Moving Forward, Looking Up

NEWSLETTER BY ZACH KRAUSS, NSC PUBLICIST

This year has been incredibly strange and stressful for pretty much everyone, and the National Student Council is ready to push forward into next year!

If you have events or meetings you'd like to share with us and the students at other chapters, reach out to Zach Krauss (zacharykrauss@cedarville.edu) so he can spotlight your chapter and what the Lord is doing through your members.

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The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, or LECOM, has done amazing things this year within their CPFI chapter. At the beginning of the year, the chapter held a mask fundraiser to support the SHINE program at a local low-income K-12 school called SHINE. They also helped create a brochure to help educate children on the importance of wearing masks within the same program.

Numerous members helped on the front lines to assist with COVID-19 vaccinations, and the chapter held a “Diabetes Roundtable” event over Zoom to refresh students and pharmacists in their local communities on diabetes and proper management.

The chapter continued to market themselves on their typical social media pages, while also making a TikTok account in order to share the life of pharmacy students at their institution.

Wilkes University Serves Community

JACOB KLOCK
The Cedarville University School of Pharmacy had the opportunity to host the 2nd annual CPFI Great Lakes Regional Meeting on February 19-20, 2021. Although Cedarville was able to host this two-day event in person last year, it was decided that this needed to be a virtual event for the 2021 year due to COVID-19. Despite this change, the conference had over 50 students registered and this included representatives from 7 different schools of pharmacy across Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. This event was hosted by Erin Ballentine, the CPFI Great Lakes Regional Director for the 2020-2021 academic year. Ballentine, accompanied by a team of her peers, pulled off a successful event.

The regional meeting consisted of a variety of different events and activities to keep attendees engaged. This included times to network through Zoom breakout sessions as well as times of worship, devotions, and prayer. There was a time for chapter updates in which each could share a little about their group and what types of events they held throughout the past academic year. Attendees also participated in a fun Kahoot game at the conclusion of the meeting focused on CPFI and Great Lakes trivia.

Throughout the weekend, there were several speakers who shared with our CPFI members. Dr David Frame from the University of Michigan shared on the topic of "Filtering Out the Duties of the Pharmacist, the Patient, and the Christian Rolled into One" which captured lessons that he has learned through his personal life as a kidney transplant patient, pharmacist, professor, husband, and father. He focused on how to manage the different positions that we are given through this lifetime and how to prioritize Christ through all of the different situations He may place us in or call us to endure.
Great Lakes Meeting Continued
ERIN BALENTINE, CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

Students also heard from Dr. Scott Benken from the University of Illinois at Chicago who spoke on the topic of “For Such a Time as This!” Dr. Benken’s presentation looked at the biblical story of Esther and paralleled this story to that of his own life as God called him to be an expert in the field of cardiology. Students were encouraged by his challenge to look at the hardships we may endure as training for future callings. God is preparing each of us “for such a time of this.”

The CPFI National Student Council also had a segment within the course of the regional meeting to introduce themselves to CPFI members and answer questions students had about CPFI on a national level. This panel consisted of National Student Council Chairperson Joy Nwoke, National Student Council Chairperson-Elect Sharon Baik, Member Transitions Coordinator Sarah Freeman, National Student Retreat Coordinator Andy Ballentine, and Publicist Zach Krauss.

Dr. Jeff Bates, Dean of the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy, concluded the regional meeting with “Excellence During Hard Times,” a call to student pharmacists to strive toward excellence during the difficulties of COVID-19 and other times of trial. Dr. Bates discussed ways in which students should push toward giving their best efforts by relying on the Lord for strength. Students were encouraged and challenged by his call to action.

This year’s Great Lakes Regional Meeting was a great opportunity for CPFI members to connect with one another despite the distancing of this year due to COVID-19. We look forward to an in-person Great Lakes Regional Meeting in the years to come!

If you’re interested in hosting a regional meeting at your school, reach out to your Regional Director today!
Being a member of CPFI has given me the opportunity to not only combine my faith with my career but it has excelled my ability to evolve into the person that God wants me to be. To be a part of this fellowship has deepened my roots into the community that I’ve called home for 25 years. It has also blessed me with the chance to make a difference in families lives by participating in Operation Christmas Child to give a little boy Christmas all the way in Togo, a country in western Africa. I truly thought I couldn’t be more impressed with the heart and dedication shown by the staff, faculty and student body of Sullivan University. But then the pandemic started.

For most people the world stopped, and it was like everything in life was just paused, but for Healthcare workers, their lives were immediately shifted to double speed. Like an instant reflex, the individuals of Sullivan jumped in ready to help. On March 11th, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and by April 4th Sullivan had collected and donated over 9,000 pieces of personal protective equipment to the University of Louisville health system to protect against the virus.

