

# PharmDigest

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## The Annual Dinner with a Pharmacist

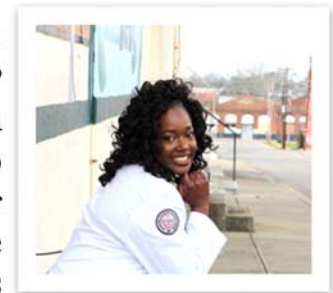


Pharmacy Council hosted the annual Dinner with a Pharmacist event on April 25, 2019 at 7pm in the Atrium. Pharmacy students networked with nine pharmacist in an intimate setting, which created an arena for networking and in-depth, open discussion about the profession of pharmacy.

## The Moment

By: NyAsia Gray (PharmD '22)  
Pharmacy Council Historian

**Connect, Grow, and Go!** The theme for the 2018 APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting, held in Memphis, Tennessee. According to pharmacist.com, the Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM) is the only meeting in the United States specifically for student pharmacists, to network, discuss career opportunities with potential employers, and celebrate the achievements of APhA-ASP chapters.



Deirdre Moultry (PharmD '21) attended the 2018 APhA-ASP MRM. She stated that everyone who attends MRM always talks about the moment. The moment that sparks your passion, connects you to the right people, or that teaches you something that changes you forever. Ms. Moultry was able to attend 2018 MRM free of registration. To which she attributed her PCOM student body and Facebook friends whose votes made her the 1st place winner in a competition, sponsored by Tony Guerra, PharmD, the chair instructor and pre-pharmacy advisor at Des Moines Area Community College.

Dr. Guerra started sponsoring this annual competition 4-years ago after a conversation via Facebook Messenger with a University of Florida APhA-ASP officer, who informed him of the required MRM registration fee for

*(The Moment continued on page 2)*

## Standout Residency Candidate Panel



On April 4, 2019 in Lecture Hall D, Dr. Samuel John moderated a Residency Panel that taught students how to become standout residency candidates. The panel included the following (left to right): Dr. Drew Cates, Dr. Candis McGraw-Senat, Dr. Shirin Madzhidova, Dr. Shari Allen-Perry and Dr. Jiehyun Lee.

## Are you Smarter than a PY1?



On April 4, 2019 Rho Chi collaborated with the Pharmacy Council in hosting an event, pitting PY1's against upper class students, allowing the upper class to test their recall skills.

## 2019 DEA drug take-back day



On April 27th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. APhA-ASP members participated in the 15th Annual DEA drug take back day. Students assisted North Georgia Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials to collect prescription medications, dropped-off by community members. The donated medications were unwanted, unneeded or expired, which made them highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. According to the DEA, a total weight of 949,046 pounds were collected by April 28th.

## *(The Moment continued from page 1)*

pharmacy students. Dr. Guerra stated that Pharmacy students interested in community pharmacy and independent practice should attend MRM, because it is the one place entrepreneurial minded students can connect with others, and build businesses before they graduate pharmacy school. Students interested in entering the next competition, should watch myFacebook page, TonyPharmD, around MRM time.

Ms. Moultry participated in making some of those connections. She stated that she met a lot of student pharmacists and participated in several events such as workshops, and collaborative brainstorming events to develop innovative ideas to implement within their individual APhA-ASP chapters and learned how she could maximize the Generation Rx Campaign. She attended the Leadership Training Series: 'Turning Passion into Action', hosted by Walmart that allowed her to connect with other student pharmacists to discuss different interest and plan strategies to work together and capitalize on those interests. She attended the 'Career Connection Opportunities Expo,' where she learned about different pharmacy residencies, industry fellowships, and postgrad opportunities. She connected with many directors of different programs. Lastly, she ended the afternoon by voting on new set of regional officers.

Ms. Moultry attended the Policy Proposal Forum that allow chapters to propose, debate, amend, and defend policy resolutions, on topics that they feel need stronger advocacy. Ms. Moultry presented PCOM APhA-ASP chapter policy for Standardizing Point of Care Testing, which passed due to her convincing presentation that received 23 supporting votes out of 26 total.

