First-year Doctor of Pharmacy students were inducted into the ISU College of Pharmacy professional program during the 4th Annual White Coat Ceremony held Aug. 18 during P1 Orientation Week.

Dean Joseph Steiner, pharmacy faculty and staff, students and representatives from professional organizations welcomed the students to the study and ultimately, the practice of pharmacy.

The evening ceremony, held at the Pocatello Holiday Inn, included representatives from the Idaho State Pharmacy Association, Idaho Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, Southeast Idaho Pharmacy Association and Idaho Board of Pharmacy.

During the ceremony, pharmacy students took a pledge of professionalism, signed the Code of Ethics for a Pharmacist and donned white coats with the assistance of college alumni and faculty — acknowledging entrance into the practice of pharmacy and their duty to their patients and colleagues.

In addition to the ceremony, students attended activities during the week including a chemical dependency seminar, meetings with faculty advisors and CPR training.

Alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the college sponsored students by purchasing a white coat as a symbolic commitment as mentors to the students.

“The White Coat Ceremony has quickly become one of the highlights of our year,” Dean Steiner said. “It is so important that the students start seeing themselves as a part of the profession and to gain professionalism from the first day they start at the College of Pharmacy. These students are the future of our profession. I extend my thanks to all of the alumni that have supported this activity with their purchase of a white coat and their time in attending the ceremony and extend my invitation to others to join us in this great event.”
Treatment of alcoholism may lie in the hands, (or labs) of ISU College of Pharmacy faculty

The future of treating alcoholism, a major health problem in the U.S. that costs more than $1.9 billion annually, will be influenced by basic research conducted at the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Leslie Devaud, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was recently awarded a $1.2 million, five-year research grant through the National Institutes of Health for her project, “Molecular Basis for Sex-Selective Effects of Ethanol.” This award will allow her and her colleagues to continue work they have been conducting at ISU over the last several years.

Dr. Devaud’s main research interest has focused on the study of key brain systems that mediate the development of alcoholism and withdrawal symptoms seen when alcoholics stop drinking.

With the use of a laboratory model in her studies, Dr. Devaud is able to focus on neurobiological mechanisms of alcohol dependence and withdrawal. “We compare and contrast findings in male and female animals as we hypothesize that one’s sex is an important contributor to the potential for harm from alcohol dependence and withdrawal,” Dr. Devaud said.

Other faculty assisting Dr. Devaud in the research project include Dr. Fred Risinger, Dr. James Bigelow, and Dr. Dan Selvage, all with the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy.

During the initial award, which began in 1999, the researchers uncovered significant differences in critical neuronal systems induced by chronic feeding of alcohol to animals. These cellular changes differed between the sexes, Dr. Devaud said. More recently, they found robust changes in behavioral expression and timing of recovery from alcohol withdrawal.

“Taken together with recent studies in humans, it is becoming clear that whether one is female or male influences the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption,” she said. “It remains difficult to effectively treat recovering alcoholics and we believe that our research will help highlight ways to improve care of alcoholic patients, by tailoring treatment approaches according to gender.”

Funding for the first-year of the new grant comes from the Office of Research on Women’s Health, (ORWH). The remaining four years of the grant will be funded from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, (NIAAA).

“Dr. Devaud’s project represents exciting cutting-edge research addressing a timely and vital topic,” said co-investigator and Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Interim Chair Dr. Fred Risinger. “Dr. Devaud is a nationally known neuroscientist and her work brings important recognition to the research mission of ISU. Her grant renewal as well as her national reputation reflects the many years of hard work she has devoted to research. She is a key asset for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the College of Pharmacy, and a role model for biomedical researchers in this department and campus wide.”
Dean’s update:

The value of accreditation is more than ACPE approval

Accreditation - what is its value? Of course, individuals know that to sit for the national licensure examination (NAPLEX) you need to graduate from an accredited college or school of pharmacy. However, the accreditation process and the award of accreditation is much more than making our students eligible to take the exam and become pharmacists, although that in itself is extremely important.

To better understand accreditation, let me briefly describe the process the College of Pharmacy experienced. Preparations began two years before the accreditation visit, which occurred in March, 2005. In the summer of 2003, Dr. Barbara Mason accepted the task of chairing our self-study, and she and other faculty began gathering information.

The self-study is written by the faculty and staff of the College with input from students. All faculty and staff participated in the process and were divided into teams to address each of the eight standards. The self-study reviews the standards that the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) list to educate a pharmacist. The self-study also evaluates how the ISU College of Pharmacy conforms to those standards.

The official kick-off to write the self-study was the faculty retreat following graduation in May, 2004, but some of the teams started the process earlier. All initial drafts were due in October, 2004. The self-study steering committee reviewed the document in December, 2004. A final version was presented to the faculty in January, 2005, and consequently, accepted by a vote of the faculty and sent to ACPE. The ACPE site evaluation team used the self-study as the basis for their visit.

At the conclusion of the ACPE team visit, a verbal report was presented to the President of the University and me. The team’s verbal report was followed by a written report submitted to ACPE’s Board of Directors. Following their June meeting, we were notified by the Board of the continuation of accreditation for six years, which is the maximum time awarded.

A report from the College addressing ACPE’s concerns is to be submitted by April, 2006. Most of the concerns were areas of improvement we identified in our self-study that we were already addressing. Faculty committees are currently working on our response.

