

EVMS

MAGAZINE

Is Medicine for Me?

Thirty-year partnership creates unique opportunities for high-school students considering the health professions



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DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

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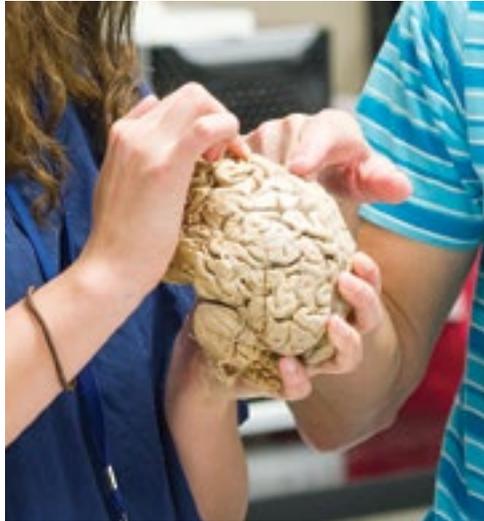
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EVMS

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That's a question EVMS helps local high-school students answer

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When I arrived at EVMS in 2012, everywhere I turned, we were partnering with another organization on a project or program that would either improve our community’s health or sharpen our students’ skills. I quickly learned that for EVMS — an institution founded by the community, for the community — partnerships are our lifeblood.

From our 30-year collaboration with Norfolk Public Schools (*see page 12*) to our selection for the global collaborative created by IBM Watson Health (*see page 5*), EVMS’ history of working well with others is evident not only around the region but the nation as well.

In June, our longstanding partnership with Sentara Healthcare was strengthened when four faculty members were named the inaugural recipients of the EVMS/Sentara Endowed Chair for Academic Leadership Advancement. Each will occupy the chair for five years, and his or her work will benefit from a \$1 million endowment established through support from Sentara Healthcare. (*See page 10.*)

Also, with this edition of EVMS Magazine, we introduce three new features. In Vision Quest, read stories about how we are fulfilling our vision to be the most community-oriented school of medicine and health professions in the nation. In Off Campus, get to know our faculty and staff members by learning about their lives outside of EVMS. And in Old School, revisit EVMS’ early days — to remember how far we have come.

Let me be quick to add that we have come this far only because of your support. You are EVMS’ most essential partner, and for that we are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Richard V. Homan, MD

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A CUT ABOVE

WHAT IS A SURGICAL ASSISTANT (SA)?

A certified health professional who may open and close surgical sites, dissect and remove tissue, implant devices and perform other tasks under a surgeon's supervision.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Students who successfully complete the program earn a Master of Surgical Assisting degree and become certified in only 22 months.

WHY IS THE FIELD GROWING?

The need for SAs is increasing dramatically, driven by a growing elderly population who tend to require more surgical procedures.

EVMS offers the only Master's level program in the country.



Cases Completed

140
CASES

Required for
Certification

240
CASES

Required by
EVMS

466
CASES

Average Completed by
the EVMS Class of 2016

A case is defined as a documented surgical procedure.

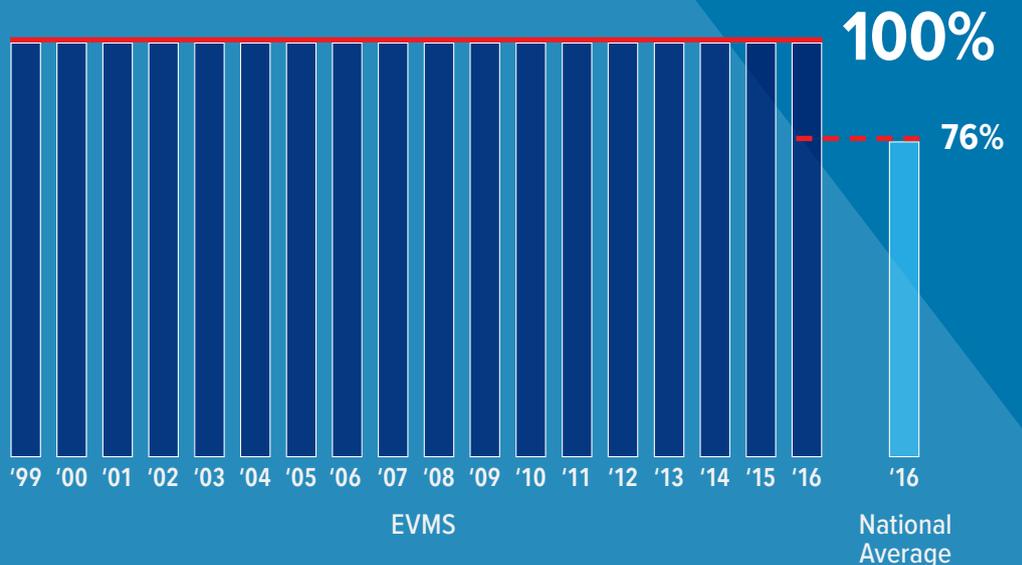
Over the last decade

64%

of SA alumni
have remained in
Hampton Roads.



Certification Exam Pass Rate for the Last 18 Years



EVMS joining forces with IBM Watson Health

Imagine ultrasound and X-ray images predicting the likelihood of a disease's progression, rather than just identifying and tracking it. Consider what doctors could do if medical imaging provided earlier warning signs for diseases like cancer, diabetes or congestive heart failure.

While it sounds a bit science fiction, such developments may not be that far into the future.

In June, EVMS was named a founding member of the IBM Watson Health medical imaging collaborative. As part of this global effort, the 16 foundational members will engage IBM's "augmented intelligence" platform called "Watson" to extract insight from medical imaging data, electronic health records, radiology and pathology reports, lab results, doctors' progress notes, medical journals, clinical-care guidelines and published outcomes studies. Watson, the famed *Jeopardy* champion and cognitive-computing system, understands natural language, reasons and learns over time.

