GREETINGS FROM MEDICAL HUMANITIES

As the 2014–2015 academic year comes to a close, it is with a sense of excitement that we share some of the highlights of the spring semester with you.

The 16th Annual Medical Humanities Retreat was a tremendous success with Dr. Lisa Baker as our keynote speaker and many, many returning alumni including Ann Dyer, Mark Dimski, Stephanie Allen, Katie Horton, Ashley Bui, David Windler, Elizabeth Newman, Allison Sellner and Jae Kim.

Also, we were delighted to present Dr. Kay Toombs with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Humanities. We’ve awarded seven $10,000 scholarships to outstanding medical humanities students, thanks to the generous support of the DeBakey Foundation.

The Medical Humanities Honors Council has provided tremendous assistance to our faculty and staff in hosting our special events, welcoming distinguished guests and serving as ambassadors for our program. The Family Health Center continues to expand opportunities for Baylor students to serve and volunteer in their clinic system—there are now some 200 students in seven different pre-health organizations serving at eight clinic sites!

Our Facebook page has over 1,000 likes and we’ve launched on Twitter—follow us @BaylorMH where we’ll be posting photos and #MHMoments. To top it all off, we have 33 students graduating from the Medical Humanities Program this year. So it is in a spirit of celebration that we share some of our ‘Medical Humanities Moments’ with you in the Spring 2015 newsletter!

All best,

Dr. Lauren Barron
The 16th Annual Medical Humanities Retreat was held February 13th and 14th at Baylor University’s Truett Seminary. Keynote speaker Dr. Lisa Baker spoke on the topic “The Least of These: What In God’s Name Can We Do?” examining Jesus’ parable of the workers in the vineyard from Matthew 20:1-6. Dr. Baker applied this passage to her philosophy of living the upside down life, a life committed to serving and valuing those who society considers unworthy. She shared her own experience of serving alongside and learning from a community in Kenya, which led her to found the ministry of Straw to Bread. She spoke of their tragedies and triumphs through the years, emphasizing how deep and abiding friendship is more important than any furthering the ministry itself. It is this very principle of selflessness that is the cornerstone of the upside down life.

“Having worked alongside Dr. Baker, both in Kenya and on the Baylor campus, I can absolutely attest to her commitment to caring for ‘the least of these.’ She exemplifies the kind of physician we hope to develop through the Medical Humanities Program,” professor, Dr. Bill Hoy said. Students raved about Dr. Baker’s speech, describing it as “enlightening, moving and helping to develop a much deeper understanding of what it meant to live the upside-down good life.”

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Worship, music, reflection and devotional time throughout the retreat was led by Kevin Gallemore from Cy-Fair Christian Church in Houston, Texas and the Medical Humanities Program’s own Dr. Hoy, who helped students connect the ‘message with the motivation behind it’” as one student described.

On Saturday morning, Drs. Mike and Karol Hardin presented on “Confessions of a C Minus Missionary”. Mike and Karol Hardin are Baylor alumni and current Baylor professors, with expertise in the realm of medicine and ministry. Dr. Mike Hardin is a family physician and program director for the Waco Family Practice Residency Program and Dr. Karol Hardin is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Baylor, famous for her course in medical Spanish and who has been involved in research related to translation between physicians and patients. The Hardins spent three years in Ecuador as part of a medical mission team, working at a hospital on the edge of the Amazon. Their talk focused more on lessons learned from those they served rather than on their own contributions and accomplishments, demonstrating the much needed virtue of humility in the context of medical missions.

