

The Siren



ECU EMERGENCY MEDICINE NEWSLETTER
BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
January – March 2009

Special points of interest:

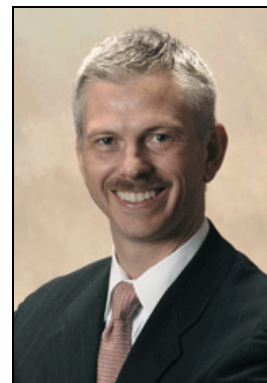
- Wound Healing Center
- Sim Lab update
- Dr. Plonk serves in Honduras with Shoulder to Shoulder
- Welcome new interns
- Dr. D'haenens weds
- Alexis Bolton joins ECU EM
- ECU EM awarded grant
- Lots of babies!
- Faculty participate in tactical medicine training
- Dr. Astin performs at the Grand Opera House in Macon, Ga.

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Three years of evolution

THEODORE R. DELBRIDGE, MD, MPH
Professor and Chair



Theodore Delbridge, MD, MPH

Sometimes change is difficult to perceive. Usually there is no reason to stop and think about what's new over a given period of time. However, I have been giving this some thought lately as I recently passed my third anniversary here at ECU and PCMH. While separating the forest from the trees may be challenging, there is no doubt that our department and clinical service is running at a different pace and with renewed energy.

Our clinical service continues to grow for all the myriad reasons that make emergency departments busy throughout our nation. Continuous increases in patient volumes and acuity challenge us to be smarter, better, and more efficient. And, we have done all that and continue to stay focused.

Over the past three years we have significantly augmented physician coverage in both the emergency department and at MedDirect. We have improved our capacity to provide critical care, and have begun work to decrease unwanted variation in our approaches to common clinical problems. We have also engaged our partners on both the medical staff and the emergency department and hospital administrative teams to improve emergency department efficiency. Our emergency department has never been more efficient than it is now. We shall always have additional opportunities, but we are committed. And, our work is clearly appreciated by our patients who rank physician-related metrics above the 90th percentile of emergency departments. Further, the quality of our care, which likewise will always have opportunity to enhance, is excellent when judged by metrics such as core measures.

Despite our investments in new faculty that have grown our department, and a continuous calling to care for an often disadvantaged population, we are a successful business. Our work contributes to excellent success for PCMH. It also contributes extensively to the Brody School of Medicine and the ECU Physicians enterprise. The economic future is uncertain, but for now we are a success story of financial prudence and maximized opportunity.

Our residency programs are flourishing. In the match this March we were successful in recruiting highly qualified students from across our country. A few are from right here, as well. Thus we are contributing to our school's mission of growing physicians for North Carolina. We know, for example, that physicians who both attend medical school and complete residency in North Carolina are among the most likely to stay in our state. The residents who graduate this July, including our first class of EM/IM residents, are planning

promising careers. Many things are contributing to our transition from a program principally focused on training highly qualified clinicians to one that opens all doors for its graduates. This year's graduates include those who will pursue primarily clinical assignments as well as academic positions and an EMS fellowship. Some of next year's graduates are already appropriately planning their fellowship plans for pediatrics and critical care medicine.

This July will commence a new era in the Brody School of Medicine as emergency medicine will be a required rotation for all fourth-year students. A great deal of work by our faculty will be required. Yet, the payoff will be big as we ensure some basic knowledge on the part of our future physicians.

Part of our work must also include creating and disseminating new knowledge. Over the past year our faculty has secured a large grant from the Department of Defense to study the toxicology of Gulf War illnesses. In March we also became one of two-dozen sites studying optimal, early treatment for sepsis. Our collaboration group includes several major research institutions, and our early success in identifying and treating eligible patients has been lauded. Importantly, all of these efforts feed our education and clinical service efforts for excellence.

There is so much more yet to come. It is incredibly difficult to bridle enthusiasm for what we have accomplished, what we are doing every day, and what we are planning for our future. We are a faculty and staff that is growing with new faces, new expertise, new energy, and passion for the work we do.

Three years ago when I came to ECU and PCMH, I remember people asking how I was doing. There were then, as there are now, daily challenges. Yet it is always difficult to be "down" on a sunny day in eastern North Carolina. As I compose this there is not a cloud in the sky (if only it was purple and not blue). In these times we are extraordinarily fortunate to do the work we do, to have the opportunities we have, and to enjoy the successes we have enjoyed and will continue to pursue for the people (our patients and our students of all sorts) we serve.

