Developing Innovative Leaders

A letter from KGI President Sheldon Schuster and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert E. Curry

This year marks Keck Graduate Institute’s (KGI) 20th anniversary, which will be celebrated from July 2017 through June 2018. A milestone birthday allows us to pause and reflect on our history and growth and to envision what is ahead for KGI.

Founding President Henry E. (“Hank”) Riggs was a visionary when he imagined the first American graduate institution devoted solely to bioscience education. In 1997 it was this first innovative leader who set the pace for KGI’s next 20 years of progress. KGI’s entrepreneurial approach and industry connections provide pathways for students to become leaders in bioscience and healthcare.
KGI has come a long way in just 20 years, but one thing has been the same since 1997: we are passionate about student success and the practical application of scientific research and discovery. Our commitment to scientific innovation capable of strengthening communities and improving lives has been a driving force in our growth and progress. Innovation has been at the forefront of KGI’s values since our founding and is evident in the scope of work our students, alumni, faculty, staff, corporate partners, and leadership undertake.

Based on our strategic plan for the next five years, our vision is to develop professional leaders and make a significant impact on the healthcare and life sciences industries through high caliber educational programs and applied research. Our unique array of academic programs include: Master of Business and Science, Master of Engineering in Biopharmaceutical Processing, Postdoctoral Professional Master’s, Postbaccalaureate Premedical Certificate, PhD in Applied Life Sciences, Doctor of Pharmacy, Certificate in Bioscience Management, Certificate in Applied Life Sciences, Doctor of Pharmacy, Certificate in Human Genetics and Genomic Data Analytics, and Certificate in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics.

Our faculty members and students have done extensive research in the area of genomic footprinting, and it has not gone unnoticed by industry leaders. In their mission to serve patients, Amgen granted $1.5M to support the implementation of a new genetics program at KGI.

Our strong connection with bioscience industry leaders helps to make KGI unique. These ties foster a reciprocation of innovation that benefits all of us. We are proud that our physical footprint is also growing. Our first housing complex will open in fall 2018; the 419-bed facility features a fitness center, outdoor plaza, pool, and additional classroom space. The relocation of administrative offices and the addition of student work spaces in the 1 North Indian Hill building located in Claremont Village has promoted more integration of KGI with the rest of the Claremont University Consortium.

This year, KGI also built its first full service café, including a sleek second-story loft that acts as a lounge and additional room for student study. The number of students choosing KGI is growing as well! Our enrollment will surpass 560 in the fall 2017 semester.

The success of KGI’s first 20 years is the result of a clear vision, generous support, and the hard work of students, faculty members, and our dedicated staff. The future is full of possibilities! We invite you to look ahead with us to the next 20 years, and beyond. Together, there is no limit to the things we can learn, discover, and accomplish at KGI...
Tradition of Innovation

Twenty years has taught us this: With hard work, cutting-edge innovation can grow from the humblest of beginnings.
KGI’s story begins in 1995, when the late Henry E. (“Hank”) Riggs gathered a team for a “new venture.” He envisioned a stellar new institution that would be innovative in higher education, productive for our nation’s and the region’s economy, and beneficial to our society in the problems that it and its graduates would solve.

That dream became a reality just two years later. After starting as the Harvey Mudd College president in 1988, he departed in 1997 to become the founding president of KGI.

“Much of my time over the past two years has been spent talking to leaders in academia and industry about this venture. Their nearly universal enthusiasm and expressions of support for the project convinced me—and in time my fellow trustees, my Claremont colleagues, and the Keck Foundation—that we were on the right track.”

Riggs was a visionary who could see that the next century would be ruled by the life sciences—and in time my fellow trustees, my Claremont colleagues, and the Keck Foundation— that we were on the right track.

After eight years of guiding the “new venture,” Riggs retired in 2003, and Sheldon Schuster became president. Guiding accelerated growth for KGI, Schuster put together plans for an additional set of innovative programs. In 2004, the W.M. Keck Foundation made a $20 million grant challenging KGI to raise an additional $30 million over seven years. KGI completed the challenge one year ahead of schedule. Beginning in 2006, the PhD in Applied Life Sciences became the second program offering, later joined by the Postdoctoral Professional Master’s (PPM) and Postbaccalaureate Premedical Certificate (PPC) in 2009.

