Message from the Dean

As my first academic year as Dean at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy comes to an end, I feel a great sense of satisfaction and pride. I am even more impressed with the Faculty and the University today than I was when I first came to Toronto. People often ask me “Are you having fun yet?” and I can truly say the answer is yes I am!

The students in our professional and graduate programs are some of the finest people I have met in my career as an academic. Their leadership capabilities were demonstrated in January when our students hosted Professional Development Week, welcoming pharmacy students from across the country to our great city for four days of learning, networking, and socializing. As you’ll read later in this issue of R/cellence, this year’s PDW was a tremendous success, and the students who organized this event deserve a great deal of credit for their accomplishment.

Our graduate students are beginning final preparations for the Graduate Research in Progress symposium that is generously being hosted by GlaxoSmithKline in May. As part of the graduate curriculum, students in the Master and Doctoral programs at the Faculty are required to present their research findings to their fellow students and faculty members as part of GRIP. Each year, we see how inspiring and reaching the research conducted by our researchers-in-training is, and how what they are working on today will impact health care tomorrow. As this is my first GRIP, I am particularly looking forward to learning more about graduate research at the Faculty and encourage interested alumni to consider joining us at this annual event.

I continue to be amazed by the alumni that I have met over the past nine months. I have been fortunate to meet with a number of you at a variety of events, meetings, and conferences. I have been delighted to hear your impressions of our Faculty, our programs, and our students, and have taken your suggestions and observations to heart.

It is inspiring to learn about the great things people who have graduated from our programs are doing in the community, in hospitals, in research, and in life. It is wonderfully fulfilling to see the successes and contributions of the people we helped get started in the pharmacy field. This issue of your alumni magazine provides us with an opportunity to share a few success stories about some of your classmates.

I am also very proud of our faculty members. We are very fortunate to have the largest pharmacy program in the nation and to have experts in a diverse group of practice and science fields. In addition to experts in pharmacy practice, chemistry, and biology, our faculty complement is supported by experts in political science, mathematics, education, and economics. These leading educators provide our students with the incredible opportunity to study pharmacy and pharmaceutical topics in great depth and from a variety of angles. The result of this broad approach to pharmacy education provides students with a well-rounded understanding of the pharmacy field and inspires them to take an active role in the aspects that interest them most.

Moreover, researchers at the Faculty like Dr. Anna Taddio are having a profound impact on the healthcare system. Dr. Taddio’s pioneering research in paediatric pain management has produced some significant discoveries about the lasting effects of childhood pain and the importance of reducing pain associated with children’s medical procedures. As an alumna of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, Master’s and Ph.D. programs at the Faculty, Dr. Taddio is a prime example of a home-grown expert whose caring and commitment is improving health care around the world.

As you read through this issue of R/cellence, I hope you enjoy learning more about our Faculty and the incredible people who make it such an amazing place. I invite you to consider contributing to our magazine by sharing your own professional stories. We are always eager to hear about what you and your classmates are up to, so please send any stories or story ideas to Jef Ekins, Editor of R/cellence, for inclusion in a future issue of this magazine.

Henry J. Mann
**Faculty News**

Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Reina Bendayan recently received funding from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Ministry of Health of Ontario, for a 3-year research project entitled “Role of Drug Transporters in Permeability and Efficacy of Microbicides at Human Genital Barrier Sites.”

This project will investigate the role that membrane-associated drug transporters play in the disposition of microbicides at genital and rectal mucosa barriers and will guide novel therapeutic strategies that could optimize genital drug bioavailability and reduce the potential for failure of microbicide therapy for the prevention of HIV.

This Fall, two ceremonies were held to honour student achievement at the Faculty. At the first ceremony, students, faculty and staff convened at the Faculty Club to honour 69 students in the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy programs who were recognized for their academic achievements for the 2008-2009 academic year.

At the second ceremony, students in the Master’s and Doctoral programs were celebrated at the Faculty’s first Graduate Student Award Reception. Reflecting the recent growth of the graduate programs at the Faculty, this awards ceremony recognized student excellence at the graduate level. During this ceremony, a total of 38 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students were presented with internal and external awards.

