

"Your being from Nebraska, I feel a foolish kinship with you"

Marlon Brando to Dick Cavett (both native Nebraskans) prior to a Cavett's televised talk show, 1973

I think one of the unique aspects about this region of the country is that whether you were born here, or spent part of your life here, you will always feel a 'foolish kinship' with other Nebraskans. It has been a successful year for many current or former Nebraskans. Ted Kooser became the first poet from the Great Plains to be named Poet Laureate for the Library of Congress; Alexander Payne won the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar (and changed American wine drinking habits) for 'Sideways'; Hilary Swank won the Best Actress Oscar for 'Million Dollar Baby'; Conor Oberst's CD 'I'm Wide Awake It's Morning' went to the top of the Billboard indie charts; and Andy Roddick did pretty well at Wimbledon.

The first year of the residency was also very successful. The feedback from the residents at the residency retreat was very positive. The participation and enthusiasm of the faculty was very gratifying. The number and types of procedures performed by the residents was way more than I did my first year of residency. They also performed very well on the in-service exam. They have been a great first class, and I think they have set the bar high for future EM residents at this program.

Speaking of future residents, the new class looks very promising. The quantity and quality of the applicant pool grew considerably this year. We interviewed students from 34 states and were able to match some of the outstanding Nebraska students as well as students from South Dakota and Nevada. They have large shoes to fill, but I know they will be very capable.

This year has been busy in other areas besides the residency. We had two presentations at SAEM, and three faculty members were appointed to SAEM committees. We also had faculty presenting in Afghanistan and Germany. To continue the international theme, we hired an emergency physician from Kosovo as a research assistant, and one of our new residents just returned from K-2 in Pakistan where he helped provide medical care and assisted in research.

We also enjoyed visits from EM faculty from across the country. Ed Panacek from UC-Davis visited for a research consultation. Other visiting professors included Joe Ornato from the Medical College of Virginia, and Mary Jo Wagner from Synergy in Michigan. We also recruited two new faculty members. Jennifer Audi just completed her toxicology fellowship at Emory. She did her EM residency at Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston. Marshall Longwell just completed his EM residency at LSU/Charity. We are looking forward to their contributions.

We are also looking forward to the long awaited new ED. When it opens on November 10th, it will cover about 20,000 square feet, have 33 acute care beds, and we anticipate seeing over 45,000 patients/year.

As you can see, we are a program on the rise. If you are looking for a friendly program in a supportive environment, consider establishing a 'foolish kinship' with us.

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