As the work of the collaborative evolves, Watson's rationale and insights will evolve, informed by the latest combined wisdom of the member organizations. The hope is that Watson will learn to read the data provided

in conjunction with information already stored in its database and one day, predict disease or identify the best course of action.

Internationally recognized ultrasound expert Alfred Abuhamad, MD, the Mason C. Andrews Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Professor and Chair of EVMS Obstetrics and Gynecology and Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, sees the Watson Health initiative as an ideal complement to research his department has conducted for several years.

"Unlike other methods of imaging, ultrasound is operator dependent," Dr. Abuhamad says. "The potential to work with other imaging innovators to enhance image optimization or to better recognize defects or problems could be a giant step forward." If such work leads to increased efficiency and better diagnosis via fetal ultrasound, Dr. Abuhamad sees the possibility for delivery of healthier babies.

EVMS also envisions engaging Watson's unique capabilities to develop health-care analytics assessments that pose clinical scenarios to a learner who could then query Watson — evaluating

insights, drawing conclusions and making recommendations for action.

"Instead of encouraging rote memorization," says Richard Homan, MD, President and Provost of EVMS and Dean of the School of Medicine, "we should be assessing whether the individual can analyze appropriate data to draw conclusions and make recommendations to improve the health of a patient or of a community. We aspire to create an

Foundational members of the IBM Watson Health collaborative include:

Agfa HealthCare, Anne Arundel Medical Center, Baptist Health South Florida, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Hologic, Inc., ifa systems AG, inoveon, Radiology Associates of South Florida, Sentara Healthcare, Sheridan Healthcare, Topcon, UC San Diego Health, University of Miami Health System, University of Vermont Health Network and vRad, a MEDNAX (NYSE: MD) company, as well as Merge Healthcare, an IBM company.

assessment model that could enhance a clinician's analytical skills. The hope is that those analytical skills could then be used to examine health disparities between segments of the population or better manage the health of a community overall." □

 To learn more, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.



EVMS researcher honored as one of two JSAT fellows

Paul Harrell, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, is one of two researchers selected for the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment (JSAT) Editorial Fellowship Program for 2016-17. JSAT is the leading scientific journal dedicated to addiction treatment services and implementation research.

“Dr. Harrell successfully competed with a large group of applicants from across the United States and internationally,” says Mark McGovern, JSAT’s Editor-in-Chief. “His experience in many aspects of addiction research and his productive publication record were the primary reasons for his selection. Dr. Harrell’s career is on a rapid and upward trajectory, and we are thrilled to have him join this class of two editorial fellows.” The other fellow selected is from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. □



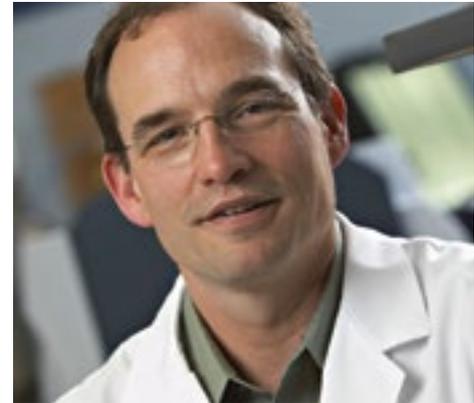
To learn more about Dr. Harrell and his research, visit evms.edu/pulse.

Researchers discover biomarker for early identification of aggressive prostate cancer

A team of scientists from EVMS and the University of Toronto has made a significant breakthrough in the area of advanced prostate-cancer detection. They have identified the first liquid-biopsy biomarker for aggressive prostate cancer.

The discovery could play a vital role in treatment. “We want to be able to identify advanced disease prior to surgery,” says John Semmes, PhD, the Anthem Distinguished Professor for Cancer Research, Director of the Leroy T. Canoles Jr. Cancer Research Center and Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Cell Biology. “If it has grown beyond the prostate, more aggressive treatment options are warranted.”

Their research was published in the journal *Nature Communications*. □



John Semmes, PhD



To learn more about the study, visit evms.edu/pulse.



EVMS Dermatology recently renovated its space in Andrews Hall to better serve patients. Among the new tools and treatments is the Context Media Wallboard. During an open house in May, Bryan Carroll, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Director of Dermatologic Surgery, demonstrated how the new digital platform can help patients understand melanoma and the reconstructions needed to repair surgical defects. □



Exchange program gives MPH students an international perspective

Three EVMS public-health graduates, fresh out of school, are having an international impact.

Their student project, to craft a surveillance system for behavioral risk factors, is one step closer to reality in the eastern European country of Moldova.

Janisse Tate, Alicia Feliciano and Asha Patel were part of a student exchange program. In addition to experiencing the Moldovan culture, the students had the rare opportunity to meet with the nation's highest-ranking health officials and tour a range of clinics across the country of 3.5 million people.

During their project, the students studied health-care systems in several countries. They brought together the best aspects of each to recommend a model surveillance system for Moldova. The experience taught them valuable lessons about health care, regardless of the setting.

"The most important takeaway from our experience in Moldova," Ms. Patel says, "is definitely understanding that no health-care system is perfect. There

are aspects of the Moldovan health-care system I wish the United States would learn to implement and vice versa."

The trio found many similarities and differences. For instance, public-health professionals in both countries have major concerns about non-communicable diseases. In contrast to the U.S., Moldova depends on specialty clinics, forcing patients with multiple health issues to visit a series of facilities to receive proper care.

Despite shortcomings in the Moldovan system, the country is striving for progress.

"I noticed how dedicated the Moldovan people are when it comes to improving their system," Ms. Feliciano says. "They recognize where they need to make some changes and are really putting forth the effort to make those changes come to life."

For Ms. Tate, her experiences also revealed the value of teamwork.

