

## Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

It was a (seemingly) short ten years ago when I edited our first "Lifeline: Premedical Programs Newsletter". It is so gratifying to look back through our 9 annual editions and relive the events and people reflected in our stories. We didn't publish a 2020 edition due to the pandemic upending everything on campus (and everywhere!) Perhaps it is fitting that co-editing our 2021 edition is one of the last tasks I will undertake as Director of Premedical Programs. After almost 13 years at UD, first as assistant director and then for nine years as director, I plan to retire in August.

It has been such a great ride! I have met so many amazing students and alumni. It has indeed been a joy spending my day with such inspiring individuals!

This past year was of course a challenging time on campus due to the pandemic. Luckily, I had a great tiny team to help us pivot and do our best to provide courses, programs, services and support to our students as we weathered the pandemic. Dr. Elizabeth Rhoads came on in August to become associate director after Dr. Maddie DeBeer concluded her 4 year tenure as assistant director in Summer 2020. I am forever grateful to Dr. DeBeer for all she gave to the program during her tenure. I am also very happy to have Dr. Rhoads onboard! She has been invaluable in helping plan our 2021 virtual healthcare symposium, coordinating our shadowing program, sending out our weekly updates to students and taking on any and every challenge that the 2020/2021 academic year presented. In addition, our new senior administrative assistant, Susan Cuttone has really learned the ropes quickly and now runs our office like a well-oiled machine!

We hoped to have a new director for fall semester, but unfortunately some challenges delayed the initiation of the search. Thankfully, Dr. Rhoads has graciously agreed to step in to the role of interim director for the 2021-2022 academic year. The College of Arts and Sciences will initiate a national search for a new director in fall.

I hope you are doing well and enjoying some return to normalcy in your world. We of course had to curtail some of our typical activities this past year, such as our international medical experience, some of our local clinical opportunities and of course anything that would be typically be conducted in face-to-face format. Our students were champs when it came to persevering during this difficult stretch. I am certain that they have grown a great deal and will have no problem talking about how they have exhibited attributes important to healthcare such as grit, perseverance and determination.

Everyone at UD looks forward to a return to in-person classes this fall and the comradery and vibrancy we missed this past year. I hope your world too is joyful and lively and that a visit to our beloved university is in your future!

Best wishes always,

Kathy



## Interim Director's Letter

I have enjoyed working in the Premedical Programs Office over the past year as Associate Director. While I always look forward to the start of a new term, after a year of pandemic restrictions, I am especially excited for the fall semester to begin. The halls and classrooms of the Science Center will once again be filled with smiling students, who are the lifeblood of the university. I will be smiling too! I am honored to provide leadership for Premedical Programs this next year as Interim Director. I will carry on the incredible work of Dr. Scheltens, whose vision and dedication have elevated both the curriculum and community engagement of our Premedicine and Pre dentistry majors. As a faculty member in the Biology Department and premed advisor, I have been blessed with the opportunity to interact closely with students. Stepping into the director role will allow me to serve students in new ways during what promises to be a special year. I will embrace the return to in-person events and being able to see those smiles on students' faces.

Enjoy the rest of summer,

Elizabeth

## New Students

This year our 59 MED/DEN graduates were able to cross the stage and receive their diploma at UD Arena! It was a smaller gathering due to covid restrictions, but we are thankful they were able to celebrate their graduation in this time honored tradition.

This fall, we will be welcoming in 113 MED/DEN majors. This is the largest group of First Year students in the last decade. Interestingly, there are many more females entering, 74 females and 38 males. Over half of this cohort comes from Ohio (65) with the second place state being Illinois with 12.

Big congratulations to our graduates and a huge welcome to our incoming class of 2025.

## Can You Mentor a Premed/Preden Major?

This past year, we were able to make a new mentoring opportunity available to our students thanks to a program coordinated by UD Alumni Association and Career Services.

The Alumni Mentoring Program arranged for 116 mentor/mentee pairings during the '20 - '21 academic year. Of the total pairs, thirty Premed students were paired with alumni healthcare professionals.

