American Medical Students Association
National Convention
March 10-14 2010
Ricki Shah, Aalok Patel, Paul Tran

The American Medical Students Association held its annual National Convention from March 10th through the 14th. The theme was celebrating passion, professionalism, and pride. On the first day, Dr Pedro Greer from Florida International University School of Medicine gave a very motivational speech integrating those three themes and relating it to the future of medicine. He discussed how students today will be the leaders of tomorrow, and therefore the importance of preparing today. He was a very entertaining speaker who kicked off the conference in a great way.

We also had regional time, where we met with members of other chapters in our region. These chapters extend from North Dakota and Minnesota to Kansas and Missouri. We learned about the programming being done at these other chapters, which helped give us ideas of what we could do. They also held election for new regional directors.

Doctor Kevin Kickenscher was the second keynote speaker on Saturday Morning. He was by far the best speaker at the conference, and his background/experience of working both domestically and internationally on health care policy allowed him to discuss several topics thoroughly. He outlined some of these issues facing medicine in the future including health care worker shortage and the objectives for health care reform—increasing coverage, improving quality of care, improving outcomes, controlling the growth of health care spending, and obtaining more value per dollar spent.

I spent some time in the house of delegates where AMSA members were able to vote for the policies they wanted in the upcoming years. We got into a heated discussion
on AMSA’s stance on Health Care reform. Tao Le, the writer/editor of the First AID series, was at the conference, and discussed his thoughts on the future of the USMLE Board exams.

Finally, I would like to thank the UMKC School of Medicine for funding this trip. This trip to the national conference allowed me to further mature as a person, and will not only benefit me as a future physician, but it has also helped me expand beyond the narrow scope of the medical field.