

In the Spotlight

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Student Ambassadors Program Benefits Students and Applicants

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy has developed a Student Ambassadors program that will personalize the admissions process for student applicants and recognize the value of interactions between current and prospective students. Building rapport between students and applicants early in the admissions process is an important way to showcase the College and its programs, according to Alan Wolfgang, assistant dean for student affairs.

"Over the years the College of Pharmacy has been fortunate to have so many pharmacy students willing to interact with applicants during admission interview days, but we have failed to acknowledge their help in a formal way," he noted. "The development of the Student Ambassadors program is designed to correct this oversight by setting up guidelines for the ambassador responsibilities and then acknowledging their support."

Fall 2013 was the beginning of the program and more than 80 first-, second- and third-year students participated during that first year, and 120 so far this year, added Wolfgang.

Interested students must attend a short training session that reviews the College's admission process and outlines the requirements expected of the ambassadors. Between late October and late March prospective ambassadors must participate in a minimum of 10 activities involving the admissions process. Examples include speaking with applicant groups about the College prior to their interviews, either in person or via video connection from a regional campus; assisting with tours of the Pharmacy South and the Wilson building; serving on the student panel for Visitor's Day; and writing congratulatory notes to students who have been offered admission to pharmacy school.

"Once a student has documented participation in at least 10 activities, we will prepare an appropriate certificate for their files and resumes," said Wolfgang.

Jennifer Heider, a first-year student, said she appreciated pharmacy students' participation in the admissions process when she applied to pharmacy school "because they offered another dimension of the school experience."

"Students were so honest and friendly. Now I can help facilitate new students in the same way," she said. "Plus it's a good leadership opportunity for me to promote the roles of pharmacists as leaders in the community, and I also get the opportunity to show my Georgia pride in being a UGA student."

McKinley King and Felipe Lopez are both second-year student ambassadors.

Lopez wants to maximize the amount of precise information given to each admissions candidate and excite future pharmacy students about the great education that UGA provides.

"It's fun to interact with candidates from so many different backgrounds and extract good things from everyone," he added.



Jennifer Heider, Felipe Lopez, McKinley King and Sammy Kolofske

King finds being an ambassador an easy way to become more integrated in the community of the school.

"I remember admissions interviews as being stressful for me, so I like to help others relax and become more comfortable by speaking with them before the actual interview," she said.

Sammy Kolofske is a third-year student who enjoys answering questions and having conversations about the school and the pharmacy program. She also likes writing congratulatory notes to those who have been accepted.

"Leading tours is another enjoyable part of being an ambassador and a less intimidating way to show different aspects of the school," she noted.

Wolfgang noted that these four students are among the most active and enthusiastic ambassadors.