



Nearly \$2 Million in CityDoctors SGUSOM Scholarships Awarded to 17 NYC Students



CityDoctors scholarship recipients were honored at a ceremony hosted by SGU and New York City Health + Hospitals in January.

In January, NYC Health + Hospitals President Dr. Ram Raju announced 17 students who under the CityDoctors scholarship program will receive scholarships worth \$1.8 million to attend St. George's University School of Medicine. In return, the students have committed to give back to their communities by practicing primary care medicine in NYC's public health system after completing their medical educations. Dr. Raju cited this scholarship program as a model and urged other medical schools and health systems to make similar investments to address the growing shortage of primary care physicians in New York City and the United States.

Continued on page 9

SGU and University of Delaware Launch Academic Partnership

St. George's University and the University of Delaware announced a new partnership which will enable qualified University of Delaware undergraduates to pursue advanced medical and veterinary degrees at St. George's University.

"We are thrilled to welcome the University of Delaware into our growing University community," said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President and CEO of St. George's University. "By further expanding our network of partners,

we are continuing to provide a pathway for students from around the world to pursue medical and veterinary education."

Upon receiving their bachelor's degree, qualified students from the University of Delaware will have the option to pursue a degree in medicine or veterinary medicine at St. George's University in Grenada. Students in St. George's School of Medicine will complete their first two years of medical study in Grenada

Continued on page 8

Inside

- 2 An Important Research Grant
- 3 Grenada Honors Chancellor
- 4 Dr. Olds' Q&A, Part II
- 6 Laboratory Renamed for SVM Pioneer
- 7 Principals Forum Introduces New Ideas
- 8 SGU Donates to Saint Barnabas Simulation Lab
- 10 Flynn Appointed New Faculty Development Director
- 11 Beyond Spice Family Weekend
- 12 White Coat Ceremonies
- 14 Graduate Profiles



Researchers hope for further clarity on why Caribbean women are choosing to not undergo screenings for breast and cervical cancer.

THE CHRONICLE is published through the Office of University Communications and Publications

c/o University Support Services, LLC
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Grant Enables Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Research

A \$50,000 grant through the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will allow two St. George's University professors to research breast and cervical cancer screening and why, in some cases, women in the region are choosing not to have them done.

Dr. Kamilah Thomas-Purcell, Assistant Professor in the Master of Public Health Program at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) College of Osteopathic Medicine and Adjunct Professor at SGU, will serve as the study's principal investigator, and work alongside Co-Investigators Dr. Christine Richards, Assistant Professor in SGU's Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and Mrs. Marva Primus-Joseph, RN, MPH, a Clinical Instructor at TA Marryshow Community College in Grenada.

"Cervical cancer is very preventable, and it's important to understand why women do not participate in preventive screening," Dr. Thomas-Purcell said. "Once we understand their perceptions within their social context we can develop relevant

messages that educate and address barriers to screening.

In 2014, the team received a small grant and conducted a pilot study on the topic in Grenada. The CARPHA/NIH grant will allow them to expand their study to St. Vincent's and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Dominica, as well as expand their research in Grenada. For the pilot study, they conducted focus groups with 47 Grenadian women, with representatives from all seven of the island's parishes.

"In Grenada, we found that many barriers to breast cancer screening was related to the cost of mammography, and health literacy was also an issue," said Dr. Thomas-Purcell. "Many women didn't quite understand that the Pap test detects cervical cancer in its early stage. Some of the barriers were cultural. Some women thought that women who are promiscuous get cervical cancer and they didn't want to be associated with that. Also, women want to learn about cancer in group sessions. They want to be educated together, ask questions face-to-face and have that personal interaction."

Dr. Thomas-Purcell hopes to conduct focus group discussions with at least 30 women in each country and interview oncology unit personnel to determine what types of prevention and treatment services are available. In addition to her professorships, Dr. Thomas-Purcell is the Director of Interprofessional Primary Care Education within the Office of Research and Innovation at NSU. She has also conducted research with the United Nations Population Fund, the American Foundation of AIDS Research (amfAR), and Moffitt Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Richards has served on SGU's faculty since 2003 and holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Community Health Education and Promotion from Walden University. ■

"I am deeply humbled to have been awarded this honor and I thank the country of Grenada for opening its doors to a lifelong partnership with SGU."

– Chancellor Charles R. Modica

Chancellor Awarded Most Distinguished Order of the Nation

St. George's University Chancellor Charles R. Modica was awarded The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation—Commander 2015 by the Government of Grenada at the 42nd Anniversary of Independence Celebrations at the National Stadium on February 7.

Conferred on Dr. Modica by Governor General Dame Cécile La Grenade, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation is given to an individual who has rendered distinguished and outstanding service to Grenada.

"I am deeply humbled to have been awarded this honor and I thank the country of Grenada for opening its doors to a lifelong partnership with SGU," said Chancellor Modica. "In the nearly 40 years since my cofounders and I started this University, I am gratified to see how the University has grown to become an active and vital member of the community, something that could not have been possible without the people of Grenada embracing SGU and nurturing its development."

