WINTER 2025 EDITION

NEWSLETTER

GULF COAST SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Greetings GCSHP Members!

As we find ourselves closing out the holiday season & at the midpoint of the 2024-2025 year, I want to share my heart felt appreciation to each one of you for your membership. As it is your active involvement which crucially shapes and contributes to the impact as well as successes we make within our pharmacy community and beyond. I am confident that with the dedication of our

board, we will continue to offer you meaningful engagement and valuable resources.

Bringing you up to speed, in the latter half of 2024 we hosted over a dozen membership activities, events and benefit engagements, including our ongoing commitment to deliver networking opportunities & key continuing education! Surrounding Fall/Pharmacy Week we hosted our Hunger Action month & Pickleball event at PKL Social, while for Pharmacy Week we celebrated National Pharmacy Technician Day & Pharmacy Week at Axelrad & Wooster's Garden, respectively. Each event had great activities and a turnout of ~30 members and attendees! For our students and practitioner collaboration, we held our first annual Axelrad P4-Resident networking social and continued this year with three Dinner with the Pharmacist events at St. Arnolds, La Madeleine & Hungry's. Thank you to the various student participants as well as the hosting Infectious Disease & Critical Care Clinical Pharmacists: Rhea Soltau (HCA Clearlake), Stefanie Stramel (Memorial Hermann-MC), Hoang Huynh (Childrens Memorial Hermann) & Kelsey Olson (MD Anderson).



Chibuokem Amuneke-Nze, PharmD, MBA

Following up, our Second Annual Gulf Coast Educational Seminar was a huge success with great activities, door prizes, key education and an attendance of: +15 exhibitors, +20 speakers and +130 total attendees! We were honored to have TSHP President & fellow GCSHP member Jeffrey Wagner, PharmD, MPH, BCPS provide an inspiring keynote, followed by distinguished speakers and our leadership panel representing clinical and operational leaders from across the Greater Houston area. Our current president-elect Niaz Deyhim spearheaded this wonderful effort and if you missed the event she is expecting to oversee a great program for you next fall! GCSHP was also well represented this December at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Our chapter was fortunate to contribute funds to support the Texas Reception, alongside 15 other institutions and various Texas colleges of pharmacy.

Looking ahead, we have a number of local education events scheduled, including our 7 resident grand rounds with include ACPE approved CE, industry dinners with Amneal, AstraZeneca & Merck in 2025! We also have several new initiatives we are aiming to roll out, which include touring Minute Maid, Game Night & a Texas Alumni Social with a sponsored General Meeting. I urge you to follow the TSHP Bulletin and its content as we head into this legislative session & advocate for the practice of pharmacy! Be sure to save the date for TSHP Annual Seminar: April 3-5, 2024 at the Irving Convention Center in Irving, Texas. Our very own Eric Wucki is chairing the seminar and planning tons of activities available this year, so get ready for some very special programming.

It is that time of year, officer elections are incoming! A number of Board of Directors positions will be open for nominations, including Communication Sec., Recording Sec., New Practitioner Ambassador, Jr Director, and President-Elect. Be on the lookout for communication from the nominating committee!

Finally, I want to emphasize each one of you is integral to the success of our organization and I thank you for your continued participation with GCSHP. Our organization continues to strive to bring forth high-quality, valuable events and programming & I am truly inspired by the collective strength we exhibit. We sincerely appreciate your input as it is vital to what we can accomplish together supporting one another. I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events!

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GCSHP ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING PHARMACIST

Noor Zaidan is a Pharmacy Clinical Practice Specialist in Infectious
Diseases at UTMB Health. Noor graduated with a Bachelor of Science
in Human Nutrition and foods at the University of Houston in 2015 and
received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree of the University of Houston
College of Pharmacy in 2019. She went on to complete a PGY1
pharmacy residency and PGY2 residency in Infectious Diseases at
UTMB Health in Galveston, TX. Her current practice involves rounding
with the Infectious Diseases consult service and assists with
implementing antimicrobial stewardship programs at her institution.
Her current professional interests include antimicrobial stewardship,
HIV, and global health. As someone who is from the Houston area,
Noor is invested in contributing to the growth and development of her
profession and community and now currently serves as the residency
program coordinator for the PGY2 Infectious diseases pharmacy
residency program at UTMB Health.



