

Annual Chapter Report Outline

Please complete your Annual Chapter Report and submit to the National Office by May 15.

Date of report submission: 2018-05-15

Name of School/College: University of Pittsburgh

Chapter Name & region: Alpha Omicron, Region II

Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting: Marissa Waterloo

Date Delegate's name submitted: 2018-03-08

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(If not yet elected, please indicate date of anticipated election and report names within one week of election)

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Introduction

The Alpha Omicron chapter of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy is proud to share our experiences and accomplishments from the 2017-2018 year with you. Over the course of the past year, the Alpha Omicron chapter continued many of the successful activities that have helped in the promotion of the Rho Chi mission as well as the development of new initiatives. Throughout the year, our chapter worked collaboratively with other student organizations, including Phi Lambda Sigma, APhA-ASP, and Lambda Kappa Sigma. We continued our two major lecture events, the Julius A. Koch Memorial Lecture and the James P. and Nancy A. Mastrian Young Professionals Lecture as well as the Posters, Professors, and Progress faculty event with corresponding Students, Special Topics, and Scholarly Work research poster events. We were honored to receive a 2018 Chapter Project Proposal Award for the implementation of a new initiative entitled "Three-Peat: Clinical Pearls from P1-P3 Year" and hope that the project will be continued and improved upon in the years to come. The chapter became more involved in discussions on a regional and national level regarding petitions and amendments. Finally, the year culminated with the initiation of the new members and the seamless transition to our new officers and executive board members. We have great confidence in the success of the chapter in the future.

Meetings Please provide information on meetings held in the following tabular format

Date	Attendance	Agenda	Action Steps
2017-05-26	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President and Vice President meet with Faculty Co-Advisors to establish expectations and goals for the upcoming school year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic planning for upcoming school year over the summer• Order new member Tshirts to be worn at School events
2017-08-31	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officer meeting prior to first general body meeting of the year.• Planning for academic year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin planning of new initiatives• Back to school picnic poster preparation
2017-09-07	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announce blood drive• 2nd Annual James P. and Nancy A. Mastrian Young Professionals lecture• Review Salvation Army Health Talk planning and content outline• Review fundraising opportunities• Introduce Chapter Project Proposal• Approval of constitution amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize details regarding Young Professionals lecture• Planning for continuation of annual Posters, Professors, and Progress Event
2017-	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adhoc executive board meeting to discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No further action needed

Strategic Planning: What goals were set that relate to the Rho Chi mission?

The mission and vision of The Rho Chi Society are at the core of the actions of the Alpha Omicron Chapter. It is with such guiding principles in mind that our chapter in years past has established and continued programs, projects, and events that encourage and recognize intellectual achievement, foster collaboration, stimulate critical inquiry, and contribute to the development of intellectual leaders. This year our chapter found it imperative to examine ongoing events to ensure that they still adhered to the mission of The Rho Chi Society. One goal established by our chapter was to not only continue successful programs and events that fit the mission but to also establish a new initiative to further promote the mission. We effectively achieved this goal and established a project entitled “Three-Peat: Pearls from P1-P3 Year,” which is an academic-based project aimed at helping to prepare current third year student pharmacists for their upcoming advanced pharmacy practice experiences. Rho Chi members worked with faculty content experts to create summary, pocket-sized, accessible reference tools for major topics such as cardiology, infectious diseases, gastroenterology, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, endocrinology, and pulmonology.

Activities

Annual Koch Lecture (ongoing – 62nd year)

The Alpha Omicron chapter continued an annual tradition of hosting the 62nd 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, Dr. Maria Croyle, Glaxo Wellcome Endowed Professor of Pharmaceutics at the University of Texas at Austin, and Pitt Pharmacy alumni, was the guest lecturer. Approximately 100 students and faculty attended the lecture. Following the lecture, a small group of student leaders were able to join Dr. Croyle for a quaint luncheon. Dr. Croyle’s lecture emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration and her words inspired those that attended to challenge themselves intellectually. From this collaboration, Dr. Croyle has offered to begin precepting Pitt Pharmacy students on an elective rotation in research at UT Austin beginning in the 2019-20 academic year.

