



Still

MAGAZINE

Central Coast commencement

College for Healthy Communities
graduates inaugural class

A.T. Still University's alumni publication

Students from ATSU-CHC's Central Coast Physician Assistant program celebrate their white coat ceremony on Friday, Aug. 18. As the class of 2024 enters the clinical phase of their education, the inaugural class of 2023 enters the profession as graduates. Learn more about ATSU-CHC's first commencement ceremony on Page 10.



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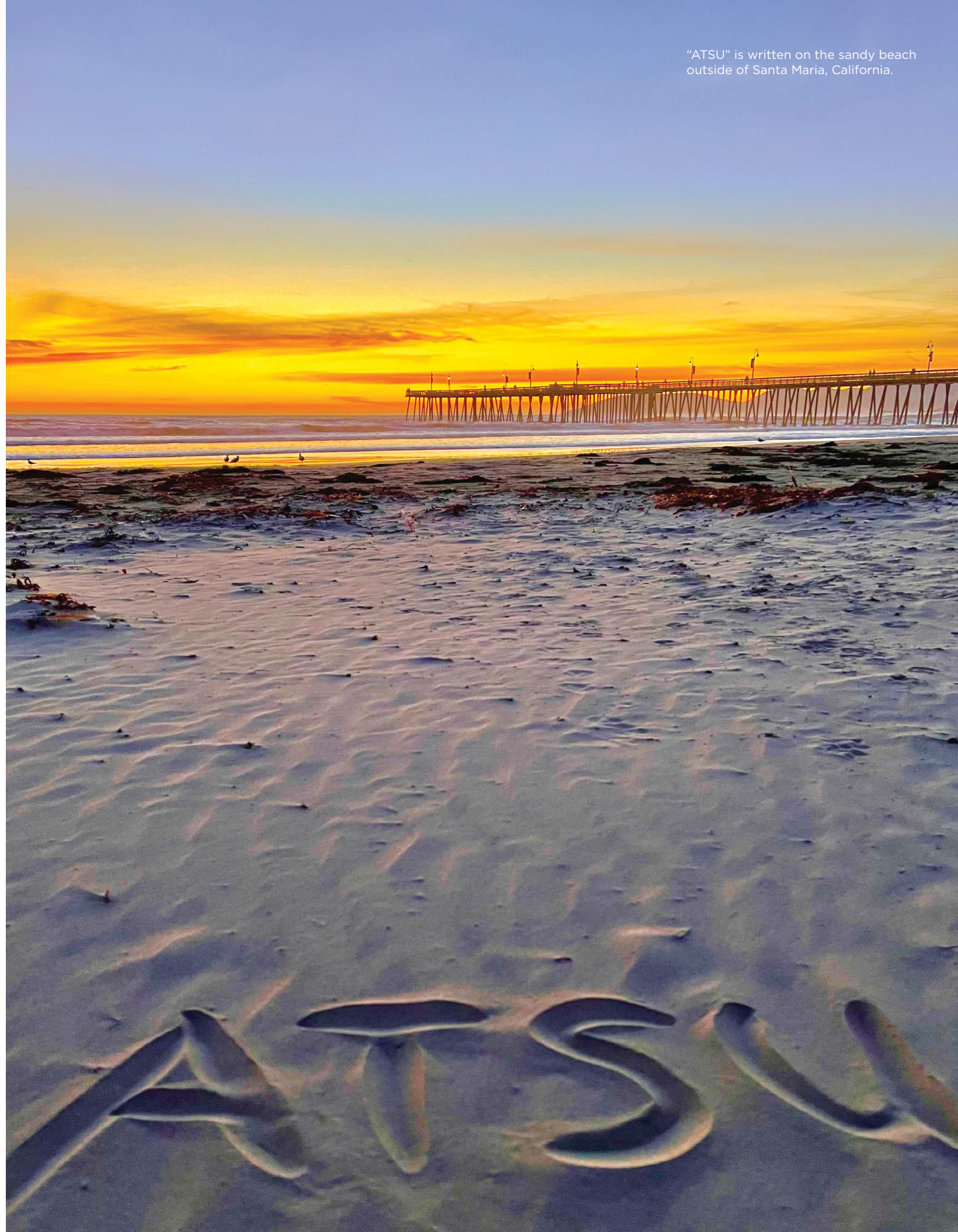
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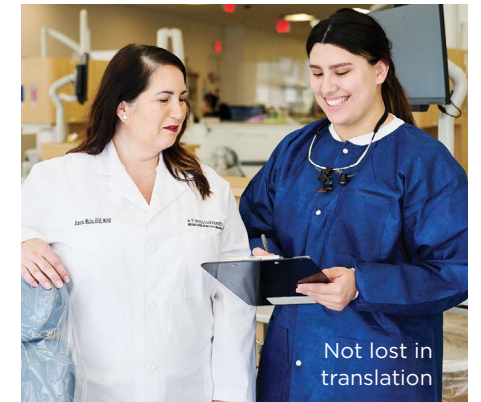
ON THE COVER