Noor Zaidan, PharmD, BCIDP

OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN



Sherrie Myers, RCPhT

Sherrie is an Instructional Lab Manager at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy, where she performs hands on instructional skills labs with Pharm.D. students and assists faculty with logistics, course content and skills lab management. Sherrie also holds a part time position with HCA Houston Northwest and HCA Houston Kingwood where she has been an employee since 2016. Sherrie has experience as a Pharmacy Technician since 1990. She began in the retail setting then moved into hospital pharmacy in 1998. Prior to her time with University of Houston and HCA, Sherrie worked at University of Maryland Medical Center where she held several leadership positions during her fifteen years there including Investigational Drug Service Specialist, Lead Technician of the Shock Trauma Pharmacy, Gudelsky Pharmacy, Central IV Room and Training and Staff Development Coordinator. Her specialty is training and staff development with emphasis on sterile products compounding and IV validation. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, spending time with her two adult children, volunteering at UH and relaxing on the beach.

GCSHP ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING INDUSTRY SERVICE



Rick Ulasewich

Rick Ulasewich is an Associate Director of Oncology Accounts at Daiichi Sankyo. During his 22 years at DSI, he has held several positions in Sales, Management, and for the past 8 years, in Market Access. Rick serves the Health Systems & Community Oncology practices in Texas & Louisiana. His primary roles are in Buy & Bill, Contracting, Partnering with Pharmacy Directors and launching new oncology therapies for Breast, Gastric, Lung, and AML. Rick has been a member of TSHP for 7 years and has served as Industry Chair for the Gulf Coast Chapter for the past 5. Rick earned his Bachelor of Science from Elon University in North Carolina.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT

Megan is a third year student at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. She is currently serving as the SSHP President for the 2024-2025 school year. Megan received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University and her Master of Science Degree in Medical Science at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. After completing pharmacy school, Megan hopes to earn a residency to specialize in a particular area. Her current interests include cardiology, infectious diseases, and pediatrics.



Megan Huang Frazier

RECENT HIGLIGHTS

FALL MEMBER SOCIAL

Members gathered together in September for a evening of friendly pickleball competition at PKL Social.





STUDENT-RESIDENT NETWORKING SOCIAL

Over 35 students and residents met up at Axelrad Beer Garden for networking, pizza and fun in late September to kick-off the residency application season.





RECENT HIGLIGHTS



NATIONAL PHARMACY TECHNICIAN DAY SOCIAL

Members gathered at Axelrad Beer Garden in October to celebrate the exceptional work done by our technician members in honor of National Pharmacy Technician Day.

PHARMACY WEEK SOCIAL

Members had a fantastic evening at our annual GCSHP Pharmacy Week Social at Woosters Garden in October.







RECENT HIGLIGHTS

PROJECT C.U.R.E.

In December our members volunteered with Project C.U.R.E., the world's largest distributor of donated medical equipment across the globe!



HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Members gathered at the POST in late December to celebrate the holiday season and the clsoe of a great year with festive drinks and sparkling lights!



DINNER WITH A PHARMACIST

Thank you to our pharmacist members who volunteered to get dinner with pharmacy students from our local pharmacy schools to share their personal experiences in the profession and their respective specialties. Great food and conversation was had by all!



Dr. Hoang Huynh and Dr. Kelsey Olson - Infectious Diseases



Dr. Rhea Soltau - Critical Care



Dr. Stefanie Stramel - Infectious Diseases

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

GCSHP CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

Our 2nd Annual Seminar was a smashing success as over 100 pharmacists gathered together for a day of continuing education and networking. Thank you to all those who joined and can't wait to see you again next year!











UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL CHAPTER EVENTS

INDUSTRY DINNERS

We are excited to partner with our local industry experts for exciting dinners this coming Spring.

