

Flathead HOSA

Visits Seattle Medical School

Members of Flathead HOSA had a great tour at University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, in February. We enjoyed the whole trip – AMTRAK was as good as could be for sleeping on the train for the two nights going from and coming back to Whitefish, Montana, which is very near to our home town, Kalispell.

We learned about the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center and their connections with famous baseball teams and players, after being founded by the oncologist brother of a player who died from a cancerous tumor. They have three Nobel Laureates to their credit, whose works have had global consequence. The Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center is one of three comprehensive cancer centers in the whole USA!

We had a privileged and encouraging tour by a Flathead High alumnus, who is an administrator for The Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Institute there. We attended one of the dates that the University of Washington makes available to all area High schools for introductory tours and hands-on interaction with departments of interest. Our department visits were to the Prosthetics department where each of us could try on an artificial arm and attempt to grasp objects with the attached claw. Then we visited ISIS – a simulator lab used for training surgeons. We brought the patient having surgery back to life after he crashed on the table! These were ideal sites for most of the members of our group – the future anesthesiologist, neurosurgeon, doctors, registered nurses, research scientist, and radiologist.

A very cool tip for those who would consider this tour as well is to book rooms at the Silver Cloud Inn on Lake Union, who provides discounts for people who are staying while visiting the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center AND they have complimentary shuttles to key locations throughout Seattle, including the train station, and a shuttle to and from the University of Washington facilities as well.

Of course, we all enjoyed a few hours in downtown, shopping and eating great food as well as visiting the space needle to view the gorgeous landscape and take in some hints of 'springtime' before returning to two more months of snow at home! NOW we are fired up for our HOSA State Conference which is coming very soon! A special HOSA thanks to Julie Collier at the University of Washington and Tamara Schmautz, Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center, for arranging these great tours!

For more information, visit the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center at <http://www.fhcr.org/>



Berry Academy HOSA and Carolinas HealthCare System Annual MASH Day

A HUGE SUCCESS!



On Saturday March 7, 2009, over 45 community healthcare professionals answered the call to volunteer at MASH day at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology. Students from all schools in CMS had the opportunity to explore many healthcare careers including laboratory services, therapy services, histology, child life, nursing, emergency services, crime scene investigators, and the local emergency response team from MTAC. More than 100 students and adults attended the event.



The day was planned in collaboration with Carolinas HealthCare System, Metrolina Trauma Advisory Committee (MTAC), and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. There were interactive lab stations where students learned to type blood and culture bacteria, saw fresh liver and brain specimens, process a crime scene and observe as the MTAC group unloaded 10 trauma victims from the MEDIC Evac Bus!

CMPD also staged a crime scene allowing the CMPD Crime Scene Investigators to show students how a crime scene is secured and evidence is tagged and bagged. Students were able to see the tools and procedures used by the CSIs. The MTAC volunteers along with MEDIC demonstrated how victims from a community disaster would be transported in the MEDIC Evac Bus, triaged and treated in the mobile hospital tents. Students learned how victims were assessed and tag with their status. There were more than a dozen interactive tables staffed with healthcare professionals who informed students about their careers and had lots of real life specimens and tests for students to see, prompting questions and interaction with healthcare professionals. The goal of this annual event is to expose the public to careers in healthcare, emergency services, and forensics.



VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

STUDENTS FIND SOLUTIONS

EAGLE MOUNTAIN -- Katie Neal of Midvale is a veterinary technology student who wants to work with horses. Problem is, she doesn't have a horse.

Neal and several dozen other vet-tech students from Jordan Applied Technology Center have come up with a creative win-win solution to this conundrum. Each week they drive to the Friends in Need animal rescue shelter in Eagle Mountain, where they work with horses and dogs.

"I've never really worked with a horse before, so I get experience," Neal said. Konik, the horse she was working with on a recent day, "makes me happy," she said.

At the shelter, the students give vaccinations, worm medication, take blood samples, do X-rays, give physical therapy, and help socialize both horses and dogs, putting into action all the things they have been learning in school from textbooks and lectures.

Many, if not all, of the animals at the shelter have been mistreated or neglected in some way. Many have physical problems or health issues. Many arrive scared of humans because of the neglect they have suffered. The students work to overcome all of this.

"I had no idea about horses," said Aubree Gailey of Riverton. Since volunteering with her class at the Eagle Mountain rescue shelter, **"I've learned how to halter the horses. I've learned not to be afraid of horses. The horses don't scare me anymore, so I can enjoy them."**

Shannon Daley of Sandy was working with Titan, a 20-year-old Spanish mustang who was 200 pounds underweight and suffering from skin lesions when Friends In Need rescued her.

"He had bad manners," Daley said of the Titan's early behavior at the shelter. "He would bite and push and spook a lot. After working with him, he's become a real gentleman."

Blake Horn of Riverton said she had no horse experience before coming as a volunteer to the shelter.

"I was more afraid of Titan than he was of me," she said with a laugh. **"I have started to be comfortable. This is a great program, and a great opportunity."**

Working at the shelter gives the students hands-on experience, said their teacher Kathy Nuttall. The students get to see the benefits of consistent work with sick or abused animals, and the animals get the attention and care they need, too.

"Too many times the students get to see only bits and pieces, not the whole put together," Nuttall said.

To donate or volunteer with the Friends In Need animal rescue shelter, call (801) 891-2622.



The students get to see the benefits of consistent work with sick or abused animals, and the animals get the attention and care they need, too.





PCHS CRUSHES BLOOD DONOR RECORD

Submitted by ARUP Services

Park City High School and the surrounding community came out in force during the latest blood drive with ARUP Blood Services and donated a record 73 units of life-saving blood. The previous record was 33 units in 2004. Because whole blood donations can be separated to make multiple life-saving blood products more than 146 blood products were made for patients. The new formed chapter of HOSA sponsored the drive and because of their dedicated efforts and the support of their advisor, Robbie Rauzi, a new record was set for the high school blood drive.

The blood drive was held at the Eccles Center at Park City High School on March 6, 2009 and more than 100 people turned out to donate blood. All the donated blood went to patients at University Hospital, Huntsman Cancer Hospital, Primary Children's Medical Center, and Shriners Hospital for Children. There are more than 40 hospitals in Utah, but these four use around 25% of the transfused blood in the state.

ARUP sponsors scholarships for HOSA chapters and helps high school students learn leadership skills, offer student introduction and training in the medical fields, and try to help students learn how important it is to become lifelong blood donors. For more information about ARUP Blood Services, visit us at www.utahblood.org.



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS SEND LETTER TO OBAMA ENCOURAGING INCREASE FUNDING FOR PERKINS

Businesses, student organizations, education organizations endorse letter

ALEXANDRIA, VA – In light of the current economic crisis and workforce issues facing America today, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) sent a joint letter to President Obama requesting that his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget include at least \$1.4 billion to support secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins).

