

2000

74 officers

The story behind this gift is missing. Please contact Judy Gantt at jgantt@cdc.gov if you have information about this gift.

2001

75 officers

The project was spearheaded by Jennita Reefhuis and Jenny Williams, and was constructed over a 3-month period in Jenny Williams' dining room.

The red-white and blue colors in the gift were for the colors of our flag. The events of 2001 had such a profound impact on us as a class and as a nation, and we felt that representation was really appropriate. We wanted to have a project reminiscent of the old quilting bees, where folks sat around and visited while throwing in a stitch or two. Since so many of us traveled and had unpredictable schedules, we wanted a project everyone could contribute to as their time allowed. We had set days to meet at my house to work on the quilt. The design for the blocks was patterned after crazy quilts, where you take scraps of fabric sewn together at different angles. We would take these large swatches of assembled pieces, and then cut blocks to size. This pattern allowed the “non-sewers” in the group to get behind a sewing machine and drive some...without having to worry so much about being precise with the block. We used footprints for the border to symbolize “shoe-leather epi.” Each block is signed by a 2001 EIS officer.



A quilt frame was made by one of the EIS officer's father, so more than one person could work on it at a time. The quilt was placed on the frame, and we had quilting evenings. Anywhere from three to eight officers would show up any given night to throw in some stitches. (A few spouses, friends, and kids help too.) Most of the class worked on the quilt, even for just a small part.

Lisa Pealer (EIS' 01) took the leftover swatches from our blocks, and had her mom (who is a wonderful seamstress) make a vest for Doug Hamilton (EIS chief). We are sure he wears it with pride during 4th of July parades, or when he is doing his Uncle Sam impersonations.

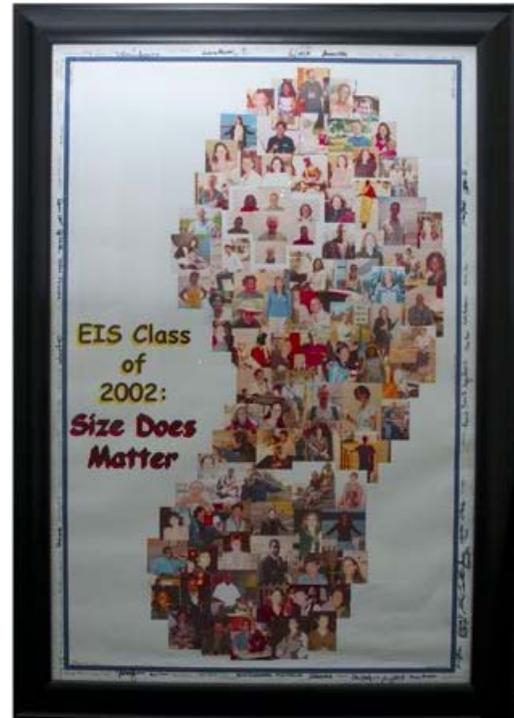
Submitted by Jenny Williams and Jennita Reefhuis (EIS '01)



2002

88 officers

I remember volunteering to organize the class gift because I didn't want to be in charge of the class skit. Some of us tossed around ideas. Mine was the idea of the photo montage in the shape of the emblem of shoe leather epi work. I'd seen similar posters of a large picture/scene composed of many small photos. Crazy me, I thought I could probably put one together for us. Others liked the idea and so it began. Over the months (yes, months) leading up to the April conference, I requested, cajoled, and harangued everyone in our class for a photo of themselves. The request I made was that they try to contribute a picture in which they were engaged in epi - whether field work, in the office, or whatever. We'd (a group of us that would keep an ongoing email conversation about this) decided that we wanted to include the EPO staff who meant so much to us as they'd supported us through our EIS joys, trials, and tribulations. When the time came, we took pictures of them against a blank white wall (I'm sure they were wondering in what nefarious way we might use the photos, and I cropped them to place in the "hole" of the shoe. Once the complete picture was done, I think it was Victoria who got it printed and framed, and then during EIS week, we passed instructions around to everyone on where we'd hidden it, so that they could sign it.



