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Congratulations and Kudos!

DCVS Institutional Scholarship winners
- Vascular: Steven To
- Adult Echo: Chelsea Ziegler
- Pedi Echo: Ji-Won Song

Bertrand Ebang was presented with the HSNIVT Scholarship at the Holiday Meeting in December.

Saydi Wollney won a $250 Scholarship during the ACC Annual Open House.

Ashley Mello, student president of PTK, won the Soroptimist Opportunity Scholarship. The Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women in local communities and throughout the world.
Students have been busy this semester attending interpretation classes, in-services, webinars, health fairs, career days, Mended Little Hearts Walk, ACC Open House, and the Aortic Symposium.

Below: sophomore pedi echo students, Collette Mickens, James Cochran, Ashley Mello and Kourtney Brooks at the annual Holiday Meeting.

Below: freshmen students Danielle Kemendo and Angela Kristof won cash in the cash machine at ACC’s Open House!

Superhero Heart Run

Clinical Director, Sue Poston and her team, ACC Sonography Superheroes, participated in the first-ever Superhero Heart Run in March. Superheroes of all ages were invited to run, walk or fly at the Superhero Heart Run at Sugar Land Memorial Park. This Heart Run, sponsored by Mended Little Hearts of Houston, was a 2K and 5K fun run/walk, raising awareness for congenital heart defects.

Below: Freshmen students, Alexis Wittwer, Samantha Tucker and Kelly Short with Sue Poston at the Superhero Heart Run

Right: freshman student, Crystal Durham and her Superson participate in the Superhero Heart Run
From an interview with Dingzhong Yang, sophomore vascular student

Please give us a little background about yourself. How long have you been in the United States? What country did you come from?

I have been in the USA for eight years. I came from China.

What was your occupation in China? What made you decide to move to the United States?

I am a general surgeon in China. I moved to the USA due to family reasons. My wife came here for her PhD program. I visited her and we had our sons, so we decided to live here.

What struggles have you encountered as a student in a foreign country?

The main struggles have been the differences in the culture and the language.

You are a graduate of ACC DCVS program and are a registered echo technologist. Why did you decide to cross-train into Vascular?

My wife is a pathology resident, and if I take both vascular and echo, we will finish our programs at the same time. This will help us to make some major decisions. Also, my strength is my medical background. The additional registry will provide more knowledge to help more patients. I have a better chance for a job with dual registries. English language is my weakness, and school helps me to improve my English, which will help me find work in the future.

What is your favorite modality, and why?

I like Echo and vascular the same, but I like different aspects of each. I like echo because of the interesting pathology. I like vascular because I scan more parts of the body, instead of just focusing on one area.

What advice would you give to new students in the program, especially to those from another country?

If you have an issue with the English language, try your best to improve it. Communication is very important in the healthcare field. You need to develop good communication skills so you can better serve your patient. Also, it is important to learn the local culture. This will help you build your professional network associations.

SASS

The SASS Club, (Student Association of Specialized Sonography) is raising funds to help sponsor the students’ trip to the SDMS Conference this October in Dallas, TX. SASS is having a Tupperware fundraiser April 13 – April 27. To help support SASS, please visit our direct fundraising link: (http://www.tupperware.com/?fundraiser=5515746767d2239303b3dd91)

New Student Opportunities

Amy Vaughan Harshbarger and Chelsea Ziegler, sophomore Adult Echo students, recently had the opportunity to help Digisonics test and trouble-shoot their reporting system. The students spent a full clinical day with the company in Houston, beta-testing the software, looking for any problems or glitches.

Saydi Wollney, freshman pedi echo student, won a $250 scholarship at the ACC Open House.

Honors Project Presentation

Bertrand Ebang, sophomore vascular student, was chosen to present his Honors Project abstract at The College of the Mainland’s Third GCIC Creative and Academic Symposium, to be held April 24th. The symposium is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend to show your support!
From an interview with Juanita Jimenez, 2010 Vascular Graduate

What job(s) have you been doing since you graduated in 2010?

I was hired as a student by Bayshore Medical Center in December of 2009. I worked there until August of 2013, performing vascular ultrasounds. I did PRN work at the same time with Dr. Karan Bhalla, performing vascular ultrasounds and assisting during vein ablations. I met my current co-worker while doing that and was recruited by Covidien Vascular Therapies (every day at work is a job interview). I am currently a Clinical Product Manager and a Senior Field Trainer for Covidien, (a part of Medtronic) since August of 2013. I assist physicians and sonographers with the learning process of finding and treating Chronic Vein Disease. Working for the medical devices industry has been an amazing experience. I love every minute of it.

Thinking back, what did you like best about the program? What part helped prepare you the most for your job?

I liked the small classes. It makes learning more personal, and allows you to build a closer relationship with your classmates and instructors. What helped me prepare the most was the access to phenomenal clinical sites and definitely the high curriculum standards (I am very proud of ACC’s program). My job has given me the opportunity to meet and train hundreds of sonographers in the Houston area and ACC’s sonographers usually surpass the others.

What do you like most about your current position?

It gives me the liberty to build a great network among vascular sonographers, cardiologists, radiologists and surgeons in the Houston and South Texas areas. I love sharing my passion for and the ability to teach and work side by side with such an amazing group of professionals.

