

Newsletter

The University of Sint Eustatius School of Medicine

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2010

SGA President Welcome

A heartfelt welcome to our incoming 1st years...

To start, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our incoming 1st years. As our university grows and ventures along various paths, I am certain that your education will follow. We are very lucky to have some amazing faculty members among us, and I hope all of you appreciate their hard work and dedication. These are great minds contributing to your education which will only benefit the patients which you encounter. In order to succeed here, you must never lose sight of the goal in which you set out for. Never be afraid to ask for help and surround yourself with a strong support system. Sint Eustatius offers a very safe and supportive community both inside and outside of the University.

This semester is sure to hold some great student events both within the university as well as the Statia community.

Continued next column...

I strongly urge every one of you to participate when possible. Our university is headed towards a large growth phase both physically and academically. I am excited to see the changes to come within the year. The changes among USESOM are sure to bring great benefits and prestigious recognition to the medical degree you are all working so hard to attain.

This will be both my last term as your president and my last term living on Sint Eustatius. Thank you to the community and faculty for making this experience something great to remember. It is my wish that all of you succeed and become excellent physicians. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can assist you with regarding your education. ◇

Best Regards,

Derrick A. Strunk, SGA President



Derrick A. Strunk, President
Reena Ghodasara, Vice President
Faisa Abdillahi, Secretary

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Faculty Spotlight

*Distinguished Professors
Samuel and Glory Alexander
direct USESOM Pre-Med Program...*



Professors Samuel and Glory Alexander are the founding directors of the USESOM pre-medical program. They have been beloved by students and faculty alike, since 2002 preparing students for the rigor of academics in the basic sciences. They share with us here, a little background before coming to Sint Eustatius.

They first taught in Kenya for six years with the National Missionary Society, and Africa Inland Mission along with educators and specialists from all over the world. "We were quite young and anxious to do good works." The Mission provided health care, education, training, and community services. Professor Glory also taught dramatics, and Professor Samuel also coached sports.

The Alexanders then taught college in Nigeria for six years. Thereafter, they moved back to India and were Professors at the prestigious Sherwood College, which is over 175 years old, and has alumnae organizations all over the world.

While teaching at Sherwood College, both Professors were actively recruited by The University of Sint Eustatius to join the faculty and develop the pre-medical program.

Professor Glory shares, "There were 45 students in the first class. They all did very well and one student from that foster batch is a cardiologist now who still stays in touch with us."

The pre-med program offers students an opportunity to complete the 90 hours of coursework required before entering medical school. "It is a dream for them, and they do well."

We are fortunate to have the Alexanders continue their teaching excellence, and making dreams come true. ♦

Student Spotlight

This term spotlights Jaclyn Guliano, a 4th semester student from Long Island, New York.

Jackie graduated from Stony Brook University, and majored in Pharmacology. While at Stony Brook she was in the Women in Science and Engineering program. Here at USESOM, while Jackie maintains academic excellence, she is also a member of AMSA and has been a Biochemistry tutor for two semesters.



On Statia, Jackie enjoys the local culture, and the untouched beauty of the island. She likes walking up the Quill or around the coast and snorkeling along the beaches. She even swam with a sea turtle!

Jackie is looking forward to practicing some clinical techniques this term on real patients with Dr. Odongo at the hospital. Though not exactly sure what area of medicine to specialize in yet, Jackie has always had an interest in gastroenterology.

What she likes most about USESOM is the closeness of the student body, and everyone looking out for the earlier term students. "All the pot luck's and student events really help you appreciate the diverse cultures and backgrounds of the students here." ♦

Med Student & Family embrace Statia...

Jaclyn Guliano and her parents Joseph and Anne Brennan, were instrumental in donating a new Scan-X Duo digital x-ray machine, PLUS a Polaris Intra-Oral Camera and Visix Imaging Software to Statia's dentist, Dr. Martin Mayombo.

The equipment was delivered this summer and Dr. Mayombo expressed his heartfelt appreciation. Special thanks to Jackie, her entire family and the board of directors of the dental manufacturing company Air Techniques in Melville, New York. Their generous donation will serve the people of Statia for years to come. ♦



Dr. Mayombo and Jackie in the dental office

Research Spotlight

Congratulations Dr. Yunis...

Mohammed Yunus, M.D., Associate Professor of Pathology has just received notification of publication of his monograph entitled Experimental Allergic Encephalomyelitis (EAE) and Phase 2 Enzyme Inducer. The monograph examines the role of Phase 2 enzymes in the reduction of oxidative stress within neural tissues.

