

The Rho Chi Society

History at UMKC: The Rho Chi Society was founded in 1917 at the University of Michigan. The UMKC Alpha Omega chapter was chartered in 1954.

Organization's Philosophy/Mission: The Society is to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement and foster fellowship among its members. Further, the Society encourages high standards of conduct and character, and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy.

Relationship to National Organization: The University of Missouri-Kansas City chapter is one chapter among many within this National Organization. The chapter at UMKC was the 48th chapter to be chartered, with the designation of Alpha Omega. The local chapter has a close relationship to the national organization and a delegate from the local chapter is sent to attend the annual national meeting.

Major Advocacy, Leadership or Community Service Activities (within past two years)

- ***Rho Chi Informational Meeting – Ongoing: 10 years (All Campuses):*** The Alpha Omega chapter hosted an informational meeting open to all pharmacy students, particularly targeting first year students. The president started with the introduction and gave a brief history on Rho Chi and membership eligibility. We also had Dr. Andrew Smith give a brief presentation on learning strategies and how to be successful in pharmacy school and beyond. To improve the quality of this activity we implemented and updated a “survival guide” made by Rho Chi members specific to each campus that included: places to study, discounts with student ID, food discounts, food trucks commonly on campus, resources available, study tips, and advice from Rho Chi members. This was emailed out to the P1 class and had information on all 3 sites (Kansas City, Columbia, Springfield). After the floor was opened for questions and the Rho Chi members mingled amongst the underclassmen.
- ***General Medicine I Rotation Roundtable – Ongoing: 10 years (All Campuses)*** The Alpha Omega chapter once again hosted their annual General Medicine I rotation roundtable for P2 students. P3 students have a longitudinal IPPE with one faculty member at various practice sites around their sitespecific area. The roundtable gives P3 students the opportunity to discuss a typical day at their site, common disease states seen, their respective patient populations, and what is expected of them on their rotation. Due to COVID 19, a student from each practice site and preceptor collaborated to make a PowerPoint that was distributed to all P2 students with contact information if any additional questions came up. This year we worked very closely with the faculty member in charge of General Medicine I rotation, Dr. Ruehter, to develop a template for those presenting to enhance the content. We also expanded accessibility by uploading the previous recording from last year's roundtable so that students still had the same opportunity to play back the recording and learn more. The P2 students expressed that this roundtable was very helpful in deciding which faculty member to choose for their longitudinal rotation. This tradition will be continued by the incoming executive team.
- ***Academic Achievement Ceremony – Ongoing: 11 years (All Campuses)*** The Alpha Omega chapter will hold a reception to recognize P1 students that received a 4.0 GPA after successful completion of the first semester of pharmacy school in the fall. This is usually done in the spring but due to COVID-19, we postponed it to the fall so the students can be recognized in person and receive their certificates. The president and vice president will recognize each P1 student individually and present them with a certificate signed by the chapter President and Dean to acknowledge their achievement. After Rho Chi members will be available for questions and networking. It is the intention of the new executive committee to continue this event.

