Golden Apple Awards

Duke medical students have chosen the following three teachers to receive the 2012 Golden Apple Awards.

BASIC SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD
Matthew Velkey, PhD, is an assistant professor of the practice of medical education in the Department of Cell Biology and the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. He teaches embryology, gross anatomy, histology, and neurobiology in the first-year medical curriculum and embryology, histology, and basic pathology in the Physical Therapy program. Velkey has been at Duke for almost two years, having come from the University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS). He holds a PhD in cell and developmental biology from UMMS and a master’s of science in anatomy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He also received a BA in English and a BS in biology, both summa cum laude, from Millsaps College. He has won several awards for teaching, including the Kaiser Permanente Award for Excellence in Pre-clinical Teaching and the Provost’s Teaching Innovation Prize, both from the University of Michigan Medical School. This is the second year in a row that he has received a Golden Apple Award from Duke.

CLINICAL FACULTY AWARD
Saumil Chudgar, MD '05, HS'05-'08, is a clinician-educator in the Hospital Medicine Program in the Department of Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. He is the associate director for undergraduate medical education for the Department of Medicine and teaches medical students and residents in the care of inpatients at Duke University Hospital. This is the second year in a row that the medical students have honored Chudgar. In 2011, he received the Thomas Kinney Distinguished Teaching Award.

HOUSE STAFF AWARD
Dawn Emick, MD, MPH, HS-current, is a chief resident in general surgery. As a resident at Duke, she enjoys teaching medical students and worked closely with surgery clerkship students during her years as a research fellow, while also obtaining a master’s degree in public health from the University of North Carolina.

Three Students Named to First NIH Scholars Program

Three Duke University School of Medicine students have been selected for the National Institutes of Health’s inaugural class of the Medical Research Scholars Program. Yilun Koethe, MSII; Grace Snow, MSIII; and Adrienne Taylor, T’08, MSIII, are among 45 medical, dental, and veterinary students from across the country chosen to participate in a yearlong enrichment program designed to provide mentored training at the NIH in Bethesda, Md.

The program is a blend of two former NIH programs, the NIH Clinical Research Training Program and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute NIH Research Scholars Program. The new MRSP scholars will conduct research and attend courses, seminars, a structured lecture series, and clinical teaching rounds.

Taylor is researching the association between cardiovascular disease, migraines, and mood disorders, including depression and bipolar disorder. During the program, she also will be involved with genotyping studies.

Koethe is interested in medicine-pediatrics and radiology but is still finalizing her MRSP research project. A biochemistry major, she discovered her love of working with children during her second-year clinical rotations in medical school.

Snow, who hopes to one day have a career in research, also couldn’t pass up the opportunity to conduct research at the NIH. She recently wrapped up her third year of medical school, having spent the past year in Singapore studying dengue fever in older adults in the lab of epidemiologist Ooi Eng Eong, PhD, at the Duke National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School. She decided to complete a second research year in order to participate in the MRSP.

While at the NIH, Snow plans to study human papilloma virus-associated head and neck cancer, an area of research that she says combines her interests in the ear, nose, and throat and infectious diseases specialties.