ALEX WATANABE

I have met several people that I consider to be great leaders. These leaders had a natural ability of bringing the best out of everyone around them to work towards a common goal. They all had distinct personalities and skill sets but they all had three common features, they excelled at what they do, they were reliable, and were great communicators.

Part of my professional goals involve exercising these three features, therefore, I am also striving to become the best leader as I can be. In addition, our school’s Phi Lambda Sigma chapter have many individuals with the potential of being excellent leaders and I am sure some will accomplish great things in their careers, so I think it is exciting to have the opportunity to work and learn from them.

ASHLEY TRAN

Throughout my education, I have been fortunate enough to encounter and work with many who I view as amazing leaders. They are passionate, diligent, responsible individuals who not only help but inspire their peers to go above and beyond their potential. A true leader is able to adapt to different situations and work collaboratively with their team to ensure the best possible result, given any circumstance. They are understanding, driven, and altruistic - some characteristics that I hope to continue to hone as I continue my pharmacy career. I am so fortunate to be surrounded by such inspirational leaders who continually motivate me to challenge myself and work towards becoming an exemplary leader. We are all leaders, in one way or another; it’s just a matter of when will we have the opportunity to showcase that part of ourselves. Luckily for us, pharmacy is the perfect profession for us to take the lead.

CHRIS KHONG

When I imagine a successful leader, I think about how they help others do the right thing. They create an environment where each member of the team can feel empowered to succeed in their role. As a leader, one of the greatest impact you can have is to set values that will help shape the culture and the environment. Responsibility, accountability, and discipline are some of the values that are important for a leader to establish and convey. A leader inspires the team’s creativity, provides resources, and enables the team be to their best and work towards a common goal. Leadership is not a skill one will develop overnight, it is a continual process of trial and error.

HILLARY PARKIN

I believe leadership is important for all people, no matter what position they may have in their career. Many people think that only managers need to have leadership skills, but I believe every member of the community needs to have and develop leadership skills. We can all become leaders where we work. For example, I am only a pharmacy intern right now, but I am required to train other pharmacy interns who are new to the position. This means that the new pharmacy interns look to me as a leader who can help them learn, even though I am not in a managerial position. Having leadership skills also helps people to contribute better within the teams they are placed in. I have personally witnessed leadership skills such as integrity, good communication, and commitment in members of teams that I have worked in. Additionally, as pharmacists, we can make changes in our community by becoming recognized as leaders. One example I can think of is promoting patient education about naloxone. Pharmacists have helped to lead education sessions and promote legislation changes to provide patients better access to this life-saving medication. By promoting leadership in the community, we are also promoting beneficial change for the future.

KEITH KEDDINGTON

The profession of pharmacy continues to evolve and progress at a rapid rate. Leaders in pharmacy have the opportunity to help advance the field by coordinating the efforts of pharmacists, healthcare team members, and the community. I can think of no better way to serve others than to help a collaborative team advance the interests of healthcare for the patients we serve.

I’m grateful for the opportunities that I have had to serve in leadership positions, especially among my pharmacy peers. I get a chance to work with other motivated students in planning and executing community outreach programs and student sponsored events to learn more about pharmacy and promote beneficial change. Serving in leadership roles as a pharmacy student has helped me better understand the importance of leadership and recognize the potential for leadership in others. My hope as a leader is that I can make an impact on those I serve and those I serve with.

MICHAEL STAPLEY

Leadership, especially in pharmacy, means being an inspiration to others as we collectively work towards the success and progression of the pharmacy profession. I have had many good examples of leadership in my life. Without them, maybe I would have felt inclined to change my mind on pharmacy, ultimately leading me to a different career choice. Someday I hope to have the opportunity to positively affect a co-worker’s or employee’s choice to pursue a career as a pharmacist. I hope to be a strong mentor or preceptor and to help mold these individuals’ desires and aspirations in a direction that can help the pharmacy field progress. Leadership means demonstrating traits of respectability, intelligence, humility, courage, and kindness. These are all traits that I believe an inspirational leader should have.

