

Parents Feedback on 2014 SARAS

Dear SARAS Organizers:

The week before SARAS began I had second thoughts about enrolling my daughter in the SARAS program. I knew that the program had a good reputation I knew that the children involved often enjoyed the experience. That did not prevent me from having a list of reasons why my daughter shouldn't attend... what was I thinking? it was too far, it interrupted our summer plans, it was too far, I'd have to drive to pick up and drop off my daughter, weekly, it was too far. I was sick of buying items she would need, and have her complain about them. More over my daughter had started complaining about having to attend, plus it was just too far away to be worth it. I took the long painful drive and dropped her off, like every other 16 year old she complained the entire drive and then once I dropped her off she called me every 5 minutes. This was going to be a long hard 3 weeks, maybe I could pull her out after 1 week, but I didn't want her to think it was ok not to follow through on commitments.

Day 1.... I received numerous calls of complaints and "please mom come get me", "I don't like this" "this is boring" "I don't want to be here" "I'm not interested in any of this stuff" although she had a roommate that she like very much. Ugh, I wasn't sure how much of it I could stand. I told her to keep a positive attitude, I told her that these same people would be her peers as she grew into adulthood, I told her she should not burn bridges because she would meet all these people again in her academic/life journey. I began sending her daily motivational and inspirational quotes. We didn't speak for a few days, when we did it was as if I was speaking to a different person. She raved about the first day of facial trauma and every single day that followed, she raved about the children that she was meeting and her interaction with them. She raved about the humor with some of the instructors. When I made that long, long drive to pick her up on Friday she spent the rest of the weekend texting her SARAS friends.

Did she have complaints hmmm maybe little ones, food, getting up early... but after that first day she mostly spoke in glowing and positive tones about her experiences at SARAS. She took the program seriously, she made friends, she developed interests in areas of medicine she never thought of. She also had fun, SARAS had managed to combine the art of keeping these high schoolers motivated and still have them learn valuable content. Somehow that drive didn't feel as long after that first week.

Thank so much for having "Sam" in your program. It was a hit in our household.

Regards

"Sam's mom"

Hello Doc. Srinivas! Josiah really appreciated the classes that he attended. He would always come home and talk about how great the classes were and how much fun he was having! Thank you again for providing these children a great way to learn and have fun during the summer!

Josaiah's parents

Hello Dr. Pentyala,

Good morning. Hope you are enjoying your summer. I already send you my feedback about your program. I am so happy with your program that I don't mind to write another feedback. I will not mind to write again in future as many times you want. You are doing an excellent job for our kids. My daughter now talks about CPR. She knows the importance of hand washing in prevention of infection. The list can be on and on. In a nutshell she is very satisfied with the whole program. She feels that she learnt a lot from the program, and that's matter to me most. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the effort you take to educate the high school kids.

Best regards,

Anjana

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

I did send you an email before, but this current one is my formal "homework" assigned by you. Since I am in Hong Kong, I am hoping Dustin will send you his comment too. Although I haven't had a chance to talk to Dustin, judging from your slide show and his Facebook photo (I am not his friend, but peep from his cousin's FB), I believe he had lots of fun. I am hoping you understand how much we appreciate your effort, sending us email each night, reminding the kids the thank you note and "homework". This is an amazing program, while I was looking though Stony Brook's site, I found this program. I even recommended to 2 of my friends' kids. They both told me how great the program is. As a biologist (I am actually a microbiologist teaching in in Dept. of Bio), I understand how important about the students' knowledge in the medical school. There are myths and truths, but for sure, each medical doctor did spend his or her effort throughout the study. In addition, apart from MD, there are many opportunities in the healthcare field. (Yes, if one can't be a MD, it's not the end of the world!!) Thus, I appreciate this camp more, your program offered a variety of lessons for these high school kids, and I believe planting the seed is important. I really can't thank more about this opportunity for my son. I do know some lectures may put a few kids to snore (esp. my son), but this is also the way college is. These students should appreciate these professors' effort. I am also grateful for Dustin to meet so many other bright and smart kids.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your program. In addition, I really like the way you send us message daily and share the event and especially the fun joke. And recently, you sent us some relevant important about medical school and prep class. Many parents and I are greatly appreciate it.

Lastly, thanks so much for these 3 weeks and put up with our child.....! It is never EASY to handle the teens and youngsters and you deserve a great vacation after all. Enjoy your vacation!!

Best,
Anna

Hello Dr Pentyla,

Hope you had a nice summer after putting all the effort in the SARAS. My daughter Pooja had an exciting experience, she enjoyed the program. We as parents looked forward to your daily emails updating us. Pooja felt better informed about the different careers paths in the medical field and was quite fascinated. Would definitely want your input regarding Pooja wanting to do research .Thank you,

Regards,
Anshu

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

Thank you very much for offering an excellent 3 weeks of SARAS for my daughter Brundha. At first, I was not sure how much Brundha would benefit from attending the SARAS program. But, after she came back from the program, I felt very happy to hear her tell me all the new things she learned. She really learned a lot from SARAS. After attending the program, she got a clear idea about the medical field. In addition to the program itself, she also got exposure to the university environment, made many friends and had a wonderful time during her stay at the Stony Brook University campus. I will definitely recommend this program for any student interested in the medical field. Once again, thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Bhanu

Michelle said she had a great time with all the kids at SARAS. The food was very popular also. Thank you very much.
Bryan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all of the lecturers for giving our son Marcus a wonderful experience and full of opportunities. I also enjoyed hearing about the lectures.

