As you read this edition of the Bulletin I’m sure you will see why I am so proud to be associated with the ISU College of Pharmacy. We continue to be a thriving and growing Institution with faculty and students that excel in teaching, research and outreach activity.

In August we admitted 75 new students to the College. It is our largest group of students thus far. We celebrated the future class of 2016 with white coat ceremonies in Pocatello and Meridian. We look forward to watching them excel as they pursue the noble profession of pharmacy.

As the class of 2016 begins their studies, the students of the class of 2011 have joined the workforce or are pursuing residencies. We are proud of them, as they have received 100 percent pass rate on the NAPLEX exam. Only a handful of pharmacy colleges can claim this distinction each year.

Recently we welcomed a new faculty member. Dr. Dong Xu is bringing his expertise in computer aided drug design and molecular modeling to the College. He joins Dr. Todd Talley as research faculty in Meridian.

We also congratulate our students who were recognized with the Region 7 American Pharmacists Association/Academy of Student Pharmacists award for Operation Immunization. They administered close to 1,400 immunizations in the 2011-2012 school year.

As we look forward to spring, we anticipate another year of commencement activities as the class of 2013 graduates. We are also proud to announce the 20th annual Spaghetti Feed fundraiser on Feb. 22. Every year we invite the community for a spaghetti dinner and auction. The Idaho State Journal lists the event as number 18 in the “Top 100 Things to Do in Pocatello”. Part of the proceeds from the event help fulfill the wish of a Make-A-Wish child while the remaining proceeds are used to fund student outreach projects. We invite you to attend and hope you can find the time to join us.

We would not be the mission-driven, strong and caring College of Pharmacy without our extraordinary alumni. Meeting with you is one of the highlights of my position as Dean. Just this fall, 1968 graduate Gary Thomas came by to visit and remember classmates that have passed away. As a result of his generosity we have established The College of Pharmacy Alumni Memorial Endowment Fund. It gives us all the opportunity to remember those that we have cared about in scholarships that will benefit current and future students.

Of course there are many ways to give back to the College and we thank those individuals and corporations that give of their time, talent and treasure to make the ISU College of Pharmacy a strong institution with a wonderful legacy. We couldn’t do it without your support.

Enjoy this edition of the Bulletin and we welcome you to drop by the College at any time to remember your alma mater. We look forward to seeing you.

Paul D. Cady
Faculty & Leadership

Dr. Paul Cady
Dean; Professor

Dr. Barbara Adamcik
Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs; Professor

Dr. Alok Bhushan
Professor

Dr. James Bigelow
Associate Professor

Dr. Eliza Borzadek
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Glenda Carr
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Catherine Cashmore
Associate Dean; Associate Professor

Dr. Kerry Casperson
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Kevin Cleveland
Director, Idaho Drug Information Service; Associate Professor

Dr. Vaughn Culbertson
Director of Assessment, Accreditation and Nontraditional Pharm.D. Program; Professor

Dr. Gina Davis
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Dana Diedrich
DBPS Department Chair; Professor

Dr. Robin Dodson
Director, Meridian Student Services; Professor

Dr. Chris Downing
Assistant Professor

Dr. Kathy Eroschenko
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. John Erramouspe
Professor

Dr. Judy Fontenele
Professor Emeritus

Dr. Rex Force
Director, Family Medicine Clinical Research Center; Associate Dean for Clinical Research; Professor

Dr. Virginia Galizia
Professor Emerita

Dr. Teddie Gould
Associate Professor

Dr. David Hache
Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Roger Hefflinger
Clinical Associate Professor

Julie Hillebrant
Assistant to the Dean for College Relations

Dr. John Holmes
Visiting Research Professor

Dr. Timothy Hunt
Associate Professor

Dr. Stephen Hurley
Professor Emeritus

Dr. Eugene Isaacson
Professor Emeritus

Dr. Jolie Jantz
Clinical Assistant Professor

Mark Johnston
Adjunct Instructor

Dr. Sandra Jue
Professor Emerita

Dr. Ann Kator
Adjunct Clinical Instructor

Dr. James Lai
Interim Assistant BPS Department Chair; Professor

Dr. Henan Li
Visiting Assistant Professor

Dr. Cara Liday
Associate Professor

Dr. Rex Lott
Professor

Dr. Karl Madaras-Kelly
Professor

Dr. Barbara Mason
Professor

Dr. Todd Talley
Assistant Professor

Dr. Cynthia Tillotson
Director of Admissions & Student Affairs

Dr. Thomas Wadsworth
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Cindy Wilson
Associate Professor

Dr. Dong Xu
Assistant Professor

Dr. Guang Yan
Assistant Professor

Phil Yankovich
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Mission

Our mission is to develop caring and highly capable pharmacists who positively impact the health care needs of people in our communities, the state and nation. We are committed to the advancement of the pharmacy profession and the biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences through research, service and patient-centered care.

Vision

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy will be an innovator and leader in pharmacy education and scholarly activity. Opportunities will be provided to support lifelong learning and professional development in an atmosphere of collaboration, cultural awareness, and respect for individuals.

Values

The College is committed to:

- Integrity
- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Lifelong Learning
- Respect for the Individual
- Excellence
- Communication
- Scholarship
- Innovation
The percentage of 2011 ISU College of Pharmacy graduates that passed the NAPLEX exam was 100%.

In August’s welcome to the class of 2016, 75 students were presented with white coats.