KGI’s pioneer program—Master of Bioscience (MBS, recently renamed Master of Business and Science)—began its first classes in 2000 and conferred its first degrees in 2002 with an inaugural graduating class of 28 students.

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—Henry E. Riggs

KGI students are a key part of the process that shapes the future of bioscience and healthcare. In its 20th Anniversary, KGI continues to instill a sense of readiness in its students to solve world problems, and students continue to meet that expectation.

Through the 2016–2017 academic year, KGI started the shift from a commuter campus to a residential setting. The community celebrated a ribbon cutting at 1 North Indian Hill Blvd. in November 2016; the new space includes administrative offices and student collaboration areas.

In March 2017, KGI opened its first full-service café. Then, in May 2017, the KGI and Claremont communities rallied together to break ground on The Village at KGI: a 225,000 square foot mixed use residential housing facility that will include a pool, fitness center, study spaces, and other amenities. The facility will welcome its first graduate residents in fall 2018.

With dynamic flexibility, KGI continues to meet society’s ever-changing needs. Whether this means researching vaccines for potential deadly new viruses or developing products to enhance human welfare, KGI students are a key part of the process that shapes the future of bioscience and healthcare. In its 20th Anniversary, KGI continues to instill a sense of readiness in its students to solve world problems, and students continue to meet that expectation.
Our First 20 Years

July 10, 1997
W.M. Keck Foundation provides Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) with a $50 million founding grant.

August 1, 2000
KGI’s inaugural class enrolls in the MBS program, while the school moves offices from 500 W. Dartmouth Ave. to 333 Watson Drive.

May 19, 2002
KGI celebrates its first commencement with 28 graduates.

July 1, 2010
KGI succeeds in raising a match of $30 million, solidifying its position as a pioneer in graduate education. The W.M. Keck Foundation awarded KGI with a $20 million challenge grant in 2004, and KGI completed the match one year ahead of schedule.

August 16, 2010
Postbaccaularete Premedical Certificate (PPC) program starts with its first group of students.

August 15, 2016
Master of Engineering (MEng) program begins, as overall enrollment for 2016-2017 increases to 537.

September 8, 2014
The founding class of the Minerva Schools at KGI begins classes.

November 15, 2016
KGI celebrates ribbon cutting at a North Indian Hill Blvd. building that includes administrative offices and student collaboration space.

December 9, 2016
KGI receives $3.7 million from Amgen to start a two-year Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling program in fall 2018.

March 20, 2017
KGI celebrates ribbon cutting of the KGI Café, a one-story campus hub in Building 517.

May 11, 2017
KGI breaks ground on the school’s first housing complex, a 419-bed facility that is set to open in August 2018.

May 13, 2017
KGI celebrates 16th annual commencement with 175 graduates.

August 15, 2018
PhD in Applied Life Sciences program begins as overall enrollment increases to 474.

August 17, 2009
Postdoc Professional Master’s (PPM) program begins with its first cohort.

August 14, 2014
The KGI School of Pharmacy celebrates first White Coat Ceremony.

November 15, 2016
KGI celebrates ribbon cutting at a North Indian Hill Blvd. building that includes administrative offices and student collaboration space.

January 6, 2014
KGI partners with Biocon to launch the Biocon Academy’s 16-week Master of Science program.

February 23, 2004
KGI celebrates its first commencement with 28 graduates.

July 15, 2003
Founding President Henry “Hank” Riggs retires; Sheldon Schuster assumes leadership as president of KGI.

July 10, 1997
W.M. Keck Foundation provides Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) with a $50 million founding grant.

August 16, 2010
Postbaccaularete Premedical Certificate (PPC) program starts with its first group of students.

June 11, 2016
KGI awards increasing a match of $30 million, solidifying its position as a pioneer in graduate education. The W.M. Keck Foundation awarded KGI with a $20 million challenge grant in 2004, and KGI completed the match one year ahead of schedule.
Tradition of Celebration

On the morning of Saturday, May 13, the KGI community capped off a memorable 2016-2017 academic year with the 16th Annual Commencement ceremony featuring 175 graduates.
KGI Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bob Curry began the ceremony with a welcoming address announcing the event as “the biggest single gathering that we have ever had for KGI.”

