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Radio Ministry Leader to Welcome New Pharmacy Students

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- On Saturday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy will hold its White Coat Ceremony, recognizing first-year pharmacy (P1) graduate students. The event will take place in the Jeremiah Chapel.

The White Coat Ceremony is an annual tradition welcoming P1 students into graduate school. Students receive a white coat to use during field experiences all three years of the program. Along with the coat, students receive an intern license from the state of Ohio that recognizes their achievement so far and symbolizes their public responsibility as a healthcare professional.

Dr. Joy Greene, assistant dean of the High Point University School of Pharmacy in North Carolina, will deliver the keynote address. Greene's areas of expertise includes mental health, weight loss and diabetes. She is also director of Joytime Ministries, geared toward women who are Christ-followers. She produces one-minute segments, titled "Joytime," that air on more than 100 stations worldwide.

"We want to welcome these new students to the field of pharmacy" said Dr. Marc Sweeney, dean of the school of pharmacy. "Our pharmacy program is very focused on both innovation and service. We are always looking for new and dynamic methodology to fill gaps in healthcare to better serve the public. These new students will be a part of that culture"

"Going into the third week of graduate classes, I feel very much like a freshman again," said Chrissy Capo, P1 student from Galloway, New Jersey. "I feel overwhelmed by the amount of material I do not know, and it almost feels like the last three years of undergraduate work was for nothing. However, receiving my white coat will signify that, yes, I accomplished something — enough to earn me the right to learn and apply my knowledge both in the Cedarville learning environment as well as out in the world while wearing that coat."

The ceremony will include prayer and worship before Greene speaks. Dr. Melissa Beck, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and faculty advisor for the class of 2022, will read the names of each P1 student as they come forward to accept their white coat. Joel Sweeney, class president and P1 student from Shawnee, Kansas, will give the class challenge before the class chaplain dismisses the audience with prayer.

"This ceremony represents a lot to each of us," said Sweeney. "It is an exhilarating, honoring, humbling, nerve racking and amazing time of our lives. As we begin our first steps into our professional career, we will struggle and grow, and we will do it together as a class. This event is a time to come together and celebrate as a team, as Christians and as a family."

“Getting into pharmacy school was a big deal for me,” said Daniel Parschaur, P1 student from Mountville, Pennsylvania. “Our white coat ceremony is a chance for us to step back for a brief moment and recognize everyone and everything that got us to where we are now. Then to look forward in hope and anticipation to all that is to come, dedicating our time in school and our future careers to God’s glory.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,963 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Photo Cutline: The Cedarville University School of Pharmacy will holds its White Coat Ceremony on Sept. 8 to welcome new pharmacy graduate students. Last year Dr. Justin Cole awarded Meghan Strickling her white coat.