The 1918 year the ISU College of Pharmacy was founded.

Gary Thomas and the Alumni

Number of students presented white coats in August’s welcome to the class of 2016.

The percentage of 2011 ISU College of Pharmacy graduates that passed the NAPLEX exam was 100%.

21 Number of faculty actively engaged in research in the health and biomedical sciences.

3,572 Number of people that received direct patient care from students at during the 2011-2012 school year.

1,000,000 Number of people that received health related information through public relation efforts during the 2011-2012 school year.

274 - Traditional PharmD

21  Number of faculty actively engaged in research in the health and biomedical sciences.

3 - Residents

9 - MS

4 - PhD

115 - Nontraditional PharmD

Current Number of Students attending ISU College of Pharmacy

303,000 Number of people that received health related information through public relation efforts during the 2011-2012 school year.
White Coat Ceremonies

College of Pharmacy Welcomes 75 New Students

Seventy-five students marked the entrance into the pharmacy profession and the Doctor of Pharmacy program in ceremonial White Coat events in Pocatello and Meridian on August 27th. They were presented white laboratory coats and signed the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists while faculty, staff and college administrators joined family and friends to witness the occasion.

The donning of the white coat is a tradition that signifies the beginning of a lifelong responsibility of professionalism for pharmacy health care providers. The coat also represents the clinical aspect of the profession.

“Tonight you will take your first step into the profession of pharmacy. You will don the white coat as a symbol of that step and sign the Pharmacist Code of Ethics. You will be expected to follow that code for your time here with as a student and, more importantly, for the rest of your professional lives,” said Associate Dean Catherine Cashmore, who was the emcee at the Pocatello ceremony.

And as Dean Paul Cady pointed out as the emcee in Meridian, “The white coat has meaning to your public, to your patients and it should have meaning to you.”

Both ceremonies had dignitaries attend including representatives from the Idaho State Pharmacy Association and the Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists. They offered words of encouragement to the new students. ISPA President Tyler Higgins spoke to the students in Meridian. “Get out there work hard and stay positive because the future is very bright for pharmacy,” he said.

Two key-note speakers also offered their perspective on ethics in the practice of pharmacy. VA Pharmacy Director Dr. Brenda Dunn spoke in Meridian and Dr. Ty Swenson, and co-owner of Idaho Drug in Rigby, spoke in Pocatello.

Donations to the ceremony came in many forms. Four sponsors provided donations to cover the expenses of the ceremony. They are Albertson’s Sav-On, Jack Walker, Idaho State Pharmacy Association and Deborah Yee-Chow. Scholarship monies for the new students were donated by the Idaho State Pharmacy Association, the
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Robert J. DeKlots, Larry B. Durrant and Thomas P. Hamilton.

Experiencing Pharmacy in a Foreign Land

After several multi-hour flights and layovers in foreign lands Sara Baker, (P4), and Cory Nelson, (P4) were given the rare and exciting opportunity to travel abroad and learn worldly pharmaceutical practices through the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF.)

Ghana

Street markets, exotic aromas, lush greens, quite a different culture from Nampa, Idaho. Cory Nelson experienced a little bit of culture shock when he arrived at one of the largest cultural meccas in Africa.

“I kind of had to immerse myself in that culture, I had to assimilate myself,” said Nelson. “I had to become a Ghanaian, per say,” he added with a chuckle.

Thousands of miles away from home, Nelson worked with local pharmacists and pharmacy students and was even given the opportunity to travel to rural areas.

Nelson was able to travel the globe because of his involvement with ISPF. Their student exchange program allows 50 to 60 American students to apply and travel the world each year while allowing 40 foreign students to visit the U.S., he explained. According to him, the program is aimed at “[helping students practice] pharmacy in different settings in different countries around the world.”

In Kumasi, Ghana, the second largest city in Africa, home to the Ashanti people, Nelson not only faced cultural differences but also pharmaceutical differences.

On one of his most memorable trips was to a rural area. Nelson and his travel companions were shocked to discover the local methods of treating illness.

He said that a lot of rural villages had access to medications but rarely used them as prescribed. Instead they often times break open medicine capsules or grind up medication and rub the drug on infected areas, rather than taking the pills orally.
Another huge cultural difference was the lack of pharmaceutical regulations. According to Nelson, people are able to walk into a retail pharmacy and present their symptoms and the pharmacist has the ability to prescribe on the spot, which can be a problem when Ghana allows anyone to work in a pharmacy.

“The regulations are improving and they’re becoming more strict, but you can hire people that don’t really know anything about medication [and have them] handing out antibiotics like candy,” he said.

Nelson said that while he can see a problem with pharmacies having that sort of unrestricted power, he added he felt it would be more successful in the United States because of degree requirements.

While miles apart from his home in the states, literally and figuratively, he said he didn’t face very many obstacles when it came to communication. According to him, most people in Kumasi speak English and he only faced a language barrier when traveling to rural areas.

Somewhat of a “personal challenge,” Nelson said he welcomed his foreign experiences. “I ended up having to travel 100 miles through Ghana. I really didn’t know anything and was asking people as I went,” he said. “It was kind of a little bit fun and exciting but a little bit scary.”

According to Nelson, he settled in within a few days and really began to love it. One thing he was extremely glad for was being the exchange student there for the first few weeks, which gave him time to acquaint himself with the country.

