

in TOUCH

TRANSLATING OSTEOPATHIC UNDERSTANDING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH

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What's in a DO Residency?

While meeting at the AOA convention in October of 2008, members of the COSGP had a chance to discuss the possibility of allowing allopathic graduates into osteopathic residencies. Staff members of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), led by Dr. Tyler Cymet, provided information and took a survey in what was an ongoing collection of information. The experience in retrospect was far more interesting than it seemed to be at the time. It seems that the discussion is underway on a topic that could change how graduate medical education operates in both the osteopathic and allopathic worlds.

Reflecting on the information of that day, it seems that there are some major questions involved. Should MD graduates be allowed into DO Residencies and if so, what additional training (if any) would qualify them to apply? Since residencies are funded by the federal government, can we justify a decision to disallow MD graduates? Finally, how do we explain what makes DO graduates more qualified for

osteopathic residencies? These are just a few questions that need to be addressed in the process of making a decision on the issue.

Deciding whether MD students can apply for osteopathic residencies is impossible prior to answering the second part of the question regarding additional training required. Personal opinions vary widely. One might argue that in specialties where the practice of manipulation is minimal, the training of manipulative medicine might not be necessary for an MD graduate to qualify for application for residency. Others might think successful completion of COMLEX step 1 and 2 should be required to evaluate the quality of training in osteopathic principles and their application before any applicant, allopathic or osteopathic, would be eligible to apply. The majority those open minded to the inclusion of MD graduates have varying opinions that span the gap between these arguments. Regardless of personal opinions, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the National Board of Osteo-

pathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) will have to determine to what extent MD graduates will have to qualify themselves for residencies in osteopathic medicine.

Since the federal government funds residency training, they have a right to an explanation if MD graduates are not granted the opportunity to apply. If the time comes for that explanation to be given, the federal government may take it upon themselves to decide the validity of the arguments posed. It seems inevitable that there will need to be an answer to either of these first two questions, and in doing so we will either establish an entirely new way to operate graduate medical education or better define allopathic and osteopathic distinctions. Regardless of the outcome, it's commendable that AACOM and the AOA have taken the initiative to seek answers before anyone has posed them to do so.

Explaining what makes DO graduates more qualified for osteopathic residencies seems to be the easiest question to answer. **CONTINUED on page 4**

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- ★ **Erin Deihl** ~ Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- ★ **Brian Huggins** ~ West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

2008-2009 COSGP
in Mesa, AZ for
January Quarterly
Meeting.



D.O. Day on the Hill

By John M. Clark, OMS-II & Courtney B. Scrubbs, OMS-II

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Each year at the AOA's D.O. Day on Capitol Hill, the impressive "army of white coats" that descends upon the nation's capitol seems to take on a momentum of its own. The feeling of walking through the halls of the capitol buildings and meeting with legislative staff about health care issues is both exciting and empowering. Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., students usually get swept up by the energy of the day. The difficult part is getting them there.

When you suggest to the uninitiated to put aside a mountain of school work and leave in the middle of the week to attend D.O. Day, then half of your possible participants are already not interested. Mention the word "politics", and you have lost the majority of the other half. So, the challenge for campus D.O. Day organizers is to set the right tone when publicizing the event in order to maximize participation.

The approach we went with this year at PCOM was to emphasize the social and recreational aspects of the event (like meeting students from other medical schools and enjoying a day off in D.C.), while at the same time laying the groundwork for participants to get the most out of the actual lobbying experience. Our Student Government Association (SGA) has historically shown strong support for the event, providing lodging and bus transportation to any student wanting to attend. This allowed us to promote the event as "A fun, FREE way to make a difference". Our main means of advertisement was through a series of e-mails and Facebook event invitations sent to students. The Facebook event gave us a common internet location to share information and allowed prospective attendees to see who else they knew that was attending. The SGA's 7-member Political Action Committee followed-up the online communication with personal visits to their classmates to increase interest, share information and build excitement. Still, seasoned DO Day Veterans provided the final touch by encouraging students with recollections of their past experiences on the Hill. "This was my second time and so I'm much more comfortable," commented Marie Tabuteau, OMS-II from PCOM. "The first visit to the Hill was a little intimidating so I'm excited SGA did more this year to settle students and inform them of what to expect. That helps to increase students' willingness to attend."

