The Rho Chi Society

Annual Chapter Report

Date of report submission: 05/15/15

Name of School/College: **St. John’s University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

Chapter name and region: **Beta Delta Chapter - Northeast Region**

Chapter advisor’s name and e-mail address: Dr. S. William Zito [zitos@stjohns.edu]

Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting: Tyler Valente and Fawad Piracha

Date delegate’s name submitted to Rho Chi: 01/25/2015

Past year’s officers and email addresses:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| President | Tyler Valente | tyler.valente10@stjohns.edu |
| Vice President | Fawad Piracha | fawad.piracha10@stjohns.edu |
| Secretary | Tasnima Nabi | tasnima.nabi10@stjohns.edu |
| Treasurer | Anthony Nania | anthony.nania09@stjohns.edu |
| Historian | Sara James | sara.james10@stjohns.edu |
| Media Relations Coordinator | Joshua Bliss | joshua.bliss10@stjohns.edu |

New officers and email addresses:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| President  | Michael Bosco | michael.bosco11@stjohns.edu |
| Vice President | Lina Lin | lina.lin11@stjohns.edu |
| Secretary | Jessica Rose Langton | jessica.langton11@stjohns.edu |
| Treasurer | Julia Kamuda | julia.kamuda10@stjohns.edu |
| Historian | Davidta Brown | davidta.brown11@stjohns.edu |
| Media Relations Coordinator | Zachary Piracha | zachary.piracha11@stjohns.edu |

**Number of Rho Chi student members at college or school, listed by class year and program (and by campus if more than one campus):**

Ahmad, Majd - 2015 - Pharm. D Abraham, Jason - 2016 - Pharm. D

Akbar, Sayyem - 2015 - Pharm. D Akbasheya, Svetlana - 2016 - Pharm. D

Akhtar, Mumtaz - 2015 - Pharm. D Aleksandrovskaya, Anna - 2016 - Pharm. D
Akopyan, Vita - 2015 - Pharm. D Amin, Swati - 2016 - Pharm. D
Bashar, Syeda - 2015 - Pharm. D Anderson, LeeAnn - 2016 - Pharm. D