Returning to my earlier question, what is the value of accreditation? As stated by ACPE, “Accreditation is the public recognition accorded a professional program that is judged to meet established qualifications and educational standards.” It proclaims the quality of our program to all constituents. It says that we are fully compliant with the Standards for Professional Programs, which, by the way, are in the process of being revised.

ACPE also states, “The essential purpose of the accreditation process is to provide a professional judgment of the quality of a college or school of pharmacy’s professional program(s) and to encourage continued improvement thereof.” The site visit provides a unique opportunity where the members of the College may interact with visiting experts in pharmacy education and utilize the team’s expertise to improve their program.

There is no such thing as a perfect accreditation report since there is always room for improvement. However, the report ISU received speaks well of the quality of education students receive at your College of Pharmacy.

So, after initiating a completely new curriculum, addressing funding issues and going through the accreditation process during the last three years, please excuse us as we slow the pace from a sprint to a trot. We are catching our breath while still continuing to move forward.

Best wishes,

Joe

Joseph F. Steiner, Pharm.D., R.Ph.
Dean and Professor
Boise campus update:

Mentors see more in us than we do ourselves

If we think back, most of us have had a mentor at some point in our career. I personally have had the privilege of being mentored by one of the first in this state of Idaho to have a job description as a “clinical pharmacist.” Dr. Sandra Jue currently specializes in geriatric pharmacy at the Boise VA and teaches for ISU College of Pharmacy, but her professional resume includes previous positions at the Idaho State School in Nampa and at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center.

Although there are many definitions of a mentor, the one I like most is by Bob Proctor. “A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you than you see in yourself and helps bring it out of you.”

The ISU College of Pharmacy has initiated a Mentoring Program under the leadership of the PPSA (Professional Pharmacy Student Association). This is a unique opportunity for practitioners to share their knowledge and expertise with pharmacy students and future leaders of the pharmacy profession. The concept is based on fostering pharmacist/student professional development, career awareness, and personal and professional relationships. Goals are to match students and pharmacists with like interests, and to provide guidance in pharmacy related and other issues.

The only requirements are to be willing and able to share your knowledge of pharmacy practice with others and be willing to “tell it like it is.” Relationships can be phone- or internet- based and do not require matches to be persons living in the same location. Face-to-face contact can be arranged based on willingness of mentor-mentee and coordinated with events like professional association meetings or College sponsored activities.

Advantages for the mentor are an opportunity to have a positive, lasting effect on a future practitioner’s life and a chance to help shape the future of the profession. Mentee advantages include career advice and expansion of a professional network.

More information can be found at http://pharmacy.isu.edu/live/fs/MentoringPolicy.pdf.

Barb Mason, PharmD
Vice Chair ~ Boise
Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences

Student views:

Alcoholism and drug addiction education are valid tools for pharmacy students

Last summer I attended the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies.

I, along with a fellow classmate, experienced a personal transformation that I will undoubtedly never forget. Although I never thought of myself as naïve, after a week of eye-opening experiences, I realized how uninformed I was about such an important disease.

This weeklong conference provides an opportunity for health care professionals, government officials and lay individuals to come together to better understand addiction and the problems often associated with it.

Participants attend lectures ranging from the pharmacotherapy of addiction to intervention techniques. In addition to lectures, everyone can attend Alcoholics Anonymous; Narcotics Anonymous and International Pharmacists Anonymous meetings to better understand how this disease affects individuals and their families.

To learn more about this conference contact John Holmes at holmjohn@otc.isu.edu or log onto the American Pharmacists Association website at www.aphanet.org.

John Holmes ~ P3
Pocatello Campus
Staff Spotlight: Cindy Walker

Cindy Walker, Pharmacy administrative assistant in the Dean’s Office for Joseph Steiner, began her tenure at Idaho State University in 1969, serving as a stenographer for the College of Technology. Since then, Walker has held positions with the ISU Alumni Association, President’s Office and for the past 19-plus years has worked for deans at the College of Pharmacy.

After about six years of employment with the College of Technology, Walker left the University briefly in 1975 to accept a position with the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Within a year, she was back on campus as an administrative assistant in the Alumni Office and then the President’s Office.

In 1986, under the leadership of former Pharmacy Dean Ira Hilyard, Walker joined the College of Pharmacy staff as administrative assistant to the dean. She has held this position since, working for Dean Hilyard, Dean Arthur Nelson, Interim Dean Dana Diedrich, Dean Barbara Wells, Interim Dean Paul Cady and currently, Dean Joseph Steiner.

Former Deans of the College attribute Walker’s dedication to her work, knowledge of the history of the College, and ability to think ahead as a great asset to them, and their professional careers.

“Working with Cindy Walker during my six years as Dean at ISU College of Pharmacy was an absolute joy,” said Dean Barbara Wells, University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. “She has a remarkable ability to look into the future and anticipate the needs of the Dean’s Office. Her abilities go far beyond office and calendar management. She is highly skilled as an administrative assistant, but there is so much more to the story than that. She has an institutional memory that is invaluable to the Dean’s office and to the College.”

Former ISU Pharmacy Dean Arthur Nelson, agrees.

