The University of Utah recently welcomed a new class of pharmacy students into the professional program. Certainly these students were eager to start and excited about the educational opportunities ahead. You might recall your first days at the college and the excitement you felt as you met new friends and instructors and began learning about medications. I dare say that members of this class are thinking of one thing that many of us did not…”Will I have a job when I graduate?”

The job market for pharmacists is very different now than it was 5, 10, or 20 years ago. Even two years ago, new graduates had numerous options from which to select as their initial place of employment. The downturn in the economy, increased healthcare costs and increased numbers of pharmacy graduates have all combined to create a job market that is very different from those of the past. Downsizing at some hospitals has even led to pharmacists looking for employment elsewhere.

I routinely ask new students starting on rotation with me, “What area of pharmacy do you hope to practice in upon graduation?” For many years I would receive the expected array of responses: retail, hospital, ambulatory care, academia or the proverbial “I don’t know”. But recently, I am receiving a much different response from students in their final year of graduation, “I hope I can find a job when I graduate!” It’s amazing to me to see such a difference in only a few short years.

With every challenge, however, comes an opportunity. The opportunity to re-evaluate our profession and our individual practice setting will be important. We must become more efficient in our practice. Expanding our knowledge and training will benefit us as individuals and the profession as a whole. Re-establishing connections with classmates and past colleagues will be important if we change employment or are forced to find employment as a result of downsizing.

The Alumni Association is here to aid alumni in staying connected with the college and each other. Regular Alumni Association events help promote networking opportunities.

The Alumni Association is here to aid alumni in staying connected with the college and each other. Regular Alumni Association events help promote networking opportunities. Employment opportunities are frequently posted on our website: http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni/employment.html. I encourage you to get involved with the Alumni Association. Invite your classmates and colleagues. We look forward to meeting and associating with each of you in the near future as we face the future’s uncertainty.
When Dr. John Mauger retired as Dean from the College of Pharmacy last year, Dr. Chris M. Ireland was appointed as Interim Dean. At first glance, Dr. Ireland may seem an unlikely candidate for this appointment since he has no formal training in pharmacy, but don’t let a first impression fool you. 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.

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.

Dr. Tina Aramaki (BS ’80), Director of Pharmacy Services at Intermountain Healthcare, 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. Marianne Jensen (PharmD ’03), a member of the Alumni Association Board, at the annual University of Utah College of Pharmacy Whitecoat Ceremony on August 27, 2010.

The Hiner Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award is presented annually to a graduate of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy that 1) demonstrates continued commitment to the College of Pharmacy (examples include: teaching, precepting, volunteering, philanthropy, or other); 2) Contributes meaningfully to the pharmacy profession (examples include: clinical, business, academic, research, industry, administrator, or other); and 3) Positively reflect the aims and the academic mission of the College of Pharmacy. Nominations for the 2011 award are due in early July 2011. Submissions must include a letter outlining how the nominee meets these criteria and why they are deserving of the award. For more details visit the Alumni Association website: http://www.pharmacy.utah.edu/alumni/.

Dr. Aramaki is an excellent example of a graduate who has demonstrated a commitment to the college and contributed significantly to the profession. She is an innovator within the profession and has worked to improve the level of pharmacy practice at Intermountain’s smaller hospitals to more closely match that of the larger facilities. In September she completed a one-year term as President of the Utah Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (USHP) and is now serving as the past-president.

Dedication to the college is clear when one considers the fact that Dr. Aramaki has been precepting students since 1985. She received the Preceptor of the Year Award in 1998. Additionally, she has assisted the college in several different courses in teaching the topics of hospital pharmacy practice, professional organizations, and managed healthcare. One comment from a recent clerkship student is indicative of the type of positive remarks she receives on her evaluations. “[Dr. Aramaki] was always willing to answer our questions or discuss topics with us despite the fact that she had tons of things to do; she was generous with her time. She was also excited about the difference a person could make in a pharmacy management position, and that excitement was contagious and made the clerkship very interesting for me.”

Congratulations to Dr. Tina Aramaki!! We are honored to count her as a graduate of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy.
A small but determined team of pharmacy students looked to record their first win against the Alumni team at the 3rd Annual Alumni versus Students softball game held on September 8, 2010 at Sunnyside Park. Trailing by five runs going into the bottom of the last inning, the Alumni team rallied with key hits from Jeff Olson and Tom Cheatham. With the winning runs on base, Dean Ireland stepped to bat. On the first pitch from Taben Main, he powered a solid hit down the first-base line to drive in the tying and winning runs.

