Annual Chapter Report

Please complete your Annual Chapter Report, adhering strictly to the format below, and submit it to the National Office via e-mail (RhoChi@unc.edu) by May 15.

Date of report submission: 5/10/2015

Name of School/College: MCPHS University – SOP Worcester / Manchester

Chapter name and region: Gamma Pi, Region 1

Chapter advisor names and e-mail addresses:

* Kaelen Dunican, PharmD; kaelen.dunican@mcphs.edu
* Stephanie Conway, PharmD; stephanie.conway@mcphs.edu
* Maryann Cooper, PharmD; maryann.cooper@mcphs.edu

Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting: Jennifer Lu

 Kaelen Dunican

Date delegate’s name submitted to Rho Chi.: 3/11/2015

Past year’s officers and e-mail addresses:

Co-President: Daisy Powers; daisy.powers@my.mcphs.edu

Co-President: Andrew Brueckner; andrew.brueckner@my.mcphs.edu

Vice President: Kevin Barry; kevin.barry@my.mcphs.edu

**Secretary: Jessica Goeters;** **jessica.goeters@my.mcphs.edu**

Co-Treasurer: Farzad Kahnamelli; farzad.kahnamelli@my.mcphs.edu

Co-Treasurer: Katharine Jones; katharine.jones@my.mcphs.edu

Historian: Brett Iannucci; brett.iannucci@my.mcphs.edu

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

Co-President: Jerick San Mateo; jerick.sanmateo@my.mcphs.edu

Co-President: Christopher Rochon; christopher.rochon@my.mcphs.edu

Vice President: Robert Voigt; robert.voigt@my.mcphs.edu

Secretary: Janelle Herren; janelle.herren@my.mcphs.edu

Co-Treasurer: Ruchi Dalsania; ruchi.dalsania@my.mcphs.edu

Co-Treasurer: Helen Chim helen.chim@my.mcphs.edu

Historian: Brian Chan brian.chan@my.mcphs.edu

Number of Rho Chi student members at college or school, listed by class year and program:

Accelerated PharmD Program, Class of 2015: 60 members

Accelerated PharmD Program, Class of 2016: 57 members

**Meetings**:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Attendance | Agenda | Action Steps |
| 4/2/2014Rho Chi: *Gamma Pi* Officers’ Meeting  | Previous officers and incoming officers | Discuss expectations for each officer position; Plan the upcoming semesters’ activities | Discussed possible activities for the upcoming year; Responsibilities delegated to officer members; Decided on park clean-up for community service |
| 6/18/2014Rho Chi: *Gamma Pi* Officers’ Meeting  | Officers and advisers | Discuss new budget and how it will affect the year’s events | Decided to look for further fundraising and possible donations to help fund upcoming induction ceremony |
| 6/26/2014Rho Chi: *Gamma Pi* General Meeting  | Officers, advisers, and members | Discuss new budget and upcoming OTC Bowl; Plan fundraising and community service for the fall semester | Discussed possible events in line with new budget; Adviser Dr. Conway gave an overview of how to give a poster presentation and answered questions on career options |
| 11/20/2014Rho Chi: *Gamma Pi* General Meeting  | Officers, advisers, and members | Discuss plans for Rho Chi national conference attendance and Induction ceremony | ­Select two delegates to represent Rho Chi-*Gamma Pi* at APhA annual meeting |
| 3/19/2015Rho Chi: *Gamma Pi* General Meeting  | Officers, advisers, and new members | Discuss roles of officers and hold elections for the next year | New officers chosen for the upcoming year; Introduction to Rho Chi Gamma Pi given to new members; Brainstormed ideas for this semester’s events |

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

1. To improve student understanding and awareness of Rho Chi by co-sponsoring events with other clubs and professional organizations.
2. To encourage students to strive for Rho Chi by informing students about the organization and what it means to be a member, and by promoting recognition of student successes.

