



News

28 November,
2018



John Lassiter Family Honored by SWOSU College of Pharmacy

Photo Caption: John Lassiter (left) and Shonda Lassiter (right) of Del City were recently honored with the College of Pharmacy Heritage Award at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. With them is John's wife, Shirley, and Shonda's son, Ty.

Members of the John Lassiter family of Del City were recently honored with the College of Pharmacy Heritage Award at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The Heritage Award recognizes a family with at least two generations of SWOSU pharmacy graduates who have demonstrated a commitment to the University, College of Pharmacy and the pharmacy profession.

SWOSU pharmacy graduates in the Lassiter family are John (1963) and his daughter Shonda (1998 graduate).

John worked as a pharmacist until he was drafted in 1967, serving until he was discharged in 1969. After service, John returned to pharmacy and has been in the pharmacy business since then, primarily with Lassiter Drug in Del City (which was one of the first independent pharmacies in Oklahoma to have an in-house, stand-alone pharmacy computer).

In addition to being a successful pharmacist, throughout his career, John has been appointed to serve on numerous committees and boards, including the Oklahoma Department of Human Services DUR Committee; Oklahoma State Education and Employees Group Insurance Board, serving as pharmacy advisory for 18 years; and the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy for terms between 1994 and 2013. Additionally, he was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1986-1990.

John is a member of many civic and pharmacy organizations: Del City Chamber of Commerce (president in 2000); Moore Rotary Club (president in 1983); Board of Directors, First National Bank of Midwest City; Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (president in 1984-85); and numerous other pharmacy organizations. The SWOSU College of Pharmacy presented him the Outstanding Pharmacy Alumnus Award in 1990. John has been a lifetime member of the SWOSU Pharmacy Alumni Association since 1994 and serves on the Pharmacy Foundation Board of Directors.

John's daughter, Shonda, has also been thriving in the pharmacy business since her graduation in 1998. She took part in an internship with the National Community Pharmacists Association in Washington DC and out of that, she opened the Oklahoma Wellness Center at Lassiter Drug. In 2001, Shonda was presented the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award by DuPont Pharmaceuticals, an award that is presented to one pharmacist per state each year.

Shonda was appointed to serve as co-chair of the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy Tech Committee in 2012 and the National Community Pharmacist Association Compounding Committee from 2011-2014. She is a member of Del City Chamber of Commerce, National Community Pharmacists Association, Pharmacy Providers of Oklahoma, Oklahoma County Pharmacists Association and the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (serving as president 2014-2016).

Both John and Shonda have both been teaching pharmacy students on academic rotations and have supported many SWOSU pharmacy student endeavors throughout the years. In 2017, they established the Lassiter Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for SWOSU College of Pharmacy students.

Each family member received an engraved Heritage Award Commemorative Coin, College of Pharmacy blanket, and their names displayed on a tree stake in the garden area by the College of Pharmacy Heritage Tree, a white bud tree that was planted in 2014 for the College of Pharmacy's 75th anniversary celebration.

SWOSU's pharmacy program was established in 1939 and currently has nearly 6,000 graduates. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. SWOSU offers a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree as well as a PharmD/MBA dual degree.

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