



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

**Grant Smith**  
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## GOAL STATEMENT

**APhA-ASP will be Greater with Grant!** My name is Grant Smith, and I am running for National Member at Large to reconnect members of APhA-ASP! Two of the largest issues facing APhA-ASP have been membership and participation. At the center of every chapter, are the members. Coming out of the pandemic, where many felt isolated and alone, we need to reconnect now, more than ever.

Focusing on rebuilding relationships will allow us to restore chapter and meeting participation, boost interest in the APhA-ASP experience, and bolster student networking and post-graduate opportunities. To accomplish this end, I want to focus on rebuilding interpersonal, interchapter, international, legislative, and mentoring relationships. To achieve this goal, I plan to leverage my background as an MBA student to aid chapters in creating sustainable funds to sponsor student's local and national travels. To support interpersonal and interchapter networking I plan to draw on past experiences serving APhA-ASP in local and national positions to create rotating chapter partnerships and bolster APhA-ASP international involvement. By rebuilding connections, we can promote and revitalize initiatives and create new opportunities to further attract new members and provide existing members with new, unique opportunities to propel their career.

## BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

### International:

**The FIP Leadership Development Workshop,**  
**The International Pharmaceutical Federation World Congress, Sevilla Spain**  
*Invited attendee, September 18, 2022 (7-hour Workshop)*

- A conversation-based workshop on the topic of how to lead a team more effectively. Speakers were from all around the world and highlight important leadership concepts
- Topics included:
  - Values of servant, ethical, and volunteer leadership
  - Project management skills
  - Effective communication skills and running effective meetings
  - Succession planning and Sustainable leadership
  - Leadership styles and understanding personalities

### National:

**International Standing Committee,**  
**American Pharmacist Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)**  
*National Project Coordinator, March 2022 – Present*

- Maintained a professional and working relationship between the member organizations of the International Pharmaceutical Student's Federation and APhA-ASP and advanced U.S. student pharmacist international relations and interests
- Represented APhA-ASP and the USA at the Pan American Regional Symposium and International Pharmaceutical Student's Federation World Congress
  - Presented and passed 3 motions aimed to further students' ability to affect the pharmacy profession around the globe
- Reorganized, revised, and updated the national APhA-ASP/IPSF website and all documents housed on the site to ensure a more user-friendly experience
- Drafted and presented various presentations for national APhA-ASP webinars to educate students and chapter leaders about international pharmacy opportunities and how to become involved in IPSF
- Compiled and submitted Project Accreditation Forms for international activities and events hosted by APhA-ASP chapters for IPSF reporting.

### Local:

**APhA-ASP International Public Health Committee (IPSF), Samford McWhorter School of Pharmacy,**  
**Committee Chair, May 2021- May 2022**  
**Committee Member Aug 2020 – Apr 2021**

- Discussed pharmacy in a global context, to identify global health issues and created and implemented 12 projects to address these health concerns.
- Designed, organized, and hosted the 1st and 2nd annual International Pharmacy Nights, coordinated the international travel clinic chapter meeting, and initiated the Pharmacy Abroad Infographic Series to highlight how pharmacy operates around the world.
- Redesigning committee meetings to incorporate leadership development and cultural awareness training
- Founded and coordinated the Virtual Exchange Program that connects student pharmacists with healthcare students outside of the U.S. to promote global thinking and to promote and drive innovative change within the profession

**Samford University Bulldog Investment Fund**  
**Chief Compliance Officer & Portfolio Manager, Jan 2023 – Present**

- Served as a portfolio manager for the Bulldog Investment Fund that manages 3.2 million dollars in investments at the university
- Presented and analyzed market issues, economic cycles, and investment securities weekly to grow the value of the portfolio
- Ensured securities purchases aligned with the mission and vision of Samford University and monitored variances of portfolio sector and security weights compared to the S&P500.

