The Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health graduated its first class of dentists Saturday, May 19, at the Mesa Arts Center in Mesa, Arizona. Fifty-three graduates received their Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree.

“I can’t believe this day has arrived. We have all worked really hard and have made a lot of sacrifices to walk across that stage and it felt amazing,” said Shuana Hayes.

“This commencement marks an important milestone for ATSU and the state of Arizona,” said James J. McGovern, Ph.D., president of A.T. Still University. “Not only are the 53 students graduating from the only dental school in Arizona, but these graduates have demonstrated a profound sense of compassion, integrity and ability. They already are becoming leaders in improving community health and wellness.”

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, 17th U.S. surgeon general, vice chairman, and chief executive officer of Canyon Ranch, and president of Canyon Ranch Institute, delivered the commencement address.
The Student Osteopathic Medical Association helped sponsor the 2007 Friends of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) 5k Run/Walk. All proceeds of the race are used to support the children and volunteers of the CASA program. To find out how you can become a volunteer, go to nationalcasa.org.

Best time male: Alan Heineker 15:59
Best time female: Jodi Berman 21:24
When it comes to creating a fitness and wellness friendly environment, ATSU ranks high with the American Heart Association (AHA). Representatives of AHA recognized the University for its outstanding efforts to create a healthy environment in Missouri and Arizona. ATSU is the only institution in Arizona to receive any level of recognition, and one of only four in Missouri.

Dan Martin, director of ATSU’s Thompson Campus Center on the Missouri campus and the University’s unofficial “fitness guru,” said recognition from the AHA was especially important because of the association’s reputation as a health policy resource.

“When the American Heart Association says something, from CPR techniques, to blood pressure management, to exercise routines, people take it as fact and act immediately,” Martin said.

“That they have recognized ATSU as the gold-standard for fit-friendly work and education environments is a great endorsement for our University and an incentive to work every day to make them even better.”

The AHA evaluated organizations based on physical activities offered or encouraged; nutrition policies, alternatives, or incentives; and institutional culture.

“Providing wellness and fitness options to our faculty, staff, and students not only follows our institutional mission, but is also good common sense when you’re talking about the bottom line of a business and controlling costs,” said James McGovern, Ph.D., ATSU president.

Thomas McWilliams, D.O., associate dean at the School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona and Michael Samuels, Ph.D., chair of the masters in public health and masters in health administration programs at the School of Health Management, were speakers at the National Rural Health Association 2007 Annual Conference. McWilliams’ presentation, A New Model for Education, examined the role of osteopathic medicine in rural health and the need for reform of medical education. Samuels talked about the new medical education model for rural underserved communities.
The 21st Annual Governors Ball was held May 5 at the Pointe South Mountain Resort in Phoenix. ASDOH’s Project C.A.R.E. (Compassion, Accommodation, Respect, and Empathy) at the dental school received 25 percent of the Ball’s proceeds.

Project C.A.R.E. focuses on oral healthcare service delivery to the special needs population. The Special Care Clinic, along with Project C.A.R.E., have been operational for less than a year and have already become pivotal resources for special needs dental care in Arizona. The clinic is recognized as one of five national “Center of Excellence” sites by AmeriChoice. The funds received from the Governors will partially support a special needs registered dental assistant.

Andy Jackson, admissions counselor, is this year’s Distinguished Service Award recipient.

“Jackson has unconditional positive regard for everyone. That means that regardless of your personality, your title, your size, your strengths or your weaknesses, she will respect and be of service to you.” said Donna Brown, human resources director.