ACTE, NASDCTEc and AACC reached out to education and training associations, employers and students across the country to join in united support of a Perkins funding increase. Forty-five additional organizations have also signed the letter to President Obama, which is included below. These organizations believe CTE is a critical investment in the American workforce and that further investments will enable CTE programs to produce more skilled workers to fill the jobs crucial to America's economy. With one-third of the country's fastest-growing jobs requiring an associate's degree, certificate or work-related training, CTE is a critical component in meeting the needs of both employers and the economy as a whole.

Since FY 2002, Perkins funding has decreased by \$42 million, while enrollment for CTE has increased by 6 million since 1999. There were approximately 15.6 million students taking CTE during the 2006-07 school year, which is the latest statistic available.

As the media writes articles regarding the economy, education and the appropriations and budget process, please consider this letter in your coverage. ACTE, NASDCTEc and AACC are planning to send the letter to Members of Congress, encouraging them to increase Perkins funding during the FY 2010 appropriations process.

For more information on this joint letter, please contact:

ACTE, Sabrina Kidwai, 703-683-9312
NASDCTEc, Dave Buonora, (301) 588-9630

April 3, 2009

**The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500**

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations, representing education and training, employer groups, and students, believe that career technical education (CTE) is a critical investment in the American workforce. We respectfully request that your FY 2010 Budget include at least \$1.4 billion to support secondary and postsecondary career technical education through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins CTE Act).

In your recent address to Congress and in your budget outline you stressed several goals for our country, including the importance of economic growth, reducing the number of high school dropouts, encouraging Americans to go to college, and highlighting the importance of "vocational training" and career pathways programs. A strong federal investment in the Perkins CTE Act will help make these goals a reality. Since Fiscal Year 2002, the federal investment in the Perkins CTE Act has decreased by \$42 million, while enrollment levels have soared to a record high. To realize the full potential CTE can have in our nation's economic recovery, a renewed commitment in funding this program is necessary.

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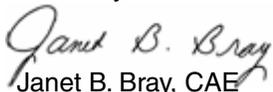
During this turbulent economic time, it is crucial to note that high-quality CTE programs can provide the education and training necessary to stimulate the economy and provide the solid education that is needed to prepare youth and displaced workers with the skills they need to succeed in today's highly technical environment. Please consider the following:

- Students who earn a CTE-related associate's degree or certificate can make an average of \$9,000 more a year than an average individual with a humanities- or social sciences-focused associate's degree – and those with credentials in high-demand fields such as healthcare can average almost \$20,000 more a year. (Jacobson et al, "Pathways to Boosting the Earnings of Low-Income Students by Increasing Their Educational Attainment," Gates Foundation/Hudson Institute, 2009.)
- A ratio of one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school. (Plank et al, "Dropping Out of High School and the Place of Career and Technical Education," National Research Center for CTE, 2005.)
- CTE students are significantly more likely than their non-CTE counterparts to report that they developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management and critical thinking skills during high school. (Lekes et al, "Career and Technical Education Pathway Programs, Academic Performance, and the Transition to College and Career," National Research Center for CTE, 2007.)

The Perkins CTE Act continues to evolve to ensure that workers are well prepared to hold jobs in high-wage, high-skill, high-demand career fields. These include STEM disciplines, nursing, early childhood education, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability and other green jobs, and many other areas that are vital in keeping our nation competitive in the global economy. Even more valuable in our rapidly changing economy, the Perkins CTE Act is doing more than training people for specific jobs, it is giving them transferable skills that will lead to sustained career development.

An increase in funding would enable CTE programs to produce more skilled workers to fill the jobs that are crucial to America's economy. Thank you for your past and continued support and we look forward to working with your administration in the upcoming budget cycle.

Sincerely,



Janet B. Bray, CAE
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HOSA at the NASSP Conference

By Jan Rodriguez, National HOSA Post-Secondary Board Representative

**School administrators often ask me, “What is HOSA?”
My answer is “The organization your students interested in the medical field were looking for.”**

For HOSA members it is second nature to promote this wonderful organization to those who are unaware of its benefits. We know that we can talk about HOSA for hours and hours. I was given the opportunity to do just that. I represented HOSA members around the country with Mrs. Sheila Carlton from Tennessee this past February at the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) conference in beautiful San Diego, California. Aside from the great location, this conference was a great experience for me and a wonderful way for HOSA to be promoted. Throughout the conference I was given the opportunity to talk to school principals from all over the country about what we do, and the benefits of having HOSA in their school. Most individuals I spoke with seemed initially interested in our organization, however, when hearing the benefits that their students can enjoy, they became intrigued.

It became apparent to me that there are some schools that would start HOSA if they knew about it. Principals seemed surprised to find out that we are the only CTSO directly geared towards the medical field. While talking to them they were in awe to find out about our partnership with the Medical Reserve Corps, and our contributions to Autism Speaks. Speaking about our organization made me realize more and more that as a group, we are on the direct path to educational and professional greatness.

We strive for membership increases and strive to be known and heard. This conference takes us one step closer to just that. After the conference I felt a sense of accomplishment knowing that after the NASSP conference, HOSA is closer to becoming a household name. Thank you HOSA members for making this possible, for it is because of your dedication to learning today that makes us serve tomorrow.



Sheila Carlton, Chairman, HOSA Inc. Board of Directors, and Jan Rodriguez, HOSA National Officer, prepare to work the booth at the NASSP convention in February 2009.

Lieutenant Jason Redman Speaks at VA State Conference

By Kelly Peters
Virginia HOSA State President



Lieutenant Redman has dedicated his life to serving his country and has given much of his time to support the global war on terrorism.

This year's Virginia HOSA State Leadership Conference consisted of many wonderful competitions, speakers, and workshops. The most memorable part of the weekend was definitely our keynote speaker, Lieutenant Jason Redman. Lieutenant Redman graduated from Old Dominion University and has been a part of the United States Navy since September 11, 1992. He has been awarded with many personal decorations, such as the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, five Navy Achievement medals, and two Combat Action Ribbons.

Lieutenant Redman has dedicated his life to serving his country and has given much of his time to support the global war on terrorism. He has been deployed several times and was recently wounded while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Lieutenant is currently in rehabilitation from injuries to the face and shoulder. He has undergone numerous reconstructive surgeries and has spent months in the hospital.

Even through all of this, Lieutenant Redman is far from finished serving his country. Instead of letting his injuries slow him down, the Lieutenant uses his experiences as a severely injured soldier to inspire and motivate others. He recently started a charity called Wounded Wear. It promotes awareness on a nationwide level of the sacrifices that wounded soldiers have made for the sake of America's freedom. The charity also gives wounded soldiers and their families support and a sense of strength and determination.