Under Dr. Modica's visionary leadership, SGU has solidified its reputation as one of the leading education centers in the region. The University offers degrees in medicine, veterinary medicine, public health, business, and science; it features a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff from more than 140 countries. More than 15,000 professionals have graduated from St. George's University, and with a staff of over 600, SGU is one of Grenada's largest employers.

Chancellor Modica continues to serve as Ambassador-at-Large for



Top: Chancellor Charles R. Modica accepts The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation—Commander 2015 at the National Stadium in Grenada. Bottom: Dr. Modica and Mrs. Lisa Modica, with Dr. C.V. Rao (left).



Grenada, an honor bestowed on him in 2005 by Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. The Right Honorable Keith C. Mitchell. Through the University, the Chancellor has worked diligently to promote tourism, trade, and investment activities for Grenada, as well as assisting the Government of Grenada in the ongoing development of the country.

Dr. Modica has a strong sense of civic responsibility and currently serves the Grenada Heart Foundation, the Vincentian

Children's Heart Fund, and Co-Chair of the Fund for the Orphans and Elderly of Grenada. The Chancellor earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Delaware Law School in 1975 and has been the recipient of several awards and honors, including an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK, in 2009, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Barry University School of Law, Miami Shores, Florida, in 2000. ■

Meet SGU's New President and CEO

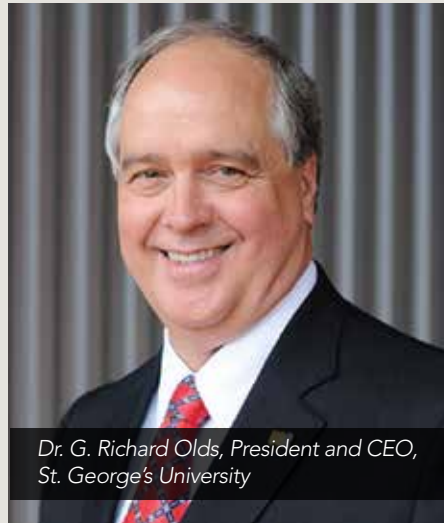
Part II of a Question-and-Answer Session with Dr. G. Richard Olds

In August, St. George's University appointed Dr. G. Richard Olds as its President and Chief Executive Officer. He came to SGU after having served as the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Founding Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California, Riverside. In part two of his interview with the *Chronicle*, Dr. Olds discusses more topics pertinent to SGU today as well as the University's future.

Chronicle: St. George's University is home to the AVMA-accredited School of Veterinary Medicine. What goals do you have for the SVM?

G. Richard Olds: Just as we have an excellent medical school, we have an excellent veterinary school. In fact, from an accreditation standpoint, the SVM actually has the highest degree of accreditation that you can possibly have, in some ways a bit higher than the medical school in that it's American-accredited directly. The challenge for the veterinary school is going to be maintaining our current structure and operations despite the fairly arbitrary rules and laws that apply to it.

The most striking thing I often say on the health of our university is that both veterinary students and medical students borrow money from the US government. Our default rate on federal loans is less than 2 percent. That's extremely low, probably lower than most US universities. Not only do we have good schools, but that figure is a reflection of the fact that a high number of students who we enroll do graduate. They are well trained and they're going to the United States and other countries and getting jobs; otherwise they



Dr. G. Richard Olds, President and CEO, St. George's University

wouldn't be able to repay their loans. Still, we don't compensate veterinarians in the United States in relation to how competitive vet school admission is and how difficult the job is.

Chronicle: What does One Health, One Medicine mean to you and are there are plans to more fully integrate this philosophy into our mission across all schools?

G. Richard Olds: That I'm a tropical disease specialist obviously means that I certainly understand the whole concept of One Health. We have a unique opportunity at St. George's because we not only have schools that could relate to that, but we're a truly international school, probably even more than many of the other Caribbean schools. Roughly 70 percent of our students are Americans; 30 percent are not. Part of the opportunity here is that we have a US-style education available to people from around the world.

I think this is particularly important in medicine and veterinary medicine because, if you're a foreign national, you can't get into a US medical

school or veterinarian school. The US lets in numerous foreign nationals to get PhDs in engineering or business, but that's not the case in medicine and veterinary medicine. One of our interesting opportunities is to train more people from around the world. We at St. George's have the opportunity to work together to improve the overall health of entire populations, not just of individual patients or animals.

It's somewhat sobering as a physician to know that, if you looked at all the predictors of health in a patient, only about 10 percent are affected by what we do as doctors. About 30 percent really is dependent upon the environment that a patient is in, so health has a lot more to do with geopolitical, economic, and other issues. Much of it is also genetics and much of it is our own personal behavior, doing things that we know we shouldn't be doing like smoking and drinking too much and not exercising. When you look at health in its totality, there are many ways that people from multiple disciplines can contribute to a healthier world, and I think that's something we'd like to promote at St. George's. It's something that all of our schools could be united around.

