

## CHRISTINE POON '70

Christine A. Poon, class of 1970, is the Wyoming School Foundation's 2008 Distinguished Alumnus/Master Teacher. Ms. Poon is Vice Chair Board of Directors for Johnson & Johnson, and Worldwide Chair, Pharmaceuticals Group. She was named to *Fortune Magazine's* list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business for 2006 & 2007.

Ms. Poon joined past distinguished alumni, Ambassador Thomas D. Boyatt (2002), Mr. Mark "Hap" Fuller (2004), Mr. Carl Westmoreland (2007) during the day to teach and enlighten Wyoming High School students. (Previous recipients Admiral C.R. Bell "Bob" Bell (2003), Professor Diane Shaver Clemens (2005) and Dr. Paul Sperduto (2006) were unable to attend). Their diverse experiences showed the students how the global community we live in today impacts our lives and that the students must embrace a global view of the world to be successful in the in the twenty-first century. Christine Poon shared her passion for the healthcare industry during an anatomy class and taught the students, "During my career in healthcare, I have seen many new medicines created that have impacted lives around the world. With new medicines, HIV/Aids has gone from being a deadly disease to a disease that can be treated and managed as a chronic illness. New heart disease treatments have led to a significant reduction in fatalities, as well as and many new medicines have been developed to treat and improve the lives of patients with mental diseases such as schizophrenia and depression." Poon explained.

After Ms. Poon accepted the Distinguished Alumnus award she spoke eloquently about the magic of Wyoming High School. The life long friends she made growing up, her love of literature and reading, overcoming her fear of public speaking and the importance of having teachers who challenged her in the sciences and who nurtured her intellectual curiosity. Ms. Poon also acknowledged the life lessons her dad instilled in her, "Family first, taking responsibility, and making your life matter". These are lessons we can all take to heart.