

TCC summer 2008 racquetball final standings (League 1)

Advanced Division

1st place: Chris Sweigart (KCOM class of 2010)

High Intermediate Division

1st place, tie: Tu Cao (KCOM class of 2011)
and Michael Syring (KCOM class of 2011)
3rd place: Vineet Singh, Ph.D. (faculty)

Intermediate Division

1st place: Sean Abraham (KCOM class of 2010)
2nd place: Philip Gosu (staff)
3rd place: Jonas Oltman (KCOM class of 2011)



Higher Learning Accreditation

THE North Central Association of the Higher Learning Commission will visit ATSU in February 2009 for a once-every-10-year comprehensive look at our University. The NCA/HLC accredits ATSU – specific programs are not reviewed during the visit. The team of professional educators who will visit ATSU will evaluate University policies, procedures, and practices, making sure they are in sync with our mission statement.

A steering committee was appointed more than a year ago to compile the information needed write a comprehensive Self-Study Report, which will be sent to reviewers in December. The title and theme of ATSU's Self-Study is *Focused on the Future* and will explain what ATSU is doing now to meet the NCA/HLC criteria for accreditation – and most importantly, ideas for doing it even better in the future!

Editor's note: StillNews Readership Survey results

THANK you to all who participated in the 2008 Readership Survey. Your input strengthens ATSU publications. Students are encouraged to contribute news by contacting Lee Cashatt, editor, at lcashatt@atsu.edu. Enjoy this month's survey results.

Are you aware StillNews is available online?

Yes 54%

No 46%

Which do you prefer to read?

Online newsletter via email 35%

Printed newsletter on campus 65%

September Events

- September 2** SOMA class of 2011 classes begin
- September 7** 24th annual NEMO Triathlon
- September 8** KCOM class of 2011 classes begin
- September 8** SHM fall semester begins
- September 9** Occupational Therapy Pinning Ceremony
- September 11** KCOM Hospital Day
- September 23-26** KCOM Education Conference

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Our Mission

Consistent with the University's heritage as the founding school of osteopathic medicine, the mission of A.T. Still University is to educate students to become competent healthcare professionals who continuously develop and demonstrate compassion, integrity, and ability, while advancing osteopathic principles and philosophy. The institution is committed to scholarly inquiry that anticipates and addresses society's healthcare needs. The University encourages its constituencies to become leaders in improving community health and wellness with a comprehensive appreciation of the interaction of body, mind, and spirit.

stillnews

September 2008

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY | ATSU

Two for one

ASHS' online students graduate in the morning, residential students in the afternoon

ASHS held dual commencement ceremonies for the first time in the School's history on August 2, graduating 275 online students in the morning and 175 residential students in the afternoon.

"Graduates at the earlier ceremony came from across the country having never met each other because they were all online," said ASHS Dean Randy Danielsen, Ph.D., PA-C. "This was the first time they saw each other. It was an exciting time."

The large graduating class confirms ASHS' continuing commitment to educating and preparing students to practice at the forefront of a rapidly growing healthcare system. "The demand on the healthcare system is dramatically increasing," said Associate Provost O.T. Wendel, Ph.D. "These graduates are evidence we are doing something about it."

Honorary doctor of humane letters degrees were conferred to Marion Downs, M.A., D.Sc. (Hon), professor emeritus at the University of Colorado Health Science Center; and Andrei Cherny, criminal prosecutor and founder of "Democracy: A Journal of Ideas."

Dr. Downs, who was keynote speaker at the morning ceremony, pioneered the universal newborn hearing screening project more than 30 years ago and founded the Marion Downs National Center for Infant Hearing. During her keynote address, Dr. Downs encouraged students to "take life by the horns and triumph over challenges."

Cherny is a graduate of Harvard College and University of California's Boalt Hall Law School. During his keynote address to residential students, he spoke of the power that one individual can have in making a difference in many people's lives. "The ripple effect that occurs from one individual vowing to positively change a situation is endless," he said.



Occupational therapy graduates Daylyn Ison, Nicole Kell, and Tara Martucci pose during the afternoon ceremony.



Jacqueline Samuelson, PA, is hooded by her father, Jerome Hanson, D.D.S.

Students earn their white coats

HUNDREDS of ATSU students celebrated a rite of passage with white coat and pinning ceremonies in July and August. ASDOH presented white coats to its class of 2012 on July 21, while ASHS' Physician Assistant program presented pins to its class of 2009 and white coats to its class of 2010 on July 23. SOMA presented white coats to its class of 2012 on August 1, and KCOM presented white coats to its class of 2012 on August 16.