Student awards serve an important function at the Faculty. Not only do awards help recognize outstanding student achievement, they also encourage students in all programs to excel. Moreover, student awards help students focus on their studies, not on making ends meet. The various individuals, classes, organizations, and companies who have created these awards and bursaries have done so knowing that they are helping the next generation of pharmacists and researchers who will have an important role to play in the health and well being of individuals across the country.

Congratulations to all of the deserving graduate and undergraduate students who received awards this year.

In December, the *Toronto Star* published an article entitled “The decade’s Top 10 research discoveries.” Compiled by Peter Lewis, Vice-Dean of Research for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, the items on this list include the most important medical research advances made in Toronto since 2000.

Included on this list is the technology developed by Professor Shana Kelley to detect and diagnose prostate cancer in 30 minutes. This BlackBerry-sized device could be incorporated into the health care system within five years.
Awards

Dean **Henry Mann** received the 2009 Paul F. Parker Award from the University of Kentucky at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Las Vegas. The Paul F. Parker Award is given annually to an individual of high personal and professional ideals who has made significant contributions to pharmacy practice. This individual will have demonstrated through his/her career the personal commitment, leadership and enthusiasm to the profession which Dr. Parker sought to develop in his residents.

Dean Mann was selected to receive this award for his many contributions to pharmacy practice and scholarly pursuits. Congratulations, Dean Mann, on this tremendous honour.

Dean Emeritus **Wayne Hindmarsh** was awarded the Mortar and Pestle Award at the recent Pharmacy Practice Commitment to Care and Service Awards. This Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes Dr. Hindmarsh’s distinguished 40-year career in pharmacy, which began as a hospital pharmacist in Saskatoon and included stops with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Manitoba, before he joined the University of Toronto in 1998.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hindmarsh has pushed for the profession of pharmacy to take an increased role in the health care system. “I believe the profession of pharmacy needs to be front-and-centre in providing input into the health care of our citizens. Governments are beginning to realize that we can do more and are offering us opportunities that we must accept.”

Congratulations, Dr. Hindmarsh, on this well-deserved honour.

Alumni News

**Kent MacLeod** (8T0), owner of Ottawa’s Nutri-Chem Pharmacy, was recognized by the Professional Compounding Centers of America as their 2009 Pharmacist of the Year. A leading authority on the impact of nutrition on the biochemistry of individual disease states, and well-known for his expertise in bio-identical hormone replacement and women’s issues, Kent has the unique ability to simplify the complex aspects of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical approaches so that patients walk away not only healthier, but also better educated about their ailment.

Congratulations, Kent.

A number of Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy alumni were presented awards at the recent Canadian Society of Health Professionals Awards held in Toronto:

Emily Musing (8T3) – Distinguished Service Award
Victoria Sills (8T4) – Isabel E. Stauffer Meritorious Service Awards
Régis Vaillancourt (9T5 Pharm.D.) – Patient Care Enhancement Award
Derek Jorgenson (0T2 Pharm.D.) – Patient Care Enhancement Award
L. Lee Dupuis (8T1) – Pharmacotherapy Best Practices Award
Sarah Jennings (0T0) – Specialties in Pharmacy Practice Award
Karen Shalansky (7T9) – Specialties in Pharmacy Practice Award

The goal of this awards program is to improve patient outcomes by promoting excellence in hospital pharmacy practice. Awards are presented to pharmacists worthy of recognition for professional dedication and commitment to the profession and the patient. Congratulations to these 2010 CSHP National Awards Program winners.

**Ome Jamal** (9T3) was recently profiled for her community involvement in an issue of *The Toronto Observer*. Ome participates in a variety of fundraisers, educational and outreach programs, working with students, seniors, mothers-to-be, new immigrants and individuals with mental and physical challenges. The article noted her work with activities such as the Alzheimer Coffee Break (conducting one-on-one information sessions about Alzheimer’s with patients and their families), the Heart of a Woman (a community presentation to seniors illustrating basic lifestyle training), and the Rouge Valley Health System (providing support and education to mothers-to-be during their pregnancies).