Bhowmik, Sebanti - 2015 - Pharm. D Badalov, Nathaniel - 2016 - Pharm. D

Chiu, Stephanie - 2015 - Pharm. D Becker, Samantha - 2016 - Pharm. D

Dimitropoulos, Erica - 2015 - Pharm. D Bliss, Joshua - 2016 - Pharm. D

Fan, Doudou - 2015 - Pharm. D Cai, Nancy - 2016 - Pharm. D

George, Jesson - 2015 - Pharm. D Cho, Paul - 2016 - Pharm. D

Jaison, Sherine - 2015 - Pharm. D Cho, Joon - 2016 - Pharm. D

James, Jason - 2015 - Pharm. D Choi, Kevin - 2016 - Pharm. D

Kaouris, Nicole - 2015 - Pharm. D Cummings, Caitlyn - 2016 - Pharm. D

Kim, Inhye - 2015 - Pharm. D Elattal, Noranne - 2016 - Pharm. D

Kumar, Sunil - 2015 - Pharm. D Ferdous, Rana - 2016 - Pharm. D

Lam, Cheuk Yin - 2015 - Pharm. D Gazerwitz, Tracy - 2016 - Pharm. D

Lee, Tak - 2015 - Pharm. D Gentile, Frank - 2016 - Pharm. D

Lee, Teresa - 2015 - Pharm. D Guma, Ilios - 2016 - Pharm. D

Marchese, Kristina - 2015 - Pharm. D Gurevich, Inna - 2016 - Pharm. D

Mendyk, Natalia - 2015 - Pharm. D Heuser, William - 2016 - Pharm. D

Mehta, Samir - 2015 - Pharm. D Hinners, Kristine - 2016 - Pharm. D

Moon, Sung Hee - 2015 - Pharm. D Huang, Jamie - 2016 - Pharm. D

Na, Hayeon - 2015 - Pharm. D Imani, Rehnuma - 2016 - Pharm. D

Nguyen, Ang - 2015 - Pharm. D Islam, Mohammed - 2016 - Pharm. D

Park, Sojeung - 2015 - Pharm. D James, Sara - 2016 - Pharm. D

Patel, Deep - 2015 - Pharm. D Johnson, Karissa - 2016 - Pharm. D

Popovitz, Beatrisa - 2015 - Pharm. D Kim, Michelle - 2016 - Pharm. D

Rafailov, Moisey - 2015 - Pharm. D Kim, Soseul - 2016 - Pharm. D

Rizkalla, Nancy - 2015 - Pharm. D Kim, Na Young - 2016 - Pharm. D

Ruan, James - 2015 - Pharm. D Ko, King Lok - 2016 - Pharm. D

Russo, Iris - 2015 - Pharm. D Lee, Jason - 2016 - Pharm. D

Seldon, Ada - 2015 - Pharm. D Li, May - 2016 - Pharm. D

Shohatee, Ali - 2015 - Pharm. D LoCascio, Michael - 2016 - Pharm. D

Singh, Amrita - 2015 - Pharm. D Maniara, Bejoy - 2016 - Pharm. D

Sulyk, Nataliya - 2015 - Pharm. D Masoud, Peter - 2016 - Pharm. D

Tam, Elissa - 2015 - Pharm. D McAuley, Brian - 2016 - Pharm. D

Trosa, Frances - 2015 - Pharm. D Musheyeva, Anzhelika - 2016 - Pharm. D

Truong, Nelson - 2015 - Pharm. D Nabi, Tasnima - 2016 - Pharm. D

Yee, Melissa - 2015 - Pharm. D Nania, Anthony - 2016 - Pharm. D

Yeung, Cameron - 2015 - Pharm. D Pak, Steven - 2016 - Pharm. D

Yim, Lillian - 2015 - Pharm. D Panicker, Christine - 2016 - Pharm. D

Yu, Zinnia - 2015 - Pharm. D Pathickel, Sherin - 2016 - Pharm. D

Zhang, Andy - 2015 - Pharm. D Piracha, Fawad - 2016 - Pharm. D

Zhang, Sean - 2015 - Pharm. D Plaia, Gabrielle - 2016 - Pharm. D

 Saad, Menatalla - 2016 - Pharm. D

Abramov, Rachel - 2017 - Pharm. D Said, Shereen - 2016 - Pharm. D
Alishayeva, Jessica - 2017 - Pharm. D Santiago, Alexis Dawn - 2016 - Pharm. D
Awadallah, Sarah - 2017 - Pharm. D Sharieff, Zaiba - 2016 - Pharm. D
Beigelman, Suzanne - 2017 - Pharm. D Song, Esther - 2016 - Pharm. D
Bosco, Michael - 2017 - Pharm. D Tai, Cheng Hsiuo - 2016 - Pharm. D
Brown, Davidta - 2017 - Pharm. D Tam, Joanna - 2016 - Pharm. D
Castagliola, Nicholas - 2017 - Pharm. D Tomczyk, Ania - 2016 - Pharm. D
Chang, Kevin - 2017 - Pharm. D Valente, Tyler - 2016 - Pharm. D
Cheng, Tina - 2017 - Pharm. D Weber, Allison - 2016 - Pharm. D
Cho, Jung Yeon - 2017 - Pharm. D Yam, Anthony - 2016 - Pharm. D
Chu, Lisa - 2017 - Pharm. D Yang, Jun - 2016 - Pharm. D
Cole, Kristin - 2017 - Pharm. D Yang, Jimmy - 2016 - Pharm. D
Dizon, Christine - 2017 - Pharm. D Zhang, Owen - 2016 - Pharm. D
Elabbasy, Ahmed - 2017 - Pharm. D Zheng, Fu Rong - 2016 - Pharm. D

Eng, Kevin - 2017 - Pharm. D Amin, Ripal - N/A - Ph. D.
Farzadfar, Tiffany - 2017 - Pharm. D Gadhia, Sanket - N/A - Ph. D. Fausto, Nicholas - 2017 - Pharm. D Parakhia, Rahulkimar - N/A - Ph. D.
Favale, Patrizia - 2017 - Pharm. D

