White Coat Ceremony –
A great tradition... a great opportunity

White coat ceremonies are conducted in health profession programs as an event to mark the student’s transition from preclinical studies to professional training. The tradition was started at the Pritzker School of Medicine in Chicago in 1989. The first full-fledged ceremony took place in 1993 at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Beginning in 1995, pharmacy schools in the United States began holding white coat ceremonies; the first pharmacy white coat ceremony was held at the University of Kentucky. The focus of pharmacy school white coat ceremonies is on professional responsibility.

The first white coat ceremony at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy was held in October 2002 for the PharmD class which graduated in 2006. That was the first “all PharmD” class at the University of Utah. Dean John W. Mauger conducted the services and Dean Emeritus Harold Wolf was the guest speaker.

The University of Utah College of Pharmacy has continued the annual tradition of welcoming students to their professional studies via a White Coat ceremony each year. Each student takes the “Pharmacy Student’s Pledge of Professionalism” as a guide during their course of study.

A White Coat Ceremony for the incoming class of pharmacy students (class of 2015) was held on August 26, 2011 in the picturesque setting of Rice-Eccles stadium. The ceremonies included the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus of the year to Evan Vickers and an excellent speech by Dr. David Sundwall. Professors David C. Young and James H. Ruble presented each student with his/her white coat.

This year, for the very first time,
Topping Off Ceremony

The Topping Off Ceremony for the new L. S. Skaggs Pharmacy Research building was held on August 26, 2011. This event celebrated the placing of the last steel beam in the construction of the new research building. The final beam was signed by donors, faculty, staff, students and those who are working on the construction site before it was hoisted into place. The event was attended by about 100 people.

Dean Chris Ireland, Interim University President A. Lorris Betz, Ronny Cutshall (President, ALSAM Foundation), and John Wright (JacobSEN Construction) each shared their remarks about the project. The crowd gathered and watched the steel beam as it was placed. Refreshments were served in the west courtyard where attendees “topped off” ice cream sundaes. The building’s anticipated opening is Fall 2012.

Photos from 2002 and 2011 ceremonies.

White Coat Ceremony, Cont’d from p. 1

alumni from the College were invited to sponsor the white coats for the incoming class. This gave alumni the opportunity to meet and develop a relationship with an incoming student, thus providing an opportunity to serve as a mentor throughout the student’s professional training.

The Alumni Association of the College of Pharmacy would like to thank those who contributed to the white coats for the class of 2015. Although the notification was sent just a few weeks prior to the ceremony, every one of the 60 white coats for the students was sponsored by a member of the alumni.

Alumni will have the opportunity to sponsor white coats for the students each year. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact the Alumni Association at COPAlumni@umail.utah.edu or call Ryan Boyack (801-581-8704) or Marion Lennberg (801-581-7503).

White Coat Ceremony, Cont’d on p. 7
Scholarship Campaign

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association is holding a scholarship campaign from now until March 15, 2012. The University of Utah’s central development office has agreed to match any new scholarship gifts to the college up to a total of $10,000. In addition, Dean Ireland has agreed to match new scholarship gifts.

These incentives give our alumni the ability to triple the amount of their gifts to student scholarships. Any donation will increase by a factor of three; a $250 donation will become $750 or $500 will become $1,500. In addition, any new scholarship donation over $500 (which will become $1,500) will allow the donor(s) the option of naming the scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Donations can be made through the College of Pharmacy website or you can contact Ryan Boyack, Director of Development, at (801) 581-8704 or ryan.boyack@utah.edu. Please contact Ryan with any questions related to donations.

The Alumni Association encourages you to consider a donation to support the students who are pursuing opportunities to join the pharmacy profession.

