Student Highlight

Tosh Mizzau, Undergraduate MD, Class of 2018

Tosh is an Ojibway first year medical student with roots on Manitoulin Island (Wikwemikong and Whitefish River First Nations). Prior to medical school, Tosh completed his undergraduate degree in Biology at Western University in London, Ontario. He then went on to pursue his Bachelor of Education, becoming a high school Biology and Science teacher. Upon completion of his B. Ed he started to work for Indigenous Services (IS) at Western University in their youth programming department. As a member of IS, Tosh has worked to coordinate opportunities for Aboriginal youth to gain exposure to post-secondary education. As co-chair of AHIG he looks forward to assisting with the Come Explore Health Careers events for Aboriginal Youth. He hopes to pursue a career in medicine with focus on addressing disparity in health outcomes for First Nations patients.

Tosh is currently one of the local officers of Indigenous health and a student member of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. He is also an Aboriginal Mentor for the ASHS Office.

Aboriginal Health Interest Group

The Aboriginal Health Interest Group (AHIG) is a group of first and second year medical students dedicated to promoting an understanding of the health issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples and improving Aboriginal health through knowledge-based activities. The AHIG mandate is to help improve the knowledge base of medical students at the Michael DeGroote School of Medicine with respect to issues in Aboriginal health care that future physicians will face in practice.

AHIG works to raise awareness amongst medical students of the issues that Aboriginal individuals face with respect to access culturally safe and competent health care. In addition, they reach out to local Aboriginal groups to organize events with the goal of exposing Aboriginal youth to health care careers.

AHIG plans events that will allow medical students the opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience in Aboriginal health care issues. These events will include, but are not limited to, the following: round table discussions, cultural sensitivity training, film screening, clinical skills sessions, and are supported by ASHS to facilitate the Come Explore event.
McMaster Hosts the NIHSc Circle Annual Meeting

The National Indigenous Health Sciences Circle (NIHScC) serves as a national collaborating body of Aboriginal student program/office representatives from the 17 medical schools across Canada. It works to actively promote Indigenous health and healing, and promote hiring of Indigenous faculty within health sciences; To create an inclusionary and culturally safe environment for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students within Health Sciences; act as an advocate and champion for First Nations, Inuit and Métis student priorities and for changes to the current curriculum utilized within health sciences to those in decision-making roles.

On October 22 & 23, 2015 McMaster’s ASHS office was honoured to host this national meeting of representatives across the country who work in Aboriginal student supports in Health Science programs. This two-day meeting was held at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre and at the Woodland Cultural Centre with Elder Renee Thomas-Hill providing welcoming to our visitors and guidance during the gathering.

The ASHS office thanks all those who travelled to Hamilton to participate.

Aboriginal Health Elective 2016

The Aboriginal Students Health Sciences (ASHS) Office is pleased to offer the Aboriginal Health Elective (AHE) beginning January 2016. The AHE is an interdisciplinary and inter-professional approach towards health education, specializing in Aboriginal peoples health in Canada. The elective is grounded in First Nations, Métis and Inuit scholarship; delivered by diverse Aboriginal health scholars, researchers, policy makers, Elders, healers and health professionals and paraprofessionals.

Depending on the program of study the AHE can be taken as a Horizontal Elective, knowledge opportunity, or as a Bachelor of Health Sciences elective. The AHE is open to all students regardless of year (under/graduate) or program of study. Visit our website for more information on who can take this course for credit.

Session formats will include a mix of lectures, small group discussion and site visits to both urban and reserve Aboriginal health care facilities.

Part of the elective is the Inter-professional Day in Education (IPE): Aboriginal Health delivered by and within the community of Six Nations. This is available for Immersion Credit through the PIPER program at McMaster.

For information and to register for the AHE go to our website. http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/ashs/health_elective.html

Aboriginal Students Health Sciences Office

Indigenous Studies & Indigenous Services Upcoming Events:

Indigenous Studies Annual Toy Drive

Nov. 16th, 2015 – Dec 8th, 2015

Hamilton Hall 103

Toys and monetary donations will be accepted at the Indigenous Studies office (340SHC) for the youth and children of Lubicon Lake Cree First Nation in northern Alberta.

Any donation of an unopened toy or monetary donation will help enrich the lives of First Nations children and youth.

Thank you / Niawen.

For more info, contact: 905-525-9140 ext. 27426

Holiday Social

Celebration Hall – KTH
Tuesday, December 8th, 2015
2:30pm – 4:30pm

Featuring: The Six Nations Sour Spring Singers

Join us for drumming, dancing, refreshments and door prizes. Donations for the Toy Drive are appreciated.

For more information contact: Indigenous Studies Program 905-525-9140 x27426

Let’s ring out the year together!