

Still News

January 2006

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY | ATSU

Local writer of ATSU history recognized by Missouri governor

Georgia Warner Walter, B.S., D.O.Ed. (Hon.), emeritus director of the A.T. Still Memorial Library at ATSU-KCOM, was honored on November 16 with the Governor's Humanities Award for her book "First School of Osteopathic Medicine," which was published for ATSU-KCOM during its centennial celebration. The award is given each year to citizens who "do outstanding work in bettering our communities and in contributing to our understanding of places and people," according to a release from Governor Matt Blunt's office.

Walter said the book, which took more than 10 years to complete with research and verification time added, began as a short essay written for *Kirksville* Magazine. The essay, titled "The Beginning," was very well-received and prompted the president of the college to request a full exploration of the school's past to coincide with its 100-year birthday. "First School" was published on time in 1992.

Walter served as director of the A.T. Still Memorial Library from 1969 to 1986. Upon her retirement, she was awarded the honorary



Walter (second from left) and her husband, Francis, (second from right) were invited to an awards luncheon at the Governor's Mansion where she was presented with the book award.

doctor of osteopathic education degree. She has written three books on osteopathic medicine in addition to publishing "First School." Her other titles include "Osteopathic Medicine: Past and Present," "Women in Osteopathic Medicine: Historical Perspectives," and "The First D.O."

Walter is passionate about her belief that the unique brand of medicine called "osteopathy" still needs further exploration and study. "There are a lot of good books about its history," she said, "but I think we're still missing a lot. There is a lot more work that could be done."

Walter was a recipient of the regional Daughters of the American Revolution "Women in History" award and won the Gottlieb Prize from the National Medical Library Association in 1979 for "Osteopathic Medicine: Past and Present." In 1990, she received the Living Tribute Award from ATSU-KCOM, and the reading room of the ATSU library was named in her honor.

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NASM moves global headquarters to ATSU Mesa Campus

The National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), a global leader in transforming lives and revolutionizing the health and fitness industry, has moved its headquarters from California to the Arizona Health & Technology Park in Mesa, Arizona.

Established in 1987, NASM has set industry standards in certification, continuing education, solutions, and tools for health, fitness, sports performance, and sports medicine professionals. Today, NASM serves more than 100,000 members in 80 countries.

"NASM has a great new approach that incorporates fitness, insurance, and healthcare while using result oriented, solution-focused fitness to cultivate lucrative markets," CEO Michael Clark said. "Moving our headquarters to the ATSU campus is an example of our powerful partnerships across the country."

These powerful partnerships include major corporations like American Specialty Health, 24-Hour Fitness, National Athletic Trainers Association, National Basketball Association Trainers Association, and the NBA's Phoenix Suns. In addition to its leading fitness



certification program, Certified Personal Trainer (CPT), NASM also offers premier performance certification, the Performance Enhancement Specialist (PES). NASM certifications are the most sought after in the industry as more than 20 continuing education programs are currently being offered.

"With the education, partnerships, and resources in place, NASM is achieving something unique in health and fitness," Clark said. "To achieve any goal takes skill, substance, and determination. In health and fitness, success takes NASM."

The Arizona Health & Technology Park is on the forefront of integrating health education and technology while addressing the country's healthcare needs with innovative and effective solutions.

"ATSU is excited to have NASM on our campus," Provost Craig Phelps, D.O., said. "Together, we will continue to improve our country's healthcare educational needs. We look forward to developing new education programs that emphasize whole person healthcare."

Janet Head begins term as national AHEC organization president

Janet Head, R.N., MS, director of the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program at ATSU-KCOM, assumed the position of president of the National Area Health Education Centers Organization (NAO) on October 1, 2005. Head will serve as president for the 2005-2006 NAO program year.

Head has directed the AHEC program at ATSU-KCOM since 1988. During her tenure as director, the AHEC in Missouri has grown from a network composed of one medical school program office and one regional AHEC center to its current composition of three university program offices and seven regional AHEC centers serving the entire state of Missouri.