Career Fair

The College of Pharmacy held its annual Career Fair on Wednesday, October 5th. Companies in attendance were Shopko, RxRelief, Walgreens, Target, University of Utah Health Care, Kmart Corporation, Utah Poison Control Center, Rite Aid, Harmons, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Walmart, Smith’s Food and Drug, Indian Health Service and Intermountain Health Care. The event was well attended and vendors remarked that this event flowed very smoothly. Special thanks to Richard (Rico) Haftmann for his organizing and setting up this event and his able assistants – Emmeline Tran, Bradly Winter, Adrienne Duarte and Kate Walters.
2011 Alumnus of the Year Named

Evan Vickers Receives Dean L. David and Janet Hiner University of Utah College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award

Representative Evan Vickers (BS ’77), owner of Bullock Drug in Cedar City, Utah and representative of District 72 in the Utah State House of Representatives was this year’s recipient of the Dean L. David and Janet Hiner University of Utah College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award. The award was presented by Dr. Jeff Olson (PharmD ’04), President of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association, at the annual University of Utah College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony on August 26, 2011.

The Hiner Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award is presented annually to a graduate of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy who

- Demonstrates continued commitment to the College of Pharmacy (examples include: teaching, precepting, volunteering or philanthropy)
- Contributes meaningfully to the pharmacy profession (examples include clinical, business, academic, research, industry, administrator, or other)
- Positively reflect the aims and the academic mission of the College of Pharmacy.

Representative Vickers is an excellent example of a graduate who has demonstrated a commitment to the college and contributed significantly to the profession. He serves as a leader both within and outside the profession. His list of professional and civic service is lengthy: United Drug chairman; Utah Pharmacists Association Board Member; Cedar City Councilman; Iron Mission Foundation Board member; Cedar City/Iron County Chamber of Commerce member. He has been an inspiration to countless pharmacy students, including two of his own children who followed his footsteps and entered the profession of pharmacy as graduates of the University of Utah.

Congratulations to Representative Evan Vickers!! We are honored to count him as a graduate of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy.

Nominations for the 2012 award are due in early July 2012. Submissions must include a letter outlining how the nominee meets the award criteria and why they are deserving of the award. For more details visit the Alumni Association website: http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni/.
Alumni-Student Softball Game

“Alumni flex their muscles, beat students 15-8”

The fourth annual Alumni versus Students softball game was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at Sunnyside Park in Salt Lake City. Picture-perfect field conditions with mild temperatures provided an ideal setting for this annual matchup. Both students and alumni came ready to play, with a solid turnout from alumni and students from the second, third, and fourth year classes.

The student team was lead by 4th year student Chaz Washington while the alumni squad was lead by Jeff Olson (class of 2004). The student team started off strong and took an early 3-2 lead after the first inning, thanks to the strong play of Taben Main, Stephanie Adams, Logan Kelly, Emily Turley, and others. The lead was short-lived however, as the alumni came roaring back in the second inning, highlighted by an impressive opposite field home run off the bat of Craig Aramaki.

Craig’s home run was followed by home runs from Jim Webster and Jameson Rice, giving the alumni a 6-3 lead after two innings.

Not to be outdone, the students came back with two home runs of their own off the bats of Chaz Washington and Cole Sloan. Solid defense and hearty play enabled the students to keep the score close through the middle innings. However, alumni home-run power proved too much, as additional home runs by alumni Devere Day, Craig Aramaki (his second) and Tom Sanders gave the alumni squad a commanding lead, resulting in a 15-8 victory over the student team. The victory allowed the alumni team to remain undefeated against the students in this annual tradition.

As in past years, plenty of traditional softball food favorites were at hand to add to the festivities, including hot dogs, chips, and drinks. A special thank you again this year to Harmon’s grocery store for providing the food. Also, thanks again to Marion Lennberg, Marianne Jensen, and Dave Bardsley for their hard work in planning and organizing this annual tradition. We look forward to having another great turnout in 2012 as both teams reunite for this annual traditional.
The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association sponsored the 4th annual continuing education (CE) event in Cedar City, Utah on Saturday, August 6, 2011. Attendees participated in two excellent and informative presentations by Dave Young, member of the Utah State Board of Pharmacy and faculty member of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy. Dr. Young shared information on recent updates to Utah pharmacy law and regulations with his presentation entitled “The Last Chance for the Latest Update (Law 2011)”. He challenged participants with a live quiz show type game – and everyone passed! Dr. Young also conducted a session titled “Your Asthma Device and You” which informed participants of differences between various types of administration devices for respiratory medications. Participants were able to test and try different types of demonstration devices in order to get a real “hands on” feel.

