South Georgia Farmworker Health Project

PA students from the Class of 2010 participated in the 17th Annual South Georgia Farmworker Health Project. The team saw a total of 1300 patients during the two weeks they spent in Bainbridge in Valdosta Georgia during June.

45 students from the PA Program were joined by volunteers from across Emory and the community to serve the farmworkers. Volunteer physicians joining the team were Theresa Berry, Joanne Williams, Susi Alfonso, Emily Herndon, Flavia Mercado, Charles Moore, Leslie Kean, Manasa Manapragada, and Lynn Gardner. Alumni participating in the project were Rick Rivera, Libby Pieplow, Brittany Hill, Randy Bundschu and Michele Emory. Jeri Sumitani (2008) has now joined the faculty to take the reign of the Community Projects and will coordinate Good Sam as well as the SGFHP.

(Left) Bainbridge, GA team June 2010. (Above) Field side clinic near Valdosta, GA. 2010

Emory PA Class 2010, 2011, 2012: Friday August 20, 2010 we had the rare opportunity to have all three classes on campus at the same time. Class of 2012 had just arrived on campus. The Class of 2011 was participating in clinical orientations week and Class of 2010 returned for an End of Rotations day.
Global Outreach: Africa 2010

Three members of the class of 2010 participated in International rotations as part of their clinical year. Jessio Hiott travelled to Zimbabwe in July as part of a medical team participating in a rural outreach. She saw patients in makeshift clinics in rural areas of the country. Venita Bush and Natalie Whitney joined the Utah University Sustainable Village Project during the summer. Natalie participated on the Hygiene Team providing a handwashing intervention to a rural village in eastern Ghana. Venita was part of the Reproductive Health team that surveyed villagers regarding their attitudes toward various methods of contraception. Both students and faculty member, Betsy Rothschild shadowed a Ghana medical assistant—the equivalent to midlevel providers here in the US. The MA is the lead health care provider in rural clinics throughout Ghana.

Saudi Arabia

In May of 2010, Terry Mize, PA-C, Director of Admissions traveled to Dharhan, Saudi Arabia as part of a Joint Advisory Committee to interview and admit candidates for the first PA Program in the Middle East. Mize joined PA educators from George Washington University, Shenandoah University, University of Texas-Southwestern, University of Kentucky, SUNY-Downstate, University of Birmingham-United Kingdom evaluating and implementing admissions process for the new PA Program. The Advisory Committee met jointly with science and clinical faculty of the Prince Sultan Military College of Health Sciences. Along with physician faculty, Mize and other members of the Advisory Committee interviewed candidates and made admissions decisions for the first PA Program in the Middle East. The Assistant Physician (PA) Program is a collaborative effort with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates, Department of Emergency Medicine. The Program is based on PA education models and U.S. Standards of PA education. Graduates of the Program will be officers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia military and provide care to military and civilian communities within Saudi Arabia. The first class matriculated during the Fall of 2010.

(2nd and 4th) Jesse F. Hiott in Zimbabwe.

(3rd) Wits Medical School, South Africa partners.

Pictures (top)
August signaled the start of a partnership with Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa when Dana Sayre-Stanhope, Marquitha Mayfield and Alan Otsuki (SOM Associate Dean) made the first of several trips to South Africa. The partnership, between the PA program and the new Clinical Associate program at “Wits”, is designed to support the growth and development of the new PA analogue providers who will deliver health care in district hospitals throughout the country. The first meeting, lasting one week, brought the Emory and the Wits team together to determine how they might best support each other’s educational efforts and define the work to be done on South Africa. Subsequently in October, the Wits team of Audrey Gibbs, program director and Abigail Dreyer, the clinical coordinator, traveled to Atlanta to observe our students, review our curriculum and travel to some of our clinical sites. In addition, Mayfield orchestrated a Skype call between the first year Emory students and a second year Wits student which was a big hit. In November, Dana went to Wits to be an official observer of the final year exams for the first and second year students (it is a three year baccalaureate program) and returned again in December to deliver, along with Alan Otsuki, faculty development lectures and labs to the core faculty and to preceptors in the Northwest Province along the Botswana border. We continue to work closely with the South Africa training programs to develop a national certifying examination and look forward to returning in May to celebrate the first official graduation of Clinical Associates in South Africa. The first year Emory PA students have formed a South Africa Committee which seeks to support their South African colleagues during their training. A "buddy system" allowing students to share training experiences and information about the PA Profession has been developed. Additionally, the committee is active in identifying and funding educational resources that can be used by South African students who are training at rural clinical sites. A shipment of medical books, PA journals and DVD's on clinical procedures was recently shipped to South Africa. Students are also excited that the WITS training program will be sending a student representative to attend the AAPA Annual conference in May 2011. Hopefully this experience will help facilitate the development of a national organization for Clinical Associates in South Africa.
Emory Class 2010 Graduation!

