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Students double as ambassadors for IUSM

The IUSM Student Ambassadors are on a goodwill mission.

The primary goal of Student Ambassadors is to interact with alumni and update them on important issues and events that affect the school and on the thoughts and attitudes of current medical students. This is accomplished in a casual manner with Student Ambassadors mingling with alumni at events such as the Dean's Council Dinner and other meetings.

But, some Student Ambassadors think the experience is as beneficial to them as it is informative for the alumni.

"I have discovered that the alumni enjoy talking to the students as much as they do with other alumni," said veteran Student Ambassador Riley Snook, MSIV. "The alumni are interested in the changes that have occurred in medical education and like to compare them to the way things were when they were students."

The situation is a win-win for both groups, says Snook, who added that many of the alumni see themselves as mentors passing on sage advice and a glimpse of life after medical school.

"It's a good thing for the school and for us because we really get connected. You meet some really nice and generous people that want to help and see you succeed. Most of them will give you their business card and tell you to look them up if you're ever in their area," said Snook

A total of 12 ambassadors are chosen each year with two each from the first- and second-year medical student classes and four each from the third- and fourth-year classes. Students with seniority are generally favored to attend these events due to their broader knowledge of the medical school.

Because the Student Ambassadors serve such a social role at alumni events, a selective interview process

is required of all applicants. When selecting new ambassadors, applicants with higher grade point averages, set goals and past experience with alumni groups are favored. However, students with outgoing personalities who can take the initiative in social settings are at an advantage in the selection process, Snook said.

“We are there to talk and socialize with the alumni and you have to be somewhat gregarious and not someone who will go to these events and stand in a corner,” he explained.

For Snook and the rest of the Student Ambassadors, the experience has been a privilege and a break from the demanding life of a medical student.

“I was lucky to get into this group,” Snook said. “I’ve come to appreciate what the Ambassadors do and I think it has been a very rewarding and memorable experience.”

BRIEFS

To place that call...

There are a few changes in the IUPUI campus telephone system.

The 274-5000 number now is the general information number of the IU Medical Center and Clarian Health, but not the IUPUI campus as it was in the past. The general information number for the IUPUI campus is 274-5555.

Another change involves the SUVON (State University Voice Network) system. Users will no longer be dialing only one digit to access the system.

As of Aug. 15, Indianapolis campus users will need to dial “16” instead of “6” to access the system. On the Bloomington campus, users will also dial “16” instead of “8” to access SUVON. To complete a system call, dial 16-1-area code-number.

The system for making campus to campus calls is unchanged. To dial IU-Bloomington from IUPUI, just dial the last five digits of the number.

Medical director

Robert Goulet Jr., MD, has been named medical director of the Indiana Cancer Pavilion. He will be responsible for all clinical activities at the pavilion.

Stephen Williams, MD, will continue as director of the Indiana University Cancer Center.

White coat ceremony paves the way for incoming class

Members of the Class of 2002 participated in a rite of passage Aug. 23 by receiving their white coats and taking the Oath of Hippocrates at the White Coat Ceremony.

Dean Robert Holden, MD, led the new medical students in the Hippocratic Oath. The eight directors of the regional medical education centers and Joseph Chu, MD, the new associate dean for student and curricular affairs, presented students from their respective campuses with their white coats.

Gary Mitchell, MD, welcomed the students and challenged them to continue to grow and change as their education and careers evolve.

“As a medical practitioner... you will need to be more than a well-trained scientist. You will need to be a professional, a doctor,” Dr. Mitchell said. “I think you all have some vision of your future. You each no doubt have many of what have been called ‘possible selves.’ Which of your possible doctor selves will ultimately emerge?”

Dr. Mitchell then outlined many of the important ingredients of being a good doctor and how those characteristics will be challenged by changes in the field in the future.

IUSM alumni interested in sponsoring the purchase of a student’s white coat and mentoring the student through at least the first year of medical school may contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 274-8828.

Baby walker alternative to be offered in statewide roundup in September

Nearly 20,000 children each year suffer baby walker-related injuries, yet 90 percent of children ages 5 to 15 months still use mobile walkers.

To help educate parents about safer walker alternatives, the Indiana Safe Kids Coalition is sponsoring five baby walker roundup events in September in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Evansville and Terre Haute. It's part of a nationwide campaign created by Safe Kids and Evenflo, Inc.

Bill Brooks of the Indianapolis Colts is honorary chairman of the Indiana Round 'Em Up Partner Campaign.

In Indianapolis the event will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Indianapolis Zoo. The first 30 parents who turn in walkers on wheels will receive a safer, stationary product called an Exersaucer.

The Indiana Safe Kids Coalition is housed in IUSM's Automotive Safety Program.
