



Dr. Andrew Sussman Appointed SGU's New CEO



Dr. Andrew Sussman was named Chief Executive Officer of St. George's University in May 2017.

Dr. Andrew Sussman joined St. George's University as its new Chief Executive Officer in May, and in a short time, he has learned about what makes it unique.

"My time here has been terrific. I've been really inspired by our students, our faculty, and our mission," Dr. Sussman said. "I've enjoyed getting to know the leadership team and better understanding the programs, the culture, and the long history of excellence. I look forward to expanding the opportunities available to students and to making the University even better in the future."

Dr. Sussman came to SGU with a long and distinguished career at some of the top hospitals,

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Olson Named New Veterinary Dean

St. George's University is proud to announce the appointment of Neil C. Olson, DVM, PhD, as the new Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Olson is currently Dean of the University of Missouri (MU) College of Veterinary Medicine and will officially take over the position of St. George's current Dean, Dr. Timothy Ogilvie, on August 15, 2017. SGU has benefited greatly from the vision and leadership of Dr. Ogilvie, who is stepping down after a highly successful three-year term as Dean.

"Under the direction of Dr. Ogilvie, the School of Veterinary Medicine

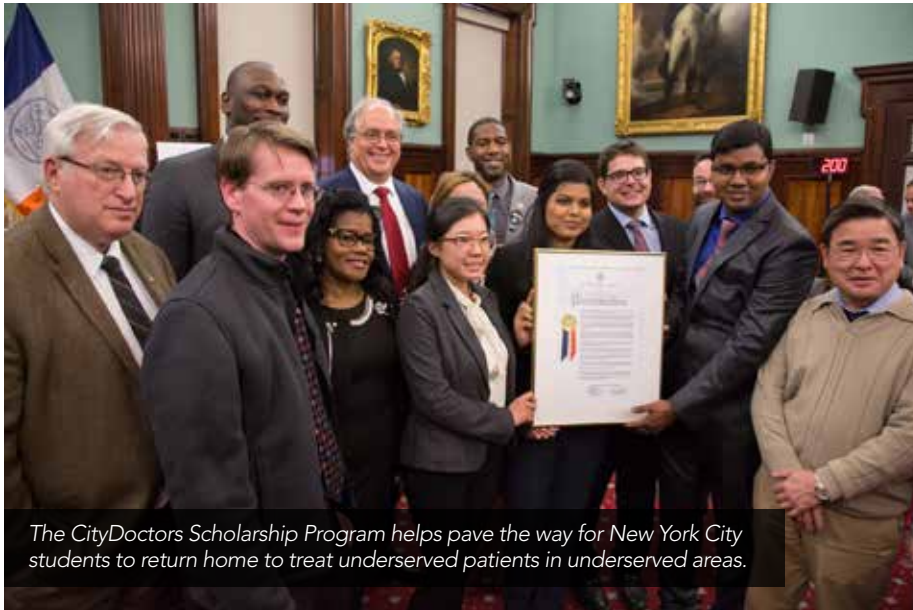
has flourished, and our students have continued to excel and to receive the very best veterinary medical education," said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President of St. George's University. "We look forward to welcoming Dr. Olson and working with him to continue building our program and reinforcing our commitment to veterinary medicine and research."

As Dr. Ogilvie did so wonderfully during his tenure, Dr. Olson will oversee the SVM's academic units, centers, and initiatives,

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The CityDoctors Scholarship Program helps pave the way for New York City students to return home to treat underserved patients in underserved areas.

New York City Council Honors CityDoctors Scholarship Program

The New York City Council issued a proclamation honoring St. George’s University for establishing the CityDoctors Scholarship Program, which covers tuition for SGU medical students who commit to working with underserved patients in the city’s public health care system.

“We are grateful for the New York City Council’s recognition of the good work that our CityDoctors scholarship recipients are doing in New York’s neediest neighborhoods,” said Charles Modica, Chancellor of St. George’s University. “And we at St. George’s look forward to educating the next generation of CityDoctors scholars, who are making an honorable commitment to serve the people of New York.”

St. George’s University established the CityDoctors Scholarship Program in partnership with NYC

Health + Hospitals to support students from New York City who might otherwise be unable to afford medical school. Students commit to one year of service with NYC Health + Hospitals for each year of scholarship aid they receive.

This year, the program will award \$1.5 million in scholarships to 12

recipients from New York City and its surrounding area, who will commit to practicing primary care medicine in the city’s public health care system after graduation.

Since its inception in 2012, the CityDoctors program has awarded full- and partial-tuition scholarships to 112 students, totaling more than \$12 million in medical school scholarships.

“The collaboration with St. George’s University has enabled more than 80 students the opportunity not only to continue their education, but to have job security following

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graduation,” said Mabelle Allen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, NYC Health + Hospitals. “The program also helps bring more primary care physicians into the workforce and into communities across the city, where they are so desperately needed. Thank you to the New York City Council for acknowledging this important program.”

“St. George’s is committed to educating the top-notch medical graduates that the United States needs to close its doctor shortage,” said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President of St. George’s University. “The CityDoctors Scholarship Program stands out as a great example of how medical schools can work with hospitals to do just that.” ■

SGU Grad Brings Hyperbaric Medicine to Grenada

Rated among the top diving destinations in the world, Grenada regularly welcomes fervent divers and major diving clubs to its waters. However, with no hyperbaric chamber on island, the risk of decompression sickness—also known as divers’ disease or the bends—remains a constant threat.

An avid diver while attending St. George’s University, Lutz “Joe” Amechi, MD SGU ‘93, often wondered what would happen if divers were stricken with the bends, which can result in crippling injuries—even paralysis or death—due to arterial gas embolisms. More than two decades later, Dr. Amechi has helped secure Grenada’s first hyperbaric chamber at St. Augustine’s Medical Services (SAMS) in hopes of significantly reducing the effects of dive-related injuries.

