Five ISU alumni and community pharmacists joined students in October for the Leaders in Community Pharmacy dinner, where they shared their career experience, highlights and offered advice for students interested in a future career as independent pharmacy owners.

Pharmacy alumnus Dale Derbridge, ’73, former owner of Professional Pharmacy in Ely, Nev., encouraged students to network with hospitals and clinics, and join pharmacy associations.

“I love community pharmacy and it was the best thing I ever did,” he said.

Another 1973 alumnus, Barry Feely, owner of Medicine Man Pharmacy in Hayden, Idaho, says that good customer service, along with a smile and friendly attitude, are some of the elements to a successful community pharmacy practice. He said young pharmacists may join in business with a senior partner or owner of a store, who one day may sell the pharmacy to the junior pharmacist.

In addition to providing medications for their customers, each of the panelists offered additional services, including compounding, vaccines, diabetes management skills, health and wellness products and more.

Ed Snell, ’76, of Ed Snell’s Pharmacy’s Shop, Pocatello, is a nationally-certified clinical nutritionist.

Ed Reddish, ’61, owner of Reddish Pharmacy, Inc., of Nampa, encourages students who are interested in a career in community pharmacy to get involved with their patients.

“Get involved with Poison Prevention Week, flu shot clinics,” he said. “Volunteer to give talks to your community and let your community see that you care and that pharmacy is more than filling prescriptions.”

“Being involved in local, state and national associations has given me a great perspective of our profession,” said Don Smith, owner of three Medicine Man Pharmacies in northern Idaho with his wife Kathie, ’79.

Following the panelists question and answer session, several student scholarships were awarded.

Kate Andrews, Nick Barker, Stephanie Chase and Michael Higbee each were awarded $500 from the 90th Anniversary Scholarship Student Support Fund while Karl Johnson and Daren Kunz were each awarded $750 and Jacob Cooley $500 from the Dan Dean and Dr. Kathy Lund Dean Scholarship Fund for student leadership.

Thank you Mike Quick and Good Neighbor Pharmacy for sponsoring the event.
There were no telephones to answer or pills to count in the Lyon Drug Store, but there was plenty of work to do, none the less. Instead of working as a pharmacy intern this past summer, third-year pharmacy student, Sarah Kator, chose to volunteer her time in Nauvoo, Ill., a national historic landmark. Located three hours from Chicago along the Mississippi River, Nauvoo celebrates the lives of its residents and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who lived there between 1839 and 1846. As a young performing missionary, Sarah spent 14 weeks playing her French horn, performing in plays, and giving guided tours of the more than 40 historic sites located in Nauvoo. For a significant portion of the summer, she gave tours of the Lyon Drug Store, an 1840’s apothecary and variety store that operated in Nauvoo from 1840 to 1846.

Winsor Lyon and his wife Sylvia moved to Nauvoo in 1839. A retired Naval Surgeon, Lyon decided to open an apothecary in the growing town. A blue and red show globe sat in the window directing individuals to his shop to get medical attention. He stocked his shelves with herbs he grew in his garden and items shipped to him up and down the Mississippi River. Lyon would compound these remedies into liquids and tablets for his customers. Items found on the shelf included chamomile, valerian, psyllium, and digitalis.

“It was fun to learn about the history of my profession, as well as being able to answer the very common, ‘what does that drug do?’ question from the tourists,” said Sarah.

Individuals entered the store and Sarah escorted them through the historic site, explaining things along the way. Medical practices, compounding techniques, the bartering system employed at the store and little 1800’s oddities were all on display.

“Some of my favorite things included beard dye for men (yes, it was labeled that way) and a candlelight microscope,” she said.

Sarah’s schedule was very full, with her mornings starting at 8 a.m. with a music rehearsal, followed by performances through the streets of Nauvoo on a horse drawn band wagon.

A performance of the play, “Sunset by the Mississippi,” followed by concerts and the “Nauvoo Pageant,” where held five days a week. On Sunday, Sarah and the other members of the Nauvoo Brass Band gave tours of the historic sites.

“I’m glad I took the opportunity to do this,” said Sarah, “before I get locked into a demanding schedule as a Pharm.D.”
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