Annual Chapter Report Outline

Date of report submission: May 14h, 2015

**Name of School/College**: University of Pittsburgh

**Chapter name and region:** Alpha Omicron, Region II

**Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting:** Neil Turco

**Date Delegate’s name was submitted to Rho Chi.:** February 2015

**Past year’s officers and e-mail addresses:**

President: Neil Turco (njt16@pitt.edu)

Vice President: Shea Liput (sal123@pitt.edu)

Treasurer: Andrew Beyer (aeb97@pitt.edu)

Secretary: Christina Xia (rax1@pitt.edu)

Historian: Meera Vachhani (mdv15@pitt.edu)

**New officers and e-mail addresses for next academic year:**

President: Keito Hoshitsuki (keh112@pitt.edu)

Vice President: Melissa Bastacky (mlb143@pitt.edu)

Treasurer: Meredith Bollinger (mkb63@pitt.edu)

Secretary: Andrea Evankovich (ame56@pitt.edu)

Historian: Kaleen Hayes (knh28@pitt.edu)

**Chapter co-advisor’s names and e-mail addresses:**

Susan Meyer, PhD ([smeyer@pitt.edu](mailto:smeyer@pitt.edu))

Susan Skledar, RPh, MPH, FASHP ([skledarsj@upmc.edu](mailto:skledarsj@upmc.edu))

**Rho Chi Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Student Members:**

Class of 2016: 22 members

Class of 2017: 23 members

**Meetings:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Attendance** | **Agenda** | **Action Steps** |
| 9/4/2014 | 5/5 officers; 17/22 total members | * Establish goals for year * New activity ideas * Blood drive * Professional Lecture Series with Phi Lambda Sigma * Koch Lecture speaker candidates * Business card sale | * Participate in small group student teaching roles * Prepare list of speakers for Professional Lectures Series * Present Semester at a Glance * Give September Health Talk * Conduct business card sale |
| 10/2/2014 | 5/5 officers; 15/22 total members | * Posters, Professors, and Progress event planning * Student poster presentation or special topics informational session * Rho Chi t-shirts * Discuss business card sale * Lab card revision * Student tutoring preferences * Professional Lecture Series * Koch Lecture candidates | * Develop material for Top Drugs lecture for students * Contact professors for Posters, Professors, and Progress event * Obtain Rho Chi T-shirts for members to wear at events * Give October Health Talk * Provide assistance to second year students in preparing for capstone |
| 11/4/2014 | 5/5 officers; 15/22 total members | * Details of Posters, Professors, and Progress event * New member initiation * Toys for Tots program * Ongoing and new Health Talks * Top Drugs student lecture * Clinical pharmacokinetics tutoring session * Professional Lecture Series | * Advertise for Posters, Professors, and Progress event * Prepare thank-you notes for participating faculty * Give November and December Health Talk * Reserve location for initiation * Create new material for spring Health Talks * Present Top Drugs Lecture |
| 1/8/2015 | 5/5 officers; 21/22 total members | * Initiation banquet planning * Finalize Koch Lecture details * Faculty awards for initiation * Gift for the Phi Lambda Sigma charity auction * Professional Lecture Series * Rho Chi Annual Meeting and funding | * Reserve room for Koch Lecture * Invite Koch Lecture speaker * Finalize details for initiation * Repeat business card sale * Give January Health Talk * Donate gift for Phi Lambda Sigma charity auction |
| 2/5/2015 | 5/5 officers; 18/22 total members | * Rho Chi Annual Meeting * Student Special Topics Electives informational session * Laboratory cards revision and sale * Koch Lecture updates * New members * Faculty review of laboratory cards content * Professional Lecture Series | * Vote for delegate and alternate delegate and submit * Prepare invitations and awards for faculty awards * Give February Health Talk * Distribute new member letters * Advertise for Special Topics Electives informational session |
| 2/26/2015 | 5/5 officers, 18/22 third year members, 21/23 second year members | * New member officer and co-chair elections * Special Topics Electives informational session * Rho Chi Annual Meeting * Koch Lecture * New member initiation banquet | * Conduct elections * Give March Health Talk * Act as standardized patients for counseling practice * Sell laboratory cards * Conduct Special Topics Elective information session * Host Koch Lecture * Host initiation |
| 4/8/2015 | 5/5 officers; 14/22 third year members, 12/23 second year members | * Rho Chi Annual Meeting ideas * Pre-APPE rotations infectious diseases review with faculty * Blood drive * Feedback on laboratory card sale * Professional Lecture Series | * Transition to new officers * Give April and summer health talks * Third-year member end of year fellowship dinner |

