



Director's Digest

November 7, 2008

"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get."

- Dale Carnegie

No School - Monday and Tuesday

Please be reminded that there is no school Monday, November 10th (Staff Development Day), and Tuesday, November 11th (Veteran's Day). We'll see everyone on Wednesday!

FRCS Alum, Wade Wilson, Leading the Way in International Medicine

Throughout the school year, I like to update our school community on the work, progress, and accomplishments of our graduates. This week, I am honored to present the success of Wade Wilson, 2006 FRCS graduate and current junior at the University of San Francisco.



The following is an excerpt from the *USF News*:

Treating the Roots of Poverty in Nicaragua

Never mind that some of his patients called him "doctor" as he strode the office this summer in his white lab coat, life inside of a health clinic in rural Nicaragua was anything but glamorous for junior molecular biology major Wade Wilson.

His daily duties varied from assisting local medical staff to stitch wounds and test women for cervical cancer to using tweezers to dislodge a parasitic worm burrowed in child's forehead. When he wasn't dealing with minor emergencies, he was trying to overcome a tendency in his patients to believe in voodoo and distrust Western medicine by explaining the importance of proper hygiene in preventing the spread of disease.

One of his assignments at the clinic, located outside Managua in the town of Masaya, was to design hygiene workbooks for doctors to use as teaching aides with parents. The idea being to develop an ongoing resource that could continue to be used by the clinic after he packed up and flew back to the United States.

"My interests have always been in medicine and so I thought it would be a good idea to work on the poorer end of the health care system and see what a difference one person can make."

Wilson, who has his sights set on attending medical school, was part of an inaugural group of five USF students to take part in a new 12-week service-learning program offered this summer by the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good, in partnership with the nonprofit Foundation for Sustainable Development and funding from the Sarlo Foundation. Students receive two credits for the course, which included a week of multidisciplinary coursework prior to departure and a week of reflection and culminating research upon their return.

The program was designed to go beyond the university's usual week or two-week immersion trips. Participants were placed

"in country" for 10 weeks, where they learned from living with host families and applied professional skills while working for community organizations.

In step with USF's core values, students focused their service-learning efforts in the areas of health care, the environment, human rights, and education. The goal was to integrate academic learning about Central American circumstances with live experience in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

Congratulations to Wade for making a positive difference in the world. He exemplifies the pillars of our school: academic rigor; service; and leadership. The FRCS community is proud of his accomplishments.

Faculty and Staff Participate in Professional Development Day

Although the students are off from school this Monday, FRCS faculty and staff will be here continuing with individual and school-wide professional development opportunities. Some of the workshops and training programs include:

- Bloom's Taxonomy
- Writing Across the Curriculum
- Phonemic Awareness
- Open Response Questions—Creating & Assessing
- Secondary Language Learning and Teaching
- DIBELS Revisited—Next Steps
- Lexia
- Curriculum Mapping
- Restraint Training and Certification
- Microsoft Office Applications
- Various Curriculum Initiatives

These courses will be taught and facilitated by a combination of external consultants and FRCS faculty/staff members, and are built upon the specific professional development needs of our staff, as well as the specific educational needs of our students.

Upon completion of this day, faculty and staff utilize an on-line survey to provide feedback on the individual workshops offered. We use this information to improve upon our offerings, as well as to evaluate our entire professional development program. This helps us strengthen our efforts to employ the most qualified and engaged teachers and staff in the classroom and meet the needs of our students.

- Mark Logan