ATSU Board approves Ph.D. in osteopathic research

University ranks near the top nationwide in doctorates awarded

Not content with having six doctoral degree offerings, A.T. Still University's Board of Trustees approved its seventh doctoral program.

ATSU President James J. McGovern, Ph.D., said the new Ph.D. will bring people literally from around the world to Kirksville, Missouri. While the research will be done by D.O.s (osteopathic physicians) on patients at their home sites, some of the courses, the dissertation defenses, and graduations will be held in Kirksville.

ATSU does more osteopathic research than any other school in the United States. President McGovern stated that advancing osteopathic principles is part of ATSU’s mission. “So, it is only natural that we take responsibility to train professional researchers to do osteopathic research,” he said.

Dr. McGovern also pointed out that many osteopathic physicians in Europe and the United States are eager to obtain Ph.D.s. Therefore, ATSU is gathering clinical research mentors from some of the finest universities in Europe and the U.S.

“We are talking to Ph.D. clinical researchers at the Universities of Heidelberg, Munich, Dresden, Brussels, and Lisbon in Europe and Harvard, Case Western, Penn, and others in this country,” he added. “Our ultimate goal is to improve patient care by training practitioners to understand clinical research and allowing them to scientifically analyze symptoms and review treatments. This scientific training will then continuously improve health care.”

ATSU is a major grantor of doctoral degrees in the United States. Last year, the university awarded 379 doctorates, not including its osteopathic medical degree awards. When compared to the National Science Foundation’s list of research doctorate awards by school, ATSU ranked #10 among all private universities nationwide.

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Kirksville residents approved for ATSU Board of Trustees

Members include former TSU President Jack Magruder, Alliant Bank President Pete Detweiler

At the recent ATSU Board meeting in Kirksville, two Kirksville residents were elected to committee chairmanships. Jack Magruder, Ed.D., former president of Truman State University, serves as Chairman of the Education/Research Committee. In addition, Peter Detweiler, the president of Alliant Bank in Kirksville, serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The link between Kirksville and ATSU dates back to the founding of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1892. The spirit of that 114-year-old agreement remains, with ATSU completing the $11 million Connell Information Technologies Center and launching a new Kirksville-based Ph.D. program in osteopathic clinical research.

“We believe it is very important to have a strong community presence on our Board,” said ATSU President James McGovern. “Jack and Pete have given years of service to Kirksville, and we want to bring that experience to the table to help us make decisions that benefit the University and the City of Kirksville.”

Detweiler and Magruder agree the deeply rooted relationship between ATSU and Kirksville should be continually nurtured and supported.

“The relationship between ATSU and Kirksville goes back more than 100 years, and ATSU is one of the bedrock components of the Kirksville economy,” Detweiler said. “Being involved with ATSU allows me to contribute to the well-being of the community. We hope to continue a long, healthy relationship between Kirksville and ATSU that includes positive economic impact and producing new family-practice oriented, rural physicians dedicated to the osteopathic tradition.”

“ATSU, and KCOM especially, has a tremendous impact on Kirksville, including quality of life, the services that they provide, and the sensitive, compassionate physicians that they produce,” Magruder said. “They also have an enormous economic impact, and it is absolutely necessary to maintain the relationship between ATSU and Kirkville.”

Detweiler is also the treasurer of the Kirksville Regional Economic Development Inc., and Magruder was recently awarded honorary membership in the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association.

Steve Kardos, D.O., the CEO and President of Triveris/Health Network America, in New Jersey was chosen as Chairman of the Board. He is a former vice president of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of New Jersey and a 1968 graduate of the ATSU’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Gerald Perkins, D.O., FOCOOG, an ophthalmologist in Carefree, Arizona, was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Board. He is the author of the book Life is a Dance and a 1967 graduate of ATSU-KCOM.

Linda Niessen, DMD, MPH, a vice president of DENTSPLY International was elected Secretary of the Board. She lives in Dallas, Texas, and is a graduate of Harvard University’s Dental School and School of Public Health.

Clyde H. Evans, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Institute for Health Protection in Massachusetts was elected to the Board as a new member. Dr. Evans formerly served as a vice president for the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington, D.C.

Also elected to the Board, Capri S. Cafaro, M.A.L.S., is a graduate of Stanford University and has significant aging and health care experience. She is also a state senator in the Ohio General Assembly.

