



The Link

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TOMA NEWS

Carlos Gomez-Meade
MS I, Class President

As TCOM students we are all automatically TOMA members (Texas Osteopathic Medical Association). In fact, in case you have not already figured this out on your own, allow *The Link* to inform you on this late-breaking news...TCOM is the only osteopathic medical school in the state of Texas, hence the default membership in TOMA. This club not only serves as a lobby of our osteopathic ideals, but it also reinforces our voice as osteopathic students of the state of Texas for national representation.

Appointed by MSGA President Scott Young, Sue Bascik, MS II and Brandon Lewis, MS IV, serve as the TCOM liaisons and manage issues for TOMA at the student level. These two students do an excellent job of making sure all TOMA news is transmitted directly to the attention of the MSGA Council. Therefore, it is the obligation of TCOM students to use these two representatives as sources for any TOMA matters, along with look for ways to

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Research Opportunities Explored

Dave Brabham
MS II, Class President

Research is an essential part of every academic community. The worth of a Health Science Center is in large part based on its ability to produce findings in both basic science and clinical science. Faculty are expected to submit their work to peer reviewed journals for publication. The importance of participating in this process cannot be overemphasized in consideration of a health science center's viability. Part of the mission of a health science center is to train scientists both in the areas of basic research and clinical research.

Although there are clinical research opportunities for medical students of TCOM, most students do not participate because they either do not realize the opportunity is there or the opportunities are not readily accessible. In an effort to promote interest in clinical research the Medical Student Government Association is sponsoring a lunch on November 2 featuring Dr. Samuel Coleridge, D.O., Chair of the Family Practice Department at TCOM. Dr. Coleridge has a strong background in clinical research.

Medical students are by nature curious and self-motivated. It is these qualities that drive clinical research as well.

He will speak about the many available research opportunities in his department as well as other departments in the college.

There are several weeks between the first

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improve TCOM representation in TOMA. The two main TOMA events that took place recently are as follows:

The TOMA White Coat Event was a formal presentation that was held in the atrium on September 7, 2001 at 4pm. TOMA President, Dr. Mark Baker ; TOMA Vice-President, Dr. Jim Czewski; and TOMA President-Elect, Dr. James Froelich were present as they led the TCOM Class of 2005 to inspiring speeches of how to be more involved in osteopathic medicine. In addition, the distinguished speakers focused on how to increase awareness of the benefits TOMA has to offer.

"The career that we have chosen requires a great deal of sacrifice, and as such we have already proven ourselves worthy to walk the osteopathic path. We should let TOMA be our guide as we embark on this journey", said an optimistic Reagan Richards about the benefits of TOMA amongst an eager group of first-year peers. "The benefits of TOMA are endless, it is simply a matter of displaying the interest and above all, the curiosity to admire the world of medicine around us. In time, we (TOMA members) will be there to support the osteopathic cause and those around us in every way possible", she continued.

Furthermore, the implementation of new TOMA representatives was initiated by the MSGA bylaw changes. As a result, two TOMA representatives will be elected from each of the first three TCOM classes. Along with these positions, a chairperson will be appointed from the MSGA Council and thus form the TOMA Committee. After MSGA approval of these changes, a unanimous acceptance of the bylaw changes was evident as more than two-thirds of the Class of 2004 and 2005 student bodies voted in favor of the changes.

These TOMA positions will run concurrently with the other class officer elections, regarding both the duration of office and election times. Elections of these TOMA representatives took place on Thursday, October 4th for the Class of 2004 and October 5th for the Class of 2005. TOMA Reps for 2004 are Helene Pinter and Ruth Wiley. TOMA Reps for 2005 are Patrick Keehan and Bao Le.

MSGA --Up and Going!

The Medical Student Government Association has met two times this semester and is very excited about this year and its new first year members. The new executive council has met numerous times and is busy ensuring the interests of the medical students. The new president is Scott Young of the Class of 2003. The first and second vice-presidents are Happy Castro of 2003 and Sue Bacsik of 2004. The secretary and treasurer are Steve Corns and Aaron Metcalf both of 2004.