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My deepest thanks for my daughter Emily's participation in this wonderful program. Every day on our drive home, I was always so excited listening to all the presentations she has heard. The SAT workshops were a valuable bonus for us also! Emily has learned more than she could have ever imagined, and as I expected, it has exposed her to fields she wasn't sure if she would be interested in pursuing in college or not. Stony Brook has so many impressive choices! The speakers were dedicated to their fields and it always came out in their presentations. The addition of the Alumni Science Fair was also a brilliant idea and showed Emily impressive research done by her peers. Every day was also a wonderful relief for both parents and students that they had a wonderful luncheon provided for them. Lastly, it is greatly appreciated that this program was offered on a \$500 minimum donation, rather than a high fee that maybe would have made it not affordable to some families. For all the above reasons, I have told several coworkers about SARAS and they are definitely interested in enrolling their children when they are of age. Thank you again for a job well done!
Cheryl

My son, Tejas had a wonderful time attending the 3 week SARAS program and was very proud on being the recipient of Best Memory Certificate. As a parent, I have to compliment you and your team along with the various speakers for holding this knowledge gaining summer camp at Stony Brook University. Please do continue this yearly as in a few years' time I can get my other son to attend as well.
Thank you and Cheers!
Chintamani

Dear Dr. Srinivas,
I am so happy to write you about Eric in Saras program this summer. It is educational and funny program for the kids. It was nice to provide yummy lunches for all the kids. I very appreciated you being so kind, thoughtful, hardwork and making Saras happen for the students. Thank you very much! We will miss you....
Best Regards,
Eric's mother

Dear Professor Pentyala:
First of all, I would like to thank you for the diligent work to organize this program. It was a tremendous work that you did. Andrea is going to be in her 10th grade after the summer. She loves the program. Every day on our family dinner table, she just can't stop from talking about all the things she learned and the things happened in Saras that day. I can definite see the impact of the program on her. Not only she learned some medical knowledge, it make her start to be interested in Medical field. I feel lucky that we have chosen this program. The food is also very nice. She loves the food every day. Thank you!! Best regards,
Haodan

Dear Dr. Pentyala
SARAS is such an awesome program. Michelle seemed to enjoy its every topic and every activity. During the session she was exposed to a great deal of biomedical subjects and learned a lot. It also sparks her new interests in science research. Thank you for the tremendous efforts and enthusiasm on organizing this program for students. I would certainly recommend it to the others.
Best Regards,
-Dandan

Dear Dr. Pentyala,
Congrats! Although the SARAS 2014 program is done, you and your team deserve an exceptional round of kudos for putting together an awesome program for the kids! At first, Camrin was a little reluctant to attend - I think that was just his nerves as he's never been alone and away from home before. After one day, Camrin was telling me, "Mom, I'm fine." I feel the overall experience has been rewarding and inspirational for him. Please continue!
All the best,
Denise

My son, Joshua, had a wonderful experience attending SARAS. Both his older brothers, Eric and David, attended SARAS and also had wonderful experiences. Joshua learned many new things and met many new friends. He came home happy and excited to share his experiences in the program. He matured tremendously in the three weeks attending your program. I feel this was a great program for him. Thank you,

Debra

As a single mother, I find it challenging to find affordable programs that enrich my daughter and her boundless curiosity. SARAS did this for my child and I thank you for offering such a rich program. Everyday Kayla was excited to join her new friends and learn something new. Can my daughter do this program again next summer? This was a great opportunity for my child and I thank you for providing such a wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Diana

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

As parents of Brandon, an attendee of this Summer's SARAS program at Stony Brook, we are very appreciative of the opportunity that he was offered and able to participate in. Brandon is a kinetic learner and the teaching style of the program was unique and interactive in nature, and allowed for him to be fully engaged, absorbed and challenged by the material. He was particularly fond of the hands on lab work and only wished there were more such opportunities offered during the course of the series. Of the lectures given, Brandon was particularly drawn to the exposure to Ophthalmology and Stem Cell Growth Research. Brandon was also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to further develop his leadership skills as a team leader of the "Indigo Team" in a fostering environment. He was exposed to many intriguing possibilities within the medical field in a short three week span, proving this program to being innovative and exploratory for today's youth. The opportunity given to explore the multitude of options is wonderful and insightful! Brandon concluded the program more eager than ever to pursue his dreams of one day being fully engrossed as a medical professional. He is very excited about college life and all that it has to offer both academically and socially. He was able to meet so many wonderful people and peers that he has befriended as a result of the program. Stony Brook has become his top choice on his list of colleges and he will be applying enthusiastically! Our hats off to you and your team of colleagues, for a wonderfully motivating learning experience and opportunity! Please extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved for their commitment and time vested in making this program a success.

