

## UCSC Pre-med Students ♥ Local Physicians

Over the last several years, the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) at UC Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz County Medical Society (SCCMS) worked together to put on student-centered events. Kate Schissler, 2010-2011 UCSC AMSA President, was thrilled when she found out about the connection between our organizations; she wasted no time in putting that connection to good use. These events are open to all UCSC students but mostly 15-30 pre-med/pre-health students ranging from freshmen to seniors attend. As previous Executive Director Dr. Marcus Kwan stated, "The SCCMS is committed to helping all UCSC students interested in all the various careers in health care and not only those looking toward the MD and DO degrees."

Each quarter Kate organized a meeting for which she requested physician speakers. The fall meeting was an open topic discussion. Dr. Fred Tomlinson, retired plastic surgeon, told about his years of doing medical missions around the world.

In November Kaplan contacted AMSA, who then contacted SCCMS, to facilitate a student requested suture clinic. Three SCCMS physicians signed on to help: Lisa Siegler, orthopaedic surgeon, Marc Yellin, emergency medicine, and Fred Tomlinson. Using a PowerPoint presentation as a guide, they taught the students how to make the different stitches required to sew up incisions the physicians made in the pigs feet. This event was quite the hit as it was the first hands-on experience for many of the students!

For the February meeting the students requested hear from a pediatrician. The physician was asked to discuss the usual things; info about their journey through college/medical school and then specific aspects of being in pediatrics. Dr. Garry Crummer answered this call and highly impressed the students with his information on studying medicine & practicing pediatrics

May 2011 found Kate organizing an event titled, "Women in Medicine". Dr. Lisa Siegler and Dr. Kimberly Owens spoke about their experiences from deciding to be a doctor to their actual career experiences as women in the medical field.

Dr. Siegler was asked why the giving of her time to these students is important to her:

"When I was a premed student at UCSC, there was very little guidance for us...all 8 of us. We did not, that I knew of, have organized programs, such as AMSA, to help guide us through the arduous process of getting in to Medical School. I relied on securing precious gems of information gleaned from Medical school admission boards on basic application requirements and the sought after assets that would set me apart from other well qualified applicants. Medical School itself seemed a daunting prospect from what little I knew. How to prepare oneself for this? We did not have much guidance or resources at our disposal. It's personally gratifying to come back as a veteran of the process, and offer advice and a supportive hand to these eager AMSA students."

At the end of the year Kate emailed, "I just wanted to say thank you so much for your help this year coordinating all these wonderful speakers to come up to campus. Having these physicians has been an invaluable experience for students since many haven't heard first-hand what medical school, residency, etc is like before these events. I know they've gained a great deal, especially because there's always a line to talk to the physicians after!"