

EMSAP Newsletter #5, May 2025

Fall 2024 began as usual in August with a pre-class social and seminar for EMSAP freshmen on the summer reading. The Holiday Party occurred again at the Smooth Rock Conference Center in Vestavia Hills. Medical residents and EMSAP alumni (2015) Aditi Jani and Keven Shrestha were our guest judges for the cookie-decorating contest and were our speakers. They are 3rd and 4th year fellows at UAB Hospitals in Infectious Diseases and High-Risk Pregnancies.



In February 2025, the medical school selected 36 students to interview on Zoom, the dental school selected 8, and the optometry selected 1. Over 340 out-of-state students applied and over 90 students applied from Alabama.

Because applications increased in 2024 to the dental and optometry schools, medicine only admitted 18 students, 12 from Alabama and 6 from elsewhere. This year, 14 matriculated, 7 from Alabama, 7 from Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee. The dental school admitted 4 students and 3 matriculated, 2 from Alabama. Optometry admitted 2 students and 2 accepted, all

from Alabama. The resulting class has 5 National Merit Finalists and many Presidential Scholars.

Of note, some students who interviewed for EMSAP and who did not get accepted decided to come to UAB anyway, including one National Merit Finalist. Some have registered for bioethics classes next Fall with Professor Pence and will be mentored by him as regular premed students.

In January, a dozen EMSAP students auditioned for the Bioethics Bowl team. The final team was Eshika Kudaravalli, Bryan Preer, Srushti. Tauluri, Cynthia Liu, Anusha Singh, and Deeksha Hanumanula. The team practiced twice a week with Professor Pence until the competition in April, when it competed at Salt Lake City. Some of the team then hiked above Salt Lake City (pictured). The team tied with Stanford, the reigning national champion, and placed fourth.



EMSAP students continued to socialize in groups called "families" led by senior students called "mothers." They had a Game Night in a nearby apartment complex.

In March, a group of EMSAP students attended the exciting home basketball game when UAB. In April, EMSAP Alumna Valerie Gribben returned to the EMSAP class in Narrative Medicine to talk about writing about medicine.



The 2024 EMSAP graduation dinner occurred at the Redmont Hotel in downtown Birmingham, where students heard an inspirational talk by EMSAP alumna and OB/GYN physician Roz Farmer, who retired from the Navy and started an to practice in Florence with her husband Scott. At this dinner, EMSAP teaching awards went to Robert Palazzo in Biology, Joe March in Chemistry, and David Basilico in English.



EMSAP students matched well on Match Day: in psychiatry at Yale, in surgery at Baylor, in ER Medicine at Cincinnati, Neurology in Dallas, Diagnostic Radiology in Dallas, PM&R, at Georgetown University, Internal Med, Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham, and Family Medicine at Stanford.

Commencement 2025 followed the EMSAP graduation dinner, after which 6 seniors entered the Heersink School of Medicine, 2 entered medical school at Harvard, 1 at Yale, 1 at Duke, and 1 at South Carolina (3 took a transitional year to further prepare for medicine).

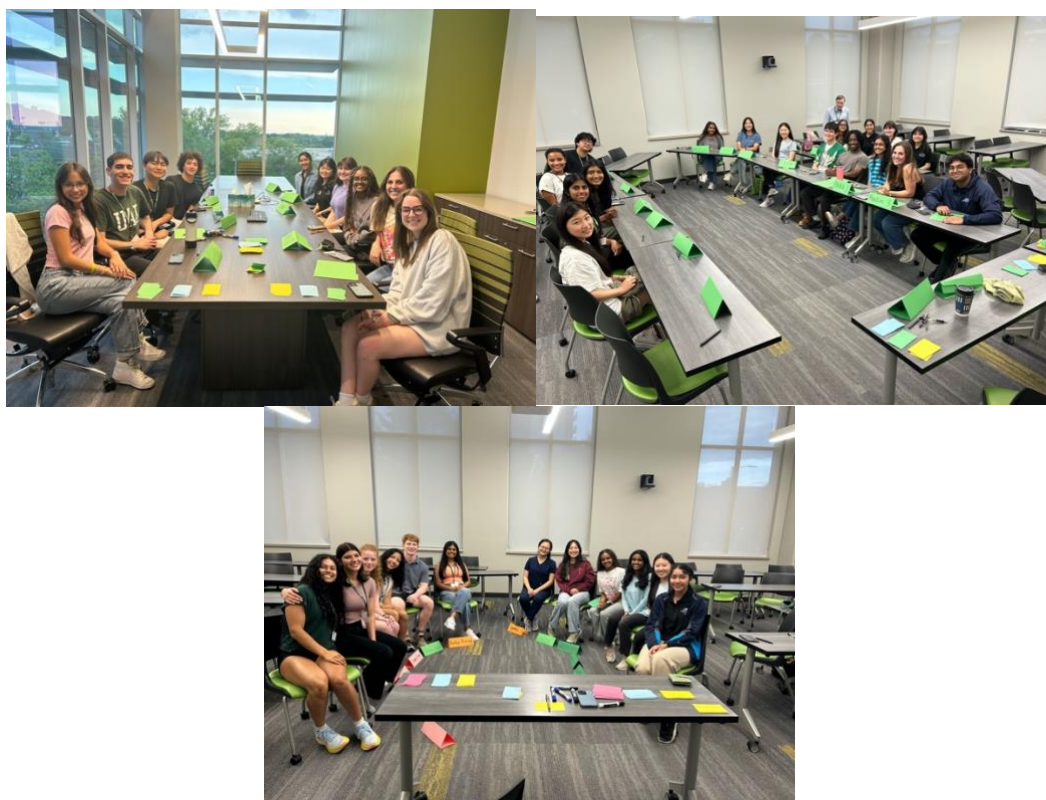


During 2025, we had excellent monthly meetings where seniors advised underclassmen on preparing for the MCAT and DAT, as well as good meetings with Dr. Grabowski of the medical school and both Wendy Scripps and Dr. Carly McKenzie of the dental school, as well as informal meetings with current dental students and our 8 current EDSAP students.

Three EMSAP students published in national periodicals as first authors, garnering a good story from UAB public relations.

In June of 2025, 18 incoming EMSAP freshmen attended Honors Orientations and met at an EMSAP social. Professor

Pence met separately with parents, which has been appreciated and successful.



EMSAP Game Night '25 at 3 Honors Orientations