The Ohio State University
College of Pharmacy
and
Medical Center
invites you to share in a
Special Tribute to

Clifton J. Latiolais, Sc.D.

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 @ 11:30am
The Flamingo Las Vegas
Program

11:30am
Clifton J. Latiolais Luncheon Reception
Cocktails

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12:00N
Welcome
Robert W. Brueggemeier, Dean
The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy

Introductions and Luncheon

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1:00pm
Special Tribute to Clifton J. Latiolais, Sc.D.
Sara J. White

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Thanks to Our Sponsor…

For their generous contribution, the MS in Health System Pharmacy and the College of Pharmacy cordially thanks BioDelivery Sciences International and its President & CEO, Dr. Mark Sirgo, a 1977 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. BioDelivery is a specialty pharmaceutical company that develops products for pain and oncology supportive care. They currently manufacture Onsolis (transmucosal fentanyl film) for the treatment of breakthrough cancer pain.
Clifton J. Latiolais, Sc.D.

Presented to the Ohio State University M.Sc. – Residency Graduates in Hospital Pharmacy
at the ASHP Clinical Midyear Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana
December 10, 1985

Philosophical Perspectives, Personal Commitment and Enthusiasm for Excellence

Seriously, let me express my personal and professional debt of gratitude and thanks to all of you for this signal honor. You have made this a great day for me. In a lighter vein, I’m reminded of a remark made by Jack Benny upon accepting a distinguished award, “I really don’t deserve this. But, I have arthritis, and I don’t deserve that, either.”

When he informed me of the establishment of the Latiolais Award, Tim Moore told me to present some remarks appropriate to the occasion. Since I had no choice, I decided to give it my best shot! Therefore, I should like to discuss with you why philosophical perspectives, personal commitment and enthusiasm for excellence are the guiding stars for the practice of our profession.

Ancient Greeks selected the Pleiades as their guiding stars to set the course of their ships at sea. The Pleiades, referred to in the Bible (Book of Job) are seven stars in Constellation Taurus, six of which are clear and bright while the seventh is barely visible except to those with keen eyesight. Indeed, the Pleiades are a symbol of the myths, traditions and guides of the historical past. But in a way, so also are they symbolic of the challenging guide to one’s future.

When I was simply stunned a couple of months ago, when Tim Moore informed me that you had decided to establish the Latiolais Award. How can I thank you appropriately for such a recognition, especially when I required you to follow such an ungodly schedule from early morning meetings to late evening adjournments for two long years of training? The thought occurred to me that perhaps it just might be that you had to do it for only 24 months, but I had to do it for 25 years!

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Distinguished alumni of the Ohio State University M.Sc. – residency program, honored guests, faculty, staff and friends.

Clifton J. Latiolais, Sc.D.
Professor Emeritus
Metaphorically speaking, the six visible stars reflect the important, day to day, personal guides to our own future. These are 1) our family, 2) our religion, 3) our life style, 4) our fellow man, 5) our country and 6) our profession.

Of course, our profession must support our family. It should be practiced in concert with our religious tenets. It should support our societal responsibilities as we enjoy our life style. It should support our religious commitment to our fellow man. It should support our commitment to the democratic ideals of our country. It should support and fulfill the legal basis for society’s expectations of our profession.

How can we possibly meet such difficult challenges as we practice our profession? Well, let’s look at our seventh metaphorical star for help. It is that hidden, elusive, only partially visible, priceless ingredient – our professional motivation. It is the driving force which compels us to identify our philosophical perspectives, our personal commitment, and our enthusiasm for excellence throughout our professional career.

These three motivational characteristics, in concert with our religious tenets, guide our professional practices in order to benefit our fellow man. So, let’s examine briefly these three characteristics.

**Philosophical Perspectives**

From a philosophical perspective, how does one perceive his/her job? How do you view your job? Have you placed into perspective what it is that you do? Let me cite a few examples to illustrate how divergent perspectives affect individuals’ views of their jobs and what a difference it makes.

I’m sure you’ve met many colleagues and people in all walks of life with widely disparate perspectives of their jobs. For example, you may have heard someone at a restaurant ask a waiter, “What time is it, please? And the waiter replies, “Sorry sir, this isn’t my table”. Or you ask a uniformed attendant at the hotel about the availability of taxis and his reply is “I’m not on duty, man”. Or, you meet a pharmacist at the ASHP Midyear meeting and ask him what he does and he replies somewhat dejectedly, “I’m a retail pharmacist”.

