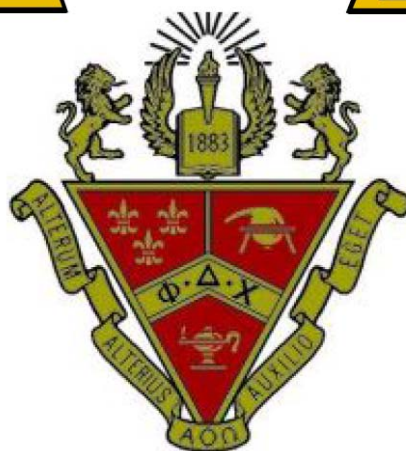


Phi Delta Chi



# Scholarship Report

## Omega Chapter

University of Tennessee

College of Pharmacy

October 2008

When it comes to academics, the Omega Chapter brothers of Phi Delta Chi at the University of Tennessee are known for their leadership and excellence, just like in any other aspect. We brothers take a lot of pride in our academic achievements and reputation, and attribute it to our commitment to fulfilling the “Oath of Professionalism” that all pharmacy students at the University of Tennessee participate in developing, in which students pledge to become the best pharmacists they can be for a better community service. The Omega Chapter brothers realize that this starts with academic excellence, hence strive for being leaders in this aspect, and take pride for being able to do so. However, academic leadership and excellence are the outcomes of hard work, strong desire, motivation, commitment and great programs, such as the Omega Chapter’s Scholarship program, which has always been dedicated to promoting scholarship among brothers, and the school of Pharmacy at large.

The scholarship program at the Omega Chapter aims to achieve its goal of promoting scholarship among brothers via **two main motives**. The first motive is to provide brothers with the “**tools**” for **academic improvement**. The second is to create **incentives and motivations for brothers** to enhance their academic and leadership skills, as well as **recognizing and awarding** them for their **academic achievements and participations**. These motives are overviewed and conducted by our **scholarship committee**, which also serves as a liaison between brothers in need for academic support and their means of support, whether it is private tutoring, accessing information or even moral support.

## **I. Academic Promoting Programs**

Enhancing the academic performance of brothers is a goal that the Omega scholarship committee spends a great deal of energy upon, as it is apparent to us that it yields utmost benefits to the brothers and hopefully will make them more knowledgeable and more competent pharmacists in the near future.

### **A- Service Letter to First Year Students**

Our efforts start in the summer, as our service chairs write and mail a letter to every incoming first year pharmacy students (P-1 students). The letter serves many goals. It is a “**welcome**” letter to the P-1 students, a sort of an “ice breaker” that congratulates them for being accepted to our Pharmacy school. It also tells them more about our fraternity and **introduces** to them the brotherhood, leadership, service and scholarship opportunities at the Omega chapter. Besides that, the letter includes a brief **synopsis** of each of the classes that they will be enrolled in for the first semester. It tells them what to expect and how to prepare for these classes in an attempt to enhance their understanding of the requirements of pharmacy school, and to show them the keys to success in such a professional setting.

### **B- Study Sessions**

School starts after the summer break and it is always exciting, especially that we welcome new pledges to our fraternity. However, not a long time after that, the first series of exams arrives, and brothers become anxious as they anticipate the long nights of studying and the fact that the courses are non-traditional. This is mostly observed with P-1 and P-2 students. P-1 students face this dilemma with Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry, whereas P-2 students face it with Pharmacokinetics and Therapeutics. This

