Welcome to the winter issue of *R/cellence*, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy’s alumni magazine.

In our last issue, we asked for your input to come up with a name for our magazine. From the many suggestions you sent in, we selected *R/cellence*, submitted by Bill Dingwall (7T3), which cleverly combined the R associated with pharmacy with the excellence that has surrounded our Faculty for the past 140 years. Thank you, Bill, for your suggestion.

This issue of *R/cellence* focuses on student awards. As you are no doubt aware, the Faculty has undergone a significant transformation over the past decade. Our undergraduate classes have doubled, enrolment in Master and Doctoral programs has tripled, and new offerings like the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Specialist program have changed the student base considerably.

Other programs, like the flex-time Ph.D. and part-time Pharm.D. programs, have allowed students to pursue advanced degrees without having to abandon their current practices and occupations.

While we are obviously pleased with these changes, we do have some concerns. When programs like these grow at the rate they have, some of the infrastructure designed to support students can be compromised. While the staff and faculty complements have risen to the challenge of dealing with an expanded student base, one area where we have fallen short is student awards and bursaries.

If you think back to your education, you know how challenging it can be to pay your way through school. Today, the annual cost of undergraduate education at the Faculty is approximately $30,000 between tuition and living expenses. That is a lot of money, and it is difficult for students (almost half of whom join the Faculty after already completing a degree) to fulfill their degree requirements without incurring considerable debt.

As a result, student awards and bursaries are a necessary lifeline to help students stay students.

The current student awards and bursaries program is about the same size that it was ten years ago, when student enrolment was less than half the size it is today. In other words, our student awards and bursaries program is half the size it should be.

To reinforce the importance of student awards, we wanted to showcase the people who benefit from these awards in this issue of *R/cellence*, and put the spotlight on some of the things that they have been able to do to because of the support they receive. We also wanted to highlight some of the amazing people and classes who have established student awards at the Faculty. Lastly, we wanted to share some words from our current students about the importance of student awards.

I would also like to add a personal note about student awards. This summer, the Faculty hosted its annual golf tournament to raise funds for student awards. As it is my final year as Dean, the Golf Committee decided to designate all of the funds raised this year to create a new award in my name.

I was deeply honoured when the committee decided that the proceeds from the tournament should go towards creating a student award in my name. As an educator and administrator, I would like to think I have had an impact on the students and the profession. Having an award named in my honour confirms that I will continue to have an impact on students long after I have left my post as Dean.

To say that I am humbled by this act is an understatement. I am overwhelmed, but pleased to know that students will continue to be supported in perpetuity thanks to the generosity of our alumni, students and industry partners who contributed significantly to the creation of this award.

While one new award is a tremendous start to improving our student award program, it is only a start. We require many other new awards and top-ups on existing awards to make current awards viable and to present new opportunities for increased numbers of students to receive support and recognition for their achievements.

As giving members of society, I know we are all aware of how important it is to give back to the community. I’m sure we all do this in one form or another every day. If you can, please consider setting up a new award at the Faculty or contributing to an existing award, either as an individual or as a class. The future leaders of tomorrow need your help today.
Name the Magazine

In our last issue, we asked you to give us your suggestions as possible names for the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy alumni magazine. A number of people responded to our challenge, and some great names were submitted.

We eventually selected R/cellence, submitted by Bill Dingwall (7T3), to be the new name of this magazine. The R symbol that appears at the beginning of the word is indicative of the prescription symbol long associated with pharmacies. Combined with the word excellence, it brings together the idea of prescription excellence. Given who our alumni are and what you have achieved, we thought this term was representative of the spirit of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and the pharmacy profession itself.

As a Faculty, we are aware of and very proud of the things you have accomplished and the incredible direction you are leading us in. As a result, we thought a name that highlighted the incredible nature of the people who are the focus of this magazine was more than appropriate. Welcome to the first issue of R/cellence.

Congratulations to the following classes that have recently held class reunions:

- The Class of 5T3 held its 55 year reunion at the Talisman Mountain Resort near Kimberley, Ontario on September 5th, 2008.
- The Class of 7T8 held their 30 year reunion at the Hilton Toronto Hotel on September 27th, 2008, after touring the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building led by Dr. Graham Nairn.
- On May 25th – 26th, more than 50 members of the Class of 9T8 convened in Toronto to celebrate their 10 year reunion with a dinner and tour of the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building.

At the end of September, the Class of 7T3 celebrated the 35th anniversary of their graduation in Orillia, Ontario with a wine appreciation class, musical matinee, golfing, shopping, gambling, and dinner.