PCMH Wound Healing Center

ANTHONY FRANK, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

Wound management dates back many centuries. There is written evidence that the Sumerians prior to 2000 BC were interested in the healing of wounds. Egyptian writings later revealed a basic "recipe" for wound dressings consisting of lint, grease, and honey. The lint provided a fibrous base that promoted wound site closure, the grease provided a barrier to environmental pathogens, and the honey served as an antibiotic agent. The Egyptians believed that closing a wound preserved the soul and prevented the exposure of the spirit to "infernal beings."¹



Hwy 33 East, Greenville, NC

Wound care is a rapidly advancing specialty in medicine bridging multiple disciplines including emergency medicine, general surgery, physical medicine, and podiatry. There has been explosive growth in centers caring specifically for chronic wounds such as our center here at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. These centers combine the use of weekly surgical debridement, specialty dressings, and hyperbaric oxygen to effect a cure.

Pitt County Memorial Hospital opened its Wound Healing Center in December 2007 at its new location on Hwy 33 East in Greenville, NC. Since the initial opening, ECU Emergency Medicine has participated as part of a certified multidisciplinary team of wound and hyperbaric medical specialists caring for patients with chronic wounds. Both Drs. Frank and Meredith have become certified and credentialed in Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine here at PCMH.

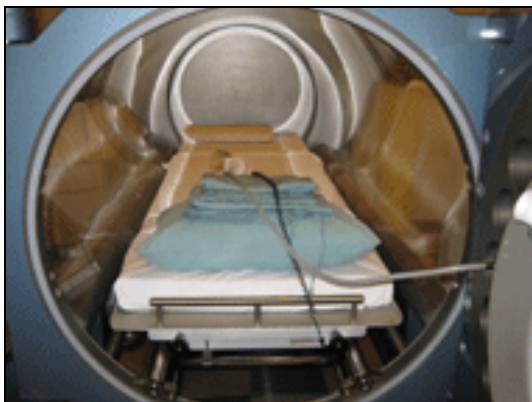
Wound Care

Because of their complex nature, wounds require an individualized course of treatment. At the wound center, we follow a specific pathway and algorithm in the management of problem wounds. This helps in the analysis and treatment of wounds that have been resistant to healing by conventional methods. By correcting contributing factors, controlling infection and enhancing medical and nutritional status, we create the optimal environment for wounded areas to recover.

The patients we see have typically been dealing with these problem wounds for months and in some instances for many years. They have seen untold numbers of physicians for help and we are usually their last hope for resolution.

A physician should consider referring patients with the following conditions or wounds to the PCMH Wound Healing Center:

- Any wound present for more than 30 days or that fails to improve with multiple treatments or therapies
- Diabetic foot ulcers
- Lower leg ulcers
- Pressure ulcers
- Osteomyelitis
- Gangrene
- Radiation burns
- Post-operative infections
- Slow or non-healing surgical wounds
- Necrotizing infections
- Failing or compromised skin/muscle grafts or flap



Hyperbaric Oxygen

Introduced in the mid-1960s, hyperbaric oxygen chambers (HBO) work by surrounding the patient with 100% oxygen at higher than normal atmospheric pressure in sessions, or dives, that last 90 minutes to two hours. This increases the amount of oxygen in the patient's blood by fully saturating the hemoglobin and supersaturating the patient's plasma allowing the wounds to heal from the inside out.

HBO is approved for the treatment of 13 different conditions. Wound care indications include patients suffering from diabetic ulcers, soft tissue radiation injuries, wound infections, compromised skin grafts, and flaps as well as and several other conditions.

We currently have two monoplace hyperbaric oxygen chambers at the center. These HBO chambers weigh more than one ton each and resemble a reclining bed encased in a clear acrylic shell nearly a yard in diameter. Patients can listen to music or watch movies on televisions mounted above the chamber. Patients remain in constant contact with people outside the chamber through an intercom and private handset. The treatment is painless; however, patients may feel a slight pressure on the eardrum, similar to that felt when a plane lands, as the air in the chamber is compressed.

The following indications are Medicare approved uses of hyperbaric oxygen therapy:

- [Air or Gas Embolism](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Complicated by [Cyanide Poisoning](#)
- [Clostridal Myositis and Myonecrosis](#) (Gas Gangrene)
- [Crush Injury, Compartment Syndrome, and other Acute Traumatic Ischemias](#)
- [Decompression Sickness](#)
- [Enhancement of Healing in Selected Problem Wounds](#)
- [Exceptional Blood Loss \(Anemia\)](#)
- [Intracranial Abscess](#)
- [Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections](#)
- [Osteomyelitis \(Refractory\)](#)
- [Delayed Radiation Injury \(Soft Tissue and Bony Necrosis\)](#)
- [Skin Grafts & Flaps \(Compromised\)](#)
- [Thermal Burns](#)

We welcome your referrals to the PCMH Wound Healing Center. Please feel free to contact the center by calling 847-4325 (HEAL).