ATSU-CHC class of 2023 graduates Brianna Cheeks, Maria Margot, Tiffany Tran, Monica Tran, and Dina Shaian

"ATSU" is written on the sandy beach outside of Santa Maria, California.



Furthering ATSU's legacy



Not lost in translation



National Student Doctor of the Year



ATSU receives diversity award for seven consecutive years

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, named ATSU a recipient of its 2023 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. ATSU was the first comprehensive health professions university to be named a HEED Award recipient in consecutive years (2017-18) and has now extended its achievement to a seventh consecutive year.

"ATSU thanks *Insight Into Diversity* magazine for again recognizing the University's commitment to and successes within the areas of diversity and inclusion," said ATSU President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84. "Congratulations to Clinton Normore, MBA, vice president of ATSU diversity & inclusion, and his team on this recognition."

"ATSU remains committed to ensuring access and opportunity for historically underrepresented groups in the health professions," Normore said. "The University has initiated several programs over the last two years that affirm its commitment. The University is founded on innovative ideas that originate from and include diversity. Its mission-centered, data-driven approach to health professions education is measured through the HEED Award application process. We are extremely grateful to have been chosen again for this award."

Please visit atsu.edu/diversity to learn more about ATSU's diversity initiatives and resources.

Still MAGAZINE

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ATSU MISSION
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs with a commitment to continue its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

A.T. Still University (ATSU) schools/colleges:
Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH)
Arizona School of Health Sciences (ATSU-ASHS)
College of Graduate Health Studies (ATSU-CGHS)
College for Healthy Communities (ATSU-CHC)
Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-KCOM)
Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-MOSDOH)
School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (ATSU-SOMA)

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First and foremost

Every year at ATSU is exciting and special, and this year was no exception. Our newest college, ATSU's College for Healthy Communities, celebrated an important milestone, graduating its inaugural class of 88 physician assistants (PAs). The ceremony, featured on Page 10, was a momentous occasion for ATSU, symbolizing years of effort to establish ATSU's presence on the California coast and further the University's mission of educating highly competent professionals focused on whole person healthcare.

These new PAs, along with additional recent graduates of ATSU, join an alumni base dedicated to improving care in their communities through innovation, teaching, research, and service. Some of these alumni and their stories are highlighted in this issue: Zeshawn Mirza, MS, ATC, CES, '11, on Page 30, Taylor Velasquez, DMD, MPH, '19, on Page 34, Romana Muller, EdD, MSDH, RDH, '22, on Page 38, and Danielle Barnett-Trapp, DO, '11, on Page 58.

Additionally, ATSU has outstanding students who are dedicated to becoming the best healthcare professionals possible. One such student is fourth-year ATSU-KCOM student Michael Megafu, who was named the National Student Doctor of the Year by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. Read more about his story on Page 42.

ATSU's first priority has been and will always be the education of its students. Faculty and staff in all areas of the University work tirelessly to provide a high-quality educational experience and ensure student success. Through their dedication and the support of alumni and friends, ATSU continues to graduate healthcare professionals who are better prepared to address healthcare challenges facing our communities and our country.

Yours in service,


Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84, president



ATSU-CHC class of 2023 graduates (top, left to right) Daniel Mai, Jonathan Castro, Matthew Chan, Jahzeel Paguntalan, Osaodemwen Diana Omozee, Kari Nhi Pham, and Dallas Hakes (bottom)

Wall of Honor at the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine

Unveiling at Founder's Day 2023



One year ago, ATSU alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students gathered in Heritage Hall to celebrate accreditation of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine by the American Alliance of Museums. At that celebration, ATSU President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84, encouraged alumni and friends to support the museum through charitable gifts, with the goal of preserving osteopathic medical history and educating future generations of osteopathic physicians and the public. He also shared a Wall of Honor recognizing donors would be displayed in a year's time.

recognizes doctors of osteopathic medicine, friends of the profession, and organizations and institutions supporting the field. Currently featuring 100 name plates, the Wall of Honor represents \$750,000 in new support.

preservation of osteopathic history, and education of tomorrow's osteopathic physicians.

