

KALI NAGO COLUMN:

The newsletter of the Salybia Mission Project

May-June 2005



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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 22 – Women’s Health Initiative training session
June 25 – WHI clinic day
After Mini II – 5K run/walk
July 2 – Clinic day
July 23 – Clinic day
July 30 – WHI clinic day
August 5 – Salybia Mission Project Banquet

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 new 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. The current construction of a new clinic will allow SMP to move out of its temporary location in the Salybia Preschool.

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

INSIDE: SMP History
Recent Donation to Princess Margaret Hospital
Health Fair Highlights
News from the Territory

Have the pirates taken over Dominica?

You may have heard of sightings of the Black Pearl, Orlando Bloom, or Johnny Depp over the past few weeks. If you’re new to Ross, don’t worry, these aren’t new rumors from the famed rumor mill—it’s true: the movies *Pirates of the Caribbean 2* and *3* are partially being filmed here on Dominica!

According to an article in [Caribbean Net News](#), the "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequels plan to portray Dominica's Carib Indians as cannibals. Shooting on the films is taking place this April in the area, with hundreds of Dominicans applying to be extras in the movie.

Carib Chief Charles Williams said talks with Disney's producers revealed there was "a strong element of cannibalism in the script which cannot be removed".

The Caribs have long denied their ancestors practiced cannibalism. "Our ancestors stood up against early European conquerors and because they stood up...we were labelled savages and cannibals up to today," said Williams.

History and Mission of the Salybia Mission Project

Salybia Mission Project is an organization that is committed to improving the quality of life of the Carib (Kalinago) people living in Dominica. Founded in March 2002 by Ross University students, the group is working with the local community to enhance the health care facilities of the territory. Twice a month, under the guidance and direction of Dr. Worrel Sanford, we attend the free clinics in the territory, and participate in the delivery of medical services. Dr. Sanford, who is a Carib native, provides free health clinics in the under-serviced region, relying on scarce government funding and donations to keep the clinic running. It is the scarcity of resources that stifles the improvement of this clinic and the community that it services. The harshness of this reality and the vision of providing a higher level of quality health care gave birth to SMP.

Recognizing that health extends beyond medical treatment, SMP has widened its scope to include health education. We are currently charged with designing and running a health fair in the territory. This year the health fair will be held on May 28, 2005. In addition to screening clinics and immunization programs, this health fair will run workshops and information sessions on topics that the community has identified as important health issues. This will provide the Kalinago with a forum to learn about different realms of health, especially those that pertain to their daily living. Through these, we hope to illustrate that preventative measures and lifestyle choices are just as important to health as prescription drugs and institutionalized care. It is through this two pronged approach that SMP hopes to help them in reclaiming ownership of their individual and communal health.

Although still in its infancy, SMP has established itself as a viable and credible organization with real goals and aspirations. We firmly believe that with the aid and support of the Carib community as well as the Ross Community, we can collectively realize the vision of enhancing the level of and accessibility to health so that it is no longer a privilege, but an entitlement that all should benefit from.

Clinic Wish List

The clinic is always in need of supplies to fill its shelves. Have any unneeded meds lying around? Extra space in your suitcase? Leftover gloves from anatomy lab? You can drop off any items in Mr. Hawley's office in the old administration (biochem) building, and they will be taken to the clinic. THANKS!

*antifungal creams

* antihistamine
(Benadryl)

* antacids

*analgesics (ibuprofen,
Tylenol)

*inhalers/sprays for
asthma

*95% and 70% alcohol

* bandaids

*antiseptics (hydrogen
peroxide)

*scalpels

*mebendazole (and other
worm medications)

*arthritis medications

*condoms

*glass slides and lab
markers

WHY GO TO THE CLINIC??