While Nelson said he didn’t really feel homesick during his stay. Turning into a true Ghanaian, he grew to love the native foods but really craved a hamburger.
The smell of the sea, the dry heat, the expanse of golden sand -- all vastly different from the landlocked mountainous valley of Pocatello. Miles from home, along the Red Sea in Hurghanda, Egypt; Sara Baker spent 11 days taking in a more worldly view of pharmacy.

Baker, who attends the Pocatello campus, specifically chose to attend ISPF’s 58th annual World Congress. A little scared at first because of the current political climate in Egypt, she tried to ignore news reports and just focus on the great opportunity.

“IPSF is just getting started here,” she explained. “I am the chairperson in Pocatello for [IPSF] and I wanted to go and get some ideas as to how to grow on our campus and just get the chance to talk with other students from around the world and just see what everyone else is doing.”

According to Baker, there were over 500 students from more than 50 countries gathered in Egypt to discuss the future of pharmacy, elect new officers and attend scientific and educational symposiums among other things.

“We had a lot of workshops involving the different campaigns that IPSF is involved in on a worldwide level,” said Baker. She was able to attend workshops on several social issues like HIV and tobacco, as well as anti-counterfeit drugs, Gen Rx and professional development.

“These workshops were opportunities to learn what we want to accomplish with each campaign,” she said. She also used these workshops as a place to brainstorm campaigns on a local level.

Baker was also able to work on finalizing a student-authored paper, IPSF-EPSA
Declaration on the Future of Pharmacists, which was presented to pharmacists from around the world at the International Pharmaceutical Federation congress.

“One of the neatest things about being there was learning about how pharmacy is different in each country and what they aspire to,” she said. “Learning about the different cultures of pharmacy was cool.”

The different views of pharmacy stuck most in her mind. “In some countries, [a degree] could only be used for research. In other countries they could do research and work in hospitals but not retail,” she said.

One of the biggest differences was countries allowing anyone to work in a retail pharmacies yet some countries requiring a pharmacy degree if a drug representative.

“Many other students found it interesting that we require a doctorate degree here even if working in retail,” she said, pointing out that conversely we don’t require any degree for drug reps.

Other countries also have separate degrees for pharmacists and pharmaceutical sciences, according to Baker. “I found this interesting because I expected most of the students there to be looking at the same career options that I am.”

Even with such a diverse meeting of people Baker said she didn’t face much of a language barrier. “The official language of IPFS is English,” said Baker. “But there were still times when there were people from countries where they didn’t speak very good English.” Often resorting to hand gestures when she encountered this problem.

One of her first international trips, Baker was excited and nervous to spend time away from home and said she had a very safe and comfortable trip.

Baker visited during Ramadan, a Muslim religious holiday observed by fasting from sunrise to sunset. While she and other attendees are not Muslim, they were respectful and took meals later to accommodate the holiday. And while she got sick while there, she said she couldn’t wait to come home and have American food.
A beautiful piece of pharmacy history, a century-old pharmacy license is presented to the College of Pharmacy’s collection by a generous alum.
With fading ink and yellowing paper, a 1908 pharmacy license rests behind the glass of a black frame. Though it might only be a piece of paper to some, it is an important part of Idaho history.

Joe Carlson, 1961 College of Pharmacy alumni, received the antique license as a gift from his sister and thought it would be a great addition to the College of Pharmacy’s collection of antique pharmacy items.
Not belonging to a stranger, Carlson knew the awardee, Carl Howard Pixley. Growing up near Pixley’s pharmacy in Old Town Pocatello, Carlson said the relationship he cultivated with Pixley is what really sparked his interest in pharmacy.
Carlson said Pixley graduated from Creighton University around 1908, the same year he applied for his Idaho license. A vast difference from today’s pharmacy education, Carlson said Pixley learned everything he knew from a single textbook.
“[You’d] open it up to page one and when you got through the last page you were a pharmacist,” he explained with a chuckle. This textbook, the “Remington,” was considered the gold standard of pharmacy in its day and continues to hold its place in the pharmacy world.
According to Carlson, Pixley opened a small drug store on North Main in Pocatello. Different from today’s pharmacies, the public didn’t see a lot of the action.
“In those days, filling the prescription was almost a mystery,” Carlson explained. “You’d give your prescription to a pharmacist and they’d take it back into a room with doors that closed.”
Another vast difference from today’s pharmacies, most drug stores of the era also served as a soda shop, lined with a counter and stools. Pixley’s drug store was one of the few pharmacies without a soda fountain in the area.
At the end of the 1940s, Pixley sold his pharmacy and retired. Pixley and his wife never had any children and when Mrs. Pixley passed away, Carlson’s sisters became family to Pixley and took care of him until his death.

Holding countless pieces of history, the Carlson’s inherited Pixley’s vast collection of pharmacy items, including a vintage typewriter, already donated to the college’s collection.
Carlson, a Pocatello native, graduated from Pocatello High School in 1954. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Carlson was deployed with the Navy and returned shortly after to enroll in the College of Pharmacy.
Graduating in 1961, he worked a very short time in a Soda Springs pharmacy before moving to a position at the Pocatello Skaggs. His Skaggs position lead him to his lifetime of work with Merck, the global pharmaceutical company.
Carlson worked as a field representative for Merck for 12 years before moving to the Health and Welfare coordinator. The development of this position came about as HMO became a more common word to pharmacists.
Currently living in Orem, Utah, Carlson enjoys his wife, four children, 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, with two more on the way.
It is with the greatest adulation and admiration that we thank Mrs. Carol Lecumberry and her family for her incredibly generous gift of $100,000 that she made to the College of Pharmacy Alumni Memorial Scholarship Endowment in memory of her husband, Fermin class of 1943. Fermin passed away on September 23, 2011 at the age of 90, while still holding an active Pharmacy License.

