

MEET THE FUTURE

Tomorrow's medical and health professionals are now in training. Meet a sampling of students and residents from the 2014 entering class



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Vicky Greene

EXPANDING HER TOOL KIT WITH ART THERAPY

**ART THERAPY AND COUNSELING
CLASS OF 2016**

Vicky Greene has a knack for doing things in pairs — undergraduate double majors in computer information and sociology, tandem master's degrees in clinical psychology and counseling, twin 11-year-olds, Jameel and Jamari.

Ms. Greene isn't finished.

She's enrolled in the EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program, which combines two professional fields.

She also recently finished an associate's degree in photography at Tidewater Community College and works part time, in addition to being a wife and mother. She and her husband, Jarrod Greene Sr., also have another child, son Jarrod Jr., 17.

"I'm very determined to better myself personally and professionally, especially if it's something to help improve other people's lives," says Ms. Greene, who works part time as a mental-health clinician for Virginia Beach's crisis management unit. "When I'm interested in something, I go all in."

Ms. Greene, 40, a former Navy storekeeper, studied computer information systems after leaving the military. But she changed career goals because she "wanted to help people in a different way."

Finding her way into counseling and earning her two master's degrees, Ms. Greene considered getting a doctorate. At about the same time, she was experimenting with having clients make collages out of magazine pictures as a way to express their emotions.

She stumbled across information about EVMS' art therapy and counseling program online and was immediately interested. But to qualify for admission, Ms. Greene needed to bolster her arts background. So, she earned an associate's degree in photography at TCC. "It was intimidating to go to art classes, but this is what I needed to do to help people," she says.

She believes her training in art therapy will help her better relate to her patients.

"My goal is to get as many tools as I can to help my clients," Ms. Greene says.

She grew up in a single-parent household in Montgomery, Ala., and watched her mother and grandmother help others despite their own struggles. "They were my mentors," she says.

Ms. Greene takes an optimistic view of life and does the best she can to improve the world around her.

"I've learned that it's not just about making a living," she says. "I want to make an impact."

Tyler Simpson

BENEFICIARY OF THE "POWER OF MEDICINE"

**MEDICAL DOCTOR
CLASS OF 2018**

Tyler Simpson dressed as Batman for the EVMS Haunted Hallway event last fall, but he doesn't need a Bat-Signal to spring into action, especially for volunteer work. The first-year medical student has taken to heart the school's community-oriented mission.

Mr. Simpson dedicates more than 24 hours per semester to helping low-income children with writing skills, nutrition awareness and other positive activities through the EVMS Young at Heart program. He also assists with HOPES, the EVMS student-run free clinic.

"It's nice to get outside the classroom like this," he explains. "It's the reason we got into medicine in the first place, to help other people and future generations."

For Mr. Simpson, volunteering also has become a way to express his deepened appreciation for life since surviving a near-tragic diving accident during the summer of 2009 after his freshman year at James Madison University. Mr. Simpson was paralyzed from the neck down after breaking his fourth cervical vertebrae when he dived from a boat into shallow waters off Virginia's Eastern Shore.


His recovery, he says, had to do with a quick-thinking friend, who happened to be a medical

student. The friend turned the injured Mr. Simpson face up in the water and then floated him to shore instead of trying to hoist him into the boat, a maneuver that could have resulted in greater injury.

When Mr. Simpson returned to his undergraduate studies, he had solidified his thoughts about becoming a medical doctor and also began looking for more ways to help others as a volunteer. The accident and recovery "fueled my aspiration to become a physician. I got to witness the power of medicine, the power of healing. It changed my perspective, and I matured."

He returned to JMU and attained certification as an emergency medical technician. Later, he volunteered with a local rescue squad and worked as a medical scribe — a job he still performs part time — and earned a master's in biomedical sciences from EVMS.

Mr. Simpson is undecided about his medical specialty. But whatever specialty he chooses, he says, he wants "to have a career that involves a lot of procedures and a lot of hands-on time with my patients. That patient-physician relationship is one of the most important things about medicine — being able to relate to and communicate with your patients."



"I don't think about accounting anymore. I want to impact the lives of other people."