In addition to excellent talks and presentations about the intersection of faith and medicine, the schedule also included small group discussions, breakout sessions, conversation and community building among students and faculty, a Q&A session with Baylor alumni now in medical school, and more. “The Medical Humanities Retreat is a peak experience for me every year, personally and professionally, and has been extremely formational in my own experience as a physician confronting the integration of faith and medicine,” Dr. Lauren Barron said. This year was the largest retreat thus far, with over 130 students and guests in attendance. It has become one of the centerpieces of Baylor’s Medical Humanities Program, providing a yearly opportunity to explore the vocation of medicine as a spiritual calling.
The relationship between the Waco Family Health Center and the Baylor University Volunteer Program has grown tremendously since it began in January of 2012. Now, at the close of the Spring 2015 semester, over 200 students are involved within seven programs stationed in eight of the FHC Clinics. These student organizations encompass three pre-medical organizations (AED, MSO, AMSA), the pre-dental organization (ASDA), the pre-physician assistant society, and residents from the Earle Hall dormitory. While volunteering, the students perform tasks ranging from making patient phone call reminders, filing patient charts, organizing clinic supplies, sanitizing exam rooms, or any other task that assists the clinic.

This partnership reaps great reward. After exposure to the clinic, the Baylor students understand and greatly respect the FHC mission to provide primary care to the “underserved and vulnerable residents of the Heart of Texas.” Additionally, the Baylor students donated over 30,000 children’s books to the pediatric patients, collected 3,000 canned goods for FHC families, and established new children’s play areas in nine of the clinic waiting rooms. However, the greatest benefit of all is seen through the student’s learning experience.

Student volunteers routinely express their gratitude for the opportunity to serve the FHC patients and employees. These are just a few quotes from Baylor volunteers:

“By observing the FHC providers, I now have a vision for what kind of doctor I desire to be one day.”
“I now understand that family medicine is on the frontline of improving the health of a community.”
“The mission of FHC is inspiring, and it is one that I would also love to work towards as a future physician.”
“The opportunity to volunteer at FHC was the most impactful experience I’ve had while at Baylor. It has shaped the doctor I hope to become.”
“Through volunteering, I see how you can form deep, meaningful relationships with your patients.”

It is clear that the students have gained a new understanding of the role of primary care, and the incredible needs of the uninsured and underserved in Waco, while also deeply impacting their future career as healthcare professionals. The Medical Humanities Program is proud to have facilitated this connection between Baylor and the Family Health Center. It is thrilling to see that we’ve barely begun and already this partnership shows great promise for years to come—inspiring Baylor students who plan to work in and around the healthcare professions by exposing them to some of the very finest primary care physicians in the country.
Dr. Samples’ Special Topics Course This Coming Fall

Have you ever wondered where and how the evolution of anatomic imagery developed? If so, you’ll want to be in Dr. Dan Samples’ new course. Dr. Samples’ upcoming course in the Medical Humanities program, Perspectives on the Evolution of Anatomic Imagery [MH4V98] will help you understand the influence of human anatomy studies.

Open to 19 Medical Humanities majors this fall, the students taking this course will critically examine illustrations of human anatomy produced for the sake of knowledge and teaching. Samples will guide the students through studies in Ancient Greece, further making the way through the Middle Ages, Renaissance and the 20th century.

“This course is not for the squeamish,” Samples said, “and I will expect students to take a mature approach to the subject when they examine the images presented during the semester.”

MH4V98 will aim to understand the influences of contemporary knowledge, religion, technology, social and cultural beliefs, philosophy and art on how the human anatomy and medical techniques were portrayed through images.

“I may be overstepping my boundaries by saying this, but I think many pre-med students at Baylor are stuck in a bubble outside of the Baylor bubble itself—they think, or are taught to believe, that there is only one approach to educating themselves in the sciences and that the path to medical school is concrete, and I have found this very limiting,” junior Aya Farhat said, “Dr. Samples does not appear to take this approach to medicine or to education in general.”

Because the studied illustrations will display internal anatomy, the role of human dissection will be highly examined in this course. Access to corpses was largely controlled by contemporary cultural beliefs, religious doctrine and the availability of subjects. The concept of “objectivity” and its changes in meaning will be studied alongside the overarching study of anatomical images.

“Dr. Samples speaks eloquently about how important and pivotal training in visual skills are for scientific disciplines, as well as in the arts. His extensive practical experience in clinical medicine, along with his love of medical history, together with his appreciation and understanding of the influences of art, science, religion, language and culture on the medical mind, will make for a fascinating course.” Medical Humanities Associate Director, Dr. Lauren Barron said.