A very humble person, Fermin was born in Spain in September, 1925. At the age of two, his family, including his father Lario and brother Pete, immigrated to the United States. They settled in Winnemucca, Nevada where his father leased ranch land and the family raised sheep. He was very proud of being from Winnemucca.

During his childhood, Fermin dreamed of having a professional career. His dream came true when he was accepted into the College of Pharmacy at ISU and graduated in 1943. Upon graduation, Fermin entered the US Army where he served two years during the final years of World War II. Upon his discharge he returned to Nevada where he settled in Reno.

Fermin spent the remainder of his life in Reno where he was the owner/operator of Arch Liquor and Drug on Virginia Street, which is the main street of Reno, adjacent to the iconic Reno Arch landmark with its famous slogan, “The Biggest Little City in the World”. He operated his Arch Liquor and Drug for many years before moving across the street where he opened Arch II to make room for a new casino. Fermin operated his store in those two locations for over 40 years before his retirement.

According to Mrs. Lecumberry, he often said that he was extremely proud of the education that he received at ISU and owed much of his career success to his pharmacy degree. He did, however, have memories that often included how he was hungry many times during his school years and it was Carol’s hope that her gift in memory of Fermin will prevent another student from having that same memory. This gift along with the other gracious donations we receive from family, friends and fellow alumni will do exactly that in addition to educating current and future generations of College of Pharmacy students in this very noble profession.

We are very grateful to the Lecumberry family for their very generous gift and all other supporters of the Alumni Memorial Scholarship Endowment and the College of Pharmacy at ISU.
Gary Thomas’ return trip to Pocatello came with a purpose. “I have a mission to memorialize my classmates that have passed away,” he said. In the last two years, Thomas has lost three friends and classmates from the College of Pharmacy. “My goal is to make a contribution in their memory,” said Thomas.

Pocatello and the College of Pharmacy hold fond memories for Gary and his wife Jan. While retracing their honeymoon to Yellowstone National Park, Gary and Jan stopped by the College and visited with Dean Paul Cady. What resulted was an opportunity for all graduates to carry on the memory of those that have passed on.

Thomas is spearheading a scholarship fundraising campaign. “The College of Pharmacy Alumni Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund” which will be an ongoing endowment to memorialize any friends, family, and alumni that have passed away. The scholarships will benefit students for generations to come. It will be a tangible way for students to recognize the long and rich history of the College of Pharmacy family.

“The success I’ve experienced during my career was due, in large part, to the education I received at ISU,” said Thomas. Thomas graduated from the COP in 1968. In the summer after his second year he went back to Sacramento and married his high school sweetheart Jan. They came back to Pocatello and Gary finished his education while Jan worked for the local telephone office.

After graduating from the College in 1968, Gary went to work for Bill Eames (‘57) and entered his management-training program. From the experience he received working with Eames he decided he wanted to become a pharmacy owner. A year later he went to work for Bob Kellogg in Sacramento, CA and soon after purchased his pharmacy.

In the seven years that Thomas owned his pharmacy he developed a close clinical relationship with a skilled nursing facility in the area. “We didn’t just fill prescriptions and deliver the drugs for the nurses to pass out the medication. I thought that I owed more to them then that,” he said.

Thomas began staff development of RN’s and LPN’s. He taught basic pharmacology, “helping them know a little bit about the drugs that they were distributing to patients, and some of the common side effects.” He said it was a symbiotic relationship and he learned a lot from the nurses.

After selling his store, he used his experience with the skilled nursing facilities and became a consultant and contracted with nursing homes.

Though he enjoyed the skilled nursing arena he wanted to go back to a community pharmacy environment. A friend offered him a position at his pharmacy and he jumped at the chance.

Although away from consulting, Thomas has never stopped educating. He continues to speak to seniors groups, service clubs and has become a visible spokesperson in his community for the practice of pharmacy.

While he was here, Dean Cady invited Gary to speak to a class of P1 students. “You are coming into a profession at an exciting time.” he said. You are going to face so many interesting challenges as you embark on your careers. I am still enthusiastic about what I do and I hope you are too.”

He left the class with one last thought, “When you graduate you can stand alongside anybody from any other pharmacy school and know that you got a great education.”
To My Brethren,

When I decided to create The College of Pharmacy Alumni Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund I wanted to give back to the College that did so much in preparing me to have a success career. I also wanted to provide an opportunity for fellow alumni of the College and family members honor the memory of their friends who have passed away. The scholarship will truly benefit students of the College for generations to come.

I have been very touched by the stories behind some of the gifts. One that really touched me was from Les Jan ’70 who made a gift in memory of Sergeant Robert (Bobby) Ray from Bakersfield, CA.

I met Les and Bobby as students, but also as brothers of Phi Delta Chi. Les and Bobby were on track to graduate in 1969 when they received notice to get their draft physicals in Boise. Les joined the army reserve unit in Boise. Bobby was drafted into the army and sent to Vietnam. He was a medic rendering aid to a wounded soldier when he was killed on July 15, 1968, just before he was to be sent home. Les mentioned that, at the time, there were thoughts to set up a memorial for Bobby but, like many things, it never materialized.