Alumni Updates

With a history that stretches back over 140 years and includes well over 10,000 graduates, alumni from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy are up to some interesting things. We’d like to start noting these things – professional achievements, life events (marriages, births, etc.), milestones, and, of course, reunions – in a new section called Class Acts. So, be sure to submit news about yourself or your classmates, as well as general updates on what you are up to, to Miriam Stephan at miriam.stephan@utoronto.ca by April 10th, 2009 to ensure inclusion in the next issue of R/cellence. Likewise, if you are planning a reunion, please let us know so we can include you in our upcoming events section.
This summer, Dr. Rob Macgregor and Dr. Ray Reilly were promoted to full Professor status. These appointments reflect the dedication and contributions both Dr. Macgregor and Dr. Reilly have made to education, research and administrative service at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. Congratulations to both of these deserving individuals.

Dr. Macgregor has been a fixture at the Faculty for the past 15 years. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, Dr. Macgregor has held a number of administrative roles during this time, including Associate Dean of Research, Director of the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Specialist Program, Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Graduate Studies Coordinator.

Dr. Reilly is a graduate of the B.Sc.Pharm., M.Sc.Pharm. and Ph.D. programs at the Faculty, and has been associated with the Faculty in a professorial capacity since 1989. He is also a former Teacher of the Year Award winner and recipient of the AFPC-Pfizer Career Research Award. Dr. Reilly is an internationally-recognized leader in the use of radiopharmaceuticals for molecular imaging and targeted radiotherapy of cancer, with over 150 publications to his credit.

Professor Reina Bendayan was appointed Associate Dean, Graduate Education earlier this year. Dr. Bendayan joined the Faculty in 1988 and has been actively involved in the graduate program for a number of years. This appointment is reflective of Dr. Bendayan’s leadership abilities, long-term commitment and dedication to the Graduate Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.

This fall, Assistant Professor Suzanne Cadarette was welcomed into the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy family. Dr. Cadarette joins us from the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where she has been completing a Postdoctoral Fellowship in pharmacoepidemiology for the past two years.

Dr. Cadarette brings a varied background to the Faculty, with degrees in health sciences (B.Sc., University of Waterloo), epidemiology (M.Sc., University of Toronto), and health services research (Ph.D., University of Toronto), in addition to her postdoctoral work. She will use her expertise to develop a course in pharmacoepidemiology for the new undergraduate curriculum.

Dr. Cadarette’s research interests include improving pharmacoepidemiologic methods by developing new analytic strategies for studying the safety and effectiveness of drugs. Her research interests also include improving drug prescribing and pharmacoprevention among seniors, as well as developing innovative interventions to improve adherence to therapy, particularly among patients with chronic asymptomatic conditions. To date, most of her research has been in the area of osteoporosis and fracture prevention. She plans to continue with an active osteoporosis research program, as well as branch into other important areas of pharmacoprevention, such as the treatment of hypertension and dyslipidemia.

Dr. Cadarette is also very interested in conducting site of care research in partnership with community pharmacies, and is working toward submitting a proposal to fund a pharmacy-led pilot project. If working with Dr. Cadarette is of interest to you, please keep your eyes open for future issues of Excellence and other communications from the Faculty to learn more about Dr. Cadarette’s upcoming research projects.
Awards

Ontario College of Pharmacists Professor in Pharmacy Practice **Zubin Austin** recently received the President’s Teaching Award. This award, which recognizes faculty members with a career commitment to teaching excellence, is among the most prestigious awards for teaching that an instructor can receive.

As one of only four recipients of the President’s Teaching Award for 2008, Dr. Austin has been appointed to the University of Toronto’s teaching academy. As an academy member, Dr. Austin will be required to advise the Vice-President and Provost and the Office of Teaching Advancement, discuss teaching-related matters, and deliver lectures and addresses.

Dr. Austin was also named the Bristol-Myers Squibb 2008 Teacher of the Year, as selected by the graduating students of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program for his excellence in pharmaceutical teaching.

Dr. Austin has a long history of teaching excellence, having received the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada/Bristol-Myers Squibb Excellence in Pharmacy Education award, the Government of Ontario’s Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award, and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy’s Teacher of the Year award on eight separate occasions (including this year).

The Doctor of Pharmacy program recently announced the recipients of their teaching awards for the 2007-2008 academic year. Assistant Professor Philip Lui was recognized as the Teacher of the Year by students in the first year of the Pharm.D. program. Dr. Lui is responsible for coordinating and teaching the General Medicine 1 course.

Assistant Professor **Beth Sproule** was named the Preceptor of the Year by second year students in the Pharm.D. program. Dr. Sproule is responsible for taking students through research and direct patient care rotations at CAMH.

The students in the undergraduate program also named their Teachers of the Year for the 2007-2008 academic year.

**Ontario College of Pharmacists Professor in Pharmacy Practice Zubin Austin** was named the Teacher of the Year by students in the first year of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program.