Marie's not the only student who, after journeying to the Hill once with her colleagues, decided it was worth a second, or even third, visit. In fact, my first experience was as a graduate student beginning to consider life as an osteopathic medical student and physician. Now, four years later, the DO Day tradition has become a routine occurrence and much more of a reunion than a brand-new, eye opening experience. New talking points coupled with proven strategies to address our professions political concerns are the mainstay. However, each year's involvement comes with fresh experiences. Indeed, it was during DO Day on the Hill 2007 that I (Courtney) met the then Senator, now seated President Barack Obama! What was intended to be a short lunch break between meetings became an experience I'll never forget. I think John, my co-author, is still a little jealous!

Since then, we've learned what you do on Capitol Hill is only the beginning. True political advocacy has its greatest impact when it's done on the ground and time with your representative offices is a continuation of the conversations and dialogue you began in your hometown. Our efforts this year were intentionally geared toward impressing upon our colleagues this reality.

Several weeks prior to D.O. Day, we coupled a mandatory "Advocacy & Itinerary Review" session with an optional "Ask the Experts" panel discussion featuring Dr. Carol Henwood, D.O., POMA Board of Trustees Member, and several students with lobbying experience. Through this panel, attendees learned what to expect from their congressional meetings, how to speak to legislators with varying views, and how to use their own personal experiences to make the encounters memorable.

The majority of our students are registered to vote in Pennsylvania and, therefore, lobbied PA legislators on D.O. Day. The first of the two lobbying agenda items was to educate the legislators on the AOA and Osteopathic Medicine. With Pennsylvania's two Osteopathic schools (PCOM and LECOM) and a relatively dense, practicing D.O. population, **CONTINUED on page 9...**

**What's
A
D.O.?**

Today osteopathic physicians continue to be on the cutting edge of medicine. D.O.s are able to combine today's medical technology with their ears, to listen caringly to their patients; their eyes, to see their patients as whole persons; and their hands, to diagnose and treat injury and illness.

What's in a DO Residency? Continued from Page 1...

The very Tenets of Osteopathic Medicine that were adopted by the AOA House of Delegates in July, 2008, define how our philosophies differ from that of our allopathic colleagues. However, while all DO students learn to provide health care within these guidelines, is it fair to assume that anyone outside the osteopathic world does not? Is it possible that an MD graduate would be able to embrace these unique values of medicine? If this can be answered affirmatively, the accumulation of knowledge and skill to enhance those traits would benefit the osteopathic profession and the patients it serves.

While there is no immediate call to vote, to debate, or to decide, this issue is certain to stir up discussion throughout until that point is reached. It is important to protect the ideals that set osteopathic medicine apart. It may also be possible to become inclusive of allopathic physicians who accept the same principles. As DO's it is in our nature to think of the patient's needs first. Allowing the training of any medical school graduate who enters an osteopathic residency to acquire the skills necessary to provide excellent care is certainly in the best interest of our patients.

By Jerome Huebsch

Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine

COM UPDATE

Greetings from Oklahoma! We are **Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine**, located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Founded in 1972, we have been a significant pipeline for physicians of rural Oklahoma. One in four of our alumni work in a town in Oklahoma with a population of 10,000 or less. At 88 students per class, OSU-COM is able to offer a family atmosphere that is very cohesive with our osteopathic principals.

Part of our vision every year pertains to increasing student involvement in our community. We are constantly looking for events students can get involved in with their classmates. We recently welcomed a new club on campus that has community service as its top priority. **Club S.P.I.N.E. (Students Participating in Neighboring Environments)** was created to encourage community service and fellowship throughout the campus. The inaugural event was a Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament held in our lecture hall. Entry fees were \$2 or school supplies for a neighboring elementary school. The tournament was a hit and included appearances by our Director of Student Affairs, Dana Livingston, Vice President of Research and Institutional Advancement, Dr. Leigh Goodson and President of OSU-COM, Dr. John Fernandes. Another great event, sponsored by Club S.P.I.N.E., was our own rendition of the hit TV game show *Family Feud*. The battle began between the first and second year classes. The second years were victorious and went on to play a panel of OSU-CHS Faculty including: Randy Wymore, Ph. D., Kenneth Miller, Ph. D., Doris Patneau, Ph. D., Robin Dyer, D.O., and Craig Stevens, Ph. D. It was an incredible night of laughter and camaraderie, continuing to showcase the wonderful atmosphere of our school. The proceeds for the night will be given to Big Brothers, Big Sisters, which is a mentoring program placing positive role models in the lives of many children in Tulsa.

