Open for business
Dental clinic at ATSU-ASDOH opens specialized unit for infants

The Dental Clinic at ATSU's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) recently opened a special unit dedicated to providing free care for infants. The ASDOH Baby Tooth Clinic accepts infants up to 24 months old. Appointments focus on oral hygiene instructions, nutritional counseling, a toothbrush prophy, and fluoride varnish.

ASDOH, which opened in 2003, is Arizona's first and only dental school. The community-based education model used by ASDOH encourages students to become caring, community-minded healthcare providers. Its first class will graduate in 2007.

The Dental Clinic at ASDOH provides dental services to underinsured and underserved populations throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area and provides specialized services for infants and children, as well as special needs patients.

To reserve an appointment at the Baby Tooth Clinic, contact Linda Nelson at 480.248.8127. For more information on ASDOH or the Dental Clinic, visit www.atsu.edu/asdoh.

ATSU-KCOM Diversity Night

Students from ATSU-KCOM and Truman State University celebrated Diversity Night in January. Above, Lindsey Griffieon, MS II, sings “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina,” and below, Neha Patel, MS IV, and Aalap Mehta, MS II, model cultural garb at the talent and fashion show portions of the evening.

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Mary Lou Ellyson receives ATSU Employee Excellence Award

Mary Lou Ellyson, pictured left, payroll coordinator for ATSU Human Resources, was recently presented the ATSU Employee Excellence Award by ATSU President James McGovern. Donna Brown, director of Human Resources, said Ellyson was the perfect candidate for the award.

“Mary is very deserving of this award. She is a very hard working, dedicated, and caring employee. Her dedication and awesome work ethic is reflected through her behind-the-scenes thoroughness, diligence, and patience. Mary is an integral part of the Human Resources office and we love having her here at ATSU.”

Human Movement program off and running

Online degree program welcomes fifteen new students

ATSU recently welcomed its inaugural class of students for the new Human Movement online program offered through ATSU’s Arizona School of Health Sciences. The fifteen new students began in November and are the first beneficiaries of a unique health and fitness professional online degree program designed by ASHS faculty based on certification guidelines set by the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM).

In January 2006, NASM announced it would be moving its global headquarters from California to the Arizona Health & Technology Park on the campus of ATSU-Mesa. That set the stage for a partnership between NASM and human movement faculty at ATSU, including a one-week, hands-on session for human movement students with ATSU and NASM leadership in Arizona.

“Moving our headquarters to the ATSU campus is an example of our powerful partnerships across the country,” said NASM CEO Michael Clark. “With the education, partnerships, and resources in place, we are achieving something unique in health and fitness.”

Matthew Rhea, Ph.D., Human Movement program director, said the unique factor that differentiates the online human movement program from others in the field is the professional knowledge and career enhancement offered and the opportunity to learn from leaders in the health and fitness industry.

“With so many fitness professionals tied to their workplace and unable to relocate and pursue traditional advanced education, this degree opens up professional development options previously unavailable to the fitness industry.”

Fitness professionals taking advantage of ASHS’ online Human Movement master’s degree program benefit from the unique partnership between NASM and ATSU and earn their degree without interrupting their full-time jobs.

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Renowned educator joins ATSU-Mesa

Dr. Michael Glick brings broad experience in practice, research, and education to university

A leading dental practitioner, researcher, and educator joined ATSU in a dual role as associate dean for oral-medical sciences at the College of Osteopathic Medicine-Mesa and as professor of oral medicine at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health.

Michael Glick, D.M.D., formerly professor and chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, joined ATSU on Jan. 1. He is renowned for his excellence and innovation in dental education. At ATSU, he will establish an integrated curriculum focusing on critical thinking for both dental and medical students.

“I want our dental students to think of themselves as healthcare professionals first, and dentists, second,” says Glick. “At ATSU, I am promoting a more medicine-oriented approach to the curriculum. Through this type of education, our dentists can play a more active role in monitoring and screening their patients for medical conditions, so that they can refer them to physicians.” With the medical school, Glick will bring emphasis to the connection of oral health to systemic health, so medical students develop a better appreciation of the importance the interrelationship of the two.

Sixty-four percent of all adults in the U.S. visited a dentist within the last year, while only 39 percent of all adults saw a physician. “This provides dentists with an enormous opportunity to help screen for potential health problems, including hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol,” says Glick. “All healthcare providers, dentists and physicians included, have a responsibility for a patient’s medical health.”

“The College of Osteopathic Medicine-Mesa and the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health will benefit enormously from Dr. Glick’s teaching and research,” says Craig M. Phelps, D.O., FAOASM, provost of A.T. Still University’s Mesa campus. “Dr. Glick is a renowned researcher and educator, and his innovative techniques will play a significant role in educating our future dentists and physicians.”

Glick is the author of four books on dental management and oral medicine. He was recently appointed editor of the Journal of the American Dental Association, the premier peer-reviewed journal on dentistry and dental science. He has authored numerous publications on the treatment of medically complex patients and infectious disease and has lectured extensively on these subjects both nationally and internationally.

Glick received dental degrees from the Hebrew University School of Dental Medicine in Israel and Temple University in Philadelphia. He pursued a residency in oral medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his academic research and education appointments, Glick was a practicing dentist for 15 years in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Still Scholars visit KCOM

Five undergraduate Still Scholars visited ATSU-KCOM recently and shadowed a D.O. for the day. Pictured are, left to right, ATSU Dean of Students Ron Gaber; Lauren Schuermann, admissions counselor; Leah Vincent, associate director of admissions; Laura Ceriotti; Emily Krogmann; Julianne Gilmore; Carrisann Gabler; Rebekah Soto; Lori Haxton, associate vice president of admissions; and Brad Risby, admissions counselor.
Lofley, Parsley receive Clark Ator, D.O., Memorial Financial Awards

First-year medical students Kent Lofley and Amanda Parsley were honored recently as recipients of the Clark Ator, D.O., Memorial Financial Award. The award provides financial assistance to qualifying ATSU-KCOM students who are committed to family, fellow man, and community with a strong desire to learn, practice, and teach medicine.

The award was established in 2004 in memory of Clark B. Ator, D.O., a 1994 graduate of ATSU’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, by Gary Knighton, D.O., ’95, a friend and fellow alumnus; and Karlene Ator, Dr. Ator’s wife.

Dr. Ator was an assistant professor in the family medicine, preventive medicine, & community health department and KCOM’s regional assistant dean for the Utah region. Dr. Ator and several of his colleagues died tragically in a plane crash en route to Kirksville in October 2004. They were traveling to Kirksville to participate in KCOM’s faculty development workshop pertaining to compassionate care and humanism in medicine.

For Parsley, the award was a way to pay tribute to her family and further proof that KCOM is where she wants to be.

“The award was a way of acknowledging my family, who are very supportive. It is truly wonderful to be able to learn in the place where osteopathic medicine was founded. This university chooses the best students and faculty to be here and it is an honor to be a part of it,” Parsley said.

Lofley said that he and his family were touched by the deeper meaning of the gift. “The award helped my wife and I reflect on all the things that are most important in life. It is wonderful that Dr. Ator’s legacy will continue to impact others for good.”

Both recipients noted the commitment demonstrated by Dr. Knighton. “I am impressed by the level of friendship that is expressed through this award,” Lofley said. Parsley added, “Dr. Ator was very blessed to have a friend that would honor him in this way.”