Adopted By: 

**Stephen Durst**

**Name:** Tiffany Agate  
**School:** Ferris State University  
**Year:** P1  
**Interests:** Community  
**Biography:** I am 23 years old and from the south suburbs of Chicago, Ill. The main reason I decided to choose pharmacy as my career path is because I like the evolution that is occurring in the field. Pharmacists have a dramatically increased role in the health care field and are the "go-to" for many patients when seeking advice regarding a sickness or particular drugs to take. After graduating from Ferris' program, my goal is to attain a secure job that gives me the opportunity to have a balanced lifestyle.

Adopted By:  

**Stephanie Klepser**

**Name:** Katelin Anderson  
**School:** Ferris State University  
**Year:** P4  
**Interests:** Critical Care, Infectious Disease, Academia  
**Biography:** My interest in medicine and passion for patient care was confirmed when I had the opportunity to be a pharmacy volunteer at my local hospital. I am currently a pharmacy intern at Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital. The aspects of my job that I enjoy the most are being able to monitor patients’ drug therapy and interacting with patients. I am currently completing my fourth year rotations at Bronson Methodist Hospital as a part of the DIRECT program. I am pursuing a PGY1 residency, with the hopes of pursuing a PGY2 residency in critical care or infectious disease. It is my goal to enhance patient care by being a source of knowledge on disease states and drug therapy.

Adopted By:  

**Kyle Kronemeyer**

**Name:** Uzoma Anyanetu  
**School:** Ferris State University  
**Year:** P3  
**Interests:** Hospital Administration, Managed Care  
**Biography:** I became interested in studying pharmacy while managing an adult foster care home in the Metro Detroit area, where my curiosity was sparked by witnessing the effects of medication on the clients. My goal upon finishing my pharmacy education is to merge my pharmacy and law interests by embarking on a career to work in either managed care or hospital administration. I graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor in 2004 and completed a Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University located in Valparaiso, Ind. in 2010.
Name: Zeinab Aode  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Clinical Pharmacy  
Biography: I began to think about pharmacy in high school when I joined the Arab American Pharmacists Association. I have always had a love for the sciences as well as a drive to help people. After experiencing various health careers, I knew pharmacy was right for me. I practiced at a community pharmacy before and currently practice in a hospital inpatient pharmacy. I chose pharmacy as my career path because of the diverse opportunities and the ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team while being able to manage therapy and having ample patient interaction as well. My professional goals are to complete a strong residency program and be a successful clinical pharmacist. Pharmacy has had a great impact on my life thus far and I am excited to see where the future takes me.

Adopted By:  

Name: Linda Arrabi  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Pediatrics, Infectious Disease  
Biography: I love working with patients and people. I particularly chose pharmacy because I wanted to be a part of changing how pharmacy is practiced and how pharmacists are perceived in our community. I currently intern at Rite Aid pharmacy, but my true passion is clinical pharmacy. My goal is to work on an interprofessional team. I am very involved in student organizations. Student involvement helps me meet new people, be inspired by other's stories, and find the practice area right for me. With the remaining time I will be spending at WSU, I want to learn everything about myself and about pharmacy. I am very outgoing and always looking for challenging experiences to learn from.

Adopted By:  

Name: Rachael Bach  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Long-term Pharmacy  
Biography: I am a really fun, socially awkward and easy-going person. I lack experience in the professional world, as I am the youngest in my class and never have gotten the chance to work in a pharmacy prior to graduate school. I love the outdoors, adventures, travel and love learning new things. I've attended many seminars and continuing education lectures, not because I need the credit, but rather because I like learning about new advancements and information.

Adopted By:
Adopted By:
Andrew Young

Name: Ryan Banks
School: Ferris State University
Year: P3
Interests: Retail Pharmacy
Biography: I am an intern at Rite Aid pharmacy, and my post graduation goals, as of now, are to continue working in a retail setting. I like the retail setting because it allows me to live in a small town, which is why I chose pharmacy in the first place. I wanted to do something in the health care field that gave me the flexibility of living in a smaller town because I grew up in a small, rural, farming town in northern Michigan.

Adopted By:

Name: Michael Bassil
School: Wayne State University
Year: P1
Interests: Hospital, Pharmacy Owner
Biography: I have always been involved in community service events throughout high school and my undergraduate years. I did not only choose pharmacy because of my interest for the health profession or the content we learn throughout the program but because it was a profession that reflects my interest in community service, and I believe that becoming a pharmacist will help continue serving my community. I have been working at CVS Pharmacy for just over a year now and I very much enjoy working there. However, my ultimate goal does not lie within community pharmacy or at least a big chain pharmacy. My area of interest is within the hospital setting or perhaps even opening my own pharmacy.

Adopted By:

Name: Evan Baum
School: Ferris State University
Year: P1
Interests: Hospital
Biography: I have worked in a community pharmacy for three years. However, I am undecided if I will pursue a career in community pharmacy. I am excited to experience hospital pharmacy and have been interested in learning more about doing a residency after graduation.

Adopted By:
Name: Emily Belarski  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P3  
Interests: Pediatrics  
Biography: I am currently a P3 student at the University of Michigan, and I did my undergraduate at Michigan as well. I am interested in inpatient clinical pharmacy in the future, particularly pediatric pharmacy, and I chose to go into pharmacy to work with children. I plan on pursuing a PGY1 after graduation followed by a PGY2 in pediatrics. I am currently the president of our student ASHP chapter, and I hope to further my involvement in ASHP and MPA next year as a P4 student.

Adopted By:  
Susan Pennell

Name: Zoe Biggart  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital, Specialty  
Biography: I chose to pursue a career in pharmacy because I am passionate about helping individuals achieve happiness through both physical and mental health. It is important to me that I am able to properly communicate with my patients. I want to get to know each one of them so that I can help them overcome any health struggles that they face. My goal is to be able to help my patients feel comfortable with the medications that are prescribed and the lifestyle changes that they should make to improve the different disease states that they may be coping with. I am interested in applying for a residency program after I graduate in order to further my education and clinical skills.

Adopted By:  
Eric Roath

Name: Allison Bouwma  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Hospital, Oncology, Palliative Care  
Biography: During my time in pharmacy school, I have become active in extracurricular activities. I am currently the president of the FSU SMPA chapter, a member of the MPA student pharmacist executive council, the chapter chair of operation immunization for APhA-ASP, and chapter vice-president of Phi Lambda Sigma. I also work as a pharmacy intern at Family Health Care in White Cloud, Mich. Family Health Care is a collaborative practice which has made me truly appreciate every member of the health care team and steered my interests away from retail pharmacy. My goal is to complete a residency and work as a hospital pharmacist after graduation.
Name: Meghan Burgess  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Psychiatric Pharmacy  
Biography: I completed my undergraduate requirements at Delta College in University Center, Mich. I work as a pharmacy intern at Meijer Pharmacy. On campus I am a member of SMPA and NCPA and am to be interviewed for Pharmacy Leadership Society. In undergrad I was also treasurer of Delta's Sketch and Improv club. Out of high school I knew I wanted to pursue a career in health care, but was unsure. Shortly after graduation I was hired at Meijer as a pharmacy technician. I learned quickly that I enjoyed the challenging, ever-changing environment of the pharmacy, as well as the chance to work with patients to help better their health.

Name: Morgan Byron  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Collaborative Practice with a Psychiatrist  
Biography: I would like to help manage patient medications with a psychiatrist to improve outcomes. I am 28-years-old and have been at Walgreens for over eight years. I am interested in working as a pharmacy manager and plan to work up to district manager at Walgreens. I would like Walgreens to be the best in patient care. I have seen many different protocols Walgreens has tried and I think they are working in the right direction to help patients in our communities. They still have a long way to go, but I would like the help make patient care and provider status happen. I have chosen pharmacy as my career path for many reasons as well. I have a family member with severe mental illnesses and they can’t manage their medications very well.

Name: Jamie Campbell  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Retail  
Biography: I am from Traverse City, Mich. I currently work in a retail setting and love the interactions with our patients. I chose to go into pharmacy for that reason - it builds a trusting relationship focused on making the patient’s life healthier and better. My goals are to complete my final year of pharmacy school and to find a career that allows me to enjoy time with patients. I am really excited to start the next phase of this adventure.
Name: Jake Chaffee
School: Ferris State University
Year: P4
Interests: Managed Care, Specialty Pharmacy
Biography: I have been actively involved in the MPA since I began pharmacy school as a P1, and have really enjoyed meeting new people through the association at events such as the Annual Convention and Exposition and Pharmacy Day at the Capitol. My future career plans are to pursue a PGY1 residency in managed care. I am really interested in managed care and specialty pharmacy.

Adopted By: Jim Lile

Name: Katie Chernoby
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Critical Care, Pediatrics, Emergency, Infectious Disease
Biography: I am involved in many pharmacy organizations, including chapter vice president of APhA-ASP, ASHP, PLS and SMPA. I chose pharmacy as a career because I enjoy the challenge of learning how drugs work in the body, as well as how they interact with each other. I also enjoy helping others and making a difference in their lives. My goal is to complete a PGY1 residency in clinical pharmacy, followed by a PGY2. I am keeping an open mind about practice areas throughout my education. I hope to serve as a preceptor for pharmacy students to continue to enhance the profession of pharmacy.