The victory gave the Alumni team their second consecutive win over the Student team, (the first-ever game ended in a tie). As in previous years, there was plenty of food on hand for all who attended. Hotdogs, cookies, chips, and drinks were enjoyed by the players and all who came to watch the action on the field.

A special thank you from the Alumni Association to Harmons grocery store for supplying the food. Also, thanks again to Dave Bardsley for umpiring the game and to Marianne Jensen and Marion Lennberg for help arranging the food.

The Student squad will look to capture their first win against the Alumni squad next Fall 2011. Mark your calendars for early September and watch the Alumni Association website and newsletter for specific details.
The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association sponsored the 3rd annual continuing education (CE) event in Cedar City, Utah on Saturday, August 7, 2010. Attendees participated in two excellent and informative presentations by Dave Young and Koby Taylor. Dave Young shared information on recent updates to Utah pharmacy law — describing changes to the Utah Pharmacy Practice Act. He challenged participants with a live “quiz show” type game — and everyone passed! Koby Taylor helped participants to take glucose meters “out of the box” to know about the features of the different types of meters. He also shared ideas on how pharmacists can help patients to increase their success in self-monitoring of blood glucose.

In addition to the great educational content, participants were able to enjoy plays and activities at the Utah Shakespearean Festival — including noteworthy productions of Macbeth, Merchant of Venice and Much Ado About Nothing.

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 its next “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 the Utah Shakespearean Festival (with a discount available on tickets).

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 6, 2011.
Alumni Association is pleased to recognize two recent graduates from the College who, within the past year, have pursued their dreams of opening independent pharmacies. Both pharmacies, located within the Salt Lake Valley have reached out to establish collaborative-practice environments with the health care providers in their immediate vicinities and have seen their businesses steadily grow as a result. Bart Smith opened the South Valley Compounding Pharmacy in November 2009 and Jeff Gatzemeier opened the Oquirrh Mountain Pharmacy in January 2010. In a recent interview with members of the Alumni board, Jeff and Bart shared their insights on the challenges and opportunities of running independent pharmacies. We present here, in their own words, their thoughts on running an independent retail pharmacy.

“I have enjoyed the opportunity to build a business and meet a growing need in this area of the valley. Patients are surprised to call a pharmacy and get a real person to pick up the phone. We are small enough we recognize most people when they come to get their prescriptions. We also have the time to listen to the patients’ needs and help manage medications for those who have multiple prescriptions. Although we specialize in compounded medications, we have many people who come by just for their traditional medications and over-the-counter products. One aspect of my business that I particularly enjoy is actively working with local physicians to find more cost-effective ways of treating people. The response I have received has been positive and I hope to continue to establish these professional relationships. In terms of growth, we have seen steady growth each month in the number of compounded and traditional prescriptions we have filled. Overall, I would say that we have been very happy with store performance our first year.”

Bart Smith, PharmD class of 2006

“Ever since graduating in 2006 I have always wanted to own my own pharmacy. After working for a local retail chain for several years, I finally found the right opportunity and we opened Oquirrh Mountain Pharmacy on January 25, 2010. We are located in Magna in the new Magna Medical Center which is a collection of different medical practices conveniently located together in the same building. Our building houses an urgent care clinic, a family-practice group of physicians, a cardiologist, an eye doctor, a dentist, a physical therapist, an imaging center, a rotating specialty clinic, and our pharmacy. My sister, Michelle Speckman RPh (class of 1999), and I have partnered together to get this pharmacy started and have been very excited about our growth so far and the potential of the business. We both love the opportunity this pharmacy gives us to work side-by-side with our doctors to help provide the best medical care to our patients. As we move forward, we are working to draft a collaborative practice agreement with our doctors that would provide us even greater chances to influence patient care. In addition we hope to add compounding and vaccinations to the services that we offer this coming year.”

Jeff Gatzemeier, PharmD class of 2006

Congratulations to Jeff and Bart and Best Wishes for continued success in the coming years!
Stephanie Hughes - has just started her 3rd year of pharmacy school and is looking forward to all she gets to learn this year. In the future, Stephanie plans on working in community pharmacy and sharing her knowledge and love of pharmaceutics with all who care to listen. She would love to practice in a rural or under-served area where she can have an impact on the health and wellness of those who might otherwise not receive ideal healthcare. The generous scholarship she has received will help her reach this goal by allowing her to focus on studying, and by allowing her to accept the job of her choice without worrying about finances. When she’s not studying therapeutics, Stephanie likes to read and travel.

