

# The Script

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

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Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.



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1PD students pull an all-nighter to raise money for cancer research

# Saving Lives, Drowning Cancer

By Jamie Schuber, Relay for Life Team Co-Captain

For those who are unfamiliar with Relay for Life, it is an eighteen-hour walk-a-thon to raise money for the American Cancer Society. It symbolizes that cancer never stops and at the event neither did the students of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy (UF COP).

Wonderful events took place throughout the night, some silly and others emotional. A Survivor Lap kicked off the night as well as a Luminaria Ceremony to honor those lives affected by cancer.

When Amanda Graham, 1PD, and I volunteered to become captains of the UF COP Relay team we definitely had our work cut out for us. While other teams involved had been fundraising for several months, our last-minute participation left us with just weeks to reach our goal of \$2000. We got right to work and planned various fundraisers including a TCBY stand, a bake sale, a faculty vs. student penny war,

and on-site projects, while also stressing the importance of individual fundraising.

Despite the ungodly amount of e-mails, we received incredibly positive feedback from the COP family. About forty people signed up for the team, to help raise money and volunteer to walk at the event. Everyone's encouraging attitudes helped keep our spirits up even at the most exhausting moments.

Thinking back to the rocky start, I honestly had my doubts. The unconditional support of fellow classmates and the COP faculty members gave our team



the ability to surpass our goal and raise a whopping \$4000. The group gained recognition as a Silver team and Amanda was honored with a "Devon Richbell" award.

Overall, our first Relay experience was a success and, with the help of the COP, we made a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer.

# 1st Annual Student Faculty BBQ

By Shane Reilly-Rogers, 2PD

Last Month Kappa Psi and Kappa Epsilon had their first Student-Faculty Barbeque. This event, which will hopefully become an annual staple, gave the students and faculty at the College of Pharmacy a chance to mingle outside of the classroom setting.

Over ninety students and faculty attended the event, which was held on March 25th at one of Lake Walburg's south shore pavilions. Students and faculty had the chance to take advantage of the beautiful day at Walburg by hanging out by the lake, paddling in a canoe, or in the case of a few brave professors, tackling the rock wall.

Food was served, catering to vegetarians and carnivores alike. Although it rained the day before the event, the clouds held off long enough for everyone to enjoy the day and get out of the blue room for a couple of hours.

However, the day wasn't just about having fun and socializing. The event raised over \$800 for the Fisher House Foundation, an organization that donates homes built on the grounds of major military and Veterans Affairs medical centers. These are much like the VA right here in Gainesville, across the street from Shands. These homes allow families of injured veterans to stay close to them when they have to travel long distances for specialized medical care, all at no cost to the family. Although there is no Fisher house currently at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center, the Gainesville Fisher House Foundation is actively working to raise money to build one.

Through events like this one we can do our part to help reach the goal of \$2.5 million to help support the veterans who were injured while serving the country.

For more information about the Gainesville Fisher House, visit their website: [www.gainesvillefisherhouse.org](http://www.gainesvillefisherhouse.org).

Dr. Vogel Anderson and Dr. Whalen enjoying the perfect BBQ weather



Dr. Vogel Anderson and Dr. Whalen enjoying the perfect BBQ weather



April Downey, Kelly Kieffer and Dani Underwood ready to explore the lake



Rachel Manno and Allie Oswalt kayak on Lake Walburg

# Generation Rx: Raising Awareness

By Mallory Burns, Generation Rx Team

“Every 19 minutes, one American DIES from an unintentional prescription drug overdose.” Seven Generation Rx members painted this grim statistic on the 34th Street graffiti wall during Generation Rx Week to raise awareness for a growing problem: prescription drug abuse.

