



The Mentorship Connection



The newsletter of the Anchorage School District Gifted Mentorship Program

Spring 2011

*A special thanks to BP, our School Business Partner,
who continues to generously provide time, talent and financial resources to this program.*



Our hearts were warmed with this particularly poignant success story involving 2010 Gifted Mentorship student Elizabeth Hunt, then a senior at Chugiak. Last year Hunt completed her placement in Petroleum Engineering with BP's Don Brown, pictured at left. This year as a freshman at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, in Rolla, MO, Hunt is reaping the benefits of her prior experience and is looking forward to wonderful opportunities in the future. Read her story, through her own emails, on page 11.

Summer Mentorship Information

The verdict is in – after much deliberation the Gifted Mentorship summer option is – on for 2011! The recent decision extends this offering for the sixth consecutive summer. This is very popular for those students who have limited time during the school year to pursue their mentorship. We will be limiting enrollment to the summer program to 50 students, with incoming seniors and first-time applicants given preference. The application deadline for this program is May 2, 2011, at 2 p.m. All application materials must be complete, along with an unofficial copy of the transcript and copy of the students PLAN, PSAT, SAT or ACT scores. The summer coordinators will be Lisa Wiley and Jean Poulsen. Mandatory training sessions for summer school will be held on May 16, from 3-5 p.m. and May 18, 5-7 p.m. in the Blue Room at the ASD Education Center, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Students are to attend one of the two sessions in order to be considered.

Mentorship Assignment Checklist

Students: Remember that you have several written obligations, in addition to your 45-60 hours with your mentor. Please complete the following assignments in a timely fashion, with the quality we'd expect from our gifted students.

- ✓ Journal, including date, hours, and a detailed summary of your activities. Include questions, thoughts and observations.
- ✓ Three written interviews with professionals in the field of your choice. (Let your coordinator know if you'd like a list of potential questions).
- ✓ An Article Review from a professional journal—see sample inside
- ✓ Your project, which demonstrates advanced learning in your mentorship field. This must be presented to an audience that at least includes your mentor, parent(s) and/or guardian(s), as well as your mentorship coordinator.
- ✓ Regular communications with your coordinator.

Mentorships for 2010-11

Bartlett

Samrie Canales
Stephanie Carlson
Brianna Egger
James Johnson
Shaylee King
Morgan Kueter
Syn Ching Lim
Brittany Luster
Nobuko Mayabin
Leslee Rogers
Ekaterina Sviridenko
Chelsea Stender
Ka Thao

Alexis Elgarico, Providence Hospital, Medical Billing and Coding
Office staff, Chester Valley Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Medicine
Katie Larson, The Alaska Zoo, Zoology
Ofc Chuck Lochart, Sgt Ted Smith, Ofc Amanda Fisher, Det Devin Cunningham, APD
Clark Mishler, Clark Mishler Photography, Photography
Alan Diamond, Alaska Aces, Athletic Training
Dr. Linda Smith, Providence Hospital, Emergency Medicine
Paula Fair and staff, Alaska Regional Hospital, Rehabilitation Nursing
Maria Downey, KTUU, Broadcast Journalism
Jane Barber, Hospice of Anchorage's Forget-Me-Not Program, Sociology
Leslee Johnson, Alaska Spine Institute, Orthopedic Medicine
Rosey Robards, ATMI, Graphic Design
Roger A. Motzko, Federal Aviation Administration, Aeronautical Engineering

Benny Benson

Astrid Watsjold
Dr. Gwen Lupfer-Johnson, UAA, Psychological Research

Chugiak

Brandon Boyer
Jamie Boyle
Olivia Bowen
Conner Cimmiyotti
Bradley Cruickshanks
Dakota Emery
Susan Fleurant
Rachel Fore
Emily Geppert
Jeremy Guiley
Laila Hansen
Jessica Jones
Karlee Kavanaugh
Isaac Lammers
Kristen Lessard
Megan Martin
Patrick Mullett
Nikki O'Hara
Kalyn Price
Marina Richter
Jeremy Sieg
Janelle Stacy
Kensy Timberlake
Nicole Warner
Thorleif Watsjold
Isaac Wolf

