



## Sporting a knack for leadership

**Travis Featherstone** knows that athletes play their best when the game is on the line. As a varsity hockey player with the University of Alberta Golden Bears, he's been able to translate his sports experience into an overall vision for the future of pharmacy. He believes there is an urgent need for change in the profession, so students can perform at their best as they help to push practice forward.

His dedication to guiding students in making a difference in the profession, combined with his involvement in volunteer efforts and his academic achievements have scored this fourth-year University of Alberta pharmacy student the Commitment to Care & Service Award for Student Leadership.

Featherstone has made many in-roads during his university career. In the clinical practice realm, he and classmate Ernest Law developed a student-run diabetes clinic that will stay open until April. Through this initiative, Featherstone hopes to prove the feasibility of a clinic in a community pharmacy, determine barriers to care, and demonstrate that students can have an impact.



Beyond the clinic, Featherstone has plans to expand on a student-initiated study he led during his third year. The cross-sectional study, "Characterizing the Use of ASA in a Long-term Care Facility" will be moved into a second long-term care facility to increase the sample size.

Further, Featherstone plans to create a leadership course outline based on his experience at his specialty rotation in geriatrics. Featherstone hopes the outline he cultivates will aid students in improving on their leadership skills when they're shadowing in their particular area of interest.

"Travis has the insight, confidence, professionalism and communication skills necessary to work across multiple disciplines and levels of authority within the continuing care system and to accomplish the goals of his project," writes Cheryl Cox, experiential education coordinator, Faculty of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, in a letter of support.

But it doesn't stop there. In amongst his studies and ice time, Travis finds himself in the role of volunteer. From 2005—2008 for example, he held a position on the Professional Development Week committee as

socio-cultural chair, where he was charged with such tasks as developing translations of presentations, coming up with themes for social events and representing the committee at the 2007 Canadian Pharmacy Association conference in Ottawa.

He has also participated in the Children's Wish Foundation Rotary Reader program, and spent the past two summers coaching teenaged hockey players. Last winter, he and his teammates collected at centre ice to have their heads shaved. As a result, the team raised \$10,000 for local charity, Success by Six, a United Way Program for preschool children in Edmonton.

Notably, Featherstone's athletics and clinical initiatives at the university, and his efforts within the community have not come at the expense of his grades; he achieved All-Canadian Academic for both his second and third year in pharmacy school.

"Balancing academics and athletics is only one of Travis's strengths," notes one Commitment to Care & Service Awards judge. "His commitment to the community shows that he is a student citizen worth looking up to."

—Kristan Wolfe

2008 Commitment to Care & Service awards

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