

SPRING 2026

THE BOND



FEATURING

KE INTERNS

NETWORK - NET WORTH

2026 WEEKS OF SERVICE RECAP

THE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PLAYBOOK

KAPPA EPSILON/MERCK VANGUARD LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

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**Cover Photo: Beta Zeta Chapter participating in the 2026 Weeks of Service.*

Members of the Alpha Lambda - Participating in KE Weeks of Service cleaning up the river walk.



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THE BOND OF KE

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BOND SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Content for the Fall 2026 Bond will be
due by October 7, 2026.

SUBMISSIONS

All KE chapters are encouraged to
submit news and stories to The Bond.
Articles may be submitted online
through the member portal or by
emailing vpc@kappaepsilon.org.

The Bond is the official publication of Kappa
Epsilon Fraternity, Inc. The magazine is
published two times annually.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is here and it is a season of possibilities and new beginnings! New beginnings also come with change. I will be honest with you all. Change is not easy for me, but I embrace change. I am sure you are thinking “Nikkina that makes no sense!” I just want you all to hear me out. Being a frequent leader in my community and career, I am used to creating the ideas and implementing the change to others. When I am in the opposite role of member, instead of leader, I must remember to embrace the change.



NIKKINA HANKINS, PHARMD, BCACP
Grand President 2025- 2027

I want to let you all in on how I embrace change in my life. These are the steps that I take when embracing change.

- 1) Be honest with myself about my hesitations. Many times, I am hesitant because there are factors I do not know well. Therefore, I hold myself accountable to ask questions and do my own research.
- 2) I listen to others' feedback about why the change is needed or why the change with work. Sometimes a new point of view creates the best vision.
- 3) I treat others how I want to be treated. This is the biggest motivator. As a leader, I want others to believe in as well as embrace my vision. So I must give it back in return when someone is leading.

Keep these ideas of change in mind in your chapter, schoolwork, and career. Change creates opportunities for new fundraisers, new leaders, and new members! Let's all open more and embrace the changes of spring!

In the BOND,

Nikkina

GRAND COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

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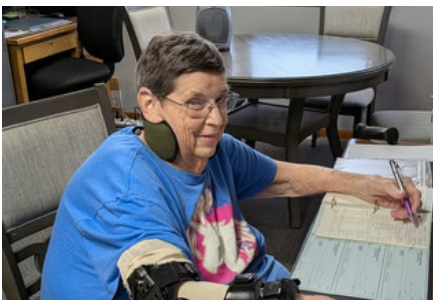
Psi, Alpha Theta, Alpha Phi

KE WEEKS OF SERVICE RECAP

Kappa Epsilon's 2026 Weeks of Service was a tremendous success, bringing together members from across the country in a shared commitment to giving back. With an amazing turnout of participation from both alumni and collegiates, this year's initiative truly showcased the strength and unity of the KE community.



Beta Chapter - University of Nebraska Medical Center
Making blankets for a local charity.

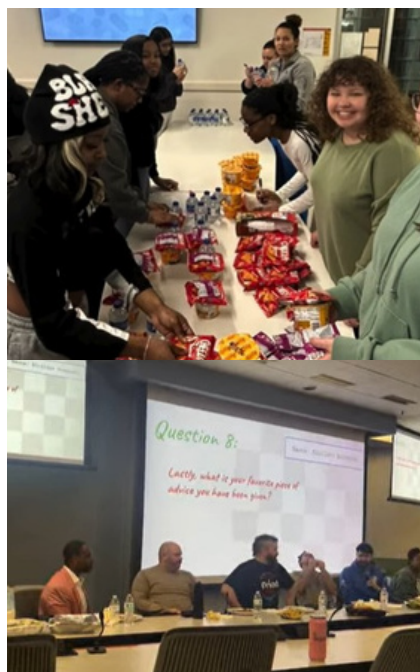


Alumni IN Chapter - Marg Haehl
Marg is very active in her church and volunteers diligently. She is the current for life KE IN alum chapter president. For her service to church and KE is a lifetime commitment.

Over the course of two impactful weeks, members dedicated their time and talents to serving their local communities through a wide range of efforts. From volunteering at community organizations and supporting local health initiatives to mentoring, fundraising, and advocacy, KE members demonstrated what it means to lead with compassion and purpose.



Beta Tau Chapter
University of South Florida Taneja College of Pharmacy
Made blankets and collect toys for TGH's children hospital.