**Strategic Planning**:

A primary aim of our chapter this year was to expand our current programs and to create new programs that are fundamental to the Rho Chi mission. We wanted to promote the advancement of the profession of pharmacy by expanding involvement through our activities to all student pharmacists. We identified several ongoing programs that we believed we could continue to meet this goal, and created many new events to further the Rho Chi mission. With a focus on intellectual excellence and critical inquiry, we continued our “Posters, Professors, and Progress” poster event so that students could gain an insight into their professors’ work, and to foster connections and possible collaborations between students and faculty for clinical, bench, and pharmacy practice research endeavors. We also created a new event, our “Special Topics Elective Informational Session,” so that students could encourage other students to engage with faculty on Special Topics projects to advance the profession. We continued other events to engage our community and advance the image of our profession. We expanded our tutoring to encompass more student pharmacists, with new student events including our “Semester at a Glance”, standardized patient practice counseling sessions, a “Top Drugs” lecture, and an infectious diseases review. We wanted to promote, and did, sell a record number of business cards and laboratory value reference cards, which will help students both professionally and intellectually. All in all, we wanted to make our Rho Chi chapter more inclusive and service minded towards others, and we have.

**Activities**:

***Sustaining Successful Programs***

**Posters, Professors, and Progress (ongoing, 3 years)**

We hosted our “Posters, Professors, and Progress” poster session, using personal display screens, to highlight scholarly research pursued by our faculty members. We had a total of 17 faculty members present work and over 75 students attend the one-hour session. We moved the event from the Spring to the Fall semester in order to permit students to register for projects with professors for the Spring semester. **This event instilled the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry as students were able to connect with professors and participate in their research in order to advance the profession.**

**Adult Rehabilitation Center Programs – Health Talks (ongoing, 8 years)**

Monthly, our Rho Chi members presented Health Talks at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in the Southside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. These talks provided an overview of health information on topics for these men as delivered by our members. Handouts for the audience were compiled and revised by our student members and the three pharmacist preceptors who alternated in supervising the talks. Each talk lasted about an hour, including questions from the audience. The average audience size ranged from 50-75 men and we had 3-5 Rho Chi members presenting the material. **This event advanced the profession and instilled the desire to pursue critical inquiry in these men as they were genuinely interested in these topics and actively asked questions.**

**My First Patient Practicum (ongoing, 5 years)**

Rho Chi members assisted in educating first professional year students on the patient assessment completed by a pharmacist. These students were taught how to perform screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, and BMI. The students used these techniques in both standardized and actual patients. **This will advance the profession from the perspective of patients by the improved patient assessment techniques.**

**Annual School of Pharmacy Back to School Picnic (ongoing, 4 years)**

Our School’s Back to School Picnic is held at the beginning of the Fall semester and educates students about the School’s organizations. Rho Chi sponsored a table that outlined our activities, mission, and membership criteria. From discussions with students, we were able to discern the need for an expansion of our tutoring program. **By educating aspiring members of our membership criteria, we instilled the desire to pursue intellectual excellence in order to earn membership.**

**Professional Lecture Series** **(ongoing, 8 years)**

Our Rho Chi Chapter collaborated with our School’s chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma to host a monthly Professional Lecture Series where we invited a member of the pharmacy community to speak about their career and background. Our speakers included: Dr. Robert Maher Jr., a clinical faculty member of Duquesne University who practices in independent pharmacy; Dr. Jonas Johnson, an otolaryngologist who discussed the pharmacist’s role in HPV; Mrs. Terry Talbot, the chairperson of the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy and Regional Director of Government Affairs for CVS; Dr. Toni Fera, an independent consultant pharmacist; and Mr. Arinze Awiligwe, a Nigerian pharmacist and a public health advocate, alongside Kehinde Adeyemi, a current Nigerian student pharmacist. These talks featured an average of 50 student attendees per topic, and **served to instill critical inquiry in the students who attended**.

