D1s give creative anatomy presentations

A SDOH’s D1s gave final anatomy class presentations on January 24. “Each week the presentations get more creative, elaborate, and interesting,” said Wayne W. Cottam D.M.D., M.S. “By the last week we are usually rolling in the aisles with their presentations.”

Melisa Jay, Shelly-Lynn Kitani, John Patrick Hanlin, and Eric Peters present on eye muscles and movements.

David Elimelech, Heather Ann Hearon, and Sean Thomas Murphy present on the embryological formation of the upper lip.

A plethora of activities were offered at the Arizona Campus during Wellness Week held February 4-9. A Wii Tournament was hosted by the Geriatric Initiative, NASM provided fitness planning services, oral health and clinic tours were provided by the Arizona Student Dental Association, PTs set up an inflatable obstacle course, the Still-Well Committee held tricycle races, ATSU online Admissions hosted sumo wrestling, and employee fitness assessments were provided by the YMCA.

Your news is StillNews. Students, if you have news to pass along, email lcashatt@atsu.edu. Design: Hector Contreras

Magruder named ATSU Acting President

Jack Magruder, Ed.D., president emeritus of Truman State University and member of ATSU’s Board of Trustees, assumed the role of Acting President of A.T. Still University on February 14. Dr. Magruder resigned his position on ATSU’s Board to fulfill this responsibility after President James McGovern took a voluntary medical leave of absence.

Dr. Magruder has an exceptionally strong background in higher education. He became the thirteenth president of Truman State University in 1994 after serving 22 years as a faculty member, three years as chair of the science division, and five years as the vice president for academic affairs at Truman. Dr. Magruder is a past Board of Trustee for The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and past president for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, Council on Public Higher Education for Missouri, and Board of Directors of the Truman State University Foundation.

Dr. Magruder’s hobbies include reading, raising and riding Missouri Fox Trotter horses, driving a team of Haflingers, traveling, and camping. Dr. Magruder and his wife, Sue, live in Kirksville.
Meet Mr. ATSU

Performing in categories from formal wear and sportswear to question-and-answer sessions and talent, Arizona Campus men competed in a battle for the Mr. ATSU title. More than 100 students, family, and friends watched on January 25 as Ryan Taylor, D1; Erik Smith, D2 and defending Mr. ATSU champion; Brandon Abbott, OMS I; and first-year PA student George Morales competed in the annual contest.

After intense rounds of competition, Morales earned the Mr. ATSU title, winning $200 and a gold pendant. Morales performed an inspirational song on the guitar written about his mother.

Smith finished second place with a musical performance on the autonomic nervous system, winning $100. Taylor performed the Napoleon Dynamite dance to “Canned Heat” by Jamiroquai, winning third place and $50. Abbott wrote a song about ATSU and performed it on his mini-guitar; he was named Mr. Congeniality.

Ms. ATSU will be named at a similar contest in March.

Winnerfest is a success

The KCOM Biomedical Sciences Club and Sports Medicine Club co-hosted the second annual Sean Martin Memorial Winnerfest on January 18-19. The annual event celebrates the life of Sean Martin and the winning spirit of Winnerfest’s participants with two days of athletic competition. This year, competitions were held in basketball, volleyball, racquetball, bench-pressing, ping-pong, and flag football. All funds raised at Winnerfest were gifted to Martin’s two children. Last year, the BMSC presented the Martin family with $1,600. This year, the Martin family will receive a check for $1,862.

Dental student is World Series Champ

First-year dental student Brian Banks has experienced a successful athletic career that many men only dream of.

Born in Mesa, Ariz., Banks’ baseball talent and love for competition was recognized in high school where he was named State of Arizona Player of the Year and three years to the All-State Team. Banks then played collegiate baseball at Brigham Young University where he was named to the All-American Team. He was drafted in 1996 to the Major Leagues with the Milwaukee Brewers and played through the 1999 season.