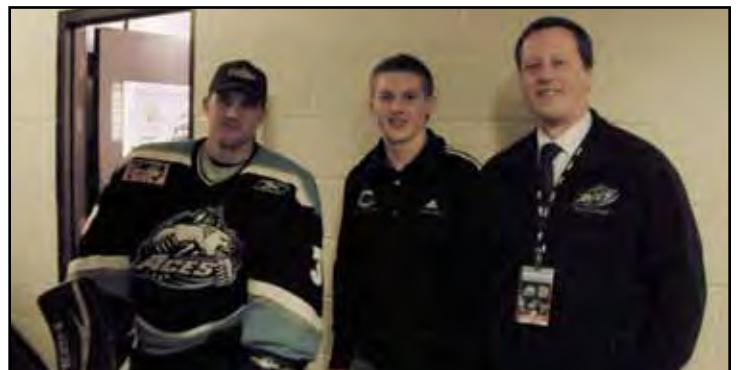
Lise Falskow, Alaska World Affairs Council, International Relations
Kate Neary, Mark Hopkin, Pocaro Communications, Marketing
Michael Foster, Michael Foster & Associates, Civil Engineering
Matt Tunseth, Alaska Star, Sports Journalism
Mark Harvey, BP Alaska, Petroleum Engineering
Cpt. Chris Miller, Anchorage Police Department, Forensics
Melanie Margenau, Providence Hospital, Pediatric Physical Therapy
Libby Clayton, BP Alaska, Chemical Engineering
Gordon Thompson, Cole & Thompson Architect, Architecture
Mitch Mork, BP Alaska, Civil Engineering
Mark Lange, Select Physical Therapy, Physical Therapy
Dr. David Moeller, Providence Hospital, Radiology
Linda Dubey, Providence Hospital, Mother/Baby Nursing
Winston Burbank, BP Alaska, Engineering
Dr. Peter Lorentzen, Alaska Chiropractic and Therapy, Physical Therapy
Noreen Beckett, Providence Hospital, NICU Nursing
Dr. Jeff Moore, AK Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine, Orthopedics
Dr. Kathy McCue, Alaska Native Medical Center, Emergency Medicine
Dr. Jeffrey Keene, Vision Therapy Center, Optometry
Joanne Fosdick, Eagle River Physical Therapy, Physical Therapy
Jared Crawford, AK Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine, Physician Asst.
Laura Crawford, Providence Hospital, Critical Care
Dr. Linda McBryde, PAAMG, Anesthesiology
Dr. Susan Wagon, Ravenwood Veterinary Clinic, Veterinary Medicine
Dr. John Hanley, Providence Hospital, Emergency Medicine
JoAnne Lopez, Anchorage Police Department, Crime Lab

