

Still News

February 2006

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY | ATSU

Evidence-based medicine takes center stage Grant will support training faculty and staff in EBM principles, concepts

A.T. Still University's Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine was visited this month by Alan Adelman, M.D., and John George, Ph.D., of the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the team of people who will be implementing a grant recently awarded to ATSU-KCOM for training in evidence-based medicine (EBM) practices.

In September 2005, ATSU-KCOM received a three-year grant totaling \$623,602 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration. The Academic Administrative Units in Primary Care Program grant will focus on training medical students, residents, and faculty in EBM. The new project is under the leadership of

During the three-year grant period, it is anticipated that seven core family medicine faculty, 60 family medicine regional/precepting faculty, and all our medical students will be trained in EBM. In addition, 120 interns and family medicine residents in five OPTIK training sites in Missouri and Arizona will be surveyed and trained in EBM principles and concepts.

"They were pleasantly surprised with our current levels of EBM implementation, in terms of our faculty and our access to technology," Dr. Laird said. "We have the sort of faculty that will be very helpful in moving this along, and we have a forward-thinking administration that has prepared us very well."

Recently, leading national educational organizations have emphasized the need to expand medical education to

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Margaret Wilson, D.O., project director, and Brian F. Degenhardt, D.O., C-SPOMM, project deputy director. Stephen D. Laird, D.O., MHPE, FACOS, KCOM associate dean for academic affairs, is providing administrative and programmatic leadership.

With a total enrollment of 636 osteopathic medical students, ATSU-KCOM is responding to the nation's growing need for generalist physicians and is consistently ranked among the nation's top medical schools in primary care production.

Drs. Adelman and George, experts in teaching EBM, were invited to help assess the current state of ATSU's EBM implementation, identify areas of need, and give suggestions for execution of the grant project.

"EBM is a method to retrieve, validate, and apply medical knowledge and information," Dr. Laird said. "We have to teach our students to be learners, because we can no longer simply teach them everything they'll need to know about medicine."

include evidence-based medicine and continuous quality improvement.

Under the leadership of the medical school dean, Philip Slocum, D.O., FCCP, FACOI, FCCM, ATSU-KCOM has embraced this challenge and is dedicated to developing EBM learning opportunities. This project will develop consistent knowledge and understanding of EBM by family medicine faculty, provide EBM enhancements in the existing undergraduate curriculum, and pilot EBM distance training for post-graduates.

IN THIS ISSUE:

HEALTHCARE EXPERT SPEAKS IN ARIZONA	3
MESA "STILL RUNNIN"	4
ATSU NEW HIRES	6

Arizona State University head football coach Dirk Koetter headlines conference dedicated to treating concussion in student-athletes

From 8 a.m.-4 p.m., February 18, ATSU-ASHS will co-sponsor and host a “Concussion in Student-Athletes” conference jointly sponsored by ASHS, the Brain Injury Association of Arizona, and the Arizona State University Athletic Department.

ASU Head Football Coach Dirk Koetter will kick off the conference at 8 a.m. with his presentation, “A Coach’s Perspective on Concussion.”

The conference is designed for high school and college coaches, team physicians, athletic trainers, athletic directors, school counselors, school nurses, teachers, psychologists, parents of student athletes, and community and pediatric physicians whom often treat young athletes. The conference is designated for eight hours of Category CME credit education toward the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

“Over 60 percent of high school concussions go unreported due to the athlete not knowing the signs and symptoms associated with a concussion,” says Dr. Tamara McLeod, ATC, assistant professor of interdisciplinary

health sciences at ASHS and a presenter at the conference. “Unfortunately, many athletes, coaches, parents, and even some medical professionals are not aware of the effects and possible consequences of concussion. Our goal is to educate coaches, athletic directors, and medical professionals to the current strategies for assessment and management of concussive injuries.”

The featured conference speaker is Dr. Michael Collins, assistant director at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Sports Concussion Program. UPMC currently manages sports concussion programs for the National Football League, National Hockey League, and more than 325 colleges, universities, and high schools nationwide. Dr. Collins is a clinical consultant to Major League Baseball, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and New Zealand Rugby Association.