**Annual Koch Lecture (ongoing, 59th Annual)**

Our Rho Chi Chapter continued an annual tradition of sponsoring the 59th annual Julius A. Koch Memorial Lecture. This lecture aims to “promote the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences through the encouragement and recognition of intellectual scholarship”. This year, we hosted Dr. R. Pete Vanderveen, Dean of the University of Southern California, who presented a lecture on “Pharmacy’s Opportunity in the Era of the Affordable Care Act.” This lecture was attended by well over 100 students and faculty members of our School. Dean Vanderveen also spoke at our initiation banquet the night prior, had a breakfast meeting with our officers, and attended a luncheon after the talk with several faculty members and students. **His words inspired us to advocate for and advance the profession.**

**Schools of Pharmacy Blood Drives (ongoing)**

Our chapter hosted three blood drives this year, which were the only times an organization in our School hosted a blood drive and served to benefit the Pittsburgh community. **This advances the image of our profession from the perspective of the public and provides a unique manner for us to give to our patients.**

**Rho Chi Faculty Awards** **(ongoing, 10 years)**

The Innovation in Teaching Award recognizes a faculty member of our school who applied novel methods of teaching to our curriculum. The 2015 recipient was Dr. Samuel Poloyac, who researches pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic changes in critical illness, and emphasizes the relationship between these concepts and actual pharmacy practice in his lectures. His creating of online simulations to better illustrate pharmacokinetic principles as well as incorporating hands-on problem solving into his lectures exemplified the spirit of the Innovation in Teaching Award and the goals of the Rho Chi Society as a whole. Our Scholarly Contribution Award recipient was Dr. Philip Empey, whose research primarily focuses on the clinical effects of pharmacogenomics, and has been recently published in *Critical Care Medicine* and *Journal of Neurotrauma*, among others. It was through these contributions that Dr. Empey exemplified the focus of the Scholarly Contribution Award. **These awards recognize faculty who embody the Rho Chi mission.**

**Reference Lab Card Sale (ongoing, 3rd year1)**

Our Rho Chi Chapter hosted a sale of reference cards that students use throughout classes, practica, and rotations. These reference cards were updated and revised by the members of our Chapter, with faculty review, throughout the Spring semester and then sold to our fellow student pharmacists. These cards contain information including laboratory values, antibiotics, lipid and diabetes treatment, herbals, and more. **These cards will allow students to pursue intellectual excellence as they utilize the cards on cases and clinical experiences.**

**Business Card Sale (ongoing, 3rd year)**

Our Rho Chi Chapter organized a sale of business cards during the Fall and Spring semesters to allow students to network more efficiently. These cards are ordered through an online supplier and the information of students is submitted to our members via an online form. **The cards allow students to pursue intellectual excellence in their career endeavors.**

**Phi Lambda Sigma Auction Item (ongoing, 3rd year)**

Every year, the Phi Lambda Sigma Chapter of our School hosts an auction to raise funds for a local underserved clinic. This auction features items donated by student organizations or faculty members from our School. Our donation was to sponsor an “Over 21 Night” at the Carnegie Science Center, and to pay for 4 faculty, so that 4-6 students could bid on the event. Our event raised $500 for the clinic. **Our contribution will allow for the provision of health care services at this clinic, thus advancing the profession and our abilities in primary care.**

**New Student Orientation (ongoing, 2nd year)**

Our Chapter participated in welcoming the new students to our School by describing Rho Chi in a student organization video that was presented to the incoming students and by participating in orientation, during a session that allowed students to understand the principles of each organization. **By orienting students to Rho Chi, we emphasized and instilled the desire to pursue intellectual excellence in order to achieve membership.**

***Creating New Programs***

**Tutoring Review Sessions (new initiative)**

Continuing from last year is our overview of and guidance for the second year clinical “capstone” assignment and final simulation assessment in the cardiology course. Over 100 students, or 90% of the class, attended this event, which speaks of the helpfulness of our session.

