

# INFORMED!

## SNPhA Hosts Regional Conference

Apryl Nelson

Mercer University's Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) Chapter hosted the 2009 SNPhA Regions I and II Conference themed "The voice of the silent, the face of change.....we are SNPhA" the weekend of March 13-15. It was a successful event attended by over 200 SNPhA and NPhA members from the East Coast. The Conference kicked off on Friday night with an Opening Banquet at which Dean Hewitt W. Matthews welcomed the attendees. Dr. Jannifer Johnson of Astra Zeneca was the keynote speaker, and she gave an inspiring speech to motivate students to strive for excellence both personally and professionally.

Saturday morning began with Business Meetings where SNPhA members discussed potential additions to SNPhA's bylaws. A Phar-

macy Ownership Workshop hosted by Dr. Richard Jackson was also held on Saturday morning.

After these events, the Corporate Sponsor Exhibition was held where Conference sponsor's provided informational materials and spoke with attendees about their respective companies. At the Award's Luncheon that followed the Exhibition, keynote speaker and SNPhA co-founder, Dr. John J. Scrivens Jr. recalled the history of SNPhA's beginnings. He encouraged current members to continue to build upon and carry out the original ideals upon which SNPhA was founded.

The afternoon ended with a tour of the Martin L. King Center, Closing Business Session, and Pharmacy

Career Panel. Throughout the day, three CE sessions were held for the NPhA member pharmacists led by Drs. Carmita Coleman, Gina Ryan, and Pamela Moye. The evening wrapped up with a "Green Light" Bridging the Gap Social at Vino Libro where the student attendees and pharmacists participated in ice breakers and had the opportunity to build long lasting business relationships with fellow SNPhA/NPhA members.

The Conference successfully brought together various SNPhA Chapters through events that allowed for the exchange of ideas, the development of friendships, and established the groundwork for SNPhA's future endeavors.

## COS Welcomes New Members!

Lauren Riley

On behalf of the current COS officers, I would like to congratulate the newly elected officers!

This group of students will be responsible for representing the student body to the faculty as well as assisting other organizations in maintaining their integrity. Please feel free to contact the current or in-

coming COS officers with any concerns you may have.

**President :** Lauren Riley (P2) - lauren.riley@student.mercer.edu

**President-Elect:** Carmen Echols (P1) - carmen.d.echols@student.mercer.edu

**Secretary:** Tara Tolbert (P1) - tara.e.tolbert@student.mercer.edu

**Treasurer:** Shivani Patel (P2) - shivani.rajendra.patel@student.mercer.edu

**Parliamentarian:** Joseph Lamb (P2) - joseph.lamb@student.mercer.edu

## SOAP Notes

- > The PA Braves game event takes place April 14th from 7:05 PM
- > Join us for the COS picnic on April 17th, 12 noon
- > IFC Formal will be held on April 24th, 7 PM
- > GSHP Banquet will be held 7 PM on April 30th at the Brio in Buckhead
- > Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2010 Pinning Ceremony will be held on May 8th at 12:30 PM in the Sheffield Center.

## Nuts and Bolts

Did you know...?

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



## Mercer Students to Serve at Public Health Services Externships

Second year pharmacy students Neha Negeshrao and Sam Cincotta were recently selected for the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Junior Commissioned Officer Student Externship Program in Washington DC. As JR COSTEPs they will be full fledged USPHS officers wearing uniforms that are similar to the Navy. They will also have the opportunity to be deployed to disaster events (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.) anywhere in the U.S. if they arise during their externships.

They will both be working for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), but in different areas. Neha will work specifically with the Study Endpoints and Labeling Division team under CAPT Laurie Burke and Sam will be working with the Substance Registration System team under CAPT William Hess. They will also have the opportunity to attend lectures from various pharmacy organizations, including the U.S. Pharmacopeia, National Institutes of Health, American Phar-

macists Association, and the Indian Health Service.

