Late Spring/Summer 2014

In this Issue

- Message from the Dean
- Spotlight Story
- News & Events
- Faculty, Staff & Students
- Student Clubs & Organizations
- Fellowship & Scholarship Opportunities
- Save the Date
- Hail & Farewell

Message from the Dean

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

Ah’ Spring
It seems that spring has finally arrived in at least the southern part of Maine. The past winter was difficult with much snow, wind, ice and very cold temperatures. It is nice to look out of my office window and see green grass, trees which are coming to life, flowers, and the deep blue color of the Saco River.

To me, spring is a season of renewal and happiness. Over the past few days we have been in our happiness mode, as on May 17th UNECOM graduated its 33rd class of new osteopathic physicians and the 5th class of Masters in Medical Education Leadership (MMEL). It is truly an honor to be able to shake the hands of all of these graduates and to wish them well as they move towards another segment of their education.
It is also sad to see them leave, yet, we all realize that they must move on and eventually serve persons around the entire United States. The few days before the graduation ceremonies - (all-University ceremony, followed by Hooding of COM and MMEL graduates), were filled with meetings and receiving information from the graduates. To be able to discuss the future with the graduates was an exciting adventure.

The renewal part of spring that I previously mentioned is now taking place in that we are actually working on more curricular changes and the process whereby we literally “roll out” the curriculum.

Also, as part of renewal we are attempting to establish closer bonds between the COM and the various sites to which we send students for clinical rotations. It seems to me that both the COM and these sites will benefit if we are more closely linked to each other and communicate with each other as frequently as needed. We do have a fine educational network consisting of the COM and our clinical sites, yet, if we can develop this into a tightly bonded consortium we all will benefit.

The Future
As some of you might have noted, I continue to think about and write about the future. One of my reasons for doing this is based on one of my favorite sayings which come from noted historians Will & Ariel Durant who said, “The future does not just happen, it is created.” Therefore we can create our own future.

Part of this creation has already happened with the completion of our strategic plan. I must remind you, however, that such a plan is never actually finished and ours will regularly be modified for the better. Our plan has had input from faculty, staff, students and administration and we will continue to ask for more input. As part of the plan, we are obligated to form several committees, all of which have now been created and will start meeting. We expect great things from these committees as we create our future. We also plan on receiving input from persons outside of the University.

Finally
So, spring is here, renewal is taking place and maybe over the next few weeks, some R&R for faculty, staff and administration.
SPOTLIGHT STORY: The Ark that Noah (Keller) Built

Editor’s Note: We asked Noah Keller, DO, ’04 along with 3rd year student Doctors Allie Doane and Brandon White several questions to share their stories on how the three became connected. Thank you for all of your time and contributions.

Stories about our students and how alumni have had a tremendous impact on their careers has always been at the top of the list for UNECOM values. The ultimate compliment to any university is alumni sending their children or people they deem highly regarded, to their alma mater. Recently I had the opportunity to reach out to Dr. Noah Keller, Brandon White, OMS I and Allie Doane, OMS III to find out how they came to know one another and the path traveled to get there. Each story in a unique way has joined them together on the Ark of Noah Keller. (Bad pun I know... Sorry Dr. Keller)

Brandon White, affectionately dubbed as “Najeeb” by one of his peers, after the popular online medical instructor Dr. Najeeb, was born in Baltimore, MD. He shared with me that his biggest fear is quicksand, the punctuation mark ellipsis (...) best describes him due to being known to veer off on tangents and when having lost his keys, he can always overcome and adapt (as pictured here).

