



Journeys

THE SIENA COLLEGE / ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE PROGRAM

Winter 2012

Dr. Miller's Thoughts on the Siena/AMC Program

Twenty-six years ago, Dr. Alan Miller, associate dean at AMC, and Ed LaRow, Ph.D., were given the chance to design a new medical program.

The first decision made was the easiest: the students in the program would spend four years at Siena College. This would give students a chance to explore and clearly discern the call to be a doctor.

The students chosen for the program had to show that they had a deep value system in their lives. Dr. Miller wanted the students who would become doctors to truly care for their patients.

After identifying these unique students year after year, Dr. Miller is pleased with the results. "In my opinion, it has resulted in a succession of amazing classes. The

faculty at Albany Med can quickly identify the students who came from Siena. They have done extremely well in the medical school, not only by performing well academically, but also their role in the life of the student body."

When the program was initiated, two Summers of Service were added to the curriculum. Dr. Miller credits Ed LaRow, Ph.D. for this addition. They believed that students should experience medicine somewhere else in the world. The students should see the extreme conditions that other people live in, as well as how doctors in other countries treat their patients. This aspect of the program really flourished because the students come back with full hearts and a new appreciation for the small things in life.

Dr. Miller also notes that one of the greatest benefits of the program is one that was not expected. The students in the program became a family. They are a strong support system for each other and their friendships last longer than the eight years they are studying together.

The effort to educate doctors who care for their patients is evidenced in the 172 doctors who have graduated from the program. Many go into primary care, where they have the continuity of being with someone longer than a day. In the words of Dr. Miller, "there is an intimate, trusting relationship between a patient and his doctor where the benefit is really only for one person." The Siena/AMC program has realized Dr. Miller's hopes and exceeded his expectations.

Siena Class of 2013 Summer of Service Sites



Michael Ashamalla '13 and Stefanie Sueda '13 volunteered with the Mill Hill Sisters at the Marigat Catholic Mission in Marigat, Kenya.

Kathryn Williams '13 and Antony Mathew '13 volunteered in a mission clinic in Salawa, Kenya, a neighboring village to Marigat.

Rani Berry '13, Daniel Lee '13 and Tina Ramineni '13 worked with the Missionaries of Charity, the order of nuns founded by Blessed Mother Teresa, in Calcutta, India.

Joshua Mellor '13 and Kaitlyn Siegel '13 worked in the Mada Clinics in Maventibao, Madagascar.

Lori Tantlinger '13 volunteered in Cusco, Peru, working in a hospital ward and a children's clinic.

Alyssa Herrmann '13 and Amanda Tashjian '13 volunteered at the Francis Xavier Orphanage in Petite Rivere de Artibonite, Haiti.

Dylan Lee '13 mentored children, many of whom are AIDS orphans, at the Bernard Nordcamp Center in Windhoek, Namibia.

Nicole Andrews '13 volunteered with Catholic Charities at Farano House and at Heery Center in Albany, New York.

AMC Class of 2012 Residencies

Karina Davis '12	Psychiatry	University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI
Krzysztof Drzymalski '12	Medicine	Lahey Clinic, Burlington, MA
Victoria Fernandes '12	Medicine	Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, WA
Taylor Kahnke '12	Anesthesiology	University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
Patrick Marinello '12	Orthopaedic Surgery	Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Amy Mathew '12	Emergency Medicine	Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island, NY
Ryan McIntyre '12	General Surgery	Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ
Joshua Morra '12, Ph.D.	Psychiatry	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA
Kristin Navarette '12	Pediatrics	Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY
Heather Petrat '12	Pediatrics	Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY
Alexander Riccio '12	Neurological Surgery	Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY
Aman Shah '12	Medicine	Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY
Sheena Tonkin '12	Pediatrics	Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA

Bike and Build Across the USA

By Meghan Yi '12



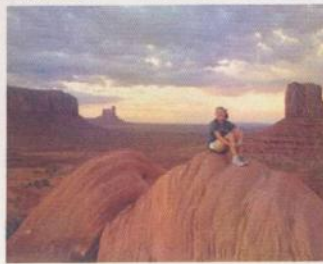
This summer, I biked across the country from Jacksonville, Florida, to Monterey, California, with the non-profit organization, Bike and Build, to raise money and awareness for the affordable housing

cause as part of one of its eight cross country trips this summer. I began on May 16, three days after commencement, and finished up on August 3, three days before orientation started at Albany Med. I biked 4,029 miles and worked for about 80 hours on 17 build days with affordable housing groups throughout the country.

My trip was the Southern United States route, and most of our build days were focused on the restoration of the Gulf Coast, which is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. On the build days with Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, and local organizations, I did everything from painting, caulking, framework, roofing, sodding to vinyl

and ceramic tiling. I'm pretty handy now! It was also amazing to get to see the country in a unique way. We got to visit the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Four Corners, Monument Valley and a Navajo Reservation.