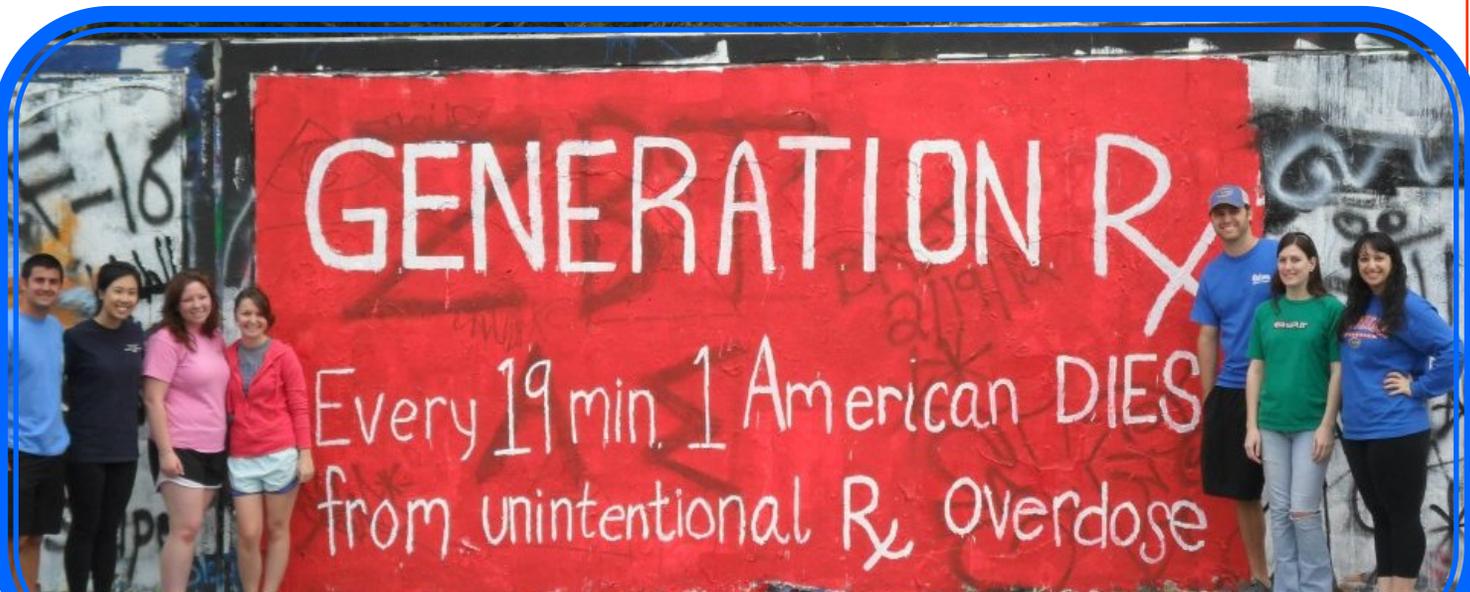
More and more people, especially teenagers and young adults, are turning to medicine cabinets instead of drug dealers to find their next high. Generation Rx Week focused on educating students and the community about the common misconception that abusing prescription drugs is safer than abusing street drugs because they are “medicine.” In fact, unintentional drug overdoses are the second leading cause of accidental death.

Groups of pharmacy students visited local high schools to inform students about the dangers of prescription drug abuse by using Skittles to simulate a “pharm party.” This demonstrated how different combinations of commonly abused drugs could cause severe interactions and even death. The pharmacy students also discussed the added dangers of mixing alcohol with any combination of these medications.

