



**SUMMER 2012**

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### PROVIDERS

Tom Leeson, DO  
Anne Leeson, DO  
Elizabeth Lagana, MD  
Susan Caplan, FNP  
Jodie Kaufman, FNP, CMN  
Bryn Sewell, FNP  
Kathryn Booth NP  
Gabriel Garcia, RN  
John Jacobs RN  
Andrea Blanchette, RN  
Vanessa Derosby, RN  
Morgan Bickerstaff, RN  
Celeste Calkins RN  
Celena Turmel Morin RN  
Jonathan Olesen, AT  
Rolinda Mitchell, AT

### INTERPRETERS

Emily Summit  
Lisa Dickey  
John Coit  
Jason Clark  
Maria Crouch  
Terri Bennett Hoops  
Kelly Maiche

### SUPPORT

Molly Radis  
James Hoffman- EMT  
Kayla Ferrara  
David Hoops  
Briannah Wight  
Taylor Watson  
Hannah Turmel  
Liam Caplan

### FACULTY AND TRIP STAFF

Whitney Lutz, PNP - Trip Leader  
Jean Burton, NP- Trip Leader  
Lois Tiedeken, NP- Trip Leader  
Ben Towne, MA ATC –Safety Officer  
Daniel Wendel, RN – Equipment Manager  
Patricia Ingwerson– Safety Officer Assistant



## VOLUNTEERS

## Emily Summitt



Hola! I am Emily Summitt from Denton, Texas. This summer will be my fourth trip as in interpreter/intake person. I am married with 4 kids -- two boys adopted from Russia and 2 girls adopted from China. I work part-time for the local school district as an English as a Second Language teacher for adults. I really enjoy traveling and learning about other people and countries. I love seeing some of the same volunteers and same villagers year after year.

## John Jacobs, RN



This is my 4<sup>th</sup> trip with the PRHDR. The question of hometown is a challenging one. I have my home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, but I am very rarely there. I am in school at Wright State University working toward my Family Nurse Practitioner degree but it is a mostly online program so I am there less than I'm in Colorado. I currently work as a travel nurse so that as well leads me to have a difficult time answering the question of where I work. I spend a lot of time working in Rhode Island and at times in the Boston area. I like to tell people I have worked in 7 hospitals and 3 countries in the last 2 years mostly because it sounds interesting. I spend my free time when I have it traveling the world and learning to kite surf. So now that I have given very vague answers to all the standard questions, you will find I am very talkative so feel free to ask me any questions you have when we are working together in the DR.

## **Rolinda Mitchell, ATC**



Rolinda graduated from the University of Southern Maine in December '09. She began working with Salem Sports and Rehab (Salem, NH) in June '10 as an Athletic Trainer in the clinic and as the Athletic Trainer at Pelham High School (Pelham, NH).

Her first trip with PRHDR was in January 2010 when she was a student at USM. Due to her compassion for others and from falling in love with the culture and people of the Dominican Republic, she decided to return. This will be her second trip as an ATC, third overall.

## **Tom Leeson, D.O.**



Tom Leeson D.O. is an osteopathic family physician at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Community Health Center in Lebanon, NH. Tom is married to Anne Jones-Leeson D.O., who both volunteered as providers on the PRHDR Winter 2011 trip. Tom also volunteered in January 2012. They have also worked internationally in Port au Prince, Haiti in May 2011 with a team of physicians from Maine. Tom has worked as a rural Emergency Department physician at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta and Waterville, and the Jackman Regional Health Center in northern Maine. In addition to primary care, he currently teaches first year medical students at Dartmouth Medical School, enjoys cooking, volleyball, and his new hobby: fly fishing.

## **Anne C. Jones-Leeson, DO**



Anne graduated from Cornell University in 2004 from Arts and Sciences, with a major in Neurobiology & Behavior. She completed medical school at UMDNJ -School of Osteopathic Medicine where she was involved in student leadership and community service. She completed a rurally-based family medicine residency and was chief resident at the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency. Now, she is completing her MPH degree at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and practices primary care in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire. She is on faculty at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth (formerly Dartmouth Medical School), making medical practice, learning and teaching paramount in her career.