For more information, please contact Brad Chambers
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660.626.2180

"The Wall of Honor is not merely a collection of names - it is a tribute to the enduring legacy of osteopathic medicine," Dr. Phelps said during the unveiling ceremony. "Each name on this wall signifies a commitment to the principles and values that have shaped our profession and guided our journey."

During the Founder's Day 2023 celebration on Friday, Oct. 13, the wall was finally unveiled. The Wall of Honor at the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine

Recognition opportunities are still available, so please consider honoring those who have contributed to the growth of the osteopathic profession,

Wall of Honor recognition levels
Platinum: \$50,000 and above
Gold: \$25,000-\$49,999
Silver: \$10,000-\$24,999
Patrons: \$5,000-\$9,999
Friends: \$1,000-\$4,999

To donate online, please visit giving.atstu.edu/honor-wall



Top: The Wall of Honor. Bottom left: Fourth-year ATSU-KCOM student Michael Megafu says hello to Bucky. Bottom right: Alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students attend the ceremony.

Among the many in attendance, guests included (left to right) Jason Haxton, MA; Lori Haxton, MA; Bob Behnen, MBA; Janet Bodell; Richard H. Still III, DO, FACOS, '78; Monica Haines, DO; Ron Gaber, EdS, MA, DHL (hon.); Elsie Gaber, PhD; Teri Crandall; Margaret Wilson, DO, '82; Jeff Davis, DO, CMD, '00; Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84; Kent Campbell, DO, '83; Bonnie Campbell; Gaylah Sublette, MBA; and Brad Chambers.



FEATURES



Graduating leaders, visionaries, and changemakers in the health professions

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- Master of Science in Kinesiology
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ATSU | College of Graduate Health Studies

ATSU celebrated another season of commencement ceremonies, including the inaugural commencement ceremony for its newest college, ATSU-CHC, featured on the following page. In total, 1,117 ATSU graduates earned their degrees across healthcare disciplines. Above, Andre J. Gremillion, MS, '23, a graduate of ATSU-CGHS' Master of Science in Kinesiology program, is hooded by Tracie Rogers, PhD.

"Today is another chapter of your book," said ATSU-CGHS commencement speaker Daryl Nelson, MS, ATC, director of team growth and development for the Las Vegas Raiders. "Become the author of your life's story, and enjoy each and every page."

IN THIS SECTION

- ATSU's legacy continues
- Training to go
- Mesa to Berlin
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*ATSU alumni who implement the 20% tuition discount are encouraged to contact a tax professional regarding any tax implications. All discounts are independent and cannot be combined with any other offers.

Furthering A.T. Still University's legacy

ATSU-CHC celebrates inaugural commencement
on California's Central Coast

By Katie Hubbard



Dr. Craig Phelps, president of ATSU, presents the President's Medallion Award for distinguished service to Ronald Castle, CEO of Community Health Centers of the Central Coast.

A CALIFORNIA COMMENCEMENT

ATSU-CHC's Central Coast Physician Assistant (CCPA) program marked its inaugural commencement ceremony Friday, Sept. 8, graduating 88 students with their master's degree in physician assistant (PA) studies. Held at The Granada Theatre, an ornate, 100-year-old historical landmark in the heart of Santa Barbara's Historic Theatre District, the ceremony celebrated the graduates' transition from students to providers.

Just as their route to the commencement processional was a winding path from two stories below the stage, up the stairs, and around the building, many of the graduates did not take the straightforward path to becoming PA students. Along with several nontraditional students, the class of 2023 is filled with individuals from all walks of life. Some are first-generation college students. Some are children of immigrants. Some have changed careers, and so on. But one commonality among the entire cohort is their desire to provide whole person healthcare to communities in need.

"Your tireless pursuit of knowledge, combined with your unwavering passion for serving the underserved, has set you apart as culturally proficient healthcare providers," said ATSU-CHC Dean Eric Sauers, PhD, '97, who welcomed

guests and addressed the graduates. "You've embraced the ideals of compassion, empathy, and social justice, recognizing that healthcare is not a privilege, but a fundamental human right."

