



SPRING 2020 AMIGOS NEWS

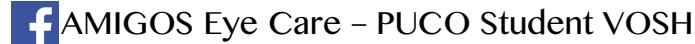
November 2019 – April 2020



2020-2021 AMIGOS Student Officers

AMIGOS News shares with you all the hard work that Pacific students, doctors, and faculty have accomplished! We are proud to have been successful the last few months and are happy to share what we have been up to!

Keep reading to see highlights of the AMIGOS program!



Upcoming Events:

September

Run/Walk for Sight and Hearing
September 12th, 2020

November

Eyeball 2020: The Roaring 20's
Saturday, November 14th
World Forestry Center

*See below for more information

WINTER BREAK 2019

TEAM SENEGAL

This winter break, we traveled back to Senegal with a group of seven students, one optician, and two optometrists to see around 400 patients in four and a half days of clinic. This was the third trip to the Saint-Louis area for Amigos and the first to feature 2 doctors. Dr. Garth Christenson joined Dr. Craig Bowen, who has been on all of our trips to Senegal, in overseeing the students on this trip. Dr. Bowen was able to implement a revamped version of his EHR, which had been used for the trip to Senegal last year. This system allowed for documentation for everything from basic patient information to a library of potential treatment options. This system also allowed us to coordinate care after leaving the African continent for patients with more complicated refractive conditions as well as more specialized medical needs. For example, we were able to facilitate treatment for a young boy with visually debilitating cataracts (among other success stories). Additionally, we were able to capture data which will be utilized for future trips to the region to help with their preparations of the instrumentation, equipment, and spectacle/ophthalmic prescriptions. Participants of all iterations of Amigo's trips to Senegal receive a first-hand encounter with the visual debilitations often seen in cases of trachoma, which is one of the leading causes of preventable blindness in the developing world. On this trip we saw multiple individuals afflicted with the condition. Fortunately, the condition is easily treated once identified – a one-time dosage of azithromycin can cure a patient of the condition, saving the patient's vision. Unfortunately, without the access to frequent care, this condition (along with many others) will go unchecked, furthering the instances of preventable blindness seen in the area. It is Dr. Bowen's vision to create a permanent clinic to better serve the needs of patients in the region. The opportunity for the education of the 1st to 3rd year students who embarked on this journey cannot be overstated, and the camaraderie built between students in this distant locale was deeply moving. Even more moving than the aforementioned fostering of camaraderie was the graciousness of our hosts and the level of appreciation offered to us by the patients we had the good fortune to treat. We were also able to mix in some more leisurely activities which consisted of visiting the local resort in Saint-Louis, as well as a tour of the city in a horse-led buggy. Additionally, Team Senegal visited the somber location of Goree Island, a place synonymous with the Atlantic slave trade.



SPRING BREAKS 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the US in the midst of our Spring 2020 semester, Team Ecuador, Team Mexico, and Team Oregon Coast were unable to attend their respective trips.

We would like to thank all the organizations, sponsors, and donors that made it possible to plan for these trips – we really would not be able to accomplish them without you. We also want to acknowledge the hard work of the team members, especially trip leaders, for their time put into fundraising and planning for the trips.

On these trips, we are fortunate enough to often screen upwards of 500 patients. Knowing the impact that we are able to make as an organization, we regret that we are unable to serve these populations.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 and we hope to fulfill these trips in the future.

2020-2021 AMIGOS Student Officers and Board Members

President: Rachel Bush

President-Elect: Rachel Osmundson

Secretary: Becca MacDow

Treasurer: Chi Nguyen

Treasurer-Elect: Morgan Thomsen

Eyeball Chair: Allison Gruwell

Eyeball Co-Chair: Alaina Jacobsen

Eyeglass Coordinator: Kyara Farinella

Eyeglass Coordinator-Elect: Kirstin Stayer

Equipment Rep: Ross Carley

Equipment Rep-Elect: Kaylan Phillips

Historian/PR Officer: Erica Lei

Fundraising Coordinator: Katie Thomas

Fundraising Coordinator-Elect: Bianca Mendoza

Board Members: James Kundart (Chair), Ann Edmonds, Lisette Romig, Scott Pike, Craig Bowen, Caroline Ooley, Susan Littlefield, Christi Closson, Wally Walker, John Lowry

Future AMIGOS Events

As a student organization and future healthcare providers, we are looking out for the safety and health of the population, faculty, and students. Given the unpredictable trend of COVID-19, AMIGOS has made a few decisions for future events.

The scheduled trips in August to **Belize** and **Guatemala** have been cancelled. As with the spring Ecuador and Mexico trips, we hope to accomplish these in the future.

The dates for Run/Walk for Sight and Hearing in September as well as Eyeball 2020 in November are set, but we will continue to monitor the situation and provide any updates ASAP if changes are made.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

There are several ways to get involved with AMIGOS at PUCO! We are always in need of equipment and medications to bring on our trips.

Visit our website at www.amigoseyecare.org for our list of items in need

Interested in upcoming trips or attending one in the future?

Visit our website at www.amigoseyecare.org or email us at amigos@pacificu.edu

Interested in making a donation to the program?

Find our PayPal account on our website by clicking the “donate” button or send a check payable to
Amigos Eye Care

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