



Winter 2011

Volunteers and Faculty Winter 2011

Providers

Cindy Robertson, MD
Pat Patterson, MD
John Brewer, MD
Anne Jones, MD
Tom Leason, MD
Ben Towne, MA ATC
Whitney Lutz, PNP
Nuala Kavanagh, NP
Jean Burton, NP
Lois Tiedeken, ANP
Joseph Sorbello, PA
Alicia Greenwald, NP
Daniel Wendel, RN
Lucas McDonald, RN
Tanya Rosenbaum, RN
Meg Clews, RN
Elizabeth Ballinger, RN
Lora Cook, RN
Danielle Lutz, RN
Bridgett Davis-Vanasse, RN
Emily Funk, RN, EMT
Mary Berg, PT
Susan Cote, RDH, MS

Interpreters

Janice Jaffe, PHD
Patricia Ingwersen
Marisa Crommett
Joost Rosenbaum
David Olivares

Support

Marcia Chaffee
Bob Lutz
Christine Ingwersen
Ginny VanDyke
Victoria Fowler

Faculty/Leaders

Whitney Lutz, PNP – Trip Leader, Faculty
Jean Burton, NP – Trip Leader, Faculty
Lois Tiedeken, ANP – Team Leader, Faculty
Cindy Robertson, MD – Medical Director, Med Room Leader
Pat Patterson, MD – Medical Support
Ben Towne, MA ATC –Lead Safety Officer
Janice Jaffe –PHD- Lead Interpreter
Daniel Wendel, RN – Equipment Manager
Lucas McDonald, RN – Safety Officer Assistant



VOLUNTEERS

Nuala Kavanagh, NP



Nuala Kavanagh is a Nurse Practitioner who is currently living and working in Ireland. She completed High School in Ireland but received her nursing training in United States. She completed her Master's in Nursing at Michigan State University and worked for Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Community Mental Health for 20+ years while living in Lansing Michigan. For five of those years she also worked as clinical instructor at Michigan State University in the Master's program.

She was introduced to PRHDR through her daughter Gemma who worked as an interpreter for the group when she was in Peace Corps in Dominican Republic. Over the past eleven years, Nuala has volunteered in various provider capacities for the group as needs arose. More recently, she has been the pharmacist and enjoys this role as she gets to work with various student nurses and has much contact with the providers as they go about their work.

Over the past few years Nuala has become aware that some of the girls from the villages where we work are prevented from completing High School because of lack of funds for transportation, uniforms and other supplies. She is currently trying to raise some \$\$ to help some of these girls with the support of a Mother's Wish Foundation at www.amotherswish.org. The friendship and support of colleagues and the welcome of local village people each year renews and inspires Nuala to keep coming back in order to give back to others and give thanks for her fortunate life.

Susan Cote, RDH, MS



Susan has been involved with Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic since 1998, and she previously served on the PRHDR Board of Directors.

Susan is a public health dental hygienist whose interest has been to integrate oral health into medical care. Susan is currently working at MaineHealth with From The First Tooth Program.

The opportunity to provide care to the Dominicans and the wonderful experiences of working collaboratively with all the students, faculty and volunteers has inspired her to continue her involvement with the program. Her motto, *The mouth is connected to the body...*

Joseph Sorbello, PA



Joseph has been participating in the program since 2005. He attended the Physician Assistant program at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and did post graduate training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He has an extensive background in Critical Care, Emergency Medicine and Cardiothoracic Surgery. He is currently working for the Joint Replacement Center at Orthopedic Associates in Portland, Maine. Joseph finds tremendous satisfaction in participating in the Program and looks forward to annual missions to Lajas.

Marcia Chaffee



Marcia has over 30 years of professional experience working with non-profit organizations that serve refugees and immigrants. After teaching ESOL to adults for 15 years, she was the Director of Education Services for 16 years at the International Institute of Boston, a multi-service agency that assisted newly arrived refugees and immigrants. Her specialties in this work included basic literacy for non-literate immigrant adults, teacher training, and refugee mental health. She has written or contributed to several teacher training publications and curricula, and served on the Board of Directors with the Massachusetts Coalition of Adult Educators and on the Community Advisory Council for the Boston Adult Literacy Fund. She continues as a consultant for programs in Adult Education in ESOL and volunteers at the Immigration Legal Advocacy Project in Portland and with Arts Alive in Lubec.