Dan Clegg - From working on the surgical intensive care unit at the University Hospital, to ambulatory pharmacy (emphasizing diabetes education) in Blanding, UT, to sub-speciality pharmacy services with the infectious disease team at the VA Hospital in Salt Lake City; my first three rotations have exposed me to a wide array of pharmacy experiences. I have thrived in this environment of intense learning, where I readily apply principles and knowledge I learned in the pharmacy curriculum. After graduation, I plan to complete residency training and maintain this intense learning. The Alumni Association Scholarship monies are sincerely appreciated as I continue through this program with the enduring support of my wife and two children. With these monies, I am allowed time to reflect on key concepts taught during rotation; time I might otherwise spend at work. With a PGY1 residency imminent and a PGY2 residency not excluded, I am grateful to the Alumni Association for providing me funds that permit time for appropriate reflection on principles taught during rotation that prepares me best for my future residency training.

Marilyn Redd - Over the summer I did a clerkship at The Children’s Hospital at Providence Alaska Medical Center. Previous to the clerkship I had developed an interest in pediatrics, and while on rotation I realized how much I enjoy working in pediatrics and in the clinical setting. I plan to pursue a residency at a pediatric hospital upon graduation. I am also interested in diabetes, and would love to become a diabetes educator and help teach children with diabetes and their parents about the disease and how to best manage it. Thank you so much for the scholarship! The security of this money is allowing me to work fewer hours so that I can participate more in extracurricular activities. I hope this will ultimately help to develop me into a more well-rounded candidate as I apply for residencies. Thank you, again.
Alumni Reception at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting:
Monday, December 6th, Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, CA
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM – “Utah Reception”

Alumni Association is partnering with the College of Pharmacy, the Department of Pharmacotherapy, Pharmacy Services at University Hospital and the Utah Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists to sponsor the Utah Reception. The Alumni Association will provide a gift to all alumni who attend.

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Save the Date!

Feb. 17, 2011:
Utah Student Pharmacist Alliance (USPA) 3rd Annual Gala and Charity Auction to benefit the Maliheh Free Clinic. Event will be held at Rice Eccles Stadium.

February 2011:
College of Pharmacy Alumni Night at University of Utah Women’s Gymnastics Meet – Watch the website for details

June 2011:
Annual College of Pharmacy Golf Tournament

August 6, 2011:
Annual Continuing Education Event in Cedar City, UT
Mark Zabriskie

Dean of Oregon State University’s College of Pharmacy

A graduate of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy, T. Mark Zabriskie, was recently named the Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Oregon State University (OSU). Dean Zabriskie received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1985 and PhD in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Utah in 1989. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship sponsored by NSF/NATO and the Killam Trust at the University of Alberta.

As an undergraduate at the University of Utah, Dr. Zabriskie completed work in Professor C. Dale Poulter’s lab. While in that lab, he worked with Darrell Davis, who is now the Interim Chair of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Utah. Dr. Zabriskie’s graduate work in Medicinal Chemistry included study of marine organisms with Dr. Chris Ireland, the current Dean of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy. His thesis work described “discovery of two very important marine natural products – jaspamide from the sponge /Jaspis/ and the patellazoles from the ascidian /Lissoclinum patella/”, according to Dean Ireland. The significance of these compounds was described by Dean Ireland as follows: “The patellazoles are some of the most cytotoxic compounds ever reported from a marine organism and jaspamide is one of the most highly studied and cited marine natural products because of its cytoskeletal effects on actin polymerization.”

As Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Oregon State University, Dr. Zabriskie will direct a program that includes more than 300 students in the professional program. The College has 34 faculty members and 50 “affiliate” faculty members. The OSU pharmacy program includes the PharmD degree, a master’s degree and a research-based doctoral degree. The research programs at OSU include investigation of drug discovery, delivery and metabolism, pharmacology and pharmacotherapy and the impact of policy changes on care, costs and patient outcomes.

The Alumni Association wishes to offer congratulations to Dr. Mark Zabriskie on his appointment and the successes he has realized in his distinguished career.

For additional information regarding Dr. Zabriskie’s research and accomplishments, please visit the OSU College of Pharmacy website at: http://pharmacy.oregonstate.edu/
45th Annual Clinical Meeting
Utah Reception

Anaheim, CA
Marriott

Monday, December 6
6:30-8:30 pm.
Marquis Northwest Room

Sponsored by the University of Utah - College of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacotherapy, Pharmacy Services, College of Pharmacy Alumni Association & USHP