Sophie Davis Dreams of the Future
It has been a long-held goal of the Sophie Davis School to transform into a fully accredited medical pro-
gram. Now, the future is closer than you think.

Known as an in-
novator in medi-
cal education for forty years, the Sophie Davis BS/MD program continues to fo-
cus its curriculum around commu-
nity, health and social medicine. Its successes in educating a significant number of physicians who choose careers in primary care and in imparting a social awareness to its graduates have come to define the Sophie philosophy, inspiring physi-
cians across every area of specialty.

Now, as the nation faces a shortage of pri-
mary care physicians, as well as a new set of constraints on medical education, City College plans to transform its existing BS/MD model to an accredited medical school in order to more effectively address the urgent needs of both our state and nation.

In January 2014, with the full support of the City College of New York, Sophie Davis set the process in motion to transform its BS/MD program from a five-year into a seven-year program, pioneering a full Doctor of Medicine degree program with the same mission that the program has always known.

In the meantime, Sophie continues to sup-
port its relationship with its partnering medi-
cal schools - New York University, New York Medical College, Albany Medical College, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, the Com-
monwealth Medical College in Pennsylvania and the Northeastern Ohio School of Medi-
cine.

This transforma-
tion will allow the School to provide its stu-
dents with clinical experiences even earlier than before. The curriculum under development will incor-
porate coursework and experiential learning to provide students with the foundation to demon-
strate leadership in human rights and community care across the globe. With the planned enhancements, Sophie Davis is positioning itself to become a competitive and successful model for medical education in the 21st Cen-
tury.
Thursday October 3, 2013

will be remembered in the collective memory of the Sophie Davis community as the date of the 40th Anniversary gala. The Princess set sail at approximately 7:20PM, heading out to New York Harbor for an incredible night.

A year in the planning, it was the largest-scale event the School has ever hosted, welcoming guests from throughout its 40-year history -

alumni from 1977-2013, students from 2014-2016, parents, faculty and staff. City College President Lisa S. Coico (pictured at left with former SD professor Richard Coico) reminded guests that this anniversary was personal for her too - her husband had been part of the Sophie Davis faculty for nearly 20 years. She celebrated with gusto alongside the assembled Sophies, sharing many wonderful memories.
The evening was structured as a continuous cocktail party, with a short break after the first hour for a few speeches. Associate Dean of Students Dani McBeth, asked guests to take their seats. Dean Trevisan then warmly welcomed all present and introduced a surprise speaker - Alan Davis, the son of Sophie Davis, whose witty address took a poignant turn when he grew emotional, noting how much the evening would’ve meant to his mother. A tribute to the Davis family was delivered by Kenia Edwards ’13, who spoke on behalf of all Sophie Davis Scholars present on the cruise. Afterward, Dean Trevisan recognized each decade present - asking that graduates stand and remain standing and requesting that guests NOT hold their applause. As the clamor grew, alumni from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s early 2000’s and then finally the last graduating class, 2013, stood with pride. The crowd went wild!

A full day of presentations, split into morning and afternoon sessions flew by as wonderful speakers presented on a range of topics in the Great Hall. Halfway through each session, time was provided to review poster presentations created by students, alumni and faculty, leaving time for lots of conversation and celebration of the thoughtful side of Sophie Davis.

The morning session included six presentations organized around a theme of community-oriented medicine/clinical research and began with moving remarks by H. Jack Geiger. Presentations by Howard Hinestroza ’98, Meera Beharry ’99 and Lucy Xenophon ’81 followed.

The afternoon session, which focused on basic science, was introduced by Thomas Haines and included presentations from six faculty members and the Sophie Davis Dean Maurizio Trevisan.

The 40th Anniversary Symposium capped off with a keynote speech by the New York State Commissioner of Health, Nirav R. Shah, friend of Sophie Davis, ever since his colleague Adina Kalet ’82 introduced him to the School. Dr. Shah spoke eloquently of what Sophie was accomplishing saying that the country needed to think of Sophie Davis as a model of primary care preparation and its success in readying a diverse array of students to take their place in the medical profession.

The event was attended by members of the entire Sophie Davis community - students, alumni, faculty and friends.
Alumni Welcomed Back

Over the years, students at Sophie Davis have maintained a friendly yet underdeveloped relationship with recent graduates. An annual homecoming hosted by the Student National Medical Association and small scale ‘Match’ forums hosted by the 5th year class allowed some limited interaction between current students and our peers who had moved on to medical school and beyond. This changed in January 2013 however, when Drs. Sam Anandan ‘08, Akeem Marsh ‘07 and Fang Zhou ‘08 reached out to Student Government leaders. On February 13, 2013 Sophie Davis hosted its first ever Alumni Welcome Back Ceremony, an event coordinated and organized by students themselves. The aim of this gathering was to serve as inspiration for current students, re-kindle a strong connection with alumni and their alma mater, and to create a foundation upon which to build an Alumni Association at Sophie Davis. The evening consisted of band performances by Sophie Davis students, an icebreaker reflecting on notable moments in Sophie’s past, food, gift presentations, and of course lots of conversation between students, alumni, and even faculty! A follow up event is in the planning stages, most likely to be held in February 2014.

