### Annual Chapter Report Outline

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

**Date of report submission:** 2015-05-15

**Name of School/College:** Mercer University College of Pharmacy

**Chapter Name & region:** Gamma Alpha, Region III-SE

**Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting:** Lisa Sagardia

**Date Delegate’s name submitted:** 2015-03-25

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New officers and e-mail addresses for next academic year  
(If not yet elected, please indicate date of anticipated election and report names within one week of election)  
2015-04-09

New officers and e-mail addresses

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**Chapter advisor’s name and e-mail address**

[chapter-advisors]

**Introduction**

The 2014-2015 academic year marked a growing and changing year for the Gamma Alpha chapter of Rho Chi. With an exemplary reputation built by previous members from past years, we worked to continue upholding their devotion to achieving Rho Chi Society’s high standards by dedicating more time to pharmacy practice, expanding the realms of community service projects, and by encouraging lifelong intellectual excellence and achievement among its members. Furthermore, new avenues and ideas were explored to increase Rho Chi’s awareness on campus and within the pharmacy classes. This ultimately set a foundation for the incoming officers to bring our Rho Chi chapter to achieve even more in the upcoming school year.

We achieved our goals this year by providing a greater range of services to the students in our school as well as by reaching out to the downtown Atlanta community. Our chapter has significantly increased are involved both on campus and in the community. We held an antibiotic awareness week on campus, involving the use and importance of antibiotic medications. We strengthened fellowship among members and alumni members, by holding our induction ceremony at Strip, Atlanta. We explored other methods of engaging out members with the implantation of Service Learning projects, held at a local pharmacy. Lastly, we encouraged members to exert their influence on the study body by holding a Professional Dress program.

With the success of each of these projects, we continued to exemplify professionalism while demonstrating the high conducts of the Rho Chi Honor Society. In the process, we served as an outstanding example for succeeding classes who look to continue the tradition of the Rho Chi Society at our school.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Attendance | Agenda | Action Steps |
| 2014-08-29 | 14 | Semester Introduction: Tutoring overview and planning for new member induction, general planning for semester events (fundraising, banquet, study skills seminar and service ideas) | Vote of formality for new members. “Tap-in” ceremony for new members planned. Discussed future plans (fundraising, tutoring, service events, and banquet). Speakers for study skills seminar chosen. |
| 2014-09-12 | 27 | New member welcome and orientation to Rho Chi. | Explanation of Rho Chi duties to new and former members and plans for the semester discussed. Getsmart week planned for 11/17-11/21. |
| 2014-10-10 | 25 | Discuss banquet plans, tutoring, GetSmart Week, T-shirts and fundraiser. | Banquet date and location planned. Volunteers recruited to help officers organize and execute fundraiser. |
| 2014-10-24 | 18 | Planning for GetSmart week and fundraiser. | Volunteer signups for GetSmart week and fundraiser. |

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

Our chapter had one all-encompassing goal this year, and that was to increase its presence on campus. We wanted to achieve this through the tutoring program, Get Smart activities, partnering with other organizations and fundraising.

**Activities**

An ongoing project of our chapter since 2004 is to provide tutoring to struggling students. This year we provided individual tutoring sessions and well more recently group tutoring sessions, in all pharmacy subject areas. Our chapter charges $20/hr for a tutoring session with $15/hr going to the tutor and $5/hour to our chapter. We also provide Dean Sponsored tutoring for which the Dean covers the cost of a tutoring session for students who receive a failing score on an exam. All Rho Chi members are strongly encouraged to tutor and we have extensive participation in this project. Our tutoring program is very successful on campus, as we not only provide necessary assistance to students in the area where they may be currently struggling, but also we help them recognize why they are struggling and provide guidance in study methods helpful to the specific individual, which will help them to be successful in the rest of their didactic career.

