



The Bulletin

of the Project HOPE Alumni Association

President's Message

Fall 2010



By Esther Kooiman, President
Project HOPE Alumni Association

My first task as the incoming President of the Alumni Association is a pleasant one. I have the honor of saying Thank You to two ladies, both of whom have worked very hard as members of the

Board of Directors.

Valerie Cook became President earlier than was expected when her predecessor became ill. At the time plans were well under way for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Val stepped in and spearheaded a wonderful event. She also worked on many other items, including revising the 3-Year Plan for the organization, bringing the Bulletin on-line, updating the membership list, and improving communications with the HOPE Center. She also has worked very hard on contacting the new HOPE volunteers and inviting them, along with the HOPE Center Staff, to join our organization. Thank You, Val, for all of your hard work.

Many years ago Eunice Childs, and her late husband Dr. Al Childs, became the Regional Contacts for the West Coast. She worked as Registrar on several reunions held in San Francisco and in that role for the Celebration in Virginia. She has also served on the Alumni Board as Secretary/Treasurer for many years. Eunice will remain active, continuing as Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain/West Area. Thank you, Eunice, for your many years of work on the Board.

We have three new members of the Board. Michele Okamoto is the new Secretary/Treasurer, Diane Speranza and Debra Reister are serving as Members-at-Large. Michele and Diane first served on the USNS Mercy after the Tsunami in SE Asia. Debra is the Committee Chairperson planning the next reunion in Chicago, October 2012. Welcome, ladies.

The Alumni Board will next time meet in Portland, Oregon in October, 2011 where we will continue working on plans for the next Reunion to be held October 18-20, 2012 at the Union League Club in Chicago. Save those dates. And, please let us know if there is anything special you want to do while there.

I want to encourage each of you to visit the Project HOPE website frequently and read the many interesting stories from the field. I am amazed at the variety of programs to be found in many countries. There is an average of 65 active programs at any one time. And remember to keep up to date on the Alumni News by going to “How to Help” and then to “Alumni Page.”

Fall 2010 In this Issue

SS HOPE VOYAGE I
HOPE ALUM WRITES BOOK
ECUADOR ALUMNI REUNITE
UPDATE ON HAITI
UPDATE ON NAVY MISSIONS

SHARE WITH US!!!

- **How a humanitarian mission affected or changed your life.**
- **A favorite memory of a mission**
- **Your thoughts about the value of a HOPE mission**
- **Any stories/activities about other alumni that you know**
- **Stories of a career change that can be the result of your work with Project HOPE**
- **All photos welcome with a story**

Send all stories and photos to Melanie Mullinax at mmullinax@projecthope.org.

SS HOPE VOYAGE I

By Marisol E. Murphy-Ballantyne

On September 22, 1960 Dr. William Walsh saw his vision of a floating hospital realized when the SS HOPE set sail from San Francisco to Indonesia. The world's first peace time hospital ship, the SS HOPE was tasked with providing health care and health education to those in need around the globe. The ship and its many American volunteers would also serve as a symbol of America's good will.

"The HOPE, I believe, is a dramatic and effective symbol of the national trait that makes our power bearable. As people, we reach out to other people with the wish to help them when we have little or nothing to gain from it," wrote Walsh in his book *A Ship Called HOPE*.

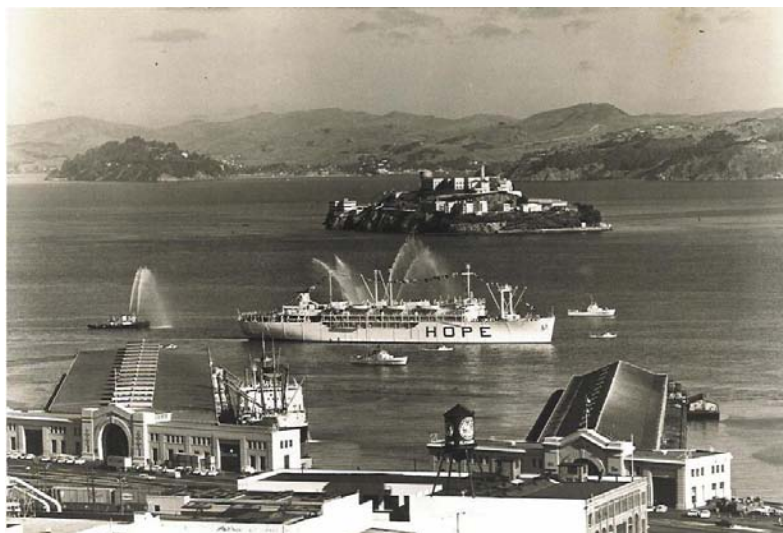
Arriving in Sumbawa Besar, Indonesia on October 19 the SS HOPE encountered a coral reef that prevented the ship from docking alongside the pier as well as an island where malnutrition was common, tuberculosis endemic and preventative medical programs were nonexistent. While in Indonesia the nurses and doctors aboard the SS HOPE saw 17,000 patients, performed 700 major operations, held 800 teaching sessions, and provided 10,000 x-rays. During its seven month stay in Indonesia the HOPE also delivered 80,000 pounds of powdered milk, 4,000 medical journals, another 4,000 books, and 2,000 artificial limbs. By the time the HOPE set sail for Vietnam 30,000 people had visited the ship.

