

Rx FOR SUCCESS

By Pam McKeown

University of Oklahoma pharmacy professors pursue their research interests in modern, high-tech laboratories while guiding their students back to the time when the neighborhood pharmacist was the friend his customers called "Doc."

A campus tour note to returning alumni:
If you want to visit the College of Pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma, you won't find it in Norman.

OU's oldest professional program — nearing 100 years of academia — moved from the Norman campus to the OU Health Sciences Center complex in Oklahoma City in 1976. The relocation integrated the college into the total health-care environment found at HSC and allowed it to begin using the complex's abundant resources.

The move, says Dean Victor Yanchick, was well worth the 83-year wait.

"Colleges of pharmacy that are not located in centers like this have two strikes against them," Yanchick says. "It is so important to be intimately involved and integrated into the total health-care programs, because that's basically where pharmacy has to be as a profession. We can't operate in isolation as pharmacists.

"We have to work together with physicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, dietitians, nurses and all other types of health-care professionals as a team," he adds. "That

is an absolute given. If pharmacy colleges don't have that resource, they must find that resource outside the university. And that becomes costly."

Established in 1893, the pharmacy program provided OU's first two graduates. Pharmaceutical chemist (Ph.C.) degrees were bestowed upon Lemuel Dorrance of Lexington and Marshall A. Tucker of Norman in 1896. The degree required two years of high school and two years of college.

By 1899 the department had become the School of Pharmacy, which was upgraded to "collegiate" status, meaning students could study for a baccalaureate degree, the first going to Oscar Carl Felton in 1910. A graduate program was added in 1909. The school became the College of Pharmacy in 1950.

The move to the Health Sciences Center necessitated a drive for a new pharmacy building. The \$7.75 million funding goal was reached in 1981 with \$6 million from the state, \$750,000 from private donors and \$1 million from the estate of Henry D. and Ida Mosier, for whom the new building was named.

The Mosier endowment also funds



first individuals to begin what we now term the development of the 'clinical' role of the pharmacist," Yanchick says of his efforts to establish different teaching methods for pharmacy students.

Yanchick also initiated the clinical program at Texas and authored the proposal to establish the Pharm.D. program. His experience prepared him for a smooth transition into the OU slot.

"Pharmacy has undergone a sort of 'silent revolution' in the last decade or so," the dean notes. "We've moved back to where pharmacy was at the turn of the century—a time in which the pharmacist was referred to as 'Doc,' where people came in to talk to the pharmacist about their problems. The pharmacist was there to help them. The pharmacist talked to people."

Yanchick received his bachelor's and master's degrees in pharmacy from the University of Iowa in the mid-1960s. After residency training, he earned a Ph.D. from Purdue in 1968.

"When I went to pharmacy school, pharmacists weren't expected to talk to people," he recalls. "Now we're talking to people again. I think that's great. It's exciting."

Since Yanchick took over as dean, the curriculum has been completely revised. "Our baccalaureate curriculum is focusing much more on training the pharmacist to be not only responsible for dispensing drugs, which is the function of the pharmacist from the historical perspective, but also more importantly, we're training our pharmacists to be dispensers of drug *information*," he notes. "We're training them to provide consultation to patients and to be a resource to the physician and to other health professionals when it comes to drugs."

"We are emphasizing, in our curriculum, the need for the pharmacist to come out from behind the prescription counter and talk to people," Yanchick says. "Today, the dispensing function alone is not going to allow pharmacists to survive. If the pharmacist only provides that function, the pharmacist will be extinct, because we already have the technical manpower and automation to dispense drugs by machine."

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an extensive student scholarship program in pharmacy in memory of the couple. Henry Mosier, an Edmond pharmacist and real estate investor, was a 1912 OU pharmacy graduate who died in 1966; his wife died in 1976.