Her idol in medicine is Dr Quinn Medicine Woman which is what lead her to primary care and rural medicine. She has always found international health to be enriching to her life, an opportunity to learn and give at the same time. She's been to Jamaica and Haiti on medical service trips throughout her training, and volunteered with PRHDR on the January 2011 trip. PRHDR is a unique opportunity to put her training to use with a population who needs and respects the service we provide while at the same time teaching a motivated and well-trained group of healthcare students.



## John Coit



John first joined the PHRDR trip as an interpreter in January of 2007. Since he has graduated a Spanish/Government major from Bowdoin college and transitioned into teaching high school Spanish at the Hill School in Pennsylvania. John has lived and worked in Spain and Argentina, particularly enjoying his time as a tennis pro in Alicante. John returns to the PHRDR trip remembering the strong relationships he formed with other nurses, doctors, interpreters, and the genuine impact the trip had on the local communities. In his free time, John enjoys playing squash and tennis, sailing, and running.

## **Bryn Sewell, FNP**



Greetings, all! I'm Bryn Sewell, and this will be my second trip to the Dominican Republic. My first trip was as an accelerated RN student, in January of 2006, and it was one of the most influential experiences of my student tenure. While it wasn't my first trip abroad, it was the first time I had seen such abject poverty. It was also a very clear reminder that there is an absolute correlation between socio-economic status and health. Period. I understood better why trips like the one I was on are so important, both for the patients and for the providers.

It is with great pleasure that I am returning this August! I'm now living in Boston, and working in a busy adult internal medicine practice. I'm also an avid hiker, reader and swimmer, and have been working on teaching myself how to knit in my spare time. My Spanish is... functional? I can get a basic idea across, but will be grateful that there are going to be translators!

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you!

## Susan Caplan, FNP



Dr. Susan Caplan is an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Maine, College of Nursing and Health Professions. She is passionate about immigrant/refugee health and global health. Her research interests include mental health services delivery, cultural competency and Latino health issues. Her work, "A Description of Spiritual, Supernatural and Psychological Causal Beliefs about Depression among Dominican, Ecuadorian and Colombian immigrants in Primary Care" was recently presented at "Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Celebrating 50 Years of Interdisciplinary" at Yale University, New Haven, CT, November, 2009 and at "Achieving Global Goals through Innovation" April 19, 2009, an annual Global Health Conference sponsored by Unite For Sight at Yale University, New Haven, CT. Susan has been on a health service trip to the Dominican Republic in 2008 with the Yale Alumni service tours.

