

**The Alumni Association of the  
University of Maryland School of Pharmacy  
Alumni Board Minutes  
Wednesday, October 30, 2013  
6:30 pm to 9 pm Board Conference Room**

**In attendance:** Cynthia Boyle, Min-li Cary, Rai Cary, Julian Chun, Brian Hose, Sharon Park, Matthew Shimoda, Bradley Thomas, Hoai An-Truong, Chai James Wang

**SGA Representatives:** Michael Leung, Amy D'Silva, Amanda Batdorf

**Faculty and Staff:** Janice Batzold, Cherokee Layson-Wolf, Pam Heckler, Jennifer McGinley

**Absent:** Lynette Bradley-Baker, James Bresette, Mathilda Fienkeng, Mandy Kwong, Sam Lichter, Gina McKnight-Smith, Doris Voigt

**SGA Representatives:** Brandon Keith

**Welcome and President's Remarks**

**Brian Hose**

Brian welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. We had two guest speakers: Dr. Layson-Wolf, Director, Student Affairs and Pam Heckler, Director of Operations, UMB Foundation. The guest speakers started right away.

**Update from Student Affairs**

**Cherokee Layson-Wolf**

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Cherokee Layson-Wolf, Director of Students Affairs. Dr. Wolf shared updated information on the senior class, the current admissions process, job ready program as well as the job climate for our graduates.

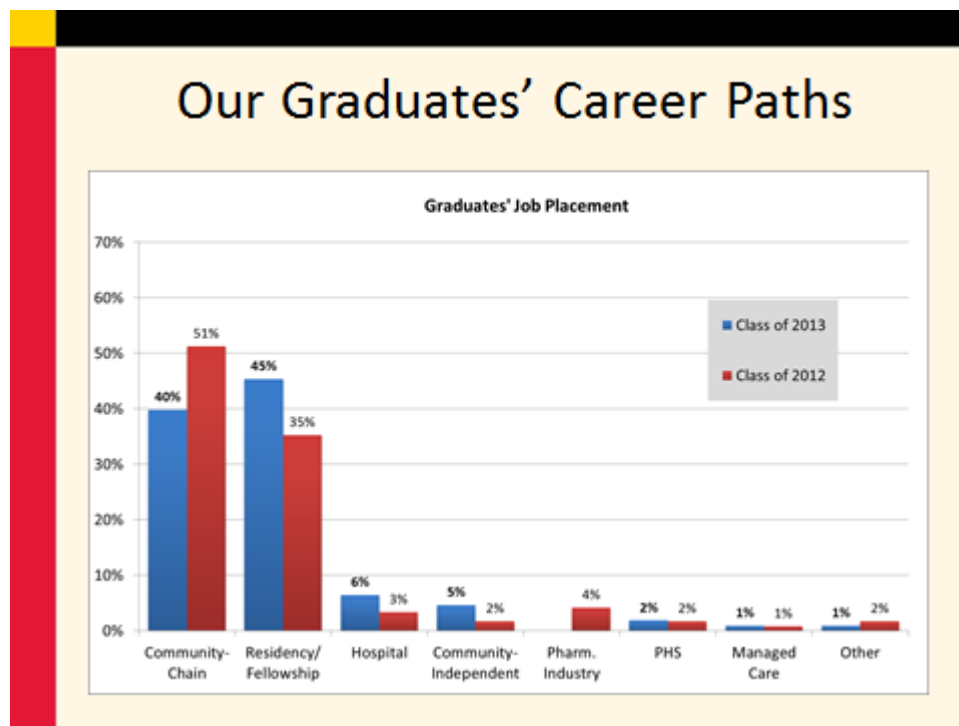
- Admissions uses a group interview format which has been done for the past one to two years. The student candidates work in a group to research a particular topic. Then they must present to the faculty leader in the room as well as two others evaluating them.
- They are tested on their presentation, the group dynamic and how they express their point of view.
- Our alums are involved in this part of the Admissions process.
- There is currently a lot of group work for the students.
- They are always looking to enhance and perfect the interview process for our students, but it is currently running very smoothly.

Matt Shimoda asked Cherokee about statistics on the current class and whether or not they were in line with the past years applicants.

- Cherokee said this class seems to have a higher GPA. We're admitting across the board. Sometimes communication is an issue if it is a foreign student. If there is a possibility of language improvement, then the student is admitted.

Chai asked where we are in terms of in-state vs out of state students.

- Cherokee explained that Admissions doesn't look where the student is from. High quality students are the goal. That is most important. The numbers have been consistent in terms of location though.
  - Out of state students come here, but don't stay here upon graduating. The market locally is very saturated. Students tend to stay where they do residency.



