

Physician assistant student receives training at Mile Bluff Medical Center

by Larry Arnold

Josh Dewey of Onalaska is the latest in a series of impressive students who have spent time at Mile Bluff Medical Center for a part of their medical education. Jim Logan, M.D., and Cathy Kidd, PA-C, served as preceptors for Josh during his four-week stay in August and September.

Prior to enrolling in the two-year UW-LaCrosse - Gundersen - Mayo physician assistant (PA) program, Josh earned a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sports science, with a minor in chemistry from UW-LaCrosse, as well as a master of science degree in exercise physiology from Iowa State University.

He worked as an exercise physiologist for nearly five years in the cardiac rehabilitation department at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in LaCrosse. After completing his first year of the PA program, which was

devoted to class work, Josh began a series of rotations at a number of different hospitals and clinics. Prior to coming to Mile Bluff, where his rotation is in family practice, he had completed rotations in internal medicine and psychiatry. Yet to come are rotations in general surgery, emergency room, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, cardiology, and orthopedic surgery.

Josh is scheduled to graduate in May of 2008. He will take his tests for certification the following month and hopes to work in some kind of a cardiology practice.

When asked for his first impressions of Mile Bluff, he said: "It is a beautiful well cared for facility and I've been very much impressed by the medical staff, doctors as well as PAs, and other staff members and workers too."

Born in Arkansas, Josh came to Wisconsin with his family as a third-



Josh Dewey

grader. His family settled in Onalaska, where he attended grade and high school. During his high school years he was a three-sport ath-

lete, playing football, basketball and tennis. He also participated in show choir.

Josh's father is a fishery biologist and his mother works as a teacher's aide. He has an older brother who lives in Chicago. Josh was married to Kristin in September of 2005. They are expecting their first child in February. "We have chosen not to know whether it will be a boy or girl, but are kind of leaning toward a boy," Josh said.

Josh and Kristin recently bought a home in Onalaska, where they will be close to both his and her parents. "While my brother and his wife have two children, this will be the first grandchild who lives in this area; do you think it might be spoiled?"

Josh says his hobbies include watching movies, any activity outdoors, listening to live acoustical music, being in new cities, and spending time with friends and family.



Janet Brockman, WM (right) and Jim Hover, WP presented Mile Bluff Social Worker Kelly Firlus with a donation from the Order of the Eastern Star. The wheelchair will be used in Mile Bluff's new van for the transportation service that is set to begin operation next year.

New transportation available soon

With help from a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Mile Bluff Medical Center will be able to offer a new transportation option to patients and their families when other means are not available to them. A new wheelchair accessible van was recently delivered to Mile Bluff, and thanks to a generous contribution made by the Order of the Eastern Star, the van is already

equipped with a brand new wheelchair. The gift goes along with the donor organization's dedication to charity, truth and loving kindness, and Mile Bluff is thankful for the group's generosity.

Transportation services will begin sometime early next year, so watch for details or call Mile Bluff's Social Services Department at 608-847-6161 for more information.

Physician Assistant Week, October 6-12

The first physician assistant (PA) to join the Mile Bluff Medical Center staff was Dick Faust. He began working with doctors Nancy and Keith Ness in 1985. Since that time, many PAs have been added to the medical staff, and some have even had a portion of their medical education conducted at Mile Bluff, with members of the medical staff acting as preceptors.

In honor of National Physician Assistant Week (October 6 to 12), Mile Bluff salutes its 15 physician assistants as valued members of the medical staff. The PAs take on many roles, from that of family practice caregivers, to surgery, urgent and emergency care staff. There are now approximately 64,000 physician assistants nationwide, and this year they were celebrating 40 years of the physician assistant profession.

Physician assistants are healthcare professionals licensed - or in the case of those employed by the federal government, credentialed - to practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, coun-

sel on preventive healthcare, assist in surgery, and write prescriptions. Within the physician/PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services. A PA's practice may also include education, research, and administrative services.

Physician Assistants at Mile Bluff

Stephanie Bader, PA-C: General Surgery
Randy Brandt, PA-C: Family Practice
Julie Dean, PA-C: Urgent Care
Dick Faust, PA-C: Family Practice
Anne Fenwick, PA-C: Family Practice
Sarah Jabs, PA-C: Urgent Care
Cathy Kidd, PA-C: Family Practice
Gloria Nachreiner, PA-C: Family Practice
Eric Nuebel, PA-C: Family Practice
Kathy Nuebel, PA-C: Family Practice
Lisa Olson, PA-C: General Surgery
Tracie Schmidt, PA-C: Family Practice
Jean Stransky, PA-C: Family Practice
Sam Williams, PA-C: Family Practice

Nurse Practitioners at Mile Bluff:

Cris Custer, APNP: Adult and gerontological nurse practitioner
Cathy Murphy, RN, MN, CNPN, APNP: Family practice, pediatric, women's health, chemotherapy