Master of Business and Science (MBS) student Carl Decker delivered a speech to the Class of 2017. Aditi Shastry, also a graduating MBS student, presented the class gift to President Sheldon Schuster, faculty, staff, and future students of KGI.

“Our class gift to KGI is a canvas print that illustrates the various stages of mitosis, representing a metaphor for the growth and transformation that KGI has experienced,” said Shastry.

“The only control you have of your destiny is your sense of purpose and your spirit of challenge.”

—Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Schuster then welcomed keynote speaker Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and chairperson of Biocon, India’s largest biopharmaceutical enterprise, to the podium. Mazumdar-Shaw, named among Time magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world, is recognized as a thought leader who has built a globally recognized biopharmaceutical enterprise that is committed to innovation and affordability in delivering best-in-class therapeutics to patients across the globe.

Mazumdar-Shaw spoke to KGI’s graduating class about the effects of rapidly changing technology on the bioscience industry and about her own experiences in entrepreneurship. The advice she gave students she learned on her own personal journey.

“The only control you have of your destiny is your sense of purpose and your spirit of challenge,” said Mazumdar-Shaw.

In addition, Mazumdar-Shaw made a plea to the students: “I want you to use the knowledge that you have acquired at this great institution to develop disruptive technologies and innovative healthcare models that will address the unmet medical needs of our planet!”

—Sheldon Schuster

Students were recognized for completing the following academic programs: Certificate in Bioscience Industry Law and Practice, Certificate in Bioscience Management, Postdoctoral Professional Master’s, Master of Engineering, Master of Science, Master of Business and Science, and PhD in Applied Life Sciences.

“As you take a giant step into the next stage of your careers, you will face issues both personal and professional you have not yet envisioned,” Schuster said. “But, I have every confidence you have the tools and skills to continue to learn throughout your lives and careers and to grow into the ethical and successful leaders we have prepared you to be!”

—Bob Curry

Sheldon M. Schuster
President, KGI

Alumnus Sandeep Inamdar, MBS ’03, congratulated the Class of 2017 and welcomed the group as alumni of KGI. After graduating from KGI, Inamdar worked for Amgen for eight years and now serves as the senior medical director at Five Prime Therapeutics in San Francisco.

“Directed by Schuster, students moved their tassels from right to left to signify their transition from students to alumni of KGI.”
We Develop Leaders in Bioscience and Healthcare

Visit KGI.EDU to learn more about KGI’s vision.
Tradition of Pioneers
Class of 2002

Harish Dharuri Develops as Leader in Bioinformatics

For Harish Dharuri, MBS ’02, the experience at KGI involved several “firsts.” His arrival in Claremont marked his first time in a country outside India. He was a member of KGI’s Class of 2002, the first to complete the Master of Bioscience (MBS) program. After graduation, he helped launch Ionian Technologies, KGI’s first biotechnology company spin-off.

But first and foremost, Dharuri came to KGI to explore the intersection of science and business. He already held a master’s degree in biotechnology from Jawaharlal Nehru Technology University and at the time was an experienced chemical engineer working in industry. Based on what he had observed as a professional, he says: “I felt there was a need for people in business who had knowledge of science and for people in science who had knowledge of business. KGI had the only program that provided this.”

Later, however, Dharuri found his career embracing the science side of biotechnology more than the business side. He participated in a collaborative research project involving the University of Connecticut Health Center and the European Bioinformatics Institute and then spent three years as a scientific database curator at the California Institute of Technology. As time passed, Dharuri says, “I began to enjoy the science more and more. Basically, I like solving problems in biology. That’s also one of the reasons I came to KGI—I loved biology.”

Today, he is a bioinformatics scientist at Illumina, a global company offering products to enhance the collection, analysis, and application of biological information and helping to advance the understanding of genetics and health. Dharuri’s role since joining Illumina in 2014 has involved aggregating and organizing genomic and clinical data from public sources for users of a product called a cohort analyzer, a software tool for the analysis and interpretation of this type of information.

“My work at Illumina is more on the science side of the business. Most people who do this are PhDs in life sciences because you need to be well versed in biology and diseases,” says Dharuri, who earned a PhD in bioinformatics, genetics, and metabolic syndrome at Leiden University in the Netherlands more than a decade after completing his MBS. “It’s very exciting to be a part of the field of precision medicine. The tools we are building will help in heading in that direction.”