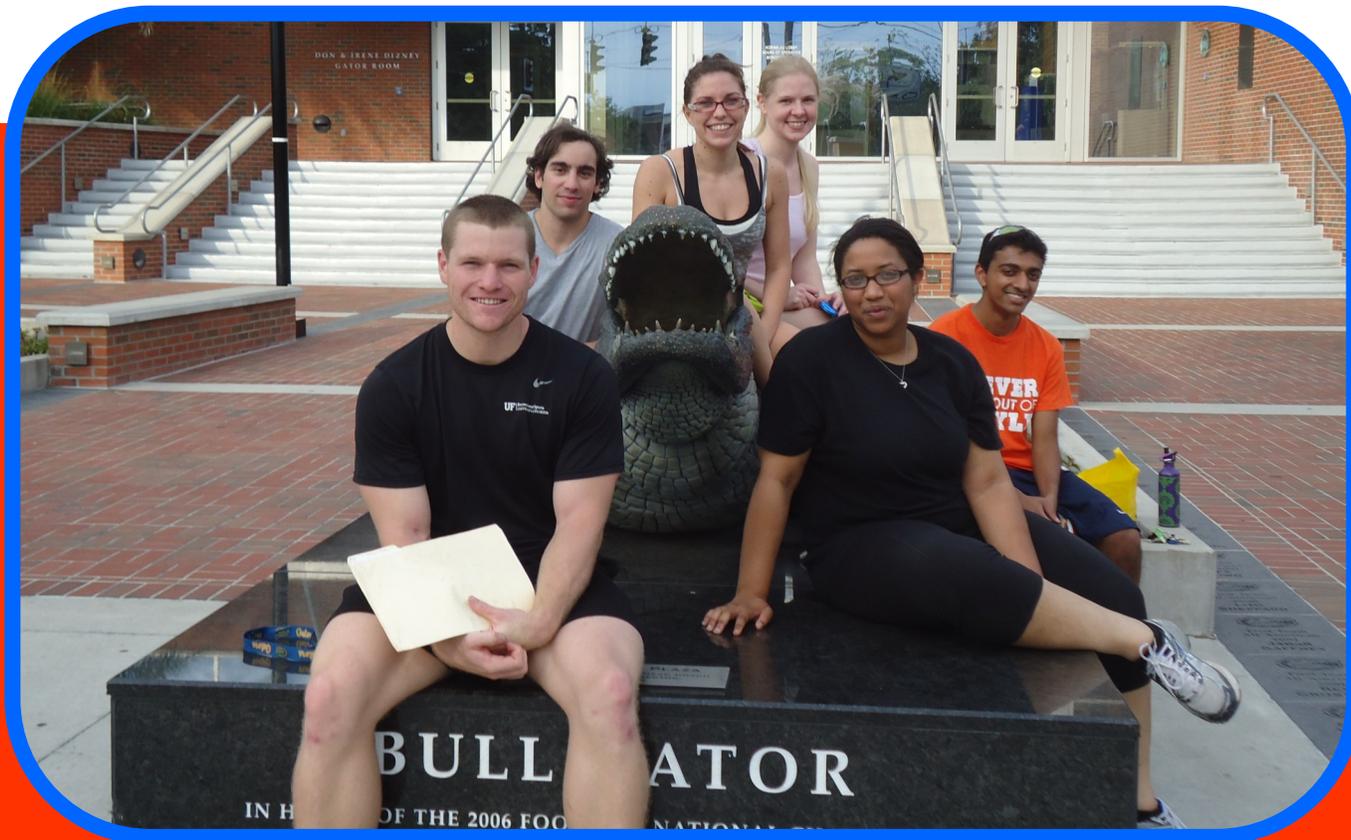
They didn’t stop there – education was extended to students here on campus. Activity kits of these simulated “pharm parties” were delivered to dorm buildings and many Greek houses to alert residents that prescription drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when used without the supervision of a doctor or pharmacist. These kits included statistics on prescription drug abuse and advice on how to properly store and discard medications so that they do not fall into the wrong hands.

Pairs of Generation Rx students also tabled outside the Reitz Student Union and passers-by were encouraged to color and decorate index cards with activities that they would prefer doing instead of drugs.

Generation Rx is actively working to prevent deaths caused by prescription drug overdoses and reduce the frightening statistic that 2500 young people between the ages of twelve and seventeen abuse a prescription pain killer for the first time every day.