During his junior year at Mount St. Mary’s University, one of their recent graduates (Allie Doane, OMS III), was running a scribe America program at a local hospital – hiring ER physician scribes to work one on one with ER docs. Although Brandon had never met Allie, he found that they had similar aspirations in life and both wanted to go to medical school. “Our connection through Mount St. Mary’s, passion for medicine, and longing to go to medical school was something that allowed us to become friends almost instantaneously.” While training with Allie “yes, she was my (his) boss”, Brandon started working with an emergency medical physicians group called Medical Emergency Professionals (MEP). It was in this training that Brandon met Dr. Noah Keller. It was Dr. Keller’s “infinite character, wittiness, and vast knowledge of medicine” that attracted Brandon initially. “But as we began working together, I noticed uniqueness to Noah, past the outgoing doctor with shaggy hair.” Dr. Keller’s ability to respect and involve the staff in the management of every single patient set him apart, never failing to express his gratitude for the work of his colleagues and team. A moment that particularly stood out for Brandon, ultimately solidifying his choice to pursue Osteopathic Medicine was when Dr. Keller explained the differences between Allopathic and Osteopathic medicine, stating “watch the way we interact with our patients. We touch our patients more. We put our hands on our patients more. There is some truth to the healing power of touch, and our patients respond to that touch.” Brandon has also taken to this philosophy expressing, “We just innately
touch our friends, our family, and our patients. But, it’s this touch, connection, and distinctive patient-centered relationship we build that makes osteopathic medicine unique. It was this osteopath philosophy embodied in Noah and the other DOs in the ER I worked for as a Scribe that influenced my decision to not only become a physician, but an osteopathic physician.”

Brandon & Dr. Keller, White Coat Ceremony 2013

**Proudest Accomplishments:** Selected as OMM/Anatomy Predoctoral Fellow, Nationally certified as ASSI Level II Snowboard Instructor and beating the Undergrads of UNE at almost every IM sport known to man.

**Greatest skill a physician needs to succeed?** Art of listening

**Alexandra Doane**, aka Allie, born and raised in Rockville, MD is known to be slightly obsessed with all things related to outer space. If given the chance to invent a holiday to get a day off, Allie could be found riding around on a Nimbus 2000 broomstick celebrating Harry Potter Day. I can’t say I have read many of the Harry Potter novels, but for an extra day off, I too would relish in the life as muggle.

Allie said she was always the “cliché med student”, who had wanted to be a physician for as long as she could remember. About to give up on the dream, she met Dr. Noah Keller in the emergency department. Through working with Dr. Keller and hearing of his experiences at UNECOM, Allie was convinced medical school at UNECOM was the place for her. A few years later and a recommendation from Noah, UNECOM had Allie! When asked what the future holds for her, Allie wrote, “If you ask Noah, my future entails me working with him in ED somewhere in New England. For me, all I can see in my future at this point is hopefully successfully practicing medicine somewhere and being at least half the doctor he is”
Proudest Accomplishments: Getting into medical school, being a division 1 athlete and division 1 assistance coach, being chosen by her peers to be the SGA vice president and all that they have accomplished as an SGA this year, and being someone to whom her sister can look up to.

Greatest challenge facing new physicians? Figuring out how to adapt to the constantly occurring changes in the health care field without losing sight of the art of medicine and our passion for it. It is easy to get wrapped up in being bitter and cynical about the state of our health care system, but I think the challenge is remembering on a day to day basis why it is we chose this field.

Noah Keller, DO, ’04, was born in the Northern tip of the Catskill Mountains in a small town called Stamford, NY. Fact: Mount Utsayantha, located in Stamford, NY is a popular destination for hand-gliding enthusiasts. While growing up in Stamford, Dr. Keller originally thought he wanted to be a biology teacher. A nickname that Dr. Keller took on as a youngster was Helen, (based on the famous Helen Keller). Helen Keller as inspirational and admirable as she was, I imagine it might have been a difficult nickname for a young boy. My mind can’t help but wander off to the to the Johnny Cash song, ”A Boy Named Sue”.

When asked if given a day off with no professional responsibilities(dare to dream I image), Dr. Keller would be seen going for a run, catching up on house chores, spending time with his children and wife, and trying to accomplish something that has been asked of him, that he has not yet gotten to. An amusing quote I recently saw on a friends’ Facebook page stated: “If a man says he’ll fix something, he will. There is no need to remind him every 6 months about it”.