Dharuri got his introduction to bioinformatics at KGI, where he first took a course on the subject. But the broader benefit of the MBS program was the new perspective it gave him as a professional. He explains: “Often, scientists get caught up in small details. KGI taught me to take a bird’s-eye view. That perspective gives me an edge. I can simultaneously understand the science as well as the business side of my work. The program also made me a more confident person. In particular, my management classes, and the emphasis on entrepreneurship, were very helpful to me.”

They were also what led him to join former KGI professor David Galas and others in starting Ionian Technologies and a second biotechnology company, Zuyder. Though their ventures proved ill-timed for economic reasons, the experience didn’t dampen Dharuri’s enthusiasm for entrepreneurship.

“I’d like to get back on the business side of the industry eventually, and I want to be an entrepreneur. That’s been my dream,” he says. “At some point, the light bulb will go on. There are so many exciting things that need to be done.”
Class of 2018
Stephanie Phan Prepares for All Pharmacy Settings

Entering its fourth year of existence, the School of Pharmacy will confer its first Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degrees upon the Class of 2018 in May. “Both the Institute and the school worked very hard to get where they are today. We have bigger goals ahead, but it’s nice to reach this first milestone, look at the success, and share that with colleagues and students,” says Kathy Webster, founding dean and professor for the School of Pharmacy.

The diverse P-4 group consists of 68 students. With an average age of 28 ranging from 21 to 44, the Class of 2018 is 60 percent female and 40 percent male. The soon-to-be graduates are starting their fourth and final year, which features experiential education with rotations and a capstone seminar.

In summer 2014, Stephanie Phan was working in a hospital in Northern California and had thought about attending pharmacy school at some point in the future. Phan called KGI on a whim and asked if they were still accepting applications for the inaugural semester, which was set to start one month later. The response was no.

Then, on the following Wednesday, Phan received a call back from a KGI recruiter and was offered an interview. Phan left work in NorCal and drove to KGI for the interview. In less than three weeks, she began the PharmD program at KGI as part of the inaugural class.

“I am very excited to be among the first graduating class of KGI’s School of Pharmacy,” Phan says. “KGI was a great choice for me because of all the curriculum and industry opportunities here.”

Phan praises the dedication of the faculty and admissions counselors, who were incredibly personable and encouraging.

In March 2017, Phan was formally awarded the Inland-Empire Society of Health System Pharmacists (ISHP) Scholarship at the ISHP Night with Industry and Installation Banquet. There to support Phan was Tania Stewart, director of interprofessional education and assistant professor of clinical science at KGI’s School of Pharmacy, who also won an award for Pharmacist of the Year at the banquet.

“Stephanie is an ideal student—she always is engaged in class and has a truly inquisitive mind,” Stewart says. “She asks questions about why and how things work, which is very refreshing and important for a future healthcare professional. I look forward to seeing what her future holds as she graduates in 2018 and begins her pharmacy practice career. She will no doubt make us very proud at KGI.”

Phan says the ISHP was the first scholarship she had ever applied for, so she was surprised when she won it. She liked the prompt, met the qualifications, and her advisor, Stewart, pushed her to apply.

“I’ve always been driven by an interest in hospitals,” Phan says. “I felt it was a good scholarship that represents what I believe in.”

In addition to winning the ISHP scholarship, Phan served as a contributing writer for a published piece in the 2017 Rare Neurological Disease Special Report. Phan and two of her P-4 peers, Inet Amirian and Maya Maaz, were chosen to write a piece titled, “Telemedicine: Benefits for Patients, Providers, and Health Care Institutions.”
Class of 2018

Steven Kechichian Embraces Opportunity to Give Back

At the 2017 Commencement, KGI celebrated its first graduates of the Master of Engineering (MEng) in Biopharmaceutical Processing program. The Class of 2018 features MEng student Steven Kechichian, who possesses a unique understanding of how advances in biomanufacturing can benefit people with life-threatening diseases.

Kechichian was first diagnosed with leukemia at age seven and, when it recurred a few years later, he underwent an embryonic stem cell transplant as an experimental cancer treatment. It was a difficult form of therapy because of the challenge of finding a match and the large odds of the body rejecting the treatment.