challenge provides a great opportunity to the Omega Scholarship committee to intervene and make a difference by arranging study sessions for these classes. Our goal is to provide a **study session for every one of these classes** prior to examinations, and we have been very consistent in doing so thus far. Brothers Houssam Hajj Houssein (P-2), and Sampy Wright (P-2) have been providing **Pharmacology study sessions** to our P-1 pledges and the attendance has been staggering. In these sessions the tutors go over the important concepts, answer questions, and go over sample exam questions prepared and contributed by P-2 and P-3 brothers based upon previous experiences and encounters in the course of Pharmacology. **Medicinal Chemistry study sessions** are conducted on the same bases. Brothers Gillian Bell (P-2), Erin Nutter (P-2), and Houssam Hajj Houssein (P-2) conduct these sessions by reviewing the material, answering questions and going over sample exam questions as well. It is worth mentioning that the attendees at some of the Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry sessions have **exceeded 80 attendants**, which exceeds the number of our P-1 Pledge class. That is fine with us, as we do keep in mind that the main goal is to promote scholarship among future pharmacists. We view this as an opportunity to show non-PDC students, who are in attendance, how much we care about our pledges and the values of our brotherhood. As for the P-2 study sessions, brothers Abbie Tucker (P-3) and Mindy Parman (P-3) have been conducting **Pharmacokinetics study sessions**, going over the material, and over sample exam modules previously gathered by PDC brothers. P-3 brothers also offer plenty of advice to our P-2 brothers on how to study for Therapeutics, what to focus on while studying, and what to expect on the exams. As for P-4 brothers, their expertise and knowledge about rotations is very resourceful to our P-3 brothers, who are about to start their own rotations.



Pharmacokinetics Study Session conducted by Brothers Abbie Tucker and Mindi Parman at the Phi Delta Chi house.



Pharmacology Study Session conducted by Brothers Houssam Hajj Houssein and Sampy Wright in the General Education Building.

### **C- Tutoring and Mentoring**

Other than study sessions, **one-on-one tutoring** is also available to brothers who need it. Brothers Houssam Hajj Houssein, Mindy Parman, Abbie Tucker, Sampy Wright, Erin Nutter and Gillian Bell have all volunteered for private tutoring whenever needed. Also, our **Big Brother/ Little Brother** program has a **positive impact** on scholarship. Big Brothers become **mentors** to their Little Brothers, thereby passing along their gained knowledge and experiences of pharmacy school, and most of the time **passing on their study guides, notes and flash-cards** that they have prepared for different courses. There is also a new proposal by the scholarship committee to make it mandatory for Big Brothers to provide a minimum of 3 hours of Little Brothers-tutoring on materials chosen by Little Brothers.

### **D- PDC Library**

Our brothers can also take advantage of our fraternity house. It is not only available for rituals, brotherhood meetings, small-group study sessions and entertainment, but is also a sanctuary for quiet studying and the place where to find our private library. The **library** has a plethora of **old and new pharmacy school-related textbooks**, as well as **note banks, flash-cards and study guides** provided by brothers over the years. Brothers also have access to the internet at the house, which they can utilize for research and resource-accessing.

### **E- Blackboard PDC Site**

Last year, our chapter created a **Phi Delta Chi site on Blackboard**, the website professors utilize to provide their courses to students, This PDC site further educates

brothers on our committees and what they do, as well as to keep them updated with events. The site also includes the **Study Guide section**, in which we have converted many of the hard-copy study guides into the electronic format, and added recently provided study guides to that section. At this point, brothers can find a **study guide** posted for **almost every single core-course** provided at our pharmacy school. We also, have surveys available for brothers to fill out, in order to evaluate and express their opinions, and suggest any changes or additions they would like to see taking place in the program to make it more beneficial and resourceful.

## **II. Incentives, Motivations and Awards**

Creating incentives and motivations for brothers to enhance their academic performance can further maximize their utilization of the resources that the chapter provides. These **incentives and motivations** may serve as **driving forces** to increasing the academic efforts and **promoting scholarship** among brothers, as they keep in mind that the our fraternity highly appreciate scholars and seek to reward them morally and monetarily. For this purpose, we have created a variety of programs:

### **A- The Goal GPA Award**

This award, which has been recently implemented, rewards brothers for meeting a **goal GPA** that they set for themselves at the beginning of a semester. Once that goal is attained by a participating brother, his/her name goes into a **drawing** that will determine the winners. All brothers are eligible for this award; however, there are some conditions to the game. The scholarship committee has decided that the goal GPA cannot be lower than 3.0, since our goal is to promote academic excellence. Also, the **chances of winning** are

**increased based on the set goal.** For example, a brother who sets a minimum goal GPA of 3.34 and meets his goal, he/she will have 2 names entered into the drawing as compared to one name for a brother who meets a goal GPA of 3.0, and if a brother meets a goal GPA of 3.67 or above, he/she will have 3 names entered into the drawing. This creates an incentive among brothers to increasing their goal GPA, and hopefully **increasing their efforts** towards meeting that goal, which is the main purpose of the game. Brothers who qualify for the drawing will get a chance to win one of **5 gift cards/semester** (one \$20 for the first pick and four \$15), as well as a **certificate of achievement**. The first round of winners will be determined after this fall semester.

