Dear Alums, Colleagues and Friends of Pharmacy,

Right now is a very exciting time for the pharmacy profession. There is a strong demand for WSU pharmacy graduates, who are medication experts and prepared to care for patients in new ways. But this is nothing new. Thinking back to my time under WSU Pharmacy Dean Allen I. White, he expressed this very thought about the pharmacists beginning their careers in the 1970s. In a message from Dean White published in the spring of 1978, he addressed the resistance that existed at the time against innovation in the practice of pharmacy:

“For those who lack the vision to see the opportunities in the future for pharmacy, for those who prefer the status quo, for those who fear change, the best jobs and the best chances existed in the past. The young people now graduating from colleges of pharmacy from which they have obtained the vision of a new future and the ability to cope with it need not be discouraged by the pessimism of those who look backward rather than forward.”

This is evidence that Dean White was far ahead of his time. He was ahead of his time in believing that pharmacists would be highly involved in patient care and that pharmacists educated and trained for the future would be in high demand. And just as pharmacy was evolving in the 1970s and 1980s, it is evolving still today. Pessimists still persist, but the practice of
pharmacy is uniquely poised to meet the needs of the changing health care system. We just need to see these opportunities and jump at them.

In fact, in the Northwest, we are seeing the reappearance of “signing bonuses” in the magnitude of $20,000 to $30,000 for pharmacists who are willing to relocate to rural areas such as Moscow, Idaho, and Lincoln City, Oregon, – excellent places to live!

Solutions for the growing health care demands of aging baby boomers must be found outside of current convention, because the current health care convention in America is broken. Efforts like ESSB 5557 in Washington aim to close the loopholes that kept pharmacists from being recognized as health care providers. The reality is, the pharmacist is the single most accessible health care professional for people in America. In order to address the profound shortages in health care access and availability, we need to fully utilize pharmacists to provide the services where there is a desperate demand. Services that people are, in fact, willing to pay out-of-pocket to receive.

Former Surgeon General Richard Carmona delivered our 2015 WSU College of Pharmacy commencement address. He challenged our graduates to pick up the baton as health counselors as pharmacy becomes more complex with the development of pharmacogenomics, individualized pharmacology and personalized medicine. He said to them:

“I've been very closely aligned with the pharmacy profession for many years, including my time as surgeon general. The pharmacists were some of my best leaders, not just as pharmacists but as leaders in the diverse set of opportunities that came up.”

“The pharmacist of the future will continue to be a leader and equal partner in a diverse multi-disciplinary prevention and health care team within the medical or health care home.”

If you haven’t seen it yet, I encourage you watch Carmona’s full keynote address from 2015, which we have posted online.

Pharmacy Times posted an article just this week outlining the current state of the national pharmacy job market, which confirms the outlook is good.

The continued demand for pharmacists reminds me of what Dean White said while I was a student pharmacist. He used a quote from the poet
Berton Brayley to describe the pharmacy profession: “For the best jobs haven't been started, the best work hasn't been done.”

I still believe this quote is relevant as our profession continues to grow!

**COLLEGE NEWS**

Continued evidence of how we are looking to the future is found in what we are doing today to improve and transform how we educate our students. In June, the College of Pharmacy hosted a Transformation and Innovation in Pedagogy Summit for Pharmacy. This summit was developed to share our college’s vision of pharmacy education and our experience with the implementation of our recently adopted assessment and curriculum models. It was so great to meet and collaborate with other pharmacy schools, to share our story, and hear how others are implementing these outcomes-based concepts. Read the full summit overview in the [Dean’s Newsletter](#) and [view the event photos online](#).

And if you are looking for a good overview of the college’s progress over the last five years, including our curriculum innovation and Yakima extension, watch Dean Gary M. Pollack on a recent episode of [WSU’s Health Sciences Update](#).

**ALUMNI NEWS**

Don’t forget to join us in Portland on July 21 at 5:30 p.m. for our alumni and friends reception at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

We will be holding another alumni and friends reception on July 24 at 5:00 p.m. during the AACP annual meeting at the Anaheim Marriott lobby bar. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

Ticket registration is now open for our 125th Anniversary Gala! [Click here](#) to purchase your tickets. I hope many of you will be able to join us as we celebrate our accomplishments and honor past
professors and deans. Remembering Dean White as I prepared my thoughts for the newsletter this month really drove home the motivation behind why we are taking the time this year to remember our past, celebrate where we are today, and position ourselves for the future. The festivities we are planning surrounding the college’s 125th birthday will not only honor the high standards of past, current and future deans, but will benefit the college’s mission to be a leader in collaborative research and scholarship, and educator of outstanding health care professionals. I truly hope you can join us in November at this momentous event.

WAVE THE FLAG FOR PHARMACY
The wave the flag for pharmacy competition is back! Wherever your travels may take you this summer, send us a photo with a Cougar flag to gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu. All entries will be eligible for a drawing to win a can of Cougar Gold cheese. I look forward to seeing where your summer adventures take you!

With Best Wishes and Cougar Pride,

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125TH ANNIVERSARY

TRIVIA
Great job to everyone that answered our trivia question last month! Congratulations to our June winner Tom Ernst, class of 1994, who correctly answered that the most College of Pharmacy alumni reside in the state of Washington.
In case you missed it, each month we will post a college trivia question in this newsletter. Those who answer it correctly will be entered in a monthly drawing for two complimentary tickets to our 125th Anniversary Gala on November 4.

What is the most common last name for WSU College of Pharmacy graduates?
A. Jones  
B. Thomas  
C. Nguyen  
D. Ryan

Click here to submit your answer!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – JULY

Since 1891, educating outstanding pharmacists and leaders in pharmacy practice has been the core of what the WSU College of Pharmacy does. Our Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program today emphasizes patient-centered care, drug therapy and disease state management, and interprofessional health team collaboration. Read more

ALUMNI UPDATES

• **Tyler Fischback**, class of 2009, and his wife Jana recently welcomed their daughter Genevieve to their family. Congratulations!

• **Majid Tanas**, class of 2007, has been named as chief of pharmacy at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md. His selection follows a national search and will be effective on August 1, 2016. He is leaving OHSU to accept this new position with NIH. Tanas was a student leader in the College of Pharmacy, serving as the 2005-06 PPSO President. Congratulations on this prestigious appointment.

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