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The COMmunicator is a quarterly alumni newsletter published by the OSU Center for Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association.

Alumni Notes

A recent issue of Oklahoma Magazine includes **J. Martin Beal, D.O., '93** and **Damon Baker, D.O., '93** among "Oklahoma's Top Doctors."



J. Martin Beal, D.O.



Damon Baker, D.O.

**Dan Kite, D.O., '05**, a third-year resident physician at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, completed a two month emergency medicine rotation in New Zealand and was joined by his family.

**Steven L. Gates, D.O., '86**, has been re-elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. He is director of Medical Education at Bay Area Corpus Christi Medical Center.

In Memoriam

**David B. Collins, D.O., '79**, died at age 54 on June 17, 2007. He was a family practitioner in Granbury, Texas since 1981.

**William A. Sartor, Jr., D.O., '86**, died at age 55 on April 2, 2008. He retired from medical practice in Seminole, Okla.

COMMUNICATOR

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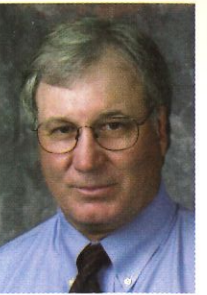
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Alumni Newsletter



OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICINE  
ALUMNI

Dear Alumni,

It is my pleasure to serve as alumni board president for 2008-09. I welcome our new board members and extend the association's thanks to outgoing president **Richard Hastings, D.O., '80**, and board members for their commitment and service.



R. Michael Eimen, D.O.

Our association has been busy with several activities. In May, a successful annual Spring Fling helped raise funds to support our student scholarships and programs. We thank all the physicians who attended, as well as those who gave presentations. Our senior breakfast for the Class of 2008 congratulated graduates and welcomed them to the ranks of our alumni.

As we complete summer's activities, including our annual Summer Golf Classic, I encourage you to support our alumni association as an active member. We look forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

**R. Michael Eimen, D.O., '85**  
President, OSU-COM Alumni Association

"The exam is used to see how we are doing and to prepare residents for the more extensive boards,"

**Scott Hendrickson, D.O., '98**, assistant professor at OSU-COM, and residency director, said. "It can predict how the residents will do on certification board exams."

OSU residency program scores top in nation

The internal medicine residency program at OSU Medical Center earned the highest score among 81 osteopathic medicine internal residency programs in the nation on the American College of Osteopathic Internists 2008 Resident In-service Examination.

**Shannon Boughner, D.O., '04**, earned the highest national individual score. The Resident In-Service exam is a national exam given each year to all internal medicine residents to evaluate their fund of knowledge and to see how they are progressing. The mean scores from each residency program are compared to one another to see how the program ranks nationwide. OSU Medical Center internal medicine program has had the highest mean scores in the nation for nine consecutive years.



Shannon Boughner, D.O.

