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January - March 2014

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UNECOM Faculty Highlight

Stay tuned...

Message from the Dean

Douglas L. Wood, DO, PhD, FACOI, Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

Usually when writing for the COMMunicator I hone in on one topic; however, there are a number of issues of importance that we have within the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and therefore I feel it important to address some of them rather than just one topic.

"Strategic Planning "

As most of you may know, we have established a Strategic Planning Committee that has been putting in many hours working toward the completion of a draft strategic plan, which then will be reviewed by COM faculty and staff. If everything goes as planned, a draft version of the plan will be available within the next week. Currently the plan consists of a vision for the college as well as some planning areas, which will be expanded as time goes along. It is important to point out that the committee had much background material upon which to begin building the plan. This included getting input from all employees via a Survey Monkey questionnaire, conducting several small focus groups, doing individual interviews, and having the planning taskforce work with the data to create a plan. Dr. David Wayne, our Associate Dean for Planning, Assessment and Innovation, is leading the process. Dr. Wayne has experience facilitating strategic planning around



Dean Douglas L. Wood, DO

the world and we hope that by the end of March to have a clear, measurable plan in place to move us forward. To the end, the plan should be our plan (students, faculty, staff and administration) and not just a document from the planning committee. Remember, "The future does not just happen, it is created." So let us create a challenging future for the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"AOA, AACOM and ACGME (Accreditation Council for the Graduate Medical Education) Agreement"

By now, most of you are aware that in late February 2014 the three groups mentioned above agreed to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education (GME) programs in the U.S. This agreement occurred after many months of discussions whereby the "allopathic and osteopathic medical communities have committed to work together to prepare future generations of physicians with the highest quality GME."

The AACOM Board of Deans has held several meetings related to this agreement and finally felt that this is the direction we should be taking relative to graduate medical education. There are some within the osteopathic community who feel that this is a poor choice and could lead to changes in our profession in several areas and even the end of our profession. I do not feel that way and am convinced that this will strengthen our profession.

There are many components of this agreement, but I feel the most important one is that the osteopathic graduates will now be able to complete their fellowship education within the many programs offered in allopathic graduate medical education programs.

We Asked, You Told!

In December we asked you, our readers of the COMMunicator, to provide us with feedback on how we are doing. We were overjoyed with more than 300 responses (It could have been the goodie bag raffle)! Anyway, thank you so much!



This is what we learned from you:

- 81% of our readers are Alumni - *We love that!*
- Most of you read the COMMunicator **"sometimes"**
- Alumni Notes were deemed as the most important topic. News and Events followed a close second.
- Sections you would like to see in order of importance, included:
 - Specialties by percentage for past UNECOM graduates and where are they practicing.
 - Alumni - Where are they now?
 - Interviews and alumni, student & staff spotlights - Humanistic aspect!
 - CME opportunities
 - Curriculum changes
 - Classified section - Wanted/For Sale/Job Opportunities with Alumni, etc.
 - Fun fact of the week
- Changes you would like to see to the existing content:
 - Shorten newsletter
 - Format is difficult to read
 - Scholarships are listed in the COMPass, do not need in the COMMunicator as well.
- Positive feedback
 - "It's a great reminder of what is going on around me"
 - "Keep up the good work"
 - "Things look good the way they are"
 - "Leave it all in. If you don't want to read a section, you just

- skip by it"
- "I appreciate the newsletter and enjoy the COMMunicator a great deal"

Stay tuned for changes to come!!!

SPOTLIGHT STORY: MIXON IN SOME BEAUTY

*Editor's Note We asked **Alyssa Mixon**, **second-year medical student**, to answer several questions to help give us a snapshot of how she grew up, became involved with beauty pageants and decided to pursue medical school.*



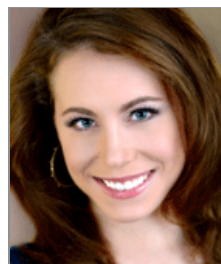
Alyssa being crown n Miss Merrimack

1.) As a little girl, what did you want to do when you grew up & what was it like growing up in your household?

