Colby Foundation lecture
Nicholas Jabbour, M.D., FACS, medical director of the Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, was the speaker at the Colby Foundation Endowed Lecture at OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. The annual lecture focuses on the importance of organ donation and transplantation. Its purpose is to raise awareness and increase support of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, and to highlight its benefits to individuals and society. It was established in 1997 by OSU Medicine alumni John Cassani, D.O. '93, and his wife, Starla, in memory of their son, Colby, who died in 1993. His heart, kidney and liver were donated to three people who were waiting for transplants.

Alumni Notes
Michael D. Smith, D.O. '86, has been named chair of the Department of Pathology at Christus Health Southeast Texas. He also is vice-chair of the American Osteopathic Board of Pathology.

In Memoriam
Frank Parks, D.O. breaks barrier

(EDITOR'S NOTE: While working locum tenens in New Zealand Frank Parks D.O. '81 was accepted as the first osteopathic physician to become a Fellow in the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine. The long-time emergency physician also has gained full licensure as a clinical physician in nearby New South Wales, Australia. He relates his experience via e-mail.)

"Australia recognizes D.O.s to do manipulative medicine but usually does not license them to practice clinical medicine. Not one of more than two D.O.s have been licensed to practice medicine before now and as far as I can determine these were special circumstances for specific consultation reasons. Australia accepts D.O.s as qualified physicians to perform physical examinations for Australian immigration visa requirements. This is brand new; they did not used to be allowed to do the visa physical. Even with my title "D.O." on my scrubs, I get very few questions and they are all of genuine curiosity."

— Frank Parks, D.O.

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Dr. Parks explains that drawing blood and performing IV starts are considered doctor procedures and nurses don't often do them. So, after years as an emergency physician, he mastered that basic skill all over again. He discovered that various snakes and spiders can make emergency medicine in Australia exciting, so in addition to studying Australia's culture and history he also learned to kill them, especially in regard to the bugs, snakes, and marine animals. Dr. Parks enjoys the adventure of travel and says emergency medicine has allowed him to meet interesting people, as well as represent the osteopathic profession and OSU-COM. He concluded his stint "down under" in March and he and his wife, Kathy Parks, D.O. '81, returned to the U.S. to prepare to lead a troop of Boy Scouts to the National Jamboree. He will continue locum work and may return to Australia next winter. He also is interested in going to South Africa, or perhaps trying adventure cruise ship medicine. He is negotiating to go to Antarctica on a Russian icebreaker, and continues to teach at an osteopathic residency program in New Jersey.

"I love this part of the world and would be glad to offer advice to anyone thinking of going for it," he adds.

(Email: dmkthrog@cox.net)

Hello,

It has been a busy winter for the OSU-COM Alumni Association. Renee Williams put together a CMG Committee for Spring Fling with our president, Robin Dyer, D.O. '92, as the chair. The event is May 21-22 at Tulsa's Downtown DoubleTree. The AOA has accredited it a 1.0 program, and we have 16 speakers.

Ronnie Carr, D.O. '77, has resigned due to schedule and time constraints. Trudy Millner, D.O. '80, will fill the position of treasurer. Buck Hill, D.O. '95, will become vice president. Our current board is: President - Robin Dyer, D.O., President-elect - Candy Ting, D.O. '86, Vice President - Buck Hill, D.O., and Treasurer - Trudy Millner, D.O. We are honored and privileged to have Dr. Millner join our board and look forward to serving with her over the next four years.

We attended ACOFP National Conference and hosted a reception for about 50 guests. Dr. Dyer, Dr. Hill, and Dr. Millner represented the association. The reception was co-sponsored by OSU Foundation and the Oklahoma Chapter of the ACOFP. The alumni association thanks the Oklahoma Chapter for its generous donation to help keep the event alive.

AOA will forgo the alumni luncheon this year and each individual COM can choose to host one. AOA will offer more lectures to fill the lunch time slot. OSU-COM is among some 18 schools not hosting a lunch. Instead, we will host a night reception. AOA will also retain the $40 previously allotted for the alumni lunches to help cover their overall cost.

Our association has decided to sponsor a $500 scholarship to the COSGPs Student D.O. of the Year for OSU-COM. This year's recipient is Binh Phung, MS IV. He was nominated by his classmates and chosen by a student vote. Recent events included the AOA convention in Oklahoma City, May 5-9. The senior breakfast and the awards banquet on May 13 were sponsored by the association. Graduation was May 14. The Summer Golf Classic is June 10 at Clay Fields in Tulsa, and a dinner for past presidents of OSU-COM Alumni Association is June 12.

We thank Dennis Carter, D.O. '87, for serving at the Alumni Association Professor of Rural Health for the past two years. Stacey D. Knapp, D.O. '01, has been chosen by committee and awaits approval from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. That's all for now. As always, thank you for your support.

Ryan Miller
Executive Director

Binh Phung is OSU Student D.O. of the Year

Binh Phung, D.O. '10, is the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine 2010 Student Doctor of Osteopathy of the Year. Dr. Phung was selected for the designation by fellow OSU osteopathic medical students and faculty members. He is awarded $500 from the OSU-COM Alumni Association. Dr. Phung joined recipients from the nation's osteopathic medical schools in entering a National Student D.O. of the Year process. The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, a part of the AACPOM and the official national representative voting voice for osteopathic medical students, sponsors the award. It recognizes the overall achievements of outstanding student doctors from osteopathic schools and emphasizes service rather than academic performance. It honors a medical student who has displayed commitment to school, community and the osteopathic profession.

Mission of Mercy

OSU-COM faculty, residents and students provided volunteer medical triage staff at the first Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OMOM), co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Dental Association and the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation at the Tulsa Convention Center. The event provided free dental care for critical needs of dental patients of all ages.

Scrub Run benefits organ donations

Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine Osteopathic Scrub Run April 3, sponsored by the OSU Student Osteopathic Medicine Association, benefited LifeShare Transplant and Donor Services of Oklahoma. April is national Donate Life Month, highlighting the need for organ donations in Oklahoma. LifeShare statistics show a waiting list of 600 candidates for transplants. The Osteopathic Scrub Run includes a one-mile fun run, a 5-Kilometer and a 10-kilometer race. This is the 5th year for the event, which began in 1979. More than 400 runners and walkers participated.