I am blessed with the honor tonight of being inducted into our Phi Lambda Sigma – Alpha Chi Chapter, and I want to be able to inspire individuals to recognize areas of success, areas needing improvement, and areas where we can increase our efficiency. I want to always be sufficiently humble to still get my hands dirty, be an equal member of the team, and ultimately enjoy the victories that we experience together. To me, this is the definition of an effective leader.
NGAN HUYNH
To me, leadership means recognizing individual's expertise and encouraging self-advancement, at the same time fostering leadership development. I believe leadership can be demonstrated in any situation regardless of the need for the title. A leader can recognize strengths from individuals and effectively optimize them, therefore direct the groups to achieve their ultimate goals. Moreover, leaders need to be recognized by their peers and be respected by them. Likewise, I also believe a leader is a person that after stepping-down from leading the group during the term, the group can continue being exceptional and build upon the legacy with the next leader. Leaders empower the group while at the same time discipline the next leader to carry on the group's missions. The leader provides opportunities for leadership development.

PETER CHAD ADAMOVICH
Leadership is the means by which we unite and lead a group of individuals towards a set of shared goals. Put another way, it is to have a vision, and take others with you to accomplish that vision. I prefer this way of looking at leadership because it underscores the collaborative nature of leadership. Sometimes we lead formally in a specific position of authority, while other times we lead through inspiration, motivation, and force of will. Sometimes we lead from behind, other times from the front lines. The how of leadership changes frequently to fit a variety of situations, including times where we might even be unaware of our leadership. What doesn't change is the importance of leadership being a team driven enterprise. No leader can achieve anything noteworthy alone. The greatest leaders I have ever known were individuals who recognized the importance of everyone's talents and contributions in achieving a shared vision. They worked hard to fulfill their own role, while inspiring and pushing others to do the same. In most cases, those same individuals were humble enough to realize their successes depended upon the people they were leading. If you want to lead, have a vision, and take people with you.

PRESLEY WHETMAN
To me, leadership means setting an example of a passionate, hardworking and honest individual. It means having a mission or vision that you believe in. It means continually striving for discovery, persevering in the midst of adversity and not accepting defeat. Leadership means supporting, teaching, encouraging those around you.

A good leader is one who listens and is open to failure, who seeks guidance in uncertainty and admits their faults. They respect themselves, their team and those around them. A good leader inspires, builds relationships and they express their passion in everything they do.

SHANNON TUTTLE
Leadership, to me, means helping others see their potential. A great leader inspires those who he or she leads to know their ideas and voice matter and see the sky as the limit for what they can do. Being a leader is resilience and innovation in the face of adversity by maintaining a pure view of the goal and what it provides the team. My innate love for people, both friends and strangers, is what compels me to develop this skill. I hope to become a better leader so that I can help people feel important and capable whether that’s through teaching, advocating, serving, or mentoring. Honing the skill of leadership is a work of a lifetime but I believe the endeavor is invaluable to us as people and professionals.

SWETA PATEL
Leadership is an opportunity for students and pharmacists to demonstrate the excellence of the field of pharmacy. When I think about leadership, I think about reliability and accountability. Leadership helps foster these characteristics in an individual. It gives an opportunity to set an example for others to further advance our growing field of pharmacy. Leadership also helps an individual to identify his or her own strengths and weaknesses, which helps build a productive well-rounded team in which everyone's strengths and weaknesses lead to a successful outcome. To set an example, leadership needs recognition, and Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) provides this recognition to students and pharmacists, so they can encourage future students and future pharmacists to contribute in the enhancement of our field through their leadership skills. With an advancing field of pharmacy, there is a great need for leaders and advocates to represent our field and improve on outcomes associated with our field. PLS fosters the advancement of our field, and I can resonate with this as I always want to advance with our ever-changing field.

TAYLOR ENO
Leadership is the ability to inspire others, elicit change, and bring team members together to achieve a common goal. In order to inspire others, a leader needs to be able to effectively communicate a vision and the importance of that vision. I believe by communicating that importance, a leader is able to elicit belief in a common goal. This common goal unites a group of people and by making the goal of personal importance. A leader is able to elicit change in a positive way. Lastly, and possibly most importantly, a leader doesn’t just delegate or command, they lead by example. Specifically, being a leader in pharmacy means inspiring others to provide the very best care possible for the patient. I hope to continue my quest to become a leader in pharmacy and look forward to the impact Phi Lambda Sigma will have on that goal.