

# COMmunity LINC

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DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Summer Martin  
Director of Marketing and  
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## A Message from the Interim Dean

As we gather to enjoy the holiday season, it occurs to me that our reasons for celebration are almost too numerous to mention.

In September, we formally welcomed the OMS Class of 2019 into their study of medicine at their White Coat Ceremony. With a total enrollment of 908 students, we continue to have the largest medical school enrollment in the state of Tennessee.

At the annual American Osteopathic Association OMED Convention, we had the chance to catch up with several students and alumni. Dr. John Williamson, associate professor and chair of OB/GYN at LMU-DCOM, was honored during OMED with the Northrup Educator of the Year, a national award developed by the Student Osteopathic Medical Association to honor a professor who has gone above and beyond their call of duty to improve students' educational experiences.

Several faculty members also continue to gain media coverage for their efforts. In October, Dr. Zach Throckmorton, assistant professor of anatomy made international headlines with his work on the description and analysis of a new species of human ancestor, *Homo naledi*, discovered in the Rising Star cave in South Africa. The discovery made the cover of National Geographic and the story hit every major news outlet around the world. (See more on page 4.)

Going above and beyond has become a trend as our students continue to serve the community through Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinics, CPR instruction to area high schools and fundraising for a variety of worthy causes. Each year, I am inspired by the passion that students bring with them to medical school for the profession and for this community.

While we have had much to celebrate this year, our hearts have also grieved in the loss of Jody Caldwell, director of rotations, who was near and dear to all of us at LMU-DCOM and beyond. Jody was an integral part of the LMU-DCOM family, and much loved by his coworkers and by the students he served. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family, and we thank the staff members who have carried on with the rotations scheduling and work in his absence. He will be greatly missed.

With 2015 coming to an end, we have much to look forward to in the upcoming year. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as the interim dean for LMU-DCOM over the last year, and I am thankful to all faculty and staff for your support and hard work.

In January 2016, we will welcome a new dean, Dr. Brian Kessler. He has a passion for osteopathic medicine and rural communities, and I encourage you to welcome him to our community and embrace his vision for the future of LMU-DCOM. ✚



**J. Michael Wieting, DO, MEd**  
Interim Dean, LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine

# Kessler Tapped as New Dean of LMU-DCOM

Brian Kessler, DO, has been selected to become the second dean of LMU-DCOM effective January 1, 2016.

Kessler is currently the associate dean for clinical affairs at the Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (CUSOM) in Buies Creek, North Carolina. A board-certified family physician, he has a vast knowledge of primary care medicine and health policy and appreciates the vital role primary care physicians have in training the next generation of osteopathic physicians.

"Following an exhaustive, national search I am confident we have found the right person to lead the LMU-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine as it continues to mature and grow. Dr. Brian Kessler brings a fresh perspective on many levels, yet is as committed to the ideals and principles of osteopathic medicine as our founding administration," LMU President B. James Dawson said. "He has a passion for osteopathic medicine and is committed to serving rural communities, two things that most of our faculty and students can really identify with."

"I am humbled and delighted to have been selected to be a part of the LMU family. LMU-DCOM has been led by a very accomplished leader in Dr. Ray Stowers and it is well positioned for the future," Kessler said. "This is a tremendous opportunity to be part of an institution with a solid foundation and a firm commitment to high academic standards. LMU is filled with extraordinary educators, gifted leaders and accomplished students ready to learn. It is my sincere hope to bring strong leadership and productive strategic initiatives."




*Brian Kessler, DO*

In his current role, Kessler oversees the Office of Clinical Affairs and clinical education for students. He is an integral part of the development of new osteopathic training programs, research and community outreach. Like LMU-DCOM, CUSOM is located in a rural community with a mission to serve. He was among the founding administration at CUSOM, arriving in 2011. The inaugural class matriculated in 2013. A practitioner at heart, Kessler continues to see patients at the Campbell University Health Center.

Kessler is a graduate of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania. He is the former chief academic officer at Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital. Kessler has served in family practice since 2001.

An American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Health Policy Fellow, Kessler is also a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). He is on the Board of Governors for the ACOFP and is a member of the AOA, the North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association, the North Carolina Society of ACOFP and the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, and is past chair of the AOA Council on Postdoctoral Training. He currently serves as an executive board member of the North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association and holds licenses to practice medicine in North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Kessler is married to Dr. Ioanna Kessler, also an accomplished osteopathic family physician. The couple has three children, Katie, Ethan and Evan. 



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# Dr. Throckmorton Part of International Workshop on Discovery of New Human Species

## HOW AN LMU-DCOM PROFESSOR GOT INVOLVED

In January 2014, Lee Berger, a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, put out a call on social media looking for young scientists, early in their careers, to participate in a workshop where they would be part of the description, analysis and first work on exciting new fossil material. Having followed the buzz on social media, Zach Throckmorton, PhD, assistant professor of anatomy at LMU-DCOM, knew something big was about to happen, but wasn't exactly sure what.

Eager to learn more, Throckmorton applied for the workshop along with 300 other scientists from around the world. Approximately 25 junior scientists were selected for the initial workshop, including Throckmorton. Now, more than 50 experienced scientists and early-career researchers are working together on this project.

When Throckmorton presented the idea to LMU-DCOM's founding dean Dr. Ray Stowers, he received overwhelming support from LMU-DCOM to travel to Africa and join the expedition.

During the six-week workshop, junior scientists were assigned to work in different groups based on expertise. Throckmorton was assigned to work on the feet and ankles due to his background as a physical anthropologist specializing in paleoanthropology, and his experience researching soft tissue as well as foot and ankle variation.

"I originally became interested in feet primarily because human feet are so different from the feet of other animals, and so much of what makes us different as humans is the fact that we are bipeds and walk on only two feet," said Throckmorton. "Also, my father is a podiatrist, which gave me someone I could call at any time of the day that had an answer for me immediately."

Each day of the workshop started early and ended late.

Afterwards the scientists would gather together at a local establishment for a South African barbecue called "braai" to discuss the work that day.

"It became clear after a few days that we had an entire new species of the genus 'Homo,'" said Throckmorton. "You don't find this every day. These are amongst our closest relatives. They have the most human-looking foot in the fossil record aside from Neanderthals."



