



University of Utah College of Pharmacy

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Fall & Winter 2018



COLLEGE OF  
**PHARMACY**  
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

L. S. SKAGGS PHARMACY INSTITUTE

# ALUMNI PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



We have had an exciting and successful first half of the school year! Our annual student-alumni bowling night and alumni tailgate were well attended and very entertaining. It was also a privilege to present the Distinguished Alumni Award to Betty Yamashita and the first annual Young Alumni Award to Phung Matthews. Both were very deserving of their awards and are great examples of what pharmacists can do for our community. Finally, I was proud that our Alumni Board could get out and give back to our community by volunteering their time at the Utah Food Bank. It was wonderful to see the selflessness of our board and their families during the season of giving.

For the spring semester, we will continue our exciting activities with alumni and students. Look out for future events like the alumni gymnastics meet, the Annual Student Gala, and the Pharmacy Alumni Golf Tournament. The Alumni Association is always looking for new members to join our team. If you would like to keep up with the college and help put together these fun events, please contact me or the College of Pharmacy. I wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2019 and look forward to seeing you all at one of our future activities. Go Utes!

Kevin Walkenhurst, Class of 2011  
Alumni Association President

# ALUMNI STORY: GREGORY SKEDROS, CLASS OF '50

Gregory Skedros is an alumnus who graduated from the University of Utah College of Pharmacy in 1950, the college’s first-ever graduating class. Skedros is an extremely valuable asset to the College of Pharmacy, as he paints a living picture of what the school was like during its conception.

However, Skedros was not just a pharmacist during his 90 years of life and counting. He is a veteran, restaurant-owner, botanist, athlete, former soda jerk, Greek Festival chairman, a father, husband, a choiralier, and much more. Whew! His countless interests coupled with his hard-working demeanor has made Skedros one of the most unique individuals that has hailed from the College of Pharmacy (and perhaps Utah at large).

Watch Greg’s story [HERE!](#)





ALUMNI STORY: HAROLD WOLF, FORMER DEAN



Dr. Harold 'Hal' wolf was the Dean of the University of Utah College of Pharmacy from 1976-1989. Hal was instrumental in the development of the Anticonvulsant Drug Development Program (ADD) program, implemented the four departments still used at the CoP today, aided in many pharmaceutical discoveries, and much more. Even better, Hal is an avid fisherman and bird-watcher, and an all around fascinating guy!

Read Hal and Joan's story [HERE!](#)

ALUMNI STORY: DONOVAN SMITH, CLASS OF '95

Donovan Smith Graduated from the University of Utah College of Pharmacy in 1995, and currently works as the Director of Pharmacy at the Wayne Community Health Center in Bicknell, Utah.

Smith spent his upbringing in the small town of Monroe, Utah, which ultimately led to his decision in becoming a rural pharmacist. As someone who grew up in a close-knit community, it sounded appealing for Smith to give back to his neighborhood and work somewhere that felt like home. Smith believes that "pharmacists really are at the front-line of medicine".

Watch Donovan's story [HERE!](#)





# WHITE COAT CEREMONY 2018

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

The annual White Coat Ceremony for the College of Pharmacy is the symbolic beginning of the journey our pharmacy students take here at the University of Utah. Alumni are invited to be a part of the ceremony by sponsoring a student's white coat with a gift of \$50. Each student and donor receives a card with the name of the student and alumni match who provided their coat in hopes that they will act as a professional mentor throughout their pharmacy career.



This year's White Coat Ceremony was held September 7, 2018 at Rice Eccles Stadium for the incoming class of pharmacy students, Class of 2022. Once again, the white coat campaign run by the Alumni Association was very successful. We had 58 different sponsors, and raised over \$4,000. The excess money was put towards student scholarships this year. This is a great way for our alumni to connect with the students and the students to our alumni. The main speaker was Dr. Linda S. Tyler, PharmD, Chief Pharmacy Officer, University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics and Associate Dean for Pharmacy Practice.

