



The Rho Chi Society

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Annual Chapter Report: 2017-2018

May 9, 2018

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Alpha Eta Chapter, Region II

Chapter Advisor: Lucio Volino, Pharm.D. | VolinoL@pharmacy.rutgers.edu

Delegates at Rho Chi Annual Meeting:

- Helen Wang – Chapter Vice President
- Tracy Zhang – Chapter Historian

Date delegates' names submitted: February 2, 2018

Past Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>President</i>	Shilvi Shah	shilvishah25@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Helen Wang	hw294@scarletmail.rutgers.edu
<i>Secretary</i>	Dimitra Hasiotis	dimitra.has@gmail.com
<i>Historian</i>	Tracy Zhang	tracyzhang100@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Amy Huang	ah677@scarletmail.rutgers.edu
<i>RU4Kids Liaison</i>	Soham Shukla	shukla95@hotmail.com
<i>Fundraising Chair</i>	Medha Rao	medharao13@gmail.com
<i>PGC Representative</i>	Vini Dhanky	vini676@gmail.com
<i>Head of Academic Committees</i>	Jonathan Onulak	jonulak@gmail.com

New Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>President</i>	Elaine Liu	elaine.liu@rutgers.edu
<i>Vice President</i>	Timothy Amin	timothy.amin@rutgers.edu
<i>Secretary</i>	Sarah Bright	sarah.bright@rutgers.edu
<i>Historian</i>	Johnny Park	beumjun.park@rutgers.edu
<i>Treasurer</i>	Maureen Ahn	maureen.ahn@rutgers.edu
<i>Philanthropy Chair</i>	Jessica Freydman	jf720@rutgers.edu
<i>Fundraising Chair</i>	Cassidy Treanor	cassidy.j.treanor@rutgers.edu
<i>PGC Representative</i>	Helena Zhang	hmz19@rutgers.edu

Number of Rho Chi Student Members

Program	Class Year	Number of Students
PharmD	Class of 2018	42
PharmD	Class of 2019	37
PharmD	Class of 2020	42

Meetings:

Date	Members	Agenda	Action Steps
6/6/17	7	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: organization of academic committees, professional events, promotion of social media presence, t-shirt fundraising sale	Send academic committee interest form to all members, update Rho Chi website to include member spotlight component, distribute t-shirt order form
8/17/17	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: fall general meeting, blood drive, new fundraising ideas	Book room for fall general meeting, send blood drive details to members, schedule shifts for Nirvanis fundraising event
9/7/17	31	General member meeting; topics of discussion: overview of Rho Chi mission and member expectations, promotion of Dance Marathon, upcoming events and fundraisers	Gauge interests of members for event involvement, committee chairs to create a semester plan for academic resources, all members to sign academic committee contract
11/1/7	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: bake sale fundraiser, Rx Rotations event, spring professional events	Reserve space for bake sale, create question submission form for Rx Rotations attendees
12/7/17	8	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: clipboard sale fundraiser, preparation for Dance Marathon and induction ceremony	Executive board members to sign up for Dance Marathon, induction ceremony venue visit, create clipboard order form
1/11/18	6	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: spring events, fundraising ideas (clipboard, bake sale, Krispy Kreme), Dance Marathon dancer fundraising	Contact nursing and medical students for clipboard fundraiser, plan canning dates for Dance Marathon dancers, send group photos to yearbook organization
1/22/18	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: creation of Induction Ceremony planning committee, Research Spotlight event, picking date for spring general meeting	Send interest form to general members for Induction Ceremony planning committee, collaborate with ISPOR and ACCP for research event, book room for general meeting
2/5/18	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: spring general meeting, fundraising with Rutgers Heartsavers for Dance Marathon, choosing guest speakers for Induction Ceremony	Order food for spring general meeting, invite select faculty to speak at Induction Ceremony, post Krispy Kreme order form on social media sites, send invitation email to prospective members
2/7/18	31	General member meeting; topics of discussion: video project presentation, spring events, academic committee responsibilities, Dance Marathon	Encourage more members to join Dance Marathon team, gauge interest in spring events