In addition to the great educational content, participants were able to enjoy plays and activities at the Utah Shakespeare Festival – including fantastic productions of *The Music Man*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Noises Off*!

The Alumni Association wishes to thank the Festival Hall Convention Center for providing such excellent facilities. And thanks to the Garden House restaurant for the delicious food provided for all in attendance.

The Alumni Association will host another “Shakespeare and CE” event in Cedar City next August. Attendees will receive CE credits (live and law) and have the opportunity to attend plays and activities at the Utah Shakespearean Festival (with a discount available on tickets). Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 4, 2012.
List of White Coat Sponsors:

Darrell J Adams
Craig and Tina Aramaki
Abby Atherton
Cassie Atkinson
Martene Barker
LaFaye Bergman
Gary Bishoff
Richard Cox
John Eckersley
Tyler Faux
Amanda Gallegos
Erin Grussendorf
Karen Gunning
Monique Hall
Marianne Jensen
Carolyn Kowalchik
Phung Matthews
Frances Mielach
Kerri Miller
Maysam Mortazavi
Julie and Mark Munger
Jeff Olson
Patricia Orlando
Makala Pace
Jerry Parker
Charles Ponte
Winter Redd
Jameson Rice
Barbara Roper
Jim Ruble
Linda Sandberg
Benson Sederholm
Chris Stock
Koby Taylor
Evan Vickers
Amy Waller
Beth and James Williams
Betty Yamashita
On September 8th, the University of Utah College of Pharmacy Alumni Association sponsored a reunion event in Orange, California, just prior to the football game between the Utah Utes and the USC Trojans. Approximately twenty alumni from the University of Utah College of Pharmacy gathered at Watson Drug and soda fountain to reconnect and reminisce.

Watson Drugs and Soda Fountain (an old-time pharmacy and diner) is owned by Scott E. Parker ’70. After graduation from the College of Pharmacy, Scott moved to southern California. Scott worked at Watson for nearly five years before purchasing the business (35 years ago). Scott has seen the business grow over the years and has very loyal customers in both the pharmacy and the diner. He recently sold the pharmacy side of the business to Walgreen’s but kept the diner and gift shop. Scott moved with Walgreen’s a couple of blocks away but visitors can still find him in the diner quite often.

College of Pharmacy Dean Chris Ireland and his wife Mary Kay attended the event as well as the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association President Jeff Olson and his wife Kara. Scott has offered to host the event again in the fall of 2012. An Alumni Association event will be planned in conjunction with the Utah vs. UCLA game.

Please check the Alumni Association website for updates on the plans for the 2012 Southern California event: www.pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni/

On October 7, 2011 a new tradition was born for the University of Utah College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. The first annual Alumni Banquet was held in the Williams Building in Research Park. The event was well attended by over 100 alumni and friends. Graduates from every decade (1950s to the present) were represented at the dinner. Great food and music was enjoyed by all. The music for the event was provided by the “Zen Trio”; one of the trio is Mike Cameron, an academic coordinator in the College of Pharmacy.

Dean Ireland made a significant announcement during the event in an effort to aid children of College of Pharmacy alumni to attend the University of Utah. Beginning next year, Dean Ireland, through the Alumni Association, will sponsor five $4,000 Legacy Scholarships to children of College of Pharmacy alumni. The requirements for the scholarships are two-fold: 1) Be a child of a University of Utah College of Pharmacy alumnus; 2) Obtain admittance to the University of Utah College of Pharmacy.

I look forward to meeting you and other alumni at the second annual alumni banquet in 2012. The event is certain to grow. Watch for updates in future editions of the newsletter and on the Alumni Association website.
Annual ASHP Midyear Meeting
UTAH RECEPTION
New Orleans, LA
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
Oak Alley Room

Monday, December 5
6:00-8:00 pm
light refreshments will be served