MENTORSHIPS continued

Dimond

Cortney Anderson	Spencer Shroyer, Anchorage Daily News, Journalism
Francisco Beltran	Kyle Volf, BP Engineer
Erik Bronczyk	Katherine Keith, WiDAC Coordinator, Renewable Engineering
Jinchul Cha	Dr. Cindy Knall, UAA, Scientific Research
Michael Chang	Dr. Boisen, AK Digestive Center
Jin Chong	Dale Smythe, USKH, Architect
Joanne Chung	Cherry Supalla, R.N., Providence Pediatric Ward
John Corr	Jon Rygh R.N, ANMC, Anesthesiology
Takeah Dollison	Joe Hickel, Captain Cook Hotel, Pastry Chef
Trevor Doxsee	August Asay, FAA, Aeronautical Engineering
Ingrid Dye	Erynn Smith, Anchorage Concert Association
Andrew French	Nick Stadnicky, BP Engineer
Lilian Ghotmi	Dr. Bill Kutchera, AK Heart Institute, Cardiologist
Esther Glasionov	Kory Joyner, Superstar Pastry Design, Pastry Chef
Xiunell Gomez	Leslie Shallcross, UAF Cooperative Extension, Dietician
Jessie Herring	Dr. Riley Wilson, The Pet Stop, Veterinary Medicine
Masa Hu	Katherine Keith, WiDAC Coordinator, Renewable Engineering
Myla Hummel	Dr. McNamara, Orthopedic Surgeon
Kosette Isakson	Rosey Robards, Alaska Teen Media Institute, Broadcast/Design
Andrew Kellard	Walter Dinkins, Baker Hughes, Engineering
Sheema Lee	Barbara Brink, AK Public Defense and Investigation
Vivian Lee	Dr. Laura Schulz, Providence Pediatric Oncology
Anna London	Mo Hillstrand, N.P., Neurology
Katelyn Lovs	Andrea Jingo, R.N., Providence Neurology Ward
Devan Madregan	Charlene DiFilippo, Providence Dietician
Blake McCarthy	Dr. Liz Lane, Ophthalmology
Kylie Moore	Dr. Gwen Lupfer-Johnson, UAA, Psychology
Sagan Osborne	Chris Volk, UAA, Athletic Trainer
Tonya Parish	Jessica Cederberg, USKH, Architect
Willie Phillips	John Polonowski, United Physical Therapy
Christina Schock	Dr. Rhene Merkouris, OBGYN
Samantha Spraker	Dee Buchanon, CIRI, Marketing
Art Sukanthanag	Dr. Kenton Stephens, Denali Cardiac Thoracic Surgery
Melissa Taylor	Danette Robinson, R.N., Alaska Regional Hospital
Janelle Von Birgelen	Matt Block, Lane Powell PC, Corporate Lawyer
Samuel Warner	Adam Wilson, RSA Engineering
Dominique Watson	Trevor Hyatt, BP Engineer
Charmaine Yutuc	Mike Dodge, Hot Stixx Restaurant, Chef/ Business Owner

Chugiak senior Pat Mullett poses with orthopedic surgeon Jeff Moore and Alaska Aces goalie Jeff Barney after a recent game at the Sullivan Arena. Mullett, who was able to fit in a mentorship amidst his second-place finish in state wrestling, shadowed Moore, the team's official head physician. Moore's office, Alaska Orthopedic and Sports Medicine, mentored three students this year.



MENTORSHIPS continued

Eagle River

Rebecca Boggs
Alex Gibbs
Darion Heald
Amanda Kelsey
Veronica Morthorpe
Hayley Patin
Evan Schmidt
Samantha Wenzel

Jesse Rosenbaum, BP Alaska, Civil Engineering
Col Michael Mote, JBER, Aviation
Emanuel Hignutt, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Biochemistry
Det. Jackie Conn, Anchorage Police Department, Detective
Kim Skipper and Rep. Anna Fairclough, Politics
Dr. William Heagy, Alaska Oral Surgery Group, Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Tom Hepler, LaTouche Pediatrics, Pediatric Medicine
Joy Leedham, Home Optics, Small Business/Marketing

East Anchorage

Blaine Bronga
John Columbus
Rebecca Farr
Courtney Gerken
Min Joo Kim
Sara Junge
Mariah Knox
Julia Rumley

Dr. Travis Rector, UAA, Astronomy
Bruce Hopper, USKH, Structural Engineering
PET Emergency Staff, Veterinary Medicine
Christine Irwin, College Gate Elementary, Special Education
Dr. George Rhyneer, Rhyneer Clinic, Orthopedic Medicine
Jolene Peterson and Heather Anderson, Providence Hospital, Pediatric Nursing
Jo Michalski, Portfolio and Classic Woman, Fashion Design
Tommy Jenkins, Alaska Regional Hospital, Microbiology

Family Partnership

Zane Burgess
Sam Johnson
Sarah Johnson

Michael Ardaizn & Chris Ryan-Clarke, Mad Dogg Graphix, Graphics Arts
Santosh Patil, BP Engineer
Julie Decker, The International Gallery of Art, Fine Arts

Polaris

Levi Betz
Jesse Burke
Lindsey Dudley
Kivalina Grove
Nico Hewitt
Mackenzie Northrop
Katherine Oliver
Jessica Randolph
Natalie Wilson
Christina Young

