Spring 2022
AMIGOS NEWS

November 2021 – May 2022



2022 - 2023 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!

Picture Missing: Emily Bittman, Susan Ziad, Dr. Caroline Ooley, Dr. Christi Closson, Dr. Jamy Borbidge, Dr. Scott Pike, Dr/ Wally Walker, Dr. John Lowery, Dr. Craig Bowen, Dr. Carol Rymer, Maria Munoz

@amigoseyecare
AMIGOS Eye Care – PUCO Student VOSH

AMIGOS Board Members

President: Mary Avisado
President-Elect: Anna Wisdom
Secretary: Karma Castro
Treasurer: Kaylee Garman
Treasurer-Elect: Mieke De Freitas
Eyeball Co-Chair: Ellie Fog & Lexi Snodgrass
Eyeball Co-Chair Elects: Susan Ziad & Jordan Garcia
Eyeglass Coordinator: Jennifer Lai
Eyeglass Coordinator-Elect: Meagan Seufert
Equipment Rep: Nathan Patterson
Equipment Rep-Elect: Slayton Hargraves
Historian/PR Officer: Emily Bittman
Fundraising Coordinator: Josh Fleegel
Fundraising Coordinator-Elect: Leah Moran

Board Members: Susan Littlefield (Chair), James Kundart, Ann Edmonds, Scott Pike, Caroline Ooley, Christi Closson, Wally Walker, John Lowery (Faculty Advisor), Jessica Lynch, Craig Bowen, Outreach Representatives: Jamy Borbidge, Carol Rymer, & Maria Munoz

Thank you to Dr. James Kundart

We want to thank Dr. Kundart for serving as our previous AMIGOS board chair! A little bit about Dr. Kundart:

1. **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

"I'm working on a PhD in Vision Science, Class of 2023. For those who don't know, I'm trying to show how OCT can be used to predict aniseikonia, and prove with VEP that prism can be used to treat it. I can't say how the visual performance aspect will be turning out with the RightEye system until next month (April)."

2. **Why did you join AMIGOS?**

"I joined Amigos because my original plan to come to the west coast was to work for a service organization, but I could never afford to go on a trip when I was a student."

3. **How long you've served on the board?**

"I joined the Amigos board after my first three consecutive January trips to San José, Mexico, which occurred between 2007-2009. Those had a pediatrics emphasis in partnership with Amigos de los Niños."

4. **What countries or places you've visited on AMIGOS trips?**

"After those first three trips to Mexico, we switched to working with Children's Well-Being Foundation in San José, Costa Rica. Sometimes we went to Guanacasté at the coast. Since Costa Rica is relatively peaceful, has no standing army for decades, and national health care we mostly served uninsured Nicaraguan refugees of all ages, and the homeless in an urban setting. San José has a UN Refugee center for those seeking political asylum from countries outside of Latin America, including parts of Africa. Some of our African patients spoke English and French, but no Spanish!" (continued next page)

5. **What was your favorite memory on these trips?**

"There were two barrios we served that I particularly remember. One was named after the Pope Leon XIII. The residents there were so poor and the police presence had only recently started, but the patients were greatly in need and very grateful. Here's a United Nations article about returning to school during the COVID pandemic in this vulnerable capitol neighborhood: https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/amid-covid-19-costa-rican-schools-safely-reopen-keisys-back-school-journey.

The other was La Carpio, a refugee settlement in the main landfill for San José. The only paved roads were for the garbage trucks coming in and out. Yet the schoolchildren had had clean, pressed white shirts that were somehow washed using river water and spotty electricity. Their homes has dirt floors. It really made us appreciate how most citizens of the world live on much less than $1 (US) a day. The industrious locals recycled materials from the landfill and sold handicrafts they made from those material. More than once we brought back work from those artisans to sell at the Eye Ball. Here's a short link: https://www.crhf.org/community-services/la-carpio/. "

"I can only add that like Dr. Lowrey before me, family needs had me moving toward retiring from mission trips even before the pandemic. But I had a good run!"



Wine Survivor

Earlier this semester, AMIGOS hosted our annual Wine Survivor event! Students entered their teams for a chance to win wine. We were able to raise $635 this year to go towards AMIGOS trips!