Tau Chapter
Medical College of Virginia School of Pharmacy
Hosted a bake off, Girls Love Mail, Ronald McDonald bags and hot wings challenge, demonstrating their commitment to giving back.



Beta Beta Chapter
University of Florida - Orlando
Members were empowered with life-saving knowledge at a "Know Your Lemons" breast self-examination event - a foundation recognized for making breast cancer education accessible to everyone - regardless of gender, language, or background.

Weeks of Service remains an essential part of Kappa Epsilon, reinforcing our commitment to service and community engagement. By supporting those in need and partnering with local organizations, our members continue to make a meaningful difference while embodying the values that define KE.

Beta Beta Chapter

University of Florida – Orlando

Gave back at Second Harvest Food Bank in collaboration with SNPhA. With 28 dedicated volunteers, they sorted through 6,975 lbs of food, helping provide 5,813 meals to those in need in their community.



Alumni - Caitlin Hawkins

Caitlin and her friend volunteered at the Mid Ohio Food Collective.



Beta Zeta Chapter - University of Findlay College of Pharmacy

Members wrote letters for breast cancer patients across the country to offer words of encouragement and volunteered at the local City Mission, preparing and serving meals to the community.



We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our members and grateful for the positive impact made across so many communities. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the 2026 Weeks of Service such a meaningful and inspiring experience.

Mu Chapter - University of Kansas

Working together to clean up a local park.



KE National Convention

June 3 - 5, 2027

Embassy Suites, Raleigh, NC

NETWORK - NET WORTH: NAVIGATING THE PHARMACY WORLD FOR STUDENTS

By: *Lakeisha Laguerre, KE Intern*

In the demanding world of pharmacy school, it is easy to become consumed by exams, clinical rotations, and student organization duties. Yet, we must recognize that our knowledge is only one piece of the puzzle, and that our future opportunities are directly linked to the professional relationships we nurture today. Read more below about Dr. Charzetta James' journey and advice.



Charzetta James, PharmD, RPh, CPh, MHA, MBA, PRS, FACHE, FASHP, FFSHP

Charzetta James, PharmD, RPh, CPh, MHA, MBA, PRS, FACHE, FASHP, FFSHP graduated from Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where she was initiated into the Alpha Xi chapter of Kappa Epsilon in 1984. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited Residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida. She currently serves as CEO of Charzetta James, Pharmacy Consulting, LLC and works as Clinical Pharmacist at HCA Orange Park Medical Center. Dr. James is the first African American female to hold the office of President in the state of Florida. She was also bestowed the honor of FSHP Pharmacist of the year in 2020. Dr. James has a wide range of experience in Health-System Pharmacy Leadership, Compliance and Regulatory Services, and Drug Diversion.

When asked how her professional network has contributed to her growth, confidence, and career mobility, Dr. James emphasized the difference between two critical roles. "Every leader needs a Mentor, and a Sponsor." She explained that a mentor is someone who helps you learn the importance of self-reflection, while a sponsor is someone who already has a seat at the table and has the ability to give you a hand up [not a handout]. Her own career trajectory highlights the direct impact of a strong network. Through her many roles of serving as a Board of Directors member, Treasurer, and President for the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists (FSHP), she has had the opportunity to connect with a multitude of professionals.

Later, one of those invaluable connections ultimately led to her being presented with a pharmacy consulting opportunity—a role that propelled her into what she describes as "one of my most fiscally sound years in my career".

For students looking to expand their connections, the process does not have to be overly complicated. When asked the best way to approach admired professionals, she encourages students to "simply say hello, introduce themselves, ask questions, send a follow-up email, and make the first call." In fact, the networking mistake she sees students make most often is a "failure to follow up on previous conversations." To start growing your network right now, she offers three guiding principles: "1 – Show up, let your voice be heard. 2- Put in the work, success is seldom found in shortcuts. 3 – Never sacrifice integrity for success!".



Charzetta James, PharmD, RPh, CPh,
MHA, MBA, PRS, FACHE, FASHP, FFSHP

If she could give students one piece of advice about putting yourselves out there, it would simply be "JUST DO IT, you will not regret it!". Looking back on her own journey, she noted, "I wish I had put my fear of rejection aside earlier".