Students and alumni can sign-up for the Alumni Mentoring Program by going to Flyer Connection. This program is designed for long-term one-on-one mentoring. Alumni share their experiences and expertise with a paired student, no matter their location or stage of their career. The program will begin taking new alumni and students starting in August 2021. For questions, please contact senior associate director of alumni and constituent programs McKenzie Morin '06 at [mmorin1@udayton.edu](mailto:mmorin1@udayton.edu).



# 2021 Graduating Senior Awards

## CHELSIE M. BAYLOR

Montgomery County Medical Society Award to the Outstanding Senior in a Premedical Curriculum

## CHARLES J. BOTTI

The Joseph E. Scherger, M.D., MPH Leadership in Medicine Award to a Graduating Premedical Student Who Has Demonstrated Leadership Toward Improving the Health of the Public Through Better Health Care

## SAMUEL A. RIPLEY

The Brother Francis J. Molz, S.M., Memorial Award to the Outstanding Senior in Premedicine. Awarded annually to the student who best demonstrates the qualities of unselfishness, community service and academic achievement

## JACOB W. WAGNER

Miami Valley Academy of Family Physicians Award to the Graduating Senior Whose Activities Exemplify the Philosophy of Family Medicine



Jacob W. Wagner



Charles J. Botti

## International Medical Experience



Team 1 outside of clinic in Piegras Gordas.

In January 2020, two groups of students traveled to Panama along with local physicians and Premed adjunct faculty, Dr. Marylynn Herchline, Dr. Tom Herchline and Dr. Annette Chavez. Group 1 visited several communities in the area of Piedras Gordas where they helped provide 214 medical consultations provided by our physicians alongside local providers. In addition, students presented 27 health education workshops focused on preventative care. The team also conducted 21 vision screenings under the guidance of a local optometrist. Team 2 was assigned to the communities in La Venta where they provided 239 medical consultations, one health education workshop and 57 vision screenings.

The groups also spent a day digging trenches to assist in a long term project aimed to improve the clean water supply in one local community.

We are most grateful for our adjunct faculty and local physicians Dr. Tom Herchline, Dr. Marylynn Herchline, Dr. Annette Chavez and Dr. John Lyman for their many years of service to this program.

Of course our 2021 trip was cancelled due to the pandemic. We hope to resume travel in Spring 2022 when we are tentatively scheduled to return to Panama.

## UD Students Answer the Call to Serve at Vaccination Clinics

The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for many families, altering nearly all aspects of our lives. Changes to campus life, from courses to extracurriculars, have challenged students in new ways and left gaps in their usually full engagement with the community. For our Premedicine and Pre dentistry students, the pandemic strongly limited clinical experiences that are so critical in preparing for health professional school.

When Premier Health reached out to the Premedical Programs Office in late January 2021 looking for volunteers for COVID-19 vaccination clinics, our students leapt at the opportunity to contribute to this massive public health effort. Sophomore Premedicine major Will Durbin was eager to participate, "When I heard about the opportunity to volunteer at the vaccination clinic, I eagerly signed up, knowing this was the biggest hope to end the year of endless Zoom meetings." He also recognized the benefits for those vaccinated, especially the elderly population, "Not only did the vaccination provide immunity to a virus many feared, but it was the ticket to seeing their families again and giving some much-needed hugs."

Through the student organizations Alpha Epsilon Delta and Healing Hearts, dozens of students served in supporting roles at vaccination clinics at UD Arena from February through April 2021. In addition, 19 students staffed vaccination clinics at Drew Center, part of Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton.

Rising senior Premedicine major Katie Kohnen volunteered at both UD Arena and Drew Center, "It was fascinating to witness the differences and similarities between the two vaccine clinics. These two experiences gave me a new perspective on the importance of public health and service to the community."

Even as a first year student in a new city, Premedicine major Lizzy Herr jumped at the opportunity to contribute. She describes her experience, "It was very meaningful to meet the residents of Dayton and play a small role in bringing vaccinations to the area. Also, it was very interesting to watch the vaccine rollout in real time, as we were able to see the progression of the different groups getting vaccinated, starting with healthcare workers and progressing all the way to UD students!"

