# PharmDigest

Volume III

Published by the Pharmacy Student Council

Issue III

Spring 2017

# Taste of the World

On March 9, 2017, ISPOR represented the pharmacy program at GRAADS diversity cook-off in the atrium including students and faculty from all programs.



David Luong (Class of 2019) and Andy Hill (Class of 2018).

#### **Spring Formal**

The Student Government Association held the annual Spring Formal at 550 Trackside in Lawrenceville on March 10, 2017. Students enjoyed the event and a night of dinner and dancing underneath the stars.



Ilbeth Charles, Angie Amado, Hershika Patel (Class of 2018), Judy Nguyen (Class of 2019), and Faith Chang (Class of 2018).

**New Council** 

# President

Wesley Fischer, Class of 2019 2017-2018 Pharmacy Student Council President

What does it mean to be a pharmacist? This is a question I ask myself daily. I believe that it means integrity and professionalism in all aspects of our career and dependability



and accountability for our actions and core values. A pharmacist is trusted by those in the public to perform their job to the highest standards, but also to provide compassionate care, comfort. and appropriate recommendations for those in need. These ideals are the baseline that we strive to build and represent within all who graduate this institution. As president of our student council, I hope to continue to promote this culture of excellence within myself and throughout the student body. I decided to take on this position to help further guide and nurture our aspiring program. Over the next year, I hope to achieve a few key goals. The first goal is to help expand our reputation locally by building upon the goodwill that we have fostered within our region. I hope to propel our prestige by reaching out to more public schools and undergraduate institutions, healthcare facilities, and local government agencies. The second goal is to garner further recognition for the pharmacy program by interacting in local festivals and through volunteer outreach. We need to

(New President continued on page 2)

### AMCP at the CDC

On March 9, 2017, AMCP visited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Museum to enhance their knowledge on bacterial cultures.



Christopher Chavez, Alexis Pompey, Obinna Ekechukwu (Class of 2020), Oliwier Nowak, Bernadett Boronea (Class of 2019), and Andrew Mote (Class of 2020).

## National Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention Week was March 20-25, 2017. APhA–ASP members had a myth or truth poster presentation about toxicity.



Paula Cruz and Ebony Darden (Class of 2018).

### **CVS Scholarship**

On March 31, 2017, CVS recognized PCOM students for the service contributions supporting the underserved populations..



Ashraful Shaikh (Class of 2018), Mollie Durham (CVS representative), and Angie Amado (Class of 2018).

#### (story continued from page 2)

operate as a scholastic institution, but also as a pillar within the society. The third goal is to further the reputation nationally through the involvement of multiple clubs. I plan to work with the various executive boards within each club to help our school stand out at national and regional events by encouraging the best candidates in all competitions. Lastly, I hope to work with the other programs at our school to bring forth a more cohesive community. All students within this institution have something to learn from one another. The many different perspectives each program brings enriches our core education and humbles us as to the true breadth of our own knowledge base. I can't wait for our next scholastic year to begin. I believe that with the help from this student body, next year will be a significant opportunity for this program to further thrive and develop.

# Introducing...

Dr. Jiehyun Lee, PharmD, BCACP, CACP Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Hi everyone! My name is Jiehyun Lee, and I am the new faculty member in the pharmacy practice department. I was born and raised in Seoul, Korea. Soon after I turned 16 years old, my family decided to move to the United States. It was a tough decision for all of us because it meant leaving all our extended families and friends. My parents, however, saw a potentially brighter



future for all of us, so we moved. Ever since then, we lived in Connecticut. We moved from town to town but still within Connecticut. I went to Avon High School, and then went to University of Connecticut for undergraduate and PharmD program. After finishing the the program, I completed the specialty residency in primary care pharmacy practice. During my residency I saw many patients with chronic conditions, such as diabetes,

(Introducing... continued on page 3)

#### (Introducing... continued from page 2)

hypertension, dyslipidemia, heart failure, asthma, and COPD. After the residency, I worked at Backus Medication Management Clinic as the clinic supervisor, where I saw patients mainly for anticoagulation management as well as MTM. Then life took an unexpected but exciting turn: I got married to my beautiful wife in March 2016; She got pregnant in May 2016; My wife and I decided to move down to Georgia in September 2016; My son was born on Valentine's day of 2017; and I started this new career in academia at the end of February 2017. Many exciting things happened for me and my family within the past 12 months. I hope this continues as I work here at PCOM School of Pharmacy. I always had passion for teaching and enjoyed academia. So, I am very excited to be here. I hope you are, too. I look forward to meeting all of you.