Several initiatives have begun since this determined group has started. First, the schools bylaws have been changed to reflect the need for student TOMA representatives in each class. This allows for greater student involvement in TOMA. Second, it is the goal of the MSGA to make clinical research for students more accessible. Throughout the year, the MSGA will promote student participation in clinical research and highlight opportunities that are already available. Lastly, it is the goal of MSGA to increase the leadership skills of all who are interested. Steve Corns was able to attract the president and executive director of The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine to come to TCOM and give a seminar on leadership to the student organization presidents as well as class officers. Furthermore, we are happy to welcome Dr. Marc Hahn as dean of TCOM and look to him for guidance and support in our pursuit of these goals. Look in the coming issues of *The Link* for updates on the advancement of these goals.



MSGA Executive Council-(l to r) Happy Castro, Steve Corns, Sue Bacsik, Scott Young, and Aaron Metcalf.

NEW STUDENT LOUNGE OPENS

A new student lounge was opened this Fall on September 17. The new space is located in the hallway of EAD, directly adjacent to the existing Lounge. The opening of the lounge was a culmination of the work of many people including Dr. Mitchell Forman, and the 2000-01 Medical Student Government Association. The space was converted from the Office of Student Affairs housing four financial aid offices, the Director of Student Affairs, the Associate Vice President for student affairs, and Lee Tayon's office. The new student lounge contains student offices for the Medical Student Government Association, The Graduate Student Association, the Public Health Student Association, and the Physician Assistant Student Association. There is also a copy machine that is compatible with the library copy cards that were issued to each student. There is also a fax machine that students may use to send and receive faxes.

The new student lounge provides space for students to relax and socialize. Aaron Metcalf, from TCOM class of 2004 gained the donation of a big-screen television which will be furnished with Satellite channels in the upcoming weeks. The space is intended solely for the enjoyment of students and will prove to be a valuable addition to the purview of the student development office. Students are encouraged to use that space for gatherings including social meetings and events.

The lounge will function as an ancillary service to the current lounge offering many amenities that had been limited to the Library previously. There is also considerable storage space for student organizations and class associated events. Under construction is the computer room. Dr. Forman as well as others have generously donated computers and monitors. These computers will provide internet access outside the library which is currently the closest connection openly available to students.

and second year of medical school. Students choose to spend this time in many different ways. Some travel and vacation, while others choose to do a preceptorship in their field of interest. Because the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is part of The University of North Texas Health Science Center as well as being affiliated with The Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas, there are a plethora of clinicians involved in groundbreaking research in a close vicinity. As future osteopathic physicians, we are obligated to become educated in the practice of medicine which includes evidence based medicine and the process behind it. Although it is not a required component of training here at TCOM, it is prudent to take advantage of the research resources that are so readily available.

Medical students are by nature curious and self-motivated. It is these qualities that drive clinical research as well. Please come to the MSGA sponsored free lunch to find out more about what clinical research has to offer you here at TCOM. There are a lot of opportunities that are exciting, educational, résumé improving and offer close contact with clinical faculty that is hard to come by in the first two didactic years.



Carlos' Top 10 Facts . . . about the parking garage

10. The East parking garage has approximately 750 available parking spaces and is for students and staff.
9. The West parking garage has approximately 74 available parking spaces and is for Faculty only.
8. The main man behind the security of the parking garage is Chief Don Beeson.
7. The trees planted in the upper level of the parking garage are expected to grow over 12 feet tall and yet the planting space is less than 3 feet deep!
6. Management took rainout days into consideration as precautions for the much anticipated and prompt October 1st opening day.
5. Those who choose not to purchase Parking Garage permits may still park at Will Rogers except for days of special events at that venue.
4. Back-in parking may lead to a court appearance traffic citation.
3. "I have yet to prove the statement that a person who parks in the garage can walk from the garage to the school buildings without getting wet on a rainy day!" stated a very deceived MS-I Clay Cessna.
2. An all-out sprint from the lowest level to the highest level of the West parking garage can lead to burning a maximum of 15 calories!
1. We at *The Link* are willing to make the bold assumption that at least 3 of the many construction workers of the parking garage were named either Bill or Pete.

