 late fee.

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIREMENT

**St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, St. Peter's Hospital in Helena, and Kalispell Regional Medical Center all require a criminal background check of all students participating in clinical education activities in the hospital.** Students scheduled for one or more rotations at one of the three facilities in the coming year will need to have a criminal background check performed, if you have not had one done in the past year. If you have had a background check done in the past year for an internship or any other reason, it is very likely that we will be able to use it. Please forward documentation of that background check to Karen, by e-mail, FAX or mail, as soon as possible.

Having investigated a number of options for background checks, the quickest and least expensive for Montana appears to be on the Montana Department of Justice website. Go online to [www.doj.mt.gov/enforcement/criminaljustice/backgroundchecks.asp](http://www.doj.mt.gov/enforcement/criminaljustice/backgroundchecks.asp) Under Online Requests, click on Criminal History Public Online Record Search. Under Public Users, click on Start Search and follow the prompts. There is a \$11.50 charge which you can

pay by credit card or e-Check. There is a Demo that you can try first to see what information is required, but you will need your legal name, birth date and social security number for the search. The search will produce a report which you should print for your records. You should also be able to highlight and copy the report to save it electronically. Email a copy to [Karen.Franceschina@umontana.edu](mailto:Karen.Franceschina@umontana.edu) for our records. Or, as mentioned above, you can also FAX or mail it to us.

Do not wait until the last minute to do the background check in the event that something turns up on your record. Whether it is correct or not, you will need time to deal with any report of criminal activity that appears on your record. Don't delay, do it today!!!!

If you need a background check for an out of state site, please check with me as they may or may not be able to use a Montana search. While that makes the most sense if you have been a Montana resident, some states require a search in that state regardless of your residency.

## DIS FALL HOURS:

Monday to Thursday  
7:00am-9:00pm

Friday  
7:00am-6:00pm

Saturday  
9:00am-6:00pm

Sunday  
12:00 pm-9:00 pm

The DIS will be closed on holidays, and hours may change during Finals Week. Please check the hours posted on the doors.

For holiday access, check a key out from Shannon in the pharmacy practice office, SB316, during working hours. Keys must be returned on the next working day as there are only a limited number of keys available and others must have access.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**Remember that many sites require you to produce your CPR, PPD and the Hep B series and titer documentation. You are to carry copies of these with you when starting a new rotation. Some sites require a copy of your MMR, too. Contact Curry Health Center if you do not have a copy of your MMR.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget to contact Karen if you are newly married and have changed your name or if you've moved since the last APPE roster was sent out.

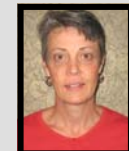
\*\*\*\*\*

If you didn't make it to the 4th Annual Health Professions Career Fair on Oct 15, the 20th Annual Big Sky Career Fair will be held February 25, 2009. More details in a later APPE Update.

**Dave Forbes,**  
Dean  
243-4621,  
SB 344



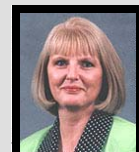
**Lori Morin**  
Assistant Dean  
for Student  
Affairs  
243-4080,  
SB 335  
[Lori.morin@umontana.edu](mailto:Lori.morin@umontana.edu)



**Gayle Hudgins,**  
Director  
Experiential  
Education  
243-6495  
(Days),  
728-3094 (Evenings),  
[SB 324, gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu](mailto:SB 324, gayle.hudgins@umontana.edu)



**Karen Franceschina**  
Administrative  
Coordinator  
Experiential  
Education  
243-4226, SB 323  
[karen.franceschina@umontana.edu](mailto:karen.franceschina@umontana.edu)



**Shannon Sivertsen**  
Pharmacy Practice  
Administrative Support  
243-4624, SB 316

\*\*\*\*\*

**A reminder that APPE students should carry their Montana Board of Pharmacy internship license with them during the APPE year.** The inspector for the Board of Pharmacy visits Montana pharmacies and may ask to see your license. In order to avoid leaving the original license in one of your APPE sites, it's suggested that you photocopy your license if posting it, so that the original stays in your possession.