Graduation: December 2010
The Class of 2010 made it official as they walked across the stage at the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Administration Building on the afternoon of December 10th. The 52 graduates were cheered on by many happy family and friends as they received their master's hoods and diplomas. Dr. Charles Moore, well known ENT physician at Emory, was selected by the class at the graduation speaker. He spoke about the honor of being allowed into our patient's lives and the importance of establishing meaningful patient connections.

The graduation day began with a morning ceremony held in Cox Hall on the Emory campus as each student received their long white coat. Graduates chose a friend or family member that had made a significant contribution to their PA education, and this designated person “coated” the graduate at the ceremony.

Also at the brunch awards were given to several distinguished recipients: Outstanding PA of the Year: Michael Martinelli, MHS, PA-C; Community Preceptor of the Year: Kathryn Mansfield, MD; Didactic Teacher of the Year: Marquitha Mayfield, MEd, PA-C; Clinical Teacher of the Year: Michael Martinelli, MHS, PA-C.

Chosen by his fellow classmates, Collin McDonald provided an extraordinarily humorous look the past twenty-eight months of the PA program. One classmate wrote that he did a “masterful job of blending humor, humility, wisdom, and love for our class and the profession.” Collin creatively acknowledged faculty and class contributions to his education, their help guiding the class through the rigors of PA school and the importance of being a part of the Emory family.

Below are the links to the photographs for the Class of 2010
Website: http://picasaweb.google.com/emorycommunications/PAGraduationDec2010Diplomas#
http://picasaweb.google.com/emorycommunications/PAGraduationDec2010Awards

Above: Liz Valdes and Kathryn Mansfield, Community Preceptor of the Year
Below: The Class of 2010
Collin McDonald (above) making everyone laugh and cry during his retrospective of the class of 2010.
Outstanding Physician Assistant of the Year

Michael Martinelli MHS, PA-C was named the Outstanding Physician Assistant of the Year. This award is given annually to a community PA that consistently demonstrates the ideals of the PA profession and has provided a significant contribution to the Emory PA program. Since graduation from the Lock Haven PA Program in 2003, Michael has worked in the Dekalb Medical Center ER. He has volunteered time to participate in numerous facets of our Program including: lab instructor, emergency medicine lecturer, as well as perhaps most notably as an emergency medicine clinical preceptor. One clinical student had this to say about Michael, "He is passionately committed to training Emory PA students and does it with excellence. Every single day he was 110% committed to our learning. Martinelli even calls his students after the rotation is over to follow up on how they are doing on other rotations. Not only is he a wonderful teacher, but an outstanding PA, simply watching him practice medicine is an education in itself." This commitment to teaching is also reflected in the fact that the Class of 2010 also voted Mr. Martinelli as the Clinical Teacher of the Year.

Beyond the walls of Emory, Michael also chairs the Allied Health Committee at Dekalb Medical Center, is an active member of the Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants and is a member of the Lead Advisory Group within the Emergency Medicine organization that he works for. Another student had this to say about Mr. Martinelli, "He pushed me to be smarter, faster, kinder. He was tough, but in a tough love kind of way. You knew he was pushing you because he cared and he took precepting very seriously. He truly wanted to make me and mold me into the best PA, not just get me through the rotation, but make me the absolute best. He also worked tirelessly to help me find a job, writing letters for me and taking phone calls to speak on my behalf. He was more than a preceptor he is a role model and confidant." We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Michael for all he has done for our Program and the contributions he has made to so many Emory alumni.

He was more than a preceptor he is a role model and confidant.

Elizabeth Murray, Class of 2010, developed and wrote a booklet designed to teach a series of classes for young women who are survivors of the child sex industry in Atlanta. This project was funded in part by a grant from the PA Foundation. The booklet that was developed by Elizabeth and others discusses vitamins, minerals, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, breast health and general information about navigating the healthcare system. Elizabeth was the recipient of one of 19 grants for PA student-led healthcare projects in 2009 by the PA Foundation which funded the production of the booklet as well as helped with the project. Several of Elizabeth’s classmates joined in the effort to help with the publication: Mary-Margaret Ciavatta ('10) and Amber Goldberg ('10) assisted with editing and illustrations were done by classmate Chelsea Dezen ('10). Elizabeth is currently utilizing her clinical training with underserved populations at Emory; as well as her community experience and passion to help others in her PA position at an inner city clinic in Chicago, IL. Emory is honored that Elizabeth was recognized by the PA Foundation for her community outreach efforts.
Mayfield and the Class of 2010 and 2011 at past Fun Run events.