Gim, Seungkyu - 2017 - Pharm. D

Haas, Kiera - 2017 - Pharm. D

Hau, Kelly - 2017 - Pharm. D

Huang, Sunny - 2017 - Pharm. D

Kamuda, Julia - 2017 - Pharm. D

Kim, Diana - 2017 - Pharm. D

Koshy, Ansue - 2017 - Pharm. D
Langton, Jessica- 2017 - Pharm. D

Lee, Seung Hyun - 2017 - Pharm. D

Liantonio, Brian - 2017 - Pharm. D

Lin, Bin - 2017 - Pharm. D
Lin, Lina - 2017 - Pharm. D

McSweeney, Brendan - 2017 - Pharm. D

Molina, Vince - 2017 - Pharm. D

Ng, Kenny - 2017 - Pharm. D

Niceforo, Nicholas - 2017 - Pharm. D

Oommen, Jomi - 2017 - Pharm. D

Palermo, Anthony - 2017 - Pharm. D

Pereira, Brian - 2017 - Pharm. D

Piracha, Zachary - 2017 - Pharm. D

Rehman, Arfa - 2017 - Pharm. D

Reyfman, Elena - 2016 - Pharm. D

Scoufaras, Sophia - 2017 - Pharm. D

Tao, Vincent - 2017 - Pharm. D

Thadathil, Noble - 2017 - Pharm. D

Tokova, Nancy - 2017 - Pharm. D

Tylko, Sarah - 2017 - Pharm. D

Wang, Meng Yun - 2017 - Pharm. D

Won, Kevin - 2017 - Pharm. D

Yee, Lisa - 2017 - Pharm. D

Yeung, Michelle - 2017 - Pharm. D

Yu, Amy - 2017 - Pharm. D

Yunusova, Tamara - 2017 - Pharm. D

Almond, Kelly - N/A/ - Ph. D.

**Meetings**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Agenda | Attendance | Action Steps |
| 02/19/15 | First Executive Board Meeting | 11 | * Orientation meeting for new executive board.
* Outgoing executive board detailed the responsibilities of each board member, and provided an overview and evaluation of past events.
* Incoming and outgoing executive boards agreed on improvements for future activities.
* A leader piloting each upcoming event was nominated at this meeting.
 |
| 03/02/15 | First General Body Meeting | 18 | * Updated members with regards to events and volunteer opportunities planned for semester
* Launched sweatshirt fundraiser
 |
| 03/12/15 | Second Executive Board Meeting | 12 | * Discussed with faculty advisor, Dr. William S. Zito, the remaining events for the semester, which executive board members would be attending National Rho Chi meeting.
* Mapped extensive plans in preparation for upcoming Coffeehouse Chats event.
 |
| 04/09/15 | Second General Body Meeting | 19 | * Disseminated updates to members: events and volunteer opportunities planned for semester
* Distributed sweatshirts ordered from sweatshirt fundraiser
 |
| 04/23/15 | Third Executive Board Meeting | 13 | * Discussed pending administrative tasks and future plans for organization with outgoing executive board and faculty advisor, Dr. William S. Zito.
 |

**Strategic Planning:**

The goals that the Beta Delta chapter set for this year that relate to the Rho Chi mission are the following:

* To promote critical inquiry and “thinking outside the box”
* To inspire leadership and proactive change amongst students
* To facilitate communication and networking between students, faculty members, administrators, and other pharmacy organizations
* To provide and facilitate community service opportunities
* To garner interest in pre-professional pharmacy students by virtue of outreach and publicity
* To continue to publish and disseminate articles of various sub-disciplines pertaining to pharmacy through the Rho Chi Post, our very own monthly publication platform (<http://rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost/>)

**Activities**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Attendance** | **Date** | **Event**  | **Attendance** |
| 10/22/2014 | Healthy Halloween | 14 | 03/19/15 | S4GIFT Lecture One - Bone Marrow Donation Awareness | 30 |
| 10/30/2014 | Pharmacy Organization Day | 8 | 03/23/15 | First Annual Red Dress Gala | 60 |
| 11/17/2014 | Blood Drive | 7 | 03/31/15 | Rho Chi Post Workshop: How to Research! | 16 |
| 11/19/2014 | PSSNY Collaboration | 3 | 04/13/15 | Rho Chi Post Workshop: How to Write! | 15 |
| 11/24/2014 | Become A Strong PGY-1 Residency Candidate | 56 | 04/16/15 | Rho Chi Coffeehouse Chats | 54 |
| 02/10/15 | Induction Ceremony | 114 | 04/17/15 | Relay for Life | 3 |
| 02/11/15 | My Vascular Valentine | 52 | 04/27/15 | S4GIFT Lecture Two - Organ Donation Awareness | 30 |
| 02/19/15 | Rho Chi Post Informational | 22 | 04/27/15 | Rho Chi Post Workshop: How to Edit!  | 21 |

*Please see attached addendum (Addendum 1) on page 14 for more details on events.*

**Healthy Halloween**

Rho Chi collaborated with PLS (the Pharmacy Leadership Society) at St. John’s University to help set up for Healthy Halloween, an annual event hosted at the University each year, which focuses on teaching young elementary school children how to have a safe and healthy Halloween.

