

COMmunity LINC

Lincoln Memorial University –
DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine
VALUES • EDUCATION • SERVICE

SUMMER 2016 • VOLUME 9 NUMBER 2 A PUBLICATION FOR THE LMU-DCOM FAMILY



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Director of Marketing and
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A Message from the Dean

A new academic year has dawned, offering us a chance to reflect on the accomplishments and milestones in our rearview mirror and look forward to the challenges ahead. It has been five years since graduation of LMU-DCOM's inaugural Class of 2011. LMU-DCOM now has alumni physicians and physician assistants in practice spreading our brand nationwide while serving as mentors and preceptors to our current students.

As this institution has grown out of its infancy many things have changed, but our commitment to serving the health and wellness needs of the people of Appalachia and beyond remains constant. Our focus on primary care is being recognized around the country, and we are proud to be fulfilling the University's mission.

Indeed, this is a special year for me, as it is the first class I will have the honor of knowing from the first day of their journey through medical school. In early August I stood before an auditorium of bright minds with eager hands and servant hearts. The anxious, excited energy from that room radiated throughout the LMU campus, energizing faculty and staff as our family welcomed its next generation of future DOctors. I am excited to report the Class of 2020 has already demonstrated how well they fit in, demonstrating an eagerness to learn, commitment to hard work and willingness to serve.

While we are eager to jump into the adventures and learning on the horizon, it is just as important to reflect and rejoice in the successes we've enjoyed since the last edition of COMmunity Linc. In the pages ahead you will catch a glimpse of the Class of 2016 on graduation day and hear about the successes of our alumni and meet several new faculty and staff, including Melissa Day, PA-C, assistant professor of PA studies and Anita Airee, PharmD, BCPS, associate professor of pharmacology, and several new staff members (see page 17).

This summer the OMS Class of 2018 set out on rotations around the region, the country, at Harvard and the world. The Physician Assistant Class of 2017 received their white coats and embarked clinical rotations as well. As our students don their white coats to get more hands-on learning, they also take on the important role of ambassador for LMU-DCOM. Every patient they encounter and physician they study under are opportunities to showcase the quality programs we are all so dedicated to. I have no doubt they will represent Harrogate and LMU well.

As we look to 2017, it is no time to rest on our laurels and there is a lot of work to be done. We must increase our residency programs, expand our clinical training sites and enhance our reputation nationwide. Join us in this challenge as we continue the legacy for years to come. ✚



Brian A. Kessler, DO, FACOF
Vice President and Dean, LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine

LMU-DCOM Ranked #2 For Primary Care Residencies

Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM) has been ranked #2 by *U.S. News and World Report* in medical schools that produce the highest percentage of primary care residents. The ranking is based on 2013-2015 data averages.

“LMU-DCOM was founded with a mission to address the critical health care shortages in Appalachia and beyond,” said Brian A. Kessler, DO, FACOFP, vice president and dean of LMU-DCOM. “Clearly, this *U.S. News and World Report* data illustrates that the University and its graduates are fulfilling this mission. We are proud to be delivering as promised, but we aren’t sitting on our laurels. The provider to patient deficits in primary care are a real threat to the health care system of our country, and as one of the largest medical schools in the United States, LMU is taking new and innovative approaches to meeting these needs.”

Approximately 82% of the members of LMU-DCOM’s osteopathic medical students from the Class of 2016 entered their first year of residency training in a primary care residency, including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, emergency medicine, osteopathic manipulative medicine and transitional year/ traditional rotating internship.

This year, LMU-DCOM placed 99.5% of its graduating class into postgraduate training programs. Of the graduating class, 61% were placed into osteopathic residency programs. 37% accepted residency positions with allopathic programs and 2% are going into military programs. Approximately 27% of the graduating class we placed into programs within the Appalachian region and 9% within the State of Tennessee.



USNews EDUCATION Education Rankings & Advice	
Home > Graduate Schools > Best Medical Schools > Which schools turn out the most primary care residents?	
BEST GRAD SCHOOLS USNews MEDICAL 2017	
Which schools turn out the most primary care residents? Ranked in 2016, part of Best Medical Schools For full rankings, MCAT scores and student debt data, sign up for the U.S. News Medical School Compass!	
School name	Graduates entering primary care specialties (2013-2015 average)
Michigan State University (College of Osteopathic Medicine) East Lansing, MI	80%
Lincoln Memorial University (DeBusk) Hartsville, TN	77.5%

“The provider to patient deficits in primary care are a real threat to the health care system of our country, and as one of the largest medical schools in the United States, LMU is taking new and innovative approaches to meeting these needs.”

—LMU-DCOM Vice President and Dean, Dr. Brian A. Kessler

According to the American Osteopathic Association, 56 percent of doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) in active practice are primary care physicians. DOs are one of two types of fully licensed physicians in the United States. Both DO and MD schools offer similar, rigorous medical education, but approach the practice of medicine from distinct philosophies. DOs emphasize a whole-person approach to treatment and care, and focus on prevention to help people get healthy and stay well. DOs also receive additional training in osteopathic manipulative treatment used to diagnose, treat and prevent illness and injury. Osteopathic medicine continually ranks among the fastest-growing disciplines in health care in the United States.

LMU-DCOM CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATION

The OMS Class of 2016 celebrated its graduation on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Sister Anne Eucharista Brooks, SNJM, DO, FACOFP, medical director and chief administrator of the Tutwiler Clinic, delivered the commencement address, and LMU President B. James Dawson presented her with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for her lifetime of service to her fellow man.

During the ceremony LMU-DCOM Vice President and Dean Brian A. Kessler and Senior Associate Dean J. Michael Wieting presented Dr. Richard A. Gillespie, LMU board of trustee member, with the Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented to an individual who holds service to humanity close to his or her heart and who has had a significant impact on the health and wellness of those within both the Appalachian region and beyond.