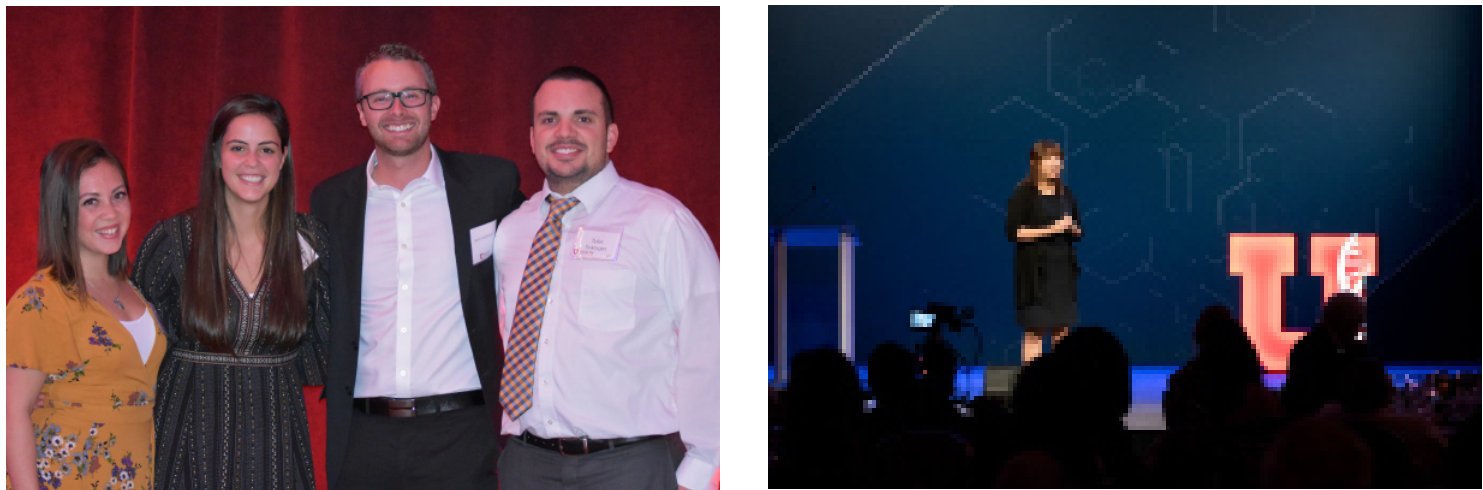
The Alumni Association also had the opportunity to honor Betty Yamashita, Class of 1976, as our College of Pharmacy Alumni of the Year and Phung Matthews, Class of 2008, as our Young Alumnus Award Recipient. We feel honored to count Betty and Phung among our Alumni. Thank you to all of the donors who sponsored a white coat! We appreciate your continued support!



# SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

OCTOBER 16, 2018

The Alumni Association is proud to report that five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to students for the 2018-2019 school year.





# ALUMNI BANQUET

OCTOBER 19, 2018

The 8th Annual Alumni Association Banquet was held on October 19, 2018 in the L. S. Skaggs Pharmacy Institute Atrium. We appreciate all those who attended and look forward to this event every year. The Alumni Banquet is a free event for all of our alumni.



This year, The Alumni Association had the pleasure of awarding Betty Yamashita, Class of 1976, with the Distinguished Alumni of the Year award. Board Member, Linda Sandberg had the honor of introducing her classmate. We also introduced a new award this year, the Young Alumnus of the Year Award. Phung Matthews, Class of 2008 was our inaugural recipient. We thank her for her continued dedication to the College of Pharmacy.



Betty Yamashita, Class of '76



Phung Matthews, Class of '08

# ALUMNI TAILGATE

OCTOBER 20, 2018

The Alumni Association hosted our 4th Annual College of Pharmacy Football Tailgate. We were thrilled by the turnout and loved seeing Alumni, Faculty, and Donors interact in such a fun setting. The tailgate was held on Saturday, October 20th before the Utah vs. USC football game in conjunction with the University's Homecoming celebrations. We had over 30 alumni in attendance and look forward to carrying on this tradition next year! We would like to thank U Health Advancement for sponsoring our event. Go Utes!