Her international volunteer work has been in helping to create a library and literacy program in rural Tanzania, and with PRHDR, which she first joined in January 2005. She feels privileged to have been part of the mission of PRHDR, bringing health care to underserved remote areas, and participating in the richness of the cross cultural experience for nursing students, volunteers and villagers. The teamwork and dedication of everyone involved has been a source of inspiration and commitment to her continued participation, both as a volunteer and as a member of the PRHDR Board of Directors.

Mary Berg, PT



I am Physical Therapist and have over 35 years experience in acute care and sub acute care, practiced at all level of care in large and small medical centers and have seen traumatic injuries, complicated surgical cases, vascular disease and complications of diabetes. I have worked with all age groups and love working with people, contributing to their wellbeing.

2008 was my first trip to the DR. I felt fulfilled and appreciated, knowing I had contributed something to the education of nursing students, AT students, as well as giving education and treatment to the population of residents with whom I come in contact is enriching. The pace is frenetic and exciting. Working with an enthusiastic staff, critically thinking of how to make a situation productive with limited resources and time is challenging. Villagers welcoming us with pride and thankfulness is joyful. Going into homes, sipping on sweetened coffee as one hears the stories and accepts the compliments, all the while figuring what it is that can be done to make an impact on lives deprived of simple medical care.

Tanya Rosenbaum, RN



Tanya graduated from USM in 2007 and has been working as nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital since then. She is a postpartum and antepartum nurse and enjoys working with an international population, many of whom are Spanish speaking only. Tanya is an avid traveler and has explored much of South America as well as other parts of the world. She lives on Cape Cod and volunteers for the International Fund For Animal Welfare's Marine Mammal Stranding Network. This is her third time going on the Dominican Republic trip. In the future, she hopes to continue to be involved in international healthcare work. She looks forward to meeting you all.

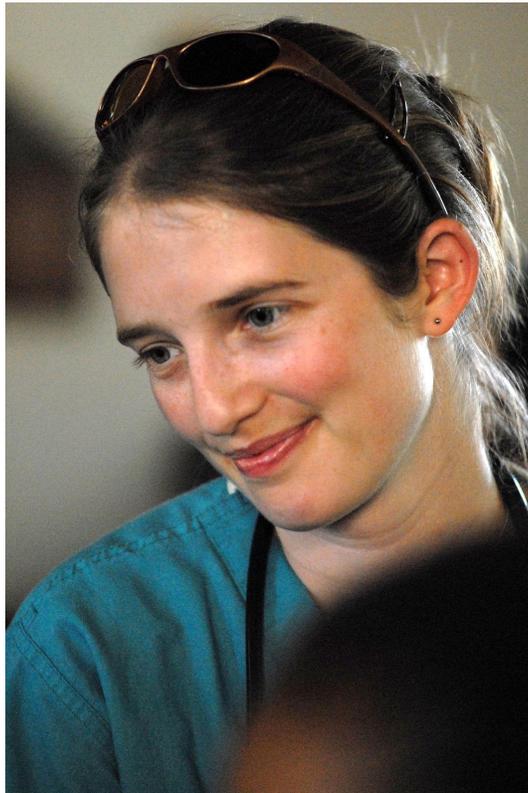
Meg Clews, RN



I graduated from USM in August '08 with a BSN. I worked for two years in the ED at Central Maine Medical Center, and now work in the ED at two different rural hospitals in Blue Hill and Bar Harbor, ME. I am also an instructor for Wilderness Medical Associates. My latest pursuit is going to school part time to be a family nurse practitioner through the Frontier School of Nursing.

In the past, I have worked as an Outward Bound instructor, and I also have a Master's in Education. I taught for a few years at a Waldorf school in Freeport, ME. My interests are biking, cross-country skiing, knitting, hiking with my family (I have 2 daughters aged 5 and 9), and sewing. I love animals! Last year on the trip to the DR, I rescued a lovely dog, Nina, who lives with our family now. This will be my fourth trip with PRHDR. I speak enough Spanish to get by!