As a Faculty, we are so proud of our alumni and the incredible things you have accomplished. As a result, we are always on the lookout for more alumni updates and stories to go in *R/cellence*. So, if you or any of your classmates and fellow alumni are celebrating significant achievements, have reached professional milestones, held reunions or simply wish to share news about your lives with people from your program, please let us know. Please contact Miriam Stephan, Alumni Affairs Officer, at miriam.stephan@utoronto.ca with your stories and photos to include in the next issue of *R/cellence*. 
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2010 Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy Golf Classic

Great New Venue - Same Great Event

After six years at the Angus Glen Golf Club, the 2010 Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy Golf Classic is moving to an outstanding new location. The 2010 Classic will be held on Wednesday, August 18th, at the Copper Creek Golf Club in Vaughan, Ontario. Copper Creek Golf Club has received numerous awards for both its course and its hospitality and we are excited to be moving to this wonderful new facility.

Since its inception in 2004, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy Golf Classic has raised over $260,000 for a variety of Faculty programs and projects from alumni, industry, associations and friends. To help our students prepare to meet the changes facing the profession and equip them with the skills they need to lead the profession forward, proceeds from the 2010 Golf Classic will be directed at enhancing the student experience through the support of:

• Student Awards
• Student Activities
• Student Development Opportunities.

We hope you can join us for a wonderful day of fun and friendship, all in support of an outstanding cause. For more information on the 2010 Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy Golf Classic, please contact David White, Assistant Dean, Advancement, at 416-978-6749 or dm.white@utoronto.ca.
The Dinah (Skaistys) Mancini Bursary

Dinah Mancini’s (7T9) unexpected and sudden death in September 2009 left many shocked and profoundly saddened. In November of 2009, Susanne Priest (7T6), Senior Vice-President, Pharmacy Innovation – Patient Care with Shoppers Drug Mart, approached the Faculty about establishing the Dinah (Skaistys) Mancini Bursary as a way of honouring Dinah’s memory and dedication to the pharmacy profession.

“We needed to do something. We wanted to create a lasting tribute for Dinah,” explains Susanne, a former colleague and long-time friend. “Neither of us had a lot of money when we came from Grimsby to the University of Toronto for Pharmacy. We thought it would be fitting to help a student in a similar situation as they go through the pharmacy program.”

As a result, the Dinah (Skaistys) Mancini Bursary was created. Each year, it will be awarded to a third year student in financial need who is a graduate of a high school in the Niagara Region.

In 1979, Dinah graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program at the Faculty and moved back to Grimsby where she started working at the Guardian drugstore that would eventually become the Shoppers Drug Mart Grimsby Square Plaza.

“She stayed in Grimsby at the same pharmacy for 30 years,” notes Susanne. “Everybody knew her. Most communities don’t have that stability. As a result, we needed to do something special to celebrate her legacy.”

“Dinah was very good at what she did,” notes Robynne Cole, Dinah’s best friend since high school. “But we never knew how much of an impression she’d had on people until after she was gone.”

“She was a wonderful pharmacist,” notes Liz Betts (7T3), Dinah’s colleague for 30 years. “She was dedicated, loved her job, and loved the people she took care of.”

Many of Dinah’s friends never understood why she never thought about owning her own pharmacy. But to Dinah, the reason was simple. She enjoyed what she was doing — having an impact on customers — and feared losing that if she took on the management side of running a pharmacy.

“Dinah enjoyed being a small-town pharmacist,” notes Tom Betts (7T3), who owned and managed the pharmacy Dinah worked in for 28 years. “It lets you be a good pharmacist because you get to know people.”

“She never pursued a prominent position within the profession. Instead, she did her job, day in and day out, with caring and dedication that is clearly shown by the feelings of the people left behind.”

“Dinah was a very good pharmacist because she took a personal interest in the customers she served,” notes Michael Mancini, Dinah’s husband. “Grimsby has grown into a rather large town but Dinah treated people at Shoppers Drug Mart as though it was a small town pharmacy. She knew about customers’ children, pets, hobbies, and interests. Visiting Dinah was like visiting a trusted friend.”

“A bursary at an academic program in Dinah’s memory is very appropriate because Dinah was a professional who believed in the concept of being a life-long learner.”

continues Michael. “Dinah felt an obligation to keep up with changes in medications and their interactions”

“The Faculty of Pharmacy is important because it nurtures and turns out people like [Dinah] to work in the community and work with people, making personal connections,” notes Robynne. Creating a bursary in Dinah’s name keeps her memory and legacy alive, and furthers the Faculty’s goal of producing pharmacists like Dinah who are focused on patient-care and who make a difference in the communities they serve.