Wesley Lanier, Roya Tran, Daryl Miller, Natalie Eick, Matt Morelli, Mallory Burns and Brittany Batah paint the 34th St wall for Generation Rx Week



## By Carly Hendrix, Pharmacy Gators for Wellness Historian

With the help of 1PDs Sheena Mathew, Whitney Ruddock and Alyssia Jaume, there is a new club for us all to get excited about. Pharmacy Gators for Fitness, Health and Nutrition originated in Jacksonville and has made its way to the Gainesville campus. The name of the club was recently changed to Pharmacy Gators for Wellness, or PGW for short. This club is bringing to light how important it is to take the time to take care of ourselves while we are taking care of others. Too many of us have put our own health on the back burner while making a success of our pharmacy education. As healthcare providers our utmost concern is the health of our patients. We work so hard to influence our patients and the community to engage in health-enhancing activities, but many of us forget to take our own advice.

The goal of PGW is the improvement of all pharmacy students' overall health as well as encouraging health enhancement in the community. The plan is to get students actively engaged

in eating properly, keeping active, and employing strategies to maintain and achieve a state of optimal health. Amy Kiskaddon, the Vice President of Nutrition, has given us some great advice about how to make healthy choices while on campus and eating at the not-so-healthy restaurants we have available to us. She even made a game out of it called Eat This, Not That Jeopardy. Brendan Ryan, a certified personal trainer and first year pharmacy student, has headed the Fitness division and made us all sweat it out at an intense stadium workout on March 30<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to relieve some of the stress that finals bring,



the Health guru, Diana Williams, arranged a Ping-Pong tournament during the first reading day before finals. All this has occurred during the early stages of bringing this club to life. We are excited about how much this club can grow and accomplish. Don't miss out on the fun, the education, and the opportunity to get your health on the right track!

## Ambulatory Care

By Ahmed Ghonim, 3PD

Ambulatory Care was my first rotation. This focused heavily on patient care, so we saw patients in clinic every day. Monitoring warfarin patients' International Normalized Ratios (INRs) was one of our primary tasks. Based on their INR and an interview that we conducted, decisions were made about a patient's therapy. The information obtained from the interview had a large impact on how we treated a patient, so it was very important to hone our interview skills. Often times the patients either gave a ton of information that needed analyzing to determine its impacts, or they

provided little information on their own and that required hard work to uncover the details. In addition, we accounted for the impact of changes in a patient's medication regimen, such as the addition or removal of amiodarone. A major lesson I learned on this rotation was the importance of documenting everything in an accurate and professional way. I also learned about how cost, convenience, and life in general may impact a patient's medical care and what we, as pharmacists, can do to help.



## Hematology/Oncology

By Brian Fung 3PD

My inpatient hematology/oncology rotation was a rollercoaster of emotions. Expectations were pretty high on this rotation, and it was pretty challenging. I was expected to know renal and liver adjustments for many drugs and was asked to interview patients on my first day, among other things. Something that I realized thus far on rotations was that I want hard rotations in order to learn the most from them. I was nearing the end of my third week, and I felt pretty comfortable managing my patients every day. My experi-



ence on this rotation had elicited many different emotions since I encountered terminally ill patients on a daily basis. Feelings ranged from the happiness felt at the sight of a patient laughing and smiling with their loved ones, to the tears that rolled down their faces when a patient passed away, and to the overwhelming stress from trying everything you can to the best of your ability so as to take care of your patients. In the end, this rotation was a very humbling and rewarding experience.



## Kappa Epsilon Founder's Week

By Erika Giblin, KE Founders Week Chair

Kappa Epsilon's Founder's Week is a time-honored tradition in which its members celebrate the creation of an organization that seeks to unite female pharmacy students all across the country.

Zada M. Cooper founded Kappa Epsilon in 1939. Here, at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, the Kappa Chapter of KE devotes a week of service and peer bonding to celebrate Founder's Week.

This year's event was April 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. The activities included a chapter meeting and group photo on Monday, Applebee's fundraiser on Tuesday, faculty breakfast on Wednesday, freeze-tag at the Boy's and Girl's Club Thursday, Swamp social on Friday, and a "Karibbean Escape"-themed banquet on Saturday. The banquet is used as a celebration of the old and new.