*Dr. Throckmorton with fellow researchers in South Africa. (Left to right): Bernhard Zipfel, Kimberly Congdon, William E. H. Harcourt-Smith and Zach Throckmorton*

Besides shedding light on the origins and diversity of our genus, the new species, *Homo naledi*, appears to have intentionally deposited bodies of its dead in a remote cave chamber, a behavior previously thought limited to humans.

The finds were described in a paper entitled, "*Homo naledi*, a new species of the genus *Homo* from the Dinaledi Chamber, South Africa"

published on September 10, 2015, in eLife, an open access research journal in the life sciences and biomedicine fields.

## A BLEND OF PRIMITIVE AND HUMAN

Consisting of more than 1,550 numbered fossil elements, the discovery is the single largest fossil hominin find yet made on the continent of Africa. The initial discovery was made in 2013 in a cave known as Rising Star in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, South Africa, by Wits University scientists and volunteer cavers. The fossils, which have yet to be dated, lay in a chamber about 90 meters (some 100 yards) from the cave entrance, accessible only through a chute so narrow that a special team of very slender individuals was needed to retrieve them. So far, the team has recovered parts of at least 15 individuals of the same species, a small fraction of the fossils believed to remain in the chamber.

*Homo naledi* was named after the Rising Star cave — "naledi" means "star" in Sesotho, a local South African



language. “Overall, *Homo naledi* looks like one of the most primitive members of our genus, but it also has some surprisingly human-like features, enough to warrant placing it in the genus *Homo*,” said John Hawks of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, U.S., a senior author on the paper describing the new species. “*Homo naledi* had a tiny brain, about the size of an average orange (about 500 cubic centimeters), perched atop a very slender body.” The research shows that on average *Homo naledi* stood approximately 1.5 meters (about 5 feet) tall and weighed about 45 kilograms (almost 100 pounds).

*Homo naledi*’s teeth are described as similar to those of the earliest-known members of our genus, such as *Homo habilis*, as are most features of the skull. The shoulders, however, are more similar to those of apes. This contrasts with the feet of *Homo naledi*, which are virtually indistinguishable from those of modern humans. Its feet, combined with its long legs, suggest that the species was well-suited for long-distance walking.

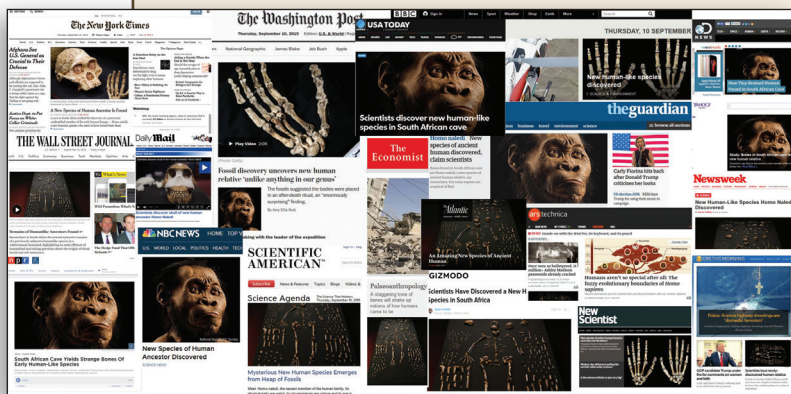


*Homo naledi*’s reconstructed foot.

Throckmorton, shared some of the observations made about *Homo naledi*’s walk. He said, “We know they walked a little different than humans because the muscle markings are a little bit different than humans. They might have shifted their pelvis a little differently than us and may have swung their shoulders or arms a little different.”

Throckmorton shared that the group was very lucky to have reconstructed the whole foot and added that assuming they don’t find anything else, the amount of material they have collected will provide decades of continuing work.

## Homo Naledi Makes Headlines Around the Globe



On September 10, 2015, news of the discovery hit the press and *Homo naledi* was featured on the cover of every major news outlet worldwide.

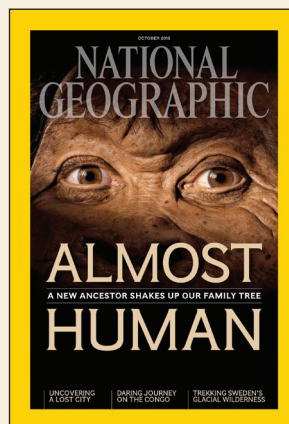
“When I first saw the call on social media to participate, I knew something big was about to happen, but I had no idea I would be a part of a discovery of this scale,” Throckmorton said.

Throckmorton has since been the co-lead author on a second paper titled “The foot of *Homo naledi*” published October 6, 2015, in *Nature Communications* ([www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/151006/ncomms9432/full/ncomms9432.html](http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/151006/ncomms9432/full/ncomms9432.html)). The publication goes into more depth on the anatomy of the foot, described in the paper as “predominantly modern human-like,” which indicates a foot well-adapted for bipedalism or walking on two feet.

Throckmorton has also been busy scheduling speaking engagements at universities around the U.S. on *Homo naledi* and his involvement in the discovery.

Throckmorton summed up the experience and said, “It was wonderful to be part of such a collaborative scientific endeavor and be surrounded by people from all over the world who are also interested in human anatomy and evolution, but are experts in different areas of the body. Knowing this all began with a call for scientists through social media, shows that everything we do is getting more and more interconnected.”

The discovery was the cover story of the October issue of *National Geographic* magazine (<http://natgeo.org/naledi>) and in a NOVA/National Geographic Special titled “Dawn of Humanity” that premiered on PBS and is available to watch online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/evolution/dawn-of-humanity.html>.





# Physician Assistant Students Bring Medical Care to Peru

*Editor's Note: In April 2015, several classmates from the Physician Assistant Program chose to spend their spring break in Pachacutec, Peru, on a medical mission trip. Below is an account from three students from the PA Class of 2016 including Reena Patel, Andrew Sorah and Kristin Bounds, who shared their experiences.*

"We thought we were going there just to set up a medical clinic, pass out some medications and get some health care experience. Little did we know, we were in for so much more," said Reena Patel, PA Class of 2016.

