Happy New Year from the Office of Experiential Education (OEE)! This is always a good time to reflect over the last calendar year and look ahead to the next year. Over the last year, we welcomed 29 new preceptors at 21 different sites across the state. All of these preceptors received preceptor orientation from the OEE at their respective site. We have a fair number of preceptors who are newly appointed and ready to receive preceptor orientation in 2011. The OEE conducted 50 site visits across the state last year and this included 110 preceptors. We are making an effort to visit all sites at least every other year. Those sites that take large numbers of students per month are offered a yearly site visit. I would like to thank Steve Foster, Brad Boucher, Todd Bess, Debbie Byrd, and Shaunta’ Ray for helping with these visits to assess the quality of our rotations.

As reported in the last newsletter, the Preceptor Development Conferences were conducted in Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville again this last summer and fall. We had 120 preceptors attend one of these conferences. We are attempting to interact with all preceptors either through site visits or the development conferences. If you have not been visited on a site visit or been able to attend one of the Preceptor Development Conferences in the last 2 years and desire a site visit, let us know. We will do our best to have your site visited by the OEE. The OEE is always looking forward to adding new rotations that are either unique or offer excellent learning experiences. We will be adding an ambulatory care rotation with the U.S. Army, a veterinary pharmacy rotation, and several new ambulatory care rotations in strategic sites across the state.

We are excited to have Cristi Gewin join the OEE (see article in this newsletter). Also, we are looking forward to having just E’Value as our sole rotation scheduling program (see article in this newsletter). Let us know if we can assist you in any way with the rotations that you provide.
New Email

A good way to contact the Office of Experiential Education is to use our universal e-mail of oeerequests@uthsc.edu. This will be checked multiple times each work day by LaVerne Jones, Cristi Gewin, or Rex Brown. This approach is modeled after the UT Blackboard Program where all requests can go through a standard e-mail address.

The Office of Experiential Education cannot just shut down for a week when LaVerne takes a week’s vacation. I know it will take a while for preceptors and students to get used to this, but eventually it will be the primary way to communicate with our office.

We have both P3s and P4s taking experiential education rotations over the next 4 months. This is always a complicated time of the year when we are using our overlap months. The P4s are finishing up in the EMS Program since they were originally scheduled in this program in the fall of 2009. The P3 schedules are in the new E*Value Program which is replacing EMS. We knew that scheduling 2 classes (nearly 400 students) in 2 different programs would result in some human error. Unfortunately a few mechanical errors in the EMS program occurred when toggling between programs (i.e. availability was displayed when indeed, it had been scheduled). This resulted in a few rotations being double-scheduled in January. Please check your rotation schedule for the next 3 months in both EMS and E*Value and notify us immediately should this have occurred in your rotation.
This month’s faculty spotlight features Dr. Jennifer Campbell, ambulatory care clinical pharmacist and certified diabetes educator at the Regional Medical Center Memphis in Memphis, TN. She also serves as a part-time Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy.

**What formal pharmacy training did you have before becoming a faculty member?** “I received a Pharm.D. from Auburn University in 1999. I then completed an Ambulatory Care Residency at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis in 2000.”

**Why did you pursue a career as a part time faculty member?** “I always wanted a connection with a pharmacy school to teach students and mentor them at my practice site. With a full-time practice, I knew that I could not also manage a full-time faculty appointment.”

**Why did you choose ambulatory care as a career direction?** “I love the relational aspect of working with the patient and developing that over time. I have known some of my patients now for ten years and to have that level of trust built up in a patient/practitioner relationship makes a significant difference in being an effective practitioner.”

**What is it like balancing your personal and professional life?** “I believe that is always a tough thing for people. I have a husband and two children and balancing a full time career with a family requires a lot of give and take. After I had kids, I was able to cut back to working four days a week for a few years, which was great. I cut back a little bit on professional to focus more on family. You are always having to reassess where your priorities are and how you want to balance your home versus your professional life.”

**What do you enjoy the most about being a preceptor?** “It is a two way relationship and I feel that I learn as much from the students as they do from me. The longer I am out of school and the more specialized I become in my practice area, the more that I feel that the students help to keep me balanced.”

**Give an example of when a student on your service made a major intervention.** “In ambulatory care the interventions are only as good as the interviews because what you do is based on the information that you obtain from the patient. Students make great interventions everyday such as discovering patients are not taking medications as prescribed by just conducting a thorough patient interview. Through a careful interview, students can always uncover things to make major interventions that are going to improve a patient’s quality of life and control of disease state.”

**How do you handle a student that has substantial deficits in their database?** “Since our focus areas are anticoagulation, diabetes, and hypertension, students take competency tests in these areas at the beginning of the rotation. This ensures that every student is starting from the same baseline. And if there are still issues throughout the rotation I will work on it on a case by case basis with mentoring.”

**Have you ever learned something new from a student?** “Everyday.”

**How do you handle a student who has inappropriate professional behavior on a rotation?** “I haven’t had anything terrible happen on a rotation. The biggest thing has been tardiness or not communicating well about absences. Midpoint is a great time to talk to the students about deficiencies. Let them know what your expectations are and if there is not a positive response, then I would go up the chain to Dr. Phelps. Luckily, I haven’t had a major issue with professionalism.”

**What assignments that you give out do you feel your students learn the most from?** “The competency tests at the beginning of the rotations are a good learning tool for the students and after that we have them apply that knowledge by doing cases and have student led discussions based on those cases.”

**What assignments do you give to your students that promote self-learning?** “We may have other assignments that come up during clinic that are based on a question from a physician, or a question about a certain patient that we have seen that the students can independently research to come up with an answer.”

**What advice would you give to a new preceptor?** “Make sure that you have a developed curriculum, that students are oriented well to the rotation, and that they know what you expect of them. Communication is key and needs to be continued throughout the rotation. And remember, relationships with students are beneficial to both the students and the preceptor.”
**Welcome Cristi Gewin**

The Office of Experiential Education is pleased to announce that Cristi Gewin has joined us on the Memphis campus. She worked as a temporary employee in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy for 2 years before we were able to hire her full time. Cristi coordinated the instructor appointments for residents the past 2 years, helped schedule Department of Clinical Pharmacy Grand Rounds, served as the staff person for the Comprehensive Pharmacy Update elective that is taught in February each year for P4s, and helped LaVerne Jones and Rex Brown with rotation scheduling last fall. Although, she is officially new to our Office, she comes with a wealth of experience in many activities in our College and the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. In addition to the daily activities in the Office of Experiential Education, Cristi will assist in updating the Experiential Education course on Blackboard, track our affiliations with the Department business managers, assist in updating the 4 required rotation syllabi (ambulatory care, advanced institutional, advanced community, and medicine), help in the scheduling of monthly didactic electives, and documenting preceptor orientation/site visits. For pleasure Cristi attends Yoga classes and she will soon receive her 2nd degree black belt in karate.

**Useful Links**

**BLACKBOARD**
Access to Experiential Education information
[courses.uthsc.edu](courses.uthsc.edu)

**EMS**
View Schedule and availability
[www1.ems-webs.com/Tennessee](http://www1.ems-webs.com/Tennessee)
The is the scheduling system for the P4 class of 2011

**E*Value**
View Schedule and availability
[www.e-value.net](http://www.e-value.net)
This is the scheduling system for the P3 class of 2012

**COLLEGE WEBSITE**
[pharmacy.uthsc.edu](pharmacy.uthsc.edu)