



Culture, Compassion and Care

“Practicing medicine is always a challenge. Learning to practice medicine in a foreign country is a whole other circumstance in its own category. With limited resources, it becomes so vital to remember the core of medicine and to focus on the importance of a thorough history and physical exam. We learn to utilize what tools we have with us.” ~ Jacqueline Tran, Physician Assistant Student



Above and inside top: Touro students participate in medical field work in Guatemala as part of DOCARE. Left: Jacqueline Tran provides care in Guatemala.

This past spring a group of Physician Assistant students participated in Touro’s first international rotation in Guatemala. The students provided a variety of services to a mostly indigenous population including obstetrics, pediatrics, geriatrics and family medicine over a two week period. As part of their coursework, students documented their journey, and there is no better way to convey their experience than to share it in their words:

After two weeks, we have driven over hundreds of kilometers and visited eight different towns. Although there was a language barrier, there are only so many different ways one can evoke emotions of pain, hardship, joy, and gratitude. I forever will be grateful to them for bearing with my limitations and still allowing me to work with them. It was also always reassuring to know that a smile is universal.

– Jacqueline Tran

I reminded myself to absorb my surroundings and cherish the feeling one gets when helping another person. Each patient was so thankful for having us there to listen, serve, and help ease their pain. Given our medical resources were often limited, we were able to, at least temporarily, make many others feel better. Reflecting on our work in the highlands of Guatemala, I can't help but smile and feel that I did much more with my time in this one place than I could do anywhere else. – Ivan Ranada

This rotation taught me to rely mostly on history and physical exams since we had very scarce resources. This experience also reminded me of how much we take for granted every day, medically related or otherwise. Most importantly, what this rotation taught me is the importance of humanity, compassion, and kindness. I hope those lessons stay with me for a long time to come. – Nadia Xibille



“International rotations not only help students develop clinical skills and public health knowledge but also give students a better understanding of the relationship between medicine and society in other cultures,” says Touro faculty member Nancy Lee, PAC, who supervised the students on the rotation. “Students have to use diagnostic skills as limited technology is available. The development of these skills helps students in all areas of medicine but particularly those who plan on going in to rural or low income health care.”

In addition to the international work in Guatemala, students and faculty have also traveled to such remote areas as Tanzania, Nepal, Panama, and Thailand through international rotations, self-arranged medical tours, and with such organizations as DOCARE International and Floating Doctors. With the development of formal international rotations, Touro students can now receive academic credit for their international work. [U](#)

Breaking New Ground

Touro University Nevada and New Vista, a local non-profit organization committed to the care of individuals with intellectual challenges, recently joined forces in the development of a medical clinic to provide care for patients served by New Vista.

The clinic, which broke ground this past fall, is part of a larger residential development that will provide homes where adults with developmental disabilities can live independent of families in a group setting. The groundbreaking for the clinic marks the first time in Nevada that a medical clinic has been specifically designed to work with intellectually challenged individuals.



“This is a significant step in the world of care for our citizens who face these difficulties,” said Kelly DeGuzman, CEO of New Vista. “It is important that quality medical care is a priority given the growing number of clients with special needs in our community.”

“As Nevada’s largest medical school, Touro is committed to service and outreach that positively and directly impacts the local community,” said Dr. Mitchell Forman, dean of the college of osteopathic medicine. “This partnership will give our students hands-on experience working with intellectually challenged individuals and more importantly will provide these individuals and their families with expanded access to health care.” [U](#)

Drs. Mitchell Forman and Andrew Eisen at groundbreaking event.




DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE

(Both Houses!)

Two of Touro University Nevada's faculty physicians will be traveling to Carson City this winter to represent constituents in the Nevada Legislature.

Dr. Andrew Eisen, associate dean of clinical education and a pediatrician, who also serves as medical director of Touro's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, will begin his first term in the Nevada Assembly. Dr. Joseph Hardy, who recently joined the Touro College of Medicine faculty and has his primary care medical practice at the Touro Health Center, will serve in the Senate and previously served as Assemblyman and City Councilman for Boulder City.

Representatives and students from Touro will be traveling to Carson City on March 5 for Touro Day at the Legislature. During the day, students will have the opportunity to meet with key legislators and sit with legislators during sessions. "This provides us with a


wonderful opportunity to showcase Touro with the legislators," says Dr. Michael Harter, Senior Provost and CEO. "It's important that the legislature is reminded that Touro can be a part of the solution for healthcare in Nevada." 