To celebrate the end of the semester and the holiday season, the first and second year students attended the annual Holiday Ball. It was held at the SpiritBank Convention Center, and entertainment included a hypnotist and DJ. Classes gave out prizes to recognize fun or sentimental moments occurring throughout the year. The students enjoyed a great meal, danced the night away, and spent a carefree evening of fun with their colleagues.

On February 6th, OSU-COM hosted over 250 pre-med students and family members on our campus at **Med-Xtravaganza**. The day was filled with tours, group information sessions, and an informal meet and greet with current med students. We look forward to expanding this program, increasing awareness of both our school and the osteopathic profession. The school has been extremely busy with community service events, insightful meetings with practicing physicians, and exciting athletic events.

Katie Lee Jones, OMS II, OSU-COM

American Osteopathic Foundation celebrates 60th Anniversary

In the fall of 1949, the American Osteopathic Association's Board of Trustees, sensing a change in the financial needs of osteopathic medical students, founded the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF).

Since that time, the profession has changed dramatically and the needs of students have changed even more so. For nearly a half a century, the AOF was a major provider of loans for osteopathic medical students. That all changed in 2001 when the AOF Board unanimously voted to change from an originator of student loans to an organization that gives away its funds in an effort to become more relevant in supporting worthy osteopathic causes.

Today, the AOF prides itself in the creative ways it supports the profession. The major focus areas include education, research and promotion. In 2008, the AOF contributed nearly \$500,000 to osteopathic causes that include student scholarships, student travel grants, osteopathic research and various award programs that recognize excellence in patient care. Simply stated, the goal is to offer a wide variety of programs that enhance the profession and recognize osteopathic physicians and students for outstanding achievement.

The AOF's comprehensive website is the go-to-source for students seeking information on AOF scholarship and grant opportunities. Applications can be easily downloaded for your convenience.

New for 2009 are Humanitarian Grants and Student Initiative Grants. In addition, the AOF is now the exclusive sponsor of the SOMA Clinical Clerkship Database. Check it out! Maybe that humanitarian mission to Kenya that you've always dreamed about can become a reality through the AOF.

www.aof-foundation.org

What to Expect at the COSGP April Quarterly Meeting

The 2009 April Quarterly meeting of the COSGP is in conjunction with the AACOM Annual Meeting in Bethesda, MD. If your schedule does not allow you to fly in sooner, all COSGP members should try arriving by Thursday, April 16 in time for the Capitol Steps Entertainment show from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. A COSGP social event will also be planned for this evening.

Two COSGP members from each COM will receive free registration for the AACOM annual meeting. The COSGP meeting schedule is being adjusted so that COSGP members are able to attend various sessions (such as an OMT workshop & student career decisions presentation) and view the exhibits. For more information on the AACOM annual meeting program opportunities, please go to:

<http://www.aacom.org/events/annualmtg/Pages/default.aspx>.

The April COSGP quarterly meeting will also include the annual elections process for the upcoming Executive Board of the COSGP in addition to resolution discussions and other issues. We look forward to seeing you in Bethesda!



COSGP Community Service in Mesa, AZ

*By Katie Perz, OMS III, National Programs Representative
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine*

While in Mesa, Arizona, at A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-SOMA) for the Winter Quarterly Business meeting of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents from January 15 – 18, 2009, student leaders participated in a unique and enjoyable community service activity. Over 40 student leaders volunteered one morning to pick citrus fruit from trees in a local Mesa neighborhood. Students used special fruit-pickers, tree-climbing abilities and good ole' fashioned elbow grease to empty over 40 trees and pick a total of over 6,000 lbs. of fruit! All fruit picked was then donated to the United Food Bank to feed local residents in need. However, the council also provided a service to the owners of the citrus trees, as many of these residents were unable to pick their fruit themselves. The efforts of the Council saved these residents a significant amount of money due to the fact that they would have had to hire workers themselves to complete the task. Overall, the event was a great success for all parties; our Council enjoyed the activity and provided a needed service to the community, for which the food recipients and neighborhood residents were thankful.



