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Emory News

P.A.per

EMORY UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The class of 2009 begins a new journey by completing this one.

GRADUATION

December 11, 2009

The Class of 2009 started off their graduation ceremony by receiving a long white coat, symbolic of the transition from student to provider, in a morning ceremony held in Cox Hall on the Emory campus. 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: LeAnne Martinelli (03); Community Preceptor of the Year: Dr. Joseph Hardison ; Didactic Teacher of the

Year: Bill Bryson (03); Clinical Teacher of the Year: Dr. Michael Balk . The actual graduation ceremony was held that afternoon in the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Administration Building. Hundreds of friends and family gathered to cheer as the 52 graduates walked across the stage if the WHSCAB auditorium to receive their hoods and diplomas. Kathleen Deep (02) was selected by the graduating class to be the speaker. Kathleen was a well known preceptor and lecturer to the seniors and was often quoted as saying, "Impossible is only a word in the dictionary."



In her remarks she told the new graduates that medicine can be messy and as providers we have what it takes to meet people in their "messes". But every now and then we get a glimpse of the beautiful side. She urged the class to not get lost in looking for illness or disease, but to take time to notice the beauty of the human beings for whom we are privileged to care. That our students are multi-talented as well as accomplished multi-

taskers was aptly demonstrated by Dave Kirkpatrick (09). Chosen by his fellow classmates, he provided an extraordinarily, humorous look the past twenty-eight months and then topped it off by singing his own, modified rendition of "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen.

To see photographs for the Class of 2009 go to http://whsc.emory.edu/emory_pa_graduation_dec09.html.



First Dual Degree Grads

This year the PA Program celebrated its first Dual Degree graduates, Ashley Goebertus Moloney (09) and Brittany Hill (09), who earned both their PA and MPH degrees in a combined three-year program with Rollins School of Public Health. These students completed their first year at Rollins (32 credits) and then began their 28 month PA training the next fall as members of the Class of 2009. The PA/MPH program combines primary health care and public health to train practitioners and leaders to care for underserved populations.

Ashley Goebertus Moloney, Dr. Jodie Guest, Brittany Hill



James Kilgore: Swine Flu Vaccine

With the fear of a new pandemic, Clinical Research Consultants and James Kilgore strive to find answers.

On the front lines of the H1N1 vaccine development team was an Emory alumnus, James Kilgore (81). "Rick" Kilgore has been involved in clinical trials and research since the 1980's when he was a relatively new physician assistant at UAB. In fact, Rick traces his interest in research back to his high school days and a science project that got him involved in the hematology/oncology area. Rick now is involved with Clinical Research Consultants, Inc. and has completed over 300 trials in various areas

In recent years the company was involved in vaccine development for dengue fever and avian influenza. In June of 2009 his site was chosen as one of the 15 sites to begin working on the swine flu vaccine. Rick comments on the involvement in the vaccine trials as meaningful. "Our opportunity to participate in this significant public health pandemic has been both rewarding but very hard, with sometimes difficult and time consuming work. The attention to detail on this trial has been significant. Our ability to

Saving lives is still our ultimate goal.

JAMES R. KILGORE

control the rage of a disease is one we probably can only achieve a few times in a generation. But to control the damage of the rage of a disease is a goal we constantly strive. Saving lives is still our ultimate goal. We can only hope that the vaccine we have all spent so much time over the past month working to determine its effectiveness and safety will affect the course of this disease. We may not be able to control the rage but we are sure going to hope we can now control the damage."



NEW ADDITIONS



Elyse (04) and Bill Bryson (03) celebrated the arrival of Clara Grace on September 17, 2009. According to her parents, Clara is expected to join the Emory PA Class of 2034. No pressure there.

Kelly (09) and Mac Watson welcomed Jagger Cash Watson on November 12, 2009 at the Medical Center in Columbus, Georgia. Jagger was very proud of his mom on her recent graduation!

