Alumni Notes

Michael Eisen, D.O., ’85, was named co-citizen of the year by the Mansfield, Okla., Area Chamber of Commerce. He has practiced in Mansfield since 1986.

Kirk Gannsner, D.O., ’82, received the 2006 area director award for the Billings, Mont., area of the Indian Health Service. He is a physician at the H.S. Crow Northern Cheyenne Hospital in southeastern Montana.

Steven L. Gute, D.O., ’86, was honored by peers for his five years of service to the House of Delegates of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association at the association’s annual meeting. He is director of medical education for Corpus Christi Medical Center’s Bay Area Hospital.

Matthew Good, D.O., ’96, was named top teaching resident by the third year medical class at University of Kansas Medical Center - Department of Internal Medicine.

Trudy Miller, D.O., ’88, is president of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association.


J. Michael Wright, D.O., ’90, of Holt, Mich., received a Presidential Citation from the Michigan Osteopathic Association in recognition of his two years of service on the MSA Board of Trustees.

Four alumni were honored at the annual convention of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association. James M. Brown, D.O., ’02, Steven R. Watkins, D.O., ’91 and Tamie L. Koehler, D.O., ’91, were named Oklahoma Osteopathic Association Residents of the Year, young physicians who have excelled during the first two years of practicing medicine. Jennifer Howell, D.O., ’03, received the OOA 2007 Outstanding and Distinguished Resident Award.

Six alumni have joined Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine department of family medicine as clinical assistant professors. They are Michelle Fowler, D.O., ’99, Dennis Blackenship, D.O., ’91, Mark Bubnough, D.O., ’91, Aaron Lane, D.O., ’02 and Jennifer Eichen, D.O., ’02.

In Memoriam


Office of Alumni Affairs

Ryan N. Miller, director of alumni affairs

Rentz Williams, administrative assistant III

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences

College of Osteopathic Medicine

1111 West 17th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107-1898
(918) 561-1100 or toll free (800) 677-1972
Fax (918) 561-5876

John J. Fernandez, D.O., M.B.A., president and dean

Marla M. Scharf, M.S., editor

Ellen L. Stockton, art director

Peggy Bissell, graphic designer

Terry R. Drennen, photographer

The Communicator is a quarterly alumni newsletter published by the OSU Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association.

Dear Alumni,

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as president of the alumni association this past year. We accomplished many goals that will enrich our school, current and future students, and the osteopathic profession in our community. I would also like to thank Ryan Miller and René Motte-Williams for their tireless work and energy; they are an integral part of the alumni association’s success, making possible the many things we accomplish as a group.

It was an honor to represent the alumni association at the recent commencement in which 83 students became doctors and alumni. This is a fine group of young physicians that will represent OSU-COM well. I know all the alumni welcome them and wish them good luck in their postgraduate training.

Once again, Spring Fling was well attended. I hope the topics and speakers met your needs and afforded you new knowledge for your practice and patients. The Summer Classic Golf Tournament was an opportunity to have a great time and to raise money for our scholarship programs.

I’d like to welcome Candy Ting, D.O., ’86, to the alumni board as I leave the alumni association in the capable hands of incoming president Rick Hastings, D.O., ’80.

Joe Coffman, D.O., ’95
President - Executive Board
OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association

JoAnn Ryan, D.O., ’93 (right), received the A.T. Still Award of Excellence at the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association annual convention from new OOA president Trudy Miller, D.O., ’88, for her dedication as an osteopathic physician and an educator. She is medical director for OSU clinic system and assistant professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Medicine.
OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Among Best Graduate Schools

The Oklahoma State University Center for Health Science College of Osteopathic Medicine has been ranked 14th in rural medicine and 30th in primary care by U.S. News & World Report "America's Best Graduate Schools 2008." This is the seventh consecutive year the OSU medical school has been ranked among the nation's best by the publication. "We are gratified that we continue to be ranked among the nation's finest and that our efforts are recognized as we meet our mission of educating physicians for rural and under-served Oklahoma," said John Fernandes, president and dean of OSU's medical school. He credited OSU's quality students, talented faculty and dedicated staff for achieving the school's top ranking.

Ryan Miller, director of OSU COM Alumni Association presents Kristin Martin, D.O., '97 with a business card holder at the senior breakfast for 2007 graduates. A total of 83 new osteopathic physicians received their degrees on May 12. The association presented the new alumni with their choice of a black or an orange business card holder.

New Clinical Education Program Debut

The Office of Clinical Education has added a career development specialist to aid osteopathic medicine students in exploring career choices. It's purpose is to help students get involved in their education and identify a specialty early in their training.

Terri Blevins, career development specialist, says alumni, physicians and educators can help by being mentors, providing job-shadowing, participating on panels or at meetings, and providing information about research or summer education opportunities.

Call (918) 561-8456 for information.

American Red Cross Honors
Dr. Franklin as Community Hero

The Tulsa Area Chapter of the American Red Cross has honored Thomas Franklin, D.O., '97, as a community hero in the Mentor/Role Model Category. He volunteers at the Tulsa Health Department and works extra shifts at the W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah. After Hurricane Katrina, he cut short his vacation to return to Oklahoma to aid residents of Camp Gruber. He serves as a father figure to three children. Dr. Franklin is a lieutenant colonel and flight doctor to the 456th Air Refueling Squadron, 507th Air Refueling Wing. He also mentors first- and second-year medical students at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Are you a member of the Class of 1977 or 1987? Mark your calendars now for your 20 or 30 year class reunion. August 17-18, 2007

Alum Helps Save Young Athlete

Athena Mason, D.O., '94, was featured in news reports after helping aid a young athlete who collapsed on the baseball field. She was attending her son's baseball game when a young ballplayer was accidentally struck in the chest and went into cardiac arrest. Mason and an off-duty paramedic administered CPR until emergency services arrived with a defibrillator.