Adopted By: Mike Toscano

Name: Johnson Ching
School: Ferris State University
Year: P3
Interests: Integrating Pharmacy and Informatics
Biography: I'm from East Lansing, Mich. I graduated from the University of Michigan in May 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science in Life Science Informatics. My mother had a large influence on my desire for pharmacy as she moved to the United States to sacrifice her career in pharmacy to give me an opportunity that I take for granted. Currently, I am a pharmacy intern at Walmart and developing a visual medication tool in hopes to increase patient medication adherence for the University of Michigan Transplant Pharmacy. With my background, I am determined to pursue a successful career integrating pharmacy and informatics. In addition, I would like to expand my connections with other health care professionals, positively impact my future community and collaboratively interact with an IT team to help implement new technologies as pharmacy evolves.
Name: Carlie Culina  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Undecided  
Biography: I am currently involved in NCPA, ASHP, MPA and PLS and hold leadership roles as treasurer for NCPA and secretary for Phi Lambda Sigma. I have a strong interest in hospital pharmacy and a four-year background working in community pharmacy. Since I was young, I knew I wanted to work in the medical field. Since shadowing a pharmacist seven years ago I have come to find a passion in working within pharmacy and making a difference in peoples lives. My ideal future goals would be to work in a rural community or hospital pharmacy and serve underserved areas. I am a hardworking student and strive for excellence in everything I do.

Name: Andrea Curtiss  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Oncology, Diabetes  
Biography: I chose pharmacy as a career path because when I was a child I would help my grandma put her pills into her pill box for each day and she would tell me what each medication was for. Since then, I was always fascinated by the science of how medications can interact with the body. Medication therapy is a major part of today’s health system and I want to be able to help make a difference in people’s lives. Additionally, because medication therapy is so ubiquitous, it has a lot of potential for growth within the profession, as well. As a professional I am trying to achieve a residency specializing in either diabetes or oncology and work in the Detroit area.

Name: Jessica Das  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P2  
Interests: Ambulatory Care  
Biography: As a future pharmacist, I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experiences with patients to improve health outcomes. I have previous pharmacy experience working in corporate and independent retail settings and am currently the transitions of care intern at the University of Michigan Health System. In the future, I hope to work with patients with chronic conditions in an ambulatory care setting.
Ben Daunais
Ferris State University
P4
Health-system

I grew up in Muskegon, Mich. I chose pharmacy as a career path because I wanted to be a health care provider and to interact with patients. Pharmacy afforded me both of these privileges. I am currently interviewing for PGY1 pharmacy residencies. Following completion of a residency, I would like to be practicing as a clinical pharmacist in a health-system setting.

Karen Davidge
University of Michigan
P1
Infectious Disease

I love the excitement that comes from involvement in original research and the acquisition of new knowledge, but I would like to focus on translational research that would directly help patients to improve their quality of life. As a result of my microbiology lab experience and coursework in epidemiology and immunology, I have found my niche in infectious disease medicine, and I plan to apply for infectious disease pharmacy residency programs after professional school. A doctoral degree in pharmacy and a specialization in infectious diseases will provide me with the skills necessary to achieve my goal of developing vaccination or antibiotic resistance prevention programs that may someday help to mitigate the current disparities in health equity.

Jessica Demey
Ferris State University
P1
Infectious Disease, Compounding, Retail

I used to work at Neogen Corporation as a reveal lateral flow chemist and recently just got a job with Rite Aid. I am from Perry, Mich. Currently, I am interested in three different areas of pharmacy. I am considering doing a residency in infectious diseases, compounding pharmacy or retail pharmacy. I chose pharmacy so I could help people and to learn how all the medications work and what they do to the body.
Name: Rob Demko  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital, Clinical  
Biography: I am from Wyandotte, Mich. and attended Wayne State University for my undergraduate education. I chose pharmacy because it is a career path that joins both of my favorite subjects, chemistry and biology, while giving me the opportunity to use that knowledge on a daily basis. I currently work at a community pharmacy, but after visiting a hospital pharmacy, last semester, I was very intrigued about that area of work. I want to be the future of this profession and see where pharmacists will be practicing and doing in the next 10, 20, and 30 years.

Name: Leah Double  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Community  
Biography: I was introduced to pharmacy through my job prior to pharmacy school. I worked at an insurance company handling prescription benefits and I found myself interested in pharmacy as a profession. My interests are in community pharmacy, advancing the pharmacy profession and improving patient health and well being. I have been actively involved throughout pharmacy school and hope to continue that involvement throughout my career.

Name: Andrea Duong  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P1  
Interests: Consultant, Long Term Care, Managed Care, Specialty  
Biography: I am interested in many areas of pharmacy and I would like to use this experience to learn more about a specific area. I appreciate that a pharmacist can practice in many facets of health care, with varying levels of patient interaction. I wanted a career that would allow me to pursue these many areas and that is why I chose pharmacy. My professional goals are to become involved with patient education or medication safety policy development. These are topics that I want to work on in order to help patients manage their conditions or illnesses with ease.
Name: Janelle Dykstra
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Retail, Medical Mission, Infectious Disease
Biography: The human body fascinates, and I also enjoy meeting and getting to know people. Pharmacy allows me to take both of these passions and practically apply them into a career. I don't have a definite plan or goal after graduation. I could see myself working retail a couple of years to pay off my debt and then seeing what happens from there. I have a dream of doing a long-term medical mission in a Spanish-speaking country. I am also really enjoying my infectious disease courses, and clinical pharmacy is becoming more and more appealing. Regardless of what my future holds, I am so excited to be a part of the medical team, no matter what the setting looks like!

Name: Daniel Elliott
School: Ferris State University
Year: P1
Interests: Retail
Biography: I am 26 years old and graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry in 2012. I aspire to work in a retail setting as I have worked at Rite Aid ever since I graduated. Unsure of what I wanted to pursue upon graduating, the more I worked within the pharmacy, the more I enjoyed it! Although it took some time to realize it at first, my time thus far at the College of Pharmacy has only confirmed my feelings about my future profession.

Name: Amir Emamdjomeh
School: Wayne State University
Year: P1
Interests: Oncology, Consultant, Hospital, Ambulatory Care
Biography: Right now I am leaning towards working in oncology since I did a lot of research in cancer during my undergrad years at the University of Michigan. I actually got interested in pharmacy because I was so interested in testing anti-cancer drugs and how they worked in patients. However, I did not like the fact that I could not interact with patients in the lab. I hope to one day be able to consult patients and help them lead healthier lives. Right now I am working with CVS as a pharmacy intern but would like to quickly find a position in a hospital setting where I have more interest. I have also been heavily considering ambulatory pharmacy.
Name: Kendyll Erickson  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Community, Geriatrics  
Biography: I have been interested in pharmacy since high school when I volunteered in a local hospital’s outpatient pharmacy. I am patient orientated, so I hope to have a career as either an ambulatory care pharmacist or a pharmacist in the community setting. I am also passionate about geriatric patients and hope I can make a special impact on them throughout my career.

Adopted By:  
Mike Klepser

Name: Victoria Facchini  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P2  
Interests: Managed Care, Administration, Infectious Disease, Transplant  
Biography: I currently work as an intern at Beaumont Royal Oak and Meijer and have developed interests in infectious disease. I recently became interested in managed care and administration and am interested in exploring both fields. I chose pharmacy as a career because of the numerous options to pursue. I am very excited to see what the future of pharmacy will become.

Adopted By:  
Lisa Salvati

Name: Lauren Fay  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Community, Hospital  
Biography: I currently work at Walgreens but am interested in both the community and hospital setting. My professional goals include caring for patients at an exceptional level and keeping myself up-to-date on pharmacy practice. My goal is to be knowledgeable, respected and trusted in the setting I practice in. I also want to be versatile and adapt to any situation that I encounter throughout my career. I chose pharmacy as a career path because I wanted to be in the medical field, without the blood that's associated with many other professions. I am also a people person, so I knew being highly accessible to the public was the right path for me.
Name: Greg Fedirko  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Undecided  
Biography: I believe it could be a very neat experience to get involved in a pharmacy practice that is different than that of retail or hospital. Currently, I am an intern with Meijer, but I cannot conclude my ultimate interest until I explore other areas of practice. So far, I find myself to assimilate well in the retail setting and I expect I will continue to do so as my experience advances in other settings. I picked pharmacy because I always had an interest since high school. Medicine has always been fascinating to me in the ways drugs can heal, treat, slow down and prevent disease. Therefore, I feel strongly that I am in the right place.

Adopted By:  
Rick Germain

Name: Tyler Fenton  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P3  
Interests: Abulatory Care, Oncology  
Biography: My interest in health care started at a young age when I began listening to my parents talk about their experiences working at Allegiance Hospital in Jackson, Mich. I chose to pursue a career in pharmacy because of the wide variety of work settings and career opportunities available within the field. I would like to do a residency. I aspire to eventually settle down in an area where I can make a positive impact in the health system I work in, as well as in the surrounding community through volunteering at free clinics and with programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Adopted By:  
Larry Wagenknecht

Name: Saif Findakly  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Managed Care, Clinical  
Biography: Prior to becoming a pharmacy student, I earned a Master of Public Health degree from Oakland University. At OU, I led a research project focusing on mental health; as the personal investigator of the project I successfully wrote and was awarded two institutional research grants. While earning my MPH, I also worked for a physician organization where I discovered my interest for preventative care through an administrative role. Professional organizations in which I am currently active in are Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Student Michigan Pharmacist Association, and the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy.
Name: Eric Foster  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Retail  
Biography: I am from Detroit, Mich. and am a first generation college student and a Michigan State University alumnus. I have strong ties to my community, so I wish to be a retail pharmacist. I believe that the development of a bright future of younger generations is a responsibility that lies on the shoulders of the professionals in that community.

Adopted By:  
Annette Frosch

Name: Sarah Fredricks  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Geriatrics  
Biography: I work at my local independent pharmacy, which piqued my interest in the geriatric community. As I continue through my last year of classes, I would like to gather more information how I could make a difference in this specific population.