Dr. Yunus, along with his co-authors affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine, experimentally demonstrate dietary induction of Phase 2 enzymes reduce oxidative stress and the associated perivascular mononuclear infiltrates partially responsible for demyelination of neural fibers. The authors conclude dietary induction of Phase 2 enzymes may offer therapeutic benefits to patients suffering demyelinating diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

Note: Experimental Allergic Encephalomyelitis is an animal model of brain inflammation associated with demyelinating disease processes. ♦

New! S.O.S. of USESOM

We are a family friendly island & community...

The Spouses Of Students (SOS) group provides social support for our medical students' spouses, partners, and families living on island, to help make their experience here a positive one. Our purpose is to help families transition to living on the island of Statia, and to share family success strategies with each other as we support our medical student spouses. All student and faculty spouses/partners are welcome! Please contact Marianna at: mmusengo@gmail.com



Statia History Brief

Fascinated By Statia Blue Beads?

By: Lindsay Henderson-Lonergan



During slave trading years, beads commonly referred to as African Slave Trade Beads, were used for currency among the slaves on plantations since they were not allowed to have any form of monetary currency.

These beads ranged the color spectrum and were made all over the world. St. Eustatius was the busiest trading port in the world during the seventeenth century for slaves from Africa going to North America, so thousands of human beings and their beads came through this island.

What makes the Statia blue beads unique from all others is that they were made in Amsterdam by a single Venetian glassmaker. While bead makers elsewhere were using soda ash, this glassmaker used pot ash which made the bead a brilliant sapphire blue.

These "Statia Blue Beads" were only manufactured from 1640-1670 before the glass shop burned down and can only be found to this day, on St. Eustatius.

The Statia Blue Beads can be found in various shapes from round to five sided and had such allure that thirty of them were used to purchase Manhattan island from the Native Americans!

The local legend of the blue bead says, when slaves were freed, they threw their beads into the ocean. However, the more likely reality is that slaves continued to use the beads as trading currency after they were freed.

Today, beads wash out of the cliffs or out of the ground during storms. Divers have found blue beads offshore (originally the island extended out another 1/4 mile but the sea has since taken the original Harbor Road underwater), where barrels of beads may have sunk while being offloaded. Statia legend says that if you find a blue bead, you'll be called to return to the island again and again. ♦

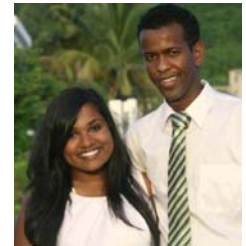
Awards Banquet Pictorial.....

Photos by: Michael J.E. Greff...

Twenty one students who successfully completed 5th semester were honored at the Basic Sciences Awards Ceremony and Dinner on



August 12, 2010. Those who remained on Statia to complete their 5th semester were in attendance, along with their families, professors, campus administrators and official guests. The Provost Awards were given to Bridget Paul for Community Service and Nadia Tymkowych for Academic Achievement. ♦



Open Mic Night

Celebrating after block exams...

Students and faculty socialize in a relaxed, informal setting, Wednesday evenings following each Block Exam. The common interest is music. All have opportunities at the open microphones to play their music and sing. Occasionally, a tourist or two from the audience will join in. All of the performances are in fun, providing encouragement and support to all who participate. No need to be a seasoned musician to be apart of it all. Pull out that old guitar, bass, keyboard, harmonica, kazoo or any other instrument you might have and join in. There are plenty of people willing to help move you to your next musical skill level or accompany you as you stumble through your first few tunes. The goal here is to have a little fun and relieve some of the stresses of medical school.

Several students, faculty, and spouses are emerging as regular contributors. Scott and Rose provide the bottom with driving bass lines. Kayin, Russ, and Dr. Keller provide the top end with lead and rhythm guitars. Michael, Sheila, Derrick, Jonathan, Jessie, & Lindsay provide lead and background vocals. There are no limits on the type of you music you can play or might hear on any given night; classical, 50s rock n' roll, 60s and 70s classic rock, doo-wop, folk, island, country, western, blues, or pop. Here are a few recent crowd favorites: Wild Thing, Pretty Woman, City of New Orleans, Hotel California, Proud Mary, Me and Bobby McGee, and Earth Angel. Don't be L 7, come out and join the fun.