Growing up in a place where the state motto is "Live Free or Die" I was raised to take advantage of all that life has to offer me. Whatever I want to become is within my reach. At 12, I decided my future was skiing. The 6-year-old peers in my beginner class thought I was their coach. They looked up to me despite my novice skills. I didn't make it very far (only about halfway across the field) but even when I fell I always got back up. My interests expanded as I grew and my parents supported me 100%, leading me on the path to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a physician. My past has taught me that I have the freedom to succeed or fail. As long as I go the extra mile, even if just for the exercise, I know I will enjoy the fresh air along the way.

2.) Do you have a nickname?

Back home my friends call me Aly. It started in middle school because there were so many girls in my class named "Alyssa" that it was easier to use a nickname. Before medical school my parents were the only ones who called me by my full name - meaning sometimes when I hear it now I think I'm in trouble.



Alyssa Mixon

3.) What is something most people don't know about you?

Most people don't know that I'm a bit of a daredevil. In college I went skydiving with a friend and didn't think twice about jumping out of a plane 15,000 feet in the air. In fact, I was the first to jump!

4.) What would your super power be and why?

I wish that I could time travel. As a Classics major, I visited all the ruins around Greece and Italy, which was an unforgettable experience that helped bring what I read and learned about in my courses to life. Having a first-hand perspective on what the civilizations were like at the time would be the next best thing. It would be great to travel to other time periods as well and share in the excitement of major scientific discoveries or even be in two places at once.

5.) Who is your role model?

My sister is my role model. She is three years older, three inches shorter, and three times stronger than me. Her success inspired me to follow in her footsteps at UNH and earn a double major in Classics and Biology, just like her. From biking cross-country in order to build affordable housing to walking for 3 days as a way of promoting breast cancer research, her dedication to the community motivates me to give back to society and strive to be a better person. She is one of the funniest, smartest, most outgoing individuals I have ever met and I am so grateful to have her in my life.

6.) If someone asked you to give them a random piece of advice about medical school, what would it be?

Don't compare yourself to others. Everyone has a different way of approaching subjects and learning material. You have to find your own way but you are not alone; the faculty and students will be there to help guide you. For me, I discovered that I am a visual learner and have to approach everything in a way that I can envision the pathways or the ideas. It's helpful to discover and hone your learning strengths in order to approach concepts in a way that you can comprehend.

7.) What accomplishments are you most proud of?

- My acceptance into a "highly prestigious New England medical school located along the coast of Maine," as Dr. Willard would say.
- Winning the crown of Miss Merrimack 2014 and getting to compete in the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Pageant.
- My UNH senior thesis, in which I was awarded a grant to conduct research on the genetic diversity of Eelgrass in the Netherlands.
- Being able to look back at my life so far and have absolutely no regrets!

This year, Student Doctor Mixon will be competing for Miss New Hampshire and she is excited to spread the word about her platform STEAM - Add Arts to STEM as well as represent UNE. [Read Alyssa's blog on balancing medical school with pageants and leading a healthy life!](#)

News & Events

2013 UNECOM Research Day Award Winners Announced



UNECOM Research Day participants

The University of New England's College of Osteopathic Medicine held its annual Research Day on January 24th 2014.

A spectacular month full of exciting TED style talks from students and faculty members, culminated in a day long Research Symposium in Leonard Hall, January 24, 2014. The symposium started off with an inspiring talk by David Biondi, D.O. '85, entitled, *"Does a Practicing Clinician Need To Know About Research Methodology? Your Success May Depend On It!"*. Dr. Biondi is presently Therapeutic Area Lead for Neuroscience, US Medical Affairs, for Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, and UNE Board of Trustee member and Chair of the Academic Affairs committee.