2/19/18	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: promotion of clipboard fundraising sale	Post clipboard order form on social media sites, promote bake sale
3/5/18	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: review of fundraising profits, Induction Ceremony preparation	Send invitation to faculty for Induction Ceremony
4/9/18	10	E-board plus faculty advisor meeting; topics of discussion: academic committees feedback, new member social and E-board elections, develop an alumni member transition program	Create academic resources feedback survey, update photo gallery with induction pictures, send invitation for new member social
4/11/18	36	New member social event; discuss e-board roles and responsibilities, provide details about election process	Examine attendance to determine eligibility for running for E-board positions
4/16/18	9	E-board meeting; topics of discussion: e-board elections, LGBTQ+ event, develop a transition document outlining E-board responsibilities and advice for new officers	Send out academic resources feedback survey, invite members to LGBTQ+ event, contribute to transition document
4/17/17	46	Executive board elections for 2018-2018 academic year; all new members in attendance vote for each position	Set a time for the E-board Transition Dinner, invite new officers to a joint E-board meeting
4/23/18	14	Joint E-board meeting; topics of discussion: clipboard distribution, annual report assignments	Share transition document with newly elected officers
4/24/18	10	E-board Transition Dinner; bringing together current and new E-board	Maintain communication with new E-board officers

Strategic Planning:

Goal #1: Enhance the quality of academic support offered to students by 1) improving communication among our committees and executive board and 2) incorporating technology to expand our reach to students.

Supports our commitment to the success of our fellow classmates and encourages utilization of our academic resources for intellectual achievement.

Goal #2: Reaffirm the greater responsibilities that are implicated in the Rho Chi Mission and Vision.

Recognizes the value of each of the five components of the Mission of Rho Chi and strives to reinforce each goal through a video presentation.

Goal #3: Initiate conversations regarding cultural competencies among student pharmacists through different formats of programming and discussion.

Stimulates critical inquiry regarding health disparities in a specific population to advance pharmacy and uphold ethical standards.

Goal #4: Prioritize philanthropy initiatives through increasing member participation in community service.

Fosters collaboration and coordination of activities among our members to best give back to our community.

Goal #5: Foster both pharmacy wide and inter-professional collaboration through events and fundraisers.

Contributes to the development of intellectual leaders through intentional and educational programming and demonstrates intellectual leadership.

Goal #6: Facilitate transition of new executive board by implementing a series of transition initiatives.

Develops intellectual leaders that will be equipped to lead the Alpha Eta chapter in the following year.

Goal #7: Create a sense of camaraderie among the Alpha Eta chapter members.

Fosters lasting friendships that facilitate collaboration through both Rho Chi and non-Rho Chi initiatives.

Activities:

Alpha Eta Chapter, Rutgers University Activity Table

Category of Activity ¹	Title of Activity	Brief Description ²	How Does This Activity Align w/ Rho Chi Mission	Years the Activity has Been Ongoing?	If Activity has Been Ongoing for >1 Year, What Evaluations Have Been Done to Assess the Success and What Improvements?	How Many Members Participated in the Activity?	How Many Students impacted by the Activity?	Financial Information for the Activity
Intellectual leadership activities	Academic committees/ tutoring	Established 11 academic committees for P1 and P2 courses.	<i>Meets Goal #1.</i> Academic committees propel learning and encourage academic success.	7+	Feedback from survey in previous years indicated a need for more practice exams. Therefore, this year, required each committee to create a practice exam for each exam.	35	400+	N/A
Intellectual leadership activities	Video Adaption of Rho Chi Perceptions Article	Directed and produced a short film regarding the implications of Rho Chi membership.	<i>Meets Goal #2.</i> Video development encouraged intellectual creativity beyond pharmacy related skills.	*New*	N/A	6	6	Pizza for Table Read: \$26.36