**Activities**:

*Dean’s List Luncheon* (6/20/14) - This luncheon is an annual event that is held to honor students who had received a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the fall or spring semesters. This event has become a tradition over the years and serves to reward the hard work put forth by P1 students. In addition, this event showcases how MCPHS University not only values academic achievement, but also holds a firm commitment to encourage students to aspire for their best work. Dr. Morin and Dean Malloy spoke at the luncheon and offered words of inspiration.

*Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Fundraiser* (6/20/14 - 7/15/14) - This fundraising event was a weekly sale of ice cream to students and faculty on the Manchester campus to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The event was successful as it generated ~$200 for the organization. All members of the Rho Chi *Gamma Pi* chapter participated in the weekly event.

*Ice Cream Fundraiser* (7/11/14) - This fundraising event was a part of the annual MCPHS University Block Party. The fundraiser was financially successful given that a small profit was made, though the most significant gain was ultimately our organization’s exposure. Students from all programs and classes attended, allowing us to strengthen the Rho Chi Gamma Pi presence on the campus. Extra ice cream was donated to the 2nd year students in celebration of the last day of classes.

*East Park Clean-Up* (7/12/14) - This event has been undertaken in previous years, though this year it was held in conjunction with the MCPHS University Outdoors Club. It was a rewarding experience to see the difference this event made for the children and families who frequent the park. This was an especially productive community service project given the combined efforts of both groups and the abundance of firework wrappings in the park left-over from 4th of July celebrations.

*Over-the-Counter (OTC) Bowl* (7/16/14) - The *Gamma Pi* chapter holds an annual jeopardy-style game featuring pharmacy questions about nonprescription medication. This annual competition serves as an exciting way for first year students to study for upcoming Self-Care class exams and second-year students to refresh their memory on over-the-counter products. There were six student groups, each composed of 3 P-1 and 3 P-2 students. The competition is judged by faculty volunteers. The winning team is awarded prizes including the chance to represents MCPHS University at the regional OTC College Bowl held at the New England Pharmacist Conference. This event is well-received by both students and faculty.

*New Student Resource Fair Fundraiser* (9/4/14) - This event was held at the annual MCPHS Student Resource Fair for incoming P1 students. Our chapter held a T-Shirt sale with long-sleeved T-Shirts left over from previous years’ fundraising efforts. Rho Chi Gamma Pi officers obtained a booth, sold the shirts, and welcomed new students. Most importantly, this event served to make new students aware of the organization, allow for questions on membership or participation, and to provide guidance as an experienced student of the pharmacy program.

*Metro West Bloodbank Blood Drive* (10/30/14) - St. Vincent’s Hospital is located across the street from the MCPHS University Worcester campus. The entire blood supply from St. Vincent’s Hospital comes from MetroWest Bloodbank. Given reported hospital blood shortages, the Gamma Pi chapter wanted to assist by holding a MetroWest Bloodbank blood drive. Rho Chi board members made contact with MetroWest to set a date and discuss the initial logistics including sign up, advertising, and selecting an appropriate drive date. The staff was friendly, efficient, and a pleasure to work with. The drive was successful as over 30 donors participated, each saving 2 lives with their blood donations. Our chapter spearheads at least one blood drive a year, and is likely to continue this tradition with the MetroWest Bloodbank from this point forward.

*Thanksgiving Basket Drive* (11/20/14) - This annual event is led by Student Affairs and asks organizations at MCPHS University to participate in donating and assembling Thanksgiving Dinner baskets for families in financial need. This year Rho Chi signed up to donate 2 baskets. Officers created sign-up sheets and asked members to donate specific staple items or creative items to make the baskets special for the families that receive them. Baskets were set up to collect items prior to the 20th, when members, officers, and advisors met to assemble the baskets. This was a nice way to celebrate the holidays and reconnect with members who are on away at various Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential (APPE) Rotation sites.

*Toys for Tots Fundraiser* (11/15/15 - 12/5/14) - This annual event is led by Rho Chi and Phi Lambda Sigma with collaboration with the Toys for Tots Foundation to collect gifts for children in our community. This year, Rho Chi and PLS had 3 donation centers on our campus and was able to collect a significant number of items. Members of Rho Chi were able to collect donations from the community to add to the donations made from the university members.