Interested participants may register online at www.biaaz.org. For more information, contact Rodric Bradford, director, public relations for ATSU-Mesa at 480.219.6015 or rbradford@atsu.edu.

ATSU-Mesa celebrates the holidays and 10-year anniversary

The Mesa campus of ATSU had two reasons to celebrate at their 10th Anniversary Celebration and Holiday Dinner held on December 16 at the Mesa Hilton. The event was the perfect venue to celebrate the upcoming holidays and reflect on the people who have worked tirelessly to contribute to ATSU-Mesa’s success during the last decade.

The evening was highlighted by a program dedicated to recognizing the eight current faculty members who have been with ATSU-Mesa since its formation in 1995: Suzanne Brown, Randy Danielsen, Deanne Fay, Mary Greer, Sue Hillman, Jackie Kingma, Ken Pavlicek and Wayne Smith.

All were presented with gifts to commemorate their service, which included an engraved clock and personalized ATSU jerseys with the number ‘10’ on the back.

“The evening was a great opportunity to celebrate ATSU’s most valuable asset — our people,” said Dr. Craig Phelps, provost of ATSU-Mesa.



PA Chair Bert Simon accompanied by Doreen Hart.



ATSU employee Adam Ruiz and fiancée Daniela Cruz.

Local businesses support Connell Center



Mark Cahalan, Ron Harrison and Larry Byars of Whitney-Harrison Insurance Company present Dr. James McGovern, A.T. Still University president, with a \$2,500 check for the Connell Center campaign. Community donors making a contribution of \$500 or more will be recognized within the new facility's "Kirkville Community Multimedia Center."

Baldwin family gives to ATSU Connell Center



ATSU President Dr. James McGovern receives a \$1,500 check for the Connell Center from members of the Frank Baldwin family. Photographed with Dr. McGovern are Carl, Shirley, Charles and Cathy Baldwin. Charles Baldwin is the director of purchasing for ATSU.



International healthcare workforce expert to speak in Arizona

In February, ATSU will host national and international physician and healthcare workforce policy expert Richard "Buzz" Cooper, M.D.

Dr. Cooper has set the agenda for physician workforce policy in the United States with research centered on finding solutions to the problem of physician shortages. Dr. Cooper has predicted a shortage of up to 200,000 physicians across the United States by 2020, and his work on physician and healthcare workforce supply policy has captured a vast amount of interest across the country by health, medical, and science media.

As Arizona's healthcare provider shortage becomes a more pressing issue, Dr. Cooper's presentation will have added value as he addresses the range of issues that will be encountered in trying to expand the country's physician supply.

"Having Dr. Cooper speaking to the health education community about our nation's healthcare provider shortage reinforces our vision as a community resource for healthcare and health information," said Craig Phelps, D.O., FAOASM, provost of ATSU's Mesa campus.

Dr. Cooper continues to conduct analyses that better define the economic and social dynamics that underlie healthcare spending and utilization, while collaborating with colleagues across the world on physician migration and the range of issues that will be encountered in expanding physician supply. In the near future, the yet-to-be-named medical school on the Mesa campus will continue to incorporate the signature principles to define innovative practices and address the physician shortage.

Community Health Center CEO visits ATSU-ASDOH



Dr. Jack Dillenberg, dean of ATSU's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, gives a tour of ASDOH's clinic to Joseph S. Coatsworth, chief executive officer for the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers (AACHC). AACHC and its member organizations aim to improve access to primary healthcare services for both the medically underserved people of Arizona and many others who use Community Health Centers.

ASDOH has agreed to become an oral healthcare provider for AACHC clients. This partnership is in line with ATSU's theme of "Defining Whole Person Healthcare," while reaching underserved communities.

"Still Runnin"

5K run helps raise money for scholarships

A.T. Still University in conjunction with the Mesa YMCA, held its Third Annual "Still Runnin" 10K/5K Run & 1 Mile Fun Walk on November 5 at the ATSU campus in Mesa to the delight of students, faculty, staff, and community members who participated in the event. Funds raised from the event were used to enhance ATSU scholarship programs and to provide funding for the Mesa YMCA "Strong Kid" program to help Mesa youth.