**Postdoctoral fellow Michael Beazely** was recognized by the second year students in the program as their Teacher of the Year.

**Professor Jack Uetrecht** was named the Teacher of the Year by students in the third year of the undergraduate program.

Congratulations to these deserving instructors who have been recognized by their students as the best at what they do.

Did you know...

That the first floor subterranean lecture hall sponsored by the Ontario Pharmacists’ Association contains seating for 300 students, and desks can be named by individuals, pharmacies, corporations or classes. Contact David White, Assistant Dean, Advancement, at dm.white@utoronto.ca for more information on supporting the Faculty and our students by purchasing a plaque for one of the desks in room B150.
Faculty in the Media

Over the past few months, our faculty members have received a great deal of public attention from the media, and with good reason.

Associate Professor Anna Taddio was quoted in an article appearing in the February issue of the New York Times Magazine. “The First Ache” explores when the experience of pain begins, which is a topic Dr. Taddio has spent much of her career pursuing.

Dr. Taddio also received a great deal of media attention when her article “Effectiveness of sucrose analgesia in newborns undergoing painful medical procedures” was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in July. Global Television, CBC Television, CTV News, The National, CTV National News, CBC Newsworld, CBC Radio, the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, and citynews.ca, among many others, picked up the story and interviewed Dr. Taddio about her findings.

Assistant Professor Alison Thomson was interviewed for CBC Radio’s Sounds Like Canada program in March. The topic of the program was SARS - 5 Years Later. Host Shelagh Rogers spoke with front line health care workers including Dr. Thomson about one of the most terrifying health outbreaks in Canadian history.

Associate Professor and Director, Division of Pharmacy Practice, Lalitha Raman-Wilms appeared on an episode of @issue in March. The iChannel program discussed the changing role of the pharmacist in today’s society, as well as what the future holds for the profession.

Over the summer, Canada Research Chair in Chemical Genetics Guri Giaever was quoted in Nature magazine and published a report in Science magazine.

Maria Bystrin, Director, Continuous Professional Development, was interviewed by OMNI News Toronto about the phenomenal success of the Faculty’s International Pharmacy Graduate program. The interview dealt with the topic of bridging programs designed to help internationally-trained individuals transition to practice in Ontario.

Associate Professor Heather Boon was profiled in Pharmacy Post. As part of the Innovator Profile section of the magazine, “A natural desire for information” outlined Dr. Boon’s position on the need for increased training and academic preparation for pharmacists in the area of natural health products.

Dr. Boon was also interviewed by CBC News in Toronto about natural ecstasy. The practice of combining ephedrine with caffeine became a hot topic over the summer, as people began viewing this combination as a safe alternative to chemical ecstasy because of its natural ingredients. Dr. Boon argued that using these two natural products together could lead to some powerful adverse events, even resulting in death.

Associate Professor Jillian Clare Cohen-Köhler and fourth year student Matthew Lee published an article in the Montreal Gazette, Quebec’s largest English language newspaper. The article, “Transparency is key to making HIV drugs accessible to those who need them,” was inspired by the International AIDS conference in Mexico City this summer. The article identified the involvement of several pharmaceutical companies in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the developing world, and encouraged others in the pharmaceutical industry to follow their lead and bolster access to information.

In the summer issue of edge, the University of Toronto’s Research and Innovation magazine, Professor Micheline Piquette-Miller, Associate Professor Christine Allen, and Ph.D. student Justin Grant were profiled. In the article, “Green light for a new cancer treatment,” the team’s development and commercialization of a drug delivery system called PoLi that targets ovarian cancer directly was detailed.
On June 6, 2008 the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy bid farewell to one of the largest graduating classes in the history of the Faculty. In total, 193 undergraduate students, ten Doctor of Pharmacy students (including the first complement of part-time Pharm.D. students), and ten graduate students graduated from the Faculty at this time.

To celebrate this momentous occasion and recognize the outstanding achievement of our students during the course of the school year, the Faculty held a Convocation Brunch and Graduating Awards Ceremony. Honours students and award recipients from the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy, Masters of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy programs were recognized as part of this celebration. A capacity crowd of graduands, their families and loved ones, faculty and staff filled the Canada Room at St. Michael’s College to pay tribute to the achievements of these exceptional students.

The presentation of graduating awards to exiting students allows the Faculty to recognize student excellence in academic pursuits. Criteria for the awards presented at this event include community involvement, professional acumen, and highest standing in individual courses, competitions, and exams.

As part of this celebration of student excellence, the Faculty welcomed distinguished alumni and industry representatives to help honour the graduates with awards that were established through their generosity.