Adopted By:  
John Ochs

Name: Tracelyn Freeman  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P2  
Interests: Clinical Inpatient Pharmacy  
Biography: I decided to pursue pharmacy because I admire how the pharmacist is the medication expert. Pharmacists possess a unique skill set that enables them to optimize patient outcomes and ensure patient safety. I particularly have an interest in oncology, and this is an area I plan to continue exploring as I learn more about how the pharmacist contributes to the health care team. After completion of the Pharm.D. program, I hope to obtain a residency and eventually declare a specialty.

Adopted By:  
Paul Walker
Name: Michael Frei
School: Wayne State University
Year: P3
Interests: Hospital Pharmacy
Biography: Currently I hold positions as policy vice president and treasurer for my school’s chapters of APhA-ASP and SNPhA respectively. My first professional goal is to become a BPS certified pharmacist in either critical care, ambulatory care, or oncology. My next professional goal is to work my way up into pharmacy administration later on in my career. I chose pharmacy because I am interested in how medications work and because I feel that pharmacists will play a big role in the health care field going forward.

Adopted By:
Rich Lucarotti

Name: Rachel Garrity
School: Ferris State University
Year: P3
Interests: Infectious Disease, HIV
Biography: I became interested in pharmacy after learning about the profession during a high school career day presentation. I had always wanted to pursue a health care career, and pharmacy seemed to be the perfect blend of service, scientific knowledge, and patient and professional interaction. I am currently a P3 student at Ferris State University where I also completed my undergraduate coursework. I am interested in pursuing a career as a clinical pharmacist, and I have a particular interest in infectious disease and HIV.

Adopted By:
Western Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Name: Nour Ghamrawi
School: Wayne State University
Year: P2
Interests: Hospital
Biography: Growing up, I held strong passions in both the field of health sciences as well as helping others. Since pharmacists are the most accessible health care professionals, I believed that it was the right career choice for me. It was a career that allows me to fulfill my passions all the while maintaining direct patient interaction. I am a commuting Canadian P2 student at WSU. This has been an exciting experience because it has exposed me to a whole new dynamic in the field of pharmacy. My interest has been growing towards hospital pharmacy because I feel like I can play a large role in a patient’s health and recovery. My chief goal is to become the expert in drug therapy so that I can assist patients, whether at home or in the hospital, in taking the correct medications at the correct time ultimately resulting in a better quality of life.

Adopted By:
Name: Andrew Glatz  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P2  
Interests: Ambulatory Care  
Biography: Over the past year, I have had the privilege of serving as the vice-president for the Student Michigan Pharmacists Association at the University of Michigan as well as sitting on the Student Pharmacists Executive Committee of MPA. I am currently very interested in ambulatory care and hope to practice in a rural or medically underserved area in Michigan after graduation. While my undergraduate training was in ecology and evolutionary biology, I chose to pursue a career in pharmacy due to my interest in the health professions and a desire for a large amount of patient interaction.

Name: Alison Gravelin  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Pediatrics, Infectious Disease  
Biography: My initial interest in pharmacy grew from an interest in chemistry and a desire to interact with people, rather than spending my time in a laboratory. However, as I continued throughout the pharmacy program at Wayne State, my interests became more focused on clinical practice, more so than the science involved. After graduation, I hope to pursue a residency and PGY2 to become a clinical specialist, with my current areas of interest being pediatrics and infectious disease pharmacy. Eventually, I would also like the opportunity to precept and teach.

Name: Rachel Griffioen  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Geriatric Ambulatory Care  
Biography: Growing up with asthma, my local pharmacist made a very positive impact on my life, which made me want to be able to do the same for others. Ever since I took biochemistry, the way we can use medications to alter biochemical processes has fascinated me. I have especially liked learning about drug interactions and medication therapy management. I feel especially drawn to the geriatric population because they are some of the most likely patients to experience drug interactions and pharmacists can make a huge impact on the quality of their care.
Souheila Hachem  
**School:** Wayne State University  
**Year:** P1  
**Interests:** Undecided, Emergency Medicine  
**Biography:** I earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from Lawrence Technological University. I have always had a strong interest in the sciences, and after being exposed to research in drug discovery, I knew that I wanted to pursue a career in pharmacy to better understand the biochemical mechanisms of drugs. In addition, my previous volunteer work in health clinics and hospitals has influenced my goals in becoming a clinical pharmacist and pursuing a residency after graduation. While I don’t have a definitive area of interest, my attention seems to be drawn toward emergency medicine, but I hope with further exposure in my courses I will be more educated of the different specialty options.

Amanda Haddad  
**School:** Wayne State University  
**Year:** P4  
**Interests:** Specialty, Managed Care, Community, Retail  
**Biography:** I have been an intern with Pharmacy Advantage Specialty Pharmacy for around five years. During that time, I have been able to provide medication therapy management to patients with chronic disease states and evaluate clinical notes to obtain prior authorizations for specialty medications. I have become interested in this area of pharmacy, and that interest has only grown with rotations in managed care settings. I chose pharmacy as a career after I grew to appreciate how instrumental pharmacists were for my mother during treatment of a difficult illness. The dedication to patient care and immense knowledge base made pharmacy a profession that I was eager to join.

Emily Han  
**School:** University of Michigan  
**Year:** P2  
**Interests:** Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Cardiology  
**Biography:** I was drawn to pharmacy because of the breadth of knowledge pharmacists have on medications, an important part of treatment, and the role that has on impacting patient care. While in pharmacy school, I shadowed a clinical specialist in pediatric hematology/oncology. I immediately fell in love with the inpatient environment of direct collaboration with a medical team to provide the immediate best care for patients. I hope to pursue a PGY1 and PGY2 in order to gain the specialization to be the drug expertise in the area of pharmacy practice I pursue and to eventually be an integral part of an inpatient team.
Name: Sierra Haneline  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Pediatric Oncology  
Biography: My professional goals are to work in a children's hospital and to specialize in pediatric oncology pharmacy. I love children, so if I could have them as my everyday patients and be able to help them get well, that is a dream come true. I choose pharmacy because I want to make people feel better, I want to be an expert in drugs. By being an expert in drugs I can help more than just my patients, I can help my friends and family and anyone who comes to me with a drug-related question. A more selfish reason why I choose pharmacy is because I want to be a working mother. I love that as a pharmacist I can work part time and still make a decent living to support my family.

Name: Pang Hang  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Community, Administration  
Biography: Pharmacy is my second career choice after teaching. I enjoy helping people learn and be able to do things for themselves. I volunteered at a hospital inpatient pharmacy where the pharmacists were teaching me about what they were doing to improve patient health outcomes. Seeing that people are using more medicine and have more choices I wanted to help in choosing their medication treatment.

Name: Tara Hanson  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Community  
Biography: I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from Michigan State University, and I also attended Kellogg Community College for pre-pharmacy classes. I originally was a teacher and decided that was not the path for me. I was unsure what I wanted to do and began working as a pharmacy technician for SpartanNash in 2009. I quickly learned to love the job, particularly the interaction with patients. My desire for helping patients, knowledge and career advancement lead me to pursue pharmacy school. I still work for SpartanNash today in Grand Rapids, Mich. as well as in Battle Creek, Mich. when I am home for breaks. Community pharmacy is my passion and I hope to end up as a pharmacy manager, but I also have a strong interest in pediatrics.
Name: Briana Harris
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Undecided

Biography: I graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences in May of 2014. Upon being interested in the health care profession at a young age, I realized becoming a pharmacist was best suited for me due to my continued passion of helping others. Understanding that medication and the availability of pharmacists becoming a more prominent player in the health care team, pharmacy was undoubtedly the right path for me. My main goal as a pharmacist is to better the community and health of my patients as best as I can. I am motivated to become the most well rounded pharmacist by caring and showing empathy to my patients, providing care and services to the best of my ability and working collaboratively with my health care team to provide optimal patient treatment. I am very driven and excited to see where my hard work and passion will get me in the years to come.

Adopted By:

Name: Hiyam Hazi
School: Wayne State University
Year: P1
Interests: Clinical

Biography: I was born and raised in Lebanon, and I came to the United States in 2011 after earning my high school diploma from Lebanon. I completed my pre-pharmacy courses and earned an Associate in Science - Pre-Pharmacy degree, in May 2014, from Henry Ford College (previously known as Henry Ford Community College). I chose pharmacy as my career path because it gives me the opportunity to help people in need. I want to become a successful pharmacist so I can transfer my experience to students who are pursuing the same career path.

Adopted By:

Name: Joshua Hendrickson
School: Ferris State University
Year: P3
Interests: Undecided

Biography: I am originally from Hancock, Mich. (near Michigan Tech University). I have been working at UP Health System–Portage in both the retail and hospital pharmacies since high school. I have always been interested in the growth of our profession, which is why I was initially drawn towards it. I am interested in pursuing a residency program upon graduation to gain additional training and knowledge. In the future, I would like to use my degree to push the limits of pharmacy and perhaps end up doing something brand new to the profession.

Adopted by: Carrie Germain
Adopted By: **Amy Smendik**

Name: Shelbye Herbin  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Research, Hospital  
Biography: I am from Saginaw, Mich. I originally started my undergraduate as pre-pharmacy, at Ferris State University, but I changed it to pre-medicine to receive my bachelor degree. I took a few years off and switched back to pharmacy. The area of pharmacy is growing so fast! It is fascinating to see all of the areas we can work now. However, I have a big interest in natural medicine, compounding, or research. After I receive my Pharm. D., I would either like to enter a residency program or go back to school to receive my Ph.D.

