

Pharmacy Council Executive Committee Biographies & Platforms 2017-2018

The nominees are listed by position in alphabetical order.

Vice President

Sydney Braasch (pg. 2)

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Financial Director

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Student Government Representative

Lubna Mazin (pg. 9)

Secretary

Judith Munoz (pg. 10)

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Hello, my name is Sydney Braasch and I would like your vote for Pharmacy Council Vice President. I am from Colleyville, Texas and completed three years of human biology, nutrition, and pre-pharmacy coursework at UT Austin. I have worked in both retail and compound pharmacies for five years and currently work at Stonegate Pharmacy in Austin. Apart from my passion for healthcare and helping people, I enjoy running, yoga, traveling, and discovering new restaurants around Austin.

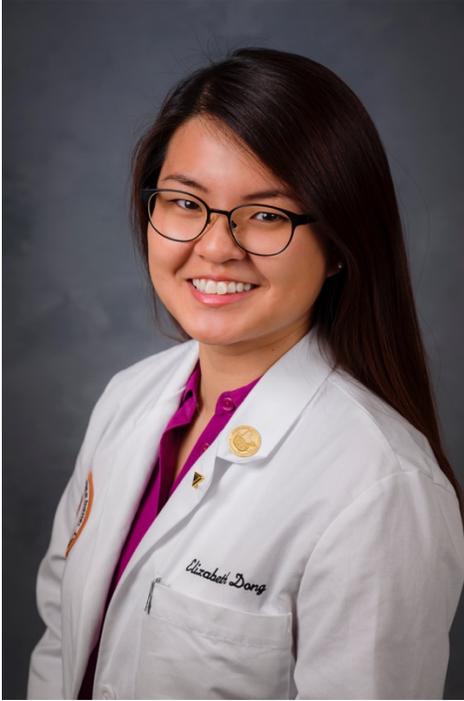
Since I started as a P1, I have served as the Prospective Student Interviews Co-chair for two years and as a Project Collaborate representative and Resources Subcommittee Chair where I have practiced my teamwork, leadership and communication skills. My extensive involvement in committees and organizations within Pharmacy Council has motivated me to take a more active role in the college to further the profession of pharmacy.

As Vice President of Pharmacy Council, I understand the demands of work and studying. I also understand how beneficial it is to take advantage of our college's community events and access to brilliant faculty and peers. As such, I would like to encourage more student involvement through incentives as well as create more opportunities for students to form relationships with healthcare professionals.

I strongly believe that healthcare requires collaboration. This is why I would like to improve our existing relationships with the School of Social Work, Nursing School and the Dell Medical School. Inviting those students to participate in events like Project Collaborate health screenings, potluck dinners, or socials encourages us to learn to collaborate with other healthcare professionals. I believe that this collaboration is important to practice as student pharmacists so that we can perfect it as pharmacists.

As an active member of pharmacy council, I have seen how the events our school organizes contribute to the changing world of pharmacy. Events such as Student Interviews, New Student Orientation, and Poverty Simulation would not happen if we did not have volunteers. However, I also understand that students have many priorities that place demands on their time. I want to be able to reach more pharmacy students by scheduling events during academic downtimes and encourage more volunteering by implementing incentives such as graduation cords, gift cards or certificates.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or comments, I'd love to hear from you. Email me at sydneybraasch@yahoo.com.



Biography:

“In West Philadelphia” is where The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air was born and raised. Unlike him, I was born and raised in Cupertino, California until I moved to Houston, Texas at the age of 8 with my mom. That is where I learned about my love for art, science, and people. I cultivated my passion for science as an undergraduate student at The University of Texas at Austin, and today, I am a proud student of The University’s College of Pharmacy. Science got me to where I am today, art is what gave me the creativity and passion to lead as I have been graciously able to over the years, and my love for people is why being a student here has been absolutely fulfilling and wholeheartedly rewarding.

Platform:

My achievements at our college come from my leadership positions with HAP, APhA, Pharmacy Council, and SNPhA. My proudest accomplishment stems from my contribution to Suicide Prevention Week. Because of each person that shared with me the impact mental illness has had on their lives, I have developed as a human-being.

As Vice President, I will focus on improving community in three ways: improving the transition of first-year pharmacy students, increasing transparency, and equipping people with “Mental Health First Aid” training.

First, each student’s transition into pharmacy school is unique. I want to host a discussion event where pharmacy students share what personal struggles they have had

outside of academics and extracurricular activities. Take, for example, the homesick student—the student that balances a family with school—the student that struggles to make friends. We can improve community by sharing how we overcame the struggles our incoming peers may also face.

Second, the inner-workings of our college may seem mysterious. I would increase transparency by inviting people to ask me questions about things "that don't make sense." My findings would be presented at pharmacy council meetings.

Lastly, "Mental Health First Aid" training equips people with the knowledge and tools to help someone who is experiencing a mental crisis. Mental illness affects everyone. To better serve our patients and community, I would want to open up this training to our entire college, the schools of nursing, medicine, and social work, and our campus and community at large.