“For years, our career fishermen have been risking their lives diving for their livelihood in very dangerous conditions. With the nearest hyperbaric chamber located in Barbados, there was no means to treat the damages caused by dive injuries in a timely manner,” said Dr. Amechi, Managing Director and Resident Physician, SAMS. “Having a hyperbaric chamber on shore will give both our locals and our visitors

tremendous confidence in our capabilities and support of our dive sector in Grenada.”

Additionally, SGU has partnered with SAMS in starting a selective in hyperbaric medicine, with the first group of students slated to participate this fall. As faculty advisor, Dr. Duncan Kirkby was instrumental in both acquiring and building an educational program around the hyperbaric chamber.

“One of our main goals is to make our students stand out,” said Dr. Kirkby, Professor of Neuroscience and Associate Dean of Students at SGU. “These selectives provide another avenue to help our students set themselves apart from every other medical student. We’re offering a dynamic way to augment the competitiveness of our graduates for residency.”

Also teaching the course in conjunction with SGU is Dr. Tyler Sexton, President and Chief Executive Officer of Caribbean Hyperbaric Medicine (CHM) and a former student of Dr. Kirkby. Working with SAMS to supply both the hyperbaric chamber and the medical know-how, Dr. Sexton created CHM to focus directly on bringing these types of programs to the Caribbean.

“These courses enable students to become actual certified technicians, allowing them to move into the world of hyperbaric medicine. They can also choose to become an attending hyperbaric physician, giving them another pathway of using their education and furthering their career in medicine,” said Dr. Sexton. “This program doesn’t include just the coursework, but the clinical hours as well, that gives these students invaluable hands-on experience utilizing the hyperbaric chamber. This will open their eyes to the wound care component, to limb salvage, and reducing diabetic amputation rates. Hyperbaric medicine bridges a variety of specialties, including emergency medicine, surgery, and primary care.”

According to Dr. Sexton, the fully remanufactured hyperbaric chamber is accredited by Divers Alert Network and is recognized by the American College of Hyperbaric Medicine. It has the capability of treating four patients at once and houses seven breathing systems. It can perform approximately 100,000 dives before having to replace any of its parts and is approved by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and 510(k) cleared by the Food and Drug Administration. ■



SGU graduate Lutz “Joe” Amechi



Grenada’s first hyperbaric chamber will significantly reduce the effects of dive-related injuries.

SGU, Canadore Partner to Create Conservationists

Canadore College has entered a partnership that will enable qualified graduates to earn their Bachelor of Science at St. George's University in marine, wildlife, and conservation biology.

"We are excited to offer Canadore students the chance to study biology in a unique setting, at our campus in the Caribbean," said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President of St. George's University. "Our program will equip them with the tools they need to thrive in careers in the life sciences and conservation."

In order to qualify for the St. George's program, Canadore graduates must have excellent academic records as well as a passion for marine and wildlife conservation. They can apply after completing their first two years of undergraduate study and receiving their Environmental Technician—Protection and Compliance

diplomas. Admitted students complete the last two years of their education at SGU and earn a Bachelor of Science.

Students will focus on issues related to climate change, water conservation, and sustainability. SGU's location will offer them ample opportunity to conduct groundbreaking field work in disciplines such as marine biology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and conservation. They'll also have access to research partners at Grenada's Fisheries Division, the Marine Protected Areas Program, and the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, the on-campus research institute developed with the goal of advancing health and environmental development through research and education programs.

"This is a tremendous academic pathway for our graduates," said

Derek Erickson, Professor in Canadore College's School of Environmental Studies and Biotechnology. "St. George's approach to personalizing education and their integration of experiential learning opportunities, in the natural Caribbean environment, are truly unique and invaluable."

St. George's University maintains academic partnerships with dozens of educational institutions in 13 countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

"SGU is committed to educating the next generation of leaders in health and the sciences from a global perspective," said Dr. Olds. "We look forward to welcoming Canadore's best and brightest to our campus for many years to come." ■





St. George's University administrators met with Sandra Banner, then Director of CaRMS, and the Medical Council of Canada on campus.

Former CaRMS Director Joins SGU as Consultant

In April, St. George's University hired Sandra Banner, the former director of the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), as its new consultant for University relations in Canada.

"I'm thrilled to join the St. George's University team," Ms. Banner said. "I look forward to expanding St. George's presence in Canada and strengthening our relationships with the Canadian medical community."

Ms. Banner will focus on expanding St. George's University's clinical programs in Canada, which currently include partnerships with the University of Saskatchewan and Vancouver General Hospital. She will also assist in recruiting Canadian students and shaping SGU's message to Canadian audiences.

Ms. Banner comes to SGU after serving for 29 years as Executive Director and CEO of CaRMS, the national organization that matches students with residencies in Canada. During her tenure, CaRMS also grew from 1 1/2 full-time staffers to more than 40. The Service now serves

over 7,000 applicants and 650 programs across Canada.

Ms. Banner brings a wealth of medical and educational experience to SGU. She has served as a Board Director on the Physician Credentials Registry of Canada and is an Honorary Member of the College of Family Physicians in Canada. She has also presented to government committees on the state of medical education, including the Advisory Committee on Health Delivery and Human Resources, established by the Deputy Ministers of Health in Canada. Ms. Banner collaborated and contributed to the Future of Medical Education in Canada, a ground-breaking report aiming to reform the medical education system in order to better address the health needs of Canadians.

"St. George's University is committed to training the physicians Canada needs to address its nationwide doctor shortage," said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President, St. George's University. "Sandra is the perfect person to lead our efforts in pursuit of that mission." ■



"I look forward to expanding St. George's presence in Canada and strengthening our relationships with the Canadian medical community."