Anthony Okolo is a fourth-year student at Sophie Davis. To learn more about the Student Government efforts, please send a request to his attention at SD40@med.cuny.edu

A Word From the Biograph Editor

Every Sophie Davis student remembers holding the discreet envelope with the City College logo at the top left corner, hands trembling yet steady enough to gauge how thick it was. Thick was good. Thick meant documents, forms, acceptance. As we tore the envelope open, we immediately looked for that one word: “congratulations.” Upon seeing it, we were overcome with excitement and joy, followed by uncontrolled shrieking, jumping, tears, or all three. If it hadn’t hit already, we would soon be suffering from a severe case of “Senioritis”, a common disease with prevalence among high school seniors that has stumped 40 years of Sophie Davis physicians.

Most of us met during the Summer Pre-Matriculation Program, where, once again, we were wide-eyed freshman eager to begin the next step in our lives, yet unsure of what lay ahead. As we journeyed through the perils of First and Second year together, attacked by the vicious forces of torque and organic molecules, what kept us going was not only our shared dream of becoming compassionate physicians, but more importantly, having each other. Through thick and thin, we stood by one another, looking forward to mini-milestones that would gratify our hard work and make the overall journey that much sweeter. As lower years, we eagerly anticipated our Third Year, when we would officially enter the realm of medical school students during the White Coat Ceremony.
Traditionally, the White Coat Ceremony marks the rite of passage toward becoming a healthcare professional. Medical schools hold the event to commemorate the transition from preclinical to clinical education, when students would interact with patients and see the real world of medicine outside the scope of textbooks and hypothetical scenarios. At Sophie Davis, the event has always marked the start of Anatomy, taken in the spring semester of Third Year. Starting with the Class of 2015, the ceremony was moved to the beginning of the fall semester of third year in order to coincide with the new “Longitudinal Clinical Experience” course.

Its significance to Sophie students will always be profound. As a symbol of empathy, compassion, and professionalism, we recite the modern Hippocratic Oath during the White Coat Ceremony to represent our first step in the transition from student to professional. Third-year student Adrish Sarkar, who received his white coat in September, describes his reaction to the Ceremony as “elation, gratitude and determination.” Fifth-year student Yosef Dastagirizada, looking back, agrees saying “being coated was definitely one of the most unforgettable moments in my life.”

As full time medical students, we spend most of our time with our noses stuck in textbooks, “looking forward” to the endless stream of exams and boards.

The Sophie Davis Student Government and each Sophie Davis class does a tremendous job of organizing stress-relieving events and fiestas that bring all the years closer together, allowing us to bond with our peers in brief moments of frivolity. As upper years, with the White Coat Ceremony behind us, our next big milestone is the Fifth-Year Formal. Traditionally held at the end of April, the formal commemorates and celebrates all that we’ve accomplished in the past 4+ years – our unbreakable friendships and bonds formed with peers and faculty alike, a chance to formally say goodbye to all that we love and hate, and a passageway into the future.

Each Sophie Fifth-Year class is more than a collection of supremely intelligent individuals who share a common goal. By then, the class is a family who has been with one another through good and bad. Fifth years have shared in the festivities and picked one another up when times were bleak. The formal marks the end of an old chapter and the start of a new one, a chance to say goodbye to those who have been with us since the beginning, and an opportunity to be with our Sophie family one last time, now “looking forward” to a journey that we begin on our own. More than that though, it is a final memory of our time at Sophie. Third-year student Divya Patel, already aware of this milestone, remarks how “the Fifth-Year Formal is one of the last times graduating Sophies have a chance to celebrate together all of what Sophie represents and have a night to remember.”

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Brian Sou is a third-year student at Sophie Davis. Current issues of the Biograph, as well as a digital archive, can be found at www.sophiebiograph.com
Upcoming Events

Florida Alumni
Dean Trevisan is traveling to Florida in February to meet with alumni in South Florida and the Tampa Bay area and to share the Sophie Davis History Project, a web based video history of the program as documented through interviews and film. Tickets are available at www.sophiedavisccny.com.

Connecticut/Westchester Alumni
We are hosting a Sunday brunch in Ridgefield, CT on March 30, 2014 to reconnect with our New England and Westchester neighbors who aren’t able to make it to New York City for weeknight events.

Milestone Celebrations for Everyone
Building on the success of the 40th Anniversary celebrations, Sophie Davis is planning a reunion and milestone celebration on Sunday, June 8, 2014 for the 35th, 30th, 25th, 20th, 15th, 10th, 5th and newest graduating class, 2014. All alumni are welcome to attend, please plan to join us to celebrate alongside your colleagues and friends.

Questions?
For more information on any of these events, please contact Margaret at SD40@med.cuny.edu or 212.650.6131