Thank you all for your consideration.



Howdy! My name is Andrew Rubio, and I would be honored to serve as Vice President of Pharmacy Council. I attended Texas A&M University, where I was involved in Fish Camp and Memorial Student Center organizations. I am currently a second year pharmacy student where I can proudly say Hook 'em. I have worked for H-E-B for many years and am enjoying interning for the company. In my spare time I enjoy running to the nearest McDonalds, kayaking with my dog Gene, and talking to my friends about Leslie Knope.

My passion lies with dedicating my time to Austin's medically underserved patients. I am an active member at the Volunteer Healthcare Clinic where we provide medications at no cost to the patient, counsel patients on disease states, and where I held a clinic to provide free flu vaccines to the community.

One of my favorite aspects of our college is the passion and involvement that comes from the student body. Through my participation in UT-APhA-ASP, Hispanic Association of Pharmacists, Phi Delta Chi, and pharmacy council, I have seen first-hand how deep our involvement extends. Our organizations continue to provide immeasurable services to the community, and I plan to expand on these opportunities through co-involvement with the medical, nursing, and social work students.

My goal as vice president is to work closely with the executive board, project collaborate, and forty acres to implement a program to provide inter-professional services that would greatly benefit Austin's medically underserved and provide our students with unique experiences. I hope to stimulate a sense of unity through professional involvement by developing our community service opportunities and giving back through selfless service. The University of Texas at Austin has a strong foundation of honor, integrity, and innovation to where we can all proudly say, "what starts here changes the world."

I encourage all students to take on any opportunity available as we continue to advance our profession. Involvement is very important, but our own well-being is even more essential, which is why I also encourage anyone to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas on self-improvement.

I am more than happy to answer any questions you might have. You can contact me at arubio25@yahoo.com. I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to serving the college.



Hello phriends and phamily! My name is Kanika Bhandari and I am excited to be running for the position of Financial Director within Pharmacy Council. I am from Spring, Texas (though born in New Delhi, India) and am happy to call Austin my home away from home. I was recently a pharmacy technician at CVS, but now work as a pharmacist intern at PillPack. I completed my pre-pharmacy requirements here at UT and had wonderful opportunities to hold leadership positions throughout my time in Austin. My most memorable moments have been during my Presidency for Longhorn Pre-Pharmacy Association, as a current Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair for Pharmacy Council, and

as fundraising chair and current Treasurer of SNPhA. Through these positions, I have learned invaluable skills in leadership and financial affairs.

My time in leadership has taught me that communication between team members is key. I have become efficient in organizing my schedule and completing tasks— both of which hold importance in engaging positions such as the one for Financial Director. My familiarity with fundraising will also help me oversee the Fundraising Committee as I have had practice in not only selling items at events, but also advertising. My Treasurer position in SNPhA has made me more knowledgeable in budgets and all the things that come with it such as OOEfs, procard forms, audit binders, and much more. I know my understanding of these tasks and duties have well equipped me for this position.

My goal as Financial Director is to develop Pharmer's Market and get the initiative up and running. I plan to move the process online so students have the chance to order fundraising items from student organizations during any time of the year. By streamlining this process, organizations have better freedom to sell and earn funds. I also hope to provide more resources, in the form of opportunities or events, so organizations have additional prospects to sell.

I want to thank you for considering me as your next Pharmacy Council Financial Director. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kanikabh@utexas.edu.

Best,
Kanika



Hello UT College of Pharmacy,

My name is Sam Shrestha and I would be delighted to serve as the financial director for Pharmacy Council. For those who do not know me, I was born in Nepal and grew up in Dallas, Texas. Prior to attending pharmacy school, I completed 2 years of undergraduate coursework at the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at Austin. I have known since high school that pharmacy was going to be my future and have been working since then to make that future a reality. I currently work as a pharmacist intern at CVS pharmacy to augment and apply what I learn in class to patient care in the field.

Outside of class and work, I believe that participation within the college of pharmacy is a great way to supplement my growth in the profession of pharmacy. I volunteer as a Group Discussion Facilitator for the Intro to Patient Care course and volunteer in as many health screenings and college events that I can make time for.

For the last 3 years, I have been managing finances for my family business, The Nationwide Luxury Auto Group. My responsibilities included tracking inventory, market analysis, projections, and managing the profit and loss. My previous experiences in financial management can be applied to the position of financial director. I know that the skills I have previously learned can make management of financial resources simple, straightforward, and easy for others to track. My main goal as financial director is to keep us in the green and to keep finances simple. Additionally, I would like to find a way to make a faculty and student appreciation event financially possible because I firmly believe in giving back to the people, especially to those who make our learning experience fun and enjoyable.

Given my qualifications, I hope you will consider me for the position of financial director. I appreciate your time and consideration!

Thank you,

Sam Shrestha



Hello UT College of Pharmacy-

My name is Laura Roccograndi and I would be honored to serve as your next Senate Representative. For those of you who do not know me, I am originally from Philadelphia Pennsylvania and completed my undergraduate degree in Washington, DC at the George Washington University. Before entering pharmacy school, I worked for several years at the University of Pennsylvania in a lab focusing on brain cancer research.