The white coat ceremony originated in 1993 at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. It gives students an opportunity to understand and publicly accept the obligations, expectations, and responsibilities of their profession before seeing patients in a clinical setting.

"The white coat ceremony is extremely important, especially at the beginning of a student's journey," said ASDOH Dean Jack Dillenberg, D.D.S., M.P.H., and keynote speaker at SOMA's white coat ceremony. "Students need to understand that integrity, honesty, and compassion are essential in their education as physicians."

Carlann Defontes, OMS I, was deeply encouraged at SOMA's ceremony. "I felt as though I had finally arrived," she said. "It's been a bit of a journey for me."



Aaron Jeziorski, D1, shakes hands with ASDOH Vice Dean L. James Bell, D.D.S., at the dental school's white coat ceremony held at Gilbert High School.



The class of 2012 takes the Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment at SOMA's white coat ceremony held at the Mesa Arts Center.



Erik McClure shares a moment with his son, Cooper, following KCOM's white coat ceremony held at Truman State University's Baldwin Hall Auditorium.



PA faculty member Sheree Fiske pins Carrie Buckner, PA '09, at ASHS' pinning and white coat ceremony held at Gilbert High School.

awards & honors

Faculty research nationally recognized

MATT Rhea, Ph.D., director of the Human Movement program, was named 2008 Outstanding Young Investigator of the Year at the annual meeting of the National Strength and Conditioning Association at Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas on July 11.

Dr. Rhea was nominated for his ongoing research in the field of sports performance enhancement. "This award is quite an honor because I was selected by representatives of the top scientists and professionals in the world of sports conditioning," said Dr. Rhea.

Two human movement students made presentations at the meeting. Derek Bunker presented on shoulder injury trends among baseball players, and Danielle Lavigne presented on functional movement among soccer players.

"The work for their presentations was done in addition to the academic requirements of the program and speaks highly of their desire to contribute to the profession and set themselves apart as leaders in the field," said Dr. Rhea.



Left to right: Derek Bunker, Kellie Rhea, Matt Rhea, Ph.D., and Danielle Lavigne.



The NATA grant was submitted by co-principal investigators Assistant Professor Alison Snyder, Ph.D., ATC, and Associate Professor Tamara Valovich-McLeod, Ph.D., ATC; and investigators Curt Bay, Ph.D.; Eric Sauers, Ph.D., ATC; John Parsons, M.S., ATC, AT/L; Learning Resource Center Director Mike Kronenfeld, M.B.A., M.L.S.; and research associate Jennifer Teeters.

Athletic trainers awarded \$107k grant

THE NATA Research and Education Foundation will fund a project to educate post-professional athletic trainers in using technology to collect and assess healthcare outcomes data to improve their clinical practice. The three-year project, entitled, "The Clinical Outcomes Research Education for Athletic Trainers (CORE-AT) Project: Training Clinical Researchers for Evidence-Based Practice," is fully funded by \$107,013, and will pay for technology development through an agreement with Essential Talk, tablet computers with mobile broadband for students, and research associate salary support.

"This project is the direct evolution of work from a 2006 ATSU Strategic Research Initiative grant," said Eric Sauers, Ph.D., ATC, associate professor and director of the Athletic Training program. The project will expand upon that success to implement technological advances to its existing database system, incorporate patient self-report outcomes scales, educate and train students, and disseminate clinical training information to the profession.

Student Research: Can sunlight prevent ovarian cancer?

RESEARCHERS continue to expand upon our understanding of ovarian cancer. Many theories exist regarding the pathogenesis and treatment of this common gynecologic disease. It is estimated that only 10 percent of ovarian cancers are hereditary, suggesting the influence of environmental factors.

In the last decade, numerous studies have found that ovarian cancer rates are higher among individuals living in areas of decreased sunlight. This discovery has led researchers to further evaluate the correlation between vitamin D and the incidence of ovarian cancer.

Vitamin D plays an integral role in many of the body's physiologic systems. A deficiency in vitamin D can lead to osteopenia, osteoporosis, osteomalacia, muscle weakness, and fractures. It is now known that vitamin D also plays a role in reducing the risk of many chronic illnesses including cancer, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular disease by affecting the growth and activity of cells throughout the body.