Emmanuel Adomako

CALCULATING A CAREER IN PUBLIC HEALTH

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CLASS OF 2016

Emmanuel Adomako is enrolled in the EVMS-ODU Graduate Program in Public Health, but his lessons come at almost every turn in his life.

In recent years, Mr. Adomako, 33, emigrated from Ghana, became a United States citizen, enlisted in the U.S. Navy and switched his career track from accounting to health care.

"Everything has changed my perspective," he says. "In accounting, you work with figures — adding, subtracting, analyzing numbers, doing taxes. But I don't think about accounting anymore. I want to impact the lives of other people. If people are not healthy, then what's the point of accounting?"

Now, Mr. Adomako, a hospital corpsman third class, works full time as a dental lab technician at the Navy's Adm. Joel T. Boone Branch Health Clinic at Little Creek Amphibious Base and attends classes three nights a week. Through his concentration in health management and policy, he's become more aware of public issues, including the patterns and effects of diseases, health-care disparities, access to affordable health care and trends such as obesity and smoking.

Mr. Adomako plans to become a naval officer or work for the World Health Organization or a similar agency.

Meanwhile, he has been racking up awards, such as Junior Sailor of the Quarter at the Boone Clinic and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

He has also been reflecting on his potential roles in public-health issues — and even how American life is affecting his own health.

"It's unusual in Ghana to eat a lot of sweets and drink a lot of soda. But here — now I have had a few cavities," Mr. Adomako says. With a chuckle, he adds that one of his naval dental lab instructors frequently rewarded students with chocolate for giving correct answers in classroom discussions.

He has grown confident about helping people even though his dental lab-tech job involves producing dentures, crowns and the like — not working hands-on with patients.

The former accountant now revels in his new career — even in small successes. For instance, he recalls giving a mouth guard he made to a sailor preparing to deploy.

"It fit perfectly! And he was so happy," Mr. Adomako recalls. "I was like 'Wow! I'm having an impact on someone's life.'"



"There are a lot of aspects to emergency medicine and that just fits my personality. I'm a hands-on guy."

Brandon Dupont

A SHORTSTOP IN THE GAME OF LIFE

EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENCY
CLASS OF 2017

If you can picture a baseball shortstop diving for a groundball to stop a run, then you can understand why emergency medicine appeals to first-year resident Brandon Dupont.

The shortstop, often the most nimble athlete on the field, must range far to the right or left to chase down a baseball, scramble to his feet to throw to first, time his leap to snag a line drive or dance away from a runner while turning a double play.

"There are a lot of aspects to emergency medicine and that just fits my personality. I'm a hands-on guy," says Dr. Dupont, who just happened to play shortstop for Rayville High School in Louisiana. "In the emergency room, you always have to be on your toes. Anything could happen. You always have to be prepared."

Dr. Dupont, 27, has been turned on by the idea of becoming a doctor since the fourth grade when he bought "The Human Body Book" by Steve Parker at a school book fair. But he didn't know what field of medicine he'd pursue until taking a rotation in an emergency department during his third year in medical school at Louisiana State University.

"I just feel in love with emergency medicine. I really felt that was what I was called to do," Dr. Dupont recalls.

"The breadth of knowledge you have to know is just so wide," he says. "You have to know about the 6-day-

old, the 6-month-old, the 6-year-old, all the way up to the 26-year-old to the 60-year-old to the 96-year-old. I wanted to be able to handle any situation that came my way."

Dr. Dupont is pleased with the opportunities offered through the EVMS emergency medicine program, including the opportunity to work in urban and suburban settings.

"You get the full spectrum of what it's like to practice in different emergency departments that are out there," he says.

Dr. Dupont's enthusiasm for new experiences also factored into his coming to EVMS. After 26 years in Louisiana, he was ready to try living in another part of the country, especially along the East Coast.

Here, he envisions his home in Norfolk's rejuvenated Ocean View community as a base for exploring the Chesapeake Bay, Shenandoah Mountains and other corners of the commonwealth for kayaking, canoeing, hiking, camping and many more activities.

He relies on sports and recreation to help him relieve the stress from working in emergency situations.

"Emergency medicine has a high burnout rate," Dr. Dupont says. "This program makes us aware of that and not be blindsided by it."