Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

Spring is upon us! And this means we have begun preparations for two of our favorite annual events: the Donor Appreciation and Awards Night—which I will talk about a little bit later—and the College of Pharmacy Commencement Ceremony. Commencement this year will be on Thursday, May 7, and will once again be at the Fox Theater in downtown Spokane. I am honored and pleased to announce that former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona will be our keynote speaker this year.

We are continuously striving to bring in top leaders, innovators and advocates for health care and pharmacy practice to speak to our students. Dr. Carmona served as surgeon general from 2002-06, and during that time put forward many initiatives to advance health education on prevention, preparedness, health literacy, and global health. These initiatives align with what pharmacists do every day, and we are extremely honored to have such a prestigious health advocate as our commencement speaker. Read the press release here.

Our future pharmacists have been as active as ever. On March 9, over 70 of our students traveled to Olympia with representatives from the WSPA to speak to legislators about how pharmacists are stepping up to help fulfill the growing and evolving health care needs of today and tomorrow.

Be sure to follow the College of Pharmacy on Twitter.
@WSUPharmacy for updates on our students and other college news.

2015 NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill will be on March 25-26 this year. Ryan Nottingham, class of 2016, will be representing WSU at this national event. NACDS representative Heidi Ecker, who is coordinating the RxIMPACT event, was one of our career seminar speakers this spring. For information on this guest-lecture series click here.

STUDENT NEWS

On January 24, six teams of student pharmacists competed in our local Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition. The winning student pharmacists are Madison Block, Amanda Hack and Stephanie Lind, all class of 2016. The team will compete at the national Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition on March 21-22, in Gainesville, Florida.

Hanh-La Phan, also class of 2016, received first place in the WSU APhA-ASP local Pharmacy Counseling Competition and will go on to compete at the upcoming APhA annual meeting in San Diego, California.

I would also like to congratulate Pierce Robledo, class of 2017, who served as the Associated Students of WSU Spokane (ASWSUS) vice president this year. He was just elected as next year’s president in the ASWSUS General Elections that were held March 10-11. Pierce’s running mate was Karl Nacalaban, class of 2018, who will serve as vice president. And this year’s ASWSUS president, Jared Kavanaugh, class of 2017, was voted in as a Pharmacy senator.

We are so proud of all of our fantastic student pharmacists. They truly are the future leaders in pharmacy.

ALL-ALUMNI EVENTS

The APhA convention in San Diego is fast approaching! If you are heading to San Diego for the convention, be sure to join us for the WSU “Alumni & Friends” reception on Sunday, March 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Marina Kitchen restaurant in the Marriott Marquis San Diego. Last year we had about 75 alumni, students, faculty, and VIPs attend the reception. This year, we have changed the date to Sunday (instead of Saturday) so it won’t conflict with other convention activities and we hope

this will allow more of you to attend! Of course admission is free, but please RSVP here: gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu

Mark your calendar for our annual **Donor Appreciation and Awards** event on Friday, April 17. The event will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the South Campus Facility on the WSU campus in Spokane. This is a great opportunity for you to meet current student pharmacists, faculty and fellow alumni. The event features hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a silent auction to raise funds for student groups at the College of Pharmacy. [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP.

Also, if you are able to be here on April 17, our student services team is looking for alumni to attend a “**prospective student**” reception earlier that afternoon. We need alumni to tell prospective students about why they should attend WSU and why pharmacy is a great career choice. If you can lend a hand, please email gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu.

**COUGARx NATION EVENTS**

The CougaRx Nation regional coordinators are pleased to announce two upcoming receptions for alumni. The first will take place on Friday, March 27, in Orange County, California, at the Marriott Residence Inn in Tustin from 7 to 9 p.m. Thanks to Patrick Tabon, class of 2012, and Mary Wen, class of 2012, for helping organize this event! [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP.

Our second CougaRx Nation networking event takes place on Friday, April 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Bellevue Brewery. [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP.

If you have not yet joined the CougaRx Nation Pharmacy Alumni Community, please get involved today! You can get more information about the organization, our regional coordinators, and upcoming events here: [http://bit.ly/wsu-cougarxnation](http://bit.ly/wsu-cougarxnation).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WSU**

Help us celebrate the 125th Anniversary of WSU! Yes, that's right, WSU is officially 125 years old on March 28 and we are teaming up with the WSU Foundation on a special event to kick off a nine-month-long WSU celebration. We will be promoting the “Coug Give” event on social media and we hope to have as many Cougs as possible help us get the word out! Watch your inbox on March 26-27 for more information or [click here now](#) to get more details and to sign up as an ambassador. You can choose any fund you want to support—including scholarships for student pharmacists—and what a great way to honor WSU’s history and pay it forward for future students!
DOCTOR OF PHARMACY MENTOR PROGRAM
As we celebrate our history, it's important that we also are mindful of cultivating the next generation of Cougs. I've always believed that one of the great things about being a Cougar pharmacist is getting to learn and develop within the network of the WSU community. This network is built around faculty and staff who provide instruction and support, and also alumni who provide our students with mentoring and the opportunity to interact with leaders and innovators in industry and practice.

This network is the foundation of educating future leaders in pharmacy. As an alumni, if you are not currently active in this great network, please consider volunteering to mentor a student pharmacist. This is a great opportunity for you to share your academic and professional experiences and give back to WSU students!

To learn more about this program, click here. To sign up to be a mentor, click here.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ANNUAL REPORT
And finally, our annual report hit mailboxes at the end of January, and if you haven't seen it yet you can download it online here: annualreport14.pdf

If you didn't get one in the mail and would like one, please send your updated contact information to gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu and we will get one mailed to you.

With Cougar Pride,

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Sad News. We recently learned that Bob Larson, class of 1957, passed away unexpectedly while on vacation in Norway. His full obituary in the Hood River News can be read here. His family has requested memorial contributions can be made to the Dawn Joy Larson Memorial Scholarship Fund (WSU, P.O. Box 1495, Spokane, WA 99210-1495) or a charity of your choice.

Thank you to Lloyd Curtis, class of 1954, for letting us know that E. Roy Curtis, class of 1954, who formerly owned Roy's Pharmacy in Tonasket, Wash., passed away in October. He was 87 years old.

We also recently learned that Beverly J. Patterson, class of 1951, passed away in December. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families of those listed above.

Want to be listed in our alumni updates? Send us your career information 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.