Submitted by Sarah Y. Park (EIS '02)

2003

79 officers

The gift of the two photographs was inspired by our time at the USPHS Training Center in Anniston, AL where we did a course in biohazards and emergency preparedness. It included training in using biohazard materials and dealing with potential bioterrorism scenes (hence the photo in full biohazard gear). As the Class of 2003, we were the second class selected after 9/11/2001 and the anthrax attacks. Our curriculum was the first to reflect the changing priorities and concerns after those events. The course in Anniston provided critical training that was useful not just for managing bioterrorism, but also for managing other types of outbreaks, such as pandemic influenza, which since then has become a focus of public health response. Anniston also meant that we



were the first class to be taken to a completely off-site location as a group. For a week, we were a captive audience in a small town in a small hotel, and the class really bonded. We BBQ'd in the back of the hotel, had chicken fights in the pool, and really got to know each other. Doug Hamilton often commented on how close our class was during our two years at CDC, and how close we have stayed over the years. The two photos captured us as a normal EIS class and us clowning a little, but also at the turning point for EIS officers and public health professionals, as the new realities of the post-9/11 era started to change our training.

The class conceived of the gift together, and virtually everyone signed. It was easy to do that because we were so close and connected. We even had our own listserv.

Submitted by Amy Dubois (EIS '03)

2004

90 officers

The class gift to Doug Hamilton and Lisa Pealer (at the time) was threefold. We gave them gift certificates, a large appreciation poster (signed by the entire class) with a picture of a hand holding an academy award) as well as their own "Oscar."

The whole skit had an academy award theme to it (complete with a red carpet entrance and our own Joan Rivers and the whole "who are you wearing") and the skits were presentations of oscar-like awards, only the statuettes were little golden people. Please keep in mind that this was done in no disrespect to our former director – the statuettes were handmade miniature versions of Dr. Gerberding, in the famous red dress. We called those "Gerbies" and they were made out of Barbie type Dolls and then painted, and dressed to look like our former director.

Ezra J. Barzilay (EIS '04)

2005

79 officers

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2006

82 officers

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2007

79 officers

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2008

80 officers

The EIS class gift of 2008 was a Commissioned Corps sword given to CAPT Doug Hamilton and the EIS staff for their exceptional leadership. The sword was chosen because it came up in discussion often throughout our two years, and while the item has a history in tradition, it also has the “coolness factor” which exemplifies many of our experiences during EIS. The evening Doug was presented with the gift he was called onto the stage and “knighted” by Elissa Meites, a representative for our class. It was a very touching moment for all involved, in which he was equally surprised at the gift and, let’s admit, pretty impressed — it is a sword after all.

As many of us were honored to work in Haiti after the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, the class of 2008 also made a contribution to Partners in Health in honor of the EIS program. This organization was chosen because of its excellent reputation and effectiveness in providing medical care and assistance to underserved populations in many areas of the world, including in Haiti.

We enjoyed each and every day as EIS officers. We learned so much during EIS about epidemiology (gumshoe epi), politics, life, friendship, travel and so much more! We wanted a way to share our thoughts and thank the EIS program. We figured that the best way to do that was to write



our thoughts on a card shaped like a shoe, the symbol of EIS! We hoped this card might eventually hang in the CDC museum alongside the artwork of our predecessors.

Our skit night also featured a flight safety video with participation from CDC director Tom Frieden. In keeping with this theme, all the members of our class (as well as other skit guest stars, including H1N1 flu leaders Lyn Finelli and Dave Swerdlow) received a gold flight wing pin engraved with the words “EIS Class of 2008.” These thoughtful details may have been what prompted Doug to call our skit “the best of any of the skits that I’ve seen at CDC.” And we have that in writing.