Lieutenant Redman travels all over the country speaking to different groups about his experiences, so we were very lucky to have him at our State Conference. As Lieutenant Redman told his story, the eyes and hearts of each person listening opened and were filled with understanding and gratitude, gratitude for the men and women who give their lives and time for OUR freedom. Tears filled the room as he told of how he was separated from his family for months at a time and the pain he went through in the defense of freedom. Each person was moved in their own way as he spoke.

Lieutenant Redman continued to amaze everyone as he told of how proud he is to wear his scars that he so courageously got in Iraq. He told of how grateful he is to all of the men and women in the healthcare profession. If not for them, VA HOSA would not have been given the honor of hearing his incredible story. Lieutenant Redman even thanked us, as students going into various careers in medicine, for all the lives we will save.

Virginia HOSA was fortunate to have one of our country's heroes at our Conference. Lieutenant Redman touched many lives through his inspirational outlook on life. His story has made footprints in the heart of HOSA, and it will never be forgotten.



Wounded Wear Flag

HOSA Opportunities in the Aloha State

By Jenna Maligro, Hawaii HOSA State President

HOSA can be contagious in your state, as it has in ours. As Hawaii's current State President, I am proud to report our fourth year of national affiliation and continued membership growth, which has now reached 911. How have we done it? Being from Hawaii, that small bunch of specks on the map, it is not often that we leave this rock-like paradise we call home. Traveling to different places and meeting other people interested in health care professions and participating in competitive events is such a life-changing opportunity for all of our delegates. In order to attend, we know we must place at state competition or become a state officer in order to have a valid reason for our school and parents to help fund the trip. To reach our destination, it takes roughly 5-1/2 hours to reach the West coast since we cannot drive across the Pacific Ocean, and another 6 hours to reach the East coast, so it's extremely expensive to bring ourselves and our aloha spirit. Some of us want to get there faster so we can go shopping or catch the sights before the conference begins, so we take direct flights to Dallas for over 8 hours and another shorter 2 hour flight to reach our destination. However, we have high expectations from ourselves and love when we win anything, such as the Membership Increase and Most Enthusiastic State awards. I remember we lost our voices screaming with pride. Looking back, it all began when I signed a simple application to join HOSA.

As a freshman in high school, I was excited to be involved with an organization that fit my interest in health care. I agreed to join a Medical Reading Team, unsure of how difficult competition would be. Amazingly, my team placed first at the state level, and became Hawaii's first Medical Reading Team to compete nationally. Although we didn't make it to the second round, the experience of attending a national meeting changed my perspective dramatically. I saw others had similar aspirations and started becoming serious about learning as much as possible from the professional judges, workshops, and each other. My interest

in HOSA began to escalate. I was inspired to be involved in HOSA in every aspect through involvement at the chapter, community, state, and national levels. To make a difference with Hawaii HOSA, especially in the area of membership increase, I decided I was going to run to become a state leader and get as many as I could to change their mindset about HOSA and become involved themselves. I also wanted another opportunity to compete and was ecstatic upon being called up to receive a bronze medal in the Extemporaneous Health Poster category. Besides that, I attended a

leadership academy and State Presidents' reception, waved our flag during the opening ceremony, visited the local with other state presidents in Dallas, and accepted a membership increase award plaque for our state. This past September, I was fortunate to attend the Washington Leadership Academy along with my chapter and state advisor. The workshops were helpful in improving my leadership skills, and I nervously lobbied Hawaii's Congressional representatives. Upon our return and after sharing our experiences, I inspired three of my chapter's officers to run for state office.

As thrilling as all of this can be, I am reminded that Hawaii has a serious shortfall of health care professionals due to our high cost of living, with many leaving to practice on the mainland. Thus, it is important for us to build a network in our state, and get students interested at a younger age. Our strength is in our delegates and leaders who express their excitement as they tell of their experiences and desire to want to attend again. We are fortunate to have dedicated advisors who travel each year to support their students. As they learn and see us in action, they are able to get excited about HOSA and support those of us who have big dreams like myself. Now in my third year in HOSA, I am looking forward to my senior year as State President, running as a national officer candidate in Nashville, and experience all that HOSA has to offer. So remember—spread the word and watch membership grow in your state, too!



Michael Brody, National HOSA President-Elect, Jenna Maligro, Hawaii HOSA State President, and Luis Baez, National HOSA President

Leading the Way

By Brian Gomez, HOSA President
East Haven High School

With one year of experience and a leadership conference as a HOSA member under my belt, I went into this school year with a new and improved attitude. My number one goal: become a bigger part of the group I knew would take me somewhere - HOSA.

When it came time to run for the executive board, I made the decision to give it a try because I wanted to grow into being a leader. Sure enough, my dedication paid off and I was elected the President of my chapter.

Being an officer of HOSA is simply a great experience. It puts you in the position of thinking about others constantly while keeping yourself on task as well. As soon as you start your first project, everything changes. It's never about you, it's about what can be done to better improve the members of your chapter. That's the beauty of it.

When you are an officer, you work with what you have in front of you, taking advantage of your opportunities. As the process progresses, everything else follows. As human beings, we tend to not realize how much we can do until we really try. Once we look back, then we see how much we've grown, how different we are, and how we are able to help others.

Two years ago I was never able to stand in front of a class and give a presentation, but with HOSA, I'm slowly improving by changing my approach each time I take a chance at an opportunity. As I grow and continue to mature, I'm becoming a leader with more self confidence who hopes to one day have an impact on others. I truly believe there is no better group because life is about believing and believing is HOSA.

Being an officer of HOSA is simply a great experience. It puts you in the position of thinking about others constantly while keeping yourself on task as well.



East Haven HOSA members - Brian Gomez, Caitlin Esposito, Sayra Ingles, Marissa Pajeski, and Kailey Mitchell.



HOSA: *Where one Person's Passion Becomes Another Person's Hero*

By Janell Green, Vice President, Virginia HOSA

W“Where one Person’s Passion Becomes Another Person’s Hero”, creates heroes of many in our world today. Heroes are defined as people admired for their bravery and nobility. Heroes do not become heroes on their own. In them are engrafted moral values and wisdom from two groups of people, women and soldiers. Many women are the providers in their households and do not have the support of their husbands or the children’s father. Some work two or three jobs, pay the bills, and sometimes are not able to spend time with their children on weekends and during the week. Sometimes, the jobs may have women working nights and days and ridiculous hours, and these women are often overwhelmed and tired. The optimistic thing about it is that they make it through hard times, endure until the end, and guard a passion for their children. That passion is to want their children to do their best in school, sports, and other curricular activities and also in their future. They want their children to go to the best colleges, have prominent careers and to succeed them when their children get older. In order for their passion to come true, faith is required to achieve and be the best. Women have to commit themselves in working hard and not giving up or giving in to fear when times are rough, and to let their children know that commitment and self motivation is required in school and sports because without it people quit. Women have to let their children know that quitting is not an option, but sometimes you have to find encouragement and support from inside you because other people will not do it for you. Women have to be the examples in their households and have faith to feed the passion for their children to make heroes in their children. My mother is my hero because she has a passion that she feeds with faith everyday in helping me to do my best. I thank my mother because without her, I would not be a hero.