Newly appointed officers are congratulated on their hard work during the semester, graduating 4PDs are celebrated for their great triumphs and future ambitions, and a Pharmacist of the Year is awarded.

The Pharmacist of the Year is a female pharmacist who embodies the true qualities of Kappa Epsilon- strong, ambitious, and caring. This year's Pharmacist of the Year was Dr. Moorman-Li for all of the great work she does and for her undeniable ability to show compassion towards everyone she encounters.

This year's Founder's Week was a great success and a great way to distress before heading into finals!



Jaclyn Hernandez, KE President and Daryl Miller, KE Vice President



Brittany Fiore, Jaclyn Hernandez, Dana Garrett and Katie Hitzel, 2PD's

## Rho Chi Welcome's 30 New Members

By Heather Good, Rho Chi

The Rho Chi Society was first recognized in 1922 at the University of Michigan, Alpha Chapter. The Greek letters Rho and Chi were selected due to their symbolism of a "prescription sign." The purpose of Rho Chi is to recognize excellence in intellectual achievement in pharmacy. Once elected as a member of Rho Chi, you are a life-long member and expected to uphold your position by continuing academic and intellectual leadership in the profession of pharmacy as well as promoting scholarly fellowship amongst the profession, students, and academic institution. The University of Florida belongs to Region 3 and has been recognized as the Iota Chapter of the Rho Chi Society since its induction in 1928. Dr. Reginald Frye is the current faculty advisor for UF's Rho Chi Iota Chapter.

students' academic achievements are evaluated for inclusion into Rho Chi. Currently, UF considers students who have completed at least half of their academic course work and are amongst the top 20% of their graduating pharmacy class for induction into Rho Chi. A formal induction ceremony is held each year, wherein new members pledge to uphold the mission and objectives of the Rho Chi Society. This year, UF's Iota Chapter had thirty inductees from the Gainesville campus. These inductees are now the intellectual leaders in Gainesville and will be offering free tutoring services to pharmacy students on our campus.

This coming year our chapter wants to expand its efforts and reach out to the community. After attending the APhA-ASP Annual Conference in New Orleans, our chapter learned that we

could be recognized nationally for our achievements. Along with fellow Rho Chi members at the three distance campuses, we are attempting to increase our involvement by initiating education projects in our local communities, thereby providing needed services and education. We hope to be recognized as the Most Improved Chapter at next year's APhA-ASP Annual Meeting.

As mentioned previously, this honor and recognition was extended to thirty University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Gainesville campus, Class of 2014 students. This achievement came after an arduous year and a half of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

Each year pharmacy



***Congratulations to  
the new members!***

Joseph Abbatematteo	Michael McCartney
Juan Carlos Alberdi	Emily McCleary
Allison Baker	Cynthia Moreau
Bryan Brinda	Jeenal Patel
Kristofer Colucci	Nicholas Piccicacco
Ruti Dwivedi	Robert Pietras
Andre Felder	Eric Pyles
Stephen Fernando	Earlene Spence
Dana Garrett	Caroline Sutton
Andrew Hwang	Evan Telford
Suzanne King	Kayla Tibbetts
Sara Kutner	Joseph Tully
Leslie Kutner	Danielle Underwood
Mark Lahey	Brandon Wat
Anne Lucas	Jordana Wollmann

# The White Coat — a Sign of Professionalism

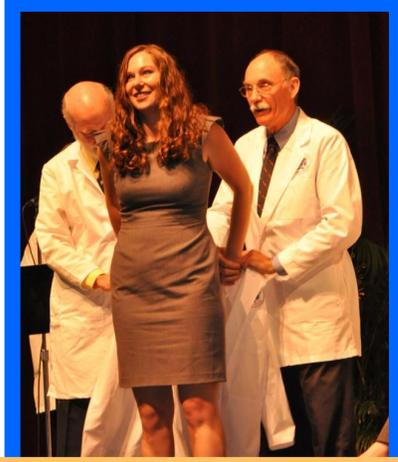
By Dr. Randell Doty, Associate Dean of Experiential Education