“At that point in the history of stem cell transplants, you could provide the therapy to a few patients in a hospital, but it was very expensive, so you couldn’t make it practical for a large population,” says Professor Parviz Shamlou, Kechichian’s faculty mentor and the director of both the Amgen Bioprocessing Center and the MEng program at KGI.

Kechichian’s second bout with leukemia and transplant was followed by the loss of a functioning immune system and a 100-day hospital stay where he was filled with fear that his body would reject the new cells. He emerged with renewed health as well as a stronger appreciation for science and determination to pursue a career in medicine. He had also gained two City of Hope doctors as mentors, Anna Pawlowska and Joseph Rosenthal.

Kechichian went on to become a biology major and premedical student at the University of La Verne. Completing internships at City of Hope during his undergraduate years opened his eyes to the potential of bioresearch and biomanufacturing. Now, he has come to KGI to help make therapies like the one that saved his life available to more people.

“It was enlightening to see that you could scale up through manufacturing and do a greater good even without going to medical school,” says Kechichian. “As soon as I heard about the MEng program, I knew it was what I wanted to do. I got lucky and survived. This is a great way for me to give back.”

As a member of the program’s inaugural class that enrolled in fall 2016, Kechichian has taken every opportunity to learn and contribute. He is involved in developing a method to grow human cells at a manufacturing scale, assisting with a PhD student’s research, and he provided expertise in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) for a KGI Team Master’s Project (TMP) sponsored by the biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb.

“Steven is exceptionally good not only in the science, but also the mathematical and engineering aspects of the project,” Shamlou says. “He has an understanding of sophisticated, computationally based analysis and modeling. He’s also growing in an area—CFD—that many companies need, so his skills will be in high demand.” The spring 2017 TMP led to a summer internship with Boeriger Ingelheim, a research-driven global pharmaceutical company. During that opportunity, he has worked within the company’s cell culture process science group. He says, “So far the MEng program has been amazing. It’s taken all my skills and put them into flight.”

As for his earlier intention to become a doctor, Kechichian says, “Medical school is still on the table, but right now I’m leaning toward a PhD. I’m looking into the program at KGI. I want to have the opportunity to continue on with science and enjoy it. But most of all, it’s about giving back. I’m pretty lucky to still be here.”
W.M. Keck Foundation Transformed KGI Vision Into Reality

In order to succeed, a great idea needs a great supporter. It starts with just one. Keck Graduate Institute’s founding president, Henry E. Riggs, envisioned a new venture that would educate graduate students in the biosciences in new and innovative ways. The support of hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundations make it possible for the KGI community to learn, research, and grow, but the founding of the Institute began with one supporter.

In 1997, the W.M. Keck Foundation bestowed a $50 million grant to found a graduate school that would pioneer a new and innovative approach to higher learning to meet and lead the growing biosciences industry. That new graduate school was named Keck Graduate Institute in honor of the generosity and early support of the foundation.

“The W.M. Keck Foundation has done far more for KGI than providing financial support,” says Kelly Esperias, the vice president of institutional development at KGI. “The Foundation's crucial first bid of trust in the vision for KGI has inspired the support of countless others and helped to legitimize the dream of KGI.”

Twenty years later, KGI President Sheldon Schuster explained the importance of that first gift: “In any discussion about the success of KGI, we need to acknowledge the remarkable foresight and commitment of the W.M. Keck Foundation’s founding grant.

“Without that early commitment, we wouldn’t exist. I can’t begin to express how crucial it has been to our development and our beginning. It enabled us to launch the first programs in 2000. It made all the difference in the world. KGI simply wouldn’t have happened without that initial support.”

In 1954, William Myron Keck established the W.M. Keck Foundation in Los Angeles after successfully founding and managing The Superior Oil Company. Keck envisioned a philanthropic institution that would provide far-reaching benefits for humanity. Supporting pioneering discoveries in science, engineering, and medical research has been and continues to be the foundation’s work (www.wmkeck.org).

The support of the W.M. Keck Foundation is visible long after their founding gift to KGI. Current chairman and chief executive officer of the W.M. Keck Foundation, Robert Day, grandson of William Myron Keck, was present at the founding gift presentation and has continued to nurture the Foundation’s relationship with KGI.