Evolution of Anatomic Imagery will require a significant amount of reading for in-class discussions. Assignments will cover topics ranging from the literature of medical history, European and American history, philosophy, medicine, and art history. In agreement with the program’s mission statement, to provide a truly transformational education for students seeking careers in health care and the medical arts under the guidance of faculty who are committed to compelling scholarship and dedicated to service, this course will pay attention to the roles played by religion and beliefs in the history of human anatomy.

Samples’ upcoming class will allow students to understand where illustrations of human internal anatomy came from and further broaden their minds to more knowledge for their future career paths.
DeBakey Scholars Announced
Hailey Pelham

This semester, our program has rewarded seven of its students with the Michael E. DeBakey, Selma DeBakey and Louis DeBakey Endowed Scholarship Fund. Established in 2009, the scholarship is awarded to junior and senior Medical Humanities students who maintain at least a 3.7 science and overall GPA. DeBakey Scholars receive $10,000 of scholarship assistance on their way to professional careers in medicine and other areas of healthcare.

This semester, seven students received the scholarship, including: Shannon O’Day, Sarah Brister, Hannah Bram, Lizette Lugo, Paul Koester, Hillary Villarreal and Savanna Garrett. The recipients are chosen based on academic excellence and service in the health care field, some of the main aspects of Baylor Medical Humanities.

“This scholarship is an unbelievable blessing for me and my family, providing financial peace of mind as I finish my last three semesters at Baylor,” said Hannah Bram, junior.

“It is my hope that, one day, I’ll reflect such selfless generosity in order to be a better health care provider and a better person,” said junior, Paul Koester. In Paul’s letter thanking the DeBakey Foundation for his scholarship he goes on to say: “By supporting students studying the medical humanities, you are touching the lives of countless family members, friends, and patients that one may influence during their lifetime in healthcare. Without a doubt, you are a driving force behind the brighter future of healthcare and for that you have my eternal gratitude.”

Hillary Villarreal is a senior Medical Humanities major who describes the impact of being named a DeBakey Scholar this way: “I have two parents and a brother four years younger than me who will be starting college this fall. The opportunity to attend college has been a great privilege for me. I work hard to set an example for my younger brother to always do his best and pursue his dreams. My family and I would like to thank you for helping me to pursue a profession in medicine.”

Students who are granted this scholarship are designated as “DeBakey Scholars” to carry the legacy of a family that changed the medical field. We are profoundly grateful to the DeBakey Foundation for its great generosity to our students in helping create the kinds of medical professionals who will transform the future of healthcare—for the better!
The Medical Humanities Honors Council was formed in January of 2014 in an effort to give high-achieving, passionate Medical Humanities students the opportunity to help grow and promote the MH Program. Last year, I had the privilege of serving as vice president under inaugural president Ann Dyer, now a medical student at Texas A&M. It was because of Ann’s tireless efforts and desire to leave a legacy for the MH Program that the MH Honors Council was formed. As a senior, it has been my honor to serve as the council’s president and I am so grateful to have been a part of such a new and increasingly important part of the MH Program.

Students interested in joining the council next year are invited to apply in the spring for positions vacated by our graduating seniors. Members of the MH Honors Council are dedicated to giving back to the Medical Humanities Program by helping host special guests, being ambassadors, publicizing special events across campus, and meeting with prospective students. The students of the honor council also work in close collaboration with faculty, affording us access to many enriching opportunities such as lectures, receptions with special guests, student-faculty dinners, and discussions with practicing physicians over special topics.

This semester we helped host special guests such as Dr. Tim McCall, a Christian physician missionary, and the founder and Executive Director of Restoration Gateway in Uganda. We also helped promote and present the 16th Annual Medical Humanities Retreat (no coincidence that it was our largest ever!) We have also continued our tradition of semester dinners with Medical Humanities faculty, as well as starting a new tradition of breakfasts as special times to gather with each other and to interact with distinguished guests. In the future, we hope to create a student publication, as well as to continue to support special events like the upcoming Medical Humanities Retreat.
MEDICAL HUMANITIES HONOR COUNCIL cont.

