Class of 2019 receives white coats

Earlier this fall, 300 people attended the annual white coat ceremony on the University of Minnesota, Duluth campus initiating the class of 2019 into medical school.

The ceremony is a tradition that began at Columbia University to stress the importance of humanism in the doctor-patient relationship. The coat serves as a reminder of the professional responsibilities the students will face as doctors, not only to take care of patients but also to care for the patient as a whole.

The day was filled with many traditions. As a way to celebrate our mission to educate both rural family physicians and Native American physicians, the Little Horse Drum Group performed. This group from the Fond du Lac Tribe performed an Honor song and Travel song. The Honor song is often used during ceremonies or powwows, while the Travel song is to wish family and friends a safe journey.

Ten students were inducted into the 2015 Gold Humanism Honor Society, which recognizes individuals who are exemplars of humanistic patient care and who can serve as role models, mentors and leaders in medicine.

Finally, the students recited a class oath written by the medical students. In the oath they promised, “to respect and care, not only for our patients, but also for our peers and ourselves, to live a balanced life, and to enjoy our journey.”

To support the medical students on their journey to becoming a doctor you can make a gift to the Next Generation Fund.

Students participate in community care

This summer Anna Fuglestad, second-year medical student, participated with Southern Prairie Community Care, taking blood samples in Wilmar, MN during a free diabetes screening that was conducted at a local church. Fuglestad is one of many students who participate in community events aimed at getting care into rural and Native American communities. Anna Fuglestad is pictured left taking blood from Gladis Manzanares of Willmar, MN.

Photo credit: Rand Middleton
West Central Tribune
Mary Cannedy-Clarke receives President’s Service Award

Mary Cannedy-Clarke, Administrator of Bridges & Pathways Programs, received the President’s Award for Outstanding Service from President Eric W. Kaler, President of the University of Minnesota.

"It is my pleasure to present you with the 2015 President’s Award for Outstanding Service. I am delighted to give you this well-deserved recognition for your remarkable work. With this award, you become a member of an elite group of faculty and staff of the University community; your excellence is a model for your colleagues and co-workers to emulate. True to the mission of this great land-grant institution, you have done more than your share to make the University of Minnesota one of the preeminent institutions in the nation."

Mary was recognized for her years of outstanding service directing pipeline programs to train underrepresented students in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Her work administering the "Bridges to Baccalaureate" and other programs has resulted in almost fifty Native students achieving college degrees, including MS and PhD’s.

The President’s Award for Outstanding Service was established in 1997. Eleven faculty and staff recipients this year received this award.

Students travel the world providing community service and medical relief

Medical Education through Diversity and Service (MEDS) hosted their annual reception and lunch in September. Students from both the University of Minnesota Medical School and College of Pharmacy, Duluth campus displayed information and provided opportunities to view photos and momentos from their experiences around the world. Each year approximately 20 students participate in the program their first or second years of school.

The group is led by Jacob Prunuske, M.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

Annual rural community experience

Every year University of Minnesota Medical School and College of Pharmacy students on the Duluth campus participate in a Rural Community Experience during their orientation week.

A long standing tradition, the students traveled to five different rural communities in Northern Minnesota to get an idea of the culture, economics and health infrastructure of the communities. Faculty, staff and students traveled to Aitkin, Cloquet, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Moose Lake.
**Faculty Highlights**

- **Dr. Amy Prunuske** was recently published in the Fall 2015 edition of *CBE Life Sciences Education* with a letter to the editor titled “Response to Overcoming the Barrier to Implementing Authentic Research Experiences through Faculty Mentorship: The ASCB Mentoring in Active Learning and Teaching (MALT) Program Designed to Facilitate Vision and Change – Inspired Teaching Practices.”

- **Dr. Paula M. Termuhlen** was published as a co-author in the August issue of *Academic Medicine*. The work was titled, “Transition to Surgical Residency: A Multi-Institutional Study of Perceived Intern Preparedness and the Effect of a Formal Residency Preparatory Course in the Fourth Year of Medical School.”

- **Dr. James Allen** has been appointed faculty for the NIMHD Translational Health Disparities Course, a two-week intensive course held in August in Bethesda, Maryland. It provides an introduction to the principles and practice of health disparities research.

- **Dr. Kendall Wallace** was presented the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Advisory Committee Service Award for his service on the FDA’s Food Advisory Committee.

- **Dr. Kendall Wallace** was published as a co-author in the August issue of *Toxicology* with an article titled, "Stimulating Basal Mitochondrial Respiration Decreases Doxorubicin Apoptotic Signaling in H9c2 Cardiomyoblasts".

To support faculty research efforts please consider a gift to the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus [Research Fund](#).

**Scholarship Profile**

Courtney Klinkhammer  
Duluth Medical School Recruitment Scholarship

**Anticipated Graduation Date:** May 2018  
**Hometown:** Sartell, MN  
**Undergraduate School:** St. Cloud State University  
**Major:** Biomedical Science

Q: Why did you choose the University of Minnesota Medical School?

A: Staying in Minnesota for my education has always been important to me. I have lived here my whole life and I plan to stay here after graduation. When I toured the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus during my medical school application season, everything just clicked. I left the interview telling my friends and family that Duluth would be the perfect learning environment for me and that I loved their mission of family based medicine. When I finally got that blessed acceptance call that all pre-med students dream of I accepted in a heart-beat! I have never regretted my choice!

Q: What does it mean to you to receive this scholarship?

A: When I was in undergrad, trying to decide on a career, I never even considered applying for medical school because I just didn’t think that I was that caliber of student. To me, getting into medical school was on the scale of attempting to be an Olympic athlete. Looking back on my first year of medical school, I’m so proud of myself for having received many honors in classes and now being chosen for this scholarship. It means a great deal that I am going above and beyond what I ever dreamed for myself.