Sullivan informed the students that they were open to any and all ideas on ways we could help the community and just in conversation around school I heard groups of students talking about how their families were sewing masks at home to send to healthcare workers, and even discussions with professors about compounding hand sanitizer since we had just learned how to make it in lab. It has been remarkable to watch the intertwining professions of our school, be so overwhelmingly assiduous to help.

Many of our pharmacy students took place in helping to staff the state’s new COVID-19 hotline that is operated through the Kentucky Poison Control Center, as it had rapidly doubled their normal call volume and only increased from there. Something I was given the opportunity to do through Sullivan was to participate in COVID vaccination clinics. These clinics were and currently are still being held throughout Greater Louisville and Southern Indiana, giving us the chance to work in an interprofessional setting and applying our knowledge and skills by administering and preparing vaccines.

To get to experience of lending a helping hand during this time was improbable, but what gave me pure elation was to feel like I made a difference. Hundreds of handwritten notes have been received from individuals in the community who were vaccinated at these clinics, showing their gratitude for the people who stepped in when the world was in a time of need. And it’s for moments like this that because of my career, I couldn’t feel more whole. Sullivan and the ministry of CPFI continuously allowed me to be a part of something more. To share in the hope provided for our community. To make a difference.
The Cedarville University School of Pharmacy’s student chapter of CPFI was given the opportunity to purchase and administer influenza vaccines to a local community of individuals by partnering with a local free health clinic and a local independent pharmacy. Erin Ballentine, the current president of Cedarville’s CPFI chapter, completed her fall semester IPPE rotation with the Health Partners Free Clinic in Troy, OH. One day, Erin was talking with the executive director of the clinic, Dr. Justin Coby, and it was mentioned that the clinic knew of a local community of individuals who were not able to afford their annual flu vaccines. The clinic wanted to be able to serve these individuals, however they did not have access to a supplier or funding for the vaccines.

Upon hearing of this need, Erin was able to share this information with the CPFI chapter who applied for the Hands and Feet Grant to purchase vaccines that could be provided to this community free of charge. We were able to purchase the flu shots through a local independent pharmacy, Cedar Care Village Pharmacy, who provided the shots to us at a stock price (about $16 per shot) allowing us to purchase about 30 vaccines.

On November 14th, 2020, CPFI members met staff from the Health Partners Free Clinic at the Lincoln Community Center in Troy, OH to hold the free flu shot clinic. CPFI members were able to administer 16 flu shots as well as blood pressure and blood glucose screenings to the individuals who attended.

Because we had additional vaccines, we were able to set up another flu shot clinic at the local Shared Harvest Food Drive in Piqua, OH on November 21st, 2020. CPFI members administered the rest of the flu shot donations as well as a few extras that had been donated to the clinic for a total of 34 vaccines. This clinic not only provided opportunities for members to practice administering vaccines, but it also allowed members to have countless conversations with people who were hesitant about receiving vaccines. Members were able to encourage them by explaining how vaccines work, information about their safety and efficacy, and by answering other questions that were asked.

Our goal with this project was to not only serve the community through free flu vaccinations, but to also assist the Health Partners Free Clinic by promoting their free services to those in need. Dr. Justin Coby told us that our donation was an answer to prayer as they had been looking for a supplier to get the shots and funding to be able to support this initiative. We were honored to be able to take part in this service activity by representing the working hands and feet of Christ by filling the needs of those in the community. We were also thankful for the opportunity to practice administering vaccines and to see firsthand the hesitancies that people may have concerning vaccines. This was a great learning experience for our members as we were able to practice motivational interviewing and talking with patients in order to answer the questions they had concerning vaccines.

In the future, our CPFI chapter hopes to continue to build our relationship with the Health Partners Free Clinic and to find ways to help serve their local community. Whether that be through more flu shot clinics or other areas of need, we loved being able to serve the local community and we would love to continue to glorify God in this way through future involvement.

We are very appreciative of CPFI Board for supplying us with this year’s Hand and Feet Grant to be able to pour into our local community in this way. Without these funds, we would not have been able to provide 30 individuals with their annual flu shot and we would not have been able to begin a relationship working with the Health Partners Free Clinic. Thank you, CPFI, for allowing us to grow as student pharmacists through this opportunity!

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Cor. 12:27
And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written. “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Romans 10:15
My name is Maleena Portman and I joined CPFI because I wanted to grow in Christ and reach out in areas that were new for me during my time at Sullivan University College of Pharmacy. This fellowship was the club that stood out to me the most when I first heard about it. I knew I was going to be called to join and do my part as a member. I love the environment it creates and the good we can do for the community when we all come together to focus and pray as one. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this fellowship even during the virtual year we have been through together.