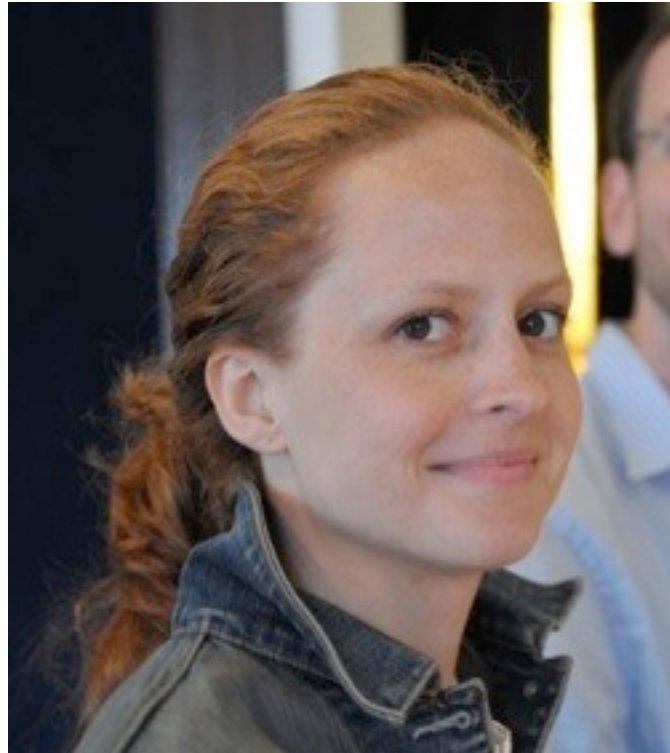
## **Jodie Kaufman, RN, CNM, FNP**



Hello, My name is Jodie Kaufman. I am a Certified Nurse Midwife, and will be completing my Post-Master's Certificate program as a Family Nurse Practitioner in March 2012. I have been blessed with the opportunity of joining PRHDR in 2003 and 2009-both experiences were life-changing, humbling, and rewarding.

The multiple life experiences gained from volunteering have given me deep appreciation for the diverse and fulfilling vocation of nursing.

## **Lisa Dickey**



Lisa has been involved with PRHDR as an interpreter since she was a college student in 1999. She is originally from Puerto Rico and grew up in Latin America. As a result of her experiences in the Dominican Republic she got a Master of Public Health from Boston University in International Health in 2004. Since 2009 Lisa has been living and working in hospitals abroad, with her husband. Lisa currently lives in Saint-Marc, Haiti and works at a hospital jointly run by Partners in Health and the Haitian Ministry of Health.

## **Jonathan Olesen, AT**



Jon made his first trip with PRHDR as a student in the International Service Learning in Athletic Training program at the University of Southern Maine in December of 2011. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Athletic Training in May of 2012, and became a BOC certified Athletic Trainer in the same month. Jon looks forward to continue working with PRHDR in the future both to provide international healthcare, and to share the life changing experience of this trip with other students and healthcare professionals.

## **Andrea Blanchette, RN**



Andrea graduated with a BSN in 2010 from the University of Southern Maine. She attended the 2010 Winter trip as a student and has been anxious to return to the DR since! She has missed the long, hot days full of prepping, assessing, helping, and eating (not so great) cheese sandwiches! Andrea has been working at Albany Medical Center for the past 2 years on their Neurosciences Unit. Caring for the neuro population has taught her many valuable clinical and assessment skills. She looks forward to meeting all of the great personalities on the trip and experiencing the DR!

## **Vanessa Derosby, RN**



My name is Vanessa DeRosby. I am first and foremost a mother of three amazing children and I am an RN. I work in the intensive care as a staff nurse after many years on a medical surgical floor; I am loving the challenges that have come along with this change!

As a young adult, I travelled a lot in the US; hitchhiking and bussing from border to border with my sister and friends; listening to good music, seeing new places and loving the adventure and excitement of the road and the unknown! Although since then I have settled down somewhat I have never lost the desire for travel!

When the opportunity to go to the Dominican with PRHDR arose as a means to fulfill a community health credit I needed towards my BSN, I knew that I needed to make it happen! I took part in the 2010-11 Winter trip as a student and I am going back as a volunteer this summer! I knew within days of my first trip that I wanted to return for another.

The total experience was so enriching and exceptional; the land, the culture, the warmth and welcoming of the people, the community of students, providers and volunteers working for a common good, and the challenge of changing a lens of perspective in regard to how care is provided and what care looks like in this corner of the world. I was enthralled, humbled and so happy to have been a part!! I can not wait to see what this summer's trip will bring!!



## **Morgan Bickerstaff, RN**



Morgan graduated from the University of Southern Maine in 2011. She is now working as an RN at Southern Maine Medical Center on a Med-Surg floor, and at the Milestone Foundation in Portland. Before going to nursing school, she worked in disaster relief with the Red Cross and gained experience helping communities and families rebuild after catastrophes. She hopes to connect her two careers by deploying nationally and internationally as a Red Cross Nurse. She participated in the Dominican Republic healthcare mission as a student in January 2011. This is her first time returning as a volunteer.