Head previously served as chairperson of the AHEC Program Directors Constituency Group within NAO, as a constituency representative and secretary of the NAO Board of Directors, and as NAO president-elect. As 2005-2006 NAO president, Head will chair the NAO Board of Directors.

The mission of Area Health Education Centers nationwide is to enhance access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community/academic partnerships. Bringing together the resources of health professions training institutions and communities, AHECs offer programs to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce

committed to underserved populations.

Today, more than 50 university-based AHEC programs team with more than 200 regional AHEC centers to provide AHEC services in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health schools and educational programs work collaboratively with AHEC programs to improve the health of underserved and underrepresented populations.

The NAO is the national membership organization that supports and advances the Area Health Education Center (AHEC)/Health Education Training Center (HETC) network.

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ATSU-ASHS dean elected chairman of national commission

Randy Danielsen, Ph.D, PA-C, dean of ATSU-ASHS, was elected to serve a three-year leadership term on the board of directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) at its November meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Danielsen's term as chairman elect will begin January 1, 2006. In 2007, he will serve as NCCPA's chairman of the board, and in 2008 as the immediate past chair.

"This is a great opportunity to serve my colleagues and represent the progressive and trendsetting institution that the Arizona School of Health Sciences has become," Dr. Danielsen said.



DANIELSEN

Established as a not-for-profit organization in 1975, NCCPA is

dedicated to assuring the public that certified physician assistants meet professional standards of knowledge and clinical skills upon entry into practice and throughout their careers.

Dr. Danielsen has served on NCCPA's board since 1997, and he most recently served as the chair of the Research and Test Development Committee as the secretary of NCCPA's Board of Directors and as a member of the Executive Committee. NCCPA is the only credentialing organization for physician assistants in the United States.

"Dr. Danielsen's extensive knowledge of the profession as a clinician, an educator, and state regulatory board member made him a perfect choice for this leadership position," NCCPA President Janet Lathrop said. "He has a tireless dedication to our field, and I look forward to continuing to work with him."

ATSU Board of Trustees honors Ron Gaber

The ATSU Board of Trustees has presented the George Windsor Award to Ron Gaber, Ed.S., CT, vice president and dean of students/alumni services.

The award was developed in honor of George Windsor, D.O., a 1969 KCOM graduate who served two terms of nine years each on the ATSU Board of Trustees. The Board established the award to continue Dr. Windsor's spirit and encourage that spirit in others.

The Board chose Gaber because he exhibits the same characteristics as Dr. Windsor.

"I was taken by complete surprise when it was announced that I had been nominated by the president and my dean colleagues and selected by the Board of Trustees to receive



Dean Gaber talks with Jordan Sessions, MS I.

the George Windsor award," Gaber said. "Having had the pleasure to work with and know Dr. Windsor for many years, I am both humbled and honored to receive an award that bears his name and represents his outstanding contributions and reputation."

ASDOH students to visit Thai counterparts

Several students at ATSU-ASDOH will be spending their holiday vacation far from home. The group will be traveling to Thailand to spend two weeks with dental students at the Chiang Mai University (CMU) Dental School. They will use their time conducting research within the hill tribe villages of the Chiang Mai district and assisting some Thai dentists in the villages. They also plan to visit the dental clinic in the Leper hospital in Chiang Rai.

"It will be a great opportunity to share educational models between the two schools and share experiences with dental students in another country," said Matt Adamo, a student at ATSU-ASDOH who is helping organize the trip.

"It should be made clear that this is not a U.S.-led humanitarian mission to this country," Adamo said. "Thailand is in some respects more advanced than we are. However, as in the U.S., they have small native villages where healthcare/dental care is sparse. The dental school at CMU has similar views on community service as ASDOH, and my goal is to learn how other countries provide public health services."