Gillespie, a native of Coeburn, Virginia, received his Bachelor of Science degree from LMU and his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He completed a rotating internship at Mobile General Hospital in Mobile, Alabama, and pursued an anesthesiology residency at Duke. After completing his training, Gillespie moved to Knoxville and had a very successful private practice at Fort Sanders Hospital and East Tennessee Children's Hospital. In 1981,

Gillespie became a medical pioneer when he opened the Sullins Surgical Center, one of the first free-standing surgery centers in the country. Gillespie presented patients with the option of having surgery and being released for home in the same day. In the early 1980s, Gillespie was

in the vanguard of what is now an accepted practice. He also spent time in California as a founder and member of the board of directors of Alternacare Corporation, which later merged with Hospital Corporation of America. After returning to Knoxville, Gillespie joined the LMU Board of Trustees and, with the inception of LMU-DCOM, became a tireless advocate, recruiter and ambassador for the medical school. Since LMU-DCOM opened its doors in 2007, Gillespie has promoted the institution to health care administrators, fellow physicians, colleagues and to promising students looking for their academic home.

“Dr. Gillespie’s passion for the health care education available at LMU extends beyond the medical school to include the Caylor School of Nursing, the School of Allied Health Sciences, and now, the College of Veterinary Medicine,” said Kessler. “Dr. Gillespie’s dedication to his

alma mater, his expertise in health care and his interest in marketing have combined in recent years to make him a valued champion of LMU’s medical programs.”



Senior Associate Dean J. Michael Wieting (L) and LMU President B. James Dawson (R) present Sister Anne Brooks with the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.



Dr. Richard Gillespie speaks to the Class of 2016 after being presented with the Distinguished Service Award.



JOSEPH JOHNSON NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Joseph Johnson, OMS Class of 2017, has been elected national president of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and will begin his term on May 1, 2017. Johnson will be the first African-American male to serve in this position, and only the third student doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) to serve as president in the history of the organization.

Johnson will move to Washington, D.C., next year to serve his term and will represent more than 40,000 physicians-in-training. He will spend his term speaking on behalf of mental health, rural health and race relations to some of the nation's top politicians, and will participate in a national forum to discuss the feasibility of the Affordable Care Act.

"I look forward to serving as the new AMSA president in the coming year," said Johnson. "My focus areas are minority health care, osteopathic medicine, rural and mental health. Over the next two years I will work with the White House Task Force on opiate and prescription drug abuse and will meet frequently with several Congressional



Joseph Johnson

members at the Capitol to discuss healthcare policy."

Johnson graduated summa cum laude from Shorter University with two bachelor degrees and earned four associate degrees in various non-science disciplines at Georgia Highlands College. Johnson currently serves on the National Board of Trustees for AMSA and is student editor for The New Physician Magazine and a columnist for In-Training. Johnson is also the immediate past president of the Class of 2017 at LMU-DCOM. Besides studying medicine, Johnson has strong interests in religious studies, languages and classical literature. In his spare time, you may catch him writing, playing basketball or coaching. Johnson and his wife, Jessica, have one daughter, Nadine.

AMSA is the oldest and largest independent association of physicians-in-training in the United States. Founded in 1950, AMSA is a student-governed, non-profit organization committed to representing the concerns of physicians-in-training. To learn more about AMSA, its strategic priorities, or joining the organization, please visit them online at www.amsa.org.

Healing Hands in Honduras

by Kelsey Davis, PAS Class of 2017

I had the privilege of traveling to Honduras over Spring Break with fifteen of my physician assistant classmates to provide medical care to people living in rural mountain villages. We served with an organization called Healing Hands Global that has a hospital that has been receiving teams and practicing medicine in the area for the last five years. Prior to our trip, through fundraising and donations, our team was able to stock their hospital with over \$10,000 worth of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. Over the course of eight days, we visited four villages and saw over 600 patients. We even hiked three hours to see patients in a village that had not had medical care in over four years. In addition to seeing many patients, we visited some local schools and provided the students with deworming medicine and multivitamins. This experience gave us the opportunity to apply what we have learned in the classroom over the last 11 months and to gain experience with patient interaction prior to rotations.



LMU'S STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NAMED REGIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

LMU-DCOM's chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) was named Region X Chapter of the Year at the 52nd Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) on March 23-27, 2016, in Austin, Texas. Region X is composed of the medical schools in Tennessee and Kentucky with SNMA chapters.

During AMEC, Courtney Brooks, OMS Class of 2018, received the Region X Member of the Year Award and was elected Region X director for the upcoming 2016-2017 year. Brooks also serves as president of the LMU-DCOM SNMA chapter. Janice Uduma, OMS Class of 2019, was elected the Region X webmaster.

At the conference Bukky Ajagbe, OMS Class of 2020 presented two workshops and was recognized as the national committee chair for the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and a Future Leadership Project Fellow.

"It has been a very successful year for our chapter," Brooks said. "We worked really hard to create initiatives that embody the mission statement and national initiatives of the SNMA, as well as promote LMU-DCOM and the philosophy of osteopathic medicine."

In November 2015, the LMU-DCOM SNMA hosted the Region X Regional Medical Education Conference (RMEC). The conference included students from LMU-DCOM as well as University of Kentucky School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and University of Tennessee Health Science Center School of Medicine.

The chapter also worked on establishing a pipeline mentoring program with Northwest Middle School in Knoxville, Tennessee. The pipeline program is designed

to help minority students to foster academic and scientific interest at an early age. "The population of minorities in the U.S. has grown, but this growth in diversity is not reflected in the field of medicine," Brooks said. "That is primarily due to the lack of exposure and support for minority students during their primary education," Brooks said.



LMU-DCOM SNMA members (L to R): Bukky Ajagbe, OMS '20, Krystal Valentine, OMS '19, Julian Remouns, OMS '18, Janice Uduma, OMS '19 and Courtney Brooks, OMS '18.