Keep an eye out for more details coming soon!

February 2025 by Astra Zeneca

March 2025
by Merz Therapeutics
on Xeomin®

April 2025 by Innoviva on Xacduro®

(incobotulinumtoxinA) (sulbactam/durlobactam)

RESIDENT GRAND ROUNDS

Each month you can tune in virtually to an ACPE-accredited continuing education program from a local pharmacy resident provided without charge as part of your membership benefits!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2024-2025 Grand Rounds dates! Invitations will be sent via email at a later date.

February 13

February 27

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

STATEWIDE EVENTS

TSHP PAC VALENTINE FUNDRAISER

Join us for a spirited and sweet Valentine's fundraiser supporting the TSHP PAC! Indulge in delicious drinks and delectable treats while supporting a cause that advocates for the future of pharmacy.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7:30 PM

Sign-up to join us virtually or in-person at: 3547 Woodvalley Dr, Houston, Texas 77025

REGISTER HERE

ALCALDE SOUTHWEST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Join the 38th Annual Southwest Leadership Conference for learning experiences that will promote creativity, scholarship, leadership, and the presentation of evidence-based research.

APRIL 1-2, 2025 IN IRVING, TX

Early bird registration ends 2/14/25

REGISTER HERE

TSHP ANNUAL SEMINAR APRIL 3-5 IN IRVING, TX



TSHP's Annual Seminar is the largest educational and networking meeting of pharmacists, new practitioners, students, technicians, and industry professionals in Texas.



With a focus on quality patient care and medication safety, registrants may select from more than 40 hours of live programming this year. TSHP Annual Seminar programs are designed to maintain and enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of pharmacy professionals in health-systems across Texas.

Get more information and register now here!

Early bird registration ends on February 14, 2025

GET INVOLVED

DINNER WITH A PHARMACIST

Dinner with a Pharmacist is an initiative partnering the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists with local pharmacy schools to expose pharmacy students in a smallgroup setting to pharmacists from various backgrounds, specialties, and institutions. It is a chance for students to network and ask questions to help decide on a career path.

Pharmacists may sign up to be contacted to have dinner with a small group of interested students. Student sign-ups to participate will be sent out later in the year via their respective schools.

PHARMACIST SIGN-UP HERE TO VOLUNTEER

TSHP LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Interested in getting more involved in TSHP advocacy efforts? Sign-up to be a Key Contact with TSHP and get directly notified about opportunities for in-person lobbying, sending emails and calling your lawmakers to help advance vital pharmacy legislation. The 89th Texas Legislature is in session from January 14 to June 2, 2025 and you could help make a difference in the future of pharmacy!

SIGN-UP HERE TO BE A KEY CONTACT

SHOUTOUT A GCSHP MEMBER FOR A MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT BY TSHP!

Do you know a GCSHP member that deserves a shoutout?

Have they gone above and beyond either in their practice or through volunteerism? Help us recognize the amazing accomplishments of our members by sharing their success with TSHP for recognition in an upcoming TSHP communication!

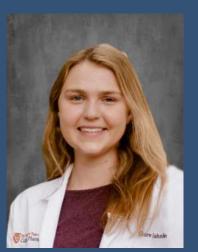
FILL OUT THE FORM HERE



CLINICAL CORNER

EVALUATING OPTIMAL ANTITHROMBOTIC THERAPY IN ATRIAL FIBRILLATION AND CHRONIC CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE

WRITTEN BY:



CLAIRE JAHNKE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN PHARMD CANDIDATE 2025



JAMIE CHAN
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
PHARMD CANDIDATE 2025

