

## The Harkins' Corner: Your Department of Surgery Faculty & Alumni Organization



Dr. Giana Davidson

Dear Surgical Colleagues,

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as this year's President of the Harkins Society, with the leadership of Ted Kohler and Nam Tran. We have exciting news to share with you! With a goal of building community, fostering mentorship, and becoming a networking resource for members,

we introduce our new website: [www.harkinssociety.org](http://www.harkinssociety.org). Over the past two years we have been working to update our membership contact information. Our goal is to keep members updated on events, allow you to see where your old colleagues are practicing, honor financial donors, and provide a forum for networking and mentoring.

A bit of history: The Harkins Society was initially created in 1955 as a spoof surgical society to honor and celebrate the fiftieth birthday of the Department of Surgery's first Chairman, Henry N. Harkins, MD. Originally named "The Society of the Golden Pouch," the founding members presented it to Dr. Harkins at his birthday dinner and intended that the new society would disband at the end of the evening. However, the society lived on, albeit undergoing a name change and becoming what we know today as "The Harkins Society." Currently serving as the Department's Alumni Society, membership includes the Department of Surgery current and past faculty, former chief residents and fellows from general, vascular, cardiothoracic, and plastic surgery. In 1963, the Society was incorporated as a tax-exempt organization and has grown each year in membership, community, and support for current UW surgery residents.

The goals of the Harkins Society are to **establish and maintain fellowship, friendship, and mentorship** among the members of the society. We work to achieve this goal by:

- Aiding and supporting the UW Department of Surgery to further the interests of the Department in the performance of its mission of surgical education.
- Providing a means by which the surgical and personal interests and achievements of the individual members can be disseminated among the other members.

- Bestowing awards for conspicuous achievement in the field of surgical medicine.

Our particular goals this year are to: increase member engagement; build a forum to improve networking and encourage collaboration; and increase our financial contribution to resident support projects. This last goal is dear to my heart, as I remember the day during my residency when my loupes were delivered, courtesy of the Harkins Society. I felt like I was part of this prestigious club of surgeons, and better yet, was actually able to see the suture during vascular cases! The Harkins Society has supported buying loupes for junior residents in plastic, vascular, cardiothoracic and general surgery, and with your donations can continue this important support to our graduating residents.

Looking to the future, I see other ways we can serve, both in monetary ways as well as networking. For instance, I would also like to see the creation of a scholarship for residents to cover travel costs so that they can present their research. An emergency fund for surgical residents in training would be an important resource as well. I hope we can further develop a post-graduation community where members can connect with former classmates and/or colleagues who might live in outside regions to discuss jobs, mentorship, and career advice as a network of UW surgeons.

Harkins Society is also a proud sponsor of the Harkins Symposium and Strauss Lecture, as well as numerous membership events throughout the year. This past month we had the annual UW Department of Surgery and Harkins Society Annual Reception at ACS in San Francisco, which was well attended and we look forward to sharing photos online.

Thank you to those who have supported the Harkins Society thus far, and for those who have not yet joined, please consider going to our website and doing so today!

Sincerely,

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