The deadline for nominating fellow alumni for the University of Utah College of Pharmacy Dean L. David and Janet C. Hiner Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year Award is fast approaching.

President’s Message
by Jeff Olson, Alumni Association President

The deadline for nominating fellow alumni for the University of Utah College of Pharmacy Dean L. David and Janet C. Hiner Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year Award is fast approaching. The deadline for receiving nominations is July 9, 2010.

The Hiner Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year Award is presented annually to an alumnus of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy who has demonstrated continued commitment to the College of Pharmacy and positively reflects the aims and academic mission of the college. Winners also exhibit a strong commitment to the profession of pharmacy. As in the past, the award will be presented at the White Coat Ceremony in August.

Recent winners have exhibited all these qualities and more. Past winners include:

° 2009: Linda Tyler, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics

° 2008: Nannette Berensen, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, Director of Pharmacy, Intermountain Medical Center

NOMINATE SOMEONE NOW!

To nominate someone for the Hiner Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year Award, please submit a letter of recommendation describing how the individual fulfills the criteria detailed. Include with that the name, title and contact information of yourself and nominee, along with a brief description of your relationship to the nominee. Nominations may be submitted to: Jeff Olson, PharmD, BCPS, Department of Pharmacy 5121 S. Cottonwood St. Murray, UT 84157 jeff.olson@imail.org
Meet Interim Dean, Dr. Chris M. Ireland

by Monique Hall

When Dr. John Mauger retired as Dean from the College of Pharmacy last year, Dr. Chris M. Ireland was appointed as Interim Dean.

Interim Dean Ireland’s formal education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from the University of California, San Diego followed by a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He began his career in the world of pharmacy in 1980 when he was hired as an Assistant Professor to teach pharmacognosy at the University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy. In 1983, Dr. Ireland made the move to the University of Utah serving as an Assistant Professor for the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the College of Pharmacy and as an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Department of Chemistry. He served in these roles and continued to advance progressing to Professor for the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Adjunct Professor for the Department of Chemistry in 1991 before being appointed as Chair for the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy in 2002.

With his strong background in medicinal chemistry and oceanography, Dr. Ireland founded the Ireland Research Group early in his career to explore the bounty of the ocean as a means of discovering novel chemical compounds with unique medicinal qualities capable of treating disease. Members of the research team are very proud of their work in which >100 distinct marine natural products that exhibit anti-tumor properties have been identified and characterized. Interim Dean Ireland notes this research is an expansion of the time-tested practice of using various plants and bacteria in developing new drugs which was limited to land until technology advanced to allow safe exploration of the depths of the seas. Securing new leadership for the Ireland Research Group to ensure continued seamless success was a responsibility Dr. Ireland thoughtfully planned and implemented before being able to consider serving the College of Pharmacy in his new role.

Dr. Ireland views his move to the position of Interim Dean as a natural progression of his career which allowed him to start as a young professor and researcher mentoring graduate students, to the next step as Department Chair mentoring faculty, and on to Interim Dean where he can now play an integral part in continuing the culture of academic excellence by being involved in the development of programs to maintain the highest standards of education for world-caliber pharmacy professionals. At the University of Utah College of Pharmacy students receive training based upon sound educational goals so they may advance to becoming exceptional pharmacy practitioners. Educational benchmarks are held to the highest Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) standards which enable Doctor of Pharmacy candidates from the University of Utah to become local, regional, national and global pharmacy leaders not just simply pass the NAPLEX.

Interim Dean Ireland sees funding as one of the major challenges for both the College of Pharmacy and graduate students enrolled in the various PharmD and PhD programs. Through hard work and meaningful research the College of Pharmacy continues to earn numerous grants each year as funding from the State of Utah has declined. The College is currently ranked No. 4 in the nation by the National Institutes of Health for research productivity while the level of State support has dropped to cover a meager 13% of the annual operating expenses of the College. In order to make up for the shortfall and maintain faculty and other resources tuition has increased dramatically. Dr. Ireland believes that scholarship support from Alumni and friends of the College of Pharmacy will remain a critical part of helping the next generation of pharmacist to thrive in a financial atmosphere that is very different from what it was less than 6 years ago. For students enrolled in the PharmD program prior to the 2005-2006 academic year, a typical 16 credit hour semester carried a price tag of $6,558.69. This fall students entering the program will see that costs have risen by over $2,500 a semester to $9,117.06 which adds an estimated $25,000 just in tuition for new students as compared to those who enrolled prior to 2005.

“Dr. Ireland has played an integral part in the success of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, as well as the College of Pharmacy at the University of Utah for over 25 years.”
This year, we were able to raise money for THREE $1000 scholarships because of donations and other fund-raising efforts.

We didn’t meet our goal for FIVE $1000 scholarships, but we hope to get a head start for 2010-2011.

Interim Dean Ireland acknowledges that the College of Pharmacy is also suffering from growing pains. The addition of the Health Science Education Building (HSEB) provided a state of the art learning center to address the educational needs of those in the health sciences but what it adds in lecture, clinical training, and office space still falls short of what is needed to maintain and expand research enterprises. Currently many entities of the College of Pharmacy, which include the Utah Poison Control Center and Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center, are spread out in five different locations around campus. The planned construction of the L.S. Skaggs Pharmacy Institute will help consolidate the College of Pharmacy a move that Interim Dean Ireland feels will help solidify the atmosphere of collegiality and growth.