PCMH Wound Healing Center

¹ Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Medical Simulation and Patient Safety Lab: Spring Training

SKIP ROBEY, MD
Director, Medical Simulation and Patient Safety Laboratory

Activities:

- ➔ The MSPSL continues to develop into a simulation-based education program involving more space, the involvement of multiple individuals and disciplines, and educational research opportunities. The spring schedule continues with simulation-based programs involving emergency medicine residents, residents from all disciplines taking our Central Venous Catheterization Course, EastCare Flight Nurses, Cardiothoracic Nursing, third-year medical students on medical and surgical clerkships, Emergency Medical Services personnel and others. A simulation-based airway course and a first-few-minutes-at-the-bedside module are being developed in collaboration with PCMH Education, Respiratory, the Emergency Response Team, and the Office of Quality.
- ➔ Eleven, third-year medical students participated in the two-week, M-3 Emergency Medicine Elective in January, which was coordinated by preceptor Luan Lawson, and taught by Charlie Brown, Kevin Corcoran, and the MSPSL. Students spent time learning procedural skills in the lab and spending clinical shifts in the ED under the supervision of EM faculty and residents.



M-4 Transition to Residency



Behind the Simulation Scene – Donna Morgan, Kevin Corcoran, JoAnna Waters

- ➔ Last month all M-4 medical students participated in the M-4 Transition to Residency Training Program Skills Workshops and in high-fidelity simulations that emphasized the first few minutes of care when called to the bedside.
- ➔ We are participating in a workgroup for the establishment of an East Carolina University Institute for Creative Technologies and Cybernetics led by Dr. Carmen Russoniello, director of the Psychophysiology Lab and Biofeedback Clinic at East Carolina University.
- ➔ Members of the Department of Emergency Medicine, Department of Trauma Surgery and Department of Radiology participated in a simulation-based Tactical Medicine Training Course for law-enforcement officers in March at the Pitt Community College firing range.

Presentations and Publications:

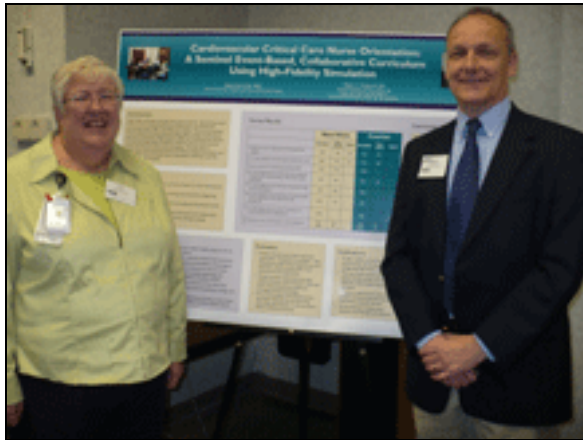
- ➔ Educational Strategies for Central Venous Catheterization Training: Effective or Not? Student Nurse-Resident Team Training: A Pilot. L. Gantt, W. Robey, T. Congdon, L. Bolin, R. Allen, a work in progress presented at the International Conference for Simulation in Healthcare, Buena Vista, Florida, January 2009 and at the Proceedings of the 18th Annual Collaborative Nursing Research Day; Integrating Evidence-Based Research into Practice sponsored by UHS/PCMH, ECU College of Nursing and EAHEC, Greenville NC, February 2009.
- ➔ Cardiovascular Critical Care Nurse Orientation: A Sentinel Event-Based, Collaborative Curriculum Using High-Fidelity Simulation. B Harris, W Robey, presented at the Proceedings



David Musick, PhD, presenting at the SGEA Regional Conference.

of the 18th Annual Collaborative Nursing Research Day; Integrating Evidence-Based Research into Practice sponsored by UHS/PCHM, ECU College of Nursing and EAHEC, Greenville NC, February 2009.

- ➔ Gantt LT, Robey WC, Congdon T, Bolin L: Improving Patient Safety through Student Nurse-Resident Team Training: The Central Venous Catheterization Pilot Project, 2008, In Campbell SH, Daley KM (eds). Simulation Scenarios for Nurse Educators: Making It Real. Springer Publishing Company, 2009.



Betty Harris, RN, and Skip Robey, MD

- ➔ Putting Our Residents to the Task-Trainer: Simple, Inanimate Models for the Training and Assessment of Technical Skills. W Robey, K Corcoran, C Brown, W Price, E Oehler, M Long, presented at the International Conference for Simulation in Healthcare as Work in Progress, Orlando, January 2009.
- ➔ The Use of Simulation Modalities to Train PGY-1 Resident Physicians to Safely Perform Central Venous Catheterization Procedures: An Exploratory Study. D. Musick, W. Robey, W. Price, L. Brunk, E. Toschlog, L. Basnight, presented at 2009 Southern Group on Educational Affairs (SGEA) Regional Conference, New Orleans, April 2009.

- ➔ Resident Physician Central Venous Line Placement Training Reduces Central Venous Line Associated Bacteremia at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. S Kraemer, K Ramsey, M Mazer, W Robey, presented at Southern Medical Association/ Southern Section of Society for General Internal Medicine Meeting, February 2009.