2002 CLASS REPORT

Erin Westerholm
MS IV, Class President

The Class of 2002 took COMLEX II on August 28th and 29th and the results are still to be announced, although Erin claims to be confident with the class results considering how well prepared the class seemed to be. Following the administration of the exam, the class had a Post-COMLEX party!

Congratulations to Greg and his wife Teresa Newman on the birth of their new baby boy Blake. Also to Greg and Amy Iverson on the birth of their beautiful twins Claire Elizabeth and Sage Gregory.

Important dates include the following: October 12th was the deadline for National Matching Service for AOA; November 23rd is the first day to rank order list for AOA applicants; May 18th is THE DAY... Graduation Day, that is!

2004 CLASS REPORT

Dave Brabham
MS II, Class President

The class of 2004 was refreshed by the summer vacation and has completed several systems since the start of school. Fundamentals of treatment, Genitourinary and Cardiology have kept us stimulated and busy. The new curriculum has proven itself to be strong and continues to be student friendly. The class is adjusting well to the change from learning normal to pathological human science. The transition has proven to require even more study than the first year!

The class also has also been involved in many activities. Twenty students from the class of 2004 helped Rynn Sloan make orientation for the Class of 2005 a success. Catherine Andrews organized a soft tissue manipulation clinic for the homeless of Fort Worth in the spring which continues to grow and be a great success with Dr. Michael Carnes as its supervising faculty. Kristi Whinton organized a beautiful memorial service where the Class of 2004 handed the gross anatomy torch to the Class of 2005 with gratitude to the women and men who donated their bodies last year and this year. Many of our students are officers for student organizations and have been doing a fabulous job. SOMA held a golf tournament that raised a lot of money as well as exposure for the school. ULAMS held an evening of salsa in the Founders Activity Center.

Events in the near future include a specialty round table organized with the help of Janice Huneycutt where we will have an evening of questions and answers with physicians of specialties that we are not frequently exposed to. We are having a garage sale on October 20 at Sam Clark's house. We have had many requests for the same sweatshirts that were sold last year in both gray and blue UNT and TCOM. These will be on sale in the upcoming weeks. Our first Introduction to Clinical Experiences Week was interesting and valuable and the second clinical week is around the corner.

Lastly, we had our first new addition to the class. William Blake Koehler was born to Melisa Koehler in September.

2003 CLASS REPORT

Terry Hashey
MS III, Class President

There seems to be nothing but great news for this class! The Link is proud to congratulate the Class of 2003 for 100% of the class PASSING THE COMLEX I- Congratulations to everyone! Along with that, congratulations to the class on 100% attendance in the first clinical MSGA Meeting.

The Board review course refund led to a great party and all military classmates made it back in one piece!

Ken and Christina Adam's baby boy was born over the summer, Congratulations guys! More babies on the way...stay tuned!

2005 CLASS REPORT

Carlos Gomez-Meade
MS I, Class President

Our transition to Medical School is going well; Orientation was great! Kudos to the Scribe Service participants and officers. There have been major improvements with scribes throughout the semester.

The "Not-So-Clean-Fun Club" is now known as "The Lagging Strands Club" for the Class of 2005. There's a new idea to rewrite the Test File (a project led by Paul Giles), such that the exams will be clearer, more relevant to the respective exams, and be placed in CD-ROM versions. These are to be sold to the incoming students and will lead to a generous profit for the class Boot Party funds. More participation is strongly needed to help with the simple tasks to carry this project through.

Opportunities in which you can participate:

- Masquerade ball to be held on November 2 in Founder's Activity Center. All students are invited.
- Ideas to begin "The Halloween Great Pumpkin" which is an opportunity for community service and includes making a trip to a local elementary school and helping children cut and decorate pumpkins on October 31st.
- Kristel Griffin is working on improving the class web page. (Check out the new changes at www.hsc.unt.edu/tcom2005) She still needs people to help her, so volunteer!
- A fundraising committee is being formed by class treasurer, Diana Kharbat. Contact her if you're interested.
- A class video committee is being formed by Class Historians, Gina Fowler and Sarah Wendel.