KCOM faculty recognized for outstanding achievements

President James McGovern, Ph.D., recently announced the promotion of three faculty members at A.T. Still University’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-KCOM).

George Carlson, Ph.D., was promoted from associate professor to professor of physiology. Dr. Carlson, who helped develop the neuroscience program at ATSU-KCOM, earned his Ph.D. in physiology from SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse. His current research involves investigating treatments for muscular dystrophy.

Rene McGovern, Ph.D., was promoted from associate professor to professor of neurobehavioral sciences. Dr. McGovern, currently also a professor at Case Western Reserve University, has an M.S. from the University of Illinois, and a M.A. and Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University. She was project director for ElderLynk, a federally funded project designed to integrate mental healthcare for the elderly in primary care. Her current research focuses on the doctor-patient relationship.

Diana Rhodes, D.V.M., Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy at ATSU-KCOM, received tenure. Dr. Rhodes earned both of her doctoral degrees (D.V.M. and Ph.D.) from Purdue University, and her current research focuses on the cell biology and immunology of the kidney. Rhodes teaches human gross anatomy at ATSU-KCOM.
**Extraordinary people, extraordinary work**

**Faculty, staff at ATSU-Kirksville honored with “Above and Beyond” awards**

The “Above and Beyond” award was created to allow faculty, staff, and students at ATSU to recognize one another for acts of kindness, compassion, or support.

**Al True**, an electrician in the maintenance department, was nominated by David Welch, director, multimedia, who cited Al’s extreme attention to detail and quality and willingness to go above and beyond what is asked of him.

**Erik Gulbrandsen**, MS II, was nominated by Becky Dawson, director, educational development & services, and first-year medical students Michael Brown, Zach Johnson, Mark Shuldberg, Shannon Connole, Cathy Ruf, and Patricia Scheuerman. The group of nominators said Gulbrandsen’s willingness to help others with his computer and technical skills made him a perfect candidate for the award.

**Trisha Sexton**, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry, was nominated by Chris Newey, MS III, for her compassion for others and involvement with ATSU’s medical students.

**Bob Ehrlich**, director of facilities & plant operations, was nominated by Ron Gaber, Ed.S., vice president and dean of students, for “being here day and night and filling in for employees who are sick or absent from work, and also for being quick to respond to emergencies and special environmental and facility requests.

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**Adrian Anast, Barbara Wood lead new Communications & Marketing Department**

At a time when A.T. Still University is opening Arizona’s third medical school and undergoing large-scale expansion and development projects in the East Valley, the University has made two strategic acquisitions to support its growing presence and impact in the national healthcare community.

Adrian Anast, Ph.D., was recently hired as vice president for communications & marketing. Anast brings more than 15 years of marketing experience as a senior vice president of marketing at Drake, Bean, and Morrin, and a senior manager at Deloitte in New York. She is also a former assistant professor of radio and television at Arkansas State University.

Barbara Wood was appointed as assistant vice president for communications & marketing. Wood will direct the strategic communications and marketing for ATSU’s Mesa campus. She is a former director of communications at the Arizona State University Foundation and brings 20 years of communications and marketing expertise in higher education, the nonprofit sector, publishing, and the financial industry to ATSU’s C&M department.
KCOM receives NIH research education grant
College first of its kind to receive CAM award

ATSU-KCOM recently received a four-year grant award totaling $756,000 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NIH-NCCAM). ATSU is one of only two institutions nationwide to receive this grant in 2006, and KCOM is the only osteopathic medical college ever to receive this award.

The CAM Practitioner Research Education Project grant will focus on training osteopathic medical students, faculty, interns and residents, and practicing physicians in evidence-based medicine (EBM) concepts. The project is led by principal investigator, Stephen Laird, D.O., MHPE, FACOS, associate dean for academic affairs, and co-investigators, Jeffrey Suzewits, D.O., MPH, associate dean for clinical educational affairs, and William Sexton, Ph.D., professor of physiology. The project period is September 30, 2006, through August 31, 2010.

Dr. Laird explained evidence-based medicine is commonly defined as the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values. The integration of these three elements enables physicians and patients to form a diagnostic and therapeutic alliance, which optimizes clinical outcomes and quality of life. Under the grant, ATSU-KCOM seeks to increase the quality and quantity of EBM tools supporting critical scientific thinking and self-directed lifelong learning. The grant will support training for more than 90 faculty members and more than 900 osteopathic medical students, interns and residents, and practicing physicians, as well as clinical research experiences.