To help raise funds for the bursary, an organizing committee was formed to undertake a fundraising campaign. Susanne,
In the last issue of R/cellence, we launched “Changing the World, One Student at a Time,” our annual fundraising appeal to alumni, industry, professional associations and friends. Funds raised from this appeal are designated to enhancing the student experience at the Faculty by:

- Providing valuable funds for student awards. With the cost of a pharmacy education now approximately $30,000 per year, increasing the size and number of scholarships and bursaries is a top priority. Together we must ensure the most talented students are never turned away because of need.
- Creating opportunities for student development outside the classroom. Students are given the opportunity to participate in research programs and summer internships, attend international conferences and symposiums, and present at a variety of student congresses, seminars and conferences.
- Contributing to student-led social and professional initiatives that strengthen the bonds between classmates and allow students to become involved in professional activities long before graduation.

Despite the effects of the global economic crisis and the numerous challenges faced by the pharmacy profession, support of our annual fundraising appeal continues to be outstanding. With just over one month remaining in the Fiscal Year, we have raised 75% of our overall annual fundraising objective. Recent annual fund donations have provided valuable funds for the following:

- Three new student awards and bursaries. Fifteen existing student awards have also received additional funds during the year.
- The Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Intern’s Professional Development Week (PDW) Conference. Hosted by the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, over 800 pharmacy students from across Canada attended this exceptional educational event in January 2010.
- Numerous educational, social, athletic and recognition events throughout the year.

With your help, we hope to achieve our financial objective over the next month and continue to ensure our students are prepared to transform the health and welfare of the people in the communities they serve. Together, we can change the world, one student at a time.

If you would like to make a donation to the annual fundraising appeal, please contact:

David White
Assistant Dean, Advancement
Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy
416-978-6749
dm.white@utoronto.ca

Annual Fund Update

Robynne, Michael, Liz, Dinah’s friend Sandra Stephenson, Dinah’s sister Ruth Fielding and her husband Don organized a campaign launch at the Hamilton Club.

On a warm January night, Dinah’s friends, family, health care professionals and community members attended this event. As part of the evening’s program, Sandra spoke about Dinah and the ways she touched the lives of everyone in attendance. Live music was provided by Dinah’s husband Michael and Phil Rose. Fourth year pharmacy student James Morrison (1T0) spoke about the importance of bursaries for students.

David White, Assistant Dean, Advancement at the Faculty announced the tremendous support already shown for the bursary and explained the role that bursaries play in helping students pursue their studies.

More than a fundraiser, the evening was a celebration of Dinah’s life. The affection that people at the Hamilton Club had for her was evident throughout the evening, and was made abundantly clear by the number of people supporting the bursary through donations, a silent auction, and raffles for artistic quilts, gift baskets, and a weekend getaway.

Moreover, “the response to the bursary has been overwhelming in Grimbsy,” observes Michael. “I find it very inspiring to see the response in our community. It is very clear that Dinah touched many lives.”

“In general, pharmacists have had an incredible career over the last 30 years. We felt that current pharmacists should help future pharmacists in what is going to be a very difficult future to help sustain the profession,” explains Susanne. Creating a bursary in Dinah’s memory is “a worthwhile and meaningful thing to do,” and something that properly honours her legacy and contributions to her community.

To contribute to the Dinah (Skaistys) Mancini Bursary, please contact David White, Assistant Dean, Advancement, at 416-978-6749 or dm.white@utoronto.ca.
A Prescription for Pain Management

When Associate Professor Anna Taddio (8T9) graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program from the University of Toronto, she would never have imagined how far her degree would take her, or the baby steps it would take to get where she would be twenty-one years later.

Upon receiving her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree, Anna completed a one year hospital pharmacy residency at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) that left a lasting impact on her. “Once I worked with children,” Anna notes, “I felt like there was no other place I belong.”