"We all have various experiences that we can share," she says, "and we can all learn so much from each other." □

Psychologists craft new way to evaluate adolescents

When adolescents exhibit behavioral problems, it falls to a psychologist to determine what's wrong and how to help.

The most popular tool used worldwide for evaluating teens ages 14-18 is a test known as the MMPI-A. Now, EVMS psychologists Robert Archer, PhD, and Richard Handel, PhD, have helped develop a new test known as the MMPI-A-RE, which may one day take the place of the older version.



The new test is the result of nine years of work among the EVMS psychologists and two collaborators.

"The MMPI-A was based on a methodology of test construction that existed in the 1940s," explains Dr. Archer, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. "The MMPI-A-RE is based on a modern theory of test construction, which uses some analysis techniques that weren't available in the 1940s."

A primary goal for the new test was to provide for more discrete measurement. "The new test is more focused," says Dr. Handel, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

A byproduct of the refined test is the reduced length. The new test has 241 items versus 478 items in the original test. The researchers studied test results from 15,000 teens to help fashion the new test.

Dr. Archer is releasing a book this fall to help his colleagues grasp the differences between the two tests. □



To learn more, view a case example and sample questions from the old and new tests at evms.edu/digitalmagazine.

Passion, persistence pay off for retiring PA program director

*Take a helicopter ride to a glacier in Juno, Alaska.
Leave a lasting impression on your chosen profession.
Retire at the top of your game.*

Thomas Parish, DHSc, PA-C, now can check these off his bucket list. Not bad, he says, for a first-generation college graduate and retired U.S. Air Force officer.

This month, Dr. Parish retired as Professor and Director of the EVMS Master of Physician Assistant (PA) Program. It wasn't a decision made lightly, but it's one he is embracing. At 67, Dr. Parish is ready to travel and embark on new adventures.

"This has been my identity for 12 years," Dr. Parish says. "It has been an amazing experience to watch the students learn and absorb what they need to thrive, but it is time to pass on the reins."

Dr. Parish came to EVMS in 2004 when the PA program class size was just 35 students. Today, class size has more than doubled, and the program receives thousands of applications every year.

"I've seen the profession evolve and gain respect and acceptance," he says. "It's grown and changed a lot during my 35 years of practice." To that end, Dr. Parish led the charge to update the program admissions process, enhance the curriculum, develop a core faculty of talented, dedicated PAs and improve the board performance of new graduates.

"Dr. Parish increased the national stature of the PA program and has made EVMS a highly sought-after institution for those seeking training as a Physician Assistant," said C. Donald Combs, PhD, Vice President and Dean of the School of Health Professions.



Thomas Parish, DHSc, PA-C

"His impacts on the PA program and on the institution have been significant and overwhelmingly positive."

EVMS alumnus Paul Snow, MS, PA-C (MPA '09), attributes much of his success to Dr. Parish's mentorship.

"Tom offered sound advice and great assistance in my transition from a 22-year career in the Navy to a student at EVMS," Mr. Snow says. "His leadership and guidance were paramount in my success as both a student and leader in the PA community."

The program's former Associate Director, Kimberly Dempsey, MPA, PA-C, (MPA '03), has assumed the role of Director. "Kim is talented and poised to take this program where it needs to go next," Dr. Parish says. "I can honestly say there are only good things ahead."

And while his bucket-list adventures will keep him busy, Dr. Parish won't be completely absent from campus. He will continue teaching "Introduction to the PA Profession," sharing his experiences with new students.

That is, of course, right after he finishes his Alaskan glacier tour. □



To learn more, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.

School of Health Professions to launch distance-learning programs

In response to growing health-care market needs, the EVMS School of Health Professions will add two programs in summer 2017.

Master of Healthcare Delivery Science, MHDS

This program, consisting of 30 credit hours delivered online over five semesters, is designed for individuals with bachelor's degrees in mathematics, statistics, science or health-related

programs; working health-care professionals; and foreign medical graduates. Program goals are to give students the knowledge and skills to develop better health-care delivery and practice; provide them with analytics competencies that enhance their ability to understand, select, analyze and interpret health data; promote health-outcomes research and scholarly activities that improve health-care

knowledge and practice; and strengthen collaborations and partnerships with hospitals, health organizations and community agencies.

Doctor of Health Sciences, DHSc

This professional degree is designed to facilitate advancement or career change for individuals in health care and public health, clinical practice, administration or education. The curriculum, developed by educators

and clinicians, will provide substantial exposure to diverse yet interrelated topics, such as health-care delivery systems, strategic communication, medical simulation, financial management, health policy, conflict analysis and leadership. The program consists of 14 courses, for a total of 42 credit hours delivered over eight semesters. □



To learn more about Health Professions programs, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.

Dawn Patrol

Faculty member starts the morning in a swell way

Frank Lattanzio, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiological Sciences, also serves as Basic Science Director of the Lee Center for Ocular Pharmacology and Director of the Microscopy Facility. He has worked at EVMS for 28 years. When off campus, Dr. Lattanzio can be found surfing early-morning waves — but not in a traditional way.

Describe your unorthodox style:

I design and build wooden alaias (finless surfboards) but surf in a prone position, like bodyboarders do. While unusual here, this type of board and riding style originated long ago in Polynesia. Alaias I have built are hanging on the walls as décor in local Java Surf coffee shops.

When do you surf?

I live in Deep Creek so I get up at 3:30 a.m. to go to Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach to be in the water by 5:00. I get about 120 to 150 surfing days annually.

Where did you start?

In New Jersey in 1961. I lived inland and took a train to the ocean. Surfing hadn't taken off where I lived so I learned on my own. But my favorite place to surf now is right here. I enjoy socializing with other surfers while we wait for waves. Even on small days, it's never boring.

What benefit do you get from the sport?