- **Study Room – Ongoing: 2 year** (Kansas City and Springfield) During this year, our Alpha Omega chapter offered a study room once a week on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 9 for all pharmacy students. The room was promoted via Facebook and canvas as a quiet place to study with other pharmacy students, including Rho Chi members who would be available for assistance or advice as needed. With this study room we hoped to foster collaboration, encourage intellectual achievement, and promote high ethical standards. We were able to expand our study room to our Springfield site and Columbia site through zoom. Overall, the feedback from students and faculty was positive and the new executive committee plans to continue and expand our operations to reach out to more students.
- **Student Mentor Program - Ongoing: 2 year** (All campuses) The Alpha Omega Chapter worked with Dr. Marken to reach out to students who were needing support. At the Rho Chi Study, members such as the President, were able to mentor P1s on areas they were struggling such as topics as Medicinal Chemistry and Biochemistry. Rho Chi plans to continue to work with Dr. Marken to aid students who need encouragement and support academically to get through school. The current executive team plans to continue this.
- **New Student Orientation - Ongoing: 2 year** (Kansas City) At the new student orientation for the P1s, we were able to present Rho Chi's mission and vision to educate the new students about what Rho Chi is and stands for. We provided information on our activities and requirements to become a member. We also were able to present to the students our poster that captures what our organization does. Students interested in learning more about Rho Chi were able to add their contact information. Many students including Rho Chi executive team members and active Rho Chi members were able to attend this event to inform the P1 students. The incoming executive team has plans to continue attending this event.
- **Lunch on the Lawn - Ongoing: 2 year** (Kansas City) At Lunch on the Lawn, Rho Chi was able to display our poster and provide information to P1s and other students about Rho Chi and our mission. Students were given details about how to become a member and what being a member of Rho Chi entails. Many students including Rho Chi executive team members were able to attend this event to inform the P1 students. The incoming executive team has plans to continue this event.
- **Student Survival Guides - Ongoing: 2 years** (All campuses) Rho Chi has created guides for incoming students. These guides provide study strategies and tips. These guides also provided updated information on how to access various drug resources. These guides were campus specific and provided information about study rooms, student discounts and other various sources to aid the incoming students. All P1s received these survival guides via email and the incoming executive team plans to continue this aid.
- **UMKC Rho Chi Facebook Page – Ongoing: 2 years** (All campuses) Rho Chi executive members created a Facebook page for UMKC's Rho Chi chapter. All active and some past Rho Chi members were added to the Facebook page. The page was created for a way to increase Rho Chi alumni involvement and keep past members informed about how the chapter is doing. On this Facebook page, active members and executive members are able to upload pictures from our yearly activities to catalog our experiences and success. This year, we used the social format to host our initiation since we were unable to meet in person due to COVID-19. The executive board recorded the initiation and each incoming member recited the oath and posted it to the Facebook page. The incoming executive team plans to continue operating this Facebook page.
- **UMKC New Executive Officer Installment – 2 years** (All campuses) Within the initiation ceremony on Facebook, the new incoming executive officers were installed. The new executive members had to recite their promise to fulfill the duties set forth in their positions and post it to the Facebook site. They were then formally inducted to their positions by the advisors and current executive team. All students recited the oath, and the incoming executive team plans to continue this installment.

- **Pharmacotherapy Trivia – 1 year** (All Campuses) Rho Chi executive members created questions from lecture material from Pharmacotherapy I,II, and III, Top Drugs, and Pharmacology. The Trivia game was played through an online format that kept score for each participant. The goal was to review previous material and be able to apply it to questions formatted similarly to NAPLEX. The student feedback from this event was very positive and the 2021 executive board plans on continuing this event.

Awards and Accomplishments: Rho Chi recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of both faculty and students at the annual Rho Chi initiation and awards ceremony. Certificates of recognition are presented to the top performing student(s) in the first and second professional years at the annual Rho Chi ceremony. The faculty member of the year and senior student of the year are also recognized at the ceremony, with plaques given at the senior awards ceremony.

- **2020-2021 Rho Chi Senior Member of the Year:** Haley Rust
- **2020-2021 Faculty Member of the Year:** Dr. Amanda Stahnke, Pharm.D., BCACP

Advisor(s) and Officers:

President: Zachary Painter, zkpfcc@mail.umkc.edu
 Vice President: Abby Poage, acpoage@mail.umkc.edu
 Secretary: Liz Mann, em9qd@mail.umkc.edu
 Treasurer: BJ Eiberger, bje4kd@mail.umkc.edu
 Historian: Amy Janowski, akj3vw@mail.umkc.edu

Advisors: Andrew Smith, Pharm.D., BCPS (co-advisor)
 Amanda Stahnke Pharm.D. BCACP (co-advisor)
 Lisa Cillessen, Pharm.D. (co-advisor)
 Elizabeth Englin, Pharm.D. (co-advisor)
 Erica Ottis, Pharm.D. (co-advisor)

How to Join: The following eligibility criteria have to be met:

- Full-time students enrolled in a professional pharmacy program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- Completed no less than one-half of the required professional didactic course work as defined for their degree
- Rank in the highest 20 percent of their class
- Have attained a minimum professional grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Have been certified eligible for membership by the Dean of the pharmacy school or the Dean's designee

Students who meet all of the eligibility criteria are notified at the beginning of the spring semester at which time the student may choose to accept or decline membership in Rho Chi. New members are initiated at an initiation ceremony later in the semester. New officers are elected after this banquet.