Shortly after completing her residency, Anna was hired as an Information Specialist by Motherisk, a program at SickKids dedicated to providing information and guidance to pregnant patients regarding the fetal risks associated with drug, chemical, infection, disease and radiation exposure during pregnancy.

“Once I had worked with kids and seen the impact I could have, I knew that paediatric pharmacy was where I should be,” notes Anna. “Being the first pharmacist hired at Motherisk was a tremendous honour and a validation that I had a lot to offer to this population.”

Under the supervision of Dr. Gideon Koren, Director of the Motherisk program and a professor at the Faculty, Anna began her Master’s degree in Pharmacy at the University of Toronto. “While I was working with Dr. Koren,” recalls Anna, “I was given an opportunity to work on a project about pain management in kids undergoing immunization. I quickly learned that there wasn’t much information on this subject, and that kids were really suffering.”

While completing her M.Sc. degree in an unrelated topic, Anna began planning studies to learn more about the efficacy of various analgesic strategies and the long-term effects of untreated pain. Upon graduating, she began her Ph.D. degree in pain management.

“I started to do what I thought needed to be done,” she notes. “There aren’t too many pharmacist researchers in this area. Research in paediatric pain management tends to be dominated by nurses, physicians, and psychologists. I realized there was a great deal that I could do that was different, that was value-added.”

During her doctoral training, Anna performed landmark studies on the safety and efficacy of topical anesthesia for pain management in newborns. In addition, she demonstrated for the first time that painful procedures performed in newborns without an anaesthetic can prime the nervous system to experience pain more intensely months in the future.

After completing her formal academic training, Anna returned full-time to SickKids in 1998 as Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Coordinator and Clinical Specialist/Team Leader at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the Department of Pharmacy. Within a year, Anna joined the Research Institute at SickKids as an Associate Scientist. In 2003, she was promoted to Scientist after receiving a New Investigator Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. This afforded her more time (75%) to focus on research tasks (with the other 25% spent in the NICU). In 2007, she was promoted to senior scientist. To date, she remains the only pharmacist in the history of the hospital to have ever attained the status of Scientist.

In the fall of 2007, Anna joined the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy as an Associate Professor. In her first year of teaching, she was the co-recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award with her teaching partner, Marie Rocchi (8T0), as decided by students in the first year of the undergraduate program. In PHM128 - Professional Practice I, Anna and Marie introduce students to reading prescriptions, communicating about drug information, the law, and the notion of pharmaceutical care. “I also pepper it nicely with paediatric pharmacy,” Anna notes.

In addition to being an award-winning teacher, Anna remains focused on her research. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to paediatric pain, including the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Young Investigator Award, and the Canadian Pain Society Early Career Award. Working with graduate and undergraduate students as well as her colleagues at SickKids, Anna examines the various methods that can be employed to mitigate or manage the pain
experienced by children undergoing medical procedures.

“Pain in children is largely undermanaged, undertreated, and underappreciated,” observes Anna. “But research has shown that it can have long-term effects. Untreated pain at an early age can result in psychological distress and needle phobias. Approximately 10% of people have needle phobia, which usually begins in childhood.”

“The lasting effects of unmanaged pain in childhood have consequences on health behaviours later in life – people don’t get regular check-ups, don’t go to the dentist, and don’t give blood. Ultimately, painful medical experiences can have the effect of forcing people away from proper health care practices later in life.”

“Moreover,” she notes, “our research in babies suggests that memories of untreated pain can have a long-lasting impact. Even if they can’t verbally recall the pain from past experiences, there is a neural memory of that pain that impacts their future responses.”

Anna notes “Pain doesn’t just affect children, it affects parents and healthcare providers as well. Both feel distress when witnessing children experience pain. In fact, parents report needle pain as one of the most distressing parts of a child’s medical care, second only to surgery.”

So what do we do about pain?

“There are many available techniques for reducing pain from medical procedures. They fall into three categories – called the 3 Ps of pain management: Pharmacological interventions, Physical interventions, and Psychological interventions.”

Pharmacological interventions involve the use of medicines or other substances to manage pain. This includes the use of topical anaesthetics (i.e. numbing creams) and, for babies, sweet tasting solutions like sugar water.