LMU-DCOM SNMA continues to partner with Central American Relief Efforts to organize a medical outreach trips to Honduras. This year 17 first-year osteopathic medical students, supervised by Ava Stanczak, DO, assistant dean of clinical medicine, and Allison Yow, DO, assistant professor of internal medicine, traveled to Pespire, Honduras, to hold a medical clinic and

establish a self-sustaining pharmacy in the underserved community.

The LMU-DCOM chapter also was chosen to redesign SNMA's national publication, *So You Want to Be a Doctor?* The publication serves as a guide to gaining acceptance into both allopathic and osteopathic medical schools across the country and is available to pre-medical students across the nation. LMU-DCOM is the only osteopathic medical school featured in the publication which highlights LMU-DCOM students and their medical school experience.

SNMA is the oldest and largest student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. Established in 1964, the SNMA boasts over 40 years of advocacy and service to underserved communities and medical students.

WHAT I LEARNED DURING MY ROTATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

by Shoshana Maxwell, DO '16

Editor's Note: During the Israel/Palestine Global Health Elective Rotation, students visit the Department of Family Medicine at the Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School of Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. Established in 1974, the medical school represents a novel and experimental approach to medical education in a very challenging environment, under extremely adverse economic and psychological conditions. They also visit the Hadassah Medical Organization, the primary teaching hospital for the Hebrew University. Since 1918, Hadassah has been the leading clinical and educational medical institution in Israel, as well as an international leader in health care and research. More than one million patients receive care at Hadassah each year in over 120 clinics and 70 departments and specialized units. During these visits, the residents and students interact with family physicians, residents, and students. Through readings, lectures, and conversations, they learn about the Israeli health care system and the prominent role of family medicine in this system.



Many children have never seen the Mediterranean Sea, despite living within 10 miles of its beautiful shores. The separation wall, called by Palestinians as the "apartheid" wall, and built by the State of Israel as a "security" wall, was constructed in 2002 and surrounds the majority of the West Bank. The barrier made of fences and cement walls reaching heights of more than 30 feet high and 9 feet wide in some places, sever Palestinians physically, visually and emotionally from land that they once inhabited and what is known today as Israel.

My incredible experience during the Israel-Palestine Global Health Elective with the University of Tennessee-Nashville Family Medicine Program contributed to my perspective and professional development by revealing through raw images and unrehearsed words the psychological impact of military occupation and social injustice. A

common theme among the young and old that we encountered were the sentiments that many people in Palestine today have little hope and no future. The occupation and the surrounding walls have accelerated the loss of identity and self-worth for many



young people, which have led to a path of self and national destruction.

What do you say to the hopeless? What reassurance can you give them for their future after you witness the reality of their existence, which consists of checkpoints, walls, midnight raids, tear gas, random identification verifications, water shortages and

countless other violations against their spirit as they endure humiliation and dehumanization on a consistent and often daily basis? I discovered my answer when we visited the Freedom Theater in the Jenin refugee camp and the Alrowwad Cultural and Theater Center in the Aida camp near Bethlehem.

The Freedom Theater in Jenin provides training in production, writing and acting. Artistic expression through theater served as a form of cultural resistance against the occupation that attempted to destroy the Palestinian culture and

people. One of their events involved a community project of bringing the Sea to the children of Jenin, who had only dreamed of such a sight – they brought the sand, water and sounds of the waves so that young people could experience for themselves the Mediterranean Sea and the feeling of sand between their toes – the little

things which many people often take for granted. Associates of the theater explained that they were waging not only a physical occupation by the state of Israel, but a mental occupation as well when dreams and imaginations are choked and smothered to death. Theater is an escape, an outlet to unify people, allowing them to define themselves, tell their story and begin to hope again in a brighter future. Dr. Abusrour, the general director of the Alrowwad Theater, expressed the goal of teaching children how to be participants, not just recipients - and their results were nothing short of astounding.

In my work with underserved youth, I have encountered many who have never ventured outside of their city, who have never seen the Pacific Ocean despite living within an hour of the coast. While they are not surrounded by physical walls or

visible structures restricting their movement, I realized that they were trapped by psychological walls formed by economic inequality and social injustice. As in Palestine, parents are shamed in front of their children, which weakens their status as role model and protector; many share the feelings of Palestinians who express humiliation and despair by their circumstances.

In medicine, we often try to treat a patient's malady with a pill, lifestyle recommendation or psychological therapy. My experience made me reflect on how we address social injustice, which affects the whole family unit on physical, emotional, social and spiritual levels. The work in the refugee camps of Aida and Jenin were incredible examples of how artistic expression can be used to inspire, motivate and heal youth by giving them the tools to

dream and imagine a better future. I plan to carry with me what I have learned from my experience into the underserved communities that I will be working with who face social injustice and may have psychological walls that need to be overcome.



8th Annual Golden Scalpel Golf Tournament Raises over \$20,000 for Ray E. Stowers Endowed LMU-DCOM Scholarship Fund

The 8th Annual LMU-DCOM Golden Scalpel Golf Tournament was held Friday, July 29, 2016, at Wasioto Winds Golf Course in Pineville, Kentucky. Thanks to the many sponsors and golfers, over \$20,000 was raised to benefit the Ray E. Stowers Annual LMU-DCOM Scholarship. The scholarship supports the mission of LMU-DCOM by providing financial assistance to LMU-DCOM students from the Appalachian region with the greatest financial need.