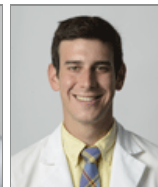


Dr William Bograkos, D.O. '85 with Dr. David Biondi, D.O. '85

The day also included intriguing talks by other alumnae, William Bograkos, D.O. '85 and Thomas Reynolds D.O. '06, and student oral presentations. Oral presentations throughout the month, and poster presentations during the Research Symposium were evaluated by student peers and faculty.



Patrick Bagley



Neil Krulewitz

The organizers congratulate the following students who were selected for their outstanding performances:

Outstanding Oral Presentation Award(2):

Patrick Bagley (Class of 2017) *"6-Minute Walk Test as a Predictor of Summit Success on Mount McKinley"*



Christine Lynch

Neil Krulewitz (Class of 2017) *"Sulf1 modulates BMP signaling and is required for somite morphogenesis and development of the horizontal myoseptum"*

Outstanding Oral Poster Award:

Christine M. Lynch (Class of 2017) *"Skeletal Myoblast Differentiation is Mediated by PI3K Catalytic Subunit Beta"*

University of New England Announces Winners of Humanism in Aging Action Awards

Congratulations to the 2014 winners of the Humanism in Aging Action Award

The University of New England

College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM), Department of Geriatric Medicine has announced the winners of its Humanism in Aging Action Awards.

First Place: **Holly Laird, MS II**
 Second Place: **Gurmat Gill, MS II**
 Third Place: **Shana Eaglefeathers, MS I**
 Honorable Mention: **Irma Hashmi, MS I**

The Award winners were selected by the 2013-2014 UNECOM Humanism in Aging Leadership Award Winner, John Rowe, MD, Professor Department of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University New York, for their academic submission expressing their future practice ideals regarding the humanistic and "whole person" approach they would like to put into action to promote optimal aging for older adults and their caregivers. An award luncheon, held on February 25, 2014, included a presentation by each student to UNECOM classmates and faculty.



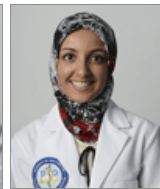
Holly Laird



Gurmat Gill



Shana Eaglefeathers



Irma Hashmi

The Need for Speed Networking

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, UNECOM hosted its first Speed Networking event, co-sponsored by the COM Office of Constituent Services (OCS), the Northeast Osteopathic Medical Education Network (NEOMEN), Clinical Education, the UNECOM Alumni Association, and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). Eight local physicians



Ellen Lauer, DO '09 speaks with students

and 28 first- and second-year COM students came together for a morning of quick introductions and fast-talking, as each small group of students rotated through ten-minute meetings with each physician. The event was designed around the concept of "speed dating", and the purpose was to give students an opportunity to meet several doctors in a short period of time, and learn about their practice, their residency experiences, and get a little advice for the future. Students not only accomplished this task, but came away with a list of names and email addresses that they can utilize for future contact. The participants, both physicians and students, gave very positive feedback about the experience, and we look forward to planning similar events in the next academic year. As Dean Kelley always says, "Once we do anything three times, it's officially a tradition!" We hope to make Speed Networking an official COM tradition by this time next year. View additional Speed Networking photos on our [facebook page](#).



Speed Networking Group

35 Students Represent UNECOM at DO Day on Capitol

Hill

UNECOM had a strong presence at this year's DO Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. 35 UNECOM students representing 15 states made the trip south to meet with legislators regarding critical bills that will directly impact our ability to care for patients as future physicians.



UNECOM Students at DO Day

The day started with breakfast and a briefing that included presentations by Representative Joe Heck, DO from Nevada and Representative Ami Bera, MD from California. Dr. Heck is one of the first DOs to serve as a member of congress. He and Dr. Bera gave great insight into how to be successful in the scheduled meetings with our representatives.

