ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

“Advancing Pharmacy, Serving Utah”
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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2007-2008 Alumni Association
Board Members:

Benson Sederholm-President
Wally Carlstrom-Past President
Koby Taylor-President Emeritus
Evan Schelin-Treasurer
Karen Gunning-Board Member
Jeff Olson-Board Member
Marianne Paul-Board Member
Linda Sandberg-Board Member
Robert Hansen-Board Member
Ryan Johansen-Board Member
Monique Hall-Student Member
Marion Lennberg-Staff Support

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(801) 581-8704

Special thanks to John and Karen
Mauger for their continued support!
ALUMNI PRESIDENT MESSAGE

By Benson H. Sederholm, PharmD Class of 2005

At a recent community brown bag session I helped precept pharmacy students as they answered questions and reviewed medication profiles for people of all ages who dropped by our booth. Several people expressed appreciation for our participation and said that we truly helped them. They were able to understand more completely the importance of medications and how best to utilize pharmacy services. At the end of the day, we felt that we made a difference by offering insights on medication-related issues and answering specific drug-related questions people had. During our time together I asked the students why they decided to spend part of their afternoon helping at a community event such as this. Their answers included the following: “It is fun to get out and talk to people about their medications.” “I enjoy the interaction with people and feel like I can help, even though I am only a student.” “This is a great learning experience for me and it is neat to see the positive response from those I talk to.” What impressed me the most about the events of that day was the enthusiasm of the students and their willingness to serve and help out. They chose that day to give back and contribute their knowledge and expertise to others who would benefit from their services.

As highly skilled and well-respected professionals, pharmacists are in a prime position to serve others. Ours is a service profession. We are trained with the notion of contributing to society by providing service within and outside our work related duties. By doing so, we follow the professional path of noblesse oblige.¹ That is, we generously give back to society through honorable service because of our status as professionals.

The University of Utah College of Pharmacy is continually looking for pharmacists willing to help with precepting students at local community events (such as brown bags and health fairs). In addition, many other volunteer opportunities are available throughout the state which allow pharmacist participation. For the most part, these opportunities consist of simply spending a couple of hours on a weekday afternoon answering medication-related questions or visiting the elderly and helping them understand how best to take their medications. Working with students can be especially rewarding as it allows us to reconnect with the college and help train future generations of pharmacists, providing them with mentoring types of experiences they otherwise might not receive in a classroom setting.

I would like to invite all our alumni to take some time during this new year to give back through community service. For a list of upcoming opportunities to serve, please visit our website at http://pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni and click on the “volunteer opportunities” link. If you are interested in helping, please send us an email and we will be happy to contact you about the posted events. In addition if you are aware of any upcoming service opportunities, drop us an email and we would be happy to post that information on our website. We appreciate all those who helped with our alumni activities this past year and look forward to working with all of you throughout this coming year.

ANNUAL
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI
GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Tuesday, June 3, 2008

WHERE: Cedar Hills Golf Course

COST: $95.00, Includes 18 holes and a cart; breakfast and Awards Luncheon

TIME:
7:00 AM Registration and Breakfast
7:30 AM Shotgun Start

Register online at:
http://tx01.pharm.utah.edu/alumni/events/2008golf/
or contact Dave Bardsley at 801-581-6808
WORKING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY -- VITAL TO THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY’S FUTURE

By Dean John Mauger

The College of Pharmacy’s first home was located on the second and third floors of the original women’s gymnasium, which has since been torn down. The first laboratory benches and tables were unsteady. Students had to wait in line to use one of two balances. In 1965, the college moved into its own home, L.S. Skaggs Hall, on the Health Sciences Campus. This was a transformative event that laid the groundwork for high quality programs in professional education, graduate education and research. Within one decade of being brought together as a pharmacy community in its new building, the college rose to be ranked #1 for peer-reviewed research funded by the National Institutes of Health and to be recognized for excellence in pharmacy education. Today we are ranked #2 for our research programs and 14th in the nation among all colleges of pharmacy for our professional pharmacy program. We are recognized for having the 6th highest pass rate on the national pharmacy licensing examination among all colleges of pharmacy. In addition, the college’s research programs have contributed several new medicines to treat diseases such as epilepsy and cancer.