The Mosier building stands on the corner of Stanton L. Young Boulevard and Stonewall Avenue. Seated in his office on the top floor of the three-story brick structure, Dean Yanchick explains his effort to place the college among the top-ranked in the nation. His leadership philosophy is designed to link the present with the past. Yanchick's mission is to vault the college into the 21st century with high-tech knowledge and research, while retaining a hold on the values and humanistic qualities of pharmacy's early days.

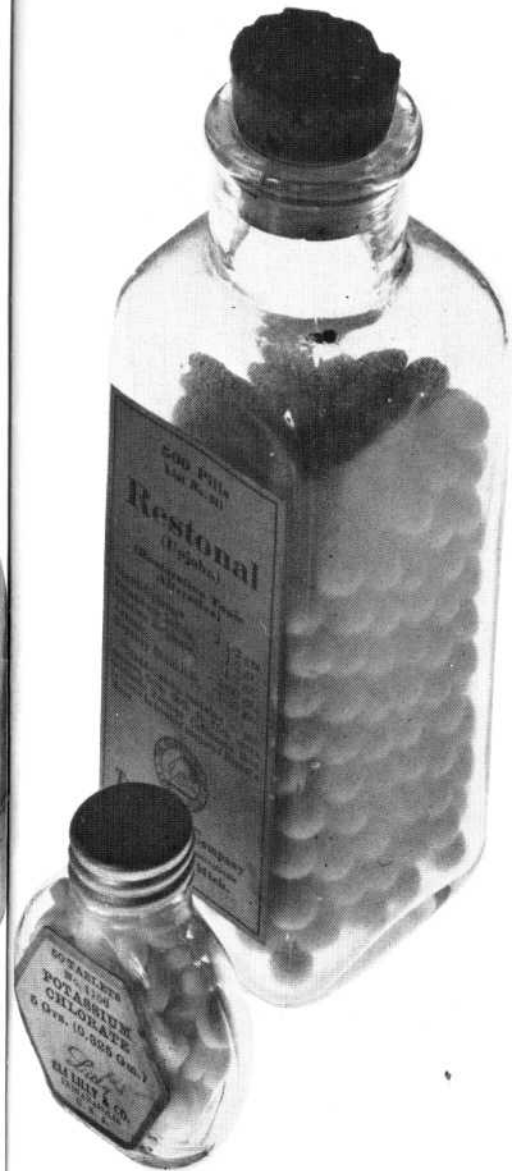
Included in his approach are plans to continue the "exciting and very innovative" research already under way; to initiate a doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree program; to beef up a "people oriented" curriculum; and to stress the urgency of desperately needed state funding.

"There's no reason for this college not to be one of the top five colleges in the country because of the physical resources we have here," Yanchick contends. "This is one of the finest health centers in the world from a physical standpoint. The resources here are just phenomenal."

Those resources, Yanchick notes, enticed him to accept the deanship on January 1, 1985.

Before taking the OU post, Yanchick served in a variety of positions at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy in Austin, moving from assistant professor to associate dean. Prior to assuming duties in Texas in 1968, he was responsible for starting the clinical pharmacy program at Purdue University, where he served from 1966 to 1968.

Purdue was among the pioneer programs in the nation. "I was one of the





Enrollment at the College of Pharmacy stands at 234 in the baccalaureate program, which requires two years of pre-pharmacy plus three of professional study at HSC. This fall, 87 students were admitted as first-year professionals. May graduates will number 59. Graduate enrollment is 33.

The dean insists that these students will be well-prepared when they leave the OU College of Pharmacy.

Yanchick has been instrumental in urging the State Board of Pharmacy to change a requirement that Oklahoma pharmacy students complete 2,000 internship hours before becoming eligible to take the board exam. Texas requires only 1,500 hours, the standard Oklahoma will adopt in May 1989.

Although the number of internship hours is being reduced, the criteria to be met are being strengthened. Past regulations allowed students to graduate even if they had never actually worked a day as a pharmacist throughout their entire college careers. There were no guidelines for a student's 2,000 hours of experience in a pharmacy.