Indeed, Thailand boasts a medical infrastructure that attracts visitors from all over the world seeking high quality care at less expense than many other advanced countries. For instance, a dental procedure that would cost approximately \$3,750 in the United States costs less than half, about \$1,250, in Thailand.

Adamo hopes that their visit to Thailand will open the door to a reciprocal visit from students at CMU to ATSU-ASDOH in March 2006.

"I hope to see this program become a success and continue annually," Adamo said.

AFA recognizes ATSU-ASHS for education excellence

On October 27, the Audiology Foundation of America (AFA) acknowledged the ATSU-Arizona School of Health Sciences' (ASHS) Au.D. degree program with an Award for Excellence in Education at their national conference in Savannah, Georgia.

The award is the highest honor given to an institution and acknowledges the extraordinary efforts made toward fulfilling the goals, values, and mission of the AFA in transforming audiology into an autonomous doctoral profession and enhancing professional education. The program currently has its fourth residential class in session and will graduate its first on-campus class this spring.

"The AFA has been an important motivating force behind the transition of audiology to a doctoral level degree as the entry-level degree for practice," ASHS Audiology Chair Tabitha Parent-Buck, Au.D., said. "At ATSU, audiology has found a wonderful home in a healthcare institution. Both the transitional and entry-level audiology programs were built from the ground up, using support and experience from the other health professions programs at ATSU."

Professionalism, commitment to best practices, and high standards of excellence in instruction and training

were the qualities sought after by judges. The industry-leading program at ATSU-ASHS features top-quality faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and has already graduated 993 Doctors of Audiology with almost 600 more currently in the degree program. Dr. Parent-Buck was one of the first of three Au.D. graduates in the country in 1996 and served on the AFA Board of Directors for more than seven years. Practitioner entrants utilize the EPAC (Evaluation of Practicing Audiologists Capabilities), which helps place them in classes and allows for credit for existing capabilities.

"The transitional program offers the experienced practitioner rigorous academic course work tailored to each individual applicant's needs," Parent-Buck said. "The course sequence has a great deal of flexibility, allowing for breaks and time off for the busy practicing professional as needed."

The ATSU-ASHS audiology program has demonstrated its commitment to quality audiology practitioner education since taking its first class in 2000.

"Feedback from alumni is extremely positive," Parent-Buck said. "And the alumni are our biggest recruiters, which speaks volumes for the program."



Pictured with the award are, left to right, Ted Wendel, Ph.D., associate provost, ATSU Mesa Campus; Tom Rigo, Ph.D., audiology associate professor; Rebekah Cunningham, Ph.D., audiology assistant professor; Tabitha Parent-Buck, Au.D., audiology chair; Henry Trahan, Au.D., audiology assistant professor; Les Schmeltz, Au.D., audiology assistant professor; and Elton Bordenave, M.Ed., audiology assistant professor.



Karen Snider promoted

President James McGovern, Ph.D., approved the promotion of Karen Snider, D.O., to associate professor in the OMM department of ATSU-KCOM. Dr. Snider was recommended for promotion by Michael Lockwood, D.O., chair of the OMM department at ATSU-KCOM.

Henry Petry receives fellowship

The American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians announced in October that Henry Petry, D.O., assistant professor of family, community, and preventive medicine, received his Fellow designation. This designation is reserved for candidates who have contributed outstanding national and local service through teaching, authorship, research, or professional leadership. They also have contributed outstanding service in their professional career and family practice duties in their community and civic activities.

Ligorsky serves as national grant application reviewer

Robert Ligorsky, D.O., regional associate dean of ATSU-KCOM's Arizona region, recently served as a committee member for the review of grant applications for the United States Department of Health & Human Services. Ligorsky traveled to Bethesda, Md., on December 6-9 as part of the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Program Review Committee. The committee is part of the Office of Rural Health Policy at the Health Resources and Services Administration.