Ultimately, true professional net worth relies on the people you build connections with. As Dr. James perfectly stated: "Building wealth require relationships, most people had to crawl before they walked, most walked before they learned to run, and most of us experienced some level of failure before smelling the sweet aroma of success."

**LET'S
PREP**

GRAND COUNCIL CONNECTION VISIT

The purpose of the Collegiate Chapter Visitation Program is to enhance the communication and bond between the chapters and the national fraternity.

- Contact your GCC to determine your visit's format
 - Alternates between in person and virtual for each biennium
- Pick a date and time when you'd usually have chapter for utmost attendance
 - Preferably, pick 3 dates to share
- Have your files in order
 - New member handbook
 - Financial records from past 7 years
 - Officer transition documents
 - Initiation cards
 - Scrapbooks
 - Bylaws
- Review Visitation Manual
 - Chapters are responsible for arranging their GCC's hotel and travel
- Review each officers' duties beforehand
 - Do any roles overlap?
 - What processes are effective/ineffective?
- Be prepared to talk about your chapter's strengths and weaknesses
- Be open to feedback, suggestions, and ideas

Questions? Contact Dr. Elizabeth Heard, VP of Collegiate Development, vpcd@kappaepsilon.org

2025 – 2027 Intern Cohort

Kappa Epsilon launched an internship program designed to provide members with hands-on experience, professional development opportunities, and a stronger connection to the national organization. Five outstanding members make up the 2025–2027 cohort.



Breanna Shearer

Breanna Shearer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry from Emporia State University and a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Studies from the University of Kansas. She currently serves as Intern to the Vice President of Collegiate Operations for the 2025–2027 biennium, supporting student engagement and leadership development. A PharmD candidate at the University of Kansas, she plans to pursue a PGY1 residency after graduating in May 2026 to further her clinical skills and career in pharmacy practice and leadership.

Lakeisha Laguerre

Lakeisha Laguerre is a second-year Doctor of Pharmacy student at Florida A&M University and currently serves as the Membership Co-Chair for the Alpha Xi Chapter of Kappa Epsilon. She is passionate about leadership, advocacy, and promoting community wellness through education. Lakeisha aspires to become a clinical pharmacist, where she can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others through service, collaboration, and compassionate care.





Jordanna Hammer

Jordanna Hammer is a second-year PharmD candidate at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy with over eight years of pharmacy experience. She works as an oncology pharmacy intern at Orlando Health and is actively involved in cancer awareness through roles with the Know Your Lemons Foundation and the Sami Faith Foundation. A member of the Kappa Epsilon Beta Beta Chapter, she currently serves as President-Elect and is passionate about public health, patient advocacy, and advancing the mission of the Kappa Epsilon Foundation.

Kayla Cash

Kayla Cash is a second-year pharmacy student at the University of Florida, Gainesville. She received her Associate of Business Administration from J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College (2020) and her Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from Washington College (2023). She currently serves as her chapter's Diversity Chair, as well as President-Elect for SNPhA, and Diabetes Education Officer for Equal Access Clinic. Kayla looks forward to serving on the national level as Intern to the Vice President of Collegiate Development and bringing some of that knowledge home to Kappa Chapter.





Caroline Kinder

Caroline Kinder is a third-year student pharmacist at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. She currently serves as President of the Kappa Epsilon Alpha Lambda Chapter and conducts research under the mentorship of Dr. Caulder, the chapter's KE Advisor. Caroline's professional goal is to serve the community through a clinical pharmacy practice while remaining actively involved in Kappa Epsilon at the national level. As a Foundation Intern, she looks forward to promoting the Foundation's impact, supporting fundraising initiatives, and helping create meaningful opportunities for KE members to grow both personally and professionally.



2026 KAPPA EPSILON/MERCK VANGUARD LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

By: Rosalie Sagraves, BPharm, PharmD, FAPhA, FCCP Advisor, KE Foundation

The Kappa Epsilon Foundation was pleased to name Sherrill J. Brown, DVM, PharmD, BCPS as the 2026 Kappa Epsilon (KE)/Merck Vanguard Leadership Award recipient. Dr. Brown will be honored by the Foundation and the Kappa Epsilon Fraternity as the award recipient sometime during 2026 at an upcoming professional function, the date of which will be announced later. There she will receive a distinctive plaque to commemorate the occasion of her receiving the award.