By the mid 1990’s the college was beginning to outgrow L.S. Skaggs Hall, the teaching facilities were no longer acceptable to meet accreditation requirements, and several life-safety problems had emerged. In the intervening years, a splendid new Health Sciences Education Building has been constructed adjacent to L.S. Skaggs Hall. This new facility provides the most up-to-date learning and teaching environment for our students. At the same time, the growth of the college’s research programs has created the need to disperse faculty and students to six other buildings, with some of these buildings being more than a mile away from Skaggs Hall. Having large numbers of the pharmacy community separated is a problem that seriously affects our teaching and research missions.

In response to the need for new research facilities, the college is planning a new building south of L.S. Skaggs Hall that will be attached via a beautiful atrium. This new building complex will bring our faculty and students back together again. As was the case in 1965, the Skaggs family has again stepped forward to assist with a $30 million dollar gift for the new building. We are most grateful to the Skaggs family and we are heartened by many other gifts from alumni and friends of the college. In addition, the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences has given the college the highest priority for legislative support. The college’s history shows that we prosper when our students and faculty are together as a pharmacy community. Please join us in bringing our students and faculty back together again by contributing to the construction of a new pharmacy home.

Your donations are welcome and appreciated!!! A special phonathon will be happening April 1-7, 2008. Students will be inviting alumni to donate to the College of Pharmacy area of their choice, including building funds and alumni student scholarships. We need your help! Please keep us in mind in April. You may also donate to the scholarship fund or building fund at any time by visiting: pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni. Thank you for your generous support!
SOME UPDATES ON GRADUATES

Nate Bailey (02) is now in Tampa, FL working for UCB, Inc. as their medical liaison.

Bryan Larson (02) recently joined the Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center at the College of Pharmacy.

Kristen Jefferies (03) is clinical pharmacist, University of Utah Neurology Clinic. She presented "The Role of a Clinical Pharmacist in a Multidisciplinary ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Clinic" at the Motor Neuron Disease Association International Symposium, in Toronto Canada in December 2007.

Jeff Olson (04) has returned to Salt Lake and is working for the Intermountain Medical Center as the Clinical Pharmacist/Ambulatory Care Team Lead at the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Outpatient Care Center with IMC. He and his wife are the parents of 2 children.

Makala Malkovich Pace (04) is BCOP certified and currently the clinical pharmacy specialist in the thoracic, head and neck areas at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and expecting her first child in February 2008.

Cassie Bellamy (05) is a critical care pharmacist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Makala Malkovich Pace (04) is BCOP certified and currently the clinical pharmacy specialist in the thoracic, head and neck areas at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and expecting her first child in February 2008.

Shannon Stoker (05) is in Durham, North Carolina where her husband is a dental student. They are the parents of two children.

Matt Geraci (06) completed a PGY-1 residency in Florida and is in Jacksonville, FL working at Baptist Hospital. He recently published "Mustard Gas; Imminent Danger or Eminent Threat?" in The Annals of Pharmacotherapy.

Marci Pope Wall (05) is Infusion Services Operations Supervisor for University Health Care in Salt Lake City. She married Jeremy Wall last fall 2007.

Benjamin Van Tassel (05) is a Cardiovascular Pharmacology Fellow at the University of Utah College Of Pharmacy. He received the 2007 Best Resident and Fellow Poster award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy at the fall 2007 meeting. In addition he received the 2007 – 2008 Clinical Pharmacy Post-PharmD Fellowship award in the Biomedical Research Sciences from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education.

Leslie Draper Jensen (06) is Drug Information Specialist / Clinical Pharmacist for Surgical Services at University Hospital. She completed a PGY-1 residency at the University of Utah Medical Center after receiving her PharmD in 2006. Leslie married Michael Jensen in April 2007.
Susanna Ku (03) is clinical pharmacist, University Hospital Internal Medicine Service in Salt Lake City.