## Gabe Garcia, RN



Gabe works as a transplant nurse at Tulane Medical Center in New Orleans. He moved from Southern California to Louisiana to earn his nursing degree at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge, and to help rebuild the city of New Orleans. He first learned about PRHDR through a coworker and was excited about joining the team this summer.

## **Celeste Calkins, RN**



I graduated from the University of Southern Maine's nursing program in 2011 and now live and work as an RN in Boston, MA. After joining the January 2011 trip to the DR as a nursing student, I knew that I would want to go back again as a nurse. I have volunteered internationally over the past 12 years in six different countries, and international health care was one of the main reasons I became a nurse.

## **Jason Clark**



Jason Clark will be serving as an interpreter in July. This will be his second trip with PRHDR. He recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a BA in International Studies and a minor in Spanish. He first worked with PRHDR as a student in the summer of 2011, and fell in love with the Dominican Republic and its people. His experience with the Spanish language includes nearly ten years of study, travel to the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, and work in mental health/social services casework with Spanish-speaking clients. He especially enjoys volunteering with PRHDR because volunteers get a unique travel experience while helping those in need.

## **James Hoffman, EMT**



Jim is a Firefighter / EMT- Intermediate for the Derry Fire Department in New Hampshire where he has served for the past 9 years. The department provides fire suppression, transporting ALS ambulance service and technical rescue to the Town of Derry and surrounding towns. In addition to Fire and EMS training Jim is a Trench Rescue Technician, Rope Rescue Technician, FEMA trained building collapse and shoring specialist. He is currently the Chairman of Derry Fire Technical Rescue committee which is the regional asset for trench collapse, building collapse and shoring, high angle / low angle rope access, tower rescue, and industrial and agricultural accidents. Jim is also the co-owner / operator of an excavation company specializing in low impact site work and complex construction.

## **Elizabeth Lagana, MD**



Elizabeth Lagana, MD is an Emergency Medicine Resident at Maine Medical Center. She completed medical school at the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 2011. Prior to that, Liz received her nursing degree from the University of New Hampshire and worked as an emergency room RN in southern New Hampshire for 3 years. She has traveled internationally several times including trips to rural Peru and other parts of South America. This is her first trip (of hopefully many!) to volunteer abroad.

## **Kathryn Booth, NP**



Kathryn Booth is a woman's Health Care Nurse Practitioner. She lives in Mt. Vernon, Maine, with her husband and two college age children. She has been in practice for over 20 years at Maine General OB/GYN in Augusta providing gynecological and prenatal care to women of all ages. She and her son Taylor are first time volunteers and are looking forward to being part of the team.

## **Celena Turmel Morin, RN**



Celena graduated from USM in 2001 with her BSN. She is currently a RN on the Cardiac Telemetry unit and the Maternity unit at St Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, Maine where she has worked since graduation. This will be her second time on the trip to the Dominican Republic with PRHDR/USM. Her first trip was in the summer of 2010. While on the trip, her eyes were opened to the poverty yet great strength and beauty of the people of the Dominican Republic and this experience has had a positive influence on her character and her values. Seeing what she has seen has inspired her to continue to serve in international medicine and work with those who are underprivileged. She is excited to have her sister be able to make this summer trip with her. She is looking forward to meeting new people and making a difference in the lives of the many Dominicans that we serve. Hopefully this will be the second of many more trips back to the Dominican Republic.



## **Maria Crouch**



María, a native of the Dominican Republic, is joining the Dominican Republic health care mission as a volunteer interpreter. María has made her home in Southern Maine but wants to contribute to her native country in a manner that helps as many people as possible in a concrete way. With her BA in Chemistry and her experience in environmental chemistry, she hopes to some day be involved in projects that center around providing access to potable water for people in rural areas of the Dominican Republic.

## **Terrie Anne Hoops**



Terrie Anne Hoops is excited to join PRHDR for the first time summer 2012 as an interpreter.

