

## BOARD NEWS

# Pisacano Leadership Foundation Selects Its Pisacano Scholars "Class of 2000"

The Pisacano Leadership Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Board of Family Practice, recently selected its Pisacano Scholars "Class of 2000." These 6 medical students follow in the footsteps of 45 previous awardees who have received this honor since 1993: 27 scholar alumni who are practicing physicians, and 18 current scholars who are either attending medical school or are enrolled in family practice residencies across the country. These scholars are carrying on the vision and legacy of Nicholas J. Pisacano, MD, the founder and first executive director of the ABFP and for whom the foundation is named. Each Pisacano scholar has demonstrated the highest level of scholarship, leadership, character, interpersonal skills, and community service. The following are summaries of the academic and personal accomplishments of each member of the Pisacano Scholars "Class of 2000."

### Saria Carter



Saria is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Saria was graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a degree in microbiology. As an undergraduate, she received numerous academic awards and

honors, including induction into the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society. She worked as a home health aide and a companion care provider and served as a volunteer for two hospital emergency departments. She worked several part-time jobs throughout college to support herself.

At the University of Florida College of Medicine, Saria has excelled academically while continuing with her extracurricular activities. Two years ago, she was elected by her peers to be president of the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG). In this role, Saria has initiated several new activities, including a community blood pressure screening

program, a clinical skills workshop led by local family physicians for all students entering their third year, and a new first-year position in the FMIG to improve communication and cultivate potential future leaders. In 1998 she was appointed a FMIG network regional coordinator of the New England/Puerto Rico region; she was the first student in the state of Florida ever selected for one of these positions. Last year, Saria was elected national coordinator of the FMIGs; she currently serves as the FMIG Student Director and member of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians' Board of Directors and Medical Education Committee. In addition, she was recently elected as student delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates. Saria also serves as a member of Florida's Medical Selection Committee for medical school applicants. She has continued her volunteer work as a medical student at the Bone Marrow Buddy program, a medical student-run program that provides companions for bone marrow transplant patients. Saria believes that family medicine will allow her to keep her vow as a physician—to know and care for her patients as human beings as well as treat their illnesses, and to maintain her compassion for others in her professional as well as her personal life.

### Jason Cash



Jason is a third-year medical student at the University of Utah. Jason was graduated summa cum laude from California State University at Fresno with a degree in physiology and attended graduate school at the Medical College of Pennsylvania/Hahne-

mann. He was on the dean's list for eight consecutive semesters and was initiated into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society in his junior year. As an undergraduate, Jason worked as a childcare counselor in a residential group home for troubled youth and as an undergraduate research assistant,

studying the angiotensin II and serotonin-receptor concentrations in clinically depressed patients. He then served as a missionary for 2 years in the New England states.

Jason has continued his academic excellence and community activities throughout medical school, where he has received several scholarships and awards. In his first year of medical school Jason launched Project T.E.A.M. (Together Everybody Achieves More), a program to increase student support for each other and decrease internal competition. He served as the lead student for planning and implementing 1999 Primary Care Day at the University of Utah. Jason volunteers for a homeless clinic in downtown Salt Lake City and participates in several outreach programs that target at-risk children. Last year Jason received a certificate of achievement from the Office of Community Outreach at the University of Utah in recognition of his dedication and commitment to community outreach activities. He was recently selected by his medical student peers and the Dean's Office to receive the Novartis Outstanding Community Service Award. Jason plans to practice in a rural area as a family physician that addresses health and wellness issues important to families, as a leader in his community, and as a mentor to students who are aspiring physicians.

**Laura Gottlieb**



Laura is a third-year medical student at Harvard Medical School. Laura was graduated from Harvard University summa cum laude with joint degrees in Hispanic studies and comparative religion. She was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa national

honor society and received several scholarships for academic achievement of the highest distinction. As an undergraduate, she was a research fellow for the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, where she researched the role of liberation theology and literature in revolutionary movements of Central America for her honors thesis. She spent a summer at the Bunting Institute as a research aide examining the role of nongovernmental organizations in postrevolutionary Nicaragua. In addition to her academic achievements, Laura was a writer and actress for Women's Street Theater, a program educating the community on issues surrounding

rape, sexual harassment, and legislation. Before beginning medical school, Laura worked for 2 years with the Multidisciplinary AIDS Project at the Cambridge Hospital. In this position, she developed clinic sites in homeless shelters and substance abuse and teen centers. Laura also created an anonymous HIV testing program for the Harvard University Health Services. She then spent 2 years working for the San Francisco Bay Area Red Cross.

As a medical student, Laura has continued her involvement with the Cambridge Hospital HIV/AIDS program. After her second year of medical school, she took a year off to work for Peace Games, Inc, in Somerville, Mass, where she founded a youth leadership program called Jigsaw, which works with 20 teenagers of different backgrounds in the Boston area. Through Peace Games, Laura also created an 18-member National Youth Action Council (NYAC) for the National Campaign Against Youth Violence. Laura, a National Health Service Corps scholar, will serve 2 years in a health care provider shortage area upon completion of her residency training.