**Pharmacy Organization Day**

Members signed up to represent the Rho Chi Society during pharmacy organization day, where all organizations discussed with pharmacy students the various options available on campus. Executive board members, Rho Chi members, and editors from the Rho Chi Post were all available for students to talk to.

**Blood Drive**

Rho Chi members helped out the New York Blood Center to host a blood drive on campus.

**PSSNY Collaboration**

Collaborated with official PSSNY members to discuss the benefits of joining PSSNY as a student and professional.

**Become a Strong PGY-1 Residency Candidate**

We invited Drs. Mohammed Rattu and Christine Wang to come and discuss the benefits of pursing a PGY-1 residency with various students. Both speakers shared helpful tips on where to access more information, what the national and regional statistics are, and answers questions. This event was open to non-Rho Chi members as well.

**My Vascular Valentine**

Rho Chi's first event after the induction of its 2015 class was the My Vascular Valentine heart health awareness event. As in years past, Rho Chi members joined other St. John's students in inviting a group of elementary school children to the campus for the Valentine's Day program. The children were able to visit a variety of stations each run by St. John's students, where they could participate in different activities. At the station run by Rho Chi members, the elementary-school children identified a diagram of the heart (anatomically correct, of course) and located its chambers and major vessels. The Rho Chi members engaged the students on the importance of keeping one's heart in good working order. They also discussed fun ways to exercise the heart, and the visiting students were able to see a demonstration of a blood pressure measurement. The event was not complete until the young visitors enjoyed a snack, and were sent home with a better sense of how to develop lifelong healthy habits.

**Rho Chi Post Informational**

This event, open to all St. John's College of Pharmacy students, provided information about the Rho Chi Post newsletter and website. Students learned about the mission and vision behind the student-run, award-winning publication, as well as the variety of ways in which they could participate. The different writing and editing roles available with the newsletter were described, and attendees were able to ask questions about the process of submitting an article for publication. In addition, the Rho Chi Post website (https://rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost) was showcased as the central hub for articles to be submitted, edited, and published on a monthly basis.

**S4GIFT Lecture Series**

In the first of a two-part lecture series, Rho Chi was honored to invite Ms. Kelly Taylor, MSW, back to St. John's to teach students about bone marrow donation. Representing the DKMS Delete Blood Cancer organization, Ms. Taylor equipped lecture attendees to answer questions that patients and prospective donors would be most likely to ask regarding the bone marrow donation process. College of Pharmacy students learned the different methods of donation, as well as the odds of finding a close enough match. We had one student sign up to be a bone marrow donor at the end of this event. In the second of the two-part lecture series, we invited Ms. Karen Cummings, a member of Long Live NY, back to St. John’s to educate students about the importance of organ donation. At the end of the event, we had a student sign up to be an organ donation awareness advocate, with the intention to educate community members and college students about the importance of organ donation. This series aims to educate our future health professionals, so that they can provide accurate information and resources to those who would like to learn more about bone marrow and organ donations. The event was open to non-Rho Chi members as well as Rho Chi members.

**First Annual Red Dress Gala**

The Rho Chi Society was thrilled to join several other St. John's College of Pharmacy organizations in hosting the first annual Red Dress Gala - a night of music, food, and fun to support the American Heart Association (AHA). Open to all students of the College of Pharmacy, this event featured great food from local establishments, a faculty DJ, live performances by a student jazz group, and a keynote address on cardiovascular health by another respected faculty member. Students paid for tickets to this event, and proceeds went to the AHA. It was an enjoyable and relaxing evening during which students took a break from their studies to reflect on how they could improve their own long-term health, as well as that of their future patients.

**Rho Chi Post Writing Workshop Series**

The editors of the Rho Chi Post hosted a three-part writing workshop to help students become more comfortable with medical writing.

* “RCP Workshop: How to Research” focused on strategies for the type of research that is essential to science and medical writing.
* “RCP Workshop: How to Write” focused on how to prepare an outline and how to address common issues that arise when writing.
* “RCP Workshop: How to Edit” focused on the various steps throughout the editing process when peer reviewing and/or editing one’s own work.

All three workshops started with presentations and included an interactive portion, during which participants were able to practice using their newfound skills and get immediate feedback on any difficulties encountered.