Terrie Anne Hoops is an educator with Portland Public Schools on the ESL team where she has also taught French and Spanish.

Terrie Anne has a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in administration and leadership from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. She also has a Certificate of Advanced Study in curriculum, assessment and instruction from the University of Maine, Orono specializing in second language acquisition. She has worked in education internationally as well as with state and federal governments. She is a proud alumnus of Leadership Maine - Lambda Class, Maine Development Foundation.

Terrie Anne is originally from Montreal, Quebec, and is fluent in English, Spanish and French. She now lives in Old Orchard Beach with her husband David Hoops. Terrie Anne has passion for her active lifestyle including golf and alpine skiing where she has a business coaching with her DVD on biomechanics. [www.tabskiandfitness.com](http://www.tabskiandfitness.com)

## David Hoops



Dave has worked in the health care and health insurance industry for over 25 years. Through this experience, he has seen the real human costs of populations that don't have their health care needs met on a regular basis. He and his wife Terrie had the opportunity to become involved with PRHDR through Dave's employer, Martin's Point Health Care, and they quickly recognized the value of the work done by PRHDR. Dave and Terrie will be making their first trip to the DR in July 2012. Terrie will serve as a translator, and Dave will provide logistical support to the clinicians and translators. This will be Dave's first international experience.

## **Kelly Maiche**



Kelly studied psychology at Eckerd College in Florida. After graduating in 2010, she moved to Thailand and taught kindergarten there until the recent flooding last autumn, at which point she moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where she lives now. Kelly grew up as an expat and spent a large part of her youth in Cuba. She currently uses her Spanish working as a volunteer interpreter at The Free Clinics in Hendersonville, NC. She has never been to the Dominican Republic before.

## **Molly Radis**



Molly, a graduate of Bates College, is currently working in Portland and taking science classes at the University of Southern Maine. Molly was recently accepted to graduate school and plans to enroll in a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Accelerated Masters Program this coming fall. Molly studied Psychology at Bates and has extensive volunteer experience in the field of health care. Her senior thesis at Bates was on the relationship between exercise and cognition in young children. Molly has traveled abroad, but never volunteered for a health care mission. She is looking forward to working with Partners for Rural Health and making her first venture into the field of nursing and healthcare!

## **Kayla Ferrara**



My name is Kayla, and I am a fourth year student at the University of Southern Maine. I am studying biotechnology, (the study of cells); with emphasis on either phlebotomy or forensics, and plan to later attend school for nursing. I am very excited to be a part of the partners for a rural health this coming summer, as it is my first time participating. I hope to receive as much knowledge and understanding from this trip to better prepare me for the future I have mapped out. I love helping people and am a strong advocate in making anything and everything the best it can be, no matter the situation. I look forward to working with everyone on the trip.

## **Briannah Wight**



Hi there, my name is Bri and I am 22 years of age. I have been recently accepted into the nursing program at USM and am very excited to begin this new journey in the upcoming Fall semester. I will be a volunteer for this trip and am super happy to be able to help!

## Taylor Watson



Taylor Watson is an 18 year old soon-to-be college student. He is from Mt. Vernon, Maine, and is the youngest of two siblings. In high school he worked diligently at many endeavors, including athletics and student government. He has volunteered his time through tutoring and assisting the elderly in the past, and enjoys working with other people. He was inspired to take part in this program by Doctor Paul Farmer and his work, and may aspire to a career in medicine. He will attend Dartmouth College this fall.



## **Hannah Turmel**



Hannah Turmel is currently an Occupational Therapy Assisting student at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield Maine. She is also works at St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston Maine as a CNA. She loves helping people and sees this as an opportunity to widen her knowledge of the world around her and also to learn about a new culture. She is very excited to have the chance to go on this trip and help make a difference in the lives of the people we serve and meet new people.