"Tied up to the dock, we held more fascination than any American movie, even in Cinemascope or Technicolor," wrote Dr. Walsh about the 8,000 visitors who came aboard the ship while it was docked in Sumbawa Besar. "Visitors were fascinated to see where we lived and worked. How American and efficient it was, they said over and over."

In June of 1961 the SS HOPE departed Indonesia and headed to Vietnam. On its way to Vietnam the ship was dry docked in Hong Kong for repairs allowing for seven days of rest for the hard working staff. In Vietnam Hopies would see 11,000 patients, perform 500 major operations, and host 28 interns and residents as well as 22 nurses through the duration of their time in the Southeast Asian country. The HOPE staff provided training in the form of weekly medical meetings, daily rounds and conferences in 18 medical specialties.

The Voyage I class of Hopies also completed the first mass inoculation program for children in Vietnam, protecting them against typhoid, tetanus, pertussis and diphtheria. HOPE also introduced oral surgery to the country and opened an orthopedic rehabilitation with equipment from the ship before ending its first voyage.

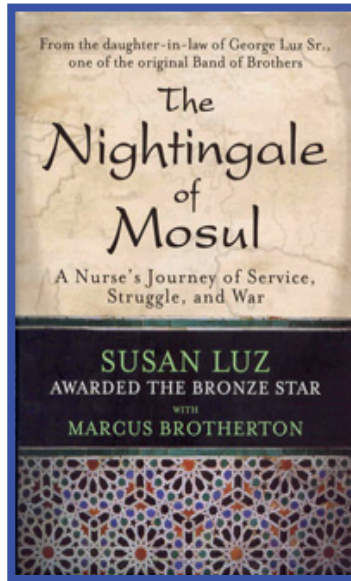
After 11 voyages the SS HOPE was retired in 1974. However, it left behind a mission that to this day remains the same: to achieve sustainable advances in health care around the world by implementing health education programs and providing humanitarian assistance in areas of need. Whether educating villagers in Africa about HIV/AIDS, providing Haiti earthquake victims with much needed medicine, training doctors to diagnose and treat rare diseases, or helping women around the world care for their family's health and finances, Project HOPE readily accepts the challenge.





**Project HOPE Alum Writes Book about her Life
as a Humanitarian and Army Nurse**
By Marisol E. Murphy-Ballantyne

“When I read the book I said wow, you did all that?!” said Colonel Susan Luz when talking about her book, *Nightingale in Mosul*. The novel chronicles her humbling and often courageous career as a volunteer, high school and military nurse and her efforts to help her family battle her nephews’ cystic fibrosis.



Not planning on ever writing a biography, it took some convincing from her husband and others for her to agree to write what she calls a “love story to my whole family and friends,” and when she was approached about it she wanted to make sure the book wouldn’t be just about her military career.

“My life has not been about the army, my life has been devoted to taking care of my brother and sister’s kids because I have three nephews that are terminally ill,” said the Colonel, who has dedicated the book to her nephews. “They fight their battles against cystic fibrosis every day and I know they’ll win.”

In fact the dedicated aunt is putting all monies from the book sales into a fund for her nephews’ care.

A very studious nursing student at the University of Rhode Island (URI), Luz always knew she wanted to be a military nurse. Out of college and ready to help the wounded soldiers in Vietnam Susan told her parents her plans to sign-up but her father, a World War II veteran, adamantly opposed. Knowing she wanted to use her skills for good Susan along with her roommate decided to join the Peace Corps where she was sent to a small town in Brazil. After surviving a brutal attack in the South American county she went back to that same little town to finish her stint with the Peace Corps.

It was while in Brazil Colonel Luz first encountered

Project HOPE. The SS HOPE Hospital Ship had come into Brazil and she was able to tour the operation. Impressed she headed back to the states with the intent of volunteering once again but with Project HOPE. However, after finishing her master’s degree in nursing at Boston University she realized the SS HOPE was no longer running. Volunteering for a Project HOPE anyway, she headed back to Brazil as part of a land-based program.