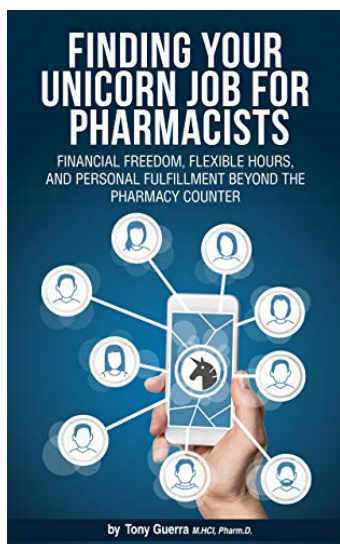
Ms. Moultry stated that "The APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting was more than a moment for me. It was an opportunity that rejuvenated my passions, taught me a lot about what I want in my career, and produced long lasting friendships in pharmacy. Ms. Moultry informed PharmDigest that the 2019 APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM) will be held in Atlanta and their MRM

## *(The Moment continued on page 3)*

***(The Moment continued from page 2)***

coordinator will be reaching out to PCOM APhA-ASP chapter regarding planning. To register visit [www.mrm.pharmacist.com](http://www.mrm.pharmacist.com)

Although the MRM is a great opportunity for most students, Dr. Guerra, does not advise that all pharmacy students attend. He stated that “it seems APhA with PharmTANK and other entrepreneurial sessions has focused on community and independent practice”. He explained that students seeking to participate in other competitions that provide assistance with registration fees should follow the social channels and engage with pharmacists of their specific field of interest.



Dr. Guerra wrote a book called Unicorn Jobs for Pharmacists, that introduces 125 pharmacy students and pharmacists in diverse pharmacy careers, including jobs that allow pharmacist to work-from-home.

Dr. Guerra's book informs pharmacy students of diverse platforms and social channels such as Your Financial Pharmacist group, MedEd101.com, and TLDRPharmacy that tend to provide giveaways as well. To

access his book, visit [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and his Facebook page, TonyPharmD, where you can learn how to obtain his audible version for free.

### Dual PharmD/ MBA degree now offered to pharmacy students



On April 24th Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Marketing dual PharmD/MBA program administrators Dr. Brent Rollins, Jonathan Dart, Online Program Admin. and Terese Waldron, MBA Programs Executive Director hosted a lunch & learn to discuss PCOM and Saint Joseph's University partnership expansion, allowing pharmacy students to obtain a MBA concurrently with their four-year PharmD. For more info, email [brentro@pcom.edu](mailto:brentro@pcom.edu).

### CMDA Easter Celebration



Darien Tran (PharmD '22) preparing for a celebration of Easter on April 19th. Hosted by PCOM-Georgia Christian Medical & Dental Associations of Atlanta (CMDA) chapter.

## Annual P1 Fashion Show



On April 30th, Pharmacy Council hosted the Annual PY1 IPPE Orientation Fashion Show organized by Brent Chatoff, Class Representative.

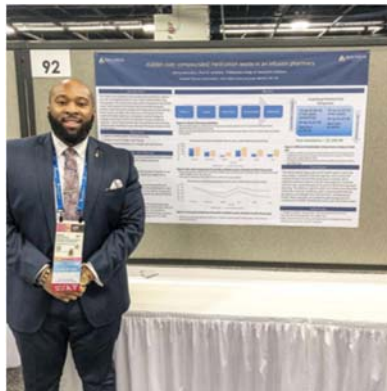
## Pharmacy Students Collaborate to Aid Atlanta Mission



Lilytte Tagala (PharmD '21) and Jenny Chen (PharmD '19) represent AMCP, NCPA, ISPOR, and ASHP at the Atlanta Mission to put an end to homelessness. Student organizations collectively donated items such as food and clothing to contribute to the initiative.

## John Hopkins Summer Internship and ASHP Mid-Year experience

By: Obinna Ekechukwu (PharmD '20)



Obinna Ekechukwu presenting at the ASHP Mid-Year in Anaheim, CA.

When I started pharmacy school there were very specific goals that I wanted to achieve while I was here to ensure that I positioned myself for the career of my dreams. One of those lofty ambitions was accomplished once I was accepted and completed the Johns Hopkins Pharmacy Internship. Johns Hopkins is one of the top ranked health systems in the world and they play a vital role to many aspects of patient care. The Johns Hopkins Internship Program selects roughly 25 applicants from all over the country to work in various fields of pharmacy throughout their health system. Students spend no less than 10 weeks of the summer in specialties ranging from pediatrics, home infusion, oncology, infectious disease, surgery, informatics, formulary management, and so many more. I was fortunate enough to be able to marry my passion for healthcare with my love for business by completing a pharmacy administration internship. This was the opportunity of a lifetime because I actually received the hands on experience to confirm the residency I want to pursue post-graduation. Health-system pharmacy administration is a very unique niche within the health system and observes not only the clinical outcomes on various patient populations but also the financial impact on the health system. One of the most challenging parts of healthcare is being able to provide access to those that are the most in need and I want to be a part of a team that will be able to derive the solutions for better patient-centered care. During my 10 weeks I had the opportunity to work on several projects, attend and be an active participant in senior leadership meetings, and network with leaders of