Adopted By: **Carrie Germain**

Name: Michael Hilden  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Psychiatric, Hospital  
Biography: I chose pharmacy because I have a passion for therapeutics and I see pharmacists as increasingly important players on the health care team. Perhaps it's just my naiveté, but I am optimistic that with enough attempts at leadership I will be able to make a difference in the world of pharmacy. I have a strong interest in psychiatric pharmacy but I have not yet decided if residency is right for me. I am in the process of getting my first pharmacy job as an intern in my hometown Meijer. I am also planning to apply for a summer internship position with Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy. It is my hope that these internships will help solidify my professional goals.

Adopted By: **Christina Holiday**

Name: Christina Holiday  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Hospital, Clinical  
Biography: I enjoy being actively involved with MPA and NCPA because they present different aspects of pharmacy and provide various volunteer and leadership opportunities to become involved in my community. I am is interested pursuing in a pharmacy residency program. Beginning as a pharmacy technician in 2009 at Covenant HealthCare's inpatient pharmacy and advancing to a pharmacy intern in 2013 has inspired my professional goals. My choice to pursue pharmacy as a profession is due to the fact that pharmacists are one of the most accessible and trusted members of the health care team and have the unique ability to make a lasting and influential impression in their patients’ lives.
Adopted By: Alice Hu
Name: Alice Hu
School: Wayne State University
Year: P3
Interests: Oncology, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease
Biography: I am involved with APhA-ASP’s fundraising committee and research with Dr. Zhengping Yi. I choose pharmacy school because I want to help people in need. Pharmacists are incredibly underutilized, but can make a huge impact on the patient’s quality of life. Therefore, my professional goals are to obtain a residency, then a job at a hospital working as a clinical pharmacist. From there, I may consider a manager position to help change policies and improve pharmacists’ role in medicine, while still being involved in the clinical aspect.

Adopted By: Rana Ismail
Name: Rana Ismail
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Research, Clinical
Biography: I intern at one of the large retail chains. I chose pharmacy as my career path early on. At first, it was simply because I enjoyed the sciences it entailed. Yet, the more I learned about pharmacy and the more I became involved in it, it became something that I am very passionate about and enjoy. Some people spend years trying to find something that they truly enjoy or be semi-comfortable doing every day as a career. I am very fortunate to have found my career early on. Being a pharmacist has become ingrained into who I am today and will continue to be a part of me as I continue through pharmacy school and throughout my career as a pharmacist. I would also like to become a preceptor. My preceptors have played a large role in my life thus far. If it wasn’t for them, I would’ve never found pharmacy.

Adopted By: Mary Beth O’Connell
Name: Bre Johnson
School: Wayne State University
Year: P3
Interests: Hospital, Administration
Biography: I am a third-year pharmacy student and am also studying public health practice at Wayne State. I’m highly involved in student organizations such as the Wayne State Interprofessional Student Organization, APhA-ASP, and Lambda Kappa Sigma. I love to play with new ideas, reimagine new roles and mold the future of these organizations. My professional goals are to work within an interdisciplinary health care team in a large hospital. Other future interests include pharmacy administration, since making big impacts on an organizational and community level motivates me. I chose pharmacy as a way to promote health, make meaningful connections with patients, and become an important member of the health care team.
Name: Kyle Johnson
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Undecided, Retail
Biography: I have attended Ferris for 10 years now and have multiple degrees. I was unable to find a job in any of my previous degrees so I decided to try pharmacy. I found a job working with Rite Aid; I love my job and I feel it will become my future career.

Adopted By: Sarah Mahoney

Name: Stephen Kaurala
School: Wayne State University
Year: P4
Interests: Ambulatory Oncology, Specialty
Biography: It is my short term goal to secure a PGY1 residency in the metro Detroit area to pursue a board certification in oncology. Eventually, I wish to practice within a specialty pharmacy or ambulatory site to specialize in oral oncolytic therapy. I believe this to be an opportunity for the advancement of the profession as well as a betterment to our patients. I chose the profession as a high school student due to ongoing health issues and throughout the years have gained a deep appreciation for the art of pharmacy.

Name: Fatouma Keita
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Community
Biography: I am from Ivory Coast (West Africa) where I completed my bachelor's degree in finance after earning an associate degree in science. I aspire to become a drug expert and prevent and improve medical conditions in my community. I intend to pursue a residency program in geriatrics and work with leading researchers to specialize in the pharmaceutical needs of geriatric patients. I chose pharmacy as a career path because of a key role pharmacists play in helping patients improve their health conditions. I wanted to have good understanding of medicinal compounds, use that knowledge of drugs and diseases to work with medical doctors and determine the best drug- and non-drug therapy for a patient’s particular illness, age, gender and health.
Name: Serena Kelley  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Institutional  
Biography: I have chosen pharmacy as my career path because I have always been interested in the medical field and learning how drugs interact physiologically in the body. I am interested primarily in institutional pharmacy and I am considering pursuing a residency post-graduation.

Name: Lauren Kelly  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Consultant, Geriatrics  
Biography: I fell in love with pharmacy through working at Kay Pharmacy in Grand Rapids, Mich. Although I enjoy working in a community pharmacy, my real passion lies within the senior community. My goal is to work for a nursing home as a senior care consultant pharmacist someday.

Name: Kelly Kieffer  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Community  
Biography: I chose pharmacy as my career because it blends two of my greatest values: serving others and improving one's health. These values further led to my interest in ambulatory care because it is an area of pharmacy that focuses on developing long-term relationships with patients and motivating them to achieve better health outcomes for themselves and their families. It will be incredibly rewarding to help patients individually set goals and to help them understand how to correctly take their medication through counseling. Besides helping patients in the clinic, one of my goals is to continue to be actively involved in the community and the profession. Presently, I am a member of MPA, Phi Lambda Sigma, ASHP and have also enjoyed serving on the FSU Dean’s Advisory Board. I am looking to further my involvement in these organizations and am hoping to pursue a residency with emphasis in ambulatory care upon graduation.
Name: Pauline Kim  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P2  
Interests: Hematology, Oncology, Specialty, Managed Care  
Biography: Through my work experiences in retail and inpatient pharmacies, I realized that pharmacists have a profound impact on patients' lives and their health. I chose pharmacy because I want to positively impact many people through my career. My current interests are hematology/oncology, specialty pharmacy and managed care pharmacy. My future goals include completing a PGY-1 residency, and finding a field in pharmacy that I am passionate about and where I can make a positive impact.

Adopted By:  
Bill Adrian

Name: John Kinney  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Critical Care, Internal Medicine  
Biography: Pharmacy is my career path because I believe it is the best way I can positively impact patients' health. I have experience in hospital pharmacy at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital, and I have community pharmacy experience at Meijer Pharmacy. With the remaining time that I have in pharmacy school, I hope to get more exposure and learn more about the many fields of pharmacy. With those experiences, I plan to choose an enjoyable career path that allows me to use my education to help patients to the best of my ability.

Adopted By:  
Western Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Name: Sara Kolc  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Community  
Biography: I'm an intern at Meijer Pharmacy. I've worked there for a year and a half now. I've been fortunate to work at four different stores all in different areas of the state. I plan to go into community pharmacy following graduation. I would also like to do the Meijer/Pfizer/Ferris residency in community pharmacy. I like the fast pace of community pharmacy and the close relationships you develop with patients. I chose pharmacy because it's something that is always changing and keeps me busy, as well as it's something I feel I can help educate people on and make an impact in someone's life.
Name: Scott Kollmeyer  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Hospital  

Biography: I am currently doing clinical rotations at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich. Prior to attending Ferris I graduated with a bachelors degrees in chemistry and nutritional science from Michigan State University. It was while attending MSU that I decided on pharmacy as a career path. While taking courses in chemistry and nutritional science it became obvious that pharmacy would be the ideal intersection between those interests. My professional goals are to complete a PGY1 residency, attain BCPS certification and to become a clinical pharmacist in a hospital.

Name: Sarah Konz  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital  

Biography: I have always had a passion to help people better their lives. As a pharmacist I will be able to help educate patients on how to use their medication effectively so they can get the best clinical outcome possible. Upon graduation I hope to become a clinical pharmacist in a hospital. This will allow me to help patients with their medication needs and also will give me the opportunity to collaborate with other health care professionals to help the patients receive the best care possible.

Name: Dylan Kosaski  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital, Pharmaceutical Industry  

Biography: I recently completed my undergraduate degree in Biochemistry at Saginaw Valley State University. Although I am still very open to new avenues in pharmacy, I am currently thinking about a career in pharmacy administration, industry or clinical hospital pharmacy. I chose to pursue a career in pharmacy because I have always enjoyed math and sciences and I truly believe in better living through pharmaceuticals.
Name: Chepchumba Kottutt  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Community, Infectious Disease  
Biography: My passion to impact peoples lives was my sole reason for pursuing a career in pharmacy. My goal after pharmacy is to work in the community interacting and monitoring the progress of patients. Some of the areas I am interested in are community pharmacy and infectious diseases.

Name: Brittany LaBell  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Retail, Abulatory Care  
Biography: I chose a career in pharmacy because of the opportunity to be a part of the health care team as the most accessible medical professional to help patients with their concerns. Throughout my undergraduate and graduate years, my involvement in pharmacy-related extracurricular activities and volunteering have continued to intensify my love and appreciation for the role of a pharmacist. My professional goal is to become a certified clinical pharmacist in either a retail or ambulatory care setting.

Name: Rawan Latif  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Policy, Legislation  
Biography: I am currently running for State Representative in the 9th District of Michigan. Pharmacists play such a vital, yet underrated, role in health care. I chose to be a pharmacist with an interest in policy and legislation to advance the profession of pharmacy and expand our scope of practice from the core.
Name: Colleen Lewellyan  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Academia, Management, Hospital  
Biography: When choosing a career path, I wanted a chemistry-based career that would allow me to work in the health care system. My high school chemistry teacher did a presentation on careers based on chemistry and that's where my interest in pharmacy started. I grew up in a Naperville, a suburb of Chicago. I originally came to Ferris State University as a soccer recruit but have gotten very involved in the College through organizations and research now that my athletic career has ended. I am dual enrolled in the Pharm.D. and MBA programs with a minor in Spanish. I plan to pursue a residency upon graduation and hope to use my career to change the role of the pharmacist in the health care system.