Sam was able to participate in the same program last summer with the Indian Health Service in Santa Fe, New Mexico and thoroughly enjoyed his experience. He is definitely looking forward to the program again this summer and excited to welcome Neha to the program. Students who are interested in this internship program for next year should definitely visit the website <http://usphs.gov/student/> for more information.

## COPHS Students Serve on Medical Missions

This summer second year pharmacy students Olukemi Alabi and Christele Francois will be serving communities through summer mission trips. Olukemi is headed to Honduras, and Christele to Covington, Kentucky.

Olukemi, along with other college students from Georgia, will be serving in Honduras for one week. While she is there, she will work with a local hospital and hold various health clinics for the people in the community and serve the schools in the area with health programs.

Olukemi shared her thoughts about the mission trip, "I am really excited about this opportunity and am eager to see what God is going to do during my time there. I am even more anxious to put to use some of the skills I have learned during my first two years of pharmacy school. I will be helping nurses and physicians with diagnoses by taking blood pressures,

performing routine assessments of patients and by assisting in the interpretation of basic lab values and readings to help with medication selections and dispensing.

Through this summer mission trip to Honduras, I am expecting God to do great things. I can't wait to touch people's lives, not only by helping them with their medical needs, but also by reaching out to them spiritually. Through sharing my faith, I hope that others may come to know God and reach the fullness of the life they can have by experiencing Him. Thank you to everyone who supports summer missions. Without you, little of this would be possible."

Christele Francois comments on her upcoming mission trip, "Everyone is blessed with gifts and talents that should be used to share God's love and glory with others. As I continue to grow in my relationship with God, the desire to share my testimony with

others and to encourage my fellow brothers and sisters has grown within me.

My past summers were filled with days on the beach, traveling, sleeping in, and working entirely too much. However, this summer is going to be different because I have been blessed with the opportunity to share my gifts with and serve others in the urban areas of Covington, Kentucky. For two weeks, I will embark on a spiritual journey filled with service to children and youth of this area, who come from tough family backgrounds. My team will consist of students from a number of Georgia schools, all who have the same purpose of serving others.

I expect to share God's love with the people of this city that may be lost or without hope. As God comforted and loved me in my times of troubles, it is time for me to display this same love and comfort to others."

**"I can't wait to touch people's lives, not only by helping them with their medical needs, but also by reaching out to them spiritually."**



## Physician Assistant Program Update

John Heisler, PA-S

It has been a busy semester for everyone involved with the Physician Assistant (PA) Program. The Class of 2010 recently finished their didactic coursework and began the clinical phase of the Program. These students finished the didactic phase of their program on February 12 and on the following Monday, ventured out to sites located in 14 different cities/towns around Georgia to begin their first clinical rotations. Twelve of the twenty-six students are experiencing their first rotations at Piedmont Healthcare sites. The class looks forward to the end of the rotation days to share the stories of all their "firsts".

The PA Class of 2011 arrived in January and quickly became familiar with what it takes to become a PA and survive the rigors of the didactic year, and they have been successfully

transitioned into the life of PA students. This new cohort of 32 students is a diverse group with a wide variety of life experiences. Having only been on campus for a short amount of time, they have already made their mark on Mercer and will continue to do so. They recently elected officers for the Godsey-Matthews Student Society and started preliminary planning for several community philanthropic projects including an opportunity to work with Hopewell Baptist Church to assist with health screenings. A potential partnership with Area Health Education Centers to do medical mission trips to underserved regions of the Southeastern United States is also in the planning stages. The class even has the current Mercer Atlanta Campus Ping Pong Tournament champion amongst them, Thao Duong, who raised over \$180 for the

Godsey-Matthews Student Society through the tournament.

The class recently participated in an interdisciplinary symposium on exploring the ethics of climate change. A summit of esteemed minds from institutions such as Harvard, Georgia Tech, and The National Center of Environmental Health, some of the topics included "Climate Change and Health Care" and "The Science of Climate Change." PA Program Director Brad Schwarz said, "The Care for Creation conference delivered! The quality of the presenters and the impartiality of the views shared was thoughtful and provocative. We are all a part of a larger community who must care for our beloved earth and its inhabitants. It is my hope that this conference will one day become an international symposium where we

all join together to make the ethical decision to care for the future of our world."