Winners of 2022 Wine Survivor:

- 1st place: *Ocular Dominance* (Brenna Yaschyshyn, Taylor Kerr, Suze Ziad, and Stacie Webb)
- 2nd place: *Superior Arcades* (Mary Avisado, Chandlar Grainger, Allie De La Cruz)
- 3rd place: *Zin It To Win It* (Morgan Thomsen, Rachel Osmundson, Sarah Couchon, Erin Pennington)

We would also like to thank the wineries and vineyards who provided donations for our fundraiser:

- Helvetia Vineyards and Winery
- Sidereus Vineyards
- Dauntless Wine Co.

Eastern Oregon with Casey Eye Institute

Some of our AMIGOS student members travelled to Eastern Oregon in partnership with Pacific Outreach and OHSU Casey Eye Institute on Spring Break in March to mark our first AMIGOS trip since the pandemic! As a team, we provided 115 individuals with an eye screening at no cost, resulting in:

- 90% of participants receiving a prescription and prescription glasses at no cost
- 40% of participants receiving a referral for additional care
- Over 877 volunteer hours
- A gift of sight to the communities totaling $70,302!

Our community partners on this trip were Asher Community Health Center in Fossil, OR and Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center in Warm Springs, OR. Everyone in each of these communities were very welcoming and appreciative!
Thank you to VOSH International for providing AMIGOS with a grant to support this trip.





1st Annual EyeSmile Interprofessional Service Trip

AMIGOS Eye Care, Pacific Outreach, and Pacific Hispanic Dental Association set out to The Dalles, OR April 2-3 to provide much needed dental hygiene and eye exams to underserved community members with limited access. Our Optometry and dental students were able to provide care to 56 individuals while assisting across disciplines. It was a wonderful experience to have the teams work collaboratively and we hope to continue this work in the future.



Homeless Vision Clinic at Vivid Eyecare

In partnership with Dr. Jessica Lynch at Vivid Eye Care and Optical Bloc, AMIGOS members volunteered their time to help out with two homeless vision clinics. We helped to provide much needed eye exams for an underserved local population in Hillsboro, OR.



This clinic was started in February 2022 and we continue to volunteer monthly.

Enfoque Ixcan Partnership

Enfoque Ixcán (EI) and Amigos Eye Care have a long history of working productively and collaboratively together in Guatemala. In January 2022, EI and Amigos entered into a formal partnership. EI has been supporting and building the eye care services in the Ixcán region of Guatemala for nearly 25 years. In 2006, EI officially became a non-profit with the mission to ensure that the people of the Ixcán region of Guatemala have access to vision and eye health care and eye health education. One of EI's key partners in providing expanded eye care services in Guatemala has been Amigos Eye Care. Beyond being an active partner with EI, Amigos has served thousands of patients across the globe. Since 1975, AMIGOS has completed 150 mission trips to 20 countries, 17 of those trips have been to Guatemala. Both of the organizations will partner together to support each other and serve the Ixcán region in their respective ways to help build more sustainable eye care within Guatemala. EI maximizes the use of local and regional resources and builds capacity and expertise among the population in order to empower local communities. While EI is the main source of patient care for the people of the Ixcán region, Amigos Eye Care will offer a variety of resources to help build the mission of the organization. Our next scheduled collaborative trip is scheduled for August 2022.

"The underlying philosophy of Enfoque Ixcán is that the most appropriate help we have to offer is to train local people to help themselves. Our goal is to provide the training and resources which empower local health promoters and Guatemalan doctors to treat and care for their neighbors. It is our belief that improved vision and eye care substantially increase one's dignity and quality of life." – Dr. Scott Pike

ENFOQUE IXCÁN



Visit the EI website:
https://enfoqueixcan.org/

Coming Up

- We plan to organize more domestic trips in the future. Our next trip will be to Salem, OR this July.
- Our first international trip since the pandemic: Guatemala in August 2022!
- Mark your calendars: AMIGOS Eye Care will be hosting our annual **Eye Ball** on **Saturday September 17, 2022**! Stay tuned for updates.

Amazon Smile

Don't forget to continue supporting AMIGOS through Amazon Smile!
Just go to Amazon Smile and choose Amigos Eye Care as your charity. With every purchase you make, AMIGOS will receive a donation at no cost to you! (And it works with Amazon Prime!)



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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