Days typically run long at the University for Interim Dean Ireland, as well as his wife, Mary Kay Harper, who is an active researcher and team member of the Ireland Research Group. They have a daily routine they follow most weekdays after leaving the College of Pharmacy that includes working out at the gym and then a trip to a local grocery store to shop for fresh ingredients for the evening meal. The Irelands have an extensive assortment of international cookbooks collected from their world travels and each evening is an opportunity for them to experiment with a new recipe or recreate a fond favorite. A fitting way to relax before taking on the next days tasks of keeping the College of Pharmacy strong and ready for any challenge the future may bring.

A Year of Donations and Activities
by Abby Atherton and Winter Redd

Why choose to donate to the Alumni Association? The Alumni Association has a goal every year to provide money to students for tuition.

This year, we were able to raise money for THREE $1000 scholarships because of donations and other fund-raising efforts. We didn’t meet our goal for FIVE $1000 scholarships, but we hope to get a head start for 2010-2011.

The Alumni Association works hard to organize various activities. These activities provide opportunities to reconnect and network with previous graduates and current students.

The Alumni Association is committed to providing a quality continuing education (CE) program every year. We also encourage attendees to take in a play at the Cedar City CE Shakespearean Festival. The Association organizes various recreational activities such as discount tickets for a U of U Men’s basketball game and of course the annual alumni golf tournament. Because of your donations, the new graduates will receive a gift basket at the Awards Banquet, welcoming them into the Alumni Association.

There are many ways to donate. Please consider a one-time donation or a monthly payroll deduction. Beginning with the next issue, we are offering advertising space in our newsletter—consider advertising with us or encouraging other businesses to advertise. All your donations will go to help our current students and to provide you many opportunities to socialize, give back, learn, and participate.
Alumni Association Activities

Holiday Food Drive 2009
by Benson Sederholm

Working together to provide food to needy families is becoming a trend for members of the College of Pharmacy and University of Utah community. For the second year in a row, a friendly competition was held between College of Pharmacy faculty, friends, alumni and each class of students to see which group would donate the most pounds of food to support the Utah Food Bank.

During the first weeks of December 2009, five large 40-gallon barrels were placed in the lobby of Skaggs Hall as a drop-off point for canned food and dry good donations. Students from each class were encouraged to bring a can or two of food with them as they came to campus and leave it in the barrel provided for their class. The response was tremendous as many students brought multiple items and filled the barrels with cans of beans, soup, fruits, and vegetables. Not to be outdone, faculty, alumni, and friends of the College likewise were very generous and provided many cans of food.

When the final count was done, the third-year class came away having the most donations and were declared winners of the annual Food Drive competition. In recognition of their efforts, the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association provided a delicious array of breakfast bagels to all third-year students prior to morning classes on January 25, 2010.

The College of Pharmacy Food Drive was one of several food drives held on the University of Utah Campus during Fall Semester 2009. Including the University Health Care, Rivalry Week Utah-BYU, and College of Pharmacy Food Drives, approximately 300,000 pounds of food were donated to the Utah Food Bank. Thanks to all who contributed and helped support this important cause of providing food to the needy and low-income families of Utah.

Gala and Charity Auction to benefit the Maliheh Free Clinic
by Benson Sederholm

The Second Annual Gala and Charity Auction supporting the Maliheh Free Clinic was held on February 25, 2010 at the Rice Eccles Stadium.

The event, though only in its second year, was a huge success! Over 400 people attended. The auction items were well received and ranged from Jazz tickets to original paintings. There were many graduates of the College who attended and participated in the auction.

This event brings together faculty, current students, and graduates in a warm atmosphere. This year the student organization will be able to give $6,000 to the Maliheh Clinic.

Cheerin’ on the Utes Basketball team
By Tyler Faux

February 26th was the second annual Alumni Association basketball outing. We were treated to an exciting game between the Runnin’ Utes and the Wyoming Cowboys. The Utes kept the game close enough to be interesting before pulling away late in the second half for the win. It was a good opportunity to reconnect with pharmacy alumni and enjoy a great game. We hope to have more alumni in attendance at next year’s event. Thanks again for all who participated.
The Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) is a program of the College of Pharmacy and housed in the Department of Pharmacotherapy. The UPCC is a 24-hour resource for poison information, clinical toxicology consultation and poison prevention education. Staffed by pharmacists and nurses, the UPCC responded to over 56,000 calls for assistance in 2009.

National Poison Prevention Week is March 14-20, 2010. National Poison Prevention Week was established by an act of Congress through the efforts of a Missouri pharmacist and subsequently signed into law by President John F. Kennedy on September 16, 1961. The theme for National Poison Prevention Week is “Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons”. While poison prevention activities are encouraged year round, National Poison Prevention Week provides us with the opportunity to raise awareness to the dangers of poisons and how to prevent them.

We invite you to visit our website at www.utahpoisoncontrol.org to explore the resources available from the UPCC. Check out our newsletters the “Poison Antidote”, providing poison prevention tips on timely topics and “Toxicology Today” highlighting important clinical toxicology issues for health professionals. Choose “Education and Prevention” for poison prevention tips, a comprehensive list of educational materials, to order materials and to access the “Poison Antidote” newsletter. Choose “Health Professionals” to access “Toxicology Today” and choose “About Us” to learn more about the UPCC and access our annual reports. Check out the cool Poisonous Plant database and finally sign up for your own copy of either or both of our newsletters by following the link on the home page.

By Dr. Barbara Crouch
**Golf is here!**

**Alumni Golf Tournament**

**Tickets On Sale Now**

**June 16th**

At “The Ranches”

Save the Day...

**When:** JUNE 16, 2010

**Where:** The Ranches
4128 East Clubhouse Lane
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

**Time:** Join us at 7:30 AM for a shotgun start and scramble format.

**Price:** Cost remains the same at $95.00, which includes: Continental breakfast, cart, green fee, & luncheon!

**Online registration:**
http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni/news_events.html

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