After playing overseas in the Japan Series Championship for the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks, Banks signed with the Florida Marlins from 2001-2004. In 2003, the Marlins won the World Series Championship, defeating the favored New York Yankees in Game Six with a score of 2-0. “What a rush as we charged the infield grass at historic Yankee Stadium,” he says. “I will never forget that night. I was fortunate to fulfill my childhood dream of playing on the very fields and against many of the players I grew up idolizing and cheering for.”

Banks retired following the 2004 season and now lives in his hometown with his wife and three sons, focusing his champion efforts on his family and studies. “My career in baseball allowed me to recognize how fortunate I am and that I can do good for those who need help. I will value compassion and integrity as I embark on this new career in the field of dentistry.”
KCOM celebrates Diversity Week

KCOM celebrated Diversity Week on January 21-25 with several multicultural Campus and community events. On Martin Luther King Jr., day a cultural presentation was held at Truman State University. “Tapestries: A Celebration of Cultural Arts” included an hour of performances by Unique Ensemble, Illusions, Linda Seidel, and True Men.

The Still-Well Spirituality Team sponsored “Music, Spirituality and Healing” in Mehegan Classroom. Participants learned how music is linked to spirituality and healing in different cultures.

Later in the week, faculty, staff, and students lunched with High Hopes Workers. The St. Louis Black Repertory Theater presented “No Land’s Man: A Chapter in the Lives of Dred and Harriet Scott” on Wednesday evening at Truman State University, free to the public.


The International Dinner and Talent/Fashion Show was held in the Centennial Commons Friday evening. Students shared unique talents and cultural fashions. KCOM families enjoyed a potluck dinner and cultural entertainment.

The Latter-Day Saint Student Association enlightened KCOM Campus faculty, staff, and students during a lunch presentation entitled Mormon Myth Busters.

Garrett Ripoll, OMS I, wowed the crowd on the guitar at the International Dinner and Talent/Fashion Show.

SHM graduates its first doctoral class

Congratulations to the School of Health Management’s first doctoral graduating class, which completed the Doctor of Health Education program on February 17. SHM welcomed its first class of doctoral students in 2006. Two students completed the program in February, and two are expected to graduate in May.

With a research-centered dissertation, the D.H.Ed. program requires students to identify and resolve a work-related problem. The dissertation process begins in the first week of the first course and builds upon coursework throughout the program. Each student creates an original course designed to resolve a work-related issue, evaluation tools to assess the course’s impact, and a standard operating procedure manual to maintain course implementation.

The process was rewarding for SHM Senior Course Designer and D.H.Ed. graduate Deanna Hunsaker, who worked through the challenges of balancing work, family, and friends. “It’s nice having a project that’s work-focused instead of a hypothetical study,” she says. KCOM Assistant Professor of Biochemistry Trish Sexton, D.H.Ed., M.S., was also pleased with the program. “It enhanced what I do on a day-to-day basis, cementing what I already know.”

The graduation ceremony will be held June 7 at the Thompson Campus Center, and will feature Patch Adams, M.D., as the commencement speaker.
Audiology students Vanessa Betancourt, Jennifer Thomas, Sabra Carman, Coral Vazquez, and Sade Fateh of the Arizona School of Health Sciences were part of a team of audiologists and doctors who conducted a medical mission to help the people of Guaymas, Mexico, and others from the State of Sonora. Although the city has approximately 225,000 citizens, there are no audiologists or hearing aid dispensers in Mesa’s Sister City of Guaymas, which is located 400 miles south of Phoenix.

The team worked at a school for mentally and physically challenged students, many of whom have hearing loss. They offered a test booth, clinical audiometer, impedance meter, hearing aid modification tools, and otoacoustic emissions screener. Since 1992, more than 1,700 patients have been seen, and more than 1,000 hearing aids have been fitted at no charge. The Mesa, Arizona, Baseline Rotary has sponsored the missions since 1992.

# Students enthusiastic about Geriatric Initiative

In 2003, the ATSU Board of Directors initiated a University Geriatric Initiative in light of the growing healthcare challenges of an aging society. The Arizona Campus is actively engaged in geriatric outreach programs. According to Assistant Professor Elton Bordenave, M.Ed., CHC, Arizona Campus committee chair for the Program on Aging, the goal of the outreach programs is to increase the quality of life, health, and wellness for seniors while promoting student healthcare education.