For those of us who remember Bobby Ray this fund is a perfect way for us to honor his memory.

I want to personally thank all of you who have already made a contribution and would encourage my fellow alumni to support this important initiative. Even though you may not have a specific alumni or family member to memorialize, your financial support will help increase the scholarship amounts that we can award to current and future students of the College. It is important that each of you support the fund or your choice. Please return the Gift Affirmation Form that is attached to the bullet with your check or credit card information.

Thank you so much for supporting The College of Pharmacy Alumni Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Gary Thomas, RPh (’68)
Supporters of the College of Pharmacy
Alumni Memorial
Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Donor: In Memory of

Linda S Alexander ‘65
Albert G. Bouvier ’50
Robert J. DeKlotz ’51
Dave Della Zoppa ’69
David Fong ’74
Richard Fuchs ’60
Don Granberg ‘67
Les Jang ’70
Glenn Milo Johnson ’68
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Wayne Crosby ‘60
Gene Paine ’65
Tom Lau ’66
Larry Valero ’68
William Barr ’68
Emil Meurer ’61
Gerald R. Sutliff ’68

In Memoriam


Reid Bell, Class of 1949, from Grass Valley, CA, died September 9, 2009.


Weldon Hawkins, Class of 1941, from Pocatello, ID, died November 22, 2012.

John Johnson, Class of 1956, from Island Park, ID, died November 17, 2012.

Albert Knight, Class of 1942, from Heber City, UT, died January 16, 2012.

Fermin Lecumberry, Class of 1943, from Reno, NV, died September 23, 2011.

Paul Lunt, Class of 1948, from Cedar City, UT, died October 15, 2012.


Raymond Pullen, Class of 1950, from Idaho Falls, ID, died April 22, 2012.

Greatly successful in the prime of his career, one College of Pharmacy alum gives generously to future pharmacists.

“Every little penny is greatly appreciated because it’s just that much less you’re in debt,” said Lynan Nielsen, nontraditional P4 and recipient of the Mike Prime Scholarship. Nielsen was given the opportunity to meet the donor, Mike Prime, during his recent visit to Idaho State University for the ISU Foundation board of directors meeting.

“Even though Idaho State is one of the cheaper schools, as far as tuition goes, it’s still a lot,” Nielsen said. A divorcee and mother of college students, she said the scholarship was a “blessing.”

Prime, a 1969 graduate, ended up at Idaho State University because of cost but contemplated staying because he loved it so much. “I have wonderful memories here,” he said.

During his five years on campus he was a member of Phi Delta Chi and even lived in the Phi-Del house, helping with its renovations in 1969.

After graduating he started in working in retail. “With the B.S. degree there wasn’t much choice,” he explained. He went on to own his own retail pharmacy for a short period of time before he changed the world of pharmacy.

“Another pharmacist and I came up with this great idea to continue intravenous therapy at home,” he said. According to him, they were the second people in the country to come up with the idea.

Starting a full-scale operation, Prime and his business partner helped to set the standards for the new market. “At the time, the hospitals didn’t want to touch it,” he said. Working with a small group of R.N.s, he was able to set up a program that exponentially grew before it was even materialized.

With plans to offer total nutrition and expanding into the world of chemotherapy, the service quickly grew and became a staple in a lot of care regimens.

Hoping to get other pharmacists involved, Prime and his partner franchised the idea and traveled the country to let other pharmacists know about it.

“At one time we had close to 300 franchises in 46 states,” he said. “It never would have happened if it weren’t for ISU,” he said.

While Prime’s favorite place was back home in California working with patients he spent his time traveling the country, observing the franchises to make sure they were following proper procedures.

Thankful for his beginnings at College of Pharmacy, he was happy to continue the strong tradition of giving. While he might not always be able to visit Pocatello and the college one thing remains sure - College of Pharmacy is “like a family” to him.
New faculty member Dong (Danny) Xu, Ph.D., brings an impressive background in Computer Simulated Molecular Modeling and Computer-Aided Drug Design to Idaho State University Meridian Health Science Center.

Dr. Xu received his undergraduate degree in chemistry but always had an interest in computer science. His family encouraged him to continue pursuing chemistry and at the time, San Diego State University had just developed a computational science program. This allowed him to not only continue his work in chemistry, but also pursue his second interest in computer science, resulting in an interdisciplinary approach in molecular and drug design.

Using two types of computer modeling technologies, Dr. Xu is able to screen compounds and simulate how they interact and bind with proteins responsible for human diseases.

The first type of simulation he carries out is called Computer-Aided Drug Design, which consists of a computational method called “virtual screening.”

Dr. Xu said that before companies spend millions of dollars designing and testing compounds they hire people like himself to run simulated compounding on computers. After the screening, predictions are given that specify compounds that are the most potent against disease targets. Once the compounds are identified, other chemists can test these hypotheses in a wet lab.

The second type of simulation Dr. Xu performs is called Molecular Dynamics Simulation in which a detailed protein-ligand system is set up and super computers are used to simulate what’s happening in a physiological environment.

“We want to know how drugs approach the target protein binding site and stay there,” Dr. Xu said. “This shows how drugs interact with disease targets at an atomic level.” According to Dr. Xu, these large, complicated simulations can take several weeks to run on supercomputers.

The unique nature of Dr. Xu’s lab is that he can combine the information from both virtual screening and the molecular dynamics simulation into a “pretty powerful drug discovery pipeline,” he said.