ECU EM faculty assist in tactical medicine training

On March 25, 2009, **Drs. Ferguson, March, Frank, Price, and Robey** helped train over 60 law enforcement officers in life-saving tactical medicine at the Pitt Community College firing range. They, along with FBI and Pitt County Sheriff's Office SWAT instructors, gave the officers hands-on training in such procedures as applying tourniquets to gun-shot wounds, clearing airways, and stabilizing spinal injuries. The officers participated in a simulation, which required them to provide cover for caregivers while the wounded were moved to safety.



This training will save the lives of fellow officers, agents, and deputies, as well as private citizens. The following organizations were represented at the training event: FBI, SBI, ATF, DEA, IRS, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Greenville Police Department, Pitt County Sheriff's Office, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Virginia State Police, and the S.C. State Constable's Alliance.

Left: Left to Right: Dr. March, Dr. Ferguson, Dr. Robey, and Dr. Price



Dr. Frank demonstrates how to apply a tourniquet.

WELCOME 2009-2010 INTERNS!

EM Interns

Yousif Alkadhi.....Wake Forest University School of Medicine
John BreamBrody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Cynthia Downes.....University of South Alabama
Douglas Gallo.....University of Virginia
Sarah Gustafson.....East Tennessee State University
Justin Haynes.....University of Kansas
Michael Kiemeney.....Loma Linda University
Emilie Pendley.....Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Kimberly Smith.....Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Mary SmyrnioudisMarshall University
John StantonBrody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
Michelle TroendleLouisiana State University
Michael Saad, MD.....Ross University

EM/IM Interns

Jennifer Monroe.....Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ashley Robertson.....University of Kansas

Shoulder to Shoulder Experience

TIMOTHY PLONK, MD, PGY-II
Emergency Medicine Resident

Shoulder to Shoulder is a non-governmental organization that has been providing healthcare in rural Honduras for over 20 years. They have several clinics in the remote mountain regions of Intibucá (a “state” in Honduras). I was there in October 2008 to work in one of their clinics and participated in the myriad of projects that they have going on in the area, including the children’s health initiative.



Dr. Plonk listens to the heart of a child in Honduras.



John Stanton, a fourth-year medical student at BSOM and incoming emergency medicine intern, shows Honduran children how to brush their teeth.

We saw more than 2,000 children in the two weeks we were there. We gave them well-child screenings, as well as anti-parasitic medications (albendazole), checked their hematocrits, and checked for signs of malnutrition, and varnished all their teeth.

Shoulder to Shoulder also has water filter distribution projects, a home-visit program for those who can’t get to their clinics (involves hours of hiking through the jungle to people’s houses), as well as empowerment programs for young girls, and scholarship programs for education.

The nearest hospital is an eight-hour drive over mostly mud roads. This meant we had to do a lot by ourselves with minimal provisions, including taking and processing our own plain films, cell counts, and overnight patient monitoring.

It was a cool experience, and I’ll definitely go back.

To learn more about Shoulder to Shoulder, check out their Web site at <http://www.shouldertoshoulder.org>.

North Carolina Science Olympiad

The North Carolina Science Olympiad (NCSO) is a nonprofit organization with the mission to improve the quality of science and technology education in North Carolina schools. To accomplish this goal it sponsors workshops, summer institutes, after-school programs, summer camps, and tournaments (invitational, regional, and state). The 100 counties in North Carolina are divided into ten regional sites, Greenville being one of those ten. The NCSO is third in the country in student participation, with over 6,000 students represented from 60 participating counties.



Dr. Meredith and his son Ian passing out awards at NCSO Regional Tournament.



State Tournament Awards -- 2008

On February 28, 2009, East Carolina University hosted the Regional Tournament of the NCSO, and **John Meredith, MD**, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, gave the keynote address. He spoke on the importance of STEMM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine Education) in relationship to the global economy and our local economy in eastern North Carolina. Later he and his son Ian had the honor of passing out the First Place Awards to students and participating schools. Top performers will be invited to compete in the State Tournament held at North Carolina State University on April 24-25, 2009. The top two ranking schools in each of the two Divisions (Middle School and High School) will be invited to compete at the National Tournament.

Research and Scholarly Activities

Publications

Accepted for Publication in Refereed Journals

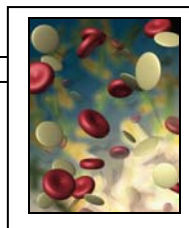
- **Wiley CN, Meggs WJ, Hack JB, and Brewer KL:** Efficacy of North American crotalid antivenom against the African Viper *Bitis gabonica* (Gaboon Viper). *J Medical Toxicology* (2009)
- **Carter K, Dawson B, Lawson L:** RVU ready? Preparing emergency medicine resident physicians in documentation for a pay for performance work environment. *Academic Emergency Medicine* (2009)
- **Dawson B, Kasa K, Mazer M:** Pancreatic pseudocyst ruptures into the portal vein with subsequent sepsis and portal vein thrombosis – Diagnosed by computed tomography and ultrasound. A case report and review of the literature. *Southern Medical Journal* (2009)

Review

- **Ferguson JD:** Teaching Resource for Instructors in Prehospital Pediatrics (TRIPP): Basic Life Support, Second Edition. *Prehospital Emergency Care* 2009;13(2):267-268.