Despite its well-established importance, studies repeatedly show a widespread deficiency among the world's population. According to several studies, 40 percent to 100 percent of U.S. elderly men and women, and more than 50 percent of postmenopausal women are deficient. Children and young adults are also at risk of decreased vitamin D levels, especially in areas with fewer hours of annual sunlight.

Ovarian cancer continues to greatly impact the lives of women across the globe. Advances in the identification, prevention, and treatment of this disease are actively being pursued. The manipulation of environmental factors such as vitamin D supplementation offer new and non-invasive methods in reducing the incidence of ovarian cancer.

For the full article and reference list, contact Amy Bauman at abauman@atsu.edu.



The literature states that 1 billion people worldwide have a vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency.

“It is estimated that only 10 percent of ovarian cancers are hereditary, suggesting the influence of environmental factors.”

Students get more than music from iTunes

Thanks to iTunes U, SOMA students are downloading more than just music. ATSU is one of a handful of universities piloting the iTunes U program that makes course content available to students to download online. Students can download password-protected anatomy and pharmacology audio and video content to their computers via iTunes, and those with iPods and iPhones can download content to their mobile devices.

According to Associate Provost O.T. Wendel, Ph.D., as the program grows, more comprehensive course content will be available to students attending all five schools at ATSU.



snapshots

ATSU buddies with elementary students

AS ARIZONA children headed back to school, ATSU helped them “shop” for new clothes, shoes, and school supplies by sponsoring the BHHS Legacy Foundation’s Legacy Backpack Buddies Project. ATSU staff and volunteers joined hundreds of others across the Valley on July 21-25 at Phoenix Preparatory Academy to distribute back-to-school clothes and supplies to less fortunate elementary students.

“We love this event,” said BHHS Legacy Foundation CEO Gerald L. Wissink, FACHE. “The new uniforms, clothes, and backpacks give these young students the self-esteem they need to return to school with confidence and concentrate on their studies.” BHHS collaborates with the Back to School Clothing Drive Association, an organization supporting students since 1967.



Michael Valletta, OMS II, helps a young student find a shirt. Approximately 10,000 children participated in this year’s Back to School Clothing Drive.



Left to right: Holly Whitney, OT '10; Nicoletta Calorie, OT '10; Josh Blue; Jessica DeBroisse, OT '10; Darla Hergenroether, OT '10; Amanda Novak, OT '10; and Cindy Hahn, M.O.T., OTR/L, FAOTA.

Last Comic Standing visits ATSU

COMEDIAN Josh Blue made an appearance on the Arizona Campus on July 19 to speak to students about comedy, life, and living with a disability. This was the second time Blue visited ATSU as a guest of the Student Occupational Therapy Association.

“We are so thrilled he came to our school again,” said Amanda Novak, OT '10. “He’s so funny and has accomplished so much despite living with cerebral palsy.”

Blue, best known as the 2006 winner of NBC’s “Last Comic Standing,” is also a member of the U.S. Paralympic Soccer Team and competed in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece.

ASDOH hosts RWJF pre-admissions workshop

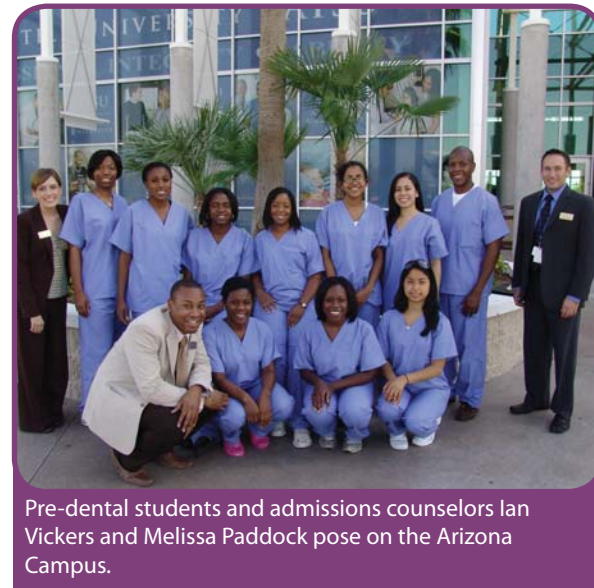
TEN dental school hopefuls visited the Arizona Campus on July 16-18 as part of a grant program to improve the recruitment and retention of minorities (URM) at ASDOH. Participants journeyed from as far as New York, Alabama, and Texas, and included four college graduates and six undergraduates, all of whom are considering applying to dental school.