Dr. Xu, who pursued his Masters and Ph.D at San Diego State University, also completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the National Biomedical Computation Resource, an NIH funded research center, with Professor J. Andrew McCammon, a member of National Academy of Sciences, at the University of California, San Diego.

At UCSD, Dr. Xu’s research interest focused on on anti-influenza drug design and he is continuing this line of research at ISU.
Meridian.

According to Dr. Xu, the first step of the viral life cycle is viral infection when influenza viruses attach themselves to the sugar molecules sticking out of human cells. Through a cell fusion process they break inside the cells. Once inside they start to replicate and make more viruses.

Dr. Xu said current flu drugs such as Tamiflu, target the end of viral life cycle, inhibiting the release of virus particles from infected cells. But it makes lots of sense to design new drugs preventing initial viral infection. According to Dr. Xu, his research is specifically geared to identifying the key interactions of the viral proteins and use advanced computational methods to design novel therapeutics to stop the flu viruses from adhering to human cells in the first place.

Dr. Xu moved to Idaho in 2010. Prior to coming to ISU he was an assistant professor at Boise State University and currently holds an adjunct appointment at the Boise VA Medical Center.

Dr. Xu also organizes and chairs Computational Chemistry and Biophysics Symposia at the American Chemical Society and American Association for the Advancement of Science national meetings.

In addition, he is also the executive editor for the journal Interdisciplinary Sciences: Computational Life Sciences and serves on the editorial advisory boards of multiple computational biology and chemistry journals, including ISRN Computational Biology, Journal of Proteome Science & Computational Biology, Journal of Molecular Engineering & Systems Biology, Journal of Pharmaceutical Technology & Drug Research, and Dataset Papers in Biology.

Dr. Xu was born and raised in Tianjin, China where his parents still live.

Dr. Rex Lott Installed as President of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists

ISU College of Pharmacy Professor, Dr. Rex Lott was installed as 15th President of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) in the “gavel-passing ceremony” at CPNP’s Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida on May 2, 2012. He assumed his duties as President on July 1. Dr. Lott had previously served for one year as an at-large member of the CPNP Board of Directors before being selected as President-Elect in 2010.

CPNP is the professional organization for pharmacists who specialize in the treatment of persons with psychiatric or neurologic disorders. There are approximately 1,100 CPNP members in the United States and Canada. CPNP’s mission is “to promote excellence in pharmacy practice, education and research to optimize treatment outcomes of individuals affected by psychiatric and neurologic disorders.”

Dr. Lott has practiced and taught psychiatric and neurologic pharmacy for over 35 years. Since 1997 he has been a full-time faculty member with Idaho State University with a practice in psychiatric pharmacy at the Boise, Idaho VA Medical Center. His practice focuses on inpatient and outpatient adult psychiatry. He precepts students from Idaho State University and, since 2008, has also taught third and fourth year psychiatry residents from the University of Washington in the Idaho Track Residency Program. He also teaches PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residents.

Dr. Lott is also a member of the American Epilepsy Society. He is a member of the Professional Advisory Board and the Board of Directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of Idaho, and he has served as President of that nonprofit organization’s Board of Directors.
“To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.” — Confucius

One’s character can be difficult to capture and convey in words. However, Confucius’ quote nicely articulates the essence of Kathleen Lehman, ISU College of Pharmacy’s retiring Office Specialist II. “Kathleen unselfish, always put students and alumni first and with a smile,” said Dan Dean, ISU College of Pharmacy’s Director of Development from 2006-2012, of the working relationship he shared with Lehman.

Dean was only one of the many individuals who were quick to contribute remarks on behalf of Lehman’s retirement. “For more than eight years, I had the pleasure of working with Kathleen on a number of projects, including the annual pharmacy recruiting fair to help students with employment opportunities during pharmacy school and following graduation,” said Andrew Gauss, former Director of College Relations. “The effort and dedication she put into each year’s fair, as well as other alumni and development events was invaluable. She is a true advocate for the students’ educational experience and future pharmacy careers.”

According to Katherine Hope, Class of 2010, “I have many fond memories of Kathleen. Every time I saw her she always had a beautiful smile on her face and greeted me with warmth and love. She was genuinely interested in me and how she could assist me in my position as the PPSA President. She was rarely in the spotlight, but we know nothing could have happened without her behind the scenes. When I look back on my years of Pharmacy school, Kathleen definitely holds a special place in my heart. I wish her the best with her retirement and want her to know how much we love her!

“Kathleen’s institutional knowledge, relationship with our alumni and her wonderful caring demeanor has made my transition as the ‘new guy’ totally seamless,” said current Director of Development, Phil Yankovich. “She is truly a delight and a very special person. I will truly miss her.”

Commenting on Lehman’s service to the college, Dean Paul Cady said “Kathleen has been an absolute blessing to this college. She has been the first person people see and I guarantee they were greeted with a smile and cheery disposition, which is invaluable to this college. She’s great!”

Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Tillotson, provided the following description of her experience working with Lehman, “Kathleen has truly been a pleasure to work with over the years. Kathleen has always been welcoming, thoughtful and professional. Students, alums, faculty and staff knew from their first interaction with her that she really cared about them and was there to help. I personally have appreciated her great sense of humor and her ability to see what is important not only on a work/professional level, but on a human level as well. Kathleen has been a warm and bright asset for the College of Pharmacy.”