This class also continues to cultivate the Program's relationship with Piedmont Healthcare through several mentor-assisted patient encounters that take place during the didactic year. They have also partnered with Mercer's Senior University to practice histories with the local geriatric population and with Mercer's English Language Institute to improve their history taking skills with non-native English speakers. With interviews already starting for the Class of 2012, the future is exciting for the PA Program. Congratulations to the Class of 2010 as they begin a new chapter in their journey to becoming a PA and to the Class of 2011 who has received just a brief glimpse of what the future holds.

## AMCP In Action!

Melissa Denno

Mercer's Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) chapter has had a lot going on this semester! Among the events planned are a trip to Solvay Pharmaceuticals, meetings with pharmacists with unique careers, and a P&T team competition for nationals. Our chapter has also is going to joint-host a Leadership round table at the national convention in Orlando April 15-18. We also have students placed on national committees, allowing us further networking and knowledge beyond the local chapter.

One of the best things about Mercer's AMCP chapter is the large presence at the national level. AMCP is one of the smaller national pharmacy organizations, and thus brings a smaller network of professionals together at meetings. It allows the students to have first-rate experiences at the meetings including interaction with the leaders of the organization, networking for future opportunities (like residencies, shadowing, or internships), and holding positions at the national level. "I never would have thought that I would go to the convention and

have the opportunity to sit with the president of the Academy and talk to the editor of the Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy (JMCP). All of these people were offering to help me out, and I could tell they really valued the students being there," second year pharmacy student Lelei Burnette reflected.

Mercer's AMCP chapter is probably one of smallest organizations on campus, but it offers great opportunities that can really change the course of a student's career. Prior to coming to pharmacy school, a

lot of students do not know about managed care. But after a few meetings and a trip to nationals, students have an entirely different perspective. If you're interested in becoming a member of AMCP, just contact Lelei Burnette or third year pharmacy student Michelle Williams. We welcome new members!

## Congratulations to Pharm.D Students Awarded Residencies!

Ruaa Al-Baldawi  
Clinical Pharmacy Residency  
Emory Healthcare  
Atlanta, GA

Nadeje Aurubin  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, FL

Kelly Blanchfield  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
Atlanta, GA

Sophia Braun  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
St. Joseph's/Candler Health System  
Savannah, GA

Melissa Martin Chesson  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Emory Healthcare  
Atlanta, GA

BC Childress  
Drug Information Specialty Residency  
Sullivan University College of Pharmacy  
Louisville, KY

Jenna Cleaveland  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Columbus Regional Hospital  
Columbus, GA

Shaden Dadashnejad  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
Atlanta, GA

Amber Draper  
Pharmacy Practice, Teaching Hospital  
University of Alabama in Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL

Donna Ghazi  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Piedmont Hospital  
Atlanta, GA

Rhondolyn N. Jones  
Community Pharmacy Practice Residency  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA

Joy Locklear  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
WellStar Kennestone Hospital  
Marietta, GA

Andrea Maxfield  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
WellStar Kennestone  
Marietta, GA

Karen Miller  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
DeKalb Medical Center  
Decatur, GA

Lilian Ndehi  
Managed Care Residency  
Humana Inc.  
Louisville, KY

Evan Nix  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Columbus Regional Hospital  
Columbus, GA

Paige Parsons  
Managed Care Pharmacy Residency  
Veterans Affairs Healthcare System  
Phoenix, AZ

Sarah Phanco  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, NC

Derek Polly  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Emory Healthcare  
Atlanta, GA

Carolyn Ragsdale  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Atlanta, GA

Erin Spivey  
Primary Care Pharmacy Residency  
Veterans Affairs Hospital  
Atlanta, GA

Jeremiah Taylor  
Community Pharmacy Practice Residency  
The University of Tennessee/Wilson Pharmacy, Inc.  
Johnson City, TN

Miheret Tesfaye  
Pharmacy Practice Residency  
Northeast Georgia Health System  
Gainesville, GA