"That student, theoretically, could be dusting shelves or washing the floors and ringing the cash register and selling bubble gum for 2,000 hours and that would meet the law," Yanchick explains.

"Today, we have guidelines and standards," he insists. "It's a course. The student takes the course and is assigned to a pharmacy, one-on-one

under a pharmacist who is licensed and appointed by the college as an adjunct instructor. That student has a syllabus and certain criteria that must be met. The student must demonstrate competency before he passes."

When Yanchick came on board as its 10th dean, the College of Pharmacy had "a shortage of faculty, low morale, a very poor budget, and students who really didn't feel part of the University," he says. "The move from the Norman campus alienated some. The alumni of the college weren't very supportive of the college and its mission, primarily because they didn't know what its mission was. I've tried to change that, and I think we've made some good headway."

The college has nearly doubled its faculty, jumping from 17 to 32 in four years. In research, pharmacy has gone from less than \$18,000 annually in grants to nearly \$2 million.

"When you look at that \$2 million total, that says a lot for the faculty," Yanchick says. "Faculty members are under the clear understanding that to be successful, they must not only provide good teaching and services, but also scholarly activities."

Agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association and the Department of Defense are among those supporting OU's pharmacy research programs.

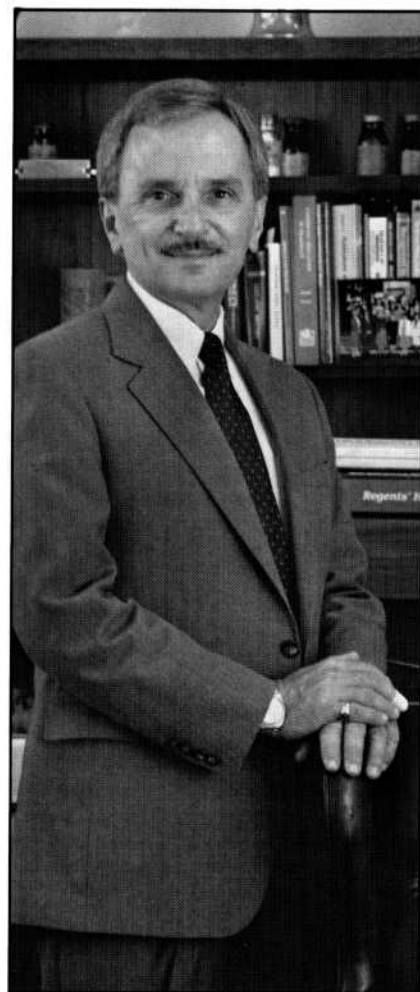
Gordon Sachdev, research associate professor of medicinal chemistry, has a "world class" research program in the area of cystic fibrosis, the dean notes. Over the past two years, Sachdev has brought in more than \$1 million in an attempt to find a cure for the disease that has baffled researchers for decades.

Robert A. Magarian, professor of medicinal chemistry, and J. Thomas Pento, professor of pharmacodynamics and toxicology, are testing anti-estrogens in the treatment of breast cancer.

Associate Professor Stanley Mills and Professor Garo P. Basmadjian of nuclear pharmacy, are conducting research into the targeting of tumors.

"They're developing very site-specific antibodies that are able to attack tumors and not only shrink them, but also actually cause them to disappear," Yanchick explains.