“Throughout my tenure as Dean of the ISU College of Pharmacy, I found Cindy to be the most effective co-worker I had ever worked with before, or since,” said Dean Arthur Nelson, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy. “That is saying a great deal because I have had some outstanding co-workers over my 35 years in pharmacy education. Much of the credit for the accomplishments of the Dean’s Office from 1987-1994 clearly are shared with, and heavily dependent on Cindy’s dedicated support and uncanny abilities to always stay a step ahead of me.”

Walker says her time with the College has been rewarding, where many friendships have grown.

“The College of Pharmacy has been a great place to work. It has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know so many staff, faculty and students over the years,” she said.

Long-time colleagues concur.

“Cindy has been my friend and colleague for almost 30 years,” said Beverly Sion, pharmacy administrative assistant for the Department of Pharmacy Practice chair/ Nontraditional Program director. “She has been a great friend and mentor to me over the years. We participated in each other’s weddings, supported one another through childrearing and the many changes in the work place. Her work ethic is astounding and many staff on campus emulate her style. It would be impossible to match her knowledge of the University and College.”

During her tenure, Walker has seen the College undergo several changes from threat of closure, to the implementation of the PharmD program and a new curriculum.

“The College has flourished and it has been gratifying to have observed the growth firsthand,” she said.

Dean Joseph Steiner says Walker’s work ethic and knowledge of College operations are vital to the daily operations for the Dean’s Office.

“Cindy has been great to work with. She keeps me on track, knows what needs to be done and when, and is a great resource on the history of the College,” Dean Steiner said. “She made me feel very welcome when I took the job. She comes as close to being indispensable as anyone I know.”

Born and raised in Blackfoot, Walker has called Pocatello home for most of her adult life. She and husband Butch are the parents of son, Cade, 12, who keeps the family active in several sports programs. Butch is employed as an underwriter with Farmers Insurance.

When not at work, the family enjoys spending time together either golfing, watching athletic events and movies, camping or walking. When time permits, Walker also enjoys sewing and crafts.
The Snake River Association for Neurosciences held its inaugural conference – featuring 15 poster presentations on neuroscience research being conducted at Idaho State University – this week at the Pond Student Union Building Little Wood River Room.

“Holding this conference reflects the fact that we have reached a critical mass of neuroscientists working at ISU and in the region,” said Dr. Chris Daniels, director of the ISU Biomedical Research Institute and ISU representative for the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program, entities that supported the conference. “We have a group of productive, well-funded researchers from a variety of fields conducting important neuroscience research. I’m not aware of any similar organization in the state of Idaho.”

The conference researchers came from a variety of backgrounds, including biological sciences, pharmaceutical sciences and psychology. Researchers included ISU faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students. Topics presented varied greatly. For example, ISU biological sciences assistant professor Gary Ten Eyck gave a presentation on the behavior of male Puerto Rican frogs. ISU associate professor of psychology and two psychology undergraduate students, Jennifer Phelps and Christopher Krebs, presented the results of a study of the effects of the stimulant ephedrine, an herbal supplement, on rats.

“It’s great to have this organization in southeast Idaho,” noted Ten Eyck. “For me, being a neuroscience researcher, it is very important to associate with a community of other neuroscience researchers in the area that I can bounce ideas off of. It is also good to be able to present a poster session here locally among my peers, before heading to a national neuroscience conference in Washington, D.C., where I will present the same poster.”

Representatives of pharmaceutical sciences made eight presentations, the psychology department made five and biological sciences made two.

“If you have a professional interest in neuroscience, it’s fun to talk to other people in your field,” said Dr. Leslie Devaud, ISU associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences. “You can compare what somebody finds out about frogs to what someone else is studying in human cellular systems. This association is already fostering collaborations and communication that wasn’t present before.”
Dr. James Lai continues collaborative research with New York universities

Idaho State University College of Pharmacy Professor, Dr. James C.K. Lai, recently returned from three prominent New York college and university healthcare research departments where he was a guest lecturer and discussed collaborative projects with the institutions in the area of cancer research.

While at the New York Medical College, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, Valhalla, N.Y., Dr. Lai presented a seminar “Cell Signaling, Adaptation, Bioenergetics and Cell Damage: the Continuing Saga of Hypoxia.”

In addition to his invited lecture, he also spent a week at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn., where he conducted collaborative research with colleagues at the Magnetic Resonance Research Center and Division of Immunobiology. He serves as an affiliate researcher with Yale.

Dr. Lai also spent three days conducting collaborative research with Dr. Gabriel Haddad’s research group at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y. Dr. Haddad is the former chair of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Lai has visited Yale University and Albert Einstein College of Medicine on a regular basis, collaborating on multiple research projects with both institutions.

College of Pharmacy Professor, Dr. James Lai, left, conducts research in his lab at ISU. Dr. Lai continues his collaboration with several New York universities on cancer research.