AAnother distinct group of people are soldiers who have a passion to serve their country no matter what it takes, whether it is death or injury. They have to dedicate themselves everyday to not give up and to choose hope and life and not death. They make heroes of younger soldiers and students who think it is a struggle in school. These soldiers have been yelled at by their sergeants, pulled duty when they did not feel like it and could not communicate with their spouses or children at times because of duty or the war. They have set a great example for young soldiers and students to make the right choice and decisions in life that will benefit them and their families in the future. One soldier in particular was injured in the war and had two choices to make, whether it was to lie where he was injured, give up on his life, family, and country, or to get on his own two feet, receive help and be there for his family and a hero for his country in the end. Our keynote speaker at the Virginia HOSA conference in February 2009 was a soldier who made an important choice to live; he had a passion that was fed by faith and in sharing his experiences became a hero to all who attended the conference. There are others like this soldier, who chooses to serve our country and not let fear conquer them that makes heroes in many people. Soldiers that died while serving our country and veterans who lived through war to see today are people that had a passion and became our heroes. They motivated and encouraged others to not give up and became heroes to students and soldiers today.



What HOSA has taught me so far...

By Tamira Cole, Tennessee HOSA Alumna

The year was 2001. There I sat with fellow HOSA members from South Side High School with sweaty palms and a dry mouth. We had campaigned, shook hands, begged, pleaded all for me to become the 2001-2002 West TN Vice President. "Good luck Tamira," said Brandi. I took one deep breath and prayed.

"And your new 2001-2002 TAHOSA West Tennessee Vice President is.....Sini Kwaube." Immediately, a bucket of tears hit my face and navy blue blazer. HOSA members from Dresden reached for me for a painful hug. Sixteen candidates for eight positions was tough. However, it wasn't the office that truly mattered, but the opportunity to grow as a health professional and leader. Each us was truly indebted to HOSA. I congratulated all of the new officers and sat in my seat with a tear ridden face. I was both a good winner and loser, but for some reason this one stung more than anything.

At that moment I learned one of my first initial life and HOSA lessons: it's not the journey's END but the JOURNEY that counts. I went from a nervous 16 year old to one who handled grace and defeat under fire. As I sat and listened to the guest speaker, Beth Hood, a former Miss Tennessee USA and America, I realized that the journey was not over. Beth, a TAHOSA alumna also ran for state office and lost. I thought to myself, "Wow, she's about to compete for Miss America and she lost!" As I listened to Beth speak my eyes and mind began to clear.

HOSA provides its members with the opportunities to not only compete in dozens of competitions such as extemporaneous speaking and biomedical debate, leadership roles, community service, but for life growth. HOSA allows its members to grow from year to year not only as a competitor, but as a professional. It was in that very seat in Chattanooga, TN that I stopped looking at the END RESULT, but what HOSA offered. I had already won. I won the battle of obstacles, courage and self-confidence to render service to an organization that truly brought my potential to the next level. My advisor, Betty Roberson, and chapter members had been a constant support of that potential. The questions were, how was I going to learn and take from this experience? What was I going to give HOSA WITHOUT being a state officer?

Two months had passed, as the State Barbara James Service Winner I had the opportunity to attend the NLC in Atlanta, GA. It was there during the opening ceremonies that Rebecca Armen, National HOSA President and Deborah Veach, National Secondary Board member (from Tennessee) had empowered me. Seeing such accomplished HOSA members speak proudly on behalf of a life changing organization, gave me confidence that just maybe, just maybe my journey's end was becoming a National HOSA Officer! The NLC was exciting. I met dozens of friends from across the country, received pointers on how to improve my speaking skills (I was 5th in extemporaneous speaking in TN), received ideas for the chapter newsletter and community service, and talked to several national officers. One thing was for sure I was going to run for National Office!

Time passed and I worked closely with then state advisor, Lauren Mclemore and chapter members. I went to state HOSA camp, studied two hours a day with my mother, memorized my speech, edited my résumé and had my official HOSA uniform tailored. For half of my

senior year I spent time giving 150% to HOSA as chapter president. We held bake sales; blood drives, held competition practices after school and made sure that class time was invaluable. Finally, my chapter attended the SLC. Our newsletter took third place! I had to compete to run for national office with another TAHOSA member. The election itself was nerve racking.

The announcement stated, "The HOSA member that will run for national office in Anaheim, California is.....Tamira Cole!" I immediately jumped up and hugged my chapter. It was so unreal, but most importantly a true honor. Jennifer Jeannsonne was the other HOSA member and she and I held a close relationship from running together the year before. As fate would have it, both Jennifer and I made it to the 2002 NLC!

The NLC was filled full of election meetings, exams, campaigning and finally it came down to the one moment I had skipped meals for. "Your new 2002-2003 National HOSA Region II Vice President is.....Tamira Cole from Tennessee." At that moment I couldn't breathe. I ran in front of 5,000 people to begin the start of another journey.

HOSA has given me so many invaluable lessons, friendships, love, support, professional and life skills that I use every single day of my life. My year as a national officer was one of the best years of my life. HOSA members can take confidence, courage, integrity, professionalism, good sportsmanship, and hard work from the organization through many facets. What I was able to give HOSA, as a member was sound leadership that put the ethics and principles of the healthcare profession first. Many times in life we fail to realize the big picture that this moment is the only moment that will ever count in our lives. In some cases, especially in the healthcare profession that is true. For an example, the little girl that has to be revived after swimming too deeply in the pool. In cases such as mine, it was the journey into a deeper understanding of true service. As healthcare professionals, we serve a growing population of people who need care, compassion, leadership and professionalism. HOSA taught me just that.

These experiences prepared me for my fate as a pageant contestant. In 2007, I competed in the Miss Tennessee American system and failed to win a local preliminary as well as becoming Miss Black Tennessee USA in 2008. Determined and strong willed, I looked again toward the lessons of HOSA and thought back to the 2001 SLC and charged forward to compete for Miss Black Kentucky USA. To my surprise, the lessons of HOSA didn't change one bit. I was selected and currently promote my platform YOUth in Action! and will compete for Miss Black USA.

The journey of our lives is what makes the surprises and the obstacles were going through. HOSA gave me a wonderful journey of true self that I take with me each day. When I put on my crown, I remember my moments of being the underdog at the NLC. In HOSA there are no underdogs, but top dogs that serve daily.