Chronicle: You have mentioned that expanding the reach of the University is a priority. How do you see SGU reaching that goal?

G. Richard Olds: Let's talk first about the United States and then I'll talk about the world. If you look at historically how SGU developed, we have a university in Grenada, and for the medical school, which is the original school, 50 percent of our third- and fourth-year rotations are

in New York and another 27 percent are in New Jersey. Between the two of them, almost 75 of our clinical activities in the med school are in two states.

If you look at where our students come from, our students come from all over the United States. In fact, since I just recently came from California, I would point out that probably 20 percent of our students come from California, but we only have about 8 percent of our teaching spots there. We have no teaching spots in Texas and we have a fair number of students from Texas. We have a fair number of students from states like Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Illinois, yet we have few teaching platforms there. If we are to become America's medical school, which I think is one of our opportunities, we have to develop teaching platforms that spans our country and are reflective of where students are coming from. It's important because where doctors practice is determined by only two things—where they come from and where they do their residency.

Clearly, we would like to partner with more hospitals that are geographically located in areas where our students come from, but in addition to that, I think we'll be looking to partner with hospitals that are in locations that have severe doctor shortages and we will be focusing on residency training programs of those hospitals that are in fields that are actually needed. We will probably try to do an even greater job of encouraging more students to do as they already are currently doing—going into fields that society actually needs. That's what we'll be doing in the United States.

On the other hand, we are an international university and we already take a fair number of Canadian students. There are many other opportunities for people

who would like to have a US-style education. Some of them may end up practicing in the United States, but I would say that the greater need is for those students to return to their own countries and provide a high level of medical care to their own countries. If you look at the number of Chinese nationals that are in universities today getting engineering and business degrees, it seems to be that there's a market for Chinese nationals to receive a medical or veterinary education here at SGU.

There are also opportunities for many other countries. One example is the Philippines. Virtually every premed student in the Philippines speaks fluent English so it makes it pretty easy to learn in our platform. I think there are many other opportunities in South America and Africa for us to train physicians who will ultimately return to those countries with an outstanding medical education. I think we could augment the physician manpower shortages on an international scale.

Chronicle: You've been on the job for about half a year now. What stands out most about your experience thus far?

G. Richard Olds: The University is in a pretty good place. It's doing well and people are very committed to what the University is trying to do. The students are terrific, and there's no doubt we have a lovely campus. In fact, it's probably as nice a university campus as I've ever been to. In general, those are all really positive things. That said, we need to see the future and embrace it, rather than saying we're just going to keep doing what we've done successfully for 40 years.

We are broadly considered the most outstanding Caribbean school. I thought that before I took this job. I think there was no question that St. George's had the strongest

graduates and is the best school and is well regarded by many people. If you doubt that, just go talk to any of the hospitals or training programs around the country that train doctors. They'll all tell you that St. George's graduates are good doctors—that's a good position to be in. Having said that, we can't be sitting on our laurels. Our challenge is to make the school even better than it is today, not because we need it today but because this is a competitive environment. We're going to have to figure out how to be more competitive and train doctors that are better suited for the health care needs of our country. I think that's a smart strategy. I think doing a better job than American medical schools are currently doing and addressing the unique health care problems of our country is a smart strategy for us, and if we can, we're going to be in better shape than schools created in the United States that are training doctors for needs that are not high priorities for our country.

Chronicle: When you look back on your time at St. George's, what is the one thing you would like to be able to point out as a significant contribution to the University?

G. Richard Olds: As I look back at each of the jobs that I've had, I think I can say honestly that I feel that I left the organization in much better shape than when I came. I think that is still true today. I'd like to think that when I leave St. George's, it will be a better university than it is today and that it will continue to be a better university long after I've left. If I can accomplish that, I would have thought it well worth the effort. ■

Toxicology Laboratory Renamed to Honor J. Desmond Baggot

St. George's University honored one of the School of Veterinary Medicine's founding fathers, Dr. J. Desmond Baggot, Professor of Veterinary Pharmacology, SVM, by renaming its veterinary toxicology laboratory, the J. Desmond Baggot Biomedical Sciences Laboratory.

During his 15 years of service, Dr. Baggot was instrumental in establishing the pharmacology and toxicology teaching at the School of Veterinary Medicine, as well as developing its fourth-year clinical program. The laboratory is housed in one of the first permanent buildings to be constructed on the True Blue Campus and was originally named the Marian Modica Library.

Along with longtime colleagues, friends, and members of SGU faculty and staff, Dr. Baggot's daughter, Jennifer, also attended the Naming

Ceremony where she received a bouquet of flowers from Dr. Diana Stone, Professor, Department of Pathobiology, SVM, who shared some fond memories of having worked with Dr. Baggot over the years. Ms. Baggot looked on as Dr. Charles R. Modica, Chancellor, St. George's University, paid tribute to her father.

"You brought dignity to the school, dedication, and a good sense of humor," Chancellor Modica said. "By putting your name on one of these buildings, it means that we have a special love for you and we want students from this day on to know that you were one of the founding fathers."