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Thanks to White Coat Ceremony donors

The ISU College of Pharmacy thank alumni and friends who donated to the 2006 White Coat Ceremony. Those sponsoring white coats for the Class of 2009 are Douglas Adriance-Meja, Albertson’s Inc., Victor and Martha Allen, Jennifer Athay, Rowdy and Shana Atkinson, Kendall and Laura Ballard, Charles and Nancy Berry, Alok Bhushan, James Bigelow, Sherry and Randy Borchert, Paul and Merriann Cady, Nicole Chopski, Kevin and Francoise Cleveland, Jo An Condie, Leslie and Oliver Devaud, Richard and Sandy Driskell, Harold Driver, Edie Dvorak, William Eames, Eastgate Drug, William and Peggy Eaton, Ed Snell’s Pharmacy Shop, Robert and Christine Fischer, Scott and Lisa Fleming, Fred Myer, Gary’s Drug and Sports Center, Teddie Gould, Cathy Heyneman, Sandra and Charles Heib, John’s Medic Pharmacy, Sandra Jue, Cara and Jake Liday, Walter and Kay Luhr, Maag Prescription and Medical, Michael and Dianne McClusky, Roger and Adelia Murphy, Chris and Jessica Owens, Sidney and Joyce Sly, Joe and Sue Steiner, Kay and Jerry Walters, Deborah Yee and Denis and Beverly Yost.
Boise-based ISU College of Pharmacy residency is one of the first in nation

For some Idaho State University faculty, teaching in the Treasure Valley is a relatively recent experience. However, ISU College of Pharmacy clinical professor Dr. Sandra Jue has been with the College more than 30 years – 20 of them cultivating the interests and skills of her pharmacy residents at the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Boise.

According to Jue, her accredited post-graduate specialty residency in geriatric pharmacy practice at the Extended Care Unit of the VAMC was one of the first developed in the country.

Jue’s new resident, Dr. Katherine (Kitty) Anderson, is a Washington State University graduate who has a particular interest in Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other neurodegenerative diseases and their psychiatric and pharmacological implications. When an opportunity for a specialized gero/psych training grant arose, the two PharmD’s simultaneously sent one another e-mails about the potential for collaboration.

“Dr. Jue’s support is incredible,” Dr. Anderson said. “She had only known me for a week, but she understood my strengths, weaknesses, personality and interests. My current residency is a perfect fit for me, and she has taken great care to design it that way. Right now she’s adjusting my next quarter to include the American Society of Consultant Pharmacist’s (ASCP) Interdisciplinary GeroPsych/Behavioral Disorders Traineeship.”

Jue’s other colleague, Kristy Theis, NP, will join Anderson as one of five pharmacist/medical practitioner teams in the country selected to participate in the development of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatment plans for persons suffering from psychiatric and behavioral disorders.

The traineeship provides individualized, intensive, didactic and experiential training for the participants. ASCP is providing approximately $5,000 in support for the traineeship slated for the week of Oct. 24-28 at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass. Upon return, Kristy and Kitty will apply their training towards a collaborative psychiatric practice serving the Boise VA population.

“This is what I want to do with my career. The traineeship is the fuel in my preparation for launch,” Anderson said. “I am grateful for ASCP’s generosity and Sandy’s commitment to help me succeed. ISU and the Boise VA have a wonderful gem in their midst, and I am thankful to be here training under Dr. Jue.”

Dr. Risinger appointed interim chair

College of Pharmacy Associate Professor Dr. Fred Risinger, was appointed interim chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr. Risinger assumes the duties of Dr. Chris Daniels who has been appointed director of the new ISU Biomedical Research Institute.

According to Daniels, the goal of the institute is to restructure biomedical researchers on campus, creating an interdisciplinary, collaborative research environment.

Dr. Risinger may be reached at 208-882-4455 or risinger@pharmacy.isu.edu.

In Memory...

Mr. Don C. Moffett, ’55, Burley, ID, June 2
Mr. Kenneth Dale Kirkpatrick, ’76, Diamond Bar, CA, June 21
Mr. William H. Matthews, ’54, Burley, ID, July 13
Dr. Bernhard S. Achter, ’93, Boise, ID, July 14
Mr. Charles L. Erickson, ’52, San Jose, CA, July 24
Mr. Gordon R. Harry, ’35, Houston, TX, August 4
Mr. Joe M. Hoffman, ’44, Oxnard, CA, August, 30
Alumni Update:

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

DR. ERIC CANNON, ‘93 AULUM

Whatever happened to Eric Cannon, the Class of 1993 graduate you sat behind in geriatrics class? Remember he was the Pharmacy Student Senate President. Is he still working at Maag Prescription and Medical Supply where he served an internship?

Although he learned much during his time with the Pocatello community pharmacy, today Dr. Cannon is the Director of Pharmacy Services with Intermountain Health Care (IHC) based in Salt Lake City. Cannon also serves as the company’s Director of Health and Wellness program.

Following graduation, Cannon worked for Holladay Pharmacy in Salt Lake City. While there, he conducted prescription dispensing, consultations with patients and physicians and created a marketing strategy for the company’s home health services.

In 1997, he began employment with IHC where today his duties include management of pharmacy benefits for the 500,000 members of IHC Health Plans, manufacturer contracting and rebate management, contracting and monitoring IHC Health Plans pharmacy networks, management of pharmacy claims processing operations, development and implementation of several disease management programs, started programs to insure appropriate utilization of pharmaceuticals by IHC physicians and providers, and other duties.

Cannon’s interest in the profession began during high school while he was employed by a community pharmacy close to his home.

“I need to credit this to the pharmacists I worked for, since they were the ones that really showed me what a career in pharmacy could be,” he said.

Interacting with patients and physicians is one of the most rewarding aspects of his career.

“I always feel good when I am able to provide information that improves the quality of health care patients receive,” he said.

Cannon advises pharmacy students to consider their professional careers and opportunities before accepting a position upon graduation.

