



February 27, 2009

Dear Classmates,

Can you believe it? Graduation is just around the corner! For most of us, the idea of getting a chance to get out and practice is bittersweet – we are eager to begin our careers as pharmacists, but unsure of what lies ahead.

Yet, we can take comfort in the fact that we are graduating from one of the best pharmacy schools in the nation. As a class we will always have our shared experiences at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. Remember our first day of pharmacotherapy scared out of our minds about being called? Or our first year ASP brown bags and Health fairs? How about our first Med Chem class with Dr. Sloan and his crazy jokes. Think of the great times at the Disorientation parties and Homecoming game days. Our college has provided us with many great opportunities!

It would be great for the class of 2009 to continue the tradition of giving back to the college that has given us so much. I challenge each of you to join our class pledge with a minimum of \$500 to be given over the next five years. If every student in the Class of 2009 made just a \$100 contribution to the college each year, our total gift in five years can reach up to \$300,000 or more! It is our hope that many of us can pledge beyond the \$500. Perhaps our pledges could honor our graduation year. A pledge of \$1,004.50 would mean a contribution of \$200.90 per year for five years. Or, make a pledge of \$2,009 with an annual commitment of \$401.80 per year.

Our gifts will support the *Academy for Excellence*, which was started by pharmacy alumni more than 25 years ago to support activities that restrictive state dollars (including tuition) are unable to fund. Activities that we all benefitted from such as: orientation events, graduation ceremonies, student professional development and innovative projects like the distance campuses initiative. Without the *Academy for Excellence*, our alma mater would not be one of the Top-ten colleges of pharmacy.

Participation is the key to the success of our giving challenge, so please participate at *any level* you feel comfortable and return the enclosed pledge form by April 24, 2009. Your first installment will not be due until May 2010, and all contributions are tax deductible. Let's set a precedent of giving for future classes to aspire to reach. Last year the inaugural class raised \$13,000 from only 11 students!

Please help us invest in the future of our great alma mater by funding excellence to sustain excellence for future pharmacists. Go Gator Pharmacists!

Hayley M. Ball

Alejandro Vazquez

Jeffery Swindling

Gainesville Class Representatives

P.S. Dean Riffe will announce the total money raised, and recognize the campus with the highest participation during the May graduation ceremony.

[www.cop.ufl.edu/alumni/challenge](http://www.cop.ufl.edu/alumni/challenge)