The KE/Merck Vanguard Leadership Award was established in 1989 to recognize exemplary pharmacist leaders who are KE members. Merck & Co., Inc. supports the award. It is given annually to an alum member. The recipient of the award is an individual who has made sustained exemplary contributions to their area of practice, professional associations, regulatory bodies or pharmacy education.

Dr. Brown is professor and chair, Pharmacy Practice at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, The University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, where she also serves as the administrator of the Continuing Pharmacy Education Program and director of Drug Information Services.

Prior to receiving her Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, she received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri and thereafter practiced as a veterinarian until returning to school for her PharmD degree. Upon graduation, Dr. Brown completed a drug information residency at the University of Tennessee/Methodist Healthcare-University Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. She then began her academic pharmacy career at The University of Montana.



Sherrill J. Brown, DVM, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Brown's nominators believed she should be the 2026 KE/Merck Vanguard Award recipient because of her sustained exemplary contributions to pharmacy, pharmacy education and to KE. Her service to the profession and the fraternity began with her initiation into Omega Chapter of KE at the University of Missouri, Kansas City where she served the chapter as chaplain, vice-president and president. She also was initiated into Phi Lambda Sigma as a student and served as secretary. She also served the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Students of Pharmacy (APhA-ASP) as secretary and was a representative on the Dean's Advisory Council. Her membership in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) began when she was a student.



Dr. Brown has continued her involvement with KE as an active alumna member and Delta Chapter Advisor. From 2003-7, she was Grand Council Vice President of Communications and editor of the Bond. She also was a KE National Liaison to Alpha Chapter. She served on the KE Foundation Board and was secretary from 2011-13. She assisted with the writing of KE's 100th history.

She is a member of various professional organizations including the American Medical Writers Association, Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, APhA and ASHP. She has had significant involvement with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) through service on many committees of the Library and Information Sciences Section and the Pharmacy Practice Section as a member of or as chair. Significantly, Dr. Brown served the Library and Information Sciences Section as secretary of knowledge management, chair-elect, chair and immediate past chair. In addition, she has served AACP on its Programming Committee, Council of Sections Nominating Committee and various other organizational committees. She has served or currently serves as a peer reviewer for a multitude of professional journals, books and posters.

As a faculty member and administrator, Dr. Brown has served the University of Montana and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy on a multitude of committees and has held various positions. A representative sample of her involvement includes service as a member of the University Faculty Senate, as a University Faculty Association Grievance Officer and Board Member-At-Large, University Library Committee, Academic Information Technology Committee, etc. Within the School of Pharmacy, she chairs the Admissions Committee, is Pre-Pharmacy Students' Advisor, manages the Pharmacy Practice website and chairs the Continuing Education Committee. She has been involved with various Self-Study Library and Learning Resources Subcommittees associated with accreditation visits. She has chaired faculty recruitment and search committees. In addition to being the advisor of KE Delta Chapter, Dr. Brown also advises Phi Lambda Sigma Epsilon Mu Chapter. She has authored a significant number of professional publications and has been an invited speaker throughout her career.



Dr. Brown is also involved with her community as a coordinator of the Missoula JDRF Community One Walk. She also delivers presentations to children as part of the Get Set to be a Vet and Best in Show camp programs.

Because of Dr. Brown's professional involvement, she has received various honors and awards as a student and as a pharmacist/academician. As a student she received student leadership awards from Walmart and Eckerd as well as scholarships from Albertson's/Osco Drugs and Walgreens. She was a recipient of the APhA-ASP Mortar and Pestle Professionalism Award and their Student Leadership Award, the KE Outstanding Senior Award, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Honor Recipient and the Phi Lambda Sigma Student Leadership Award.