In addition to his time at SGU, Dr. Baggot was also a former Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at the School of Veterinary Medicine,



From left to right, Chancellor Charles R. Modica, Dr. J. Desmond Baggot, and Dean Timothy Ogilvie

University of California, Davis, and of Preclinical Veterinary Studies at the University of Zimbabwe, Harare.

"I am so pleased to see so many of you here. It's a great honor for me to receive this distinguished award," said Dr. Baggot after receiving his award, a true-to-size replica of the 42-inch plaque erected in the newly named laboratory. "The primary objective has to be the quality of the veterinary medical education, as we are not a large profession. The laboratory provides an opportunity for clinical applications, which we link to basic principles. That, to me, is most important." ■

Roundabout Way

There's plenty of traffic going to, from, and around campus during a beautiful day in True Blue.



SGU and Medgar Evers College Host Principals Forum

More than 60 secondary and primary school principals and educators attended a two-day forum held by St. George's University in collaboration with Medgar Evers College (MEC) of the City University of New York and the Ministry of Education in Grenada, on January 28 and 29 at Allen Pensick Hall.

Spearheaded by Dr. Allen Pensick, Provost of SGU, and Mr. Eugene Pursoo, Director of the International Affairs Center at MEC, the event provided Grenadian instructors an opportunity to empower and improve the quality of education on the island as a whole by inviting the school leaders to hear and interact with prominent individuals from North America in education.

"The forum was incredibly well received," said Dr. Debbi Johnson, an Associate Professor in SGU's Department of Educational Services. "The best part was that the principals walked away with real information that they could use and a real desire to use it."

Dr. Rudolph Crew, a nationally acclaimed educator whose career has spanned from the classroom to the chancellorship of America's largest school district, New York City Public Schools, shared new and fresh ideas with the local educators about the role of education in the community and the role of community in education.

"Dr. Crew explained the relationship between a community and education, and challenged the principals to think about the importance of what they were doing and come up



Dr. Rudolph Crew shares new ideas with local educators.

with plans and strategies for meeting their goals and objectives," Dr. Johnson said.

In addition, the principals heard from Dr. Sheilah Paul, Dean, School of Education, MEC, who spoke on the topic of educational challenges in the Caribbean. Ms. Jenelle Bullen and Ms. Tamara Stuart-Barry also covered the use of instructional supervision in the classroom, and SGU's own Dr. Barbara Landon gave a presentation titled *Becoming Brain Smart*.

"Although Dr. Landon's speech ran about 20 minutes into lunch, there was no desire to leave; not one per-

son from the audience seemed to mind because they were all listening attentively and fully engaged," said Dr. Daniel Flynn, Director of Faculty Development, SGU. "She addressed some deeply scientific information but in very accessible terms."

At the end of day two, the educators were asked to create a Principal's Wish List. They were used to discuss what they would like to see featured in future Principals Forums, including some of the needs of the Grenadian educational community, as well as how SGU and its partners might better tailor future presentations to help them tackle these challenges. ■



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A New Academic Partnership in Delaware

(Continued from page 1)

and their final two years in U.S. or U.K. clerkship programs. Those in the veterinary school will spend three years in Grenada before completing their final clinical year elsewhere.

The University of Delaware joins a diverse group of over 15 colleges and universities in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada that have partnered with St. George's University. The University also has similar partnerships with Mahidol University International College in Thailand and

schools in Bermuda, Grenada, Hong Kong, Guyana, and Uganda.

"This agreement further enhances our relationship with St. George's University and will provide our students with the opportunity to continue their journey to becoming professionals in the fields of medicine and veterinary medicine," said Lynn Okagaki, UD deputy provost for academic affairs.

"We are pleased today to announce that the University of Delaware has

entered into an agreement with St. George's University in the West Indies that will expand opportunities for qualified UD students to pursue a career in medicine or veterinary medicine," said David Barlow, director of the Center Premedical/Health Profession Studies. "It is designed for students who are certain that they want to become physicians or veterinarians and who desire a program of study that blends the scientific aspect of these professions in a highly diverse international setting." ■

SGU to Award \$50,000 to Saint Barnabas Medical Center for Simulation Center

St. George's University is awarding a grant of \$50,000 to Saint Barnabas Medical Center, in Livingston, NJ, to enhance the Center's Regional Perinatal Simulation Center.

Opened in 2011, the Regional Perinatal Simulation Center is a learning laboratory designed to replicate various clinical scenarios. It provides training and practice for health care providers on how to react in rare and critical cases. A state-of-the-art mannequin responds much like a human patient during normal labor and delivery, as well as during obstetrical and other emergencies such as postpartum bleeding and cardiac arrest. The center focuses on improving teamwork and communication while training medical students, residents, nurses, physicians, and EMTs.

The Simulation Center is set up like an actual hospital room with the mannequin's vital signs controlled via computer. The room has cameras recording clinical scenarios as well as a two-way mirror allowing observers to provide immediate feedback on

medical procedures that may include blood transfusions, urinary catheterization, endotracheal intubation, and anesthesia administration.