After the briefing we split up and met with our home state representatives to discuss two main pieces of legislation. The first bill would repeal the SGR, which is an outdated formula created in 1997 that continues to call for massive cuts in Medicare physician reimbursements. Over the last decade congress has spent over \$150 Billion in short term patches to avoid these cuts. This new bill would repeal the SGR and replace it with a more sustainable reimbursement program, which would save billions of taxpayer dollars in the future.

The other bill that we discussed would add an extension on the already existing Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program. THCGME funds GME programs that train primary care residents in community based health care settings. These programs play a critical role in training physicians who will practice in underserved communities across America. Residents who train in a community health setting are much more likely to stay and practice in the community health setting.



UNECOM Students, Alumni and Faculty with US Senator-Maine Angus King

The representatives were generally open and supportive of these two bills, but a main concern was where they would find the money in the budget to make them feasible. The more active we can all be as medical students and physicians in showing them how important these types of bills are, the easier it will be for them to find the room in future budgets to make them a priority.

We, as future physicians, need to play an active role in the legislation that will affect our ability to care for our patients. This year's total of 35 UNECOM students is up from 31 at last year's event. Hopefully next year UNECOM will have an even bigger presence on the hill in Washington, D.C! *(Write up contributed by John Kunkel, OMSII)*

Bilsky laboratory co-authors publication in Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

Dr. Edward Bilsky's laboratory, along with long-time collaborators at the

University of Arizona, recently published an article entitled "Can Amphipathic Helices Influence the CNS Antinociceptive Activity of Glycopeptides Related to β -Endorphin?". The research extends their previous work in understanding chemistry and pharmacology of endogenous opioid peptides and how they interact with membranes and receptors. Co-authors include two UNE alums, Ms. Lindsay St. Louis (CAS Neuroscience, 2013) and Ms. Denise Giuvelis (CAS Medical Biology, 2008). The work appears online in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry and will be in print in an upcoming issue of the journal.



Ed Bilsky

Faculty, Staff & Students

"Who am I as a Student of Medicine in the Continuum of Learning?"

by Kristin Johnson, COM Curriculum Coordinator

This was the theme of a recent Clinical Practice Challenge session held for the first year students. As a response to student feedback, this session was planned to address first year student questions and concerns about their third and fourth year training. Invited panelists included Rita Brown, Clinical coordinator, two current third year students and a fourth year student. Rita outlined what third and fourth year students would experience and the student panelists described their educational experiences and shared their collective wisdom by completing the statement "If I knew then, what I know now..."

During a real time Question and Answer session, panelists responded to audience concerns based on what they knew (or thought they knew) and what they wanted to know. The students also witnessed a mock interview between a residency director and a resident applying for a position. Students were given the opportunity to reflect on the session with a written response to the prompt "How did what I learn influence my thinking about what I need to do to prepare for Third Year and beyond?"

The session was well received and student feedback will guide the planning of follow up sessions.

Where Did I Go Wrong?

A response to student requests for more feedback on exams

By Kristin Johnson, COM Curriculum Coordinator

In response to student requests for more feedback on exams, COM has instituted a number of initiatives. During the 2013-14 Academic Year, first year students enrolled in the Osteopathic Medical Knowledge Course were given weekly quizzes, based on assigned readings, and bi-weekly Progress Exams that covered content material addressed in the previous weeks. In addition, (3) integrated Comprehensive Exams were given throughout the semester. The multiple testing schedule provided frequent feedback to empower students to track individual progress and adjust their learning efforts accordingly.

With the implementation of an electronic testing system, following each Comprehensive Exam, students receive via e-mail an individual report of their performance. They were then given the opportunity to assemble together in a classroom with their colleagues to review the exam with designated correct answers and to discuss amongst themselves the thought process that guided their responses. Faculty were also available to clarify remaining questions. Students appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and understand their learning deficit.