Today, Dr. Keller works long days and hours, in Emergency Medicine and his dedication to his staff, students and family are evident in the respect and accolades given here by Allie & Brandon alone. UNECOM is proud to count Dr. Keller among the excellent physicians we have graduated. Dr. Keller, thank you for everything you’ve done for UNECOM and all of those upon whom you’ve had an effect on during your life and career.
When asked “this or that” questions, here are the answers that Brandon, Allie and Dr. Keller selected; found in bold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brandon</th>
<th>Allie</th>
<th>Dr. Keller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>Shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weird</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Hugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Adventurous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>Fame</td>
<td>See</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truth</td>
<td>Dare</td>
<td>Pushy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelina</td>
<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>Adam Levine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

News & Events

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 on their Residency Matches!

UNECOM’s Class of 2014 matched in a variety of specialties and will be training in sites across the country. Students matched in programs at a variety of locations, including:

- Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA
- Maine Medical Center, Portland, ME
- University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT
- Boston University Medical Center, Boston, MA
- Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
- Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA
- University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Central Maine Medical Center, Lewiston, ME
- Ft. Belvoir Army Hospital, Ft. Belvoir, VA
- Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY
MADELINE MCCORMIC WEEKEND
By Chelsea Martin, OMS II & Catherine Hill-Lydecker, OMS II

The Madeleine McCormick Mentoring weekend provided the perfect opportunity to enhance our budding OMM skills, build meaningful connections with new friends and mentors, and re-connect with ourselves. The holistic experience integrated hand-over-hand OMM guidance during OMM sessions with the knowledgeable and very approachable mentors. Beginning each day with morning yoga overlooking the ocean was rejuvenating and centering, as were the group activities that included chatting with the mentors and group meditation. As budding female osteopaths, the weekend proved to be an empowering experience, acquiring knowledge from strong and devoted female osteopathic mentors. Additionally, the location in Ogunquit and the food was fabulous! The entire weekend left us feeling re-charged with a renewed sense of purpose.

OsteoBlast! 2014

OsteoBlast!, our annual school revisit day, was held on Saturday, April 12, the first perfect spring day of the year. 119 members of the Class of 2018, along with about 100 of their family members, joined us on campus to learn more about UNECOM, meet members of our current first year class, and hear from faculty and administrators about what they have to look forward to as they start medical school this fall.
65 first-year students helped us plan and execute this successful event, and they looked sharp (and certainly stood out!) in their lime-green t-shirts.

In fact, the majority of the day’s programming was planned by our student OsteoBlast leaders. After months of discussion about what kind of pertinent information and interactive sessions they felt would be most useful and interesting for our prospective students, they carefully put together a schedule that showcased the COM curriculum and gave students an opportunity to experience what it is like to be a member of the UNECOM student body. In addition to giving our guests a true classroom experience, OsteoBlast leaders created an informative and fast-paced video designed to answer frequently asked questions, collected from the Class of 2018 on Facebook in advance of the event. Student panels, campus tours, and time for one-on-one discussion also assisted our guests in getting every question answered.
Thank you to the UNECOM faculty, staff, and students who helped to make this event fun and educational, as well as the numerous members of the UNE community who assisted us throughout the day. We are excited to welcome the Class of 2018 back to campus (for good this time!) for Orientation, which begins on July 31st. For additional Osteoblast! photos visit our facebook page.

ShaDO Week
By Chris Rogers, OMS II, Pre-SOMA Director

ShaDO week was created by the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), and our UNECOM first and second years participated in it this year! The event at UNECOM ran from April 15-17 and was created to help pre-osteopathic students experience what it is like to be an osteopathic medical student, ask as many questions to the medical students as possible, and also learn about what makes the school they were visiting worthwhile. The pre-osteopathic students who attended were between the ages of 18 and 30, and were mostly all from New England.

ShaDo Week

Throughout ShaDO week, the students followed our medical students around to every class they had, ate lunch with them, and talked about what it takes to be accepted into medical school.