# **AMCP Conference**

Chelsea Davis, AMCP VP, Class of 2018

During March I was afforded the opportunity to attend the AMCP Meeting held in Denver, CO. This was my first conference experience, and upon arriving I was nearly overwhelmed. There are a variety of opportunities available to everyone, including specialized programming for students, as well as several different





Kineta Naidu and Chelsea Davis enjoying the AMCP conference.

vendors to speak with. The overwhelming feeling subsided quickly, while I looked over the schedule and selected items that were most relevant to my meeting goals. The first day of the conference I attended a Student Leadership Session. This session is held specifically for students that hold leadership positions within the student chapters of AMCP. It consisted of a

lecture regarding reading articles with real life application and several roundtable discussions. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience, as it allowed me to interact with other

(AMCP Conference continued on page 4)

#### **Main Event Social**

NCPA held a social on March 31, 2017 opened to all pharmacy students to play and compete in arcade games and bowling matches.



(From back left, counter-clockwise) Khushbu Raval, Ilbeth Charles, Allison Kiefiuk, Angie Amado, Gabby Sims (Class of 2018), Radhika Bhakta (Class of 2020), Mark Martinez (Class of 2018), Judy Nguyen (Class of 2019), D'Marcus Carroll (Class of 2018).

### **Kappa Psi Initiation**

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity Inc., celebrated the addition of eight new members on April 1, 2017.



The Brothers of Kappa Psi initiating their new members.

#### **P3 Dinner**

On April 12, 2017 the P3 class celebrated completion of their didactic coursework. They enjoyed dinner and class awards at Old Towne Tavern in Lawrenceville.



Members of the Class of 2018 celebrating their hard work.

# Comp Exam Breakfast

Members of Pharmacy Council served bagels and coffee to third year pharmacy students taking their comprehensive exam on April 17, 2017.



Carlson Kububu, David Luong, and Wesley Fischer (Class of 2019).

### **SOC Elections**

On April 18, 2017, student organizations from all programs elected the new Student Organizations Council.



Salome Matthews, Jase McLain, Riona Boozé, and Bernadett Boronea (Class of 2019).

### **Staff Appreciation**

Student Government Association and Pharmacy Council served an appreciation lunch and dinner to the supporting staff at GA-PCOM on April 20, 2017.



GA-PCOM employees being served lunch by SGA and pharmacy council.

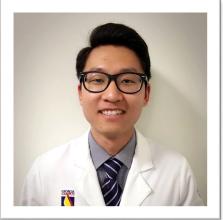
#### (AMCP Conference continued from page 3)

AMCP leaders in order to find out what they were doing for their chapters and provided a ideas that are relatable to our own AMCP chapter. During the remainder of the conference I attended a few lectures, including one given on "Managed Care in Cystic Fibrosis Treatment", and a lecture about compassionate care. The last meeting that I attended was for the GA-AMCP Affiliate members, to brainstorm ideas to better improve our local AMCP chapter. I learned a great deal from the entire trip and am very grateful for the people that I met and the knowledge that I have to take with me into future conferences. When provided the opportunity to attend a conference it would be in your best interest to do so, as this experience is applicable to several areas of your professional and personal career. I look forward to my next opportunity to attend a conference.

# **Road to Residency**

Young Park Class of 2017

My long, arduous journey of getting into a residency program had finally come to an end on Friday morning on March 17th, when I found out that I matched with VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System (VASNHCS) in Reno, NV. Reno, "The



Biggest Little City in the World," is a city in northern Nevada near the world-famous Lake Tahoe and numerous ski resorts. VASNHCS is a strong, established pharmacy residency program where their ambulatory care practice was the winner of ASHP Best Practices Award in 2002. Being a VA healthcare system, the pharmacists are considered providers and have prescribing powers under collaborative practices with the physicians. Of all the benefits and the "fame" of being part of the largest integrated healthcare system in the United States, what

(Road to Residency continued on page 5)

