New WRITE Site: Juneau, AK

If you have any items to be included in future WRITE newsletters, please send articles and/or photos to:
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WRITE Web Site: http://depts.washington.edu/write/
2009 WRITE Students

This year’s WRITE students:
Erica Ashenbrener, in McCall, ID, from Moscow, ID
Allyson Bateman, in Hailey, ID, from Moscow, ID
Emily Beck, in Libby, MT, from Meridian, ID
Elizabeth Brown, in Powell, WY, from Thermopolis, WY
Jeannette Kenny, in Juneau, AK, from Fairbanks, AK
Louis Poppler in Sandpoint, ID, from Boise, ID
Jillian Sturm in Sandpoint, ID, from Sandpoint, ID
Sara Swoboda in Wasilla, AK, from Meridian, ID
Julie Zohner in Lewistown, MT, from Moscow, ID

Community Projects 2009:
Ashenbrener: Promoting the PEP Program; Preventing ACL Injuries in Young Female Athletes
Bateman: The Heart of the Matter: Increasing Cardiac Disease Awareness and Prevention in the Wood River Valley
Beck: Community Education on Metabolic Syndrome
Brown: Health Information & Local Resources to Improve the Health of the Community
Kenny: Improving information and access to Drug Abuse Services in Juneau
Poppler and Sturm: combined Idaho Meth Project
Swoboda: Mind and Body: Mental Health and Wellness Resources in the Mat-Su Valley
Zohner: Community Drug Use Prevention

The 2009 WRITE Orientation took place January 24th in Seattle. All 9 WRITE students were there, as well as many site preceptors, college mentors, UWSoM departmental faculty, and the WWAMI clinical coordinators and assistants. The orientation included a student session with Dr. John McCarthy who lead a discussion on being a rural physician. Other highlights of the orientation included an interesting lunch time presentation by Dr. Al Berg about current recommendations from the US Preventive Services Task Force, there were also tips from past WRITE students, and time was set aside for students and preceptors to get to know each other.

WRITE Site visits by faculty from the UWSOM are a great benefit to the WRITE communities. Most site visitors are able to give a community talk, usually over the lunch hour, that is attended by the community health care professionals, and they spend time with the preceptors at the site and with the students discussing cases, the student’s progress, and issues concerning rural health.

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WRITE Site Visits by UW faculty Benefit the Rural Communities

Featuring Powell, Wyoming WRITE site since 2000

Dr. Valerie Lengfelder, a Thermopolis, WY WRITE alum returned to her home state in 2008 to practice as a family doc at Powell Valley Health Care.

As an entering 1997 student in the WY WWAMI program, she completed the WRITE program in Thermopolis with Dr. Howard Wilson. Her WRITE project was a senior exercise program that was held three times weekly at the Gottsche Rehab center. She taught the class herself until the end of her WRITE program, at which point someone else took over. Last she heard it is still an active program. When asked about the WRITE program this is what she had to say: I think the WRITE program is invaluable if you plan to work in a rural community. There is a very big difference between practicing in the city and in a very small community. Rural communities have fewer resources available for patient care, fewer specialists, and patients often travel great distances to be seen. Typical medical school and residency programs aren’t likely to prepare you for these challenges.

Currently, WRITE student Elizabeth Brown, also a WY WWAMI student who grew up in Thermopolis, is in the WRITE program in Powell. Her main preceptor is Dr. Betsy Spomer.