Walgreens Diversity Scholarship Donation

Walgreens District Pharmacy Supervisor Scott Fleming, RPh, Boise, presented ISU College of Pharmacy with a $10,000 check on November 9th to fund the Walgreens Diversity Scholarship Project.

Walgreens donates more than one million dollars annually to support initiatives dedicated to promoting diversity at the nation’s pharmacy schools. Idaho State University is fortunate to be one of those schools. This is the fifth consecutive year Walgreens has made such a generous donation to ISU.

“The support that we have received from Walgreens has been of tremendous assistance as we continue to educate the next generation of pharmacists in this very noble profession,” said Dean Cady.

Students involved in the Diversity Project organize educational events that inform young students and minorities about possible careers in pharmacy.

“We strive to tell students that a career in pharmacy can be for anyone and that a career as a pharmacist can be very rewarding,” said Julia (Permyakov) Boyle, who has been a Walgreens Diversity Scholarship recipient for the past two years.

According to Associate Dean Cathy Cashmore, Meridian has been the epicenter of the Walgreens Diversity Project. “Our students have presented information on pharmacy as a profession to Hispanic high school student organizations, careers classes, and a class for parents and their children who were interested in career opportunities,” she said. “Students did this by presenting information on the different fields of pharmacy, pharmacy schools in the surrounding area and facilitating an interactive question and answer session. Students emphasized that there is a need for bilingual, diverse pharmacists as well as the opportunities that being bilingual would present.” The students have received requests to return and present to larger groups and additional schools next year.

Julia has learned a lot from being involved with the project. “If patients can get a chance to interact with a pharmacist who they can relate to, either by a common cultural background or a common language, they will feel more comfortable and it helps to build a lasting and trusting relationship,” said Julia.

from left: Priyal Patel (P2), Yishake Mekonnen (P4), Dr. Catherine Cashmore PharmD, Associate Dean, Scott Fleming RPh, Walgreens, Kushal Shah (P3).

Students participating in the Walgreens Diversity Project.
Operation Immunization Receives Region 7 Award

Each fall, colleges of pharmacy across the nation compete in the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition. Teams of two analyze a clinical scenario in a hospital setting, emphasizing collaborative practice with physicians in providing direct patient care.

Congratulations to this year’s winners at the ISU College of Pharmacy. They are LynNan Nielsen and Diana Reynolds. They will travel in December to the ASHP Midyear meeting in Las Vegas to compete with teams from other colleges of pharmacy. We wish them the best of luck!
Graduates earn 100% pass rate

ISU College of Pharmacy 2012 graduates have achieved a 100% pass rate on their national board exam (NAPLEX) according to College of Pharmacy Dean, Paul Cady. “The College of Pharmacy at Idaho State University continues to be a national leader in pharmacy education,” he said.

The NAPLEX or North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination is a 185 question exam that is taken by graduating students to assess their knowledge of the practice of pharmacy. The test is distributed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and is just one part of the licensure process.

ISU College of Pharmacy students consistently test above the national average and received a 100% pass rate in 2008 as well. Historically, only 6-8% of all pharmacy schools report a 100% pass rate.

The MPJE, or Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination, tests the state and federal pharmacy jurisprudence knowledge of prospective pharmacists. It serves as the pharmacy law examination for licensure. ISU College of Pharmacy Students are again above the national average for this test with an achievement rate of 96.23%

“This is indeed good news. It is a reflection of the strength of our outstanding students and represents the hard work and efforts by our preceptors, faculty and staff. Our comprehensive curriculum is a source of pride,” said Dean Cady. “I wish to thank all involved in ensuring the success of our students.”

Dean’s Advisory Council Meets

In their bi-annual meeting on October 27th, the Dean’s Advisory Council discussed current and upcoming events in the world of pharmacy, as well as the direction and accomplishments of the College.

While many topics were discussed, the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on pharmacy dominated the discussion.

Vaughn Culbertson, PharmD professor at the College of Pharmacy, presented information about the ACA and its effect on the future of pharmacy practice. Culbertson told those in attendance that “the College must meet the changing needs of pharmacy to benefit their graduates,” according to the unofficial minutes from the meeting.

Culbertson said the ACA contains four major tenets: primary care, metrics and reimbursement, quality improvement and cost, and health information technology.

According to him, reimbursement is “dramatically different” with the implementation of the ACA. He said there would be a move away from the “fee for service” model with a new emphasis put on incentive compensation for metrics met.

Presenting a clinical standpoint, Sunil Wadhwani PharmD, acting Associate Director of the VA Medical Center in Spokane, spoke about managing the costs associated with the changes as well as the importance of health care delivery systems.

Wadhwani spoke candidly about Idaho being “behind the curve” in its pharmacy discussions. According to him, supply and demand for pharmacists has changed greatly and pharmacy must be ready or others will take the lead.

Attendee Eric Cannon, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy Services and Health and Wellness at SelectHealth, suggested a realigning of resources to make the new model more feasible and predicted “a transition to a capitated model.”

Teddie Gould, PharmD, Associate Professor, presented to the council about proposed changes to the current curriculum and asked (cont.)
for input from the attendees.

Several members weighed in on the subject, suggesting concepts ranging from expanding learning physical assessment skills to putting more focus on comprehensive medical review skills.

Representing the College of Pharmacy, students Megan Jarmin, P2, and Maili Nelson, P2, spoke about their recent experiences with the College.

On her recent trip to the Skaggs Symposium in Aurora, Colorado, Jarmin was able to sit in on talks by Nobel Prize-winning speakers, faculty speakers and poster sessions.

Returning to campus, she is excited about her opportunities for collaboration and possible future areas of research.