“Take the time to look at which aspects of pharmacy will provide the most rewarding lifestyle for you as an individual, not which job pays the most,” he said. “We are moving to a point in pharmacy where pharmacists that have a residency or specialized training (in any area) are in high demand. Sometimes these jobs are not the highest paying, but I believe they are the most rewarding. Within our system and most others in the country, it is very difficult to advance beyond a dispensing pharmacy job without additional training.”

While at ISU, Cannon served rotations under the guidance of professors who continue to teach at the College such as Dr. Rick Rhodes, Dr. Vaughn Culbertson, Dr. Steve Hurley and Professor Teddie Gould.

He says his professional education at ISU provided him an opportunity to learn from qualified faculty.

“The greatest experience I had while in school was simply the opportunity to interact with excellent faculty and help with their respective projects,” Cannon said. “Many of these opportunities gave me a taste of the exciting things I could potentially do once I graduated. My experiences in school provided the foundation for many of the things I do today.”

Dr. Cannon and his wife, Kristine, are the parents of five children; Bobby, 14, Will, 11, Davis, 9, Annie, 5 and 3-year-old Mary.

When away from his work duties, Cannon enjoys golfing, fly-fishing, snowmobiling, spending time at the family cabin and watching his sons play basketball.

Editor’s Note: “Where Are They Now” is a new feature section of the Pharmacy Bulletin and monthly Refill e-letter. Suggestions of College alumni to feature in this section may be sent to editor@pharmacy.isu.edu or contact Andrew Gauss at 208-282-3393.
Alumni, visiting professor, former banker

Eight new faces will have joined the ISU College of Pharmacy faculty and staff beginning in the academic fall semester 2006. Five new faculty members and three staff bring a wealth of experience to the College team - filling some vacancies and adding an additional faculty position for the College in northern Idaho.

Dr. Nicole Murdock

Dr. Nicole Murdock, PharmD, a ’03 ISU alum, joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences as a clinical assistant professor. Murdock, who is also a clinician with Pocatello Family Medicine, is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of case studies for second- and third-year pharmacy students. In addition to those duties, she lectures to pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy and nursing students and is the co-principal investigator and study coordinator for the AIM HIGH study which is a secondary prevention trial in patients with coronary artery disease.

Prior to joining the College faculty, Murdock served a one-year pharmacy residency and fellowship with Pocatello Family Medicine. Her residency training included assisting with the anticoagulation clinic, polypharmacy Medicare patients, HIV/AIDS clinic, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, in-patient service consultations, Idaho Drug Utilization Review, Patient Assistance Program, precepting pharmacy students and lectures.

Murdock says teaching is a practical method for one to continue to learn and share experiences with future colleagues.

“I find that the best way for one to learn is to teach,” she said. “We are all students for life and I am very excited to be sharing my experiences with students as they do their rotations. Being involved in patient care through chart review, physician advising and rounding with the medical team helps bring concepts and factual knowledge into play.”

When not attending to students or patients, Murdock enjoys anything that keeps her active.

Dr. Tracy Pettinger

Another ISU College of Pharmacy alum to join the faculty this year is Dr. Murdock’s fellow ’03 classmate, Dr. Tracy Pettinger.

Dr. Pettinger has joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences as a clinical assistant professor. She is also a clinician with Pocatello Family Medicine. Her duties include serving as clinical investigator for the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) program, precepting pharmacy students, early practice experience students, leading small group discussions with pharmacy students and lecturing physician assistant, physical and occupational therapy students.

Pettinger also completed a pharmacotherapy residency with Pocatello Family Medicine. Her residency training included working with patients in the anticoagulation clinic, diabetes clinic, continuous glucose monitoring system, polypharmacy patients, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, in-patient service consultation, HIV/AIDS clinic, preceptor for pharmacy students and working with the patient assistance program.

Pettinger says teaching offers her an opportunity to share with students the many aspects of the pharmacy profession she has been fortunate to experience working with Pocatello Family Medicine.

“I want students to know they have opportunities and choices in our profession that are limitless,” she said.

In addition to her teaching duties, Pettinger and her husband Marc are the parents of a son, Jacob. When not in the clinic or classroom, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading, experiencing the outdoors and volunteering in the community.

Dr. Timothy Hunt

Joining the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences this fall as a visiting associate professor is Dr. Timothy Hunt. Dr. Hunt came to the College from a position as Director of World Outcomes Research for Pharmacia/Pfizer.

With Pharmacia/Pfizer, Hunt’s responsibilities included therapeutic areas of oncology, cardiovascular and urology. He helped build a new oncology outcomes research group for Pharmacia and focused on worldwide support needed at Pfizer Headquarters. Other duties included being responsible for health economic and quality of life design, implementation and reporting for early and late stage clinical trials in support of new product pricing and reimbursement worldwide.

Hunt worked in diverse disease areas and with patient groups in the area of metastatic cancer, cancer prevention, adult surgery trials and several pediatrics indications. These include non-trial support studies in epidemiology, burden of disease, treatment decision models and new quality of life and symptom scale development. He also was responsible for the design and management of the largest single outcomes research project (over $1.5 million) ever directly undertaken from this unit.

Hunt holds a PhD in economics from Kansas State University.

A highly published author, Hunt enjoys challenging students in the classroom.

“I like developing an interesting research question and then empirically answering that question,” he said. “Similarly, when teaching, it’s really fun to help students develop their own critical thinking capabilities.”

