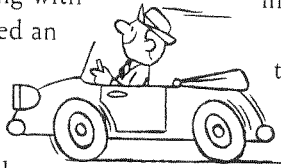


Safe Driving Is the Best Medicine for Student Adam Blomberg

Last month second-year medical student Adam Blomberg set out to change a couple hundred lives. Members of the student-organized Primary Care Forum, along with several of their peers, filled an auditorium in the Rosenstiel Building to hear Blomberg's presentation on vehicular safety. That he was able to even stand in front of the capacity crowd, much less lecture to them, is a miracle. Six years ago, Blomberg survived a near-fatal car crash and suffered a traumatic brain injury.



He's turned his survival story into a mission, educating high school students and community organizations on the importance of responsible, safe driving. Graphic photographs and video drive the point home and make for a thought-provoking lecture.

Blomberg's multi-media presentation touches on road rage, drunk driving, and the necessity of seatbelts, not only for the driver, but for passengers as well.

"You are responsible for whoever's in your car," he warns.

The residual effects of Blomberg's crash in 1995 make it difficult for him to immediately process some information he hears. But this just means an extra hour or two of study time, which he diligently commits to, in order to stay up to speed on his way to a medical degree.

"Medical school isn't stressful to me," he says. "That crash was. Now I see life from a different perspective."

In addition to his efforts in public education of vehicular safety, Blomberg volunteers at the William Lehman Injury Research Center at UM/Jackson.

"Adam has been persistent, committed, and dedicated to our program from the day he walked in," says Elana Perdeck, executive

director of the center. "His outreach to the young drivers in our community is incredibly important."

He also wrote a resolution to the American Medical Association, asking the organization to urge doctors to ask teenage patients about seatbelt use while taking their medical history. Next he will travel to San Francisco to face AMA delegates.

Blomberg's story and advocacy truly are an inspiration, and later this year, his efforts will be rewarded. He has been chosen to run a leg with the 2002 Olympic torch, an honor reserved for Americans who embody the Olympic spirit and inspire their community.

"Technically, I shouldn't have survived that car crash, but I survived for a reason," Blomberg says. "It's nice to know that people can use my story as an inspiration."

If you would like to contact Blomberg to schedule a presentation, e-mail ablomberg@trauma.med.miami.edu.

Medical Grand Rounds Features UM President Donna E. Shalala

Medication compliance, fragmented health care, and bioterrorism were on

the docket when UM President Donna E. Shalala visited the School of Medicine for a guest lecture at Medical Grand Rounds. President Shalala, who also discussed a variety of other health care topics, addressed an overflowing crowd at Jackson's Diagnostic Treatment Center on October 26. In addition, the event featured a question-and-answer session with the president on many health care issues. As former U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services, President Shalala offered informative opinions and answers on a multitude of medical topics, including preparedness for bioterrorism, alternative medicine, and the School of Medicine's collaboration in public health efforts. Her visit was followed by an interactive lunch with medical students. •

Portable Defibrillators Distributed around Campus

Vital minutes won't tick away if a heart attack strikes a visitor to UM/Jackson. Portable defibrillators, devices that shock the heart and normalize its rhythm, are being distributed to key locations around the medical center, and officers from the Department of Security are being trained in the use of the life-saving devices.

The initiative was created following a donation from Robert Myerburg, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Cardiology. After being named UM's 2001 Distinguished Faculty Scholar, he returned his award money to further a long-time crusade to provide defibrillators in high-traffic public areas. Dr. Myerburg has pioneered cardiac health awareness in South Florida and nationwide, and he felt it was time for the



UM President Donna E. Shalala addresses medical faculty, staff, and students at the October 24 Grand Rounds.