Real World
The BSPS mentorship program gives students a new perspective.

Jennifer Baran, a junior in the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPS) program, was eager to get real-world exposure to potential career paths in the pharmaceutical industry. The BSPS mentorship program gave her the opportunity she wanted. It pairs students with alumni who are well established in their fields, says Erin Edmonds, BSPS experiential education coordinator.

Baran was matched with Jeff Chelstky ’17, vice president of clinical operations at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass. “I couldn’t ask for a better mentor,” Baran says. “We talk about the industry and his work, regulations for clinical trials or drugs that are in production.”

Mentors commit to being in contact with their students at least once a month, and many much more. Baran shadowed Chelstky at Alnylam’s headquarters during winter break. “It opened my mind and definitely has my thinking a little differently about career,” she says.

Student demand outpaces the current number of 17 mentors; Edmonds ultimately hopes to recruit 50. As she says, “The mentors have been excited to participate because they can see the impact on students in real time.”

Jennifer Bairam, a junior in the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPS) program, was eager to get real-world exposure to potential career paths in the pharmaceutical industry. The BSPS mentorship program gave her the opportunity she wanted. It pairs students with alumni who are well established in their fields, says Erin Edmonds, BSPS experiential education coordinator.

Bairam was matched with Jeff Chelstky ’87, vice president of clinical operations at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass. “I couldn’t ask for a better mentor,” Bairam says. “We talk about the industry and his work, regulations for clinical trials or drugs that are in production.”

Student demand outpaces the current number of 17 mentors; Edmonds ultimately hopes to recruit 50. As she says, “The mentors have been excited to participate because they can see the impact on students in real time.”

Mentors commit to being in contact with their students at least once a month, and many much more. Baran shadowed Chelstky at Alnylam’s headquarters during winter break. “It opened my mind and definitely has my thinking a little differently about career,” she says.

EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday, June 4
Ocean State Tour de Cure

Wednesday, June 7
APhA Medication Therapy Management Training

Friday, July 28
2017 SURF Conference (pictured)

Monday–Wednesday,
July 31–August 2
5th Annual Transporters Workshop

Stay connected:
Visit us at uri.edu/pharmacy/news-and-events
Like us at facebook.com/uripharmacy
Follow us on twitter.com/URI_Pharmacy

DEAN’S NOTE
Forward Thinking
The future begins now.

We often talk about the future of health care. At the College of Pharmacy, we believe that a strong future depends on a robust culture of excellence, one built daily through leadership in education, research, and community engagement.

In the issue of our newsletter you will see evidence of this leadership in the work being done by the Institute for Integrated Health and Innovation to foster research collaborations across the university; in the ongoing commercial and public service to support our students through professional mentorships; and the achievements of students such as Iman Aberra ’17, about to begin her pediatric residency. For the past five years, the College has been the national average in residency matching. We are proud of innovators like Dan Belok ’11, who is leading the way in the future of pharmacy, and Jay Simon ’03, whose own belief in a strong educational foundation inspired him to help create the same for generations to come.

As our graduating seniors begin their next chapter, we look forward to their futures and celebrate their accomplishments. They are the greatest testimony to the culture of excellence our alumni have established.

Congratulations, Class of 2017.

– E. Paul Larrat, Dean
Combined Forces

Big ideas in health are strengthened by interdisciplinary collaborations.

Positive Outlook

For Iman Aberra ’17, the future looks bright.

A native of Ethiopia, Iman Aberra ’17, a student in the pharmacy program at the Medical College of Wisconsin, chose URI because it allowed her to learn more about medicinal and pharmaceutical plants and processes.

As a student at URI, she has been able to work closely with faculty and collaborate with students as a preceptor. “The idea is to start conversations,” says Professor of Pharmacy John Cho, who works with Professor of Psychology David Faust to help students as a preceptor.

Aberra also hopes to teach one day. “The residency would give me the opportunity to talk to pharmacists and nurses and holes and find ways to improve care.”

I have a new medical school, she says. Her first piece of advice to new pharmacists is to always be learning. “Always be flexible,” she adds, “This is only the beginning.”

On specialty pharmacy:

“The idea is to start conversations,” says Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Berenguer Chiu, who works with Professor of Psychology David Faust to help organize the event. Chiu, along with fellow College of Pharmacy faculty Mary A. Davis, and Arli Shev, is among the researchers in the smart drug therapies cluster, which brings its cross-disciplinary members together for regular brainstorming and information-sharing on topics such as mechanism-based drug delivery systems to address non-adherence and drug release systems that respond to signals such as light and temperature. “We don’t have a medical school, but we have very impressive biomedical and engineering talent at URI,” she says. “With our ability to work with faculty and students, we are seeing these types of collaborations make a real difference in health research. We each have our own expertise, but we have to work together to see the bigger outcome.”

On the importance of interdisciplinary collaborations:

“As people adopt them—for health, education, and more impactful. If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.”

On wearables:

“There’s a glaring need for that primary care role. It’s become bigger because it feels so good to give. It turns out, really does.”

Giving is easy: Visit urfoundation.org or contact Myr Bizer at mbizer@uri.edu or 401.874.9017.

Giving the Dream

After Jay R. Simon ’68 retired, the good life took on greater meaning.

When Jay R. Simon ’68 retired as professor emeritus of neurobiology at Indiana University School of Medicine, he reflected on his 35-year career in research and teaching. “I spent a lot of time asking how much good we are doing,” he says. “My education there laid the foundation for the rest of my life.”