Dr. Sauers also introduced Donald L. Weaver, MD, senior advisor for the National Association of Community Health Centers Clinical Workforce. Dr. Weaver, a former U.S. assistant surgeon general who was instrumental in helping ATSU develop the CCPA program, congratulated graduates, calling them trailblazers.

"We welcome each of you to the health center family. Many will be working in health centers across the country, and all of you are indelibly imprinted with the health center community-oriented primary care model - healthcare driven by the community," Dr. Weaver said. "As trusted leaders in your community, you will be called upon to heal individuals and to heal the community. We're confident your training has prepared you well for these roles."

Following Dr. Weaver's address, ATSU President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84, presented the 2023 President's Medallion award for distinguished service to Ronald Castle, CEO of Community Health Centers of the Central Coast. Castle

was recognized for his support in establishing the CCPA program and his commitment to nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders.

"I'm just very proud that Community Health Centers has been part of this. It's a team effort," Castle said. "We are so excited about your careers ahead and look forward to your serving the underserved, and keep paying it forward."

O.T. Wendel, PhD, ATSU's senior vice president for university planning and strategic initiatives, introduced the ceremony's honorary degree candidate and commencement speaker, Gary M. Wiltz, MD. Dr. Wiltz serves as CEO of Teche Action Clinic and is former chair of the ATSU Board of Trustees.

"Today, in bestowing this honorary degree, we salute Dr. Wiltz's exceptional legacy and his dedication to community health," Dr. Wendel said. "His contributions mirror the value of our program and the excellence we envision in our graduates."

Dr. Wiltz accepted the honorary doctor of science degree then spoke to graduates about the significance of being members of the first class. Of approximately 1,000 applicants, these 88 students were selected for this program. He told them how they were chosen for this opportunity; they were not accepted to this program by accident or luck. He also recalled A.T. Still, DO, and his experience in establishing a new form of medicine and the challenges he faced.

"A first can be likened to a two-edged sword sometimes. It can cut both ways," Dr. Wiltz said. "It has joys and pains. It can bring reward and punishment. It also has its share of happiness and sadness, confidence and fear, memories and regrets, acclaim and disdain."

He also spoke to graduates about walking with confidence. From his perspective of 41 years in medicine and having taught and mentored many students from various institutions, he said the most well-prepared graduates come from ATSU.



Commencement speaker Dr. Gary Wiltz receives the honorary doctor of science degree.

“Your education will serve you well,” Dr. Wiltz said. “This faculty has no trepidation about sending you out into the medical world.”

THE CCPA PROGRAM

About 60 miles northwest of the ceremony location, in Santa Maria, is where the graduates’ PA education began. On the second floor of the Coast Hills Credit Union, ATSU set up the location for its CCPA program, which welcomed this inaugural class in fall 2021.

CCPA then became the founding program of ATSU-CHC in January 2022 when the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission approved the University’s request to establish its seventh and newest college, ATSU-CHC, as a campus in Santa Maria.

The campus’ home is a 27,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility with a large learning theater, clinical simulation rooms, library space, student break room, and faculty and staff workspaces. Of the 24-month program, students spend the first 12 months on campus engaging in case studies, interactive learning, projects, and preclinical community experiences. Students spend the final 12 months completing clinical experiences in community health centers (CHCs) across the U.S.

ATSU’s goal for establishing the CCPA program is to educate community-oriented physician assistants who will provide whole person healthcare to the nation’s medically underserved communities. Faculty and staff work closely with students to help them develop professional attributes and clinical problem-solving skills necessary for efficient and optimal patient care. Ultimately, the program aims to produce providers who enter the CHC system and deliver primary care through the specialties of family medicine, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, women’s health, and behavioral health and psychiatry.



Following the commencement ceremony, groups of graduates gather to celebrate. Left to right, front row: Katie Sham and Liny Varghese; back row: Matthew Chan, Christina Handayan, Angelica Lee, Natalie Laskowicz, Daniel Mai, and Rachel Aroneo.

"It's a program unlike any other in the country," Dr. Phelps said. "It will continue to serve as a model, along with its academic innovation."

FUTURES AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN

Following the commencement address, graduates made their way to the stage one by one to shake hands, receive their diploma, and be hooded. As their names were called, family and friends from all levels of the theater applauded and cheered.

"When you walk through those doors, your life will be forever changed," Dr. Phelps said during his closing remarks. "The calling to provide care to others is like no other. Patients and their families will share their most intimate details during times of physical and emotional pain, uncertainty, and vulnerability. Fortunately, your families, faculty, and staff have prepared you for this special calling."

