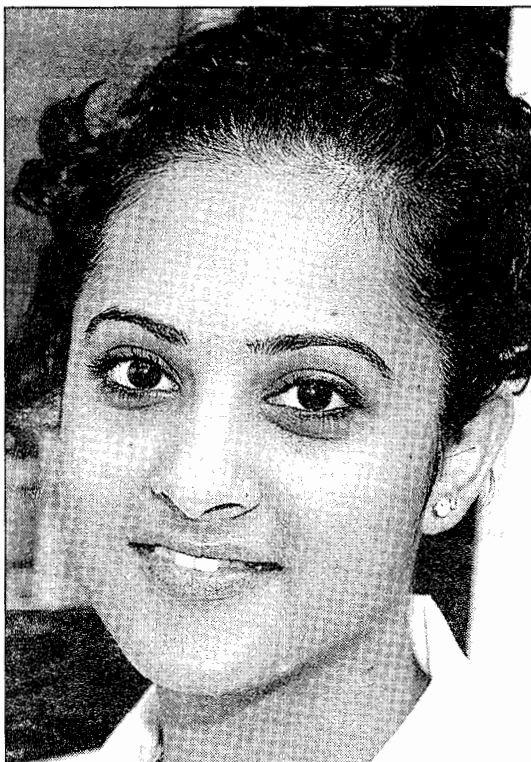


Newsday

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NEWSDAY PHOTO / J. CONRAD WILLIAMS JR.

VIBHUTI ARYA

Fifth-year student in the St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions. President-elect for 2004-2005 of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists, a national collective voice of 23,000 student pharmacists that provides opportunities for professional growth and promotes the future of pharmacy.

BIOGRAPHY

21 and a native of New Delhi. Moved to New York City when she was 10 years old. After graduating from Brooklyn Tech High School, she enrolled in St. John's College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, a six-year program that culminates in a doctor of pharmacy degree. Lives in Washington Heights.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

"Being named president-elect of the Academy of Student Pharmacists is a real blessing for me. Not only am I getting to learn so much more about the profession and about the association in all the colleges throughout the country, but it allows me the opportunity to grow so much as an individual and as a professional. I am gaining skills that are going to be critical to me as a health care professional in whatever field it is that I choose to go into."

FOCUS

"Right now I'm exploring all my options. I chose this program because pharmacy is very versatile as a career choice and offers a lot of opportunities. People have this misconception that pharmacy means working at a drugstore or a hospital. But there are actually over 70 different career possibilities for pharmacists. Anything from working for the government, private industry or teaching. That's why I stayed in pharmacy. I'm a person who likes to do many different things and, as a woman, it offered variety and flexibility, which also appealed to me."

COMMITMENT

"When I was in high school I was part of a college preparatory program for inner-city kids at Columbia University called the Double Discovery Center. When I graduated I decided to give back, so now I do community outreach and motivational speaking for the center. I also participate in panel sessions and do some tutoring."

— SHEILA MCKENNA