Intellectual leadership activities	Impact of a Video on Rho Chi Membership Perceptions and Involvement	Research study to evaluate the impact of the film on chapter members' perceptions regarding the lifelong commitment to and moral obligations of Rho Chi.	<i>Meets Goal #2.</i> Members participated in scholarly research activity. Results demonstrated the video encouraged students to understand their role as intellectual leaders beyond excelling in academics.	*New*	N/A	6	34	N/A
Intellectual leadership activities	Research Spotlight Event	Two faculty members and two pharmacy students shared research experience, answered Q&A, and provided advice to interested students.	<i>Meets Goal #5.</i> Faculty-student and student-student discussion regarding research facilitates development of informed intellectual leaders.	1	Past verbal feedback suggested reducing number of speakers. Decreased number of speakers from 6 to 4 to allow more time for one-on-one discussions after the presentations.	2	20	N/A
College of pharmacy event	Tabling for Pharmacist's Role in LGBTQ+ Awareness	Tabling session regarding the LGBTQ+ community. Provided informational	<i>Meets Goal #3.</i> Encouraged initial conversations and inquiry about health disparities within the LGBTQ+ population.	*New*	N/A	5	100+ students and faculty	Poster Supplies: \$5.33

		pamphlets and awareness pins.						
College of pharmacy event	Pharmacist's Role in the LGBTQ+ Community	Panel of speakers with LGBTQ+ experience reviewed terminology and methods to enhancing patient-pharmacist relationships	<i>Meets Goal #3.</i> Stimulated discussion about providing specialized care to the LGBTQ+ population and reinforced ethical standards.	*New*	N/A	30	30	Pizza: \$88.59
College of Pharmacy event	Classmate of the Year Nomination	P1 and P2 students nominated classmates who went above and beyond in helping their classmates succeed. Students who were nominated had been an integral resource to the class.	<i>Meets Goals #2 and #7.</i> Encouraged all students to foster academically collaborative spirit. Received 22 total nominations. Two winners were awarded a gift card and featured on our Rho Chi Facebook page.	1	With over 15 nominations last year and positive verbal feedback from classmates, we decided to organize this award again.	2	400+	Gift cards: \$30
College of pharmacy event	How to Survive P1 and P2 Years	Collaborative event with Class Councils and Phi Lambda Sigma. Offered advice to P1 and P2	<i>Meets Goal #5.</i> Reinforced Rho Chi as the primary source of academic resources and	6+	Verbal feedback from past years suggested need for more Q&A and discussion. New event format incorporated frequent	6	30+	Not applicable

		students regarding workload for classes in the professional program.	established our investment in students.		Q&A opportunities and encouraged attendees to share their advice with other attendees in the audience.			
College of pharmacy event	Rx Rotations	Collaborative event Lambda Kappa Sigma and NJSHP. Panel of P4 students provided advice on IPPE and APPE rotations.	<i>Meets Goal #5.</i> Facilitated peer-to-peer learning and preparation for rotations.	1	Verbal feedback from past P4 students suggested event restructuring. Modified format facilitated discussion between P4 student panelists and attendees. Therefore, more attendees asked follow-up questions and also provided advice to each other.	3	39+	Not applicable
College of pharmacy event	Pharmacy Fall and Spring Involvement Fairs	Involvement fairs educated students on our organization's initiatives and academic support.	<i>Meets Goal #5.</i> Identified Rho Chi as resource for academic support. Students learned the selection requirements for Rho Chi, which encourages academic excellence throughout pharmacy school.	5+	Past years experienced many students with difficulty gaining access to academic resources. Provided sign-up sheet to ease this process.	5	200+	Poster materials: \$21.12