Faculty supervised SOMA students treat patients at community senior centers, interacting one-on-one with seniors who have medical issues ranging from diabetes to depression. ASDOH students provide screenings and services from a fully functioning mobile clinic, which has been successful at generating new patients and community awareness for the School and its clinics. First- and second-year PA students perform volunteer blood pressure screenings at four community senior centers each Thursday, and on February 5, eight Au.D. students and two faculty members provided hearing screenings.

Each program has demonstrated the importance of student-patient interaction, and many students have voiced their enthusiasm for the projects. More outreach programs are in development for both Campuses.

# ATSU-KCOM is honor roll recipient

ATSU-KCOM was named to the 2007 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This distinction recognizes community service and civic engagement on university and college campuses across the nation. The Honor Roll is an annual recognition.

Honor Roll recipients were honored February 10 during a meeting and reception at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, Calif. The Honor Roll and reception were sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, and Campus Compact.

# KCOM receives OMM treatments

In January and February, KCOM’s Class of 2010 provided Campus faculty, staff, students, and their spouses with free osteopathic manipulative medicine treatments as part of a special educational program. Every year, second-year medical students participate in an Advanced Palpatory Skills Development program where they practice integrating osteopathic manipulative medicine into the clinical setting. Through this program, physician-supervised students evaluated and treated volunteer patients for common musculoskeletal problems.
ASDOH students share research

ASDOH students Gregory Sikora, Reda Taleb, Mary Rose Carlos, Sean Connolly, Sarah Kramer, David Martinez, Elizabeth Magallanes, and Sue Yoon participated in the Inaugural Research Day Presentation on January 17. According to ASDOH Director Morrie Reisbick, D.M.D., student research is supported by the American Dental Association’s accrediting body to raise awareness of careers available in oral health research and to promote interest in dental research and teaching careers.


ATSU ranks as best medical school for Hispanics

ATSU ranked 20th in the September 2007 Hispanic Business Magazine’s list of best medical schools for Hispanic students. Each year, the magazine compiles survey rankings based on a point system for enrollment, faculty, student services, retention rate, and reputation. “The goal of our school rankings is to provide our readers with a basis to begin their search for a graduate school that will be suitable for their needs,” said Michael Caplinger, research supervisor for Hispanic Business Magazine.

Marathon rocks Arizona

On January 13, the fifth annual P.F. Chang’s® Rock ‘n’ Roll Arizona Marathon & 1/2 Marathon toured Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe, Ariz. More than 100 ATSU faculty, staff, students, and alumni volunteered medical services in stations along the marathon route and finish line. Nineteen ATSU faculty and alums served as medical captains. ASHS Dean Randy D. Danielsen, Ph.D., PA-C, and Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Chair Eric Sauers, Ph.D., ATC, served as medical directors, planning medical coverage for nearly 35,000 race participants. The marathon generates $44 million for Arizona’s economy and raised more than $20 million for leukemia and lymphoma research and services.

Irish Minister tours ASDOH

As part of a U.S. tour to gather health information, Irish Minister Mary Harney, TD, and her official delegation from the Department of Health and Children arrived in Mesa, Ariz., on February 4 to tour ATSU’s Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health and meet with University leaders. “I am delighted to have the opportunity to visit the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health,” said Minister Harney. “The School has an international reputation for innovation and creativity in the field of dental education and oral health service delivery. This visit will be of particular value to me and my officials in the context of the new National Oral Health Policy which I plan to publish later this year.”

The Minister for Health and Children is the senior minister at the Department of Health and Children in the Irish Government and is responsible for healthcare policy in Ireland. Other stops on her U.S. tour included a cancer treatment center in Texas and a hospital in Washington, D.C.


Eight students participated in Research Day. Back row, left to right: Sean Connolly, David Martinez, Mary Rose Carlos, Sarah Kramer, and Gregory Sikora. Front row, left to right: Sue Yoon, Elizabeth Magallanes, Reda Taleb, and Dr. Morrie Reisbick.

Medical station volunteers were located in large red and white tents along the marathon course.