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Engineering Students Shadow at UMMC

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Engineering Students Shadow at UMMC

Gordji and Vaughnn participated in Honors College summer program

AUGUST 27, 2014 BY RYAN UPSHAW, UM SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

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Roya Gordji and Joella Vaughnn

Two students in the School of Engineering took full advantage this summer of an opportunity to closely shadow physicians at the **University of Mississippi Medical Center**, thanks to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College's Physicians Shadowing program.

Juniors Roya Gordji, of Oxford, and Joella Vaughnn, of Rockville, Maryland, spent a month shadowing and observing physicians working in a variety of areas. The program is meant to give prospective medical students, regardless of

major, a chance to personally experience the fast-paced environment of a hospital. **The Honors College** provides stipends to assist students with living expenses in Jackson during their rotations.

"The clinical shadowing program allows potential medical students the opportunity to experience the daily life and rhythms of one or two medical fields," said John Samonds, associate dean of the Honors College. "It also exposes students to the health issues so prevalent in Mississippi."

A general engineering major, Gordji became aware of the program through the Honors College's weekly newsletter when she was a freshman.

"Engineering has a unique curriculum because of the real-world applications that exist in all areas of engineering," she said. "I think this foundation will be helpful for me because in medicine, every problem is a real-world problem. It is immediate and right in front of you, so learning how to apply the things I've learned in the classroom to actual situations will be beneficial."

Gordji and Vaughnn shadowed in the emergency and anesthesia departments in separate two-week rotations. Both observed a variety of real-life situations and interacted directly with physicians.

"The ER was fast-paced and the cases that came in were really interesting," Gordji said. "I saw cases that varied in severity from a black eye to a crushed foot. The doctors were also very happy to teach."

"In anesthesia, I spent most of my time in the operating room. I was also able to do a few hands-on things there, like manually ventilating a patient. Although I didn't know what to expect coming into the program, the entire experience was great."

A chemical engineering major, Vaughnn learned about the program after seeing it on the Honors College's website.

"I am going to need the engineering analysis tools to solve problems in medicine because medicine is not about having the perfect answer; medicine is about recognizing similarities between cases in order to help the patient as much as you can," she said.

"A student can read about pulmonary embolisms as long as they want, but they have to be trained to recognize them in patients, even if they do not present 100 percent of the symptom list."

Her experience gave her a better sense of the hospital environment and of areas that fit her interests.

"During the first two weeks in Jackson, I spent time shadowing an anesthesiologist in the operating room," Vaughnn said. "There were several different ORs that I got to visit, including the main OR, day surgery center, maternity OR and the pediatric OR."

Initially, Vaughnn planned on becoming a neurosurgeon, but after watching three different neurosurgery cases, she quickly changed her mind. Her favorite types of surgery to watch were knee, hip and shoulder replacements.

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Campus Briefs

Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's

Before participating in the physician's shadowing program, Gordji spent last summer doing computational research that involved designing tumor-targeting nanoparticles. She was able to present her research at the 2013 Mid-South Annual Engineering and Sciences Conference.

This fall, she begins research for her honors thesis. She also completed UMMC's Community Health Advocacy Program and volunteered at Northeast Mississippi Baptist Hospital ER as an ambassador for the School of Engineering.

Vaughn participated in a medical mission trip to Bolivia, where she organized a handout of reading glasses to a local tribe. She is also actively involved with the American Medical Students Association and her social sorority. Research for her honors thesis combines her interests in engineering, medicine and art.

Both students plan to apply for medical school during the upcoming academic year.

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