Adopted By:  
Mike Crowe

Name: Jean Li  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P1  
Interests: Long-term, Ambulatory Care  
Biography: In my first year of attending the University of Michigan as a recent college student, I had a wonderful opportunity to shadow an ambulatory care pharmacist. This experience allowed me to see how much depth and variety there is in the world of pharmacy. I was captivated by the influence the pharmacist had in her patients’ lives from implementing motivational interviewing techniques to assisting patients with medication adherence and cost issues. I hope to have a similar impact on patients as an aspiring pharmacist. In regards to my professional goals, I plan on completing at least a PGY1 before applying to full-time pharmacist positions. While I have not decided on a pharmacy field to pursue yet, it is important for me to find one that allows me to maintain a good work-life balance as family is my number one priority.

Adopted By:  

Name: Brandi Lodge  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Emergency Medicine, Research, Cardiology  
Biography: I developed an interest in pharmacy because it incorporates science, service and health care. In the future, I would like to work in emergency medicine and participate in research involving cardiac medications. I am also interested in traveling and providing health care for underserved populations.

Adopted By:  
Hope Broxterman
Name: Casey Lucas  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Insurance  
Biography: I am 26 years old, and the area of practice I am interested in is the insurance realm. I would be interested in working on formularies, examining new research on novel drugs, working on PA appeals, etc. I have extensive retail experience at CVS. It was this experience that led me to switch my major to pharmacy in late 2012. Working with patients and helping them to get their medications as easily as possible (for them) is why I chose to work in this field. I love how accessible a pharmacist is and I look forward to the shifting role toward a provider's status.

Name: Jessica Maas  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Infectious Disease, Emergency Medicine  
Biography: I became interested in pharmacy during high school because I enjoyed chemistry and wanted to be a part of the medical field. In the future, I hope to be accepted into a residency program, and I am currently interested in the areas of infectious disease and emergency medicine. I also hope to eventually spend time traveling and performing service work for underprivileged areas.

Name: Abbey Magolan  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Oncology  
Biography: There are many reasons for me wanting to become a pharmacist. It all started my sophomore year of high school when I was having a hard time breathing and experiencing heart palpitations while teaching karate classes. I saw many doctors and was eventually diagnosed with hypothyroidism and SVT. The fact that these drugs helped me get back into karate without taking so many breaks is what made me interested in pharmacy. I job shadowed with my aunt at a hospice pharmacy my senior year of high school and loved it. The reason I want to go into oncology is because another one of my aunts was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. Seeing the pain that she went through was terrible, but it made me realize that those are the patients I want to treat.
Name: Miranda Maitland  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital  
Biography: I chose pharmacy because I want to be able to make a difference in the lives of my patients and help them better manage their health. I am an international student from Canada studying at Ferris State University. Upon graduation, I believe I want to work in Michigan somewhere close to home. I currently work in a retail pharmacy as a pharmacy assistant at Shoppers Drug Mart.

Name: Helana Makki  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Oncology  
Biography: I majored in nutrition and food science from Wayne State University. I have always had an interest in pharmaceutical sciences, and volunteering and health work have influenced my interest in this area. I plan on becoming a clinical pharmacist and pursuing a residency. I don’t have an area of interest at the moment but I’m leaning towards learning more about oncology.

Name: Caitlin Mangan  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital, Emergency Medicine, Veterinary, Undecided  
Biography: I chose pharmacy as a career because I enjoy helping others and working with others to ensure they can live a happy, healthy life. Throughout my academic career I enjoyed chemistry and science the most, so pharmacy seemed fitting. I got the idea from a close family friend who is also a pharmacist at a Kroger in Indiana. I was able to job shadow her for a few days and fell in love with the job and instantly knew that was where I saw myself in the future. I hope to become a pharmacist in a hospital ER or in the trauma unit, but have also considered veterinary pharmacy as well. Animals are another love of mine and I can see myself working with them, but want to explore all options.
Name: Justin Manners  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P1  
Interests: Community, Specialty  
Biography: From adolescence, I have had a passion for science, health care and interacting with people, which has lead me to choose pharmacy as a career. I have worked in a community pharmacy for two-and-a-half years now, and I thoroughly enjoy the atmosphere and face-to-face interactions with patients. My professional goals are to graduate from pharmacy school and work my way up the ladder within a community or specialty pharmacy setting, eventually residing in a leadership position.

Adopted By:

Name: Trevor Massey  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Community, Hospital  
Biography: I was born and raised in northern Michigan in the towns of Petoskey and Gaylord. The two organizations that I participate in at the moment is MPA and the profession pharmacy fraternity Kappa Psi. I chose the field of pharmacy because I wanted the chance to be a positive resource for the general public to help provide for their health care needs. My goal after graduation is to work in the community field with Meijer in northern Michigan, but also working in the hospital setting has not been ruled out for me yet since my IPPE is at Petoskey Hospital, McLaren.

Adopted By:

Name: Felda Matti  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Community  
Biography: I have some exposure in the community field through volunteer work and this experience sparked my interest in the field. In addition, I have always had a strong interest in the sciences throughout my educational career and this led me to consider pharmacy as a career. I hope to utilize the skills obtained in pharmacy school to maximize overall patient care and promote continued success in the profession.

Adopted By:
Name: Mona Mawari
School: Wayne State University
Year: P1
Interests: Clinical

Biography: It is my goal to obtain a job as a pharmacy intern to apply some of the knowledge I have been gaining as a student pharmacist and to gain more experience in practice. A long-term professional goal would be to pursue an interesting residency program after pharmacy school. I chose pharmacy as a career path because I have always felt that pharmacists play a very important role of drug therapy in the health field. It seemed like a challenging field where I can acquire and apply a lot of interesting knowledge and I always enjoy a challenge. I appreciate this opportunity and am looking forward to meet a pharmacist who will help guide and mentor me to reach my goals!

Adopted By: Amy Smendik

Name: Laura McKeown
School: Ferris State University
Year: P1
Interests: Clinics, Pharmacy

Biography: I'm interested in going into many different fields, including geriatrics, hospital, and anticoagulant clinics. I've been involved in MPA for several years now, and have been a member for two years. I came to the profession of pharmacy after looking at many options in the medical and scientific fields, and believe this field is perfect for my hunger for knowledge, and my drive to give back to my community. It is so exciting to continue my professional journey with MPA.

Adopted By: Amy Smendik

Name: Matthew McTaggart
School: Wayne State University
Year: P1
Interests: Community and Hospital Pharmacy

Biography: I've lived in the metro Detroit area my whole life, and I graduated from Wayne State University in 2014 with degrees in biology and chemistry. I am interested in both the community and hospital practice areas of pharmacy. My professional goals include owning and operating my own community pharmacy; practicing in a community hospital setting; teaching the next generation of pharmacists and health care professionals; and contributing to the local, state, regional, and national progress of pharmacy via the political process. I ultimately chose pharmacy as a career path because it is a profession that provides many opportunities to give back to the community which has nurtured me.
Name: Vanessa Muratovic  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Health Care, Political Science  
Biography: I completed my undergraduate degree at University of Michigan - Ann Arbor where my focus was on political science and economics. I am in pharmacy school because I want to combine the health care field with my love for politics, and one day I hope to become involved in policy making. I also enjoy science and working with people so I believe this will be the perfect career for me!

Name: Namitha Nair  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Oncology, Health and Patient Care  
Biography: I chose to become a pharmacist to contribute to health and patient care. After a brief, but successful career in the financial industry I decided to pursue my true passion and took the steps towards studying pharmacy at Wayne State. My ultimate goal is to be a clinical pharmacist specializing in oncology and practice at a hospital in Detroit. Several members of my family have battled cancer in recent years and I am determined to do my part in helping patients that suffer this disease. Being part of MPA and Wayne State University has shown me the different ways that I can make a positive impact in patient care and in the community that I live in.

Name: Cindy Ngo  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Managed Care, Pharmacy Industry  
Biography: I am the president of our APhA-ASP Chapter and treasurer of Phi Lambda Sigma. I have a passion for the non-traditional, and my aspirations for my pharmacy career reflect as much. My interests are vested in industry, managed care, population-based research and policy. As a young teen I always loved science. At the time, my cousin was attending pharmacy school in Ohio, so I asked her about her program and she seemed to really enjoy it. Afterwards, I began doing a lot of research of my own on the pharmacy profession. As I learned more and more about it I knew that a career in pharmacy was something I really wanted to pursue. The profession has so many different facets, and I know that I’ll be able to find one that fits me perfectly.
Adopted By: Larry Wagenknecht

Name: Jerika Nguyen
School: University of Michigan
Year: P2
Interests: Informatics, Pharmacy Policy and Advocacy
Biography: I am interested in completing two years of residency and working as a clinical pharmacist and eventually managing an informatics team. I'm also very interested in pharmacy policy and advocacy, which I've had the opportunity to learn more about in my leadership roles in SMPA, APhA-ASP and Phi Lambda Sigma. I also hold a leadership role in Pharmacy Student Ambassadors because I love the concept of mentoring and am excited to gain another mentor through MPF. I chose pharmacy at the age of 12 when I went on a college visit to Ferris State and talked to some of the pharmacy students there. During my undergraduate studies, I joined a pre-pharmacy association, became the treasurer, shadowed hospital pharmacists, worked in informatics pharmacy, volunteered for a medication assistance program, and worked at an independent retail pharmacy, all of which solidified my interest in the profession.