—Sandra Banner

Veterinary Student Earns Inaugural CVMA Award

Through the student organization she helped create—Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA)—St. George’s University student Noreen Wong has been a leader on veterinary issues and animal welfare advocacy in Grenada. The CVMA acknowledged her efforts this spring by awarding her with its inaugural International Student Award, created specifically for its student affiliate members at international schools.

“This has been the most exciting news that I’ve had since getting into vet school. It really means a lot,” enthused Ms. Wong. “Although most people think you should be proud of yourself because you won the award, I’m most proud because I represented SGU. During the nomination process for this award, you have so many people supporting you from faculty, staff



Noreen Wong

and students, so I wanted to make them proud.”

As President, Ms. Wong, along with the help of her fellow Canadian students, formed the student club to integrate the CVMA’s vision of promoting animal welfare and One Health—ensuring optimal care for animals, people, and the environment on the island of Grenada. She was selected as SGU’s candidate for the award based on her strong leadership, demonstrated not only through her work with the SCVMA but also in her role as a peer tutor in

the Department of Educational Services. Ms. Wong has been a dedicated member of the veterinary community, volunteering at the SGU One Health One Medicine Clinic—an outreach event which brings together the veterinary and medical students offering free medical care to both humans and animals. She is also a member of SGU’s Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA), as well as the SVM Surgery Club, and Students of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society.

The CVMA Award, instituted in 1966, consists of a plaque and a monetary award of \$800 presented annually to a third-year veterinary student at each of the Canadian veterinary colleges. The recipient of the International Student Award is selected by the student’s classmates on the basis of leadership and achievement in student affairs. ■

Veterinary Anesthetists to Descend on Grenada in 2018

Grenada will be at the center of veterinary anesthesia discussion worldwide next spring when more than 200 leading experts in the field will descend on the island for the semi-annual Association of Veterinary Anesthetists (AVA) conference. Usually convened in Europe where the organization was founded, the 2018 meeting will mark the first time in AVA history that the conference will be held in the Caribbean.

Dr. Karin Kalchofner Guerrero, Associate Professor in Veterinary Anesthesia at SGU, worked diligently to arrange the meeting in Grenada, for which SGU and the Radisson Grenada Beach Resort in Grand Anse will serve as hosts.

“Having the conference here will

provide a great opportunity to showcase the evolution of SGU over the last 40 years into one of the world’s most renowned centers of international education today,” commented Dr. Guerrero.

Themed “Anesthesia and Analgesia—Myths and Misconceptions,” the conference will feature lectures and abstract sessions from a wide range of delegates. Presentations include “Pain in Mice and Man: Ironic Adventures in Translation” by Dr. Jeffrey Mogil, Pain Genetics Lab, McGill University, Canada; “Evaluating recovery of horses from anesthesia: moving beyond the subjective” by Dr. Stuart Clark-Price, University of Illinois; and “Safe anesthesia in young children: what really matters”, by Professor Markus



St. George’s University

Weiss, Anesthesiologist-in-Chief, University Children’s Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland.

The meeting, which will take place March 11-13, 2018, will also feature a pre-congress day, which is aimed at interns, residents, practitioners, and anyone else who shares a common interest in anesthesia, analgesia, and animal welfare to exchange ideas, expand their knowledge, and develop new skills. ■



The Class of 2017 included graduates from 33 countries.



Valedictorian Blossom Philbert

Class of 2017 Urged to Climb from “Good to Great”

With an excellent education under their wings, sound advice to lean on and the world before them, greatness is within reach for the St. George’s University Class of 2017.

Such was explained by those who addressed the more than 300 graduates at May’s commencement ceremony in Grenada, including an SGU alumnus who once stood in the graduates’ shoes. Joel Jack, BSc SGU ’03, an Assemblyman of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and the Keynote Speaker for the evening, implored his fellow alumni to find their passion, prepare for change, and embrace the future, citing Jim Collins’ inspirational book, *Good to Great*.

“When what you are deeply passionate about and what drives your economic engine come together, not only does your work move towards greatness but so too does your life,” said Mr. Jack, Deputy Chief Secretary and Secretary of Finance and the Economy of THA. “For in the end, it is impossible to have a great life unless it is a meaningful life.”

Joining him in the family of SGU alumni were graduates representing

33 countries across the globe. The 2017 class included nearly 150 students from the School of Arts and Sciences and more than 120 from the School of Graduate Studies. In addition, 65 new physicians and one veterinary graduate attended the ceremony.

In her address to the crowd, valedictorian Blossom Philbert, BSc ’17, also quoted Collins, saying “greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is a matter of conscious choice.” She went on to compare life to that of a book, but unlike the chapters of their textbooks, they could not flip forward to see how many more pages were left.

“My next chapter might last four years, whereas the person sitting next to me might write six chapters in four years,” Ms. Philbert said. “It matters not as long as those chapters are representative of the journey that leads to a life full of greatness, which will ultimately give a pleasant read when we flip back through its pages.”

Among the degrees conferred by the School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Trevor Noel, Assistant Director of the Windward Islands Reserach and

Education Foundation (WINDREF), became the fifth student—and first Grenadian—to earn his Doctor of Philosophy at SGU. Dr. Noel was simultaneously inducted into the Gamma Kappa Chapter of the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society for his extraordinary service to public health and invaluable contributions to WINDREF.

SGU also recognized Dr. Rudi Webster with its Distinguished Service Award for his work spanning the fields of medicine, sports, diplomacy, and politics. Dr. Webster was instrumental in establishing the Shell Cricket Academy at SGU, where he served as Academy Director—an endeavor which signified that SGU was not just a medical school but much more. Several of SGU’s Shell Academy graduates went on to play for the West Indies cricket team, including Darren Sammy, the captain for consecutive T20 World Cups.