Physical interventions are another effective method of managing pain. They include utilising injection techniques that minimize pain and tactile stimulation (e.g. physically manipulating skin temperature or rubbing the skin). Physical interventions also include acts of comfort like holding the child during the procedure.

Psychological interventions involve helping children cope with the procedure, or shifting their focus away from the procedure. Blowing bubbles, deep breathing, playing games, and focusing on objects are all effective tools that help distract children from the medical procedure. Preparing children for the procedures also helps them understand what is going to happen and makes it less scary.

Breastfeeding is a newly studied intervention for reducing pain in infants. Breastfeeding is considered a combined analgesic intervention because it includes different components (i.e. sweet-tasting solution, sucking, and holding/skin-to-skin contact) that may individually attenuate pain responses.

Anna’s current focus is on promoting immunization pain management. “Immunization injections are the most common painful procedure in paediatric practice all over the world,” she notes. “If we can get the message out about how to manage pain during immunization, then it can have a large impact on pain management practices in every medical setting.” Her recent efforts include reviewing the world literature to identify effective analgesic strategies, and developing a national clinical practice guideline for clinicians and parents. The next steps are getting the guideline endorsed by various authorities and regulatory bodies in Canada and implementing it. To this end, Anna is working with her colleagues, the Help ELiminate Pain in KIDS (HELPinKIDS) Team, an interdisciplinary group of pain scientists, clinicians, methodologists, educators and public health officials involved in various aspects of immunization.

There is an increasing interest in immunization pain worldwide. The Brighton Collaboration, a voluntary global organization devoted to promoting the safety of vaccination, has recognized pain as an adverse effect of immunization, and is developing a definition of pain that will be used for vaccine safety monitoring and clinical trials. Anna is part of the group, and believes that this initiative will go a long way to improving current pain management practices.

“My goal is to take away pain in kids, one baby step at a time.”
Each January, Pharmacy students from across the country assemble in one location for the annual Professional Development Week (PDW). This year, students from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy hosted PDW 2010: Meeting in the Middle in Toronto.

This annual conference brings students together to participate in educational sessions and network with peers from other schools while attending seminars, workshops, competitions and social events. In conjunction with the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI), a national student organization comprised of Pharmacy students and interns from the ten faculties of pharmacy across Canada, this educational and fun-filled 4-day conference was extremely well attended by a sell-out crowd of nearly 800 participants.

This conference provided a wonderful opportunity for the student organizers to showcase the Faculty and the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building to the many delegates who were visiting Toronto for the first time. It also allowed the organizers to emphasize Toronto’s multicultural community in the various social events that punctuated the conference.

The conference featured a bevy of highlights. Keynote speaker Dr. James Orbinski, past President of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders, inspired students like Cindy Changoor (1T0), who noted how he “motivate[d] you to find the ‘freshness’ in people and never stop looking at what you are capable of doing.” Joanna Habjan (1T0) echoed these sentiments, observing how some of the “stories he told were hard to hear but they left an impact.”

So did faculty members Dr. Zubin Austin (8T8), who spoke on the nature of the doctor/pharmacist relationship, and Dr. Jack Uetrecht who talked about the value of pharmaceutical research.

Ruby Liang (1T0) enjoyed the Nontraditional Career Pathways in Pharmacy panel discussion as “the panellists were engaging and had a wealth of experience to share,” and because “it was a great opportunity to see the different applications of a pharmacy degree.”

The Pharmatefacts Bowl, a quiz-show-like competition that puts the knowledge of pharmacy students to the test, was another highlight. Four students from each school competed in a fast-paced contest answering multiple choice questions on pharmacy knowledge culled from the first to last years of the academic programs. There were also compounding, over-the-counter, and patient counselling competitions. Fourth year student Matt Koehler (1T0) placed first nationally in the Student Literacy Challenge.

The final day of the conference began with an inspirational presentation by Dr. Leslie Dan (5T4) about entrepreneurship. Dissolve, an educational performance about drug-induced rape, was an informative and moving way to wrap up the educational portion of the conference.

Evening events included opening and closing gala dinners, an illuminated evening tour of the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building, an outing to one of the city’s premiere dance clubs, and a Toronto Rock lacrosse game.

