Women in Pharmacy
October 10, 2008 ~ Juniper Hills Country Club

Joy Plein, PhD
Dorinda Wong, RPh
Michele Belsey, RPh
Kris Jonas, PharmD
Barb Mason, PharmD
Debbie Marchetti, PharmD
Marian Maxwell, PharmD
Anna Ratka, PharmD, PhD
Paula Shaffer, RPh
Marilyn Silcock, PharmD
Janeen Winnike, RPh
Katherine Hope, P3
Idaho State University
College of Pharmacy
Presents:

Women in Pharmacy
an evening of mentoring and opportunity

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Welcome to the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy Women in Pharmacy dinner. This event is the first of its kind for our College, and we hope to make it a tradition. Tonight, you will be introduced to eight extraordinary women, who come from different backgrounds and regions of the country, but share the same passion; helping others through their professional practice in pharmacy.

There are many people in our lives who help us in our professional journey, and tonight’s gathering wouldn’t have been possible without the assistance of Kathleen Lehman, our friend and student advocate from the College’s Dean’s Office. Thank you.

A big thank you also to all of our panelists for taking time from their busy lives to enjoy an evening of inspiration, sharing and listening with us—the future female colleagues of this wonderful profession.

Sincerely,
Katherine Hope
President
Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance
Barb Mason, PharmD

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Barb began her career in pharmacy at South Dakota State University. She was recruited to develop a geriatrics curriculum and implement ambulatory clinical pharmacy services at the Sioux Falls Veteran's Administration. During summers while off from academia, she traveled to Public Health Indian Reservations, fulfilling itinerate pharmacy work openings. She later became Director of Pharmacy Education and a faculty member with the University of Arkansas College of Pharmacy and Family Practice Medical Residency Program. This preceded her move to Idaho State University in 1985 with a respective influx recruited to nurture the PharmD program. Under this auspice, Barb developed ambulatory care clinical pharmacy services at the Boise, VAMC and initiated a Primary Care Specialty Residency Program. Administrative roles, primarily, have filled her tenure in Boise. But for Barb, well enough is just not enough as she is always on the lookout for the next acme of a career filled with apexes.

She earned the honor, not once, but twice of Most Influential Professor; in 2000 and 2005. Leadership roles in the Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists organization, recognition as a Fellow in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the honor of Pharmacist of the Year have been just a few of the peaks she has ascended.

Early in her career, she was most precariously, yet unexpectedly, surprised in her initial introductory meeting with pharmacists as Director of Pharmacy Education in Arkansas – she, the sole female in the room, was burdened with defending the issue of “What are we going to do about all the women going into pharmacy?” Shortly after she became the first female Civitan accepted for membership into the El Dorado, Arkansas Chapter...certainly not a bad defense for “all those women going into pharmacy!”

Her words of wisdom for graduates - “always find a way to mix business and pleasure. Make sure you are just as happy going to work as you are going home at night.”

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Ellen Joy Bickmore Plein, PhD

Ellen Joy Bickmore Plein’s career in pharmacy began at a time when the profession was mostly dominated by male pharmacists. This didn’t stop the 1947 graduate of Idaho State College, today’s ISU, from excelling in not only her studies here, but continuing a lifelong career of clinical and academic pharmacy practice.

Following graduation from ISC, Joy went on to earn her MS and PhD in pharmacy from the University of Washington (UW) School of Pharmacy. It is at the UW where she met her late husband, Elmer, a professor there who directed her graduate programs. Elmer is one of Joy’s career mentors—having initiated clinical pharmacy at UW and was a highly-regarded faculty member and researcher for the department.

Joy has been a professor with the Department of Pharmacy since 1974. Her areas of expertise include clinical pharmacy with a specialty in senior care pharmacy. Joy has developed and coordinated four geriatric pharmacy didactic/seminar courses, plus senior care pharmacy clerkships. She currently presents lectures and workshops in several geriatric pharmacy courses. Her clinical teaching site is the Hearthstone Continuing Care Retirement Community, where she has been affiliated since 1989.


Joy has earned several honors including the Wayne A. Kradjan Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award from the UW; UW 2005 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year; American Society of Consultant Pharmacists’ George F. Archambault Award and the President’s Medallion from Idaho State University, 2004.