LIGORSKY



ATSU-ASHS OT program adapts toys for disabled children

In early December, the Occupational Therapy program coordinated volunteers to assist the Phoenix Sister City Disability Awareness Group with a toy project. Toys were adapted for children with disabilities and delivered to them in Hermosillo, Mexico. Volunteers were also able to meet with the children and their families. In the photo, volunteers in the Mogollon classroom make adaptations to the toys.

We're in the Army now, dental style

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health student and Army Reserve Major Sean Connolly (far left), commissioned fellow ASDOH students (from left to right): Jesse Norris, Shannon Young, Hanane Seaton, and Katie Ann Egbert in a November 8 ceremony at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona. The four students are now Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army and will be accepting scholarships from



the U.S. Army's health professions scholarship program.

Check out StillNews on the web

Did you know that you can read *StillNews* online? The monthly ATSU newsletter is emailed to your university account every month and posted on the University Relations page at www.atsu.edu. While you're there, check out the archives in online or PDF format and take our short readership survey. *Your feedback matters!*

Hunger Banquet leaves eyes open, stomachs empty

Students at ATSU-KCOM filed into Centennial Commons on December 1 expecting a meal and a lecture. The moments leading up to the start of the college's inaugural Hunger Banquet were like many others; students chatted about classes, finals, and the standard list of social conversation items. The event even began as most others do, with a welcome by organizers and a short speech by Orin Mock, Ph.D., emeritus professor of anatomy. There were, however, striking differences to the norm that had everyone buzzing.

First, there was the cardboard seating area. All the students were handed cards when they arrived that instructed them where to sit. A small number sat at round banquet tables covered with linens. Waiters in tuxedo shirts and ties stood curiously by. A few more sat at a long banquet table, this one not covered. The majority of the students were directed to the floor, covered with cardboard boxes that had been flattened.

There was, in reality, an exact science at work. The 60 percent of students who sat on the floor looked up at the 30 percent at the banquet table and 10 percent at the round dining tables. They heard Dr. Mock talk about his work in the Peace Corps. in the Philippines and for FEMA in hurricane stricken Alabama. They were then served, also according to percentages.

The nearly two-thirds of the group sitting on the floor helped themselves to a scoop of white rice. The almost one-third sitting at the banquet table also fetched their own meal, a mix of rice and beans. The 10 percent at the dining tables received prepared meals donated by Wooden Nickel and Il Spazio. The reality was striking, and to some downright irritating. At least seven people from the cardboard group left when the meal was announced.

The Hunger Banquet, which now seemed more appropriately named, was illustrating how food and nutri-

tion is distributed among the world's population. A mere 10 percent dine well and have real choices about what they will eat and when.

Approximately 30 percent, earning between \$900 and \$9,000 per year, receive adequate nutrition but operate with a much smaller menu and a great amount of uncertainty. These people know that at any time they could be joining the 60 percent who sat on the floor, representing the large majority of those who earn less than \$900 per year and who do not receive adequate amounts of nutrition.

The organizer of the event, George Leydon, is a second-year medical student at ATSU-KCOM. He said the purpose of the event was to highlight some of the world's most intense social issues in a much more personal way.

"The event is not supposed to be a surprise, but to some people it will be," Leydon said. "We're not doing this to make people happy."

The shock and lack of control is part of the point, said Aaron Davis, also a second-year student who spent part of his youth homeless with his mother on the streets of Detroit, Mich.

"The lack of control is really an antithesis of their normal lives," Davis said. "People get desensitized to numbers and images."



About 10 percent of those participating got meals that were finely prepared, representing the world's wealthy minority population.

This makes it more real."

At the event, it was reported that 1.2 billion people live in poverty worldwide, with more than 30 million in the United States.

Hunger equates to power, inequality, resources, and education, Leydon said.

"These problems don't happen in a vacuum, and hopefully it makes people aware of a lot of social problems in our world," Leydon said.

The Banquet raised more than \$300, which was donated to Oxfam International. Students also collected canned food items on behalf of the Central Missouri Food Bank. More information about the Hunger Banquet can be found at www.hungerbanquet.org.