COM UPDATES

As a means to raise awareness among COM students regarding other COMs across the country, a short paragraph will be written by SGA presidents on a unique aspect of their schools throughout the year's inTOUCH Newsletter.

The **Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)** offers students several opportunities to participate in volunteer activities within the Appalachian region and in underserved areas around the world. This year, VCOM has six short-term mission trips planned to sites in Latin America including the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras. Each trip has a different theme including family practice, pediatrics, obstetrics / gynecology, surgery and faith-based trips. Approximately 150 first and second year medical students will participate in these short term mission experiences this year.

In addition to the short term mission experiences for first and second year students, VCOM also offers 3rd and 4th year students the opportunity to complete underserved care rotations at the three year-round sites in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras. Through these four week rotations, students are offered an opportunity to engage in providing ongoing sustainable care to underserved populations, while at the same time experiencing what it is like to provide care in a developing country with limited resources. Students come back truly changed from these opportunities, and many go on to integrate ongoing volunteer service and mission related activities in their careers.

Locally, VCOM sponsors medical students and physician faculty who volunteer in four free clinics throughout Southwest Virginia. Here, students learn the challenges that patients with poor socioeconomic conditions must overcome in order to achieve health. These clinics have provided care for thousands of patients without health insurance or a financial means over the past three years, providing a safety net for many Virginians without access to health care. Finally, students also engage in health literacy and outreach through weekly mini-medical schools. Each Friday students travel to rural high schools to interest students in science and health, and provide information on prevention of prescription and illicit drug abuse, smoking, STDs and obesity.

Erin Deihl, OMSII, Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Founded in 1993, Score 1 for Health has provided health-screenings and health-care referrals each year to more than 12,000 children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Sponsored by **Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences** and the Deron Cherry Foundation the program is focused on schools where children are more likely to be at high risk for illness and decreased health care access, based on the school's participation in the federal school lunch program.

Score 1 for Health has partnered with KCUMB as well as over 20 allied health schools throughout Kansas City to provide students, physicians, and nurses to aid in the screenings. These health care teams perform screenings that include height/weight measurement with BMI calculation, a dental evaluation, hearing test, blood pressure check, and vision screening. It also involves a physical assessment including the eyes and ears, as well as a heart, lung, and neurological exam. First year medical students are able to assist with vision screenings and are paired with second year students to observe and aid in the physical assessment. Second year medical students are assigned to blood pressure, dental, or physical assessment stations. While volunteering with Score 1, medical students are often exposed to new clinical situations. They then report to the attending physicians who can confirm the diagnosis, aid in referral, and help teach the students about the diagnosis. Score 1 has also been able to secure grants that help to cover the cost of the child's referral and follows up with these referrals to ensure continued access. Often without access to these screenings many of the problems identified may never have been detected. Score 1 for Health serves as a valuable learning experience that allows KCUMB students to gain clinical knowledge while serving the Kansas City community.

Allison Abraham, OMS II, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine – Bradenton, Florida (LECOM-Br) celebrated the graduation of their inaugural class in June 2008. Our mission is to prepare students to become osteopathic physicians through programs of excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community service in order to enhance the quality of life through improved health for all humanity. As a branch campus of LECOM in Erie, PA, we have a brief history here in Florida but a rich culture and tradition from Pennsylvania.

LECOM – Br is the only osteopathic medical school to dedicate their entire curriculum to the problem based learning (PBL) pathway. The focus of this curriculum is to create active learners and critical thinkers. We learn to solve clinical cases in a small group setting. We learn our basic sciences one system at a time, not one subject at a time. We learn to ask the "Why?" and we learn to answer the "Why?", and students are able to integrate the basic sciences together with clinical knowledge needed for their 3rd and 4th year of rotations.