Community service / fundraising	Fall Semester Blood Drive	Hosted blood drive in collaboration with the New York Blood Center.	<i>Meets Goal #4.</i> Represent a positive force in the community and to give back to the health systems in New Jersey.	5+	Feedback from past e-board suggested need to collaborate with more organizations to yield greater turnout. Therefore, we teamed up with two other pharmacy organizations.	10	115	Not applicable
Community Service/ patient outreach	RU4Kids Program and Dance Marathon	Visited our sponsored child, participated in Embrace Kids Halloween Party and Blood Drives, and the Rutgers University Dance Marathon. Embrace Kids supports families and children struck with cancer or other serious diseases.	<i>Meets Goal #4.</i> Established our collaboration within the greater Rutgers community through Dance Marathon. Clinic visits with our sponsored child demonstrated our commitment to Embrace Kids Foundation.	5+	Feedback from prior years indicated members were intimidated by the \$350 minimum donation to participate. This year we started fundraising in October 2017 (minimum donations due April 2018) and provided group fundraising opportunities such as canning and bake sales.	15	3000+ children and family members involved with Embrace Kids Foundation	Raised \$5,750 with 13 participants. (compared to \$1,171 raised in 2016-17)
Fundraising	White Coat Clipboards	Sold white coat clipboards to pharmacy, nursing, and medical students.	<i>Meets Goal #5.</i> Clipboards strengthen organization and reinforce learning during clinical	2	Analyzed profits and trends from past years to determine success of fundraiser. Wide product options and strong advertising last	2	80+	\$302.91 profit

			rotations. The sale of clipboards was extended to nursing and medical students, highlighting the importance of an interprofessional relationship between the schools.		year significantly increased profit. Therefore, this year, provided wider selection of products including mini calculator clips and pin pack buttons. We advertised by passing a sample clipboard in class.			
Fundraising	Fall and Spring Semester Bake Sales	Fundraiser for Embrace Kids Foundation and Alpha Eta Chapter. For Spring Bake Sale teamed up with Krispy Kreme in Jersey City, NJ who donated 50% of profits from donuts.	<i>Meets Goal #4.</i> Uphold the value of service and strives to give back to the community through Embrace Kids Foundation.	5+	Verbal feedback from past years suggested importance of scheduling bake sales at optimal times. We utilized class schedules to optimize bake sale timings.	15	100+	\$130.00 profit from Fall Bake Sale \$80.00 profit from Spring Bake Sale donated to Dance Marathon (Embrace Kids Foundation)
Fundraising	CPR Promo Code Fundraiser	Collaborated with the local Heartsavers CPR Training group to provide the affordable BLS certification for	<i>Meets Goal #4.</i> Collaborate with Heartsavers CPR to help students meet their CPR training requirements.	*New*	N/A	35	200+	\$350 donated to Dance Marathon

		pharmacy students. The company donated \$10/student to Dance Marathon.						
Fundraising	Nirvanis Kitchen	Fundraiser with Nirvanis Indian Kitchen in New Brunswick, NJ, to raise money for Dance Marathon.	<i>Meets Goal #4.</i> The event promoted Rho Chi members to effectively work together to advertise and promote the fundraiser.	*New*	N/A	9	40+	N/A
Leadership Social	Executive Board Transition Program	Implemented three step program for ease of new e-board transition: e-board position guide, one-on-one meeting, full transition meeting.	<i>Meets Goal #6.</i> Formalized program contributes to development of new Rho Chi leaders by providing resources and valuable interaction with current e-board.	*New*	N/A	9	17	N/A
Leadership Social	Transition Dinner	P2 and P3 executive board transition dinner.	<i>Meets Goal #6.</i> Shared opportunities for improvement with newly elected e-board to help them succeed.	3+	Evaluated the communication between new and current e-board during past dinners. Learned communication facilitated by dispersing seating of	10	10	Dinner: \$334.00

					new and old e-board. We intentionally dispersed seating this year.			
Fundraising	Rho Chi T-Shirt Sale	Designed matching purple shirts for members.	<i>Meets Goal #7.</i> Members wore t-shirts at many Rho Chi events which developed sense of friendship and spirit within the organization.	*New*	N/A	2	23	\$52.33 profit
Community service/patient outreach	Rho Chi Philanthropic Holiday Party	Potluck holiday party for members. Incorporated decorating ornaments which were donated to Embrace Kids Foundation.	<i>Meets Goal #7.</i> Members developed sense of excitement and reward as they created crafts to donate.	*New*	N/A	20	30	Ornament for craft: \$44.03
Leadership Social	Personalized Member Spotlight	Series of social media posts with name, photo, and description of members.	<i>Meets Goal #7.</i> Members valued their peers in Rho Chi as each member spotlight acknowledged intellectual achievement.	*New*	N/A	35	200+	N/A