Kari Stonely (03) is a Certified Diabetes Educator. She recently moved to San Diego and works for the Kroger Company.

Lara Smith Au (05) and Cam Au (06) completed residencies (Lara oncology specialty and Cam general practice) at University Health Care and moved to Hawaii in July 2007.

Dwayne Kisby (04) is Chief Pharmacist and Diagnostic and Therapeutic Flight Commander at Vandenberg Air Force Base. He is responsible for Pharmacy, Lab, and Radiology at an outpatient clinic. He received the 2007 Pharmacist of the Year award for Air Force Space Command, was the Fred Coleman Award Winner and Company Grade Officer of the Year 2007 for the 30th Medical Group at Vandenberg AFB. He and his wife are expecting their 3rd son in March 2008.

Karen Gunning (97) received the 2007 USHP Pharmacist of the Year award this past fall. She was recently named to the BPS Pharmacotherapy council. Her son Will celebrated his 2nd Birthday in January 2008.

Chris Laman (05) is a staff pharmacist at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, OR. He and his wife Grace are expecting their second son in April 2008.

Alissa Raines (06) is back from Texas and practices at IMC. She recently passed the BCPS exam in pharmacotherapy.

If you would like to submit updates on alumni of the college, please email us at: alumni@pharm.utah.edu

We need your up-to-date email addresses and contact information!!! Please visit our website at pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni to register online. We would love to keep in touch with you!

Call for nominations!!! Please visit our website at pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni to learn how to nominate a colleague for the Dean L. David and Janet C. Hiner Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni Award. Nominations are due by July 31, 2008.

We need your up-to-date email addresses and contact information!!! Please visit our website at pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni to register online. We would love to keep in touch with you!
STUDENTS TO GET ENHANCED CLEANROOM EXPERIENCE AND STERILE PRODUCT COMPLIANCE

By William J. Rusho, RPh, MS

The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) published chapter 797- Pharmaceutical Compounding-Sterile Preparations, in January 2004. This chapter has been adopted by the state of Utah and compliance is required as stated in the Utah Pharmacy Practice Act Rules. While the chapter has undergone several revisions, one section that has remained constant is the requirement for employee training. USP <797> requires employees to pass a written examination and a media-fill test where the employee simulates sterile product preparation using culture media. In a phone conversation with the chair of the USP <797> committee, I asked how this would affect colleges of pharmacy. His response was shocking; he expected to put the burden on the hospitals to train pharmacy students. A quick survey of several directors of pharmacy confirmed my suspicion, hospitals could not afford to train students for the short duration when the students prepare sterile products. Without this certification, students could not participate in sterile product preparations when on their institutional rotations.

For the past four years, students at the college have been required to pass a written examination and a media-fill prior to any institutional rotations. By USP standards this certification is only valid for one year. Students are issued a certificate showing they have passed these tests to show the preceptor.
Previously the college has had two unidirectional airflow hoods in a room adjacent to the Dispensing Lab. This room was slightly larger than a broom closet and would only accommodate four students at a time. Because of the cramped conditions, the college set out to find a larger area. The Medicinal Chemistry Department graciously gave up room 23 in Skaggs Hall. During the summer of 2007 the room was remodeled as a simulated cleanroom. It was decided that making the room into an ISO-7 cleanroom was cost prohibitive and we did not upgrade the air handling system to include HEPA filtration. The simulated cleanroom includes all of the requirements set forth by USP <797> except the air handling system. The floors are single sheet vinyl with heat welded seams and coved at the walls and corners. The walls have been epoxy painted for ease of cleaning and the ceiling is vinyl coated tiles. Sinks in the anteroom are hands free with warm air dryers to avoid particles from paper towels. In the cleanroom we have two- six foot hoods, three- three foot hoods, one four-foot BSC cabinet and a three foot barrier isolator. We have room for several more hoods when funds become available. Intermountain Health Care graciously donated the three-three foot hoods when they closed some satellite pharmacies at PCMC.