Sponsored by Appleton Dental Plan, the run/walk kicked off an action-packed day of events that included an awards ceremony, booths sponsored by local and statewide organizations, music, children's activity play area, and lunch for all event attendees.

"This is a rare event in which we can combine exercise, scholarship, community, and fun," said Tony



Hashemian, chair of Appleton Dental. "Dynamic events such as the walk/run allow the community to learn about the benefits of being healthy in an effective, but fun way."

Arizonans Concerned About Smoking was also in attendance, as A.T. Still University has been praised throughout the state for their campus non-smoking policy. With an entire student body of aspiring and current health professionals, ATSU has stated

the importance of being a leader in the state regarding healthy lifestyle issues.

"Appleton Dental is looking forward to a continued partnership with ATSU as they expand their community outreach across the entire state of Arizona," Hashemian said. "It is one of the few institutions of higher learning that places its students and community needs before profit or self-interest."

ATSU-KCOM Diversity Week 2006

In January, students at ATSU-KCOM celebrated Diversity Week. The five days of celebration included a city-wide unity festival in Kirksville, Mo. that honored the legacies of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, a potluck dinner, a cultural simulation challenge, and a talent/fashion show.

1 & 2 - The cultural simulation challenge prepared students for culturally sensitive patient/physician interactions and promoted discussion on proper ways to handle similar situations.

3 & 4 - The Diversity Week talent show featured popular and traditional renditions of music and dance, as well as a diverse range of skill.

5 & 6 - Participants and attendees of the Diversity Week fashion show were treated to traditional cultural garb for young and old from many parts of the world.



Michael French elected National Rural Health Association Secretary

Michael French, director of the ATSU-KCOM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) office, recently was elected by members of the National Rural Health Association to a two-year term beginning January 1, 2006, as secretary of the association.

As NRHA secretary, French is a member of the Association's Board of Trustees, Rural Health Policy Board, and five-member Executive-Finance Committee. These groups are responsible for the determination of the association's policies and supervision of association operations.

An NRHA member since 1988, French has served on both the



FRENCH

Rural Health Policy Board as a representative of the Research and Education Constituency Group and the state association council as a representative of the Missouri Rural Health Association. He is a past president of the Missouri Rural Health Association, a founding member of the state association, and a current member of its board of directors.

French has been employed in the ATSU-KCOM AHEC office since 1989. He currently serves as one of three ATSU-KCOM representatives on the Missouri AHEC Operating Board, which coordinates the activities of the statewide AHEC network consisting of three university program offices and seven regional area health education centers.

The NRHA is a national nonprofit organization with approximately



10,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues. The association's mission is to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. The NRHA membership is made up of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health. NRHA maintains an administrative office in Kansas City, Mo., and a Government Affairs and Policy office in Alexandria, Va.

ATSU new hires

Gretchen Buhlig has been named associate vice president in the department of Institutional Advancement at A.T. Still University, Mesa campus. Buhlig has served as the associate vice president of the Arizona State University Foundation. She has been involved in many volunteer and community activities, including three years as the chair of the development committee on the corporate board of directors for the East Valley Boys and Girls Club, as well as fund development marketing director for the Mississippi Valley Girl Scout Council in Rock Island, Ill.



BUHLIG

Curtis Law has been named manager of application development and support for information technology services at A.T. Still University, Mesa Campus. With more than 25 years of IT experience, Law will have daily leadership responsibilities for the ITS applications team. Most recently, Law served as IT manager at the aerospace division of Honeywell International.



LAW

"We are excited to work with Curtis in continuously improving IT services at ATSU. He will be an important mentor and onsite contact for our ITS team in Mesa," ITS Assistant Vice President Bryan Krusniak said.

Sam Fernandez is the new director of online admissions and recruitment, supervising the ATSU online enrollment and admissions team. Fernandez most recently served as the international director in charge of online enrollment for DeVry University. Prior to DeVry, Fernandez spent more than 13 years with the University of Phoenix, where he helped expand its online international markets with travels to Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Morocco, and Canada. "We are very pleased to have Sam join the Student Services office, and we look forward to working with him to expand our online presence," Student Services Assistant Vice President Beth Poppre said.



