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Two Student Pharmacists Named AACP Walmart Scholars

Ole Miss represented on list for 13th consecutive year

DECEMBER 7, 2021 BY PATRICK SMITH



OXFORD, Miss. – Harshin Sanjanwala and Matthew Foster, both students with the **University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy**, have been named honorees of the **American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Walmart Scholars Program**.

The honor and accompanying \$1,000 scholarship are given to recipients who are committed to careers in academic pharmacy.

A Madison native and fourth-year student pharmacist, Sanjanwala said he first discussed the program with mentor **John Rimoldi**, professor of medicinal chemistry and environmental toxicology, during his first year of pharmacy school.

"This has been something that Dr. Rimoldi and I have been discussing since P1 year," Sanjanwala said. "I expressed my concern with not truly knowing what I wanted out of my career, and he told me about the AACP Walmart Scholars program after hearing about my teaching experiences.

"It was a really rewarding experience to finally be able to apply three years later and achieve that status with a professor that I was really fond of."

Sanjanwala is an ideal candidate for the program, Rimoldi said, praising his passion for learning.



Harshin Sanjanwala

"The AACP Walmart Scholars Program was a perfect fit for Harshin and undoubtedly will strengthen his commitment to an academic career," Rimoldi said. "Harshin is the quintessential student-learner; he has a holistic view of pharmacy and education, a research-focused mindset, a collegial spirit and immerses himself in new experiences with confidence and optimism."

Sanjanwala attended the AACP annual meeting in July, which was held virtually due to COVID-19. As an aspiring educator, he said the lessons learned will help to make him a better teacher.

"It was a nice look into teaching strategies that I hadn't really thought about," Sanjanwala said. "I also enjoyed meeting other like-minded students in the field."

Foster, a native of Biloxi and also a fourth-year student pharmacist, has established himself as a budding researcher during his time at the School of Pharmacy. This year, he was awarded the Distinguished Citation for Outstanding Contribution to the Research Mission of BioMolecular Sciences as well as for Pharmacy Administration.

Being named a Walmart Scholar is a "great honor," Foster said, adding that he appreciated AACP's recognition of his research contributions.

"I think a lot of time research is maybe overlooked or not understood," he said. "Anytime there is public recognition, especially by an organization composed of some of the most accomplished members of pharmacy academia, it is a great feeling."

Nicole Ashpole, clinical assistant professor of pharmacology and Foster's mentor, praised both his work ethic and passion for the pharmacy field.

"Matthew is an inquisitive researcher in the lab and in the classroom, so I was thrilled to hear of his selection for the program," Ashpole said. "He has been actively engaging in conferences, webinar and networking events to learn more about careers in academia and pharmaceutical research, while continuing to progress his research

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Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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Ole Miss In the News

Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's



Matthew Foster

in the lab, and completed his pharmacy rotations.”

Foster also attended the AACP annual meeting and said he gained valuable education on how to create an inclusive environment for his peers and patients.

“I attended several sessions, mostly focusing on inclusiveness and cultural sensitivity for professors, students and patients,” Foster said.

“They were very eye-opening, and it was incredibly interesting to hear such varying perspectives and approaches on how to appropriately incorporate these practices into a learning environment to not just make patients feel more welcome, but also students and other professionals.”

The scholarships mark the 13th consecutive year that the **School of Pharmacy** had at least one Walmart Scholars honoree. Ole Miss recipients have earned the scholarship in 15 of the 17 years it has been given.

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