"We are delighted to provide this grant to an institution that upholds the highest standards of clinical education," said Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD, Chair, Department of Medicine and Executive Vice President at SGU. "The training program at Saint Barnabas provides our students with experience under the guidance of excellent faculty using state-of-the-art equipment, and with whom we have had a long and mutually beneficial relationship."

"The Regional Perinatal Simulation Center at Saint Barnabas will augment the quality and breadth of education our medical students have received from its clinical faculty over the years," added Stephen Weitzman, MD, Dean of SGU's School of Medicine. "By mimicking a wide range of critical care scenarios, the Simulation Center will prepare students to handle the array of

cases they may face once they are physicians. Ultimately, this will lead to improved health care for the people of New Jersey since many of our students undergo their postgraduate training at Saint Barnabas and other New Jersey hospitals prior to practicing in New Jersey."

"The grant from St. George's will be enormously helpful as we currently are expanding our simulation capacity and curriculum," said Richard C. Miller, MD, Medical Director of the Regional Perinatal Simulation Center and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. "The immense impact the Simulation Center has is not only on novice learners. We can create complex clinical events that challenge even the most experienced physicians, nurses, and community first responders, allowing them to practice rare but critical procedures repeatedly, resulting in improved safety for patients." ■

Nearly \$2 Million in CityDoctors SGUSOM Scholarships Awarded to 17 NYC Students

(Continued from page 1)

“As our population ages, and as health care reform orients itself around a preventive care model, more primary care physicians will be sorely needed,” said Dr. Raju. “I call on other medical schools to work with the public health system to develop programs such as CityDoctors, which will expand access to primary and preventive care for the populations that need it most. Medical schools as well as health care providers have a moral and ethical obligation to create the physician workforce that will be needed in the future.”

“St. George’s is proud to support these students with a CityDoctors Scholarship and we congratulate them on their success,” said St. George’s University Chancellor Dr. Charles Modica. “Their commitment to practicing medicine in the City of New York provides them with a unique ability to have an impact not only on the health of individuals, but on the overall public health of the city.”

“Through the CityDoctors HHC Scholarship Program, these students have the opportunity to train and practice in the city they hold near and dear,” said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President and Chief Executive Officer at St. George’s University. “In doing so, they will follow in the footsteps of the SGU graduates who have given back to the city and to the people of New York by providing high-quality primary care.”

CityDoctors scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic excellence and financial need, and will receive either partial or full scholarships to pay for medical school tuition for periods of up to four years, with some scholarships valued at more than \$200,000 each.

2016 CITYDOCTORS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Name	Residence	Full/Partial Scholarship	Commitment to NYC Health + Hospitals
Adeniyi Adedotun	Manhattan	Full	4 years
Shelley Persaud	Bronx	Full	4 years
Fayeza Aliou	Bronx	Partial	2 years
Alice Basin	New Jersey	Partial	2 years
Tomasz Wasik	Bronx	Partial	2 years
Tania Kahn	Queens	Partial	2 years
Genna Pearl	Queens	Partial	2 years
Karen Lou	Brooklyn	Partial	2 years
Benjamin Kahn	Manhattan	Partial	2 years
Arafat Nasan	Brooklyn	Partial	1 year
Michelle Rivera	Queens	Partial	1 year
Kristen Roy	Staten Island	Partial	1 year
Shamriz Tamanna	Queens	Partial	1 year
Rasheedat Yussuf	Staten Island	Partial	1 year
Kandance LaMonica	Bronx	Partial	1 year
Vanessa Pierre-Louis	Brooklyn	Partial	1 year
Nadya Chowdhury	Queens	Partial	1 year



The CityDoctors scholarship celebration brought great joy to 17 students.

The program has helped a total of 82 students from in and around NYC attend medical school on the equivalent of 38 full scholarships, and, in return, 152 years of needed primary care services have been committed to NYC’s health care system. In total, more than \$11 million in medical school scholarships are expected to be awarded under CityDoctors.

To be eligible for a CityDoctors scholarship, students must fulfill all the requirements to be accepted to medical school and also meet at least one of the following criteria:

graduated from a NYC high school; have five years of residency in NYC; have a parent employed by NYC Health + Hospitals or the City of New York; or be employed themselves by NYC Health + Hospitals or the City of New York for at least five years.

In return for their scholarships, for each equivalent year of tuition they receive, each student has committed to provide one year of service as a primary care attending physician at one of 11 hospitals within the public health system. ■

Dr. Daniel Flynn Appointed New Director of Faculty Development

“My goal is for the University to be recognized as an institute of higher learning that has all the attributes that are expected of a higher learning institution, with an established reputation for both strong student and faculty support.”

Continuing its mission of developing the teaching and learning skills of its faculty, St. George’s University recently appointed Dr. Daniel Flynn as its new Director of Faculty Development. Dr. Flynn comes to SGU from Chapman University, Orange, California, where he served as the Assistant Director of Chapman’s Institute for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and brings with him more than 13 years of teaching experience as well as a PhD in Educational Policy and Social Context.