Although we were not able to meet in person this year, the officers did a wonderful job making me feel like this fellowship was a really close group that would be there to support me along this journey through pharmacy school. We had chapter meetings, fall day at the farm, fundraisers, donation drives, and operation Christmas child to name a few events. I really enjoy giving back to the community and operation Christmas child was one way we were able to adjust and still donate. Instead of this event being in person this year we were able to build a box online and still be able to gift it to a child in need.

Although this was a virtual event that was more individualized than it usually is this still was an amazing way for us to collaborate and give back. This was one of my favorite events that CPFI allowed me to be a part of and I look forward to seeing what other opportunities lie ahead for this fellowship.
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore has been serving their community well this year in spite of the many challenges that came with the pandemic. One of our signature events is the Adopt-A-Block Food Pantry. Student pharmacists volunteer to work with Emmanuel Church in Salisbury, MD. We help them package food and go from door to door delivering the food to families in need, offering prayer when requested.

Student pharmacists can make a huge difference in our communities through events and services like this. Our chapter is happy to be able to make even a small impact, and we're often extremely uplifted by the conversations we are able to have with those at the pantry!

We cannot wait until next year when we get to continue serving God and our communities through CPFI.
Students at Sullivan University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences are thrilled to have received their comfy items from the CPFI fundraiser. The items offered during the fundraiser consisted of a t-shirt, sweatpants, joggers, and a hat. Each article contained two different types of Sullivan college logos. The chapter's proceeds made it possible to purchase cords for the 2021 graduating members, which is another fascinating aspect of the year. In May, officers are excited to pass cords out to the graduating class of 2021.

On April 23rd, 2021 the PharmD Class of 2022 Pinning and Awards Ceremony took place in Louisville, Kentucky, where several CPFI members received awards. The chapter would like to recognize and congratulate Macey Klosterman awarded Excellence in Professionalism and Tenacity Award. Katie Ritchie received the KPhA Professional Advocate Award. Sierra Midkiff was awarded JCAP Student Leadership Award and recognized as a Humana Scholar. KSHP Student Scholarship went to member Duy Tran. Another spotlight the chapter would like to mention is the annual ASHP Residency Match Day. Merkie Slone, former CPFI president at SUCOPHS, was matched at Hazard ARH Regional Medical Center, and CPFI member Kelsey Dunkin matched with the Purdue University/Mathes Diabetes Center. Congratulations to both.

PY-3 members will be graduating shortly, PY-2 members will begin APPEs, which means first-year students will soon transition to leadership positions. On April 26th, 2021, the chapter was able to host a leadership dinner. This event targeted the PY-1 members interested in officer positions. The current officers were able to answer any questions and engage in conversation regarding the organization and the fantastic opportunities CPFI provides. The ballot is in process, and the chapter is excited to welcome the newly elected officers. Also, members are looking forward to the Annual Conference and National Student Retreat in June!

Ending the academic year at Sullivan, the college is proud to begin hosting a leadership series to help transition new officers into their respective roles. The series consists of learning leadership styles, time management skills, and conflict resolution. The college is prepared to assist in the future leaders of pharmacy! The current officers PY-2 President Sierra Midkiff, Vice President Maddie Sweeney, Representative of Pastoral Services John Wright, Treasurer/Secretary Sydney Senger, and Event Coordinator Shelby Dees have enjoyed the past year. They anticipate furthering their education while serving Christ through pharmacy.
Sullivan University Photos, Continued
The Student Chapter at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy packed and sponsored shoeboxes filled with hygiene and care products, school supplies, and toys for children around the world through Operation Christmas Child! In the past, we hosted packing parties for pharmacy students to come together to pack shoeboxes and pray for the children who receive them; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year looked a little different. Students packed and donated shoeboxes from home, donations were made through Venmo, and we partnered with the local Chick-Fil-A restaurant to hold a percentage night to raise money to purchase items for the shoeboxes.

With the help of family and friends of CPFI members as well as the incredible generosity from the students, faculty, and staff at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy over $1,600 was raised. Combined with the 2020 CPFI Hands and Feet Grant, we were able to sponsor 100 shoeboxes! The Gospel will be shared with each child that receives a shoebox and we invite you to join our chapter in praying for these children!
Thanks for reading!

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The 2021 CPFI Online Annual Conference and National Student Retreat will be on June 4th and 5th this year. The theme for this conference is "Declaring God's Glory Through Pharmacy," and we don't want you to miss out on this awesome conference! Register today at cpfi.org/annual-meeting.

The National Student Council has been happy to serve you this year. We will be praying that the Lord will bless your chapters, and we can't wait to see the amazing things you all do in your communities next year!

NSC Newsletter Submissions - Interested in having an article included in the newsletter? Submit your ideas to Zach Krauss at zacharykrauss@cedarville.edu. Make sure you include some photos with your submission!