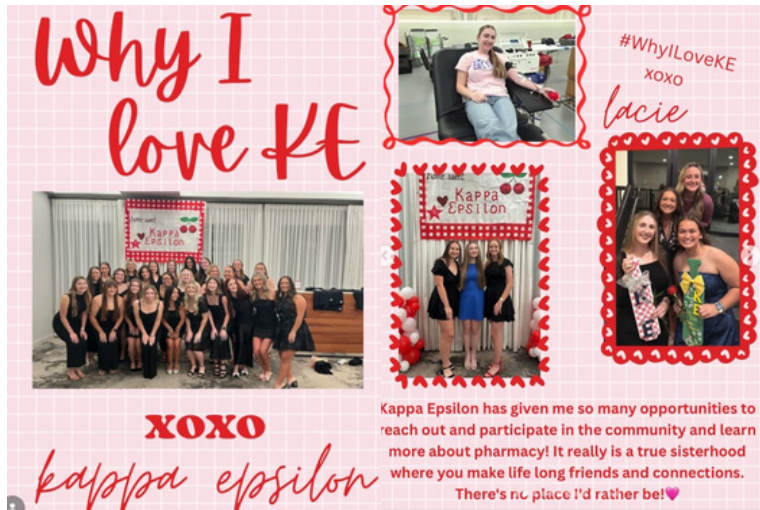


Dr. Brown has received honors and awards since her PharmD graduation including the University of Missouri-Kansas City Pharmacy Alumni Award, Pfizer US Pharmaceuticals Outstanding Leader Award, the KE National Fraternity Unicorn Award and its Career Achievement Award, and she was named the University of Montana Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year. She has been recognized for best posters by various AACP Sections.

Therefore, for her body of work as a pharmacy educator and administrator, her devotion to the profession and her support of KE thus far during her career, the KE Foundation selected Dr. Sherrill J. Brown as the 2026 Kappa Epsilon/Merck Vanguard Leadership Award. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Sherrill J. Brown.



WHY I LOVE KE CHALLENGE



ALPHA OMICRON CHAPTER ST. LOUIS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

“Happy (late) Valentine’s Day from KE! We wanted to take a moment to share why we love Kappa Epsilon ”

ALPHA XI CHAPTER FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

“We love KE because of the unbreakable bond and genuine sisterhood that unites us. What started as a shared journey through pharmacy school has grown into lifelong friendships, constant encouragement, and a true support system.

Through long study nights, early mornings, exams, rotations, and everything in between, we lean on one another. We celebrate each other’s wins, uplift one another during challenges, and remind each other why we started. Pharmacy school isn’t easy, but together, we make it meaningful and we make it FUN.

KE is more than an organization to us; it’s sisterhood, strength, service, and support. We grow together, lead together, and succeed together.

That’s why we love KE.”



THE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PLAYBOOK: A PHARMACY STUDENT'S GUIDE TO ETIQUETTE AND SUCCESS.

By: *Dr. Elizabeth Heard*



Dr. Elizabeth Heard
VP of Collegiate Development

Professional conferences are some of the most exciting and valuable experiences pharmacy students can have outside of the classroom. Whether you're attending a national meeting, a regional gathering, or a professional organization event, conferences open doors to learning, networking, and career exploration.

But let's be honest walking into a conference without a plan can feel overwhelming. Between packed schedules, networking opportunities, and social events, it's easy to feel like you're trying to run ten plays at once.

That's where this guide comes in.

Think of this as your Professional Conference Playbook a strategic set of plays designed to help you navigate conferences with confidence, professionalism, and a little bit of fun along the way.

Let's start with the pre-conference offense, the preparation that sets you up for success before you even step into the conference hall.

Play #1: Do Your Homework – Research the Conference

Every good play starts with preparation. Before attending a conference, take some time to understand its purpose.

Ask yourself:

- What is the mission of this conference?
- Who typically attends?
- What opportunities are available for students?



Review the conference website, explore the program schedule, and familiarize yourself with the hosting organization. Knowing the structure of the event will help you walk in feeling informed and confident rather than overwhelmed.

Preparation is the first step to playing the game well.

Play #2: Build Your Game Plan — Strategically Choose Sessions

Conference schedules are often packed with educational sessions, workshops, panels, and networking opportunities. While it may be tempting to attend everything, the reality is you simply can't be everywhere at once.

Instead, build a strategy.

Choose sessions that align with your goals, whether those include:

- Residency preparation
- Fellowship opportunities
- Non-traditional pharmacy careers
- Leadership development
- Clinical skill building

If you're attending the conference with a friend or classmate, try the divide-and-conquer strategy. Attend different sessions and then meet up later to share key takeaways. This allows both of you to learn from more sessions without burning yourselves out.



Another pro tip: download the educational materials attached to the sessions you attend and store them in a Google Drive folder or cloud storage. That way, you'll have access to those valuable resources long after the conference ends.



Play #3: Dress for the Role – Professional Appearance Matters

Now let's talk about one of my favorite topics: conference fashion.

