Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

At the end of September I traveled to Washington, D.C., as a member of the board of trustees for the American Pharmacists' Association (APhA). Washington, D.C., in September was lovely! I had the opportunity to attend the fall board meeting and visit with several legislative offices.

Representatives from the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) joined the APhA board for one day where the conversation focused on provider status. This conversation was continued when APhA Government Affairs Staff Member Lauren dePutter and I had the privilege of speaking with legislative aides in the offices of Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray, Representative Adam Smith, and Representative Jim McDermott.

Our efforts on Capitol Hill were reinforced as visits from members of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) were being made at the same time. WSU pharmacy alumnus Roger Woolf (class of 1983 and working at Virginia Mason) was also making visits, giving us the chance to compare notes and reinforce messaging; in fact, he discussed the WSU innovations in pharmacy curricular delivery with Senator Patty Murray’s office. It was a successful initiative, more than a dozen signatures were secured and last week APhA CEO Tom Menighan sent out this announcement: APhA press release: Majority of U.S. House Supports Value of Pharmacists to Patients

The APhA board went on to discuss what steps must be taken by the profession to assure pharmacists are ready to practice at the top of their education once provider status legislation is passed. Barriers to implementation of collaborative drug therapy agreements (CDTAs) as well solutions were explored. The APhA board will continue this conversation with its national professional organization partners to assure that pharmacists are prepared to care for patients in new ways when provider status becomes a reality.

STUDENT NEWS
At the conclusion of the meetings in D.C., I went on to Columbia, South Carolina, to attend an ownership workshop at the Medical University of South Carolina. The daylong program was supported by Cardinal Health and had over 100 attendees comprised of students from colleges and schools of pharmacy from across the nation. The future entrepreneurs who participated in the program were steeped in all aspects of business ownership, including remarks delivered by Bryan Ziegler (MUSC) and me about new models of patient care where the pharmacist, through implementation of CDTAs, is able to increase access to primary patient care. One of the models that I discussed was based on the research project we are currently conducting (Dr. Julie Akers, class of 2000, is the primary investigator) that has pharmacists assessing patients for common conditions, creating care plans, and prescribing prescription medications if appropriate.

We were fortunate to have our two Cardinal scholarship winners attend this inspiring event. Jeff Nye and Patrick Stolz, both class of 2016, represented us well and were able to make important contact with Eden Sulzer, director for Women in Pharmacy with Cardinal Health; Dave Ellis, vice president of pharmacy transition services with Cardinal Health; and Jimmy Neil, general manager with Live Oak Bank.

Patrick Stolz is now in the second half of his term on the NCPA Student Leadership Council. He was joined this year by Kim Paulson, class of 2017, who is just starting a two-year term with the SLC. Advocacy and involvement in the profession provide the foundation for moving our profession forward. I would like to say thank you to all our alumni and friends for your support of the profession and our students!

Another way we help our student pharmacists connect with thought leaders and professional innovators is through the Preparing For Your Career in Pharmacy Seminar Series. This lecture series has been an enormous success in connecting our students with those in the pharmacy profession who are not only doing great things themselves, but influencing others as well. We are looking forward to Sarah Beaty-VanDemark, class of 1976 and currently working at Providence, to come speak on October 29, and Michael Johnson, class of 1996 and currently with Confluence Health, will speak on November 12.

Interested in visiting campus and sitting in on a career seminar lecture? Please contact us!
Don’t forget to join us tomorrow for our College of Pharmacy Open House. Take a tour of our Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building and catch up with your fellow Cougar pharmacy alumni, plus the first 50 guests get a free Homecoming 2015 t-shirt.

Then join us in Pullman on Saturday for our annual Homecoming football game tailgate party. We will have food, games, door prizes, and more! Come find us in the usual place, Wegner Hall parking lot between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Sad that summer is gone? You’re in luck! Join us in Hawaii October 30 and 31. Catch some sun, and a chance to connect with pharmacy alumni and friends! Get all the details on our networking event and football viewing party in Honolulu here: Hawaii 2015.

LOCAL PHARMACY EVENTS
First, we are once again celebrating Hospital Pharmacy Appreciation Month this October. We will be visiting various local hospital pharmacies to say thank you for being a pharmacist. Hospital pharmacy is important and we are trying to get more hospital residencies established for our graduates. If you know of an opportunity, email me or come find me at ASHP!

Second, if you are in the Spokane area, join us at the Spokane Pharmacy Association Annual Awards Meeting on Friday, November 6, at the brand new Davenport Grand Hotel. The event celebrates the Inland Northwest pharmacy community, and recognizes pharmacy community members for their service in Spokane and Eastern Washington. Click here for more information and to purchase tickets.

WAVE THE FLAG FOR PHARMACY
We have extended our Wave the Flag for Pharmacy photo contest to the end of October. Send us a photo and we’ll enter you in our drawing for a can of Cougar Gold cheese. Email photos to gocougts@pharmacy.wsu.edu.

And finally, watch for a Special Edition of the newsletter next month from CougaRx Nation board chair Manpreet Chahal, class of 2008 and 2010.
ALUMNI UPDATES

- We recently heard from Michael Kleinberg, class of 1998. Michael received his first pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona at the time its first medical class started, and he reached out to us after the recent announcement of Dr. John Tomkowiak’s appointment as founding dean of the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. We agree with Michael that this is a great opportunity for our students! Read Gary Pollack’s comments in the Dean’s Newsletter.

- We are very proud to have Kurt Bowen, class of 2013, representing the Mill Plain Fred Meyer pharmacy team that is now providing progressive clinical services for minor ailments through a collaborative drug therapy agreement in Vancouver, Washington.

- Brandon Arthur, class of 2011, let us know that he has been assisting with the development of the South Puget Sound Pharmacy Association (SPSPA). The officers and board members of SPSPA are excited about growing the local chapter with the goal of connecting pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students, and pharmacy residents from all over Western Washington. If you live in the area and are interested in joining, contact Brandon at brandon.arthur@multicare.org.

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.

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