Kirby Kauffman, Mirror Studios, Sound Engineering
Mike McGaughey, FM Studios, Sound Engineering
Tom Bowerman, Willowcrest Elementary, Music Education
Bob Thompson, Porcaro Communications, Graphic Design
Mike Mense, Architecture
Joy Backstrum, The Physical Therapy Place
Nils Andreassen, Institute of the North, International Relations
Marylee Miller, ASD, Educator for the Blind/Visually Impaired
Audrey Burke, Alaska Perinatology Assoc., Genetic Counseling
Dr. Christine Hanson, UAA, Forensic Anthropology

SAVE

Raphael Garcia

Pete Tryon, South Anchorage High, Computer Technology



South junior Cale Clingenpeel stands alongside U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski as part of his mentorship with Alaska State Representative Gail Phillips. Murkowski successfully defended her position as senator in the general election after losing to Joe Miller in the primaries.



Dimond junior Kylie Moore laughs it up with her mentor, UAA Psychology professor Dr. Gwen Lupfer-Johnson.

MENTORSHIPS continued

Service

Tess Hamilton Bay	Patrick Flynn, Anchorage Assembly, Politics
Su Chon	Rosie Robards, ATMI, Film & Media Production
Gavyn Duthie	Dr. Paul White, UAA, Archeology
Celeste Hamre	Ellen Arvold, Second Time Around, Fashion/Business
Lisa Hawkins	Michael Buzinski, Buzzbizz Studios, Music Production
Piyanuch Homsanit	George Loertscher, Geneva Woods, Pharmacy
Alex Kim	Dr. Andrea Eberle Keene, Eberle Eyecare, Optometry
Debbie Kim	Rita Grenier, Providence Extended Care, Pharmacy
Scotti Su LeClaire	Katie Piraino, The Physical Therapy Place, Physical Therapy
Jane Piraino	Nils Andreassen, Institute of the North, International Relations
Megan Seaman	Roy Howard PA-C, AK Family Medicine, Dermatology
Debora Yoon	Dr. Jeff Symonnds, Anchorage Orthodontics Association, Orthodontics

South Anchorage

Ross Alexander	Dr. Roaten, Pediatric Surgeon
Jordan Batac	Jenny Jemison, BP Engineer
Joe Bredar	Garret Wong, Financial Planner
Tara Brodie	Olivia Bommarito, BP Engineer
Cale Clingenpeel	Gail Phillips, Campaign for Senator Lisa Murkowski
Josh Crapps	Dr. Seth Krauss, Cardiologist
Dalton Dietrich	Chris Curry, MOA, Computer Programming
Sara Falcone	Suege Omnik, ASRC, Chemical Engineer
Bonnie Gale	Dr. Judith Whitcomb, General Surgeon
Victor Gonzalez	James Wolfe, Forensic Scientist
Chloe Harlig	Tam Agosti-Gisler, Marketing/PR, School Business Partnership
Taylor Kaser	Dr. Sandy Talbot, USGS, Genetic Scientist
William Krolick	Lynne Young, OPA, Athletic Trainer
Rufina Kwon	Rich Pribyl, Dowl / HKM, Engineer
Linda Lee	Jim Simper, Providence, Pharmacist
Gabrielle Markel	Dr. Susie Dietz, Providence, E.R.
Linden Montague	Rhoda Essary, Catholic Social Services
Isaac Perry	Trevor Palaniuk, BP Engineer
Lindsey Rountree	Jessica Powell, R.N., Providence, Neonatal Intensive Care
Andy Schafer	Scott Gruhn / Samantha Spindler, BBFM Engineers
Max Waugaman	Jeff Gries, Coffman Engineering
John Whitworth	Matt Szundy, The Ascending Path, Film Production

Chugiak High senior Nicole Warner enjoys a Kodak moment with mentor Dr. Susan Wagon, owner of Ravenwood Veterinary Clinic in Eagle River. Warner recently presented her final presentation, on the importance of veterinarians globally, to nearly a dozen staff members at the clinic. Wagon, herself an ASD graduate, has mentored several students in the Chugiak-Eagle River area along with college students seeking internships.



