



The University of Houston
College of Pharmacy Student News

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The Script is an unofficial, student-managed publication that provides the University of Houston College of pharmacy student body with news, articles, and opinions relating to our school, students, and profession. This edition of the Script and previous editions are also available on the Pharmacy Council website at:

www.uhpharmacycouncil.org



Quote of the Month

By: Austin Hinkel

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

- Vince Lombardi

In the heart of football season, who better to turn to for inspiration and guidance than Vince Lombardi. Here he sums up essentially what it's all about. Success does not come easy. Hard work and long hours are requisite. Dedication and determination are paramount. Always give your best effort. Always.

Basically, go work hard and be successful.

Pharmacy Student Q&A

with Julie Samreth



Q: Hometown, undergrad, family?

A: Houston, born and raised! I took the majority of my pre-requisites at Lone Star Community College and finished up the rest of my classes here at UH. I have an older sister, a younger brother, and a dog whom we affectionately refer to as the mutated younger sibling.

Q: Why did you want to become a pharmacist?

A: Ever since I was little, I have always been interested in science. That interest became more defined when I was diagnosed with Satoyoshi Syndrome. From my first symptom to the time it took to pinpoint a diagnosis, there was a lot of trial and error with various theories and medical treatments. This experience as a “lab rat” grew into a fascination and appreciation of all the things that medicine could and could not do. So naturally, this led me toward pharmacy, where I hope to learn more and help others along the way!

Q: What has been your favorite thing or experience so far in UHCOP?

A: Definitely the community and the family that I’ve found here. Although my family is just about an hour away, I often find myself feeling homesick. But shout-out to Team Third Row! To find a group of friends who support you, encourage you, and accept you even though you embarrass them when they take you out in public, is such a blessing which I cherish every day.

Q: What has been the biggest challenge?

A: My biggest challenge is finding a way to balance my values. Although I want to do well in school, I try not to let the desire for good grades consume me.

Q: What do you hope to do after graduation?

A: As of right now, I’m leaning toward compounding. I really enjoyed my experiences working with PCCA and volunteering with compounding pharmacies.

Q: What motivates you?

A: What motivates me is seeing how far my parents have come as they built their lives in America from scratch. Their sacrifices have always driven me to make their efforts worthwhile. I also know that my family and I wouldn’t be where we are today if it weren’t for God’s grace, and that motivates me to work harder and push my limits even further.

Q: What is something you’re passionate about? Pharmacy or otherwise.

A: Encouraging others! There is just way too much negativity out there, and everyone is fighting some sort of battle. A kind word, a smile, a hug—that’s all it takes to show someone you care and that they matter.

Q: What is some of the best advice you’ve received?

A: “Focus on the opportunity—not the obligation.” So often when pursuing a dream or a goal, we get caught up in fulfilling the tasks at hand and

suddenly find that all the joy and passion that once drove us is gone. Whether you succeed or fail, every experience gained should not be taken for granted. Not many people get the chance to be where you are, so take advantage of it and learn as much as you can because life is so much more than a to-do list.

Q: What do you like to do to relax/hobbies/interests?

A: Where do I even begin? I love journaling, all things arts and crafts, learning new songs on the piano and guitar, biking, rock climbing, and reading. When I visit home, it’s impossible for me to study because all I want to do is spend time with my dog. Coming home to a happy dog is one of the best feelings in the world, and not to mention an instant stress-reliever.

Q: What would you be doing if not pharmacy?

A: If not pharmacy, I would dabble in an area far from the sciences, despite my lifelong love for it. I’d like to open up a small business of some sort—like a café or Etsy shop!

Q: What’s your favorite drug?

A: Caffeine! This little molecule has been a faithful study buddy and helps me get through the longest and gloomiest of days spent indoors studying.

AROMA CHEMISTRY

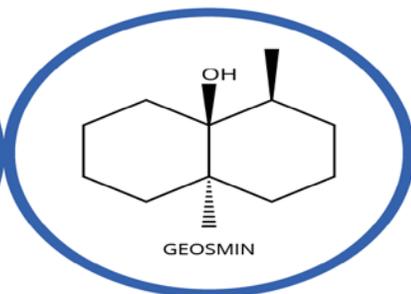
THE AROMA OF RAIN

WHAT CAUSES THE SMELLS BEFORE & AFTER RAINFALL?

PLANT OILS,
BACTERIA &
OZONE

The distinctive smell of rain, often referred to as 'petrichor', is contributed to by a number of factors. These include oils secreted by plants during dry periods, chemical compounds secreted by bacteria, and also, for stormier showers, the splitting of atmospheric chemicals to form ozone.

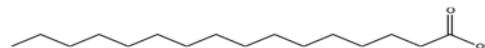
COMPOUNDS FROM BACTERIA



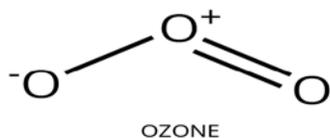
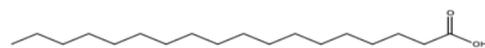
Soil dwelling bacteria called actinomycetes secrete the compound geosmin, which has an earthy aroma, when they produce spores. Rain can disturb the compound from the soil. Human noses can detect it at less than 5 parts per trillion - equivalent to a teaspoon in 200 Olympic swimming pools.

VOLATILE OILS SECRETED BY PLANTS

Plants secrete oils in dry periods, which accumulate in rocks & soil. Rain then causes smaller, volatile compounds within them, likely created by oxidation of fats, to be released. The term 'petrichor' was coined in 1964 to refer to this smell. Scientists think the purpose of these compounds is to prohibit growth during dry periods, and limit competition for water.



PALMITIC ACID (ABOVE) AND STEARIC ACID (BELOW) ARE TWO MAJOR COMPOUNDS FOUND IN PLANT OILS



PRODUCTION OF OZONE

In stormy weather, electrical charge can split nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere into individual atoms. These can combine to form nitric oxide, NO, which reacts with other chemicals in the atmosphere. One of the chemicals that can be produced is ozone, which can be carried down from high altitudes by thunderstorms, giving the 'pre-rain' smell.



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PICTURE: 2happy, <http://www.stockvault.net/photo/124979/water-drops>

FOR REFERENCES & SOURCES, SEE:
WWW.COMPOUNDCHEM.COM/2014/05/14/THESMELLOFRAIN

Are YOU interested in contributing to The Script? We would love to work with you, so simply let us know! We would also like to hear your thoughts and comments on how we are doing and what we can improve on.

Contact us at uhcop.script@gmail.com