At many medical schools in the United States, students do not have a chance to meet patients until their 3rd or 4th semester. SMP gives you the chance to start earlier and put your stethoscope and blood pressure cuff to work! After all, the reason we're in medical school is to help the patients get well...what better way to do that than going to the clinic and helping out? Not only is it a fun and rewarding experience, but students also have the opportunity to practice skills learned in the classroom on actual patients. First and third semester students can gain additional practice taking histories for their DPS and Behavioral Science classes. Students at all levels have been able to assist Dr. Sanford with minor surgeries at the clinic, and 3rd / 4th semester students can practice their pharmacology by observing what medications are prescribed to the patients. Perhaps the most important reason to attend one of the SMP clinics is to help provide health care for a group of people who otherwise would be unserved. The Kalinago are very appreciative of the help we provide, and no one should go without health care. See you on the next trip!



Dr. Sanford and SMP members after a hard day's work!

The Summer Semester Executive are:
Xavier Jimenez – Director,
Meredith Heberer – Asst. Director and WHI director
Nicole Berardoni, Oyebola Oladiran, Hyacinth Entero,
Janet Benjamin– Women's Health Initiative Leaders
Daryl Martinez, Ema Dzaka, and Sanda Vujnic – Clinic Coordinators, Elisa Avik – Treasurer,
Elizabeth Carson – Fundraising/Donations, Sherry Modino and Clifford Tse – Membership Coordinators,
Lana Shikhman – 5K run/health fair coordinator,
Eric Djenge and Jennifer Sabatier – Clinic Construction,
Ani Saryan – Newsletter



Selling baskets in the territory



Above: Construction of a cement road to the new clinic takes the help of many volunteers

Below: The new clinic site



****Press Release****

SMP Donates Medical Supplies to Ministry of Health to Alleviate Losses from Princess Margaret Hospital Fire

Roseau, Dominica: May 10, 2005 The Salybia Mission Project (SMP) has donated a substantial amount of medical supplies to the Dominican Ministry of Health in an effort to alleviate losses stemming from the recent fire that occurred on February 27th, 2005 at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) in Roseau, Dominica.

The supplies arrived in Roseau in March. The contents of the shipment container were originally gathered and donated by a Canadian organization, the Alberta Compassionate Resource Center (ACRC). The drive for the transfer of these goods to Dominica, however, was initiated and secured by the Reverend Dan Brewer of the Church of the Nazarene, whose several churches and establishments can be found across Dominica. Brewer also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Salybia Mission Project. The original large-scale donation was intended to supplement a new Health Clinic facility currently under construction in Salybia in the Carib Territory.

The transport of the shipment to Dominica did not come without financial obstacles, however. Shipping costs of over \$21,000 EC motivated SMP to organize and conduct a fund-raising campaign. Headed by SMP Chair John Hawley, the fund drive began on March 16, 2005 and quickly collected the required amount. Generous donations of \$4776 EC were received from Ross University School of Medicine faculty and staff, as well as \$9000 EC from SMP's student members. Most importantly, external sources (mainly businesses and third parties) collectively raised and donated an impressive amount of \$13,700 EC to the cause.

On March 24, 2005, the shipment fees were paid off, and soon after other duties and fees from the Roseau Port Authority were waived as a result of requests from both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. Only weeks later the container was finally opened in the Roseau port, with Brewer present to represent SMP.

The Salybia Mission Project is an independent, non-sectarian, non-profit health service and education outreach to assist in servicing the health care needs of the people of Dominica. Students from Ross University School of Medicine constitute the membership of the organization and often conduct weekend clinic trips to the Carib Territory in which they provide basic health care to the Carib in Salybia. The organization also assists in the fund-raising and construction of the new Health Clinic Facility in Salybia.

The Salybia Mission Project's chair, Mr. John Hawley, has been a constant and active force in the organization's mission statement and vision. The SMP would like to take this opportunity to thank the following parties for their generous contributions:

Ross University School of
Medicine Faculty and Staff
Salybia Mission Project
Student Members
Archipelago Trading
O.D. Brisbane

National Bank of Dominica
Scotia Bank
Royal Bank of Canada
DOMLEC
First Caribbean Bank
Whitchurch

Springfield Trading
Belfast Estate, LTD
Fort Young Hotel
Elias Nassief Foundation
Phillip Nassief
Cable & Wireless

Health Fair Highlights!