I love being in the ocean and interacting with something that is not truly under human control. It's such a pleasure to be out there when the sun comes up, seeing the world reborn again.

What are you most passionate about in your work at EVMS?

I am interested in a number of medical areas that seem unrelated — glaucoma, ischemic heart disease and cancer — but share important common threads, such as uncontrolled cellular or vascular growth and aberrations in metabolism and ionic fluxes. My passion is to attempt to understand these commonalities and to then use that information to help resolve these problems.

Why have you remained at EVMS all this time?

EVMS is competitive with the best schools, but the positive interactions here between faculty, students and the community are much deeper than at larger institutions. EVMS set out to create well-rounded medical professionals and has succeeded. A significant percentage of our graduates remain in Virginia, indicating how well the school has integrated into the community and the commonwealth. □



To learn how Dr. Lattanzio builds alaias surfboards, as well as what's on "The Frank" sandwich at Java Surf, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.

EMERGING LEADERS

Take Their Seats

FOUR EVMS FACULTY MEMBERS have been named the inaugural recipients of the EVMS/Sentara Endowed Chair for Academic Leadership Advancement. Each will occupy the endowed chair for five years, and his or her work will benefit from a \$1 million endowment established through support from Sentara Healthcare. The new chairs also will take part in the Sentara Physician Advance Leadership Program, which provides reality-based, hands-on leadership experiences designed for physicians.



REBECCA BRITT, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery
Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program
Surgical Director, EVMS/Sentara Center for Surgical Education

A Passion for Surgery

REBECCA BRITT, MD (MD '98), discovered a passion for surgery during her third-year rotations as an EVMS student. Since joining the school's faculty in 2004, Dr. Britt helped develop the Acute Care Surgery service line at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, the region's only designated Level 1 Trauma and Burn Center. She also has worked closely with the Sentara Center for Simulation and Immersive Learning at EVMS to improve hands-on experiences for the next generation of surgeons.

"We are fortunate to have such a sophisticated simulation center," Dr. Britt says, "giving students the opportunity to practice a wide range of medical procedures. That ultimately translates into the best care for our patients."

In shepherding the general-surgery residency program, Dr. Britt plans more team-based and multispecialty components for the simulation curriculum. She also oversees a mentoring program through the American College of Surgeons and is involved with state and national mentoring programs for the Association of Women Surgeons. Expanding these opportunities for new surgeons — particularly women — in Hampton Roads is important to her.

"Young surgeons encounter unique challenges and often feel the need to connect with more experienced surgeons," says Dr. Britt, "I have been blessed with a number of fantastic mentors, and I'm grateful that Sentara and EVMS have provided this opportunity for me to further develop my leadership skills so that I can provide the best training possible for future surgeons."



ERIC DOBRATZ, MD

Associate Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Director, Division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Director, Otolaryngology Residency Training Program

Healing Lives Through Surgery

ERIC DOBRATZ, MD (MD '03), became interested in otolaryngology and facial plastics out of a desire to help children with deformities, such as cleft palate and absence of an ear, when he was a medical student at EVMS. Since then, he has been on several medical mission trips, including to Kenya.

"It's so rewarding to see the positive changes I can make in other people's lives," Dr. Dobratz says. "I love to see a patient's joy when we take off the dressings and they see the results."

Through his leadership roles at EVMS, he hopes to expand faculty development opportunities in patient safety and quality improvement, a new focus in medical education, he says.

"These were not part of the curriculum for many faculty members who have been out of school for a while," he says, "but they are critical for today's residents. It's important to train faculty on the best way to teach these subjects, so they can effectively train residents at the bedside or in the clinic."

Recently appointed to the Executive Council of the Otolaryngology Program Directors Association, he hopes to take on more leadership roles with organizations, such as the American Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity from EVMS and Sentara," Dr. Dobratz says. "As faculty are supported to become leaders in their medical specialties, we will be able to better prepare future generations of doctors to offer patients the best care possible."



MICHAEL HOOPER, MD

Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine
Chair, *Sentara Healthcare OrderSet Oversight Group*
Co-chair, *Sentara Healthcare Critical-Care High Performance Team*

Applying Data to Improve Care

MICHAEL HOOPER, MD, believes that the application of solid information technology is key to high-quality, compassionate care. A specialist in pulmonary and critical-care medicine, Dr. Hooper devotes his leadership abilities to helping EVMS and Sentara Healthcare make better use of the voluminous amount of clinical data available in electronic health records (EHR).

Dr. Hooper plans to pursue board certification in clinical informatics, the application of information technology to deliver medical care. “There seems to be a disconnect between the hands-off specialty of clinical informatics and a very hands-on specialty, such as critical care,” Dr. Hooper says. “However, having a good

understanding of the information systems available, as well as the clinical workflow, is vital to improving the quality and efficiency of our care.”

A member of several groups focused on informatics and clinical decision support for Sentara Healthcare, he started an informatics group at EVMS that’s improving the school’s outpatient EHR to promote efficiency and patient safety.

“These endowed chairs are invaluable in that they will give faculty more time and resources to focus on the academic endeavors we’re passionate about,” he says. “That may result in discoveries that will reflect well on the medical school and lead to more publications, new clinical programs and new research initiatives. All of those things will be good for the Hampton Roads community.”



CYNTHIA ROMERO, MD

Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine
Director, *M. Foscue Brock Institute for Community and Global Health*

A Heart for the Community

CYNTHIA ROMERO, MD (MD '93), has dedicated her life to promoting the health and wellness of family, friends and neighbors. From practicing medicine alongside her mother, also a family physician, to serving as Virginia’s Health Commissioner, Dr. Romero has advocated for stronger health-care policies and better health-care delivery to ensure that every patient receives compassionate, high-quality care.