Adopted By: Tran Nguyen

Name: Tran Nguyen
School: Wayne State University
Year: P2
Interests: Community Pharmacy
Biography: Community pharmacy has always been my area of interest. I also would love to explore other areas of pharmacy practice and cannot wait to show patients that we, as a profession, have so much more to offer. I'm looking forward to networking with all pharmacy professionals.

Adopted By: Kayla Orban

Name: Kayla Orban
School: Ferris State University
Year: P1
Interests: Hospital and Community Pharmacy
Biography: My interest in pharmacy began when I was hired as a technician almost four years ago. Primarily, my experience has been in community pharmacy, but after touring Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, I have also found interest in the hospital setting. Currently, both settings, community and hospital, appeal equally to me, and I have not decided between the two.
Name: Grace Oyelade  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Oncology, Infectious Disease  
Biography: Since high school, I have had a passion to work in the oncology unit in a hospital. Being around oncology patients is something that is personal to me, and I will be glad as long as I am helping people by giving care, instilling hope and trust in patients. All of my future plans are part of a much larger goal, which is to one day own a pharmacy and work with researchers to hopefully develop cures for the different types of cancers. I chose pharmacy as a career path for many reasons, some of which are very close to my heart. I'd like to affect change and give care to an individual and to hopefully continue to grow in the process. I'd love to save lives. This is the major reason why I chose a health profession, particularly pharmacy.

Name: Brian Palmer  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Clinical Oncology  
Biography: My professional goals are to pursue a PGY2 in oncology and become an established clinical oncology pharmacist. During undergrad I knew I wanted to be a health care professional. I wanted to become a pharmacist because they are the drug experts and are underutilized by patients and other healthcare professionals.

Name: Chandni Patel  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Pediatrics, Infectious Disease  
Biography: I decided to pursue a pharmacy career path because it combined both the patient care and technical knowledge needed to treat a patient. Currently, I am serving as the president of Fighting Aids With Nutrition (FAWN) and a member of the Phi Lambda Sigma leadership fraternity. Through participating in volunteering, shadowing and practicing in a pharmacy, I have a given a lot of thought as to what I would like to pursue as a career and how to go about doing so in my next few years of studies. Currently, I want to specialize in infectious disease or critical care in pediatric patients.
Name: Shivam Patel  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Clinical Pharmacy and Research  
Biography: I am interested in clinical pharmacy and research; however I am still largely undecided due to the multitude of opportunities accessible to pharmacists. I chose pharmacy as my career goal, because I wanted to follow in my grandfather’s footsteps. He was a senior research scientist for the FDA, which made me interested in going into industry. If I had a goal right now, it would be to work for a pharmaceutical company, or specialize in either nuclear or oncology pharmacy.

Name: Rachel Pavona  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Substance Abuse, Community Mental Health  
Biography: My path to pharmacy as a career strangely started at a young age of 11. I told my dad I wanted to be just like Steve Irwin, The Crocodile Hunter, and my father somehow managed to warp that idea (using snake venom help as an example) into being a pharmacist -- and it actually worked! All adorable stories aside, pharmacy is an incredible career path, one that will be important and useful to my family and my community. I have a lot of professional goals, most of which are centered around better educating people about the medications they take that may evolve into addictions. My family has been heavily affected by substance (and more specifically opiate) abuse, and if there is any way to help my community with this growing problem I would be honored to.

Name: Michael Phalen  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Managed Care, Community Pharmacy  
Biography: My professional goals beyond graduation include completion of a PGY1 residency program and attainment of a quality-improvement role in either the managed care or community pharmacy fields. I originally pursued pharmacy as a career choice because I wanted to help people in a real and direct way. As I gained more experience in the field, I realized that quality improvement was a good way to integrate that same level of patient care with my other interests, such as data analysis and utilization review.
Name: Libin Philip  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Specialty Pharmacy  
Biography: My mother’s success story as a nurse is not what inspired me to pursue a path in health care, but her responsibility as a parent. Ever since I was little, she has valued the importance of education and has motivated me to push myself despite my struggle to learn. In eighth grade she introduced me to hospital life when I exemplified an interest in medicine. At the outpatient pharmacy of the VA medical center, I volunteered over 500 hours of community service, paving a path for what would eventually become my future career as a pharmacist. After graduation, I plan on pursuing a career in specialty pharmacy specializing in technology based approaches to improving patient care.

Name: Katherine Pinkey  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Hospital Pharmacy  
Biography: I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Detroit Mercy, where I was originally studying nursing, and after two years, I decided that pharmacy was a better fit for me. My experience in nursing school made me realize that, while I’m interested in health care, the way I am most interested in helping patients is by studying the treatment of diseases through pharmacy and managing medication therapy. I am a member of Lambda Kappa Sigma, MPA-SMPA, APhA-ASP, ACCP-SCCP, and ASHP-SSHP.

Name: Herve Pola Wafo  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Undecided  
Biography: I am from Cameroon, Africa. I am a green card holder and have been in the United States for four years. The area of practice that I am interested in is not very defined at the time as I strive to learn the differences between the different branches of the profession. I have a big interest that leans more toward community pharmacy or hospital pharmacy. Both represent a great tool to serve the people and practice the profession in a way that changes lives.
Name: Monica Polkowski  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Pediatrics, Health-System Administration  
Biography: Growing up in a family of health care professionals heavily influenced my decision to choose pharmacy as a career. As a registered nurse, my mom’s work in the medical field gave her the knowledge base to be an advocate for the health of my immediate and extended family and friends. This prompted me to ask myself who I could one day be a similar advocate for, and I felt that joining a field whose members are renowned for the vast amounts of health and medication information they attain would allow me to do just that. After graduation, I hope to complete a PGY1 residency and then pursue a PGY2 residency in pediatrics. Later in my career, I hope to assume an administrative role as a pharmacist within a large hospital system.

Name: Ruby Qureshi  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Community practice, Pediatrics, Oncology  
Biography: Pharmacy is a second career for me as I previously earned a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in interior design. I enjoyed exploring my creative side with art but wanted to go back to school to study something more practical that would benefit society and contribute back in a global way. Once I graduate, I look forward to starting a career where I develop strong bonds with my patients. I want to take advantage of every resource I have available to me as student in order to ensure I choose the right specialty and have a solid base upon which to build the rest of my career.

Name: Aisha Rahman  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Clinical Pharmacy  
Biography: My hometown and current residence is in Grosse Pointe Park, Mich. I chose pharmacy as my career path because I have always been passionate for helping others. I have been holding a position at a community pharmacy for three years, but I am currently interested in pursuing the field of clinical pharmacy. I hope to go on to pursue a residency after completing my Pharm.D. and possibly a MBA or MPH afterwards.
Name: William Recker  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Hospital Pharmacy  
Biography: I have always known I wanted to be a part of the medical field. My mother works as a registered nurse in a hospital, and even as a child, I found her job captivating. I knew an occupation where healing and caring for others is central would be a rewarding career path for me. It was not until I started working as a pharmacy intern in a hospital that I fully realized my career goals aligned with that care setting. As a doctorate of pharmacy student at Ferris State University, I am learning how to be a member of the health care team.

Adopted By:  
James Vander Linde

Name: Juan Reyes  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Clinical Pharmacy  
Biography: I am very interested in clinical pharmacy, but since I have not had a pharmacy-related job I am open to just about anything. I went to Oakland Community college for two years and continued to take some classes there while enrolled full time at Wayne State University for the rest of my undergrad. I am currently looking for a pharmacy-related job. I chose pharmacy because my family has many health problems and I want to make sure they are receiving the correct medications.

Adopted By:  

Name: Galia Rizova  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Community Pharmacy  
Biography: I was born in Bulgaria and I came to the United States at the age of one. I am interested in community pharmacy. I chose pharmacy as a career path early on in my life because of my interest in chemistry. In addition, I have always wanted to learn more about various medications and become a part of the patient-care process. I know that becoming a pharmacist would allow me to achieve these goals.

Adopted By:  
Peggy Malovrh
Name: David Robinson  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Academics  
Biography: Pharmacy is my career of choice because I am curious about the science behind prescription drugs, specifically how they affect people. It also fosters the passion I have to help my community. In the future, I would love to be a professor of pharmacy so that I could pass on my knowledge to future generations of pharmacists.

Adopted By:  
Chris Maksym

Name: Angela Rondon-Begazo  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P4  
Interests: Ambulatory Care  
Biography: My ultimate goal is to become a bone marrow transplant pharmacist and practice in the ambulatory care setting. I am currently seeking residency training to enhance my clinical knowledge in various settings and would like to increase the efficacy and safety of medication use through direct patient care. In my free time, I enjoy dancing, making Peruvian pastries, and spending time with family and friends.

Adopted By:  
Jim Lile

Name: Constance Root  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Ambulatory Care Pharmacy  
Biography: I am currently a P3 student at Ferris State University, which is also where I completed my undergraduate curriculum. I decided to pursue a career in the field of pharmacy because I sought the opportunity to be an advocate for better health and to practice on the front lines of the medical field. I have worked in a community pharmacy for several years, as well as a small regional hospital for two months. I am involved in numerous registered student organizations, and am currently serving as a Ferris representative on the Student Michigan Pharmacists Association Executive Council. The experience I have gained during my time working and volunteering has sparked an interest in ambulatory care pharmacy.
Name: Mary Rothermal  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P4  
Interests: Community, Out-patient Pharmacy Administration  
Biography: I was inspired to go into the pharmacy field after I worked as a technician at a local Meijer Pharmacy. Throughout my years working at Meijer Pharmacy, I was able to see, first hand, the impactful and important work of a community pharmacist. I have, and will continue throughout my career, to be an advocate for community pharmacists. My fantastic APPE rotations have led me to expand my professional goals to include obtaining a residency or fellowship position that will allow me to earn my Master’s degree, teach pharmacy students, sharpen my clinical skills, and allow me to develop into a highly effective pharmacist and administrator.