#### (Road to Residency continued from page 4)

attracted me the most was the people. After meeting the residency program director, preceptors and current residents, I knew I would have an amazing residency training experience at VASNHCS. To briefly talk about my experience of the match process, the time from ASHP Midvear to end of interviews was a blur. On top of researching the programs you are interested in, you have to prepare for the poster presentation and compile questions to ask the programs during Midyear. This is why it is important to start the preparation early. It is highly recommended to contact your preceptors, professors, and employers for strong letters of recommendation prior to Midyear. I also suggest to start drafting a letter of intent that you will use as a template for different programs you will be applying to. If you want to participate in the Personnel Placement Service (PPS), which I highly recommend, you have to practice and go over interview questions. It is a 30-minute session where you speak with the program representatives and learn more about their programs. This is also a good interview practice before you go to an actual interview. Speaking of interviews, the best way to prepare for the upcoming interviews is to go over as many interview questions as you can with friends, faculties, and preceptors to perfect your delivery. Dr. Shari Allen hosted a mock interview and I received constructive feedback from professors which I found very helpful. From my experience with VA interviews, they usually last about 4 -5 hours, which includes about an hour with the residents for the tour and lunch. Use the time with the residents wisely. It's the best time to ask about their residency experience and what it is like to live in that area. A typical residency interview consists of a series of meetings with a residency director and clinical preceptors which may or may not include a presentation and clinical questions or cases. I highly encourage those who strive for higher learning and interested in a clinical role to pursue a residency. A year of residency training is said to be equivalent to three years' worth of experience. With proper training, those who complete residency should have the right tools, knowledge, and experience to be a competent, independent pharmacist.

# Dinner With a Pharmacist

On April 21, 2017 Pharmacy Council hosted the annual Dinner With a Pharmacist. Six pharmacists from various career paths and backgrounds spoke to our pharmacy students.



Guests consisting of each pharmacy class socializing while the panel of pharmacists prepare for the event.



Mr. Jeff Lurey, Dr. Brian Park, Dr. Lindsey Jackson, Dr. Lisa Aquillano, Dr. Ellie Kamarjian, and Dr. Drew Cates

#### **AMCP at McKesson**

On April 25, 2017, AMCP toured and learned about pharmaceutical distributions at the McKesson Corporation facility in Alpharetta.



Andrew Mote (Class of 2020), Hien Vo, Haeju A, Jenny Chen, Bernadett Boronea, Oliwier Nowak (Class of 2019), and Alexis Pompey (Class of 2020)

### **Graduate Luncheon**

Rho Chi Academic Honor Society held a luncheon for the graduating members of the Class of 2017 on April 27, 2017. Members were presented with a medallion and honor cords to be worn at Commencement.



Rho Chi P3 officers and Class of 2017 graduates being honored.

### Basketball Champions

On April 29, 2017, PCOM FIT held a basketball tournament between GA-PCOM campus programs. Our pharmacy team won the championship.



(From back left, clockwise) Omar Siddiqui, Kassem Chehab, D'Marcus Carroll, Corey Slacks, Davis Edwards, Ketan Patel (Class of 2018), Brandon Rush (Class of 2020), Stephen Shim, and John Thomas Rust (Class of 2018).

### **Drug Take Back**

APhA-ASP participated in the DEA Drug Take Back Initiative at the Snellville Police Department on April 29, 2017, collecting 300 lbs of medications.



Brad Allgood (Class of 2020), Linda Nguyen, and Wesley Fischer (Class of 2019).

# **Patient Counseling**

Summer Forte Class of 2018

When APhA's National Patient Counseling Competition was first advertised, I had no intention of competing. As I learned more about the process over the next couple of weeks, I



actually started to consider it. My main reservation was the thought that I would be counseling a patient in front of others, but that turned out to be one of the many misconceptions I had. The counseling session would be recorded and judged afterward, so the only people in the room would be the patient, the cameramen, and myself. A rubric was provided that stated exactly what was expected



at the local and national competition, and consisted of things that I knew on patient counseling. Upon winning at PCOM, APhA would provide me with a list of 10 drugs to at the national competition. I realized that it would be a great opportunity to put my skills to the test, and decided to

Hilda Alvarez, Ricky Ayoung-Chee, and Summer Forte enjoying the conference.

participate. Fortunately, I was chosen to represent PCOM in the national competition, and was sent to APhA's Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Francisco to compete against winners from schools across the country. Although I was not one of the top 10 finalists, I am able to use the skills I practiced and information that I learned every day. It helped prepare me for OSCEs by exposing me to the same rubric and process that we utilize at school. The competition also helped me in my Ambulatory Care Elective while reviewing proper administration of insulin pens. Most importantly it helped strengthen the way I counsel patients. I am grateful for the opportunity I was given to improve my counseling skills, and would encourage anyone that it is thinking about competing to take advantage of the opportunity as well. Although I was nervous to compete, I am glad I chose to put myself out there. The experience was definitely worth it.