## Career Fair

- 110 students registered for career fair on Saturday, November 2, 2013. This is a great opportunity for our students to network for jobs and explore possibilities. It is extremely important for them to attend and be visible.
  - 50% or less of companies that attend the career fair are currently interviewing. Many companies in 2013 didn't even interview. Some companies just pre-screened.
  - Chai asked if there is something being done to address the fact that fewer and fewer companies are present at the career fair?
    - Cherokee responded by explaining that the challenges are sometimes internal because students don't attend. There are also external challenges that include competing with other schools when businesses go to their job fairs too. We're looking as to why the companies are not as helpful as they had been. It may be due to economy and lack of hiring ability at this time.

## Residencies

- 70 students participate in Match and 49 actually matched. These are the best results we've had in a while.
- Some students did not participate in the career search process. This puts them at a huge disadvantage for finding a job and taking part in our Job Ready Program.

## Job Ready Program

- The Job Ready Program was started two years ago. Margaret Hayes leads this program. Students need to get involved in how to find a job.
- They are trained on how to interview, network, what to wear, how to act professionally, etc...Preparing these students for graduation is paramount. The students know the importance of preparation skills for future jobs and also residency. It is vital for our students to have these skills to move ahead.
  - Matt and Bradley voiced concern that the majority of students are being pushed into residencies and are just preparing for that track. If they don't match, then they aren't prepared for getting a job. Since there seems to be such a central focus on going into residencies, students need to broaden their minds for various job opportunities. They need to educate themselves on what else is out there in terms of job opportunities. Bradley and Matt made this recommendation.
  - Students need more practice with interviews Chai said.
  - Student government leader, Amy DeSilva, class of 2015, said it is changing. There are more roundtable discussions now on community health, clinical and health system etc. In fact, Amy said one of her classes includes an in-depth look at constructive criticism, how to dress, networking, communication, eye contact, how to have the proper hand shake, even table manners, etc...These components are all a part of the course. This is just not about residency training preparation, but rather preparation for anything students choose to do upon graduation. This helps to fill in the gaps of the other courses taken.
    - Though Bradley knows he is biased towards community pharmacy, he now really sees the value of residency. He gave advice to our students present at the meeting:
      - ◇ "Don't take it to extreme." "Even if you go into a residency program you will come back to community pharmacy at some point. You need to have the skills of dealing with people on a daily basis as a part of your experience." Bradley commented. Then Bradley and Matt commented that if you're not a part of the top 5 % of your class, you will have trouble getting a job. Every rotation you complete is a job interview in a way. You must absorb the good in it. When there are not a lot of job opportunities, but lots of candidates for the same job, you need to set yourself apart and show you are up to the task. Also be sure to really work hard and get all necessary experience. Be sure to include work in an actual pharmacy as a goal as well. This is such valuable experience.
    - There was a decrease in community placement jobs for last year's class.
    - Sharon Park asked if there are courses and a concentration on conflict resolution and resource management as well as the other important topics. Cherokee said yes and that this is all a part of graduation preparation.
      - ◇ PIC course includes it more in 3<sup>rd</sup> year said Amy D'Silva. It is very helpful she said. A topic for example, is Diabetes.
    - The 4<sup>th</sup> year is really a total job interview all around.
    - Janice said it is very important to have real pharmacy experience.

- Cherokee said a balance between a job, as well as course load, and focusing on class work is key.
- Rai Cary said students who have job experience are really ahead of the game. He can then give those students more in-depth training and not just hit the surface.
- Amy said a recent residency course she took taught students how to answer interview questions in a thoughtful manner. Not off the cuff.
- Community Pharmacy is the bread and butter for many of our alums, but we need to be open-minded as things change and going into a residency may become more of a focus in the future for some students.
- Perhaps a forum for students and alums should be organized. Amy said this would give us the real life perspective. There are so many conflicts on what to do. We need to advertise it well. Jennifer will do what is needed to help.
- Fourth year student Michael Leung said his class piloted a program – hospitals and community. Students need to know what is expected of them in a professional setting.
- Bradley suggested holding events on different days due to the work schedules of pharmacists and they might be a greater draw.

This discussion was such a great opportunity for alums and students to learn from one another and also really see what is on the horizon for the field of Pharmacy.

#### **Foundation/Endowment Update**

**Pam Heckler**

**Guest Speaker:** Pam Heckler, Director of Operations, University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation

- Mickey Dowdy has really transformed the Foundation in the last year he has been in the position. He came from East Carolina. He has in-depth experience with colleges and universities and was also a CEO.
- We now have a solid day to day relationship with University System of Maryland foundation (USMF) through the 501 C3. USMF, they are the Custodian of all of the Universities.
- UMB must follow strict guidelines and remain transparent. All funds are accounted for. Managing all funds to the donors wishes must be upheld.
- Our goal is to grow the Endowment. Most important component is the private donations.
- We currently have \$200 million in endowments.
- We handle investment management as well at UMB and we pool our funds together.
- We are moving in the right direction in terms of investments for the greater good of the campus and the University as a whole.
- Sam Gallo is the CIO of University System of Maryland Foundation. His leadership these past two years has been excellent. He believes in long term investment growth and protecting us from market downturn. Gallo is a well-respected voice on the topic of long term growth investment nationally.
- Each year our investment committee determines the investment rate.
- Compared to our peer institutions we are in the mid-range.
  - Brian was curious as to how the percentages are calculated and how the growth is. Pam commented that we have to conform to strict guidelines. Everyone took a hit in 2008.