**Coffeehouse Chats**

The “Coffeehouse Chats” is a *unique annual event* the Beta Delta chapter hosts*.* On April 16, 2015, we hosted the event for its 6th consecutive year. The goal of this event has been to foster professional relationships between students, faculty members, and administrators. We aimed to provide an outlet where they could come together to discuss experiences, careers, current events, and other topics pertaining to the field of pharmacy. We organized round table sessions, with at least one faculty member (clinical faculty and/or PHS department) at each table, and students had the opportunity to ask the professors questions and discuss relevant pharmacy topics. We served dinner, dessert, and coffee in a comfortable environment for all attendees to enjoy. All faculty members in attendance provided positive feedback after the event. A large number of non-Rho Chi members attended this event.

**Relay for Life**

Rho Chi members formed a team and participated in fundraising for the American Cancer Society. At the end of the event, participants at St. John’s University helped to raise over $100,000.

**Financial/Budgeting:**

Rho Chi Beta Delta Chapter Annual Report of Budget and Earned Income Accounts

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ITEM | Amount Debited ($$ spent) | Amount Credited ($$ raised) | Balance | Comment |
| **Budget** |  |  |  |  |
| **Balance forward** |  | **$575.00** | **$575.00** | **Balance provided to the Chapter from the University Student Activity Fund based on past Chapter events and involvement** |
| Food for first General Body Meeting and Rho Chi Post Meeting | $118 |  | $457.00 | Attendance: 18 [general body meeting], 22 [Rho Chi Post meeting] |
| PSSNY Speaker Event: Refreshments for the Students and Speakers | $66.94 |  | $390.06 |  |
| NYODN Certificate Series Part II: Food for the Attendees | $54 |  | $336.06 |  |
| 2014 Holiday Party: Candy for the Pinata | $21.75 |  | $314.31 |  |
| 2014 Holiday Party: Decorations | $46.21 |  | $268.10 |  |
| Candles for Induction Ceremony | $5.43 |  | $262.67 |  |
| Website Fee | $192 |  | $70.67 |  |
| Material for Competition Project | $40.79 |  | $29.88 |  |
| Coffeehouse Chats Desserts | $25.98 |  | $3.90 | Attendance: 54 |
|  |
| **Earned Income Account** |  |  |  |  |
| **Balance forward** |  |  | **$4,080.74** | **Balance from previous years fundraising** |
| Deposit for Initiation Ceremony | $500 |  | $3,580.74 |  |
| How to Become a Strong PGY-1 Resident Candidate: Food for the Event | $160.00 |  | $3,420.74 | Attendance**:** 56 |
| Pasta for the PGY-1 Event | $30 |  | $3,390.74 | Attendance: 56 |
| 2014 Pharmacy Student Rho Chi Holiday Party: Food for the Event | $475 |  | $2,915.74 | Attendance: 30 |
| Decorations for the 2014 Rho Chi Holiday Party | $36.67 |  | $2,879.07 |  |
| New Member Initiation Payment |  | $8,550 | $11,429.07 |  |
| Membership & Initiation Materials | $3,445 |  | $7,984.07 |  |
| Initiation Ceremony Restaurant Payment | $4,411 |  | $3,573.07 | Attendance: 114 |
| Additional New Member Payments |  | $1,433 | $5,006.07 |  |
| Color Programs for the Rho Chi Induction Ceremony | $70.00 |  | $4,936.07 |  |
| Red Dress Gala Table | $108.01 |  | $4,828.06 |  |
| Sweatshirt Fundraiser |  | $880 | $5,708.06 | 33 Sweatshirts |
| Pentland Graphics Sweatshirts | $672 |  | $5,036.06 | 33 Sweatshirts |
| Advertising for Event: Color Copies | $10 |  | $5,026.06 |  |
| Rho Chi Workshop (#1) Food | $46 |  | $4,980.06 | Attendance: 16 |
| Coffeehouse Catering | $770 |  | $4,210.06 | Attendance: 54 |
| Coffeehouse Coffee/Tea | $90 |  | $4,120.06 |  |
| Pizza for S4Gift Lecture | $70.77 |  | $4,049.29 | Attendance: 30 |
| Coffeehouse Desserts | $40.29 |  | $4,009.00 |  |
| Rho Chi Workshop (#2) Food | $46 |  | $3,963.00 | Attendance: 15 |
| Supplies for Rho Chi Post Informational | $9.73 |  | $3,953.27 | Attendance: 22 |
| Advertising for Event: Copies | $18.75 |  | $3,934.52 |  |
| Coffeehouse Supplies | $68.72 |  | $3,865.80 |  |
| Rho Chi Workshop (#3) Food | $295.83 |  | $3,569.97 | Attendance: 21 |

**Initiation Function:**

On February 10th, the Beta Delta chapter of Rho Chi Society granted membership to a new class of students; 52 fourth year pharmacy, fifth year pharmacy, and Ph.D. students from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences were inducted in a simple and elegant ceremony at Verdi’s in Whitestone, Queens.