SPECIAL THANKS TO **ASHLEY CROUCH, PHARMD, BCPS**FOR PRECEPTING THIS REVIEW

Atrial fibrillation is common among patients with atherosclerotic coronary artery disease (CAD), but identifying appropriate therapy for patients with both conditions is challenging due to the increased risk of bleeding with the combined use of an anticoagulant for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation and antiplatelet therapy for ischemic event prevention in CAD. Current clinical guidelines recommend the combined use of direct oral anticoagulant and a P2Y12 inhibitor as the primary treatment for patients for 6 to 12 months after a percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or cardiac event in patients with atrial fibrillation. However, the strength of evidence is limited to support this recommendation due to premature termination of previous trials studying the best maintenance antithrombotic strategy in patients with atrial fibrillation and CAD. Thus, to address the limitations of previous trials, the Edoxaban Antithrombotic Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation and Stable Coronary Artery Disease (EPIC-CAD) study aimed to assess whether the incidence of adverse clinical events is lower with standard-dose edoxaban monotherapy than with dual antithrombotic therapy consisting of edoxaban plus a single antiplatelet agent in patients with atrial fibrillation and stable CAD.

This multi-center, open-label, adjudicator-masked, randomized trial was conducted at 18 sites in South Korea from May 2019 to September 2022. Included patients were adults with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation with high embolic risk (CHA2DS2-VASc score > 2), and stable coronary disease. Exclusion criteria included patients with contraindications to antithrombotic drugs (history of intracranial hemorrhage, prosthetic heart valves, moderate to severe mitral stenosis, severe hepatic dysfunction, severe renal insufficiency) or platelet count < 50 k/uL. Patients were randomly assigned to receive either monotherapy with standard-dose (60 milligrams once daily) edoxaban or dual antithrombotic therapy that included standard-dose edoxaban plus a single antiplatelet agent (either aspirin or a P2Y12 inhibitor, according to the discretion of the treating physician). An edoxaban dose adjustment to 30 milligrams once daily was made for patients with a creatinine clearance of 15 to 30 milliliters per minute, a body weight of 60 kilograms or less, and the use of certain P-glycoprotein inhibitors.

The primary endpoint of this study was the net adverse clinical events defined as a composite of death from any cause, myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, systemic embolism, unplanned urgent revascularization, or major bleeding or clinically relevant non-major bleeding at 12 months after randomization. Researchers further evaluated individual components of the primary outcome as their secondary outcomes which included addressing efficacy through all cause death, cardiovascular death, MI, ischemic stroke, system embolism, and composite of major ischemic events and addressing safety through fatal bleeding, major bleeding, intracranial hemorrhage, and non-major bleeding. In the intention-to-treat population, cumulative-event probabilities were estimated by the Kaplan-Meier method and compared using the log-rank test. The effects of treatment were presented as hazard ratios with 95% confidence intervals estimated using the Cox proportional-hazards regression.

CLINICAL CORNER

The trial found that monotherapy with edoxaban was superior to the dual antithrombotic therapy group for the primary outcome of net adverse clinical events. As shown below in Table 1, 34 (6.8%) patients in the edoxaban monotherapy group versus 79 (16.2%) patients in the dual antithrombotic therapy group experienced the primary outcome, with a hazard ratio of 0.44 (95% CI 0.30-0.65, P<0.001) and number needed to treat (NTT) equal to 10.6 (6.1-15.2). When examining secondary outcomes and individual factors in the primary composite, it appears that the decrease in net adverse clinical events was driven by a decrease in bleed risk. Events of major bleeding or clinically relevant non-major bleeding occurred in only 23 (4.7%) of patients in the monotherapy group compared to 70 (14.2%) of patients in the dual therapy group; this represents a hazard ratio of 0.34 (95% CI 0.22-0.53). All other efficacy endpoints, including death, stroke, myocardial infarction, and systemic embolic events, did not show statistical differences between the two approaches.