Book Chapters

- **Ferguson JD, et al.:** Ethanol, toxic alcohols, and therapies. In: Holstege CP, et al. eds. *Toxicology Recall, 2009*. New York City, NY: Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2009.
- **Ferguson JD:** Animal bites. In: Cone D, O'Conner R, Fowler R, eds. *Emergency Medical Services: Practice and System Oversight, Clinical Aspects of Prehospital Medicine, Vol. 1*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2009; chapter 17.
- **March JA, Ferguson JD:** Volunteer EMS. In: Cone D, O'Conner R, Fowler R, eds. *Emergency Medical Services: Practice and System Oversight, Medical Oversight of EMS, Vol 2*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2009, chapter 20.
- **March JA, Ferguson JD:** Injury Prevention. In: Cone D, O'Conner R, Fowler R, eds. *Emergency Medical Services: Practice and System Oversight, Medical oversight of EMS, Vol 2*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2009, chapter 53.



- **Delbridge TR:** EMS Systems. In: Bass RR, Brice JH, **Delbridge TR**, Gunderson MR, eds. *Medical oversight of EMS, Vol. 2*. Olathe, KA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2009.

Editor

- **Delbridge TR, et al.,** eds. *Emergency Medical Service: Practice and System Oversight -- Medical Oversight of EMS, Vol. 2*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, January 2009.

Presentations

2009 Annual Meeting of the National Association of EMS Physicians, Jacksonville, FL, January 19-23, 2009

- **March J, Pollock J, Ferguson J:** Timber Medic Program Phase I – Needs assessment of emergency health care in a logging environment.

European Association of Clinical Toxicology, Stockholm, Germany, May 2009

- **Meggs W, Sekhon N, Fish L, Brewer K, O'Rourke D, Lust R:** Deleterious effects of diphenhydramine on IV rattlesnake envenomations.

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting, May 2009.

- Hack JB, **DeGuzman J, Orogbemi T, O'Rourke D, Brewer KL, and Meggs WJ:** A novel circumferential compression device delays onset of systemic toxicity after Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake envenomation to the torso of an animal model.
- **Dawson B, Carter K, Lawson L:** Use of "Procedure Poster" improves documentation and billing in an academic emergency medicine department. (Poster and oral presentation)
- **Carter K, Dawson B, Lawson L:** RVU ready? Preparing emergency medicine resident physicians in documentation for a pay for performance work environment.

Teaching

- **Dr. Meggs** served as a faculty member at the Bellevue Intensive Review Course in Toxicology, New York City, NY, March 13, 2009.

Grant Awarded

- **Title:** Trial of Naltrexone and Dextromethorphan for Gulf War Veterans' Illness
Funding Agency: Department of Defense
PI: **William J. Meggs, MD, PhD**
Co-PI: **Kori Brewer, PhD**
Amount: \$765,000

JoAnna Waters was nominated and awarded the prestigious title of "Treasured Pirate" for the month of January 2009 for her "Outstanding Delivery of Service." JoAnna has been with the Department of Emergency Medicine since May 2008 and has proven to be a vital member of the emergency medicine residency program. JoAnna received a certificate and selected a blanket from the Student Stores Treasured Pirate Web site. Congratulations!



Dr. Robey was one of ten faculty members chosen by the BSOM Class of 2009 to share an experience and/or pearl of wisdom at this year's String of Pearls event, Wednesday, March 11th. Each faculty member was given only three minutes to present his/her lecture, before being "gonged" by the Gong Master. Dr. Robey talked about how important it is to thank those who help you along the way. To be chosen to participate in this event is a tremendous honor. Congratulations, Dr. Robey!

On March 24, Dr. Patterson announced that **Drs. Brandon Mahurin** and **Kevin Carmen** will serve as co-chief residents for 2009-2010. Congratulations to you both!

Former ECU Emergency Medicine faculty member, **Paul Austin, MD**, returned on April 14 to give a lecture to our EM and EM/IM residents titled "Teflon Skill-Set: Moving Through a Shift with Minimal Friction." Dr. Austin has recently published a book titled *Something for Pain: One Doctor's Account of Life and Death in the ED*, which can be purchased at the BSOM Bookstore. It was great to see him again.