“To this year’s graduates, all that you have achieved so far shows what you have learned and what you have done,” stated Dr. Webster. “However, it does not reflect what you can learn, and what you can become. That should be your focus now.” ■

Newest Doctors Rewarded for Their Commitment

From all around the world and all walks of life, the St. George's University School of Medicine Class of 2017 came to Grenada to pursue their dreams of becoming a physician. At Lincoln Center in New York City in June, they each were rewarded for their commitment to their profession and their future, earning the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

This year's class is comprised of graduates from 86 countries, from Afghanistan to Zambia. They join the more than 18,000 alumni of SGU, including over 14,000 physicians.

"Graduates, this is truly your day, one in which we celebrate your accomplishments and pause for a moment to dream with you of your future," said Dr. Joseph Childers, Provost. "As much as this ceremony symbolizes an end to your formal studies at SGU, it also signifies our faith in you, our unshakeable belief that you are moving forward fully prepared to handle the intellectual and professional challenges that you will inevitably face."

"On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration of St. George's University, I want to congratulate

all of you in the graduating class of 2017," said Dr. G. Richard Olds, President. "I also want to congratulate the other people in this audience, without whom this graduation would not have been possible—your family, friends, loved ones, and spouses."

The first to cross the stage was Grace Lepis, MD SGU '17, who was overjoyed to have matched into a categorical surgery residency at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, NJ. Since completing her basic sciences in Grenada, she has returned to the island twice, including for her honeymoon.

"I love the island and I love the University," Dr. Lepis said. "SGU gave me an opportunity that nobody else gave me. To be here at graduation is a humbling experience. We all worked very hard to get to this point, and I'm proud of myself and all of my classmates."

Eight years ago, Janish Kothari, MD SGU '17, watched his sister, Megha, graduate from SGU and move on to a career in gastroenterology. Her example and mentorship helped Dr. Kothari through the challenges of medical school. He will begin an

internal medicine residency at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn this summer.

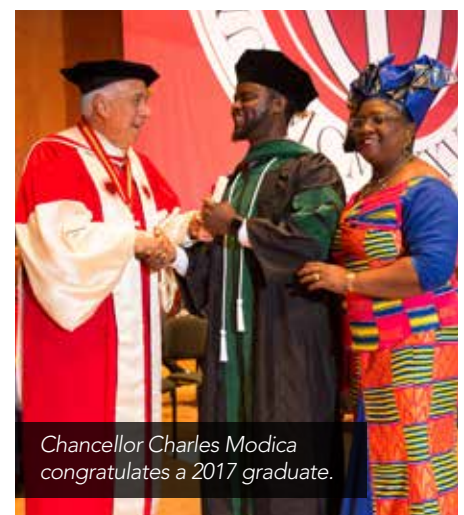
"Everything flew by so quickly," Dr. Kothari said. "I remember getting off the plane in Grenada, and now I'm standing here with my robe and getting ready for residency. It's a surreal moment. I'm very excited to see what the future has in store for me, and can sincerely say that SGU has prepared me for whatever challenges I may face."

In addressing the graduates and their families, Chancellor Modica took a moment to recognize Nelly Golarz de Bourne, the former Dean of Women and Chair of Histology at SGU and widow of the University's first Vice Chancellor, Geoffrey Bourne. Dr. Golarz de Bourne was on hand to watch her grandson, Dr. Gordon Bourne, take the Hippocratic Oath.

The Chancellor also awarded Dr. Allen Pensick, Provost Emeritus, with a Distinguished Service Medal for his more than 30 years of service to the University and Grenadian community, including as Provost from 2004-16. ■



This year's grads join SGU's 14,000-plus School of Medicine alumni.



Chancellor Charles Modica congratulates a 2017 graduate.

Class of 2017 Veterinarians Take Next Step in Their Journeys



The Class of 2017 celebrates at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Commencement marked the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another for St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 2017. Before setting off to begin their careers as practicing veterinarians, they convened on June 11 at Lincoln Center in New York City to celebrate their collective success.

This year's class of veterinarians hailed from 10 countries, as far away as Taiwan, India, and Botswana. Among the 2017 graduates was Abigail Maynard, DVM SGU '17, from Barbados, who became the first doctor in her family on Sunday. Dr. Maynard plans to go into mixed animal practice before joining the public health residency program at the University of Minnesota. At graduation, she was cheered on by her parents, grandmother, and godmother.

"I feel really overwhelmed right now. I just can't believe that the dream that I've had since I was 6 years old is finally coming true," shared Dr. Maynard. "I felt very prepared by SGU especially during my clinical year. Comparing myself to other

clinical students, I felt there were definitely certain areas in which I was leagues ahead of them. Today, my classmates and I are reunited, and after all our hard work I'm just so happy that we are here to achieve our dreams together."

Hooded by her uncle, Dr. Albert D. Franklin, a medical infirmary practitioner, an emotional Devan Sacknoff, DVM SGU '17, became the first veterinarian in her family. Dr. Sacknoff, who admitted to eyeing a career in veterinary medicine since the fourth grade, was joined at David Geffen Hall by her parents, aunt, and uncle. After graduation, she is applying to be a general practitioner in Huntington Beach, California.

"It doesn't seem real; I'm still in shock," said Dr. Sacknoff. "It feels amazing to be here, and I'm so glad to see everyone again after being apart for a year."

A new addition to the program, this year's ceremony featured heartfelt words by a class member—Clarence Williams, DVM SGU '17—who was nominated by the graduands to

speaking on their behalf. Currently working in a small animal clinic in south New Jersey in emergency and clinical care, Dr. Williams shared pleasant memories of their time in True Blue.

"We've been on a wonderful journey these past four years. It has been extremely tough. We've obtained a lot of information and we're going to have to continue to obtain more," said Dr. Williams. "But despite all our sacrifices, we did it; we're veterinarians now, we're doctors. It's still hard to believe, but we didn't do it alone. We had help from our great professors and all these memories have helped me realize that we've been like a family—an SGU family."