*(John Hopkins Summer continued on page 5)*

### ***John Hopkins Summer continued from page 4***

other major health-systems across the country. My major assignment that I was tasked with by my preceptor was to investigate the costs of the home infusion compounded medications that were never dispensed to patients. My preceptor wanted to know the amount of money that was going down the drain in what were some cost mitigation strategies that could be implemented to avoid these costs moving forward. I presented my findings to leaders within Johns Hopkins and also developed a poster from my data to present at ASHP Mid-Year in Anaheim, CA. The Mid-Year clinical meeting gave me the opportunity to not only represent Johns Hopkins Home Care Group, but more importantly to represent PCOM School of Pharmacy.

## **Patient Counseling Competition**

By: Nakosha Dillard (PharmD '21)



As the winner of PCOM-Georgia APhA-ASP chapter's Patient Counseling Competition, I had the privilege of attending the 2019 APhA Annual Conference March 22nd - 25th in Seattle, Washington, and compete in the National Patient Counseling Competition. This competition is designed to showcase a student's skills and knowledge on counseling a patient concerning their medications. This includes explaining general drug information such as what the medication is for and how to take it, what side effects to expect, missed doses and storage requirements. Out of 133 other pharmacy schools, I was selected as a "Top Ten Finalist". Being able to represent PCOM-Georgia was an honor and to bring such an amazing title back to the school made the whole experience even more memorable.

In addition to the competition, I was able to attend leadership workshops where I gained valuable knowledge and ideas that will help to propel me in my current role as

***(Patient Counseling Competition continued on page 6 )***

## **NCPA Members Visit Independent Pharmacy**



On April 25th, NCPA members visit Medical Park Pharmacy, an independent pharmacy located in Gainesville, Georgia owned by Julie Wickman, PharmD.

## **APhA-ASP at the 2019 Atlanta Science Fair**



Alyssa Beltran (PharmD '20) and other APhA-ASP members participated in the Atlanta Science Festival held in March 2019. This is an annual two-week festival held every March, that features more than 100 events throughout metro Atlanta and reaching 50,000 children and adults annually, according to atlantasciencefestival.org. Pharmacy students utilize this event to teach kids how to differentiate candy from prescription drugs.

## **Research Seminar Informational**



On April 9, 2019, Dr. Edo-Abasi McGee hosted a Clinical Research Seminar. Most attendees were matched with Clinical Faculty Researchers. The next seminar will be held during the academic school year.

## Pre-Pharmacy Day Hosted by SNPhA



On March 2019, representatives from the PCOM-Georgia School of Pharmacy were invited to the 1st Annual Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) Pre-Pharmacy Day at the University of Georgia. Assistant Director of Admissions Darnae Parks joined Laura Nguyen (PharmD '22), Nandi Rosier (PharmD '21), Quynh Nguyen (PharmD '22), Jessica Mulbah (PharmD '22), and Brent Chatoff (PharmD '22) in speaking to pre-pharmacy students about PCOM's Doctor of Pharmacy program.

## Pharmacy Students Join the 2019 Government Association



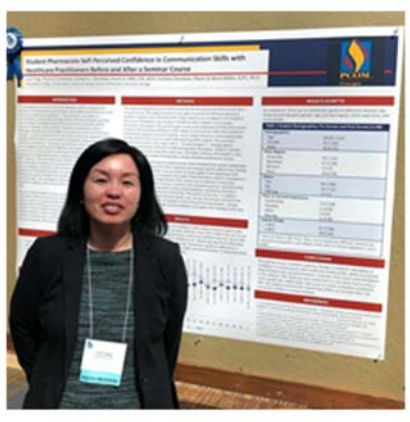
Deirdre Moultry (PharmD '21) Treasurer of SGA  
and  
Joanna Ho (PharmD '22) 2nd VP of SGA

## *(Patient Counseling Competition continued from page 5)*

Policy Vice President of APhA-ASP here at PCOM-GA. I also took a moment to explore the exposition and speak with vendors from various fields of pharmacy that I am interested in – industry, managed care, medical affairs, and the FDA to name a few. As a student leader on campus, my goal is to be of inspiration to others. I believe that you should take every opportunity that is awarded to you and build upon it. In attending this conference, I have gained more confidence in myself and abilities, and I will remember this experience and build upon it as I strive to be a strong leader and future pharmacist.