FERNANDEZ

ATSU-ASHS March graduation finds new, improved location & distinguished speaker

The graduation for the Arizona School of Health Sciences' distance learning programs on March 11 will have a new home. ATSU has reached an agreement with the Mesa Arts Center to host the early spring graduation.

Opened in Spring 2005, the Mesa Arts Center is the largest arts complex in Arizona, covering an astonishing 212,000 square feet. As the anchor of the Mesa Arts and Cultural District, the center is an inviting oasis by day and a luminous beacon by night. The design of Mesa Arts Center was inspired by the unique character of the Sonoran Desert – a rich desert, mountain, and canyon environment featuring a 700-foot Shadow Walk that creates an inviting, shaded outdoor oasis plaza.



Previously, the March graduation ceremony had been held on the ATSU-Mesa campus.

"This is a wonderful new partnership with the city of Mesa to use an extraordinary facility that will enhance the graduation ceremony," said Student Services Assistant Vice President Beth Poppre, M.Ed. "We will continue to develop this partnership as ATSU expands."

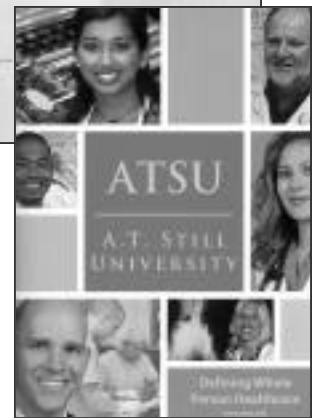
Another highly anticipated feature of the March graduation is speaker Dr. John Molina, a Yaqui Indian who founded the Las Fuentes Health Clinic in Guadalupe, Arizona. He received the Humanitarian Award from the National Head Start Association recognizing his extraordinary contribution to serving Head Start children. Molina has been a minister, social worker, and physician and is now an aspiring attorney who spoke at the 2004 Native American Physician Assistant White Coat Ceremony.

"His message will fall in line with the mission of the Arizona School of Health Sciences and A.T. Still University," said ASHS Dean Randy Danielsen, Ph.D., PA-C.



Dr. John Molina, the keynote speaker for ASHS's upcoming March graduation, is a past recipient of the National Head Start Association's Humanitarian Award.

Awards for communications add up



ATSU VIEWBOOK

Just a few months after the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine announced its communications awards, which included two awards for ATSU publications, another organization has selected the publications program for recognition.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI awards were announced on January 24 at the district conference in St. Louis, Mo. ATSU was given top honors in the category "Excellence in Communications – Overall Publications" for publication program improvement.

"The awards committee reviewed past material used for public information, constituency communication, and student recruitment," said Kathryn Stroppel, ATSU's director of strategic communication. "They then compared it to the new material that has been developed in conjunction with ATSU's new visual identity and branding initiative."

CASE District VI includes undergraduate and graduate institutions from eight states, including Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

OMM research material donated to Still National Osteopathic Museum

The daughters of William L. Johnston, D.O., FAAO, have donated 44 boxes of Dr. Johnston's life work and library to the Still National Osteopathic Museum. Dr. Johnston, a graduate of Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and renowned osteopathic researcher, died in 2003.

Johnston was in private practice in Manchester, N.H., from 1945-1973, when he joined the faculty of Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSU-COM). He served at MSU-COM in several capacities, including professor of biomechanics, professor of family medicine, and section chief of osteopathic manipulative medicine.

Dr. Johnston wrote or co-wrote 54 published papers on osteopathic research. Most of his work focused on physical motion and osteopathic manipulative medicine.

The Still National Osteopathic Museum is the only museum dedicated to the national history of osteopathic medicine. The museum is located on the campus of A.T. Still University's Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo.

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Associate Vice President for University Relations: *Elsie Gaber, Ph.D.*

Editor: *Joe Vincent*

Photographer: *ATSU Multimedia*

Graphic Designer: *Gail Doss*

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Contributing Writers: *Rodric Bradford*

If you have news to report, please call 660.626.2272 or email jvincent@atsu.edu by February 13, 2006.
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