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In 2010 KGI met a $30 million challenge grant from a loyal and growing constituency. The challenge grant began in 2004 when the W.M. Keck Foundation detected further opportunity at KGI and made a $20 million grant challenging KGI to raise an additional $30 million over the next seven years. KGI met the challenge a year before the deadline.

“The follow-up support was equally important,” says Schuster. “We were at a stage where we were still getting our feet on the ground. That was a crucial time, and the W.M. Keck Foundation saw that as an opportunity to reinvest and double down on their concept. I don’t think we can ever express the level of gratitude to thank them for that insight and wisdom. They saw things that we didn’t see, and we all smile when thinking of their thoughtfulness and generosity.”

The generous contributions of loyal supporters provide a range of opportunities, including fellowships for students, support for the Team Master’s Project, and funding for education programs and faculty research. The dream of KGI becoming a reality would not be possible without the generosity, trust, and support of the W.M. Keck Foundation.
**Year In Review**

**July 2016**

ASCB-KGI BIOTECH COURSE BRINGS GRAD STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS TO CAMPUS
The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) partnered with KGI for a week-long summer intensive program in which 50 advanced graduate students and postdocs learned about what it takes to be successful in industry and how to navigate a career outside of academia. Programming included class discussion-oriented lectures, highly interactive MBA-style case studies, professional development sessions, and networking lunches.

**August 2016**

SUMMER EXPLORE MED PROGRAM TEACHES UNDERGRADS ABOUT CAREER OPTIONS
Six undergraduate students traveled to KGI to participate in a two-week residential program that incorporated both classroom and experiential learning to help these students understand what it means to be “premed.” Students explored various health professions, visited local campuses, and received highly individualized advisement concerning guidance on personal statements, selection of schools, and mock interview preparation.

BIOPROCESSING STUDENTS WIN BEST POSTER PRIZE AT PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
KGI students working on a Team Master’s Project (TMP) sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Fremont, Inc. received a poster award for first place in Best Innovation Industrial Research at the prestigious Recovery of Biological Products Conference. The poster was titled “Design of a continuous virus inactivation system for clinical scale.”

THIRD ANNUAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY WELCOMES CLASS OF 2020
Ninety-three students received their white coats at KGI’s 3rd Annual White Coat Ceremony, which is held every year when new students enter into the PharmD program. After being formally cloaked with their white coats, the students recited the Pledge of Professionalism, which emphasizes the adherence to the set of rigid ethical standards demanded by anyone entering the pharmacy profession.

**September 2016**

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM PFIZER
Sixteen School of Pharmacy students in the Class of 2018 were awarded scholarships funded by Pfizer, Inc. The awards were given to support student pharmacists with their education goals related to developing industry-related careers and were also a reflection of the ongoing support KGI has received from Pfizer, Inc.

STUDENTS CREATE MEDICAL DEVICES WITH 3D PRINTERS
More than 120 new students from the School of Applied Life Sciences spent a week working on a project that required creating medical devices with the use of a 3D printer. The project was designed to encourage new students to think out of the box, take ownership of a project, and learn to work in teams.

EDUCATIONAL EVENT OFFERS SOP STUDENTS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OPIOID ABUSE
An inter-professional educational event held for second-year students from KGI’s School of Pharmacy, students in the nursing program at Riverside Community College, and students in the School of Medicine at UC Riverside sought to increase awareness of the national epidemic of opioid abuse by discussing real-life scenarios that future pharmacists could face.

**October 2016**

NEW ROBOTIC DISPENSING TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES PHARM D EDUCATION
Hands-on experience with the latest robotic dispensing technology is a rarity for pharmacy students—but not those at KGI. The newly installed ScriptPro SP 200 Robotic Dispensing System is located in the School of Pharmacy’s Patient-Focused Skills Laboratory and Medication Management Technology Center. The SOP is only the second pharmacy school in California to have this equipment available for educational purposes.

KGI RESEARCH REVEALS POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ZIKA VIRUS
A team of researchers led by KGI Assistant Professor Mikhail Martchenko identified a promising therapy, determining that the drug bithionol could be repurposed to effectively combat Zika virus strains. The findings were published in the scientific journal *Nature Scientific Reports*.