**Corey Martin**



Corey is a third-year medical student at Yale Medical School. Corey was graduated from North Dakota State University (NSDU) with a degree in microbiology, where he received numerous scholarships and awards including induction into the Phi

Kappa Phi national honor society and selection for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. Corey was also active in his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, as Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of Scholastics, and National Undergraduate Director. During his senior year, he was voted NSDU homecoming king. Corey was also active in his community, volunteering for the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, United Way, Children's Miracle Network, the Salvation Army, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In addition, he served as the student-body vice president and the student senate president at NDSU, where he helped to institute and teach its new Peer Mentor Program for the school. This successful program is credited with substantially increasing freshman retention at NDSU.



Corey has continued his remarkable academic excellence and community service throughout medical school. As co-coordinator of Yale Medical School FMIG, Corey is helping to establish a Tar Wars Program and is implementing a long-term family physician shadowing program for interested Yale medical students. He has been a delegate to the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians. He is also co-coordinator of the Yale Anatomy Teaching Program, a program that offers anatomy instruction through dissection to high school students. In addition, he has instituted biweekly case presentations by local physicians on family medicine issues at Yale. Corey is a Yale Medical School Tour Guide, sings with the Yale Medical School Ultrasounds at area nursing homes and hospitals, and is a NDSU alumni recruiter. He also currently works as a research assistant at Griffin Hospital, assessing the correlation between high-resolution ultrasound imaging and laser Doppler flowmeter measurements in detecting endothelial dysfunction. Corey believes that while the challenges of being a family physician are arduous, the rewards of making a difference in the lives of others are certainly worthwhile.

#### **Amanda Matis**



Amanda is a fourth-year medical student at Loyola University-Stritch School of Medicine. Amanda was graduated from DePauw University summa cum laude with a degree in biological sciences. She was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honors society

her senior year and was the recipient of several other scholarships and awards as an undergraduate, including the Distinguished Rector Scholarship, a 4-year award for students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and community service in high school. She was also a participant in the Science Research Fellows, a 4-year honors program at DePauw that selects a small group of students in each class who are interested in sciences to participate in research internships with faculty at DePauw and Indiana University Medical Center. In addition, Amanda was a member of the Mortar Board, a national honors society that emphasizes academic excellence, leadership, and community service. Through

this organization, Amanda worked in a camp for children with developmental delays and tutored first- and second-grade children. She also worked as a microbiology laboratory teaching assistant and spent 6 months as a research assistant studying the effects of passive smoke on survival, birth weight, and litter size on specific strains of mice.

Amanda has continued her academic excellence and extracurricular activities as a medical student. She was the social chair for the class of 2001 in 1998-99 and is currently serving as an elected student government representative to the Medical Student Union. Amanda is a member of two curriculum panels and has conducted applicant tours for the Stritch School of Medicine admissions office. In addition, she served as a staff member for the 1999 National Youth Leadership Foundation program, which benefits high school students considering science careers. Last year, Amanda won the Family Medicine Interest Group Leadership Award, given by the American Academy of Family Physicians to members of local FMIGs who possess outstanding leadership qualities and community service. She was given this award for coordinating a free community blood pressure screening clinic at a local Target store. As she enters her final year of medical school, Amanda is excited to be taking the final steps towards the beginning of a career in family medicine.

#### **Kathleen Woo**



Kathleen is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Kathleen was graduated magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota with a degree in international relations. She was inducted into both the Phi Beta

Kappa and Phi Beta Phi honor societies. She was a member and exchange coordinator for AIESEC, an International Student Internship Exchange Program. In addition to her academic success, Kathleen participated in a number of volunteer activities, most notably with the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery and the Wesley Food Program. Before entering medical school, Kathleen worked for 5 years as a coordinator for two HMO programs serving public program recipients and the uninsured. She worked as a grant specialist and then as a grant manager/data manager where she was re-

sponsible for administering a \$300,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to provide care to the underserved through a physician volunteer program.

As a medical student, Kathleen continues to excel academically and remains involved in extracurricular activities. During her first year of medical school, she served as the first-year medical student representative for the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities FMIG, and then served as president during her second year. She currently serves as the student representative to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Board of Directors. Kathleen is also active with the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, serving as student director and a committee member throughout medical school. Last

year, she was the student delegate to the AAFP national conference. In addition, Kathleen worked for a year as a graduate assistant in the Department of Neurology at Minnesota, developing an Alzheimer drug-trial database and performing a statistical analysis to correlate cognitive function and outcomes. She is currently primary investigator on a research project studying correlations between adolescent self-concept and high-risk behaviors. Kathleen has also been an active volunteer with the Cedar Riverside People's Center Volunteer Clinic, and the OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Exams). Kathleen is considering an academic family practice career as a way of combining her interests in patient care, teaching, administration, and organized medicine.