“Hampton Roads is my home, so I am passionate and eager to do whatever I can to improve the health and wellness of everyone who lives here,” she says. “I want to do everything I can to raise awareness of the health-care gaps in Virginia and throughout the nation. And then I’d like to help close those disparities so that all people have an equal chance to live well and to stay healthy.”

Dr. Romero hopes to strengthen the medical school’s community focus; create partnerships with local hospitals, government agencies and nonprofits; and promote research activities focused on community health.

“We want to constantly look at our impact in improving the health of our community through educational, clinical care and research activities,” says Dr. Romero, a past President of the Medical Society of Virginia, which represents over 10,000 physicians, residents and medical students across the commonwealth. “As we expose our medical and health-professions students to measurable, outcome-driven ways of serving the community, we are helping shape the community-oriented mindset of the next generation of health-care providers.”



To learn more, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.



A CADAVER CLOSE-UP AND
EARLY MEDICAL EXPOSURE

Is Medicine for Me?

Thirty-year partnership creates unique opportunities for high-school students considering the health professions

At 7:40 a.m. in a Lester Hall lab, instructor Terry Zablocki moves from table to table, posing questions to her three-dozen students and responding to theirs.

At one table, she picks up a brain. “Where’s the hippocampus?” she asks. At another, she traces a finger along the brain and says, “See this? This is your optic nerve.”

The room buzzes with the low-level conversation of students who are focused and engaged. Five or six at each table inspect their brain samples with gloved hands, asking questions of one another and making notes. “Is this the lateral

ventricle?” one student asks her tablemates.

The scene — for all intents and purposes — looks like any other EVMS anatomy class. But these aren’t graduate- or even college-level students. In fact, they haven’t finished high school. These students are juniors in the Medical and Health Specialties Program at Maury High School, a collaboration with EVMS that celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

“I was really excited for anatomy class,” says junior Madeline Crockett, a pediatrician-in-the-making whose older sister graduated from the program. “It’s been very cool to have an understanding of the body that’s not from a textbook.”





Maury High School junior Madeline Crockett (second from left) inspects a brain sample with guidance from program instructor Terry Zablocki during an anatomy class held at EVMS.



Medical and Health Specialties Program Courses

Freshmen

Accelerated Health & PE 9
Biology with Medical Applications

Sophomores

Chemistry with Medical Applications

Juniors

Anatomy Physiology

Seniors

Bioethics
Emergency Medical Responder
Forensic Science
Sports Medicine



The **33** program graduates in 2016 completed more than **9,500 hours** of community service, had a collective grade point average of **4.04** and earned **\$2.7 million** in scholarships.

After joining EVMS in the late 1980s, Paul Aravich, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Anatomy, remembers asking about the high-school students he saw on campus. “I said to myself, this is a pretty interesting community partnership.” He’s been involved in various ways ever since. Today, he gives lectures and presentations, serves on the program’s admissions committee and advocates for it among EVMS faculty.

“This program,” Dr. Aravich says, “is the perfect example of EVMS living up to its vision of being the most community-oriented school of medicine and health professions in the nation.”

But it pre-dated that official vision by decades. In 1986, a grant from the National Institutes of Health established a three-year pilot partnership between EVMS and Norfolk Public Schools to promote academic excellence in the sciences and to increase diversity in the medical and health professions. The first class comprised 27 high-school students. Thirty years later, the pipeline program is thriving, with 234 rising freshmen from all over Norfolk competing for 55 spots in this year’s entering class.

Marissa Galicia-Castillo, MD (MD '97, Internal Medicine

Residency '00), the Sue Faulkner Scribner Distinguished Professor in Geriatrics and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, graduated with the program’s second class. She then earned a full scholarship to the BS/MD program offered jointly by Old Dominion University and EVMS.

“A lot of my friends in high school chose this program,” she says. “So I did, too.”

Dr. Galicia-Castillo says students learn not only what fits them, but also what’s not a good fit. “Having the opportunity to see a cadaver isn’t something even most college students are exposed to,” she says. “Either you love it or you hate it.”

Noelle Gabriel, MD (MD '06, Pediatrics Residency '09), was a student of Dr. Galicia-Castillo at EVMS. She and her sister, Candice Gabriel, MD (MD '07, Pediatrics Residency '10), are Maury-program graduates who went on to become pediatric specialists.

“I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have attended the program,” says Dr. Noelle Gabriel, who was elected to the Norfolk School Board in May. “I am grateful to those who had



After graduating from the Medical and Health Specialties Program in 1990, Marissa Galicia-Castillo, MD, was accepted into the joint EVMS/Old Dominion University BS/MD program. She is now on the EVMS faculty.

the visionary thinking to create it, putting the possibility of becoming a medical professional at the fingertips of those who would not have considered such a choice.”

From pilot experiment to millions in scholarships

High-school students are often surprised by the recent explosion of opportunities in the health professions, says Anne Christie, Program Leader and Academic Advisor since 2009. “Initially when I ask what careers they’re interested in,” she says, “they always say being a doctor or a nurse. But these students are exposed to forensic scientists, neurosurgeons, sports medicine doctors, surgical assistants, even cosmetic restoricians who work in funeral homes.”

Seshi Konu entered the program wanting to be a doctor. “But now I’m not sure what I want to do,” she says, “because I have so many options.” After graduating in May and earning scholarships to the University of Virginia, she says, “I feel

“These are phenomenal students. They’re from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods, yet they all share a common goal of wanting to be challenged.”

— Anne Christie, Program Leader and Academic Advisor



prepared to go out and do great things.”

Program graduate Teonna Sharp, another UVA scholarship recipient, is Ms. Konu’s roommate in Charlottesville. “The academics are rigorous,” Ms. Sharp remembers. She and her twin brother, also a program alumnus, are the first in their family to attend college — he’s now at Virginia Tech. Their younger sister is following in their program footsteps.

“However high I set the bar,” Ms. Christie says, “these students will rise to it. It’s been incredibly rewarding to see their development from the time they start as freshmen until they’re seniors.”