In 2005, Joy established three scholarship endowments at the ISU College of Pharmacy in memory of former ISC classmates. The Drs. Elmer M. and Joy B. Plein Memorial Scholarship Endowments assist pharmacy students at ISU reach their career goals through financial support.

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A native of Altoona, Pennsylvania, Michele Belsey has worked for Rite Aid since graduating from Duquesne University 1992. In 1995 as she was promoted to pharmacy manager. She expanded her role with the company by also being selected to work in the pharmacy training department and on special projects. In 1996, Michele was promoted to the corporate office in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she worked in the human resources department as a pharmacy-training specialist to develop various training programs for the quickly expanding company. Travel was a perk afforded in her new role as it took her across the country, but eventually settling in Portland, Oregon.

Through working in pharmacy operations and human resources, and by developing training and recruitment in various parts of the country, she was selected to corporately direct the company’s overall pharmacy recruitment and relations department in 1998. Michele is currently based in human resources, where her department specializes in both domestic and international pharmacy recruitment and relations. This position allows her to enjoy the travel and opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

Unique experiences as a practitioner, pharmacist, and just as importantly – a woman, have afforded her invaluable insight of various diseases specifically affecting females such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer or cervical cancer. Working in human resources, Michele has the opportunity to work on improving benefits which provide support for women and their families such as preventative screenings, necessary surgeries not covered under medical plans and coverage for children like flexible spending accounts, allowing childcare and/or adoption services.

Michele’s advice for graduates – “…support women’s health issues…push them to the forefront of research…Take opportunities offered to expand the role of the pharmacist…Lead by example and continue to be a role model for our next generation.”
Kristina Jonas, PharmD

Kristina is currently employed as a part-time staff pharmacist for Wal-Mart, but don’t let “part-time” fool you. Upon graduation, Kristina gained employment with Wal-Mart as a staff pharmacist until 1995, when she was promoted to pharmacy manager. She held the management position until 2000, when she was promoted to district manager, overseeing the southern Idaho district for Wal-Mart. During her time as district manager, Kristina was selected out of 250 peers to receive a rather noteworthy accolade – Wal-Mart District Manager of the Year, 2003. During the same year, Kristina joined the Idaho State Pharmacy Association as a member of the Board of Directors and still holds a seat on the board today.

In 2006, the association found itself without an executive director about the time Kristina was elected president. She took over the leadership role and led the association from red to black in the books.

Kristina’s advice to graduating women is, above all, to remember to keep balance in career and life. Take all the elements of your life and arrange them in a way that none detracts from another. If that happens, “…you will find yourself unhappy and dissatisfied. Discover what is important to you, then make everything fit together so that nothing is sacrificed. It may take time…but is definitely worth the journey!”

Kristina practices her preaching as evidenced by her relegation to a role of part-time in the field of pharmacy, but full-time as a mother to two lovely daughters, Elaine, 14, and Katie, 3, while still remaining actively engaged with the responsibilities to Idaho State Pharmacy Association.

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Debbie Marchetti currently works with Albertson's/SavOn pharmacy here in Pocatello. She has enjoyed numerous opportunities serving as a preceptor and intern supervisor for the last nine years. During which time she completed requirements for certification from the Professional Compounding Centers of America, attained national certification from the American Pharmacists Association as an Immunizer and an Immunization Trainer, and early on in her professional career, achieved certification to offer Medication Therapy Management for critical care clients while the program was in its developmental stages.

Debbie also keeps her alma mater close as she has served three terms on the Dean's Advisory Council, holds an affiliate faculty position, and as mentioned – supervising interns and preceptees.

Debbie also excels by the standards of her employer as she has been recognized by Albertsons/SavOn Pharmacies with a Mentor Award for her dedication to the development and training of Albertsons pharmacy associates.

The opportunity to serve as a leader in the retail-pharmacy field has been one of many highlights in her career. Debbie also survived the experience of being a mother of two and graduating with her third child due that summer. Her advice to future graduates is reflective of that event: “It is important for a woman today to understand it is possible to juggle a fulfilling career, a family and still have some personal time...in the profession, the work to do is great. Our education, training, and experience obligate us to serve as the drug and health-care specialists for the betterment of others.”