MENTORSHIPS continued

Steller Secondary

Erin Aguero
Chelsea Beardsley
Michaela Carey
Anna Miller
Hannah Ward
Julie Adelman
Emily Saul
Kari Pedersen
Steven Cassell

Dr. Steven Y. Liu, Alaska Oncology and Hematology, LLC, Cancer Research
Alisha I. Weiss, KBP Architects, Interior Design
Laura Kelly and staff, Pet Emergency, Veterinary Medicine
Lynne A. Lucher & Stephanie C. Massay, Alaska State Health Laboratories, Microbiology
Amanda Benson & Sara Smith, Mountain View Elementary, Elementary Education
Amy Cook, Providence Hospital, Nursing – Emergency Medicine
Margi Clifford, Providence, Therapy
Amy Barney, Providence Hospital, Nursing – Emergency Medicine
Travis Peltier, BP Exploration, Alaska, Petroleum Engineering

West

Jessie Benedict
Maia Claman
Leny Diaz
TeShonda Hall
Alexa Hanley
Alison Lubeck
Elisha Powell
Victoria Smith
Morgan Summers
Angela Lee
Jenna Billington
Annie Liotta
Erin Fejes
Erin Fejes
Rachael Pierce
Rudy Sirri-Aconwi Abam
Sydney Treuer
Hadley Underwood
Amber Weimer
Morgan Weimer

Dr. Jerome List, Alaska Ear, Nose & Throat, ENT Medicine
Eva Carey, Providence Hospital, Emergency Medicine
Patty Underwood, Inlet View Elementary, Elementary Education
Birgit Lenger, Naturopathy/Dr. J.C. Cates, Northwest Medical, General Practice
Stacey Lord, All For Kids Pediatric Therapy, Occupational/Physical Therapy
Janis Fleischman & Jerry Lewanski, Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop, Culinary Arts
Dr. Joseph Seelig, Alaska Regional Hospital, Anesthesiology
Michael Dinneen, Michael Dinneen Photography, Photography
College Village Veterinary Clinic, Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Kenton Stephens, Denali Cardiac Thoracic Surgery
Shane Moore, Spenard Roadhouse, Culinary Arts
Mike Kutyba, Evergreen Aviation, Aviation Science
Lisa Falskow, AK World Affairs Council, International Relations
Stephanie Johnson, Bear Tooth Grill, Business Management
Dr. Patricia Payne, Alaska Veterinary Clinic, Veterinary Medicine
Rex Butler, Rex Lemond Butler & Associates, Law
Jocelyn Krebs PhD, UAA, Biology Science
Kim Kloecker, USGS, Marine Biology
Peter W. Crimp, Alaska Energy Authority, Environmental Engineering
Peter W. Crimp, Alaska Energy Authority, Environmental Engineering



Service's Debora Yoon is all masked up and good to go, shadowing mentor Dr. Jeff Symonnds of Anchorage Orthodontics Association.



Eagle River High senior Samantha Wenzel poses with Small Business/Marketing mentor Joy Leedham of Home Optics, following Wenzel's presentation to the King Career Center Business Marketing class.

Calling all mentors...

...both previous and future

Mentors are the lifeblood of this program. There would be no successes without the mentors. So this plea is directed both to thank those who have participated, and continue to take part, and to recruit others to engage in shaping the lives of our gifted high school students. And while it may seem that one is preaching to the choir, the hope is that you mentors, and you parents and other professionals reading this now, may consider enlarging your scope of influence and assisting in the task. This is a networking business, of bringing in additional leaders willing to lead others. Let's face it, life is networking; it's all about the relationships we make and later cherish.

In light of our near exponential growth, nearly 50 percent in the past two years, we are finding that we need additional mentors, both to relieve the burden on current professionals and to bring in new individuals who are passionate about their careers and are willing to share their fervor with the leaders of tomorrow.

We have found that future mentors are much more easily convinced to join the ranks if they have received a personal endorsement of the program from one who has seen and

experienced, if only vicariously, the benefit of mentorships. The results are amazing - like the success story of Elizabeth Hunt (front cover, page 10).

So, please consider being a mentor or speak to someone else about being a mentor. We are always looking for new folks.

It remains our intention that this will be a mutually beneficial experience for both mentor and mentee.

Our contact information is at the back of this newsletter. Please don't hesitate. Make an impact and change a life—it might be your own.

Dr. William Mills

The Gifted Mentorship department would like to offer their condolences to the family and associates on the recent passing of mentor Dr. William Mills.