Marilyn Gugliucci Serves as Lead Author on Chapter Outlining Gerontology Curriculum Guidelines

Marilyn R. Gugliucci, PhD, as chair of the Association for Gerontology/Geriatrics in Higher Education (AGHE) Health Professions Geriatrics Curriculum Guidelines Task Force, completed and published a chapter entitled: Foundational Gerontology/Geriatrics Curricula Guidelines for Health Related Programs. Authors for this chapter are Marilyn R. Gugliucci (UNECOM), Elyse Perweiler (Rowan University), Shirley A.



Marilyn Gugliucci

Weaver (National AHEC), Nancy E. Richeson (USM), & Patricia A. Hageman (University of Nebraska Medical Center). [Read more.](#)

Congratulations to **Jillian Dodge, OMS II**, on presenting "*Teaching Students to be Systematic, Sensitive and Self-Aware When assessing Sexual Health*", at the 2014 AMSA Convention on March 6 - 9, in New Orleans.



Jillian Dodge

Robinson-Davis Scholarship Award to Brandon Giberson

UNECOM's 2nd year medical student, Brandon Giberson, recently received the Robinson-Davis Fund Scholarship in the amount of \$9,000. The scholarship, administered by the Bowdoin College Scholarship Committee, is intended for medical students who are native to the state of Maine and who intend on practicing in Maine. Recipients are chosen on the basis of an application with essay and a dean's letter of recommendation.



Brandon Giberson

"It feels good to be supported by my home state," remarked Giberson.

UNE's Associate Dean of Constituent Services Patricia A. Kelley, who recommended Giberson for the scholarship, stated: "As a student, Brandon has demonstrated that that he is committed to the health and well-being of people within the state of Maine. He epitomizes the type of person we envision practicing in Maine – intelligent, energetic, innovative and committed to being the best possible physician he can be."

The scholarship is renewable every year until Giberson graduates.

Sarnoff Cardiovascular Scholarship Awarded to UNECOM's Tim McLerran

First-year medical student Tim McLerran was recently awarded a Sarnoff Cardiovascular Scholarship to fund a year-long research project at a leading U.S. cardiovascular research laboratory of his choice. He is the first doctor of osteopathic medicine to ever receive this award. Student Doctor McLerran will be taking the next year of medical school off in order to participate in this research fellowship. McLerran is hoping to spend his research year studying cardiovascular metabolics, the study of cell activity throughout the body through the measure of small-molecule metabolites present in the bloodstream. Fellows are selected on the basis of intellectual and academic achievement, as well as leadership ability. [Read more on this story.](#)



Timothy McLerran

NYLF 2014

The National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) Sessions -During the early summer months, the College of Osteopathic Medicine students and faculty will be hosting a series of one-day "hands-on" medical school experiences for participants from the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF). Each session will welcome students to the campus to explore the osteopathic medical profession and "a day in the life of a UNECOM student".



Students gather at a previous years' NYLF for hands-on demonstrations.

Founded in 1992, the NYLF helps prepare extraordinary young people for their academic future and professional careers. The format of each visit is to have the young students attend sample medical lectures, learn about a fictional patient, attend an OMM (Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine) demonstration, explore the investigative process (lab tests, evaluations) and ultimately form a diagnosis of symptoms and a plan for the fictional patient. Each participant documents their day-long venture in an extensive workbook as well as participates in discussions with the event leaders and faculty.

NYLF Dates: June 24, July 8 & 22

Student of the Month Recognition

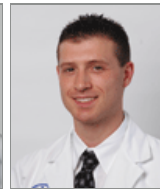
Osteopathic Medical Students (OMS) who serve as role models for their classmates and who stand out for making a difference in their campus community are nominated by the Student Government Association (SGA) to be a Student Doctor of the Month. We congratulate the following medical students:

November 2013

Himanshu Malhotra, OMS I
Will "Boots" Fisher, OMS II



Himanshu Malhotra



Will Fisher



Caroline LaFave



Joe Anderson

December 2013

Caroline LaFave, OMS I
Joe Anderson, OMS II



Emily Shangraw



Kristen D'Etrement

January 2014

Emily Shangraw, OMS I
Kristen D'Etrement, OMS II

Congratulations to **Himanshu Malhotra, OMS I** on being elected as new **SGA President**.

