

INFORMED!

Welcome to Informed!

The Council of Students and the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions are pleased to present the first issue of our new monthly newsletter, *Informed!* As we are all so busy with our own lives, we often do not know what is happening with our fellow COPHS students. The goal of *Informed!* is to close this gap and encourage community among the COPHS student body. *Informed!* will serve a variety of functions—as a source of important information and entertainment.

Our regular monthly segments will include a variety of information we believe will benefit all the students in Mercer's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Some regular pieces will

include organizational spotlights to display what is new with each organization throughout the year; SOAP Notes will quickly reference some important dates within the month, and there will also be a case study presented by various faculty to challenge the brain outside the classroom.

This monthly newsletter is written by students for the students and we want your input to help us grow! As a developing publication, *Informed!* will expand in any capacity that will benefit—you—during your tenure as COPHS students. We hope that you look through *Informed!* and give us some feedback as to how

we can better serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact our editor, Okenna Oparah (P2). We hope you enjoy *Informed!*



Physician Assistant Program: New Year, New Students

These are very exciting times for the Physician Assistant (PA) Program and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Mercer University. January marked a period of transition as the Inaugural PA Class of 2010 welcomed a new group of eager students. The second PA class recently began their didactic coursework, coming together from across the nation and comprised of various backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.

The next 13 months will be an intense time, as the PA Class of 2011 learns the foundational knowledge they will draw upon to care for patients. This period will be a chance for them to bond and unite as a group, forming a close family.

As the PA faculty welcomed these new students, they also prepared to release the first group into the world of medicine and patient care. Those second year students spent the first

6 weeks of the semester preparing for their 15 months of clinical rotations. These rotations will provide a change of pace from the classroom setting, and give them a chance to greatly improve their knowledge base and apply what they have learned to practical situations. Both PA classes look forward to their new experiences and continuing the wonderful traditions of Mercer University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Mercer University
College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences
COS Newsletter

SOAP Notes

- > CPFI will be hosting a viewing of "Fireproof" on Wednesday, February 11th in Day Hall—7:00 p.m.
- > APhA and ASP would like to invite all students to breakfast at 7:00 a.m. in the James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Building at the Capitol on February 18th.
- > Rho Chi will be selling raffle tickets for Valentine Day February 9th through 13th.
- > Wear your Class T-Shirt on February 27th

Nuts and Bolts

Decline your Health Insurance by filling out the Health Insurance Waiver in Bearport by February 13th!

Did you know...?
You can view all organization events on the Google calendar, which is linked to the MUCOPHS homepage.

Advocacy is the Best Policy

Melinda Rowland

As students, most of us are concerned with excelling in our classes, working at a pharmacy to gain experience and to make money, and being involved in organizations which center around our future career goals. Most students are either not interested in politics, do not understand politics, or do not realize how politics affects our profession. However, how we practice pharmacy now and in the future is and always will be determined by our governments, both state and federal. As student pharmacists, it is important that we become political advocates for our profession now, and remain so for the duration of our careers. This article will highlight some of the ways you can get started as a political advocate, and how you can stay up-to-date on the hot button issues that affect the profession of pharmacy.

The best place to start campaigning for our profession is at the state level. While many federal laws affect pharmacists, it is our state laws that determine our scope of practice more specifically. The Georgia General Assembly consists of two bodies: the House of

Representatives and the Senate. Our House of Representatives has 180 seats, and our Senate has 56 seats. Members hold their seats for a 2 year term. We currently have five pharmacists serving Georgia in the House of Representatives: Buddy Carter, Bobby Parham, Butch Parrish, Ron Stephens, and the newly elected Buddy Harden. While these men are excellent champions of pharmacy in our legislature, it takes more than a few men to sway a government body.

The first step in promoting our profession is determining who is representing your district in both houses. To do this, go to www.congress.org. On this website, you can enter your ZIP code and it will provide information on both your federal and state representatives and their district numbers. Once you identify your legislators, go to the Georgia General Assembly website, where you will find a picture, a biography, and a fact sheet containing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of all the Georgia legislators. The best way to contact your legislators is in person or by phone. Legis-

lators receive hundreds of emails everyday, so many emails may be looked over or not read at all.

There are several ways that you can stay up to date on pharmacy issues that are currently being debated. To find information on pharmacy-related bills going through the State legislature, go to the Georgia Pharmacy Association website at www.gpha.org, or check out GPhA's monthly journal. This month's journal has a summary of all the bills impacting pharmacists in this year's legislative session. Also, the American Pharmacists Association website (www.pharmacist.com) is a great resource for updates on both state and federal issues.

Being an advocate for pharmacy should start now while we are students and continue throughout our careers. Please join APhA-ASP at the Georgia Capitol on February 18 for Very Involved Pharmacists (VIP) Day. This is a great time to meet with and talk to your legislators and show them how important pharmacists are to the citizens of Georgia!

"Being an advocate for pharmacy should start now while we are students and continue throughout our careers."



To ensure that we have a voice when it comes to pharmacy-related legislation, pharmacy students need to get involved. . . participation in VIP Day at the Georgia Capitol is one way to make sure our voice is heard.