

# School of Pharmacy

## *Scholarship Profile*



**Cactus Aanenson**  
Class of 2019  
Laramie, WY

### Student Bio

Cactus is from Laramie, where he played soccer throughout his youth and coached a youth team for several years prior to being accepted to the School of Pharmacy. He says "I was drawn to pharmacy after a conversation with a close friend. We felt the curriculum would support a combination of physiology, chemistry, and biochemistry which is where our interests lie."

When asked what he values about the School of Pharmacy, Cactus points to how accessible faculty are, and notes that seeking advice or instruction is always easy for the students. He says "the faculty are supportive and want to see students succeed which in turn motivates me to give my best effort."

Cactus also values the location of UW. He says "I love how close the plains lakes and mountains are. If I need to decompress I like to get away and fly fish for a couple hours. This is nice because it's not a considerable time commitment and I can return to my studies with a clear mind in just a few hours." He notes that self-reflection has been key for his personal and academic development, and helped him identify weaknesses and be clear about his priorities.

Looking forward, Cactus is interested in working with the geriatric population. He notes that when working with elderly patients he can learn a great deal from them while also giving back and improving their quality of life.

### John and Joyce Vandel Pharmacy Scholarship

Natives of Torrington, 1957 alum John (pharmacy) and Joyce (business) owned Vandel Drug from 1966–2010. John served as the dean of the School of Pharmacy from 2003 to 2012. During his time as dean, Joyce took over the management of the store. John was very involved in pharmacy organizations including the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy, the Wyoming Pharmacy Association, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). John was also very active in the development of the Pharm.D. program when he served on the boards of the APhA and NCPA. John and Joyce first started giving scholarships to pharmacy students when they owned Vandel Drug. The Vandels then endowed the scholarship in 2000.