### **B- The Grade-Scale Award**

The purpose of this award is to recognize brothers who show the **greatest improvement in score on a single course**. Eligible courses include Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry for P-1 students, Therapeutics and Pharmacokinetics for P-2 students, and Therapeutics and Applied Therapeutics for P-3 students. Brothers qualify for this award only if their highest grade came after the lowest grade and not vica-versa. The high grade must be a minimum of 87%, and the **5 brothers** with the greatest grade-scale difference are awarded **\$10 gift cards**. This award will be given out every semester, just like the GPA Goal Award.

### **C- Scholar of the Month Award**

The Scholar of the month award, previously known as the Smarty Pants Award, is presented at the brotherhood meeting of every month. This award is given to a brother, chosen by the Scholarship committee or nominated by brothers, based upon certain criteria. These criteria include the **promotion of scholarship** within the fraternity (i.e.

study session tutoring, private tutoring, sharing studying resources with brothers), and **personal scholastic achievements** (GPA improvements, participating in academic contests like the Clinical Skills competition etc). The chosen brother is recognized in the brotherhood meeting, awarded a **\$15 gift card** and a **certificate of achievement**. The Scholar of the Month of September 2008 was brother Sampy Wright (P-2). As for the month of October, we have three top scholars: Abbie Tucker, Mindy Parman and Alan Knauth.

#### **D- The Top Scholar Award**

The Top Scholar Award is probably the **most prestigious** award we present to brothers based upon their academic performance. It is an award recognizing brothers with the **highest grade point average** in each class. The Top Scholar Award is presented at our **Spring Formal**. The 2008 Top Scholars are Rebekah Kirkpatrick (P-4), Travis Farmer (P-3), Julia Underwood (P-2), Houssam Hajj Houssein (P-1), Sampy Wright (P-1), Jaime Shockley (P-1), Gillian Bell (P-1) and Angela Loughery (P-1). All these Top Scholars were recognized with a **front-stage trip** and a **certificate of scholastic achievement**. For next year, the scholarship committee has decided upon recognizing these brilliant scholars by acknowledging their diligence with a plaque certificate of scholastic achievement presented in front of all brothers, alumni and guests, as well as presenting them with **gift cards** (value will depend upon the number of Top Scholars, but a **minimum of \$20 each**).



Brother Julia Underwood was one of the Top Scholars who were recognized at the Spring Formal

### **E- The Brotherhood Report Scholarship**

The Brotherhood Report Scholarship is one of the special awards within our chapters as it is **alumni-funded**. This scholarship is sponsored by two of the most active and distinguished Omega Chapter alumni brothers, Mitch Pleasants and Tim Tucker. This essay-based scholarship is awarded to a brother who demonstrates the meaning and **values of brotherhood**, and how it pertains to the mission of Phi Delta Chi and to **scholarship among brothers**. Essays are due by the end of the fall semester and the scholarship (minimum of \$100) is awarded in the spring semester. Brother Sampy Wright is the 2008 Brotherhood Report Scholarship recipient.

### **F- Kirk Hevener Honorary Scholarship**

This recently-implemented scholarship is named after a recent alum brother, Kirk Hevener, whom we owe a lot for his unlimited contributions and relentless efforts to

improving our fraternity in every aspect. It is an **application-based** scholarship awarded at the Spring Formal to a brother who shows a balance between **scholastic achievements**, efforts to **promoting scholarship** within the fraternity, and **other involvements** within the fraternity or the school at large. The recipient is awarded a **plaque** (to be hung in the fraternity house) and a \$100 scholarship. Brother Bret Koertge is the 2008 recipient of the Kirk Hevener Honorary Scholarship.



