

The LINK Newsletter



Newsletter for Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
From The Medical Student Government Association

FALL 2005

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The LINK Newsletter is a quarterly production of the Medical Student Government Association of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Article and photographic submissions are welcomed and encouraged. Contributions can be sent to Simon Schrick, Editor-In-Chief, at sschrick@hsc.unt.edu or Student Box 507. Photos and articles will not be returned, and are subject to editing prior to publication. Individuals interested in aiding the production of The LINK Newsletter can contact Simon Schrick by the above methods.

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AOA House of Delegates: Update on the Joint Match

BETSY PEARCH

As most of you all know, the idea of a joint match has been a hot topic over the last year. After listening to student concerns from all of the schools, the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) drafted a resolution in support of a joint or simultaneous match. This resolution was presented by students all over the country to their state associations. The argument that having a joint match might eventually cause some of our residency programs to lose positions or close all together caused the students to

take a step back and decide to request more information.

Several surveys had been sent out by different parties to evaluate the overall opinion and value of a joint match. Unfortunately, none of the surveys conducted had high return rates or they only looked at data from one or two schools.

In light of the lack of information and the controversy surrounding the issue, COSGP decided not to submit the resolution in support of a joint match. Instead, the legislative affairs committee of COSGP

drafted an amendment to the resolution #300 changing the nature of the resolution to call for a non-biased study to be conducted to evaluate the short and long-term effects of a joint match on the osteopathic profession.

Students introduced the amendment to their state delegations and the amendment and resolution were passionately debated in committee. The committee on educational affairs submitted an amendment very similar to the students' amendment to the [*Joint Match*, Page 2]

Orientation Week

VENESSA MARTINEZ

"My first experience with our new classmates began even before orientation. Because of the bulletin board on the school's website, we had the opportunity to organize a social on our own. I am sure it made everyone more comfortable being able to meet our classmates before orientation even started.

Orientation itself was very intense and overwhelming, so when we started class it felt like we had been in school for a long time. Being out of college

for 5 years prior to entering medical school, I was a little concerned that I would not blend in well with the class. Fortunately, our class is so diverse that I felt like I fit in well.

It was interesting how orientation served as a way to find people whom I could study and build friendships with. I realized that we each have different personalities, backgrounds, ethnicities and most importantly, different ways to approach medical school."

-Ilona Parks, OMSI

Orientation Week for the Class of 2009 was very exciting. When asked about their favorite parts of the week, most students mentioned the various social events sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Club, Christian Medical Association, SOMA, and the TMA, to name a few. The socials gave the students the opportunity to get to know one another and unwind after a rigorous day of tours and coat-fittings. Another [*Orientation*, Page 2]

Joint Match Continued from Page 1

house floor. There was more heated debate from students and doctors all very passionate on the issue. The question of the amendment was finally called and the house voted. It was too close to call and a physical count was requested. The amendment passed by a margin of about 40 votes. Then the resolution passed as amended. At the end of it all, resolution #300 was amended to request that a study be conducted by the AOA to evaluate the effects of a joint match and present the results to the 2006 House of Delegates. The resolution as amended at the following address:

http://www.online.osteotech.org/pdf/cal_ho_d05memo276-300.pdf (To read it just go to the last resolution in the group - #300).

This was a very exciting

House of Delegates for students. We were able to express our opinions and request that a possible change be at least evaluated. Moreover, we as students at TCOM should feel especially lucky to be from a state that is so supportive of their students. Each morning before the House convened, our state delegation sat down and went through resolutions discussing how our state would vote. The morning of the big vote on resolution #300, Dr. Palmarozzi brought us the amendment that the Educational Affairs committee would be presenting. After it was read, all of the doctors at the table looked at the three of our students who were present and asked how we felt about it. I had the great honor of being the official student delegate and LaPonna Irvine Moore was the

alternate. Buddy Tierce was also present observing the meetings. As the resolution was very similar to the students and had the same request for more information, we told our state that, yes, we should support it. When it came for a vote, our state proudly stood up and voted for the amendment! As I sat and watched this happen, I looked over at some of the other states where students had to stand and vote "no" with their state even though it was

against what they personally thought. I don't think I have ever felt so proud to be a TCOM student!

