A new era for pharmacy education

ALSAM Foundation board, guests gather for dedication

About 150 alumni and friends joined faculty, staff and students at the ISU Meridian Health Sciences Center last month for the dedication of the L.S. Skaggs Pharmacy Complex, celebrating the expansion of the pharmacy program and a new era in health science education for the state.

Interim Dean Paul Cady said the new state-of-the-art facility not only allows the college to admit additional students, but will serve as a catalyst for increased collaboration between pharmacy and other health care providers in western Idaho.

“The new complex provides us with the opportunity to capitalize on the largest patient population in Idaho—that’s essential to educating our students,” Cady said. “We are very grateful to the Skaggs family for their gift to the college and the opportunities it will provide. It’s also important for us to recognize the role that Dean Joe Steiner had in helping us to achieve our dream.”

ISU President Arthur Vailas, ALSAM Foundation Board member Susie (Skaggs) Balukoff and students Jo Keister and Erick Lawton expressed thanks to donors and shared their vision of the future of pharmacy education in Idaho.

“Tonight, it is an honor to be part of this dedication ceremony, but it is an extraordinary pleasure for me to have this public opportunity to personally thank the Skaggs family and the ALSAM Foundation,” said Erick Lawton, fourth-year student. “Not only have they provided a new home for all the ISU students here in the Treasure Valley, but their gift has individually benefited a number of students, myself included, in the form of a scholarship for minorities, that honors my Hispanic heritage.

The ALSAM Foundation donated $5.25 million to the College of Pharmacy in 2006, with $250,000 of this gift earmarked for minority student scholarships.

Interim Dean Paul Cady welcomes guests to the dedication of the L.S. Skaggs Pharmacy Complex located in the ISU Meridian Health Sciences Center last month. Pharmacy students, (inset) provided tours of the facility while members of the Skaggs family, (inset) joined President Arthur Vailas in the celebration.
College of Pharmacy alumnus, ’60, and retired Army Col. Garth H. Holmes, Olympia, Wash., has penned another novel with all proceeds slated for the ISU Alumni Association’s plans to build a new visitor’s center on the ISU campus.

The Border is a sequel to The J Amendment, 2007. In The J Amendment, the main character is Juan Cardova, a Mexican immigrant who comes to America, becomes a citizen and goes through his life cycle. First completion of his university education, then the military, law school, becomes a district attorney, state legislator, Governor of California, U.S. Congressman and finally, President of the United States.

Cardova becomes president by forcing powerful members of Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution, but his presidency is a disaster. Congress recalls his presidency and exiles him back to Mexico, never to be allowed to return.

In The Border, Cardova becomes president of Mexico and vows his revenge on his formally adoptive country. His plan is to raise Mexico to a standard far exceeding that of America and challenges the United States as a world power. His scheme is full of twists and turns and ends with his encounter of strangers who have a dramatic impact on his life.

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. The Border is dedicated to family and friends.

Copies of The J Amendment and The Border are available through the ISU Alumni Association at 208-282-3755.

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

American Pharmacists Month
October is American Pharmacists Month, and the ISU College of Pharmacy students, faculty and staff host several events including an open house, immunization clinics, continuing education class, pharmacists appreciation reception and the annual Pharmacy Recruiting Fair. Students at the L.S. Skaggs Pharmacy Complex in Meridain also join in the celebration with events at the ISU Health Sciences Center last month. To see a video of the open house and immunization clinic, go to http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11291209.