Students were able to help by performing various tasks as described by Hannah DeRespiris, sophomore Premedicine major, "I helped out by cleaning chairs and clipboards, ushering people to their seats, collecting forms, and other tasks that helped the clinics run smoothly and efficiently. I think it was a really great opportunity to help our community continue to build immunity against COVID-19, and I always enjoyed going to volunteer there."

**"It was fascinating to witness the differences and similarities between the two vaccine clinics. These two experiences gave me a new perspective on the importance of public health and service to the community."**



## 2020 Matriculants to Health Professional Schools

Colton Amberger (BIO'20) U Pikeville COM  
 Cole Arnold (MED'20) U Alabama COM  
 Mary Claire Bauman (BIO'20) Kettering PA  
 Aidan Bean (MED'18) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Anna Benton (CME'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Michelle Borchers (MED'19) Marietta College PA  
 Carolyn Botti (Dietetics'19) U Dayton PA  
 Lexi Brezovec (MED'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Jordyn Caffrey (DEN'20) Indiana U SOD  
 Nicholas Chapasko (DEN'20) U Pittsburgh SOD  
 Mary Charleton (MED'20) Ohio State U COM  
 Patrick Conroy (EEP'20) U Dayton PA  
 Timothy Cook (BIO'20) U Dayton PA  
 Marie Crouchley (MED'20) U Dayton PA  
 Brian Davidson (EEP'19) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Ethan Dawson (BCM'20) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Ashton Dix (MED'20) U Kentucky COM  
 Nina Eid (MED'19) U Toledo COM  
 Amanda Fawcett (BIO'20) Ohio State U COM  
 Karley Fischer (MED'16) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 McKenna Freund (DEN'20) Ohio State U COD  
 Michael Gilbert (MCM'18) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Jack Gindlesberger (BIO'20) U Mount Union PA  
 Danielle Greer (EEP'19) Mercer U PA  
 Garrett Grissim (MED'20) Medical College of Wisconsin  
 Abbey Groszkiewicz (MED'18) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Minh Ho (MED'19) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 William Howard (MED'19) Trevecca Nazarene U PA  
 Camille Hughes (BIO'19) Kettering PA  
 Brian Hughes (MED'20) U Toledo PA  
 Chad Jaenke (BIO'19) U Toledo COM  
 Leyla Johnson (MED'19) Dominican U PA  
 Natalie Kalfas (MED'16) Edward Via COM  
 Kenneth Keller (BIO'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Jacob Knight (DEN'18) Marquette U SOD  
 Aiden Koch (MED'18) Campbell U SOM  
 Jordan Koczenasz (MED'19) Indiana U SOM  
 Michelle Krebs (BIO'18) U Toledo COM  
 Henry Kuechly (MED'20) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Maria LaBello (MED'19) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Serafino LaGalbo (MED'20) Rush U Medical College  
 Suzanne Lowes (MED'20) U Toledo COM  
 Katherine Maher (BIO'19) St Louis U PA

Nilan Mani (MED'20) U Toledo COM  
 Megan Marasco (MED'19) U Dayton PA  
 Gina Martinette (EEP'19) Kettering PA  
 Catherine Matheny (MED'18) Marian U COM  
 Sarah McQuillan (BIO'20) Kettering PA  
 Morgan Miller (HSS'20) U Toledo PA  
 Austin Mueller (MED'19) Wayne State U SOM  
 Samantha Neanover (MED'20) U Kentucky COM  
 Madison Pingley (BIO'20) U Dayton PA  
 David Pohlman (BIO'20) U Pikeville COM  
 Spencer Powlette (DEN'20) U Kentucky COD  
 Molly Quinn (MED'19) Ohio U PA  
 Samta Rajan (DEN'20) U Louisville SOD  
 Ryan Restrepo (MED'19) Campbell U SOM  
 Abbey Robeson (MED'19) Marian U COM  
 Matthew Rodaitis (BIO'19) Marian U COM  
 Malea Rolfsen (BCM'20) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Nick Rotsching (BIO'20) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Ryan Rushen (HSS'20) U Dayton PA  
 Matthew Schuler (BIO'18) Touro U Nevada COM  
 Max Shafer (MED'20) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Kevin Shanahan (BCM'18) Rosalind Franklin U PA  
 Henry Shay (BCM'20) U Kentucky COM  
 Julian Sifre (MED'20) U of Medicine and Health Sciences  
 Andrew Slusher (ForLang'15) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Kelly Sonnefeld (MED'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Jenna Sorensen (HSS'20) U Dayton PA  
 Bailey Spearman (DEN'20) U Kentucky COD  
 Anna Stachler (MED'20) Ohio Dominican U PA  
 Olivia Stanforth (BIO'19) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Colin Starvel (DEN'20) U Illinois Chicago COD  
 Caroline Symons (MED'19) Kettering PA  
 Ashley Tanner (PSY'19) Kettering PA  
 Travis Tenbrook (BIO'18) Michigan St U COHM  
 Jordan Terschluse (BIO'20) Creighton U SOM  
 Mackenzie Volz (BIO'20) Kettering PA  
 Matt Wagner (MED'18) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Elizabeth Watson (Pre-PT'18) Arizona SOHS PA  
 Marie Weckesser (BIO'18) Kettering PA  
 Veronica West (BIO'20) Philadelphia COM  
 Janeta Yancheva (MED'20) Nova Southeastern U COM  
 Sarah Yelsik (BIO'20) Baldwin Wallace U PA