Name: Erin Rozema  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Hospital Pharmacy, Research  
Biography: My practice area of interest is currently hospital pharmacy and more research based. Although, only being in my second year of pharmacy school I feel my area of interest is destined to change after experiencing what the next two years of school and rotations have to offer. After graduating from pharmacy school, my professional goals are to complete a residency allowing me to become more comfortable in my pharmacy practice and later on getting hired in a competitive position. I chose pharmacy as my career path because I enjoy working with people and being able to have such an important role in a health care. Also, I enjoy the wide variety of career opportunities offered in the profession of pharmacy and that it is constantly changing and growing.

Name: Sophia Ruffino  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Oncology, Indian Health Services, Pharmacy  
Biography: My interest in pharmacy first began during high school, I shadowed a community pharmacist at a grocery store my dad managed. Shortly after, I began working at a retail pharmacy to gain more experience and learn more about this profession. Upon entering college, cancer had taken two of my good friends from me and I decided I wanted to do what I could to serve others going through cancer treatments. That is where my passion for oncology grew and it continues to grow. However, I don't want to discount other areas I may be interested in.
Name: Dani Rustem  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Ambulatory, Community  
Biography: I grew up in Mason, Mich., a small town south of Lansing. I have always had a passion for learning and knew from a pretty young age that I wanted to go into the medical field. Pharmacy seemed like the perfect way to combine my love of science with my passion for helping others. After I graduate, I would like to remain involved with MPA and get a job in either ambulatory or community pharmacy.

Name: Michelle Sahr  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Community, Ambulatory Care  
Biography: I chose pharmacy because there are so many opportunities to help patients every day and in every different pharmacy setting. My goal is to complete a residency in community and ambulatory care focus. I would love to work in a clinic where I could work on a health care team to manage a patient’s disease states and medications.

Name: Alyssa Sandell  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Oncology, Nuclear Pharmacy  
Biography: I am interested in practicing pharmacy in a hospital setting. I am interested in oncology and nuclear pharmacy (as of now). I received my undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in Human Biology. I chose pharmacy because I enjoy helping others and I wanted to be a part of the health care team. Pharmacy is a career that is changing and I want to be a part of the change and help others realize that a pharmacist is an important part of the health care team.
Name: Jacqueline Saunders
School: Ferris State University
Year: P2
Interests: Research
Biography: I am from Marquette, Mich., and I completed two bachelor degrees from Michigan State University before beginning pharmacy school. I am very interested in research, and I plan on pursuing a PGY1 and a PGY2 residencies specializing in oncology after pharmacy school. My goal is to work as a clinical pharmacist, conducting research on the side. I have also thought about working in the pharmaceutical industry. I chose to go into pharmacy after going through my own challenges of being diagnosed with a severe autoimmune disease. The successful care and treatment I received from my rheumatologists at Mayo Clinic motivated me to give back to others in need. Pharmacists are a central role in patient care, and I felt drawn to this health care career. I strive to be a pharmacist who puts patients first and one who collaborates with other health care professionals.

Adopted By:
Dave Poirier

Name: Allison Schiefer
School: Ferris State University
Year: P3
Interests: Pharmacy, Science
Biography: Pharmacy has been a great blend of my passions – helping others and exploring the science field. I truly believe pharmacists can help close the gap in care and I am excited to see the evolution of pharmacy as a profession. I hope to put my passions to use as a VA pharmacist after a PGY1 residency.

Adopted By:
Allison Schiefer

Name: Lauren Schumacher
School: University of Michigan
Year: P2
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Critical, Emergency Care and Cardiology
Biography: My experience in pharmacy started about five years ago when I became a technician at Target Pharmacy. With time, I grew to love the pharmacy profession and the fact there were so many opportunities as a pharmacist. I love to bring my knowledge back to my job and helping out the patients in every way that I can, especially since I've established long relationships with many of them. As a future pharmacist, I want to play a role in ensuring the best of medication therapies: safest, most efficacious, least amount, and least costly, for example. I have come to understand there are significant gaps in patient care, and hope I can be part of the solution to this problem.

Adopted By:
Sandra Chase
Lisa Schuurmans
Ferris State University
P4
Independent Pharmacy
I chose to go to pharmacy school because I started working at an independent pharmacy and absolutely loved my job. Throughout pharmacy school I have held strong to my independent pharmacy background and want to pursue a career in this business. I love the patient interaction I get in community pharmacy and I see the impact that I can have on so many patients. I am very passionate about public health and reaching out into the community. I am now in my last year of pharmacy school and am very excited to start my career.

Rachel Sczepanski
Ferris State University
P4
Community, Ambulatory Care
Being a current fourth-year pharmacy student at Ferris State University, I am preparing to begin my career in pharmacy. While I have applied for residency focused on ambulatory care, I am also interested in community pharmacy and have taken a position with Target after graduation. I love the direct patient care that comes with both these areas of pharmacy and would like to work towards expanding the role of pharmacy within a community setting. Pharmacy has always been what I wanted to do since I was in middle school and I am so excited to have that dream finally come true when I graduate in May.

Olivia Seaman
Ferris State University
P4
Independent Pharmacy
I currently am an intern at Pharmacy Care in Middleville, Mich. I have been working for this independent pharmacy since my senior year of high school (5 years). I have always wanted to work in the health care field, and with chemistry being my strongest subject, pharmacy was the perfect answer. After I graduate I would like to own and/or work for an independent pharmacy. I have grown a strong passion for the level of care independent pharmacists can give to their patients.
Name: Michelle Seffrin  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Pharmacy  
Biography: I currently intern at Meijer Pharmacy. I started out as a technician for four years and am now going into my second year of internship. Right now I plan on going into retail pharmacy because that is what I am familiar with. My goal is to become more involved in pharmacy by going to conventions (this is my first one!), participate in pharmacy clinics, and be more involved in the organizations at school. Pharmacy interested me because I love the aspect of helping people with their health. I enjoy how the pharmacist is knowledgeable and is always at the patients' disposal to answer their concerns.

Name: Samantha Simmons  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Veteran Affairs, Hospital Pharmacy  
Biography: I am very interested in working with the military and giving back to the service. I also am interested in hospital pharmacy as I plan on doing a residency upon completion of pharmacy school. My mother is a community pharmacist for CVS Pharmacy and my father was a surgeon in Garden City. I chose Pharmacy because I truly enjoyed the every day direct connection with patients and the ability to help in the community. My professional goals and plans include working as a pharmacist after my schooling for some time, but I would like to consider a higher level leadership or management position after that. I currently work as an intern at CVS Pharmacy.

Name: Jaclyn Skradski  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Infectious Disease  
Biography: I grew up in Escanaba, Mich. and attended Grand Valley State University where I received a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science. I've been a member of Rho Chi, APhA-ASP, MPA, and ASHP, as well as a participant in the peer mentor program and am a pharmacy intern at Kmart. I was drawn to pharmacy school initially by my interest in organic chemistry and research interest in the development of antibiotics, which further evolved into a love for learning about microbiology. I am currently on the search for a residency with hopes of specializing in infectious diseases.
Adopted By: Patti Keim

Name: Sally Smeelink  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Community, Infusion Pharmacy and Ambulatory Care  
Biography: I choose pharmacy as a career path because I've been exposed to it my entire life. I (literally) grew up in the back of my mother’s independent pharmacy she owned for nearly 25 years. When I was 14, I started working there every day after school learning the ins-and-outs of the pharmacy world. In 2012, she sold out to Walgreens and I've worked for them ever since. I'm primarily interested in community pharmacy, but also looking into ambulatory care and infusion pharmacy. I enjoy being an active member of my class, involved in SMPA, NCPA, and the pre-pharmacy club. One of my professional goals is to stay active in the pharmacy community.

Adopted By: Ed Szandzik

Name: Heba Sobh  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Science  
Biography: My interest in the field of science first sparked during a high school chemistry class. I followed that path and studied biochemistry during my undergraduate years at the University of Michigan – Dearborn, where I realized my passion for the human body and the biochemical processes within it. So far throughout my schooling, I have come to understand the accessibility a pharmacist provides with the broad-spectrum knowledge and expert skills they possess.

Adopted By: Steven Sohasky

Name: Steven Sohasky  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Health Sciences  
Biography: I am highly involved in student organizations with leadership positions in Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Honorary Society, Kappa Psi, ASHP, MPA, and serve on the Dean's Advisory Board. My decision to enter the field of pharmacy began with my interest in health sciences and was reinforced through my current internship at Metro Health Hospital in Wyoming, Mich. My professional goals are to enter a residency in either institutional or ambulatory care to eventually continue on to a career in either fields because of my experience in institutional and my passion for patient interaction.
Name: Dana Soucek  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Hospital Pharmacy  
Biography: I chose pharmacy as my career path because of my love for science and the impact medication can have on a person’s life. During pharmacy school, I have been involved in MPA, APhA-ASP and Phi Lambda Sigma. My professional goals include being a well-respected pharmacist working in a clinical setting and to improve patient’s lives by managing their medication.

Adopted By:  
Bill Adrian

Name: Bradley St. Pierre  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P3  
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Critical Care, Academia  
Biography: My path to pharmacy began with an interest in pharmacogenomics, while completing my biochemistry degree. I confirmed my interest after completing a volunteer internship program at the Windsor Student Centre Pharmacy, where I got to experience the patient interaction and daily tasks of a pharmacist. I will be completing my P4 year rotations in the DIRECT program at the Bronson Methodist hospital in Kalamazoo with hopes to complete a PGY1 residency and practice as a clinical pharmacist.