Special thanks to Mr. Leroy Mills and staff at the Golden Era Hotel for providing the great venue and to Marianna and Dr. Keller for organizing the events and providing the sound equipment. ♦



**Next Open Mic Night: Wed, Nov. 10, 7:30- 9:30pm.
The Golden Era Pool/Patio on Harbor Road**

Clubs & Organizations

SGA – Student Government Association

By: Secretary: Faisa Abdillahi

The Student Government Association put together a fun filled BBQ for the student body last July 17th at Dive Statia Beach. Volleyball and football games brought out a competitive yet light hearted spirit amongst the students.



The food, prepared by the SGA officers, was plentiful, delicious, and enjoyed by all. It was a successful event for student entertainment and the SGA thanks everyone who helped make the summer 2010 BBQ such a success.

Look for another great BBQ this fall.

AMSA – American Medical Student Association

By: President: Sri Srikruthi Kakulavarapu

Vice Pres: Scott Rubin, Secy: Monika Plonka
Treas: Nylor Davies, Action Committee: Denise Solis,
Jonathan Jensen, SgtAtArms: Jeremy Davis



The American Medical Student Association's mission is student involvement in the local community and expansion of medical experiences for

students on campus. This semester, we have a calendar of events to enrich the lives of our peers as well as encourage community outreach. We promote Breast Cancer Awareness, this October, with a fundraiser; *Send a Scream* where you can send a personalized message to friends along with a Halloween treats for \$1. Furthermore, we are joining hands with a local school, to tutor students who are in 7th to 10th grade. Our long-term goal is to promote medical professionalism and to encourage all USESOM Students to be involved in AMSA!

Scuba Club

By: President: Derrick Strunk

Statia is home to some of the best diving in the world. The Dive Club works with local dive shops creating discounts and events for students. Our goal is to provide an escape from the stressors of med school. Contact Derrick Strunk for information.



Christian Club

By: Secretary: Joseph Lee

President: Russ Clayton
Vice Pres: BarbaraJean Arthur

We gather together for genuine fellowship, and to pursue Christ with those who have a similar desire on Sundays at 5pm in classroom 4. In our times together we read and discuss Bible truths, gather in testimony of faith by those feeling compelled, and also before each block exam, in song and praise. The Christian Club's school-wide Potluck supper was Sunday, October 10th with a great turn out.



Sankofa

By: Amy Mafou Sy

Our purpose is to unite everyone from all corners of the world by raising cultural awareness with dance, fashion, and food representing our diverse student body, And to have fun! "Celebrate Oneness". We are seeking new officers and memberships now.



Contact Amy Mafou Sy.

MSA – Muslim Student Association

By: Amy Mafou Sy

MSA Members & Guests

The MSA welcomes all new students. We encourage you to join the MSA (regardless of your faith), so that you may learn about Islam and engage in intellectual dialogue amongst your peers. Last semester the MSA potluck was filled with scholarly lectures and amazing multicultural food. The night began with a brief speech by Tawfiq Rahman regarding the importance of the holy month of Ramadan. Afterwards, Moe Sobh and Tawfiq presented the lecture, "An Introduction to Islam". Dr. E. Nasser then introduced the honorary guest speaker, Sheikh Yacoub (St. Martin). The theme of his talk was thought provoking: Muslims believe that all Prophets (from Adam to Muhammad [peace be upon them]) spread the same message throughout time—a message of universal peace and enlightenment. Our potluck this term will be on Nov. 20, God willing. We invite all students, professors, and respected members of the community to attend. ♦



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

AMSA SEND-A-SCREAM BEGINS
THU, OCT 7

SWIM LESSONS
SAT, OCT 9, 16, 23 12-1PM

CHRISTIAN CLUB POTLUCK
SUN, OCT 10

STUDENT/PROVOST MEETING
THU, OCT 14, NOV 11, DEC 9

DOCTOR'S IN TRAINING VISIT
TUES, OCT 19

SGA BEACH BBQ
SAT, OCT 23

AMSA RAFFLE DAY
FRI, OCT 29

AMSA SEND A SCREAM ENDS
SUN, OCT 31

NOVEMBER

HEALTH SCREENING
WED, NOV 3

AMSA FOOD FOR THOUGHT
FRI, NOV 5

OPEN MIC NIGHT
THE GOLDEN ERA 7:30 PM
WED, NOV 10

SWIM LESSONS
SAT, NOV 13, 20, 27 12-1PM

STATIA DAY - NO CLASSES
TUE, NOV 16

AMSA MOVIE NIGHT
FRI, NOV 19

MSA POTLUCK
SAT, NOV 20

SGA THANKSGIVING POTLUCK
SAT, NOV 27

DECEMBER

RED T-SHIRT DAY
IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY
WED, DEC 1

AMSA FOOD FOR THOUGHT
FRI, DEC 3

END OF TERM DINNER @ BLUE BEAD
WED, DEC 15

University holds Information Session on Dengue Fever

The University Of Sint Eustatius School Of Medicine hosted an information session entitled: "Dengue Fever: Practical Approaches to Surveillance, Control and Prevention" on October 14, 2010 at 7pm, at the University Campus Suarez Building.