After all the inductees and their guests arrived and had been seated, the President of the 2014 Beta Delta chapter, Tyler Valente, encouraged the new inductees to see the pins that they would receive as symbols of a renewed commitment to the value of academic excellence celebrated by Rho Chi. He encouraged inductees to strive to be even better, to do even more than they had done before induction.

Dean DiGate spoke to the inductees and guests next, welcoming them to the evening and reflecting on the importance of recognizing students for their admirable achievements. Current Provost of St. John’s, and former Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Mangione, provided the Keynote Address. Provost Mangione offered words of wisdom to the inductees, encouraging them to remain steadfast and true to the core values and principles that had brought them success thus far.

The new inductees then gathered in the center of the large room and took the pledge to live up to the principles and values of Rho Chi. The 2015-2016 Executive Board of the Beta Delta chapter was then introduced, and they took their own pledge of commitment to their positions.

**Evaluation/Reflection:**

Each of the activities and events hosted by the Beta Delta Chapter in the past year have contributed to Rho Chi’s focus on promoting leadership and professionalism among its members. The faculty-student Coffeehouse Chats were particularly well-received by the College body, as shown by the ample attendance and the positive feedback that was received. Students primarily responded well to the ability to relate to their faculty members in a more personal and accessible environment than the lecture hall. One critique given by student attendees was the occasional difficulty in starting conversations with the faculty. Past Coffeehouse Chats included conversation starters or leading questions to initiate the discussions, so this could be included in future events. In general, the Coffeehouse Chats event is the Beta Delta chapter’s most well-attended and well-received activity. Any new changes going forward will be implemented under the continued intent to welcome pharmacy students of all majors, and to promote meaningful interactions between students and faculty.

This year’s organ and bone marrow donation lectures benefited from the inclusion of non-Rho Chi students, a departure from the format used in past years. One of the strategic goals for the Beta Delta chapter is to inspire leadership among students, and inviting non-Rho Chi students helped to establish the Rho Chi Society as an organization that is dedicated to the professional development of all students. This principle of inclusivity was maintained in the Writing Workshop Lecture Series, which was also made available to all College of Pharmacy students.

Collaboration with other St. John’s University pharmacy organizations reached new heights in the form of the Red Dress Gala. Nearly every pharmacy organization student chapter on campus participated in this event, which served as an effective testing ground for joint efforts on a grand scale. It was noted that mass collaboration eased the creation of publicity about the event, and improved participation and attendance from both students and faculty.

Going forward, the Rho Chi Beta Delta chapter also wants to continue to stress the importance of member participation in community service. Encouraging continued involvement in events such as My Vascular Valentine and offering more community service opportunities to our student members are concrete ways to promote this objective.

**Most Improved Chapter Award**

Name of School/College: **St. John’s University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

Chapter name and region: **Beta Delta Chapter - Northeast Region**

Name of member submitting statement: Jessica Rose Langton

Chapter advisor’s name: Dr. S. William Zito

 Ever since the founding of the Rho Chi Beta Delta Chapter in 1954, the Rho Chi Society has been St. John’s University’s premier academic honor Society in pharmacy. Since its creation, Rho Chi has invited pharmacy students at the top of their class in their professional years of study to join. The mission of the Society is to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement and to foster fellowship amongst its members. I believe, based on the Beta Delta Chapter’s most recent achievements, that we should be nominated for the Most Improved Chapter Award. The Beta Delta Chapter at St. John’s University participates in various community service and hosts professional activities, including the Rho Chi Coffeehouse Chats, Becoming a Strong PGY1 Residency Candidate, and Rho Chi Post Writing Workshops. In addition, members often work closely with other pharmacy organizations on campus to host events that pharmacy students can both benefit from and enjoy. For example, this semester we partnered with several other pharmacy organizations to host an event called The Red Dress Gala, which was a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Furthermore, in recognition of our past efforts the Rho Chi Beta Delta Chapter won two national awards this year at the Annual Rho Chi Society meeting in San Diego, CA. We won the “2014 Chapter Achievement Award” as well as the “Project Proposal Award”.

