The goal of the Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies Summer Fellowship program is to stimulate interest in ethical, cultural, aesthetic, and social dimensions of health, disease, and healing by inviting first year medical students to develop and submit original proposals relating to humanities and medicine. Students may work on projects in North Carolina, or they may use the Fellowship as an opportunity to do a project elsewhere in the United States or abroad. Proposals are awarded on a competitive basis. Student Fellows have the summer between their first and second year to develop and complete their Fellowship. At the conclusion of their projects, Fellows submit a paper, or other appropriate product, and give several public presentations.

The Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies is pleased to be offering these two Fellowships in 2012 in collaboration with the Brody Summer Research Scholars Program and Dr. Maria Clay’s grant, “¡A Su Salud! Introductory Health Professions Spanish.”

We Are Pleased To Announce
This Year’s
Summer Fellowship Recipients

Preventive Care and the Migrant Farmworker
Community of Eastern NC:
Availability and Barriers to Access

Numbering between three and five million people (including dependents), and overwhelmingly Latino (83%) and poor (the majority earn less than $10,000 per year), migrant farm workers constitute the backbone of America’s vast agricultural industry while remaining an invisible community right here in our own country (National Center for Farmworker Health, 2012).

The Office of Migrant Health notes migrant health clinics serve only 13% of the migrant worker community (2012). Alex plans to explore the available preventive care services for migrant workers and their dependents, and uncover the access barriers that migrant farm workers face when attempting to obtain preventive care services.

Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease: An Exploration of the Practical Applications of Social Medicine in Guatemala

Andrew’s project involves investigation of the role social and economic conditions play in shaping the health experiences of communities in Guatemala. Specifically, he is interested in the extent to which ideas of social medicine explain what is significant about health and inequalities among rural families and communities in Guatemala. The data he will use for his analysis will be captured on video. Andrew hopes to show that some of the prime determinants of the health and illness experiences of these rural communities relate at least as much to the social and economic conditions in which they live as to medical interventions.

We plan to share the results of each Fellow’s project this Fall as part of our Perspectives Series.