A Message from Linda Garrelts MacLean
Associate Dean for Advancement

Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

Since today is tax day --April 15-- I thought it would be appropriate to begin this month’s newsletter by expressing our appreciation to the classmates, corporations and friends of the College of Pharmacy who have so generously donated their resources this past year. We could not exist and certainly not excel without this support, particularly as funding from the State of Washington continues to decline.

It’s also worth noting that among all the different colleges within WSU, the College of Pharmacy consistently ranks highest in the percentage of donors who give back. In fact, last year over 15% of our alumni made a contribution either to scholarships, the Dean’s Fund for Excellence, student travel, or other programs. Your generosity is truly making a difference! If you would like information on the $1 billion “Campaign for Washington State” and our current fundraising priorities, please visit: http://foundation.wsu.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

Have you RSVP’d for the May 2 Donor Appreciation and Awards Night? We are expecting close to 200 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College to be in attendance. This year, we will also have several prospective “class of 2018” pharmacy students in Spokane to "check out" WSU and decide if they will attend the WSU College of Pharmacy. We could really use a good turnout from alums to help us tell our wonderful Cougar Pharmacy story! The event is free and features a silent auction, faculty of the year awards, and the Alumnus of the Year award. Please RSVP using this link: gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu.

We had a great turnout for the WSU Alumni & Friends Reception at the APhA convention last month in Orlando. Over 50 alumni, friends and current students attended the reception, which was held at David’s Club in the Hilton Orlando. Thanks to Holly Whitcomb Henry, class of 1978;
Speaking of Bill Fassett, don’t forget about the Retirement Celebration in his honor on Friday, May 30, at the Northwest Pharmacy Convention. The party is free and we are looking for items for a live auction to raise funds for Bill’s favorite cause, the Marguerite Villars/Spokane Pharmacy Association Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy. You can click here to see the invitation and email Kelly Sylvester if you can donate an auction item.

STUDENT NEWS

I’m proud to announce that Patrick Stolz, class of 2016, was recently selected to serve on NCPA’s National Student Leadership Council (SLC), a very prestigious honor. The SLC is comprised of 16 student members who each serve a two-year term. The goal of the SLC is to support the development of future leaders in community pharmacy and to recognize student pharmacists who have a strong interest in entrepreneurship and pursuing a career in community pharmacy. Congratulations Patrick on this exciting recognition for you and WSU!

Congratulations are also in order for first-year pharmacy students Jared Kavanaugh and Pierce Robledo who were elected president and vice president, respectively, of the Associated Students of Washington State University in Spokane. ASWSUS sponsors student activities and represents student interests, as well as acting as a liaison between students and university faculty, staff and administration.

In March, a team of our third-year Doctor of Pharmacy students competed at the national Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition held at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The WSU team won 3rd place overall out of 20 different colleges of pharmacy! The team was made up of Sean Leonard, Kendall Brenton and Alex Palmer, and was accompanied by Connie Remsberg, clinical assistant professor. There were three portions to the competition. The first section was compounding indomethacin suppositories, acyclovir and lidocaine chap stick, and a ketoprofen topical gel. In the second section students had to prepare an essay that discussed the differences between recent legislation regarding regulation of compounding pharmacies. In the third portion, the team had to make a poster on a given topic related to quality practices in compounding and present this poster to all of the competition’s attendees. They prepared for this competition with such dedication – starting in Pullman last year and then spending this past fall semester honing their skills. Way to go Kendall, Sean and Alex!
You can see more photos of the compounding event on our Facebook page.

I also want to say thank you to those who helped third-year pharmacy student Alyssa del Palacio to participate in the annual Rx Impact Day in Washington D.C. last month. Alyssa received a grant from her employer, Bartell Drugs, and support from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores that made her trip possible. Alyssa was one of 50 student representatives chosen nationwide to lobby for her future profession on Capitol Hill.

We are so proud of our students and their remarkable leadership skills! They are truly shining examples of the best of our program.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY COMMENCEMENT

The 'big' event for the College is fast approaching. Our commencement ceremony will once again be held at the Martin Woldson Theater at the FOX in downtown Spokane, on Thursday, May 8.

Last year our graduating pharmacists had the great privilege to hear from Rear Admiral Scott Giberson, who is now the acting United States deputy surgeon general. We continue to bring in thought leaders who are caring for patients in new and different ways, and are leading the charge for innovation in the profession of pharmacy. This year, I am pleased to tell you that our commencement speaker will be Susan Winckler, R.Ph., president and chief executive officer of the Food and Drug Law Institute.

Winckler is a former chief of staff for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where she provided integrated policy analysis and strategic consultation to the commissioner and senior FDA officials on significant agency issues and programs. Prior to joining the FDA, Winckler was the vice president for policy and communications, and staff counsel for the APhA. She served as the primary spokesperson for APhA during media interviews, and was APhA’s senior lobbyist. We are excited to give our students and graduating pharmacists the opportunity to interact with such an exemplary role model.

For more information on this year’s commencement ceremony, please visit our commencement web page.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

As many of you know, we recently made some big changes to our pharmacy curriculum and how we teach, test and develop future leaders in pharmacy. There are some great news updates on our honors-satisfactory-fail curriculum model, and on our new computerized test-giving software, in the inaugural edition of College of Pharmacy Dean Gary...
Pollack’s newsletter.

We've received a lot of interest from the pharmacy education community as one of the first traditional, established schools of pharmacy to adopt this innovative curricular model. Recently, we had the opportunity to host administrators from the University of Montreal on the WSU campus in Spokane. UM also teaches with a competency-based curriculum model. We got to sit down and "compare notes" with them on what defines a competency, and the most efficient parameters to measure how students best master material. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with UM, and other schools of pharmacy, as we strive for excellence in developing outstanding healthcare professionals and scientists.

Dean Pollack will continue to publish updates on curriculum assessment. If you are not already signed up to receive his monthly e-newsletter, click on the "subscribe" link the sidebar!

COMING UP
Look for another Special Edition CougaRx next month from Dean Pollack!

With Best Wishes and Cougar Pride,

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CORRECTIONS
In our article "Tri-Cities Scholarship Event" from March 2014, Lewis Clark Hughes was misidentified as Lewis Clark Fisher. He was part of the class of 1923, not 1926. Robert Fisher graduated with his Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1952, not 1956.

ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Mark Stuhrman**, class of 1982, is the pharmacy manager at the Fred Meyer in Battle Ground, Wash. His pharmacy received the Fred Meyer Division 2 Pharmacy of the Year award, "for their passion
for people and passion for results." As an additional honor to Mark for receiving this award, Fred Meyer added a WSU Pharmacy lapel pin to the Battle Ground pharmacy staff uniforms - mandatory for one week!

- **R. Keith Campbell**, class of 1964, received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from the Washington Association of Diabetes Educators at their recent annual meeting in Seattle, Wash. WADE is one of the top state associations for diabetes educators and Campbell has been a member since the organization was founded.

- **Natasha Hoerrmann**, class of 2010, checked in from Bethel, Alaska, where she and her husband, Michael Stamper, class of 2010, are working for Indian Health Services. Bethel is approximately 400 miles from Anchorage (and is so remote they just got cell phone coverage in 2008). Indian Health Services in Bethel serves over 50 villages. Other WSU grads working at the same location include **Susan Wheeler**, class of 2006, and **Jason Byrd**, class of 2009.

Want to be listed here in our alumni updates? Send us your career update or let us know what you've been up to! gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu

Have you included the College of Pharmacy in your estate plans? For more information, please contact us or visit the WSU Foundation website.