The students were all extremely impressed with UNECOM, our students, and our faculty, and expressed how much they enjoyed the experience through the myriad of emails they sent me afterwards. This event could not have been possible without the help and effort of Tracie Purcell, who was integral in making the days run smoothly.
End-of-Year BBQ & Awards Ceremony 2014

After a bit of angst over whether or not the Maine weather would cooperate, the UNECOM community enjoyed a very pleasant day outside at our annual End-of-Year barbeque and awards ceremony for students, faculty, and staff. Along with grilled food, salads, and sweet treats, we had a nice time relaxing and chatting, listening to the musical talents of Sympathetic Tones, as well as honoring some special groups and individuals for their hard work and dedication during the 2013-14 academic year. Winning the coveted title of “Outstanding Club or Organization” was the Fitness Club for implementing regularly scheduled workouts and quickly becoming one of the most active clubs on campus, in every sense of the word, by providing multiple events each week that promote the health of the UNECOM community.

The award for “Outstanding Individual Effort” went to two first-year students—Jeannine Jeha for her tireless dedication to making sure the classroom technology is always up and running, and to Himanshu Malhotra for the many hours he gives outside of the classroom to improving the lives of UNECOM students and his genuine concern for the wellbeing of all his classmates. The award for “Notable Start-Up” was presented to the newly-formed Oncology Club, which held several special events and three innovative fundraisers in their first year as a student organization.
Faculty-of-the-Year awards were presented to Dr. Mark Schuenke and Dr. Jodie Hermann by the first- and second-year classes. This event was a great way to wrap up an outstanding year! For additional End-of-Year BBQ & Awards Ceremony photos visit our Facebook page.

2nd years’ Best of Luck BBQ

Dean and Mrs. Wood welcomed the Class of 2016 and their families to their home on May 10th for a pig-roast and casual get-together as a way to wish them luck on their third-year rotations. A great time was had by all. First years’ see what you have to look forward to!

---

Faculty, Staff & Students

Rossnick Humanitarian Award Winner

Congratulations to Julie Lavasseur, OMS III for receiving the American Osteopathic Foundation’s Rossnick Humanitarian Award in the amount of $1,000. The Rossnick Humanitarian Grant program provides funding for members of the osteopathic profession who plan to travel to underserved, underdeveloped or disaster stricken areas to provide medical services. Student Doctor Lavasseur’s experience, while traveling to the Dominican Republic, will also be published on the AOF’s website and in AOF publications and videos.
$12,000 grant for Advancement of Science awarded to CEN

The University of New England has received a $12,000 grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in support of the University’s K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Outreach in Neurosciences and Marine Sciences as part of AAAS’s STEM Volunteer Program. **Ed Bilsky, Ph.D., UNE’s vice president for Research and Scholarship and director of the Center for Excellence in the Neurosciences** (CEN), stated, “We are thrilled to have been selected by the AAAS organization to be part of their National STEM Volunteer Program.” [Read more on this achievement.](#)

Congratulations to **Eneida Miranda, OMS III**, for being accepted as SNMA Osteopathic Schools Committee Chairperson on a national level. Eneida attended the SNMA Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) on April 16-20, in Washington, DC, where she was swore into this position.

**Peter Morgane Research Fellowship winners announced**

UNECON salutes the **2014 Peter Morgane Research Fellowship winners** from the COM Class of 2017:

- Peter Abdu
- Aseef H. Ahmed
- Shikha Goel
- Ariel McKenna
- Jonathan Packer
- Navpreet Rana

[Read more on this story.](#)

**UNECON Presents at 2014 Annual AACOM Conference held in Washington, DC on April 2-4.**

- India Broyles, EdD, Director, Master of Science in Medical Education Leadership, UNECOM presented with colleagues, on Professionalism and Beyond: *Instructions and Assessment in Affective Domain.*
- David Mokler, PhD, Professor, Course Director, UNECOM & Jennifer Van Deusen, MEd, Director of Curriculum, UNECOM presented: *Planting the Seed: Cultivating Habits of Mind in the First Year*
- Jennifer Van Deusen, also presented: *We Have the Technology: Using Electronic Tools to Assess an Integrated Curriculum*
Gold Humanism Honor Society members selected

Eleven Student Doctors and one Neuro-muscular Medicine Resident were inducted into the UNECOM Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. UNECOM was recently selected by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to establish a Gold Humanism Honor Society chapter and the inaugural induction ceremony was held at the Civic Center on May 17th.