The following prizes were awarded:

1ST PLACE: Home Federal Bank - Jamie McCune, Bethany McCune, Steve Evans and Joe Stamper

2ND PLACE: Team LMU - Travis Muncy, Maria Harris, Mayur Patel and Robert Genno

3RD PLACE: Middlesboro ARH Hospital - John Snodsmith, Jerry Haynes, Dr. Vincente Kaw and Joe Grossman

PUTTING CONTEST: Steve Evans

LONGEST DRIVE: Dawn Skelcher

CLOSEST TO THE PIN: Scott Erland, Bethany McCune, Paul Long and Travis Muncy



1st Place: Home Federal Bank



MEMORIES FROM HARVARD

by Emmanuel Okenye, OMS Class of 2017

It was just like a dream. I was on a flight bound for Boston. This was an unusual moment. Here I was on an all-expense paid trip to Harvard Medical School to spend a couple of months rotating at their affiliate hospitals. Earlier in the year, I had applied for a Visiting Clerkship Program at Harvard and a few months later I was informed I had been accepted. For the first month, I would be rotating with the Pediatric Surgery team at Boston Children's Hospital, the number one ranked children's hospital in the country. During my second month I would be working with the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation team at Spaulding.

During my time at Harvard, I was mentored by Dr. Craig Lellihei, the chair of pediatric surgery and a man whose father had developed Extra-Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (also known as ECMO). Boston Children's Hospital is a phenomenal place. I saw parents and children from different countries who were seeking medical treatments for a plethora of extremely rare diseases. The main surgery level has about 30 operating rooms. My preceptor encouraged me to feel free to walk into any case I was interested in seeing even if it wasn't a general surgery case. It was like a buffet of cases! There were plastic surgery cases, orthopedic surgery cases, ENT cases, ophthalmology cases, urology cases and many more to pick and choose totaling almost 70 for each given day.

During my second week, I assisted in a kidney transplant case. It was a life changing experience. A few days later I joined my preceptor in an imperforate anus case. This was definitely one of my most intense days at Harvard. We were on this case for over 12 hours. The kid was 10 years old and had been flown in from South America a few days prior. We spent most of the case searching for a fistula we thought was present on the imaging scans. While we were at it, John Rose, MD, a resident at Harvard, took the liberty of quizzing me. He asked "What is the most common cause of fistulas in an adult?" Andrew was such a great teacher. He was genuinely caring and always wanted to explain different surgical approaches to me. But at that moment, I felt it wasn't a fair question because we were



Emmanuel Okenye

doing a pediatric surgery case and I expected questions to be limited to the scope of pediatric surgery. After a few moments of perusing my memory bank, I answered, "cancer, diverticulosis, Crohn's Disease, maybe." He was impressed. He inquired if I was a Harvard medical student. I told him I came up for a visiting clerkship rotation from LMU-DCOM. "And where is that located," he asked. I replied with a smile, "Tennessee!"

In fact, there were many more amazing days at Children's; too many to recall. During my second month at Spaulding there was a noticeable change of pace. I didn't have to get up at 4 a.m. to be present at 5 a.m. rounds. I could actually sleep in until 7:30 a.m. At Spaulding, I worked with the traumatic brain injury team and

the pediatric team. One of my best experiences with the traumatic brain injury team was getting to ride along with some of the patients on aquatic therapy. We took them in groups on a two-hour long boat ride along the Boston Harbor. It was a great way to relax after the drenching month in pediatric surgery at Children's. It was a fantastic experience working with Dr. David Fogelman, a new attending physician who just finished his pediatric PM&R residency at Harvard. We also treated kids with Myotonic Dystrophy (Duchenne and Becker). He taught me how to give Botox shots in the OR and use the EMG for kids with spasticity, all while trying to convince me that pediatric PM&R was the specialty to join.

Basically, my experience at Harvard was a very memorable one, especially when I put it into context that I come from a small remote village in Nigeria. I do not in any way consider myself among the brightest students of my class. I just got really lucky. I am thankful to my rotations coordinator, Anita Bush, for her advice during with the application process. And, in the words of one of my childhood mentors, Chris Ozigagu, "The empowerment of a youth academically marks the genesis of his emancipation and the exodus of his bondage." Every one of our experiences as LMU-DCOM students, including our failures and successes, empower us. Right now all we have left to do is to take on our future head-on!

THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT CANCER

Zach Throckmorton, PhD, assistant professor of anatomy at LMU-DCOM, is at it again. Last year, Throckmorton made international headlines with his help in the discovery of a new species of human relative called *Homo Naledi*. Now, Throckmorton along with an international team of researchers have discovered the most ancient evidence of cancer and bony tumors to be described in the human fossil record. The team led by scientists from the University of the Witwatersrand's Evolutionary Studies Institute and the South African Centre for Excellence in Palaeosciences presented its discovery in two papers published in the South African Journal of Science. Throckmorton served as co-author on the paper titled, "Earliest hominin cancer: 1.7 million-year-old osteosarcoma from Swartkrans Cave, South Africa." The discovery pushes the oldest date for this disease back from recent times into deep prehistory. Though the exact species to which the foot bone belongs is unknown, it is clearly that of a hominin, or bipedal human relative.

While many exciting discoveries in paleontology are made in the field by digging up fossils, Throckmorton said, "This discovery shows that fascinating scientific specimens can be found in museums." According to Throckmorton, the specimen used in his research had already been dug up and was literally just sitting in a museum drawer.

The fossil came from Swartkrans Cave, located approximately 40 kilometers northwest of Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, in an area known as the Cradle of Humankind, and classified in 1999 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Paleoanthropological exploration work by Robert Broom and John Robinson began at Swartkrans in 1948, leading to the discovery of numbers of *Paranthropus robustus* specimens and fossil remains of *Homo ergaster*.



Dr. Zach Throckmorton

Throckmorton said the discovery is incredible because it shows that cancers are not diseases of modern times, but also were suffered by our ancient relatives. While it does appear true that rates of tumors and cancers are accelerating due to environmental toxins, viruses and other tumor-forming factors in the modern (particularly Western) lifestyle, such diseases were present in the past, even without the influence of modern lifestyles.