Dr. Mills was the owner and board member of Orthopedic Physicians Anchorage, a long-standing contributor to this program.



Service High senior Tessa Hamilton Bay completed a mentorship in politics with Anchorage Assemblyman Patrick Flynn.



South Anchorage High senior Victor Gonzalez assists forensic scientist James Wolfe after making footprint casts.

Student Spotlight

Amidst busy high school years, Boyer added mentorship opportunity – three of them



Chugiak senior Brandon Boyer flanks Dr. Gerhard Kuska, President and CEO of Ocean Strategies, following his presentation, “Marine and Coastal Management in Abu Dhabi; Toward Sustainable Diversification” hosted by the Alaska World Affairs Council in January. Boyer completed his third mentorship this spring, working with AWAC Executive Director Lise Falskow. Falskow and AWAC have averaged two mentorship students annually for the last few years.

Although the urban legend remains at five mentorships in this program, soon-to-graduate Chugiak High senior Brandon Boyer has finished three in the last two years. Don’t be misled, he wanted an additional one but was edged out of last summer’s program, as those first-timers took preference over those looking to further expand their horizons through career exploration opportunities.

But the three placements, one with criminal defender Rex Butler, another at BP, and his current placement with

Lise Falskow at Alaska World Affairs Council, Boyer is certainly a rolling stone – and according to recent GEICO commercials – one that gathers no moss.

Additionally he has been the Student Body President for Chugiak High the past two years, a Student Advisory Board representative since 2006, and has been the Student Representative to the Anchorage School Board for the last two years. On January 31, he gave testimony to the Alaska State Senate Finance Committee accompanying members of the ASD Board for their trip to Juneau. His comments and picture made the front page of the Juneau Empire the following morning.

Anchorage School District Superintendent Carol Comeau added praise to Boyer, acknowledging his contribution to the district and the benefits he has gained through a broad high school experience including gifted mentorship placements.

“Brandon Boyer is one of the most outstanding and well-rounded students who I have had the pleasure of knowing. He has been a pas-

sionate advocate for high levels of academics, as well as for students to have a real voice in the decisions of the Anchorage School District that directly affect the students. He excels in public speaking, and advocacy for a range of projects, most recently before the Alaska Legislature and for the Teen Underground Project at Loussac Library. Brandon assisted with our very successful budget dialogues this past December by leading the effort to insure that students’ voices were incorporated into our budget discussions. He has thrived with his various gifted mentorships each summer, and I know he will be a very successful college student, and leader of the future!” said Comeau.

Other extracurricular commitments involves athletics – baseball, bowling, tennis and hopefully soccer this spring, along with drama, debate and forensics his sophomore year.

Currently at the Alaska World Affairs Council, Boyer is taking advantage of the placement meeting local, national and global personalities, including ambassadors, consuls, and former State Department members.

“Brandon came to us with the charge of getting the word out about the Alaska World Affairs Council. Brandon’s enthusiasm and eagerness to learn about the Alaska World Affairs Council immediately impressed us. I look forward to hearing about the direction Brandon’s future runs and about all of the great experiences he encounters along the way,” said Falskow, the AWAC’s Executive Director.

Brandon is the son of David and Permyot Boyer of Chugiak, Alaska.

Editor’s note. Brandon Boyer will be the featured student keynote speaker at the Gifted Mentorship program’s year-end reception at East High on April 8. Don’t miss him and the words of wisdom gleaned from his three mentorships.

Mentor Spotlight

With warm remembrances of mentors past, Dr. Whitcomb continues the legacy with ASD students



Dr. Judith Whitcomb looks up, as does mentee Bonnie Gale, a South Anchorage High senior, after looking at x-rays on a lightboard in the general surgeon's office at Providence Hospital. Whitcomb is a longtime mentor in our program, working with more than a dozen students over the years. Gale finished her requirements this spring, her second mentorship placement.

Anchorage's Providence Hospital, Whitcomb exudes the familiarity of a country doctor, with a penchant for thorough, personable care.