Benefits of Future Education in Healthcare Fields

By Alissa Conde, Maryland HOSA

Building a career can be a very important value to an individual. The healthcare field is an absolute ideal option when it comes to choosing a career for life. This field is creating quite a stir all over the world considering the various benefits anyone can reap both morally and physically. Many will consider a career in healthcare as an opportunity with everything to gain and nothing to lose. Continuing to build on the ideal of career availability in healthcare, it is probably the only industry that will always continue to grow no matter how the economic status of the country will change. People will always need healthcare from early age all the way into the elderly years of life. A variety of ailments can affect any individual and they will be looking for a helping hand in their society to contribute.

Where does this leave educating our future doctors, nurses, and pharmacists of America? The research and new technological advances in the field of medicine is motivation enough for students to get involved. A healthcare professional's continuing development is critical to keeping up with advances in medicine and with changes in the delivery of care. This will allow them to help provide patients with the most current and appropriate treatment, services and information. Medical technologies and their consumer's constant request for improvement brings a revolutionary age on how we can diagnose and treat our patients. Diagnostic tests occur much more quickly than they used to, and results turn out to be that much more accurate.

So, can the future get better? Yes, it can. There are still many flaws floating in between the opportunistic hopes that encompass healthcare. The United States particularly ranks low in quality and service of their healthcare system. We may have all of these educated professionals and all of this wonderful technology, but what good is it if it cannot help everyone it says it can? Uninsured individuals of the United States are probably the ones that require these services the most and yet see none of the benefits of this growing future to a healthier world. They can either not afford the treatment or make the travel arrangements or are too scared to be judged when seeking assistance. The education should not be that of physicians or technologists, because this is one thing that is guaranteed to occur; yet, the education needs to serve the patients who will need services. By educating the individuals of our society and comforting them in the capabilities of our healthcare, only then can we strive for the healthier world we look forward to sustaining.

The healthcare field is an absolute ideal option when it comes to choosing a career for life.

How do you picture a healthy world? Be part of a better future.





Focus on Your Future: A Career in Medical Photography

By Joseph Kane, Editorial Photographer, The Mayo Clinic

The idea of Medical Photography conjures up a variety of mental images. Is it the photograph of a surgeon in the operating room? Is it the series of images of the birth of a child? Is it the harsh reality of images from an autopsy? Or is it the stained tissue of cancer cells seen through a microscope? If you answered yes to any of these questions, congratulations...you're partially right.

Medical photography, or perhaps more accurately medical-related photography has evolved over the years. Beginning as documentation of medical conditions, this generally consisted of photographs of patients, surgical procedures and anatomical dissections. This also included the recording of patients on movie film (yes there was life before digital video), gross specimen photography and the copying of x-ray films.

Today, medical photography continues to play a key role in the diagnosis, treatment and research surrounding numerous medical conditions which can include the areas of dermatology, plastic surgery, oncology and orthopedics. It could be a one-person department and include public relations work as well or very specialized training in ophthalmological photography in a larger organization. Your work may also include computer graphics, presentation design and environmental portraits. Chances are though, that you will not be spending much time in a darkroom. You may see your final work on a website, a poster presentation or a national publication.



Many images taken by medical photographers find their way into medical books, journals and are used to further the education of medical professionals.



A thorough knowledge and understanding of the technical aspects of photography is essential. The need goes beyond simply having a "strong interest" in photography and needs to be augmented with both professional (earning a salary) and academic experience. Internships can also provide invaluable information and insight as well. There are numerous photography programs offered across the country, but only a limited number that offer degrees in biomedical photography. A good source of information would be at <http://bca.org/>, the web home of the BioCommunications Association. The BCA is an international association of media professionals who create and use quality images in visual communications for teaching, documentation and presentations in the life sciences and medicine.

Read. Experiment. Ask questions. Be curious. While as a photographer you may spend much of your time with one eye closed, keep both eyes open to the world around you. As you continue to learn, you will be better prepared to visually convey to others what you see.

Medical Photographers work side by side with surgeons to document findings to be used for education, patient care and in some instances, legal purposes.



Combining Passion and Patriotism

One medical student discusses his motivations to pursue a career in health care with the U.S. Army

During his plebe (freshman) year at West Point, the U.S. Army's university, Michael Donohue was forever moved by the events of Sept. 11, 2001. It was on that day while only 45 miles up the Hudson River from New York City, that he made the "hard and final decision that I wanted to serve in the military."

The first year medical school student recalls that it was during his second year as an infantry officer that he decided to pursue a medical career. Serving tours in Iraq, he saw first-hand injuries suffered by fellow Soldiers and the difference a qualified medical officer could make in their lives.

Always wanting to attend medical school, he said "my service in Iraq solidified this desire because I was directly involved in many combat situations that included evacuating wounded Soldiers."

Donohue was accepted into the Army's Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) after graduating from West Point in 2005. He deferred the scholarship until 2008 so he could serve his country. Now he is challenging himself at Georgetown University School of Medicine.



For more information about Army health-care, visit <http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/>



For many of his peers, accepting the HPSP scholarship is their first introduction to the Army. Others have a family background in the military. Donohue's prior service though gives him a unique glimpse into what to expect.

"I have been through Ranger school, lived overseas, and deployed to Iraq where I led 40 soldiers. My perception of the Army and expectations of the Army are probably very different from most other physicians," he said.

Donohue plans to specialize in orthopedic surgery where he will have a direct impact on the majority of Soldiers returning from combat with serious injuries. While some of his peers may be looking at only a minimal commitment to the Army, Donohue plans to remain in areas of medicine that "directly impact the operational ability of U.S. Army maneuver units or Special Operation forces," he explained.

Attending West Point, serving in Iraq and now studying at Georgetown Medical School, Donohue enjoys hard work, pointing out that students who don't do the work now can jeopardize a patient's life down the road. Still, medical school can be a little daunting.

"The information is thrown at you continuously and you must focus to learn as much as possible," he said of his current work load. "The easiest part has been networking with classmates to build study groups and bonds that will last a lifetime. The most surprising is the overall lack of military medical students."



Who are Paraoptometrics?

Paraoptometrics are allied health personnel who extend the optometrist's capabilities by assuming routine and technical aspects of vision care services. Paraoptometrics are to optometrists what paralegals are to lawyers. A majority of optometrists utilize at least three paraoptometrics in the office. Well-trained personnel build an office-patient relationship which is not only invaluable to the optometrist, but also provides great satisfaction to both patients and staff. As a part of the vision care team, they help build patient confidence and satisfaction.

Depending upon experience, paraoptometrics perform a variety of duties such as front desk procedures, billing and coding of insurance claims, and patient scheduling. Under the supervision of their employing optometrist, paraoptometrics may also perform more clinical duties such as pre-testing patients, contact lens procedures, and ophthalmic optics and dispensing of eyewear.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

There are many opportunities for qualified individuals that can provide valuable service for the increasing population. The Department of Labor indicates that the employment of health care assistants is expected to increase by 27% or more between 2004 and 2014. This is due to the increased aging population and the demand for skilled personnel to meet the needs of technological advancements. Additionally, this growth is driven by the increase in the number of practices, clinics, and other health care facilities. The Department of Labor also states that "those with formal training or experience, particularly for those with certification, will be the preference of those health care employers hiring."