Many thanks to the various organizations who sponsored this conference – Teva Novopharm, Shoppers Drug Mart, Wyeth Consumer Health Care, The Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, Scotiabank, the Undergraduate Pharmacy Society, ratiopharm, Walmart Canada, Zellers Pharmacy, Ontario Pharmacists’ Association, Rexall, Metro, Apotex, Ranbaxy, Costco, Green Shield Canada, Remedy’s Rx, AstraZeneca, and Merck Frosst.

PDW 2010: Meeting in the Middle proved to be a tremendous success. Congratulations to the various students and supporters who helped make this happen.
Carrying the Torch

On October 30, 2009, the Olympic Flame began its 14-week, 45,000 kilometre journey across Canada on its way to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver. Along the way, two individuals with ties to the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy had an opportunity to carry the torch.

First year student Yongjun (George) Wang (1T3) was selected by corporate sponsor Coca-Cola to run with the torch as part of their Sogo Active program. Under this program, young men and women who demonstrated a commitment to adopting an active lifestyle could apply to carry the torch. Tracking their physical activity regularly, the youth were challenged to set progressive goals and gradually increase their exercise workload leading up to the torch run.

As one of 500 people in this program selected to carry the torch, George ran his leg on Friday, December 18th in Newmarket, Ontario.

“It was like a parade – everyone was in red and white. The energy level was fantastic. Everyone was watching. I ran in front of a school on Main Street in Newmarket. School stopped and all of the students came out to watch the relay. They filled up the street.”

“It made me feel proud to be a Canadian.”

Former Olympian Bill Crothers (6T3) also ran with the torch. In the 1964 Olympic Games, Bill won a silver medal in the half-mile, setting a Canadian record that would last 29 years. One of Canada’s greatest runners, at one time Bill held all Canadian track records for the 400-metre to 1500-metre events, and was awarded the Lou Marsh trophy in 1963 as Canada’s Athlete of the Year. For his many athletic accomplishments, as well as his activity in the community, Bill was invited to carry the torch by the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Carrying the torch along Highway 7 in Unionville, Ontario, Bill noted that “there were a lot of spectators. The Bill Crothers High School students (about 700) walked from the school to my spot – about 3 kilometres – and they were quite noisy and excited. When I passed the flame along to Cody Hodgson, the place was packed and he carried it to the ceremony where there had to be at least 10,000 spectators.”

George and Bill are just two of the thousands of Canadians who had the honour of carrying the torch on its cross-country journey, but each feels among the luckiest people in the country to have had this opportunity.
Upcoming Reunions

8T0
Yes, it’s hard to believe, but it’s been 30 years.
When: September 10 - 12, 2010
Where: Eganridge Inn & Spa, Fenelon Falls
(http://www.eganridge.com/rates.shtml)
Book now – 1-800-452-5111

For more information, please contact
Sue Gates (sgates@tiz.ca) or
Tina Perlman (tinaperlman@me.com).

8T5
On October 22nd - 24th, the Class of 8T5 will meet at the Delta Chelsea in Toronto for a weekend-long 25th reunion.
Contact Pharmacy85@shaw.ca or join the “Pharmacy 8T5 University of Toronto” group on Facebook (www.facebook.com) for further information.

Thinking of planning a reunion? Let us help. The Faculty’s Office of Alumni Affairs helps classes from all years plan and hold reunions. Whether it’s your first formal class reunion or your 56th, the Faculty is here to help you get in touch with classmates, send out invitations, and put together a memorable time to reconnect with your friends.

Each year, the Faculty provides organizational and logistical support to several class reunion efforts. We also facilitate several other reunion activities and host a number of reunions at the Faculty. In fact, if you haven’t visited the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building yet, make 2010 the year you do. You’ll be amazed at how far Pharmacy’s come and you’ll be inspired by all the wonderful study space and resources our students currently enjoy.

To plan your next reunion, please contact Miriam Stephan, Alumni Affairs Officer, at 416-946-3985 or miriam.stephan@utoronto.ca. No matter how big or small the reunion, Miriam will help you get in touch with classmates and plan your event. Whatever your needs, we can help.

And when you decide to have your reunion, don’t forget to let Rxcellence know. We’re always looking for fun alumni events to promote and interesting stories to tell.

Contact us:
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