This new facility will better prepare students for working with sterile products. While they will have basic knowledge and skills, the college will still depend upon preceptors to hone these skills.
Phung Nguon Matthews

Phung is a strong patient advocate who recognizes first-hand the many obstacles that people must maneuver in order to obtain the health care they need. These obstacles include language barriers for those for whom English is a second language, as well as inadequate health insurance coverage. She decided to pursue a career in pharmacy to provide assistance to patients as both a resource and a reference. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Westminster College (Salt Lake City, Utah) in 2002 majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She has taken on additional course work during her pharmacy graduate studies to become a certified Service Learning Scholar through the Bennion Center at the University of Utah.

In addition to her academic work, Phung has been a member of USPA and has served as VP of student affairs, VP of membership, Chair for Operation Diabetes and Operation Immunization. She continues to work with Salt Lake Aging Services and Senior Expo to schedule, organize and hold health fairs for older citizens in the Salt Lake Area. She has participated in and served as a board member of UOCA, Utah Chapter of the OCA (formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans).

The generous support of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Scholarship has helped Phung to devote more time to her studies and has allowed her to have a greater level of involvement in student / professional leadership roles, as well as volunteer efforts in the community.

Phung is currently employed at the University of Utah Hospital Inpatient Pharmacy as well as Rite Aid Pharmacy. The diversity of these practice sites allows her to gain experience in both hospital and community patient care. She is a recent bride and shares her home with her new husband and two wonderful dogs. She will graduate in May of 2008.

Pictured: Winter Chan, Amanda Gallegos, Maysam Mortazavi, Phung Nguon Matthews, Megan Dryer, Paul Martz, Lisa Davies, Alan Shih.
Monique Hall

Monique is a non-traditional student who has returned to graduate school after a 15+ year career in engineering. When she graduated from high school in the 1980s, her goal was to become either a pharmacist or an engineer. She chose to pursue engineering, graduating in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas). Several years ago, she began planning to return to school to finally become a pharmacist. While working for a process equipment company during the day, she completed her Pharmacy Technician certification classes in the evening at Salt Lake Community College and obtained her national certification in 2003. Part-time Pharmacy Technician work soon became full-time as she completed the pre-requisite courses to apply to the PharmD program at the University of Utah.

“...The scholarship also conveys to the recipient the confidence...that the recipient has the skills and determination needed to succeed...”

Monique has been active in student leadership and was elected as the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Representative for the PharmD Class of 2009. She has served as a volunteer at health fairs for Operation Diabetes, Senior Expo and University of Utah Student Health Services. She recently completed training with the American Lung Association as an instructor for “Open Airways”, a school-based asthma management education program for children ages 8 to 11.

As a recipient of a College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Scholarship, Monique feels your support goes far beyond the much-needed financial assistance. The scholarship also conveys to the recipient the confidence of the Alumni Association that the recipient has the skills and determination needed to succeed in the profession of pharmacy.

Monique is currently employed at the Utah Poison Control Center as a Poison Information Provider. Due to a leave of absence in spring semester of 2007 (to care for a terminally ill family member) she will graduate as a member of the PharmD Class of 2010.
Comments or suggestions? We would love to hear from you. Please email us at: alumni@pharm.utah.edu

Interested in serving on the board? We are always looking for help from our great alumni. Meetings are held each month at the Loynd Lounge at the College of Pharmacy. Please email us for more information. Thanks for your support!

SAVE THE DATE!
ALUMNI CE/SHAKESPEARE PLAY IN CEDAR CITY!!!
August 15th & 16th, 2008

The Alumni Association and College of Pharmacy are planning a CE in Cedar City on Friday, August 15th, 2008. Following the CE program we will gather to attend a play at the world renowned Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City, Utah. The fun continues on Saturday, August 16th, where we will participate in a special Shakespeare tour followed by an afternoon play. More details to follow on our website. Please send us an email if you are interested in attending this event. (alumni@pharm.utah.edu)

“Advancing Pharmacy, Serving Utah”