Rho Chi Faculty Awards (ongoing – 13th year)

Our chapter recognizes deserving faculty members through the presentation of two awards annually: The Innovation in Teaching Award, which recognizes a faculty who applied novel and creative methods of teaching to our curriculum, and The Outstanding Scholarly Contributions Award, which recognizes a faculty member who has impacted and advanced our profession through scholarly work. Dr. Neal Benedict is the recipient of the Innovations in Teaching Award for his work in the Critical Care course, and Dr. Joshua Thorpe, the recipient of the Outstanding Scholarly Contributions Award, was recognized for his landmark publication entitled “Dual Health Care System Use and High-Risk Prescribing in Patients with Dementia” a work which

was also recognized as the 2017 Veteran's Affairs Best Research Paper of the Year Award. These awards recognize faculty who embody the Rho Chi mission.

Adult Rehabilitation Center Programs – Health Talks (ongoing – 11th year)

Alpha Omicron chapter members presented monthly Health Talks at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in the Southside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The Health Talks provide an opportunity for members to gain teaching experience, presenting to an audience of anywhere from 35 to 50 gentlemen. Importantly, the men attending the talks were educated on topics ranging from immunizations and herbal supplements, to hypertension and diabetes. A group of 3-5 Rho Chi members presented the materials compiled as succinct handouts, which were vetted by pharmacist preceptors. Lasting an hour, each talk stimulates critical inquiry from the audience members, which can be recognized through their thoughtful questions following each talk.

Annual School of Pharmacy Back-to-School Picnic (ongoing – 9th year)

The University of Pittsburgh back-to-school picnic is an event aimed at introducing students to the School's student organizations. Rho Chi was involved once again and was able to set up a table which displayed an overview of our chapter's activities as well as our mission and membership criteria. The increased visibility allows the chapter to educate current first and second year student pharmacists on the membership criteria, the services that our chapter can provide, as well as motivate students to pursue intellectual excellence in order to earn membership.

Posters, Professors, and Progress (ongoing- 6th year)

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 16 faculty members present work and over 50 students attend the one-hour session. This event is held in the fall in hopes that students will find research interests that they can engage in during the following spring semester, as either a voluntary project, or a formal Special Topics Research Elective. Students in our Research Area of Concentration ("Research ARCO") can spend time with faculty to identify projects and research ideas. The advancement of the profession is rooted in the pursuit of intellectual inquiry and critical inquiry. Connecting faculty with students and aligning research interests helps facilitate the advancement of the profession.

Reference Lab Card Sale (ongoing – 6th year)

The Alpha Omicron chapter carried out a sale of reference laboratory 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 – 6th year)

The Alpha Omicron chapter organized a sale of student business cards during the fall semester. These business cards are sold to students help create lasting impressions during networking activities and national conferences.

Phi Lambda Sigma Auction Item (ongoing – 6th year)

Each year, the Beta Delta chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma hosts an auction to raise money for a local underserved clinic. This auction features items, events, and services donated by student organizations and faculty members. The Alpha Omicron chapter contribution was to sponsor an a “Painting with a Twist” event for faculty and student networking. For this painting event, five students and 5 faculty joined together. The contribution and funds earned from auction help facilitate primary care for the underserved and help to advance the pharmacy profession.

Schools of Pharmacy Blood Drives (ongoing)

The Alpha Omicron chapter hosted three blood drives this year. Our chapter was the only student organization in our school to sponsor blood drives which 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 back to our community and educate on the importance of blood donation.

Annual James P. and Nancy A. Mastrian Young Professionals Lecture (ongoing- 2nd year)

Our Rho Chi Chapter collaborated with our School’s Beta Delta chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma to host the 2nd Annual James P. and Nancy A. Mastrian Young Professionals Lecture. The speaker was Jesabel Rivera-Guerra, the Community Health Director for the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association in Pittsburgh, who spoke on the topic of breaking rules and norms in order to solve complex challenges in our community. This lecture was created with the intention to foster collaboration between health science disciplines and achieved that with approximately 70 students from the Health Sciences Schools at the University of Pittsburgh, such as Dental, Medical, Pharmacy, and Social Work.

Journal Club (New Initiative – 1st year)

This new initiative was created as a forum for discussion amongst Alpha Omicron members of popular topics in the literature. Members this year expressed the desire come together to discuss literature from peer reviewed journals and to practice evaluating and critiquing study designs and methods. Three journal clubs were held throughout the 2017-2018 year and hope that this new initiative is carried over to future years. The journal clubs inspire critical inquiry and intellectual excellence.