Upon arrival they were greeted by Pastor Felipe of La Iglesia de Pachacutec who welcomed them to the area. They set up a free medical clinic at his church each day. Once the word spread about the clinic, people began lining up outside the door, sometimes waiting several hours to be seen. From morning to night they saw patients until every person in line had been seen. Within the clinic the team provided general medical care, optometry, dentistry and operated a pharmacy.

"As much as I would like to say that we were a blessing to them, more so, they were a blessing to us," Andrew Sorah, PA Class of 2016, said. "Their gratitude for basic health care, a listening ear or a friend to hug was extremely humbling."

The students also addressed spiritual needs by praying with people and sharing about God. After the lines disappeared and medical needs had been met, the work didn't stop. The students hosted Bible studies each night for various age groups.

"We all came together to help those in need of medical, emotional and spiritual guidance," Patel said.

The students gave medical care to approximately 1,000 Peruvians over the course of the trip.



*Reena Patel (left) seeing a patient in the clinic*





The trip did come with a few struggles. Many team members got sick during the week and after they left. According to Kristin Bounds, PA Class of 2016, "Even with the majority of the Peru team getting sick, it did not stop what God was doing."

The trip impacted the mission team as much as those who were served.

Bounds added, "I learned that no matter if we were the ones doing the evangelizing, running an event, helping in one of the clinics, or just trying to help others throughout the day, we still served God in one way or another and were a witness in some way to those around us."

The students who participated in the trip were inspired. When asked to sum up what they learned from their experience, Sorah said, "Our time there motivated and encouraged me to continue working towards providing health care to those around the world that do not have access to medicine."

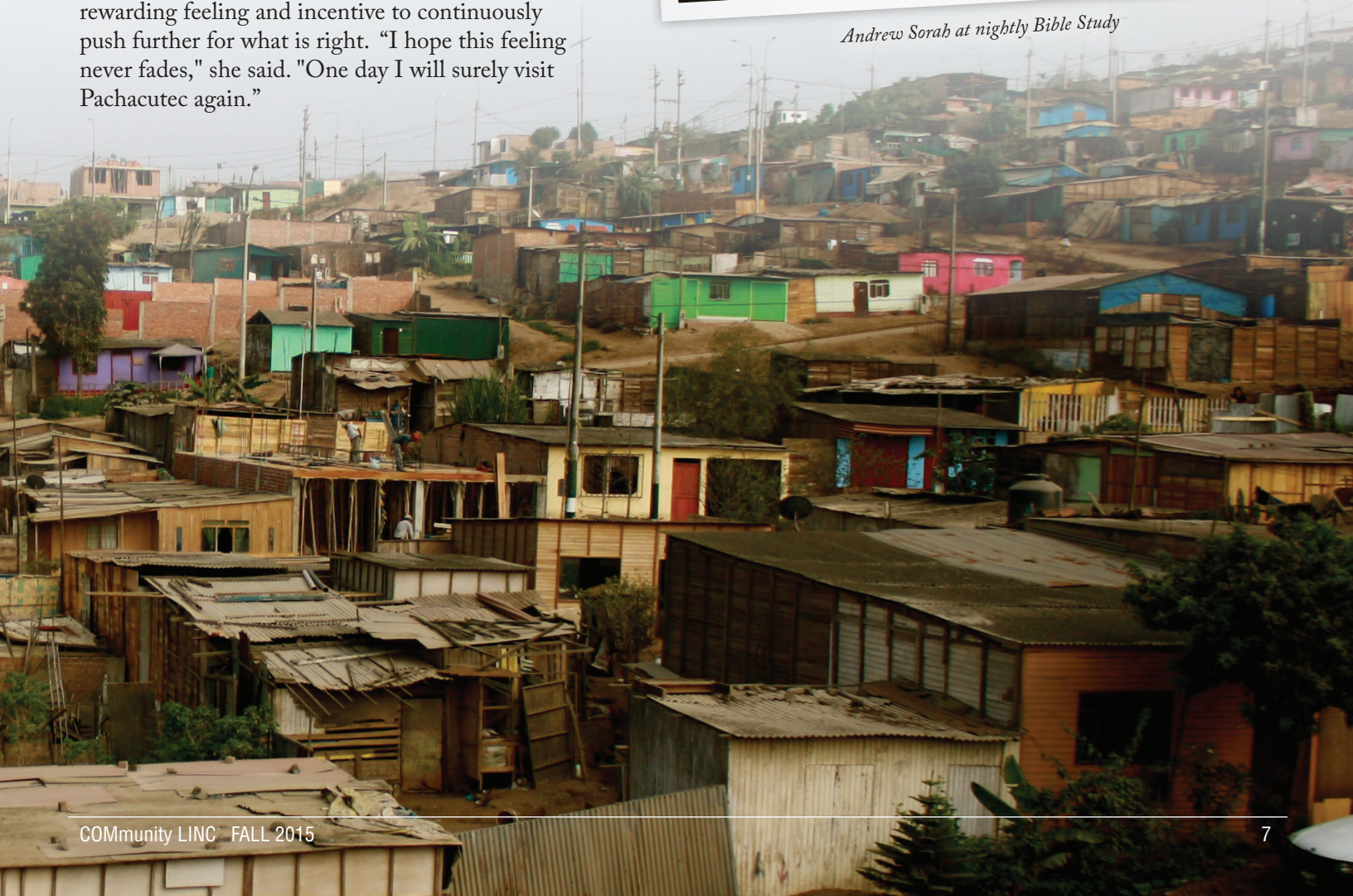
Helping those less fortunate left Patel with a rewarding feeling and incentive to continuously push further for what is right. "I hope this feeling never fades," she said. "One day I will surely visit Pachacutec again."



*The Physician Assistant Team and Friends*



*Andrew Sorah at nightly Bible Study*





## LMU and Gannan Medical University Relationship

In 2013, University President Dr. B. James Dawson, Dr. Clayton Hess, provost and vice president for academic affairs and Lily (Ke) Collins, coordinator of international student recruitment and advisement took a trip to China to meet with Gannan Medical University (GMU). LMU and GMU have worked together to create a partnership between the institutions. An LMU graduate is currently teaching English at the University for one year, and two LMU-DCOM students just finished their first international rotation through GMU at the University hospital. With a population of nine million, Ganzhou City, located in southern China, is the second largest city in the Jiangxi Province. Founded in 1941, Gannan Medical University is the only medical university in the area and has 17,000 students and 2,400 university hospital staff.

