

# COUGAR<sub>Rx</sub> alumni news

SPECIAL EDITION



## CALENDAR

MAY 2015

### Admitted Student

#### Reception

May 15, 2015

5:00—7:00 p.m.

Mercer Slough Environmental

Education Center

Bellevue, Wash

RSVP

### Northwest Pharmacy Convention

- **CougarRx Nation  
Regional Coord.  
Board Meeting**

May 29, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Resort

- **Alumni & Friends  
Reception**

May 30, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Coeur d'Alene Resort

RSVP

### Student Mentoring

#### Luncheon

August 21, 2015

11:00—1:00 p.m.

WSU Health Sciences

Spokane, Wash.

RSVP

### White Coat Ceremony

August 21, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Fox Theater

Spokane, Wash.

RSVP

### White Coat Ceremony & Mentoring Reception

A Message from Gary M. Pollack  
Dean of the College of Pharmacy

Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

The academic year has come to a close and I have the honor, here, to welcome our newly-minted alumni from the class of 2015 to the readership of the CougarRx Alumni Newsletter. This newsletter is a gateway to staying connected with us and, more importantly, with each other. We hope the newsletter will give you the inspiration, and provide the details on the opportunities, to interact and engage with your fellow Cougar pharmacists.

### DONOR APPRECIATION AND AWARDS NIGHT

We kicked off our “commencement season” with our annual [Donor Appreciation and Awards Night](#) on April 17. More than 180 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and others gathered on campus in Spokane to help us acknowledge the contributions of our donors and supporters.

We recognized our [Teachers of Year](#), who are the instructors that were voted by the students to be recognized for their excellence in teaching and exemplary efforts to promote the academic success and professional leadership of our students.

We also had the opportunity to unveil a new video about our Doctor of Pharmacy program:

<https://youtu.be/Soz5XTIboM0>

### 2015 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

This year we were extremely fortunate to have the 17th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Richard Carmona, as our commencement speaker. His words to our graduates were particularly relevant as we turn towards the era of what has been coined as “provider status” for the pharmacist, or rather, the point where pharmacists are recognized as an equal partner on the health care team. We are grateful to Dr. Carmona for making the time to visit us in Spokane, and for providing his unique insight to our students in such an inspiring and meaningful commencement address.

August 27, 2015

PNWU campus  
Yakima, Wash.

[RSVP](#)

### The Dean's

#### "Welcome Back!" BBQ

Date: TBD

WSU Health Sciences  
Spokane, Wash.

Details on upcoming events will be posted as they become available on our [CougaRx Nation events web page](#) »

## NEWS FROM THE DEAN

Subscribe to get monthly messages from Dean Pollack

[Subscribe](#)

[Read the latest issue](#)

JOIN US!

**COUGAR<sub>Rx</sub>  
NATION**  
PHARMACY ALUMNI COMMUNITY

[Click Here!](#)  
Membership is  
\$50 per year  
(\$75 for joint membership)

## UPDATE YOUR INFO

Has your email address changed? Let us know!

[Update your info](#)



Read the news story [here](#).

View the video of the keynote address [here](#).

In addition to our commencement ceremony in Spokane, there was a special pharmacy addition to the commencement ceremony on the Pullman campus: a College of Pharmacy alumni from the class of 1974, who missed his original graduation, finally got to participate in the ceremony over 40 years after earning his Ph.D.

Read our alumni spotlight [here](#).

### NEW LAW: ESSB 5557

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to mention that we celebrated Monday with our colleagues from across the state as Gov. Jay Inslee signed ESSB 5557 into law. The new law requires health insurance carriers to treat pharmacists the same as other health care providers. While commercial health plans have historically recognized pharmacists for dispensing medications, they routinely refused to include pharmacists in their participating provider networks.



I look forward to the additional opportunities that will be available to our graduates in the state of Washington as a result of this legislation, and I would like to thank the Washington State Pharmacy Association for inviting the WSU College of Pharmacy to join in their efforts to advocate for this law and participate in the continued discussion that will bring the process to fruition.

Read the WSU News story [here](#).

Read more about ESSB 5557 [here](#).

Pharmacy alumni  
are social,  
Join Us!



Go Cougs!

## NORTHWEST PHARMACY CONVENTION

Alumni, friends and students can join us at the NW Pharmacy Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on May 30 at 5:30 p.m. for a networking reception at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The event is free and you do not have to register for the convention to attend. We will open the doors and sing the Cougar fight song around 7:00 p.m.—we hope to see (and hear) you there!

RSVP at [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu). The reception is again sponsored by Fred Meyer and will be the first opportunity to connect our alumni mentors with incoming student pharmacists.



The mentoring program, and the relationships that each student pharmacist gets out of it, is a critical component of our program's success. I would like to thank our many alumni, like John and Claudia Swenson pictured above, for participating and making such a profound difference. If you are interested in the mentoring program and would like more information, or to sign up, [click here](#), or email: [gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu](mailto:gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu).

Finally, I hope to see you all at future College of Pharmacy events, and encourage you to stay in touch and stay involved. You have the potential to make this program better, even from a distance. I look forward to staying connected with you.

Best wishes from all of us,

**Gary M. Pollack, Ph.D.**

*Dean*

Washington State University College of Pharmacy  
Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building, Room 120  
205 E. Spokane Falls Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1495 | Spokane, WA 99210-1495

509-368-6700 Office | [www.pharmacy.wsu.edu](http://www.pharmacy.wsu.edu)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

- We recently visited **Patti (Roberts) Primmer**, class of 1986, and owner of the Tekoa Pharmacy in Tekoa, Wash. Patti's uncle is Marsh Roberts, class of 1957, and she is the granddaughter of McKinley Roberts, class of 1923.
- **Viora Strait**, class of 1950, has established a scholarship through the Tacoma Community Foundation that benefits an incoming WSU COP student and will be renewable for all 4 years.
- **Bill**, class of 1968, and **Felicia Gaskins** are spearheading an effort to fully endow the Jessie Senora Sims Walker scholarship endowment at the College of Pharmacy. Jessie was the first African American graduate of WSC in 1917 and majored in pharmacy.

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](mailto: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](#).

[College of Pharmacy Home](#) | [subscribe to the newsletter](#) | [update your information](#)