Elizabeth Ballinger, RN



My name is Elizabeth Ballinger and I have been a nurse in the emergency department at the Children's Hospital of King's Daughters in Norfolk, VA for a little over a year. My first trip to the DR was in January 2009 as a nursing student and it changed my life in ways I never thought possible. I returned in August 2009 as a volunteer. It was in the DR where I met the love of my life, Edward. He died in a motorcycle accident on May 5, 2010. For him and for us I hope to continue volunteering. It is a beautiful thing to help others and I know he would want me to continue. The people of the Dominican Republic are very special beautiful people and it brings me joy to be a part of their lives.

Patricia Ingwersen



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.

Bob Lutz



Most people know me as "Bob the Builder" but I'm a licensed plumber by trade. I've made several trips to the DR with my wife, Whitney and I'm known as the guy who gets the hot water going. Hopefully you will have an abundance of hot water while I'm there!. I have done overseas mission work in East and West Africa, South America and Mexico. I love a challenge, enjoy experiencing life in another culture totally different from your own, and being part of something bigger than your own little world. One thing about this trip--you come back changed with a new vision and appreciation in your heart for your fellow man.

John Brewer, MD



John Brewer has been a family physician in the Gorham area for 24 years. He was trained at the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City and later relocated to Maine for residency and to be closer to family and the seacoast. His medical interest has always been with family care, education and preventative health.

A Clinical Facilitator and Medical Student preceptor at UNE in Biddeford since 1986, the "pay it forward" attitude to mentor the new students has been a passion and challenge and his way to return to the medical community those tools learned in the trade.

Thru UNE he has had the good fortune to work with Dr Robertson and was introduced to PRHDR. Always in awe and inspired by volunteer works of this and other organizations, it seemed a natural mix to teach, learn and help in a much needed and valuable endeavor. Surely this first experience of serving the underserved with PRHDR will be fulfilling and rewarding. He is excited with anticipation and looking forward to working with the group in this noble cause.

Tom Leason, MD



Tom, originally from Newton, MA attended UMass-Amherst and then the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine before completing his training at the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency program. After serving as chief resident in his 3rd year and moonlighting at Redington Fairview Hospital in Skowhegan, ME, Tom joined the Residency as clinical faculty overseeing the School Based Health Center at Cony High School in Augusta, ME, and Maine General Medical Center as an Emergency Department physician.

Tom first learned of the PRHDR trip while working with Cindy Robertson at UNE's medical school where they both teach physical diagnosis to first year medical students. And although he has no prior international medical mission experience, he did work as a physician on Vinalhaven off the coast of Maine for a month during residency, enjoying the challenges of working in a isolated environment with limited resources at hand. Both Tom and his wife Anne (also a physician volunteer on this trip) are looking forward to this opportunity to work the organization, provide care, and participate in the education of the USM nursing students.

Anne Jones, MD



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. While in medical school, she participated in a medical mission to Jamaica. Her idol in medicine is Dr Quinn Medicine Woman which is what lead her to primary care and rural medicine.

She is in her third year and chief resident at the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency and plans to pursue an MPH next year, in hopes of continuing to work in academic medicine, public health and primary care practice throughout her career.