STUDYING PHARMACY AT KGI BECOMES A FAMILY AFFAIR
Rajan Vaidya, PharmD ’18, has an enthusiasm for pharmacy and Keck Graduate Institute that’s clearly contagious. The evidence? In the fall, Rajan’s younger sister, Mona, joined him as a student in KGI’s PharmD program. The duo believes their relationship has grown stronger since becoming colleagues, not just siblings.
Year In Review Continued

November 2016

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND METHODS OFFER NEW INSIGHT INTO CHROMOSOME INSTABILITY

KGI research led to the discovery of a number of genes that, when they function abnormally, cause instability of the chromosomes within cells. This finding, and its implications for understanding the mechanisms of cancer and birth defects, is central to a newly published paper based on the doctoral work of Jesse Frumkin, PhD ’12.

KGI CELEBRATES OPENING OF INH WITH CLAREMONTE COMMUNITY

On the evening of Tuesday, November 15, KGI hosted the Claremont community for a historic ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new office spaces on the corner of North Indian Hill and First Street in the Claremont Village. The event celebrated KGI’s growth as an institution and its geographic expansion to the Claremont Village.

NORRIS FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS SURE PROGRAM

A new $45,000 grant from The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation will provide a third year of support for Keck Graduate Institute’s successful Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program. Since 2015, funding from the foundation has enabled undergraduates to spend 10 weeks in KGI labs with faculty mentors.

December 2016

STUDENTS TRANSITION FROM CERTIFICATE IN INDIA TO MBS DEGREE

In 2014, KGI launched a bioscience certificate in India in collaboration with Biocon, the country’s largest biotechnology company. Now, two graduates of that technical training program, Ishan Billore and Faizan Ansari, are in Claremont, the first to pursue KGI’s Master of Business and Science (MBS) degree.

AMGEN GIFT TO FUND LAUNCH OF NEW GENETICS DEGREE PROGRAMS

Keck Graduate Institute received $1.5 million from Amgen, one of the world’s leading biotechnology companies, to start a two-year master’s degree program that responds to the tremendous progress in genetic medicine and growing demand for professionals trained in both genetics and counseling.

CLAREMONTE OFFICIALS APPROVE KGI CAMPUS HOUSING PROJECT

With approximately 100 members of the community in attendance, Claremont’s Architectural Commission unanimously approved KGI’s campus housing project during the group’s meeting in the City Council Chamber. The campus housing is a highly anticipated development for the KGI community, as it will accommodate the school’s growth and the needs of its students.

January 2017

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL SHARK TANK APP COMPETITION

The team Medicinal Muses won the School of Pharmacy’s 2nd Annual Shark Tank Competition with its product, PharmaSpeed, a multifunctional, software-integrated device featuring prescription loading, scanning, transcribing, labeling, and storage capabilities. The main goal of the learning exercise was to look at the current state of pharmacy automation and imagine the technologies of the future.

CLASS PROJECT RESULTS IN FDA ORPHAN DRUG DESIGNATION

Thanks to work undertaken by a KGI student team, there may be an eventual therapy to help children with the devastating Rasmussen’s encephalitis disease. Through a class project, students identified rituximab as a potential disease treatment, with the FDA issuing an orphan drug designation, the first step in the process of approving a new therapy for a rare disease.

BIOCON PROGRAM CELEBRATES 90 GRADUATES AT CONVOCATION

Biocon Academy celebrated the graduation of 90 students from the Biocon KGI Certificate Program in Biosciences. The program provides an intensive 16-week advanced learning course and hands-on professional training in such diverse areas as molecular biotechnology, biopharma quality assurance and control, CMC regulations, pharmaceutical development, mammalian cell biotechnology, and professional skills development.

February 2017

KGI RECEIVES THIRD YEAR OF IME-BECAS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

For the third consecutive year, the IME-Becas Scholarship Program awarded a grant to KGI providing financial assistance to students who are either from Mexico or of Mexican heritage. These scholarship funds, totaling $15,000, are available to students in any of four KGI programs: Master of Business and Science (MBS), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Master of Engineering (MEng), and Postbaccalaureate Premedical Certificate (PPC).

