

# NEWSLETTER

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. DEANNA WATHINGTON

Dr. Wathington has been affiliated with USF since 1998. She joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor at the College of Medicine in the Office of Curriculum and Medical Education (OCME) ten months ago. She serves on the Medical Student Selection Committee and works closely with the Office of Diversity. Dr. Wathington was recently appointed by President Genshaft to serve on the search committee for the selection of the Vice Presi-

dent of the Health Science Center and Dean of the College of Medicine. As a Family Medicine Physician she provides all her patients individual attention and believes that you do not treat an ailment you treat the entire patient. Dr. Wathington is the mother of four and knows first hand the importance and necessity of multi-tasking. This has enabled her to balance her many tasks and become a successful and a very important member

of the COM. She has been described by her colleagues as hardworking, community oriented, caring, loving, intelligent, conscientious, thorough and insightful. These are just a few of the attributes that she has brought to the College of Medicine. These accolades epitomize Dr. Wathington and her contribution to the Health Science Center.



Dr. Deanna Wathington,  
Assistant Professor at the USF,  
College of Medicine Office of  
Curriculum and Medical  
Education (OCME)

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Crystal Reed, USF Senior and past  
participant of the High School  
Summer Research Program

One often wonders how aspiring doctors begin their journey and what factors motivate them to continue. For many, this endeavor begins with an opportunity. The AHEC High School Summer Research Program provided this opportunity to Crystal Reed, the 2000 valedictorian of Hillsborough High School. This Program provides students with a hands-on

approach to explore science and research. Crystal participated in the Research Program during the summer of 2000 and was assigned to work in Dr. Javier Cuevas' laboratory. Crystal is currently a senior pre-medical Biology major and a McNair Scholar at USF and has continued to work with Dr. Cuevas. Last fall she was invited to present

her research at the Heartland Conference in Missouri. Her current research pertains to mechanisms of action Nicotine Receptors, their effect on Alzheimer disease and Schizophrenia and the role they play in the nervous system. Crystal's goals are to pursue an MD/ Ph.D. at the USF COM. She undoubtedly credits her current success, in part to the Summer High School Research Program.

## AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER(AHEC) ACCESS DAY: A GREAT SUCCESS

Access Day is sponsored by the Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Over 200 high school seniors from counties in the AHEC Service area visited the USF Health Sciences Center on November 21, 2003. Colleges of Public Health, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Medicine presented career information as well as activities and demonstrations to involve the students. Traditionally the

students toured the Health Sciences Center but this year the event was presented as a Health Careers Fair. This allowed the students to participate, interact and ask questions about the health professions that interested them. The high school students interacted with graduate students, faculty and staff from the various colleges. Moffitt Cancer Center and Shiners Hospital provided additional

information on volunteer opportunities and careers. There were presentations that included information on applying to college, financial aid and an overview of USF undergraduate studies. To add to the atmosphere of learning, fun was also provided. There were beach balls, candy, balloons and board games. Once again AHEC has done a wonderful job bringing information to many students.



High school students visit the  
COM table  
during Access Day.

## THE HISPANIC AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HAMSA) COMES TO USF/COM

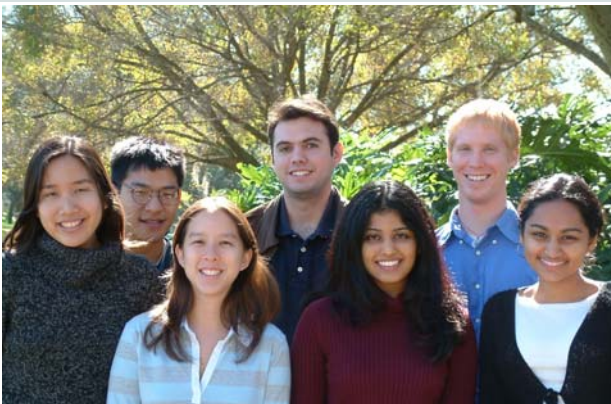
The Office of Diversity Initiatives will work closely with medical students as they take part in the inauguration of the HAMSA chapter at the USF College of Medicine. HAMSA is a student organization whose primary mission is to promote the improvement of health care for underprivileged and underserved communities. HAMSA held its inaugural meeting on January 21, 2004 and an Executive Board was formed. The newly elected Board members of HAMSA

are Anthony P. Cannella, MSII, President; Constanza Frase, MSII Co-President; Michael Montejo, MSII Treasurer; Natalia Regales, MSI, Secretary; Joanna Ramirez, MSII, Community Service Coordinator; and Karen Matta, MSI, Historian. Their Faculty Advisor is Dr. Javier Cuevas. This student organization is open to all USF students. They will be holding their first meeting in February. For more information contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives.



HAMSA members , From L to R: Anthony Cannella, MSII; Karen Matta, MSI; Constanza Frase, MSII; Joanna Ramirez, MSII; Ronit Keisari, MSII, and Michael Montejo, MSII

## THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (APAMSA) CLOSE TO THE ONE YEAR MARK!



AMPSA Members From L to R (Back row): Michael Huang, MSII, Justin Mhoon, MS II, Kurtis Mohr, MSI, From L to R (Front row): Quyen Nguyen, MS II, Kim Cao, MSII, Rahel Mathew, MSII and Shivani Patel MSI.

The USF chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) was founded by Aninta Virasongse, MSIV a year ago. APAMSA is the only chapter in Florida. APAMSA's mission is to provide all student physicians, regardless of background, with the awareness and ability to deal effectively with the health issues that face East and South Asian communities.

Their focus is to promote cultural awareness and competency of health care professionals. Their Executive Board include: Quyen Nguyen, MSII, President; Timothy Lee, MSII, Treasurer; Justin Mhoon, MSII Community Service Chair; and Kim Cao, MSII Webmaster. You can keep up with their activities by visiting <http://www.hsc.usf.edu/medstu/apamsa/>

### PROTOCOLS AND FUNDRAISERS: HOW SNMA SERVES THE COMMUNITY

Student National Medical Association (SNMA), Executive Board members, Aliyah Baluch, MS IV, Humera Mohammed, MS II, and Vanessa Williams, MS II would like to extend their gratitude to COM student body, faculty and staff who have helped to make the fundraisers such a success. With the Stress Baskets, second year students were able to

support the incoming first years when they encountered one of the many challenges of medical school, their first exam. Boo-grams allowed the students, faculty and staff to get into the Halloween spirit. We are looking forward to the Valentine's Balloon-a-Gram on February 13. The Hope Lodge dinner was a great success on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The students provided a home-cooked meal to families

staying at the Hope Lodge. Elections will be held in March and the new Board members will be introduced at the Annual SNMA Senior Banquet on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Banquet provides the opportunity to show appreciation to graduating SNMA members who have been active participants for the past four years. If you would like to attend the Banquet please contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives.

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