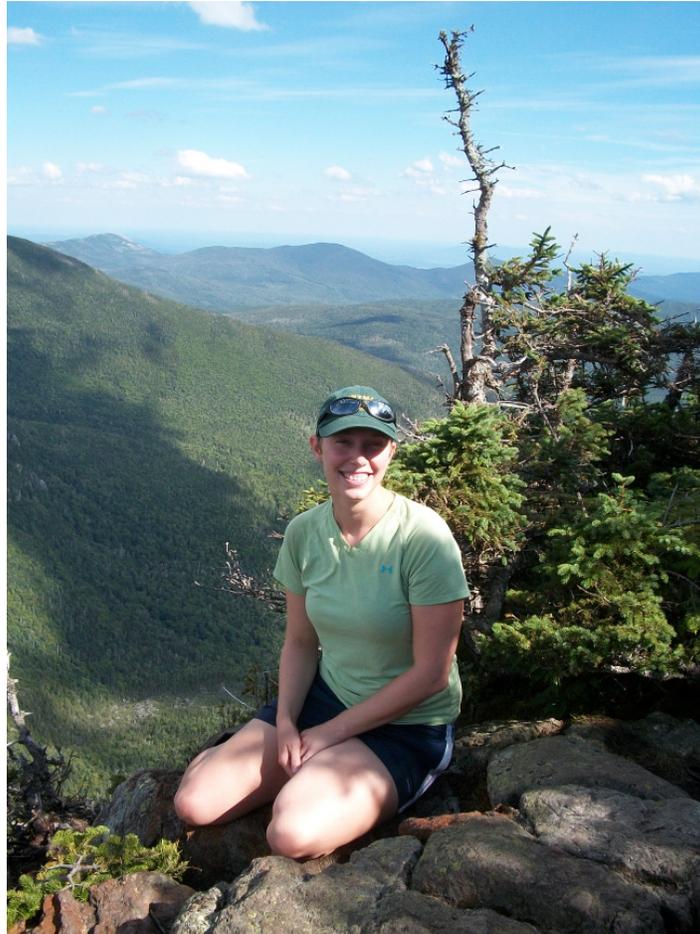
Alicia Greenwald, NP



Alicia Greenwald is a nurse practitioner who has been working at Martin's Point Health Care in Portland Maine since 1995. She has worked in medical field for over 35 years, starting as a medical assistant for the first 17 years of her career, and then became a registered nurse in 1993, graduating from the University of Southern Maine with a BSN . In 1998 she earned her MSN from Simmons College and became a nurse practitioner. She worked in primary care for the first seven years of her career as a family nurse practitioner and since 2006 Alicia has specialized in diabetes management and patient education in her career at Martin's Point and has been known there as "The Diabetes Queen". She is passionate about teaching patients and their families the skills and knowledge they need to manage their diabetes and other chronic diseases. Alicia also works per diem in the healthcare clinic at Martin's Point in both family medicine and internal medicine practices where she enjoys practicing her primary care skills.

Alicia learned about the Dominican Republic volunteer experience from her friend and colleague, Lois Tiedeken, who has made the trip many times and who now serves as a faculty member of the team. Alicia is excited about joining the team and 'branching out' with her skills in another part of the world. This will be her first experience in such an endeavor.

Emily Funk, RN



Emily is a graduate student at the University of Southern Maine. She has recently become an RN and is studying to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. She is interested in working in underserved areas once she becomes an FNP, perhaps in rural New England. She has traveled to various countries, including studying abroad in Chile. She is looking forward to gaining nursing experience in a developing country with the Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic.

Brigette Davis –Vanasse, RN



Brigette, a graduate of Wagner College of Staten Island, NY, is working as an RN at Maine Medical Center in the Emergency Room. She started her nursing journey in NYC and has been living and working in Maine for four years. She also has experience in Medical/Surgical and Cardiac Nursing. This will be Brigette's first time volunteering with the Dominican Republic health care mission team.

Danielle Lutz, RN



I'm Danielle Lutz, RN and experienced in pediatric hematology/oncology and currently working at Maine Medical Center's busy ER. I came on this trip as an RN student summer 2004 and fell in love with medical outreach work. You probably have heard this before but once you go---you will never be the same. I'm excited to be here with all of you to work hard, get muddy, take cold showers, and sip El Presidente's on the veranda after a hard day of service.

I love to hike, camp, snowboard, and of course, shop. I bought a house this spring and my extra pesos go to fixing it up. I'm learning to swing a hammer, drive a bobcat, and haul rock. I'm here with a few coworkers and am excited to get to know all of you.

Lora Cook, RN



Lora, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire is working as an Emergency Nurse at Maine Medical Center. Shortly after getting her license, Lora went to Hurricane Katrina relief in Baton Rouge. From there Lora was inspired to help others when in need. She went to Milot, Haiti after the earthquake and was helping in tent cities as well as in the hospital. She is interested in doing more mission and relief work as it is needed and looks forward to becoming a member of the National Disaster Relief Program.

Marisa Crommett



Marisa is a senior at Colby College and studies Spanish and Science, Technology and Society. She has lived and studied in Salamanca, Spain and Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Buenos Aires, she interned at a non-profit that works to relieve health problems associated with drug use. Interested in both public health and international health care, Marisa looks forward to her first trip with this outreach program and to learning more about Dominican culture.