Throckmorton added, "While we've known other ancient animals, even dinosaurs, suffered from cancer, this is the oldest known case of cancer in a close human relative."

Researchers were able to demonstrate that the partial foot bone of an early hominin relative was affected by an aggressive form of cancer, termed osteosarcoma using Micro-CT imaging. This type of technology is typically used in industrial applications to make sure pieces of machines are working and don't have microscopic defects.

"In living people, physicians determine a tumor is cancerous by studying a biopsy specimen under a microscope or analyzing its DNA," Throckmorton said. "We couldn't do that since the foot bone fossil isn't alive. So we had to use techniques not commonly employed by paleontologists, and that was fun."

The researchers looked at the microscopic internal structure of the specimen and compared those images to images of known bone cancers biopsied from living people.

"When we compared our fossil to images of a specific form of bone cancer called parosteal osteosarcoma, we had a match," Throckmorton said.

Throckmorton concluded, "It's wonderful to have such fun and productive collaborators in South Africa and the United Kingdom. LMU-DCOM is a relatively young medical school, so I hope our reputation will continue to grow as our professors are involved in exciting research and discoveries."



PA CLASS OF 2016 CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT

The Class of 2016 of the Physician Assistant Program at LMU-DCOM celebrated its commencement on Saturday, August 6, 2016, in the Tex Turner Arena on the LMU main campus in Harrogate, Tennessee. Dr. Ryan Stanton, a board certified emergency physician for Central Emergency Physicians in Lexington, Kentucky, delivered the commencement address.

Stanton is a graduate of East Tennessee State University's James H. Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tennessee. He completed his emergency medicine residency at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. Stanton has 25 years of media experience and is the "Doc On Call" for the ABC-36 television station on which he also hosts his own show. He hosts several emergency medicine related podcasts including "Everyday Medicine" and "ACEP Frontline." Stanton has had the honor of precepting LMU physician assistant students for the last eight years.



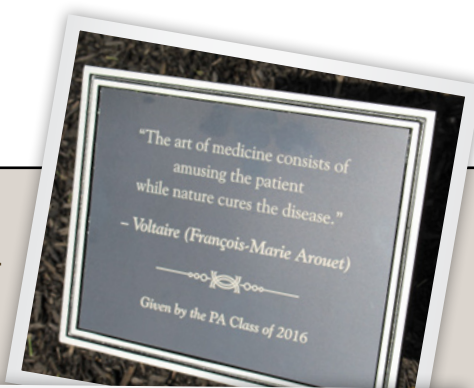
Dr. Ryan Stanton

The physician assistant (PA) profession is one of the fastest growing health professions in the country and has been repeatedly named by *Forbes* magazine as the best master's degree for jobs in the United States. A physician assistant is educated in the medical model. PAs are nationally certified to work side by side with both osteopathic and allopathic physicians in every medical specialty. PAs are licensed to diagnose illness, prescribe medications and assist in surgery. They conduct physical exams, order and interpret

medical tests and provide counseling on preventive health care. A PA has at least six years of education: a four-year undergraduate degree and the master's-level physician assistant degree. PA students complete more than 2,400 hours of clinical rotations prior to graduation.

PA Class of 2016 Dedicate an Evergreen Tree

The LMU-DCOM Physician Assistant Program Class of 2016 held a Tree Dedication Ceremony on August 2, 2016, in conjunction with the PA Class of 2016 graduation week. Through a project initiated by Madison Wilder Gobbell, MMS '16, green chair of the George Stanley Thompson PA Student Society for the Class of 2016, an evergreen tree was planted on the east side of the LMU-DCOM building. The dedication plaque includes a quote from Voltaire: "The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease." The ceremony included comments from LMU President B. James Dawson, LMU Chairman of the Board of Trustees Autry O.V. "Pete" DeBusk, Gobbell, President of the PA Student Society for the Class of 2016 Preston Linebaugh, MMS' 16 and Assistant Dean and PA Program Director Rex Hobbs. In her comments Gobbell expressed hope that the tree would be enjoyed by future students year-round, but particularly during the holiday season, when students might decorate it for Christmas.



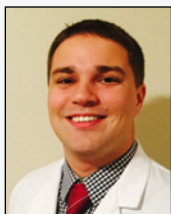
STUDENT ACCOLADES

In February 2016, **Alesia Cloutier, OMS Class of 2019** gave a podium presentation at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada. The title of the presentation was "Decision Trees and Non-Metric Traits: A More Accurate Approach for Sex Estimation of the Skull" by **Alesia Cloutier, Cade Lampley, OMS Class of 2019**, Natalie Langley PhD, D-ABFA and **Dr. Beatrix Dudzik, PhD**, assistant professor of anatomy. The research was funded by the LMU Summer Research Fellowship and proposes a new method of determining sex from the human cranium. The abstract is published in the *Proceedings of the AAFS*, Volume 22 and the research is currently being developed into a manuscript to be submitted to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.



Cloutier

Aaron R. Kuzel, OMS Class of 2019, presented his research at the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 25, 2016. Kuzel presented on his published work, "Calcium and Phosphorous Detection Using Benchtop vs. Hand-Held X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Spectrometers" for which he performed as first author during his tenure at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory. This work was published in the *Journal of Forensic Science* with co-authors from the FBI Trace Evidence Unit, Anthropology Subunit and Chemistry Unit. Kuzel was nominated for the Emerging Forensic Scientist Award, which will be announced in the coming year.



Kuzel

Rachel Wheeler, OMS Class of 2018, and **Aaron Hampton, OMS Class of 2018**, and Natalie Langley, PhD, D-ABFA published research in *Clinical Anatomy*, a publication of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists. The research was done as part of their curricular requirements for the Master of Anatomical Sciences degree. The peer-reviewed journal has an international audience and their article can be found here: Wheeler R, Hampton A, Langley NR. 2015. "The Effects of Body Mass Index and Age on Cross-Sectional Properties of the Femoral Neck." *Clinical Anatomy* 28(8):1048-57.