ATSU-KCOM will work with Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, which will serve as the research-intensive partnering institution, and its team of EBM experts, including Alan Adelman, M.D., MS, professor and vice chair for academic affairs and research, and John George, Ph.D., professor and vice chair for educational affairs, both of the family medicine and community medicine department; Thomas Lloyd, Ph.D., professor of health evaluation sciences, obstetrics and gynecology, and pharmacology; and Glenda Shoop, MEd, RRT, RPFT, director of curriculum development and evaluation.

The project is based on a comprehensive analysis of both the national and local environments. Locally, a need exists to expand teaching EBM principles and concepts related to clinical practice and research/scholarly activities. Leading national educational organizations have emphasized the need to expand medical education to include EBM and continuous quality improvement. Under the leadership of Philip Slocum, D.O., FCCP, FACOI, FCCM, vice president for medical affairs and dean, ATSU-KCOM plans to advance a new osteopathic medical school curriculum, which will include a major emphasis on EBM.

Training methods will include learner-centered activities, clinical skill-building via small-groups, EBM and CAM literature searches and reviews, asynchronous modules, chart audits, clinical practice guideline development, and mentored research experiences. Students and practitioners will be trained to form effective clinical questions; identify best evidence, develop critical thinking and appraisal skills, and conduct effective literature searches; apply EBM to clinical practice; and complete sample chart reviews. Secondary emphasis will be on biostatistics, clinical trial research design and skills, scientific communication, and osteopathic research competencies.

This project was made possible by Grant Number 1 R25 AT003579-01 to A.T. Still University from the NIH-NCCAM.

Longtime Kirksville resident joins ATSU Development

ATSU’s development department recently announced the hiring of Mark Burger. Burger has been an active member of the Kirksville community for more than 20 years. Burger received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and spent 27 years as a financial/business manager.

As associate director of development, Burger’s focus will be on planned giving. Bob Basham, ATSU’s vice president for advancement, said adding Burger to an already talented staff brings both experience and potential for future success and growth.

“Mark brings a wealth of skill and experience to ATSU,” Basham said.

“We look forward to having him join our group to help us support ATSU’s mission of advancing whole person healthcare.”

Burger and his wife, Diane, have three children.

ASHS audiology chair receives ADA award

During the Academy of Dispensing Audiology’s Annual Convention in November, Tabitha Parent-Buck, Au.D., chair of audiology at ATSUs Arizona School of Health Sciences, was selected as this year’s recipient of the Joel Wernick Award.

The Joel Wernick Award is presented annually in recognition of an outstanding educational contribution within the fields of audiology or hearing science. First presented in 1989, the Wernick Award is the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists’ most prestigious professional recognition.

Joel Wernick, Ph.D., was an active supporter of the Academy from its inception in 1977 until his death in 1988. His life is a shining example of audiology excellence combined with a rich personal and professional life.
It’s my ATSU!  
Unity Campaign exceeds goals

As ATSU’s Unity Campaign 2007 draws to a close, early reports show the University meeting or exceeding campaign goals as faculty and staff answered the call to contribute to the continued success of ATSU and the mission of defining whole person healthcare.

As of November 15, 2006, ATSU’s development department reported raising more than $61,000 for the Kirksville campaign and more than $67,000 in Mesa. In addition, development officials announced that they had also exceeded their United Way contribution goal, raising more than $14,500 for the Adair County chapter.

“The support the University receives from faculty and staff during this campaign is critical to furthering the mission of ATSU,” said ATSU President James J. McGovern, Ph.D. “By supporting the Unity Campaign, we all have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact where we live and work.”

ATSU Annual Revenue

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Gifts &amp; Grants</th>
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<td>68%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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Student tuition only accounts for 68 percent of ATSU’s annual income. Gifts and grants to the University, including those contributed during the annual faculty and staff campaign, make up the additional 32 percent and support many vital programs and initiatives.

Kirksville kids learn national, state, and osteopathic history

ATSU museum hosts annual coloring contest for area children

ATSU’s Still National Osteopathic Museum recently joined with the Missouri Historical Society in commemorating Missouri Archives Week by sponsoring its fourth annual coloring contest in Kirksville.