Alum brother Kirk Hevener (left) awarding brother Bret Koertge (right) the Kirk Hevener Honorary Scholarship

## **G- Clinical Skills Competition Awards**

Each fall semester, the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) designs a **Clinical Skills competition** that aims to fostering the development of clinical practice skills, reinforcing the pharmacist's responsibility for optimal drug therapy outcomes, facilitating the effective use of a systematic approach to clinical problem-solving, and enhancing oral and written communication skills. Participating students pair up to form teams, and each team is given a case summary, forms for completing information, and access to references. Teams have two hours to create a pharmacist's care plan for the patient using the forms provided. Written submissions are evaluated on their application of systematic problem-solving skills by the development of a pharmaceutical care plan according to the criteria provided. Judges are provided a 'peer-reviewed' answer key to ensure objective and fair evaluations (**ashp.org**).

The scholarship committee **encourages** brothers to participate in this competition, **recognizes** participating brothers, and **awards** brothers in top teams (\$10 gift cards). This year, **fourteen brothers** participated in the competition. These brothers were Brandon Howard and Susan Publow, Rachel Day, Joseph Pandit, Julia Underwood, PJ Bass, Andy Haygood, Sampy Wright, Christy Waggoner and Camille Graham, Jaime Shockley and Jennifer Joseph, David Ball and Anna Jacobs. Brother Julia Underwood was a member of one of the winning teams (Third Place) of the competition.

## **H- Treats and Moral Support**

Sometimes the tiniest gestures can have most profound impacts and can lead to great achievements. Keeping that in mind, the scholarship committee always tries to remind brothers of how much we care about them and appreciate their pursuance of academic excellence. We try to recognize and award all **A's with goody bags**, show **moral support** by placing "good luck" notes and **treats** like chocolate truffles in brothers' mailboxes before a major exam, especially for P-1s. Sometimes, we also prepare brothers for a study session by energizing them with delicious **home-made pancakes**, just like P-3 brothers Sarah Bliss and Abbie Tucker did for P-2 brothers before the second Pharmacokinetics study Session. We feel like these small gestures are highly appreciated by our brothers and plan to continue the support and encouragement by any available means.

## **III. Scholastic Achievements**

### **A- Rho Chi Honor Society**

Nothing testifies more about **academic excellence** other than being inducted to the national honor society for pharmacy students, Rho Chi. At the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, Rho Chi membership is the **only form of scholastic recognition** (no President's or Dean's List). **Membership** to Rho Chi is **invitation-based** and is granted to the **top fifteen percent of students** in a class after three semesters of pharmacy school. An **additional five percent** are added after completion of five semesters. We are proud to state that many of our Phi Delta Chi brothers are also members of Rho Chi. **Seven** out of

the 31 **P-4** Rho Chi members are Phi Delta Chi Brothers ( $\approx 23\%$ ), and **11** out of the 30 **P-3** Rho Chi members are Phi Delta Chi brothers ( $\approx 37\%$ )

**Current Rho Chi Brothers:**

**P-4s:**

Julia Alford	Sarah Eanes	Brent Reed	Travis Farmer
Anna Jacobs	David Patterson	Tracy Bursby-McDowd	

**P-3s:**

Sarah Camponovo	Renay L. Coffey	Megan E. Riddle	Jodie N. Connell
Michael A. Knauth	Susan W. Publow	Julia M. Underwood	Amanda G. Inger
Melanie N. Michael	Lana R. Huddleston	Sarah E. Mizne	

We are very proud of all our Rho Chi brothers, and we are highly anticipating this year's invitations in the spring semester, as we expect more Phi Delta Chi brothers to be inducted into Rho Chi. It is also worth mentioning that the current Rho Chi president is brother Julia Underwood, and that last year's president was brother Julia Alford. This can serve as a proof of Phi Delta Chi's academic leadership in our college of Pharmacy.

**B- Academic and Extracurricular Scholarships**

The University of Tennessee offers many scholarships to students based upon scholastic achievements and extracurricular activities. The Phi Delta Chi Omega Chapter is very proud of to state that a total of **83 brothers** are currently receiving scholarships of a cumulative value of **\$592,144.00**. **Eight** of the total 68 **P-4** scholarship-receiving students are Phi Delta Chi brothers ( $\approx 12\%$ ), whereas **11** out of the total 56 **P-3** scholarship-receiving students are Phi Delta Chi brothers ( $\approx 20\%$ ). **Twenty six** of the total 72 **P-2** scholarship-receiving students are Phi Delta Chi brothers ( $\approx 36\%$ ), and a staggering **37** out of the 47 **P-1** scholarship-receiving students are Phi Delta Chi pledges ( $\approx 79\%$ )!