As the graduates lined up for the recessional, they were all smiles and overwhelmed with emotion, knowing they accomplished their goal.

"It's been a very long journey," said John Butler, MS, '23. "It's more emotional than any of us thought it would be. I'm the oldest member of the class, and it's been amazing to see some of the younger students become adults and for me to recapture some of my childhood."

"You get to know everyone so well," said Christina Handayan, MS, '23. "You form study groups, and everyone knows what each other is going through. You really form a bond. It's like a family you build with the other students."

Many graduates said crossing the stage was a feeling of excitement and relief. That moment was the culmination of everything to that point - the time and effort put into applications, studying, projects, tests, and rotations.

"My family came to mind," said Armando Soltero, MS, '23. "I have three boys and a wife, and these past couple of years there was a lot of time away from them. I'm finally going to have some time to be with them again every day."

Soltero, like others in his class, is excited to start the next phase of his journey.

"I've been hired by a CHC in Santa Maria," he said. "I'm looking forward to getting started and doing what we've been preparing for these last couple of years."

"For them to take a chance on us, and for me to take a chance on the program, we've all worked so hard these last two years, this is literally a dream come true," said Monica Tran, MS, '23. "To be part of something, the beginning of something, is amazing."

"We were the first class. We were able to be the pioneers for all of the classes that follow," said Faison Jackson, MS, '23. "I'm grateful to be on this journey ... to be the first class, learn medicine, and become the best PA I can become." ■

[See more ATSU commencement highlights on the following pages.](#)



Maria Celedon, MS, '23, celebrates graduation with her family.

ASDOH

Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health

Friday, May 12





ASHS

Arizona School of Health Sciences
Friday, June 2 and Friday, Sept. 22



CGHS

College of Graduate Health Studies

Friday, May 26



College of Graduate Health Studies



KCOM

Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
Saturday, May 20

MOSDOH

Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health

Friday, May 19





SOMA

School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona
Friday, May 26

Training to go

Meet the ATSU-ASHS alumnus behind the innovative athletic training product made for travel

By Jason Hunsicker

Zeshaun Mirza, MS, ATC, CES, '11, has been enjoying great success as an athletic trainer. He's been an athletic trainer with the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans and Phoenix Suns, off-season athletic trainer for Phoenix Suns' all-star guard Devin Booker, and personal athletic trainer for 14-year NBA veteran forward James Johnson.

The ATSU-ASHS Master of Science in Athletic Training program alumnus would put athletes through full-body and workout sessions and send them on their way with exercise instructions, resistance bands, mobility wedges, and more.

More often than not, a lot of those items didn't make their way back to him.

"Why doesn't every athlete have their own kit," Mirza asks, "where they can just take their stuff with them, wherever they go, and it's theirs?" Then I thought, "Does this even exist?"

Now, thanks to Mirza, it does.

Mirza launched The Z KIT LLC in January 2020, seeking to fill a gap for athletic trainers and the athletes they serve. The 15-piece Z KIT (thezkit.com) contains essential equipment for athletes to complete crucial training tasks and rehabilitation, all packed in a convenient carrying case for easy transport to the gym, home, and arenas across the world. He's cleared 500 units sold and is launching a crowdfunding campaign to produce additional kits.



Zeshaun Mirza works with 14-year NBA veteran forward James Johnson.



Zeshaun Mirza was the off-season athletic trainer for the Phoenix Suns' all-star guard Devin Booker.



Zeshaun Mirza

A U.S. Army veteran, Mirza has always been seeking ways to improve the delivery of athletic training, first focusing on his own skills. He graduated from Illinois State University with a bachelor of science degree in athletic training but knew he wasn't finished with his education.

"I felt like all I had was the bricks of athletic training. I didn't have a real good structure or foundation. I always wanted to work with the best athletes in the world, I wanted to work at the top, but I just had the pieces," he says.

Mirza had a clinical director who heard of ATSU's program and knew of his student's interest in pursuing an advanced degree.

"He said, 'If you can get into that school, I'd be very impressed,'" Mirza says. "I took it as a challenge."

Mirza applied to three schools. ATSU called him back first.

"I accepted right away on the phone," he says. "I didn't think twice. This is one of the top post-professional programs."

