



The Script

UF | College of Pharmacy
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Student organization leaders with congressman Bilirakis.

Advocacy: A Visit from U.S. Congressman Bilirakis

By Amy Kiskaddon, Former APhA-ASP President

Advocacy can be defined as the act of upholding or defending a cause or interceding on the behalf of another.

Personally, I learned about advocacy through APhA-ASP, and by attending Florida Pharmacy Legislative Days and Health Fair during my first year of pharmacy school. I didn't understand the influence we have as student pharmacists until I observed first-hand how our presence can help change laws while at Legislative Days. I then eagerly began seeking what I could do to make a difference. I learned who my state and federal representatives were, and reached out to them through email, making it a point to regularly send them the UF APhA-

ASP "The Monthly Prescription". I also contacted them about current bills involving pharmacy and scheduled personal office visits to help foster a more personal relationship.

The summer after my first year, I was able to visit my senator and congressman in Washington D.C. with other student pharmacists to educate them on a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) bill. It was an incredible experience and further fueled my passion to be involved with advocacy as a student pharmacist.

Upon the suggestion of immediate past dean, Dr. William Riffe, I invited U.S. Congressman Gus. Bilirakis to the UF College of Pharmacy so we could

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demonstrate to him the significant role pharmacist play in health care, and the importance of us obtaining provider status. His visit was an incredible experience. Not only was he able to observe and learn the incredible contribution pharmacists make to the health system through Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Services and clinical pharmacy skills, but was able to teach us as students the impact we have as constituents.

It is opportunities such as these that will enable us to advance our profession. We are our own best advocates. If we want to protect and advance our profession, then we must be proactive constituents, and seek to develop the relationships that will make this a reality.

Generation Rx Drug Abuse Seminar

By Lori Mor, Generation Rx Chair, 2PD



Generation Rx chairs with Dr. Borgert and Mr. Mone.

For those of you who do not know, Generation Rx is national care project of APha-ASP that helps to educate the public about the misuse and abuse of prescription medications. This past week, Generation Rx had the opportunity to host an amazing seminar on drug abuse and diversion. The turnout was amazing and it was great having students from different professions join us to make this event possible.

The speakers included Michael Mone, a lawyer for Cardinal Health and Dr. Robert Borgert, a Pharmacist at Shand's. Our goals were to reach out to the University of Florida health and pre-health professional students in order to make them aware of a large issue at hand which include abuse and diversion among health professionals in the field.

Our speakers did a wonderful job of teaching our students about the dangers and consequences of drug abuse and diversion in practice. Hopefully, we were able to reach out to our students and prevent this from occurring among University of Florida students.

Professor Spotlight: Dr. Bin Liu, Ph.D

By Michelle Chung, 2PD

If you had to the choice to be a drug, which drug would you be and why?

I would like to be a magical but definitely human-friendly nano-robotic creature from the 25th century that zaps all diseases at the infancy of their pathogenetic journey

What was the make and model of your first car?

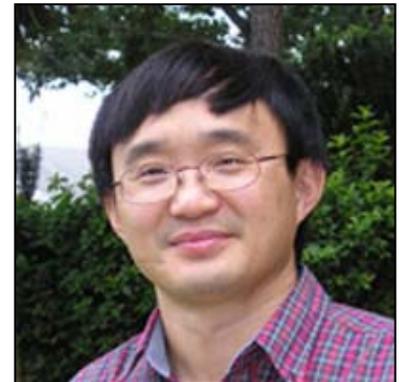
Mazda GLC [Great Little Car] stick shift, acquired for less than \$500, ended up spending twice that much to run.

Describe one embarrassing childhood/past moment.

During my first year in graduate school in the States, I, for the first time in my life, walked in a McDonald's. Using the picture menu as my only cue, I told the young lady at the register, "I'd like to have a Number 2". "Here or to go", she immediately replied. Puzzled, I said, slowly, "Num...ber... 2". "Here or to go", she repeated, in a higher voice. "Num.....ber..... 2", I repeated, even more slowly. Somewhat frustrated judging by her expression, she took my money and passed the order on. A few minutes later, she handed me, still standing by the counter, a paper bag. I took the bag, sat down at the nearest table by myself and started working on my "Number 2" while wondering why I was the only one eating out of a paper bag while everyone else had their food nicely laid out on a tray....

How many different states or countries have you visited?

I have only been to or lived in three countries, unless you count Hong Kong in: China, Germany, and the United States. In the US, I still need to find a chance to visit (or drive through at the minimum) a dozen or so states.





Max Murphy (2PD) finishes in first place.