Kate Menssen, OMS II, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine – Bradenton, Florida

COM UPDATES

At the founding school of osteopathy, the tradition of service is exemplified through service learning initiatives. One of these is an elective course, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. After successfully completing the didactic components of the **KCOM-CASA** service-learning elective, KCOM medical students qualify for appointment by the Court to represent and speak on behalf of abused or neglected children who come before the Adair County Circuit Court. In their volunteer capacity as court-appointed child advocates, these students are responsible to the executive director of the Adair County CASA. The students who participate in this program get a chance to understand the intricacies of the legal process, make a positive difference in a child's life, and build a foundation for lifelong community service.

In September 2007, KCOM celebrated the completion of the newest building on campus, the Connell Information Technologies Center, which houses a new library, state of the art human patient simulator lab, expanded OMM lab, and many student study areas. With the new building there was an open space left, one of which was a small OMM lab that was transformed into a new nursing suite at KCOM. The nursing suite has an open living room area, personal lockers, and two private nursing/pumping rooms with rocking chairs for use by KCOM students and staff. This new addition is just a small example of how student input is always welcomed and highly regarded at KCOM.

Matthew Wessner, OMS II, A.T. Still University, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM)

The **Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM)** kicked 2009 off exceptionally well and we hope this trend will continue throughout the year. First and foremost, we are extremely excited and proud that our Dean, Dr. Karen J. Nichols, is a candidate for nomination for the office of President-Elect of the American Osteopathic Association! We wish her the best and offer our support in the upcoming months. Secondly, CCOM prides itself on its commitment to political advocacy, and this year is no exception. Every year we send around 40 students to DO Day; however, due to the hard work and dedication of the SGA and our local SOMA chapter (as well as the fortuitous timing of the event, our quarter break) we are sending over 85 students to Washington DC to lobby for Osteopathic Medicine! Also in the spirit of setting records, CCOM hopes to send over 40 students to this year's Osteopathic Physicians Day at the State Capitol, a lobbying event organized by the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society. Looking toward the more distant future, plans are now in place to start the construction of our new basic sciences building. The building will not only house classrooms, offices, a CBT testing center, and state-of-the-art laboratories, but it will also be home to the new dental school in Downer's Grove. The dental school will not only bring in additional, motivated individuals to our campus, but it will also help strengthen our concept of the healthcare team. Lastly, we are planning to increase our upcoming first year class to a size of 200 students. We are excited to support the growth of our profession and to give our adept admission staff even more opportunity to recruit bright, motivated, compassionate student doctors. CCOM has an excellent track record for providing leadership inside and outside of our profession and we believe the class increase will reinforce our school's proud past and help ensure a strong future.

Aaron Huser, OMS III, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine- Georgia Campus is in its fourth-year of existence. We are very excited to have our first graduating class of DOs on May 17th, 2009. They have paved the way for future classes not only academically, but also within the community. We congratulate them on this milestone and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

In efforts to give back to the community and increase the awareness of osteopathy in Georgia, the SGA and various student organizations held an AIDS charity benefit. The AIDS benefit "An Evening of Awareness and Art" was held on November 21, 2008 at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center. The evening was filled with performances by students, food catered by Affairs to Remember, and a magnificent silent auction that contained art created by students as well as items and services donated by local businesses. Senator Renee Unterman gave a special address during the program encouraging medical professionals to stay politically active and stressed the importance of AIDS awareness. All funds raised (over \$6,000.00) were donated to AIDGwinnett, a service organization covering Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Newton Counties (encompassing 840 square miles) in Georgia. They provide medical care for persons living with HIV, rapid HIV testing, prevention education programs for 13-25 year olds, and case management for patients in the area.

Nantha Surkunalingam, OMS II, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia Campus

COM UPDATES

The **Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM)**, the cornerstone of the University of North Texas Health Science Center, is located in the cultural district of Fort Worth, TX. While the first graduating class in 1974 produced 18 DOs, the school has expanded to an incoming class size of roughly 175 and is currently undergoing rapid growth in response to the physician shortage that particularly has affected Texas. Specifically, TCOM has addressed the shortage of physicians in rural areas by becoming the only medical school in the nation with a four-year curriculum specific to rural medicine. Students in this program complete a parallel curriculum with all other medical students focused on medical and public health issues specific to caring for rural populations. TCOM is home to the Osteopathic Research Center, the national research program designed to study the clinical effectiveness of osteopathic manipulative medicine.