Hampton



Wheeler

Corey Mayer, OMS Class of 2018, was recently elected 2016-2017 national vice president of the Canadian Osteopathic Medical Student Association (COMSA). COMSA is an organization that spreads awareness of osteopathic medicine in

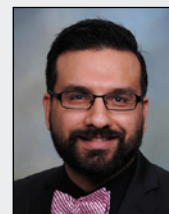


Mayer

Canada, advocates to Canadian medical authorities for the expansion of practice and training rights of osteopathic physicians in Canada, and provides resources and information to prospective and current students. COMSA is also in charge of Canadian pre-osteopathic medicine societies at Canadian universities. More information about COMSA can be found at www.studentdo.ca.

Sammy Knefati, OMS Class of 2018, was the primary author on a recent LMU-DCOM abstract publication with the American Medical Association (AMA). Through the Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology and Dermatology (POD) club, Knefati, along with **Fady Mousa-Ibrahim, OMS Class of 2018**, **Rizwan Ahmed, OMS Class of 2018**, and **Matthew Robinson, OMS Class of 2018**, initiated an academic enhancement pilot program in which first-year and second-year medical students collaborate in the anatomy lab under the guidance of faculty from the pathology and anatomy departments. The group submitted their work to the AMA's "Medical Education Innovation Challenge," and an abstract was recently published alongside medical schools from all over the country including Vanderbilt, Harvard, Brown, Yale, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Baylor and Washington University.

Fady Mousa-Ibrahim, OMS Class of 2018, presented a poster titled, "Interprofessional Care of Chronic Disease" at the 2nd Annual Southeastern Interprofessional Education Conference in June 2016. The ultimate goal of the study was to determine the efficacy of medical students, physician assistant students and nurse practitioner students working together in helping patients manage their chronic illness. Both patients and interprofessional students had a positive experience by participating in the group visit. The patient was able to gain a better insight of their condition and obtain skills to live a better lifestyle. Meanwhile, the students were able to gain a more hands on experience from the encounter and infuse their education with clinical skills from working with their peers.



Mousa-Ibrahim

Juan Querubin, OMS Class of 2018, presented a poster on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction by osteopathic medical students to high school students in a rural and underserved community – 13-15 vs 16-18 year olds. His poster earned the first prize at Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association Conference in Chattanooga. Authors on the poster included: **Juan Querubin, Stephanie Wick, OMS Class of 2018**, **Jeanna Ashman, OMS Class of 2018**, **Johnathan Greene**, AHA Training Center coordinator, **Rick Slaven**, director of the LMU-DCOM Center for Simulation and Training and Howard Teitelbaum, DO, PhD, MPH.



Querubin

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



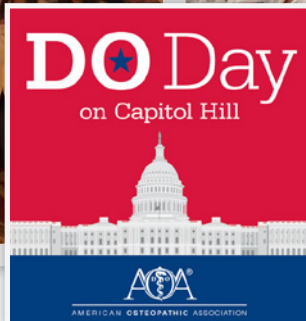
LMU-DCOM Students Raise \$11,843 for Childhood Cancer Research

The Pediatric Medicine Society raised a total of \$11,843 at its annual St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. Twenty-three people including students and faculty shaved their heads for donations in support of childhood cancer research.

"Whether they donated their hair or shaved their entire head, it took such bravery and generosity," said Lexi Dias, OMS Class of 2018 and president of the Pediatric Medicine Club. "We raised over three times what we raised last year, and donations continue to roll in. I have no doubt that number will continue to grow. Thanks to everyone for

helping us support this wonderful cause."

As the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants, the St. Baldrick's Foundation believes that kids are special and deserve to be treated that way. St. Baldrick's funds are granted to some of the most brilliant childhood cancer research experts who are working to find cures and better treatments for all childhood cancers. Kids need treatments as unique as they are – and that starts with funding research just for them. Join us at StBaldricks.org to help support the best cancer treatments for kids.



First and second year osteopathic medical students were excited to represent LMU-DCOM at DO Day on the Hill in April 2016.

Students Launch Monthly Community Walking Program

The LMU-DCOM Community Wellness Program and Student Government Association have partnered with Walk With A Doc to host monthly community-wide walking events one Saturday each month.

The LMU-DCOM Walk with a Doc program is a monthly walking program for adults and kids to promote healthy physical activity for people of all ages and improve the well-being of the community in the tri-state area. Walkers typically meet at the Harrogate City Park and are led by Allison Yow, DO, assistant professor of internal medicine at LMU-DCOM and medical students in the Community Wellness Program in a walk around the park for approximately one hour.



Physician Assistant Students Host Sundown Rundown 5K

The Physician Assistant Class of 2017 hosted its first Sundown Rundown 5K Race on Friday, June 17. The Sundown Rundown 5K, formerly known as the PA Light the Night 5K, benefited Servolution Health Services in Speedwell, Tennessee. Runners took on a 3.1 mile course while donning glow in the dark necklaces and bracelets. A total of \$16,315 was raised through the event.

Servolution Health Services is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation that began as a response to the tremendous need for primary, dental and mental health care for the underserved within the region. Medical professionals including physicians, dentists, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, mental health professionals, optometrists, pharmacists, physical therapists, chiropractors, dental assistants and dental hygienists volunteer at the clinic to provide services to the community.