# The Daily Dose: Top 3 Q's

Dr. Joylaina Speaks, PharmD Class of 2016, PGY-1 at University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital

I think throughout my experience as a PGY1 resident, there have been three main questions asked to me by most students. The first question is: how hard is a residency compared to pharmacy school? I will not lie to you



all-it's HARD! I spend at least 12 to 14 hours a day at the hospital working up patients or working on projects. Going home does not mean the work is done. Time at home is spent on more project work, reviewing primary literature, and becoming familiar with guidelines for specific topics. But, you have to remember to get some sleep because you will need it! The second question students ask is: what has been my favorite part of residency? For me, it is becoming a team member of each service team. What I have learned during this year is, though there is a lot of time spent learning and developing clinical pharmacy skills, the experience is invaluable. I have enjoyed applying my pharmacy knowledge to the patients' disease states daily. Also, through my interactions with medical residents and attendings, I have become an effective communicator. Each day I know my team relies on my input and involvement in the discussion of the patient's assessment and plan. Even after I have finished a rotation, the residents and fellows will ask me questions or for advice. I have two goals on each rotation: 1) be able to effectively work as the clinical pharmacist in that field and, 2) become an asset to the team. I believe if I have achieved those two goals, I have achieved what I needed to learn on that rotation. The third question is: what advice do I have for incoming residents? First, do not be in a rush to get started! Go on a vacation and relax before it starts because this may be your last time for rest and relaxation before you begin. Once you do start your program, you need to find a work/life balance because, without that, you will be

(Daily Dose: Top 3 Q's continued on page 8)

# **NCPA Grads**

On May 2, 2017, NCPA hosted a luncheon for their graduating members and honored for their club participation.



Matt Broome, Cierra Goodwin, Jonathan Freer (Class of 2017) with Dr. Brent Rollins and current members.

# **Residency** Panel

ASHP–SSHP hosted their annual Residency Panel on May 2, 2017. The panel consisted of two P4s who recently matched, two PGY-1s, and one residency director.



The 5 panelists consisted of (left) Young Park, Eva Karma (Class of 2017), Dr. Tina Simpson, Dr. Megan Freeman, and Dr. Adam Hill.

# **Sweet Hut Social**

ISPOR club members sponsored a study social opened to all pharmacy students at Sweet Hut on May 9, 2017.



Judy Nguyen (Class of 2019), Roxsell Sayles (Class of 2020), Oliwier Nowak, David Luong, Teena John, and Ricky Ayoung-Chee (Class of 2019).

#### **GPhA Scholarships**

On May 9, 2017 5 second and third year pharmacy students were recipients of the Georgia Pharmacy Foundation scholarships from GPhA.



Ekene Aguh (Class of 2019), Chelsea Davis (Class of 2018), Ricky Ayoung-Chee (Class of 2019), Ms. Dianne Jones (GPhA representative), Oliwier Nowak (Class of 2019), and Faith Chang (Class of 2018),.

# Are You Smarter than a P1?

Rho Chi hosted "Are You Smarter than a P1?" a jeopardy style game over first year pharmacy trivia on May 9, 2017. The P1 group won the competition against the P2s and P3s.



Congratulations to Janine Miller, Obinna Ekechukwu, Lawrence Uwaeke, Alexis Pompey, Joseph Monplaisir, Musawenkosi Gwebu (Class of 2020)

### **SOC Banquet**

APhA-ASP received a Collaboration Award at the GA-PCOM Student Organization Council annual Banquet on May 11, 2017.



Ricky Ayoung-Chee (Class of 2019) and Erish Malonzo (Class of 2018) accepting an award on the behalf of APhA-ASP

#### (Daily Dose: Top 3 Q's continued from page 7)

overstressed. A piece of advice would be to enjoy your residency. Each rotation has something new and different to teach you, so go into each rotation as sponge ready to soak up everything you can because once it's over, its over!