## My trip to GSHP Spring Meeting

By: Lucy Yang (PharmD '20)



My trip to GSHP 2019 Spring Meeting was nothing I could have ever imagined. I started the morning out not knowing what to expect, for it was the first time I would have ever attended a convention and especially, to conduct my very first poster presentation. But having the advantage of living far up north in the little small town of Toccoa gave me hundreds of miles to think it all through.

While driving to Savannah, I thought of all sorts of things such as what to do when I arrive, where to go, what to say, how to act and was I even wearing appropriate attire? So many thoughts cross my mind, but I kept driving, reassuring myself that there were other students there just like me, going through the same things and were probably just as nervous.

Finally, when I arrived at my destination, I was so excited yet scared at the same time. I felt the nerves set in and the sweating palms begin when I pulled into the parking lot of

*(My trip to GSHP Spring Meeting continued on page 7)*

***(My Trip to GSHP Spring Meeting continued from page 6)***

the Marriot Hotel. I fumbled through the lobby not knowing where to go but much to my surprise, there were wide eyes and smiling faces ready to greet and guide my every step. The GSHP members kindly greeted and handed me a welcome package, a name tag and pointed in the direction to where I was presenting. Off I went downstairs to hang my poster presentation, along with other presenters, student pharmacists, pharmacy residents and pharmacists. Everyone greeted each other as though they were family and helped hang each other's poster boards up for demonstration. When we were done, we quietly and anxiously waited for the judges to come.

Time crept by slowly, while my nervousness grew. I paced back and forth, repeating to myself all the information about the research data collected, scientific journals read, 5-point Likert-type scale conducted, and the final results, months of hard work with Dr. Barefield, Dr. Champion and Dr. Rollins all came down to now. Everything raced through my mind, as the first few student pharmacists, residents and pharmacists approached asking me to explain my research. My voice quivered as I began to explain my research. As I neared the end, one of the student pharmacists told me she was a P4 from PCOM and was there to show her support. At that moment I knew I was not alone, as other PCOM students and faculty members came by to show their support.

When it was time to present to the judges, I was no longer nervous. I conducted an overall detailed explanation about my research, the outcomes and limitations in the allowed time of five minutes. As I anxiously waited, a familiar face came by. It was Dr. Holaway, the GSHP Board member for PCOM and also the GSHP Planning Community Board member. Dr. Holaway coordinated PCOM students with pharmacy directors allowing students to ask several questions to get to know them and to build a connection. He made sure everything ran smoothly, that everyone felt right at home and no one was ever left out. He was reassuring and guided participants in the right direction for the final announcement.

***(My trip to GSHP Spring Meeting continued on page 8)*****New Kappa Psi Members**

On March 23, 2019 we congratulated the eleven new PY1 members of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Incorporated. The largest professional pharmaceutical fraternity in the world ([kappapsi.org](http://kappapsi.org)).

**Kappa Psi Cleans Dean Road**

Kappa Psi Chapter members gather to clean up their adopted road, providing community service that aids in litter prevention.

**Interactive Interview**

On April 10th, 2019 APhA-ASP hosted an interactive interview skills workshop with Tim Poole, PharmD of Boehringer Ingelheim one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies.

## CDC Museum Tour



AMCP chapter hosted a Tour of the CDC Museum in Atlanta, Ga. All interested Pharmacy Students were able to sign up and gain knowledge of diverse pharmacy careers related to Public health.

## Community Service at NLB



On April 13th, Apha-ASP members volunteer at No Longer Bound(NLB) non-profit organization.

## (My trip to GSHP Trip Spring meeting continued from page 7)

At the end, I was awarded a GSHP Blue Ribbon for my poster presentation which is not first place, however, I felt still felt like it was. I felt a sense of accomplishment that day, for I had done the best I could and I left the convention knowing I had gained so much. I met and connected with so many other student pharmacists, pharmacy residents and pharmacists from all over Georgia such as Emory, UGA, Mercer, South University, Merck, Pfizer and Baxter. Most importantly, I learned that I could accomplish anything, for pharmacy school was just the beginning to an entirely new world waiting to be discovered.

## What is a Student Ambassador?

By: Darnae Parks, Assistant Director of Admissions



A student ambassador is a person that assists the Office of Admissions with various events such as the following: Interview Day, Open House, Recruitment, and Field Trips. In order to become a Pharmacy Student Ambassador, the student must be in good standing with the School of Pharmacy.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Pharmacy Student Ambassador Representative, you must complete an application and submit it to admissions. Once the application is received and approved then the student must sign a confidentiality agreement before they are invited to assist with any events.