APhA-ASP 4th Annual Run for Your Heart 5K

By Jessica Wood and Julia Bosacki, Operation Heart Chairs

Each year, UF APhA-ASP Operation Heart at the Gainesville campus plans a “Run for your Heart” 5k event during the month of February. This year it was held at Westside Park and over 40 runners were able to attend. All of the proceeds collected will help us provide free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings to the Gainesville community. February is American Heart Awareness Month, so our overall goal every year is to increase cardiovascular health awareness in our local community. This year was the 4th annual 5k and it was a great success!

We were able to raise over \$500, and with that money student pharmacists are going to be able to provide education on heart health to hundreds of patients. We thank all of those who contributed to our cause and anticipate another great turnout next year!

FSHP: Mentor Night

By Melissa Berman, FSHP President

For the past few years, the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists at the Gainesville campus has been holding an annual mentor night dinner. The dinner gives students the opportunity to speak in an informal setting with various clinicians from across the pharmacy field.

This year, the pharmacists in attendance ranged from a heart failure specialist to a pediatric clinical pharmacist. Students from each of the 1, 2, and 3PD classes were present and took a lot away from the experience. The dinner took place in the HPNP Reception Hall and was catered by Chef Brothers Catering.

Students that attended all agreed that they would recommend the event to a classmate. An anonymous student said, “I liked getting the chance to talk to pharmacists in the community. We got to form a connection with someone who we may have never met if this opportunity was never provided.”

FSHP will continue to hold this event in future, giving students even more exposure to clinicians and the opportunity to learn more about possible careers paths that they can follow.



Student pharmacists learning and making connections for the future.

Rotation Spotlight: FDA

By Jordana Wollmann, 4PD

While at UF COP, I have been fortunate to have gained a wealth of experiences. Through our curriculum, summer internships and APPE rotations, I have been able to learn about retail, hospital and clinical pharmacy. From these experiences, I learned how crucial pharmacists are to patient care. A community pharmacist can keep an asthma patient out of the hospital by counseling on appropriate use of an Asthma Action Plan. A clinical pharmacist can save a life by simply recommending QT interval monitoring when initiating Levaquin on a patient with concomitant drugs that can

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also prolong QT interval. While these one-on-one patient interventions are undoubtedly filled with personal reward, my rotation at the FDA allowed me to recognize that pharmacist's training in analytical and clinical skills can go beyond the scope of individual patient care and contribute to the health and wellness of the millions of patients.

FDA's mission is to promote and protect the public health by helping safe and effective products reach the market in a timely way, and monitoring products for continued safety after marketing. As part of the FDA Pharmacy Student Experiential Program, you are able to use your knowledge to contribute to population-based initiatives that will serve millions of patients. As a student,

you will be assigned projects to which you can progress and launch into the public. During my rotation, my primary project was to work on the Repurposed Drugs for Neglected Tropical Diseases (RD-NTD) Database, aimed to assist providers in selecting appropriate therapies for neglected tropical diseases. I recovered and extracted literature from case reports to populate the database to help providers in underdeveloped countries appropriately treat diseases for which there was no treatment available given the lack of profit in manufacturing medications used to treat rare diseases in underdeveloped countries. My secondary project was to identify outdated drug labels to aid in the update of labeling to include a "Highlights of Prescribing Information" that allows for quick, accurate use of labels in clinical practice. In ad-

dition to working on these projects, I attended a student lecture series provided by FDA on the different offices within the agency and the pharmacists' role within each office.

In summary, my FDA rotation taught me that there are far more opportunities than we are aware for pharmacists to make a macro-scale contribution to the care of patients and the public. I really enjoyed this highly rewarding experience to contribute to initiatives that can benefit millions. My advice to you is to take advantage of your opportunities and you will realize there is no limit to the impact you can make.

APhA-ASP 5th Annual Pens and Pumps

By: Jill Mendoza, Operation Diabetes Chair, 2PD

Operation Diabetes kicked off school year right by hosting the 5th Annual Pens & Pumps. Students from the college of Pharmacy, Medicine, Dental, Nutrition and Nursing came together to learn more about Type 1 Diabetes, a disease that is becoming more prevalent in our nation. Educators of the UF Diabetes Center of Excellence, and trained professionals including UF COP's very own Dr. Karen Sando, taught students how to dose insulin based on carbohydrates, demonstrated proper injection technique, and taught students the differences in long acting and rapid acting insulin. Students were able to get hands on experience with the various pumps and pens and understand the benefits and features of each device. In addition, pharmaceutical companies who manufacture and distribute the pens and pumps like OmniPod, Sanofi, and Tandem were available to talk to students. APhA-ASP Operation Diabetes looks forward to planning next year's Pens and Pumps event and thank you to all students who were able to participate in this year's event!



