

Bender
of
Twigs



LaDonna Hale

Dr. LaDonna Hale has been shaping the minds of future healthcare professionals at Wichita State University since 1998. My mom has been teaching at WSU since I was 8 years old. As a child, I used to sit in on many of her classes, coloring or doing puzzles and half listening while she taught her students about diseases and medications. I remember the sound of her students' laughter as it rang through the lecture halls and how dynamic and charismatic she was.

Dr. Hale currently serves as professor and director of assessment in the Department of Physician Associate. She teaches courses in pharmacotherapy and research and mentors students through research projects. In her 25 years at WSU, she has served in many roles in the PA department – including assistant program director, director of research and graduate coordinator, and department chair. She received her doctorate of pharmacy from the University of Kansas in 1996 and has worked as a pharmacist in hospitals and nursing homes, helping patients in the Wichita community for many years. She has an impressive bibliography of research that focuses on improving the health of older adults. And she is great at what she does! This is evidenced by the many awards she has received including the WSU Academy of Effective Teaching Award, the Kansas Board of Pharmacy Clinical Research Award, the Rodenberg Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the WSU Leadership in the Advancement of Teaching Award. She is a great teacher who uses anecdotes while lecturing. She challenges her students to be critical thinkers, not just memorizers—to understand the

why and *how*, not just the *what*. There have been multiple times