In his new role, Dr. Flynn hopes to “support faculty in their pursuit of excellence in scholarship, teaching, and learning.” This includes providing campus-wide workshops, individual consultations, and the formation of a faculty advisory committee with representatives from each school in the near future.

“My goal is for the University to be recognized as an institute of higher learning that has all the attributes that are expected of a higher learn-

ing institution, with an established reputation for both strong student and faculty support,” Dr. Flynn said.

Expanding on SGU’s previous model of faculty development, one of Dr. Flynn’s first priorities was to change the name of the “Let’s Talk Teaching” seminars to “Let’s Talk Teaching and Learning.” “According to Tom Angelo and Patricia Cross from Classroom Assessment Techniques, teaching without learning is just talking,” stated Dr. Flynn. “Faculty development is far more than just voluntary participation in weekly topical discussions.”

Additionally, Dr. Flynn plans to develop a Faculty Scholars Program, where he would teach a class on pedagogy, highlighting the details of curricular design and instruction in order to cultivate a community of trained higher education researchers—on-site faculty and throughout the campus. “I hope to have a community of faculty developers rather than just an office of faculty development,” said Dr. Flynn.

Ultimately, Dr. Flynn’s vision for St. George’s also includes being recognized by the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD), which is devoted to improving teaching and learning in higher education; and ensuring that St. George’s University

is viewed as an institution focused on being on the cutting edge of faculty development as well as student development.

Originally a psychology major, Dr. Flynn obtained his bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Irvine, followed by a master’s degree in clinical social welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles. However, it wasn’t until his second bachelor’s degree in 2009 and a successful career in teaching, that he discovered his second career path.

Dr. Flynn’s doctoral training was, in his own words, “learning how to make people who are expert researchers, engineers, or MDs into teachers, that was my new mission in life, especially since it’s not a regular part of doctoral training to be taught how to lecture, teach, test, or create curriculum.” He has been the recipient of numerous teaching research awards including: the Future of the Field Award, Civic and Community Engagement Program, UC Irvine, in 2014; and the Graduate and Professional Student Development (GPSD) Award, Professional Organizational Development (POD) Network, Seattle, Washington, in 2012. He has also been a member of POD, the Association for Institutional Research, and the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning, since 2011. ■



Dr. Daniel Flynn joined SGU as Director of Faculty Development after receiving numerous teaching awards at the University of California, Davis.



Families and friends came from far and wide to enjoy the 11th Beyond Spice Family Weekend.



St. George's University Celebrates 11th Beyond Spice Family Weekend

For the 11th Beyond Spice Family Weekend held in January, families from around the world converged on St. George's University's picturesque True Blue campus to experience a taste of culture and hospitality of Grenada and get an insider's view of student life at SGU.

Once again, Family Weekend coincided with the White Coat Ceremonies, allowing families to partake in all Family Weekend activities while also attending MD and DVM students' entry into their chosen profession.

Family weekend festivities included guided campus tours, which gave participants an intimate glimpse into the University, while the historical sightseeing tour of Fort Frederick, the famous Grand Etang Lake, and the 30-foot Annandale Waterfalls provided a glimpse into the natural beauty of Grenada. The weekend also featured the Vendors' Village—a display of local art, craft, and food with many unique and handcrafted items; lunch at Belmont Estate, a fully functional and historic plantation; and a sunset barbecue and sea excursion along Grenada's coast.

Upon hearing the news that their daughter, Erin, had been accepted to SGU, Pam and Scott Baumler were thrilled because medicine is a career that she had always wanted to pursue. However, their second thought was "Grenada? That's a long way from home," feared Mr. Baumler. But that didn't stop the Seattle residents from visiting for Family Weekend. "I like knowing where she is and seeing where she is," said Mrs. Baumler. "This location is amazing. Looking around at that water, I don't know how the kids study."

So far the couple had visited the Vendors' Village and planned to attend the sunset barbecue and historical sightseeing tour. However, the most important activity was the magical White Coat Ceremony, which Erin's 96-year-old grandfather, also a physician, would be watching online back home.

"I've been in tears since the day he got accepted," admitted Loretta Romain, as she and close family friend Deanna Latouf celebrated after winning the Family Weekend

scavenger hunt. The women, along with their husbands, left their Michigan homes to come visit their sons, Joe and Kyle, and to spend an entire week discovering Grenada before attending the most important event, the White Coat Ceremony.

"The island is beautiful and the campus is spectacular. Any parent who has a chance to come and experience Family Weekend should do it," said Mrs. Romain. "And I'm thrilled my son won't be alone," laughed Mrs. Latouf. "Kyle and Joe were accepted to SGU together and came to Grenada together and we couldn't be more proud of them both."