Budgeting:

Date	Item	Amount Debited (\$\$ spent)	Amount Credited (\$\$ raised)	Balance
9/7/17	Starting balance	-	-	\$6,185.34
9/7/17	General Meeting Pizza Reimbursement	-\$136.29	-	\$6,049.05
9/7/17	General Meeting Candy and Utensils Reimbursement	-\$19.50	-	\$6,029.55
9/19/17	Spring Involvement Fair Poster Supplies Reimbursement	-\$21.12	-	\$6,008.43
10/2/17	Rho Chi T-shirt Sale	-	+\$52.33	\$6,060.76
10/17/17	LGBTQ+ Poster Supplies Reimbursement	-\$5.33	-	\$6,055.43
11/20/17	Pizza for Rx Rotations Event	-\$131.47	-	\$5,923.96
11/30/17	Fall Bake Sale	-	+\$130.00	\$6,009.03
12/5/17	Ornament Supplies for Embrace Kids	-\$44.03	-	\$5,879.93
1/12/18	Pizza for Table Read	-\$26.36	-	\$5,983.57
2/5/18	Food for E-board Meeting and Spring General Meeting	-\$179.75	-	\$5,803.82
3/5/18	Rho Chi Dues	-	+\$8,625	\$14,428.82
3/6/18	42 Rho Chi Cords	-\$525	-	\$13,903.82
3/13/18	New Member National Chapter Dues	-\$2,730	-	\$11,173.82
3/14/18	Pines Manor Deposit	-\$500	-	\$10,673.82
4/6/18	5 Guests for Induction	-	+\$275	\$10,948.82
4/9/18	Pines Manor Remaining Payment	-\$3,896.15	-	\$7,052.67

4/11/18	Pizza for New Member Social	-\$81.34	-	\$6,971.33
4/12/18	Gifts for Faculty	-\$155.77	-	\$6,815.56
4/12/18	Candle holders for Induction	-\$13.25	-	\$6,802.31
4/12/18	Candles for Induction	-\$32.97	-	\$6,769.34
4/17/18	Poster Printing for Pharmacy Research Day	-\$50	-	\$6,719.34
4/18/18	Clipboard Fundraiser	-	+\$302.91	\$7,022.25
4/18/18	Pizza for LGBTQ+ Event	-\$88.59	-	\$6,933.66
4/24/18	E-Board Transition Dinner	-\$334	-	\$6,599.66
4/30/18	Gift Cards for Classmate of the Year	-\$30	-	\$6,569.66
4/30/18	2018 Rho Chi Annual Meeting Reimbursement	-\$150	-	\$6,419.66

Initiation Function:

Our induction ceremony took place on March 29, 2018 at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. The ceremony started around 7pm and ended at 9pm, and it included dinner, two keynote presentations, as well as the induction of the new members. Forty-two inductees and their corresponding guests attended the ceremony. The Alpha Eta chapter faculty advisor Dr. Lucio Volino and all members of the 2017-2018 executive board were also in attendance. Invitations were extended to members of the 2016-2017 executive board, as well as to the entire faculty at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Three Deans and six faculty members were in attendance at the induction ceremony.

The current chapter president gave a welcoming speech at the beginning of the event, while the current chapter vice president concluded the ceremony with a brief speech thanking those in attendance. The keynote speakers were Dr. Joseph A. Barone, the current Dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and Dr. Michael Toscani, a current Research Professor and Fellowship Director.

We were able to institute changes informed by our experiences during the induction ceremony from the previous year. We created seating arrangements based on the number of guests in attendance to ensure that each inductee could be seated with their guests. Additionally, we opted for a buffet option, to accommodate those with dietary restrictions. We also had two photographers (both current e-board members) to take one photograph with the president and one individual photograph. Overall, the induction ceremony was a great success.