"These are areas being highly de-



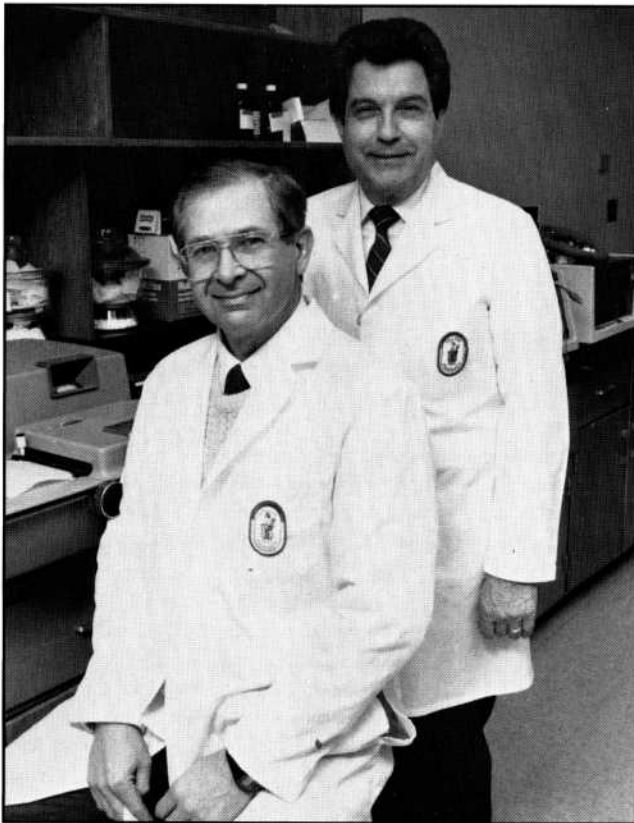
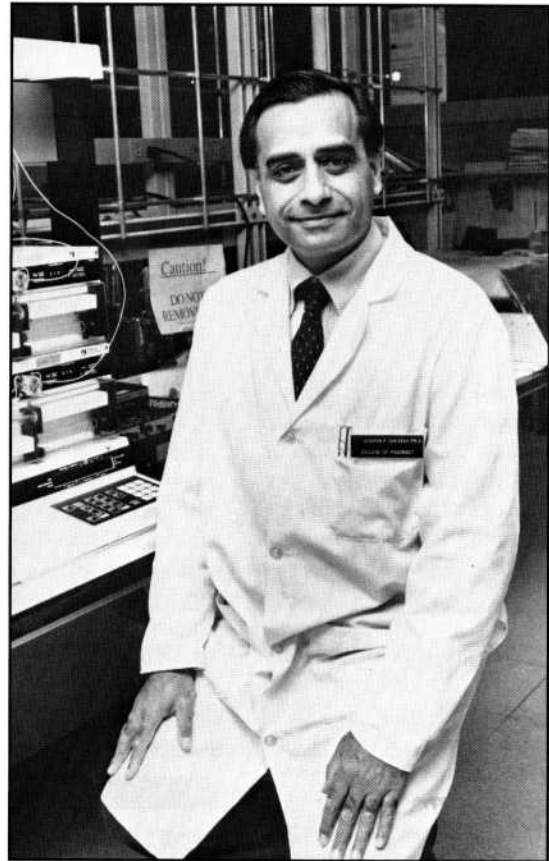
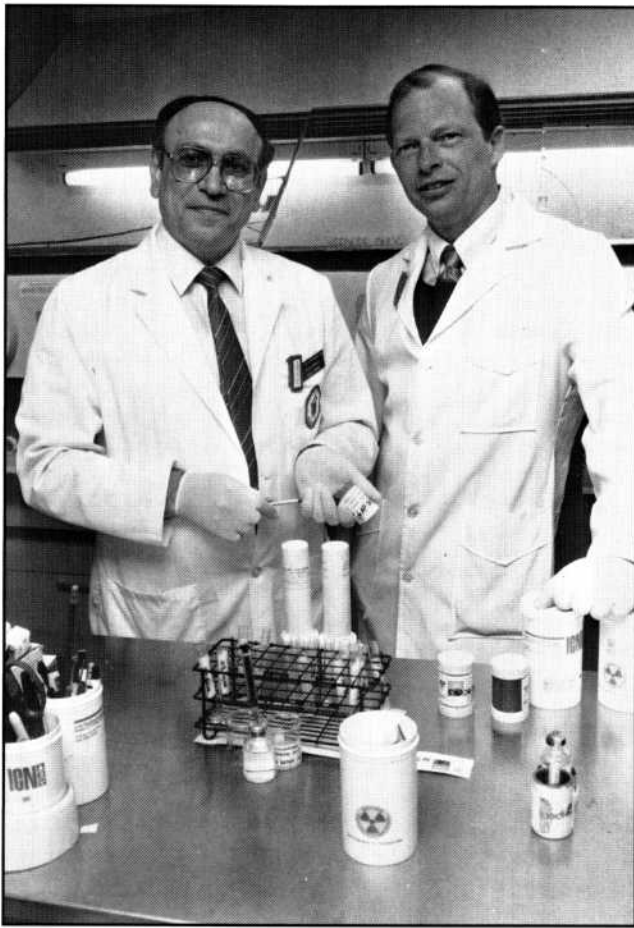
Dean Victor Yanchick