Submitted by Deborah Christensen, Danielle Iuliano, Matt Gladden, Elissa Meites, Roodly Archer and Carrie Nielsen (EIS '08)

2009 82 officers

In the fall of 2010, a state-based officer asked everyone in the class complete the sentence “When I started EIS, I never thought I would...” She needed this information for a presentation at a hospital where she hoped to get a job. Dozens of people sent in responses which were representative of our class’s experience. The entire class was asked to send in material for use in the project, and over half sent in anecdotes or photos.

Submitted by Lee Hampton (EIS '09)

EIS Class of 2009

When I started EIS, I never thought I would...

- ...go to a prison in Haiti for a cholera outbreak...drink water from a hand-dug hole in a dry riverbed in Kenya during a cholera outbreak (not the smartest thing I've ever done)...trik through rural Malawi testing peoples' drinking water for chlorine...
- ...go hunting for mouse droppings in New York City restaurants...be on call for 8 million people...shudder every time I hear the word "H1N1"...
- ...be played by Kate Winslet in an action movie...
- ...take an NP swab from a guy who'd been dead for 10 days to test for flu...
- ...be kissed by a graffe...
- ...travel around the world (Brazil, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Africa, Mexico) with a gnom...
- ...trap and vaccinate skunks against rabies...be able to search the internet for my name plus the word 'leak' and find me...
- ...drive around Navajo Nation for a week looking for windmill wells...for over 1 year, work in a cubicle stocked full of all necessary supplies to collect urine, blood, and water from 150 people...
- ...be involved in an outbreak investigation where case-patients were building a meth lab right in front of health department personnel...
- ...have my research make the NY Times' front page...
- ...test spice from my kitchen for lead with the intention of establishing a negative baseline and have the test instead result in a national recall...
- ...swab frog cloacae...
- ...drive around Los Angeles with illegal drugs in my car...have a survey I wrote show up on a celebrity gossip website...
- ...lie to people on an airplane about where I am going and why...salute anybody...make statistics jokes...
- ...say "everything is tougher in Detroit" to explain the epidemiology of VRSAs...cold call every neurologist in Maryland...be "they" or "the man"...intentionally go to Reno, NV...buy a work-related sword...have people ask me about bedbugs all the time...spend more than two weeks in a hotel for reasons besides outstanding warrants...have to reply to questions about a vaccine's contribution to a zombie apocalypse...
- ...break a chemical bottle in the security line of an African airport, be accused in the process of releasing tear gas, AND manage to not get arrested...
- ...meet an 8 year old pharmacist and a 100 year old pharmacist on the same trip to Guatemala...
- ...look so fantastic in khaki, or carry a military ID...meet a Saudi Arabian prince, and be offered a date (fruit)...feel socially pressured to eat horsemeat...
- ...attend a required course where I find AK-47s and rammed cars...
- ...be so honored to receive a live chicken as a gift...be caught in a political rally in rural Haiti and have my biggest concern be dropping my surveys...
- ...ride in the front seat of a van to deter the police from extorting bribes from the passengers...
- ...meet Mama Obama (President Obama's step-grandmother) in Kenya...
- ...learn how to say "dry ice" in other languages...
- ...work in a bulletproof vest & drink mare's milk in Kyrgyzstan...
- ...be able to request by name a CDC Deputy Director for work on cholera in Haiti...
- ...travel to the Peruvian Amazon to capture vampire bats as part of a rabies investigation...
- ...sleep in a tent on the US embassy grounds in Haiti...work in my pajamas at the US embassy in Haiti (when no one was around)...
- ...move to North Dakota and think that 20 degrees is balmy...go 'fck dragging while nine months pregnant...
- ...drop everything and head to rural Nigeria to investigate the largest lead poisoning outbreak ever known. And get bedbugs (also in rural Nigeria)...
- ...spend a week in a national park testing seasonal workers for STDs...instruct someone that it is unwise to remove a suspected plague-infected cougar's head in the field with a handsaw and no PPE.