



Candidate for the Office of APhA-ASP National Member-at-large

Mark Gilliam, Samford University
mgillia2@samford.edu

GOAL STATEMENT

As your APhA-ASP National Member-at-large, I will uphold the values of student pharmacists while promoting the mission and goals of APhA-ASP. I will use my vast experience to best serve the needs of the Academy.

As a member of the APhA-ASP National Standing Committee on Communication, I have worked closely with the National Executive Committee, helped ensure the success of APhA-ASP programming, and collaborated with chapters across the country. My service in these capacities has given me a thorough understanding of the intricate workings of APhA-ASP. As your National Member-at-large, I will use my unique perspective to contribute to the continued success of our members, chapters, and Academy.

As members of APhA-ASP, we are given the opportunity to advocate for our profession and make an impact on the lives of our patients. Equally important, however, is the opportunity we have to build relationships with each other. By fostering those relationships, our Academy grows in strength and we have the potential to achieve our goals. In the end, APhA-ASP membership is made all the more valuable because of our members.

My goal is to help APhA-ASP and its members build a legacy of which we can be proud.

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

I currently serve as one of four members of the APhA-ASP National Standing Committee on Communications. I consider myself blessed for the fact that I have spent the last year speaking with APhA-ASP members across the country and seeing the amazing things they do to advance our profession. As if that weren't enough, I have the privilege of sharing their stories on a national stage. Creating content that highlights the impact of student pharmacists and the unique programming APhA-ASP has to offer has been my small contribution to an organization that has given me so much.

Through my travels for the Academy, the conversations I've had and relationships I've made with student pharmacists, I have developed an in-depth knowledge of what makes our Academy so strong; from the different patient care initiatives to APhA-ASP meetings, I have experience with them all. With that knowledge, I will be able to help chapters identify their strengths, weaknesses, and areas in which they can improve. I can challenge student pharmacists to be active members while communicating the potential rewards of their involvement. Finally, I can share the stories of our incredible members to inspire others as they have inspired me.

APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists Leadership Experience

- APhA-ASP National Standing Committee on Communications (March 2017-Present)
- Student Pharmacist Editorial Advisory Board (March 2017-Present)
- APhA Institute on Alcoholism & Drug Dependencies Ambassador (May-June 2017)
- Samford University Chapter Media Relations Chair (May 2016-May 2017)
- Samford University Chapter Operation Diabetes Committee (September 2015-May 2016)

Other Leadership Positions

- Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy Class of 2019, President
- Phi Lambda Sigma, Treasurer
- Alabama Pharmacy Association Board of Trustees Student Representative
- Alabama Pharmacy Association Task Force
- Samford University Graduate Student Advisory Council
- Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy Dean's Student Advisory Board

Professional Meetings Attended:

- APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting, Region 3
 - o November 2017 – Charleston, SC
 - o October 2016 – Orlando, FL
 - o October 2015 – Nashville, TN
- National Community Pharmacists Association Annual Convention – Orlando, FL – October 2017
- APhA-ASP Summer Leadership Institute – Washington, D.C. – July 2017
- Alabama Pharmacy Association Annual Convention – Sandestin, FL – June 2017
- APhA Institute on Alcoholism & Drug Dependencies – Salt Lake City, UT – June 2017
- APhA Academies Leadership Meeting – Washington, D.C. – April 2017
- APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition – San Francisco, CA – March 2017
- Alabama Pharmacy Association Legislative Meeting
 - o March 2017 – Montgomery, AL
 - o March 2016 – Montgomery, AL
- Phi Lambda Sigma Conference – Charleston, SC – February 2017

Publications

- Gilliam, M. "A personal battle became my legacy." Student Pharmacist Magazine. January/February 2018
- Gilliam, M. "Campus Update." Alabama Pharmacy Journal. Winter 2017.
- Gilliam, M. "Campus Update." Alabama Pharmacy Journal. Fall 2017.
- Gilliam, M. "Encouraging member involvement through new media." Student Pharmacist Magazine. January/February 2017

Videos

- APhA-ASP Student Pharmacist Spotlight (x20)
- APhA-ASP MRM 2017 Patient Care Highlights
- APhA-ASP Summer Leadership Institute
- APhA "Day of New Practitioner Life 2017"
- APhA Institute on Alcoholism & Drug Dependencies
- PharmFlix 2016 Best Overall Award – "#TogetherWeCan Live the Mission"
- IPSF Anti-Counterfeit Drug Campaign
- World Cancer Day 2017
- IPSF World Diabetes

PHILSOPHIES ON APhA & APhA-ASP

When I consider APhA-ASP and the impact it has had on my life, I am immediately drawn to reflect on the mission statement. One of the reasons APhA-ASP is such a powerful force is the fact that we truly are the collective voice of student pharmacists. No matter what field of pharmacy one wishes to pursue, he or she can find a home in our organization. APhA-ASP members have different backgrounds and career goals, but through active membership we are each able to define what membership means to us. Understanding the endless opportunities available, we can personalize our membership to help us become the pharmacists we aspire to be.