The inductees are: Student Doctors Patricia Ruth (Roo) Atchinson, Sarah Belden, Gary Bining, Lisa Carpenter, Eric Dombroski, Keith Egan, Nathan Howlett, Annie Kieran, Zach Mazone, Lisa Carpenter, Suvi Neukam and Dr. Jodie Hermann. Dr. Marilyn Gugliucci, the Gold Humanism Honor Society Advisor, will be performing the induction ceremony. Each inductee receives an Honor Society Pin and Certificate from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Read more on this story.

Outstanding Student Award

Congratulations to Francesca McCaffrey, OMS IV, on receiving the 2014 Outstanding Student Award during this year’s Hooding Ceremony for the Westbrook College of Health Professions. Student doctor McCaffrey is a third year student in UNE’s College of Osteopathic Medicine program, in addition to being a new graduate of the Master of Public Health program. Read more on this story.

National Service Corps Scholar for 2013

Congratulations to Nadine Byers, OMS II, who recently completed her first year of medical school in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, on being named a National Health Service Corps Scholar for 2013. The NHSC offers loan repayment and scholarships to primary care providers and students for serving at NHSC sites in medically underserved communities.
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:

**February 2014**
- Stephanie Braunthal, OMS II
- Edward Cook, OMS III

**March 2014**
- Derek Lee, OMS II
- Brandon Giberson, OMS III

**April 2014**
- Shaheen Rangwalla, OMS II
- Ben Slocum, OMS III
Student Clubs & Organizations

Brain Cancer Awareness Month
By Ellesse Credaroli, OMS II

May was Brain Cancer Awareness Month, and this year it is especially important to me. Last June, my 26-year-old fiancé, Conor, was diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme Grade 4. The initial diagnosis was delivered with minimal hope, for there is no cure for this form of cancer. Glioblastoma is an aggressive and fast-growing central nervous system tumor that forms from supportive tissue of the brain and spinal cord, and is a very common form of brain cancer. For adults with more aggressive glioblastoma, treated with concurrent chemotherapy and radiation therapy, median survival is about 14.6 months and two-year survival is 30%. Familial incidences are not a known risk factor and there is no inheritance pattern. This type of cancer does not discriminate; it affects all ages, all sexes, and all races.

After receiving almost a year of exceptional care from Dr. David Reardon and his wonderful team, Conor has decided he would like to give back to their highly regarded institution. This fundraiser is dedicated 100% of all proceeds to the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. Currently Dr. Reardon's laboratory is collaborating with immunologists to develop immune-based therapies for cancers of the central nervous system. His combinational therapies have had extraordinary success where 75% of their murine GBM-line are alive, healthy, and without any evidence of new tumor formation or adverse side effects. His research team will be presenting their results at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting in Chicago in June.

With the help of family, friends, the Anesthesia & Pain Management Club, the Neurology-Psychiatry Club, the Oncology Club, and the UNECOM students and faculty, we raised $8618!

PENNY WARS
By Benjamin Slocum, OMS III

SSP would like to brag about our success with the Penny Wars Fundraiser this year as well as acknowledge the businesses that provided donations for our ice cream social!

Sigma Sigma Phi finished up their "Penny Wars" fundraiser and raised $537.36 for the Biddeford Free Clinic. The fundraiser was a week-long effort for OMSIs, OMSIIs, and COM faculty and staff to collect spare change and to spark friendly competition. The group that raised the most donations was treated to an ice cream social. It was great to see active participation in the fundraiser from all three groups, and at the end the week the OMSIIs came out on top. The club would like to issue special thanks to the Biddeford Dairy Queen, Biddeford Shaw’s Supermarket, and Saco Hannaford Supermarket for donating ice cream, toppings, and supplies for the prize event.