Whether we like it or not, appearance plays a role in first impressions. Conferences are full of potential mentors, residency directors, employers, and colleagues you may work with one day, so you want to look the part.

Business professional attire is typically the standard. Personally, I often wear a blazer paired with slacks and a collared blouse. But as a self-proclaimed fashionista, I like to make my signature mark with a pop of color or a coordinated blazer-pant suit that helps me stand out in a polished way.

Shoes matter too. Conferences involve a lot of walking from session rooms to exhibit halls and back again. If you plan to wear heels, make sure they are comfortable, or consider packing a pair of flats or sneakers in your bag.



Grand Council

Also be sure to review the program schedule for themed networking events or social activities. Some conferences host events like sneaker balls or themed receptions, and you don't want to miss out on the fun simply because you didn't pack appropriately.

Play #4: Build Your Networking Toolkit – Business Cards

Networking is a major part of any conference, so you need an easy way for people to remember and reconnect with you.

Today, students typically choose between physical business cards or virtual business cards.

Physical business cards are simple and accessible you can keep them in your pocket and hand them out during conversations. Many seasoned professionals still appreciate this traditional approach.

However, once you run out of cards, you're out and they can easily be misplaced or damaged.

Virtual business cards, on the other hand, allow you to share your professional contact information digitally. Many apps allow you to include your LinkedIn profile and contact information all in one place. With features like AirDrop or phone-to-phone tapping, sharing your information can be quick and convenient.

Both options have pros and cons, so choose what works best for you. The key takeaway is simple: make it easy for people to stay connected with you.



Play #5: Always Be Ready — Bring Your Resume or CV

One thing I always recommend is bringing a few updated copies of your resume or CV.

You never know who you might meet at a conference, a residency or fellowship director, employer, or researcher. Having your materials ready shows professionalism and preparedness.

Trust me, it's always better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.

With those preparation tips complete, you've successfully executed the **pre-conference offense**. Now it's time to shift into **conference defense**, the in-game strategies that will help you navigate sessions, networking, and professional interactions once the conference begins.

Play #6: Show Up Ready — Professional Etiquette Matters

If possible, try to register the day before the conference officially starts. This can help you avoid long lines and gives you time to familiarize yourself with the venue.

Another helpful tip is to map out where your sessions are located ahead of time. Conference centers can be large, and knowing where you're going helps you arrive on time.

Speaking of timing....arrive to sessions on time. Walking into a workshop halfway through the presentation tends to turn heads for all the wrong reasons.

During sessions, stay engaged. Avoid spending the entire time on your phone, especially in smaller workshops where the speaker can clearly see the audience.

And if possible, ask a question at the end of the presentation. As someone who frequently speaks at conferences, I can tell you that presenters truly appreciate thoughtful questions it shows that the audience was listening and engaged.

Play #7: Master the Art of Networking

Networking can feel intimidating. Even for someone like me, there are moments when meeting new people can feel a little exhausting.

But connections in pharmacy are incredibly powerful. Our profession is smaller than you might think, and relationships can open doors to mentorship, collaborations, and career opportunities.



Instead of overwhelming yourself, try setting a simple goal: make five meaningful connections at each conference.



These connections might include:

- Students from other schools
- Residents or fellows
- Faculty members
- Researchers
- Potential employers

Another helpful strategy is not sitting with the same group of people at every session. Try sitting at different tables and introducing yourself to new people, you'll be surprised how many great conversations can start that way.

Once the conference ends, follow up with the people you met on LinkedIn with a short message like:

"It was a pleasure meeting you at the conference. I enjoyed our conversation and hope we can stay connected."

That simple step helps seal the deal and maintain the relationship.

Play #8: Pay Attention to the Big Picture

Large conference sessions such as keynote presentations or awards ceremonies can offer valuable insight into leadership within the profession.

Take note of:

- Who is receiving awards
- What accomplishments they achieved
- The initiatives or research that earned recognition

These moments can inspire your own goals and help you identify opportunities to pursue awards, research projects, or leadership roles in the future.