Nelson, who is working on Operation Immunization presented on her responsibilities as she coordinated and arranged convenient immunization clinics with no associated out-of-pocket costs for the faculty and staff members of ISU.

Discussing the future goals of the College, Phil Yankovich, the new Development Director, presented on the planned updates to Leonard Hall. While the College of Pharmacy has already committed a great deal of funding to the renovation of Leonard Hall, additional funds are being sought to continue the project.

Other highlights from the meeting include the official announcement of the addition of Danny Xu, PhD, to the Meridian campus as well as the addition of new lab space to accommodate research in Meridian.

The Dean’s Advisory Council meets twice a year as a mechanism to provide the college with input from practicing pharmacists on matters including but not limited to the College’s curriculum, strategic planning, fundraising, proposed legislation, activities and functions and other areas as required.

The Dean’s Council is always looking to add new input and welcomes suggestions for new council members.

**American Pharmacists Month Activities**

Proclaiming Oct 18 to be ISU College of Pharmacy Appreciation Day, Pocatello Mayor Brian Blad kicked off the College’s Pocatello Open House with his free flu shot.

October was American Pharmacists Month and the College of Pharmacy opened its doors to the community for a public Open House. Fifty free flu shots were available in both Pocatello and Meridian as visitors were also provided health screenings through the students’ Operations.

“Know Your Medicine, Know Your Pharmacist” is the theme from the American Pharmacists Association and the goal is to expose the public to the changing role that pharmacists play in their health care.

Student Chairs Kinzi Jones and Jesse Wageman kicked off the activities by being interviewed for KISU’s radio program First Monday. They spoke about the importance of health education and how pharmacists are an increasingly essential part of the healthcare team.

“American Pharmacists Month is the perfect chance for pharmacists to reaffirm the pledge we made to care for our patients,” said Jesse. “Pharmacists, through their education are being recognized as the medication experts and an integral part of the health care team, not just dispensers of medicine,” said Kinzi.

Other activities for the month included a Continuing Education event and dessert reception at each site. The College of Pharmacy extends its thanks to Albertson’s Sav-On for sponsoring the activities.
Meridian students worked throughout the summer to organize the second annual Run for the Health of It 5k run/walk that took place on September 15, 2012. Funds raised from this event will go towards student outreach programs and a contribution to the Epilepsy Foundation of Idaho.

This year, the Fun Run committee wanted to enhance awareness of the fact that more people have epilepsy than multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s, cerebral palsy, and autism combined and help the Foundation fulfill its mission of finding a cure for epilepsy and overcome its challenges.

A raffle was held after the race, which helped raise additional funds. There were many awesome prizes including lift tickets to Bogus Basin, day passes to Roaring Springs, and a $200 gift card to Big Al’s!

It was a beautiful morning for a run or walk and out of the 82 people registered, 72 of them crossed the finish line. Prizes were provided by Shu’s Idaho Running Company and were awarded to the top 3 male and female finishers.

This year’s event raised just over $3,000, with twenty-five percent of that amount going to the Epilepsy Foundation. Several businesses and individuals made generous donations that helped make this event an enormous success: Gardner Company, Nelson Brothers, St. Alphonsus, and Tony and Pam Kelley.

Many other businesses donated gift certificates and prizes for the raffle.

“I’m very excited to see how much the Fun Run grew in one year!” said one organizer. “We are very thankful for all of the help and support that we received. Without it, this event wouldn’t have been possible. Thank you!”

Many students and faculty also helped with and participated in the race, playing a vital role in its success. The student planning committee consisted of Dorothy Burnham (P3), Meredith Mattson (P3), Cory Nelson (P3), Qasida Gaid (P2), Lindsey Hunt (P2), and Chan Wu (P2).

Visit the race website for more information and to see race photos: www.isuunforthehealthofit.com

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ISU-Meridian Hosts Second Annual “Run for the Health of It”

- By Dorothy Lopez Burnham (P3)

Run for the Health of It starting line.

Professor Rex Lott, PharmD crosses the finish line.

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Anna Bartoo from the class of 2003 is planning a 10 year reunion. If you are from the class of 2003 and would like to be included in the invitation mailing list contact Anna at:

**bartoo.anna@pharmacy.isu.edu**

If you are interested in planning a reunion, let the College of Pharmacy help you reconnect with your former classmates.

Contact Julie Hillebrant at 208-282-3775 or julie@pharmacy.isu.edu

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Alumni Events:

October 14th - Kay Walters (’66) and her husband Jerry opened their home in Durham, California for an alumni get together and barbeque. According to new Development Director Phil Yankovich many alumni from the surrounding area attended and “It was a pleasure to meet several of our northern California alumni as we enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Kay and Jerry Walters home,” he said. “The prime rib was second to none.”

November 17th - Area alumni gathered for a tailgate party prior to the ISU vs. Weber State Football game. According to Dean Paul Cady, “It was a pleasure to meet with alumni and students spanning over 60 years of ISU College of Pharmacy experience.” Pictured from left: Dean Paul Cady, Roger Murphy (’94), Ralph (Moon) Wheeler (’54), Megan Broyles (P2), Dan Fuchs (’85), ISU President Arthur Vailas, (Dennis Stoddard (’70) - not pictured).

Visiting Lecturer - Dr. Rommie Amaro

“Enabling Chemical Discovery Through the Lens of a Computational Microscope”

Dr. Amaro was selected by President Obama to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists & Engineers. She is an Assistant Professor at UC San Diego University and has been lauded for her use of cutting-edge computational methods to help discover new drugs and to explore and shed light on the complex machinery of life at the microscopic level.

January 29, 2013 - 10:00 am,
ISU Meridian Center, Meridian, ID.
And via two-way transmission to Leonard Hall in Pocatello, ID.

Supported by the Dr. David Chu Annual Lectureship Fund