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Even before I had received my admission letter to the PharmD program, I was already discovering my passion for the pharmacy profession. During the final year of my undergraduate degree, I worked on a project examining the roles of pharmacists that were depicted in Tweets on World Pharmacists' Day 2020. Our findings were [published in the Canadian Pharmacists Journal](#), which spurred the creation of the [Images of Pharmacy Practice](#) project, a free-to-use bank of photos depicting pharmacists' clinical roles. It was particularly gratifying to see our images used by professional organizations, including RxA and CPhA, soon after it was launched in mid-2021.

Throughout my pharmacy education, I have been heavily involved in student life and with the Faculty. I have had the opportunity to work with three Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association (APSA) Councils and two Executive Councils. I take pride in having contributed to numerous APSA initiatives and helping to guide our overall direction as an organization. My roles have also seen me contribute to no less than nine APSA and Faculty committees, where I have relished the opportunity to act as a student leader.

During my first year, I served as Class Representative. This role saw me liaise between my class and the Faculty, advocate for our needs, and coordinate class events. I subsequently served as VP Fundraising, where I forged valuable connections with sponsors and external parties. Most of APSA's connections had been lost following the pandemic, so I took a prominent role in rebuilding relationships and forging new ones. Finally, I served as VP Academic, where my role was, first and foremost, advocating for students' academic needs. As chair of the Student Advisory Council, I led discussions around the student experience and how improvements could be made to create a healthy, safe, and inclusive learning environment for all. I also coordinated the APSA Awards program and chaired the Awards Committee, ensuring that the incredible work of our student body is recognized and celebrated. My role also involved planning several lunch and learns, helping expose students to different sides of the profession and the diverse opportunities that exist for pharmacists. Through these roles, I learned that advocacy may take many forms, including directly representing student concerns, strengthening external relationships, and supporting initiatives highlighting pharmacists' impact and importance.

During my second year, I also stepped up above and beyond my elected roles to serve on the Dean's Selection Committee. This commitment allowed me to provide a student perspective in the discussions surrounding the appointment of the new Dean of the Faculty and the chance to forge connections with several faculty members. This unparalleled experience looking into the pharmacy world from behind the scenes has given me a deep appreciation for what it takes to move the needle on pharmacy education and practice. It has helped me to find my voice and develop a strong sense of professional identity and connection to the profession.

As I transition into practice, I see my role shifting from advocating for myself and my peers to promoting the profession through my practice. I am pursuing a career in hospital pharmacy, and my experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings has shown me that patients are often unaware of pharmacists' roles outside of community pharmacy. For example,

during a rotation in outpatient breast cancer, a patient was surprised to see pharmacists in an oncology clinic but genuinely appreciated the opportunity to connect with us. She expressed that, as a teacher, she wished her students had more opportunities to learn about pharmacists in diverse roles. Experiences like this highlight the importance of showcasing pharmacists' contributions to all sides of healthcare. I plan to carve myself out a niche in practice where I can not only make a difference in my patients' lives but also demonstrate the value pharmacists bring to interdisciplinary teams.

To me, advocacy for one's profession is not just engaging with one's peers or publicly speaking out about or promoting the current issues affecting the profession. Advocacy is also found in the intentional effort to shape one's career in a way that reflects and embodies our ideals for the profession. Beyond demonstrating pharmacists' value in interdisciplinary teams, I hope to contribute to ongoing professional advocacy efforts by engaging in mentorship, professional organizations, and possibly research initiatives aimed at expanding pharmacist-led care models. By actively engaging in these efforts, I will not only support my patients and colleagues but also help shape the future of pharmacy practice.