WRITE News from the Region

Idaho Regional Assistant Dean, Dr. Mary Barinaga enjoying her first year on the job with McCall student Matthew Swanson and Sandpoint student Kalie Dove-Maguire. Photo courtesy of Idaho Statesman

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WRITE Web Site: http://depts.washington.edu/write/

WRITE Newsletter
WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience

June 2011

2011 Match Results: In 2011, nine out of ten WRITE students matched into primary care (5 in FM, 3 in IM, 1 in Peds)!

Lewistown: KayCee Gardner is the first TRUST student (MSU entering class of 2008) to complete WRITE.

McCall: St. Luke’s partners with McCall Clinic—in 2010 McCall Memorial Hospital became the fifth hospital within the St. Luke’s Health System. WRITE student Matthew Swanson with WRITE Co-chair Dr. Jay Erickson.

Grand Coulee has a new hospital and clinic! WRITE Student Richard Detheridge with WA Regional Assistant Dean, Dr. John McCarthy.

Greetings from Powell! Hospital Board fundraiser attendees: WRITE student Erica Nees, Mike Gilmore, VP of Physician Services, Dr. Valerie Lengfelder, and Dr. Mike Tracy.

Welcome Kodiak—the ancestral home of the Alutiiq Tribe and the third busiest fishing port in the United States. Dr. Paul Zimmer and the Kodiak team will host their first WRITE student in 2012.

Dr. Don Schneider in Juneau took WRITE student Sophie Spencer in a bush plane after work one afternoon. They flew over the Herbert & Taku Glaciers outside of Juneau.

Libby: Dr. Greg Rice was voted by the Montana Academy of Family Physicians as Family Physician of the Year!
Washington sites hosted their first WRITE students!

**Moses Lake Clinic:** WRITE alumnus (Colfax, WA) 2004 and WRITE graduate, Hollie Matthews, MD. Family Physicians is "paying it forward" in her role as primary preceptor. In addition, MLC physicians Marta Beaubien, MD, pediatrician, and Michael Graham, MD, internist, serve as lead preceptors. Additional opportunities to interact with physicians of multiple specialties exist at the site. Inaugural student David Lepez says "I have had an incredible experience in Moses Lake... I feel that I have greatly increased my skills, knowledge, and confidence by getting to see both a good quality and variety of patients... serving to strengthen my desire to pursue Family Medicine as a career."  

**Family Medicine of Port Angeles:** Dr. Conte, MD, Family Medicine is an enthusiastic advocate of medical education. In reflecting on his first year as primary preceptor, "I would say it's been a great experience for our clinic and our community to be involved with the WRITE program and we are looking forward to being involved with both the WRITE and TRUST programs." In addition to physicians within the clinic, community preceptors include Drs. Bay and Weller in pediatrics and Dr. Hobbs in medicine. Inaugural WRITE student Kayla Luhrs has been pleased with her experience, stating "my time here has exceeded any expectations and has made me more excited every day for a future career in primary medicine!" She has worked to extend her stay by setting up a surgical selective with Port Angeles surgeons.

Visits by UW SOM Faculty

A great thanks for their time, expertise, and commitment to the WRITE program, and a big thank you to the sites for the warm hospitality!

WRITE site visits by faculty from the UW SOM are a great benefit to the WRITE communities. Most site visitors are able to give a community talk that is extended by the community health care professionals, and spend time with the preceptors at the site and with the students discussing cases, the student's progress, and issues concerning rural health. In 2011, site visitors included:

**Ellensburg:** Dept. of FM, Dr. Tom Greer; Dept. of IM, Dr. Molly Blackley Jackson  
**Grand Coulee:** Dept. of IM, Dr. Jenny Wright & WRITE co-chair Dr. Jay Erickson  
**Hailey:** Dept. of Psychiatry, Dr. Michael Storck; ID Regional Assistant Dean, Dr. Mary Barinaga & WRITE co-chair Dr. Jay Erickson  
**Juneau:** Dept. of FM, Dr. David Losh; Dept. of Psychiatry, Dr. Heidi Combs  
**Lander:** Dept. of Psychiatry, Dr. Heidi Combs; Dept. of IM, Dr. Doug Paauw and Dr. Chris Knight  
**Leavenworth:** Dept. of FM, Dr. Sharon Dobie; Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Sherilyn Smith  
**Libby:** Vice Dean for Regional Affairs, Dr. Suzanne Allen & WRITE co-chair Dr. Jay Erickson  
**McCall:** Dept. of Psychiatry, Dr. Michael Storck; ID Regional Assistant Dean, Dr. Mary Barinaga & WRITE co-chair Dr. Jay Erickson  
**Moses Lake:** Department of IM, Dr. Jenny Wright; Dept of Pediatrics, Dr. F. Curt Bennett, Dept. of FM, & WRITE co-chair Dr. Tom Norris  
**Port Angeles:** Dept. of Pediatrics, Dr. F. Curt Bennett; Dept. of IM, Dr. Chris Knight; Dept. of FM & WRITE co-chair, Dr. Tom Norris  
**Powell:** Dept. of IM, Dr. Chris Knight  
**Sandpoint:** Regional Assistant Dean, Dr. Mary Barinaga & Dept. of IM, Dr. Andrew White

**WRITE/TRUST Retreat - Seattle (Sept. 2010)**

In September, the UW SOM hosted Walker-Ames Scholar Dr. Roger Strasser, founding dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), at the 2010 WRITE/TRUST retreat. He offered a fascinating account of Ontario's longitudinal physician training program, established in 2002 specifically to meet northern Ontario’s rural underserved communities. The meeting with Dr. Strasser provided the opportunity to explore the similarities and differences between UW SOM’s WRITE program and possibilities going forward. Former WRITE students and current TRUST students were in attendance and offered insights about the program from their perspective. The WRITE and TRUST faculty in attendance from throughout the WWAMI region felt encouraged in their roles as physicians, community leaders, and teachers in their rural or underserved communities.

The day opened with a helpful presentation on healthcare reform legislation by Dr. Ted Epperly, Exec. Dir. of the Family Medicine Residency program in Boise, and immediate and past president of the AAFP.

**TRUST as it relates to WRITE**

The Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) is jointly administered by the UW SOM Department of Family Medicine and the WWAMI regional clinical offices and provides a connection between underserved communities, health professionals, and medical students in the region. Its ultimate goal is to help meet the physician healthcare needs of the underserved areas of the WWAMI region. Through this full-circle pipeline, qualified students go through a special curriculum that connects underserved communities in the WWAMI region to the UW SOM. When applying for admission to the UW SOM, Montana and Washington students may also apply to become a TRUST scholar. The TRUST admissions process focuses upon characteristics shown to increase the likelihood of returning to a rural/underserved practice. Upon admission to the UW SOM and acceptance into TRUST, these students are tracked into the TRUST curriculum, which includes being matched with a TRUST mentor (and therefore WRITE site) where they do a summer pre-matriculation experience. Other features of the program include participating in a journal club, taking a rural health selective course, being part of the Underserved Pathway at the UW SOM, and completing WRITE during their third year. Currently available in Montana and Washington, as the program develops, the hope is to expand its scope to include Wyoming, Alaska, and Idaho. For more information, please refer to https://depts.washington.edu/fammed/medprod/trust