Executive in Residence in the Classroom

“It’s like you are against the world when you’re in the middle of Pharmacy school... it’s a rigorous course,” says Mary Morrissey when she reminisces about her time at ISU and the close friendships she’s maintained since she graduated from ISU COP in 1965.

Mary and four of her classmates are planning a trip to British Columbia in April. Virginia Argenbright, Shirley Slade, Linda Alexander, Rosalie McIlroy all walked the halls of Leonard Hall together and became like, “sisters”.

Mary visited the COP March 8th through 12th as the 2011 Spring Executive in Residence and shared her professional experiences and deep knowledge of geriatric pharmacy and long-term care pharmacy delivery. Mary consults for long-term care facilities in the Seattle area and is a preceptor for 2nd and 4th year Pharmacy students at the University of Washington. She also serves as Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Washington.

During her recent visit, Mary shared her knowledge and experience with students during class visits. Dr. Kerry Casperson says that Mary presented, “an innovative model for comprehensive long-term care” in his Pharmacy Management class when describing Hearthstone, the long-term care facility where Mary works. Hearthstone combines retirement living and levels of assisted care that depend on the resident’s needs, including a fully staffed nursing home.

Mary’s visit culminated in a dinner with a question and answer period. One student asked...
how Mary stays optimistic when faced with the challenges of her aging patients. Mary answered how rewarding and gratifying working in geriatrics has been for her. She says that because of their health challenges, you can do more to influence their quality of life than in any other age group.

Mary’s life has been enriched by the friendships she has made with many of her patients. Mary tells of Elaine Hill, resident of Hearthstone. Elaine walks the 2.5 mile path around Green Lake every day... alone. “She’s out there trucking along at 95 years old, she’s my hero,” says Mary. Elaine has also written a “primer” on aging successfully called, “I Like Being Old”. “Instead of feeling sorry for what she’s lost,” says Mary, “she’s happy about what she has... which is a totally different mindset.”

Three scholarships were also awarded at the dinner to students showing outstanding leadership. The scholarships were due to a generous gift by David C.K. Chu in honor of the late Ira Hillyard former Dean of the COP.

Mary enjoyed her visit to ISU COP. “It has been so nice to reacquaint myself with everything,” she said. And while Mary noticed many physical changes to Leonard Hall, she was gratified that the pursuit for excellence had stayed the same.

Walgreens Diversity Project

The prospect of a career in Pharmacy can be an exciting option for any student. The need for bilingual/diverse pharmacists is the focus of The Walgreen’s Diversity Project, which asks current PharmD students to educate and create awareness in minority populations with an emphasis on the Hispanic community.

Both Pocatello and Meridian students visited area schools and community centers and delivered a presentation that highlighted the need and opportunities for bilingual, diverse pharmacists.

“We had several students come up to us after class wanting to know more specific information. Overall, everyone, even the teachers, learned something new and enjoyed our presentation.”

In Meridian, Julia Permyakov, Dorothy Burnham, Meridith Mattson and Essay Oluma presented to 3 Hispanic student organizations, a careers class, and a class for Hispanic parents and their children who were interested in career opportunities.

“We really enjoyed this experience and interacting with the students”, says Julia Permyakov, Meridian PharmD student. “It was rewarding to meet the next generation of healthcare leaders and we hope that we have encouraged them to pursue a successful and rewarding career in pharmacy.”

May 2011
A record-breaking $19,000 was raised at the 18th Annual Spaghetti Feed & Auction fundraiser on Feb. 25, 2011, according to student co-chair, Hannah Sandy. Approximately $5,000 of this money was donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, enough to fund the entire wish of a local girl diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Tenley, whose wish was to travel to Disneyworld with her family, was able to celebrate her 7th birthday in Florida on April 21st. According to her mother, Kim, “It was seven days of wonderful bliss... we had a blast!”

Diagnosed with a brain tumor in July of 2010, Tenley underwent a nine-hour surgery last year and is now stable but is being monitored. “It’s overwhelming. We can’t thank ISU College of Pharmacy and the Make-A-Wish Foundation enough,” said Kim. “We will definitely attend the annual Spaghetti Feed event every year from now on.”

Held in the Pond Student Union Ballroom, the event was decorated with pink and purple, Tenley’s favorite colors. A silent and live auction included items such as a bagel-making class with Dean Paul Cady, a Steelhead trip for two on the North Fork of the Salmon River and a handmade knotty alder vanity with an estimated value of $550.00.

The remaining proceeds will be used for student members of the Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance (PPSA) who organized the event. They will use the money to fund their community health education programs including Operation Heart, The Heartburn Awareness Challenge and Operation Immunization, and as well as their attendance to essential pharmacy conferences.

A special thank you goes to Rite Aid for their continued generous sponsorship of the event. Other sponsors include Dick’s Pharmacy, Albertsons Savon Pharmacy, Booth Energy, ISPA Idaho, Caterpillar, Kurt’s Pharmacy, and Felix Nordyke.
Lindsay Kaster, PharmD and 2008 Alum has been chosen as one of four finalists for the inaugural TOP Pharmacist award by The Oncology Pharmacist, a publication of the latest findings relevant to pharmacists in Oncology research and trials.

Although she has only been a pharmacist for a few years, Lindsay, a clinical oncology pharmacist at the Boise VA Medical Center was nominated by her colleagues for her enthusiasm and compassionate care of her patients. She has also worked to create systems that make the delivery of chemotherapy safer and more efficient while saving the facility and patients money.

Lindsay is competing against three veterans in the field of Pharmacy. You can read more about her nomination and help her win this award by voting online at http://www.theoncologypharmacist.com/award.

Congratulations to the 2011 Idaho State University College of Pharmacy Graduates!!!

Take Time to Join Us:
College of Pharmacy & ISU Events

* Friday May 5th - ISU College of Pharmacy Graduation Banquet and Award Ceremony, 6:30 pm at the Clarion Inn, Pocatello.

* Saturday, May 6th - ISU Commencement Ceremony - 10 am at the Holt Arena

* Monday, May 9th - ISU Meridian Commencement Ceremony - 6:30 pm at The Boise Center.

* May 15th Northern California Alumni Gathering

Join host Kay Walters ('66) and other Division of Health Sciences Graduates for a Western Barbeque at her home in Durham, CA. For more info, contact Kathleen Lehman, kal@pharmacy.isu.edu (208) 282-4597