
Most Meaningful (3) (700 C and 1325 C)

Medical Imaging Care Associate

Being a Medical Imaging Care Associate (MICA) was my first position at **X**. As a MICA, I am tasked with providing primary support to the emergency department radiology technologists, as well as with certain patient care elements. The position requires communication with patients in a professional manner, along with clear explanations about the x-ray procedures that have been ordered. A large part of this job is engaging in patient transport, along with aiding in the x-ray rooms when appropriate. In my time as a MICA, I have also become comfortable with other tasks, such as facilitating documentation of exams on EPIC and scanning/faxing necessary papers.

Most meaningful:

Second day of orientation, I was shadowing the MRI department before being in the emergency department. The MICA for MRI had me come along to meet the patients and bring them to the exam room. We met "Fred," an older gentleman presenting with headaches, who was accompanied by his close family. The family seemed very relaxed and were mainly there for transportation reasons; concern was not warranted in this scenario. The imaging process in MRI is very active, with many little tweaks and observations being conducted throughout the whole procedure. In my shadowing, I saw my first MRI exam, and I saw the first brain tumor. As we helped Fred back to his family, we saw the enthusiastic smiles, while the MICA and I knew that their lives would shortly change. It was very difficult to answer, "The radiologist will read the results shortly," when the family members asked about what we saw, knowing the trajectory that Fred would shortly face. While I never saw Fred again, I think about his case very often when presented with cancer patients in our department. I carry the attitude that these patients are here on what could be the worst day of their life, and it is undeniably our role to aid and support them through their stay. It has led to me being proactive in patient care elements.

Volunteer at Aphasia Center

The Aphasia Center at **X** opened shortly after the closing of **X**. Shortly after its opening, I was invited to a Zoom call with the director of the center and Dr. X, the director of Premedical Studies. I was asked to lead the recruitment of volunteers for the center and to become a volunteer. As a volunteer, I have attended weekly meetings aimed at helping those with aphasia and aiding their communication skills. Our speech therapy group has been a wonderful experience that has led to significant progress for the patients. The many communication skills I utilize in this center have translated to the hospital setting for stroke sufferers and when a language barrier exists.

Most Meaningful:

"You know that Dan is doing a great job," is a message I was given by "Amy's" dad. Amy is an aphasia patient who developed her condition after a motor vehicle accident resulting in a TBI. Amy was the first patient I was heavily involved with at the Aphasia Center, acting as her personal note-taker and helping her with new communication skills. My close work with Amy

allowed her to become much more comfortable writing down words she was struggling to communicate, something she used to roll her eyes at and ignore. Amy's parents have been very supportive of her and have had many conversations with me about translating skills from the therapy group to the home. These skills were focused on writing methods that were previously explored in class. Near the middle of the semester, I was given that message, and I deeply cherish it and keep it on my desk as a reminder. Amy and I have made progress every week, and she has been a big reason for me enjoying each and every session. Recently, I have started to work with many other patients but have been astonished by the changes in Amy. She has started to initiate conversations, speak with a louder voice, and ask follow-up questions. All this progress reminds me of the great job that Amy has done and the power that communication gives us.

Poster Presentation: Woman with YOPD

Much of my research conducted at **X** has focused on exploring Young Onset Parkinson's Disease (YOPD). This included many literature reviews and a continual search for new evidence in the field. Dr. X connected me to the subject after I completed the translation of *In Her Shoes*. The research culminated in a poster presentation focusing on: defining YOPD, disparities and issues women face due to YOPD, anecdotal evidence from *In Her Shoes*; an interview with Dr. X, and an investigation of PD in Latin America beyond YOPD. The research was presented at the **X** Feminist Studies Consortium and Undergraduate Research Day at **X**.

Most Meaningful:

Dr. X is a professor who has dealt with much adversity in her battle with YOPD. In my interview with Dr. X, one key question stood out was the age she was diagnosed. She told me how she had many symptoms aligning with PD and went to a neurologist who scoffed it off as anxiety. It was nearly 17 years later that she was diagnosed by an orthopedic doctor concerned about her tremor. Dr. X has been one of the greatest inspirations to me, both as a professor and as a person. She has empowered my work with YOPD as I was tasked with translating *In Her Shoes*, reaching out to support groups, and ultimately guiding me in creating my research project. In the many support groups, I have met amazing people who have greatly impacted my work on PD. Volunteering in the support groups has allowed me to witness the joy that these members feel when those around them understand the difficulties PD leads to. A lot of the time, however, I think about the injustices Dr. X faced in her diagnosis. There has been a severe imbalance in research for YOPD, and an even greater imbalance when gender is taken into account. There needs to be more outreach and discussion about YOPD in women, which ultimately fueled the creation and presentation of this poster.

