

Dean Wood lends expertise at foundation conference

Report urges reform

SOMA Dean Douglas Wood, D.O., Ph.D., was one of 35 invitation-only attendees at a conference convened by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation in October 2008 to address complex issues concerning medical school educational missions. The resulting report, released in January, 2009, urges the nation's medical schools to reform educational models to better address the need to give future physicians the right mix of competencies and experiences



needed in order to practice medicine effectively.

"It was a privilege to be invited to this meeting. It was probably the most exciting and invigorating one I've ever attended," said Dr. Wood.

He went on to point out that many of the report's recommendations are currently being addressed at SOMA. Highlights of the report include teaching medical students about patient-centered care, working collaboratively as members of healthcare teams, using community-based settings more as classrooms, public health education, and self-

directed learning – all things that SOMA already has on its radar, and many of which are already being implemented.

The foundation has recognized an opportunity for change considering the number of new medical schools and the number of current medical schools that are increasing their class sizes in order to address projected physician shortages in the coming years.

According to Dr. Wood, there was an overall enthusiasm about the possibility of real change during this window of opportunity.

ATSU and Phoenix: Partners in falls prevention

Phoenix seniors and Mesa graduate students are benefiting from an innovative partnership between ATSU and the city of Phoenix that has brought falls prevention education to elderly citizens in senior centers across the Valley.

Students in ASHS' occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, and physician assistant programs have been trained as volunteer lay leaders in the "A Matter of Balance" falls prevention program, which is designed to reduce program partici-

pants' fears of falling and increase activity levels among older adults.

So far, response has transcended expectations for seniors and students alike. According to Elton Bordenave, M.Ed., CHC, physical therapy faculty member and facilitator of ATSU's falls prevention program, the original goal of 150 participants was exceeded, with current enrollment at 214.

Student lay leader training was conducted by ATSU-ASHS Assistant Professor Jeffrey Alexander,

Ph.D., who has been designated a master trainer in the falls prevention program. On Jan. 9, ATSU student lay leaders began traveling in pairs to approximately 15 locations across Phoenix to provide seniors one two-hour session per week for eight weeks.

The falls prevention program is one of many outreach programs the University has in place to increase the quality of life, health, and wellness for seniors while promoting student healthcare education.

ATSU Arizona Campus celebrates Wellness Week 2009

Fitness assessments, Wii tournaments, healthy bake sales, and an inflatable obstacle course were all part of this year's ATSU Arizona Campus Wellness Week held Jan. 26-31. Throughout the week, ATSU students, faculty, and staff participated in events designed to support a healthy lifestyle.

Dan Martin, Thompson Campus Center director and Still-Well coordinator, was on the Arizona Campus all week conducting fitness assessments and presenting the Still Walking Seminar. Thirteen faculty and 19 staff members participated in fitness assessments, and more than 40 attended the seminar.

A Wellness Passport served as a guide to the week's events, and participants received a raffle ticket for every event attended. Raffle prizes

included Suns tickets, a spa basket, and gift cards to Straight A Coffee, to name a few.

Assistant Director of Counseling Art Matthews, M.A., LPC, was especially impressed with the Wag 'n' Brag event on Saturday, where an estimated 50 dogs and their ATSU owners competed in doggy dash and best-trick contests.

First-year ASDOH students Amy Conrad, Rakhee Patel, Christine Le, Avaniya Reddy, Nikki Kelly, Collette Butler, and Hemali Rajyaguru take a break from the inflatable obstacle course.