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While Dorinda Wong is currently a Pharmacist Project Manager for Kaiser Foundation Hospitals of the Kaiser Permanente organization, her career is a reflection of how she rose to the position. After leaving her alma mater in 1976, she was treated to a previously unheard of position of helping to usher the electronic and digital ages into the pharmacy.

After working as a manager of Inpatient and Outpatient pharmacies, she stepped up as an administrative pharmacist at Kaiser Pharmacy Distribution Center. Her rise through the company ranks made her the ideal candidate to become project manager for an automated pharmacy. This segued up into a position based on her accrued experience – project manager of the following electronic implementations: refill prescription process, new prescription process, anticoagulation management and integrated national Kaiser oncology products.

Highlighting her unique and diverse career was successful management of integrated teams composing pharmacy, finance, and industrial engineering professionals to write the business plan, design and engineer business and electronic products and product requirements for the first automated prescription filling pharmacy within Kaiser. Her team also constructed the automated pharmacy and installed all the hardware associated with the automation. This break-through, automated pharmacy opening and operating on-schedule, far exceeded return on investment projections.

But this certainly was not where Dorinda stopped satisfied. Her experience gave her an uncanny perspective from a drug distribution point-of-view. She founded her next move on that perspective and extraordinary experiences – she partnered with MDs to implement myriad electronic products that support the concept of an electronic medical record system.

Her career is a testament of her concise statement of advice to pharmacy graduates; “look for unique and unexpected opportunities in pharmacy.” We can be fairly certain that the opportunities she seized were not expected, but she could see they were, in fact unique, and she was rather fortunate to be looking for those “unique” opportunities when they came along!

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Marian Maxwell, PharmD

Marian Maxwell, PharmD is currently a critical care pharmacist for the Saint Patrick Hospital and she is also a clinical associate professor at the University of Montana ~ School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences. Her career in pharmacy started in 1995 after graduating from Idaho State University College of Pharmacy. After fulfilling her residency, she worked as a critical care pharmacist at Kaweah Delta Hospital in Visalia, California for one year. She was then employed for two-and-a-half-years with Western University in Pomona, California as an assistant professor of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy. She was also an assistant clinical professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine for the University of California, Irvine and practiced at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center in Orange, California where she provided Critical Care Pharmacy Services and educated pharmacy and medical students.

Marian then moved to Missoula, Montana for the positions she currently holds. While at University of Montana, she has developed and provided comprehensive critical care pharmacy services and two advanced pharmacy practice experiences; one in critical care, the other in cardiac surgery. The successful development and implementation of the programs there, and at the entities in California, have been the highlights of her flourishing career.

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Anna Ratka, PhD, PharmD

Anna Ratka is the founding chair and currently a professor with the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Texas A&M, Health Science Center College of Pharmacy. Yet, while any single accomplishment in her remarkable career could be described as prestigious, honorable, or noteworthy, she has seen and done so much in the relatively short time since her graduation from Idaho State University, that she certainly qualifies as an elite, difference-making contributor in our field.

Anna graduated from Poznan University in Poland in 1981 and from Idaho State University in 2000. She completed two post-doctoral trainings; one in neuropharmacology at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands, and in neuroendocrinology at the University of Florida. She attained her Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Certification, and holds credentials in four states (FL, ID, UT, TX). Anna also holds sabbatical yielded training in cancer pain management and she completed the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellows Program (ALFP) training.

Anna held a faculty position here at ISU College of Pharmacy from 1992 to 2003, when she transferred to University of N. Texas Health Science Center. She stayed until 2006, then was awarded founding chair position at Texas A&M. Her days are filled with pain-related basic and clinical research. She authored over 75 peer-reviewed publications, and serves as a reviewer for multiple scientific journals. Her teaching PharmD and mentoring graduate students has earned Anna numerous awards from students and peers alike.