However, what truly sets the St. John’s University chapter apart from all other chapters in the nation is the Rho Chi Post. The Rho Chi Post is a monthly, electronic, student-operated, faculty-approved newsletter. The Rho Chi Post boasts 4 volumes, over 40 published issues, and more than 350 unique articles to date, with an editorial team of at least 20 student editors and writers, ranging from second to final-year student pharmacists. Every semester, we hold a Rho Chi Post informational meeting in an effort to recruit more pharmacy students to submit to the publication. In addition, this semester, we held three writing workshops in an effort to help familiarize the students with the nuances and skills necessary to effective medical writing. The Rho Chi Post is distributed by the St. John’s University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to more than 1,500 students and faculty members. It is also sent via monthly electronic mailing lists (e.g., Google Groups, PSSNY), and it continues to extend readership far beyond campus. We are also making a concerted effort to include more faculty editors into our publication. We are hoping that by including additional faculty editors, we will get more perspectives on the articles that will be published. We hope to continue to improve our visibility and readership of the Post in the future. In conclusion, for its expanded outreach and ever increasing contribution to the mission of Rho Chi, we believe that the Beta Delta Chapter is deserving of the Most Improved Chapter Award.

**Activities (Addendum 1):**

Rho Chi Beta Delta Chapter, St. John’s University, Activities Table

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category of Activity | Title of Activity | Brief Description | How Does This Activity Align With the Rho Chi Mission Statement? | Years the Activity has Been Ongoing? | If Activity has Been Ongoing for >1 Year, What Evaluations Have Been Done to Assess the Success of the Activity and What Improvements Have Been Done Over the Past Year? | How Many Members Participated in the Activity? | How Many Students (non-members) and/or Patients were impacted by the Activity? | Financial Information for the Activity [Budget Required, Fundraising Amount |
| Intellectual Leadership Activities (i.e., tutoring, sponsored lectures, poster sessions, etc.) | S4GIFT Lecture Series | In a two-part lecture series, Rho Chi was honored to invite representative of S4GIFT back to St. John's to teach students about bone marrow and organ donation. The speakers equipped lecture attendees to answer questions that patients and prospective donors would be most likely to ask regarding the donation processes. This series aims to educate future health professionals so that they can provide accurate information and resources to those who would like to learn more about bone marrow and organ donations. At the end of the lecture, one student volunteered to become an bone marrow donor and another to be a campus advocate for organ donation awareness. | This event supported the Rho Chi commitment to continued learning, as well as equipping its members to pass their knowledge on to the public that they serve. | 3 years (2013-2015)  | We communicated with representatives from S4GIFT and discussed the success of the event in years past. We assessed attendance from past events, in addition to the best ways that we could get more students involved. That being said, we expanded our outreach to include non-Rho Chi members. In addition, S4GIFT was looking for a student advocate to help raise awareness for organ donation in the community and amongst college campuses. We discussed this possible role with Rho Chi members, as well as with non-members, and had a student sign up for the position.  | 19 Rho Chi members attended each lecture. | 11 non-Rho Chi members attended each lecture.  | Earned Income Spent on Pizza/Refreshments: $70.77 |
|  | Rho Chi Post Informational Meetings | This event, open to all St. John's College of Pharmacy students, provided information about the Rho Chi Post newsletter and website. Students learned about the mission and vision behind the student-run, award-winning publication, as well as the variety of ways in which they could participate. The different writing and editing roles available with the newsletter were described, and attendees were able to ask questions about the process of submitting an article for publication. In addition, the Rho Chi Post website (https://rhochistj.org/RhoChiPost) was showcased as the central hub for articles to be submitted, edited, and published on a monthly basis. | Rho Chi Post provides an opportunity for members of the College of Pharmacy to expand their research and medical writing skills, and the informational meetings helped to make students aware of this opportunity. | 3 years (2013-2015) | The 2015 Informational Meetings were more effectively advertised to the student body this year, primarily through the active and strategic employment of social media. | 8 Rho Chi members attended the meeting. | 14 non-Rho Chi members attended the meeting. | Soda/supplies: $9.73 |