The Class of 2009 recently scored the best in the nation on the challenging Level 1 COMLEX, marking the third consecutive year the medical school has been the top performer in the nation on this exam. Students at TCOM complement their classroom achievements with political advocacy through DO Day on the Hill and Texas' DOME Day as well as with community service through programs such as the Hispanic Wellness Fair, Cowtown Marathon, mission trips and our annual DO Dash. Due to all of this, TCOM has been named as one of the nation's top 50 medical schools for primary care by *U.S. News and World Report* annually since 2002 with approximately 65 percent of TCOM's graduates practicing in the field of primary care. As the only osteopathic medical school in the state, TCOM is unique among the eight medical schools in Texas and has created a niche in the area of primary care and rural medicine while still excelling in a variety of specialties.

Hetal Gadhia, OMS III, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, located in sunny Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was the first COM founded in the Southeastern United States. In the 28 years since its founding, our school has seen tremendous growth. NSUCOM now enrolls 250 new M1s each year. NSUCOM is a part of NSU's Health Professions Division, made up of over 2000 students and including a diversity of programs including dentistry, physical therapy, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, nursing and osteopathic medicine. The interdisciplinary approach of the HPD program encourages fostering professional relationships from the start in all areas of healthcare starting from medical students' first days in anatomy class.

NSUCOM is presently staying at the cusp of technological advances by moving toward computerized based testing, interactive class response systems, and other forms of integrated technology in the classroom setting. There has also been a focus on healthcare research that is going to be facilitated with the building of a new research building in 2009 associated with HPD and partially funded by an INH grant. As a long term goal, NSUCOM hopes to open a teaching hospital and "academical village" on the Ft. Lauderdale campus to expand healthcare opportunities for our students.

Our students have been very active on a local and national level. We have 36 organizations including AMWA, SOMA, Radiology, UAAO and GLMA. They complete hundreds of hours of community service every semester in health fairs and other service events. Our AMSA chapter is currently planning an NSU-wide production of the Vagina Monologues to benefit their local charity Women In Distress. FOMA students are about to hold their annual community health fair to be held in March with sponsorship from the statewide FOMA chapter. The health fair provides services to hundreds of local Floridians. These are only some of the amazing programs that our students are implementing at NSU!

Jessica Hilst, OMS III, Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine

CONTINUED from D.O. Day on the Hill page 3...our legislators were already familiar with Osteopathic Medicine and its benefits. Most PA legislators were also open to supporting the second agenda item, the Physician Workforce and Graduate Medical Education Enhancement Act (H.R. 914), or a similar Senate measure. Introduced by Reps. Michael Burgess (R-TX) and Gene Green (D-TX), the act basically offers interest-free loans from the federal government to hospitals wanting to start new residency programs. Due to the bipartisan nature of the bill, and the looming physician shortage in our state, PA legislators also welcomed this effort, with many pledging to support it when it comes to a vote in their respective houses.

The feedback we received from this year's trip was overwhelmingly positive. We will attempt to capitalize on our students' newfound excitement for advocacy with a series of spring events, including a petition drive on key health care legislation and a session for students to record and send their own video message to their Congressional representatives.

aacom / cosgp

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE COUNCIL OF OSTEOPATHIC
STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENTS**

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feedback.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
WWW.COSGP.AACOM.ORG

SAVE THE DATES

April 15-19, 2009

**AACOM Annual Meeting & COSGP
Quarterly Meeting**

Bethesda, MD

July 13-19, 2009

**COSGP Quarterly Meeting & AOA
House of Delegates**

Chicago, IL

**October 29 - November 5,
2009**

**COSGP Quarterly Meeting & AOA
Convention**

New Orleans, LA

COSGP Website keeps changing!

Check it out at www.aacom.cosgp.org. Keep checking for updates and more helpful information. Forms, pictures and more will be available for all osteopathic medical students. Contact John A. Fenstermaker with concerns about the site at john.a.fenstermaker@dmu.edu



Editors in Chief, John A. Fenstermaker and Sonbol Shahid-Salles.



The COSGP Executive Board in Mesa, AZ during the January Quarterly Meeting.