And develop they do. For the last five years, every program graduate was accepted into college except one who chose to enlist in the military. The 33 graduates in 2016 completed more than 9,500 hours of community service, had a collective grade-point average of 4.04 and earned \$2.7 million in scholarships.

More than \$681,000 of that scholarship money was offered to Taylor Davis, 2016 program valedictorian whose GPA was an astonishing 4.72. Now a student at Georgetown University, she plans to be an orthopedic surgeon.

“These are phenomenal students,” Ms. Christie says. “They’re from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods, yet they all share a common goal of wanting to be challenged.”

Maury High School hosts many of the program classes, but juniors travel by bus to EVMS daily for a 7:30 a.m. Anatomy Physiology class, and seniors come for parts of the Forensic Science instruction. Throughout the academic year, EVMS faculty members give special lectures and presentations at Maury. The students’ annual “white-shirt ceremony” is modeled on EVMS’ white-coat ceremonies, and they recite their own version of a Hippocratic oath written six years ago by a program student (*see sidebar on page 17*).

“I am proud of our longstanding involvement with this pipeline program,” says Richard Homan, MD, President and Provost of EVMS and Dean of the School of Medicine. “Over its 30-year history, this unique partnership has connected hundreds of high school students with health-care opportunities. It is also a wonderful example of how EVMS creates innovative ways to

collaborate with our community.”

Thirteen years ago, Terry Zablocki was so impressed with the Maury program that she left her job at Old Dominion University to teach several program classes. “The students come in as young, green freshmen,” she says, “and I get to see them develop and mature into these great individuals by the time they’re seniors. That’s why I do it — I love working with these kids.”

EVMS faculty and staff have been overwhelmingly supportive of program needs, Ms. Zabocki adds. “Not just the professors but everyone there. Even the security staff love seeing our students.”

Dr. Galicia-Castillo made a point to stop by the seniors’ graduation ceremony held at EVMS in May. “I have a special place in my heart for this program.” □



To learn more, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.

"I am grateful to those who had the visionary thinking to create it, putting the possibility of becoming a medical professional at the fingertips of those who would not have considered such a choice."

— **Noelle Gabriel, MD**, (MD '06, Pediatrics Residency '09)

Taylor Davis (left), 2016 program valedictorian, was offered \$681,000 in scholarships. Noelle Gabriel, MD (right), is a Maury program graduate, an EVMS alumna and Vice Chair of the Norfolk School Board.





**MEDICAL AND HEALTH
SPECIALTIES PROGRAM
AT MAURY HIGH SCHOOL**



Student Oath

I swear by every responsible adult in my life, be it my mom, my dad, my rabbi, my priest or my teacher, to uphold the following commitment to the best of my ability:

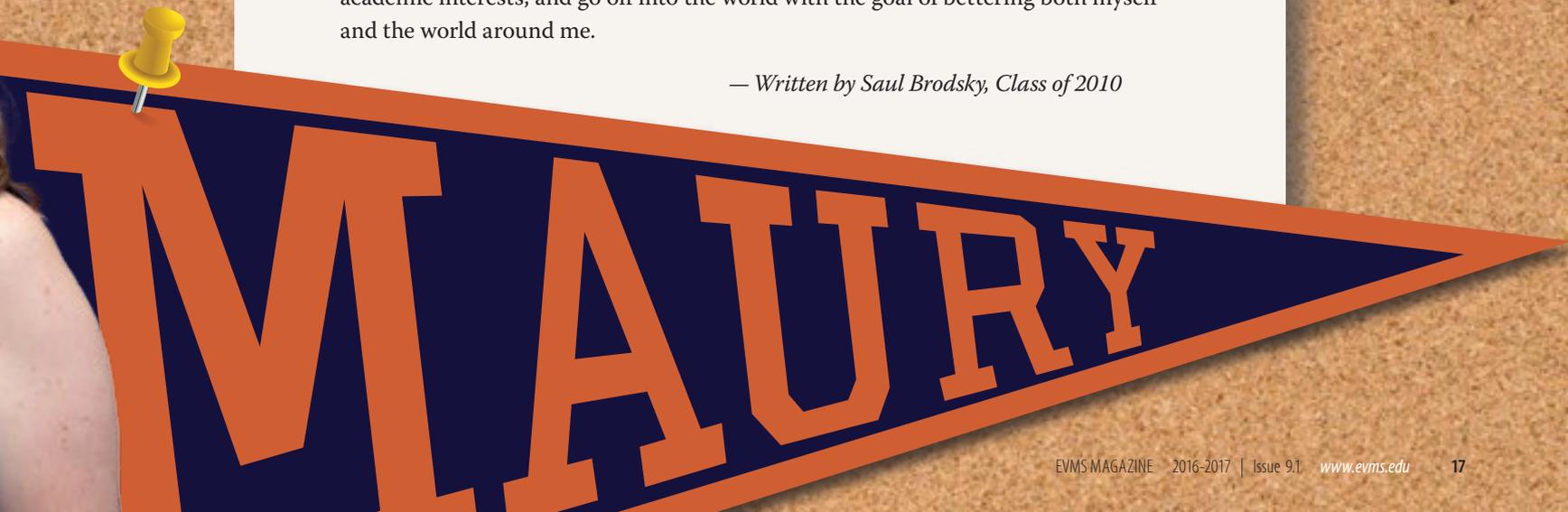
I pledge to honor all relationships in my life: to eliminate all prejudices and stereotypes before meeting new people, to give my friends the benefit of the doubt, and to support them in their time of need; to consider and respect all other perspectives during times of conflict, and to embrace an open outlook toward global issues;

I pledge to pursue my academic interests with the utmost commitment and dedication, and to concentrate my energy on creating a respectable and successful future for myself; to appreciate and value the opportunities I am afforded; to use my education in a way to contribute toward the betterment of society; I swear to maintain a high level of self-respect, and to maintain both sound mind and sound body;

I pledge to never get behind the wheel of a car under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and to keep my peers safe while under these same circumstances; And, even though it may be difficult, I promise to not only respect my elders, but to learn from them; to greatly consider their advice and guidance; to use them as positive examples in my life.