Colin Dowe, Associate Dean of Enrolment Planning, added, "The sense of pride and accomplishment with which the parents speak of their children not only brings joy to us but serves as a reminder of the great responsibility we have taken on in assisting these students in realizing their dreams." ■



The Spring 2016 class of medical students was welcomed at ceremonies in Grenada and the United Kingdom in January.

Spring 2016 SOM Class Takes Professional Oath

Each step in an individual's journey as a physician is taken while wearing a white laboratory coat, the symbol for scientific medicine. At the Spring 2016 School of Medicine White Coat Ceremonies in January, its keynote speaker, Dr. Arthur Derse, used five narratives to illustrate the power of their chosen profession, beginning with the very ceremony in which they were participating.

Dr. Derse, the Director of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities and Professor of Bioethics and Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, explained that the tale of the white coat symbolizes the shift to scientific medicine. Physicians wore black coats at first, and surveys have since shown that patients prefer their caretakers to wear white coats as opposed to scrubs.

The rise of scientists dramatically improved medicine, with the likes

of John Snow, the father of modern epidemiology, Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to earn an MD, and global health ambassadors such as Keith B. Taylor paving the way for groundbreaking research and improved results in health care.

The third narrative was the fictional stories of medicine, which have served to mold the public's expectation of a physician, such as literary novels or popular television shows like "ER" or "House."

Patients' stories make up the fourth narrative, and through listening with empathy, physicians can lead them back to comfort or a cure through prognosis and treatment. Physicians can then absorb the values embedded in those stories and treat others with greater efficiency, compassion, and understanding.

The fifth narrative, Dr. Derse said, had yet to be told. It was in the

hands of the future physicians who stood before him, as well as the Spring 2016 students in SGU's Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program, who took their oath at Northumbria University in the UK two weeks prior.

"To be a good doctor and to write your story well in medicine so you can better help to diagnose, to heal, and to comfort your patient, you'll need to listen carefully to these tales of your patients, your colleagues, and the history of medicine," he stated.

Two decades earlier, Dr. Hilary Bingol, MD, SGU '00, the evening's emcee, had arrived in Grenada to begin her own journey of becoming a physician and was overjoyed to see her alma mater flourishing. "This school and this country are the best places to learn medicine," she said, "you will never regret your decision to come here and years from now you will cherish the experiences you will have here." ■



Veterinary medical students will spend three years in Grenada and a fourth at one of 29 affiliated universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, and Australia.

Veterinary Students Begins Their Journey

In January, the newest class of veterinary medical students at St. George's University donned the emblematic White Coat and recited the Oath of Professional Commitment, signifying their entry into the profession of veterinary medicine.

"It's an amazing and well-respected profession," declared Dr. Jessica Harmon, DVM SGU '13. Dr. Harmon, this term's emcee, welcomed and congratulated the incoming veterinary class. "You made it," she rejoiced, "but this is where the real work begins. This is the beginning of a long but very rewarding journey."

Currently an associate at the McDavitt Veterinary Clinic in Zionsville, Indiana, Dr. Harmon credits her experience in Grenada as having shaped her successful career as a veterinarian. "The education I received at SGU went past knowledge," she said. "It taught me

to be a compassionate veterinarian and to care for all of my patients."

Attending his second School of Veterinary Medicine White Coat Ceremony was Dr. G. Richard Olds, Chief Executive Officer of St. George's University and its first-ever President. "The White Coat Ceremony itself is relatively new, started by Columbia University in the early 1990s, with SGU being one of the first medical and veterinary schools to hold a White Coat Ceremony just three years later," said Dr. Olds. "Symbolic of all health professions uniting in one health, the White Coat Ceremony is now almost universal. And so today, you too will go through the process of donning the white coat as you begin your health professional journey."

Dr. Timothy Ogilvie, Dean of the SVM, shared four tips with the matriculating class that have served him well in his 41 years in the field

of veterinary medicine. "Show up—because real change is made by those who show up and stick around. Keep up—don't fall behind in your studies; this is a volume intensive program. Step up—colleagues, community members, and others will look to you for leadership. And lastly, cheer up—SGU is a great place and you're going to have fun." He also took the opportunity to introduce his longtime friend and fellow Canadian, Dr. Trevor Ames, to deliver this year's keynote address. Addressing the incoming students, Dr. Ames said, "Today as you put on this coat you signify to those around you that you understand the professional, ethical, and social responsibilities of being a veterinarian. "I would encourage you to not only think of today as your entry into veterinary school but also as your entry into the profession and begin practicing the ethical behavior and the responsible acts required of a graduate veterinarian." ■

Teimour Nasirov

Class of 2000
School of Medicine

As a thoracic surgeon, he has had a profound impact on the lives of his patients, but Teimour Nasirov, MD SGU '00, the Medical Director for the pediatric and adult congenital cardiothoracic surgery program for Sutter Health in California, is the first to admit that his patients have had a profound impact on him.

"It truly is an inspiration," Dr. Nasirov said. "You're able to affect patients' lives for years and even decades. You can increase their lifespan, and that's an incredible feeling."