On May 28th, 2005 the SMP held its annual health fair for the Caribbean Territory at the Lighthouse Baptist School. Here is a quick recap of what went on...

About 60 patients were seen by Dr. Sanford, Dr. Sharma, Dr. Schipul, and Dr. Lorber. 42 students were present to take full histories and review of symptoms. Patients had their pulse and blood pressure taken, and body fat assessment scales were used to inform patients about healthy body fat percentages in relation to their own weight and height. Glucose testing was performed on many patients. After all of these preliminary assessments, the students presented the patient to one of the doctors and watched or assisted with the physical examinations.

With the help of three nurses (Nurse Paris and two ladies from Canada) and Renmark, our pharmacist, prescribed medicine could be distributed to those who required it. Pamphlets were prepared by members of the executive board on Hypertension, Diabetes, Nutrition, Women's Health, Infectious Diseases (HIV/TB/Fungal infections), and Pediatrics. These pamphlets were distributed to the patients. One member educated patients about the importance of Breast Self Examinations by wearing the ICM breast model. Two other opportunities offered themselves at the fair; an epidemiological survey and a genetic research study. Many of the common chief concerns from the patients involved general body aches (shoulder pain, lower back pain), headaches, diabetes, skin rash (atopic eczema), ear infections, earwax buildup, tonsillitis, and abdominal pains.

Special thanks go to Nurse Paris who arranged delivery of 4 exam tables from Mahou River and Atkinson Health centers to the school. Also, to Reverend Challenger for allowing us to use the School / Church and to Chief Charles Williams for opening up the fair.

News from the Territory

Clinic Construction Update

By Eric Djenge

Hello everyone, welcome back! I hope everyone had a rather relaxing two week vacation. Those of you involved with or those who want to become involved with the new clinic construction, now is the time. This semester we are going to try and get over to the clinic site more than once.

Last semester a group of SMP members went out to the clinic to work on the driveway leading to the new clinic site. Xavier Jimenez, Vicky O'Connor, and I got to the site around 9:30 am to be greeted by Chief Williams and about a dozen other construction members ready to tackle the project. The day lasted till about 2:00 pm and throughout the day we were served drinks and fresh coconut water. In the time that we spent on site we mixed 10 bags of concrete and continued the road to the street. Ten bags were not enough to complete the project but it was a start. We left the crew to finish the remaining 10 bags. The end of the day was welcomed by a

gourmet lunch provided by Chief Williams. He served boiled green bananas, dumplings, chicken and rice.

That was a taste of what occurred last semester. This semester we are going to try and arrange some more trips to work on the clinic but a more important project is going to take precedence. We are going to try and work alongside Nurse Paris to finish whatever needs to be done with Fenian's House. Fenian is a young man in the Carib territory that needs a handicap accessible home. The external structure is up but certain things such as plumbing and electric need to be finished before he can move in. We, as SMP members, are going to see to it that these things get done. If anyone has any experience with electric or plumbing please email smp@rossmed.edu.dm.

With that being said we look forward to a new semester and continued work on the clinic. Good luck this semester and study hard! Keep your eyes open for information via e-mail and posted around campus as to when construction will be taking place.

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### *Carib Territory to get Radio Station*

A project implemented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will soon result in a radio station for the Carib Territory, come August. This project, funded by UNESCO, will be headed by Dr. Alexandra Burton-James. The Dominican government is also assisting by allowing duty-free concessions, providing high-level technical assistance, and ensuring the sustainability of the project.

According to Dr. Burton-James, this new initiative costs about US\$20,000. "That includes equipment, training and technical assistance" she said. The Dominica Broadcasting Station (DBS), along with a number of media-trained persons will be assisting with the training of the Kalinago people. They will be trained in multi-media computing, management, content and programming. The purpose of this project is to address poverty in isolated indigenous communities using integrated community media.