New events hosted at the beginning of both the Fall and Spring semesters for the second year class were “Semester at a Glance” to provide an overview and guidance for the semester’s important events. This was well-received and over 50% of the class attended in the Fall.

Another new event was a “Top Drugs” lecture, in which our members prepared a presentation on 60 top drugs for which first year students learn the brand/generic names, indication, adverse effects, and counseling points. Over 75% of the first year class attended.

A new core event was developed, our “Special Topics Elective Informational Session” to promote special topics projects with faculty. This session involved current students enrolled in the Elective, meeting with small groups, instructing them about special topics, how to develop a special topics project, how to engage with faculty, and how to present the work.

We hosted a clinical faculty member who presented a pre-APPE rotations infectious diseases review session for the third year students. Over 90% of the class attended this event.

We served as standardized patients for the first year students to practice counseling. Students counseled one-on-one and received feedback from the Rho Chi member they counseled. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive for the two sessions we hosted.

**All of these events instilled the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry due to enhancing the students’ engagement with material and desire to better themselves academically and professionally.**

**Financial/ Budgeting**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Transaction** | **Income** | **Expense** |
| **Carryover from previous year** | **$ 5,597.90** |  |
| **Pharmacy School Allocation** | **$ 4,150.00** |  |
| **Lecture Series total** |  | **$ 658.90** |
| **Business Card costs** |  | **$ 914.18** |
| **Business Card Revenue** | **$ 1,365.00** |  |
| **Lab Card Costs** |  | **$ 95.56** |
| **Lab Card Revenue** | **$ 1,310.00** |  |
| **Posters, Professors, and Progress** |  | **$ 172.80** |
| **Initiation Banquet Revenue** | **$ 3,735.00** |  |
| **Initiation Banquet Costs** |  | **$ 4,000.00** |
| **APhA Annual Reimbursement for 6 Members** |  | **$ 2,139.00** |
| **Tutoring Food** |  | **$ 265.00** |
| **Rho Chi T-shirts** |  | **$ 372.00** |
| **Meeting Food** |  | **$ 460.10** |
| **PLS Auction Donation** |  | **$ 200.00** |
| **Fellowship Celebration** |  | **$ 450.00** |
| **Total** | **$ 16,157.90** | **$ 9,727.54** |
| **Net Balance** | **$ 6,430.36** |  |

Our chapter executed a much more profitable lab card sale this year due to more intensive marketing by our members. Last year, the profit was only approximately $800, but we were able to increase our profit this year to close to $1300.

The cost of our annual initiation banquet was funded by payments by individual members and their families. The cost of officers and honored guests was covered by the allocation from the School funding

Our annual business card sale once again achieved a nice profit, but we view this fundraiser as more of a professional service/outreach to the School of Pharmacy to aid in professional development.

Due to the increased revenue from the lab card sale, we elected to budget more resources to food in order to encourage attendance and promote fellowship at meetings and events.

Six Rho Chi members were sponsored by the chapter to attend the APhA Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. This expense was funded entirely through the School of Pharmacy allocation to the chapter.

**Initiation Function**

This year’s initiation ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 24th, 2015 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, located on the University of Pittsburgh’s campus. In continuation of tradition, we held this ceremony in conjunction with our Beta Delta chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. We inducted a total of 23 second-year student pharmacists. There were a total of 90 guests at the ceremony, including Dean Patricia Kroboth, the Dean of our School of Pharmacy, one of our faculty co-advisors, the Dean of the Mylan School of Pharmacy at Duquesne University, Dean Douglas Bricker, and the president of Duquesne’s Alpha Beta Chapter. Also in attendance was Dean Vanderveen, who was invited as the honorary speaker for our Koch Lecture held on the next day. Dean Vanderveen gave some brief remarks at the ceremony. In addition to following the official Rho Chi induction ceremony function, we presented our annual faculty awards for Innovation in Teaching and Outstanding Scholarly Contribution.