Lehman has been with the College of Pharmacy since October of 1999. In addition to her administrative duties, Lehman has served on various committees, including the Assessment Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, General Education Curriculum Requirements Committee, and numerous planning committees for student and alumni events. Of her favorite events to plan and participate over the years, Lehman stated “I really enjoyed planning the Women in Pharmacy and Leaders in Pharmacy dinners, but I also loved helping with White Coat Ceremony, Spaghetti Feed, American Pharmacists Month, and the phone-a-thon ... how can I leave out any?”

Kathleen plans to stay active in retirement spending time with her husband Joe, friends, and loved ones skiing and catching up on her tennis game. Though she will miss helping people here at the college, she is looking forward to being home with her two Bernese Mountain dogs, Earl and Edmund.
Pharmacy Recruiting and Exhibition Fair

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy and the Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance (PPSA) hosted the 2012 Pharmacy Recruiting and Exhibition Fair on Nov. 8 and 9 in Meridian.

Thirty-Five health care recruiters representing 20 different companies and organizations from Idaho and across the United States attended the fair for the first time on the Meridian campus.

The recruiters typically attend the fair to interview students one-on-one for potential employment. P4’s traveled back to campus from their clinical rotation sites in Coeur d’Alene, Reno and Pocatello and Boise to attend. P1’s are required to attend and volunteer at the Fair and find the experience valuable, as many recruiters are interested in hiring them for internships. While P2’s and P3’s are not required to attend, the fair is worth their time to network and prepare for their future careers.

In addition to the interviews a company exhibition at the fair allows students to increase their knowledge of career pathways in community, hospital, research and other pharmacy career opportunities. A residency overview event allowed for a question and answer session with companies regarding their residency opportunities and a rotation roundtable allowed for P4’s to discuss their experiences with the other students.

The fair wasn’t all work. The “Pharmacy Olympics” event on the evening of the eighth also allowed students and their families’ time

Idaho State University’s health care mission continues to be strong as evident in the recent collaboration between its Colleges within the Division of Health Sciences.

Five DHS Faculty created an interdisciplinary collaboration for documenting and delivering community health care services. They include Pharmacy, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Health Education, and Dietetics.

This partnership includes a longstanding relationship pharmacy assistant professor, Dr. Cindy Wilson has had with Southeastern Idaho Public Health. According to Cindy, “our goal is to meet the health care needs of citizens of Southeastern Idaho.”

The collaboration resulted in 15 separate events in 2012 to screen individuals for diabetes. These events take place at Public Health buildings and Senior Centers, spread throughout 8 rural counties in Southeastern Idaho.

The services provided to patients at these events included nutrition counseling from Dietetics students, action planning from Health Education students, foot checks from nursing students, balance checks from Physical Therapy students, and blood glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol screening and medication counseling from pharmacy students.

“The group already has plans to extend the program beyond the SIPH plan, to seek funding and support for this program,” said Wilson.

Megan Koyle P3, is the chair of Operation Diabetes this year in Pocatello and has been involved in the organization of the health fairs. “I think that the interdisciplinary collaboration has been very beneficial. Each group has been able to contribute something different to patient care.”

For Student Pharmacists that attend these programs they are able to fulfill their early experiential practice curriculum requirement with direct patient contact in an interdisciplinary environment.
Annual Report
Alumni Relations and Development

I have truly enjoyed meeting many of our alumni since I became the Director of Development in September and look forward to meeting many more of you as we enter the New Year. The support that we received this year, as well as previous years’ from our alumni, friends and corporate partners means so much to our students.

This support includes student scholarships that provide critically important financial assistance to many of our students. This support has also helped us immensely in purchasing new equipment for teaching and research purposes as well as continuing our important community outreach programs and much more. By being able to provide these important resources, we continue to educate the best and the brightest future pharmacists in the country.

There is no better indicator than the news that in 2011 our students received a 100 percent pass rate on the NAPLEX exam for the second time since 2008. We were one of six out of 104 pharmacy colleges that can make that claim. We are very proud of our students and our Alumni, friends and corporate partners who with their financial support continue to make the ISU College of Pharmacy one of the very best in the country.

We are Pharmacy, We are ISU!

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As we have often heard and well understand, the practice of pharmacy continues to evolve with ever-greater emphasis being placed on the ability of pharmacists to contribute meaningfully to the many aspects of patients’ well being as part of an inter-professional healthcare team. Pharmacists are in leadership roles at many levels, they develop and implement quality improvement initiatives, conduct clinical research, and bring a specific knowledge base and skill set to patient care.

To meet these many expectations, the Department of Pharmacy Practice’s 25 full- and part-time faculty as well as literally dozens of affiliate faculty members spend countless hours each year in the classroom as well as in many practice areas, preparing students to identify and solve drug-related issues and provide the level of care that will be required of them. To this end, there have been a number of curricular developments that have been implemented in recent years and more still being planned to enhance the clinical focus of the entire program.

Starting in the P-1 year, students complete Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) in community and institutional settings. In the classroom, they are given a foundation in both the science and practice of pharmacy. The clinical problem solving skills course in the first year prepares students for the case studies sequence that runs throughout the program and teaches them clinical decision-making and medical record notation techniques. This has been a focus of the Department’s efforts in the past year especially and a great deal of teaching time is spent facilitating small group discussions of cases and helping students begin to apply these principles to patient care.