Since beginning at UTCOP I have been honored to serve the college in several roles. Within Pharmacy Council itself, I have been selected to serve on the Cultural Proficiency standing committee as well as a New Student Orientation Co-Chair. Outside of our student government, I have also had the pleasure to serve as a Co-President of the Student Society of Health System Pharmacy. In all of these roles, I have put my upmost effort into furthering the ideals of our college as well as the professional advancement of fellow classmates.

But as Senate Representative, I know an important qualification is not only understanding the needs of the College but also accurately representing them. Since September of last year, I have attended Senate meetings to fully understand this role. To learn how to represent the College, I now serve on state and national levels through the Student Executive Committee for the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Student Advisory Forum for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Compiling all of my experience and passion for this position, my goal as Senate Representative would be to better communicate the many wonderful opportunities this University has to offer. Additionally I plan to establish new collaborations with other councils on campus and let you have a more participatory voice in issues affecting your tuition, health and happiness. With the qualifications I have presented, I hope you will consider me as the right candidate to represent you for Senate. Thank you for your time and consideration!



Greetings, my name is Lubna Mazin and I am running for the Student Government Representative for Pharmacy council. I would like to begin by telling you a little bit about my experience in the College of Pharmacy. I am currently a P2 and working with Dr. Hill as his research assistant for Operation Naloxone. I am also the Fitness and Wellness Co-Chair within Pharmacy Council, the Generation Rx Chair within UT-APhA-ASP, and the Alumni Committee Senior Chair within Phi Delta Chi. Somethings I am doing outside of the College include working as a Group Fitness Instructor for UT Recreational Sports and as a Pharmacy Intern at Walmart Pharmacy. I am also representing the College as the PharmPAC Student Chair within TPA.

My passion lies in promoting holistic health and wellness. Through UT-APhA-ASP, I was provided the opportunity to work with Operation Naloxone. I would like to continue this work by trying expand our outreach at UT through SG. I have also worked with Dr. Ford and the Department of Public Health on Public Health Week to set up an oral contraceptives counseling booth. Pharmacy students need to play a leading role when it comes to educating other students about contraception, misusing prescription drugs, as well as the dangers of using illicit drugs.

Through my work at UT Rec Sports and Pharmacy Council I was able to observe student behavior when it comes to health and wellness. Next year, I would like to work hand in hand with the Fitness and Wellness chairs to expand this position and to be sure that we, as student pharmacists, have the skills and capabilities to practice what we preach when it comes to health. Collaborations with UT Rec Sports, the Department of Nutrition, and the Department of Public Health will allow us to better serve the students at forty acers.

This past year I spoke to Julia about this position and attended a meeting in the fall. This position fits perfectly with the work I have done within the college. I would like to thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility.



Good afternoon everyone, my name is Judith Muñoz and I am running for Pharmacy Council Secretary. I was raised here in Texas and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BS in Nutrition and a BA in Hispanic Studies. I am currently a pharmacist intern at University Medical Center Brackenridge. I am also completing my honors project under the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division, and within this last year started a nonprofit organization in Central Texas that has already touched the lives of over 400 students. In my free time, you can find me cleaning up after my two Great Danes Zeus and Grace. These gentle giants are angels when everyone is looking but are more destructive than a toddler when left unsupervised!

In serving the college as a co-chair of NSO and KYM, I have strengthened important qualities needed as secretary. My ability to stay focused, organized, and most importantly passionate about advancing our profession makes me a top candidate for the position of secretary.

I have found that our very own student leaders and administration offer many incredible opportunities to all of us! As secretary, I intend to contribute to this culture by keeping you all informed so that lack of information does not hinder or act as a barrier towards your development as a professional here in the college. My main goals are to implement Rock's newsletter format of meeting minutes by adding monthly spotlights of pharmacy leaders in our community as nominated by our own students. In addition, to help organization collaboration and scheduling, I intend to begin a google calendar so that all can have a universal platform for information on events happening in the college. As a whole, I plan to improve communication.

When an organization is in sync and connected, great things happen. Everyone is a part of this pharmacy school experience and I believe we are stronger together. To ensure that each student has an opportunity to be a part of our great efforts, I will work diligently to unify and streamline information to help our students.

I'd be honored to serve as your secretary. If you have any questions you can contact me at judithmunoz159@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

My name is Brian Olivares, and I am running for the position of Secretary of Pharmacy Council. I grew up 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 College of Pharmacy. I love spending time with my friends and family, cooking and baking, 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 now 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 and underserved communities. My variety of leadership experiences, especially my experiences as class representative and Corresponding Secretary, have prepared me well to serve as your next Secretary 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 Secretary. As Corresponding Secretary in UT-APhA-ASP, I have worked to expand the position for the betterment of the Executive Board and my organization as a whole. As Pharmacy Council Secretary, I will continue this trend, and go above and beyond what is expected of me to improve the quality of life of all of my fellow student pharmacists.

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