Student pharmacists practicing their injection techniques.



Anthony Phan (2PD) and Funnce Liu (2PD) practices with insulin pens.

All Aboard the USS SOAR 2014: Chart the Course

By Jessica Yung, 2PD

To describe that SOAR 2014 was an enriching and enjoyable experience would be an understatement. The 12th annual Student Organization Annual Retreat, more commonly known as SOAR, took place this year on January 17-18 at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy St. Petersburg Campus (located at the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College). With its beautiful coastline, sunny skies, and energetic atmosphere, St. Petersburg hardly seemed to be only a mere three hour drive from Gainesville's Campus Communicore and HPNP buildings. This year's logo—a whimsical design of a rope encircling an anchor, hanging over lifelike waves—acts as a good representation of the retreat as a whole. While remaining colorful and animated, the anchor and line embodies strength, integrity, and the ever-present theme of exploring uncharted waters of much potential.

SOAR 2014 began at the charming Postcard Inn with an engaging Friday evening mixer that allowed students from all four campuses to interact and network with each other, as well as with Target representatives. An interactive small group game of creative interview questions allowed students to think on their feet about how to approach future interview questions, and many laughs were shared as “winners” of each small group had to share long-winded, hilarious responses with the whole group. The evening continued as students and their new acquaintances experienced the local St. Petersburg nightlife.

The second day aboard the USS SOAR started early Saturday morning with opening remarks and a

team-building model exercise involving ‘lookers’ and ‘gatherers’ to work together in building a replica model of the USS SOAR. Following were encouraging words from Target's Jeff Schmidt and Grace Blakenship about five important practices of exemplary leadership—advice about how to approach positions of leadership (whether in an executive position or as an active member) set the stage for the rest of the day's breakout sessions.



Jessica Yung, Karen Vinluan, Anthony Phan, Funnce Liu, Panida Dinprasuratsaty, Danielle Megano (2PDs).

The featured keynote speaker of SOAR 2014 was UF COP's very own Dean Julie Johnson, who shared about her personal journey of pharmacy and her recent position as Dean of the College. Bringing the opening ceremony to a close was the announcement of the winners of the Target Case Study Competition—Gainesville Campus' ASCP—we are very proud of them!

After lunch, student were encouraged to take part of the breakout sessions. Session topics included ‘Effective Communication’, ‘Thinking Outside the Box’, and ‘Running an Effective Meeting’ from esteemed UF COP faculty Dr. Katherine Vogel-Anderson, Dr. Sven Normann, and Dr. Jennifer

Williams respectively. In between breakout sessions, students were able to take part of the Student Organization Showcase. With the Student Organization Showcase, organizations from all four campuses gathered together to table and share ideas about their campus practices as well as allow students the opportunity to purchase merchandise. There was a sense of overwhelming pride to see our fellow colleagues of UF COP in other campuses working together to achieve the same goals that we strive to succeed in here at Gainesville.

The retreat came to an end with closing remarks from the co-coordinators Nick Reynaud and Alexandra Perez. Students exchanged contact information and took pictures with their newly-made acquaintances, to document the wonderful memories of the past two days, and look forward to bring home their new skills to share with their organizations.

A special thanks to Target Corporation for the generous sponsorship of making the USS SOAR 2014 possible, and many thanks to the many individuals of the St. Petersburg campus who made SOAR 2014 a year to never forget!



APhA-ASP Patient Counseling Competition

By Angel Nguyen, APhA-ASP Professionalism Chair

At the beginning of each spring semester, APhA-ASP hosts its annual Patient Counseling Competition at each of the four campuses. This year, the Gainesville chapter of APhA-ASP hosted the competition on January 24th. We had an amazing turnout with total of 15 student pharmacists from the 1, 2, and 3PD classes.

For this year's preliminary Patient Counseling Competition, the participants were presented with a case about an Asian woman who was prescribed a medication for her GERD. The participants were given the prescription and the patient's medication profile. They had 5 minutes to research the drug and 5 minutes to counsel the "patient", which was role-played by our 4PD academic student, Matt Morelli. The student pharmacists were to utilize their pharmacotherapy skills to effectively counsel the patient on the medication and address their concerns. The best patient counselor from all 4 campuses will have the opportunity to represent



Rich Royster (1PD) utilizes his patient counseling skills.

the UF College of Pharmacy at the National Patient Counseling Competition held in March at the APhA-ASP Annual Meeting.

Besides providing the participants with the opportunity to win the title of best patient counselor, the ultimate goal of this event was to allow student pharmacists to sharpen their patient counseling skills and apply

what they have learned from class. This skill is absolutely essential for us as pharmacists and remember, always ask open-ended questions!