Thank you to Leslie Douglas of the Katz Group Canada, Gina Lucas from Bristol-Meyers Squibb Canada, Al Rasymas (8T5) of Pfizer Canada, Anne Resnick (7T9) of the Ontario College of Pharmacists, Syd Shrott (5T3) of Medical Pharmacies, and Doris Thompson (5T2), who participated in the distribution of these awards.

Valedictorian Andrea Narducci spoke about the experience of her class over the past four years at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy and of their hopes moving forward into their professional lives. Few people in attendance were untouched by her moving speech, which captured the essence of the class and their accomplishments to date.

The occasion also provided an opportunity to recognize the achievements of our talented teaching faculty. Gina Lucas of Bristol-Meyers Squibb Canada presented Ontario College of Pharmacists Professor in Pharmacy Practice Zubin Austin with the 2008 Teacher of the Year Award as selected by the graduating students for excellence in pharmaceutical teaching.

On behalf of the graduating class, Class President Angel Li and Gratitude Reps Jacqueline Elias and Fibi Abdel-Malek presented Dean Hindmarsh with a gift for the Faculty. Noting one of the few things the new building lacked, the Class of 0T8 gave the Faculty three clocks to be installed in the student lounge areas of the Faculty so that students would always know what time it was.

As the morning drew to a close, Dean Hindmarsh offered congratulations to all of the graduates and award recipients that would be attending their convocation ceremony that afternoon. “You have all achieved a great deal, and I hope you are proud of your accomplishments,” noted the Dean. “I am sure that everyone in this room – from your instructors and faculty staff, to your friends and family, to one another – are proud of your accomplishments and pleased to be celebrating with you today.”
The Cirocco Bursary

Virginia Cirocco’s motivation to establish a student award at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy emerged as a result of her role as the Chair of the Board of the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores. Upon completion of her term in 2007, Carlton Cards wished to recognize Virginia for her contributions to this organization, and did so by providing a donation to a charity of her choice.

This offer led Virginia to enter into a series of discussions with Dean Wayne Hindmarsh on the various student award opportunities available at the Faculty. Recognizing the dire need for increased financial support for our students, Virginia augmented the original contribution from Carlton Cards with a significant personal donation to establish The Cirocco Bursary.

She elected to establish this award at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy because “the experience at U of T emphasized the importance of having the latest, most current information as a necessity to continue to practice the profession with great effectiveness and stay at the top of your game.” To be able to provide students with a helping hand as they begin this journey appealed to Virginia, who, as a graduate of the Faculty’s Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program, is well aware of the stiff competition students must go through to gain admission into the Faculty, as well as the time and effort required of students to be successful in this rigorous program.

The cost of obtaining a degree from a professional program in Canada has escalated considerably in recent years, and can present a significant burden to students in their ability to complete the program. Moreover, for those who are able to complete their studies, they often leave the program with considerable debt upon graduation. By establishing this bursary, Virginia hopes to ease their burden by providing vital financial assistance to students in need.

In addition to providing financial assistance, Virginia established the bursary to reward and recognize achievement in an area of study that will lead students to become successful and innovative community practice pharmacists. As Executive Vice President, Pharmacy for Shoppers Drug Mart, Canada’s largest chain of community pharmacies, Virginia is responsible for the pharmacy and professional business at over 1,100 Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix stores in communities across Canada. She understands first-hand that pharmacists must be committed to serving the healthcare needs of their community with personal service, professional expertise and community spirit. As a result, she wished to encourage students to excel in these areas through the awarding of this bursary.

As a graduate and now an award benefactor, Virginia hopes that her donation will provide students with the ability to enjoy their time in school and take advantage of what will likely be the most amazing learning opportunity of their lives. “Enjoy your time at the Faculty as much as you can by participating as much and as deeply as possible. You will never be sorry that you did. And, as you are learning, think about the type of healthcare professional you would like to become and then do everything in your power after graduation to practice in that fashion.”

Thanks to Virginia and others like her who have established bursaries and awards at the Faculty, today’s students will have a better chance than ever before to do just that.
The Philip Feldberg Award

During his life, Philip Feldberg (6T9) was never interested in the fanfare his philanthropic endeavours could have produced. A caring man with a high regard for (and expectation of) the pharmacy profession, he was more interested in helping people and seeing the profession realize its potential.

Working part-time throughout his pharmacy education, Phil understood the challenges facing students and the importance of paying for a first-rate education in order to join a noble profession. His parents, Holocaust survivors who relocated to Canada shortly after the Second World War, could not afford to send him to university. Instead, he took a part-time job at Bergson Drugs in Toronto, and paid his own way through school.

When he graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, he worked with his mentor, Albert Appelbaum (5T0), from whom he learned a lot about the pharmacy profession and who helped foster an interest in the particular issues facing practicing pharmacy in nursing and retirement homes.

