

PSW Congratulates UW Pharmacy School on 125 Years

On Jan. 23, 2008 the University of Wisconsin, School of Pharmacy officially kicked-off its 125th anniversary celebration with an open house and reception. Dean Jeanette Roberts welcomed attendees with a description of the key events and accomplishments made at the school over the period. University of Wisconsin Chancellor John Wiley and University President Kevin Reilly both provided congratulatory remarks during the reception. PSW Treasurer and Director of Pharmacy at UW Health, Steve Rough, also presented and commented on the partnership and commitment to excellence in teaching that has existed for decades between the pharmacy department at UW Hospital and Clinics and the leadership and faculty at the School. PSW Executive Vice President and CEO Chris Decker provided congratulatory comments on behalf of PSW and the state's pharmacy practitioners. Decker's comments are reprinted below.



1883-2008

SCHOOL OF
PHARMACY
University of Wisconsin-Madison

125 years of excellence

Chancellor Wiley, President Reilly, Dean Roberts, distinguished faculty, students, alumni and guests:

It is my pleasure to bring hearty congratulations on behalf of the state's professional society and Wisconsin's more than 4,000 pharmacists—most of whom are alumni of this fine institution.

The history and success of the state's pharmacists and the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy are inextricably linked. In 1880 the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association (WPhA) was formed. Members of the association had been trained at pharmacy schools mostly on the east coast or they had learned their trade as long time apprentices.

The pharmacists of the state formed WPhA for two initial purposes. The association leaders' first order of business was to draft and enact a state pharmacy practice act in order to set a minimum practice standard and process of regulating the practice of pharmacy in the state. At the

time, there were many unscrupulous purveyors of medicines and the professional pharmacists wanted to create a demarcation between themselves and those who were giving the apothecary a bad name and image. By 1882 a pharmacy act was passed, establishing a minimum standard for all pharmacists in the state on which to adhere.

The second priority for the association was to create the availability of a formal education program for pharmacists in Wisconsin. WPhA leaders met with the University's Board of Regents and by 1883 a department of pharmacy had been established within the University. I must point out that is quite a set of accomplishments for a fledgling organization—it would be nice if things moved that quickly today.

Over the past 125 years there has been dramatic change and growth in stature of both pharmacy education and pharmacy practice. The UW School of Pharmacy has contributed greatly to the advancement of the pharmacy profession and I believe that the profession has at least modestly contributed to the advancement of pharmacy

education at UW.

UW faculty and graduates of the UW program have received the profession's highest awards—on a state, national and even international basis. Few would have imagined that possibility 125 years ago. Over the years, several faculty members have served as president of the state association and, by doing so, have provided unique and distinguished leadership to the pharmacy profession in Wisconsin and a direct connection to the state's only pharmacy school and educational program.

Graduates of the UW pharmacy school are found around the globe and, perhaps more importantly, in each corner of the state and within virtually every Wisconsin community. These pharmacists have been cornerstones of their communities for decades at a time. They have been business leaders and health care providers. They have served literally millions of Wisconsin residents, every year, for more than one hundred years. There are many accomplishments of the UW School of Pharmacy, but none are likely more significant.

Finally, it is said that teachers and researchers affect eternity—they never know where their influence stops. For that we are grateful. For 125 years the pharmacists of Wisconsin have been privileged to be associated with and directly linked to the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy. We look forward to the next quarter century of work together and then the next hundred years that follow.

Thank you and congratulations.