Three-Peat: Clinical Pearls from P1-P3 Year (New Initiative – 1st year)

This was a new initiative to help prepare 3rd year pharmacy students as they enter their P4 year Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences. The Alpha Omicron chapter students created succinct study guides aimed at providing high-level pharmacotherapy primers. Written by small working

groups of Alpha Omicron members and reviewed and approved by faculty member content experts, the study guides covered disciplines related to cardiology, infectious diseases, gastroenterology, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, endocrinology, and pulmonology. This new initiative, which was recognized for a 2018 Chapter Project Proposal Award was implemented in April of 2018 for our rising P4 class (Class of 2019), and we hope it will be continued into the future. This initiative will help serve in the development of intellectual leaders.

Financial Budgeting

The budgeting document attached includes income from allocation, initiation, chapter project proposal grants, and fundraising activities. Expenses are also included as an itemized list.

Installation Function

The induction ceremony for the incoming initiates was held on Tuesday, March 27th, 2018 at the University Club, located on the University of Pittsburgh's campus. In keeping with traditions of previous years, the ceremony was held in conjunction with our School of Pharmacy's Beta Delta chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. Twenty-three second-year student pharmacists were inducted into the Alpha Omicron chapter. In total, 86 guests attended the ceremony. Dean Patricia Kroboth graciously provided opening remarks, and Dr. Maria Croyle, Glaxo Wellcome Endowed Professor of Pharmaceutics at the University of Texas at Austin, provided her remarks as well. Dr. Maria Croyle delivered the 62nd Annual Julius A. Koch Memorial lecture the following day. Two faculty members, Dr. Joshua Thorpe and Dr. Neal Benedict, were recognized for the Outstanding Scholarly Contributions award and Innovations in Teaching Award respectively. New inductees, their families, current Rho Chi officers, faculty Co-Advisors, and faculty awardees attended the event.

Evaluation/Reflection

As mentioned previously, the leaders of the Alpha Omicron chapter of years past had established programs that largely contributed to the mission of The Rho Chi Society. This year we felt it important to continue many of the previously established programs. Fortunately, we are a part of a school that actively supports numerous student organizations, with high student involvement. However, with such high student involvement in organizations that increasingly host extremely meaningful events, there are unavoidable times when organization activities overlap. This year, we had two Alpha omicron events that overlapped with events hosted by other student pharmacist organizations, resulting in a decrease in student attendance compared to what we expected. Although both events were ultimately successful, we are encouraging the new officers to increase communication between student organizations to prevent these occurrences in the future.

As highlights of this year, one event that we were extremely proud of was to continue was the 2nd Annual James P. and Nancy A. Mastrian Young Professionals Lecture. This was particularly special for us and a goal of ours to continue because this year was the first year that the lecture was carried out under its namesake. We were able to secure an extremely generous endowment

for the annual event from James and Nancy Mastrian, both University of Pittsburgh Alumnus. The lecture featured Ms. Jesabel Rivera-Guerra, the Community Health Director for the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association in Pittsburgh, who spoke on the topic of breaking rules and norms in order to solve complex challenges in our community. We hope to see this lecture continue to grow from year-to-year as an event to engage students from many health disciplines to come together to learn about interprofessional collaboration and principles related to thriving as a young professional.

Additionally, to promote health and education in the community, we continued the Salvation Army Health Talks. This particular program, composed of monthly health talks, is very special as our members help educate members of the community as they pursue intellectual excellence as well as provides an avenue for Alpha Omicron members to gain teaching experience.

Although there is only enough space for 3-5 alpha omicron members to participate each session, we felt that this is function that should exist as a mandatory member participation event. We have had discussions with the incoming Executive Board regarding attendance and participation at this event and look forward to the direction that they choose to take with it.

Personally, I am humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve the Alpha Omicron chapter as Chapter President over the past year. I have learned a tremendous amount through working with such great faculty advisors and chapter members. I am very proud of the chapter for their hard work which has been recognized through receipt of a Chapter Project Proposal Award as well as nomination for the Chapter Achievement Award. I have such great confidence in the incoming class of officers and members and wish them the best as they carry on the successes of the Alpha Omicron chapter.

Other Information