After purchasing Medico Pharmacy from Albert, Phil grew the business into a very successful venture, serving well over 100 nursing and retirement homes with 12,000 beds at its peak. This focus on seniors went hand-in-hand with Phil’s caring nature and lofty aspirations for the profession. He worked long hours, delivered prescriptions on his way home and always stopped to talk with the seniors in the nursing homes he serviced, all to ensure that people understood what medications they were taking and how to take them.

As the business grew, so did his generosity. Throughout his life, he gave whatever he could give to the many causes he believed in, including the Faculty. In 1998, he created the Sharon Wells Memorial Award to honour his long-time associate who passed away to cancer.

When Phil succumbed to prostate cancer on April 12, 2005, he bequeathed a portion of his estate to the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy to create a student award. Phil always had a special place in his heart for the school that gave him his livelihood, and would always take visitors to Toronto past the Faculty he was so proud to have graduated from. His final act of generosity to the Faculty will take the form of a bursary that will be awarded annually to a student in financial need.

Philip Feldberg came from humble beginnings and worked hard to fight his way to the top. The Philip Feldberg Award will assist students experiencing financial hardships and allow them to focus on their studies, not on making ends meet.

Throughout his career, the love Philip Feldberg (front left) had for his family (wife Rochelle, son Jeffrey (back left), daughter Robyn, son Adam) was the only rival to the passion he demonstrated for the pharmacy profession.

Lesley Palmay (0T9) knows first-hand the impact and value of student awards. The fourth year pharmacy student has been the recipient of a number of prestigious awards at the Faculty, including the Colonel F.A. Tilston Admission Scholarship, the Jeannette Mednick Memorial Scholarship, the Starr Wilfrid Oldershaw Scholarship and the Lieutenant George R. Parke Medal.

Lesley credits the financial assistance she has received from scholarships at the Faculty for some of her success as a student. With the increasing costs of tuition and the expense of living in Toronto, it is becoming increasingly difficult to afford a pharmacy education. “The awards I have received have assisted me in paying my expenses and have allowed me the time to focus on my studies.” Lesley also points out that many fourth year students also carry the additional financial burden of Structured Practical Experience Program (SPEP) rotations, which are not paid and often require the students to find additional living accommodations for a four month period.

As important as the financial assistance provided by awards is, so is the supportive educational environment they provide for students. According to Lesley, “knowing that our hard work in the classroom will be recognized and rewarded, we are much more motivated to achieve.”

Lesley hopes that her hard work will pay off even further in the future. She plans on a career in Hospital pharmacy and is currently applying to a number of residency programs.
Student Awards Ceremony

On October 1, 2008, the outstanding achievements of students from the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy and the Graduate Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences programs were celebrated at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy’s Annual Student Awards Ceremony.

As the largest program at the Faculty, the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program welcomes 240 new students each year and has a current enrolment of approximately 960 students. Applicants to this program outweigh admissions by a more than 8:1 ratio, and individuals must be among the top 13% of applicants to be accepted into this program. As a result, getting into the program is an accomplishment in itself. Students who are recognized for their individual achievements among this peer group deserve special congratulations. Over the course of the evening, admission awards as well as awards for achievement in the first, second, and third year of the program were presented to deserving students.

Students pursuing Doctor of Pharmacy and Graduate Studies at the Masters and Ph.D. levels were also honoured for their achievements as part of this celebration.

The Graduate Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences is one of the largest graduate programs in Canada, and encompasses a diverse array of research areas. Students from around the world choose to study at the Faculty because of the opportunity to work with our first-class instructors and researchers, and student awards play a big role in attracting the best students to this program and ensuring that their research projects are possible. Student awards enable us to entice these award-winning students here, and help us celebrate their achievements once they have joined us. In addition to recognizing those students who received Faculty awards, graduate students receiving external awards were also acknowledged during the ceremony.

In addition to the many exceptional students receiving awards that night at the Faculty Club, many of the individual donors and representatives from industry, associations and groups that have established merit awards and bursaries joined us. Beyond providing an opportunity for many of our benefactors to meet these extraordinary students, the evening also offered the Faculty the chance to express our gratitude to these individuals for their generosity.

All in all, the evening was a tremendous success, thanks to the students for giving us something to celebrate, the donors for providing us with much needed student awards, and the organizing committee for putting together a thoroughly enjoyable event.
Open House and Tour

As part of the University of Toronto’s 2008 Spring Reunion, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy opened its doors on Friday, May 30, 2008 for an Open House and Tour of the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building. More than 200 alumni, current and retired faculty, staff and guests attended the event, which was followed by a reception.