If I maintain this oath throughout my high school career, my life as a student and my adult life, may I be respected and admired by all my peers and afford them that same respect; may I get accepted into an institute of higher learning, pursue my academic interests, and go off into the world with the goal of bettering both myself and the world around me.

— *Written by Saul Brodsky, Class of 2010*





When patients register with Every Woman's Life, they get instructions in performing breast self-exams from Amy Swink, Program Coordinator.

“This is something we can do”

Unique collaboration provides lifesaving screenings to help uninsured women

Michele Hopkins doesn't fear much. The Norfolk resident has worked as a deputy sheriff and a corrections officer. She raised a daughter on her own. She even went back to college at 40.

But in 2014 when she felt a weird sensation in her right breast, she panicked. “I didn't have insurance at the time,” she says, “so I didn't know what to do.”

Then she learned about Every Woman's Life, a program funded by the Centers for Disease Control that provides uninsured women who meet specific criteria with free screenings for breast and cervical cancers. The CDC grant is awarded by the Virginia Department of Health to EVMS for screenings in Norfolk and Portsmouth. They are conducted through a collaboration that

includes Sentara Healthcare, Bon Secours and EVMS Medical Group.

Ms. Hopkins' weird sensation was, in fact, breast cancer. Because it was caught early, though, Eric Feliberti, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, was able to perform a lumpectomy, saving her breast. Chemotherapy and radiation followed. So far she is cancer-free, but Dr. Feliberti and Every Woman's Life still monitor her.

Of the nearly 13,000 Norfolk and Portsmouth women screened through the program, Ms. Hopkins is among the 2.4 percent treated for breast or cervical cancer. “A lot of women don't know where to go,” she says. “I let them know there is help available.”

Early detection improves cancer survival rates and quality of life during treatment, says Tammy Miller, Breast Program Manager at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. “Out of all Virginia health districts,” she says, “Norfolk is in the top three for breast cancer rates. That's why Sentara is happy to collaborate with EVMS on these vital screenings for women who have no other options.”

The program holds two clinics in Norfolk and one in Portsmouth each month. EVMS resident physicians, supervised by an EVMS attending physician, examine the Norfolk women at a Sentara Ambulatory Care Center. During a recent clinic, 29 women received free mammograms in the Sentara mobile mammography van parked outside. If cancer is found, Amy Swink, Program Coordinator and Case Manager since the program's 1997 launch at EVMS, helps the patient apply for Medicaid to cover treatment costs.

“Amy's been extremely resourceful in solidifying relationships with our community partners,” says C. Donald Combs, PhD, Vice President and Dean of the School of Health Professions.

As to why EVMS took this on nearly 20 years ago, Dr. Combs is clear. “EVMS is a convener of community issues around health care,” he says. “We can't fix everything, but this is something we can do.” □



To learn more, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.



Balancing Act

Linda Staiger, MD (MD '77), struggled under her load of textbooks when she was an EVMS student. Thankfully, today's technology has eased the textbook burden.

From opening with 27 students in 1973, EVMS has grown to more than 1,300 students enrolled this year, with that number projected to approach 1,500 in another four years.

Also this year, the first class of MD students celebrates its 40th anniversary of graduation at Alumni Weekend, which takes place Oct. 14-16. □



Scott Hansen, MD (MD '97)

Groundbreaking transplant surgery puts

In Scott Hansen's work, the smallest, intricate details matter most, especially when you're making history.

Earlier this year, Dr. Hansen (MD '97), along with fellow University of California San Francisco (UCSF) surgeon Lisa Lattanza, MD, led two medical teams in a groundbreaking elbow transplant surgery.

A car accident seven years ago left Texas resident Reggie Cook with a shattered elbow in his right arm and no function in his left. Desperate to regain

use of his right arm, Mr. Cook asked his doctor to do something never done before: transplant his good elbow from one arm to the other. The unique proposal made its way to the UCSF surgery

department where Drs. Hansen and Lattanza used computer imaging and practiced variations of the process in the cadaver lab before agreeing to do the procedure.

"It was exciting and scary all at the same time," Dr. Hansen says. "My role was harvesting the elbow joint from the left arm with a vascular pedicle to keep it alive, and then transplanting it to the right arm and reconnecting the blood supply to make it be alive."

The 12-hour procedure involved slicing through layers of tissue and severing muscle and blood vessels in a way that would preserve their function. Making the surgery more complex was that placing the left elbow in the right arm would require the bones to sit backward – like working with a mirror image.

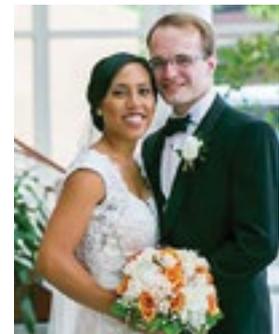
"Whenever you do something that has never been done before," he says, "you worry because no matter how much planning you have done, unknown things

Mr. Cook asked his doctor to do something never done before: transplant his good elbow from one arm to the other.