Joost Rosenbaum



Born and raised in Boston, MA, Joost Rosenbaum learned to speak Spanish while studying in Spain and spending significant time in the Dominican Republic. With a Master's Degree in Education, Joost has been a middle school teacher in the Boston Public Schools for the last several years. Recently relocating with his wife to Louisville, KY; Joost is currently working as a carpenter. He is an avid fisherman and traveler.

Christine Ingwersen



I am a papermaker and a collage artist. Much of my recent work has been a series of views of women in poverty and war... not such big sellers but far more important to me. I am also a landscape gardener and have run several greenhouses. I am also the mother of 3 adult daughters. My youngest Patty has convinced me that I can be an asset to this trip. I have also lived in the bush in Northern Ontario in some of the same living conditions as our hosts in the DR. I'm not afraid of hard work and look forward to working with everyone on this trip. I also hope to get inspiration for my art.

David Olivares



David is a recent graduate of the University of Idaho with a degree in History and Spanish. He grew up speaking Spanish with his Chilean father and recently spent the year studying abroad at Pontificia Católica de Valparaíso, Chile. He generally spends his summers working in a salmon processing plant in Bristol Bay, Alaska. This will be David's first trip as a PRHDR volunteer and looks forward to the experience. He currently resides in Portland, Oregon.



FACULTY/LEADERS

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.

Cynthia Robertson, MD – Medical Director, Med Room Leader



Dr. Robertson fell in love with Latin America at 16 as an exchange student in Ecuador. Her junior year from the University of Rochester was spent in Spain at the University of Madrid, and she earned her MA in Latin American Studies at Stanford University in 1966.

Cindy and her husband Bob McLaughlin devoted 10 years to the War on Poverty, then to teaching English in Maine 's public schools. Teaching remains an important focus in her life as part time faculty at UNE medical school and preceptor to more than 50 medical students for clinicals.

She graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1980 and completed residency at Maine Dartmouth Family Practice in 1983. As a National Health Service Corps Scholar, Dr. Robertson has served at the Bingham Area Health Center in a town of 1000 for 26 years, currently in practice there.

Having first volunteered with PRHDR in 2001, she has had the privilege of sharing the experience with their two sons, James and Tim, and her husband Bob (past president of PRHDR) and with many colleagues and friends. She has been on the PRHDR Board for several years.

Cindy feels strongly that the benefit of this project is multifactorial:

- to provide quality health care every 6 months to people who without it would have little or none
- to demonstrate to students the value of hands on medical skills
- to strengthen commitment to transdisciplinary team work
- to help us all become more responsible neighbors and citizens of the world.

Pat Patterson, MD – Medical Support



Winter trips '06,'07, '09, '10 and summer trip '07 Pat is a Pediatrician at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Tufts Medical School. Since her initial trip in '06, she has shared the experience on subsequent trips with her sons Ryan and Brady, as well as her husband, Rodger. Pat particularly appreciates the opportunity to combine teaching and patient care in the international setting to a needy population. The group's focus on preventative health and continuity of care through its return visits every 6 months have been major factors contributing to the rewarding nature of this work for Pat year after year.

Ben Towne, MA ATC – Lead 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.

Janice Jaffe, PHD – Lead Interpreter



Janice Jaffe has been a professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies since 1988, and began interpreting, for Latin American refugees seeking asylum in the United States, when she was a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin in the 1980s. At Bowdoin College and USM she has taught translation courses and supervised students in translating documents for the Hispanic immigrant communities in Maine. She also teaches the Basic Skills of Interpreting course to immigrants for the United Way's Language Access for New Americans program.

She deeply admires the dedication of the USM nursing students and health care professionals associated with PRHDR, and is honored and humbled to have the opportunity to interpret for them in their work with our Dominican patients. Janice also loves supervising students of Spanish as they practice and enhance their interpreting skills. She looks forward to returning to the D.R. in January to greet old friends and meet new ones in the villages where PRHDR works.

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.

Lucas McDonald, RN – Safety Officer Assistant



Lucas will be serving as the trip's Assistant Safety Guy, and lives his life by the motto "Safety First!" He graduated in December from USM's Decelerated Nursing program and is very excited to be done with school for a wee bit. He went on the last two trips, and loves his time in the D.R.. He has a previous degree in International Studies and a long history of being an international man of mystery. He envisions a future which combines his interests in international development and community health nursing.