



*Helping to provide medical care for the
indigenous peoples of Dominica*

The Fall Semester 2008 Salybia Newsletter

We, the Salybia Mission Project, are an organization who is trying to provide medical aid and support to the indigenous people of Dominica, the Kalingo of the Carib Territory. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep SMP members and the Ross Community informed about our fundraisers and various projects that we do throughout the semester.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT



On Sunday, October 19th, we had one of our most anticipated events of the semester, the SMP Dodgeball Tournament.

Team Pangea won the tournament. Congratulations to Chris Shadid, Tommy Rush, Jeff Mack, Jered Cook, and Adam Rivadeneyra!



SMP HEALTH FAIR

On Saturday November 8, 2008 we had a health fair in the Salybia Territory. Students helped the Kalingo by getting baseline health information about them, such as height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, and glucose & cholesterol levels and used that information to make the Kalingo more aware about any potential health risks that they faced.

Here are the accounts of two students who attended the health fair:

Salybia Health Fair: Teamwork in Action

By Adil Azzez

I attended SMP's (Salybia Mission Project's) Nov. 8 health fair in the Carib territory which brought smiles to the attendees. Ross students participated in taking histories, BMI/height/weight/girth measurements, checking blood sugar and cholesterol, and taking blood pressure measurements. Dr. Sanford, founder of SMP in 2002, graciously volunteered his time to check all patients who had positive screenings. A newcomer to the clinic this semester was the "Brighter Smiles" initiative introduced by clinical coordinator Mariha Feliciano. Student donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap were distributed. A Kalingo (Carib) woman and her friend approached me and specifically asked if we were distributing soap, demonstrating the need in the community. The number of children attendees surprised the organizers and volunteers. Mariha Feliciano played with several of the initially shy children, who then enthusiastically participated in screening by SMP volunteers. I was asked to prick the finger of a 10 year old child twice to confirm his high blood sugar, which brought home the

reality of diabetes among the Kalinago youth. Clinical director Benjamin Vabi recounted the story of an elderly man in acute who walked all the way to the clinic to get a checkup. After Dr. Sanford's examination, SMP workers mobilized and hired a local taxi to take him to a pharmacy for his medications. SMP thanks all the members and donors whose contributions made this possible. The women's health initiative spearheaded by Nadine Hewamudalige generated much interest among the Carib women who discussed breast self-exams for cancer and STDs. "A cohesive E-board and team spirit among members is what makes this all possible", says Benjamin. "I look forward to continuing our work in the same spirit."

SALYBIA HEALTH FAIR

By Mohsin Khan

The trip was a phenomenal experience for me. I enjoyed the bus ride to territory. The scenic routes, the twisty roads and meeting other peers who had also volunteered made the trip a memorable experience. Once we arrived to the territory, we had fun with the logistics (setup) of the clinic. Everyone was helping each other. However, by far the climax of the trip was meeting (greeting and interacting) with the people from the territory, our patients for the day. It made me see the 'forest for the trees'. Why am I studying medicine? Why am I spending hours upon hours learning about proteins? It is so I can become competent enough to help the individual sitting in front of me; and even though I may not know that person, just the thought my contribution may ease some of their worries was gratifying. Interestingly enough, I made my blood pressure lab couple days prior to the trip and I got to talk to some of the 3rd semesters who were doing the 'blood pressure' clinic. I picked up a few pointers. Anytime, you can come away learning 2-3 new things from an experience, it makes that experience worthwhile.

SALYBIA 5K

On Sunday November 23, 2008 we had our tri-annual Salybia 5K Run-Walk Marathon and it was a huge success! A great time was had by all and we raised \$6000 EC to aid our efforts in helping the indigenous people of Dominica!

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers and sponsors who helped make this 5K one of the most successful fundraising events that we have ever had.





WINNERS

Mens: 1st Place – John Thurston (17:32)
2nd Place – Sean Dillon (18:12)
3rd Place – Navjot Sekhon (19:02)

Womens: 1st Place – Camille Doan (19:54)
2nd Place – Mu Xu (22:09)
3rd Place – Christina Prose (23:10)

Salybia Clinic

One of the rare opportunities that SMP offers to its members is the chance to attend a clinic in the Carib Territory. There, students are allowed to take HPIs of patients and get hands-on medical experience by working with the doctors at the clinic.

Since the Salybia clinic is a free clinic, it is always in need of supplies. In the Ross library we have a donation box into which you can drop off any extra stuff that you may have. We are especially in need of:

- 1. Glucose strips**
- 2. Any unexpired medications (NSAIDs, pain killers, cough & cold meds, anti-diarrhea meds, Antibiotics, Anti-fungals, etc...)**
- 3. Gloves of any size, Clothing of any size, Scrubs**
- 4. Preventive healthcare pamphlets**
- 5. Cotton swabs**
- 6. Band-Aids, Ace bandages**
- 7. First aid kit materials; Hydrogen Peroxide; Betadine; Hand sanitizers**
- 8. Hygienic Materials (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, lotion, etc.)**

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO
 SPONSORED SMP DURING THE PAST
 SEMESTER!

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| <i>Whitchurch</i> | GARRAWAY HOTEL | Adaj Restaurant |
| Central Cooperative Credit Union | La Robe Creole | <i>Fort Young Hotel</i> |
| 4-Corner Bread Shop | Parees Auto Care and Supplies | FAVORS |
| <i>Alexis Taxi</i> | | B & D TIRES |
| <i>Christine's Laundry</i> | BENJI'S HAIRCUTS | |