OPPOSITE PAGE:

At top left, nuclear pharmacists Garo P. Basmadjian, left, and Stanley Mills are developing site-specific antibodies which they hope will attack and shrink tumors, even cause them to disappear.

At bottom left, professors J. Thomas Pento, left, of pharmacodynamics and toxicology, and Robert Magarian, of medicinal chemistry, are testing anti-estrogens in treating breast cancer.

At right, research associate professor of medicinal chemistry Gordon Sachdev has more than \$1 million in outside grants to support his quest for a cure for cystic fibrosis.



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veloped in the college that have the potential for dramatic breakthroughs in the treatment of cancer and also in the understanding of the biochemistry and genetic changes that occur in cystic fibrosis patients," he adds. "We may be able to unravel the gene that causes cystic fibrosis and come up with a cure."

Other research projects involve designing innovative dosage forms and new types of delivery systems. These systems would target much more closely the area of disease with fewer side effects.

"We're looking at the use of electric current to move drugs through the skin," he explains. "It's an interesting phenomenon."

Other faculty are studying the area of cost-containment and drug utilization and developing programs in which patients can be better assured of proper therapy.

"I really can't begin to express my enthusiasm for all that has been done here in just a very short period of time with a very modest budget from the state," Yanchick says. "We're in the lower 25 percent as far as funding of colleges of pharmacy in the country. And yet, we're in the top 25 percent in the research area."

"All I'm interested in is that we are funded at a level from which we can provide a good, solid base for teaching and research programs," Yanchick continues. "It is my responsibility as dean

to seek outside funding to move the college from a level of strength to a level of excellence. I don't expect the state of Oklahoma to provide 100 percent support for all of our efforts, but it should support us to provide a sound base from which we can grow and pull in outside dollars. Right now, we don't have that sound base financially.

"We should have double the base support from the state that we have," he claims. "Without that support, it will be very difficult to continue our journey of onward and upward. We would probably at best plateau and possibly drop, because faculty get frustrated when they don't see an improvement in opportunities. And we're not talking about millions and millions of dollars.

"If you look at it from a business standpoint, it makes absolute sense," he says. "For every additional dollar the state gives the College of Pharmacy, we can pull in six times that amount from the outside. That's a pretty good return on an investment. For every one faculty position (approximately \$50,000 from the state), that individual will be able to bring in six times that amount in research money. Again, that contributes to economic growth and development of the state, and to the prestige of the University. That's the message I'm trying to get across."



"Pharmacists who are properly trained can save millions of dollars—just in the state of Oklahoma."



Sufficient funding also will be needed to ensure the success of the Pharm. D. program, which will give those pharmacists the equivalent of a "doctor of medicine" or "doctor of dentistry" degree. The college already has a Ph.D. program, started in 1980, but the Pharm. D. program will add depth, scope and proficiency to the practice program, making its graduates "experts" in the truest sense of the word, Yanchick explains.