Best of luck also to all the young learners that participated this Summer!

Sincerely yours,

Edwin and Alexandria

Dear Srinivas,

I am so glad that Lina had an opportunity to attend the 2014 SARAS program! She sure had three wonderful weeks of great time! The lectures were well balanced and gave the students a great overall review about what is like in different fields, including scientific and medical careers. She is also much more motivated in her studies as the SARAS program shed lights on their college application processes, made it more realistic although she is only entering 10th grade the coming year. Once again, I am happy that there was such a program available to our kids in the community. I hope the program will be continued for our future high school students. Thanks.Regards,

Feng

Dear Dr. Srin,

First of all, thank you for taking your time to organize such a program. My daughter Cathy enjoyed it so much. My wife and I put her in this program for her deep interest in science and her dream to become a surgeon. This program really helped my daughter to see the different types of fields there are in the biomedical field. She always came home with stories to tell and always spoke upon the program with a big smile on her face. Seeing the competitive and innovative minds of her peers has motivated her to work harder to achieve her goals. Thank you for teaching her so many valuable lessons. I know this is a program that she will never forget.

-Steven

Hi Dr. Srinivas,

Teresa had fun in SARAS. She was excited to learn the various medical fields. She would like to explore any further research opportunities in next summer. She is serious to pursue the medical school and is exploring the resources. Thank you very much for all staff's support!

Sincerely,

Hui

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

My daughter, Grace was first hesitant to attend the program because she didn't know anyone. She is big believer in social circumstances affects her overall motivation to perform. Also it was a long commute... After few days of attending, she made some friends. She also begin to talk to me about the daily events took place. As you know teenage girl never talk about school stuffs. She said lecturers were good and materials that they lectures were very interesting. I don't know whether she would ended up pursuing medicine or not, but if she is this program certainly influence her thinking. Thank you. Have a nice summer and keep up with true dedication.

- John

Good Evening Dr. Sirini Ji,

I personally would like to thank you on behalf of my father, sartaj's dad and myself for giving our son a great educational 3 weeks. I have seen a positive attitude and extremely enthusiasm after coming home and letting me know about whom all he met and all the lectures he had. He had a lot of fun with full education and fun and activities.

Saras has exposed my son to all different aspect and in medical fields, which has opened his mind to think outside the box. Appreciate all you have done for him. He speaks a lot about germs and how he is making me clean more around the house:)) I cleaned our carpet and curtains and shower heads today:) Thank you thank you thank you.

Hope sartaj can be your helper in future. Gratitude!!!

Indu

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

Thank you very much for organizing the Saras program. Appreciate your sense of humor and daily information! My daughters Terrie and Megan enjoyed it very much! Every day they came home and shared the interesting things they learned and the delicious food they ate. Their favorite parts were the workshops. The program opened their eyes about different areas in the medical field. I will definitely recommend it to other children who's interested in science and medical field in the future. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Janet

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

Hello, I am Manny's mother. Manny had great experiences through your program. Before the program started Manny was complaining and giving skeptical comments about the program, but as soon as program started he stopped complaining and kept talking about new things that he learned from program. It was a bit of long commute but he had other friends and he even seemed to enjoy the train ride. Thank you for the everyday email. I am surely informed well about what was going on the campus. Thank you for everything!

Sincerely,

Jeonghwa

ps. I don't think Manny will send you the reflection since he is busy in trying out for fall school sport and preparing for school. But he asked me to write that he had a great time and learned a lot. Also he mentioned the lunch was the best part (I know he was just kidding.)

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

It was a great experience for Matthew to attend this summer camp. He really liked it. We wish we could have more opportunities like this summer camp even in the future. Also, he really like the teachers and professors there. Regards,
Jimmy

Dear Dr. Srinivas Pentyala.

Justin participated in the SARAS this year. I think that your program is good to motivate my son and other students to think about medical areas for a future career. The time for SAT was also fine. Thank you for your help to organize this nice event. Thanks.

Best, Jin

This SARAS program was very informative and fun according to my daughter. My older daughter went the year before and said the same thing. I am happy that I sent my daughter there. This was a great experience for my daughter and all the things that I heard from my daughter were all positive. Thanks for all the hard work.

Soomiran

Dear Dr. Pentyala:

First, I wanted to thank you and everyone who helped organized this program. It was such an incredible and rewarding experience for all of the students. My daughter, Sathya, has told me that she wishes it was a longer program, and continues to tell us about the experiences she's had there. She has learned a lot in the three weeks she spent at Stony Brook University and tells me she feels very ambitious just being surrounded by such accomplished and successful people. This program has allowed my daughter and us to see the many opportunities and fields within science. We all feel that the SARAS program has been a great success for everyone, and we are greatly satisfied with the way it was organized and carried out. I wish this program great success in the years to come and hope that many other young aspiring students will get to have this rewarding opportunity like my daughter had.