Although unable to attend the ceremony in person, Dr. Eduardo Durante, Senior Associate Dean, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his longtime contributions to SGU in small animal medicine and surgery at the Small Animal Clinic. During his tenure at SGU, Dr. Durante also served as Acting Dean in 2013, and Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Programs in SVM in 2010 and again in 2013.

SVM Dean Dr. Timothy Ogilvie, who accepted the award on Dr. Durante's behalf, was also recognized by Chancellor Modica and President Olds for his outstanding service to the University during his three-year term. Dr. Neil C. Olson, the former Dean of University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, will officially assume the same position at SGU on August 15.

Since opening its doors in 1999, SGU's School of Veterinary Medicine has graduated more than 1,200 veterinarians from 29 countries. These alumni have gone on to practice in 47 US states and 10 countries around the world. ■

2017 Commencement in Photos



2017 Commencement in Photos





MATTHEW DAWDY
Orthopaedic Surgery
*Northern Ontario
School of Medicine*

On the morning of the match, Matthew Dawdy's breakfast with his girlfriend and family was just an appetizer to a life-changing moment. When noon arrived, Mr. Dawdy learned that he had secured

a highly competitive orthopaedic surgery residency at Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)—his top-choice program—through the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS).

"We all found out together and were very happy," he said. "I'm very excited. I've been working toward this for four years now."

Mr. Dawdy obtained his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Western Ontario before arriving at SGU. From the outset, he knew of orthopaedic surgery's highly competitive nature, with only a handful of positions available across Canada. "From day one, my focus was on setting up rotations in Canada and building connections," he said.

Mr. Dawdy flourished during his

basic science years and gained insight on the path ahead from David Santone, MD SGU '08, an orthopaedic surgeon in Markham, Ontario. Mr. Dawdy confirmed his interest during orthopaedic rotations in his first clinical year and bolstered his résumé with two observerships and three orthopaedic elective rotations in Canada. Although he traveled a great distance to earn his education, he looked forward to diving in headfirst this summer.

"SGU does a terrific job of preparing its students to be successful," Mr. Dawdy said. "All the resources we needed were available, and I was as prepared, if not more prepared, than the US students I rotated with. In the end, I kept working as hard as I could, and I'm glad that everything lined up properly." ■

The improbable, incredible journey of Anna Maro will now wind through Philadelphia—just where she hoped it would. On Match Day, Ms. Maro learned that she was headed to the internal medicine residency program at Drexel University—her number one choice.

"I opened up the email and just jumped for joy," she said. "I screamed so loud that my neighbor came from downstairs thinking something was wrong. I was so happy though."

Born and raised in Tanzania, Ms. Maro immigrated to the United States before college. Her mother had passed away a few years prior, and while attending the University of Massachusetts, her father succumbed to cancer. They had called her "little doctor" as a child, and Ms. Maro would not be denied

her or their dream, not even as she was forced to work a full-time job and to live in her car for eight months in order to make ends meet.

She graduated from UMass with a Bachelor of Science in biology, and enrolled at St. George's University in the fall of 2013. Her desire to land at Drexel was solidified during a visit to Philadelphia during her first clinical training year. It had everything she wanted in a program.

"It's a university program with several fellowship opportunities, and at the same time, I get to help the underserved, which is my passion," Ms. Maro said.

Of following her dreams and becoming a physician, Ms. Maro said, "My parents would be very proud. It was hard, but I had this dream that I wanted to accomplish, so I went to



ANNA MARO
Internal Medicine
*Drexel University
College of Medicine*

work, I went to school, and I smiled like everything was fine. I kept pushing and never gave up." ■



CHARLOTTE MAROUS
Ophthalmology
*SUNY Health Science Center
at Brooklyn*

As she crossed the Manhattan Bridge during an afternoon run, her cell phone rang, showing a New York number. Charlotte Marous had been on 11 residency interviews for ophthalmology, but only one in the

Big Apple—SUNY Downstate. Amid the hustle and bustle, she received the news that she had obtained a highly competitive position at her top-choice institution.

"It was the best day of my life," Ms. Marous said. "It was something that I had been hoping for and dreaming about for a very long time."

Following her basic science years in Grenada, she entered her clinical rotations with an open mind. Although Ms. Marous enjoyed them all, she felt especially drawn to ophthalmology and began to narrow her sights. She gained perspective from numerous acquaintances in the field, including Orazio Giliberti, MD '82, Associate Dean of US Clinical Studies at SGU and owner/operator of Giliberti Eye and Laser Center in Totowa, NJ.

"Dr. Giliberti was so important in the whole process," Ms. Marous said. "I was nervous about applying for ophthalmology, but he gave me the confidence to go for it. He really stressed the importance of research and of applying early for outside elective rotations."

In her final clinical year, she bolstered her research credentials and completed externships at the University of Utah, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai. Her career will continue in Brooklyn, just another stop in her journey that included a swing through Grenada.

"SGU gave me an opportunity to go into medicine that I didn't find anywhere else," Ms. Marous said. "I'm very appreciative of that." ■

Masaru Nishiaoki was confident that he had matched into his top-choice program, but nevertheless, Match Day still brought some anxiety.

"I think I kind of knew from the vibes I got from the program and the second look that I went on," Mr. Nishiaoki said. "It wasn't entirely a surprise, but it was nice to have it in writing."

He was "elated" to learn he was headed to the Ghent Family Medicine Program at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. He returns to the southern region of the United States and joins a program that fits his ideals.

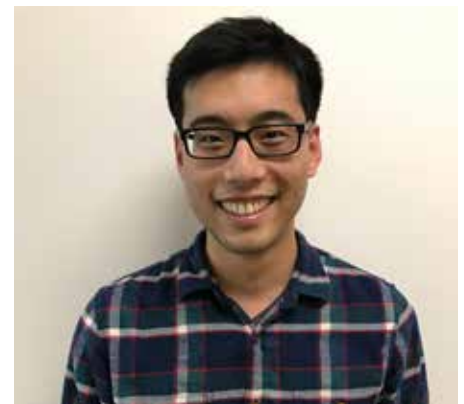
"I like the fact that it's an academic center and that it treats a large underserved population," Mr. Nishiaoki said. "I'll be able to practice the full spectrum of family

medicine that I want to do later in the future. Also, the residents were so open and kind. They were willing to take an interest in us as clinical students."