Students Star on YouTube!
Have you seen our multi-talented students featured on YouTube? Creativity and sense of humor abounds in the Class of 2010, check out their latest: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX7jme2b0N0>



Come Home to Atlanta to the AAPA Conference: Atlanta GA May 27 – June 2

Atlanta is proud to be the host city this year and our plans are underway for our alumni reception on Monday, May 31st in our new medical education building. See our classrooms, catch up with the faculty and meet the students. We hope to have a great showing of Emory Alumni to attend the conference and, of course, our reception. If you would like to participate in the planning of this event, we would love to have your help. Please contact Betsy Rothschild (97), associate director. More information will follow, and we hope to see you and your family in May!

Emory PA Program
1462 Clifton Rd NE, Ste 280
Atlanta, GA 30322

Celebrating Barbara Jones



**25
YEARS**

If you are a graduate of the Emory PA Program in mid-1980s or later, you probably know Barbara Jones as the "Face of the Emory PA Program". Barbara moved to Atlanta in 1984 and took her first job at Emory with the PA Program – and has been here ever since! Many alumni have stayed in contact with Barbara over the years and several wrote kind letters to her this year in honor of her 25th Anniversary. One alumnus said this about Barbara, "She truly has been an integral and invaluable presence and has had a lot to do with the success of the program. From my time as a student I will remember Barbara as kind,

"She truly has been an integral and invaluable presence and has had a lot to do with the success of the program."

warm, and caring and always interested in how I was doing and she ALWAYS remembered my name, this was so important to me as a student in the midst of a very demanding program. Upon graduation she was unfailingly gracious and helpful to me in assisting with gathering the appropriate documents I needed for initial licensure, my first job, and the many places I became credentialed." The staff and faculty celebrated Barbara's anniversary with a luncheon and slideshow. Congratulations to Barbara on this significant milestone and a big thank you from alumni, staff and students!

5K Fun Run – April 17

The 9th Annual Emory Physician Assistant Program Care to Share 5K Fun Run and Kids Mile will be held on April 17, 2010 at Lullwater Park on the campus of Emory University. The 5K Run starts at 9am and the Kids Mile starts at 10am. There will be door prizes, entertainment, food and Fun, Fun, Fun!!! Your participation or donation will allow us to give 100% of the proceeds to three important non-profit organizations in the metro Atlanta area that support our program's mission of providing quality healthcare to the medically underserved. These are the South Georgia Farmworker Health Project, the Good Samaritan Health Center, and the Henry W. Grady Health System Foundation. The money donated to the Henry W. Grady Health System Foundation will go spe-

cifically towards providing diabetic supplies for indigent patients. We hope you will be able to join us for this event or make a donation towards the Fun Run proceeds. If you are interested in corporate sponsorships and/or donating products for door prizes at the event or have questions, please e-mail abcastl@emory.edu. We very much appreciate your support for this important fundraising event! Go to : <http://www.active.com/running/atlanta-ga/emory-pa-9th-annual-care-to-share-5k-fun-run-and-kids-mile-2010> to view the run details as well as register for the run. Or go to <http://www.active.com/donate/emorypafunrun2010> to make an online donation.



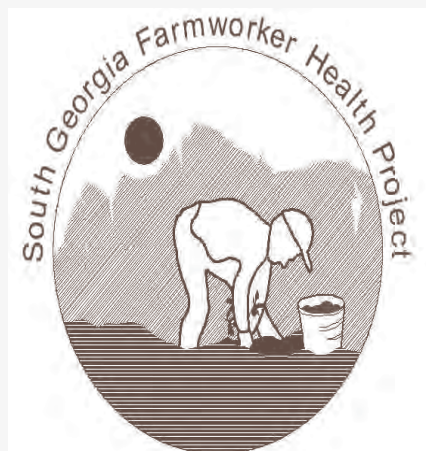
Our faculty looking spiffy at the 2008 FunRun

