

Nancy's Story...

Nancy R. Zahniser, Ph.D., is currently Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and the Neuroscience Program and Associate Dean for Research Education in the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver (UCD). After receiving a B.A. in chemistry from the College of Wooster in 1970, she taught school in India for a year. Next, she went on to graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh, and received her Ph.D. in pharmacology from the School of Pharmacy in 1977. Dr. Zahniser was appointed a tenure-track assistant professor in the University of Colorado School of Medicine Department of Pharmacology in 1981, where she rose through the ranks to a tenured professor within ten years.

Dr. Zahniser's current research interests include understanding (i) the roles played by brain dopamine and glutamate systems in individual differences to cocaine-induced brain plasticity and addiction and (ii) cellular mechanisms that regulate brain dopamine transporter activity and expression. Her work has made important contributions in both of these areas, as well as in the past to the study of presynaptic receptors and receptor signaling/regulation. She is also strongly committed to mentoring younger



scientists. Dr. Zahniser currently directs the NIGMS-funded Pharmacology Predoctoral Training Program at UCD. She also co-directs the ASPET-sponsored University of Colorado Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program for under-represented students.

Dr. Zahniser has served as vice chair and acting chair in the Department of Pharmacology. She is an active member of ASPET and the Society for Neuroscience, having served as Secretary-Treasurer of ASPET. As a result of the ELAM program, in 2007 Dr. Zahniser joined the School of Medicine Dean's office in a new part-time position that combines her passion and expertise in research and training – the goal of which is to help trainees and junior faculty members obtain skills and financial support that will further their overall training and career transitions. This position has also broadened the scope of Dr. Zahniser's activities to include participation in the Research Education and Career Development component of the Colorado Clinical Translational Science Institute (CCTSI) and the CCTSI Leadership Program.

In Nancy's own words:

"ELAM encouraged me to learn more about the "bigger picture" at my academic health center and

to step up and make contributions at this level. It helped me to evaluate different types of leadership roles, so that I am now in a leadership position that aligns well with my interests. It also has provided invaluable local and national networks of colleagues, including my ELAM Learning Community, which still meets monthly by phone and yearly in person.

"I want to see ELAM thrive..."

ELAM in one word: Life-Changing. Providing truly transformative leadership is challenging and will remain a challenge for upcoming generations. We were able to experience this highly effective program that helps prepare women for high-level leadership positions at academic health centers, thereby playing a critically important role in increasing the unique contributions from women leaders to these institutions. I want to see ELAM thrive and the numbers of women leaders grow to a point where this program is no longer needed. Our contributions specifically support programming to sustain women leaders, which is one of ELAM's main missions and a reason why I contribute."

Nancy

...supporting a legacy of women's leadership

Thank you, Class of 2006



Marjorie Ariano
Mary Beckerle
Maria Britto
Martha Brown
Nancy Brown
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Sonia Crandall
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Hannah Valentine
Georgia Wiesner
Catherine Woodman
Nancy Zahniser

*"ELAM deserves our support and I am pleased to contribute." -Lisa Tedesco
(ELAM Class of 1997)*

**Class of 2006: Cumulative giving of \$3,500 and
27% participation in ELAM stewardship.
Thank you for your continued support.**

The ELAM® Program was established as a legacy of women's leadership rooted in the first medical school for women. **This legacy of women's leadership now continues with YOU.** Many ELUMs have described their experience in ELAM as life changing, transformational, empowering and affirming. Others have called it priceless and a gift. Participating in ELAM requires a significant commitment. We ask for your continued commitment and support, to ELAM and to advancing the legacy of women's leadership, through your gift.

As we celebrate the successes of ELUMs, we recognize that our work remains far from done. Along with preparing women for roles as leaders and change agents, we are committed to provide continuing stewardship of your leadership journeys. With your help, we will begin to plan a range of activities focusing on ELUMs by:

Building the ELAM Community: expanding support for national and regional face-to-face meetings of ELAM alumnae with seed grants from our new Legacy Fund as well as more powerful virtual connections

Sustaining Successful Leadership and Transitions: reaching out to address all aspects of the leadership continuum, from changing roles to moving to new positions within or beyond their institution

Developing Post-ELAM Educational Opportunities: creating a portfolio of advanced modules to further your professional development beyond ELAM

INTRODUCING THE LEGACY FUND

In April 2009, the graduating ELAM class raised more than \$20,000 in donations and pledges, with the goal of establishing explicit support for ELAM alumnae programming. With their generous initial contribution of \$7,000, ELAM has initiated the Legacy Fund aimed at providing support for community building within and across classes and learning communities. Once the Legacy Project funds reach \$25,000, ELAM will establish a process for ELAM alumnae to apply for seed grants to sponsor class reunions, regional ELUM gatherings and similar events. In the Legacy Fund's initial phase, a portion of your gift will go to building this fund.