

Pharmacy Council President-elect
Biographies and Platforms
2017-2018

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Hello UT College of Pharmacy,

My name is Melissa Kang, and I would be honored to serve as your next Pharmacy Council President-Elect. I grew up in Plano, TX, and moved down to Houston to obtain my degree in Chemistry at Rice University. Since high school, it has been my dream to become a pharmacist, and now I am a second year student pharmacist at this premier institution. To expand on what I learn in classes, I work as an Intern at Tarrytown Pharmacy and conduct research under Dr. Andrea Gore. To further my professional and leadership growth, I served as UT-APhA-ASP's OTC Medicine Safety Co-Chair last year and currently am UT-APhA-ASP's Patient Care Vice President, Phi Delta Chi's Worthy Correspondent, and Pharmacy Council's New Student Orientation Co-Chair. In my spare time, I enjoy travelling, snuggling with my dog Polo, working out to Nike Training Club+, and Yelping new restaurants.

I aspire to empower all students to seize opportunities, advance our profession, and focus on wellness and health. I did not come to these conclusions lightly. Rather, I learned about these important matters through organization involvement, conferences, and fellow classmates' experiences.

While I know there are numerous ways our students are impacting pharmacy, I want to encourage my peers and classmates to take control of their professional development, be open to new experiences, and stay curious. To accomplish this, I plan to coordinate an additional organization showcase in the spring and offer more opportunities to connect with alumni. Stepping outside of our comfort zones can be intimidating but also extremely rewarding and can prepare us for the shifting landscape of pharmacy.

As healthcare continues to change, it is up to us to pave the way. With our new interprofessional course, we have begun to advance the profession in an unprecedented approach. I aim to further our growth by setting up mixers with the other professional schools. These events would not only allow us to form valuable relationships with people outside of the college but also actively promote pharmacy.

Lastly, I want to continue to emphasize personal health and wellness within the college as we have begun to do with initiatives such as yoga and Suicide Prevention Week. I envision further solidifying our culture of care by having healthier options for organization lunches through expanding our approved vendor list and providing stress-relieving events around difficult weeks in the curriculum.

I am thankful to be considered for this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at melissa.kang92@gmail.com. I would love to hear your thoughts.

Best,
Melissa

*“You’ve got a
phriend in me!”*



My name is Teresa Nguyen, and I grew up in Carrollton, TX. I am a first-generation college student. I am highly passionate about mentoring and advocacy within the college and greater community. Since starting Pharmacy school, I have worked with a diversity of organizations. For the past three semesters, I had the honor of serving as Class Representative, which was my first introduction to the inner workings of the College and Pharmacy Council. This year, I also served as the Co-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Currently, I am the Project Collaborate Representative for HAP, the SSHP student representative to the local affiliate chapter, and the Worthy Keeper of Records and Seals of Phi Delta Chi. After graduation, I plan to pursue a PhD in Health Care Policy to work toward my ultimate goal of reforming the health care ecosystem on the federal level.

As a nominee for Pharmacy Council President, my goals are to further develop the mentor/mentee program and reduce organization inefficiency by implementing simple, yet effective, tools for planning events and programming.

Having experienced the benefit of mentorship first-hand, I understand the value of mentorship for the College. In our current structure, incoming P1s are paired with individual P2s or P3s. My vision for the mentorship program is to shift to group-based mentoring where “phamilies” will consist of 5-6 mentees assigned to 1 or 2 mentors. Phamilies will meet once a week, while mentors will meet once a month to discuss their progress. I believe these meetings, among both the phamilies and mentors, will provide a critical source of support that goes beyond classroom interactions.

In order to expand College-wide collaboration among student organizations, I also plan to equip every organization with an official email account and a calendar system, which will be accessible to the College at-large. Having access to activities taking place across the College, students will be better informed of organization events. The dedicated email account for the organization will ensure a smoother leadership transition process from year to year, as data can be archived and organized. With these tools, we can save time and energy to focus on other aspects of organization life.

With my proven leadership in the College, I will be able to lead Pharmacy Council to new heights. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as your next President.



My name is Brian Olivares, and I am running for the position of President-elect of Pharmacy Council. I was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, and began my undergraduate career here at the University of Texas at Austin where I completed three years of undergraduate studies before being accepted into the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. I currently work as a tutor for the College of Pharmacy, and am conducting Psychiatric research in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology. I love spending time with my friends and family, cooking and baking for fun, and keeping myself in shape with running, weightlifting and martial arts.

Since the beginning of my time here at the College, I have served as class representative for my Pharmacy Class of 2019. I served as Social Co-Chair for UT-APhA-ASP during my P1 year and currently serve as the organization's Corresponding Secretary. In

addition, I serve as Austin Regional Coordinator for the College's Know Your Medicine initiative, where I schedule and organize events to offer Medication Therapy Management services for senior communities and underserved communities. My variety of leadership experiences, along with my passion to help and serve others, will provide me with the wisdom and skills necessary to perform the duties of President of Pharmacy Council.

During my tenure as class representative, I worked tirelessly to serve my class beyond what was ever expected of me, and I will continue to do so as President. I owe it to my classmates and College for how far I've come in my career as a student practitioner, and will strive to do everything and anything to ensure the success of every pharmacy student in our College of Pharmacy. As President, I will make sure that every voice in our College is represented and respected. In addition, I will continue to place a huge emphasis on mental health awareness in our College and our community.

I appreciate your consideration to allow me to serve as your Pharmacy Council President. I am more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. My email is briano7971@gmail.com.