The Pharm. D. program is slated to begin in July of 1989.

Although the future is hazy for the

College of Pharmacy if additional funding is not received, the outlook for its graduates is clear.

"There are so many opportunities today for pharmacy students that weren't available 15 years ago," Yanchick says. "Pharmacists are being relied upon more and more in the health care system to save money, because drugs are an extremely costly factor in health care today. Pharmacists who are properly trained can save millions of dollars — just in the state of Oklahoma — by becoming more involved in managed health care and patient care when it comes to monitoring the drug selection.


"Pharmacists also are becoming much more involved in non-traditional practices such as home health care, nursing home care and consultant pharmacy practice," he adds. "It's exciting to see so many doors opening into pharmacy."

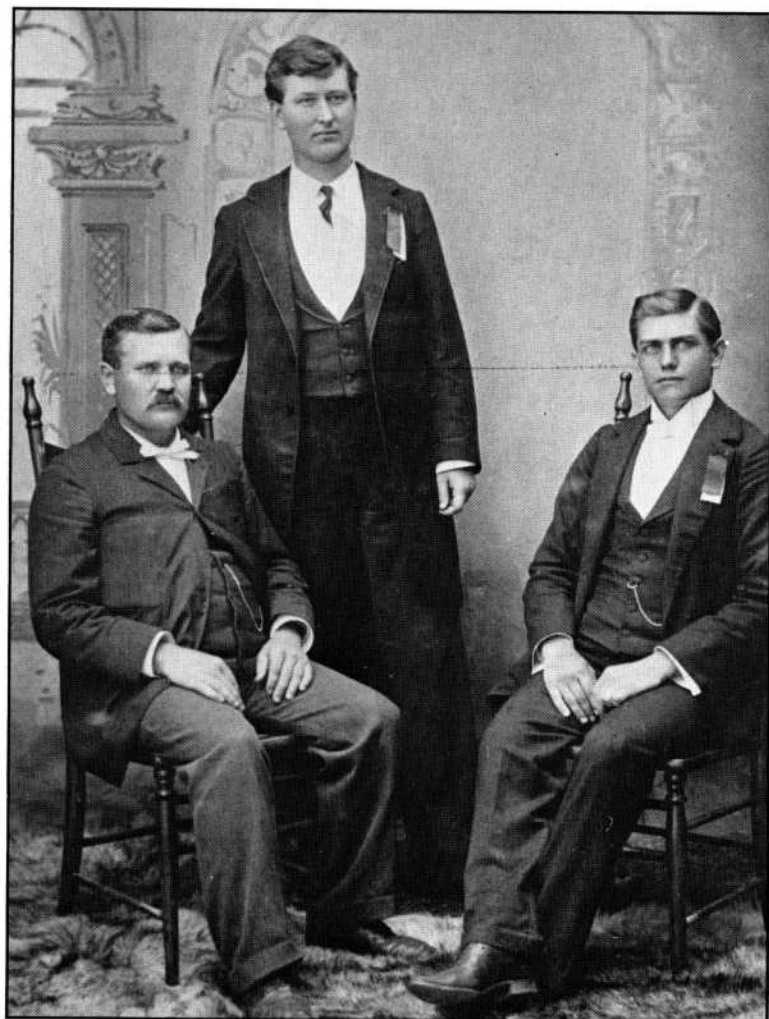
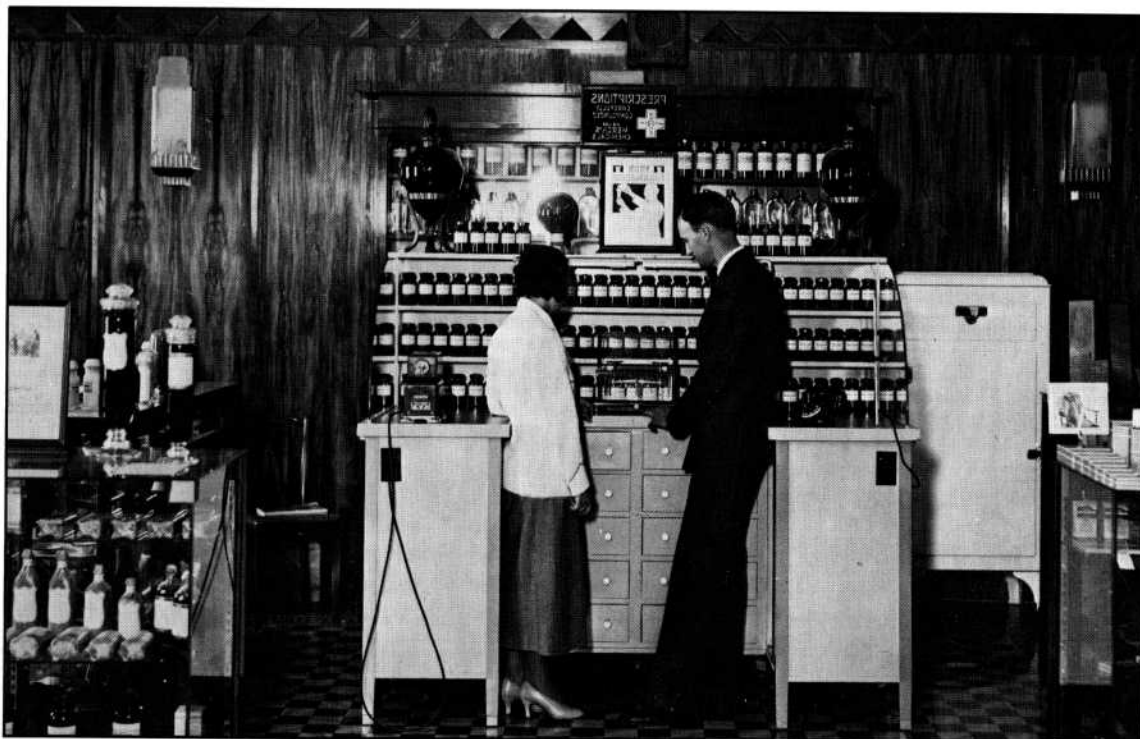
Most of the college's graduates over the past 10 years have stayed in Oklahoma, Yanchick says. "The jobs are here."