As a visiting professor, he brings much experience to the classroom from a career in industry and research.

“I hope that my practical experience will help pharmacy students - 17 years in the pharmaceutical industry and another eight years at a labor research institute, all involving research and publishing in economics, health economics, pharmacoconomics, and quality of life,” he said.

In his spare time, Hunt enjoys reading, traveling, and most importantly, visiting with family.

“I have a son and daughter, both with PhD’s in physics,” he said. “My son is an assistant professor in physics at ISU, while my daughter is completing her post-doctorate at the University of Cardiff, Wales, England.”

Dr. Mark Olah

ISU College of Pharmacy Associate Professor Mark Olah, is a member of the College’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Olah received his B.S. degree in pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and subsequently obtained his Ph.D. degree from the College of Pharmacy at Ohio State University. Dr. Olah was a postdoctoral research associate and subsequently a research assistant professor in the Division of
Cardiology at Duke University. Prior to joining ISU, Dr. Olah served as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Cell Biophysics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

While a post-doc, Dr. Olah began his research in the field of adenosine receptor pharmacology. Research efforts were directed at the purification, cloning and structure/function studies of the individual adenosine receptor subtypes. While maintaining focus on molecular mechanisms of signaling, Dr. Olah became interested in the role of adenosine receptors in regulating angiogenesis, the growth of new blood vessels. Currently, his laboratory examines both the direct effects of adenosine on endothelial cell and vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation as well as the indirect effects of adenosine on endothelial cell function via the regulation of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) expression. The laboratory primarily employs cell culture models with a combination of biochemical (protein expression, enzyme activity) and molecular biological (retroviral expression, cloning, site-directed mutagenesis) approaches. This research has clinical application as pro-angiogenic strategies have potential in ischemic vascular disease while anti-angiogenic therapeutics are being recognized as viable approaches in cancer and other pathologies.

Research in the laboratory has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (National Cancer Institute), the American Heart Association and pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Olah has served as a grant reviewer for the American Heart Association, The Wellcome Trust and the Italian Association for Cancer Research.

Dr. Olah enjoys teaching of cardiovascular pharmacology as well as mechanisms of receptor signal transduction and receptor regulation. (Not pictured)

**Dan Dean**

Daniel N. Dean recently joined the ISU College of Pharmacy staff, serving in the capacity of director of development.

Dean replaces former director of development, Tressa Rockwood, who left in August to pursue a career in financial counseling.

"Please join me in welcoming the newest member of the College of Pharmacy, Dan Dean," said Dean Joseph Steiner. "I am sure that Dan will continue the excellent service that Tressa provided in the past and that Andrew Gauss continued in the interim."

Dean brings more than a decade of professional lending experience, both at commercial banks as well as with mortgage companies to the position. His most recent employment was as senior vice-president and chief lending officer at Pulaski Bank, St. Louis, where he was responsible for mortgage and retail lending.

Prior to his banking and finance work, Dean was employed as a youth and family counselor in the Seattle and West Michigan areas. He believes this unique blend of work experience has prepared him well to be attuned to development needs and activities.

Dean and his wife, Kathy, moved to Pocatello from St. Louis about three years ago when Kathy joined the Idaho State University College of Business faculty. Upon arrival in Idaho, Dan had a rare opportunity to stay home with their two young boys, he said.

Dean and his family also moved to the Intermountain West to enjoy all of the world-class outdoor activities in the area, he said.

When not attending to work at the campus, the Deans enjoy skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and Dan loves a round of golf now and then, he said.

Dean said he is looking forward to getting to know alumni and friends who generously provide support to the College.

**April Itami**

April Itami joins the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences as a part-time secretary.

Originally from Nampa, Idaho, Itami graduated as valedictorian of Skyview High School there. She is a four-year Presidential Scholarship recipient and is currently majoring in dental hygiene at ISU.

In addition to her work and studies, she serves as a senator for the Kasiska College of Health Professions, assisting with budget and scholarship committees on campus.

Her previous employment includes working as an administrative assistant with Cornerstone Financial Planning in Nampa.

In her spare time she enjoys playing tennis, running long distance and camping. During the 2005 spring break, Itami traveled to the El Yunque Rainforest in Puerto Rico with the university program Alternative Spring Break to provide hurricane relief.

**Debra Etlin**

Joining the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences secretarial team is Debra Etlin.

Etlin’s work experience includes holding the positions of office manager at Deaton & Company, a Pocatello accounting firm and service manager at Applebee’s.

Her hobbies include scrap booking/card making, baking, going to professional sporting events, spending time with friends and family, camping and attending concerts.

**Dr. John Woon**

With the College expanding its faculty and resources to fill the needs of pharmacy education in northern Idaho, Dr. John Woon, PharmD, has joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences at Kootenai Medical Center (KMC) in Coeur d’Alene. The clinical associate professor comes to the College from Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital in Portland, OR. While there, Woon served as the Project Lead Pharmacist, with responsibilities including all aspects of pharmacy services required to open the new hospital. In addition, he oversaw the development of activities relevant to pharmacy practice during construction, automation of the facility, meeting all regulatory and accreditation requirements for licensure and staffing.

Woon says the College’s new relationship with KMC will aid in meeting the needs of a growing population in the north Idaho community.