# Rho Chi at APhA

Erish Malonzo Class of 2018, Rho Chi Vice-President

The Rho Chi Society is a pharmaceutical honor society whose vision is to advance pharmacy through lifelong intellectual leadership. The honor of being a member in this society is limited to the top 20% of each



class. Since our chapter's establishment at PCOM, we have not sent a member to the annual convention. This year, I had the pleasure of representing the Epsilon Delta Chapter at the Rho Chi Convention, which is held every year at APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition. The 93rd Annual Meeting began with a dessert reception where I met other members from our region (Region 3: Southeast) as well as our Regional Councilor Dana Brown, PharmD from Palm Beach Atlantic University. After the reception, awards were given for: Rho Chi APPE First-Year Graduate Fellowship, Rho Chi Clinical Research Scholarship, Chapter Achievement Awards, Most Improved Chapter Awards, the Summer and Spring Chapter Project Proposal Awards, Faculty Advisor Awards, A. Wayne Pittman Service Recognition Award, and Chapter Alumni Awards. We also congratulated the Alpha Gamma Chapter at the University of Connecticut for their Diamond Anniversary and the Gamma Alpha Chapter at Mercer University for their Golden Anniversary. Lastly, Amy M. Haddad, PhD, received the Rho Chi Lecture Award and gave a speech on "Relationships Reconsidered: Reflections on the Pharmacist-Patient Covenant." I also served as our chapter's delegate during the House of Delegates. We voted on the establishment of 3 new chapters and elected the (Rho Chi at APhA continued on page 9)

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#### (Rho Chi at APha continued from page 8)

national officers. We also discussed how each chapter interprets the by-laws because next year we will be discussing if any changes should be made to the bylaws. Being from a new chapter, this experience has helped me gather many amazing ideas from other chapters, which I hope we can implement this year and for the future incoming classes. Currently, we are working on a few service projects that we hope to put on during the next year in hopes of making Rho Chi a more established name within our GA-PCOM community. It is our hope that student pharmacists will continually work hard and strive to attain membership in this distinguished society.

# **Pillbox Experience**

Dr. Drew Cates, PharmD Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice Glen Phillips, Class of 2018

The P3 class just finished their Ambulatory Care Elective with me for the Spring Term. During this course, students were assigned one of five chronic disease states that would be discussed in the elective. Along with their assigned disease state, the students were also provided a 30-day



supply of "pills" in the form of various types and colors of candies and a 7-day pillbox. During their 30-day "pill box experience", they were to live the life of the patient with the chronic disease state and experience taking 5-6 medications at various times throughout the day. At the end of this experience, the students were required to write a reflection piece on their experiences with the disease state and high pill burden. Below is an excerpt from one of the students in the elective.

"When I picked up my 30-day supply of meds that L.D. was taking on the first day of class, I was a little shocked at the sheer volume and mass that all of the bottles and medications took up. I could barely zip my book bag after

(Pillbox Experience continued on page 10)

#### **Research Day**

The CCDA and Division of Research hosted the 7th Annual GA-PCOM Research Day and provided a seminar followed by a poster session on May 16, 2017.



Teena John (Class of 2019) presented a research on anti-myeloma effects as a student with Dr. Eric Wang.

Charity Miles

On May 24, 0217, APhA–ASP served a celebration breakfast to the Class of 2019 for winning the Charity Miles competition by against the other pharmacy classes to support Partnership for a Healthier America.



Members of Class of 2019 enjoying a nice breakfast.

Class of 2017 Luncheon

GA-PCOM Student Affairs hosted a celebratory luncheon for the graduates of all programs on May 24, 2017.



Nick Hernandez (Class of 2019) and Janine Miller (Class of 2020) supporting the GA-PCOM Student Affairs.

# Class of 2017 Commencement

On May 26, 2017, 91 students participated in the PCOM School of Pharmacy Commencement ceremony at the Infinite Energy Center.



### (Pillbox Experience continued from page 9)

putting the medication bag in. I considered going home and getting my wheelbarrow to haul the huge bag out of the classroom. It looked like I had just burglarized Willie Wonka's factory with all of the candy I now had. Since we had class afterwards, I happened to stop by the lunchroom to eat and pulled out the bag of meds and sat them on the table to try and get things adjusted inside my now 32pound book bag (30 of it being the candy). But in all seriousness, as I stood there for a few seconds, I realized how strange it must be for other people in that lunchroom to see a healthy-looking 28 year-old pull out a bag of 10 medication vials that appeared to be 'my' medicine. I laughed to myself about it, but it seriously made me wonder/realize that people who actually do take that many medications may have those same worries or concerns about "I wonder if people think I'm crazy with all of these medications" and forming some sort of complex/anxiety about being seen with that many medications at one time. I would have to assume that it does actually occur to some people and just that little bit of insecurity could be contribution to one's non-adherence... It was eye-opening to see the hassles and aggravation that one has to go through when they have multiple disease states and a high pill burden. The difficulties they go through explain why so many patients have problems with maintaining adherence. Also, those taking 10 pills in a day may be more likely to be ok with missing a dose because they think "Oh well, I have 9 more to take today, missing 1 out of 10 is ok." However, those taking multiple medications for life-threatening disease states are the ones who absolutely need to stick to a very strict routine of taking every single medication at their prescribed time. And now that I have experienced the challenges these people face (and 210 Skittles later), I want to ensure that the real-life L.D.'s are taking medications the way that they are supposed to be. So, I will absolutely be taking a few extra seconds/minutes with these patients in the future and just checking to see if their adherence is up to par since I now know that it is an absolute chore to be take 100% of your meds 100% of the time.