I am personally committed to giving back to the Medical Humanities Program because it has been so important in my personal formation as a future healthcare professional—and I have been able to do this as president of the MH Council.

Through Medical Humanities, I discovered an interest and passion for learning about the human side - the art - of medicine. Studying medical humanities has forced me to grapple with hard issues in medicine, such as the nature of the patient-physician relationship, issues in bioethics, and understanding one’s calling to the medical profession. Learning about the ideals of medicine and struggling to understand my own vocation has provided me with a more meaningful educational experience here at Baylor.

Exposure to medical humanities is of the upmost importance for every pre-health student who will be entering into a profession primarily concerned with caring for people. The Medical Humanities Honor Council is one vehicle through which this vital program can continue to grow.

NEW MEDIA

CHECK OUT OUR MH RETREAT 2015 VIDEO! Thanks to Charlie Bussell for making this video.
Publications, Presentations & Awards

Dr. Bill Hoy provided a half-day workshop February 3 on the value of funerals in the bereavement process to the mid-winter educational seminar for the Kentucky State Funeral Directors Association in Lexington, KY. On February 12-13, he addressed two hospital staffs, two hospice teams, and provided an interfaith seminar on grief care for 85 lay caregivers in Orange County, California hosted by Temple Beth El, one of the county’s largest reformed Jewish communities.

Dr. Lauren Barron addressed SIGHT (Students Interested in Global Health Together) about ethical considerations in short term medical mission trips on February 19th.

Rebecca Lunstroth, Associate Director of UT Houston’s McGovern Center and an Instructor in Family Medicine at UT Houston guest-lectured on the “History of Medical Ethics” to the History of Medicine class on February 24th. Her fascinating presentation included the Nuremberg Code and a discussion of the infamous Tuskegee Study.

Dr. Lauren Barron presented “The Power of Partnering with Premedical Students in Primary Care” to an assembled group of family medicine residency program directors at the Texas Family Medicine Leadership Conference sponsored by the Faculty Development Center at UNTHSC on March 5, 2015 in Austin, Texas.

Dr. James Marcum presented The Demise of Vitalism: Fernel’s and Serveto’s Vital Spirit, and Harvey’s Living Blood” along with Ben Caputo at the 17th Annual Conference of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine & Science, on March 12-14, 2015, in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Marcum’s paper is currently under revision for the International Journal of History and Philosophy of Medicine.

Dr. Bill Hoy keynoted a training day at Rochester Regional Health System in Rochester, NY on March 24, where he addressed the importance of communication between the clinical health care professionals in the audience and their patients in a talk entitled, “Enhancing Listening Skills: Rekindling a Lost Art in the Information Age.”

Dr. Bryant Boutwell, Special Advisor to the President of UT Health, guest-lectured on the topic of Sir William Osler to the History of Medicine class on March 26th. Dr. Boutwell is himself an Oslerian, and recently had the honor of delivering remarks in the library of “Open Arms”, Sir William Osler’s Oxford home.

Youjin Na, a Baylor biology/medical humanities senior and Dr. Bill Hoy collaborated on a research project about African-American funeral customs and presented their findings at the 37th Annual international conference of the Association for Death Education & Counseling on Saturday, April 11th in San Antonio.

Mr. Paul Koester, a rising senior medical humanities major, won 1st place Presentation Poster at the Family Health Center’s 9th Annual Health Research Forum on April 21, 2015. His project, partnering with Dr. Don Koester, was entitled “Resistant Ringworm: A Case Report”.