Evaluation/Reflection:

This year, we sought to increase chapter awareness of membership implications located in the Mission and Vision, by becoming a tight-knit organization and efficiently initiating the transition of the new e-board. In the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy community, our goals were to initiate conversations about cultural competency and enhance academic resources. Finally, in the scope of healthcare, we sought to foster inter-professional collaboration and prioritize philanthropy initiatives through the Embrace Kids Foundation.

A focus of this year was to increase member recognition of the Rho Chi Mission and Vision components through creation and presentation of a video project (Goal #2). During a general interest meeting, members were shown a video adaptation of an American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy's article on noblesse oblige and moral commitment. Members were given surveys before and after viewing the video, which collected their self-perceptions regarding Rho Chi membership expectations. A majority (85%) indicated the video had a positive impact on their perception of being in The Society. Furthermore, most respondents (96%) recommended showing the video to new members, and approximately half (53.6%) felt the video could have a positive impact on non-members. The research has been accepted to be presented at AACP Education Conference in July 2018. Consequently, the video and the survey questions brought about an important conversation regarding the responsibilities associated with Rho Chi membership at our meeting. Moreover, in response to the positive feedback from the surveys, we hope to incorporate a group activity following the video in future years to stimulate more critical analysis and drive home the vital points from the video.

We also implemented new technological methods of education to increase effectiveness of our academic resources (Goal #1). We disseminated a survey for students to provide feedback on our academic resources. The survey had a total of 29 responses, with an average score of 8/10 for the usefulness of materials. Furthermore, it allowed for specific feedback on which academic committees can improve in future years, including preferred formats for resources and types of practice questions. In addition, online

chats before exams on Sakai, a learning management system, and our first successful live-streamed recitation on YouTube provided convenient alternatives to traditional in-person recitations for students. These efforts resulted in many students taking advantage of resources, and 10 students receiving one-on-one tutoring.

A new initiative this year consisted of facilitating the transition of the new e-board to help the organization run more efficiently in the future (Goal #6). This Executive Board Transition Program consists of three key elements: a guide for each e-board position, a one-on-one meeting for the each newly elected e-board member, and a full e-board transition meeting. Each current e-board member created a guide for their position using a standardized format, totaling nine position guides, which will serve as living documents as they are passed on to future e-board members. New e-board has verbalized positive feedback regarding this program and we hope to incorporate a professional mentorship program between both e-boards in the future.

Other Information:

This year, we prioritized general member involvement in order to foster friendships and collaborations on school-wide and philanthropic programs (Goals #4, #5, and Goal #7). We encouraged participation by sending reminder emails and creating social media posting schedules for the e-board. A reflection of greater member involvement was the rise in Dance Marathon participation which significantly increased our donations to the Embrace Kids Foundation from \$1,171 last year to \$5,750 this year. Additionally, we held two general member meetings with more than 80% attendance at each. General meetings included open discussion about our initiatives as well as discussions regarding the deeper meaning of Rho Chi membership. At general meetings, students initiated conversations regarding future collaborations related to their individual interests. On the other hand, the Nirvanis Kitchen fundraiser was held but were not successful due to non-optimal timing and insufficient promotion. To prevent this, planning should begin earlier as soon as exam schedules are available. Moreover, collaboration with various organizations should be considered to ensure good attendance.

By utilizing the Slack app and calendar reminders and having an established semester plan with deadlines, the academic committees submitted resources in a timely manner for all but one exam for one committee. This was an improvement in comparison to the previous year, during which multiple committees had trouble submitting materials by the deadline. During an e-board meeting vote to decide whether to use GroupMe app or continue using the Slack app, all nine e-board members voted for Slack app. The Slack app has transformed member communication within organization and we will continue to explore new functionalities to further improve planning and communication.