- Glen Phillips, Class of 2018

# Thank You

Angie Amado, Class of 2018 2016-2017 Pharmacy Student Council President

As the school year slowly comes to an end, PCOM School of Pharmacy is busy with students preparing for graduation, APPE rotations, or solidifying their grades as they prepare for the next academic school year. As our time as the 2016-2017 Pharmacy Council comes to an end, I am truly grateful for all the hard work



that each one of our members contributed to a successful year. Throughout the year, Pharmacy Council's number one priority was to always maintain contact and keep the student body's concerns at the top of our list. We set goals for ourselves as a Council to meet throughout the year and we accomplished the task we set out to do. I am honored to have worked with such an amazing group of students who not only balanced a heavy load of schoolwork but also invested their time and effort into the betterment of our program. I would like to thank each member of the 2016-2017 Pharmacy Council for making this year a successful one for all students here at the GA-PCOM campus.



Amee Patel (Class of 2019), Obinna Ekechukwu (Class of 2020), David Luong, Wesley Fischer (Class of 2019), Arrington Mason-Callaway, Lawrence Uwaeke (Class of 2020), Teena John (Class of 2019), Jamie Mabe, and Anthony Alexander (Class of 2018).

## Pharmacy Student Council 2017-2018

#### President:

Wesley Fischer (Class of 2019)

#### Vice-President:

Arrington Mason-Callaway (Class of 2020)

#### **Treasurer:**

Amee Patel (Class of 2019)

Secretary:

Teena John (Class of 2019)

Historian:

Judy Nguyen (Class of 2019)

Class of 2018 Chair:

Jamie Mabe

Class of 2018 Representative:

Anthony Alexander

Class of 2019 Chair:

David Luong

Class of 2019 Representative:

Andrew Schaefer

Class of 2020 Chair:

Obinna Ekechukwu

Class of 2020 Representative:

Lawrence Uwaeke

#### **Important Dates:**

May 20-24, 2017 ISPOR 22nd Annual International Meeting Boston, MA

#### June 2-4, 2017

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. Atlantic Province Summer 2017 Conclave Columbia, SC

#### June 15-18, 2017

2017 Georgia Pharmacy Convention Amelia Island, FL

July 4, 2017 Independence Day

#### July 7-9, 2017

GSHP Summer meeting Amelia Island, FL

#### July 14-16, 2017

APhA–ASP Summer Leadership Institute Washington, DC

#### July 17, 2017

Tuition Due

#### August 1-5, 2017

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. 58th Grand Council Convention Naples, FL

August 8-11, 2017 Class of 2021 Orientation

August 14, 2017 Fall 2017 Term Begins

# **SGA Experience**

Hershika Patel, Class of 2018 2016-2017 SGA President

Being in any leadership position requires a lot of time, and we all know as students that's the one thing we do not have enough of. When I decided to run for SGA president, my main goal was to bring all the programs here at GA-PCOM together and get more students involved with our campus. I was very blessed to have an executive board that had the same motive. Over the past year, SGA held many events to encourage each program to come together and interact, including HIV Atlanta, Ornament Decoration, Black History Month, Ice Cream Social, and the biggest one Spring Formal. Of all of our accomplishments, Project Angel Tree was our most successful project. I hope that with the years to come it is continued at GA- PCOM. This project was one of my personal favorites because on Christmas Eve, I was able to deliver the wrapped presents to all the shelters and in return I got a chance to show the Greater Atlanta Community the gifts of GA-PCOM. We had over 30 presents/bags wrapped which included over 600 items. There are definitely some more things that we wanted to do. I believe SGA has done a good job this year and pushing forward the new SGA will do an even better job. For all future SGA presidents, the one piece of advice I can leave is, "work hard and stay humble".