## Message from James McGary

By: James McGary - SGA President 2018-2019



During my PY2 year, I made a goal and a conscience effort to become a more active student here at PCOM-Georgia. I started looking around at various clubs and organizations and I can across the Student Government Association (SGA). I noticed that a position was available, so I decided to run for Corresponding Secretary. During that year, I engaged in activities that involved the entire campus such as planning orientation week activities for new incoming students and community outreach involvements and each activity that I organized or participated in was a very rewarding experience that I will never forget. As I approached the end of that chapter, I wanted to continue to do more for my school and at that moment is when I decided to run for SGA President. That was one of the best decisions I could have made. Since being elected SGA President, I have been overwhelmed by the amount of support not only from my classmates and the pharmacy program as an entity, but from faculty, staff and students from each program here at PCOM-Georgia. Just to give you a brief description of what it required of this position, I oversee all the student councils which include: DO, Pharmacy, PA, Biomed and now PT. I sit on multiple committees such as the Learning Resources Committee and the Executive Faculty Committee just to name a few. I also sit on the board for the PCOM Alumni Association and, most importantly, the Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board of Trustees, we meet every 3 months in Philadelphia, so I fly out because of my attendance being required at these meetings. At these meetings, we discuss the latest things that affect all three campuses as

*(Message from James McGary continued on page 10)*

## ASHP-SSHP attend Spring Meeting



On March 8-10, 2019

Dr. Shaawn Holaway, along with ASHP-SSHP members attended the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacy 2019 Spring Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. The student members were provided advice from health-system pharmacists and learned about their journey and roles they hold.

## ASHP-SSHP Alumni Social Event



On April 15, 2019 ASHP-SSHP hosted an alumni social event, at the Gwinnett Stripers at Coolrayfield Stadium allowing students to network with Health-System pharmacy professionals.

***(Message from James McGary continued from page 9)***

one entity and I report to them what we have done over the last three months as a campus as far as fundraisers, campus wide activities, upcoming events, and major individual student accomplishments that are indeed extraordinary and noteworthy. The Board of Trustees are among some of the most amazing people that I have ever met starting with the President and CEO and matriculating down my fellow SGA President of the Philadelphia Campus. Overall, being in this position, I have been granted so many opportunities to meet and work with so many various groups of people from different aspects of life. I did not do it for the accolades or the recognition, I did it to make some type of positive impact on my school. Becoming active in school politics is truly time consuming, stressful at moments, and even overwhelming at times but I can honestly say that it is truly a decision that I have absolutely no regrets making and if I could do it all over again, I would hesitate not even for a split second. I would encourage any student who is interested in student politics or student government to stop me at any given moment and ask me any question that they might have about this position. I truly have found an honor and a privilege to serve as the voice for the students here at GA-PCOM as the 2018-2019 Student President of the Student Government Association. Thank you!



## **Meet Ruth Pierre (PharmD '22)**

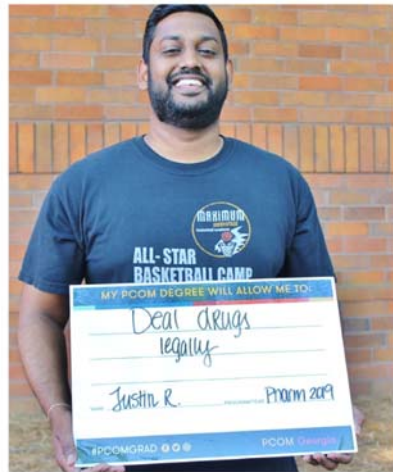
### **Class Chair**

Hello, my name is Ruth Pierre (PharmD '22). Prior to my matriculation here at PCOM, I obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology at Clayton State University. Subsequently, I pursued a graduate degree from Mercer University in Secondary Education. I had the privilege of educating students in biology, chemistry, and environmental science for three years. At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, I decided to leave teaching to fully dedicate and immerse myself in pharmaceuticals. That season of my life transcends to the type of reaction I plan to draw from my colleagues here at PCOM-Georgia.

I plan on improving the communication between students and the school, thus leading to groundbreaking improvements for our program. In addition, promoting a collaborative atmosphere where we can grow, learn, succeed and support one another in our journey and beyond. As a native of Haiti, I add to the already rich diversity of our school. I plan to help serve as a liaison for expanding our school to different countries and showing them the vast opportunities PCOM has to offer. With the amount of multifaceted, proficient, and educated students we have now, the class of 2022 can set our school on a path to becoming global.

# Congratulations, 2019 GRADUATES!

Pre-Commencement Festivities



# Congratulations 2019 GRADUATES!

Commencement Ceremony