Demand for well-trained paraoptometrics is extremely high. Formal training programs regularly boast three or four job openings per graduate. In addition, many optometrists are willing to offer on the job training to those individuals who are highly motivated and health career oriented. For information pertaining to job opportunities, please visit Optometry's Career Center at www.optometrycareercenter.org, contact your state optometric society, or check with the optometrists in your area.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Paraoptometric training is available through formal education programs or training on the job. Some formal programs offer a two-year program providing education for students to earn an Associate of Science degree (A.S.) while other programs offer a one-year technical diploma course that can be completed in nine months of full-time study.

Many paraoptometrics, regardless of their level of training, often attend continuing education seminars to keep their skills current and to maintain a certification designation.

In addition to having a minimum of a high school diploma, individuals considering a career as a paraoptometric should consider these guidelines:

SUGGESTED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES/ COLLEGE COURSES:

Algebra, Biology, Anatomy, English, Communication, Psychology, and be computer literate.

ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS:

Interest in health care, possess maturity, interpersonal skills, and have an ability to follow procedures.

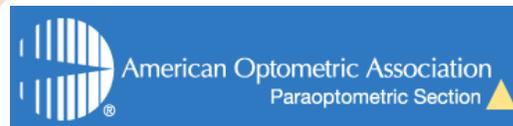
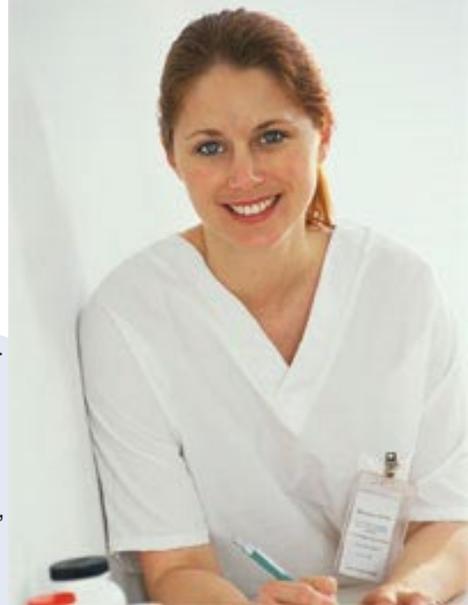
INCOME: Annual income will vary greatly depending on the size, type and location of the practice in which you are employed. The average paraoptometric works 25-40 hours per week and earns more than \$20,000+ annually with health benefits coverage.

PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT, RECOGNITION AND AFFILIATION

Paraoptometrics interested in career advancement and affiliation can join the Paraoptometric Section of the American Optometric Association. This national association is organized to promote, advance and enhance the identity of both paraoptometrics and their optometrists. The group also encourages and provides quality continuing education for paraoptometric personnel.

The American Optometric Association Commission on Paraoptometric Certification offers paraoptometrics the opportunity to be recognized for their level of career knowledge and skill by way of voluntary certification. Nationally accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the CPC offers three progressive levels of testing that enhances career growth opportunities and future advancements.

Becoming affiliated with the Paraoptometric Section shows your employer, patients, the public and members of other health professions that you have made the commitment to enhance your skills and advance your career.



Let the American Optometric Association be the Key to Expanding Your Career Goals

For more information regarding AOA Paraoptometric Certifications or Paraoptometric Section membership, please contact: **Certification- Darlene Leuschke 800-365-2219 ext. 4135 Membership – Joan Murphy ext. 4222** or visit www.aoa.org.



Former State President Finds Success in Podiatry

One of the things that warms the hearts of HOSA chapter and state advisors is hearing from HOSA alumni members who have found success and happiness in the health professions. Just recently, Nancy Allen, South Carolina HOSA State Advisor, received a wonderful e-mail from former SC-HOSA State President, Chester Penn.

Dear Mrs. Allen,

My name is Chester Penn. I was the SC State President of HOSA in 1988-1989. I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know where I am now and how HOSA influenced me. I worked as a paramedic in Myrtle Beach for 14 years, of which I cross-trained as fireman the last 2 years. I finished my undergrad at Coastal Carolina while working EMS. I then went to New York College of Podiatric Medicine where I completed my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) in 2007. I am now 3 months away from completing my residency in Jacksonville, FL. I have a potential opportunity to stay on as an associate of the residency program. This is an excellent opportunity as I have always enjoyed teaching.

Since starting my residency, I came across a local chapter of HOSA here in Jacksonville. This led me to volunteering time in participating as a judge at last year's SLC. I more recently spoke as a keynote speaker at a regional conference in Jacksonville about my success starting in HOSA that led me to where I am now.

If I can ever be of assistance, don't hesitate to write or call. I believe in giving back. If you ever have students or instructors that have questions about Podiatry as a career, or pointers about health education, my door is always open. I travel back and forth to Myrtle Beach from time to time to visit family.

I have to go now and prepare for surgery, but thanks for taking the time to read this email. I look forward to hearing from you or any other interested persons in the future.

Chester Penn, DPM
Email: drcpenn@gmail.com



Graduation from Podiatry school with wife Pam, and step-children Dawn and Billy.

Like many other HOSA members, Chester started on his path to the health professions in high school. He served as his chapter's president from 1987-88 and the South Carolina HOSA President in 1988-89.

Chester is a multi-skilled healthcare professional, having served as an Emergency Room Technician, EMT, EMT-I, and Paramedic. He also taught several EMT, CPR, ACLS, Phlebotomy, and Dental Emergencies classes.

After spending four years in podiatry medical school at the NY College of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Chester Penn will complete his two-year residency at St. Vincent's Medical Center this summer.

Podiatry is the specialized field of medicine in which foot and ankle problems are corrected both medically and surgically.