Joseph D’haenens, MD, PGY-I, and Whitney Michel were married on February 7, 2009, in South Bend, Indiana. Approximately 200 guests attended the wedding. The couple left on March 25 for an eight-day honeymoon to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Congratulations and best wishes!

Left: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D’haenens

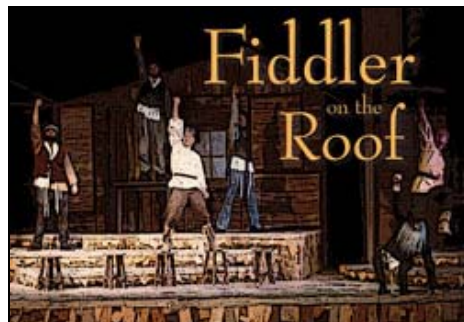
The Servire Society, which was established as part of the ECU Centennial Celebration, is designed to recognize faculty, staff, and students who have conducted 100 hours or more of service to the community and/or university. **Jane Pollock, EMT-P, EMD**, Training Specialist in the Division of EMS, was one of this year’s Servire Society first-year inductees. Jane volunteers many hours of service to the Farmville Fire and Rescue. Congratulations!

Donna Morgan’s Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education Program (TAGME) certification was unanimously approved by the TAGME Board. The certificates were presented to the recipients at the Emergency Medicine Association of

Residency Coordinators Business Meeting, which took place in March. Congratulations, Donna!

Movie Night at JoAnna’s!

JoAnna Waters invited the EM support staff over for a Movie Night on Saturday, March 28. The threat of bad weather diminished the crowd a bit, but certainly not the spirits of all those who attended. Pictured from left to right are **Meagan Motteler, Melissa Bell, Cheryl Goodwin, and Kay Carney**. **Stacy Bone** attended, but is not pictured. Everyone enjoyed pizza, chips, dip, brownies, and lemon bars. The movie for the evening was the musical *Mamma Mia!*, with leading roles played by Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, and Stellan Skarsgard. At the end of 2008, it was announced that *Mamma Mia!* had become the highest-grossing film of all time in the United Kingdom, beating out the 1998 film *Titanic*. Thanks, JoAnna, for your hospitality!



Dr. Astin stars in *Fiddler on the Roof*

Mercer University Theatre and Opera presented the Tony award-winning musical *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Grand Opera House in Macon, Ga., April 3-5. Our own **Dr. Matt Astin**, third-year EM-IM resident, was one of more than 40 cast members, which included Mercer University students, faculty, alumni, and members of the community. Dr. Astin starred in the role of the father, Tevye. Dr. Astin gives us a synopsis of the musical – “The story is about a poor Jewish family in Russia, just before the Revolution. The father is a milkman who holds his family, traditions, and God above everything else. He has five daughters and the musical revolves around his conflict with

traditional beliefs and the “new ways,” such as his daughters marrying for love and not by arrangement. Ultimately, three of his daughters get married, one of which marries a Russian non-Jew and he essentially disowns her. Then the entire family and village get “evicted” by the Russian tsar, as happened to millions of Jewish people.

Dr. Astin earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from Mercer University in 1999 and went on to earn a master of public health degree in 2001. In 2006 he received his medical doctorate from Mercer University School of Medicine. While attending Mercer he was actively involved in the Theatre and Opera productions, including a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*. When they decided to do this musical again, Dr. Astin got a call. This is quite an honor and speaks to the talent and experience Dr. Astin brings to the stage.



Matthew Astin, MD, MPH

ECU Emergency Medicine’s **Dawn Kendrick, MD**, assistant professor, and **Claudia Daly, MD**, clinical assistant professor, were two of over 30 local physicians who participated in this year’s “Doctors On Call” event, which was held March 4. They and their colleagues spent the day answering over 600 phone calls and medical questions from the citizens of eastern North Carolina.

Tiffany Taylor's last day with ECU Emergency Medicine was February 20. Tiffany accepted an Administrative Support Associate position in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. This was a step up on the career ladder for Tiffany. We wish you the very best!

Student Employee Appreciation Week

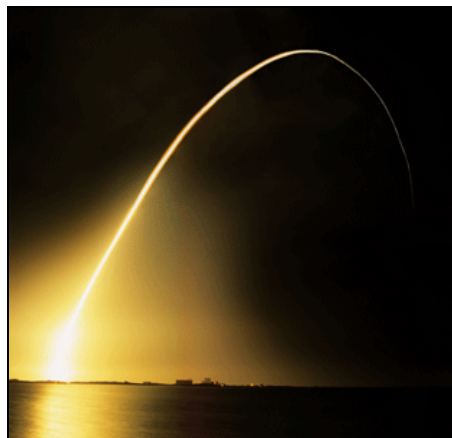
ECU Emergency Medicine honored our student employees during the week of April 13-17, Student Employee Appreciation Week. The department has been blessed with four excellent student workers: Nairobi Alveraz (Work Study), Tanya Cabrara (Work Study), Brittany Gmyr (Work Study), and Samantha Monteith (Self Help). As you can imagine, getting four students together at the same time was next to impossible, but we managed to get three of the four together on Thursday, April 16, to share some refreshments and to express our appreciation for all of their hard work. A "Thank-You Gram" was also published in the Thursday edition of the *East Carolinian*. Nairobi is married to a Marine who is stationed in Cherry Point and currently deployed to Iraq. She is majoring in biology and hopes to go to medical school one day. Tanya is a mother of three who is working on a master's degree in midwifery. Brittany comes from Syracuse, N.Y., and is majoring in psychology. Sam is from Fayetteville, N.C., and is working towards a BS in nursing. Thank you, again, for your hard work and dedication.