FACULTY & STAFF ACCOLADES

Adam Kolatorowicz, PhD, assistant professor of anatomy, attended the 85th annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Atlanta, Georgia, April 13-16, 2016. At the event he gave two poster presentations. The first presentation on which he was sole author, was titled "Comparing hypothetical patterns of morphological integration in modern human crania," and examined integration of the human skull based on developmental origins, functional demands and special sensation. The findings can be used in clinical applications for surgical treatment of craniofacial-related disorders and injuries as well as evaluating models of human evolution. His second presentation was titled "Observer error in digitizing endobasicranial landmarks." This presentation was co-authored with Alexis R. Dzubak from The Ohio State University Department of Anthropology and Dr. Timothy P. Gocha from Texas State University Forensic Anthropology Center. The project looked at the repeatability, precision and validity of anthropometric landmarks of the endocranium. This investigation showed that digitized landmarks collected from the endobasicranium by multiple observers may be combined into a single data set for further analyses and hypothesis testing without any influence of interobserver error. Also this spring, Kolatorowicz has begun volunteering as a mentor in the tnAchieves program, a part of Tennessee Promise, through which he is helping six Cumberland Gap High School students transition into college.



Kolatorowicz

Michael Wieting, DO, MEd, FACOCPMR-D., FAAPMR, senior associate dean, is the current chair of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, which is the certifying body of the AOA. Wieting also continues to serve on its Executive Committee. He has been elected vice president of the Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination.



Wieting

Wieting also has been elected to the Board of Directors and the position of vice president of the International Society for Communication Science and Medicine. The organization is composed of multidisciplinary scholars from around the world and has as its mission to improve health care through better communication, emphasizing safety and quality. Wieting was brought into the organization based on his background and experience with patient safety, communication issues impacting care of patients with neurological and neuromuscular disorders, and medical education and outcomes assessment. Wieting participated in a work group made up of 30 people from 10 academic disciplines and nine countries in May 2016 in Switzerland. The work group looked at Interdisciplinary Horizons for Health Care Quality and Patient Safety and how communication impacts patient safety.

Wieting is completing his term of service on the Education Committee of the Federation of State Medical Boards and will begin a term on the Federation's Ethics and Professionalism Committee next year. Wieting, along with three others, was a presenter at a panel on "Strategies for Success in Obtaining a PM&R Residency" at the National Student Conference of the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (AOCPMR). Wieting, along with **Martin Herrera, OMS Class of 2018** and **James Dolbow, MS Class of 2016**, authored a poster presented in the AOCPMR poster competition at the ACOPMR Mid-Year Meeting and Scientific Seminar entitled "Underwater Treadmill Training: An Effective and Safe Gait Restoration Modality for the Spinal Cord Injured Population."



Leo

Jonathan Leo, PhD, professor of anatomy and former dean of students for LMU-DCOM, was promoted to vice president for student and enrollment services.

Summer Martin, director of marketing and public relations for medical programs attended the Association of American Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine annual conference and returned with three Excellence in Communication awards. The university was recognized for second place in the category of best video. Also, a billboard campaign featuring LMU-DCOM alumni that ran in 2015, was awarded third place for best advertising, and the LMU-DCOM Match Day Campaign on Facebook was awarded an honorable mention for best use of social media.



Martin

Ray E. Stowers, DO, FACOFP dist., dean emeritus, was honored with the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award. Stowers received the award at the ACOFP's 53rd Annual Convention and Scientific Seminars in April 2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Stowers



Zieren

Dr. Jan Zieren, DO, FCOFP *dist.*, associate professor of family medicine, was honored with the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF) 2016 Outstanding Female Leader Award. Zieren received the award at the ACOF's 53rd Annual Convention and Scientific Seminars in April 2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She also has been elected secretary of the Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination.

Welcome New Faculty

Melissa Day, PA-C, Assistant Professor of PA Studies
(423.869.6344 | melissa.day@LMU.net.edu)

Anita Airee, PharmD, BCPS, Associate Professor of Pharmacology (423.869.7757 | anita.airee@LMU.net.edu)

Welcome New Staff

Sally Adams, Student Services Coordinator
(423.869.6290 | sally.adams@LMU.net.edu)

Caleb Arnold, Student Activities Coordinator
(423.869.6575 | dennis.arnold@LMU.net.edu)

Rebecca Barnett, Executive Assistant to the Dean
(423.869.7082 | rebecca.barnett@LMU.net.edu)

Barbara Garman, Administrative Assistant for the Dean of Students/Office of Admissions and Student Services
(423.869.7090 | barbara.garman@LMU.net.edu)

Dr. Justina Hyfantis, Director of Academic Support
(423.869.6563 | justina.hyfantis@LMU.net.edu)

Jeffrey LeBoeuf, Chief GME/Rotations Officer
(423.869.7427 | jeffrey.leboeuf@LMU.net.edu)

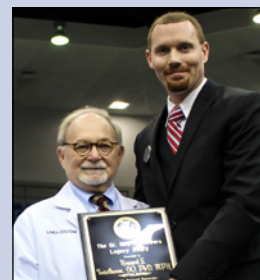
Wendy Moyers, Rotations Coordinator
(423.869.6424 | wendy.moyers@LMU.net.edu)

Jonah Scent, Financial Aid Counselor
(423.869.7096 | jonah.scent@LMU.net.edu)

Faculty and Staff Honored at Graduation Awards Ceremony

Several faculty and staff were honored at the LMU-DCOM annual awards ceremony held prior to the Class of 2016 graduation. **Jonathan Leo, PhD**, vice president for student and enrollment services, received the Bob Jackson Service Award. The LMU-DCOM inaugural class established the Bob Jackson Service Award to recognize those who demonstrate qualities such as a significant contribution to public service, giving of themselves regardless of compensation, providing services without expectation of remuneration, going above and beyond a job description and giving a great service to LMU-DCOM.

The Ray E. Stowers Legacy Award was given to **Howard S. Teitelbaum, DO, PhD, MPH**. The award recognizes academic teaching excellence and a recipient who has dedicated themselves to serving the underserved of rural Appalachia and "Continuing the Legacy" of the institution.