The sub-specialties in podiatry include:

- Medicine
- Diabetic Care
- Dermatology
- Pediatrics
- Sports Medicine
- Orthopedics
- Surgery
- Trauma

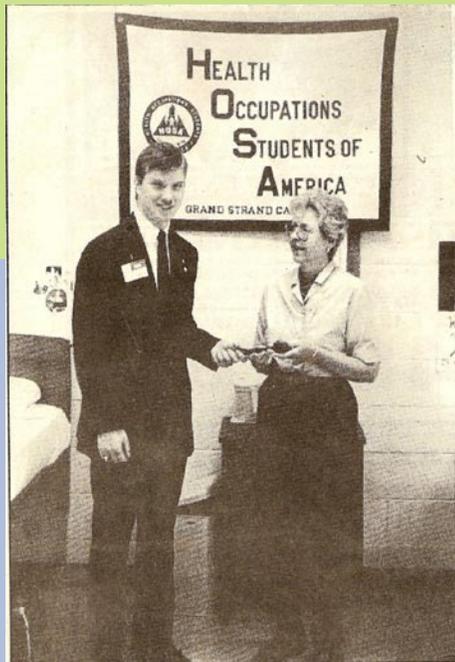
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Foot Facts:

- 1/4 of all the bones in the body are in your feet
- Each foot has 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments, 19 muscles and tendons
- You take between 8,000 and 10,000 steps a day or 115,000 miles in a lifetime
- Pressure on your feet can easily exceed your body weight. Running puts 3 to 4 times your body weight on your feet.
- Your feet mirror your general health
- Women have four times as many foot problems as men

Dr. Penn wants HOSA members to know that the journey to a health profession can be long and hard, but it is manageable and well worth it. "Last years theme states, 'HOSA: Where Dreams are Made and Futures Begin.' HOSA helped me to form my dreams and that's where my career started."



STATE PRESIDENT — Mrs. Sue Brehm, health occupations instructor at Grand Strand Career Center, shares a gavel with Chester Penn, who was recently elected president of the state Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Penn is a senior at Socastee High School. *Elbert Marshall Photo*

Newspaper clipping from 1988 with Mrs. Sue Brehm, HOSA Advisor.



The white coat ceremony was the induction into medical school, an initial pledge and commitment to the medical field. This even included an early statement of the Hippocratic oath, which was formally taken upon graduation.

Join us for the 19th annual conference



Strategies: Educational Excellence for Health Care Providers

When: November 5-6, 2009

Where: The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, Pennsylvania

The conference will provide networking opportunities and innovative teaching techniques for instructors of secondary/postsecondary health care and long-term care providers. You can earn Act 48 hours or PSNA contact hours and Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

- Identify how adults process and remember information, and describe ways to reinforce learning.
- Identify four ways to “resuscitate” boring content
- Prevent technology-related problems in such areas as copyright.
- Learn about new and exciting teaching tools such as WebQuests and social networks
- Hear updates on continuing education requirements
- Network with colleagues from across the state

To learn more about the conference or to request a brochure, visit our Web site:

www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/strategiesforexcellence

an outreach program of the **College of Education, Workforce Education and Development Program**

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. U.Ed.OUT 09-0981/09-CI-560mkm/pm Copyright © 2009 The Pennsylvania State University

**Admit One:
Your Ticket to Technology**



At Georgetown University School of Medicine, students fund world-class medical education by serving their country

By Stephen Ray Mitchell, MD
Georgetown University School of Medicine Dean

The White Coat ceremony marks the start of another medical school year at Georgetown. Students from across the country begin their four-year journey toward an MD degree with a sense of excitement, wonder and awe.

However, some students will wear a different uniform upon graduation – one that depicts their commitment to our country and military service. Among our medical ranks are Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) students, individuals who have earned an Army scholarship that pays for their tuition, books and fees for medical school.

Medical school students may pay for their medical education with scholarships, grants or student loans. And every year, Georgetown University School of Medicine welcomes a new group of HPSP students representing numerous branches of the military.

Georgetown students have enjoyed an Army connection since the 1860s, when a Georgetown faculty member in the Army of the Potomac received the Congressional Medical of Honor. Since then, Georgetown has seen a steady flow of physicians leave our campus to enter careers in the US Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Not only have these students received a world class education, they have served our country with dignity and respect.

Each year on graduation weekend, we hold a separate commissioning ceremony for students in all three branches of the US military and their families. From 10 to 20 percent of our graduating class will take the Oath of Military service along with the Oath of Hippocrates. At that commissioning ceremony, I have the great honor to join with senior leadership of military medicine and the HPSP students to honor their commitment to our country.



Every Army scholarship student joins for their own reason, from love of country to family tradition to relief from the high cost of medical school. But they also love medicine and want the ability to treat and heal Soldiers who put their lives on the line for our country. It is a privilege to watch these remarkable men and women grow as doctors and embark on a rewarding career.





HAVE YOU HEARD OF ASHA NSSLHA?

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) are your resources to the professions of audiology & speech-language pathology.

ASHA is the professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 135,000 members and affiliates who are speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists in the United States and internationally.

NSSLHA is the pre-professional association for 12,000 graduate and undergraduate students interested in the study of communication sciences and disorders.

With the popularity of Ipods and other personal listening devices the topic of hearing conservation brings about a good debate among the professionals that treat hearing disorders. ASHA and NSSLHA are interested to hear from students on the issue and giving a few HOSA members the opportunity to share their message with the world.

ASHA and NSSLHA will reward the selected speakers of the "Prevent Hearing Loss" Researched Persuasive Speaking event with the opportunity to serve as national spokespersons for the prevention of hearing loss among their peers. As spokespersons the students will participate in selected events and be interviewed by local and national media for their opinions on hearing conservation. Podcasts of the speaking event will be available on the association's Web sites and You Tube page. The winning student speakers will also receive complimentary registration, accommodations, and transportation to attend the ASHA Convention in New Orleans, LA, November 19 – 21, 2009 to be acknowledged for their research on the subject

HOSA members participating in the Researched Persuasive Speaking event who selected the topic "Prevent Hearing Loss: The Government Should Regulate Volume on Personal Audio Devices" can visit the Web sites of ASHA [<http://www.asha.org>] and NSSLHA [<http://www.nsslha.org>] to access Podcasts [<http://www.asha.org/podcast/>] and other helpful links on the topic:

A Noisy Planet [<http://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov/>]
Turn Down the Volume [<http://www.asha.org/about/news/atitbtot/>]
Listen to your Buds [<http://www.listentoyourbuds.org/>]

We believe that the future of communication sciences begins with HOSA. Students interested in receiving more information about careers in audiology and speech-language pathology should visit the STUDENT page of the ASHA Web site. [<http://asha.org/students/>]



Establishing a Postsecondary/Collegiate Chapter

By the University of St. Thomas, HOSA Collegiate Chapter

The journey of establishing a HOSA collegiate chapter at the University of St. Thomas involves not only the dedication of the co-founders but also the support of our entire school's community. In the earliest stages of developing a HOSA chapter at St. Thomas we found out that there have been many attempts in creating a HOSA already, this discouraged us a bit, but did not stop us from trying to fight for our goal to become a reality. In the summer of 2008, our first course of action was to contact the National and Texas HOSA about starting a postsecondary/collegiate chapter. After speaking to the directors we were on our mission to find an advisor at the university. We knew this task would be hard because this is where the others had a road block in successfully establishing a HOSA. We contacted a few Professors at the University, and successfully Professor Ly Phan, a psychology professor, expressed great interest in our cause. We then met with her, explained what HOSA was all about, and outlined her duties as advisor. She gladly accepted, and since then, she has been very supportive every step of the way.

