

KALI NAGO COLUMN:

The newsletter of the Salybia Mission Project
March 2005

—5K Run a Huge Success— Kimbrough and Newkirk retain titles

Once again this semester's 5K Run /Walk to Cabrits was a great success. Over \$3000 EC was raised for the Salybia Clinic, which will greatly help the construction project currently taking place as well as funding regular trips to the clinic throughout future semesters. Over 50 students and professors participated in the race, running from the front gate at school through Portsmouth and towards Fort Shirley. Dale Kimbrough was the top finisher again this semester with a time of 17:53. The top female finisher was Cristen Newkirk with a time of 21:15. The top male in the 'over 30' category was Dr. Boaz, and the top female in the 'over 30' category was Dr. Parry. Awards were given out to the top three participants in each category, and at the end of the race everyone enjoyed fruit, muffins, and juice. The remaining winners are as follows: Male 2nd place David Inyangetor and 3rd place Charles Moradi; Females 2nd place Anna Kalema and 3rd place Sherry Modino; over 30 Male 2nd place Dr. Goff and 3rd place Dr. Seidel; over 30 Female 2nd place Peg Pattee and 3rd place Mary Taylor. Congratulations to all the participants, and thank you to everyone who donated money and volunteered!!! See you at next semester's race!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Carib Territory Health Fair April 2
10 am-2 pm **Watch your email for details****

What is the Salybia Mission Project??

The Salybia Mission Project (SMP) is a non-profit student organization dedicated to providing healthcare to the Kalinago people (the indigenous Carib Indian tribe) in Dominica. SMP gives Ross students the opportunity of direct clinical exposure with Dr. Sanford 6-8 times a semester. During this semester, the Women's Health Initiative has also allowed additional students to visit the territory and assist Nurse Paris in attending to the needs of women throughout the territory.



Helping to provide medical care for the indigenous peoples of Dominica

*First Perspective: A view
from the 1st semester class*

By Adam Norris

I'm not sure about you, but these past few weeks have truly been overwhelming. As a first semester student, arriving with no knowledge of the environment, the culture, and especially housing, my nerves were shot. But, things have slowly settled down, and I am now becoming habituated to this beautiful island and the workload that is hindering any free time we thought we were going to have.

Amongst all of the excitement, we are bombarded just about everyday with news from societies on campus, pondering which ones we should join. Recently I have had the opportunity to partake in the first clinical experience this semester with Salybia Mission Project. This experience was simply unbelievable.

It all started at 8 in the morning, when the bus left

from in front of the library. I, being the ignorant first year, did not take any Dramamine before leaving...and we can all remember that bus ride from the airport. Salybia, home for many Carib Indian natives, is located less than 30 minutes south of Melville Airport, and it was nice to place my feet back on solid ground. At the clinic, we took vital signs (blood pressure and pulse check), patient history, and helped Dr. Sanford with the patient examination. While I was there, some upperclassmen even aided in a minor surgery performed on a patient's foot.

The clinic is not only a great way to practice techniques for DPS, but it is also a great reminder of why we are here. Sometimes while we immerse ourselves in the minds of Kallie, Laville, Meisenberg, James, and many more, we need a little something that says "Keep going, get through this histology, this is what you are here for!" While wearing scrubs, using your bp cuffs and stethoscope, it is a great reason to remember why we are studying.

All in all, the experience was amazing. If you have not joined this society, I highly recommend it. And if you have, I'm sure that you are extremely excited to get right into action. Best wishes to everyone this semester!



Winners of the Spring 5K Run



Clinic Wish List

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| *antifungal cream | *birth control pills |
| *latex gloves | *condoms |
| *sheets and towels | *ultrasound gel |
| *slides | *ACE bandages |
| *brushes and wooden spatulas | |
| *multivitamins for kids and adults | |
| *folate | *gauze tape |
| *toothbrushes and toothpaste | |
| *lancets | *diabetic meters and strips |
| *alcohol swabs | |
| *decongestants | *allergy meds |

If you would like more information about SMP, visit www.geocities.com/salybiamission/index.html or email SMP@rossmed.edu.dm



Runners leave the school at the start of the 5K run

The clinic could use many supplies to stock its shelves. Have anything extra lying around? You can drop off items in Mr. Hawley's office in the micro/pharm building. THANKS!

News from the Territory

Work Continues at Carib Model Village

The Carib model village is one of five projects currently being financed by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica in the area of ecotourism site development. To date, 14 structures have been constructed, garden plots have been established and an access road has been developed to provide vehicular access to the project. The model village concept was the brainchild of Chief Faustulus Frederick and has been in the making for over 20 years. In 1994 the Caribbean Development bank took up the project and agreed to finance it. Physical work on the project site has been ongoing for over two years, and it is anticipated that the model village will begin welcoming guests in the first half of 2005. The main objectives of this project are to provide employment and generate income for the community, and to showcase the traditions and history of the indigenous people of Dominica in a manner that does not compromise the integrity of these people. SMP wishes success to the model village project!

Exhibit at Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indians showcases Kalinago Nation

The "Our Lives" exhibition was launched on the 21st of September, 2004 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indians in Washington DC. The exhibition features the present day lives of

nine indigenous nations in the Americas including the Kalinago Nation of Dominica. The museum is located between the Air & Space Museum and the Capital Building in Washington DC, and was architecturally designed to represent rocks shaped by wind and water over thousands of years.

A group of co-curators from the Carib Territory worked over the past few years along with Smithsonian staff to prepare for the exhibition. During the next 5-10 years, an estimated 15 million people will have the opportunity to see what present day Kalinago life is like. It will also help to promote Dominica and its tourism products. If you're in the DC area during the next semester break, you should go check out this new exhibit.

The New Clinic...

An Update from Eric Djenge, 2nd semester student

As everyone is probably aware of, the Salybia Clinic has been under construction for a long time. The finished project is long overdue in the opinions of the Carib people and many of us involved in the Salybia Mission Project. The major problem, since the beginning, has been a lack of building plans. It was started with no real direction, except the fact that the people in the territory really needed it. So where is the project now?

At the start of the semester a mission group from the Church of the Nazarene came to Dominica to volunteer their time in getting the health center under way. They spent the week of January 24 – 30 down here. During there time here, they mainly mixed concrete for the construction crew. On Saturday, February 26 I went to check on the current status of the building and was pleasantly surprised at the amount of work they did. I was happy to see that they have applied concrete plaster to all the external walls, as well as, some of the internal. In addition to the physical labor, they were also able to donate \$10,000 US or about \$27,000 EC to see the project on its way.

Unfortunately, much of the work now needs to be finished by skilled laborers. This includes plumbing, wiring electrical outlets, laying tile, etc. In addition to the labor we also need the materials. This being the case, our hands are pretty much tied until we can raise enough money to hire a contracting crew. As far as I am aware of, we have decided to hire a supervisor to over see the completion of the project, however, an estimated \$350,000 EC must be raised in order to see the project through.



The new Salybia Clinic
as of February 2005

The Spring Semester Executive are:

Nicole Berardoni – Director, Meredith Heberer – Asst. Director, Cristen Beavers, Elisa Avik, Lana Shikhman, and Rasai Ernst – Women’s Health Initiative, Japs Lee, Sanda Vujnic, Daryl Martinez – Clinic Coordinators, Elisa Avik – Treasurer, Michelle DeLota – Fundraising, Amy McCroskey and Sherry Modino – Membership Coordinators, Ema Dzaka – Membership leader, Eric Djenge and Jennifer Sabatier – Clinic Construction, Xavier Jimenez – Marketing, Ani Saryan – Newsletter

Contact us if you have any questions!