TIMEX & WAFFLE HOUSE
JOIN THIS YEAR'S PA FUN RUN!

Lace up those shoes - it's that time again. On April 2, 2011, the Emory PA Class of 2012 is hosting the 10th Annual Emory PA Fun Run at Lullwater Park in Atlanta, GA. Traditionally, each first year class is responsible for producing this run and partnering with individuals like Emory Alumni to benefit the greater Atlanta community.

This year and with your help, proceeds from our efforts will benefit Camp Sunshine, a unique non-residential facility dedicated to the needs of children with cancer and their families, as well as the South Georgia Farmworker Health Project, a program born at Emory which many of you have experienced firsthand.

RUN WITH US AND SUPPORT US! The class of 2012 is asking the Alumni to support this important endeavor by doing one or all of the following:
Visit www.emorypafunrun.com and make a donation (thank you!!)
- Ask your employer to become a corporate sponsor ($250 will get you on the T-shirt)
Sign up to run (via the web-site) and sign up a friend

We are pleased to announce corporate partnerships with TIMEX ® and Waffle House (who will be providing free breakfast to all of our runners) as well as other community partners who have chosen to stand with Emory. We look forward to seeing you at the Fun Run and appreciate your support of this important event. For additional information, please visit www.emorypafunrun.com or contact Chris Fritzen at chrisfritzen@mac.com
Emory students have had the opportunity to serve at the City of Refuge, an organization dedicated to offering both life saving resources and life building tools to individuals and families in Atlanta who are living on the margin, over the past several years. In the last few months, a medical clinic called The Healing Community Center has been developed by Grady/Emory ENT physician Dr. Charles Moore in conjunction with HEAL (Health Education Assessment and Leadership). “The center will address the increasing health disparities for minorities and uninsured individuals experiencing poverty by providing FREE preventive, primary and specialty care for indigent and low income individuals.” Last year the center was able to see approximately 6,000 patients.

Emory PA students are excited about partnering with Dr. Moore and being more involved in the clinics and health fairs at City of Refuge.

Not Just Now...

Not Just Now is an organization that came about by chance. One lunch hour, a group of co-workers were discussing Lent. The question was asked what one person was giving up this year, when she replied, “Instead of giving something up, I want to give something back.” This simple statement started the ball rolling on a new idea, that we don’t only need to give something back during Lent, “Not Just Now” but every day. We decided to begin our work during the season of Lent, but we hope that the spirit of giving and sacrifice will last longer. Starting on March 12, 2011 we began putting our words into action at Woodruff Park. Using donated money, time, and materials, we handed out lunches to those in need.

If you would like to be a part of this movement, please do not hesitate to donate your time, talents, and support. We may not be able to cure hunger or homelessness on a grand scale, but we can help, one person at a time.

Contact Barbara Jones at 404-727-
On May 31st, 2010, more than 300 alumni and guests returned to the Emory campus for an afternoon of food, fun and friends! The reception took place in the new School of Education building, and interactive tours were led by current students in the Class of 2010 and 2011, showing off the state of the art classroom and lab spaces.

There was also ample opportunity for alumni to catch up with former classmates and faculty, as well as meet current students. Among the guests that evening were Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, former acting US Surgeon General and his wife, Lisa Kory. Receiving special recognition were the three members from Emory’s first PA Class: Charles Bearden, Gary Clark and Thomas Humphrey. Also the alumnus who travelled the furthest to attend the reception, Kirsten Gipson of England, was given an Emory embossed luggage tag!
Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu with Lauren Levy ('10), Sarah Ruffner ('10) and Will Johnson ('10).

Tours of the Education Building

Barbara Jones, (PA Program staff member since 1985) with Betty Bernhart (1978) and Marge Anderson (1980).

Touring the new School of Medicine Education Building: (L to R) Purvi Patel (wife of Harris), Katie and Kevin Hartman (Class of 2006), Harris Patel (2008), with tour-guide, Ramu Naidu (2011) .
Celebrating Tom

Tom Himelick, long time faculty member and Emory alum (1991), will be missed! Tom is headed west to his "dream" state, New Mexico, to start a job at Ramah Navajo School. After 17 years of guiding Emory PA students in community service projects and developing the South Georgia Farmworker Health Project, Tom has found his own mission fit at the Ramah reservation. We will miss Tom, and celebrate the legacy he has established here at Emory, his alma mater.

Emory students honored Tom with a lunch on June 4th and a slideshow tribute. Earlier on April 16th, the Class of 2010 held their own lunch in honor of Tom during their End of Rotation day.