Sharlene Patel and Krishna Patel after getting coated

In the summer of 1997 the College was preparing for the implementation of a brand new curriculum, which would have only the PharmD as the entry-level degree. There were some fairly large departures from our previous curriculum. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (although they were not called that at the time), a brand new pharmacotherapy sequence, and 4PDs returning for the last eight weeks were all new things back then. There was much to do as you can imagine. In preparation, I went to a conference on interdisciplinary education in Washington DC with some of the faculty from the College of Nursing. On my return I happen to meet up with Dean Riffie and a few other faculty members who were on their way to another meeting. During our discussion of the new curriculum and some of the ideas that came out of my meeting, we began wondering what it is we could do to help the students make the transition from thinking of themselves as college students to thinking of themselves as professionals in training. After a bit of brainstorming we focused on the white coat. It is a visible and tangible symbol of that transition. While it is true that just having a white coat does not mean you are a professional, it cannot be denied that the public perceives people in white coats differently. Since students were effectively

transitioning from being "the public" to being professionals, this seemed like a good mechanism to make that transition real for them. Thus it was decided in the summer of 1997 that we would start this process with the first class through our new curriculum. The first white coat ceremony was held in April 1998, signifying the completion of their first year and their transition into practice as pharmacy interns for that summer. This tradition has become part of the culture of the college now. In my opinion, it fulfills its purpose quite well.



Dr. Sloan and Prof Munyer coat Alexis Stall

Christian Calderon was selected to read a portion of the Pledge of Professionalism



1 PD Mark Marcojos and his parents after the ceremony



By Dan Nguyen, President of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Gators, 2PD

What does it mean to have a mental illness? In our education, we learn the theories about the origin and the manifestation of these disorders. Learning about mental illnesses, like schizophrenia, posttraumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder, as cause-and-effect models enables future health care practitioners to view them in a similar light. This has been the case with other historical diseases, for example heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Unfortunately, until more recently the treatment of mental health has not been seen this way. Mental health care in society falls far behind the treatment of

more established disorders. Often times there is a stigma associated with a mental illness that sets limitations to its treatment and patients struggle to accept their disease and adhere to treatment because of this bias.

Our approach to mental illnesses should change as we begin to understand these diseases better. If an organ such as the heart can become sick it is also possible that a more complex organ, such as the brain, can also become afflicted. As president of the newly

formed UF Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I encourage future health care providers to understand the lack of awareness about mental illnesses and to advocate on behalf of patients suffering from social stigma. Former USA President, Bill Clinton, once said, "Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of, but stigma and bias shame us all."

If you are interested or would like more information about the efforts of NAMI, please feel free to contact me.

## Mortar and Pestle

By Aman Dhalwani, Student Council President Elect

On Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Student Council threw the annual Mortar & Pestle awards on campus in the HPNP Atrium. This is an annual event put on by the elected class representative for the first and second year pharmacy students, which highlights superlatives for each class, nominated and voted on by the members of the classes.

This year, Shawn McWhinnie and I hosted the event and presented the awards to the winners from each class. It gave those who attended a good chance to kick back and relax without having to worry about the upcoming finals, at least for a couple of hours. Through the combined efforts of the Student Council Executive Board, including President Suzanne Costa, Treasurer Juan Alberdi, Secretary Sheena Mathew, and the class presidents, Jessica Gonzalez (1PD year) &

Stephanie Scali (2PD year), the event was a huge success.

Although this year the event seemed to be over much too quickly, it was most definitely a well-needed break from the daily grind of the semester and I know that I, along with many of our other classmates, are anxiously awaiting next year's event!