Furthermore, the Alpha Eta chapter focused on participating in pharmacy wide and inter-professional collaborations (Goal #5). Rho Chi also took an active role in many pharmacy school initiatives such as the Pie Day fundraiser, Pharmacy Advocacy Month, and a video montage showcase of pharmacy school organizations. Rho Chi sponsored Festival of Cultures, a philanthropy event highlighting diversity in pharmacy, by contributing to their donations. Rho Chi also sponsored a philanthropy event at Top Golf for American Heart Association by having six guests attend. Through analyzing participation during our initiatives we noticed a few members that were rarely active outside general meetings and their academic committee assignment. Another area for improvement is increasing the participation of the handful of those students. This could be encouraged by asking each member to share at least one pharmacy school event looking for collaboration, sponsors, or active participation. E-board can select a few initiatives that support the mission of Rho Chi and then invest in other pharmacy-wide or inter-professional collaborations. Finally, creation of enriching events could entice Rho Chi members, such as a mentorship program through which past members socialize with current members to discuss future career pathways.

Most Improved Chapter Award Submission

Name of School/College: Rutgers University, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

Chapter Name and Region: Alpha Eta, Region II

Name of Member Submitting Statement: Shilvi Shah

Name of Chapter Advisor: Dr. Lucio Volino

Immediately after the 2017-18 Executive Board was elected, we were eager to become involved and jumpstart new initiatives. Within a few weeks of the formation of this year's new e-board, we successfully planned and coordinated a T-Shirt sale for all Rho Chi members. During the summer of 2017, we formally came together to strategize for the coming year. The motivation and purpose that each e-board member exuded helped us establish an intentional and detailed plan for initiatives that align with the mission and vision of Rho Chi.

One of the most core factors leading to the success of an organization is its communication. The officers this year identified a need for an efficient and effective communication tool for the unique structure of the organization. The defined line of communication regarding academic resources was previously established as follows: Member of Academic Committee → Chair of Academic Committee → Head of Academic Committees → President. In order to maintain this organized stream of communication as well as provide frequent follow-up to academic committees, we implemented Slack. Slack is an app that not only allows for efficient communication, but also has auxiliary functionalities key to the organization of our chapter. At our first general meeting, we held a workshop on Slack and each chapter member was added to a general group and a group for their academic committee. Our Head of Academic Committees entered the deadlines for the committees to post their materials into the calendar tool of the app. The app gave the members of each committee weekly announcements for any deadlines or exams coming up. The executive board also utilized the mail function of the app to more efficiently answer new e-mails, as well as the poll function to efficaciously vote on different initiatives. We also held a workshop for the newly elected officers and created a channel for their e-board. Overall, implementing this app has revolutionized our organization and communication.

The series of events related to the LGBTQ+ community marked an important milestone in student programming at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Focusing on this topic was an ideal opportunity for Rho Chi as cultural competency contributes the development of intellectual leaders. The series began with a tabling event during which we received a lot of questions and interest for further programming. The second event consisted of a topic discussion at a Pharmacy Governing Council meeting hosted by our PGC representative to over 25 students. The final event of this series was an inspirational and groundbreaking event as panelists shared their experience with the LGBTQ+ community and their gratitude for bringing an important discussion to the table. We aim to plan larger-scale events related to the LGBTQ+ community and discuss the potential to incorporate formal education on cultural competency into the changing curriculum at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.

Finally, our officers saw a great potential for our involvement with Embrace Kids Foundation, an organization that assists families whose children have cancer or other serious health issues. This cause is close to our hearts, particularly as future healthcare providers. We saw the potential for increased involvement from our chapter. By increasing outreach, we successfully encouraged almost all of our members to participate in at least one philanthropic activity. Specifically, 12 members danced for 12 hours straight at the Embrace Kids Dance Marathon Event, a 200% increase in involvement compared to last year. This year we were excited and humbled to donate over \$5,000 to Embrace Kids Foundation.

Ultimately, each of the new initiatives we took on this year aligned with our strategic plan and the Mission of Rho Chi. We hope to continue to see important strides in the Alpha Eta chapter each year moving forward.