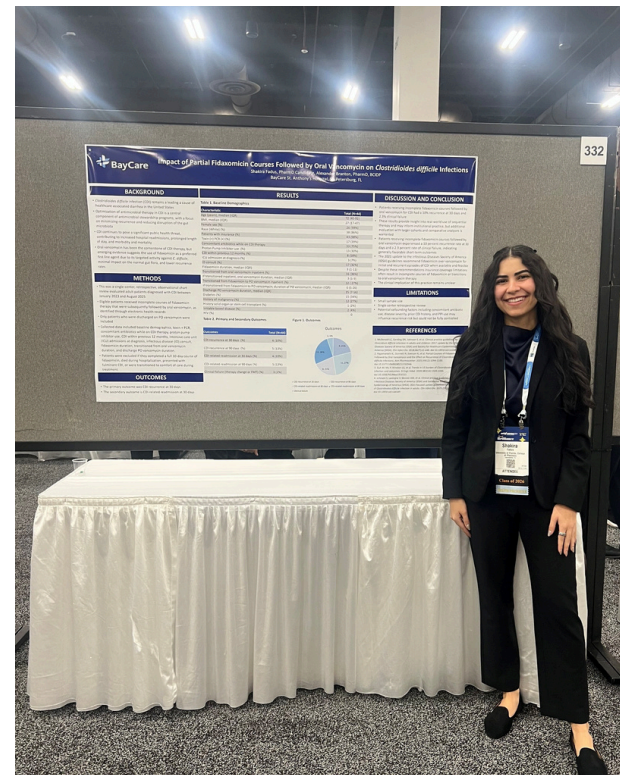
Play #9: Learn from Posters and Imagine Your Own

Poster sessions are one of the most underrated parts of conferences.

Spend time exploring the posters and speaking with presenters about their work. Ask questions about their projects and research methods.

This is a fantastic way to:

- Learn about innovative pharmacy initiatives
- Get ideas for your own projects
- Understand how posters are structured



I always encourage pharmacy students to present a poster at least once during their training. Observing other presenters is one of the best ways to prepare for that experience.

Play #10: Take a Time-Out and Enjoy the Experience

Just like in sports, conferences have time-outs, the moments outside of the formal sessions.

Many conferences host evening social events, networking receptions, or organization gatherings. Some schools even host alumni dinners where current students can connect with graduates.



Make an effort to attend these events.

These relaxed settings often lead to some of the best conversations and connections. You might meet a future mentor, collaborator or even a lifelong friend.

So don't spend the entire evening in your hotel room. Step out, connect with your peers, and enjoy the experience.

Final Play: Be Bold and Enjoy the Journey

At the end of the day, conferences are about growth.

Don't be afraid to ask questions, introduce yourself, or seek advice. Every professional you admire was once a student attending their first conference too.

So show up prepared.

Make meaningful connections.

And most importantly be bold.

Your future in pharmacy might just begin with a simple introduction.



2026 ZADA M. COOPER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Lakeisha Laguerre

Lakeisha Laguerre is a second-year Doctor of Pharmacy student at Florida A&M University and currently serves as the Membership Co-Chair for the Alpha Xi Chapter of Kappa Epsilon. She is passionate about leadership, advocacy, and promoting community wellness through education. Lakeisha aspires to become a clinical pharmacist, where she can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others through service, collaboration, and compassionate care.

Nuona Li

Nuona is a second-year PharmD student at the University of Florida's Orlando campus pursuing a career in industry pharmacy. She is actively involved in professional organizations, serving as Historian of Kappa Epsilon (KE), Vice President of the Asian Student Pharmacists Coalition (ASPC), and incoming Vice President of the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO). Passionate about teamwork and professional growth, she is committed to supporting her peers and sharing insights from her experiences. Outside of school, she enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, and exploring new cafes.



2026 ZADA M. COOPER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Payton Reinbott

Payton is a third year pharmacy student at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. She currently acts as the president of the Alpha Omicron Chapter and has been very involved since her pre-pharmacy course work. Along with Kappa Epsilon, she is very involved nationally and locally with The National Community Pharmacist Association, and the Missouri Pharmacy Association. When not studying, she loves to watch St. Louis Cardinals Baseball, put together legos, read rom-coms, and play with her British Shorthair Luna!

Kelsey Pickart

Kelsey Pickart is a second-year pharmacy student at South Dakota State University and a dedicated member of Kappa Epsilon's Chi Chapter since her freshman year. She has served as Chapter President for two consecutive years, as well as co-chair of the service committee and communications liaison, helping grow the chapter's presence on campus. Inspired by her grandfather, a pharmacist and SDSU graduate, Kelsey is committed to patient-centered care, leadership, and advancing women in pharmacy.