*Metro West Bloodbank Blood Drive* (12/6/14) - This annual blood drive is co-sponsored with another on-campus professional organization ‘Nursing Students without Borders.’ This event is usually held in conjunction with the American Red Cross, however our good experiences with the MetroWest Bloodbank and positive feedback from St. Vincent’s Hospital led to a change this year. Participating with another discipline allows us reach out to a larger pool of participants than just pharmacy students and strive for the larger returns. We met our goal for blood donation from both students and faculty members.

*Pre-Induction Lunch and Officer Election* (3/19/15) - This meeting is an annual event where new inductees are able to meet and vote on the new Rho Chi Gamma Pi officers. This serves as an introduction to our chapter of the organization, a congratulation of hard work, and a chance to glean guidance from current officers.

*Graduate Poster Fundraiser* (3/13/15) - This event is continued from the previous year and involves selling graduate poster boards to third-year students in preparation for the upcoming Graduate Poster Presentation day. A mandatory component of the MCPHS University accelerated PharmD program is the completion of a systematic review to answer a relevant question of interest and presentation of the findings to faculty. This event is held to assist students on APPE rotations by facilitating access to required supplies directly on campus. This event was financially successful and well-received by third-year students.

*Rho Chi Gamma Pi/PLS Induction Ceremony* (4/2/15)- This year’s annual induction ceremony took place in MCPHS University Worcester’s 10 Lincoln Square building. This is the second year that the induction ceremony has been co-sponsored with Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) MCPHS University chapter. This arrangement allows both organizations to share in the celebrations of each others’ achievements and to share the costs in line with this year’s organization budget cuts. The induction ceremony was a formal ceremony and dinner for both organizations and attended by faculty, student, and families.

**Financial/ Budgeting**:

The Rho Chi budget is determined by the funds distributed by the Student Government Association. This past year MCPHS University restricted funding for students organizations, and the Rho Chi Gamma Pi budget was severely cut. The chapter received a total of $600 for the year from the school, to be allocated towards reimbursement for the members attending the APhA annual meeting. The remainder of the chapter’s funding came from fundraising, for which Gamma Pi completes at least one fundraising event per semester. The fundraisers completed this year were the Ice cream sale, the New Student Resource Fair T-shirt sale, and the Graduate Poster sale.

**Initiation Function**:

This year’s annual induction ceremony took place in MCPHS University Worcester’s 10 Lincoln Square building. This is the second year that the induction ceremony has been co-sponsored with Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) MCPHS University chapter. This arrangement allows both organizations to share in the celebrations of each others’ achievements and to share the costs in line with this year’s organization budget cuts. The induction ceremony began with Rho Chi inductees receiving their pins and taking their oaths to uphold duties as members and new officers. The new PLS members were then inducted. A cocktail hour was held, dinner was served, and Dr. TJ Parker gave the keynote speech. Dr. Parker is one of the founders of Pillpack, a novel pharmacy mail-order service. He spoke on innovation, perseverance, and utilizing diverse experiences to shape a unique professional. The event was well-received by attendees including faculty, students, and families, and remains a staple of our chapter’s annual activities.

**Evaluation/Reflection**:

This year was difficult for Rho Chi Gamma Pi, given the university’s organization budget cuts. The majority of the activities we had planned lost funding, including the Induction Ceremony. Much of our resources had to be drawn from our previous years’ fundraising profits, and the chapter was limited by the responsibility to conserve resources for future members. Even so, the officers worked together to adjust activities under both time and financial constraints. We were able to continue honored annual traditions such as the OTC Bowl and the Induction ceremony, as well as participate in new ventures which were ultimately successful. Over the upcoming years, sufficient funding would allow us to continue to improve our goals and strengthen our presence on campus. However, if the officers move forward with the same creativity and teamwork, the chapter is likely to maintain momentum regardless of funding.