South Georgia Farmworker Health Project

Kudos to the Farmworker Project on its recent recognition as AAPA's Host City Prevention Campaign designation. The South Georgia Farmworker Health Project (SGFHP) will be the 2010 beneficiary, which will culminate with the donation of not just a monetary gift, but hundreds of children's books for the project to use towards educating migrant and seasonal farmworkers. During October 2009 Tom Himelick (91) led the 4th autumn version of the South Georgia Farmworker Health Project. During this extended weekend in Decatur County, students and volun-

teers saw approximately 190 farmworkers as they returned to the area to pick tomatoes and grape tomatoes in a late harvest. The team experienced an unusual cold-snap (it was windy and cold in the 40's), but seemed to adapt to conditions well. Some students even wondered why they had complained about the 100 degree heat just a few months ago! The SGFHP began in 1995 with only a

few students and meager supplies hosting a one week clinic. Now, almost 15 years later the project has blossomed and provides health care for over 1600 farm workers and their families during the two week annual summer project.



To read more about this wonderful program go to: <http://www.aapa.org/student-academy/student-societies/student-society-activities/host-city-prevention-campaign>

LeAnne Martinelli: Outstanding PA of the Year

The PA program conferred its prestigious award to a Class of 2003 graduate LeAnne Martinelli (03). Karen Newell, (89) academic coordinator, had this to say about LeAnne during the ceremony, "Prior to PA School, LeAnne was a registered pharmacist. Since graduation she has practiced in a variety of clinical positions including Emergency Medicine at the Dekalb Medical Center. Additionally, LeAnne has always found time to "give back" by participating in numerous facets of the PA Program including: lab instructor, lecturer,



admissions committee, and most notably as course director for our pharmacotherapeutics course. She does this smoothly and graciously all while juggling a busy PA husband and two small children." The faculty, staff and students of the Emory

PA Program would like to thank Leanne for her incredible contributions to our program.

Dr. Persharon Dixon visits the White House Rose Garden



Dr. Dixon in the White House Pink and Green room*

Photos www.aka1908.com/news/dixon_whitehouse/

Persharon (Mathis) Dixon (88) continued her education and received her MD degree from Morehouse and completed her Pediatric Residency at Emory. She also completed her MBA at the University of Tennessee in 2007. She is now the medical director of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project (MGCCHP) which was formed following Hurricane Katrina. According to the Children's Health Fund website, MGCCHP "utilizes a state-of-the-art mobile health clinic to deliver comprehensive primary and mental health care. Mobile clinics are uniquely suited to the provision of post-disaster health care, allowing clinical teams to bring services directly where they are needed most, and to respond to the changing conditions and needs of the community." In early October 2009, Persharon was part of a physician delegation invited by president Obama to be part of a Rose Garden speech to promote health care reform.

Board Review Held Last October

Emory hosted its 19th Annual Board Review during the week of September 30th - October 3rd, 2009. More than 200 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 (00), Carter Cooper (97), Beth Halminski (93), Carrie Howell (99), Virginia Joslin (83), Michelle Morante (98), Karen Newell (89), Allan Platt (79), and Tonia Poteat (05).

The new and improved DVD featuring 35 hours of Cat. 1 CME and 2 weeks of Exam Master online PANRE practice exams for PC, Mac, PDA and MP3 players will be available later this month. Emory Alumni receive a \$50 discount off the \$360 retail price – see website for more details or contact Ms. Barbara Jones at 404-727-7827 to reserve your copy.

Keep the News Going!

Send us your updates for our next newsletter: job news, community involvement as well as additions and nuptials. Also, please forward this newsletter on to your classmates and colleagues who are Emory PA program alumni. If you did not receive this directly from Emory, we do not have your e-mail address. Send us your e-mail address or other contact information via the program website at www.emorypa.org

If you don't remember the ID and password to access the grad section of the website, please call our office at 404.727.7827 or e-mail Tom Himelick our webmaster at thimelick@learnlink.emory.edu

Emory University School of Medicine
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
Physician Assistant Program
1462 Clifton Road NE, Suite 280
Atlanta, GA 30322
Phone: 404.727.7825 ~ Fax: 404.727.7836
E-mail: info@emorypa.org
www.emorypa.org