Mr. Nishiaoki became interested in SGU after speaking to his counselors at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. One of his professors was an SGU graduate who greatly valued her experience.

"She spoke very highly about the University, the support system, and the work ethic of the students who go there," Mr. Nishiaoki said. "She thought that I would be able to come back and pursue a residency in any field that I wanted to."

He was rewarded for his dedication with a position at his top-choice program, and encourages prospective students to strongly



MASARU NISHIAOKI
Family Medicine
*Eastern Virginia
Medical School (Ghent)*

consider SGU if given the chance.

"SGU has such a strong track record," he said. "I feel more than prepared for residency." ■



Top: CME attendees enjoy a day in the sun. Below: Dr. Nirav Shah, MD SGU Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland, lectures about the impact and treatment of sepsis.

Alumni CME Conference Examines Advances in Medicine

Since opening its doors 40 years ago, St. George’s University has evolved from a mere idea into an international center for education. Health care, too, has witnessed significant advances that have changed the landscape of medicine. These innovations were examined and celebrated in concert with SGU’s milestone anniversary at March’s School of Medicine Alumni Association (SOMAA) continuing medical education (CME) conference in Grenada.

Titled “Advances in Medicine in the Last 40 Years,” the four-day conference was sponsored in part by Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) in New Jersey. It featured prominent SOMAA alumni and faculty presenters who presented on such topics as sepsis treatment, opioid abuse and solutions for health care providers, as well as the impact of infectious disease on society today.

In addition, SGU President Dr. G. Richard Olds delivered a presentation on “Building a Medical School Around Social Needs.”

“CME conferences are designed to educate physicians on what’s happening in practice, and in medicine. My presentation focused



on what’s the latest we know in the education of physicians and how to design a medical to school to get a higher percentage in the future to better address US health needs,” explained Dr. Olds. “This CME in particular was aimed at a broad group of physicians trying to give them updates in areas that are relevant to their practice but they may not individually be as up to date on.”

“As the academic sponsor, Hackensack Meridian Health—Hackensack University Medical Center (HackensackUMC) is pleased to bring continuing medical education back to the island of Grenada,” said Dr. Joseph Feldman, MD SGU ’89, Chairman of Emergency Medicine, HackensackUMC. “We look forward to partnering with SGU on this important initiative for many

years to come and to expand the event, increasing the number of participants worldwide, to make it a truly international endeavor.”

More than 50 people attended the CME, 44 of whom were SGU alumni, as well as 18 Grenadian physicians who practice locally. In addition to the seminars, the group enjoyed a sightseeing tour of Grenada’s natural beauty; lunch at Belmont Estate, a fully functional and historic plantation; a shopping tour of Grenada’s capital, St. George’s; a sunset barbecue; river tubing; and a catamaran day cruise including snorkeling and a visit to the Underwater Sculpture Park and Hog Island; and lastly, an alumni charity dinner with proceeds aiding the purchase of cardiology equipment for the SGU Physicians Network Program.

“Physicians are always looking for continuing medical education but this was also a chance for our graduates to come back to Grenada and celebrate 40 years of alumni achievements with their friends and colleagues,” said Dr. Bruce Bonanno, SOMAA President. “We are extremely pleased with the success of this event and can’t wait for the next CME in March 2018.” ■

SGU Honors Clinical Studies Pioneer Morris Alpert

The Founding Dean of Kingstown Medical College (KMC) in St. Vincent and a longtime member of the Board of Trustees for St. George's University, Morris Alpert, MD, was instrumental in the development of the University's unique MD clinical training program, creating a bridge between the Basic Sciences program in Grenada and programs in the United States and United Kingdom. Dr. Alpert's approach of using a modular system with leading specialists from the United States, United Kingdom, and the world, helping transform the School of Medicine in its early years.

Considered one of the pillars of this institution, the University honored Dr. Alpert's pivotal role in its foundation by unveiling a bronze plaque highlighting his accomplishments at a dedication ceremony on the True Blue campus. Held outside Morris Alpert Hall, the ceremony was attended by University administrators, faculty, staff, and SOM alumni who were taught by Dr. Alpert, including a member of the 1977 Charter Class.



Charter Class member Emmett Cox II unveils the new plaque outside Morris Alpert Hall.

"Borne out of the need to house and teach the fifth-term SOM students for their clinicals, Chancellor Modica suggested Kingstown Medical College, and Dr. Alpert became the Founding Dean," shared Dr. C.V. Rao, Dean of Students. "Starting off with not much—a lecture hall, a small dorm facility and two secretaries—Dr. Alpert single-handedly created the clinical program at KMC. He was a kind man, but he was very strict and truly cared about all his students. And they also felt the same way, evidenced by the standing ovation he would receive when attending the SOM graduation ceremony in New York."

Dr. Alpert came to SGU from Albany Medical College, with an impressive career as both a hand surgeon and an anatomist, where he had been Chair of Surgery.

"As SGU celebrates the first 40 years of its existence, what better way to do this than a formal dedication to Dr. Morris Alpert—honoring him for both his unique vision and leadership style which served our University well," praised Dr. Allen

Pensick, Provost Emeritus. "For our students, there were at least 28 years of classes, twice a year, that went through St. Vincent. A great deal of our students and alumni met Dr. Alpert and got a real-life taste of medicine and how to conduct themselves in the real world."