At each city we stopped in, we raised awareness for the affordable housing cause by giving presentations at local schools and churches on affordable housing and bike safety, hosting bike clinics for children and families and just chatting with anyone we encountered about what we were doing. Also, the eight trips this summer raised a combined amount of nearly \$600,000 for the affordable housing cause. It was my most challenging, yet incredible summer. I had become interested in affordable housing at Siena when I went on two Habitat for Humanity



alternative spring break trips to North Carolina.

Because of my love for endurance sports (I ran cross country and track for eight years in

high school and college), I thought Bike and Build would be an awesome way to combine my two passions of athletics and service for others.

This summer I learned a ton about the affordable housing cause and was so impressed with the work that many organizations in our country are doing



to help others. A home provides the foundation for a stable family life, which is so important for a child's success and happiness. A beautiful home in a safe environment is something my parents worked so hard to give to me, and I wanted to be able to give some of that back to others who can't afford their own homes. I am motivated to try and make the world a better place using my God-given gifts because I know I've been blessed with so much.

Kolkata: The City of Joy

By Rani Berry '13

In the first two days in Kolkata I had personally experienced the infamous words "for it is in giving that we receive." Throughout my time in India, I replayed these words in my heart.

Our mornings began at 6:30 a.m. when Tina Ramineni '13, Daniel Lee '13 and I would drowsily work around each other in our one room living space to shower, brush our teeth and load up on sun screen and mosquito repellent.

Following breakfast from a nearby convenience store, volunteers and sisters would stand in prayer, sing a farewell song to those volunteers whose last day it was and separate onto different public buses to the various service sites.

Initially Tina and I started our mornings at Prem Dan, a woman's service center, located in the heart of the slums, which we reached by walking through people's "homes" made of trash bags, newspapers and bounded wood. What surprised me most was the character in each these abodes, decorated with small temples, vibrant colors and the sounds of jingling anklets as babies ran in and out of neighboring shelters.

The children were cute and aware of it. Forced by their harsh upbringings and familiarity with volunteers, they often attempted pick pocketing or cunningly appealing to our conscience as we walked to the Prem Dan site. My first time at Prem Dan left me feeling guilty and helpless; our care for women my mother's age



was emotionally new for me. At first I found it difficult to help feed, clothe and change women who had been left with such debilitating conditions all alone. This all changed when I realized that the virtues of integrity, compassion, respect, honesty and love surpass age, culture and language



barriers. I learned to break through language barriers through a bottle of nail polish and the universal ability to dance to a beat. I was trying too hard to care for these women in the "right" way that it took me time to see that they loved me and were trying to make me feel at home and happy the whole time. After Prem Dan, Tina and I met up with Dan who worked at Kalighat, a nearby service site known in English as "The House of the Dying." The three of us ventured

through the city before heading to our second service site, which would soon become our second home, Daya Dan, a three-story building located down a small dirt alleyway and the entrance is so small that if you aren't paying attention you may just over look it—which our tuk-tuk drivers often did! Once we arrived, we would rush over to our boys and fill the afternoon hours playing music, blowing bubbles, drinking chai or running around the terrace with our babies.

Soon it became clear that by splitting our time between Prem Dan and Daya Dan there was simply not enough time to get to know the children or the women we worked with. So after much deliberation, we decided to focus on the



boys we were so attached to, and for the following eight weeks we stayed at Daya Dan both in the morning and afternoon.

When I think of Kolkata I can't find a simple way to tell my stories or the stories of the people I've met. It would take too many pages to share all the special moments I had with the boys of Daya Dan, the patients at the dispensary, the women of Prem Dan, the many locals and all my fellow volunteers who touched my heart. I will never forget my time in Kolkata, the incessant honking and bumpy car rides combined with Rama's smile and Bernard's laugh that together make up



the vibrancy of the city. I think I'll always crave the egg rolls and lassis that we would eat in between our service, and I will forever appreciate, what, prior to India, were seemingly

small things in life: air conditioning, a granola bar, clean air, clean shoes, electricity, water, law and order and a house to come home to.

India showed me levels of poverty that I haven't seen before, but it also showed me that happiness is not directly proportional to the amount of money we have.

Happiness is a manifestation of our interactions with others and ultimately comes from our service to our fellow brothers and sisters.

PROGRAM EVENTS



Summer of Service in Petite Rivere de Artibonite, Haiti



Student Activity Leadership Team Meeting



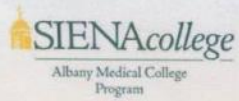
Albany Medical College Class of 2016



Annual Freshman-Sophomore Dinner



Summer of Service in Maventibao, Madagascar



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