classNotes

- **Nkanta “Nick” Hines, MS, MBA** (Biomedical Sciences ’96), has been named Chief of Staff for Marsha Rappley, MD, Chief Executive Officer for VCU Health System in Richmond.
- **Bobby Kalantar, MD** (MD ’04), is Chief of Orthopedic Spine Surgery at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.
- **Mary Maniscalco-Theberge, MD** (MD ’81), has been selected as the first recipient of the American College of Surgeons Women in Surgery Committee Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award. This award is given in recognition of an individual’s significant contributions to the advancement of women in the field of surgery. Dr. Maniscalco-Theberge is a retired Army colonel who serves as the Deputy Medical Inspector for Professional Services in the Veterans Administration Office of the Medical Inspector in Washington, D.C. She is also an Attending General Surgeon at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Associate Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.
- **Marlene Capps, MD** (MD ’00), has been appointed Chief Medical Officer for Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News.
- **Laura Dobbs, MS** (MAT ’02), had a painting included in an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Virginia Beach.
- **Christopher Wilson, MD, MPH** (MD ’08, MPH ’05), has been named Director of the Western Tidewater Health District.
- **Carolyn Riegle, MD** (MD ’79, Pediatrics Residency ’82), was a contestant on the TV game show *Jeopardy!* in July. □
- **Heather Soloria Bandy, MD** (MD ’11), and **Nick Bandy, MD** (MD ’13), met in the EVMS Brickell Medical Sciences Library Rotunda before heading to Honduras in 2011 on an EVMS medical mission trip. So it seemed only fitting that before their recent wedding, they had photographs taken in the rotunda.



Heather Soloria Bandy, MD (MD ’11), and Nick Bandy, MD (MD ’13)

Photo courtesy of David Champagne Photography

skill to the test

can come up. But the case itself went as smoothly as possible, and I had a big team that provided the support necessary to complete the surgery.”

Mr. Cook has since regained function in his right arm and is able to care for himself in a way that had been impossible after the car accident.

“It has been amazing to see him do things like feed himself and care for himself again,” Dr. Hansen says.

While he has been busy making history at UCSF, Dr. Hansen credits much of his strength in medicine to his foundational years at EVMS. In fact, he believes that the education at EVMS rivals better known medical schools.

“I was well suited for the rigor of UCSF because of EVMS,” he says. “It’s a phenomenal school, the camaraderie and professors are unbelievable and the education you receive is awesome.” □

2016 EVMS ALUMNI WEEKEND

October 14-16, 2016

Friday: Welcome Reception

Saturday: EVMS Alumni Chalet at the Town Point Virginia Wine Festival

Sunday: Campus Tours, Breakfast

Visit evms.edu/alumni for full event details, registration, accommodations and to see who’s coming!

Beach woman honors best friend through fishing fundraiser

At 4:30 in the morning, boats are leaving the dock. By 8:30, fishing lines are in the water 60 miles offshore.

Clad in pink, these are not your average fishermen. They are women, young and old, who are on the water to raise money for breast cancer research at EVMS. And bringing them all together is Linda Church, chair of the Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation's Wine, Women & Fishing event.



Linda Church started raising money for breast cancer research 10 years ago after she lost her best friend, Debi Bunn, to the disease.

Ms. Church started volunteering for the annual women's fishing tournament 14 years ago, having never fished offshore before. Since then, she's helped raise over \$500,000, aiding researchers in finding a cure for a devastating disease.

"I'm very proud of Wine, Women & Fishing," Ms. Church says. "When I die, this will be my

biggest legacy, contributing to cancer research."

She, like most people, has been personally touched by cancer. Ten years ago, she lost her best friend, Debi Bunn, to breast cancer, and the money she raises for EVMS is given in part in her friend's name. "I don't want her to be forgotten," she says. "I used to bring her picture and have it on the stage at the tournament, but I can't do that anymore. When I see her, I start crying."

This year, many boats will be filled with survivors and others whose loved ones have had cancer. "There's no way it hasn't touched your life," she says. "So you have fun and it makes you feel good that you're doing it for a good cause."

And why not wear pink while you're at it? The craziest crew costume competition is almost as competitive, if not more, than the fishing prize. Each boat has a theme, and the women put their all into it. "That's the really fun part," she says, when at the end of the day, the boats parade back to the dock, flaunting their stuff and their catch. "It's fun because you've never seen so much pink happening."

She also appreciates that EVMS cancer researchers volunteer at the tournament, taking raffle tickets, helping out. "They have an unbelievable research team," she says. "And I truly in my heart of hearts feel like the major breakthroughs are going to come out of EVMS. I truly believe that." □



To learn more about Wine, Women & Fishing and EVMS cancer research, visit evms.edu/digitalmagazine.



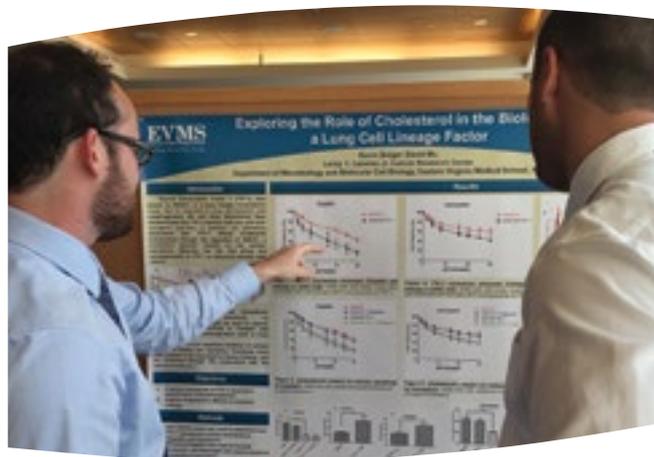
A stitch in time

Malea Williams (right) and Caitlin O'Connor, both of the Master of Laboratory Animal Science Class of 2017, work on their suturing skills in a recent training session.



Training day

Brittany Dye, MD (Emergency Medicine Residency '16), talks with Barry Knapp, MD, Professor of Emergency Medicine, outside Sentara Norfolk General Hospital's Level 1 Trauma Center during a resident training day.



Summer fun

Kevin Bolger (left) discusses his research project with Austin Serbin, both of the MD Class of 2019, during Summer Scholars Research Day.



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