

## EMSAP Newsletter #4, November 2024

This newsletter starts where the last newsletter (#3) stopped (with the EMSAP graduation dinner in April 2023).

Fall 2023 began as usual in August with a pre-class social and seminar for EMSAP freshmen on the summer reading. The Holiday Party occurred at the Smooth Rock Conference Center in Vestavia Hills, and dermatology residents Joanne Jacobs and Kevin Yang spoke and judged our gingerbread house competition.



In January 2024, the medical school selected 36 students to interview on Zoom, the dental school selected 8, and the optometry selected 3.

Because applications increased in 2024 to the dental and optometry schools, medicine only offered admission to 17 students, 10 from Alabama and 7 from elsewhere; 12 matriculated. The dental school admitted 5 students and 4 matriculated. Optometry admitted 4 students and 2 accepted. The resulting class of 18 is strong, with 8 National Merit Finalists.

In January, a dozen EMSAP students auditioned for the Bioethics Bowl team. The final team was Abigail Haider, Hudson

O'Neil, Sree Nataraj, Eshika Kudaravalli, Bryan Preer, and Srushti. Tauluri. The team practiced twice a week with Professor Pence until the competition in April, when it competed at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The team then also visited the Waco Mammoth National Monument (pictured).



EMSAP students continued to socialize in groups called "families" led by senior students called "mothers." They visited Top Golf, Pepper Place, Buc-ee's and went ice skating:



In March, a group of EMSAP students attended the exciting home basketball game when UAB upset highly ranked Florida Atlantic before a sell out crowd at Bartow Arena.



The 2024 EMSAP graduation dinner occurred at Aldridge Gardens in Hoover, where students heard an inspirational talk by EDSAP alumnus Alex Cruz, who returned that April from Oxford with a PhD and who then also graduated from UAB Dental

School. Alex next starts a dental residency at Harvard. At this dinner, EMSAP teaching awards went to Jared Taylor in Neurosciences and Braden McFarland in Cancer Biology:



Commencement 2024 followed the EMSAP graduation dinner, after which 12 seniors entered the Heersink School of Medicine and 1 entered Penn Dental Medicine:



In June of 2024, incoming EMSAP freshmen attended honors orientations and met each other at EMSAP socials:



August 2024 saw the usual Ice Cream social and a session where students in teams answered Jeopardy-style questions about the summer reading:



EMSAP students Ayona Roychowdury was elected SGA President, following EMSAP student Ritika Samant the previous year. EMSAP student Karim Mikhail won a Goldwater Scholarship, joining EMSAP students Nikhita Mudium and Ethan Wan, who won Goldwaters in 2023.

During both 2023 and 2024, we had excellent monthly meetings where seniors advised underclassmen on preparing for the MCAT and DAT, as well as good meetings with Dr. Grabowski

of the medical school and both Wendy Scripps and Dr. Carly McKenzie of the dental school, as well as informal meetings with current dental students.

Dr. Michelle Cook, who prepares students to apply for big national scholarships, met with EMSAP students in October. Students visited the newly renovated rooms of the Heersink School of Medicine in Volker Hall and also visited an exhibit on historical seeing/hearing devices in the new Pappas Historical Collections Gallery:



The Spring EMSAP seminar in Intensive Bioethics resulted in several papers being submitted to the *Penn Bioethics Journal*, and Kaitlin Ross and Eshika Kudaravalli had their papers accepted, on (respectively) the ethics of prescribing weight-loss drugs and biases against women in neuroscience research.

EMSAP alumnus Marius Heersink and his wife Stella got a tour of new buildings on our campus, and when they toured, met some EMSAP alumni in our medical school:



Fall 2024 also saw an EMSAP night at a UAB basketball game:



and a Saturday afternoon hike with UAB biologist Leslie Hendon on the new Indian Chiefs spur of the walking trail in Jemison Park, Mountain Brook, Alabama.



Fall semester closed in December with another Holiday Party at the Smooth Rock Conference Center in Vestavia Hills. EMSAP alumni (2015) Aditi Jani and Keven Shrestha were our guest judges for the cookie-decorating contest and speakers. They are 3rd and 4th year fellows at UAB Hospitals in Infectious Diseases and High-Risk Pregnancies.



The UAB Alumni Society's 2024 Honorary Faculty award went to Professor Pence, as well as the Bioethics Bowl's award for distinguished service to this Bowl.