Jyothi

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

I just wanted to say thank you for the SARAS 2014 program. My daughter, Hannah, had a wonderful time! She thought the lectures and "hands on" experiences were very interesting. In fact, she is thinking about stem cell research as part of a medical career. Hannah has expressed interest in being a doctor since she was a little girl. Stony Brook University gave her an opportunity to look more in-depth at different parts of science and medicine. As a parent on a tight budget, SARAS was so reasonable! I've wanted to send Hannah to an academic summer program for years! Stony Brook made that possible. I enjoyed your daily email updates, and looking at the weekly slide shows. I was very impressed.

Here is a list of some of Hannah's favorite things:

1. Eye surgery lecture
2. Stem cell lecture
3. LI Vet's visit
4. Staying in the dorm. She highly recommends that.

I hope to be able to send her back to Stony Brook next summer. Thank you for a great experience.

Sincerely,

Karen

Dear Srini,

Sorry, I know my feedback is long overdue - Rebecca keeps hounding me to get back to you. We went away for a while and I have been suffering from the obligatory post vacation backlog. In short, I was very impressed with the SARAS program. What a wonderful opportunity for these kids to gain insight in to the medical profession. Rebecca would regale us every evening with the happenings of the day. I was quite impressed with the stature of the people who spoke - equally appreciative that they would take time off from their clearly busy schedules to spend time with high school students. I

can't adequately describe our satisfaction with the program, other than to say you and your team have done an outstanding job. I would not be surprised if Rebecca chose to participate again next year. On a personal note, it is clear that you put a significant effort in to making this program a reality. Being a professional myself, I can begin to imagine the difficulty of making this program run smoothly. I suspect you do it out of the goodness of your heart, but that does not lessen the appreciation that I'm sure all the parents have. Thank you for your outstanding effort.

Sincerely,
Ken

My son joined this program to explore opportunities in science fields and during the three weeks he learned a lot. He was sure that he wanted to be a doctor after hearing others talk about their fields. He said there were a lot of fun activities available for students.

Kokila

Good morning Dr. Srin,

My son, Rushi was really happy to attend SARAS program under your supervision. With your knowledge and skills you made this program very lively. The whole program was scheduled in such a way where kids get chance to explore their wings in all different field of health profession. Rushi has gained a lot of knowledge and understanding through this program. It gave him great opportunity and keep his interest throughout the program with lectures, workshops and simulation. I am sure it has helped him to decide whether Health Profession is the carrier of his choice. I personally want to say thank you very much for this wonderful Program arranged by you. You are the best, Dr. Srin. Thanks and Regards

Kirtikumar

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My husband and I wanted to thank you for the wonderful Science and Research Awareness Series (SARAS) program you lead at Stony Brook. The summer of 2014 has definitely brought a great many facets of medicine into light for our daughter, Dominique. She found each day fascinating and came away with valuable insight regarding the many aspects of medicine, which will aid her in her studies and aid in her future field selection. She also came away with a greater maturity as she was afforded the opportunity to dorm at Stony Brook and experience first-hand living on her own in a university setting. She met a lot of great, new friends with similar interests. Administration was wonderful in providing assistance when needed and a high level of security kept us at ease. We looked forward to your daily emails and being kept informed about the day's agenda. The local community business' support with lunch contributions was much appreciated (and the attendees found them delicious). We learned about your medical endeavors and wish you much success in bringing your knowledge and expertise to the world. Thank you, Dr. Pentyala, for your dedication to this program and to offering young students a wide vision which they would not have otherwise encountered.

Sincerely,

Dominique's Parents

Hi Srin,

Vinish had a wonderful time at the camp. He was able to learn many domains which he was not exposed to. Appreciate your effort to educate the teenagers and make use of their summer time in a productive way. Thanks a lot.

Manoj

Hello Dr Srin,

Nicole and I are together writing this email to say how great you and SARAS have been to us this summer. Nicole is confirmed that she wants to pursue medicine and you have helped to guide her through what interests her most.

Gratefully,

Nicole and Margot

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Samara had a very nice experience in the SARAS program this summer. She was eager to come each day and was full of comments and stories when I picked her up. Of course she did have her favorite lectures and labs. She particularly liked the Maxillofacial trauma lecture, the ophthalmology lecture, the CSI lecture, and the orthopedics lecture. I think that she especially enjoyed these because they were clinically based. Samara thought that the labs were all worthwhile. She also loved her visit to the VA home. The lunch was always a hot topic, she did like that it was included and different every day. I will say that over all she had a wonderful experience, made some friends, and decided that medicine is for her. I would like to commend you on a wonderful job keeping the parents informed! The emails were an excellent form of communication. Thank you for everything,

Michele

Dr. Pentyala:

I would like to take this time to thank you for allowing my son Malik to have this great opportunity to participate in the activities of such a program. We almost didn't make it. I remember how easy you made it for me when I had no hope for Malik this summer...PHEW!!!!. I was pretty desperate. Malik has been a fan of science all his life and although he loves to stay in his room to play video games, he was relieved that I found information about this program. I'm so glad he continued his morning routine of getting up early daily to do something productive with his summer. He was eager to tell me and sounded very excited about the activities. He would come home and debate with his dad on the topic discussed. The free lunch was a big HIT!!!! He is a quick learner so I am positive, he gained a lot of knowledge on this program. I gathered the pictures on the site and will make a collage. We will never forget summer 2014. Malik may be attending Stony Brook and we may cross path Dr. Pentyala. Thanks again for being in charge of this wonderful program and for giving my son a wonderful 3 weeks and by the way, he thinks you are funny COOL..LOL. Malik is a born scientist and I will keep you up to date with his progress. You have helped him to build a great foundation.

Sincerely

Minouche

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

My son, Rohan, had attended the SARAS program in July and I want to thank you for providing such early exposure to such a vast amount of medical professions. He never forgot to describe the elaborate lunches provided as well as the interesting workshops being administered. I also felt that the trip to the Veterans Home was very beneficial to Rohan, gave him insight on the demographic of the elderly, and allowed him to interact with war veterans. This program helped guide Rohan's passion to become a doctor with more knowledge and awareness of the different professions and will surely benefit him in the long run. I hope he will be able to keep you as a contact for consulting as well as conducting research. Have a great summer! Sincerely,

Monika

Dr. S. Pentyala,

I wanted to thank you and Stony Brook for running a wonderful program for high school students. It gives a student and the parents the flexibility of a reasonable priced program where you have the option of commuting or staying on the campus if needed to. My son, Christopher, learned a lot during the three week program. It had both hands-on activities where the kids can have a first-time experience in the sciences as well as learning from all of the great speakers in the lecture structure. He talked to us every day about the different topics that were discussed and learned in the day. He is interested in anesthesiology this was a great experience for him as he moves on in his high school years. I wanted to thank you personally for all of the updates every day and what the activities were for the day. One other great idea was getting the sponsors for the lunches on a daily basis. He enjoyed the meals and this greatly reduced our burden on packing lunches every day. Good luck in continual funding for this program and many other programs that is held at Stony Brook. I am sure Christopher will be looking into programs in the upcoming summers. Also, Christopher has two younger siblings that will probably be interested in attending the program when they enter high school.

Best regards,

Joon

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

First of all, let me congratulate for organizing this forum successfully for yet another year. Thanks for putting together this program filled with diverse spectrum of topics from advanced medicine and customizing them for young curious minds (future scientists and doctors). The feedback I received from my son is astoundingly positive and confirmed my initial impression when I first read regarding previous SARAS sessions. As this was Sishir's first camp, we were apprehensive at the beginning, but by first day into the camp, it was obvious that he was not missing home at all. My son, who is very enthusiastically looking forward to become a doctor, was convinced of pursuing this path after all the interactions he had through SARAS. He tells me of repeatedly about your entertaining talks, "Dr. Srinis Dip Stick", "Stumping the expert", visiting Veterans, variety of food served, the fun of staying in the dorms, warm and helpful Resident Assistants, intelligent grad students, and lastly all the experts. From what I heard, the kids got a thorough exposure to the medical field and was an eye opening experience to all of them. Sishir's stay on campus resulted in very close friendships and bonding with other SARASers. The science fair, apparently was a great success. I have seen the pictures you posted on Picasa are proof of all the fun that the kids had during the camp. We also appreciated and enjoyed your daily downloads and emails. I heard each and every speaker made an impression and the students found them to be extremely knowledgeable. The length of the program, though short according my son, seems perfect and the daily agendas were appropriate, well organized, and diverse. I also appreciated your emphasis on stretching during the lectures. We never imagined, he could get such a close encounter with medical equipment. I heard that activities between lectures were fun too, for example, "Lungi Dance" and other Bollywood dances. Sishir was speaking highly of you. As I picked up my son on the last day, he did feel bad leaving the camp and felt it was short. Though short, I am certain that this lifetime experience will be fresh on his memory forever. I want to personally thank you for the warm reception and care you and other SARAS organizers have provided to my son during the camp. Also, please convey my sincere thanks and best wishes to all the grad students, camp organizers, and the sponsors of meals. Sincere Regards,

Murali

Hi Dr. Pentyla,

It's was a wonderful opportunity for our daughter, Olivia, to be able to participate in SARAS. Not only she was able to learn how to independently commute using LIRR and shuttle in the university but also able to meet new friends. And most of all she was able to get exposure on different fields in health science which she has interest in pursuing when she gets into college. Also participating in workshops, she was able to appreciate health professionals in doing their respective jobs. With this, we want to thank you for the great work of organizing this program and she was also grateful for all the delicious food that was provided.

Respectfully yours,

Olivia's parents

Bon jour from Provence !