Left to Right: Nairobi Alveraz, Sam Monteith, Brittany Bmyr (We regret we could not get a picture of Tanya by publication date.)

Dr. Meredith witnesses last, night-time shuttle launch

Last November, **Dr. Meredith** and his family drove down to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to witness the last night-time launch of the space shuttle *Endeavour* to the International Space Station. He wanted to be sure his son Ian saw a launch before NASA retires the shuttle fleet in 2010. As you can imagine, tickets were next to impossible to get. After pulling a few strings with NASA contacts, they were able to get tickets to the viewing area on the causeway, just six miles from the launch site, pad 39A. This was to be a 15-day mission, which included delivering two sleeping units, a bathroom, a kitchenette and exercise equipment. It also included installing a new system to recycle waste-water into safe drinking water, as well as delivering a new crew member of the space station crew, Astronaut Sandra Magnus, who replaced Astronaut Gregory Chamitoff.



The mission also included spacewalks to repair a broken solar panel array on the station.

Getting the picture to the left was no small feat. Dr. Meredith explains, "I used a Nikon 35mm SLR camera with a wide angle lens, F stop at 34, and 50 speed film. The camera was mounted on a tripod for stability. The shutter was opened at T-6 seconds and left open for a little over eight minutes. The arc you see is a result of the shuttle being launched toward the NE (west to east) direction, the curvature of the Earth, and the rotation of the Earth (east to west). At the very last point you see the space shuttle in this photo, it is in orbit at 17,000 mph. The orange color that is associated with a night-time launch is the most brilliant orange color I have ever seen. It is really like sunrise when the shuttle takes off at night."

Congratulations!

The following ED nurses received Certified Emergency Nurse certification (CEN) from the Emergency Nurses Association's Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing in the last six months:

Rob Janssen, RN
Amy McMahon, RN

Karen Mills, RN
Eric Noevere, RN



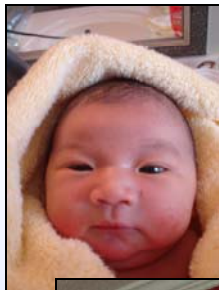
Welcome!

ALEXIS BOLTON

Alexis is an eastern North Carolina girl, having grown up right here in Greenville. After graduating from Campbell University with a bachelor of science degree in clinical research and a minor in pharmaceutical sciences, she was contracted with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at RTP as a clinical research associate. When the contract ended, she applied and accepted a position with us and quickly moved from RTP to Washington. As an Administrative Support Associate, she will be working with Drs. Corcoran, Courtney, Kendrick, Meggs, Sisson, and Thorn. They and other researchers in our department are excited about the experience Alexis brings in the area of clinical research and clinical trials. Her plans for the future include going back to school to become a physician's assistant, but always staying highly involved in clinical trials. She tells us, "I live with the love of my life, a three-pound chihuahua named Giovanni." Welcome, Alexis!



New Arrivals. . . .



Name: **Brooklyn Emma DeGuzman**
Born: December 17, 2008
Length: 19 inches
Weight: 8 pounds 3 ounces
Proud Parents: William and Jocelyn DeGuzman



Name: **Carleigh Marie Miller**
Born: January 6, 2009
Length: 20 inches
Weight: 6 pounds
Proud Parents: Brian and Robin Miller



Name: **Victoria Adutuwaa Kwofie**
Born: January 7, 2009
Length: 17 inches
Weight: 5 pounds
Proud Parents: Joe and Monica Kwofie



Name: **Lillian Mary Van Wormer**
Born: January 29, 2009
Length: 21 inches
Weight: 9 pounds 9.5 ounces
Proud Parents: Peter and Christine (Courtney) Van Wormer

New Arrivals... cont'd

Name: **Brandon Lee Wilson II**
Born: January 30, 2009
Length: 18 ½ inches
Weight: 6 pounds 1 ounce
Proud Parents: Brandon and Brandy Wilson



Name: **Audrey Myzelle Paulk**
Born: February 7, 2009
Length: 19 inches
Weight: 7 pounds 10 ounces
Proud Parents: Eric and Stephanie Paulk



Name: **Helen Frances Price**
Born: February 24, 2009
Length: 19 inches
Weight: 6 pounds 7 ounces

Name: **William Fox Price**
Born: February 24, 2009
Length: 18.5 inches
Weight: 5 pounds 11 ounces
Proud Parents: Bill and Erica Price



Name: **Cian (pronounced KEE-an) Jefferson Dunagan**
Born: March 11, 2009
Weight: 7 pounds 7.7 ounces
Proud Parents: Clarence and Kelly Dunagan

(Clarence will be in Afghanistan for two more months.)