Student Clubs & Organizations

FitFest Leaves Many Breathless

What better way to start the new year than by shaking up your fitness routine? Fitness Club and Dancing Docs put on the first annual FitFest on Tuesday, January 21. Assistant Captain Dayna Yorks, OMSI got things started with 20 minutes of fat burning mixed martial arts.

Dancing Docs presidents Jenny Bencze, OMSII and Alyssa Mixon, OMSII continued the workout with

a 20 minute heart pounding Latin-inspired workout. Things finished up with a muscle sculpting crossfit inspired workout with Assistant Captain Emily Shangraw, OMSI. Running Captain Brian Holahan, OMSI offered running tips and suggested workouts to increase speed and endurance. Event Coordinator Kara Barker, OMSII discussed all of the opportunities and classes the club offers and distributed a calendar of events to all participants. The evening finished with a delicious cobb salad and some time to socialize and discuss upcoming events and fitness goals.



FitFest 2014

Participants included over 60 UNECOM students! Captains Kris Mazoki, OMSII and Tom Berry, OMSII are excited to plan another FitFest outdoors this spring! *(Write up contributed by Kristen Mazoki, OMSII)*

Have You Ever Thought You Could Buy Babies at a Supermarket?

Sexual Health Week 2014 took place between February 17 and February 21. This week, sponsored by HEAL (Health Equality ALliance), with donations from the Frannie Peabody Center in Portland, aims to make students more comfortable and confident when addressing the multifaceted aspects related to sexual health.



The week started with "Sexual Health Trivia," a pub-style event in which teams of students competed for gift certificates to local restaurants by answering questions related to sexually transmitted infections, practices, and reproductive health. Later that week, Polly Campbell, founder of the Maine Attorney Generals' Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Program, spoke to students about the strong connection between Maine's health care and legal systems in the case of sexual assault. On Thursday, Jillian Dodge, OMS II, gave a talk entitled "Beyond Abstinence and Risk: Exploring Love, Sex, and Pregnancy Prevention in Advertising," analyzing the way the media effects and encourages teenage sexual values and practices. Finally, Jennifer Weissner, LCSW, Certified Sex Therapist, spoke to students on how to promote sexual positivity and open communication with patients of all gender and sexual orientations. *(Write up contributed by Ariela Zamcheck, OMS II)*



Students sharing their stories at Sexual Health Week

SAAO Live Auction - Getting Something for Nodding!

This year's annual Student American Academy of Osteopathy (SAAO) Live auction took place on February 27th. Its purpose was to raise money so that medical students can travel to and participate in the American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation.



Dr. Mark Schuenke - Legend Auctioneer

Through the generous donations of faculty, staff, fellow classmates and local businesses we were able to conduct yet another successful and fructiferous event. Items auctioned off this year included traditional items such as fishing trip with Dr. Bilsky,

sailing trip with Dr. Mokler, knitted items by Dean Kelley, OMM treatments by Dr. Goldbas and Dr. Pelletier as well as new items such as country music house concert with Carleigh Nesbit, OMSI, nationally renowned singer songwriter, Portland Symphony Orchestra tickets, underwater photography by Ilona DeBuske, OMSIII, farm raised meats and preserves and a myriad of gift certificates from local restaurants, bakeries and salons.



