Walgreens Company donates $50,000 to pharmacy education at new Meridian site

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy recently received a $50,000 gift from the Walgreens Company for use at the new ISU Treasure Valley-based health-sciences complex in Meridian.

The University is expanding its Treasure Valley campus to accommodate the growing need for health professions education in the state and has purchased approximately 109,000 square feet of a building which includes the offices of the Meridian School District. The College of Pharmacy will hold classes at the complex, eventually allowing for the expansion of admissions to the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Currently, half of the third-year pharmacy class attends lectures at the Boise campus via distance learning satellite.

Scott Fleming, Rh.P., district pharmacy supervisor for Walgreens, who was instrumental in securing the gift, said he looks forward to additional students at the Meridian campus and sees the funds as an investment for the national retail pharmacy chain.

“I've found that ISU pharmacy students are not just really good students, but more importantly, really good people,” Fleming said. “That, more than anything, makes them really good pharmacists and therefore a great investment for Walgreens and the future of our company.”

Joseph F. Steiner, dean and professor of the College, said the gift from Walgreens shows a consistent effort of the company to support pharmacy education.

“Walgreens has had a long history in supporting excellence in pharmacy education and we are very grateful for their support in our efforts to increase the accessibility to an affordable pharmacy education in Idaho,” Steiner said. “I want to especially acknowledge the efforts of Scott Fleming. My thanks go out to him and his company.”

Earlier this year, the College received a $5.25 million gift from The ALSAM Foundation; a charitable organization based in Salt Lake City named in honor of L.S. “Sam” Skaggs and is wife, Aline. ISU has applied $5 million of the gift toward the College of Pharmacy's part of the purchase of the Meridian building and intends to renovate its portion. It will also move its Treasure Valley-based health-sciences programs to the site, beginning in fall 2009. Distribution of $250,000 of the gift slated for pharmacy scholarships for minority students began this fall and will continue in $50,000 increments annually.

ISU spends approximately $1 million a year on leases covering 55,000 square feet of classroom, office and instructional space in the Treasure Valley – including about 50,000 square feet at the main ISU-Boise complex at 19301 W. Explorer Drive. Consolidating programs under one roof will allow ISU to apply the leasing fees toward the purchase and renovation of the Meridian building, ISU officials said.
The J Amendment

Alumnus Col. Garth Holmes pens novel with proceeds earmarked for ISU alumni center

ISU College of Pharmacy alumnus, ’60, and retired Army Col. Garth H. Holmes, Olympia, Wash., has penned a novel with all proceeds slated for the ISU Alumni Association’s plans to build a new visitor’s center on the ISU campus.

The J Amendment is the story of a Mexican youth, Juan Cardova, who was recruited from his homeland to play soccer at San Diego State University and eventually becomes a U.S. citizen. During the 1960’s, Juan serves in the armed forces in Vietnam and returns home to later earn a law degree. He eventually enters the political arena; serving as the Santa Barbara County district attorney, state senator and governor of California.

Juan’s political aspirations lead him to land a seat in the U.S. Congress. Through devious means, he convinces U.S. senators to amend the Constitution—allowing him to eventually run for president. His presidency is a disaster, leading to hemisphere tension and conflict.

Col. Holmes began writing The J Amendment after the passing of his wife of 43-years, Dianne, whom the book is dedicated to. Much of the novel is taken from his life experiences, he said, but doesn’t relate to any particular person.

Copies of The J Amendment are available through the ISU Alumni Association at 208-282-3755. Published through AuthorHouse, the novel will also be available through 25,000 outlets including Barnes and Nobel, Borders and Walden’s Books.

To see plans for the ISU Alumni Association’s visitor’s center, go to isu.edu/departments/alumni/alumnicenter.shtml.

Alumni & Friends - Take time to join Us!

ISU & College of Pharmacy events:

- College of Pharmacy Operation Diabetes Health Fair, October 13, SUB ballroom, 8 a.m. - noon, contact Luke Stringham for more information at striluke@otc.isu.edu

- College of Pharmacy Game Day, October 20, Bengal vs. Portland State, 3:05 p.m. kick-off, Holt Arena, for tickets call (208) 282-FANS.

- American Pharmacists Month College of Pharmacy Open House, October 26, 4 - 7 p.m., Leonard Hall, free flu shots to first 50 guests.

- California Connection Alumni Dinner, Nov. 3, Hilton Garden Inn, Fairfield, Calif., 6 p.m., hosted by Pharmacy alumnus, Mr. Bill Eames. RSVP by Oct. 26th - kal@otc.isu.edu

For more information regarding pharmacy events, contact Andrew at 282-3393 or andrew@otc.isu.edu