However, since 60 percent of the college's graduates are women, many eventually leave the state if their husbands are transferred. Others may go to Dallas, for instance, where the pay is about 10 to 20 percent higher than in Oklahoma. Yanchick quotes the average salary for a beginning pharmacist in an Oklahoma community pharmacy practice in the "upper 30s."

"In hospital pharmacy, it's a little less than that," he says. "Most of our students still go into community pharmacy, whether it's for a large chain or a smaller independent pharmacy."

To aid the college in its future plans, a College of Pharmacy advisory board was formed recently to initiate a "very aggressive fundraising campaign." The individual members will be relied upon as a nucleus to develop a very strong private support program, Yanchick says.

"In my scheme of things, I didn't want to come in as a new dean and immediately go around soliciting funds from our alumni," the dean says. "What I intended to do was spend three years developing confidence and trust in our programs and a track record that I can deliver to our alumni. We're at the point now where I think we have that." 



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Lloyd E. Harris, at left in the photo above with Billie Williams at an Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association display in the 1930s, went on to a long tenure as professor of pharmacy at Ohio State and returned to end his academic career as dean at OU.

The photo at left commemorated the University's second graduating class, 1897, consisting of John Barbour, center, and Marvin Miller, right, both pharmaceutical chemists. Their professor, left, was Edwin C. DeBarr, who initiated the program in 1893, headed chemistry 1892-23, and was vice president from 1909 to 1923, only to be discredited for Ku Klux Klan involvement.

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