One of our most senior alumni, Margaret Hall (4T0), brought two very special items to the Open House with her. In 1940, Margaret sewed a bright red jacket that she embroidered with the names of everyone in her graduating class. In 1965, she received an apron with the Faculty logo on it as a souvenir of her class’s 25th Reunion. Margaret generously donated both items to the Faculty, which have been put on view in the display cases for everyone entering the building to see.

It would be impossible to name everyone who attended the Open House and Tour in the pages of this magazine, but it is worth noting a few of the people who were there. Helen Walton, the former Faculty Secretary, was on hand and was delighted to have the opportunity to connect with so many former students. The Class of 1983 was well represented with eight grads in attendance. Ray Chan (8T3) was inspired by this mini-reunion to plan a twenty-fifth anniversary reunion for his classmates this Fall. Thanks as well to the many members of the Classes of 1948 and 1958 who came to see the new building as part of their special anniversaries.

Facility and staff members did a stellar job offering tours of our beautiful new building. As part of the Open House, alumni and their guests had access to all areas of the building, including research and teaching laboratories and facilities, professional practice labs and counseling rooms, the student services centre and dedicated student work spaces, the resource centre, the large subterranean auditoriums, and both lecture pods. Brenda Thrush, Ray Reilly (7T9), Tom Brown (8T8), and Jef Ekins did a wonderful job of showing off the building, and everyone seemed impressed by the Faculty’s new home.

It was obvious from the comments we received that a great deal has changed since pharmacy students attended classes at Russell Street and Gerrard Street and were forced to travel across campus to classes and to share lab space with other programs. The new building, which puts all of the teaching, laboratory, resource and group work space under one roof that is steps from the subway, provides today’s students with all of the key tools and resources they could ever need.

Since many alumni still have not had an opportunity to visit the Leslie L. Dan Building, a similar event is planned as part of Spring Reunion 2009. So keep your calendars clear next May, and plan to visit us at the Faculty.

Induction to the Profession

The 241 first year students that entered the B.Sc.Pharm. program this fall were inducted to the profession at a ceremony held on September 25th. The induction featured a white coat ceremony, a tradition at the Faculty and in many health profession programs, which celebrates the long history of pharmacists and the high standards to which the profession aspires.

To new students embarking on their journey into the pharmacy profession, the white coat reflects the trust, responsibility and confidence that the community places in pharmacists. As a result, the ceremony includes an oath of professionalism, where students pledge their commitment to integrity, ethics, and patient care. As part of the induction process, the students were assisted into their white coats by faculty members and leaders from Ontario’s pharmacy community. After the ceremony, a reception was held in the Apotex Atrium for students to mingle and celebrate their decision to enter into the pharmacy profession.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this ceremony and have taken the next step in their pharmacy careers.
Golden T Dinner

Dean Hindmarsh welcomed many alumni from the Class of 1948 and the Class of 1958 to the Faculty Club on May 31, 2008 to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation at a traditional Golden T Dinner.

As part of the University of Toronto’s Reunion Weekend, the Golden T Dinner presented an opportunity for classmates from the 1948 and 1958 graduating classes to reconvene on campus and reminisce about old times. Many of the attendees participated in the Faculty Tour and Open House on Friday night, while others took a tour of the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building that afternoon.

The evening’s festivities began with a few words from Dean Hindmarsh, who spoke about how much the practice of pharmacy has changed in the past sixty years, and the contributions made to the profession by those present at the reception.

Fourth year student Laura Shields (0T8) was invited to address these two classes. Laura spoke about the factors that led her to choose Pharmacy as a profession, and her difficulty in deciding her future path: “First I thought I wanted to be a community pharmacist … until I worked in hospital. Then I was certain I wanted to be a hospital pharmacist … until I worked in industry. Then I was convinced I wanted to stay in school and pursue further degrees. That’s the amazing thing about pharmacy – there are countless opportunities and paths to explore and I could do any and all of those things.”

The opportunities that Laura spoke of were also captured in the biographical sketches supplied by the Golden T Alumni. Upon graduation, some of the graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy program chose to pursue Community Pharmacy. Harvey Dale (4T8) operated Dale’s Pharmacy at the same location on Queen Street East in Toronto for 54 years. Max Lefkowitz (4T8) opened Lefko Drugs in 1952 and flourished at the same location for 46 years. Others made a different choice. Eric Viewig (4T8) served with the Canadian Forces in Korea and eventually on the Surgeon General’s Staff. Harold Jamieson (4T8) served with the Canadian Navy and then on retirement as Chief Pharmacist at the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. Edward Gadzala (5T8) worked in research for Avon in the U.S. and Peter Gardner (5T8) worked as Quality Control Pharmacist for Pfizer Canada and then as the Pharmacist for the General Hospital in St. Thomas. From these small sketches, it is clear that the Pharmacy Profession offered tremendous opportunity for successful and varied careers all those years ago, and little has changed.

