

Merci Beaucoup

Imagine you or a member of your family is sicker than can be described. Imagine the horror of not knowing the cause, only witnessing the debilitating pain and suffering. There is no visible end to the agony at hand. It certainly is an image that you do not want to immerse yourself in for long.

Fortunately, because there are people who never let their fears stop them from doing what is right, we don't live in that kind of world. This year again, the DCE SMART team, in our exploration of the Ebola crisis, certainly was able to get a glimpse of these superheroes, of these saints who selflessly work to solve problems that most of us would dread to come near. There were a lot of people we observed in our study that certainly fit this role, but, right now, we would like to thank and acknowledge **Dr. Peter Halfmann** for the glimpse he provided to us of the battle against Ebola and of the mettle these incredible people have. We are forever indebted to Dr. Halfmann for his willingness to work with us with his telepresence interaction and other communications...but even more so, for his daily mission to combat a pestilence, one unlike the world has ever seen. Thank you, Dr. Halfmann, for modeling for us bravery and intelligence, but also service and humility as well. May we, in some small part, share those same characteristics with others.

We would be remiss—we are sure Dr. Halfmann would agree—if we didn't also recognize the many others who shared a large number of these same traits with us. From **Dr. Halfmann's** mentor, **Dr. Yoshihiro Kawaoka**, and his entire UW Madison team, to **Dr. Erica Sapphire** and the multitudes of crystallographers and others whose endless search for knowledge gives us hope for tomorrow, and not *just* regarding Ebola and maladies like it. As a team, we also had the opportunity to participate in a Doctors Without Border Event: Lessons Learned in Sierra Leone—a telepresence seminar held at Columbia University. In a similar way to what Dr. Halfmann and the Kawaoka lab demonstrated, we witnessed the work of men and women who, instead of running from the problem, ran to it, providing relief (sanctuary, assistance, guidance, treatment) for people without hope. We thank you all (and the many unnamed) for being angels of mercy.

As we reflect, there are so many others for whom we are grateful. Our studies on Ebola (not to mention our way of life) have been made possible by countless researchers whose pursuit of the truth continues to provide new answers. We think of the national SMART team program, headed out of the Center for Biomolecular Modeling out of the Milwaukee School of Engineering, thinking of the learning opportunities and assistance provided in our exploration. We would especially like to thank Mark Hoelzer, Diane Munzenmaier and Tim Herman for their efforts. Here at D.C. Everest High School, too, are individuals who contributed to our studies. From John DeMuth, our network manager, to Bailey Hughes, our webpage manager, to the Mike Raether, our principal, and all of the science staff who support learning above and beyond the classroom, we have been blessed. Thank you all for your contributions to our work.

Lest we forget, we are also grateful for each other, for students willing to work above and beyond expectations, without whom we don't have a study. As we continue on our journey, hopefully, we will remember those before us...some of whom are mentioned above...and work to continue to emulate their excellence.

Thank you all for making a difference.

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D.C. Everest SMART Team 2019-20