For another consecutive year, our chapter promoted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Get Smart Program. This program aims at educating the public about proper antibiotic use to help prevent antibiotic resistance. These events included members and non-members of Rho Chi. We brought material on cold/flu, earaches, and antibiotic resistance from the CDC to Kroger Pharmacy (#461) on November 24th, 2014 as well on March 9th & 12th, 2015. At each of these events, we had the opportunity to educate and counsel an overwhelming number of patients and various cultural communities. Each of the event provided education to approximately 100 patients. The ability to reach so many people was due to location of the community pharmacy, which was in close proximity to Grady hospital. This allowed us to educate the population on antibiotic resistance, as well as provide recommendation for over the counter products that patients could use to treat symptoms when antibioti cs were not needed. We plan on continuing with this program next year, and we hope to build upon the great year we had to reach even more communities to further promote health education to the general public.

A new project implemented this year, was our Get Smart week, which provided students an opportunity to participate in on going activities throughout the week. This programs included a fundraiser than included using the baby pictures of our faculty members, a Jeopardy style game show and an awareness table set up in the student center, in order to target on the students on campus.

**Financial Budgeting**

The Mercer University Council of Students provides to each organization within the college reimbursement up to $2000 for any spending that occurred throughout the year. Our goal was to keep our total cost for both spring and fall initiations under $2500. Unfortunately, we exceeded the fall budget. Our fall initiation ceremony was $2205.32, and for the spring initiation ceremony, $707.46. However, we held a fundraiser in order to compensate to the overage. As a result, we were very successful in staying within out budget for both initiation ceremonies. We also set a goal to tutor 150 hours, as our chapter would receive $5 for each hour tutored. This tutoring goal was based upon numbers from previous years and would allow us to leave money for next year’s officers. We raised 2350.00 in tutoring payments, both individual and group. Our total income was $8145.00 and total expenditures was $6453.73, leaving 1691.27 in the account the chapter next year.

**Installation Function**

This year we continued with the change set by last year’s officers by holding a larger, more formal initiation in the fall, with inductees, Rho Chi members, family and friends, and a smaller initiation ceremony with inductees and Rho Chi members in the spring. We agreed with the previous opinions that the larger initiation ceremony in the fall allowed for new inductees to celebrate their achievements with their fellow classmates who were initiated in the previous semester. The details of each function are outlined below.

Fall Initiation: Tuesday, October 20, 2012

The fall initiation ceremony was performed in a private event room at Strip, Atlanta. The function started at 7pm and included several faculty members, current and new Rho Chi members along with guests. After dinner, the initiation ritual took place and new members were inducted into the honor society.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Rebecca Burns, a faculty member at Mercer University, a Rho Chi Alumni member and is also a graduate of Mercer’s dual degree program, PharmD/PhD. Dr. Burns shared his experiences in academia and research, and he stressed the importance in continuing to grow in our education throughout our future careers.

Spring Initiation: Friday, April 15, 2015

The spring initiation took place on the Atlanta campus in the ACC building 12-1pm. Lunch was catered from the campus food services followed by performing the initiation ritual. Invitation for this function was extended to the new inductees, current Rho Chi members, faculty and the Associate Dean of Admissions.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Jennifer Knaack, Ph.D a faculty member at Mercer University and alumni Rho Chi Member. Following Dr. Knaack’s speech, the faculty advisors as well as the Rho Chi executive committee were recognized, the annual chapter report was given and finally the new members were initiated and welcomed to the Rho Chi fellowship.

**Evaluation/Reflection**

This year we wanted our chapter to try new things to further our involvement on campus. I believe we went above and beyond with out Get Smart campaign. The number of people we were able to provide health education exceeded our expectations. It is my hope that this program will continue to grow and provide valuable opportunities for students and the community.

Furthermore, in the past, this chapter has not aimed for such big and involved events as we had planned to do. While we came up with great ideas, we met several roadblocks that prevented us from seeing these to completion. But luckily we were able to learn from these challenges and pass along what we learned to the new officers. It could be said that this was a “growing year” in seeing what works with our chapter in the current school climate and what does not. I believe we set a path for the new members to pick up where we left off. In this upcoming year, I believe the chapter now has the knowledge and resources to accomplish great things on campus and in the community.

**Other Information**

N/A