Table 1. Primary Composite and Key Secondary Endpoints

	Edoxaban Monotherapy	Dual Antithrombotic Therapy	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)
Net adverse clinical events	34 (6.8%)	79 (16.2%)	0.44 (0.30 to 0.65)
Composite of major ischemic events	8 (1.6%)	8 (1.8%)	1.23 (0.48 to 3.10)
Composite of any ischemic events	15 (3.0%)	11 (2.4%)	1.40 (0.67 to 2.93)
Major bleeding or clinically relevant non-major bleeding	23 (4.7%)	70 (14.2%)	0.34 (0.22 to 0.53)

This study found a significant benefit to the use of monotherapy of antithrombotic therapy compared to dual therapy. Notably, the benefit of deprescribing was consistent for patients at both low and high risk of bleed when stratified by HAS-BLED score. It is important to note that this study was conducted in an East Asian population, which is associated with a higher risk of bleeding than a Caucasian population. As monotherapy decreased risk of bleed in a lower risk group, further studies should be conducted to determine if the benefits continue to translate well into a more diverse population. Additionally, this study did not exclude or provide a subgroup analysis of patients with CrCl > 95 mL/min, the cutoff above which edoxaban is not recommended for use per the FDA labeling. The impact of the inclusion of these patients in the study is difficult to assess without further details on the baseline renal function of the study population.

The results of this study provide valuable support for the existing guidelines recommending the use of oral direct anticoagulants in combination with antiplatelet therapy only for a limited duration; and reinforces that deprescription of a P2Y12 inhibitors or aspirin can be recommended to prevent bleeding events starting 6-12 months after PCI for stable or acute coronary artery disease, respectively.

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STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SSHP CHAPTER

WRITTEN BY: MEGAN HUANG FRAZIER, PHARMD CANDIDATE

In the Fall semester the UH SSHP chapter celebrated a successful season of events designed to support pharmacy students in exploring and preparing for residency opportunities. The semester began with an informational session introducing students to SSHP and the benefits of membership at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Membership perks were highlighted across all tiers, encouraging students to take advantage of the opportunities available. The UH SSHP chapter hosted its annual Residency Workshop with 30 students in attendance. The event featured engaging presentations from Dr. Ashley Ferris, a PGY-2 Medication-Use Safety and Policy Pharmacy Resident at MD Anderson Cancer Center, who discussed "How to Find Your Match: An Introduction to Residency." Students participated in a Kahoot scavenger hunt to explore the ASHP Residency Directory, gaining insight into how to use the directory and narrow down program options. Dr. Anna Tam, a PGY-1



Resident at Houston Methodist Hospital, shared insights into "A Day in the Life: What's Residency Like?" Following this, students created personalized pharmacy journey timelines. The evening concluded with Dr. Scott Ferren, the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director at UTMB, offering advice on excelling as a candidate in his talk, "From Good to Great: A Residency Director's Tips for Standing Out."

Another signature event of the semester was the annual Residency Showcase, a large-scale networking event that brought together 50 residency programs from Texas and neighboring states and 182 pharmacy students. This event provided students with a unique opportunity to connect directly with representatives from residency programs, ask questions, and gather information about potential options before the application process.

In addition to these events, the UH SSHP chapter hosted three general meetings that featured guest speakers. Dr. Kalina Korzec spoke about the field of Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership, offering insights into what the administration role of a pharmacist looks like. Dr. Duc Huynh shared his journey as an oncology pharmacist, and Dr. Lauren Lee discussed her experiences as a PGY-2 infectious diseases resident, inspiring students with her dedication to patient care and perseverance through pharmacy school.



Throughout the semester, the chapter also organized various tabling events focused on topics such as medication safety, using interactive games to highlight best practices, and raising awareness about antibiotic resistance with presentations from specialists. Many workshops were held to address essential professional competencies, equipping students with tools to excel in interviews, networking, and workplace communication. With a strong foundation laid this Fall, the UH SSHP chapter looks forward to continuing its mission and unveiling even more exciting opportunities in the upcoming Spring semester.