On the other hand, another pharmacist replying to your same question says rather enthusiastically, “I’m a clinical pharmacist in an outpatient clinic”. What’s the difference? Are they really in the same profession? Is one trying to hurt and the other trying to help his fellow man? It is difficult to understand the dichotomy, isn’t it?

You know, the first pharmacy law in the U.S. was enacted in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1736. This law appointed pharmacists as the guardians for the control of drugs, the control of their sale and the control of their availability. Thus, society gave pharmacists, in addition to physicians, exclusionary legal rights and responsibilities to help patients use drugs safely and to protect the public from injuring themselves from the improper use of drugs. From a professional perspective, this is what clinical pharmacists are doing today, isn’t it? Yet, we had this legal support back in 1736. Which inclines me to suggest that had pharmacists developed a sound philosophical perspective on exercising their legal responsibilities since 1736, they could have practiced clinical pharmacy in such a way as to do what Cicero once said, “No one can come much closer to the work of the gods, then when he does something to help his fellow man”.

You may have heard the old story many times about a brief encounter of the man walking by a construction site where he saw several workers. He walked up to the first worker – a bricklayer – and
asked him what he was doing. The bricklayer said, “Laying bricks, mister, can’t you see that”? To the second worker – a carpenter – he asked the same question. And the reply was, “I am framing this entire building”. To the third worker – a helper – the same question. Unhesitantly he said proudly, “I’m helping to build a church”. How about that for differing philosophical perspectives toward one’s job. What a difference does a perspective make!

During the 25 years when all of you went to OSU, you and the pharmacy staff carried out the many and varied routine functions with such a steady stream of volume that you may have wondered whether it was all worth it. Well let me try, in a couple of sentences or so, to put into perspective what you and the staff did for society and your fellow man during this quarter century.

You helped to provide essential, life saving critical pharmaceutical services for 660,000 hospitalized patients and over 3,125,000 ambulatory patient visits. In the aggregate, your personal professional services touched the lives of over 1,000,000 people. During your lifetime each of you have the same opportunity to touch the lives of your fellow man in a similar way.

Such data demonstrate the awesome responsibility pharmacists have in fulfilling their contemporary, legal role in protecting patients from drug therapy programs while at the same time helping them to get well through the safe use of drugs. And just think it all started with that 1736 law in Virginia.

Lest not we forget, however, that most of the progress we made since 1736 goes back just a few decades ago when some of our former colleagues made use of that partially visible star to guide them along the way.

**Personal Commitment**

Yes, along the way, these former colleagues adopted a personal commitment to their profession. They rose to the same challenge which, decades later, John Kennedy so eloquently made in his inaugural presidential address about duty to county, which I will paraphrase: “Ask not what your profession can do for you; ask what you can do for your profession and your fellow man”.

Personal commitment is a prime essential for that elusive quality of leadership. Leadership is not something one just does as a job. Hugh Sidey in a Time editorial (12/11/78) entitled “The Crux of Leadership” said: “Leadership is a march down a long road, not always in a straight line, but always directed toward the same distance landmark. Leadership involves total belief and commitment”.

**Enthusiasm for Excellence**

This brings me to the third component of that nearly invisible ingredient of our seventh Pleiad – Enthusiasm for Excellence.

I read a recent report citing that only 15-20% of the people do things right all the time. The other 80-85% take short cuts, take the easy way out, don’t care, don’t know better or knowingly cheat themselves. That reminds me of a quote by Ben Franklin who said, “It’s easy to get ahead by working hard – there’s so little competition”.

I’m sure you all remember “what it takes to be No. 1”. “Winning is not a sometime thing; it is an all-the-time thing. You don’t win once in a while. You don’t do things right once in a while. You do them right all the time.” Vince Lombardi was often misunderstood about “winning is an all-the-time thing”. What he meant was that winning is a frame
of mind; that is, when you give it your best shot, even if you lose, you still win. Think about that. Further, think about the reverse corollary. Enthusiasm is the big “E” – as Larry Shoup coined it back in the days of “Christopher Robin & Pooh”. Well, he never lost it – he made it a contagious virtue! So if you haven’t heard it recently, the Big E stands for Enthusiasm for Excellence.