This year dengue reached epidemic status in the Caribbean and there were a number of suspected cases on Statia. This session was geared to the public and public officials. Dengue is a very complicated disease of which there is no treatment and no vaccine. Thus, it is important that the community and public officials on Statia be involved. ♦

Statia Day - Nov 16

No Classes! Get involved! Have fun!



Statia-America Day is a national holiday which takes place annually on November 16th. It is a day to reflect on Statia's role in America's history. But for most it is a day to celebrate the culture and heritage of Statia.

The re-enactment of the 1776 Salute that marks the first recognition of the independence of the United States of America will start Nov 16, with a ceremony at 6am, and firing of the cannon at Historic Fort Oranje. Leading up to Statia Day, the Committee will be hosting a pre-week of activities starting Nov 9. ♦

http://www.pearlfradio.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3008&Itemid=73#s1

Med Students have Interests Outside of Medicine

Sharing beautiful places, and beautiful faces...

Photo credits go to Michael Greff for the beautiful SGA executive board portraits on page 1 and 6, and the Awards Banquet pictorial on page 4.

"I was inspired by the beautiful nature I was seeing when I was a Wilderness Cane Tripping Guide in Algonquin Provincial Park. I wanted to share what I saw, so I started taking pictures and have just kept taking pictures, learning as I go, about what makes great photographs."

Michael is a 4th semester student, from Windsor, Ontario. He graduated from The University of Western Ontario with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. After finishing his undergrad degree, he studied at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary for two years, and then came to Statia.

"While I was in Europe, it was easy to travel around and take pictures to share with family back home."

Michael is a member of AMSA, Scuba Club and past president of SGA. He is one of two student representatives on the USESOM Research Committee. As he heads into clinical studies, he is especially interested in Family Practice.

"I like that USESOM is a small school. Your friends, classmates and professors really become your family here on the ROCK. I like the outdoor opportunities Statia offers. When I need a break, I head out, take some pictures and really get away from it all. I try to take a portion of every weekend to do something non-school related. If I'm not hiking Boven, or the Quill you can find me out diving somewhere." ♦



Send me your News!

From the editor to Students, Faculty & Staff



The Newsletter will be published each semester to share events, news, programs and updates of our University community with the Island community. We will also report the educational and professional achievements, services and

accomplishments of professors and students, therefore your submissions are requested. I am looking forward to your input. ♦

From Guilders to Dollars

Change your coins before semester ends...

The dollar is the national currency of the United States of America (US\$), and will become the national currency of the Dutch Caribbean and Sint Eustatius as well. As of Jan 1, 2011: Storeowners will give back change in dollars. The banks will convert all deposits and balances from Netherlands Antilles guilders to dollars at the rate of US \$1 = NAF 1.79.

Up until (before) Feb 1, 2011: You can exchange NAF coins and bills at the banks with the exchange rate of US \$1 = NAF 1.79. After that date, banks can determine exchange rates themselves and charge additional fees. ♦

From the Regionaal Service Centrum Information Bulletin Number 4.

Submission Guidelines

For All Submissions:

- 1) Send via email to Editor: Marianna Musengo at mmusengo@gmail.com
- 2) Write NEWSLETTER in subject title
- 3) ATTACH IN WORD DOC FORMAT, Use ARIAL FONT 10, approximately 100-150 words.
- 4) ATTACH PHOTOS IN JPEG FORMAT. When applicable, list names in the order of the people in the photo & date taken.
- 5) Include your full name, and contact phone number along with submissions.
- 6) For upcoming events, remember to include day/date, time, location, cost, who to contact for additional information.

Photo Suggestions:

- 1) Use flash for every situation, even in natural light.
- 2) Make sure natural light or electric light is shining ON your subject, not from behind.
- 4) Have groups stand or sit with shoulders touching and level the height differences (shorter in front, etc.)
- 5) More than 3 or 4 people? Then stager the 'group'; Such as sitting with standing behind and/or kneeling in front. ♦