Home from Liberia
As reported in the last issue, Dr. Brad Olson, Director of our new International Medicine elective, recently returned from his first trip to Liberia. He will be sharing many stories and reports in the coming days, but the Crier was able to get an exclusive sneak peek at some of the pictures he took and patients he encountered while there.

In addition, he got a picture of a pediatric third year resident outside the hospital after a hard day’s work.

We hope to hear about Liberia from Saadiya Khan’s perspective when she returns home in a few weeks but initial reports from her have been exciting, to say the least.

The International elective, which takes place at the JFK Hospital in Liberia, is a part of the HEARTT (http://www.heartt.net/ - Health Education and Relief Through Teaching) Program. We are working in collaboration with UMASS in Boston who has been working with HEARTT since 2008. To read more about Dr. Olson’s recent trip you can visit his blog at: http://bradinliberia.wordpress.com/

March is National Child Life Month!
Kara Judd-Litera, CCLS, CEIM
The Child Life Team at GCH is pleased to announce another fun month of Child Life activities to raise awareness of our profession!

Child Life Specialists first became part of the pediatric health care landscape in the late 1970’s. Predominately a group of women working in Pediatric Wards, these early pioneers provided play experiences for young patients. The goal was to encourage mastery over the child’s hospital environment while allowing for creative expression through play. As it was the practice to not have parental presence in Pediatric Wards, there was a natural addition of emotional support.

That role has evolved into today’s Certified Child Life Specialists, or “CCLS”. A CCLS is a healthcare professional who has a degree in Child Life or a closely related field. Degrees in Child Life can be at Bachelor or Masters Level. An intensive Internship under a qualified CCLS is required for certification, followed by an exam. CCLS must re-certify by educational credit every 5 years or by exam every 10 years.

GCH has 9 clinical CCLS staff and a CCLS manager. Our staff covers the needs of children in the Inpatient units, as well as in Day Surgery, Heme/Onco clinic, Pulmonary Clinic, UHCC and the Peds ED. This makes us the largest Child Life Department in Upstate New York.

In celebration of Child Life Month we will be hosting a slew of events for the pediatric patients and families. We invite & encourage the Pediatric Staff to participate in the following events:

😊 Child Life Spirit Days
(wear something in theme):
- 3/3- Orange/SU Day
- 3/10-Sports Day
- 3/17-Green Day
- 3/24-Silly Sock Day
- 3/31-GCh t-shirt Day

😊 Medical Play
3/15- 1 pm: Medical Play Session in the Performance Area. Come and play with your patients as they explore medical equipment in a non-invasive environment.

😊 Minute To Win It!
3/28-12:30 pm: This popular Game Show comes to GCH’s performance area with hostess Sue Karl!

Thanks from all of the CCLS’s and Remember- Put Play in Your Day!

Feel free to contact Kara for more info at juddlitk@upstate.edu

Fellow Researchers
Congratulations to both of our Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellows, Nick Bennett and Manika Suryadevara on the acceptance of their oral platform presentations for the GME Resident/Fellow “Beyond the Doctoral Research Day” on Thursday, March 3, 2011. The oral presentations are in Room 2231 at Weiskotten from 11 AM to 3:30 PM and a poster presentation will...
immediately follow in the 9th Floor cafeteria (schedule attached). (link to researchday.pdf).

Nick is scheduled to give his presentation, “A prospective surveillance study of nosocomial viral infections in premature neonates” at 1:30 PM, and Manika will be presenting, “Etiology of Acute Febrile Respiratory Illness in Hospitalized Children Less than 24 Months of Age” at 2:30 PM. Try to stop over if you can, to show your support of our two fellows.

Spring Subspecialists
In addition to our ongoing pediatric core lecture series, the residents will have the treat of several “guest” subspecialists presenting lectures over the next few months, several of whom have never given lectures to our residents before. Note that all of these lectures will be combined lectures for interns and seniors in the full conference room. Of course faculty are always welcome, as well. Stay tuned to the monthly and weekly schedules for more details.

March 21st – Pediatric Ophthalmology – Dr. Noel

March 22nd – Pediatric Anesthesiology – Dr. Smallman

March 24th – Pediatric Dermatology – Dr. Farah (The Farahs will also be doing April 28, May 26)

April 21st – Tube Seminar – Cathy Desimone, NP (Peds Surgery)

April 22nd – Pediatric Neurology – Dr. Crosely

April 25th – Pediatric Orthopedics – Dr. Katz

May 5th – Pediatric Radiology – Dr. Scalzetti

May 10th – Pediatric Surgery – Dr. Ratner (two additional lectures TBA)

A Wilderness Gig
Thomas Welch, M.D.
As readers of the Crier probably know, I have a completely separate gig beyond medicine, as a wilderness guide and outdoor educator. One of the many things I enjoy about this is the opportunity to know and regularly meet with a number of friends from all around the world who are “full time” in this industry. Usually, these meetings are in the context of one of the national wilderness conferences held every year.

Earlier this month, I was in Minneapolis for one of my favorite conferences, the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT). Talk about a narrowly focused organization--this is a group of folks who operate climbing walls and ropes courses. Ropes courses are structures involving cables and elements high in the air, on which individuals are protected by the types of equipment and techniques used in rock climbing. I am very active in ACCT, and work as a consultant for Project Adventure, the major builder and trainer for ropes courses in the world.

At this year's meeting I put on a two-day workshop for ropes course operators and other outdoor educators which dealt with rescue and first aid techniques unique to the climbing environment. There were 19 students in the workshop, including one each from Mexico and Germany, with the rest coming from all over the US. It was a great opportunity for me to meet and network with people who do what I do as a hobby for their careers.

Later in the meeting, I took part in a panel discussion with a few other outdoor professionals, including the attorney for the National Outdoor Leadership School in Wyoming and the risk management director of Project Adventure in Boston. We analyzed a number of recent climbing accidents and discussed strategies for preventing them.

In a related development, I have resumed writing a regular column on wilderness medicine for the Adirondack Mountain Club's magazine, Adirondac. Not in the Upstate library!

Don’t Forget – Match Day is 3/17 (the Peds List will be available at 1 PM)

Re-Announcing Matthew David
The evidence of Amy DiFabios’s baby finally arrived with this official birth announcement. Congratulations, Amy!