The annual contest expands student awareness of Missouri, U.S., and osteopathic history. Students in grades 3-5 broaden their understanding of history through researching historical events to create interpretations of history in the form of a drawing.

Students from Ray Miller, Mary Immaculate, Green City R-I, Schuyler, LaPlata, Novinger, and Brashear participated in this year’s contest, and teachers were encouraged to incorporate lessons from the contest into their social studies classes.

All entries were displayed around Kirksville from October 12-21 in storefronts of downtown merchants and at the Matthews Book Store on ATSU’s Campus.

To recognize and celebrate winners, the Museum held a reception for participants and families on October 19. First, second, and third place were awarded in each grade level. Students were awarded a variety of prizes donated by the following area businesses: Pizza Hut, McDonald’s, Crumbles & Cream, and the Still National Osteopathic Museum.

Ted Wendel, associate provost of ATSU-Mesa, had his head shaved by ASDOH Dean Jack Dillenberg and Audiology Assistant Professor Henry Trahan as part of a $500 challenge during ATSU’s annual faculty & staff campaign.

BACK ROW (left to right): Cassie Keller, Green City; Erica Robbins, Ray Miller; Anna Wang, Ray Miller; Dylan Slaughter; Preston Payne, LaPlata
MIDDLE ROW: Syanne Galvex, Green City; Tyra Douglas, LaPlata; Derrick Groseclose, LaPlata; Rachel Jones, Ray Miller; Hunter Howe, LaPlata
BOTTOM ROW: Adam Alghalith, Ray Miller; Bailey Mihalovich, Brashear; Kalie Lene, LaPlata; Logan Curtis, LaPlata
ASDOH students host “Pizza and Politics”
ADA government affairs director visits, discusses current issues in dentistry
By Rishi Popat, ASDOH Class of 2008, chair, ASDA Legislative Committee

Instead of practicing dental procedures or memorizing metabolic pathways, on October 25, students at ATSU’s Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH) spent time learning about the intricacies of dental legislation on the local, state, and national levels.

The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Legislative Committee of ASDOH students organized this “Pizza and Politics” Lunch ‘n’ Learn event, which featured gourmet pizza, breadsticks, and soft drinks in exchange for a $5 donation to the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC).

The stage was set for Jon Holtzee, director of state government affairs for the American Dental Association (ADA), who flew in from Chicago to speak to the eager students. A legislative guru with long-standing ties to Illinois politics, Holtzee has been a key figure in both the ADA and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). While in the past he has been instrumental in addressing issues such as denturists or the unsupervised practice of dental hygiene, his most recent work focuses on the amalgam “controversy,” access to care, and the ADA’s Workforce Models Task Force.

Speaking to a group of 35 students, faculty, and guests, Holtzee discussed the current issues of dentistry on a national level, and impressed upon students the different ways to affect legislation on local, state, and national levels. He spoke about how donations, political action committees, and professional interactions can result in broad, sweeping changes in legislation. These changes have the potential to protect the profession of dentistry and to resolve the access to care issue facing our country.

Holtzee was joined by Rick Murray, executive director of the Arizona Dental Association (AzDA), and Anita Elliot, D.D.S., president-elect of AzDA. Murray continued the discussion of political issues in Arizona, and his thoughts and ideas hit home especially for dental students who plan to practice in Arizona after graduation.

“Pizza and Politics” Lunch ‘n’ Learn educate ASDOH dental students and faculty on legislative dental issues. The more dental students learn about politics and legislation, the better they can help their profession and patients. For more information about dental legislation or to join the ASDA Legislative Committee of ASDOH students, contact Rishi Popat at rpopat@atsu.edu.
Elliott Lee Hix, Ph.D.

Elliott Lee Hix, Ph.D., of Kirksville, Missouri, died Sunday, July 16, at Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville.

The son of Walter M. and Madeleine Hix, he was born July 28, 1925, in Union, South Carolina.

Dr. Hix married Irene Kristoff in January 1951 in Manhattan, Kansas.

Surviving are his wife, Irene; daughter, Rebecca Ann, and husband, James McQuade; and sons Elliott Lee Hix Jr., D.O., ’80, and wife, Cynthia; Jesse Robert Lee Hix and wife, Deborah; and Robert Barron Hix, D.O., ’86, and wife, Leigh. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His parents, two brothers — Walter Murphy Hix Jr. and Hurl Alan Hix — and one sister, Martha (Hix) Pressler, preceded Dr. Hix in death.