# LOS ANGELES EVENT

OCTOBER 27, 2018

Every year we look forward to meeting with our Alumni Group down in Southern California. This year we met at Watson's Soda Fountain and Cafe on Chapman Avenue in the City of Orange. Thank you to all who came out to our event, including Dean Randy Peterson. We loved catching up with everyone and can't wait to see you all again next year!



# UTAH FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

DECEMBER 8, 2018



The College of Pharmacy Alumni Board volunteered at the Utah Food Bank this holiday season and helped assemble food boxes for Utah's elderly community. Last year, the Utah Food Bank distributed 32.7 million meals via a statewide network of 149 partner agencies located in all 29 counties. The Alumni Board is proud to serve our community in this capacity.





# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Alumni,

As we enter 2019, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the progress we have made as a college in 2018. This past year, the College of Pharmacy received over 4.5 million dollars in gifts and sponsored research projects. We are grateful for our Alumni support and recognize you as valued contributors to our development. The Alumni Association alone supported five \$1,000 scholarships to deserving PharmD students.

Our PharmD program continues to be ranked as one of the top programs in the country, and our students continue to excel in the classroom, as well as in our community. In 2018, 40% of our graduating students received PGY1 residencies across the country, with 3 of our graduates pursuing fellowships. The rest have entered into the workforce in community pharmacies, hospitals, long term care facilities, and other pharmacy practice sites. As I travel around Utah and the western states, employers regularly tell me they love to hire Utah graduates because they are exceptionally well prepared.

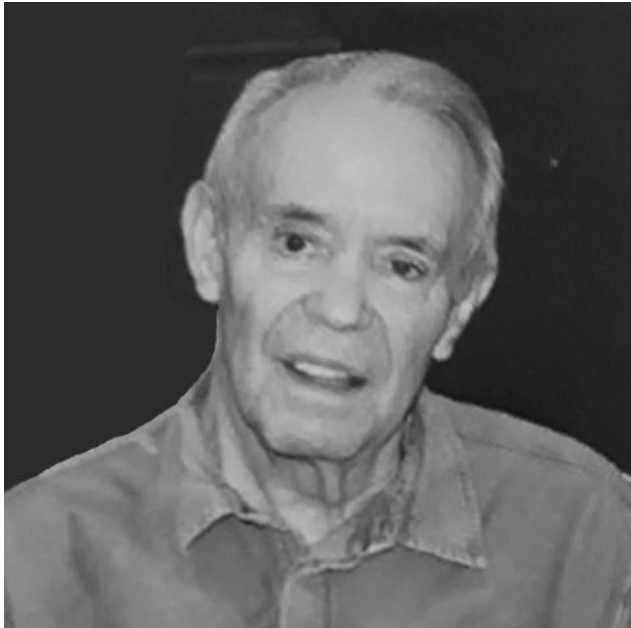
In terms of research, the College was ranked fifth in the country for research funding last year, and our faculty have used the funding to perform some truly groundbreaking work across the spectrum of pharmaceutical sciences. We were particularly pleased to receive a new \$2.6M contract from the NIH to develop animal models for studying pain, and to have two of our junior faculty members Mingnan Chen and Jackie Winter receive their first major grants from the NIH and the Moore Foundation. Some of our more established faculty members also received prestigious honors in 2018—You Han Bae was named Distinguished Professor, Glenn Prestwich was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Henry Kopecek was elected to the National Academy of Inventors. Keep an eye on our website and social media for frequent updates on college happenings.

I was also able to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Maliheh Clinic, at which our students were awarded the Maliheh Legacy of Caring and Community Service Award. The college has made major contributions to Maliheh through student and faculty volunteering and through more than \$200,000 of financial donations. It's great to see our college so engaged with the community.