What advice do you have for current or future students?

Treat every day at your clinical site as a job interview – you never know who is watching. Take pride in what you do. Scan with your heart, not only with your hands. This will set you apart from other sonographers.

Vein Sites Needed!

Our accreditation requires that our students complete a competency on venous insufficiency. However, we have a very limited number of sites that perform these exams. If your site has a fair volume of these exams, please let us know! We are looking for new affiliation agreements with any vein centers where vascular students can get a specialty rotation on VRD/CVI and US guided ablation (VENEFIT).

Check us out on Facebook!
From an interview with Jeanne Patton, RVT, Director of Vascular Services, UTMB Hospitals and Clinics


Since Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston Island, tell us how your facility has made a comeback, about your lab and the locations that you are serving?

Ike forced UTMB to diversify. We took the clinics and moved them off island and brought health care to the people, rather than having them come to us. Ike, in many ways, was a blessing to UTMB, as it forced us to leave our comfort zone and explore new options.

What kinds of services and scans does your lab provide to patients and the community?

We provide both inpatient and outpatient services at UTMB in Galveston and have two additional outpatient facilities in League City. At all our facilities we provide carotid imaging, venous imaging, peripheral arterial physiological and duplex imaging exams, Hemodialysis evaluations (both preoperative and postoperative), TCD & TCDI, Renal Doppler, Mesenteric Evaluations, Aortic imaging and Neuro Sonography in partnership with the Neurodiagnostic lab and renal transplant evaluations, and numerous other vascular procedures.

UTMB Vascular Lab has a great group of qualified and professional vascular sonographers and staff. Tell us more about your team and what makes them so special?

I have been very blessed to be able to hire such a highly skilled staff, all of whom are ACC graduates. I feel that we, as employers, are fortunate to have such a wonderful resource from which to employ.

Each one of my staff is a true professional, from Alicia, our Patient Services Specialist, to our Vascular Lab Technologists: Wes Borger, Andrea Flowers, Christi Glasen-Moore, Khanh Nguyen, Shanna Perrone and Joseph Pieper. In addition, I must give praise to Dr. Michael B. Silva, Jr. our Medical Director, for his guidance and wisdom.

You have always been a great supporter of education and the students in the ACC vascular program. What is your philosophy about Sonography education?

I feel our students are the future of this profession and if I can help to educate or influence a student, I have left my "carbon footprint" on the future of this wonderful profession.

What do you see in the future for Vascular Sonography?

I feel that in the very near future we will see a career path for the expansion of the role of the Vascular Sonographer. This will allow the specialization of the sonographer, whether they wish to be a staff sonographer, take a supervisory role, or become an Advanced Practice Sonographer. I feel strongly that the time for the advanced practice sonographer has arrived and I hope to see it in the next 5-7 years.

What is one thing about your lab, staff, or job that you really want others to know?

We would like others to know how proud we all are of our lab and we look forward to moving forward in the development of new and enhanced diagnostic techniques.

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of becoming." -- Goethe
**Diane Flatland Retirement**

After more than 33 years of service, ACC Allied Health Division Chair, Diane Flatland, will be retiring in June. Diane started working at ACC in September of 1981.

Diane leaves an incredible legacy at ACC in the Respiratory Program and the other Allied Health programs. She has mentored and encouraged many students and staff. Diane was instrumental in the development of the DCVS program, as she was the one who encouraged Jessica Murphy to begin the program. Without her, DCVS would not be here!

We are hosting a retirement reception for her on **Friday May 15th from 4-6:30pm**, at ACC, S building main lobby.

We are accepting donations for a retirement gift. We are also looking for pictures and memories or stories to include at the event. If you would like to make a donation or have any photos of her you would like to share, please contact Jessica Murphy, jm Murphy@alvincollege.edu. Please pass this request to anyone who you know would like to be involved.

Please join us if you can – we would like to make this a memorable and special time for Diane.

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**CCI Cardiovascular Educators’ Forum**

CCI hosts an annual Educators’ Forum in Las Vegas, to provide educators the tools and networking opportunities that can make a difference in their programs.

Sue Poston was privileged to be invited to CCI’s 4th Annual Cardiovascular Educators’ Forum this month. This year’s theme is “Best Practices in Education” and topics include: traditional and hybrid learning environments, clinical evaluation strategies, new exam qualifications, program outcomes, and an item writing workshop.

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**Alvin Community College is an Equal Opportunity Institution**

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**Dawn McCreight Shaw, BS, RDCS, RVS, has been an instructor for ACC’s DCVS program for fourteen years! We appreciate her dedication and commitment to our students!**

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**PEDIATRIC ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY LECTURE SERIES** *final class for 2015*

1.5 CMEs for each class  
Lectures are 1.5 hours each and held every other month on Mondays, 6-7:30 pm

**COURSE CALENDAR 2015**

7/13/15 – Atrioventricular Canal Defects, Emily Lawrence, MD  
LOCATION  
Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute  
3rd Floor, Conference Room A&B, HVI 3.103  
6411 Fannin Street, Houston  
Memorial Hermann Hospital Texas Medical Center  

This lecture series is **FREE**.  
Space is limited; please RSVP by phone or email: Jessica Murphy, BS, RRT-NPS, RDCS, RVT  
ACC DCVS Program Director  
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