Catherine loved the program and is talking about the trauma simulation room over lunch in Avignon which reminded us we never emailed you a thank you and review of the program as we left for France the day after the program ended. The program made Catherine question why some of the fantastic speakers couldn't visit her school because they were so very motivating. She was impressed by the expert who worked on inventing the pulse oxygen machine and how he got the idea. Catherine is excited to participate in WISE next school year so thank you for a most intriguing program. We'd both like to take you to dinner when we return. You made quite an impression on my daughter. Best regards,

Peter

Hello Dr Pentyla:

Thanks for sharing wonderful pictures and for the great program. My daughter Chandana seems to have enjoyed the camp and made some new friends. I certainly hope the exposure she got in various topics during the last three weeks will help shape up her decisions about higher studies. Once again thank you very much for providing our daughter with such a wonderful experience and an avenue to meet so many bright/cool/hot (borrowing your words!) kids from around the globe. Best regards. - Rajesh

Hi Dr. Pentyla:

My daughter Sarah attended SARAS program this summer. It's a great program, thanks for your and all the lecturers' effort. My daughter has learned a lot from this program. Sarah likes your lecture the most, she said it's interesting, funny and very informative. Though Sarah was not so interested in medicine before, this program gave her an opportunity to explore in the field of medicine. I already saw the benefit for her as she started talking with her younger siblings about the importance of weight control, and also disinfection, in a quite professional way. Thanks for all your efforts! Also thank you for your great suggestions for my nephew's college test and application. He got into SUNY Binghamton. It's great. Best wishes for you and your family! Thanks again for the SARAS program!

Qun

Dear Dr. Pentyla,

As the parents of Andrew & Matthew, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for broadening my sons' horizons in the medical field. They would come home and describe in amazement the things they had learned and seen while in the program. Before SARAS, medicine was something prescribed by a doctor, after the program, they were able to ascertain what they liked and disliked about it and were able to better define what it is about medicine they may like to study in the near future. They were exposed to a variety of topics as well as experts in the field and were able to mingle with cohorts in their own age group that made them feel comfortable. I would recommend this program to all those interested in the health care field and would like to commend you again for your enthusiasm and generosity and to all those who provided a wonderful experience for my children. Best Wishes.

Robert & Kathy

Dear Dr.Srini,

My Daughter Sanjana was overwhelmed with the variety of lectures covering different professions in the area of medicine presented in SARAS - 2014. This was a wonderful program and glad she was part of it that has not only enhanced her knowledge but also raised her spirits in her quest of learning more about medicine as she eventually would like be part of the medical profession. I'm sure that she will use this knowledge through various encounters during her career advancement. Thank you again for conducting such a great program and would recommend this program to more students in future. Regards,

Ram

Dear Dr. Srinivas,

I got wonderful feedback from Yamini about her experience during the summer SARAS program. I am really amazed to read all your emails and updates sent from time to time. I really appreciate your time and effort spent on this program.

Ram Mohan

Dear Dr. Srini.

This is Shruti's Mom. Thank you for coming up with such an eye-opening and inspiring program. I am glad that I was able to listen to one of your lectures on the first day of SARAS program... it was really great. You are an amazing and motivating speaker. I wish I had this opportunity when I was in high school. Shruti enjoyed every day of her SARAS program despite the long commute. It was a wise decision. She spoke highly of the coordinators and really liked all the Workshops and the visit to Veterans place. She met lot of new people and made good friends. And of course, she thoroughly enjoyed the Lunches...I Wish Stony Brook can come up with similar program for Engineering discipline also...Once again thank you and wish you All the Best for running this great program.

Sama

Dr Srinivas,

I am Sandiya mother. My main motivation to enroll my daughter in this program was for her to get exposure to medical field. From that perspective and based on the feedback my daughter gave, I am very satisfied with the knowledge she has gained. I am very thankful for you to organize such an excellent program. Thanks. - Savitry

Dr. Pentyala,

Thank you for organizing SARAS. My daughter Sylvi really enjoyed it. I was impressed by the organization, the content, and the humorous emails. Incidentally, if you ever have any computer science questions, feel free to contact me. Best, Scott

Hello Dr. Pentyala! I am so glad that I sent my daughter to the SARAS program. Based on what my daughter tells me each day after SARAS, I am happy to see that she is getting introduced to research and the medical field. My daughter getting an early look into the medical field is truly a great opportunity which is why the program was great. Thank you for running an amazing program! Sincerely,

Soonae

Dear Dr.Pentyala,

I am writing this response with great pleasure and deep gratitude towards your remarkable efforts to put this program together for our children. My son Hassam had a wonderful time filled with exciting stories he told everybody. He not only enjoyed being in the environment him wish to be working in his future but he also found that the NERDs also can have fun. He liked all the informative lectures as well as the hands on activities he took part in. The small prizes he got while answering question proved us that he is totally engaged in spite of fasting due to the month of Ramadan. We as parents of these children who wants to study hard but have fun along with it truly appreciate and encourage further collaboration between the Medical community and High school so that these young minds have better idea of what to choose as a career. Thank you very much again.

