

Still News

July/August/September 2007

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY | ATSU

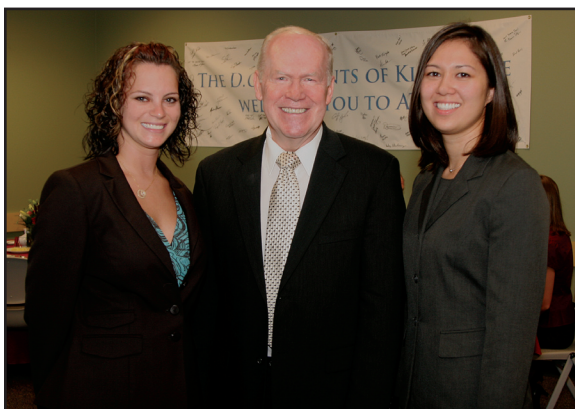
Historic Beginning



Craig Phelps, D.O., Arizona provost, addresses students at opening ceremony



Dr. Nehad El-Sawi, SOMA, John Crosby, Exe. Dir. AOA, Dr. Doug Wood, SOMA Dean, Jan Wood, Peter Ajluni, Pres. AOA



President McGovern meets with two new SOMA students

A.T. Still University welcomed its inaugural class of 107 students to the School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (SOMA) on July 31. Ambassador Kevin Moley, U.S. Department of State, presented the keynote address. Moley also served as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1992, after which he held key executive leadership roles at PCS Health Systems and Integrated Medical Systems. Other featured speakers included Tom Curtin, M.D., medical director of the National Association of Community Health Centers; Peter Ajluni, D.O., president of the American Osteopathic Association and senior orthopedic surgeon at Mount Clemens Regional Medical Center in Michigan; and Claudia Walters, vice mayor of Mesa.

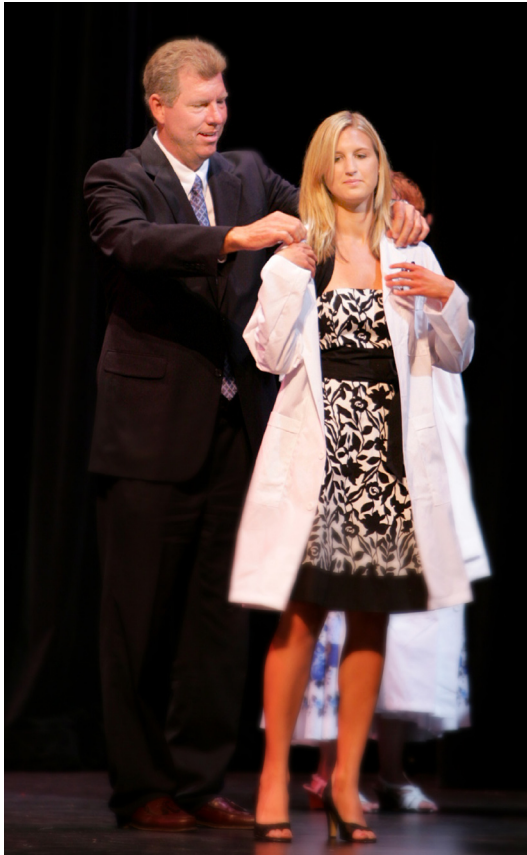
"With the opening of this new medical school, we are redefining medical education in America," said Craig M. Phelps, D.O., the campus provost. "Ultimately, our goal is to graduate community-minded doctors who will serve medically underserved populations."

ASDOH

welcomes the class of 2011

The Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health held its white coat ceremony July 23 at the Highland Auditorium in Mesa. The new 60 dental students are eager to begin a life-long career.

"I always dreamed of becoming a dentist. The white coat ceremony was a very surreal moment for me," said student Julia Laskin.



Jack Dillenberg, dean, shakes the hand of all newly cloaked dental students.





left: Daylyn Ison, OTS; Amy Wolgumuth, OTS; Jae Russel, OTS; Sharon Baugh, OTS; Alex Osses, OTS; Josh Blue; & Gina Buban, OTS

Comedian shares struggles and laughter

Josh Blue, winner of last year's "Last Comic Standing" and a member of the U.S. Paralympic Soccer Team, was a guest of the Student Occupational Therapy Association of A. T. Still University.

"He was amazing! He shared a lot of his own experiences growing up with cerebral palsy and offered the students some great advice about how to best assist their patients who have disabilities," said Cindy Hahn, professor of occupational therapy. "We can't thank him enough!"

Blue, an extraordinarily talented comedian, who also happens to have CP, delighted the audience of students, faculty, and local practicing therapists with his quick wit and captivating charm.

Hahn arranged Blue's visit and was thrilled that a comedian of his caliber would be willing to give up his time to speak to students about his life, his career, and his experience of living with a disability.



President honored with white coat

John Collins, D.O., and family medicine residents surprised President James J. McGovern, Ph.D., with a white coat during the President's Luncheon on July 24.



Standing: Justin Puckett, D.O., Robert Kincaid, D.O., Kirk Lammi, D.O., President James J. McGovern, Ph.D., John Collins, D.O., Bret DeGooyer, D.O., Kevin Presley, D.O. Sitting: Jerri Robertson, D.O., Erin Humphrey, D.O., Karen Thomas, D.O., Tara Williams, D.O.

KCOM Orientation Week

brings students, staff, faculty, family together

The Class of 2011 was initiated to KCOM during five days of orientation on August 20-25. During orientation activities, students were introduced to faculty and staff.

“Orientation was a whirlwind of information: schedules, dates, places to be, and things to remember,” said Christina Hirt, MS I. “However, it was also an exciting time of getting to meet and interact with not only my classmates, but the second-year students, who have been there and done that, and had plenty of advice to offer us. Hirt says the best part of orientation week was the white coat ceremony. “At that moment I realized, ‘Wow, I’m really going to be a doctor.’”



Dean Slocum helped cloak first-year students in their ceremonial white coats



The President's Picnic moved into the Thompson Campus Center because of rain



SGA “ice-breaker” games gave new students a chance to interact in a fun way with second-year students



Some KCOM first-year students began moving into new apartments a week before classes began



172 students plus 120 volunteers participated in the ice-breaker games



Helena Hoff, MS I, poses as A.T. Still; Richard Limbert, MS I, at the information fair



Farewell luncheon



All second-year students leaving on rotations were treated to a special luncheon with society members. “We wanted the students to reflect on their first two years of medical education at KCOM, how it has prepared them, and express any anxieties or fears about the upcoming two years,” said Trish Sexton, assistant professor.

Mentors gave each student a copy of the book, *Final Exam* by Pauline Chen. The book focuses on what Chen, a surgeon, learned from patients and how understanding them and their stories made her a better physician.

“It is hoped that this lunch and the book reaffirmed the values that the societies program was designed to embody — mentorship and the development of compassion and integrity.”

Student recognized with special dean's letter of commendation

Rarely do students go beyond the expectations set by society and KCOM, but David Van Wyck, MSIII, has exemplified compassion, integrity, and ability as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer and as a student.

Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean Philip Slocum honored VanWyck's dedication with a special dean's letter of commendation.

“You have brought great honor to the Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine and A.T. Still University,” said Slocum. “You’ve traveled hundreds of miles, endured personal expenses, presented outstanding verbal and written reports all the while giving so much of yourself to the two CASA children in your charge, and have freely given of your personal time to care for and visit the elderly in their homes.”



Dean Philip Slocum, vice president for medical affairs and dean, David Van Wyck, MS III, and Sandy Richardson, CASA executive director