Christian Claderon, Joe Bratch, Cassie Bozeman and Kyle Barron were among some of the winners

## Global Health Outreach Trips: Making a Difference Across the World

By Maida Muratagic, 2PD

Every day was spent at a different rural mountain village surrounding Matagalpa, Nicaragua. Each clinic day was divided into stations, triage, doctor, central pharmacy, and counseling pharmacy and students rotated through each station to get the most experience they could. Students at triage would determine the patients' ages, current medications, and complaints as well as blood pressure, temperature, and weight. Students at the doctor station would assist the doctors in examining of the patient, evaluating their chief complaints, and determining a therapy plan. Students at counseling pharmacy would assist the pharmacist with the medication therapy plan as well as counsel the patient on how to take their medications. Students at the central pharmacy worked as technicians, filling the prescriptions and assisting the pharmacist. The majority of the patients seen were women and children since the clinics were set up during the weekday when most men were at work. We were able to witness a surgery that involved the removal of a cyst on a patient's forehead and some of us were given the opportunity to perform intramuscular injections of antibiotics. The trip was a wonderful learning experience; it allowed each of us to utilize our clinical thinking skills when it came to determining the patients' disease states and best therapy plans that we could provide with the medications we had. The best aspect of the trip was seeing how happy and thankful the Nicaraguan people were for these services. Each patient we had was amazing - they came to the clinic before we even arrived, which was around 7:00 am, stood in line for hours, and never complained or seemed unhappy during the entire process.



Students examine a patient. The majority of patients were women and children



The team of pharmacy, medical, dental students and professionals

# Letter From the Editor

By Amy Lynn Safaty, "The Script" Editor in Chief

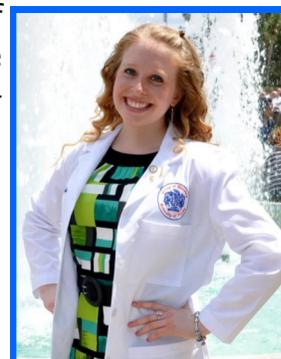
I truly want to thank our readers for their overwhelming support. After the last issue was released, my inbox was flooded with positive feedback and excitement to get involved. Numerous student organizations took the time to reach out and showcase the ways in which they make a difference in our community. All your kind words were inspiring and provided the motivation to spend countless hours editing and compiling articles.

The Script has grown

tremendously from just a simple idea to a professional College of Pharmacy publication. It truly is an honor to show our entire Pharmacy community what life is like for Gainesville students outside of the classroom.

As we find ourselves at the close of another academic year with summer vacation on the horizon, I welcome you to use these photographs and student stories to look back on the events we all participated in this past year. We have all accomplished a great deal

over the course of these two semesters, from 1PDs making it through the first professional year to 4PDs who are about to graduate and start their careers. Despite the stress of exams or rotations, Pharmacy Gators still took the time to get involved and give back and I am proud of all we have accomplished.



# Letter From the Assistant Editor

By Joseph Ladd, "The Script" Assistant Editor

One of the most frightening aspects of pharmacy school is how quickly it passes, granted few would actually consider the curriculum short. With little room between exams, quizzes, projects, extra curricular responsibilities, and the multitude of associated all-nighters, each week can seem like forever but the experience flies by.

The last issue of The Script now nearly ready for distribution, I couldn't help but recollect the venture that was my 1PD year. Leafing through the fall 2011 and spring 2012 issues, photos and articles practically jumped off the magazine's pages to prod my memory for its forgetfulness. Even though I've worked on these firsthand, and at-

tended many of the events, it is difficult to keep track of everything that has happened in eight months.

Stories of academic accomplishments, celebrations, tradition, new beginnings, of rewards and struggles were recalled. These began with orientation and with the first time I'd laid eyes on the new friends whom I'd come to learn with. I laughed out loud at memories of football games and tailgating events that brought students together and instilled school pride within all of us. Decisions came to mind once again regarding which student organizations to join and what types of leadership roles we would take-on. Eventually this

thought-cascade led to recent events, like the White Coat Ceremony and parting with the 3PDs as they left for rotations.

It has been as difficult to fit these experiences onto the pages of The Script as it has been to do in a two-semester time frame. With just two weeks until summer, I hope every student is proud of what he has undertaken and achieved this year.