A member of the 1977 Charter Class, Dr. Emmett Cox II suffered a tragic bike accident early on in his studies at SGU. The first to treat Dr. Cox was Dr. Alpert, who saved his student's life. Dr. Cox, has since become a successful orthopaedic surgeon—and a hand surgeon like his mentor, Dr. Alpert.

"He was such a strong-willed person and yet so polite. He would tell us to respect our patients and learn our anatomy, and take time out to do a standard physical examination," recalled Dr. Cox. "I feel so proud to have been trained and received my tutelage from Dr. Alpert. He taught us to never give up on your dreams, no matter what. If he told you something, you could bank on it. And in my lifetime, he was a giant." ■



"My time here has been terrific. I've been really inspired by our students, our faculty, and our mission."

– Andrew Sussman, MD, Chief Executive Officer, St. George's University

Sussman Named New CEO of SGU

Continued from page 1

universities, and health care companies in the United States. He most recently served as Executive Vice President of Clinical Services at CVS Health, the largest pharmacy care provider in the United States. Previously, he led the development and growth of CVS MinuteClinic, the country's largest walk-in provider.

In academia, Dr. Sussman held the position of Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer at UMass Memorial Medical Center, the major teaching affiliate of UMass Medical School, where he oversaw clinical services and lectured as an Associate Professor of Medicine. He also served as Chief Medical Officer of the Brigham and Women's Physicians Organization, consisting of 800 teaching faculty at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"Coming to SGU is a great opportunity for me to go back to an academic institution, particularly one that is focused on achieving health education excellence, an aspiration I have had throughout my career," he said.

At SGU, he will lead all executive functions of the University, with a particular focus on expanding educational opportunities, programs, and support for students; forging clinical partnerships with hospital systems; and increasing the University's reach internationally.

"We're working with a number of hospitals now to help develop or expand our clinical clerkships and graduate medical education opportunities," Dr. Sussman said. "We want to continue to

produce physicians who take care of patients in an understanding and compassionate way and who perform well on standardized measures of care."

With approximately 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 years old every day for the next 20 years, Dr. Sussman said there is a "silver tsunami" of people who will require primary care, particularly in the treatment of chronic disease. To address the shortage of physicians that the Association of American Medical Colleges projects could reach nearly 95,000 by 2025, more than 70 percent of SGU graduates entered primary care residency positions this summer.

"SGU can be an important part of that solution as we educate the physicians of the future that we need, not only in the US health care system but globally," Dr. Sussman said. "I'm impressed with and inspired by the terrific leadership team we have here, the excellent faculty in Grenada and the US, the student support services, and with everyone's commitment to our mission."

That commitment stretches across all four schools at the University, and Dr. Sussman is committed to learning about and working toward the goals of all students, from future veterinarians and public health professionals to business people and those with aspirations in other fields.

But what has been the biggest surprise in his first couple of months on the job? The camaraderie.

"Even though Grenada is far from the US, it's been wonderful to see how close it feels in terms of the connections that people make." ■

Andrew Sussman, MD Profile

HOMETOWN

New York, NY

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Biology
Harvard College

Doctor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

EXPERIENCE

Chief Medical Officer
*Brigham and Women's
Physician Organization*

Assistant Professor
Harvard Medical School

Chief Operating Officer
*UMass Memorial Medical
Center*

Associate Professor
UMass Medical School

Executive Vice President
CVS Health

President
CVS MinuteClinic

Chief Executive Officer
St. George's University

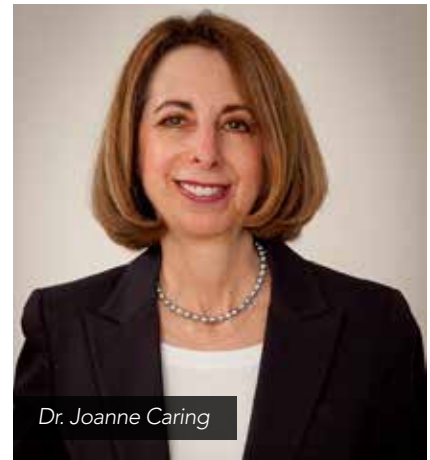
Professor of Medicine
St. George's University



Alum's Work Appears in Museum of Modern Art

Joanne Caring, MD SGU '86, an award-winning psychiatrist, has been friends with Louise Lawler, now an internationally renowned artist and photographer, since their undergraduate years at Cornell University. Their joint effort from 1972, "Untitled," is considered a seminal piece in Ms. Lawler's career and appeared at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City through July.

The 24-page book features a series of sayings printed on slips of paper. They include "'If you don't listen' said the sheriff, 'I'll fall'" and "New shoes, blue shoes, red and pink and blue shoes, tell me what would you choose, if you were to buy." According to MoMA, the "sly, self-effacing, oddly humorous book of misdirection and nonspecific readings ... cunningly embodies how an artist's book can be a locus for engagement between artists and readers." ■



Dr. Joanne Caring

School of Veterinary Medicine Appoints New Dean

Continued from page 1

while providing leadership for the planning, development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of all of the School's programs, policies, and infrastructure. He will lead a contingent of more than 100 faculty and staff at St. George's University. In addition, he will represent the SVM among the 48 other schools of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education worldwide.

"I am honored to continue the great work that my predecessor, Dr. Ogilvie, has already laid out," Dr. Olson said. "I hope to keep building upon our numerous partnerships with other institutions across the world to recruit and train the best veterinarians. I'm also excited to continue developing our curriculum so that veterinary students can take advantage of the unique global environment that Grenada has to offer."

Dr. Olson has helped the University of Missouri make significant strides during his 10-year deanship. Among them is the recent establishment

of a new animal radiation oncology and imaging facility outside St. Louis. Prior to his appointment at Missouri in 2007, Dr. Olson spent nearly 25 years at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in a variety of administrative and professorial roles, including Senior Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, and Director of the CVM's Centennial Biomedical Campus.