**Rho Chi Beta Beta Chapter, Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy,**  
**Treasurer, Apr 2022 – Mar 2023**

- Budgeted and forecasted chapter funds to effectively distribute finances to fund events and activities
- Reconciled budgetary items, recorded receipts for tax filings, and aided in reimbursements

## PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT APhA-ASP

One of the aspects of APhA-ASP that drew me towards the organization is the limitless opportunities to network. As I became more involved, my networking sphere shifted from local, to regional, and then to national at my first APhA Annual convention. After meeting so many wonderful pharmacists and student pharmacists at the national level, I never expected APhA-ASP to be able to offer me the opportunity to connect with students and professionals internationally. However, I had the opportunity to attend the IPSF World Congress and International Pharmaceutical Federation World Congress and meet students and practicing pharmacists from across the globe. These friendships and connections that I have formed over the years in APhA-ASP have been the cornerstone of my experience and continued dedication to the organization.

To me, the essence of APhA-ASP is its members. At the end of the day, people are what breathe life into an organization. As we emerge from the pandemic, how do we get student pharmacists to once again breathe life into our chapters and associations? We do this by providing students with more opportunities to network and connect personally, socially, and professionally on local, state, national, and international stages.

My hope is that every student pharmacist can recount the connections, experiences, and stories of their first annual meeting, or of their first patient care committee event. The interactions with other students, practitioners, and the community are what make APhA-ASP feel like home for so many student pharmacists. The culture of community that we can create in the coming years will radiate and naturally attract new members to our chapters. With this culture, I am sure that student members of APhA-ASP can accomplish whatever we can dream. These connections generate innovative ideas, drive change, create lasting friendships, and prepare students to thrive in the profession. Whether it be passing legislation in congress to provide pharmacists provider status, fighting against unfair reimbursement rates, or establishing new and innovative career paths within the profession, with connected students supporting one another, we can be greater! The sky is the limit to what we will be able to achieve together.

## TALENTS & SKILLS

**Leadership Style** – As a leader, I have always been driven to succeed and have held myself to high standards. Under the pressure of decision-making, I am logical and decisive. I am creative and my originality is reflected in the tasks I complete as I want to leave a legacy for future generations. When working on projects, I am oriented to the big-picture and future possibilities. While future possibilities seem abstract to some, I am able to see an organization's potential and map a sensible path to accomplish its visions. As a team leader, I hold all members to a high standard; however, I have learned not to place my internal expectations on my team. When leading a team, I use a structured approach to meet objectives. I look to improve upon inefficiency and organize the disorder within that team. To accomplish my goals, I take the initiative even when it is not required, and as a result, I am able to adapt in the face of adversity to achieve my goals and objectives.

**International Connections** – Through past experience serving on the APhA-ASP International Standing Committee, I have gained experience and made connections with student pharmacists from international pharmacy organizations. I feel that I can leverage these connections to provide members of APhA-ASP with new and exciting international travel and networking opportunities.

**Cultural Competency** – Learning to communicate with people from diverse backgrounds is not as easy as thought to be. It requires knowledge of cultures, personal biases, current news, and history. I had the opportunity to form relationships with people across the world. With every encounter and friendship, I have strengthened my cultural awareness to further my ability to form connections with people from different backgrounds and cultures.

**Language Skills** – I am fluent in Spanish and an intermediate speaker of Portuguese.

**Public Speaking** – Confident, articulate, and professional speaking abilities having given presentations at a multitude of local and national APhA-ASP events and at the international stage including presentations in Egypt and virtually in Argentina.

**Creativity** - Can see new ideas for projects and revitalize existing programs. I also have past experience designing marketing material and informational posters for health awareness projects and chapter events.

**Problem-solving** – When faced with a problem, I am methodical, logical, and unhurried. I find a solution after taking time to mull over a question or idea and rarely act hastily in the moment unless warranted by the situation. This is not to say I am indecisive, but rather I balance speed and attention to detail. Because of the care I place on decision making, I often go out of my way to research a topic and build relationships with leaders possessing insight into the topic of discussion to guide my decision-making.

**Background in Business/Management** – Throughout my time studying in the MBA program, I have learned marketing, management, economic, presentation, and Excel skills. I feel that I am in a unique position to apply these skills to support the National Executive Committee and APhA-ASP chapters.