The following brothers are all **scholarship recipients**:

**P-4s:**

Julie Alford	David Ball	Travis Farmer	Evette Hudson
Bret Koertge	Jennifer Pavetto	Brent Reed	Ali Smith
Carol White			

**P-3s:**

Sara Bliss	Carolyn Cummings	Chrystal Holmes	Amanda Inger
Onovughode Oboh	Susan Publow	Megan Riddle	Damonn Russell
Lindsey Thompson	Julia Underwood	Adedayo Onofowokan	

**P-2s:**

Jonathan Bain	Emily Barker	Nathan Blanchard	Shimeka Edwards
Emma Gant	Brandon Hale	Lindsey Honea	Houssam H. Houssein
Emily Jones	Mark Lingerfelt	Angela Loughrey	Zhen Lu
Sampy Wright	Amber Mynakha	Phung Ngo	Yen Ngo
Rufus Nicks	Andrea Powell	Toymeka Quaites	Jaime Shockley
Courtney Smith	Kimberly Taylor	Emily Thomas	Christiana Udoji
Sandra Weissmiller	Cisely Davidson		

**P-1s:**

Titola Afolabi	Akeylah Battle	Latasha Brown	Angel Craig
Tam Dao	Mclisa Davis	Deidra Dickerson	Chinenye Enekwa
Mayesha Field	Mary Gallaher	Amanda Huskey	Shanice Jamison
LaRhonda Jefferson	Paula Jemes	Andraya Johnson	LaQunna Johnson
Keith Jones	Patrik Lising	Leila Moore	Erin Oliver
Maria Paredes	Morgan Rainey	Monique Reedy	Arielle Ross
Lashayna Ruffin	Reham Sayed	April Shelton	Alda Shepherd
Mary Sickbert	Lacie Stockstill	Cassandra Thomas	Lora Underwood
Huan Vo	Michelle Washington	Sarah Whaley	Danessa Williams
Michell Zulu			

**C- PharmD/PhD Program**

The Phi Delta Chi Omega Chapter is very proud of all the scholarship-receiving brothers, as well as of all the brothers who were chosen for the **PharmD/PhD** dual enroll program. This is a program for highly qualified students, which allows them to pursue a PharmD and a PhD at the same time. Such a combination allows the selected students to **finish both doctorates in six to seven years** (PharmD will be earned after the fourth year), as compared to 8 to 9 years if they were to be pursued separately. All students enrolled in this program receive the **Feurt Scholarship**, which includes a full tuition waiver and a stipend. Our Feurt Scholars include: David Ball (P-4), Bret Koertge (P-4),

## Omega Chapter Scholarship Report

Brandon Hale (P-2), Emma Gant (P-2), Sarah Whaley (P-1), Mary Sickbert (P-1), and Erin Oliver (P-1). Our Alumni brothers in the process of pursuing their PhD include Crescent Rowell, and Maggi Thompson.

The Omega chapter of Phi Delta Chi has a long history of striving for excellence. We are a proud Phi Delta Chi chapter and truly believe that our brothers are some of the brightest pharmacy students at the University of Tennessee, and arguably some of the brightest in the nation at large. We believe that we owe it to our profession, communities and most importantly to ourselves to utilize our potentials to the fullest and become the best pharmacists we can be. As a scholarship committee, we pledge to continue supporting and inspiring brothers for that purpose by any means, and to keep on implementing innovative programs for the sake of development and scholarship improvement. We realize that learning is a never-ending process and therefore, pledge to continue the pursuit of perfection and excellence before, and more importantly, after graduation from pharmacy school.

Written by  
Houssam Hajj Houssein (Scholarship Chair)

Scholarship Committee:

Christina Boone	Travis Farmer	Houssam Hajj Houssein
Camille Graham	Christy Waggoner	Jennifer Hamman
Becky Young	Deidra Dickerson	April Shelton
Lola Afolabi		