Dr. Hix studied at Clemson University prior to serving as a decorated naval aviator in the Southeast Pacific Theatre during World War II.

He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and biology from the University of Georgia. He then received a master’s degree in biochemistry and a doctorate in physiology from Kansas State University in 1953.

Dr. Hix was an instructor in physiology at Kansas State University prior to joining the faculty at A.T. Still University’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1953. He was professor of pharmacology and served as department chair from 1962 to 1975. He was named director of the neurobiology laboratory in 1978 and served as archivist for the A.T. Still Memorial Library from 1987 until his retirement in 1990.

Dr. Hix received numerous academic honors throughout his career and was awarded National Institutes of Health research grants for 11 consecutive years. He was the 2001 recipient of the KCOM Living Tribute Award and was a member of the American Physiological Society.

A man of enormous talent, his wide scope of interests included history, anthropology, art, sculpting, woodworking, and antique auto restoration. He designed and built several antique auto replicas and was an expert at building scale model airplanes and ships. Dr. Hix belonged to the Northeast Missouri Antique Car Club.

Private graveside services with military honors were held at Highland Park Cemetery on July 20, 2006, with Father Pat Shortt presiding. The bagpipes were played by Dr. Hix’s grandson, Jeremy. Those wishing to express their sympathy may contribute to the KCOM – Dr. Elliott L. Hix Sr. Memorial Fund. Memorials may be mailed to Travis Noe Funeral Home, P.O. Box 306, Kirksville, MO 63501.

Yale grad, Mizzou professor delivers lecture on Parkinson’s

Inaugural Hayes Lecture includes donation of textbooks

“Diagnosis and Phenomenology of Parkinson’s Disease” was the focus of the inaugural John W. Hayes, D.O., Memorial Lecture on November 8.

Irving M. Asher, M.D., clinical associate professor of neurology at the University of Missouri-Columbia and graduate of Yale University School of Medicine, visited ATSU to deliver a lecture on Parkinson’s Disease to medical students at ATSU’s Kirksville College of Medicine, visited ATSU to deliver a lecture on Parkinson’s Disease to medical students at ATSU’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-KCOM).

“At this point in [second-year medical students’] studies, they have had a lot of exposure through lectures and not much clinical exposure. Movement disorders [associated with Parkinson’s Disease] are best studied visually, so we use video to view abnormalities in movement, show what medication can do, and what complications can arise,” Dr. Asher said.

Dr. Asher also discussed the effectiveness and side effects of Levodopa, a common medication for movement centers in the brain that sometimes causes spontaneous, involuntary movement. The drug was part of a recent debate surrounding political advertisements featuring Michael J. Fox, 45, the founder of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research whose own battle with the disease forced him to retire from acting in 2000.

The annual lecture is supported by an endowment created to honor John W. Hayes, D.O. Established in 1993 by Dr. Hayes’ wife, Marie, the endowment provides an opportunity for ATSU students, faculty, and community members to hear outstanding lectures by national authorities on Parkinson’s Disease.
New exhibit opens at Still National Osteopathic Museum
Visitors treated to a history of knowledge relating to human anatomy

The Still National Osteopathic Museum recently commemorated the opening of a new exhibit, “Despite the Body of Evidence.” Using a variety of artifacts and images, the exhibit examines anatomical study throughout Western history, from ancient Greece to the present. For two-and-a-half millenia, physicians struggled to better know the human body, and visitors may be surprised to learn of the many difficulties physicians overcame to understand anatomy.

A section of the exhibit illustrates how the American School of Osteopathy (now ATSU) was instrumental in revising state legislation curtailing such activities. “Despite the Body of Evidence” also includes ATSU’s famous, fully dissected human nervous system — one of only four known in the world — and Ceres, a soon-to-be-talking 1950’s transparent anatomical mannequin. When fully operational, Ceres will present visitors of all ages with short programs on the parts and systems of the body.

The final sections of the exhibit include material on William G. Sutherland, founder of cranial osteopathy, and a display of items from the daily lives of Kirksville medical students in the 1920s and 1930s.

Museum Director Jason Haxton with Ceres, the soon-to-be-talking 1950’s transparent anatomical mannequin.