In Memoriam


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Where can you find out what’s happening at the OSU Center for Health Sciences, locate a fellow graduate of the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, check out donation opportunities or read the back issues of the COMmunicator? Go to www.healthsciences.okstate.edu, click on the Alumni button and find a treasure trove of information just for alumni.
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COMmunicator is a quarterly alumni newsletter published by the OSU Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association.

Hello Alumni,

The new officers of the alumni association have been active in promoting and supporting association activities. We recently hosted a record-setting Spring Fling, continuing medical education program in Tulsa and received very positive feedback from participants. The Summer Classic Golf Tournament was a grand success, highlighted by the presence of Eddie Sutton, a much loved OSU sports icon. Plans are currently under way for the 2008 events.

The White Coat Ceremony was a marvelous success, highlighted by the keynote address of Dr. John Fernandes. The association hosted a luncheon at the OSU College of Medicine for the incoming students and their families after the ceremony. Weekend activities featured the 30-year class reunion of the OSU College of Medicine Class of 1977. Many members of the class returned to Tulsa for the reunion events including informal get-togethers and the placement of a commemorative plaque at the site of the school’s origin.

The officers of the association continue to recognize the excellent work of Ryan Miller, director, and Renee’ Williams, administrative assistant, and their contributions to the association’s activities.

Each new president has the opportunity to attempt to direct the course and activity of the association during their tenure. As president, it is my personal opinion that the association needs to work more intensely on actively engaging the participation of alumni. I firmly believe that a starting point would be the expansion of the association’s board members to adequately reflect the statewide distribution of our alumni. Discussions on expanding the number of board members and employing regional meetings and/or having subcommittees at regional locations are underway.

Our alumni, through their professionalism, have helped to put the OSU College of Medicine in a nationally recognized position of leadership in rural and primary care medicine. The school is a 35-year work in progress and has established a "legacy of excellence" in osteopathic medicine. It is nationally recognized as a leader in primary and rural health care. The maintenance and expansion of this legacy will require the active participation of the alumni.

I understand the pressures of daily medical practice, and although the association greatly appreciates your alumni dues, only an active commitment of your time and energy will allow our school to continue to achieve its true potential. I plan to try to meet with as many of our alumni as I can to discuss these issues.

The association has and will continue to work closely with the OSU Foundation in supporting alumni issues for our membership. The association has greatly appreciated the assistance and help provided by Brad Walker of the OSU Foundation in advancing association goals for its membership.

The association remains committed to its membership and we encourage questions, calls, letters or information regarding any issue you deem important to our membership.

Sincerely,

Rick Hastings, D.O., ’80
President - Executive Committee
OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association

Rick Hastings, D.O.
TOGETHER

AGAIN

The OSU-COM inaugural Class of 1977 reunited on campus August 18-19. Class members were guests at the White Coat Ceremony, attended a dinner and unveiled a plaque at the original medical school building site in downtown Tulsa. From left are: Brand Winkler, development director, Dr. James Cooper, Bob Wakefield, Charles Henley, Jerry Crain, Glen D'Arpa, Ronnie Carr, Gary Fine, James Campbell, Neal Templeton, Tom Harrison. Front: Ryan Miller, alumni association director.

OSU PEDIATRICS


Other highlights:
- Faculty has grown from one to ten
- Specialists in neonatology, genetics and pediatric endocrinology
- Vaccine research study is underway
- Spanish interpreter available
- Free weekly childhood immunization clinic
- Physicians community outreach includes sports physicals and helping Special Olympics
- Physicians service to Ronald McDonald House, Children's Hospital at Saint Francis and the Osteopathic Medicine Society

To date, approximately 108 OSU-COM alumni have pursued careers in pediatrics. During their student days the college's pediatrics department may have been small, but not anymore. Big changes have mustered the department's last five years. says Christine Clary, D.O., '98, director of recruitment and development and associate professor of pediatrics.

One big change is the increase to 10 faculty members, reflecting a commitment from OSU and OSU Medical Center to pediatric care, Dr. Clary says.

It is an exciting time in the department, says Kayne Shrum D.O., '88, chairman and associate professor of pediatrics. "We increased faculty and adjunct faculty, and we also are looking forward to providing patient care in the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis."

She notes that construction is underway for Ronald McDonald House to provide a family room at OSU Medical Center. Also, a pediatric foundation to support the education and activities of the residents has been established. "The department looks forward to continued growth and providing care and teaching for the future," Shrum says.

A spacious, inviting pediatrics facility serves patients and physicians at the OSU Physicians - Houston Park Clinic. A new satellite location at OSU Physicians - Country Club Gardens serves Tulsa's Housing Authority residents and others.

In-patient care is planned at the new Saint Francis Children's Hospital, due to open in 2008 in south Tulsa.

HOWDY!

A brand new Pistol Pete graces the east entrance to OSU Center for Health Sciences. "Pete" was given license, colors and a cowboy hat by the Muskogee-based Fried Exter, who was officially sanctioned as the official mascot of OSU in 1984. Other versions of Pistol Pete, known as Dr. Pete, has emerged from an old stimulus into os campus, created by Tulsa illustrator Clayton Cox.

OSU Center for Rural Health Receives Honors

Oklahoma State University Center for Rural Health has been honored by two organizations for its achievements in rural health and health care. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma Champions of Health program named the center as a recipient of its Champion of Public Health Award and the Rural Health Association of Oklahoma has named it the Rural Health Organization of the Year. The Champions of Health Award recognizes the center for improving the health and well-being of rural Oklahomans, who make up more than half of the state's population. The Rural Health Association's award honored OSU for its dedication and commitment to rural health and for serving as an example for other organizations to follow. The association also named Mike Ogle, D.O., '86 of Enid as Rural Practitioner of the Year.

OSU Medicine Students Receive White Coats

New OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine student doctors received medical student white coats at the final step in their medical school orientation. John Fernandez, D.O./M.B.A., OSU-COM president and dean, was speaker for the ceremony. Students were cloaked in white coats provided by the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association. After receiving their coats, students recited the Osteopathic Oath of Commitment, symbolizing their entrance into the osteopathic medical profession. The traditional ceremony emphasizes the importance of the doctor-patient relationship and focuses on the true meaning of the art and science of medicine.