**Evaluation/Reflection**

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Alpha Omicron Chapter of the Rho Chi Society accomplished its planned goal to make a larger impact on the student body of our School and the community than we have in previous years. We have continued traditional Chapter projects, improved on ideas of past members, and implemented new programs to further the mission of the Society. We have sought out the needs of our fellow student pharmacists and have created focused education sessions to reinforce and advance their learning. I believe that many of our programs will serve as foundations for even further improvements and advancements in our Chapter. In meeting with the next year’s officers, we have contributed ideas for continued improvement of our Chapter. Foci for next year include improving total member involvement, continuing programs that involve our entire student body, and continuing to contribute to programs that benefit the Pittsburgh community.

Our Chapter looks to maintain its good standing within the national organization and continue to embody the mission of the Rho Chi Society. We look forward to continuing to meet the standards of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and collaborate with other student organizations.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I complete my term as Chapter President and transition my duties to the incoming president. I am proud of the accomplishments of our chapter this year and look forward to hearing about the future successes of both our Chapter and the national organization.

Most Improved Chapter Award

Some chapters have been relatively inactive in past years, but current students/advisors have made great strides to increase the activities/projects of their chapters. Rho Chi has instituted a designation for the “Most Improved Chapter Award” to recognize such strides. In order to be eligible for this award, a chapter must meet all the basic chapter requirements requested within the chapter annual report. Furthermore, the chapter annual report, names of elected officers, and the name of the chapter delegate to the Rho Chi Society National Office must be submitted to the Rho Chi National Office by the respective deadlines for each of these items. The chapter must send a representative to the Rho Chi Society Annual Meeting. In addition, chapters must have “active” chapter status for at least 2 consecutive years (e.g., new schools must be in at least the third year of chapter activity).

If your chapter would like to be considered for the “Most Improved Chapter Award,” indicate the significant improvement(s) of your chapter below. Limit to one page.

Name of School/College: University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Chapter name and region: Alpha Omicron, Region II

Name of member submitting statement: Neil Turco

Name of Chapter Advisor: Dr. Susan Meyer, Ms. Susan Skledar

While our chapter has maintained its service work in the last two years, and with this application, I believe that in this year, we have not only continued to improve from previous years, but we have also made focused improvements specifically directed toward our mission of educating our fellow student pharmacists. During 2014-15, the Alpha Omicron chapter of the Rho Chi Society aimed to expand our traditional tutoring program to reach out in interactive, large group, small group, and 1:1 educational forums. In previous years, tutoring was focused on one-on-one or small group review sessions for courses in the first and second professional years of the curriculum and was most popular with students in the *Biochemistry* and *Anatomy and Physiology* courses. Our new tutoring is aimed at engaging and helping students in innovative ways. Instead of solely focusing on “book knowledge,” we focused on assisting with various projects and skills. Two of these projects are the clinical “Capstone” assignment and the simulation assessment of second-year students in the *Cardiology* course. We instructed the students with strategies on how to be successful and prepare for these assessments, and the students were appreciative. At the beginning of each semester, we hosted our “Semester at a Glance” to prepare students for key assignments, exams, and other important events. Another new event, requested by the first-year students studying the indication, brand/generic name, adverse effects, and counseling points of 60 “Top Drugs” was our “Top Drugs” lecture. Students stayed for 3 hours after a long day of classes in order to learn from us, and the fact that they requested our help demonstrates visibility and value of our tutoring services. We helped to foster interest in *Special Topics* electives with professors with our “Special Topics Elective Informational Session.” This was a small group discussion with multiple student-led tables of one Special Topics student who had completed work with a professor and other students interested in working with that professor. We rotated tables every 10 minutes. Faculty have remarked at the increased number of students pursuing *Special Topics* courses, so we have instilled the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry through these projects. Also by request, this time by third-year students, we hosted a pre-APPE rotations infectious diseases (ID) review session. We took a different approach and asked one of our clinical faculty to host the review session and teach practical application of the knowledge and key concepts necessary for success in experiential education rotations. When the faculty member presenting the session asked at the end if we had found the session helpful, there was a loud and unanimous “yes!” The incoming Rho Chi students are already planning another end-of-semester review session in *ID* and perhaps *Cardiology* for the upcoming fall. All in all, our tutoring has greatly expanded and assisted many students in their academic endeavors, and we have increased our reputation of success and dependability for relevant content and availability for our fellow students. Our future members are looking forward to continuing our tradition of success.