# On Rotation in Ganzhou, China

by Branden Moore

Recently I had the opportunity to visit China through LMU-DCOM's International Scholars program. Joining us on our trip was Dr. Jonathan Leo, assistant provost for medical programs and Ke "Lily" Collins, coordinator of international recruitment and advisement. The international scholars program was established as a means to facilitate a relationship with Gannan Medical University in Ganzhou, China, located in the Jiangxi province. The program lasted one month and allowed me and another student, Razik Oumeddour, OMS Class of 2016, to experience China's rural health care and medical education system. However, the trip wasn't all work. We also had the chance

to tour Beijing and Shanghai.

We flew into Beijing where we were immediately swept into a three-day city-wide tour. We spent our time visiting the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, the Ming Dynasty Tombs and the Bird's Nest (the site of the 2008 Olympics). We kept ourselves so busy we hardly had enough time to focus on our jetlag. I don't have enough words to express the magnificence of the Great Wall. It was amazing to see the scores of people, both local and foreigners, that come every day to experience this majestic structure. The towers are located so far apart that I don't think I would have made it if it weren't for the rush of adrenaline I had. At one point after

reaching the first tower I looked back and was in awe of the ocean of faces. Next we flew to Ganzhou.

Once we arrived in Ganzhou (a rural city with a meager population of around eight million) we were greeted by doctors and professors. The most appropriate way to welcome a guest in China, we were told, was with food, and so the week-long festivities began. The first night we arrived we were led to a round dinner table, unlike any table I had seen before, made of wood and decorated with red and gold paint with a large electronically guided turntable. In the center was a carefully crafted landscape of a traditional Chinese garden complete with a miniature fountain. The table was large enough to easily seat the 12 people at

*"I'm appreciative of this life-changing experience and hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the culture, food, and hospitality that China has to offer."*

- Branden Moore, OMS Class of 2016





dinner and the nearly 20 dishes of food that were served.

Soon our time at the hospital began and the beds and hallways were full with patients waiting to be seen. The doctors were extremely knowledgeable and showed a great amount of dedication both to their discipline and their patients.

The hospital has around 2,200 beds and hosts the outpatient offices of each of the separate specialties. We were able to rotate on several different specialties including nephrology, cardiology, pediatric surgery, urology, dermatology, and hematology and oncology, and see a variety of pathology ranging from operable kidney stones to acute myeloid leukemia to a child with Sturge-Weber syndrome. The doctors were appreciative of our interest and knowledge and in return helped us to sharpen our procedural skills by training us on lumbar punctures, bone marrow biopsies and surgical suturing techniques.

In the evenings we were able to meet and make friends with the other medical students. Each night they would ask us questions about American culture while we ate at one of their favorite restaurants. They helped us with the language and showed us around the city. Throughout our visit, the GMU medical students took us to places such as Tongtianyan Park, a mountainous hiking trail with grottoes and many different gazebos in traditional Chinese style, nestled on top of peaks, and Yang Xian Ling, a tall mountain that has a great view of the new and old city of Ganzhou.

As our time in Ganzhou came to a close, we set out on one last adventure in Shanghai. The bustling city nightlife was a complete juxtaposition to the quiet nights in Ganzhou. While in Shanghai we visited the tourist districts of Nanjing Road where we bartered with locals for trinkets and souvenirs and the Pudong district, which housed the best views of the famous Oriental Pearl Tower and the Shanghai Tower, a megalithic structure that stands a massive 2,073 feet tall. After three short days in Shanghai, we were on our way back to the States.

To summarize, it was a month-long marathon from the magnificence of the Great Wall to the crowds and flashing neon lights of Shanghai. It's difficult to believe my time there ended so quickly. Although it's over, I was able to make many great memories and lasting friendships. In fact, one of the dermatologists and I still discuss the interesting cases that she sees. I'm appreciative of this life-changing experience and hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the culture, food and hospitality that China has to offer. I'm already planning my next trip.



Outside of Gannan Medical University



Visiting the Great Wall of China



Razik Oumeddour and I with attending doctors and a few nurses at Gannan Medical University



# LMU-DCOM JOINS CONSORTIUM TO IMPROVE REGION'S HEALTH CARE

LMU-DCOM is one of three regional osteopathic medical schools that has committed to combine their efforts in a consortium aimed at improving health care access for medically underserved populations in central Appalachia. Michael Wieting, DO, LMU-DCOM interim dean, joined officials from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine in signing a memorandum of understanding, affirming the three schools as founding members of the Central Appalachian Consortium of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (CACCOTM).



The deans of each college signing a memorandum of understanding, affirming the three schools as founding members of the Central Appalachian Consortium of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (CACCOTM)

LMU President B. James Dawson, EdD, applauded the agreement. "Our mission is to serve the Appalachian region, and this agreement allows us to continue our efforts to provide health care for a dramatically underserved population. It is our belief that this consortium will increase our efficiencies and expand our ability to respond to the needs of this region. We continue to keep ever before us the goal of preparing individuals who will provide exemplary health care and become leaders in the communities they serve," Dawson said.

All three member colleges are based in parts of central Appalachia with high levels of medically underserved communities

and significant health professional shortages, and all make it part of their mission to take some responsibility for the health of their home areas. Through involvement in CACCOTM, they hope to coordinate their efforts to supply more well-trained health professionals ready to work in underserved areas.

The MOU lays out a plan for an initial collaborative effort in which researchers from the three colleges will assess the region's health care workforce. They will produce a publication summarizing its findings, and provide tools and methods schools can use to create new, region-specific strategies for improving physician workforce preparation. The schools will be looking at factors they can control, such as admissions policies and curriculum, and will focus on activities that they can do better together than alone.

Funding for the initial research and consortium development will come from the historic \$105 million gift made to the Heritage College in 2011 by the Ohio-based Osteopathic Heritage Foundation. Of that award, \$1.7 million has been directed to this initiative.

Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH, president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, said the new group "will help the osteopathic medical community explore the many possibilities for

innovation focused on primary care research and medical education. The Consortium also has the potential to foster a strong culture of collaboration, empowering

colleges of osteopathic medicine to more effectively synergize resources, share research-based innovations and ultimately improve patient outcomes in the areas of primary care."

CACCOTM has the support and engagement of federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; directors of the Office of Rural Health Policy, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Office of Planning and Evaluation, multiple Rural Health Research Centers and the staff of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Marcia Brand, who during her 2009-2015 service as deputy director of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) was a strong supporter of the Consortium, said the project has great potential for positive change.

*"Our mission is to serve the Appalachian region, and this agreement allows us to continue our efforts to provide health care for a dramatically underserved population."*

*-LMU President B. James Dawson, EdD*



## Students Teach CPR to Area High Schools

The LMU-DCOM Community CPR Initiative has been busy educating area students in the life saving lessons of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Since October 2015, over 250 area students have been trained and certified in CPR at Claiborne and Cumberland Gap high schools. The program is sponsored by LMU-DCOM's Student Government Association and is jointly supported by LMU-DCOM's Department of Preventive and Community Medicine, LMU-DCOM Center for Simulation and Training and LMU's American Heart Association (AHA) Training Center.

Program founder and director **Juan Querubin**, OMS Class of 2018, established the program with support from **Dr. Howard Teitelbaum**, professor, preventative medicine/chair, preventative and community medicine, **Jonathan Greene**, AHA training center coordinator, **Rick Slaven**, director of the Center for Simulation and Training and **Stephanie Wick**, OMS Class of 2018 and **Eden Hamayoun**, OMS Class of 2018.

The program hopes to improve cardiac arrest survival rates in the surrounding community by equipping laypersons with

the capacity to properly respond and effectively deliver CPR until help arrives,

which can take up to 30 minutes in some areas of this rural community. Thirty-three second-year medical students were trained and certified as AHA Basic Life Support (BLS) instructors through the program. A memorandum of understanding has been established with the Claiborne County School District, and more schools are signing up for the opportunity to collaborate with LMU-DCOM students for CPR education. The Claiborne County School District has commended LMU-DCOM's medical students for their service to the community, and for providing opportunities for local students to learn about osteopathic medicine and higher education. The program's goal is to educate 500-1,000 middle school, high school and area residents by May 2016. 🏥



## Bell County Sixth Graders Learn About the Heart

OMS Class of 2019 students Jennifer Caprez, Garrett Morgan, Cade Lampley and Laura Martin spent an afternoon teaching Bell County sixth graders about the heart and circulatory system. The kids loved learning about the anatomy of the heart from the medical students and were eager to ask questions.





# Hospital Day at LMU-DCOM



On Wednesday, October 28, LMU-DCOM hosted its annual Hospital Day at the Tex Turner Arena on the Harrogate campus.

This event welcomed representatives from hospitals, clinics and health systems from across the nation to present employment, internship and sponsorship opportunities for clinical rotations and residency programs.

It is a great networking opportunity for LMU-DCOM students as well as alumni. This fall, a total of 56 hospitals, clinics and health systems attended the event, coming from as far west as Oklahoma, as far south as Florida and as far north as New York.

Hospital Day is an event that was planned annually by the late Jody Caldwell, director of rotations, who passed away just before the event.

"We received great feedback from our exhibitors and students," Dr. Michael Wieting, LMU-DCOM interim dean said. "Thanks to Elaine Stapleton and everyone else who put this great event together. Jody would be pleased to see the success we had today."



## *In Memoriam*

### *John "Jody" Bennett Caldwell*

*June 14, 1966 - October 12, 2015*

Jody Caldwell joined the LMU-DCOM family in 2006 as one of the first staff members hired by the new medical school. His first role at LMU-DCOM was in the admissions office, where he worked directly with applicants and accepted students.

Jody was often the first person that prospective students spoke to or met at LMU-DCOM. After LMU-DCOM officially opened its doors, Jody took on the role of director of rotations. He was responsible for scheduling clinical rotations for third- and fourth-year medical students working with rotation sites and site coordinators, and managing LMU-DCOM's annual Hospital Day event. Prior to coming to LMU-DCOM, Jody held a similar staff position at Western University COMP in Pomona, California. During his career working for osteopathic medical schools, Jody affected the lives of thousands of students and provided them with the opportunities necessary to become successful graduates and experienced physicians. Jody was an integral part of the LMU-DCOM family, and much loved by his coworkers and by the students he served. He will be greatly missed.





# Students Receive White Coats to Formally Mark Their Entrance Into Medical School

LMU-DCOM formally welcomed the Class of 2019 into the study of medicine at its annual White Coat Ceremony on September 26. More than 1,000 people gathered to celebrate the Class of 2019.

Robert Gotlin, DO, director of orthopedic and sports rehabilitation in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York, New York, served as the keynote speaker. Gotlin, a past president of the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has coordinated the growth of what is now one of the most highly respected centers for musculoskeletal research, diagnoses and treatment at Mt. Sinai's North Division.

Gotlin inspired the entire student body with his lecture the day before the white coat ceremony, "How to be a successful medical student from the perspective of a practicing physician." During the white coat ceremony he encouraged the students and said, "You are now all brothers and sisters who will work together to better your profession and better yourselves. We are the profession which will hold the basis for the future of health care."



Interim Dean **J. Michael Wieting** served as master of ceremonies. Dr. B. James Dawson, president of LMU, delivered the opening remarks and **Dominic Woodson**, OMS Class of 2018 and president of the LMU-DCOM Student Government Association, gave a welcome on behalf of the student body. **Dr. Gina DeFranco**, associate professor of family medicine for LMU-DCOM and president of the Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA), also delivered remarks on behalf of TOMA, who generously provided the white coats for the ceremony.

The White Coat Ceremony is a special ceremony designed to mark a student's entrance into medical school. The first White Coat Ceremony was held in 1993 at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and is now a standard ritual in medical schools across the country. During the Ceremony, each medical student is presented and "robed" with his or her short white laboratory coat, formalizing and welcoming the student's entrance into the study of medicine.





# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Intercollegiate Council

The LMU-DCOM Intercollegiate Council coordinated the 3rd Annual Intercollegiate Olympics in August 2015. The eight colleges of OMS students competed for the coveted LMU-DCOM intercollegiate Olympic trophy in 15 different events over the week, including kickball, volleyball, dodgeball, Twister, a baking contest, a 5k and more. The Olympic activities wrapped up on Friday evening with a family-friendly event held at the University Inn complete with dinner, music, s'mores and the final event of the week— Tug o' War.



The results came down to that final event, with LeConte College taking the gold with 815 points, followed by Blue Ridge College with 790 points and Rocky Top College with 660 points. The winning college celebrated with Chipotle and a social gathering at Harrogate City Park.

The Intercollegiate Council will be hosting SpringFest in Spring 2016.

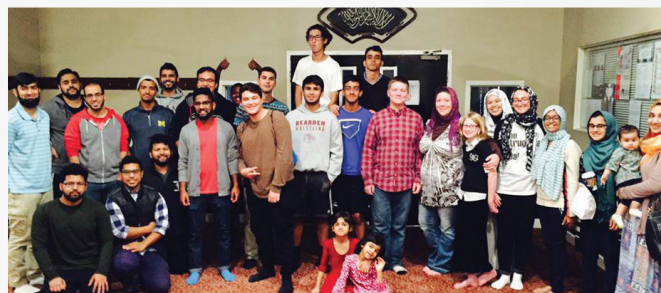
## International Medicine Society

The International Medicine Society participated in the Student Advocate Association's Fall Festival on October 23. The Club had a booth where children could make scary monsters and pumpkins with their hands while finger painting.



*Jeanna Ashman, OMS Class of 2018, Tanya Mohseni, OMS Class of 2019, Bryant Dawson, OMS Class of 2019 and Sarah Knuettel, OMS Class of 2018.*

## Muslim Student Association (MSA)



On the third Sunday of every month, students from LMU-DCOM take a 1.5 hour drive to Knoxville. Headlined by the Muslim Student Associations of both LMU-DCOM and the University of Tennessee, they team up with other students to make lunches for the homeless. Abdalla Husain, a seminary student and Hungry Heart's director, has been participating for years.

"Hungry Hearts is a program that was started about three years ago by the Muslim Community of Knoxville to offer our members a chance to feed and serve our homeless neighbors in downtown," Husain said.



The students make anywhere between 150 and 200 lunches consisting of a sandwich, snack, fruit and water. At first there were fewer than 10 participants, but now there are consistently 20 helpers in total varying in age and faith.

"It's a program that's gaining footing in East Tennessee, and we hope it will expand to include a clothing drive as well. The Holy Quran says "(The righteous are those) who feed the poor, the orphan and the captive for the love of God, saying: 'We feed you for the sake of God alone; we seek from you neither reward nor thanks.'" Husain said.

The program is open to anyone interested in participating. Giving back to the community is one of the primary objectives of the MSA and of Islam.



## Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA)



SOMA's recent activities have included a ranger walk and talk at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, a visit to a pumpkin patch and corn maze, Science Day in conjunction with J. Frank White Academy Chemistry Director Chris Stotts and a Healthy Hearts, Minds and Decisions event at Middlesboro Elementary with the third and fourth graders. Class of 2018 and 2019 LMU-DCOM students get to mentor the youngsters and help brighten their weeks, and LMU-DCOM students learn how to communicate with elementary students and get a chance to decompress through playground games and fall-themed fun. This is the third year of the mentorship

with Middlesboro Elementary School and SOMA and each week participation increases. Many of the students served in the program look forward to their time together and form mutually rewarding relationships through all of the fun activities.

## Women's Health Club

Women's Health Club, PASSAGE and SAACOF (Family Medicine Club) coordinated an intrauterine device (IUD) insertion training with Dr. Tammy Baker, gynecologist in Knoxville and volunteer physician at Servolution Health Services in Speedwell, Tennessee. The event was held at Servolution in its new multi-purpose room. Over 60 OMS and PA students learned proper indications, contraindications and insertion techniques for IUDs. Teaching supplies were donated by Bayer HealthCare pharmaceuticals and allowed each student to view multiple types of IUDs and practice with demo IUDs and anatomy models. Dr. Baker discussed the epidemiological importance of long term birth control as well as ways to obtain IUDs for uninsured/underinsured patients in the community via the Arch Foundation grant. Donations were accepted at the event and donated to Servolution Health Services to be appropriated toward women's health initiatives.

## Wilderness Medicine Club

Physical strength. Survival skills. The ability to administer medical care in adverse conditions. All of these things were tested when participants converged for the seventh annual MedWAR Tennessee race on November 7. The race was organized by the LMU-DCOM Wilderness Medicine Club.

MedWAR is an annual endurance race, sanctioned by North American Educational Adventure Racing, which tests the participants' physical abilities, as well as their capacity to quickly and effectively assess and treat medical scenarios in the backcountry. The athletes participate in teams of three, and this year the competition included 13 teams from Louisiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Georgia. The race began at LMU-DCOM in Harrogate, Tennessee, and covered a tough, 10-mile course that

stretched over three states including Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. Participants traveled bike and by foot to the Pinnacle, a scenic overlook located in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, and ended their journey back at LMU-DCOM. The race was won by team Tumornators of the University of Kentucky in an impressive time of one hour, fifty-five minutes. LMU-DCOM had two teams participate in the event, the first team coming in sixth place at two hours and twenty-nine minutes and the second team coming in thirteenth place at four hours and forty minutes.

"The best part about MedWAR was the camaraderie shared by those who braved the elements," said Patrick Platzer, president of the Wilderness Medicine Society at LMU-DCOM. "Whether our next patients are high up in the Himalaya Mountains, or in our community, we have to be innovative and persistent to make an impact on those around us."





## Students Raise Funds for Earthquake Victims

by Andrew Nutting

On October 26, 2015, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck in Afghanistan and reached throughout the region, including Pakistan and India. I immediately took to social media and decided to meet with our class of 2019 president, Zuri Hudson, who directed me to contact Prateek Juneja, OMS Class of 2018, and Parth Patel, OMS Class of 2018 of the South Asian American Students (SAAS) and Jeanna Ashman, OMS Class of 2018 of the International Medicine Society. A meeting was scheduled and as I sat down with both organizations, I was amazed with the results. With a call to action, I witnessed pure passion, dedication and an experience that embodied part of our mission that states, "The major cornerstone of meaningful existence is service to humanity." Within 15 minutes, we had assembled an international food fundraiser to support this cause.