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND RARE DISEASE DAY HELPS KGI RAISE AWARENESS

Rare Disease Day is an important KGI event in which students, faculty, and guests gather to collaborate, discuss, and raise awareness for rare disease therapies. The 20th Annual Rare Disease Day featured presentations by industry leaders with Q&A sessions, providing opportunities for KGI students to connect and lead the conversation about rare diseases.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE PROVIDES FUNDING TO KGI PROFESSORS

KGI biomedical science professors John Kirstenansky and Alexander Zambon received a grant award from the National Institute of Justice in the amount of $683,790 for a project that addresses the ongoing opiate addiction crisis and the relatively recent appearance of several synthetic opioids. The award focuses on research into the synthesis, spectroscopy, and pharmacology of emerging synthetic opioids.
May 2017

KGI BREAKS GROUND ON CAMPUS HOUSING PROJECT
Marking the start of the shift to a residential campus, Keck Graduate Institute celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony for its first-ever housing complex on the evening of May 11. The project includes a four-story, 225,000 square-foot building with 419 beds in studio, one-, and two-bedroom living spaces. The construction is expected to conclude in fall 2018.

KGI celebrates 16th annual commencement ceremony with Biocon founder
Keck Graduate Institute capped off a memorable 2016-2017 academic year with the 16th Annual Commencement ceremony, featuring keynote speaker Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and chairperson of Biocon, India’s largest biopharmaceutical enterprise. The event was the biggest single gathering that KGI has ever had.

20 for 20 trustee giving challenge surpasses goal
Celebrating its first 20 years of innovation and discovery, KGI surpassed its goal of $20,000 and ultimately raised $25,126 in the 20 for 20 Trustee Giving Challenge, which concluded in May. Thanks to the 89 donors who contributed to the campaign’s worthy cause, there is no telling what the next 20 years will bring.

June 2017

STUDENTS VISIT HONDURAS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES IN NEED
A group of 17 students from KGI participated in a 10-day Global Medical Brigades trip to Honduras, looking to promote a healthy lifestyle and find sustainable solutions in under-resourced communities. KGI’s Medical Brigade Club spearheaded the trip, and the group of students included individuals from the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Certificate (PPC), Master of Engineering (MEng), and Master of Science (MS) programs.

April 2017

KGI CONNECTED PLATFORM PROVIDES VALUE IN NETWORKING FOR STUDENTS
KGI Connected launched in the fall to provide a network for Keck Graduate Institute students, alumni, and mentors to easily connect with one another. The platform helps people find jobs and mentors, sign up for events, and read news and discussion boards that are pertinent to their everyday lives.

KGI AND SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE MUTUAL GOALS
Keck Graduate Institute and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) in Southeast Asia have joined forces to promote educational opportunity and international relations. Through an articulation agreement, SUSS students will have a fast track in the application process if they meet KGI’s eligibility requirements.

FACULTY MEMBER TANIA STEWART SELECTED AS ISHP PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR
KGI School of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Tania Stewart was the recipient of the first Pharmacist of the Year award given by the Inland Empire Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Stewart is an innovative instructor and role model in the clinical setting, shows dedication to the profession, and is focused on developing future pharmacists.

March 2017

DOCTORAL STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT INTERNATIONAL BIOENGINEERING CONFERENCE
It’s not every day that first-year PhD students present their work at an international professional meeting. But KGI’s Andrew Burns and Corina Doris did exactly that! Their poster presentation described their work on a new 3D approach to produce stem cells in high quantities for future clinical trials and novel treatments.

KGI CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING FOR FIRST ON-CAMPUS CAFÉ
At noon on the first day of spring, hundreds of students, faculty, and staff celebrated the opening of KGI’s first on-campus Café. Managed by Bon Appétit, a company that manages other Claremont Colleges food service venues, the Café features an upstairs student lounge and study space.

STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES FOR RARE NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE SPECIAL REPORT
Six KGI students contributed articles in the third annual Rare Neurological Disease Special Report. Second-year SOP students Russle Benson and Jae Chang wrote about gene therapy; third-year SOP students Amiran, Maya Maa, and Stephanie Pan collaborated for a telemedicine article; and PPC student Jonathan Polusza collaborated with UC Davis faculty member Rendi Hagerman to cover the topic of fragile X permutation carriers.

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