Change Service Requested

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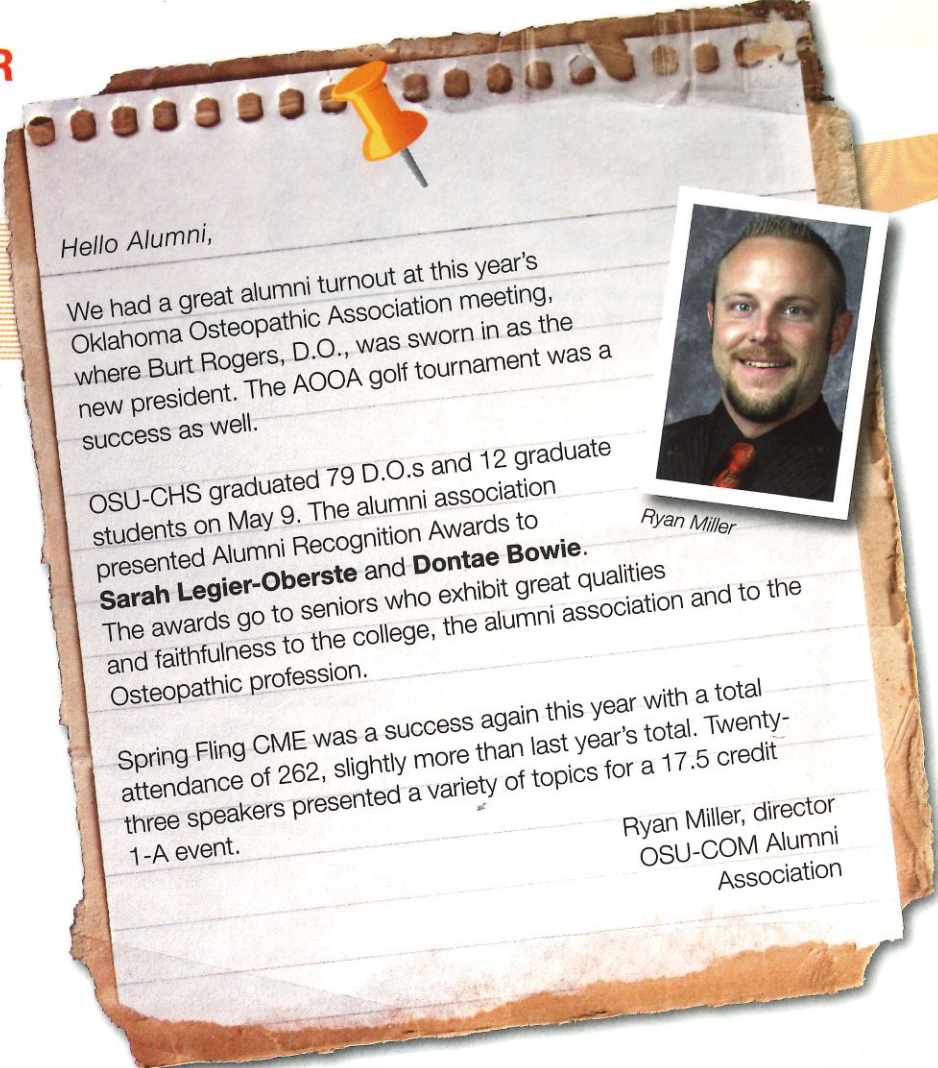


### ACOFP president

**Ronnie B. Martin, D.O., '79**, new president of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, is congratulated by Lynette McLain, executive director of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, and Ryan Miller, OSU-COM director of alumni affairs. Dr. Martin was inaugurated at the ACOFP annual meeting in Denver.

### Colby Foundation Lecture

OSU Medicine students heard about organ transplantation **at the Colby Foundation Endowed Lectureship. Kirby D. Slifer, D.O.**, from the Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City was guest lecturer. **Dr. John ('80) and Starla Cassani** established the endowed lectureship through the Colby Foundation. The couple funded the lectureship to educate students and professionals about organ donation and transplantation after the death of their young son, Colby, whose organs were donated.



Hello Alumni,

We had a great alumni turnout at this year's Oklahoma Osteopathic Association meeting, where Burt Rogers, D.O., was sworn in as the new president. The AOOA golf tournament was a success as well.

OSU-CHS graduated 79 D.O.s and 12 graduate students on May 9. The alumni association presented Alumni Recognition Awards to **Sarah Legier-Oberste** and **Dontae Bowie**.

The awards go to seniors who exhibit great qualities and faithfulness to the college, the alumni association and to the Osteopathic profession.

Spring Fling CME was a success again this year with a total attendance of 262, slightly more than last year's total. Twenty-three speakers presented a variety of topics for a 17.5 credit 1-A event.

Ryan Miller

Ryan Miller, director  
OSU-COM Alumni  
Association

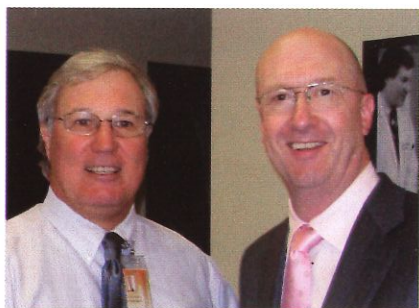
## Rural Medicine Professorship

**Dennis Carter, D.O., '87**, has been appointed to the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association Professorship in Rural Medicine. Carter, who is in private practice in Poteau, will serve a two-year term.

