Highlights from the December 2012 trip to Nicaragua

* The medical team saw 532 patients in the clinic and provided much-needed medications free-of-charge, based in the community of Rosa Grande.

* Undergraduates received training from dental hygienist Eileen Holmes in Hanover and were then able to provide fluoride lacquering treatments to 364 children.

* Nebulizers were designed by engineers at MIT to deliver aerosolized medication to asthma patients lacking access to electricity in the Rosa Grande region.

* The development team helped to finish a water storage system in Fonseca; they saw clean water flowing to 32 homes before they left.

* There is a coalition of medical programs forming to partner for more long-term, sustainable healthcare delivery in the region around a proposed new clinic/hospital in El Homiguero, with construction beginning in January, 2014.

MUSLIM ADVISOR LEAVES LEGACY

Dawood, during the four years you’ve been at the Tucker Foundation, especially focusing on your role as Muslim Advisor, what stands out for you?

Reflecting on my time at Tucker, I would have to say that I remain incredibly impressed by the sincere encouragement and support I received from the Dean and the entire staff at Tucker. Without this support many of the efforts and ideas that translated into meaningful engagement for students and the broader community would not have been possible.

And of course, I will hold dear my experiences with students, as they grew and gained a better understanding of who they were; this has been extremely important in my own personal development. Two incredibly meaningful projects for me at Tucker were the CCESP Nicaragua and the ASB trips. Both of these programs allowed me to work with students who challenged themselves to make sense of their theoretical understanding (classroom knowledge) of certain issues, and how those issues impact lives in the real world, and how they (students) make sense of this process. Working with students as they search for meaning and grapple with life’s “Big Questions” has inspired me to continue my work in this field.

Have you seen a change in the religious and spiritual life of Muslim students?

I think that my presence at Tucker as the first permanent Muslim Life Advisor represents an encouraging message of institutional support for the Muslim students at Dartmouth College. It was a positive step which hopefully will serve as a solid foundation for any person coming to Tucker to fill this role in the future.

What are you doing next?

I have accepted a position as Director of Student Life in the Golden State...
Members of the Nicaragua CCESP Clinical Health team packing up medical supplies in the health post in Rosa Grande, Siuna, Nicaragua.

**Student Testimonials**

* "My medical service trip to Nicaragua was a profound experience that not only improved my abilities as a future doctor, but left me feeling emotionally and spiritually refreshed...My interaction with the undergraduates on the trip was a crucial aspect in the relearning of empathy. Their idealism and wish to do good reminded me of why I went into medicine in the first place. I saw myself in them."

* "...this was possibly the best Dartmouth experience I've had so far. I have learned so many things - about Nicaragua, about myself, and about the world - making this experience truly unforgettable."

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August Updates

at Zaytuna College, a small liberal arts school in Berkeley, California. I can not thank the entire staff at the Tucker Foundation enough for a truly incredible experience. I am confident that through the work at the Tucker Foundation, Dartmouth students will continue to grow into compassionate human beings who will continue to engage the world with the intention of making it more just and a better place for all.

In order to continue to deepen our religious support for the Muslim community at Dartmouth and to enhance and further multi-faith programming at the College, Tucker has just approved a temporary full-time Muslim & Multi-faith Advisor. This is a one-year position with the possibility of renewal. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please encourage them to apply by September 1st. We will be accepting applications until the position is filled. Please feel free to contact Nancy Vogle, the Director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, if you have any questions or thoughts about this position.

**Transformed Lives: We want to hear YOUR story!**

Fred and Milton Ochieng ('05, '04) founded the "Lwala Community Alliance" in Kenya. Milton Ochieng participated in one of the first CCESP trips in 2001, and this experience helped provide the brothers with a model for health care delivery in rural, under-resourced areas. Years later in an interview with ABC News Milton recalled, "I remember coming back from the trip really very excited," he said. "I talked to my dad. I said, 'Remember how you always talked about the need for a clinic? I think I just got an idea'".

Their story has also been featured on CNN, and their work has been recently featured in a mini-documentary produced by Apple. The story of the Lwala Community Alliance and the work done by these dedicated
people is remarkable.

Ben Jastrzembski ('08) CCESP Participant '06, CCESP Student Director '07-'08

"Participating in the CCESP shaped my time at Dartmouth and the years beyond. Visiting Nicaragua with the Tucker Foundation inspired my interest in Latin America and ultimately led me to major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and pursue a number of research projects in Nicaragua after I graduated. The dedication to service from the students and faculty in the program continues to inspire me today in my medical training." Hear more about Ben's post-grad research and work and read the full article in Dartmouth Medicine magazine. Currently Ben is in his fourth year at Harvard Medical School and potentially wants to work with other doctors around the world to help them provide good care for their neighbors.

We need your feedback!

December 2012 marked Tucker's 12th trip to the Siuna area in the Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte (RAAN) of Nicaragua! Participants have found the CCESP-Nicaragua a truly transformative experience, reshaping their academic and personal priorities and providing invaluable perspective on their lives. We want to hear how CCESP has affected your life!

Please e-mail your stories to: adam.j.knowlton-young@dartmouth.edu.