When a student pharmacist attends an APhA-ASP event, whether an Operation Heart activity or APhA Annual, that student has the opportunity for professional growth. I have been lucky to attend APhA-ASP meetings across the country, and while no two are ever the same, there is always one constant: the people. The Academy is full of truly wonderful people, all of whom share a passion for helping others and developing relationships. Knowing that APhA-ASP has over 34,000 student pharmacist members working toward a common goal, one realizes that the connections one can make are endless. Suddenly, the 34,000 members are not strangers, but, rather, friends you have yet to meet. By developing these professional relationships, we can inject new life into the profession of pharmacy. Given the everyday challenges student pharmacists face, it is easy, at times, to lose sight of our calling. However, our hard work and dedication is so that we may improve patient care. Through different patient care initiatives, APhA-ASP provides opportunities for student pharmacists to directly improve the health of their communities and provide a platform for student pharmacists to practice what they learn in the classroom. Through APhA-ASP programming, we have the opportunity to impact the lives of many on our journey to becoming a pharmacist.

As the collective voice of all student pharmacists, it is easy to envision and advance the future of pharmacy. Simply put, the future is us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to advance the profession. The Academy's policy process is such that it begins with one student and his/her idea. Thus, one student has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the profession. Now consider the impact of over 34,000 passionate student pharmacists...we have the potential to change everything! As members of the most accessible healthcare profession, we can build on the legacy of those who have come before us. Momentum may be difficult to create, but it's even harder to stop.

Ultimately, I will never be able to repay APhA-ASP for the impact it has had on my life. As your National at-large, however, I would spend every day trying my best to do so. I would consider it the ultimate privilege to give to others what the Academy has given to me.

SPECIALIZED TALENTS & SKILLS

When I took Gallup's StrengthFinders as a first-year student pharmacist, four of the strengths it identified were **Communicator, Relator, Futuristic, and Maximizer**. Additionally, as a result of my academic and professional life, I have developed excellent **Time Management** skills. Combining these strengths with my personal experience will allow me to succeed as an APhA-ASP National Member-at-large. Effective communication is one of the most important skills I can offer as a National Member-at-large. One of the roles of the National Executive Committee (NEC) is to serve as a "communication conduit" between members of our Academy and APhA. With that in mind, I believe I can add value to the work of the NEC. In order to relay the messages of the collective voice of all student pharmacists, I will encourage an open dialogue and active listening. It is the NEC's responsibility to share with APhA what our members desire out of membership, and to disseminate important information from APhA to the Academy. My ability to build relationships with others is another asset I will bring to the position. By connecting with others, one is able to offer sincere encouragement. My APhA-ASP journey is due to the encouragement I received as a first-year student pharmacist. Understanding the impact one person's belief can have, I will connect with others so that I may offer that same type of encouragement. As National Member-at-large, I would work to foster a culture of encouragement throughout the Academy.

In order to "envision and advance the future of pharmacy," we must catalyze the change we wish to occur. As a futuristic thinker, I welcome the challenge. By utilizing my experience as a National Standing Committee member, I will encourage chapters to keep improving. As a maximizer, Gallup says that I like to "stimulate excellence." Within APhA-ASP, there is a lot of excellence; our members do extraordinary things for their chapters, and our chapters do extraordinary things for the Academy. It is important to share the successes of our chapters, but how can we take our success to the next level? I believe we have to be willing to take positive risks. Our chapters must dare to try things they've never done before. If we must fail, let us "fail forward." Having seen chapter events from all over the country, I will help chapters create new events, improve old activities, and make successful events even more successful. Through my close work with the National Executive Committee and APhA staff, I have seen firsthand the demands of the National Member-at-large position. However, the time management skills I have developed as a dual PharmD/MBA student and APhA-ASP National Standing Committee on Communications Committee member have prepared me to meet such demands.

As a National Member-at-large, I will encourage all whom I encounter, lead by example, and utilize my strengths and my time in serving the members of APhA-ASP. By doing so, I hope to help us all leave a lasting legacy in our wake.