Adopted By:  

Name: Andrew Stone  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Oncology, Academia  
Biography: I am practicing at the Long Term Care Pharmacy as part of the St. John Hospital system as a student pharmacy Intern. Prior to starting my pharmacy education, I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Michigan State University and worked for one year as a product surveillance associate at Baxter Healthcare. I chose pharmacy as a career path ultimately because of the multitude of opportunities available for my career path and the ability to utilize my knowledge and skill set to help others.

Adopted By:
Adopted By:

**Lauren Sumner**

**School:** Ferris State University  
**Year:** P4  
**Interests:** Specialty Pharmacy  
**Biography:** I have worked at a specialty pharmacy in the past and am currently on a specialty pharmacy rotation. I am interested in specialty because it allows you to use your clinical skills that you learn in school and incorporate it into the direct patient care that is needed with the high-touch medications being dispensed. Ultimately, I would like to begin my career in the specialty field and continue to grow within a company that is open to innovation and willing to continue to change with the evolving specialty field.

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Adopted By:

**Ashley Taylor**

**School:** Ferris State University  
**Year:** P1  
**Interests:** Hospital Pharmacy  
**Biography:** I am originally from Vassar, Mich. I grew up interested in the medical field because of my mother's position at Covenant in Saginaw. She is a cardiological technician in the cath lab there, and her ability to help people has been a driving force in my schooling.

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Adopted By:

**Preston Taylor**

**School:** Ferris State University  
**Year:** P4  
**Interests:** Inpatient and Ambulatory Care  
**Biography:** Currently, I am in the process of applying for a PGY1 residency program. My practice interests involve both inpatient pharmacy and ambulatory care. I have been involved in numerous professional organizations including MPA, ASHP, PLS, and Rho Chi.
Adopted By: 

Amanda Thomas

School: Ferris State University
Year: P1
Interests: Long Term Care Pharmacy
Biography: I really enjoy traveling and I volunteer a lot of my time working with youth camps. I have worked in the admissions office since undergrad, which includes giving campus tours. I love this job. I think it's the best job a college student can get. I really enjoy learning and I love getting to share my stories and passion for pharmacy and Ferris with prospective students. I don't have any pharmacy job experience, but right now I'm exploring the idea of working in long term care. I chose pharmacy because I really love the sciences and I like how that is balanced with opportunities to provide care and work with patients in a way that is different than a doctor's role.

Adopted By: 

Kirsten Thorhauer

School: Ferris State University
Year: P3
Interests: Government Funded Medical and Pharmacy Clinic
Biography: I always knew I would end up in the medical field in some capacity. When I was in high school, I job shadowed a consultant pharmacist and fell in love with the idea of streamlining medical therapies. My career goals are to start as a pharmacy manager (I will have my MBA in addition to my Pharm.D. by May 2017), and then after a few years of practice, start to my life goal of opening a medical center/pharmacy to serve the under privileged.

Adopted By: 

Melanie Toney

School: University of Michigan
Year: P1
Interests: Community Pharmacy
Biography: My goal to become a pharmacist has only been reinforced by my pharmacy school studies, involvement in pharmacy-related organizations, and part time work as a pharmacy technician/intern. My current focus is in the practice of community pharmacy. Since starting pharmacy school, I have also become interested in managed care and its connection to community pharmacy, and hope to expand my knowledge of this field to incorporate it into a community pharmacy career.
Name: Melanie Trinh  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Clinical, Community  
Biography: My interest in pharmacy began with living with my grandparents and seeing how many medications they would take every day. I decided to pursue pharmacy in high school after witnessing how changes in someone's medication therapy could drastically alter their behavior. After graduation, I am interested in doing a residency and starting my career in the greater Grand Rapids, Mich. area. Currently, I don’t have my heart set on any particular area of pharmacy, but I am interested in further exploration of clinical, pediatric, psychiatric, and community pharmacy.

Adopted By:

UNAVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

Name: Bridget Vendittelli  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Hospital Pharmacy  
Biography: I currently practice as an intern at Troy Beaumont. I am extremely interested in hospital pharmacy, especially ICU or ER pharmacy. My professional goals include graduating from pharmacy school and to attain a residency at a hospital hopefully in Michigan. I chose pharmacy because I wanted to do something health care-related but knew that I didn’t want to be a physician. I picked pharmacy by dumb luck, and since working at Beaumont, I fell in love with the profession and hospital pharmacy. Choosing pharmacy as a career is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

Adopted By:

Name: Teresa Vigor  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Clinical Pharmacy  
Biography: At the moment I am working on attaining a PGY1 residency at hospitals across Michigan. My professional goals include completing a residency and to become a clinical pharmacist in a health system. I choose pharmacy as a career because I not only have an interest in how medications work, interact with each other, and disease states but I want to make an impact on patient care.

Adopted By:
Name: Ruffa Villota  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P4  
Interests: Infectious Disease  
Biography: I am a current LAPP student from Henry Ford Hospital and I plan to pursue a PGY1 to further enhance and develop my clinical skills and knowledge. I am interested in infectious disease, and my future goals include becoming a clinical specialist at a teaching hospital affiliated with a school of pharmacy.  

Adopted By:  
Ed Szandzik

Name: Sylvia Wasson  
School: Ferris State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Clinical, Retail Pharmacy  
Biography: I am mature student who decided to return to school and pursue a career after having raised two children. I made this decision after watching my mother-in-law and her many health issues. My son started on the pathway for pharmacy, but decided to go in another direction. That was the point when I asked myself what was keeping me from going in that direction. After deciding that there was no reason that I couldn't make pharmacy school a goal of my own, I set out to achieve that goal. I have worked hard and completed my first semester. I now have a new goal of trying to make the grade to be offered a residency once my time at Ferris State University is complete.  

Adopted By:  
Kiela Samuels

Name: Megan Watt  
School: University of Michigan  
Year: P2  
Interests: Community, Specialty, Compounding and Ambulatory Care  
Biography: I have many interests, all of which are centered around ensuring excellent patient care through a variety of delivery systems for pharmacy services. Community pharmacy has a strong attraction for me as I believe that those pharmacists are at the front line as well as being best positioned to affect the public directly. One of the things I love about the pharmacy profession is the wide range of positions available, and so narrowing down what I would like to do in the future is still elusive, but I know that as long as I am in the field of pharmacy I can find great ways to help patients with safe medication usage.
Name: Xhilda Xhemali  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Clinical  

Biography: My desire to pursue pharmacy began in high school as I realized my love for the sciences and helping people. I was then fortunate to gain acceptance into WSU's HealthPro Start Program, which exposed me to various fields within pharmacy as an undergraduate. I currently intern at CVS and have been with the company for the past two and a half years. However, I wish to practice in a clinical setting or conduct research upon graduation.

Adopted By:  
David Bach

Name: Rand Yacoub  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P1  
Interests: Community Pharmacy  

Biography: I completed my Bachelor of Science in 2012, and then went on to obtain my Bachelor of Education in 2013. I decided on pharmacy because my cousin is a community pharmacist in Michigan, and I spent time volunteering in her pharmacy. I hope to own and manage a community pharmacy in the future. I am interested in expanding my knowledge of pharmacy in fields beyond community pharmacy, especially hospital pharmacy. Nevertheless, I would also like to start working in a community pharmacy to build on my experience.

Adopted By:  
Rich Lucarotti

Name: Riam Yacoub  
School: Wayne State University  
Year: P2  
Interests: Ambulatory Care, Diabetes  

Biography: I realized early on that being a pharmacist is the best way to build and nurture a relationship with my patients by counseling to aid in bettering their health outcomes. I am currently the president-elect for APhA-ASP and external vice president of Fighting Aids with Nutrition (FAWN). I look forward to expanding these organizations and making them as great as possible. Lastly, I intern at Detroit Receiving Hospital, which is one of the best experiences I have had since beginning the program. I am getting experience that will be vital for my future career and this internship is also allowing me to get to know many great pharmacists. I have developed a great interest in ambulatory care and look forward to getting to know the day in the life of an ambulatory pharmacist.
Adopted By: Katherine Yang
School: University of Michigan
Year: P2
Interests: Oncology, Ambulatory Care, and Academia
Biography: I graduated from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 2012 where I received my B.S. in Biochemistry/Cell Biology and B.A. in Psychology. During my time at UCSD, I really developed a passion for pharmacy and commitment to service after volunteering at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic where I helped underserved communities gain access to medications and other healthcare services. This was a very rewarding experience where I was able to enhance my leadership, communication and teamwork skills. My professional goals include obtaining a PGY1 and PGY2 residency in oncology, allowing me to become a strong health advocate for my patients and helping them achieve their optimal health outcomes.

Adopted By: Stephanie Yang
School: University of Michigan
Year: P2
Interests: Critical Care, Hematology/Oncology, Emergency Medicine, Ambulatory Care
Biography: My future goals include staying involved in professional organizations and becoming a leader who can expand pharmacists’ roles and scope of practice in the future. I am a reliable, organized, and hard-working student dedicated to improving patients’ health. I chose pharmacy as my career path because I want to be the part of the health care team who specializes in treating patients. Since high school, I have always had a strong interest in medications and want to use my education to ensure patients are treated with the most effective and safe medications, while preventing harmful drug interactions and toxicities.

Adopted By: Stephanie Zagordo
School: Ferris State University
Year: P1
Interests: Hospital, Clinical Pharmacy
Biography: I am from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. I've worked at an independent community pharmacy for over five years now, but would be interested in experience in other health care settings. Pharmacy is a growing field in health care that plays a role in the well-being of patients, which is why I have chosen this as my career. I’m looking forward to interacting with patients and seeing the positive impacts I’m making on their lives.