The two-day workshop included a presentation by ASDOH Dean Jack Dillenberg, D.D.S., M.P.H., a campus tour, a simulation clinic activity, and mock interviews. Students heard presentations on financial aid, professionalism, and dental school applications, and participated in a question-and-answer session.

"This was a fantastic group of young men and women," said Dr. Dillenberg. "The first pre-admission program was a success, and we hope these talented and ambitious students enjoyed visiting with us as much as we did with them. I would be honored to have any one of them as students."

"Speaking with the dental students allowed us to see their real, true love for the school," said one student participant. "The administration gave us great information and made us feel comfortable and welcome."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the grant, which is part of the second phase of its Profession & Practice: Community-Based Dental Education (Dental Pipeline) program. In addition to pre-admission workshops, ASDOH will strengthen its infrastructure, offer enhanced cultural training, and increase and enhance its academic enrichment and mentoring activities for URM applicants.



Pre-dental students and admissions counselors Ian Vickers and Melissa Paddock pose on the Arizona Campus.



Participants enjoy a fun get-to-know-you activity.

D3 student collaborates with KCOM

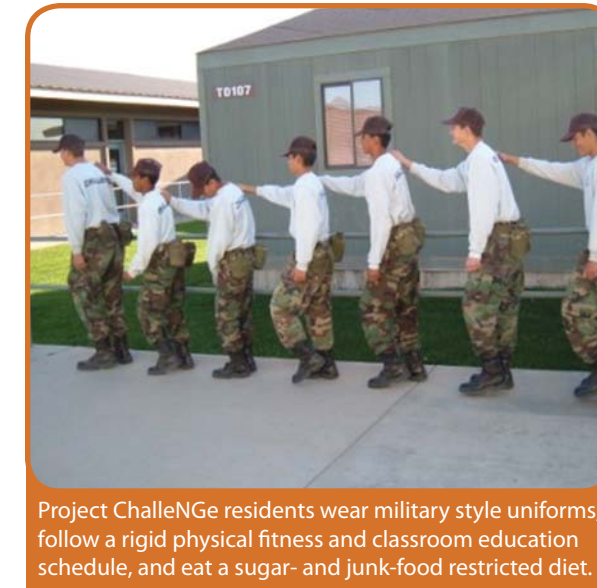
D3 student and Arizona Campus SGA President Brock Lorenz journeyed to the Missouri Campus in July for a research opportunity with KCOM Assistant Professor of Microbiology/Immunology Vineet Singh, Ph.D. Their research focused on the staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteria, which has become a worldwide healthcare issue in recent decades due to its resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics. "Dental and medical research are very similar," said Lorenz. "The mouth and body are undeniably interconnected."



Dental boot camp

D3 STUDENTS Owen Lonergan, Jason Sherrell, Christopher Chin, and Kyla Hollen participated in Project ChalleNGe, a voluntary, military style residential program for at-risk teenagers operated by the Arizona National Guard to provide teens with needed skills. The students led a three-lesson dental education curriculum last spring, educating residents on basic oral hygiene skills, nutrition, sports guards, oral piercings, tobacco use, methamphetamine use, and dental careers. Colgate® donated toothbrushes and toothpaste to motivate residents to use their new skills.

The students' pilot curriculum increased oral health knowledge of ChalleNGe residents by 25 percent. The residents were not the only beneficiaries of the program. Sherrell, project leader, described the program as a rewarding experience. "It was great to see residents engaged in lesson plans and asking detailed questions," he said.



Project ChalleNGe residents wear military style uniforms, follow a rigid physical fitness and classroom education schedule, and eat a sugar- and junk-food restricted diet.

Walking for a cure

MAI-LY Duong graduated from University of Arizona in the spring and began her first year at ASDOH in July. A psychology major, she said her greatest concern is the healthcare of historically underserved populations, particularly the Asian American community and the disproportionate number who are affected by Hepatitis B.

Duong's family and friends have been affected by the disease, which can cause cirrhosis, liver failure, cancer of the liver, and other fatal complications. "Hepatitis is a silent killer. The issue is very, very close to my heart," she said.

Her concern led her to organize the "Hepatitis Will Unite Us" walk at UA in April. It was one of a few walks in the nation dedicated to raising funds for liver cancer research and bringing attention to hepatitis in the Asian American community. The walk raised \$1,000 for the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University.



The "Hepatitis Will Unite Us" walk raised \$1,000 for the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University.

Source: La Monica Everett-Haynes, University of Arizona