He succeeds **Michael Eimen, D.O., '85**, of Mannford, who has served in the professorship since its creation in 1996. "I am proud of showing our medical students how to be a successful physician, community leader and parent in a rural setting," Eimen says of his years in the professorship.

The appointment is made by a joint nomination from OSU's associate dean for rural health, the presidents of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and the OSU-COM Alumni Association, and the chairman of the OSU-CHS Department of Family Medicine.

The professorship is funded by donations from alumni. Its purpose is to encourage excellence in teaching and to underscore the importance of OSU's primary mission of serving the health care needs of rural Oklahomans.



Michael Eimen (left) congratulates professorship appointee Dennis Carter.

**"I am proud of showing our medical students how to be a successful physician, community leader and parent in a rural setting."**

- Michael Eimen

## Making the match: Career Development Office offers help

Medical students need residency matches to continue their education and making the right choice is crucial. Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine's Career Development Program helps make a sometimes bewildering process smoother.

Launched in January 2007, the program guides students on their educational path. After its first 18 months, program director Terri Blevins sees positive results. One reason, she says, is its "great web page," an important resource for students involved in the process. ([www.healthsciences.okstate.edu/college/clinical/career/index.cfm](http://www.healthsciences.okstate.edu/college/clinical/career/index.cfm)).

**"Matching strengths, interests and values with available career choices is easier with these tools."**

- Terri Blevins

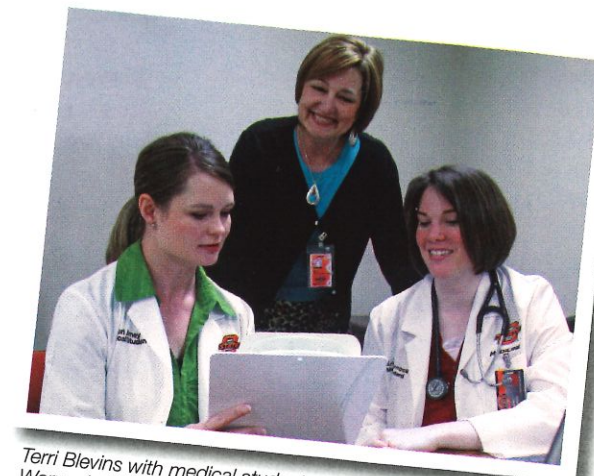
"We get compliments on it," says Blevins, an experienced academic counselor with a master's degree from the University of Iowa in post-secondary student development and counseling. She also is a qualified therapist and is completing requirements for a Ph.D. in sociology.

"This is an important life decision and it is worth spending some time on," she says. First-year medical students can explore self-assessment through the Careers in Medicine website, a resource provided by the clinical education department. The Myers-Briggs Personality Test also is available. "Matching strengths, interests and values with available career choices is easier with these tools," Blevins says.

A good listener with know-how in establishing a plan, Blevins says she is able to support, not enable, students. "I help with tools to make the plan and to find the resources they need. Then, they do it," Blevins says. She also offers guidance in working with the electronic residency application service and applying to match service for placement.

Hands-on experience also helps students choose careers. This summer more than 40 students will get early clinical experiences, shadowing in five different areas over five days, and hearing physicians discuss career topics. And 15 students took the OSU Center for Rural Health-Area Health Education Center summer rural externship. They lived in rural Oklahoma locations for a month to shadow physicians and other health professionals, and volunteer in the community.

Blevins plans to develop a career development elective to help students get a handle on interviewing, writing a curriculum vitae, and other nuts-and-bolts details. Before beginning their fourth year of medical school, students will get information about interviewing and match processes, and graduation needs. Practicing physicians will discuss residency options and answer questions.



Terri Blevins with medical students Lori Amey and Kristen Warnock, early clinical experience participants.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 6-9** AOMA – Arkansas State Convention, Eureka Springs, Ark. Exhibit
- Aug. 15-17** 25 year reunion in conjunction with White Coat Ceremony on the 16th.
- Aug. 16** White Coat Ceremony, Alumni White Coat Reception, Tulsa
- Oct. 26-30** AOA Convention, Las Vegas