THE ROBINSON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AWARD

The Robinson International Studies Award was established in 2004. The goal of this program was to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. David Robinson. He was born in 1914 and ended his journey in 2003.

There was a flurry of activity in 2003 with letters and e-mails and memorial services. Some of us felt that the contributions of this “gentle giant” must be perpetuated for a long time. A scholarship in his name was one of the options that found traction in the Robinson family and some of us his students. What we came up was an idea to start a scholarship fund and select students from the schools of Health Professions, Nursing and Medicine and send them on an international elective rotation to a medical college and hospital in India. A selection committee would select three applicants from each of the schools (nine every year) and give them a scholarship to travel and study for 4 weeks.

The student applicants have to research and write a short essay on the life of Dr. Robinson. This takes them to the library and the Internet to learn what he had achieved in his life and career. After the students return from their journey, they make a presentation to their respective student body. The first 2 minutes of this presentation is to present the “life and legacy” of Dr. Robinson. In this we have been successful and many more students hear about and learn about this man.

The first student went as a Robinson Scholar in 2006. Since then 67 students have been selected as Scholars. 7 faculty members have travelled in this program to set up, inspect and make contact with the mentors and teachers at the distant site.

The students sponsored are:

A. School of Medicine - 19
B. School of Nursing - 22
C. School of Health Professions - 25
   1. Occupational therapy - 15
   2. Physical therapy - 9
   3. Dietetics and nutrition - 1

The award has been able to provide between $1200 – $1600 per student. ($1 = 60 Indian Rupees)

The organization between Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC) and Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore India has slowly evolved to a very high standard today. The communications between the two institutions make it very easy for the students to go over and have a very good academic and cultural education.

A building was constructed to accommodate our students. This building has 11 double rooms and the student is charged a room charge of Re. 250.00 per day. The Department of International Programs sends the request to the Hospitality department at CMC and reserves the accommodations. It is gender specific. A vehicle is arranged to pick up our students ad take them to the college campus. Our students receive a message giving the details of the vehicle, license plate number, name and cell phone number of the driver. Once they reach the campus there is person employed to orient them, issue ID badges and arrange for the clinical rotations.

From 2006 to 2014, the evolution of the program has been good.
Medical students 2014 in front of the Modale International hostel.
Katie Ault, Joel VanderVelde, Naseem Nikaeen.

Leo Salvo (PT) 2008 – adventures by train.

Dr. Thomas Ram MD, Dr. Saikat Das MD, Dr. Pamela Christudoss PhD, Dr. Nirmala Emmanuel

Andy Struble (PT) Jessica Bonovich (N)
Nathan Cuka (M) Jade Martens (PT) Heather

Taking the College bus to go to the hospital

In addition to the various academic educations, the students from KUMC have explored the country far and wide. They take trips by car, train and travel to Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Kerala, Pondicherry, Mumbai, Goa and other locations. They also get to meet and interact with students from the various parts of the world that visit CMC as International students – New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, UK, Canada, Belgium, Germany and many other English speaking countries. Our students come back with a wider and different worldview after their trip to CMC Vellore.