

Incoming President Sets an Example of Involvement



The first thing people usually think when they hear about Sandra Chase's accomplishments is "wow." There may also be comments inquiring as to whether her day has more hours in it than everyone else's. In addition to being MPA's incoming 122nd president, she is also wife, mother, clinical pharmacy specialist, group exercise instructor, consultant, adjunct faculty for Grand Valley State University and Ferris State University (FSU) College of Pharmacy, committee member, board member ... The list goes on and on. In fact, it is difficult to summarize her CV, which is over 50 pages long and contains numerous memberships, publications and awards. The term "overachiever" seems to have been invented for her.

Chase's road to pharmacy began when she was a student at Michigan State University. She had recently

returned from studying abroad in England and needed to declare a major. Her interests were in the sciences and she knew she wanted to work with people. After seriously considering medicine and being daunted by the prospect of giving her whole life to a profession, she stumbled upon the idea of pharmacy and began investigating it further. She applied to the University of Michigan (U-M) pharmacy program and transferred to the College of Pharmacy, where she completed her Bachelor of Science and then her Pharm.D. in April of 1984.

Subsequent to graduation, Chase completed an ASHP-accredited residency in hospital pharmacy at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. The next years were spent in Pennsylvania and Delaware as a clinical pharmacist and senior medical information coordinator for a pharmaceutical company, respectively. In 1998, she returned to Michigan where she began her own company, S.L. Chase Inc., for which she is a clinical pharmacy consultant. Her consulting work has taken her throughout the country on various speaking engagements. She began working as a clinical pharmacy specialist for Spectrum Health in 1999, and is still employed there. Her primary area of expertise is cardiac care.

With all of her accomplishments and involvement, it is no surprise that Chase reports many professional high points. In addition to being elected president-elect of MPA, she has been honored with a 2005 Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists Pharmacist of the Year and the U-M College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Service Award, among others. Another honor Chase is proud of is that of being elected director-at-large of the Home, Ambulatory and Chronic Care Section of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). According to Chase, "this is a great opportunity to network at a national level and get to know the board of ASHP and many other colleagues around the country." Additionally, Chase truly enjoyed the four terms (two as chair) she served on the U-M College of Pharmacy Alumni Board and the term she is currently serving on the U-M Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Another of the highlights of Chase's career is the experience she has had with lecturing and working with

Andrea Rybicki, *MPA Director of Communications*



students on rotation for three separate colleges of pharmacy—Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Science (now Philadelphia College of the Sciences), Temple University College of Pharmacy and FSU College of Pharmacy. Chase shared this comment

about her teaching and mentoring experiences: “I enjoy working with students and enjoy teaching and guiding them, not only lecturing on therapeutics but sharing my experiences and hoping to encourage them to go further with their education and sharing opportunities in pharmacy.”

Chase feels strongly about improving the health of the public. She is passionate about bringing a positive message about healthy living to schools and helping children to realize the importance of eating healthfully and exercising. Through her work as a volunteer for the American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association,

with fundraisers and lectures to community groups, Chase makes a significant contribution to decrease the incidence of heart disease, strokes and diabetes.

In 1998, Chase joined MPA. While living in Pennsylvania, she had been active in the Pennsylvania Society of Hospital Pharmacists and other groups, and it seemed natural for her to join the association upon moving back to Michigan. Subsequently, she ran for the board of the Western Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists. She continued her active involvement with the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP), serving as committee member and chair for the Educational Affairs Committee. Chase became a member of the MPA Executive Board in 2002, and was later elected president-elect for the association.

As MPA’s 122nd president, Chase hopes to continue the work her predecessors and colleagues, Mike Sanborn and Bill McCarthy, have begun to foster membership and not only increase membership numbers but also enhance involvement of current members. She would like to encourage student involvement and leadership. According to Chase, “the 80-20 rule is now the 90-10 rule—90 percent of things are done by 10 percent of the people. The whole profession is struggling with people not wanting to volunteer. We need to encourage young

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pharmacists and students to get involved and see the value of being involved.”

Chase also believes that the pharmacy profession needs to remain unified. She believes pharmacy “cannot



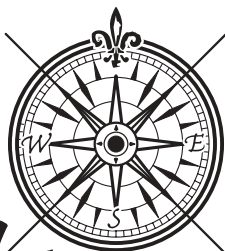
remain divided as community, hospital, consultant, researchers, managed care pharmacists, etc., but help each other and work together to demonstrate to the public and other healthcare professionals what we can do.” Chase feels that too many opportunities are being lost to other healthcare professionals that could be uti-

lized by pharmacists. Along with this, Chase emphasizes that Medicare Part D is one such opportunity that needs to be seized. She feels pharmacists need to embrace the challenge Part D poses and help patients as much as they can to understand it.

In order to meet the goals she envisions, Chase believes MPA must continue to demonstrate its value to those who would be members by trying new approaches to getting people involved. She is an advocate of the new nontraditional committees recently introduced in *MPA's Doses*, such as those to review continuing education articles and to evaluate members services—those that don't require travel to Lansing and/or a day off work. Chase also believes in the programs in which MPA already participates—Medicare Part D continuing education, community pharmacy residencies, forming student MPA chapters at the colleges and nontraditional rotations for pharmacy students at the MPA office.

If Chase has an important message for her colleagues, it is that each member should become involved with the profession and remain involved, whether it means political advocacy, patient education on important issues, mentoring new professionals, joining a committee or running for an association leadership position. And one thing should be clear to anyone who knows Sandra Chase. In this instance, she is definitely practicing what she preaches.

*Charting a
New Course*



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Date!*

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February 17-19, 2006.**