In this past year, members of the Department in Meridian have also developed an elective course in Residency Preparedness that focuses on giving students the opportunity to become more competitive for residencies through CV development, interviewing skills, the application process, and the chance to work with faculty on research projects very similar to ones they will be required to complete as part of most residency programs. The course was delivered for the first time this year, but we are hopeful that it will be expanded and enhanced to help all those who wish to better compete for residency slots.

While the Department is committed to professional and clinical service, as well as scholarship and teaching, we recognized that our students and the promotion of the pharmacy profession are our future and the major reason why we do what we do. By constantly working with our partners in the community to enhance the educational experience of our students, we believe that we can continue to prepare them to provide the highest level of patient care amid a changing healthcare landscape.
The Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPSCI) continues to move forward placing faculty members in the Skaggs Pharmacy Complex the Meridian Center. In addition to giving the department a physical presence for instruction, these new faculty members are taking the department in a new direction of research.

The individuals hired so far and another with whom negotiations are in progress all have overlapping expertise in various aspects of computer assisted structural based drug discovery. These faculty members have strong backgrounds in chemistry and medicinal chemistry. BPSCI has the opportunity to hire additional new faculty members over the next two years, and it is our goal to hire strong Ph.D. researchers who also possess a Pharm.D. degree.

BPSCI also is working closely with clinical faculty members to reevaluate its role in the pharmacy curriculum. Course content is being scrutinized to the level of the individual lecture in order to eliminate unnecessary redundancy and provide students with the content most relevant to the generalist practitioner.

The BPSCI graduate program also is undergoing revision by eliminating some courses as required courses and creating a curriculum individually tailored to meet the needs of individual graduate students.

The department is committed to forging stronger bonds with colleagues in the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences and providing graduate students with the option of performing most or all of their research in departments outside the College of Pharmacy. We have observed an increased interest among some pharmacy students to pursue the combined Pharm.D./Ph.D. program, and we are excited to revitalize this option for students.
Faculty Accomplishments

Presentations

Jarmin, M, Sharma, B, Johnson, TE, Downing, C (September 2012). The Role of ADAMTS Metalloproteases in Digit Malformations Following Prenatal Alcohol Exposure. Skaggs Symposium for Biomedical Research, Aurora, CO.


Talley, TT, Wu, J, Ho, KY, Sankaran, B, Taylor, P (September 2012). Advancements in the Development of Novel Nicotinic Therapeutic Agents. 3rd L.S. Skaggs Biomedical Research Symposium, Aurora, CO.


Talley, TT, Wu, J, Ho, KY, Taylor, P (June 2012). Acetylcholine Binding Protein-Nicotinic Receptor Chimeras for Delineating Structure and Determinants of Ligand Selectivity. 67th Northwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Boise ID.


Xu, D, (April 2012). Accelerating Biomedical Discovery with Advanced Molecular Simulation. NIHINBRE Research Meeting, Northwest Nazarene University, Boise, ID.

Xu, D, (March 2012). Computer Aided Drug Design on Your Home Computer. Gonzaga University Chemistry Department Research Seminar, Spokane, WA.


Culbertson, VL (September 2012). Use of Statistical Process Control Charts (SPC) as a Claims Database Surveillance Screening Technique. Skaggs Symposium for Biomedical Research, Aurora, CO.

Poster Presentations


Talley, TT, Wu, J, Ho, KY, Sankaran, B, Taylor, P (September 2012). Crystallographic Comparison of Nicotinic Ligands in Complex with the Acetylcholine Binding Protein. 3rd L.S. Skaggs Biomedical Research Symposium, Aurora, CO.

Xu, D, et al. (September 2012). Autodock2MMGBSA, A Multi-Level Virtual Screening Rescoring and Refinement Scheme That Combines Consensus Scoring, Simulated Annealing and MM-GBSA Binding Free Energy Methods. 3rd L.S. Skaggs Biomedical Research Symposium, Aurora, CO.

Xu, D, et al. (June 2012). Anti-Bacteria, Anti-Parasite, and Anti-Cancer Drug Design through Large-Scale Computer Aided Virtual Screening. American Chemical Society Northwest Meeting, Boise ID.

Xu, D, et al. (June 2012). Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Human Interferon β-1a PEgylated by Linear Polyethylene Glycol Polymers. American Chemical Society Northwest Meeting, Boise ID.
Publications


Grants

Xu, D. Mountain State Tumor & Medical Research Institute Basic Science Grant; Role: PI; Amount: $7,500; Period: 07/01/12 – 06/30/13. Project: Discovering Novel Universal Anti-Influenza Inhibitors Through Receptor Ensemble Based Virtual Screening.

Awards/Others

Downing, C (June 2012). NIH study section, Genetics of Health and Disease (GHD), Bethesda, MD.

Lott, R (2012). Installed as President of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Xu, D (June 2012). Organizer and Chair, Biophysics Symposium: Biological Insight from Experimental Approaches to Computational Simulation. American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 93rd Annual Meeting, Boise ID.

Xu, D (2012). Appointed the Executive Editor for Interdisciplinary Sciences: Computational Life Sciences, a Springer journal, ISSN 1913-2751.
In 2011-2012 our students gave direct patient care to 3,572 people through health screenings and immunizations. Through all community education efforts over 300,000 were reached. ISU continues to win national recognition for their outreach efforts. Your donations help keep these student programs thriving. Please consider a donation to the College of Pharmacy for its student outreach efforts. Thank You!

Please send your donation to the College of Pharmacy, 921 S. 8th Ave. Stop 8288, Pocatello, ID 83209-8288