We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Marc A. Sweeney as dean of the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy. In this role as founding dean, Dr. Sweeney will develop the vision for the program while recruiting administrators and faculty to create the curriculum and carry out this vision.

A native of Ohio, Marc attended Ohio Northern University where he was an academic all-conference cross country athlete and graduated with distinction with a Bachelor of Science in pharmacy. He continued his education at The Ohio State University, earning his Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Following his doctoral degree, he completed an Academic Leadership Fellowship at the Ohio University School of Medicine. He also possesses a Master of Divinity from Southwest Bible College and Seminary.

His academic experience includes full-time teaching appointments at Ohio Northern University and The University of Findlay along with a variety of part-time teaching assignments. At Ohio Northern, one of the nation’s largest pharmacy schools, Dr. Sweeney served as a clinical pharmacy professor in addition to directing the experiential education and advanced practice components. When The University of Findlay decided to start a pharmacy program, he was recruited to serve on the leadership team, ultimately functioning as chair of pharmacy practice and co-director of continuing education.

A certified palliative care specialist, Marc brings a wealth of pharmacy experience to this role. His professional positions have included responsibilities in palliative care, oncology, home care, long-term care, ambulatory care, and retail pharmacy. Areas in which he has published and presented include drug interactions, pharmacy education, and patient safety. Dr. Sweeney has also been active in a number of professional organizations, including the Ohio Pharmacists Association, where he served as president in 2004–05.

“Cedarville University is fortunate to have recruited an individual of Marc’s caliber to serve as our founding dean,” noted Dr. John Gredy, provost of the University. “His character, experience, energy, and vision are exactly what we need to realize our goals for the school of pharmacy.”

Dr. Sweeney, who has been serving as a consultant for the University in 2008–09, will begin his full-time responsibilities as dean on June 16, 2009. You may reach him at msweeney@cedarville.edu
A Changing Profession
The profession of pharmacy has experienced significant changes over the past century, which has led to today’s high demand for pharmacists. In the early 1900s, pharmacists were product-focused, primarily engaged in compounding medications in response to a physician’s order. Preparation consisted of two years of training focused on chemistry and botany. By the beginning of the 21st century, the profession embraced many expanded roles, shifting toward a patient-focused approach. Today, pharmacists educate patients, administer immunizations, assist prescribers in medication selection, monitor and assess drug therapy outcomes, compound unique medication regimens, and coordinate and evaluate drug therapy clinical trials.

With these changing roles, pharmacists are found not only in community pharmacies but also in hospitals, clinics, physician offices, hospice environments, long-term care facilities, nuclear pharmacies, and many other locations. Pharmacists specialize in areas such as cardiology, oncology, psychiatry, neurology, pediatrics, and geriatrics.

Committed to a Great Purpose
Cedarville University has built a legacy of credibility, quality, and commitment. Students who come to Cedarville are trained not only as professionals but also as quality individuals who will better society. From their first year of coursework, students in the school of pharmacy learn from a biblical worldview and grow emotionally and spiritually. They are challenged to become mature, responsible individuals who will be committed to training future pharmacists and solving problems by the most ethical means.

The faculty in the school of pharmacy will be committed to training future pharmacists using the most advanced methodology and technology. Students will be trained as future leaders, innovators, and patient care advocates, able to recognize problems and solve them by the most ethical means. Cedarville pharmacy graduates will be unique among pharmacists because they will diligently seek the highest outcome as they strive to perform at the highest quality possible and serve God instead of themselves.

Tied to the broader culture, the school of pharmacy is indeed unique in the ways it seeks to differentiate itself. It aims to grow in their faith. They gain greater insight into their purpose in God’s Kingdom and, as a result, begin to see the profession of pharmacy as their mission field.

A Unique Mission for a Challenging Time
Many Christian pharmacy students will graduate from quality institutions primarily known as well-trained pharmacists who also happen to be Christians. However, Cedarville endeavors to develop graduates primarily known for their identities in Christ—who also happen to be pharmacists. As people who love God and, as a result, love those around them, the impact these graduates can make in the world is profound.

There is no greater time than the present to raise up the next generation of pharmacists— graduates who recognize their purpose in serving God, desire to care for others, and influence people for God’s glory. Future Outlook
Although economic pressures have caused some universities to make major cutbacks, Cedarville continues to grow as it develops its new school of pharmacy—and the time has never been better to prepare students for this field.

With an aging population, rising use of medication, and expanding roles of pharmacists within the health care system, the shortage of pharmacists will far exceed the anticipated supply. New unfilled pharmacy positions vary from 7,000 to 10,000 every year, and recent studies project a shortage of 150,000 pharmacists by 2020.

This growing demand has led to a highly competitive entrance process in pharmacy programs, and schools across the nation are filled to capacity.

Cedarville’s pharmacy program addresses these concerns by giving students the opportunity to excel in this in-demand field. Not only do they receive a nationally renowned education, but students who successfully complete the prepharmacy courses are also guaranteed admission to the professional program.