The University of Utah College of Pharmacy continues to excel and I am proud to be a part of it. We cannot continue on this impressive trajectory without the support of our Alumni. I encourage you to give back in whatever ways you are able and continue to be a part of the amazing work happening at the College of Pharmacy. Thank you for all you are doing. I wish you continued success and satisfaction in 2019.

Randy Peterson  
Dean, College of Pharmacy

# IN LOVING MEMORIUM



**JOHN MICHAEL HANSEN**  
3/30/1941 – 11/20/2018

Mike Hansen was born March 30, 1941 to Ellis L. and Melba Davis Hansen in Salt Lake City, Utah. He married Laurel (Millett) on February 22, 1991. Mike was a proud member of the first graduating class of Highland High School in 1959. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Pharmacy, at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1964, and was a lifelong Utes fan.

Mike began his 40 plus year career in Pharmacy as a Staff Pharmacist at Erickson Pharmacy, Walgreens and Skaggs Drug Center through 1975. He then became Pharmacy Manager at Skaggs Drug Center, Osco Drug, Payless Drug and Rite Aid in Salt Lake City, from 1975 to 1994. By the mid 90's he had become frustrated with the retail chain pharmacy model and decided to pursue other options which led him to Health Maintenance, Inc., where he worked from 1994 –1996. HMI was a mental health organization/closed door pharmacy that specialized in treating Schizophrenia and other mental illnesses. Stadtlanders Pharmacy in Pennsylvania soon bought HMI and closed the Salt Lake City office. Mike then joined Kindred Pharmacy Services; another closed door pharmacy and worked there from 1996 to 2005 when he officially retired.

Mike was professionally affiliated with the following organizations: Utah Pharmaceutical Association from 1964 –2011, University of Utah Alumni Association from 1964 up to his passing. He was a member of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary from 1978 –1985 and was a pharmacy advisor at the Bullfrog Medical Clinic in Bullfrog, Utah from 1978 –1980.





**Alumni Gymnastics Meet – Utah Red Rocks v UCLA Bruins**

Saturday, February 23, 2019  
1:30 PM

Jon M. Huntsman Center  
Tickets are \$3/each

Please contact Danielle Keddington at [Danielle.keddington@pharm.utah.edu](mailto:Danielle.keddington@pharm.utah.edu) or 801-581-7503 to reserve your seats.

**Pharmacy Legislative Day**

Thursday, February 28, 2019  
Capitol Hill

<https://www.upha.com/page/106>

**11th Annual Pharmacy Gala and Charity Auction**

Saturday, March 2, 2019  
University Guest House

**College of Pharmacy Convocation**

Friday, May 10, 2019  
2:00 PM  
Kingsbury Hall

**Alumni Golf Tournament**

June 2019  
Details TBA

For more information on the Alumni Association events, please email:  
[Alumniupdates@pharm.utah.edu](mailto:Alumniupdates@pharm.utah.edu)

**PLANNED GIVING**

Request Our Complimentary Guide to Learn How to Use Gift Strategies to Save Taxes at Year-End!

Gift Strategies for Year-End Tax Planning Whether You Itemize or Not explains strategies such as:

- Make a gift from your retirement plan.
- Give appreciated securities for a double tax benefit.
- Make next year's gift now.
- Advance your legacy gift and receive a deduction.
- Accelerate noncharitable deductions.
- Defer income to next year.
- Wait to sell appreciated assets.

[REQUEST HERE](#)

**UTAH POISON CONTROL CENTER SURVEY**

The Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) provides poison information, poison prevention education and clinical toxicology consultation 24-hours a day throughout the state of Utah.

Specialists in poison information (nurses and pharmacists with additional training in clinical toxicology) respond to over 40,000 calls a year. Approximately 20% of the cases the UPCC is consulted on require treatment in a healthcare facility. The UPCC would like your feedback to ensure that we continue to provide high quality service to health professionals statewide.

We would greatly appreciate you taking less than 2 minutes to complete a short survey here:  
<https://bit.ly/2SF2vI0>