Throughout the process, we were faced with two major obstacles. The first was to prove to the Pre-Health Professions Society (PHPS) advisor that HOSA can co-exist in harmony. Because UST already has a health professions club, there was a misconception that HOSA would not be any different. However, we were able to show that not only did we have major support from students, especially from those who were affiliated with HOSA in high school, but we were also different enough from PHPS that our students would benefit from having both of the health organizations on campus available to them. Also we use the argument HOSA is national organization and includes competition whereas PHPS does not fall under either category. After we explained our reasons to PHPS and their advisor, they accepted us with open arms and offered their guidance and assistant.

Our final hurdle was to be accepted by UST's Council of Clubs (COC) so that we could establish ourselves as an official school organization. The COC is made up of every represented from each of the different clubs that our campus has to offer. In preparation of presenting to COC, we had to write a Constitution, appoint officers, and attend risk management training. After those tasks were completed, we presented our case at the COC meeting in front of all of the representatives of other clubs, just as we did with the PHPS advisor. We also pointed out that we would be the only postsecondary/collegiate HOSA chapter in the Houston area and one of only a handful in the entire state of Texas, which would add to the university's appeal to prospective students in their search for postsecondary education. Furthermore, we wanted to make use of the proximity of our campus to the Medical Center in forming relationships with physicians, hospitals, and schools. Out of the 25 representatives we obtained the majority of the votes to give us a green light to institute HOSA at St. Thomas.

Thus far, our journey has been, at times, difficult but rewarding. Unfortunately, since we are a new chapter and have many internal structural organization to stabilize; we felt that this year is not the right time for us to compete. We hope to be ready full force for the upcoming years. We are always working to expand our club and its duties and bring it towards our ultimate goal of becoming the best postsecondary/collegiate chapter in Texas.





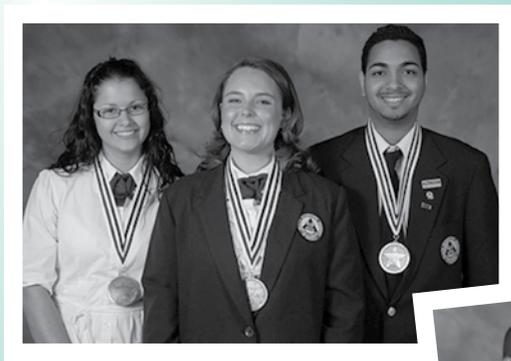
Looking Forward to the NLC Experience

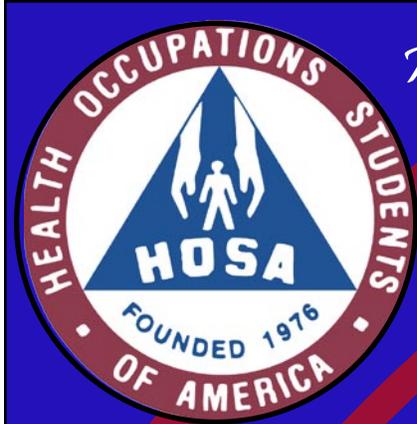
By Stephanie Philip, TX HOSA

The National Leadership Conference is a spectacular event that each HOSA member hopes to participate in. The NLC takes time, dedication, and hard work from many HOSA members. Though each member does not personally contribute to its formation it is critical that we all invest our time to make it what it is. To do this we must invest our time by studying for competition and pushing to be the best. To get to the national leadership conference it takes dedication, determination and passion for your event and for HOSA itself. It is critical that each of us work hard to make HOSA competitions the highest caliber possible. We also must realize that the National Leadership conference is the pinnacle of our HOSA experiences. Knowing this, our society sees the NLC as a poster for each student in HOSA. We must all work to ensure that the NLC is fun enjoyable and productive, whether that means being a flagbearer, a voting delegate, or just a tough competitor each of us can do our part.

The NLC also gives us an opportunity to meet HOSA members from all over the nation. To prepare for this get those pins ready! The pin trading is a fun and exciting tradition at NLC and it takes time to many pins, but in the end it is all worth it.

The NLC is an experience of a lifetime. It takes hard work and planning to not only make it what it is but to get there to participate in it. I hope each of you takes out time to plan for this spectacular event in Nashville this year.





Where One Person's Passion Becomes Another Person's Hero

COLORADO HOSA

**Feb. 2009
Vol. 1 Issue 1**



A Note From The President

By 2008-2009 State President Cody Brazell

As this year is coming to a close, it's been an honor to serve as your 2008-09 state president. This year has been one of the best years of my life. I've made so many new friends and have learned so much. As much as I look forward to seeing you all at spring leadership conference, I wish for this year to never end. HOSA has been big part of my life for three years and I don't know what I would do without. So I will be running for National office in June in Nashville, in hope to become the first national officer from the state of Colorado. Thanks for the amazing year.



Jesse Chaney/
Fort Morgan
Times

Students from the Health Sciences Technology program at MCC tour the radiology unit at Denver Health Medical Center.

Hospital Tour Spurs Medical Career Interest

By JESSE CHANEY
Writer, Fort Morgan Times

A recent tour of Denver Health Medical Center may have sparked an interest in health care careers for some Morgan County students.

The local high-schoolers toured the facility last week as part of the Health Sciences Technology program at Morgan Community College. MCC Health Occupations faculty member Jennifer Boudreaux said a few of her students who were skeptical about the health care field expressed career interests in medicine after the hospital tour.

"We've been trying to show those kids what's out there," she said. "...A lot of these kids have never even left Morgan County."

During the tour, the roughly 35 high-school students representing all grade levels learned about hospital technology, food service and

the uses of various hospital rooms.

"They talked to the kids about everything," she said.

While in the hospital's cardiac area, Boudreaux said, the students learned about coronary artery disease and watched the insertion of a pacemaker from a viewing room.

An audio/visual technician showed the students how doctors communicate with other specialists around the world, she said, and he discussed the process of video surgeries.

In the hospital lab the students saw the blood-bank storage area and had the chance to investigate specimens under microscopes.

The students also visited the hospital emergency and trauma rooms and toured the extensive ambulance barn. A team of paramedics discussed the use of ambulances and showed the students many pieces of the

equipment commonly used in the vehicles.

Also on the tour was a detoxification van, she said, which is used to transport publicly intoxicated individuals to jail.

While in the kitchen, the students learned how food is prepared for patients, who are commonly placed on individualized diets.

"The kids had no idea what goes on in a hospital kitchen," she said.

Although her students saw much of the hospital, Boudreaux said, the tour only exposed a small portion of the entire hospital operation. Some of the students may have the opportunity to participate in the DHMC shadowing program to get a more comprehensive look at the operations, she said.

"We're hoping to get our kids back down there again to actually shadow people," she said.

Your Source For Colorado HOSA News