## 2021 Matriculants to Health Professional Schools\*

Sara Adams (MED'21) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Kaitlyn Alleman (MED'21) Chicago Med Rosalind Franklin U  
 Leah Allen (BIO'21) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Britney Amin (BIO'21) U Toledo COM  
 Chelsie Baylor (MED'21) U Toledo COM  
 Charles Botti (MED'21) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Chanelle Brown (PSY'15) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Nathaniel Brown (MED'18) St. George's U SOM  
 Matthew Bugada (BCM'21) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Diego Buxeda (MED'21) U Central del Caribe SOM  
 Chelsea Elokobi (BIO'21) U Detroit Mercy SOD  
 Maria Fada (MED'21) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Claire Feller (BIO'20) U Louisville SOM  
 Joe Goslee (DEN'21) Indiana U SOD  
 Morgan Haegale (DEN'19) AT Still U SOD  
 Paige Hallstrom (MEE'19) Ohio State U COM  
 Mitchell Hester (EEP'18) Touro U Nevada COM  
 Connor Holzer (BIO'20) U Pikeville COM  
 Benjamin Hughes (MED'19) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Stephanie Johnson (BCM'21) Loyola U Stritch SOM  
 Rachel Johnson (MED'21) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Wyatt Kaiser (MED'20) U Tennessee COM  
 Krista Kaufmann (BIO'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Kaleigh Koski (DEN'21) Case Western Res U SOD  
 Rebecca Kramb (BCM'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Aidan Krevis (MED'21) Ohio State U COM  
 Emma Landenwich (MED'21) U Kentucky COM  
 Kaylee Larsen (HSS'21) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Catherine Martini (BIO'21) Touro U COM  
 Juliana Mitchell (BIO'21) Rush U Medical College  
 Logan Moews (MED'21) Ohio State U COM  
 Kelci Murray (MED'20) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Alexa Niceley (MED'19) Marian U COM  
 Erin Pellot (BIO'20) Ohio U Heritage COM  
 Grace Scharf (MED'21) U Cincinnati SOM  
 Grace Scott (MED'21) Michigan State U COM  
 Emma Statt (MED'20) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Lauren Tran (BIO'20) Ohio State U COD  
 Jacob Wagner (MED'21) Wright St U Boonshoft SOM  
 Seth Warren (DEN'21) Marquette U SOD  
 Danielle Welsch (BIO'21) Ohio State U COD  
 Claire Wolfe (BIO'20) Ohio U Heritage COM

\*2021 PA School Matriculants will be posted next year.

## New Minor: Quality Assurance in Life Science Industries

Premedical Programs launched a new minor in 2020. Quality Assurance in Life Science Industries is designed to help prepare students for careers in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and biomedical device industries. The minor provides students with the skills to assure product quality, safety and efficacy, and meet the industry's scientific and business challenges. The curriculum includes industry-specific courses about regulatory and legal requirements, product development and risk analysis, as well as microbiology and business courses.