As the warm aroma of freshly cooked rice, vegetable biryani and daal began to liberate from their plates, the 2nd floor of LMU-DCOM began to fill with students, faculty and staff. The "mmm's" commenced as dishes from

all over South Asia were sampled, and at the same time more students began to show up donating food for us to sell. Our hearts filled with both joy and hope as the donations to help aid those affected by the earthquake in South Asia poured in.



*South Asian American Students (SAAS) and the International Medicine Society.*

Within just about an hour, over \$400 was raised. I am so thankful and filled with gratitude to those who helped accomplish this feat and want to sincerely thank all of the students who participated, including Arroj Ali, Jeanna Ashman, Dipendra Chapagain, Eden Hamayoun, Sanaa Husain, Prateek Juneja, Dixita Patel, Parth Patel, Nasiha Rahman, Kurti Ray, Zeenat Shameem, and Bishen

Singh. You are all part of the reason why I am beyond proud to be a student here at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. ✝

### About the SAAS Club

The idea behind the creation of the student club, South Asian American Students (SAAS), was to create a community for the growing population of South Asian students and anyone interested in the South Asian culture at LMU-DCOM. This club gives students the opportunity to learn about the South Asian culture and be a part of cultural experiences. Not only do we host events that include everything from Bollywood dancing to feasting on South Asian foods, but we are also very socially aware of the events that are occurring on a global level. As a club, not only do we aim to cultivate a space where people can enjoy the South Asian culture, but we also hold true to our mission as osteopathic medical students to better serve our community and we hope to be able to continue to do so on both local and international level. ✝



### Jenny from the Doc... School

Jenny Ward, OMS Class of 2019, will be sharing her journey through the first year of medical school on her blog: [LMUdcomjennifer.wordpress.com](http://LMUdcomjennifer.wordpress.com). Ward is a nontraditional student who initially earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University in 2007. After working in television news for five years, she decided it wasn't the career she wanted and returned to her first love - medicine. Follow her blog as she shares more about what she learns and experiences about osteopathic medicine, as well as the idiosyncrasies of the first year of medical school.

<http://LMUdcomjennifer.wordpress.com>



# STUDENT ACCOLADES

**Dr. Stan Kunigelis**, director of Center of Imaging and Analysis and professor of physiology, poses with research students who presented posters at the



Appalachian Regional Microscopy Society (AReMS) conference at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. The AReMS is a regional affiliate of the Microscopy Society of America and the Microbeam Analysis Society.

OMS Class of 2018 students **Rachel Wheeler** and **Aaron Hampton** along with **Dr. Natalie Langley**, associate professor of anatomy and director of the Master of Science, Anatomical Sciences degree program have published a paper titled "The Effects of Body Mass Index and Age on the Cross-Sectional Properties of the Femoral Neck" in *Clinical Anatomy*, the publication of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists. The peer-reviewed journal has an international audience. The research was done as part of their curricular requirements for the Master of Science, Anatomical Sciences degree program.

## Student DO of the Month

### AUGUST 2015

Alesia Cloutier, OMS Class of 2019  
Doralice Ferreira, OMS Class of 2018

### SEPTEMBER 2015

Andy Nutting, OMS Class of 2019  
Robert Petrillo, OMS Class of 2018

### OCTOBER 2015

Aaron Kuzel, OMS Class of 2019  
Michael Teesdale, OMS Class of 2018



Women's Health Club and Emergency Medicine Club had over 30 participants for "Team DCOM" at the Komen Knoxville Walk for the Cure on October 24, 2015.



*LMU-DCOM STUDENTS DRESS UP FOR HALLOWEEN!*



# FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOLADES

**Dr. Beatrix Dudzik**, assistant professor of anatomy and **Dr. Natalie Langley**, associate professor of anatomy and director of the Master of Science, Anatomical Sciences degree program, published a peer-refereed article in *Forensic Science International* titled "Estimating Age from the Pubic Symphysis: A New Component-Based System." In August, Dr. Langley also published a peer reviewed article in the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* titled "The Lateral Clavicular Epiphysis: Fusion Timing and Age Estimation."



**Dr. Adam Kolatorowicz**, assistant professor of anatomy, presented research at the 22nd annual meeting of the Midwest Bioarcheology and Forensic Anthropology Association at the University of Illinois at Chicago in October. The podium presentation was titled "Thinking Inside the Box: Using Endocranial Landmarks to Determine Ancestry and Sex." The research proposed a new method for identifying human skeletal remains in medicolegal death investigations when all that is left is the cranial base, as in the case of a fire, perimortem traumatic injury or postmortem damage to the skull.

**Emily Weyant**, LMU medical librarian, presented a poster titled, "Outreach to Rural Adjunct Clinicians through Library and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Department Collaboration," at the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association conference in October. This project examines collaboration between an academic health sciences library and an institutionally related office of continuing medical education with the goal of promoting library resources to and increasing evidence-based decisions by rural adjunct clinicians through the medium of a free internet-based CME course. Other LMU faculty and staff helping with the project included **David Petersen**, LMU Health Services Librarian, **Dr. Patricia Stubenberg**, director of Continuing Medical Education and Preceptor Development at LMU-DCOM and **Dr. Howard Teitelbaum**, professor and chair of the Department of Preventive and Community Medicine.

**Dr. Dominic Palazzolo**, professor of physiology, represented LMU-DCOM as the only delegate from an American university at the third annual E-Cigarette Summit that took place at the Royal Society in London on November 12. Dr. Palazzolo published a literature review titled "Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping: A New Challenge in Clinical Medicine and Public Health." The article has been viewed 10,593 times and is in the top five percent of all research outputs scored by Altmetric.

**Dr. Jonathan Leo**, professor of anatomy and former dean of students for LMU-DCOM was promoted to the assistant provost for medical programs. **Dr. Casey Bassett**, associate professor of histology, has become the new associate dean of students for medical programs which includes both LMU-DCOM and the LMU-College of Veterinary Medicine.