Congratulations to Michael Attas, MD who has been selected as an Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas Medical Branch. He will be honored at a reception on Friday May 29th and will be recognized at the School of Medicine’s Commencement Ceremony on Saturday May 30th. Dr. Attas was nominated by Katie Horton and Chelsea Foong, Baylor MH grads now at UTMB. Congratulations Dr. Attas!
Special Guests

**Dr. Scott Harper**, a Baylor alum now working with the CDC in New York City, spoke about his work in Uganda as an epidemiologist investigating the Ebola outbreak at the recent **STEM + Humanities Symposium** sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences on April 9th. This was the first of what we hope will be an annual symposium examining the intersection of the STEM disciplines and the humanities. Dr. Harper spoke compellingly and movingly about the importance of a liberal arts education and how it has contributed to his work as a physician and epidemiologist.

Dr. Tim and Janice McCall from Restoration Gateway in Uganda visited the Baylor campus, hosted by SIGHT and the Medical Humanities Program on April 16th. Dr. McCall, who has training in orthopedics, family medicine and who served for years on the faculty of the Family Health Center spoke about “Global Health, Uganda and You” to an audience of several hundred students, sharing his experiences as a medical missionary and inviting Baylor student to consider serving in Uganda on short term medical mission trips. Learn more at www.restorationgateway.org.

Dr. McCall speaks at the BSB
Dr. Kay Toombs Receives 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Lauren Barron

It is with deep appreciation that we presented the Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Humanities to Dr. Kay Toombs at the 2015 Medical Humanities Retreat. Kay Toombs is an Associate Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Baylor University. She is the author of The Meaning of Illness, editor of the Handbook of Phenomenology and Medicine, co-editor of Disability: The Social, Political and Ethical Debate and co-editor of Chronic Illness: From Experience to Policy. She has also published numerous essays and articles in books, as well as in medical and philosophical journals. She has been invited to make numerous professional presentations at national and international conferences throughout the US, Canada and Europe. Her teaching was also featured in a segment on the meaning of medicine produced by the BBC.

In addition to teaching traditional courses in philosophy at Baylor, Dr. Toombs developed a senior level interdisciplinary medical humanities seminar entitled Literary and Philosophical Perspectives on Medicine. The course offered a combination of literary, philosophical and medical texts in an effort to sensitize students to the human dimensions of illness, healing and caring. The course, developed in conjunction with Ann Miller a master teacher of literature from the English Department, and Dr. Bill Hillis from the Biology Department, was a tremendous success and became the cornerstone of the curriculum when the Medical Humanities Program was eventually created.

To have access to her work is a gift, to have access to her as a speaker for our students is an incredible gift, but to be able to count her as a friend to the medical Humanities program is a gift beyond imagining—for all of us. So it was with joy and thanksgiving for not only her life’s work—but for her life—that we presented this award to Dr. Kay Toombs.
CHECK OUT THIS ARTICLE IN BAYLOR MAGAZINE!

JOIN US FOR OUR LAST DR. PEPPER HOUR OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations, CLASS OF 2015!

You and your guests are invited to a luncheon celebrating your graduation from

The Medical Humanities Program at Baylor University

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

immediately following the graduation ceremony
Baylor Science Building Atrium

Please RSVP by Friday, May 1st to reserve your tickets
Sue_Mock@baylor.edu

Congrats Grads!
Congratulations to this year’s graduates from the Medical Humanities Program and best wishes to the class of 2015!

Bayley Andrews  Georgia Dimitrakis  Demetrice Johnson
Mark Burroughs  Sophie Farah  Elizabeth Kelley
Clarissa Charles  Stephanie Frawley  Daniel Kiang
Christopher Cisneros  Savanna Garrett  Kayleigh Love
Sarah Cork  Edward Gomez  Shea Mead
Christina Daniels  Taylor Graves-Boswell  Anjali Patel
Breanna Davis  Jackson Harris  Chelsea Potter
Tera Deupree  Samantha Hughes  Jessica Pree
Ana Purdy
Jenna Rogers
Michelle Russell
Theresa Shevlin
Hayden Smith
Caroline Tessler
Hillary Villarreal
Kyndall White
Daphne Whittaker