Luz in Brazil 1977 with her nursing students

“For me going into Project HOPE, I was a lot stronger,” said the Colonel. “I was determined not to be a victim. I am a survivor and I just loved the whole thing about the Ship HOPE. I just knew I still hadn’t finished what I had to do in Brazil.”



Susan sees a baby in Natal, Brazil in 1977

Although she didn’t extend her time with Project HOPE in Brazil because her father was very sick, she recalls her work with HOPE fondly.

“I think of my time with Project HOPE as a wonderful thing,” said Susan.

By 1978 she was back in the United States and later began working as an inner-city school nurse to high school students who needed more than just their

Continued from page 4...

temperature taken. As school nurse Luz dealt with teen pregnancy and helped begin programs to support teen mothers so that they could continue their education. She also provided support to students dealing with abuse and teen violence.



Susan in Iraq in 2006

In 1983 the Colonel signed up for the Army Reserves beginning what would be a 27 year career as a military nurse. Luz credits her opportunities to do humanitarian work with the Army to the language skills she picked-up while working with the Peace Corps and Project HOPE. Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese her military career has taken her on humanitarian missions throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

In 2006, at age 56 and the highest ranking female in her unit, Colonel Susan Luz was alerted she would be deploying to Iraq for up to a year. Luz set out, like she always had, to be the best nurse she could be to soldiers in Mosul and Al Asad, Iraq during one of the war's deadliest years. While there she helped anyone, including Iraqi insurgents, who were wounded and brought in for care. Going beyond the call of duty the Colonel also became the go-to-person to help boost spirits and morale on the base. Upon her return Colonel

Luz was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the fourth highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"They called me the ambassador because as you can tell I love to talk," says Luz about her time in Iraq. As of May 16, 2010 and at the age of 60 Susan has finally retired from the reserves and working a psychiatric hospital in Rhode Island. Luz is already thinking about how she can again volunteer. She wants to keep on serving she says.

"I would love to get involved as a volunteer. I have a lot more time now," she says with enthusiasm in her voice. "I'm excited for my future. I've got 25 years yet."

Spreading HOPE with Holiday Cards

Project HOPE is launching a new greeting card campaign that makes it easy to order and personalize greeting cards online **and** help support our lifesaving programs around the globe.

Before purchasing your holiday cards this year, check out our eclectic assortment of cards online at

www.projecthope.giving-matters.com. You'll see how easy it is to send your friends and loved ones high quality, beautifully designed holiday cards complete with your very own personal message. The cards hold even more meaning knowing that your purchase price will also help support Project HOPE's health education, humanitarian assistance and volunteer programs throughout the year.

Give cards. Give HOPE.

Buy Your Holiday Cards Online Now!

www.projecthope.giving-matters.com



'63-'64 Voyage to Ecuador Alumni Reunite

By Carol Hendrick

In October, 2009, a group of Hopies who went on the voyage to Ecuador in 1963-64 met for a mini-reunion in Bellingham, Washington. Those present were: Dorothy Aeschliman, Darlene Jeannes Aquirre, Val Cook, Mary Elmore-Kole, Nasa Foti, Carol Hendrick, Shirley Nordstrom-Woods, Kim Sasano, Ada Schoch-Bowen, and Ethel Vande Bunte.

Mary Elmore-Kole (and Chris) graciously invited us to their lodge near Bellingham, Washington. Mary named the property "Beau Lodge" because it is a beautiful place, 20 acres of woods, a path through the woods, a pond, as well as the rustic lodge. Mary schedules the lodge for weddings, retreats, family reunions, parties, etc. It is a lovely place - quiet, peaceful, spacious, and beautiful.

The weather was perfect. We renewed friendships, reminisced a lot, had great laughter and joy, as well as great food and wine! A friend of Mary's prepared dinner Saturday night, a gala event, and of course Nasa prepared breakfast one morning, as did Ethel another morning. I can't say enough how gracious Mary was (and is!) and she showed she enjoyed having us there as much as we enjoyed being there! A totally awesome gathering, thanks to everyone who came, and who pitched in!



Update on Haiti

By Marisol E. Murphy-Ballantyne

Just nine months ago, the people of Haiti suffered through a deadly and destructive earthquake that left more than 230,000 people dead and homes, schools and medical facilities in shambles.

Project HOPE responded immediately after the January 12th earthquake by sending 80 volunteers to provide urgent care aboard the USNS Comfort and on shore. After the Comfort departed Project HOPE continued to send volunteers to Haiti to help care for those in need. A total of over 100 volunteer doctors, nurses and medical technicians and more than \$50 million of medicines and medical supplies have been delivered to Haiti.