## FACULTY AND TRIP STAFF

## **Whitney Lutz, PNP – Team Leader, Faculty**



Whitney Lutz is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with over 25 yrs. experience working with children in hospitals and primary care settings. She taught at the University of Southern Maine for 5 yrs, participated in multiple Dominican Republic trips and continues to help lead trips to the DR focusing on pediatric nursing. "Nursing opens so many doors in the international arena and helping those in greatest need is why I went into this profession." Whitney has participated in medical trips to Tanzania, Mexico, Peru, and recently Haiti. Currently, she works full time in private practice at Waterville Pediatrics in Maine. "This international service learning program is so vital, not only to the Dominicans we serve, but to the nursing students immersion experience into providing primary healthcare in a developing country. Once you experience it, you can't help but come back again and again!"

## **Jean Burton, NP – Team Leader, Faculty**



I first attended the program in 1997. It was an accelerated, condensed and improved version of my Peace Corps Micronesia adventure, 10 years earlier. I have since returned in roles of student, faculty, volunteer provider, and team leader, five times with my daughter Abby, who is interested in international health and medical interpreting. I currently work as a psychiatric NP in Portland. The blend of students and volunteer providers is always inspiring and refreshing. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends on each mission.

## **Lois Tiedeken, NP – Team Leader, Faculty**



Lois is an adult nurse practitioner, working in Internal Medicine in Portland with a focus on Diabetes, Care Management, and Women's Health. She first traveled to the Dominican Republic with USM when she was a graduate student at Simmons College in 1997. The January 2011 trip will be her 7th. Lois is pleased to be part of the adjunct faculty, enjoying her increased interaction with students as well as more involvement with community leaders. She is proud to have been part of this unique program for 13 years.

Lois is grateful for her family and friends who join with her to enjoy boating, gardening, yoga, shelling, baseball, dancing, the Patriots and the comfort of her home on Peaks Island.

## **Ben Towne, MA ATC – Safety Officer**



Ben joined in 2007 and has been on six previous missions to the Dominican Republic. Ben immensely enjoys working with interdisciplinary health programs and promoting the athletic training profession. He currently leads students twice yearly to the Dominican Republic for an International Service Learning Course and also serves as an athletic trainer for the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Teams, traveling regularly around the globe. He also serves on the International Council for the National Athletic Trainers Association and is active in the World Federation of Athletic Training & Therapy. He has presented at the state and national level on International Service Learning in Athletic Training Education. He was the recipient of the 2008 USM Faculty Service Award, and was also awarded the 2008 Mike Linkovich Grant and the 2009 OA Centers for Orthopaedics Professional Scholarship Award. Ben earned his MA in Physical Education at Western Michigan University and a BS in Sports Medicine at Lyndon State University in Lyndonville, Vermont.

## **Dan Wendel, RN – Equipment Manager**



Daniel, a graduate of University of So Maine, is working as an RN with the Visiting Nurses Association at Home, Health and Hospice. He went to nursing school with an interest in public health and a hope to be able to work internationally as a nurse in developing countries. He has been to Kenya once and hopes to return. Dan joined the Dominican Republic health care mission in 2006 and now goes every 6 months, thus has been on this trip many times. He has served on the PRHDR Board for several years.

## **Patricia Ingwersen – Safety Officer Assistant**



Patricia Ingwersen is a Hispanic Studies Major at The University of Southern Maine. She is a native Mainer who currently works and lives in Portland.

Patricia spent her junior year of high school as a Rotary exchange student Obera-Misiones, Argentina. She attended classes at Armadeo Bonapland Nacional. Patty returned home and graduated high school in 2001. From 2002-2004 Patricia studied French at L'ecole Migros in Geneva, Switzerland and worked as a live-in nanny for three young children. She has studied in Spain at Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, as well as at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso in Chile. She has traveled extensively throughout South and Central America.

Patty first joined Partners as a student interpreter in January 2008 and again in January 2009 and July 2010. As a member of the fund-raising committee at PRHDR, Patty will continue to involve her local community in future PRHDR efforts. She is passionate about supporting efforts which promote community health on a global level.