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Alan McKay Named UM Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year

Sydney Slotkin DuPriest

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Alan McKay Named UM Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year

Honoree is dean emeritus of Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy

APRIL 10, 2017 BY SYDNEY SLOTKIN DUPRIEST

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Dean David D. Allen (left) presents Alan McKay with the UM School of Pharmacy's 2017 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award at the Alumni Weekend banquet. UM photo by Sydney Slotkin DuPriest

OXFORD, Miss. – Alan McKay, founding dean emeritus of the Shenandoah University Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy, has been named the 2017 University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

McKay accepted the award April 8 at the annual School of Pharmacy Alumni Weekend banquet.

McKay completed his master's and Ph.D. in health care administration, now called pharmacy administration, at UM in 1980 under the guidance of Mickey Smith, then chair of the Department of Health Care Administration.

"Everybody at Ole Miss was like family and it took away the fear," McKay said. "Mississippi has a way of accepting people and letting them feel comfortable with who they are."

After completing his master's degree, McKay, feeling overwhelmed with school, work and family, decided to tell Smith that he wouldn't be pursuing his Ph.D.

"And Mickey looked at me and he said, 'McKay, I see smart people come and I see smart people go. The ones that make a difference are

the ones who don't give up,'" McKay recounted. "Everybody has to have somebody who believes in them."

McKay received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Mercer University in 1975. After receiving his doctorate from UM, he became an assistant professor at Mercer University College of Pharmacy. He joined the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 1983 before moving to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice in 1990.

He began his penultimate position as founding dean of Shenandoah's School of Pharmacy in 1995 and retired in August 2016.

"Starting a new school of pharmacy 22 years ago was a big challenge," McKay said. "You can't just tell people what you want done and what you think is important. Sometimes you have to demonstrate."

Since retiring, he has continued to use his experience as the director of Shenandoah University's Design Innovation Center and as a member of a task force charged with creating a new medical school in northern Virginia.

During the planning of the medical school, McKay wrote a curriculum proposal that focused on team-based education, known as a fusion curriculum. As part of his proposal, students from all health care disciplines would take a three-week break from their specialized curricula every semester and work together to solve health care problems using information technology and genomics, a practice called precision medicine.

"We are trying to intentionally incorporate into the next generation of health professionals an understanding and appreciation of two things: one, that technology is changing under your feet, and two, you're not going to solve all the problems yourself," McKay said.

Besides his visionary approach to health care education, McKay's colleagues know him as a caring educator who is deeply interested in the well-being of his students. John Bentley, chair of the Department of Pharmacy Administration at UM, referred to McKay's "transformative effect" on others.

"Part of it is role modeling," Bentley said. "We see in Alan someone who has strong values, has a vision for where he wants to go and can see things beyond where a lot of people can see; but it's also just

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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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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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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

taking an interest in people.

“Alan sees qualities in people and is able to help develop them.”

The winner of this award is chosen based on character, leadership and contributions to the pharmacy profession, said David D. Allen, dean of the UM School of Pharmacy.

“Alan McKay is one of the most insightful and forward-thinking pharmacy educators I’ve met, and an exceptional representative of the School of Pharmacy,” Allen said. “I’m very pleased we can honor him in this way.”

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