Groups of HOPE volunteers, including midwives, physical therapists and biomedical engineers continue to serve several medical facilities in Haiti as our focus turns from disaster relief to intermediate care to long-term health education and care programs that will help ensure those injured during the earthquake have hope for a full recovery.

Haiti's Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Health have both expressed gratitude and support for all of Project HOPE's relief efforts in their country. And with their support, Project HOPE is currently in the midst of launching a multi-year rehabilitation medicine program in Haiti to care for the more than 10,000 patients that will require long-term rehabilitative care – including more than 4,000 amputees.

Building on experiences providing rehabilitation services in the aftermath of earthquakes in Turkey in 1999 and China in 2008, Project HOPE aims to form a "Southern Rehabilitation Network," that will include both physical and mental health components to treat and help heal those with earthquake related injuries.

For more than 50 years, Project HOPE has been relied upon to provide lifesaving care and health education in times of need, as well as ongoing health support in the years following natural disasters. We did it in Indonesia after the Tsunami where debilitated health systems are now beginning to flourish. We did it in China following the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, where amputees are now receiving the care they need to live productive lives. And we will do it again in Haiti, helping to support and build physical rehabilitative services that will help amputees now, and serve the people of Haiti for years to come.



Navy Missions 2010 By Marisol E. Murphy-Ballantyne

This year has been a busy year for Project HOPE volunteers from across the United States. In early January 41 volunteers joined the United States Navy aboard the United States Navy Hospital Ship Comfort to provide very urgently needed care to those who suffered injuries during the Haitian Earthquake. Project HOPE volunteers continued to offer care in Haiti after the Comfort departed.

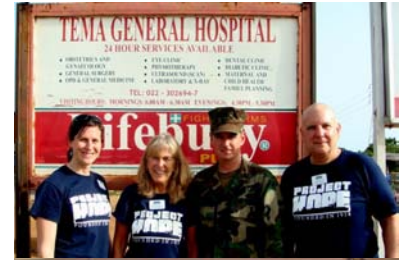
While volunteers continued work in Haiti, three Project HOPE volunteers began a health education mission on the other side of the world in Tema, Ghana. The emergency room specialists volunteered at the Tema General Hospital from March 13 -27. The team focused on emergency care and education and provided coaching, teaching and mentoring to local emergency room care providers. Training included disaster management, mass casualty operations, health care provider skill set evaluations and emergency room protocols.

In May, five Project HOPE volunteers travelled to Can Tho, Vietnam as part of Operation Pacific Angel—a joint mission with the U.S. Air Force. Made up of an optometrist, nurse midwives and a dentist, the HOPE volunteers provided care to men, women and children while also providing training and mentoring to their Vietnamese counterparts. In just six short days this group of about 50, including the Air Force and other non-governmental organizations, treated 4,600 patients.

In late May, Project HOPE volunteers joined the U.S. Navy aboard the USNS Mercy for Pacific Partnership 2010. The team, including Earl Rogers who first volunteered with Project HOPE in 1972 aboard the SS HOPE, provided health care and health education. The humanitarian mission was made up of professionals from all four U.S. military services, 10 partner nations, and NGOs. The ship docked in Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Timor Leste and over 101,000 patients were treated during the mission.

Finally, in July, Project HOPE volunteers began work in the Caribbean and Latin America aboard the USS Iwo Jima as part of Continuing Promise 2010. The mission, which is currently underway, began in Haiti and has continued on to Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The Iwo Jima will visit Guyana, Panama and Suriname before the mission ends and volunteers will provide care and health education at every stop.

Since partnering with the U.S. Navy in early 2005 to provide tsunami relief, Project HOPE has participated in 19 humanitarian assistance and health education missions with nearly 1,000 HOPE volunteers. These missions have provided care to more than 490,000 people, offered health education to more than 115,000 and delivered \$33 million in donated medicines and medical supplies.



FOLLOW THE VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD. VISIT OUR BLOG.

In Memoriam

William Westerlin Anderson, M.D.

Sr. Anes Regina Siracusa

Sr. Dorothy “Theo” Mandragos

Jeanne Clinton

John Ratcliffe, M.D., FACS



ADDRESS CHANGES

The alumni directory is updated monthly by one of our Regional Directors. If you change your address or email, please contact Irene Machado at machado.irene@gmail.com so you will receive the newsletter and all communication from the Alumni Association.

The information in our alumni directory is kept confidential and is NOT shared with any other organization. If you want to change the amount of donor mail that you receive from Project HOPE, contact dcombs@projecthope.org.



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YEARS SERVED

1986 - 1988
1988 - 1992
1992 - 1994
1994 - 1996
1996 - 1998
1998 - 2001
2001 - 2004
2004 - 2007
2007 - 2010

DECEASED*

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