Anna still works pharmacy “on-the-side” to stay in touch, but it’s no surprise that her favorite professional activities are teaching and research. Her career as been filled with perpetual highlights, one followed by another. She advises, “…pharmacy is a prefect career for women. The flexibility empowers any effective woman to bring a balance and uniqueness to the profession.” she said. “Never stop learning…pursuing opportunities to grow or advance, and give back to the profession.”
Paula Shaffer, RPh

“Fast-track” - Normally a moniker for major construction projects completed at extremely accelerated rates. Paula K. Shaffer’s career could easily be described as the same. Before she graduated from the University of Montana, she worked as an intern at Albertsons/SavOn in Las Vegas in 2000 and in Dallas in 2001. No stranger to hard work, Paula continued to work full-time while completing didactic coursework and clinical rotations. Completing the coursework by 2002, she moved to Carson City for a staff pharmacist position with SavOn. Less than a month later, she was promoted to manager of an Albertson’s pharmacy. Taking opportunities that were present, a few months later in 2003, Paula became the Immunization Market Lead and Recruiter for her area. In 2005, she relocated her family to Boise, still working recruiting and acting temporarily as district operations specialist. Shortly following, in 2006, she secured a promotion to pharmacy district manager and currently holds that position for Albertson’s/SavOn.

Paula’s short, but swift-paced career is highlighted by her work with interns. She most recently spent the summer as Intern Coordinator in the Boise market. It is a 10-week, structured program for six fortunate candidates who are placed into carefully selected pharmacies of excellence. The group also met weekly to correlate individual projects and group presentations.

Paula also enjoys the unique pharmacist-client relationships, finding a healthy dose of catharsis to keep her perspective attuned to clients needs, as well as the dimension affording personal professional growth. She also advises graduates “…to keep their options open. There is limitless opportunity. Be true to yourself. Confidence and faith in your abilities render challenges surmountable. Always have fun; you will never regret it and it is well deserved.”

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Marilyn’s start in the profession of pharmacy began at Arnell’s Drug in Blackfoot, Idaho as an intern while she finished her BS degree in Pharmacy. After graduating from ISU in 1975, she worked as a relief retail pharmacist until taking a position with Bannock Memorial Hospital, now Portneuf Medical Center. Keeping to her priorities, she worked part-time for 10 years while her children were young. In 1985, when the children were older, she went full-time.

During her time as a staff pharmacist she particularly enjoyed pediatrics, cardiovascular medicine and has taught ACLS courses for several years.

She has served in management for approximately 20 years, finding it to be challenging and exciting. Highlighting her career has been many wonderful friendships as she meets so many talented and resourceful people. She holds the notable honor of being the first woman ever appointed to the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy, and considers it possibly her most unique experience.

Recently, in May of this year she was surprised and honored to receive the Professional Achievement Award for the College of Pharmacy. This is a humbling and treasured memory, which she rivals only with receiving the Preceptor of the Year Award.

Her advice to pharmacy students is multi-faceted, yet poignant: the complexion of pharmacy has changed from one in which women were the non-existent, to the minority. Today, many women are choosing to pursue a professional career in pharmacy.

Many opportunities are still in front of us, she said. We are seen not by our gender but by our dedication and excellence. Enjoy yourselves! Don’t take yourselves too seriously. We have a unique opportunity to help others and make the world a better place.

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A paragon of consistency and commitment to a single employer – it’s the 17-year career of Janeen Winnike in the proverbial nutshell. SUPERVALU Pharmacies umbrellas as the parent company of a dozen or more local grocery banners across the country; her entire career has been with SUPERVALU Pharmacies, and still is today!

Janeen started at Jewel Osco in the Chicago area as a staff pharmacist and pharmacy manager for six years. The next five, she worked as a Pharmacist Trainer – training new pharmacists and developing education programs for new pharmacists and technicians. As well, she intermediated with the Pharm-Tech Certification Board, coordinated Supervalu’s summer intern program, and even partnered with high schools to introduce technicians and pharmacy candidates to the field. Though remaining with a single company, she still branched out to develop and improve the field of pharmacy from within the auspices of the company.

She seized the opportunity to be a co-founder of Supervalu’s APhA/ASHP accredited Community Pharmacy Residency Program.

For the last six years, she has rather unexpectedly enjoyed the freedom and creative opportunities the role of Pharmacy Recruiting and College Relations Directorship has afforded her. She enjoys her team of recruiters, addressing her companies growing needs, and being the “face” of SUPERVALU on campuses.

She advises graduates to focus on patient care, take on challenges, stay involved in the profession and never forget to take opportunity and find ways to give back to the profession. If needed, stand up for the profession of pharmacy in order to be a respected member of the health care team.

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Thank you!