UNECOM Students at 2014 SAAO Live Auction

The SAAO members want to express their gratitude to all participants, philanthropists and purchasers for their support. We are eager to travel to Colorado Springs to learn about the mechanisms associated with trauma and learn how to identify and address all of its components from an osteopathic approach. Visit our [facebook page](#) for more SAAO Live Auction photos. *(Write up contributed by Ioana Horotan, OMS II)*

Boston Healthcare Fellowship Winter Retreat

This February several UNECOM medical students joined healthcare providers, residents and students for the annual Boston Healthcare Fellowship Winter Retreat. The event was held at the Toah Nipi retreat center in Rindge New Hampshire. The event provided a great opportunity for all to connect, learn, and discuss topics about patient care and the role of Christian medical providers in healthcare today. OMSII's Monet Meter, Rose Tsai, and Josiah Young, OMSIII Sandra Fahim, and OMSIV's Zach Koehn and Phil Honea attended the event. *(Write up contributed by Josiah Young, OMS II)*

Out and About

In addition to the above events, our COM students have been very busy. Below are some pictures showing their outstanding dedication, talents and fun had!



2013 Physicians for Haiti Summer Social Medicine Course



SGA Ski Trip at Sugarloaf



Congrats to PEDS Club for raising over \$250 for Toys for Tots!

Fellowship & Scholarship Opportunities

- [AOA Presidential Memorial Leadership Award](#) - Application deadline: April 24, 2014
- [McCaughan Heritage Scholarship](#) - Application deadline: April 30, 2014
- [William G. Anderson, DO, Minority Scholarship](#) - Application deadline: April 25, 2014
- [2014 Peter Morgane Research Fellowship](#) - Application deadline: April 5, 2014
- [Women in Medicine LGBT Leadership Scholarships](#) - Application deadline: April 15, 2014
- [First Annual 2014 Medical School Diversity Scholarship for Medical Students](#) - Application deadline: May 31, 2014

- **Medical Student Fellowship Resource Source from Association of American Medical Colleges(AAMC)** - [Reference Sheet](#)

Alumni Notes

A very special thank-you to the UNECOM alumni who attended our **Speed Networking event** on March 8th: **Dr. Andrea Berry '09, Dr. Jeffrey Holmstrom '83, Dr. Ellen Lauer '09, Dr. Joseph Leahy '92, Dr. Kathleen Leahy '92, and Dr. Audrey Okun-Langlais '86.** We greatly appreciate your participation!

Class of '01: "A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush"...Forbush that is! Congratulations to **Jack Forbush** for serving as "Doctor for the Day" for the opening day of the Legislature Session at the state house in Augusta, Maine. (Pictured here with State Sen. Andre Cushing, R-Penobscot)



Class of '03: Congratulations to **Holly Couture** in being voted by her fellow doctors as a contender in **Top 2014 Doctors in Albuquerque** in *Albuquerque The Magazine*. Way to go Holly!!

Class of '09: The Emergency Medical Journal has voted **Joshua Mulareilla's** mobile app **ERres** as one of the top 10 mobile app in Emergency Medicine. This apps has been referred to as *"the only emergency app you'll ever need for Iphone/Ipad."* Check it out!

Class of '10: No rest for the wicked as Ryan Smith prepares to take his psychiatry and neurology board exams. Go get 'em Ryan!

IMPORTANT NEWS: A sad farewell to our friend and fellow alumni, **Michael Lang, DO '05**. Dr. Lang passed away suddenly at home on Feb. 21, 2014. He will be dearly missed by all. [Dr. Lang's obituary.](#)