And so, your ability to put things into proper philosophical perspective, your willingness to assume a personal commitment to your profession to contribute to your fellow man, and your preserving enthusiasm for excellence have been the driving forces which have illuminated your seventh partially visible pleiad – your professional talent. That is why, as a group, you have made significant contributions to your profession in a very few short years.

Just one example of such contributions is reflected in this 1985 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting wherein 48 of the 613 accepted presentations are from the OSU group; that is 7.8% or 1 out of every 12 presentations. From only one University, that is a significant contribution!

In conclusion, may I thank you for establishing the Latiolais Award because, in great measure, it is the collective contributions all of you have made which has enhanced my reputation. And for that, I shall be forever grateful and I salute you.

Clifton J. Latiolais, Sc.D.
Special Tribute
Sara J. White, MS, FASHP, is currently a Pharmacy Leadership Coach. In 2004, she was an ASHP Foundation Scholar in Residence on Pharmacy Leadership. From 1992 to 2003, Sara was Stanford Hospital and Clinics, Director of Pharmacy and Clinical Professor, UCSF School of Pharmacy. She was Associate Director of Pharmacy and Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center from 1972 to 1992. Sara completed a BS in Pharmacy from Oregon State University, MS from The Ohio State University and an ASHP accredited Residency at The Ohio State University Hospitals and Clinics. She has served as ASHP president in 1996, and received the Harvey A.K. Whitney Award in 2006.

Clifton J. Latiolais Award Recipients

1986 Harold N. Godwin, MS

1987 Fred M. Echel, MS
1988 Roger W. Anderson, MS
1990 Philip J. Schneider, MS, FASHP
1992 Sara J. White, MS, FASHP
1993 Mick Hunt, MS, MBA, FASHP
1994 Thomas P. Sherrin, MS, FASHP
1995 E. Clyde Buchanan, MS, R.Ph., FASHP
1996 Jeffrey A. Bourret, MS, R.Ph., FASHP
1997 David P. Vogel, R.Ph., MS (deceased)

1998 Susan Teil Boyer, MS, FASHP

1999 William H. Puckett, MS, MBA, FASHP

2000 Michael L. Kleinberg, PharmD, MS, FASHP

2001 James R. Knight, MS, FASHP


2003 Jerry Siegel, PharmD, FASHP

2004 James A. Visconti, Ph.D.
2005 John A. Armitstead, MS

2006 Douglas J. Scheckelhoff, MS, FASHP

2007 Robert J. Weber, MS, FASHP

2008 David A. Kvancz, MS, FASHP

Other Award Recipients

1989 William A. Miller, MS

1991 Robert B. Williams, MS

Notes…
**Clifton J. Latiolais**, Sc.D., established a graduate and residency program at Ohio State in 1959 which has produced directors of pharmacy at many of the top teaching hospitals in the nation. In 1985, some 25 years after he first began training graduate students and residents at The Ohio State University, these former students bestowed an honor on Latiolais by dedicating the Latiolais Award to recognize excellence for contributions made to hospital pharmacy. The Latiolais Award is presented annually at the Midyear Clinical Meeting of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and has been presented to only the nation’s finest leaders in health system pharmacy practice. With this level of high achievement it is reasonable to assume that many of the finest students are attracted to the program that Clif Latiolais started in 1959.

Clif was Director of the Department of Pharmacy and Professor at The Ohio State University from 1958 until his retirement in 1983, after bringing international distinction to the OSU Hospital and the College of Pharmacy. He was a pioneer in intravenous admixture technology and unit dose dispensing, including the technician medication administration program. He was one of the authors of Mirror to Hospital Pharmacy, an ASHP publication which was a road map to improve hospital pharmacy. During his tenure at OSU, he established a combined Master of Science degree and an ASHP-accredited specialty residency in Health-System Pharmacy Administration. He mentored 129 outstanding future leaders in hospital pharmacy and pharmacy educators who continue to have significant impact on the institutional practice of pharmacy. During his legendary career, Dr. Latiolais contributed in truly outstanding fashion to pharmacy as a practitioner, an educator, a mentor, and a leader in hospital pharmacy organizations. In 1992, the Latiolais Leadership Program was established in Dr. Latiolais’s honor to promote and continue his values and his legacy.