Dr. Olson obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. After



Dr. Andrew Olson

completing his surgery residency within Michigan State University's Department of Small Animal Surgery and Medicine, he went on to earn his Doctor of Philosophy in physiology from Michigan State University.

Dr. Olson brings with him a tremendous research background, including several programs funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and American Lung Association. In addition, he has contributed to such publications as the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*, *British Veterinary Journal*, and *American Journal of Physiology*, and has served as a reviewer for more than a dozen scientific journals.

Dr. Olson succeeds Dr. Ogilvie, who is retiring after a three-year term as SVM Dean. His outstanding service and dedication to the University has been wide-ranging, and St. George's is pleased that he has agreed to assist in the leadership transition in the coming year. Dr. Ogilvie's contributions to SGU have been invaluable in establishing superior instruction and commitment to student success as hallmarks of SVM. ■

Namrita Prasad

Class of 2016
School of Medicine

Namrita Prasad never imagined that she would leave her home or her family, never mind come this far. She grew up in the Fiji Islands, her family had limited resources, and no family member on either side had graduated from college. Yet in March, after raising the bar with each year gone by, she celebrated yet another remarkable achievement in her journey, having secured an internal medicine residency at The Brooklyn Hospital Center (TBHC) in New York.

“It’s unreal to me that I’m even here,” she said, joining fellow St. George’s University graduates at the annual Match Day luncheon. “It was all a dream that seemed unattainable when I was at a community college while working full time. The one thing that led me here was perseverance. I wasn’t the smartest student, but I knew how to work hard and ask for help whenever I needed it. I was blessed with wonderful mentors that guided me to where I am today, and I am just so extremely humbled.”

She comes from modest beginnings. At age 16, a military coup forced her family to relocate from Fiji to San Bruno, CA, in South San Francisco. Money was tight and her career options, she thought, minimal. However, Dr. Prasad volunteered at several hospitals in the area and joined a summer youth program through Kaiser Permanente, through which she discovered a deep passion for medicine. Dr. Prasad kept pressing forward, enrolling at American River Community College before moving on to the University



“I was guided with wonderful mentors that guided me to where I am today, and I am just so extremely humbled.”

of California, Davis, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in biological science, with emphasis on neurology, physiology, and behavioral science. She did this all while working long hours to put herself through school.

Although her family thought it might, Dr. Prasad’s journey didn’t end there. She scored well on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), applied to SGU, and soon found herself on her way to Grenada, first as part of SGU’s Master of Public Health program.

“It was the most amazing experience that I could have ever asked for,” Dr. Prasad said. “The MPH program taught us to think about community health—not just individual health—and to promote healthy living to

prevent diseases and empower individuals through education to become active participants in their own health.”

Dr. Armand Asarian, Vice Chairman for the Department of Surgery at Brooklyn Hospital and Assistant Dean of Students at SGU, served as a mentor for Dr. Prasad while and after she trained as a clinical student in New York City.

“She didn’t have an easy trip up to this point, but she came early every day, worked hard, she asked for help, she listened to that advice, and did everything she could to better her future,” Dr. Asarian said. “I’m really excited to see her succeed.”

Dr. Prasad shared similar praise for her mentor, Brooklyn Hospital Medical Student Coordinator Karine Camacho, as well as Daniel Ricciardi, MD SGU ’81, Dean of Clinical Studies at SGU and Director of Undergraduate Medical Education at TBHC. All of those she has met along the way have shaped her into the physician—and the individual—that she has become.

“I feel like SGU creates a family for you,” Dr. Prasad said. “I’m grateful that I have encountered such wonderful people because I know I couldn’t have done this without their help and guidance. It wasn’t easy being an immigrant with no money or clue on how to go about making my dream a reality. The only way I can think of showing my gratitude is to pay it forward and help/guide students to keep the dream alive and just keep swimming.” ■

Wayne Smart

Class of 2014
School of Arts and Sciences



In a short time, St. George's graduate Wayne Smart, BSc SGU '14, has seen his career take flight since enrolling in the marine and wildlife conservation program at St. George's University. He now hopes his efforts can brighten the futures of the species and ecosystems that he is studying.

Mr. Smart is a graduate teaching assistant at Arkansas State University (ASU), where he is concurrently pursuing a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences. He's in the final stages of researching the nesting performance of seabirds in the Grenadines—to assess whether invasive predators and human harvesting of seabird eggs, chicks, and adults have any effect on the trends in their nesting performance on the islands.

After graduating from high school and community college, Mr. Smart enrolled in the marine and wildlife conservation program at SGU. He quickly developed an interest in avian species and marine ecosystem protection and conservation, and went on to graduate cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology.

"SGU played a pivotal role in terms of my growth," said Mr. Smart.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done in Grenada in terms of research and building science infrastructure, and I think right now is a good time to be a part of the movement."

"It really did open my eyes to numerous possibilities.

During his time at SGU, Mr. Smart joined several organizations, including the Education, Conservation, and Outreach Student Organization (ECO) and the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA), serving as President and Vice President, respectively. He also jumped on an opportunity to complete a senior internship under

SGU Visiting Professor Jack Kirkley, during which they studied birds of prey in Yellowstone National Park and Beaverhead County in Montana. Upon graduating, Mr. Smart worked with the non-governmental organization, Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC). After serving as a field researcher, EPIC granted him permission to use the data from its program to his current research work at ASU.

Mr. Smart credits SGU with helping him cultivate the academic discipline needed to succeed by utilizing all the resources that the University had to offer, including taking extra classes when necessary. Upon completing his master's degree, he would welcome the chance to return to his home country to enhance conservation efforts.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done in Grenada in terms of research and building science infrastructure, and I think right now is a good time to be a part of that movement," said Mr. Smart. "After graduating, I would love to come back and partner with SGU. I love what I'm doing right now and I'm definitely good at it, so I'm sticking with it." ■

The Chronicle



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