The quality assurance minor is a partnership with Pathway for Patient Health (PPH), a Cincinnati-based independent organization that offers universities a free, cooperative education program which includes a curriculum developed by life science industry and government leaders.

Pathway for Patient Health is working with industry partners that include AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Merck and Procter & Gamble. They are providing training to students and then connecting those students with industry, to establish a pipeline."

The life science quality assurance minor is open to all majors. The minor rolled out in Spring 2021, when ten students completed the first course, MED 401, Global Regulatory and Legal Requirements of Quality.

## AED News

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is the national premed honors society. To be eligible for AED, students must have a GPA of 3.2 or higher both cumulative and in the natural sciences. Students must have sophomore status or higher to pledge AED. After a fall semester of maintaining pledge requirements of involvement in member meetings, service and social events, pledges are initiated into AED in early spring semester and thus become lifetime members of the national organization.

This past year, AED maintained an active schedule via zoom meetings. Several local physicians and other healthcare professionals presented at AED meetings. In addition, AED members provided community service by volunteering regularly at the Premier covid vaccine clinics.

The annual Danny Arnold 5K, a fundraising event coordinated by AED and the Premedical Programs Office was a big success this year, run as a virtual 5K and attracting over 100 participants and raising over \$1900 for the Danny Arnold scholarship fund.

A new initiative this past year was the AED Book Club. In fall semester, members read *Black Man in a White Coat* by Damon Tweedy, MD. The Book Club meetings for this read were facilitated by Fabrice Juin, Coordinator of the Local Office of Minority Health at Public Health of Dayton and Montgomery County. Members enjoyed a very valuable read and discussion and are very grateful to Fabrice for sharing his time and expertise with members. The second book was *How Healing Works* by Wayne Jonas, MD. Meetings for this read were facilitated by Dr. Scheltens with the final meeting featuring Dr. Jonas discussing his book with members.

Next year, the newly elected executive board of AED will be returning to their traditional diverse events and activities including live bi-weekly meetings, wide-spread service opportunities, social events, shadowing and mentoring. Eligible rising sophomores should keep an eye out for info sessions featured at the beginning of fall semester.



## Eleventh Annual University of Dayton & Miami Valley Hospital Healthcare Symposium



Robin Shabazz

The 2021 symposium *Breaking Down Racism to Build Cultural Intelligence and Understand Health Disparities* was held over Zoom this past spring due to restrictions related to the pandemic. COVID-19 has illuminated health inequities that exist within the United States and around the world. The broad goal of the symposium was to better understand the systemic problem of racism and to drive change on both a personal level and within the healthcare field.

The symposium began with a panel discussion about the local impacts of COVID-19 in the Dayton area and the community's response to the pandemic. Dr. Gary LeRoy<sup>1</sup>, Fabrice Juin<sup>2</sup>, and Paula Thompson<sup>3</sup> shared their unique perspectives including local data, racial health disparities, and public health and vaccination initiatives.

Following the panel discussion, Robin Shabazz<sup>4</sup> facilitated a workshop *Culturally Intelligent Solutions for Becoming an Antiracist* that addressed how healthcare professionals can take intentional actions to combat systemic racism in healthcare.

This powerful workshop engaged participants in discussions, with students interacting with healthcare professionals in rich conversation about sensitive topics related to this year's symposium theme.

In the afternoon poster session, ten students presented virtual posters on topics ranging from the importance of education for oral hygiene in children to the impact of low-literacy on the health of adults in the US.

While we missed gathering on campus together for this year's symposium, the virtual experience was meaningful and hopefully inspired participants to take action in opposing racism in healthcare. We look forward to returning to an in-person event next year!

The 2022 UD & MVH Healthcare Symposium is tentatively scheduled for April 9 at Kennedy Union. Keep an eye out for more info in early 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions and Associate Professor of Family Medicine at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

<sup>2</sup> Project Manager for Local Office on Minority Health at Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

<sup>3</sup> President and CEO of Fidelity Healthcare - a member of Premier Health

<sup>4</sup> Principal of the Eastledge Group LLC

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University of Dayton

Premedical Programs

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