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THE GOLD CONNECTION

Gold Humanism Honor Society — www.humanism-in-medicine.org

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GHHS News

While the bears are hibernating, it is high season at GHHS.

Domestic and international GHHS members ventured onto the cyber-tundra inaugurating the Chapter Advisor listserv to share stories of student projects and to ask each other questions about their roles and mutual needs.

Buoyed by the energy of the incoming U.S. administration, the call to service and the growing societal need, GHHS chapters initiated and revved up a number of programs. Some examples they shared:

- ❖ The University of Chicago reported a project on hunger
- ❖ UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson hosted events focused on the national debate on universal health care coverage.
- ❖ Students from UMDNJ went to the state capitol to advocate for increasing health care coverage.

Welcome New Chapters

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Building the GHHS Community

What's in a time table? When it comes to selection to the GHHS, apparently a lot. Discussions with chapter advisors have surfaced important issues about the cohesion of newly selected group members and the creativity and timing of their subsequent projects. Currently, students who are selected late in their third year of medical school often do not come together as a group until early—or even late—in their fourth and busiest year. The result is the inability to bond as a group and to devote creativity and adequate time to a GHHS project. Students have reported that they do not feel a part of GHHS.

Recognizing the role of gathering together to build GHHS community, some schools are revising the selection process to announce new GHHS members by April of their third year. This new approach allows the opportunity to bring students together in Spring to build community and create a GHHS project representing their class. Within this new time table students have 14 months to bring their project to fruition and, most important, to nurture the necessary ties that will unite them in GHHS, service and mutual support for the future.

Have You Shown Cameron's Arc?

One faculty member's experience.

Dr. Nicole Jacobs, coordinator for the team-taught Human Behavior course for first year medical students at University of Nevada, heard about the video *Cameron's Arc* from her colleague Dr. Peggy Dupey. It was “a blessing to me,” Jacobs said in a recent interview with Jacqueline Mintz. “I was looking for a way to talk about death and dying and it enabled me to address that within a bio-psychosocial, spiritual model.” The video offers a positive role model of what to do in an actual situation, while stimulating students to think about their own feelings and possible behaviors when caring for patients, and working with their families.

After viewing the video and hearing from campus philosopher Dr. Marin Gillis about end-of-life decisions, students participated in small group discussions with faculty facilitators to explore emotions aroused by the video, their history with loss, the possible impact of personal experience with death/loss on how a physician would treat

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Ready to Serve Projects

CHOOSE ONE, AND SEND US YOUR IDEAS.

- ❖ The University of Albany is participating in Habitat for Humanity
- ❖ UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson holds a Post Match-Day Feedback Session for all 4th year students
 - Students give feedback to administrators
 - Third-year students chat with newly placed 4th-year students about their experience applying
 - Residency Program Directors meet with 4th year students to talk about the next phase: being a good intern.
- ❖ University of Missouri-Kansas City School of medicine proposed an "Art Cart" with art and craft materials for patients.

Seeking GHHS Members



Are you signed up and do you know where your GHHS classmates are?

We are looking to reunite all GHHS members in our new and growing directory.

Check it out:

<http://directory.ghhs-apgf.org/goldfoundation/Public/MemberList.aspx>

If you are included in the list, contact Harriet Turner for your login information. If you are not listed, send an email to Harriet@gold-foundation.org with name, contact information, school where inducted, award and year inducted.

One faculty member's experience

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the patient and family, how to share control with parents of a terminally ill child without abdicating medical responsibility, and many more issues. Students discussed what they can do to prepare for and manage their own experience of loss of a patient they care about and how to break bad news.

Capping the experience students were asked to write about what kind of doctors they aspire to be.

Jacobs reports that students were impressed that the parents who suffered such a great loss chose to have more children. They found the video "powerful" and said that it "cemented the objectives of the lecture." For herself, Jacobs is committed to use the video each time she teaches the course.

Off the Charts

As of March 1, 2009 GHHS has 75 Chapter members.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Fourteen new members, including students, residents and faculty have joined five standing national committees of the GHHS this year.

DEADLINE APPROACHING

Awards for outstanding chapter work - Don't be shy, self-nominate. See www.humanism-in-medicine.org. Deadline: **March 16, 2009**

Call for Research Proposals: *Influencing Medical School Admissions* Deadline: **April 1, 2009**

IDEAS FOR YOUR REGION

GHHS together with the NY Academy of Medicine is co-sponsoring events in the Metro NYC area:

Upcoming: **March 23, 2009 - The Visitor** (film)
NY Academy of Medicine - Fifth Ave. & 103 St., NYC
5:30 p.m Reception, 6:00 Showing
Registration: Harriet@gold-foundation.org

DOCTORS IN THE ARTS

GHHS Chapter Advisor Ana Blohm, Mount Sinai Hospital, has a photography exhibit, currently showing at NYU Hospital Gallery in New York City until April 6th. Ana teaches a course in photography at University of Columbia Medical School and will write a piece for the Spring newsletter on being an artist.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

"Images of Humanism in Medicine" contest winners to be announced by April 1, 2009.

Partly out of self-protection and partly out of the extreme stress physicians often experience, we lose sight of our patients as people, as individuals who wish to be attractive. When my patient in the hospital puts on her makeup, I think she is trying to remind us, "I am a person, and I matter. Please treat me with respect. Be kind." It is a gentle reminder to this physician to take just the briefest moment to look at the face, the eyes of my patient before I focus on the sick heart, lungs full of fluid, or infected leg.

From University of Wisconsin's Chicken Soup for the UW Medical Student Soul.