|  | Writing Workshop: A Three Part Lecture Series | For the first time, Rho Chi and the editors of the Rho Chi Post hosted and directed three lectures on how to research, how to write, and how to edit a science article for publication. “RCP Workshop: How to Research” focused on strategies for the type of research that is essential to science and medical writing. “RCP Workshop: How to Write” focused on how to prepare an outline and how to address common issues that arise when writing. “RCP Workshop: How to Edit” focused on the various steps throughout the editing process when peer reviewing and/or editing one’s own work.All three workshops started with presentations and included an interactive portion, during which participants were able to practice using their newfound skills and get immediate feedback on any difficulties encountered. | These lectures promoted development of well-rounded students by sharing medical writing skills that could be applied to future professional careers. | New event (2015) | N/A | 30 | 22 | Pizza, catering, soda, supplies for 3 workshops, Total: $387.83 |
| College of Pharmacy Events [non-academic, non-patient outreach] | Coffeehouse Chats | The “Coffeehouse Chats” is a unique annual event hosted by the Beta Delta chapter. On April 16, 2015, we hosted the event for its 6th consecutive year. The goal of this event has been to foster professional relationships between students, faculty members, and administrators. We aimed to provide an outlet where they could come together to discuss experiences, careers, current events, and other topics pertaining to the field of pharmacy. For this event, students in the pharmacy program (Rho Chi and non-Rho Chi members) have the unique opportunity to sit in small round table groups with one or two faculty members, and have an open forum discussion. After about 20 minutes, the groups of students rotate between the faculty members. This event is unique because it affords the students an opportunity to talk to faculty in a one-on-one setting outside of the classroom.  | This event helped to bring the students together with the faculty. The faculty were able to engage in conversation with the students, and discuss their unique experiences and expertise in their respective fields.  | 5 years (2010-2015) | [Rho Chi Beta D] Activity Table | 14 | 40 | Catering, coffee, tea, dessert and supplies, $994.99 |
| Patient Outreach Events/ Community Service | My Vascular Valentine | Rho Chi's first event after the induction of its 2015 class was the My Vascular Valentine heart health awareness event. As in years past, Rho Chi members joined other St. John's students in inviting a group of elementary school children to the campus for the Valentine's Day program. The children were able to visit a variety of stations each run by St. John's students, where they could participate in different activities. At the station run by Rho Chi members, the elementary-school children identified a diagram of the heart (anatomically correct, of course) and located its chambers and major vessels. The Rho Chi members engaged the students on the importance of keeping one's heart in good working order. They also discussed fun ways to exercise the heart, and the visiting students were able to see a demonstration of a blood pressure measurement. The event was not complete until the young visitors enjoyed a snack, and were sent home with a better sense of how to develop lifelong healthy habits. | Educating children about the ways that they can promote a healthy lifestyle correlates strongly with the health-promotion goals of every Rho Chi member. | 4 years (2012-2015) | Our participation in My Vascular Valentine this year was consistent in terms of its focus on practical, applicable education and the promotion of sustainable lifestyle changes. | 12 Rho Chi members participated in the event. | About 40 other non-Rho Chi student volunteers and children participated in this event. | Used educational materials from the College of Pharmacy: $0 |
| Fundraising Events | Rho Chi sweatshirt sale  | We designed and sold Rho Chi sweatshirts to Rho Chi members and Rho Chi faculty.  | This event promoted Rho Chi awareness and fostered a sense of community and fellowship among old and new members, as well as faculty.  | 2 years (2014-2015) | We optimized costs in regards to designing and ordering the sweatshirts. In addition, we expanded our outreach to include more Rho Chi members.  | 33 Rho Chi members purchased sweatshirts. | None. This event was specifically for Rho Chi members and faculty. | Cost of sweatshirts: $672. Raised from sweatshirts: $880. Profit: $208. |
|  | Annual Red Dress Gala | The Rho Chi Society was thrilled to join several other St. John's College of Pharmacy organizations in hosting the first annual Red Dress Gala - a night of music, food, and fun to support the American Heart Association (AHA). Open to all students of the College of Pharmacy, this event featured great food from local establishments, a faculty DJ, live performances by a student jazz group, and a keynote address on cardiovascular health by another respected faculty member. Students paid for tickets to this event, and proceeds went to the AHA. It was an enjoyable and relaxing evening during which students took a break from their studies to reflect on how they could improve their own long-term health, as well as that of their future patients. | As a major collaborative achievement among the University's pharmacy organizations, the Red Dress Gala provided an opportunity for Rho Chi to expand its presence in the campus community. It also reinforced the Society's commitment to patient health and social awareness. | New event (2015) | N/A | 25 | 35 | Cost of a table at the Gala: $108.01 |
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