Special thanks goes out to Dr. Whalen, Professor Munyer, all the judges, the 4PD academic students and the APhA-ASP Professionalism Chairs for organizing this successful event! Go Gators!

Ph.D Spotlight

By Dipa Pati, Pharmacodynamics Doctoral Student

I am a 4th year graduate student in the Dept. of Pharmacodynamics. I work with Jason (most students would remember him as Dr. Frazier from PBD). Our lab does *in-vitro* electrophysiology recordings from rat/mouse brain. Currently, I am studying the effect of salt on stress responsiveness. Slight increase in blood sodium levels (say a bag of potato chips, Lays sour cream being my personal bias) can elevate the levels of a hormone called oxytocin in the brain, that can then reduce stress responsiveness resulting in a less anxious state. Now, I know why I crave salty food right before an exam or a presentation. A regular day in the Frazier lab obviously starts with the customary visit to Starbucks with my lab mates (oh where the world would be without coffee) followed by extracting and dissecting a rat brain, so that I can record neurons. For the next 7 hours or so I work with an instrument, Wall-Ef, trying to decipher neuronal signaling at cellular level. Some days are not so exciting but then you have those eureka moments that make the pursuit of science so enjoyable.

6th Annual Mr. COP

By Carrie Hoffman, Mr. COP Co-Coordinator



Dr. Normann, Dr. Peris, Dr. Vogel Anderson, and Dr. Munyer with Mr. COP winner Justin Desiongco.

Students from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy started off the year with a great success at their annual event, Mr. College of Pharmacy. The pageant was held on the evening of Saturday, February 1st. Third-year Justin Desiongco, and first-years Josh Levine, Bryan Lynch, Michael Lucas, and Rich Royster participated as contestants. The contestants were judged based on their best abilities to impersonate professors, talent, evening wear, and ability to answer questions on the spot. The scoring was done by professors themselves: Professor Munyer, Dr. Peris, Dr. Vogel-Anderson, and Dr. Norman. The event was hosted by third-year Aman Dahliwal and previous Mr. College of Pharmacy winner, second-year John Leonard,

who held the crowd on the edge of their seats with their comedic remarks and the parody videos of professors that they showed in between each act. The event drew in nearly 50 audience members. Justin Desiongco was crowned this year's winner, due to his ability to draw the crowd in with his amazing singing and guitar playing abilities and his hilarious impersonation of Dr. Katovich.



Global Gala Bollywood Blast (left to right): Karen Vinluan, Hit Patel, Neha Doshi, Christian Calderon, Karrina Elefano, Jonathan Phelps, Pujia Padalia, Bhavin Patel, Forum Shah, Vijay Nayyar

On Saturday February 15th, students traveled from all four campuses of the College of Pharmacy for the 13th Annual Multi-Cultural Dinner. This semi-formal dinner was held with the intent of raising funds and awareness for medications in the global health outreach trips that Pharmacy students partake in during the spring and summer. Students from every campus worked together to organize a red and black themed semi-formal event to involve the entire college with various door prizes and international cuisine that was sponsored by local restaurants. An estimate of \$5,000 were raised during the event through the generosity of faculty, students, and various local businesses and restaurants that provided food and gift prizes to facilitate attendance and involvement.

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Talent was also themed to support multicultural involvement with dancers, singers, and rappers. The committee had been organizing the event for months asking for donations, and encouraging people to attend. Their efforts were successful as the night concluded with hundreds of attendees that worked together to raise money for the same cause. The committee was especially grateful to the performers, volunteers, and faculty members who conclusively made the night special.



A great turnout of global outreach supporters.

KΨ Relay for Life Valentine's Day

By Christian Calderon, KΨ Relay for Life Chairman

As is tradition in Gainesville, FL, the brothers of Kappa Psi got to share a little love at our annual Valentine's Day Social, benefitting Relay for Life. To kick off the start to our Relay season, Kappa Psi held a series of fundraisers leading up to Valentine's Day. We joined forces with FSHP to bring a little joy by delivering flowers and personalized Valentines to all those we care about most.

On Friday, February 14th, dressed to the T and ready to impress, the College of Pharmacy ventured into a night filled with passion and philanthropy. We held our Annual social at 101 Downtown and collected donations all throughout the night.

Seldom come the opportunities to help others while at the same time dancing the night away. All our efforts go towards helping the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Cancer unfortunately is one thing most of us will experience in one form or another. As future pharmacists we are honored to be able to help cancer patients in so many ways.

We have taken on the task of rebuilding our once great College of Pharmacy Relay team and we are off to a great start. Currently we have raised \$1907 and sit 6th place out of 94 teams at UF. Our efforts will continue and grow through March 26th — the night of the Relay.



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