## Hobbs Appointed to Faculty at James Cook University and Awarded Distinguished Fellow

**Rex Hobbs**, director of the Physician Assistant Program has been working with James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville, Australia, for the past few years, specifically with their PA Program but also working with LMU and JCU to create an affiliation for clinical student exchange and faculty exchange/research collaborations.



"I've been focusing on medical programs thus far," Hobbs said. "However, the long term goal is to expand opportunities for all LMU faculty and students."

Thus far, OMS and PA students have been through the exchange program for clinical rotations, and more are planned in the near future. Both LMU and JCU have a mission for rural and remote peoples for both education and healthcare.

"I am deeply honored to be appointed to the faculty of the College of Medicine and Dentistry at JCU as an adjunct and plan on honoring that responsibility by continuing to bring our two institutions closer together," Hobbs said.

Hobbs was also recently awarded the Distinguished Fellow designation with the AAPA. This is awarded to those who, through years of service in patient care, service to the profession and the healthcare community and for contributions of time and effort to the organization at the state and national level.



# Alumni Notes Alumni Notes Alumni Notes

**Brian Alexis, DO '12**, has joined McAuley Primary Care in Owensboro, Kentucky. Alexis completed his family medicine residency at Methodist Hospital in Henderson, Kentucky.

**Michael Stephens, MMS '15**, has joined the staff of Servolution Health Services (SHS) in Speedwell, Tennessee. After several years as a successful pharmaceutical representative, Stephens made the decision to return to school in hopes of giving back to his community. As a PA student at LMU-DCOM, he instituted the office of PA Program Volunteer Coordinator with PASSAGE. He also received a stipend through the Tennessee Primary Care Association and The Tennessee Rural Health Partnership for students with the intent to practice in a medically underserved area. As part of the stipend, Stephens completed a community-based project on diabetic education and comprehensive diabetic care. Stephens divides his time between the SHS clinic and Stallworth Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Middlesboro, Kentucky.

**Michael Douglas, DO '12** presented a poster entitled "A Well-Differentiated Liposarcoma of the Spermatic Cord with Meningothelial and Chondro-Osseous Components: A Case Report" at the Annual Clinical Assembly, American College of Osteopathic Surgeons in Chicago, Illinois, on October 4, 2015.

**Grant Stone, DO '11** and his wife Brooke enjoyed dinner with Interim Dean **Dr. Michael Wieting**, Director of Clinical Education **Nancy Myers** and Career Services Coordinator **Lisa Shelburne** in New Orleans in October. The LMU-DCOM personnel were in town attending the NRMP "Transitions to Residency" conference.



*Grant Stone, DO '11 and LMU-DCOM faculty and staff.*

**Heather Gilliam, DO '12**, currently serves as an instructor and administrative chief resident at the pediatric residency program at University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Chattanooga.

**Josh Yeary, DO '13**, currently serves as chief resident for the family medicine residency program at Wellmont Lonesome Pine Hospital in Norton, Virginia.



*Josh Yeary, DO '13*

**David Heath, DO '11**, and president of the LMU-DCOM Alumni Association, has joined the emergency department staff of Saint Joseph-London in London, Kentucky. He also serves as assistant medical director of the emergency department.

**Johan Koo, DO '12**, and his wife Grace welcomed their son Ezra Young Koo on July 20, 2015. Ezra weighed in at 8 lbs., 13 oz. Koo completed the family medicine residency program at Wellmont Lonesome Pine Hospital in Norton, Virginia, and has joined the hospitalist group at Bristol Regional Medical Center.

**Chelsea Nickolson, DO '13**, has been elected to a one-year term as an intern-resident member of the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees.

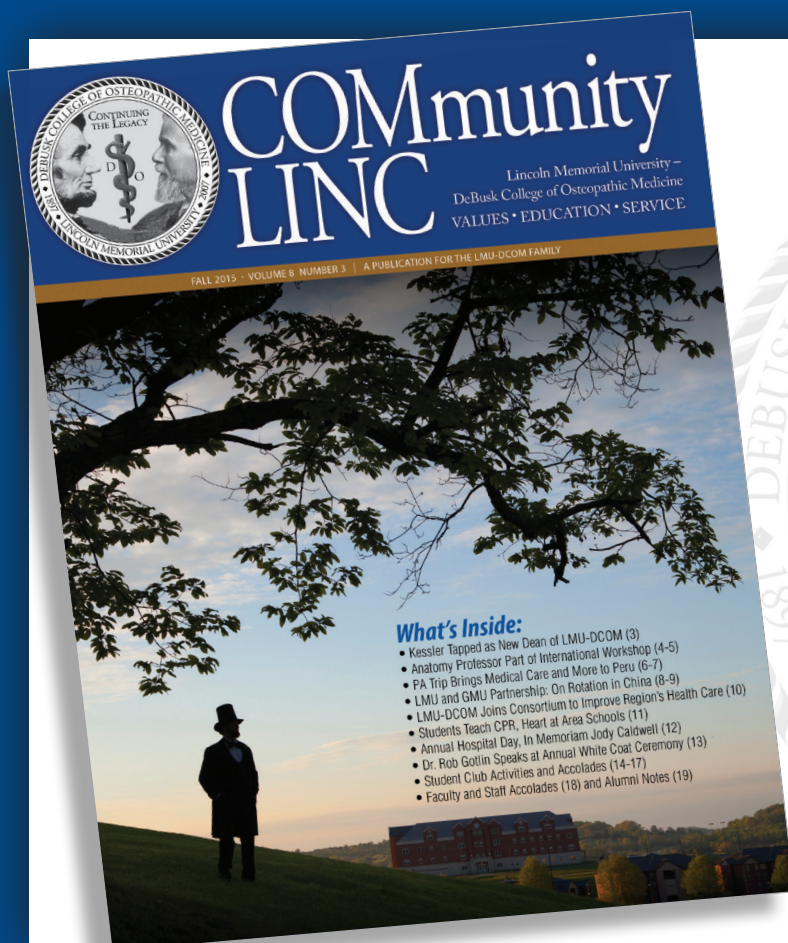
**Submissions for the Alumni Notes should be emailed to Amy Drittler at [amy.drittler@LMU.net.edu](mailto:amy.drittler@LMU.net.edu).**



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