SSP Trivia Night
By Brandon Giberson, OMS III

Sigma Sigma Phi held their annual charity trivia night this month in Leonard hall. This year, the students elected to support the Hospice Volunteers of Southern Maine in their fundraising efforts.
The organization not only provides an invaluable service to terminally ill patients and their families, but also has spent time training UNECOM students on end of life care and difficult conversations.

The event was co-sponsored by Champions Pub of Biddeford, and approximately 75 students, staff, and faculty members participated. The crown of “Trivia Champion” went to a group of students from the class of 2017. SSP will be presenting the Hospice Volunteers of Southern Maine with a check for $200.00.

SSP Trivia Night

Bone Marrow Drive

By Andrea Gaul, OMS III

The Oncology Club and Delete Blood Cancer DKMS led a successful bone marrow drive on April 23. 107 swabs were collected and added to the bone marrow donor registry to help those with leukemia, lymphoma, or other life-threatening blood diseases. A special thanks is sent to everyone who volunteered and registered!

L-R: Shannon Wilton and Andrea Gaul of the COM Oncology Club
COM Annual Health Fair
By Jeannine Jeha, OMS II

On Saturday, April 26th, over 50 UNE students volunteered for the annual Health Fair, held at Thornton Academy in Saco. For weeks, students designed and coordinated presentations that reflected a wide range of public health needs for the community members. Throughout the day, students eagerly greeted visitors, providing education on smoking cessation, physical activity, heart health, and emergency preparedness. With information for all ages, the whole family could join! Children learned to avoid sugary beverages. Teenagers learned proper exercise technique. Adults learned about local trails and hiking paths. Meanwhile, the center of the fair featured students providing Osteopathic Structural Exams and treatments for fair-goers. For additional Health Fair photos visit our Facebook page.

SNMA Table at the Public Health Fair

Welcome to your Leaders!

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 elected SGA Representatives: Gavin Kuns, Jeannine Jeha, Lara Musser, Mia Piviroto, Kris Tupper, Mark Matusak, Anthony Tramontozzi, Katie Knipscher, Tim Horan, John Andrea, Bianca Melo, James O'Neill, Mike DiVella, Supurna Dang, Jay Patel, and Himanshu Malhotra!
Fellowship & Scholarship Opportunities

Stay tuned for future opportunities.

Save the Date

Aug 21: 5th Annual Employee Fun Run/Walk, 9 – 11 a.m., Biddeford

Sept 13: Annual Memorial Service, 7 – 9 p.m., Campus Cemetery near Marcil, rain location Leonard Hall, Biddeford Campus. FMI contact Hand Wheat at hwheat@une.edu or (207)602-2202

Sept 19-21: OMM Series: Thorax and Rib Cage, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri and Sat, ending at noon on Sun., Alfond Health Sciences Building. CME available.

Oct 9: Class of 2018 White Coat Ceremony

Oct 10-12: UNECOM Alumni Reunion & Fall CME Weekend, Alfond Health Sciences Building. We will be celebrating COM classes ending in 4s and 9s.

Oct 25-26: OMM Advanced Approach, Sat., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun 8 a.m. – noon, Alfond Health Sciences Building. CME available.

Oct 25 – 29: OMED 2014, Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, WA. UNECOM Alumni Reception will take place at the Seattle Art Museum, Olympic Sculpture Park, Monday, October 27, time TBD. For more information go to the UNECOM exhibitor booth #624 at OMED 2014.

Hail & Farewell

The COM Office of Constituent Services would like to welcome Eric Hall as our newest addition to the Department. Eric joins us in the role of Assistant Director of Recruitment and Alumni Services.

Hail to all COM Classes who returned to campus on August 4th.

Good luck to all 3rd & 4th year COM students who are off-site doing their rotations!