Bowns Scholarship

The first recipient from the Class of 2010 is Ms. Emily Wittenmeyer, who is returning to campus for her final semester before graduation in December. Emily grew up always having a strong interest in pursuing medicine as a career. She spent a semester abroad in Australia working in the area of public health research, then travelled with a group to Tanzania working in the area of preventative health care. She then moved to Atlanta where she worked for Rural Metro Ambulance Company for three years. While working full-time, she continued with PA prerequisite courses at Georgia State, spent time shadowing local PAs, and volunteered at Hospice Atlanta until starting Emory’s PA program in fall 2008.

The second recipient is from the Class of 2011, her name is Sandra Ockers. She lived in Connecticut, The Netherlands, England and Kentucky before deciding to attend Davidson College in North Carolina for her undergraduate degree in Biology. After college, she worked for the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland conducting genetics research on prostate cancer. In her free time, she volunteered as an EMT-Basic for two years at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. She decided to attend the dual degree Master of Public Health/Master of Medical Science (PA) program here at Emory. Sandy entered Rollins in the fall of 2008, and then started the PA Program here in the fall of 2009.

This $4,000 scholarship was established by Ms. Bown’s parents in memory of their daughter, who was an applicant to the Emory PA Program in the late 1990s. Mary Beth was a driven young woman and dedicated the last years of her life to becoming a Physician Assistant.

PAOS Scholarship

The Physician Assistants in Orthopaedic Surgery, Susan Lindahl Memorial Scholarship was established in 1998. Susan, the wife of our founding President Joe Lindahl, passed away following a struggle with a brain tumor in 1997. This Scholarship fund was established in honor of the sacrifices Susan and Joe Lindahl underwent getting PAOS off the ground and sustaining this organization in its early years. The winners for the class of 2010 were Shannon Dugan and Martin Stancil.
Alumni Updates

Shawn Smith, 2010, announced the arrival of Jacob Alexander Smith on November 30, 2010. Big sister McKenzie was excited about the new addition to the Smith family.

Winners of PAEA/JAAPA Student Writing Competition Honored at AAPA Conference for 2010: Brittany Hill and Laura Banks.

Robert Joseph Gatchel 1995, of Boise, Idaho, formerly of Payette, Idaho, passed away Friday July 30, 2010, at home with his sister, Liz, his girlfriend, Paula and beloved dog, Hoosier by his side. Robert fought a courageous battle against cancer his spirit was amazingly strong but his body was too tired to continue. Robert found his calling for medicine. He enrolled in Emory University School of Medicine in 1993 graduating with a Master of Medical Science/Physician Assistant in December of 1995. Robert worked as a Physician Assistant for St. Luke's Occupational Health for the last 14 years up until the time of his illness in October 2009.

AAPA Conference in Vegas!

Have you registered for this year’s AAPA Conference? We are planning an Emory Alumni gathering in the conference hotel this year: Wednesday, June 1st (6pm). Please drop by and say “hello” to your Emory classmates, other alumni and our students. We will have great give-aways and would love to hear your news! Light hors d’oeuvres provided, cash bar available. Click here to let us know if your interest to join us for this alumni event at that conference.
(link to survey/RSPV)

Alumni Reception
Las Vegas Hilton Hotel
June 1, 6-8pm
Zen Lounge
Hope to see you there!

Emory Board Review

Emory hosted its 20th Annual Board Review during the week of September 28th - October 2nd, 2010. More than 220 folks attended the conference that featured many Emory alumni and didactic teachers that are favorites of students and alumni alike! Some of the featured alumni who presented at this year’s conference were: Greg Burke (95), Chris Carter (91), Jeff Chambers (2000), Carter Cooper (97), Beth Halmskii (93), Carrie Howell (99), Virginia Joslin (83), Arch Lamb (99), Michelle Morante (98), Karen Nevel (89), Allan Platt (79), and Tonia Poteat (95).

Need more CME or extra help reviewing for the PANRE? The new and improved home study DVD featuring 36 hours of Cat. 1 AMA CME and 2 weeks of Exam Master online PANRE practice exams for PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, iTouch, smartphone and MP3 players will be available in March. Emory Alumni receive a $50 discount off the $390 retail price – see website for more details or contact Ms. Barbara Jones at 404-727-7827 to reserve your copy.

http://emorypa.org/pa_board_review.htm
Jessica Shyr (11), Allison McDonald (11) and Stephanie Misbach (11) with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Emory Neurosurgeon at a recent book signing.

Emory University Physician Assistant Program

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What are you up to?

The Emory PA newsletter would love to hear from you. Drop us a note and we will put it in the next newsletter so that all your former classmates can keep up-to-date. Email, phone, snail mail, telegram, skywriting, any way that you can get us a message, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Please send all updates, changes, additions, or deletions to Pat Woodard.
You can contact her at:
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