As one of only a handful of Christian universities to offer a professional-level pharmacy program, Cedarville prepares students to bring their biblical, moral convictions to the complicated issues of pharmacy. With its legacy of quality Christ-centered academics, Cedarville will equip the next generation of compassionate, Christ-like pharmacists to influence the culture for Christ.

The program has already attracted talented students from around the region. Amy Granger from Michigan, Amanda Smith from Kentucky, and Sarah Byker from Indiana are three such students who enrolled this year to be a part of the inaugural class of 2016.

We have been very pleased with the quality of these prepharmacy candidates. With an average grade point average of 3.76 and an average standardized test score that ranks them in the top 12 percent nationally, they clearly possess the academic potential to succeed in the program and excel as pharmacists. But even more importantly, interviews have revealed that these students bring qualities beyond raw academic talent and possess the foundation needed for future success. Specifically, nearly all identified their intense desire to honor God by meeting the medical needs of people as their motivation for pursuing a career in pharmacy. We sense that this patient-centered focus will enable Cedarville to produce pharmacy graduates who will quickly have an impact in the lives of their patients, in the quality of their communities, and in the effectiveness of the profession.

Dr. Andy Runyan
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Challenges for the Class of 2016
In spite of application declines experienced at several schools of pharmacy around the nation, Cedarville has received nearly 100 applications for the 50 spots in our first class, the class of 2016. The total included seven Cedarville students currently enrolled in other academic programs. According to the comments shared by the applicants, the University’s academic quality along with its distinct, Christ-centered mission has been the deciding factor in attracting students to apply to and consider seriously this brand new pharmacy program.

David Ormsbee has assumed responsibility for admissions operations in the school of pharmacy, adding this role to his work in pharmacy marketing and serving at the University’s associate vice president for strategic planning and research. With more than two decades of admissions and marketing experience, Dave brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and energy to this vital component of the school of pharmacy.

We have received applications from many excellent candidates for the faculty and administrative positions available. “I have been very pleased by both the quantity and quality of the applicants,” noted Dr. Marc Sweeney, dean of the school, “particularly at a time when there appears to be a national shortage of qualified pharmacy faculty. I believe that our distinct mission, the University’s reputation, and God’s gracious provision have contributed to this excellent pool.”

With interviews scheduled in the coming weeks and months, we expect to announce the assistant dean and chair appointments by late spring. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

We continue to welcome inquiries from faculty candidates for 2010 and beyond. In addition to possessing a Pharm.D. or Ph.D. and the ability to teach and research, candidates must be evangelical Christians who demonstrate a vibrant walk with Christ and an eagerness to invest in the lives of college students. Inquiries and materials may be sent directly to:

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Trained to foster leadership within their discipline, they will graduate as sought-after professionals and be considered among the best-prepared graduates in the United States.

While trained in the prepharmacy curriculum, students develop biblical foundations for decision-making and are challenged to grow in their faith. They gain greater insight into their purpose in God's Kingdom and, as a result, begin to see the profession of pharmacy as their mission field.

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Cedarville pharmacy graduates will be unique among pharmacists because they will diligently seek the highest outcome as they strive to perform at the highest quality possible and serve God instead of themselves. They will offer the greatest care they can give and provide the most creative solutions to the most challenging problems.

Typically, every patient who seeks out a pharmacist has a physical need. But pharmacists from Cedarville are trained to recognize and address the spiritual and emotional needs in addition to these physical needs. The school of pharmacy is not simply about training pharmacists but training missionaries who engage people through the health care system.

We have been very pleased by both the quantity and quality of the applicants,” noted Dr. Marc Sweeney, dean of the school, “particularly at a time when there appears to be a national shortage of qualified pharmacy faculty. I believe that our distinct mission, the University's reputation, and God's gracious provision have contributed to this excellent pool.”

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Contact Us

We would love to hear from you! Prospective students should contact admissions at 1-800-CEDARVILLE or admissions@cedarville.edu. Faculty and staff candidates should contact Dr. Andy Runyan, associate academic vice president, at arunyan@cedarville.edu or 937-766-3840. All others should contact David Ormsbee, associate vice president for pharmacy admissions, strategic planning and research, at ormsbeed@cedarville.edu or 937-766-4547. We welcome your ideas, recommendations, and support!

Watch for the Next Issue

In the next issue — coming in spring 2009 — meet the incoming class of 2016, new faculty members, and staff members.

Hundreds of prospective students head to Cedarville each summer for academic camps, exploring career options, making new friends, and growing spiritually. Pharmacy Camp is scheduled for July 6–10. Check out www.cedarville.edu/pharmacycamp for details.

Cedarville University is a Christ-centered learning community equipping students for lifelong leadership and service through an education marked by excellence and grounded in biblical truth. More than just a mission statement, this focus attracts more than 3,000 Christian students from around the nation to study in our 100 academic programs on a beautiful 400-acre campus in southwest Ohio.

Outstanding students, world-class facilities, talented professors, and award-winning technology contribute to an education that U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, and Peterson's Competitive Colleges all recognize as one of the best in the Midwest.