"This has created a great environment for pharmacy students to learn and grow, while providing the College of Pharmacy with another excellent site for P4 clinical rotations," he said.

Woon and his wife, Charlotte, are the parents of daughter, Brandi, and son Brady. In his spare time, Woon enjoys home remodeling projects, and hunting and fishing with his brother in Montana. (Not pictured)
Faculty Accomplishments...

PRESENTATIONS

JCK Lai presented a seminar in the Department of Cell Biology & Anatomy, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY, August 17, 2005; the seminar was entitled: “Cell Signaling, Adaptation, Bioenergetics and Cell Damage: the Continuing Saga of Hypoxia.”


Devaud LL. Attended and author on a presentation (by Paul Alele) at this year’s INBRE Research Conference in Nampa ID, August.


Johnson CK. 07/2005 Modern day management of MRSA infections: A focus on community associated MRSA. Ontario, OR 7/7 and Nampa, ID 7/24 (Pfizer).

Johnson CK. Current and future antimicrobials for the treatment of Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).


POSTER PRESENTATIONS


PUBLICATIONS


R. Chadda and LL. Devaud. Mild,


**AWARDS/OTHER**

Sam Hoagland was recently elected president-elect of ISHP and inducted on September 30, 2005. He will begin serving a two-year term as President at the next annual meeting in September 06.

Sam Hoagland recently launched a new business “The Pharmacy Doctors, Inc.” The Pharmacy Doctors, Inc. (TPD) was established to provide and coordinate an operational network of qualified pharmacists to provide Medication Therapy Management Services, (MTMS) for those Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible under the prescription drug benefit plans approved under the Medicare Reform Act of 2003. TPD will also provide MTMS to any other patients enrolled in plans that also cover MTMS, and other patients on a fee-basis, when appropriate. TPD envisions MTMS spanning a broad range of services, from simple to complex, with different levels of service based on the individual needs of the patients. TPD is recruiting pharmacists from all over Idaho to join the company as part owners and as part-time independent contractors to provide MTMS for patients referred to TPD.

Katherine J. Anderson and Kristy Theis were successful applicants for a traineeship in Interdisciplinary GeroPsych/Behavioral Disorders held at McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA October 24-28, 2005. Dr. Anderson is an adjunct instructor in Pharmacy Practice with ISU College of Pharmacy and a geriatric pharmacy resident at the VA Medical Center under the preceptorship of Sandra Jue. The traineeship is valued at $5,000.

Dr. Alok Bhushan attended the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research conference in Baltimore, Maryland Oct. 30 – Nov. 2. The fourth annual multidisciplinary conference focused on the biology of the cancer process with its prevention and reversal in preinvasive stages.

Dr. Cathy Heyneman has returned from sabbatical and is now recognized by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as an Authorized Nuclear Pharmacist. She completed the Purdue University certificate program in nuclear pharmacy, which included 700 hours of didactic training as well as a two-week on-campus experience at Purdue. This summer was spent traveling to Biotech Pharmacy in Las Vegas, Sierra Pharmacy in Reno and Pharmaceutical Diagnostics in Salt Lake City. All of her preceptors for the 500 hours of practical training were former students: Dr. Gloria Gest in Reno, Dr. Eric McDowell in SLC, and Dr. Tony Huffman in Las Vegas.

For additional information on ISU College of Pharmacy Faculty, See “Faculty Biographies” on Our Web Site at: www.pharmacy.isu.edu
Tauscher endowment to assist College with bringing executives to campus

Bringing executive mentors to the College of Pharmacy to share their professional experiences will soon be made easier through the generous funding of the Gary L. and Judith Tauscher Executive-in-Residence Endowment at Idaho State University.

Gary, a '62 College of Pharmacy alumnus, visited the College in April as the Spring 2005 Executive-in-Residence lecturer. While here, the former Eli Lilly & Company and Boston Healthcare Associates executive spoke on topics including the pharmaceutical industry as a career option, understanding pharmaceutical pricing and marketing the practice of pharmacy.

Following his weeklong visit, he and Judy decided to assist the College in bringing other executives to campus for the guest lecturer program.

“The Tauschers are a very conscientious and generous couple,” said Pauline Thiros, director of the ISU Foundation. “Even from our very first encounter, they expressed interest in doing something to help students gain practical industry experience. This endowment is a wonderful way to assist the College, and to offer valuable information and experience to students. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity.”

Some of the areas students benefit from the Executive-in-Residence Program, Gary said, include exposure to former students of the College and the types of careers and success that can be achieved with a degree from ISU; an opportunity to see a “vision” of healthcare and the role of pharmacy through the eyes of consumers, payers, suppliers and other providers of healthcare; a reminder of the variety of career opportunities available to pharmacists and an opportunity to establish contacts with potential employers.

“As alumni, we are extremely proud of the College; the role it has played in our lives, and the impact it can have directly and indirectly on the delivery of healthcare in our country,” Gary said. “This endowment is our attempt to support the efforts of the College in providing the best possible educational experience for future pharmacy graduates. We hope that other alumni will join us in supporting this program or establishing similar initiatives in behalf of the College.”

Establishing an endowment to assist with educating future pharmacy professionals, Gary said, is intended to enhance and reinforce the excellent curriculum and academic experience at the ISU College of Pharmacy, exposing students to the entire spectrum of career opportunities available to them as graduates and showcase College faculty, curriculum and student body to the “outside world.”