After a two-year stint in the Peace Corp in West Africa working with Public Health, Whitcomb established a broad base of knowledge, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (Biology) and Masters in Public Health prior to her M.D. degree and residency in New York City. After finishing her training in 1980, she was accepted on staff at Providence and Alaska Regional Hospitals in 1980 and has been here ever since.

Whitcomb has been the go-to person for the district's Gifted Mentorship placements in surgery, said longtime coordinator Lisa Wiley.

"Judy has mentored one of our students nearly each year for almost twenty years. She's one of most dedicated mentors. She goes the extra mile for our students, inspiring them about how to be a talented surgeon as well as a devoted mother. She's especially interested in working with our senior female students for this reason. She's also warm, funny, and incredibly easy for our students to be with. She invites them to the operating room, the clinic, and even for her weekly walk on Flattop. We are so lucky to have Judy as one of our incredible mentors in our cadre," said Wiley.

South Anchorage High senior Bonnie Gale agrees with Wiley, her school's coordinator.

"Dr. Whitcomb is very dedicated to her pro-

fession and to her patients," said Gale.

Whitcomb said she delights in providing students with insights into medicine and appreciates the opportunity of developing a long-lasting rapport with her mentorship students.

"I want them to feel that I will always be a resource for them," she said.

Most of her former mentees have kept in touch, with many continuing to become doctors themselves.

Whitcomb said the mentorship experience is just what students who are searching for a passion and a purpose need.

"I think it's important for them to throw themselves into it – to get as much of an experience in it as possible," she said.

Whitcomb likes to give her students a full exposure.

"I like my students to go on a surgical rotation – to be there for the pre-op, surgery and the follow-up. It's something they will never forget," she said.

Dr. Whitcomb said she sees the field of medicine expanding. "And the opportunities are bigger every day. It's like Columbus discovering a new world – it's so exciting."

With specialty fields on the rise, she said that medicine has to be a "team-approach."

The concept leaves room for both the generalist and the specialist.

"To be a good doctor, you need to like science and like being inquisitive. And you must really, really like people. There is room in medicine for any type of personality," she said.

But for her, patient care is paramount.

"When you accept a patient, you have to be willing to go all the way with them. If they are in the hospital, and might need me (for a surgery), if I have to sleep in the hospital that night, I will," she asserted.

South's Bonnie Gale and dozens of other prior mentorship students have been grateful for Whitcomb's example.

Sample article review

Jordan Batac
Senior, South Anchorage High
Engineering Placement with Jenny Jemison
BP Exploration Alaska
January 2, 2011

Odizuru-Abangwu, I. (2010). Biofuels: Green Energy for the Century?, SPE 140626, presented at 34th Annual SPE International Conference and Exhibition in Tinana-Calabar, Nigeria, 31 July – 7 August 2010.

Summary:

The main topic of the article is renewable resources, more specifically biofuels. Biofuels are renewable energies, or fuels, that are created from biomass. Biomass, or organic matter, are from substances such as plants and agriculture/commercial/industrial waste. Each biofuel can be categorized into three groups. The first group, or the first-generation, are commercially produced using conventional technology and include biofuels such as bioethanol and biodiesel; which are created from food bases such as seeds and oil palm. The second-generation category is biofuels that are created from non-food sources like waste biomass. Lastly, the third-generation biofuels are biofuels such as oilgae; which is made from aquatic cultivation, but aren't that relevant; hence, aren't produced highly. As seen through world matters, the article reminds us about the high, and increasing, demand for energy. The immense usage of fossil fuels in countries like China and India create troublesome side effects including pollution, emission of greenhouse gases, and scarcity support the need of renewable and more "greener" ways of energy. The article's usage of data from IEA clearly shows how the demand increase expected of 40% between 2007 and 2030, 10% will be fulfilled through biomass. Through another set of data where action has been taken to limit long-term concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to 450ppm of carbon dioxide equivalent, it can be seen that a third of the energy source in 2030 will be from renewable energy, which biomass will contribute 50%. These statements signify just how significant biofuels are to the upcoming events. The article also emphasizes the desire for biofuels through other benefits of biofuels. The fact that they are more carbon neutral than fossil fuels is one of these advantages. Although they use up fossil fuels or fertilizers when being produced, data proves that there is a carbon emissions savings in biofuel production. Another benefit was the solution to problems in energy usage in the transportation industry. Examples of this ideal include biofuels such as biodiesel, which can be used in existing combustion engines of cars without huge modifications and blended fuels. One of the most significant positive effects of biofuels is its impact on the economy. Due to the increase in agriculture that would be needed, many jobs opportunities would open up and farmers would also gain. Despite its great attributes, the article states its negative effects too. One of these is the fact that food is used for production of first-generation biofuels; hence, food supply would be shortened and poverty and food price inflation would raise. Another problem is how much land would be sufficient enough to create crops for biofuels without endangering natural habitats and the environment itself. Lastly the growing of crops need irrigation; therefore, creating competition for water resources where water is already scarce. All these contradictions have to be taken at hand and seen if biofuels are a greener way to produce energy for the future.