2026 ZADA M. COOPER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Susan Propst

Susan Propst is a member of the Alpha Rho Chapter of Kappa Epsilon at Campbell University. Originally from Danville, Virginia, she is completing her final year of pharmacy school and will begin a PGY1 residency this summer at the VA in Asheville, North Carolina. She plans to pursue an ambulatory care career focused on diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and anticoagulation management and is honored to be a recipient of the Zada M. Cooper Scholarship.



The 2027 Zada Cooper Scholarship applications will open in Fall 2026.



KE ON SOCIALS

KE asked their chapters and alumni to share recent accomplishments, member highlights, events, or updates. We had a great out reach via email and socials. Thank you all for sharing!

COLLEGIATES

ALPHA LAMBDA CHAPTER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

“Congratulations to all of our members being initiated into the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society, an honor recognizing all of their dedication to leadership, service and advancing the profession of pharmacy! Couldn’t be more proud of these amazing ladies!”



BETA CHAPTER

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL
CENTER

“feeling rejuvenated after a relaxing paint and (mocktail) sip”



Paint and Sip

mocktails and painting for KE's Mental Health Week

KE ON SOCIALS

COLLEGIATES



BETA GAMMA CHAPTER

SOUTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

“Roses are red
Violets are blue
Nothing beats Valentine’s Day with the
KE crew

Loved seeing our members repping their
KE sweatshirts for our Valentine’s dress-
down day! ”

BETA TAU CHAPTER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TANEJA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

“Happy Valentine’s Day from KE. Sending
everyone a STAT dose of love this Valentine’s
Day!

So much love for our social chair, Marla, for
planning such an amazing Valentine’s Day
social! We loved making self-care capsules
filled with reminders to rest, recharge, and
take care of our hearts (literally and
figuratively!)”



KE ON SOCIALS

ALUMNI



Congratulations to Metta Lou Henderson, PhD!

We are proud to congratulate Metta Lou, on being named the 2026 Zada Cooper Leadership Medalist and Domer Lecturer by the APhA Foundation . This honor marks the inaugural year of the partnership between the APhA Foundation, APhA, and the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy to present the Zada Cooper Leadership Medal.

This honor is so well deserved, reflecting Metta Lou’s unwavering dedication and commitment to making a meaningful, positive impact on the industry.



ZADA COOPER LEADERSHIP MEDAL AWARD: **METTA LOU HENDERSON**

By: Lakeisha Laguerre, KE Intern

The Zada Cooper Leadership Medal Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, mentorship, and service to the pharmacy profession. The award honors the legacy of Zada M. Cooper (1875–1961), a pioneering pharmacist and educator who played a major role in advancing opportunities for women in pharmacy.

Metta Lou Henderson, PhD, was named the inaugural recipient of the Zada Cooper Leadership Medal Award. Henderson has dedicated her career to advancing pharmacy education, leadership development, and historical scholarship within the profession. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Arizona in 1961, followed by a Master of Science in 1966 and a PhD in 1978. Henderson later became a professor at Ohio Northern University, where she significantly contributed to pharmacy education and mentorship. Her leadership within national pharmacy organizations has helped shape professional development opportunities for pharmacists and students across the country.



Metta Lou Henderson, PhD

Throughout her career, Henderson has been particularly recognized for her commitment to mentorship and advocacy for women in pharmacy. She has held several major leadership roles including serving as honorary President for American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and serving as Past Grand Council President of Kappa Epsilon. In addition to leadership service, Henderson has conducted extensive research documenting the history and contributions of women in pharmacy. She has also received numerous professional honors, including the APhA Gloria Niemeyer Francke Leadership Mentor Award, and has been named by the APhA Foundation as a “Next 10 Women in Pharmacy” Honoree.

Her dedication to supporting future leaders is reflected in the establishment of the Metta Lou Henderson Endowed Scholarship, which supports pharmacy students who demonstrate strong leadership and mentorship potential.

As a recipient of the Zada Cooper Leadership Medal, Henderson will present the Domer Lecture at the Women in Pharmacy Leadership Development Forum during the 2026 APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition. By recognizing Henderson's contributions, the Zada Cooper Leadership Medal Award continues to celebrate individuals who exemplify leadership, mentorship, and service while advancing opportunities for future generations of pharmacists.



**“ALONE WE CAN DO
SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE CAN
DO SO MUCH.”**

HELEN KELLER