

Independent Voice

From the Students' Perspective



Tips of the Month

LEGISLATIVE DEFENSE FUND

Invite a local congressman to speak at your school about health care legislation

WELLNESS CHALLENGE

Plan and participate in wellness fairs during the summer



Megan Milne is a fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at the University of Utah. She currently serves on the NCPA Student Leadership Council. She will be a third-generation pharmacist upon graduation.

NCPA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to all the 2008 NCPA Foundation scholarship winners! The following students will be recognized during the Foundation Awards Ceremony at the NCPA Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida on October 12, 2008. Congratulations on being recognized for your independent pharmacy and academic achievements!

J.C. and Rheba Cobb Memorial Scholarship *Excellence in Government Affairs*

Todd (Joey) Mattingly, University of Kentucky

Willard B. Simmons Sr. Memorial Scholarship *Independent Pharmacy Management*

Cassandra Shields, University of Missouri

Neil Pruitt Sr. Memorial Scholarship *Entrepreneurism*

Ellen Smith, University of Washington

Presidential Scholarship

Saadia Ali, University of Texas - Austin
Amelia Arnold, University of Connecticut
Joelle Babatsky, Wilkes University
Danielle Bailey, University of Texas
Joy Cunningham, University of Cincinnati
Jason Doss, Washington State University
Kevin Florence, University of Georgia
Abby Frye, University of Washington
Christy Garmon, Samford University
Kylee Kern, University of Wyoming
Tyson Mullen, University of Kansas
Fallon Ojong, Rutgers University
Courtney Rappold, West Virginia University
Melissa Rufenacht, University of Kansas
Brittany Shakespear, University of Utah
Nicole Shirah, University of Georgia
Jennifer Waitzman, Ohio Northern University
David Zimmerman, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship

Eric Gourley, University of Kansas
Charles Hartig, Drake University
Lisa Hernandez, University of the Pacific
Daniela Jenkins, Washington State University
Jessica McNeil, Shenandoah University
Megan Milne, University of Utah
Yousuf Rahyab, University of Southern California
Emily Schulze, University of Washington
Jacinda Telles, Western University
Andrew Yancey, Washington State University

Important**• Dates & Deadlines •****August 1, 2008**

Notify NCPA of new
Executive Chapter Officers

October 11-15, 2008

NCPA Annual Convention

November 17, 2008

NCPA Foundation Spring
2008 Student Loan
Application Deadline



**WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT
NCPA?**

*Need a speaker for
a meeting at
your school?*

Contact John
Stelmachowicz to schedule
a time that works for you
and a Student Executive
Council member. We
would love to visit your
school!

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NCPA PRUITT-SCHUTTE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations to the following three finalists, listed in alphabetical order, of the Fifth Annual Pruitt-Schutte Business Plan Competition. These teams will compete live at NCPA's 110th Annual Convention and Trade Expo in Tampa, Florida on October 12, 2008. You won't want to miss it!

*Samford University
University of Arizona
University of Kansas*

Top Ten Winners Receive \$300 Each

Student team members from the following "Top Ten" schools, listed in alphabetical order, will also receive \$300 per person at the Convention in Tampa, Florida from October 11 to 15, 2008, if they attend. Since there was a tie among these finalists, the "Top 11" will be recognized. Congratulations to all of the teams who put together winning business plans!

*Ohio Northern University
University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy
University of Georgia
University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy
University of Southern California School of Pharmacy
Virginia Commonwealth University
Washington State University
Western University of Health Sciences School of Pharmacy*

PHARMACY'S BIG WIN ON CAPITOL HILL

On July 12, 2008, the United States House of Representatives and Senate voted to override President Bush's veto of H.R. 6331. The votes were 383-41 in the House and 70 to 26 in the Senate, meeting the constitutional requirement for two-thirds margins to enact legislation without the president's signature. This vote was a product of much hard work and partisan politics at its best. NCPA successfully and strategically used its lobbying power to make sure that critical pharmacy provisions were included in this bill. These include:

- Delaying the AMP reimbursement scheme in Medicaid until October 1, 2009
- Prompt payment for pharmacies in Medicare Part D, requiring a 14-day reimbursement cycle for electronic Part D claims
- Delaying the DME (Durable Medical Equipment) competitive bidding program
- An exemption of diabetes supplies from competitive bidding

According to an article by the Associated Press's Kevin Freking, "Members of the National Community Pharmacists Association wrote nearly 1,000 letters to the editor of their local newspapers during the July Fourth recess and met, called, or wrote members of Congress 25,000 times." Bruce T. Roberts, RPh, NCPA executive vice president and CEO, stated, "I suspect that the override of President Bush's veto and enactment of H.R.6331 is one of the most significant wins pharmacy has ever experienced."

This overwhelming success shows that pharmacy, especially independent pharmacy through NCPA, has overcome being the "punch bag" of politics and being forced to be on the defensive. Instead, we have shown that we can implement political changes in our favor with an aggressive, pro-pharmacy stance. No one can take that away from us now!