Personal response:

I personally was very fond of this article because it went into more depth in the issue than I expected. I never knew that there were so many types of biofuels; and what biofuels were also a mystery to me. The growing demand for energy which links back to my mentorship of petroleum engineering considers an alternate path as we move forward. The fact that this issue can be seen easily and repeatedly in reality shows the high concern of the future. I always hear things about gas prices rising, global warming, and such everyday around me, yet I never really knew the significance of the conflict. The most shocking concept I believe the article talked about were the negative effects of biofuels. Throughout my life, especially now, people have persuaded me to recycle and go green to save the Earth; yet even these actions themselves cause problems. This article made me consider just how much change and impact the petroleum industry is going to have on us throughout our lives.

Success story

From: Hunt, Elizabeth A. (S&T-Student)
To: Morse_David
Subject: Gifted Mentorship Program

Dear Mr. Morse,

I was selected to mentor at BP with Mr. Don Brown during the last school year, if you remember.

I decided to come to school at Missouri S&T in Rolla, MO, and I just wanted to let you know how much the mentorship has benefitted me during my freshman year.

I attended the Fall career fair in August, and talked to three oil companies, ConocoPhillips, Williams, and Exxon. These companies usually do not interview or hire freshman. However, I was made the exception because of my previous experience working in the industry, among other reasons. I got called the night of the career fair by Conoco and Williams for an interview the next day, which they reserve for outstanding candidates. Then, when Conoco came back a couple of weeks later, the head recruitment officer took students who had previously interned with Conoco and candidates they were strongly considering out to dinner. I was the only freshman; the other students were juniors and seniors. The next morning, I received an offer for an internship in the San Juan basin in Farmington, New Mexico!

I just like to let you know how much of an impact my mentorship had on me. And I'd also like to personally thank you for selecting me for the Gifted Mentorship. Hopefully you can use this story to show students how valuable a mentorship is.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hunt

UPDATE:

Two weeks after I received my Conoco offer, I received another from Williams in Tulsa, OK. I was the first freshman to be offered an internship within their company in three years. However, I had already accepted Conoco's offer.

After my first semester, I had a cumulative GPA of 4.00/4.00. I am taking four more credit hours this semester, but I hope to do just as well.

For the students currently in the program: Make the most of it. When you meet with your mentor, ask questions, take notes, and listen. Although the post writings may seem pointless, they anchor the knowledge you've learned that day. Also, the end of the year presentation is a great experience. It is a chance to make future contacts in your desired field and impress others about how much you've learned. Within the first semester, I have taken information from my journal, notes, and presentation a handful of times. During your freshman year, attend the career fair and be confident in yourself and your abilities. Companies look for future leaders, and it's best to start your freshman year.

Dates to remember

- May 2:** Summer School Mentorship Application deadline, 2 p.m., at your home high school
May 16: Summer School Mentorship Mandatory Training Session, 3–5 p.m., ASD Ed Center, Blue Room
May 18: Summer School Mentorship Mandatory Training Session, 5–7 p.m., ASD Ed Center, Blue Room



Dimond High senior Art Sukanthanag dons scrubs alongside mentor Dr. Kenton Stephens, a cardiothoracic surgeon with Denali Cardiac/Thoracic, operating at Providence Hospital. Dr. Stephens has been an ongoing mentor in our program.

Anchorage School District Education Center

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Gifted Education

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