## Treasurer's Report

Bradley Thomas

Bradley said all accounts are reconciled. He would like the records to be shown by invoice dates not account codes. The AAI account is not ready at this time. Janice said her contact was unreachable by our meeting date. She will have next time if possible.

## Old Business

Brian Hose

### Regional Alumni Gatherings

- Brian and Chai will confirm dates for a winter and spring event at the next Board Meeting. Proposal #1: A family and friends ice skating even in Laurel, Maryland. Low cost and simple. The goal is gathering our alums in a relaxed environment.
- Proposal #2: spring Picnic at a regional state park.

These two pilot events will be easy to organize, low cost and will both have the goal of gathering regional alums. Events will create a relaxed environment while involving a wide range of age groups and family members. Chai and Brian will begin plans for each of the above events. Jennifer can help with invite distribution and all other details as necessary.

### 2013 Grad Banquet Final Breakdown

Janice Batzold

- We discussed how to get more sponsors and turn a profit. That is not the real goal. It is a special welcome event for our graduating students.
- Most tables that had sponsors were full.
- Networking at the Banquet is important for everyone.
- We will work more closely with ELP in the future to get more preceptors involved.
- Economy determines financial success of Banquet too.
- In terms of the graduates, they had a great time. It was a success from that standpoint. We broke even financially.

## New Business

Brian Hose

### Development & Alumni Update:

- Janice did a re-cap of Fall events:
  - **The Waters Corporation** of Milford, Mass., a leading developer and manufacturer of liquid chromatography (LC) and mass spectrometry (MS) instrumentation, celebrated the designation at a scientific symposium held Oct. 10 in Pharmacy Hall. Waters specifically chose the School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for the Centers of Innovation designation, making it the first institution, instead of an individual, to earn the honor. Waters offers its Centers of Innovation benefits such as discounts, special pricing, input into next-generation analytical tools, access to the very latest in technology and collaborative scientific assistance.
  - **Yankellow Naming & Reception** – One of the best events in a long time. Great group of her family and friends along with faculty, staff and students. Very successful event.

- **Gregory Event** - November 19 we will host, along with the Bio Park, a special event with alum John M. Gregory, BSP, DPS. He will spend the afternoon with faculty, staff, and students discussing his experiences as an entrepreneur and offer valuable tips from lessons learned throughout his career. All are invited.
- **Fall Appeal** – It has gone out. We need to raise the level of participation of our alums to help further our overall financial success. Every little bit helps. Your time is also very important to us and we really appreciate all of you very much.

## **Committees and Charges' Updates**

**Brian Hose**

### **Graduation Banquet May 14, 2014**

- Janice mentioned that Fred wants to be invited to Banquet and Graduation for 2014. This is last class that he taught.
- Depending on how 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion calls go; we can decide what to do about inviting 50<sup>th</sup> Year grads to Banquet or save honoring them for All Class Reunion in September 2014? Chai and Rai will approve survey questions with Jennifer.
- Julian will take care of nominations – due November 30. Jennifer can help as needed.
- Preceptors: Add numbers of preceptors that go to Banquet? Can it be added in to the invite and in Advance? Jennifer will confirm.

### **Reunion 2014**

- Confirm date and time– 9.6.13?
- Send out “Save the Date” materials in January 2014
- Jennifer will contact peer institutions to see how often their reunions are done as well as other alumni events.

## **SGA & Class Updates**

### **2014 Class Update – Michael**

- In October a professional development program was hosted.
- Target Pharmacy – came in to do job interviews.
- Rutgers Fellowship program came to talk to our students.
- 32 students attended a residency webinar.
- 35 to 40 students participated in community pharmacy program. More interest now.
- Career Fair on Saturday –trying to get high participation rate.
- Still in search of graduation speakers.

### **2015 Class Update - Amy**

- Booking Puerto Rico trip -60 people in class may go \$400.00 per student is cost. We've worked very hard to fundraise to decrease overall cost per person.
- Selling SOP ornaments – lots of interest so far

- SOP logo glasses made \$400 profit.

### **2016 Class Update – Amanda**

- Lots of tests right now.
- Job ready program had decent turn out.
- We are getting ready for the Class auction in the spring

### **Good and Welfare**

**Meeting adjourned at 9pm**