The realization inspired Simon, a New Jersey native, to create a endowed scholarship for out-of-state, first-year Pharmacology students so they would have the opportunity to give back to URI. Simon has developed a program to meet the needs of low-income students. “I remember when I got accepted, my father had a sign on his wall that read, ‘If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.’”

On interdisciplinary collaborations:

“Teaching is a service that you get from your students. They make you a better person,” says Simon. “It’s an opportunity to create new niches and technologies that can make an impact, save money, and help the industry evolve.”

On the value of interdisciplinary collaborations:

“The idea is to start conversations,” says Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Berenguer Chiu, who works with Professor of Psychology David Faust to help organize the event. Chiu, along with fellow College of Pharmacy faculty Mary A. Davis, and Arli Shev, is among the researchers in the smart drug therapies cluster, which brings its cross-disciplinary members together for regular brainstorming and information-sharing on topics such as mechanism-based drug delivery systems to address non-adherence and drug release systems that respond to signals such as light and temperature. “We don’t have a medical school, but we have very impressive biomedical and engineering talent at URI,” she says. “With our ability to work with faculty and students, we are seeing these types of collaborations make a real difference in health research. We each have our own expertise, but we have to work together to see the bigger outcome.”

As people adopt them—for health, education, and more impactful. If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.”

On wearables:

“There’s a glaring need for that primary care role. It’s become bigger because it feels so good to give. It turns out, really does.”

Giving is easy: Visit urfoundation.org or contact Myr Bizer at mbizer@uri.edu or 401.874.9017.

Giving the Dream

After Jay R. Simon ’68 retired, the good life took on greater meaning.

When Jay R. Simon ’68 retired as professor emeritus of neurobiology at Indiana University School of Medicine, he reflected on his 35-year career in research and teaching. “I spent a lot of time asking how much good we are doing,” he says. “My education there laid the foundation for the rest of my life.”

The realization inspired Simon, a New Jersey native, to create a endowed scholarship for out-of-state, first-year Pharmacology students so they would have the opportunity to give back to URI. Simon has developed a program to meet the needs of low-income students. “I remember when I got accepted, my father had a sign on his wall that read, ‘If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.’”

On interdisciplinary collaborations:

“Teaching is a service that you get from your students. They make you a better person,” says Simon. “It’s an opportunity to create new niches and technologies that can make an impact, save money, and help the industry evolve.”

On the value of interdisciplinary collaborations:

“The idea is to start conversations,” says Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Berenguer Chiu, who works with Professor of Psychology David Faust to help organize the event. Chiu, along with fellow College of Pharmacy faculty Mary A. Davis, and Arli Shev, is among the researchers in the smart drug therapies cluster, which brings its cross-disciplinary members together for regular brainstorming and information-sharing on topics such as mechanism-based drug delivery systems to address non-adherence and drug release systems that respond to signals such as light and temperature. “We don’t have a medical school, but we have very impressive biomedical and engineering talent at URI,” she says. “With our ability to work with faculty and students, we are seeing these types of collaborations make a real difference in health research. We each have our own expertise, but we have to work together to see the bigger outcome.”

As people adopt them—for health, education, and more impactful. If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.”

On wearables:

“There’s a glaring need for that primary care role. It’s become bigger because it feels so good to give. It turns out, really does.”

Giving is easy: Visit urfoundation.org or contact Myr Bizer at mbizer@uri.edu or 401.874.9017.

Giving the Dream

After Jay R. Simon ’68 retired, the good life took on greater meaning.

When Jay R. Simon ’68 retired as professor emeritus of neurobiology at Indiana University School of Medicine, he reflected on his 35-year career in research and teaching. “I spent a lot of time asking how much good we are doing,” he says. “My education there laid the foundation for the rest of my life.”

The realization inspired Simon, a New Jersey native, to create a endowed scholarship for out-of-state, first-year Pharmacology students so they would have the opportunity to give back to URI. Simon has developed a program to meet the needs of low-income students. “I remember when I got accepted, my father had a sign on his wall that read, ‘If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.’”

On interdisciplinary collaborations:

“Teaching is a service that you get from your students. They make you a better person,” says Simon. “It’s an opportunity to create new niches and technologies that can make an impact, save money, and help the industry evolve.”

On the value of interdisciplinary collaborations:

“The idea is to start conversations,” says Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Berenguer Chiu, who works with Professor of Psychology David Faust to help organize the event. Chiu, along with fellow College of Pharmacy faculty Mary A. Davis, and Arli Shev, is among the researchers in the smart drug therapies cluster, which brings its cross-disciplinary members together for regular brainstorming and information-sharing on topics such as mechanism-based drug delivery systems to address non-adherence and drug release systems that respond to signals such as light and temperature. “We don’t have a medical school, but we have very impressive biomedical and engineering talent at URI,” she says. “With our ability to work with faculty and students, we are seeing these types of collaborations make a real difference in health research. We each have our own expertise, but we have to work together to see the bigger outcome.”

As people adopt them—for health, education, and more impactful. If you pretend it isn’t happening, you’ll be a dinosaur left behind. If you don’t have the knowledge or experience, access it through reading, continuing education, and seminars to get up to speed.”

On wearables:

“There’s a glaring need for that primary care role. It’s become bigger because it feels so good to give. It turns out, really does.”

Giving is easy: Visit urfoundation.org or contact Myr Bizer at mbizer@uri.edu or 401.874.9017.