This House of Delegates was quite exciting and really showed how much influence students can have on our profession. While change may not come easy, we must remember to be patient, persistent, and professional and eventually we can make things happen!



To: All Osteopathic Medical Students, July 11, 2005

Orientation From Page 1

highlight of orientation was the case study exercise that was held at the end of the week. Dr. Dubin, along with a panel of doctors and student doctors, led the lively discussion. This was to be the first of many case studies the Class of 2009 would review in the upcoming weeks. The first years were also given training in core disaster life support. The course was not only informational and unique to our institution, but also proved

to be extremely necessary in the wake of the recent tragedy experienced by the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Finally, on the last day of orientation, the student's spouses and family members were given the opportunity to tour the facilities and ask questions about what to expect from their first year student. Overall, the week-long event has left us with wonderful memories of this new chapter in our lives.

At this time, the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) has decided not to submit a resolution to the AOA House of Delegates to develop a simultaneous match for AOA and ACGME programs. COSGP initially pursued this issue of a simultaneous match because you made it known to your elected student government representatives that this is an important issue. It is our continued position that consideration must be given to the question of this proposal's long and short term effects, and COSGP supports a collaborative and valid study to address its impact. COSGP has always firmly opposed any change which would have certain negative affect on our osteopathic training and/or ultimately our profession. The leadership of the American Osteopathic Association has been thoughtfully judicious in providing caution on this issue, and COSGP looks forward to further collaboration as we continue to examine this matter. COSGP is commencing a Simultaneous Match Task Force to continue the drive for accurate assessment of this issue. Thank you for your ongoing feedback and subsequent support.

Respectfully,
Executive Board
Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents

Class Updates

Class of 2006, DUSTIN TAUFERNER

Wow...three years down and now boards and residency interviews loom on the horizon. The new fourth year class of 2006 has been busily preparing for board study and starting the residency application process. Some are less than 6 months away from match.

Congratulations to class of 2007 for their outstanding performance on step one boards. Soon you will be a fourth year.

Congratulations to Cynthia Schlueter and family for their new edition Tucker Lane and to Jennifer Thigpen on her recent engagement with wedding plans in February 2006. Lastly, congratulations to Kate Flather (formerly Gadberry) on her recent wedding. I'm sure I am missing others, drop me or the class an email and I will include.

May 20, 2006 is right around the corner....



Class of 2007 MARVIN MOUL

Rotations are going well. Slowly we are coming into our own as far as our clinical assessment skills and building up clinical knowledge as a foundation as future physicians. One thing is for sure...we LOVE third year more than second year! Many people have mentioned that reading is a lot more fun when you have seen a patient with the condition you are reading about. It's tough work trying to meet the demands of the rotations you are on while trying to keep up with your readings, attending lectures, and trying to have some semblance of an outside life, but it is work that is well worth it.

Congrats to Matt Frederick and his wife Christy on the upcoming birth of their baby boy Austin Diego. Kimberly Knaus is pregnant and due in February. If anyone else is pregnant or engaged, congrats to you as well!

Keep up the good work everyone and most importantly have fun while doing it!

Class of 2008 JEB FROST

The class of 2008 is doing well. We are knee-deep in the pathology of the renal system and have forgotten any words that don't begin with "glomerulo." In addition we are working hard to orient the 2009 class into their new home. Their enthusiasm is refreshing.

We have had several marriages over the break including: Huy Luu and Josephine Beacham, Adam Ylitalo and Kelly Adamek, Monica Ghosh and Vikras Kalra, and John Maclanahan and Ashley Kidd. We are also anxiously awaiting the arrival of Buddy #2.

Class of 2009 VENESSA MARTINEZ

The Class of 2009 has just finished the second cell science exam and is looking forward to the third round of tests in the upcoming weeks. Both exams proved to be educational to us as we learn to adjust our study habits. First years are also getting familiar with their classmates in OMM and Clinical Medicine. Most of us are walking out of OMM in a lot of pain as we poke and prod our way through each lesson. I think it is safe to say that we are looking forward to learning how to treat each other. We are now anticipating our white-coat ceremony and the beginning of anatomy in late September.

Marriages: Lauren Fincher and Ryan Oliver will be married on December 17, 2005.



Class Officers

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TOMA Representatives
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DAN CLEARFILED
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