In addition to successful careers, the Classes of 1948 and 1958 also have a long history of giving back both to the profession and within their communities. Eugene Bowles (5T8), Sam Hirsch (5T8) and Jerry Panet (5T8) have all served as President of the Metro Toronto Pharmacists’ Association, and the alumni who volunteer at hospitals and within community boards across the province are too numerous to mention here.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the 50th and 60th anniversary medals and certificates. Thanks to Dr. Tom Brown (8T8), Director of the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the Faculty, and Connie Campbell, Director of Finance and Administration at the Ontario College of Pharmacists, for officiating this part of the program. The evening concluded with a heartfelt thank you from the President of the Class of 1958, Fred Towers. Special thanks to all the grads and their guests for attending this wonderful event.
On August 20th, the Faculty hosted its annual golf tournament at Angus Glen Golf Club in Markham. Industry partners, alumni, faculty members and students came together for this event to raise funds to establish the K. Wayne Hindmarsh Award of Excellence. After eleven years of leading the Faculty, Dean Hindmarsh will step down as Dean next June. As a result, the 2008 Golf Classic Committee decided to use the funds raised at the tournament to establish an award that would recognize the role Dean Hindmarsh has played in transforming the Faculty and provide much needed funding to undergraduate students. A total of 144 golfers played in the tournament, which was followed by a reception, dinner and awards ceremony/prize raffle. All told, the event raised $55,000 which, when matched by the provincial government, will be used to create an award that will be conferred annually to undergraduate students.

The success of this event was due in large part to the participation of industry sponsors, alumni and friends, whose financial support and generous prize donations led to a wonderful afternoon of golf on a perfect August day.

If you wish to participate in next year’s Golf Classic, watch your mail and email for more details in Spring 2009. Similarly, if you wish to sponsor the 2009 Golf Classic or contribute to the K. Wayne Hindmarsh Award of Excellence, please contact David White, Assistant Dean, Advancement, at 416-978-6749 or dm.white@utoronto.ca.
This year, over 1150 new and returning students began their academic studies at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. During their time here, they will receive a premium educational experience from internationally recognized leaders in the pharmacy field, within a state-of-the-art facility equipped with the latest technology and teaching tools.

In order to assist in the delivery of this premium educational experience, the Faculty appeals to alumni, industry, associations and friends to support its Annual Fund Campaign. Aptly named the Enhancing the Student Experience Fund, donations to the Fund contribute significantly to the success of our students by:

- Offering valuable funds for student awards. Whether scholarships, bursaries, prizes or grants, this funding assists in making a pharmacy education a reality for many deserving students in financial need.
- Providing learning experiences beyond the conventional classroom. Students receive the opportunity to participate in research programs and summer internships in developing nations, attend international conferences and symposiums, and present at a variety of seminars and student congresses each year. These hands-on experiences build on the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom and further develop the confidence and abilities of the students participating in these programs.
- Contributing to student-led activities that are designed to expand professional and social networks not only within the student body, but within the professional community. Together, we can ensure our students are prepared for a lifetime of successful practice as healthcare providers. Your gift will equip them to be agents for change in the profession, individuals who, through their day-to-day work with patients, interactions with other healthcare providers, participation in professional associations and contributions to the community, will raise the profile of pharmacy and the health and well-being of the communities they serve.

As a Pharmacy alum, please help ensure the success of our students by giving generously to our Enhancing the Student Experience Fund today.

To make a donation or request more information, please contact:

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

Your Support Today Will Help Our Students Succeed Tomorrow

Class of 5T4

In the early 1990s, the 44 students who made up the Class of 5T4 decided to establish a student award at the Faculty. Wanting to create an award that was a little different from the other awards that existed at the time, they elected to set up an award that would recognize students who had improved their performance and provide an incentive for students to do better. As a result, the 5T4 Award was established to acknowledge the student entering Third Year whose Annual Grade Point Average is the most improved from First to Second Year and has at least a B average/Second Class Honours standing.

This “social class” as it was referred to by professors at the time, has remained close, as evidenced by the annual reunions that they have held in each of the past 54 years. At this year’s reunion in Sudbury, the classmates discussed topping off their award so that the students receiving it might benefit more. They decided to raise the value of their award at a time of increasing cost for students as a way of ensuring student success and rewarding those who enhance their academic performance. Learning that the fund can be augmented at any time, they decided now was the time to perpetuate the memory of a great class.