Most participants received a single portion of white rice.

Northeast Regional makes \$50,000 gift to ATSU Connell Center

Northeast Regional Medical Center (NERMC) in Kirksville, Mo., presented a check for \$50,000 to ATSU on November 18 to support construction of the Connell Information Technologies Center. The donation was presented by Hank Walkley, CEO of NERMC and co-chair of ATSU's Connell Center Community Campaign.

The campaign was in its sixth week and had achieved 65 percent of its overall goal of \$180,000 for the community portion of the building's funding. With more than \$117,000 raised, ATSU is confident it will meet the goal by the campaign's end. A successful campaign drive is one of the major factors that will help ATSU secure \$780,000 from The Kresge Foundation, which approved a challenge grant earlier in the year to support the Connell Center.

The Connell Center, which represents a \$10.25 million investment in the Kirksville community, is designed to revolutionize the way medical students are



Walkley joined ATSU representatives at the Connell Center construction site to present his gift on behalf of NERMC. Standing at the future site of the center are, left to right, Robert Theobald, Ph.D., chair and professor of pharmacology at ATSU-KCOM; Hank Walkley; James McGovern, Ph.D., president of ATSU; First-year medical student Angela Ware; and Philip Slocum, D.O., vice president of medical affairs and dean of ATSU-KCOM.

educated and maintain Kirksville as a national leader in the development of compassionate physicians who truly treat the whole person in mind, body, and spirit. In addition to a state-of-the-art patient simulation center, computer classroom, and expansive techniques lab, the center will house the Kirksville Community Multimedia Center, named to honor those who supported construction through the community campaign.

ATSU welcomes gifts from the Kirksville community as a part of the Community Campaign. Supporters who give \$500 or more will be honored within the Connell Center's

Kirksville Community Multimedia Center. Those who wish to contribute to the Community Campaign may send their gift to: ATSU, Institutional Advancement, 800 W. Jefferson St., Kirksville, MO 63501, or call 660.626.2180 for more information. Gifts may also be made online at www.kcom.edu.



1. Gift for A.T. Still University – Jill Williams, Bank Midwest branch manager, and Mike Sinnett, Bank Midwest regional manager, present a \$2,500 check to Dr. James McGovern, ATSU president, in support of the University's Connell Center Community Campaign. Construction of the \$10.25 million center is under way, with completion scheduled for Fall 2006.



3.

2. A. T. Still University receives gift for Connell Center – Peter Detweiler, Alliant Bank president, presents a \$5,000 check for the Connell Center to ATSU President Dr. James McGovern. Community donors making a contribution of \$500 or more will be recognized within the new facility's "Kirksville Community Multimedia Center."



2.

3. Community Support for A.T. Still University – Community members Vern and Mary Playle of Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home present Dr. James McGovern, ATSU president, with a \$2,500 check for the Connell Center. The center will assist ATSU in the recruitment of new faculty and students.

O'Reilly joins School of Health Management

Kimberly O'Reilly moved from Lafayette, Indiana, to accept the position of associate dean with ATSU's School of Health Management. She has previously worked as both an associate dean and the interim director of student support at ITT Technical Institute in Indianapolis, Ind. At ITT, O'Reilly was responsible for training faculty members, providing in-service training locally and on other campuses, and acting as a liaison between departments and campus locations. "I am very passionate about education and very excited to be part of a university so full of traditions and values," O'Reilly said.



O'REILLY

ATSU Mesa Admissions welcomes Shue

Admissions Counselor Natalie Shue is the most recent addition to the Admissions team at the Mesa Campus. She has work in the Online Admission Department since March 2005 as a graduate assistant counselor. "It has been quite a challenge learning about all of the diverse programs we offer, but a joy to speak to prospective students about them!" Shue said. "What has helped me learn the most about ATSU programs are the students, faculty, and staff. They have been so generous with their time and have let me ask a million questions about programs and their experiences here."



SHUE

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