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

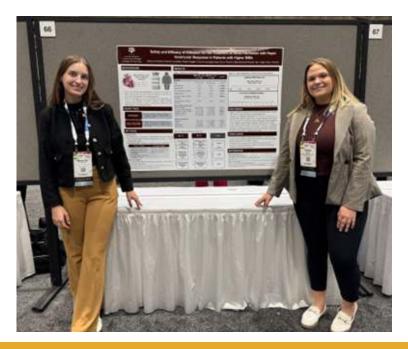
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SSHP CHAPTER

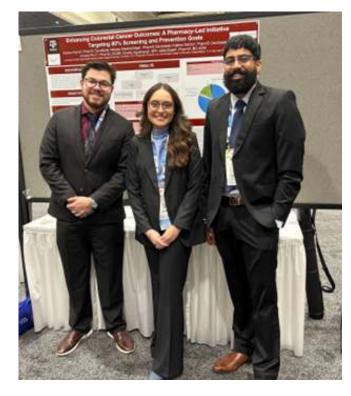
WRITTEN BY: WILLIAM PHAM, PHARMD CANDIDATE

As we reflect on the Fall 2024 semester, TAMU SSHP celebrates an incredible series of achievements that highlight our commitment to advancing ASHP's mission. The semester was filled with impactful events, community service, and professional development opportunities.

Our committee meetings featured diverse topics and guest speakers, including residents Dr. Brooke de La Sota, Dr. Andy Dang, and our very own faculty: Dr. Charlotte Farris. Highlights included sessions on CV/resume tips, cholesterol awareness, new chemotherapy agents, and mock residency interviews providing valuable knowledge and fostering a strong sense of community.

One of our standout accomplishments this semester was our students' participation in the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Several of our members presented impressive posters, showcasing their hard work, research, and dedication to advancing pharmacy practice. Their presentations not only highlighted innovative ideas and clinical solutions but also demonstrated the unwavering commitment of our students to excellence in pharmacy.





During Pharmacy Week, our executive committee organized events to celebrate the vital role and contributions of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in healthcare. Activities included social media campaigns, appreciation posts, and a heartfelt thank-you event recognizing their contributions.

Looking ahead to Spring 2024, we're excited to welcome returning and new members. With an exciting lineup of events, we're ready to continue fostering excellence in education, service, and professional growth. Here's to a successful Winter 2024 semester and beyond!

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SSHP CHAPTER

WRITTEN BY: PRINCILLAR AGYAPONG, PHARMD CANDIDATE

As the semester unfolded, the Texas Southern University chapter of SSHP (TSU-SSHP) has been a vibrant hub of engagement, growth, and achievement, hosting impactful events, fostering professional development, and creating meaningful opportunities for members to advance their knowledge and leadership skills in health-system pharmacy. In October, our chapter united in the fight against breast cancer through educational campaigns and advocacy efforts, harnessing the collective strength and spirit of the TSU Tigers to raise awareness and make a meaningful impact along with hosting a balloon release in honor of those we have lost along the way to this fight. We continued to help nurture the professional development of our students by hosting free professional headshots, which provided a great starting foundation for our aspiring professionals. This was followed by the Health & Lupus Awareness Event in collaboration with Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), where we not only raised lupus awareness but also educated on ways to improve quality of life.



This year's clinical skills competition saw 8 teams register and 4 teams made it to the final oral presentation on the case topic of pneumonia and influenza. After analyzing the case, the teams developed a comprehensive care plan which included recommendations for medication adjustments, monitoring parameters, and patient education. The teams presented their care plan to a panel of judges which included practicing pharmacists, faculty members, and clinical preceptors. This competition was beneficial in helping students enhance their critical thinking, collaboration, and clinical skills, better preparing them for real-life clinical situations. The winners of our local CSC went on to represent us at ASHP Midyear conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. At the ASHP Midyear Conference, our chapter demonstrated its commitment to excellence, with over 25 students presenting research across various health systems—an impressive showcase of their hard work, dedication, and scholarly contributions.



In collaboration with other student organizations we put together a successful membership drive, proudly welcoming new students into our organization, providing them with opportunities for mentorship, professional development, and active involvement, ensuring the continued growth, sustainability, and vitality of our chapter for future generations. As we reflect on this semester's achievements, we are proud of how far we've come and excited for what lies ahead. With renewed energy, we look forward to building on this momentum next semester, seizing new opportunities for growth, learning, and service. Together, let's continue to advance our mission, inspire one another, and make a meaningful impact.

MEET THE OFFICERS

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MEET THE OFFICERS

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