As a result, the Class of 5T4 has begun to solicit contributions from one another, either in the form of direct donations to the Faculty earmarked to augment this award, or through planned gifts or gifts in memory. Their hope is that they can supplement an already valuable award to make it even more significant in helping students succeed at the Faculty.

If you are interested in contributing to the 5T4 award, or would like to learn more about setting up an award or planned gifts, please contact David White, Assistant Dean, Advancement, at 416-978-6749 or dm.white@utoronto.ca.
Our Students Say Thanks

Student awards and bursaries at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy allow us to recognize achievements in academic and extracurricular activities, as well as provide financial support to students in need. The students receiving these awards and bursaries are terribly appreciative, and have the following words to share with the many individuals, classes, and organizations that have shown their support for student excellence at the Faculty:

“It is important to have people like you to assist students in reaching their goals. I believe your generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of many students in the years to come.”
— 2nd year student

“This scholarship will not only be used as a valuable monetary support towards my tuition fee, but also serve as a reminder to continue working harder in the following years.”
— 1st year student

“I am extremely grateful to have you lend a hand in my path to realizing my dreams. Thank you for your support and encouragement!”
— 2nd year student

“As tuition rates rise from year to year, any help is greatly appreciated, especially one as generous as this. Although for me it is more than just the money, it’s beyond that. It shows that my hard work and dedication throughout the year has been recognized and appreciated which is very important in that it provides motivation for commitment in the upcoming years as well.”
— 2nd year student

“With [your] support, I will be one step closer to fulfilling my goal of becoming a pharmacist who practices pharmaceutical care. Your support has further inspired me to continue working hard towards a successful career in academics and as a pharmacist.”
— 3rd year student

“Please know that this kind of recognition and support is very appreciated, and continues to serve as a source of motivation for hard working students.”
— 2nd year student

“As our tuition fees are hovering around $12,000 per year, your donation will definitely help me to relieve some of the financial burden in paying off this amount. Most importantly, however, this scholarship will encourage me to challenge myself further and achieve greater success academically and personally, and use my well-founded knowledge and skills to better help others, and this is one of the primary reasons why I decided to join Pharmacy.”
— 2nd year student

“I want to thank you for your incredible generosity that made this award possible. It will be a great help to me in tackling the many costs involved in attending a professional program.”
— 1st year student

“The award that I have received will certainly encourage me to continue my studies in pharmacy school with the intent of giving back to the public as you have so generously done.”
— 3rd year student

“Thank you for supporting the students of the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. Your generous financial gifts allow students to concentrate on academics and become involved in extra-curricular activities and the community. Ultimately, these contribute to a more enriched student experience.”
— 4th year student

“It is an honour to receive this award for my academic achievements and this truly memorable experience wouldn’t have been possible without generous award patrons such as yourself.”
— 3rd year student

“As a third year pharmacy student it is encouraging to see the commitment of organizations [like yours] to future pharmacists. Thank you for your investment with the faculty and the honour of this award.”
— 3rd year student

“This award will act as a reminder and source of encouragement for me to continue to strive for success in my remaining years in the Faculty and the years that follow. Thank you so much for continuing to support and encourage students like myself.”
— 1st year student

“I am proud and grateful to receive this award not only for the much appreciated financial help, but also because it will be helpful in my plans to apply for a hospital pharmacy residency, as an indication of academic achievement.”
— 3rd year student

I would like to thank you for the very generous scholarship that you have provided. I would not be where I am today if it weren’t for thoughtful people like you.”
— 4th year student

“I am deeply appreciative of donors like yourself who make student contributions worthwhile by acknowledging and awarding our efforts to promote the profession even before we fully enter practice.”
— 4th year student

“Receiving this award will remind me that hard work and sacrifice will lead me to excellence in Pharmacy and anything else I put my mind to.”
— 1st year student

“This award will act as a reminder and source of encouragement for me to continue to strive for success in my remaining years in the Faculty and the years that follow. Thank you so much for continuing to support and encourage students like myself.”
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“I am proud and grateful to receive this award not only for the much appreciated financial help, but also because it will be helpful in my plans to apply for a hospital pharmacy residency, as an indication of academic achievement.”
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— 4th year student
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Clinical Pharmacy in Primary Care**  
*Develop the skills needed to undertake expanded roles in pharmacy practice*  
May 10–15, 2009  
In the Tuscan Hills of Prato, Italy  
Contact cpd.pharmacy@utoronto.ca for more information

**Open House and Tour – Spring Reunion Weekend**  
Friday, May 29th, 2009

**Golden T Dinner – for 4T9 and 5T9 classes**  
Saturday, May 30th, 2009

**Advanced Dermatology**  
*Assessment and management of dermatological conditions*  
Module I: June 5 and 6, 2009  
Contact cpd.pharmacy@utoronto.ca for more information

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