SHEDDING LIGHT ON AUTISM

For many families, a diagnosis of Autism or a developmental disability can be life-altering and come with considerable costs for services.

Touro University Nevada recently held a "Season of Lights" luncheon and silent auction at the Nevada State Museum with nearly 150 guests in attendance. The event generated more than \$20,000 in contributions and an additional \$11,000 in in-kind gifts which will benefit families who need financial assistance to utilize diagnostic and treatment services of the Touro Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

"We are thrilled with the success of this first fund raising event for the Center," said Dr. Nicole Cavenagh, director of the Center. "Many of our families need multiple treatment sessions each week and the costs can be prohibitive. We never want cost to be a barrier which is why these funds are so important."

Donors who gave \$1,000 or more will have their names added to the Center's Wall of Friends. To make a gift, please visit: <http://tun.touro.edu/give>. 



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT




LLOYD DEL MUNDO – a homegrown physician

What led you to pursue your career in osteopathic medicine? Since I was from Las Vegas, I thought I'd look into going to the new osteopathic school at Touro. As I looked into osteopathy more and spoke to local DO physicians, I realized that I strongly believed in the principles and beliefs of osteopathy. If I had to choose again, I would still choose an osteopathic medical school.

How do you feel your experience at Touro helped prepare you for a career as a physician? Being in only the second graduating class at Touro University Nevada, we had to take initiative to make the best of the opportunities we were given. In turn, it helped me better prepare for residency and now fellowship. It is cliché to say that you get what you put in, but this is so true for medical students becoming doctors. The preparation, time, and commitment it took to do well at Touro definitely helped me get where I am now.

What motivational tip do you have for someone interested in medicine?

I tell medical students and residents that in order to be a great doctor, you have to love the profession. If you want to be a doctor, you have to bring it back to the basics – taking care of people and preventing them from getting sick. I believe that we are lucky to do what we do, and even though it was a struggle to get through medical school and residency, it was worth it. Do not take the opportunity to be a doctor for granted. 

Lloyd Del Mundo, DO, is a native Las Vegan and graduated from Touro University Nevada in 2009. He attended Green Valley High School and UCLA where he received his undergraduate degree in molecular cell and developmental biology. Dr. Del Mundo is currently a first-year fellow in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine at Valley hospital, having already completed a three-year residency in Internal Medicine at Valley. He is married to Catrisha Cabanilla, another Touro DO graduate, whom he met while she was on rotations at the Hospital. He plans to stay in Las Vegas to practice and would also like to teach clinical medicine to medical students and residents.



Nevada

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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Michael Harter, PhD, Senior Provost & CEO

When Touro University Nevada was established in 2004, we saw great potential to help meet the ever-changing and diverse needs of the citizens of Nevada by producing top-quality health care providers and educators. For the past eight years, Touro has made great progress toward meeting this potential, but our continued progress must be based on a shared vision that clarifies our future direction.

Touro recently completed its institutional strategic plan which articulates a course of action and strategic priorities that will guide the university's work for the next three years. The plan delineates the steps we must take to promote excellence in all academic programs, highlights the efforts we must make to foster partnerships between Touro and the community, and describes the commitment we must make to cultivate a campus environment that nurtures and supports our shared vision.

This Strategic Plan presents a pathway for the university that ensures it continues to be a leader in developing professionals in health care and education while also remaining a major service provider to Nevada's residents. To read the plan, visit: <http://tun.touro.edu/strategicplan.pdf>.

About Touro

Touro University Nevada is a Jewish-sponsored, accredited private institution affiliated with Touro College and University System, an international system of higher education. Touro is a Nevada non-profit corporation under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) 3. For more information on this publication or on how to make a gift, please contact the Touro Advancement Office at 702.777.3100.

Important Dates

PRESIDENT'S DAY

February 18 – campus closed

TOURO DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

March 5

THE BIG GAME

(Basketball game vs. Touro California)

March 7

For a complete listing of upcoming events and activities, please visit: www.tun.touro.edu.

PASSOVER

March 25 to 27 –

campus closed beginning at noon on 25th

March 31 to April 2 –

campus closed beginning at 2 p.m. on 31st

TOURO HEALTH FAIR

April 14