Malika and Ehtesham

Hi Dr. Pentyala,

This is Sridhar parent of Aarthi. I am glad that my daughter enjoyed going to SARAS during this summer and I heard that she learned a lot from the experts and she enjoyed all the activities that took place. This is a unique program and it is definitely helpful to inform the younger generation of the future needs of our world regarding health and its relation to modern technology. SARAS has inspired my daughter to conduct science research. I think it is great that you were able to coordinate and plan the program out thoroughly during your busy work schedule and over the course of the next couple of years, I am interested in making my younger daughter join this summer program as well. Once again, thank you for all your help.

-Sridhar

Hello, I am the mother of MyungSeo. I have always encouraged my daughter to become a doctor for I knew about the happiness it could not only bring her but also those around her. However, I did not want to force her but wanted her to see the endless opportunities and possibilities she could have as a doctor for herself. Therefore, I encouraged MyungSeo to attend the SARAS program so that her eyes could be opened to the endless possibilities for her. MyungSeo spent her time at the Stony Brook dorms for three weeks during the time of the SARAS program. After the three weeks, MyungSeo was the first to mention medical school and becoming a doctor. I was surprised at how excited she when talking about the SARAS program. I am thankful that MyungSeo was able to have a great time at the SARAS program that encouraged her to strive to become a doctor. She works even harder after returning from the SARAS program.

Hello! I am Karen's mom. She told me to write my feedback on the camp. Karen always came home and told me about different people that spoke about their careers. At one point, she wanted to be a maxillo facial/ oral surgeon, and the other day, she wanted to go into dentistry (as her father is a dentist). Karen really loved the hospital atmosphere and enjoyed walking through the hospital and going to camp there. She always tells me how much she would like to work in a huge hospital when she is older, and I believe this camp was a great head start in achieving that goal. Karen also told me how great the food is at the camp! Thank you for your hard work for this camp!

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

Hello. My name is Misook and I am the mother of Sungmin. I am very grateful to you for forming this program. Through SARAS, my daughter learned much about the medical field and was able to make many new friends. I truly am grateful to you for organizing the trip to the LIVH. My daughter has described her experience to be amazing. Thank you once again for SARAS. Goodbye. Sincerely,

Misook

Hello Dr. Pentyala, Henna is my daughter. She attended the SARAS program this past summer. I can tell you that she enjoyed every moment of the program. You and your colleagues did a remarkable job. I only wish I could have been there with her. Thank you for all that you have done. I am sure that your program has inspired many young men and women.

Sincerely, Susan

Thank you Dr. Pentyala! 3-week long SARAS program has ended, I heard many good comments from my son, he gained a lot information through the program, the only thing he complained is the transportation, the train delayed, bus not coming soon enough... I would say it is really a great choice for him to attend that he had learned new knowledge about something he has passion to do in the future. I really appreciate your efforts to keep all the teens stay in learning in summer. Great Job! Thanks again. Regards, - Tammy

Hi Srini,

I have had three high school students in my family attend the SARAS program and I can safely say they all liked it especially the hands -on experiences. My younger daughter enjoyed it thoroughly, and I am sure, learnt a lot from that experience. She talked about it every day and I think that says a lot about the program. Thank you for initiating these informative series.

Tazeen

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

We would like to send you this email instead of knocking on your door, hoping you can receive this email while you are enjoying your weeks-long international trip. ☺ Thank for giving us the opportunity to express our appreciation for what SARAS program has brought to our child and us parents as well. Our daughter, Selina g, has been expressing her interest in bio-medical sciences in recent years. But she hasn't had the opportunities to really gain experience from this fascinating world. We have been looking for a program to expose Selina to the wide variety of healthcare relating fields, but unable to find one that can expose the children to multiple fields one-for-all. The SARAS program organized by you and your team is exactly the right program we have been looking for! Your program provides a broad overview of many different disciplines within the healthcare field. It benefits the children through not only the lectures but also hands-on workshops and laboratory experiments. Selina has really enjoyed the SARAS program very much! Every day Selina came home talking about the great people she met and experiences she gained. We remember the afternoon she came home with a Volunteer Services Application Form, halfway filled, on the same day they paid a visit to the State Veteran's Home. Oh, yes, she always made us hungrier by talking about the delicious lunch she had, Empire St. James, Curry Club,,,,, Again, thank you, Dr. Pentyala, for your successful organizing of the SARAS program. Hopefully you will launch similar but more advanced program so Selina and her friends can continue to benefit from. Sincerely,

Lisa & Tom

Dear Dr. Pentyala,

WOW! What an incredibly amazing program. Your personal dedication and involvement with the students, as evidenced by your daily emails, is astounding and I could feel the excitement, energy and passion that was being conveyed through the outstanding lectures and workshops and documented by the hundreds of photos taken. My son not only learned about important biomedical topics, but how to be a better person, by taking responsibility for thanking the many volunteers, sponsors and faculty that came together under your leadership. This program has undoubtedly served to lite a fire of enthusiasm to pursue a scholarly career and now he has been exposed to exemplary individuals as yourself which will help him take the first steps towards such a noble state. Thank you so very much. With Best Regards,

