Pharmacy students to contact alumni for annual Connection ISU Phonathon

The annual Connection ISU Phonathon, where ISU College of Pharmacy students call alumni and friends of the College seeking assistance with scholarships, will begin January 29, 2006.

Students will be contacting alumni and friends, as they have for several years, requesting donations to existing scholarship endowments, student organization projects such as Operation Diabetes, and funds to assist with the costs of projects like the practice laboratory renovation.

“We expect great things from both the graduate and professional students and they never disappoint us,” Dean Joseph Steiner said. “I appreciate all of the hard work that our students put into the Phonathon.”

Many students have commented that College of Pharmacy alumni are friendly and curious donors. The students always enjoy visiting with them and updating them about the College.

“As the director of development, I have been impressed with the commitment of the students, excellent teaching in the classrooms and ground-breaking research being conducted here at the College,” said Dan Dean. “The students and faculty are truly the heart and soul of the College and most likely why so many alumni choose to support the annual Phonathon. Please know your gift has a tremendous impact on the ISU College of Pharmacy family.”

Nearly 500 friends and alums chose to support the 2005 Phonathon with pledges to the College.

Students will be calling alumni and friends on January 29 and February 6, 7 and 8.

If students will miss you during the Phonathon, or if you plan to be away from home, donations to the 2006 campaign may still be made to:

Idaho State University
College of Pharmacy
ISU Foundation
Campus Box 8050
Pocatello, ID 83209
‘Student pharmacists’ in your state

by Aaron Long

As you know, APhA’s student organization has changed its name from the Academy of Students of Pharmacy to the Academy of Student Pharmacists. What you may not know, however, is that during the Association’s 2005 Annual Meeting in Orlando, the APhA House of Delegates approved a policy to encourage state boards of pharmacy to use the term “student pharmacist,” rather than “intern” or “extern,” to identify all students enrolled in their professional years of pharmacy education in an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) accredited program.

While this move by APhA is significant at the national level, the real change must be affected at the local level. Having every APhA-ASP chapter approach the pharmacy board in its state with a proposal to implement the new terminology is essential. This would be a great activity for your chapter’s Student Political Information Network (SPIN) coordinator or any other legislative committee your school may have to organize.

In Idaho, representatives of the combined student organization, the Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance, approached the Idaho Board of Pharmacy during its June meeting. Donovan Victorine, immediate past SPIN coordinator, and I presented our proposal to change the state rules and regulations to refer to student pharmacists.

Before approaching the board, we gained the support of the Idaho State Pharmacy Association and the Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists. It was very important that we justify why this change was necessary. Student leaders discussed the proposal at a joint meeting of the state associations and College of Pharmacy, and attendees were either receptive or neutral to the change after some explanation.

In Idaho, students are referred to as externs until they complete their course of study, after which they are referred to as interns. Typically, the terminology is used incorrectly, and students are called interns from the first day of school. We explained to the pharmacy association representatives that using a single term consistently and keeping up with national trends was important.

Along with explaining why the change is important, you must address any concerns that current pharmacists may have. Before our meeting with the board, we ran our proposal by the board, president and other practicing pharmacists. We knew that any questions they had would be likely to arise during the meeting with the full board.

The final result of approaching the board was that students would be allowed to identify themselves as student pharmacists and could use the term on their name tags. No current rules prohibited that, so it was an immediate change.

It was also agreed that when the board has a large number of changes to make to the wording of state rules and regulations in general, the term “extern” would be replaced with “student pharmacist.” Since all such changes have to be submitted to the state legislature for review, this course of action was decided on for financial reasons.

Fully implementing the terminology will take time. Having students’ name tags read “Student Pharmacists” is a good first step, however.

Other students have also approached their state boards of pharmacy. For example, the Kentucky Pharmacists Association House of Delegates adopted a student-endorsed policy recognizing the value of consistently referring to student pharmacists. APhA-ASP Policy Standing Committee member Matt Martin has confirmed that pharmacy leaders in Kentucky are discussing this policy with their board of pharmacy.

Student pharmacists can be successful at the state level in getting policies that benefit themselves and the profession adopted. Now go out and convince your state board to accept our new title!

Aaron Long is a fourth-year PharmD candidate at the ISU College of Pharmacy and vice chair of the 2005-2006 APhA-ASP Policy Standing Committee. Editorial first printed in Student Pharmacist. Permission for reprint granted by APhA Student Pharmacist.
Tell us a little about yourself, family, career. Have you received a recent promotion, awards or changes jobs? Has your family expanded, adding future Bengals to the pack? What are some of the exciting experiences you have had the opportunity to explore. What have you been doing since you left the College of Pharmacy? Any fond memories of ISU? May we help you find a former classmate? We want to keep in touch with our esteemed alumni, so let us know how you have been doing so we can share with other alums in an upcoming Refill e-letter or Pharmacy Bulletin.