Through Sutter Health, a family of doctors and hospitals covering cities and communities in northern California, Dr. Nasirov and his team perform open- and closed-heart surgeries on patients of all ages, from newborns to the elderly. In addition, he is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Stanford University School of Medicine's Department of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, working with students and residents at Stanford University Medical Center and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford.

Dr. Nasirov was born and raised in Azerbaijan, growing up in a family of pediatricians and surgeons. He earned a scholarship to attend North Carolina State University, from where he garnered his bachelor's degree. When it came time to choose a medical school, SGU stood out as a terrific opportunity.



"There truly is this culture of pride within SGU. Everyone wants the students to succeed, and everything possible will be done to help them become successful physicians. That's why I am where I am today."

"I had read about quality of education, and I knew several physicians who had graduated from SGU, so I was convinced that I would come out on the other end as a well-rounded, well-educated physician," Dr. Nasirov said.

Upon attaining his Doctor of Medicine, he completed his residency in general surgery at the University of North Dakota. He had always wanted to be a surgeon, but his residency steered him toward cardiac surgery in particular.

"Cardiothoracic surgery is an ever-changing and growing field, and given its wide spectrum, it's very

interesting and challenging," Dr. Nasirov said. "It's rewarding to see immediate results, with a very sick patient getting better and being able to go home to his or her family within four or five days."

He has worked with some of the pioneers in the industry. In 2005, he went on to a cardiac surgery fellowship at the Loma Linda University, working under Dr. Leonard Bailey, a pioneer in infant heart transplantation surgery. In 2008, Dr. Nasirov began his journey at Stanford with a congenital heart surgery fellowship and appointment as a Clinical Instructor in pediatric cardiac surgery. He has worked alongside top pediatric cardiothoracic surgeons in the field, including Drs. V. Mohan Reddy and Frank Hanley.

All of his experiences have shaped him into the surgeon he is today. He is pleased that the path he took to his successful career made a stop in Grenada.

"The experience at SGU was everything that I expected and much more," he said. "There truly is this culture of pride within the University. Everyone wants the students to succeed, and everything possible will be done to help them become successful physicians. That's why I am where I am today." ■

Jennifer Lopez

Class of 2011/2013
School of Veterinary Medicine
School of Graduate Studies

Veterinarian Jennifer Lopez, DVM SGU '11, MBA SGU '13, has long been accustomed to making important decisions that affect the welfare of her patients. Now as Medical Director of VCA Castle Shannon Animal Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, her decisions affect the entire practice. It's a position for which she is well prepared, having obtained both her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Business Administration from St. George's University.

"The reason I got this job was because of my MBA," Dr. Lopez said. "They were looking for someone with management experience, and a lot of the things that I learned in class I use every day."

Having made a positive impression at Banfield Pet Hospital during four separate stints on her breaks from school, Dr. Lopez began practicing as an Associate Veterinarian at Banfield's midtown Miami location in 2011. It was during that time that she enrolled in SGU's MBA program, specializing in multisector health management. With the exception of two one-week residency sessions in Grenada, classes were held entirely online, which worked well with her hospital schedule. She completed her MBA in fewer than 18 months, and graduated in 2013 with a deeper understanding of international business, global health, and principled leadership.

Dr. Lopez now oversees 12 doctors and 30 support staff in her role as Medical Director. She also works as an Emergency and General Practice



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Veterinarian, visiting with patients for well visits and conducting critical care treatment, including surgeries, on a regular basis. In addition, the hospital gives back to the community, hosting community days, donating their services and educating owners on how to best take care of their pets.

Dr. Lopez obtained her Bachelor of Science in animal biology from the University of Florida in 2001, and went on to earn a BS in business administration from the University of Phoenix in 2004. While pursuing those degrees, she worked in UF's College of Veterinary Medicine as a veterinary technician, specializing in dermatology, which she also

researched in depth. Tara Paterson, DVM SGU '03, and Janet Caracciolo, DVM SGU '03, came through Florida during their clinical year and spoke glowingly about their experiences at SGU. They encouraged her to apply, and she enrolled in 2006.

Dr. Lopez found veterinary school to be a challenge, but she was up to that challenge. She embraced the Grenadian culture and appreciated the hands-on experience that the School of Veterinary Medicine provided early on. She and her classmates held numerous community outreach events, including vaccine clinics and sponsoring lunches.

"It was more difficult than I expected," Dr. Lopez said. "You don't just sit at the beach with flash cards every day, although you definitely do occasionally. It's a good balance. Grenada is a beautiful country and its people are amazing."

"The friends and the connections that I made and the confidence that I gained made me a better veterinarian and person," she added. "The faculty spent time with us. They really cared about us doing well, going on to do clinics well, and becoming very good veterinarians."

She has become one herself, and hopes to pass down the knowledge and skills she has gained to her staff. For a Floridian, relocating to the northeast was an adjustment for Dr. Lopez and her bulldogs, but she admits she has had her time in the sun. "In Florida and Grenada, I wore a lot of flip-flops and shorts, so I'm good with scarves and boots." ■

The Chronicle



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