Upcoming Events

MEETINGS

ACEP Scientific Assembly
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
October 5-8, 2009
Abstracts are due 4/24/09

NCCEP, June Jam
EMBASSY SUITES AT KINGSTON
PLANTATION
MYRTLE BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA
June 12-14, 2009

SAEM Annual Meeting
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
May 14-17, 2009

Upcoming Events, cont'd

COURSES

ACLS Courses, 2009

PITT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER

Provider: Apr 21 & 22 • May 9 • May 21 & 22 • July 16 & 17 • Aug 4 & 5 • Oct 15 & 16 • Nov 3 & 4 • Dec 3 & 4
Renewal/Refresher: Apr 9 • Aug 21 • Sept 11 • Nov 20
Renewal/Refresher Saturday Classes: May 9 • Sept 19
Contact: Angel Wiggins @ 847-4904

Advanced HAZMAT Life Support Course

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
August 26-28, 2009
Contact Alexis Bolton for information – 744-2954

ATLS Courses, 2009

DEPARTMENTS OF SURGERY AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE
BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
Provider: Jun 22-23 • Aug 24-25 • Nov 9-10
Instructor: Dec 10-11
To register contact Carolyn S. Vines @ 847-6957

BLS Training, 2009

PITT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER

Renewal: Apr 1 • May 13 • Jun 3 • July 1 • Aug 11 • Sept 17 • Oct 14 • Nov 11 • Dec 21

Refresher: Apr 2 • May 27 • Jun 9 • July 30 • Aug 18 • Sept 10 • Oct 21 • Nov 23 • Dec 15

First Timers: Apr 30 • Aug 13 • Nov 17

NRP Training, 2009

PITT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER

Provider: Jan 22 • Feb 17 • Mar 18 • May 14 • July 9 • Sept 3 • Nov 6

Renewal: Jan • Mar 5 • Apr 24 • May 19 • July 22 • Aug 19 • Sept 15 • Oct 20 • Nov 19 • Dec 2

PALS Courses, 2009

PITT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER

Provider: May 5 & 6 • Sept 24 & 25 • Nov 12 & 13 • Dec 17

Renewal/Refresher: Apr 16 • July 24 • Oct 29
Contact: Angel Wiggins @ 847-4904

You must have been a beautiful baby. . .



Answer: Tiffany Taylor

The results of those who responded with a guess:
4 – Tiffany Taylor; 1 – Dr. Orogbemi



I bet you drove the little boys wild. . .

To the left is a picture of someone in ECU Emergency Medicine. It could be of a faculty attending, resident physician, or a staff member. Who do you think it is? E-mail Lorraine with your guess. (Answer in next issue.)

Happy Birthday.....to you!

March

5 Dr. Patel
8 Esther Render
10 Dr. Huxford
11 Dr. Vaughn
22 Dr. Warden
23 Dr. Solberg-Shankle

April

1 Dr. Meredith
5 Marla Lunsford
9 Dr. Cowan
16 Dr. Caudill
19 Bonnie Uncapher

24 Dr. Duenas
27 Karen Presser

May

2 Dr. Goodman
7 Dr. Jacobs
11 Dr. De Guzman
17 Dr. March
19 Dr. Landry
20 Dr. Sisson
22 Dr. Dawson
24 Leigh McManus
27 Dr. Garrison
29 Kim Kurz

30 Dr. Meggs
31 Dr. Astin

June

7 Dr. Kwofie
18 Kay Carney
18 Dr. Ferguson
19 Dr. Fish
20 Dr. Paulk
25 Dr. Lawson
27 Dr. Reeder

July

5 Alexis Bolton
6 Amy Hufham
31 Dr. Morales



Sincere Sympathy . . .

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Brian Dawson
and his family upon the passing of his grandfather
on April 8, 2009.



***Resident Research Day will be take place on Tuesday June 2, and the
Graduation Banquet is scheduled for Friday, June 19.
Be watching your e-mail and snail-mail for details.
Mark your calendar!***

We want to thank each contributor to this issue of *The Siren*. We welcome and encourage all of you to participate in future publications. Please e-mail your suggestions and/or contributions for the next issue by July 1 to rigginsL@ecu.edu or send them to Lorraine Riggins, Emergency Medicine, 3ED-315, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27834.