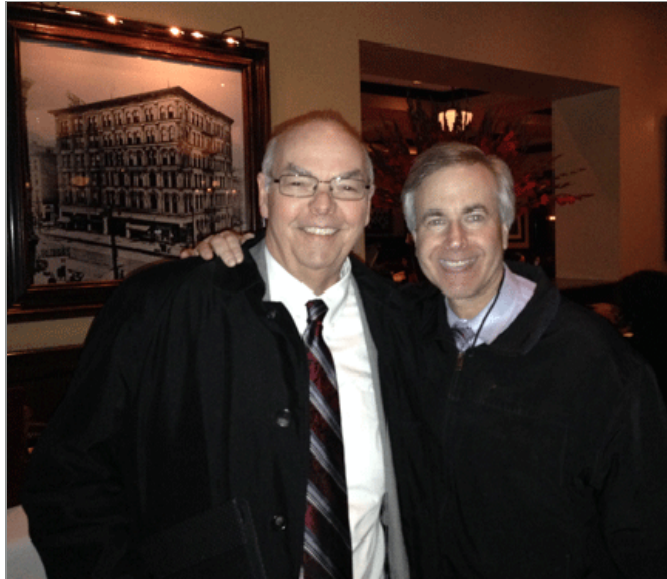
Michael Lang

Farewell to our friend and alumnus, **John Devine, DO '83**. Dr. Devine passed away on Nov. 16, 2013. He too, will be dearly missed by all. [View Dr. Devine's obituary.](#)

****A quick thank you to all who completed the surveys regarding feedback on the COMMunicator & CME Primary Care Update & Reunion. We received over 214 responses for one and more than 300 for the other. The lucky winner(s) of the incentive drawing were: Brian Kaufman '02 and James Dolan '82. We will be using the information obtained to**

enhance the COMMunicator and CME program. Watch for updates!

Alumni Spotted: 2014 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Annual Meeting



L-R: Stephen Shannon, DO '86 with classmate Robert Danoff, DO '86

Save the Date

Alumni Focused Events:

April 26, 2014 - The Silent Killer: Stress & Resilience, 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Alfond 205, UNE, Biddeford Campus, CME credits available. [Register online or for more information.](#)

October 10 -12, 2014 - **Fall CME/UNCOM Reunion Weekend** - Reunion classes celebrated are those ending in 4s and 9s. The Planning Committee of **Steve Zanders,'99**, **Sue Berlin,'84** as co-chair, **Eric Lubiner, '94**, **Jen Salisbury, '10**, **Christine Bordeau, '09**, **Bill Bograkovs, '85** and **Ryan Smith, '10** with Doreen Merrill of the CME Office and Patricia Kelley of The Office of Constituent Services are meeting regularly and using the data provided from the CME Survey. Stay tuned for communications in the next couple of weeks.

Student Focused Events:

April 3, 2014 - 12th Annual Interprofessional Spring Symposium - Challenges and Opportunities in Health Care Reform: The ACA and Beyond, 8 - 11 a.m., Alfond Forum.

April 5, 2014 - COM Prom - Roaring 20's theme, sponsored by SGA, 7 p.m. - Midnight, Italian Heritage Center, Portland. This event is \$10 and includes dinner and dancing. Half of all ticket sales will be donated to the Biddeford Free Clinic. Tickets will be available 3/24 & 2/25, 12 - 1:30 p.m., Alfond first floor lobby. [COM Prom flyer.](#)

April 11 & 12, 2014 - American Cancer Society - Relay for Life event, Friday, 6 p.m. to Saturday 6 a.m. [Read more on this event.](#)

April 12, 2014 - Osteoblast!- for accepted and select perspective students, UNE, Biddeford Campus

Hail and Farewell

Congratulations to **Polly Leonard, DO, '95**, on being recently selected as

a 2014-19 Fellow for the National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators (NAOME). Fellows are inducted every year and serve a five year term, functioning as leaders and mentors for academic scholarship and excellence within the osteopathic medical education community. The category Dr. Leonard was selected for is teaching and evaluation. She joins **India Broyles, Ed.D.**, Professor of Medical Education and Director of the Master of Science in Medical Education Leadership who was named a Fellow in 2011. Congratulations Dr. Leonard!

Compliments to **Dr. Edward Bilsky's laboratory**, along with long-time collaborators at the University of Arizona, for recently publishing an article entitled "Can Amphipathic Helices Influence the CNS Antinociceptive Activity of Glycopeptides Related to β -Endorphin?". See full story above for additional details.

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