When an executive mentor visits the College, Gary encourages the lecturer to spend sufficient time with students in the classroom, interact with faculty and offer lectures to the entire student body, including informal conversations with students.

“I think a minimum of two days at the College are needed to accomplish all the objectives,” he said. “The executive also must have an opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of the faculty in order to understand the quality of instruction being delivered. It will also aid the visitor in tailoring his or her remarks to the students.”

First-year students will benefit from exposure to the executive in a different way than the Fourth-year students, he said.

Informal conversations between student and executive have proven beneficial to the students and should continue.

“Students have personal agendas that can’t be handled in a classroom or lecture setting,” Gary said. “The executive will have a unique opportunity to see the quality of the student body through informal, one-on-one interactions.”

The College of Pharmacy Executive-in-Residence Program guest lecturer’s expertise is not limited to any specific area of healthcare.

“While having alumni as executives is critical to the program, another objective should be to have all perspectives of healthcare presented including those of consumers, payers, providers, and suppliers,” he said.

Assistance to the program through the formation of this endowment, Dean Joseph Steiner said, will provide opportunities for both students and faculty to learn from those with special expertise in the pharmacy profession.

“This gift from Gary and Judy gives much needed support to our Executive-in-Residence Program,” Dean Steiner said. “Having these distinguished people spend some extended time with us allows our students and faculty to gain a perspective on the practice of pharmacy that may not be readily available in the mountain west. I deeply appreciate their commitment to the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy.”
Operation Immunization & Diabetes

Pharmacy student health fairs educate public about risks of influenza and diabetes

Operation Immunization, an annual influenza immunization campaign sponsored by ISU pharmacy students, kicked-off the fall semester student-sponsored health clinics with about 220 students providing over 1,000 immunizations in the Pocatello area.

Students helped administer over 500 shots at one local pharmacy, according to student coordinator Donna Araki.

As part of the National Hospital and Health-System Pharmacy Week, Oct. 23-29, students assisted with immunizations at clinics and area businesses to increase the public’s knowledge of immunizations, while increasing the number of adults receiving vaccinations.

“These clinics are designed to increase our community's awareness of the need to vaccinate our adult population just as much as our children,” Araki said. “Each year in the United States, as many as 50,000 to 70,000 adults die needlessly from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications.”

In addition to the immunization clinics, pharmacy students, in conjunction with other ISU health care students and area professionals, sponsored “Heart Wise, Diabetes Wise” diabetes health fair November 19 as part of their Operation Diabetes annual campaign.

Pharmacy students provided medication reviews, cardiovascular risk assessment, glucose monitoring, hemoglobin A1c monitoring, foot checks and blood pressure readings.

Heart Wise, Diabetes Wise was held in conjunction with the national American Diabetes Month. In addition to the fair, College of Pharmacy students provided presentations in November at the Pocatello Senior Citizens’ Center and have taped a one-hour diabetes presentation for Pocatello Channel 12 Community Television, which aired during the month.

First-year pharmacy students, Nathan Dahl, left, and Lucas Snell, right, administer flu shots in Pocatello.

Take time to let us know what’s happening with you!

Have you changed jobs, launched a new business venture, authored a publication or expanded your family? Please take a moment and let us know. The ISU College of Pharmacy, your college of pharmacy, wants to keep in touch with our esteemed alumni. Send us your stories and pictures so we can share them with your classmates and colleagues.

E-mail: editor@pharmacy.isu.edu
Mail: Attention Bulletin Editor: Box 8288, Pocatello, ID 83209-8288
Fourth-year students to start advanced practice experience here in 2006

College expands faculty to serve northern Idaho

Coeur d’Alene - In an effort to serve residents of north Idaho, the College of Pharmacy has established a faculty position and preceptor site with Kootenai Medical Center (KMC) in Coeur d’Alene.

John Woon, PharmD, clinical associate professor with the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences, joined the College to oversee the Colleges’ efforts with the medical center, along with his pharmacy duties there. According to Woon, KMC is actively planning for programs and expansions to meet the evolving needs of patients in the area. Hospital administrators are actively acquiring space and have enlisted assistance from organizations skilled in helping health care systems grow.

“The oncology pharmacy is about to undergo a major renovation to help them meet the needs of this well known program that services complex patient/therapy situations,” he said.

In addition to the expansion of the hospital’s services, Woon will participate in overseeing the College’s fourth-year student advanced practice experience with the medical center.

“The presence of these students will provide valuable infrastructure for KMC to expand the breadth and depth of services provided by the pharmacy department,” Woon said.

“In my 25 years of practice, I don’t believe I have ever encountered an organization like KMC in their vision for pharmacy and comprehensive support for pharmacy as an integral part of the patient care team,” Woon said. “I am excited and honored to be the College of Pharmacy’s liaison to KMC for the establishment of clinical rotations for students.”

Students also will be able to learn from ’96 College of Pharmacy alum, Dr. John Wooldridge, who serves as the clinical coordinator for pharmacy services with the medical center.

Beginning in January, Kootenai Medical Center, Coeur d’Alene, will be a new experiential site for P4 students under the direction of new faculty member, Dr. John Woon, pictured left with ISU College of Pharmacy alum, ’96, Dr. John Wooldridge. Dr. Wooldridge is the medical center’s clinical coordinator. (photo courtesy of Kootenai Medical Center)