Personal Statement for Pharm.D. Program

 When we’re little, we all have a specific superhero that we look up to. My brother’s was Spiderman. My superhero is not your typical idea of an undercover young man that flies through cities and saves citizens from crime. In fact, my superhero had a nine-to-five job and wore a white lab coat, and I called him “Poppy” (my nickname for “grandpa”). But in a way, he was my Spiderman, saving the citizens of his town by supplying them their much-needed medications. He embodied the sense of community and the definition of “living your life to serve”, with everyone in town knowing his name, as the pharmacist and manager of a quaint hometown pharmacy. But oh, the legend doesn’t stop there. My superhero soon acquired a sidekick – my mother; she worked alongside him for years as a pharmacy technician. After my grandfather retired, I listened to him and my mom chat about their form of gossip – the newest and coolest drugs on the market – on every visit to his house.

 As a biology major at Longwood University, I have learned how a biological system may be altered: through mutations, increased age, and medications or small-molecule inhibitors (of course, the most interesting to me). My interest first flourished in the Biology of Cancer course, where I learned that there are endless possibilities of small molecule inhibitors, chemotherapies, and medications to combat cancer. My interest was further solidified by taking Microbiology. I learned what antibiotics kill which bacterium, and the method that these medications utilize to do so. Finally, I reached identity achievement, in terms of psychologist James Marcia, after introduction to Organic Chemistry. In this course, I learned the chemical properties of molecules that proved most significant in a biological system.

 As current vice-president of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, I have reached self-realization that I contain and naturally possess the qualities to be a successful leader. As a previous teacher’s assistant for genetics, I have understood that I can educate others – a skill that I will bring to my career as a pharmacist. From partaking in cancer biology research at Longwood, I have gained greater appreciation for the ongoing need for scientific investigation to aide in knowledge. I also possess an irrepressible desire to serve and give back to the community, particularly underserved and underrepresented communities. My experience with “Sheetz for the Kidz” has given me the opportunity to do this in the same town that has gifted me with an exceptional educational institution. Sheetz for the Kidz is operated by Sheetz corporation, and volunteers, like myself, participate in the annual event by raising money for underprivileged children so they can celebrate the holiday season with gifts.

With these tools, I am certain that I am able to have a successful career as a hometown retail pharmacist, and hopefully be my children’s or grandchildren’s superhero one day.