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UGA Student National Pharmaceutical Association earns top honors at national meeting

Athens, Ga. – The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) returned from their annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada last week with top honors and rankings, grant awards, a newly appointed national position, approved legislation, a scholarship and even a winning t-shirt design.

Marin Abousaud, UGA SNPhA's immediate past president, received the coveted J.B. Hills Chapter President of the Year Award, which recognizes extraordinary leadership among its 93 chapters. In addition, Abousaud was presented the Rite Aid Community Leader of the Year Award, which honors a SNPhA member who exhibits leadership on campus as well as within the community. She was cited as "...serving the underserved and cultivating diversity in the profession," according to the presentation. Abousaud also was the recipient of the Rite Aid Endowed Scholarship due to her leadership, community outreach and academic achievements.

In addition, UGA SNPhA members took first and second place honors in the Kroger National Clinical Skills Competition, which tests teams of two from various SNPhA chapters on pharmaceutical knowledge, patient assessment skills, clinical presentation abilities and effective patient counseling via a case study. Out of the 64 teams that competed, fourth-year and third-year students Rosalyn Reese and Jameisha Shavers were the overall winners and fourth-year students Marin Abousaud and Priyan Lad came in second. The UGA top teams earned \$750 and \$500 grants respectively, and their prize winnings will be used to start a Kroger Clinical Skills Competition at UGA's College of Pharmacy.

In addition, the UGA SNPhA group earned second place in the Walgreen's Outcome Award for their Remember The Ribbon Initiative to increase HIV/AIDS education and awareness. The group received a \$1000 grant to continue their cause in the coming years.

Appointed to a national leadership position was Elizabeth Ojo, UGA SNPhA's immediate past vice president, who will serve as SNPhA's National Chronic Kidney Disease Chair for the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, Tosin Adelakun, UGA SNPhA's legislative chair, presented two resolutions, which addressed patient nutrition counseling and the advancement of pharmacy careers beyond traditional pharmacy. The two resolutions passed and will be incorporated into the National SNPhA bylaws. Finally, all attendees at the conference sported a t-shirt designed by Justine Nurse-McLeod, UGA SNPhA's pre-pharmacy liaison.

Chartered at UGA since 1994, SNPhA is an educational association that focuses on serving the underserved community through the profession of pharmacy as well as increasing minority representation in the healthcare profession. The group boasts a membership of more than 90.

“I am extremely proud of these SNPhA members, who have worked diligently to promote their profession, serve others and represent the University of Georgia,” said Deborah Elder, UGA-SNPhA advisor and a clinical associate professor in UGA’s College of Pharmacy. “Not only did we capture all of these accolades, but our club was ranked sixth among the 93 SNPhA groups throughout the nation. It is clear our students’ hard work and determination has served them well, as evident by their success at the conference, and it will continue to do so as they enter their profession.”

Vivia Hill-Silcott, an academic professional and the director of Diversity Outreach and Academic Support at the college, also serves as co- advisor.

For more information about UGA SNPhA, see <http://www.ugasnpha.com/>.

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