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and a half hours to get to the hospital or supermarket.”

Dr. Schneider worked in the local health center, located in the old hospital. “There were two physicians,” she explained. “I covered from 8 AM Monday morning to 8 AM Thursday morning, in the clinic all day and on call for all emergencies.”

As a result of the remote location, Dr. Schneider experienced many challenges. “Hana attracts a large alternative population, people who want to get off the grid,” she noted. “There were a lot of people who didn’t like traditional medicine and would only come in for grave emergencies. There were also a lot of tourists who tended to be more into adventure, so there were many accidents. I saw a lot of lacerations and broken bones, things I wouldn’t see around here because people would go to an emergency room at the hospital. There was also a lot of chronic illness there, such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes, and gout.

“In a way, it was easy and comfortable practicing [in Andover]. I was used to things, and nothing that walked in the door would surprise me.

“Being in Hana, I got used to surprises. There were things I will never see again: centipede bites, man o’ war stings, and major surfing injuries.” Dr. Schneider concludes, “It was a very different environment. It was stressful, but

wonderful.”

On to Rural Ireland

Ireland also proved to be a unique experience with a medical system much different than the United States. “Most physicians saw between 40 and 50 patients per day, so you learn to be very tolerant and efficient. If patients wanted to see a specialist, they had to wait. Some things took time, but everyone got the care they needed.

“Even though it was busy, the physicians seemed very happy there, less stressed than the United States. The system is organized well enough that doctors can go away on vacation for a week or two.”

In fact, most locums in Ireland only last for one week, just enough to cover vacation time for physicians. Dr. Schneider spent her first week in Tullow, a town just southwest of Dublin, but travelled north soon after. “We went up to County Donegal, the northernmost county. I was on the Inishowen Peninsula in a town called Buncrana, just 20 minutes from Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The facility had two semi-permanent locums from South Africa who would travel home for a month at a time. I filled in for one of them.”

Along with professional experience, Dr. Schneider also enjoyed the newfound cultural experiences. “When we first were driving up to Buncrana, there was a woman on the side of the road with produce from her farm. You can only buy potatoes in a 50-pound sack.

We were only going to be up there for five weeks, and there’s no way I would ever have gone through so many potatoes here, but that was the smallest bag she had.

“You know, I’m in this place, and these are fresh potatoes that just taste totally different than what we have, and you start eating like the people there. We had mashed potatoes every night. So we actually finished the bag in three weeks.

“I just love travelling and living in an

area so I get to know the community. We got to experience things differently and understand the culture better.”

Dr. Schneider has now returned to the local practice with a new breadth of experience, both professional and personal. But further locums are not in Dr. Schneider’s foreseeable future. “I would love to keep doing things like this, but right now I feel it’s time to be here for a little while. I’m working two days a week back here, and I’m going to be doing that, until I’m not.”

Dean’s List: Megan Hanscom

Megan N. Hanscom was named to the Dean’s Honor List at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, for the fall 2012 semester, achieving a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Lee Murray Memorial Fund to Name a Bridge in Lee’s Honor

Lee Murray had been Road Agent in New Boston for 16 years before moving to Andover in 2004. Lee moved to South Carolina in 2011, and died in September, 2012.

His New Boston employees have started a Lee Murray Memorial Fund to raise money to purchase a plaque to name one of the bridges Lee and his crew built in New Boston.

Lee was very proud of the work his crew had done in building the timber bridges in New Boston. The bridge on

Lyndeborough Road didn’t have a name, and his employees felt dedicating it to Lee would be a way of honoring him.

For anyone wishing to contribute to the Lee Murray Memorial Fund, it has been set up at the TD Bank. Any TD Bank, including the two branches in Tilton, can accept a donation. People have to ask for the Lee Murray Memorial Fund. If there is any confusion, any TD Bank branch can call the TD Bank in New Boston, as the tellers there all know about it.



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