Personal Assistant

- **Time Spent**

- **Responsibilities:** Tended to my Great Grandfather and Grandmother with patient care duties

As a personal assistant for my great-grandfather, "Mike," I carried out patient care duties that included changing his stoma, coordinating household chores, and helping my grandmother with caregiving responsibilities. While working with Mike, I entertained him

every day with joyful games of chess and by listening to his stories and lessons. It was difficult to watch Mike's constant UTIs and worsening health lead to daily confusion. This decline, coupled with his catheters starting to fail, brought me face-to-face with the reality of aging and the progression toward death. His passing left me needing to be a pillar of support for my family, while I carried on the many lessons of kindness he had taught me.

President of the Pre-Health Club

- **Time spent:**
- **Responsibilities:**

The Pre-Health Club, previously nicknamed "Code-Blue," was in a pitiful state in 2024 when the previous e-board failed to make efforts to recharter or engage the club in any activities. I was curious about the leadership, which led me to ask the club advisor. After a conversation, I was allowed to restart the club from scratch. As club president, I consistently engaged students at the school by organizing events, electing an e-board, and coordinating volunteering efforts. A key role of being an Aphasia Center volunteer coordinator led to greater involvement of my club's members with patients. Over time, the club has grown in both attendance and community engagement.

Volunteering at X Medical Center

- **Time Spent:**
- **Responsibilities:**

I started out as a volunteer at the hospital in the Oncology, Cardiology, Emergency, and Infectious Disease wings. I was excited to go around the hospital, talking with patients to see if they needed anything to entertain them or help them during their stay. I had many fascinating encounters with the patients I interacted with. One stood out. It was an encounter with "Joe" after he had been recently assaulted and was in a state of short-term amnesia. Joe was transparent with me about his journey to America, the struggles of leaving his family behind, and his pride in living and working in the U.S., topics that deeply resonated with my first-generation immigrant roots.

Volunteer at Wildwood

- **Time Spent:**
- **Responsibilities:**

In my junior year of high school, I reached out to the Wildwood program, which worked with adults with learning and social disabilities. In 2023, I worked on many projects related to anatomical and physiological education, specifically focusing on the

musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems. In the following year, I developed these earlier projects to educate the adults on daily situations related to these systems, emphasizing the importance of avoiding strain and preventing injury. This past year, my involvement shifted to social aspects, which led me to create projects about Bumble friends and safely meeting new people online.

Clinical Shadowing

Northeast Eye Center (Summer 2024) – Dr. X

X Medical Center (Summer 2024) – Dr. X

X Pediatrics (Fall 2024) – Dr. X

Dr. X DDS (Spring 2023)

Honor Societies / Awards

Nancy G. Slack Award (Spring 2025) – Rising junior majoring in Biology, Biochemistry, or Pre-Medical Studies at X

Scrimshaw/Stern Travel Award (Spring 2024)

Dean's List

(Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society

Honor Society at X College (2023–present)

Translation of “In Her Shoes”

Since my freshman year of college, I have been looking for opportunities to impact Parkinson's Disease. The chair of Biology, Dr. X, a professor who has been affected by Young Onset Parkinson's Disease (YOPD), tasked me with a mission over December break. Due to my fluency in Russian, I was able to translate the book *In Her Shoes*, which Dr. X helped create and write. There were many methods I used to translate this book, and I had to invest time into researching medical terminology in Russian that I wasn't familiar with. What resulted was me learning deeply about the effects of YOPD on women, the thin line of research for this group, and the importance of speaking about YOPD.

Piano Teacher

Since my early childhood, piano has been a major passion of mine that turned into one of my favorite hobbies. After completing all 6 levels of the NYSSMA evaluation, my teaching journey began. Over the last 3 years, I have taught 7 children altogether. Three children have stayed beyond the level 2 examination and have recently completed level 3 with high marks! I find joy in every aspect of teaching, learning to improve my teaching, and refining my students' techniques. Most importantly, I hope that my presence encourages the students to find piano as a passion.

Peer Tutor

After completing X 101, I was offered the opportunity to become a peer tutor for the incoming

class of students. At weekly intervals, I participated in a teaching assistant role. I was tasked with helping students with their assignments, providing the student perspective to the class, and being a pillar of support for those starting their educational journey. I found that near the end of the year, my presence mattered the most. Preparing students for the final presentation, including giving them detailed feedback on what to improve, helped many groups succeed. I will continue to help first-year students as a peer tutor in the upcoming fall 2025 semester.

Optional Additions (if you'd like to include):

Poster Presentation: Tennessee Williams Writing, Using Surplus Learning with Graphic Novels

- Poster 1: Discussed schizophrenia, gender roles, and mental illness in the 20th century.
- Poster 2: Focused on the potential of using graphic novels in medical school. More humanities than medicine-focused.

Future Involvement:

- TA for Anatomy & Physiology
 - Tutor for Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry
 - Research at Dr. X's Laboratory (Started: 50 hours so far; summer involvement expected to increase)
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