This year, the staff recognition award was named as a life-long memorial to John Bennett (Jody) Caldwell, Jr. In 2006, Caldwell joined LMU-DCOM as the admissions coordinator in preparation for the inaugural class. He later transitioned into the permanent role of director of rotations. From the beginning, Caldwell impacted the



lives and careers of countless students and made the workplace a much better home away from home. Caldwell passed away in October 2015. Receiving the John Bennett (Jody) Caldwell, Jr., Staff Recognition Award for 2016 was **Lisa Shelburne**, LMU-DCOM career services coordinator.

Each year the LMU-DCOM Alumni Association choose an honorary member award. This year, two members were chosen, **Leo** and **Caldwell**. Caldwell's family accepted the award on his behalf.

Lauren Blackwell, DO '11, and her husband Adam welcomed son Samuel Taylor Blackwell on May 8, 2016. Samuel weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Brent Boettcher, DO '11, is completing his adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellowship on June 30, 2016, and will be staying on as staff at the Medical College of Wisconsin following his fellowship graduation. Boettcher completed his anesthesiology residency also at the Medical College of Wisconsin and is board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology.

Sara Boyd, DO '14, and colleagues from the Department of Radiology at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Michigan authored "CT Imaging of Large Bowel Wall Thickening" for the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology*, April 1, 2016. Additional authors include Julia D. Cameron-Morrison, DO, Julia J. Hobson, DO, and Rocky Saenz, DO.



Dr. Sara Boyd

Meredith Disharoon, DO '12, co-authored "At the Viewbox: Pancreatic Divisum" in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology* Volume 5, Issue 2 with Dale H. Lee, DO, and the "Case in Point" for the American College of Radiology for April 18, 2016, with Alberto Farah, MD.

Cassandra Edwards, DO '12, married David White on May 30, 2015, in Madison, Wisconsin. **Kirsten Pomeroy, DO '12**, and **Andi Wenner, DO '12**, were bridesmaids. In August 2015 Edwards began her outpatient practice with Mercy Clinic in Saint Louis, Missouri, following the completion of her internal medicine residency at Mercy Hospital in Saint Louis.



Ian and **Heather Gilliam, DO '12**, welcomed Violet on March 11, 2016 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Sullivan Knox (pictured) is excited to announce the arrival of his sister, Violet Finley Gilliam.



Benjamin Goins, DO '11, was first author on "Total Effective Radiation Dose Attributable to Medical Imaging in Patients With Acute Chest Pain: A Single-Center Comparison Study Between Dual-Source Coronary CT Angiography and Usual Care" in the *Archives of Cardiovascular Imaging*, August 2015.



Dr. Benjamin Goins



Dr. Clay Guinn

Clay Guinn, DO '14, presented "A rare cause of dorsoradial wrist pain" at the American Medical Science for Sports Medicine conference in Dallas, Texas, in April 2016. In September 2016 he presented "Hallucinations from oral baclofen in patient with intrathecal pump" at the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Robert Heilig, DO '15, and **Diana Heilig, DO '16**, welcomed daughter Amelia Lynn Heilig on February 25, 2016. Amelia was 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and 19.5 inches long.



Alumni Notes Alumni Notes Alumni Notes

Madison Hoenig, MMS '13, and Clint Vertin were married October 17, 2015. They live in Bozeman, Montana, where she works as a hospitalist.

Lucie Mitchell, DO '14, has been accepted into the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) program. The TIPS program is a policy-based program that provides an understanding of current health care policy issues while also providing leadership opportunities. Participants gain experience in writing policy briefs and white papers, oral testimony, media training and more. Mitchell also has been selected as a resident advisor to the AOA Board of Trustees. The non-voting position allows Mitchell to attend all AOA Board of Trustees meetings and provide advice to the Board from a resident's perspective.



Dr. Lucie Mitchell

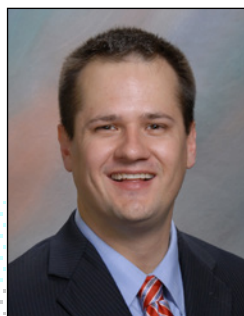
Mitchell Oetken, DO '13, and his wife Ashley welcomed their first child, Adalea Tricia Dianne Oetken, on April 17, 2016.

Steven Rives, DO '13, has been selected Co-Chief Internal Medicine Resident at Unity Health-WCMC-Mayo Clinic Care Network Internal Medicine Residency Program in Searcy, Arkansas.

Brenton Rogers, DO '13, and **Theodore Richards, DO '14**, were contributing authors on "Postpartum Vertebral Artery Dissection" published in *BMJ Case Reports*. Rogers and Richards are internal medicine residents at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth, Mississippi. Other authors were Amanda Finley, DO, an NSU-COM clinical professor and lead author, and Heather Vogel, DO, another resident there.



Dr. Brenton Rogers



Dr. Theodore Richards

Melanie (McClain) Smith, DO '12, submitted an abstract and presented a poster at the Association of Pediatrics Program Directors conference in New Orleans on April 1, 2016. The title of the abstract and poster was "Watcher Initiative Decreases UNSAFE Transfers to a Higher Level of Care." Smith won both a hospital system-wide award (Performance Excellence Award, Methodist Hospital System, February 2016) in Memphis, as well as the QI award at the conference in New Orleans (Quality Improvement Project Award, Association of Pediatric Program Directors, April 2016) for the project. Smith finished her chief resident year and started at a private practice pediatrics outpatient clinic in Memphis in July 2016.



Dr. Melanie Smith



Dr. Amanda Vanlandingham

Amanda Vanlandingham, DO '11, and Jason Suhy were married on May 28, 2016. Vanlandingham is in her final year of pulmonary/critical care fellowship at East Tennessee State University.

*Have you recently gotten married or had a baby?
Let us know to receive a special gift from the LMU-DCOM Office of Alumni Services.*



Submissions for the Alumni Notes should be emailed to Amy Drittler at amy.drittler@LMUnet.edu.

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