Dr. Gary Isom, College of Pharmacy class of 1969 alumnus, has been named the Professional Achievement Award Recipient for 2010. Isom, along with Jamie Klucken, Pharmacy Outstanding Student for 2010, will lead the Pharmacy class processional at ISU Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday, May 8 in Holt Arena.

Dr. Gary Isom

Isom is a professor of toxicology in the medicinal chemistry and molecular pharmacology department at Purdue University. He received his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from Idaho State University and his doctorate from Washington State University in 1973. He served on the faculty of the College of Pharmacy at ISU from 1973 to 1980. He has served as vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School at Purdue University. Isom has an active research program funded by the National Institutes of Health to examine the neurodegenerative mechanisms of chemical (cyanide) exposure. His teaching responsibilities at Purdue include participation in undergraduate and graduate level toxicology courses and pharmacology for pharmacy and medical students. Isom currently serves on the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel of the Environmental Protection Agency, and a number of grant review and advisory panels for the National Institutes of Health. He completed two terms on the science advisory board of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He is a member of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Society of Neuroscience and Society of Toxicology.

Jamie Klucken

Jamie Ridley Klucken of Jerome is the Outstanding Student Award winner for the College of Pharmacy for 2010. Klucken will receive her Doctorate of Pharmacy and a Master of Business Administration degree. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in business management from George Fox University in Newburg, Oregon. She plans on pursuing residency training following graduation and hopes to practice as a clinical pharmacist in the VA system. Klucken is the daughter of Jerry and Connie Ridley and has been married to Scott Klucken for 11 years. The couple has two children. Jamie earned Associate Students of ISU, Richard and Barbara Wells and NACDS Foundation scholarships. She was active in the Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance, ISU Health Fair, Make-A-Wish Fundraiser, Idaho Food Bank and Salvation Army Food Drive. Klucken also served as P4 Class President, Faculty Affairs Committee Student Chair, Rho Chi Honor Society Vice President and PPSA Secretary. She made the dean’s list in 2008-09 and was a member of the Rho Chi Honor Society and Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society.
Idaho State University College of Pharmacy students are in the process of forming an new outreach program to educate the public of the dangers of abusing prescription drugs. The Combat Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA) program is specifically designed to meet the growing need for education and prevention of PDA in teens and adolescents, said third-year student Jo Kiester.

According to Kiester, prescription drug abuse is an increasing trend in Idaho, with PDA ranking third after methamphetamine and cocaine abuse. PDA refers to the practice of taking handfuls of prescription pills, such as OxyContin, Vicodin, or Xanax, with beer or hard liquor like whiskey or vodka, with the goal of getting high. So-called “pharm parties,” short for pharmaceuticals, are occurring with increasing frequency all across the state. Teens have even coined a new slang, “pharming,” to describe taking medications from others’ medicine cabinets. Prescription medications are gathered, placed in a bowl and taken either indiscriminately by the handful or according to “recipes” obtained from the Internet, she said. These recipes increase the likelihood of bizarre and dangerous overdoses.

“Talking with the teens and young adults in your life is critical. They need to know that abusing prescription medications is illegal and that mixing prescription medications can land them in the emergency room or even the morgue,” Kiester said.

Students at both the Pocatello and Meridian campuses have plans to implement the PDA outreach program, hopefully during the fall 2010 semester, and expand it through the next academic year. Kiester has also submitted grant applications for funding to assist with start-up costs including promotional posters and presentation materials.

To assist students in their efforts to educate others of the dangers of prescription drug abuse through the PDA program, contact Kiester at kiesjo@pharmacy.isu.edu or the College of Pharmacy at 208.282.3393.

Graduation week activities at College

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy’s year-end activities kick-off this week with a golf game, picnic graduation banquet and ISU Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday. Here are details for graduation week activities:

- Beat the Faculty Golf Tournament, four-person scramble, Thursday, May 6 at 1 p.m. at Riverside Golf Course, Pocatello, 3500 Bannock Hwy.

- End of the Year picnic, Thursday, May 6 at 6 p.m. at the Upper Ross Park Pavilion.

- ISU College of Pharmacy Graduation Banquet and Award Ceremony, Friday, May 7 at 6 p.m. at the Pocatello Holiday Inn, 1399 Bench Rd.

- ISU Commencement Ceremonies, Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m. at Holt Arena.

Congratulations Class of 2010!

Additional details available at pharmacy.isu.edu