Antonio

Srinivas,

I appreciate the opportunity Sabira had for last 3 weeks at Stony Brook University SARAS program. She had a great time with her new friends and with your assigned Team Members. The most important thing is that she enjoy the many moments in SARAS! It feels like that I made a right decision for her to send at SARAS Program. She also enjoyed your assigned topics too (Cardiology, Respiration, Urology, Sports Medicine, Nursing, Sleeping, CPR and Vital Signs) on a daily basis. To my understanding, after speaking with her we found that SARAS is a good introduction for her. Thanks again!!

Sayed

Sara really found the program interesting and is thinking about medicine as a potential career choice. She particularly enjoyed the units on Ophthalmology and Regenerative Medicine. - Regards-

Vera

Hello Mr. Pentyala, our son tells me many good things about this program and we really think you are doing a great job with the kids. It is good to keep them occupied over the summer and also it was a benefit for their future because they can learn about many different professions and all the different levels of medicine. We really think you are doing a great job with this program so keep it up. And if you have any other programs related to this please inform us, and stay in touch. Thank you.

Parents of Daniel

Dr. Pentyala,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for giving my son, Daniel, a wonderful experience of SARAS. Every day, he came home with great stories about the special lectures from the experts in different medical fields. He especially was very excited about the anesthesiology and the ophthalmologists. Of course, the great lunches everyday was a very important topic to talk about... When I was looking at the program to register, I wasn't so sure what my son would get out of the program. But I am so glad that I was able to sign him up. The SARAS program gave my son a big eye-opening thought about the whole medical field and what future he should focus on. Again, I thank you and all your sponsors for the great program and I wish that you keep providing the great opportunities to our youngsters.

Sincerely,

Youngsun

Dear Dr. Srinivas,

Thank you very much for all of your e-mails with the daily updates for the past 3 weeks. I've never expected that you even sent us all the Kodak moments of the whole SARAS program. Through the daily e-mails and all the pictures, you provided us, all the parents, with the whole picture of SARAS. I am totally thankful and speechless. Thanks a million for being so thoughtful and well organized on the top of everything. When we picked up our boys last night, Francesco & Patrick, we could feel that they missed the program and their team mates very much. This 3-week program is just in the perfect length of time to capture so many educational workshops as well as hands on activities, I could even feel the fun by looking at the pictures. Moving forward, I will recommend it to my friends' children, especially for those who show their interest in the medical field at an early age. In addition, I would like to express my special thanks to all the RA staffs at the Irving Housing. This is our very first time to send our boys to a summer camp on a college campus setting, at the beginning, I had some doubts, however, after dropping them off that Sunday before the camp started, after having a conversation with the RA staffs, knowing that they are so friendly and helpful, we knew that our boys would be in good hands. Last but not least, we want to thank all the staffs, professors, sponsors, medical specialists and whoever help to make SARAS possible for all the participants. Thanks so much for providing such a meaningful and educational events to us all. Our children are

our future for the society, to cherish them require an effort of a whole village. Your wonderful mission is valuable to us all! Moving forward, if there's anything we can give our hand in terms of donation to this meaningful program, please keep us in your mailing list.

Best regards,
Zoë

The program was very educative and informative. Nikhil enjoyed the lectures and the interaction with the faculty. The days were long, but there was a lot packed into the day and at the end of the day they gained a lot of knowledge which I am sure will help them in the future. Thanks for making it all very interesting and fun !!

Nikhil's parents

We'd like to thank you so much for putting this program together for high schoolers. My son attended the program for the whole three weeks this summer and thoroughly enjoyed it in its entirety. For a rising senior who is getting ready to apply to colleges in the fall, this program was perfectly timed for my son to experience what lies within a medical college. This program has helped my son realize that a career in medicine is definitely an option opened for him. Your true dedication were shown through your daily emails and well put together schedule for each consecutive day. All in all, our experiences with the SARAS program are great.

Robert & Sara

Dear, Dr. Pentyala,

My child really enjoyed the SARAS program this year. She would talk about what she learned in the car ride and the workshops seemed very fun. She also spoke about the lunches every day and what she ate so I thank you for going through the work of organizing lunch for all those kids each and every day. She made new friends during her time there although she knew no one there initially. She really enjoyed the Veterans Home trip since she talked about the man she spoke to and their conversation. She has learned so much from this three week program and had experts come and talk to her every day. She had a great time at the program.

Mrs. Suh

Hi Dr Srinivas, SARAS experience has put my son Shivram in living and planning his career in the right direction. Everything you have made the students interact has opened their minds to the vast knowledge out there. Shivram is so pleased with your team and the best screen writer award you gave him.

Natraj