He had high praise for the faculty, recalling courses led by ATSU-ASHS' Tamara C. Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAK, FNAP, chair and director, athletic training; Barton E. Anderson, DHSc, AT, ATC, '03, professor; Alison Snyder Valier, PhD, ATC, FNATA, professor; and Eric Sauers, PhD, '97, now dean of ATSU-CHC.

"The courses were hard," Mirza says. "They were all very tough professors, but they wanted the best out of you. I really enjoyed that.

"The program solidified things for me and put those bricks together, providing me a more holistic approach to patient care." ■



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*ATSU alumni who implement the 20% tuition discount are encouraged to contact a tax professional regarding any tax implications. All discounts are independent and cannot be combined with any other offers.

From Mesa to Berlin – and back

An ATSU-ASDOH professor follows his passion for Special Olympics, dentistry, and research

By Haley Lorenzen



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD GAMES
BERLIN 2023

This past June, ATSU-ASDOH assistant professor Taylor Velasquez, DMD, MPH, '19, conducted research at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany, representing ATSU as the only American university approved to do research at this level.

This monumental opportunity for Dr. Velasquez can trace its roots back eight years ago, when, as a first-year dental student at ATSU-ASDOH in Mesa, Arizona, Dr. Velasquez was the first student selected to participate in the A.T. Still Research Institute's (ATSRI) Student Clinician Researcher Development Program, sparking his passion for research, which continues at ATSRI today.

"Research is unique in the sense you can kind of play with what you want to. If your interests are in special needs, or in orthodontics, you can learn more about that field by doing research," he says.

Growing up as the oldest of five, Dr. Velasquez remembers many difficult trips to the dentist with his siblings, specifically with his two younger brothers who have autism.

The Special Olympics World Games, held in Berlin, Germany, welcomed 7,000 athletes and Unified partners from approximately 190 countries competing in 26 sports.



Not only did his brothers influence his decision to pursue dentistry, but through his brother, Gabriel, Dr. Velasquez was first exposed to Special Olympics. Since 2008, Dr. Velasquez has volunteered at the state and national level games.

“I’ve been doing Special Olympics for a long time, and it’s a very integral part of my life,” he says.

At the Special Olympics World Games, Dr. Velasquez screened athletes for four days as a volunteer dentist with Special Smiles, a section of the Special Olympics’ Healthy Athletes program, which provides free health screenings for participating athletes.

He did not provide direct dental care, but athletes were instead referred to local dentists who were able to see them on an emergency basis. For many athletes, meeting Dr. Velasquez was their first experience meeting an American citizen.

“They usually had their coach with them to help translate,” he says. “Meeting the athletes for the first time and trying to communicate was a fun experience because I was just trying to learn a phrase to say, ‘Hi, how are you?’ in that language to make them a little bit more comfortable.”



Dr. Taylor Velasquez

Showing the coaches the importance of their athlete’s need for dental care was an important part of Dr. Velasquez’s process during each screening as well.

“Showing the coach, ‘Look at this tooth right here, this tooth is really hurting him, even though he’s not complaining about it.’ Education, the importance of it, the lack of care in their home country, played a big part in it,” he says.

Now that Dr. Velasquez has returned to the U.S., the second step of the research process will begin at ATSRI.

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, PhD, RDH, FSCDH, professor, assistant dean for research; Maureen Perry, DDS, MPA, MAEd, associate dean, Advanced Care Clinic; Karen Fallone, RDH, instructor; Marc Shlossman, DDS, MS, associate professor; and Lanvi Lu, D2, along with other students and collaborators from ATSRI, will work to analyze data recovered from the games.

“As one of the ATSRI directors, I am thrilled to see the goals of this program have been fully realized,” says Dr. Spolarich. “We are so happy to have Dr. Velasquez back at ATSU-ASDOH as a new faculty member and that he has already started the continuation of his research journey.”

Some of the questions ATSRI will analyze during data collection include what areas of the world have the most significant gaps in dental care, why certain countries lack resources, and what outreach needs to be done to address these disparities.

“This data could hopefully impact patients on a real level by giving them care in that proper area,” Dr. Velasquez explains.

In alignment with the University’s commitment to serving the underserved, the aim is to help determine how Special Olympics can place more dental care resources in communities needing it most.

Dr. Velasquez adds, “I was just a volunteer, so I try not to make it about me as much because I think the whole mindset of ATSU-ASDOH is community first. It’s all about the athletes. It’s all about the community. It’s how we have jobs and why we work.” ■

Dr. Taylor Velasquez screens patient athletes at the Special Olympics World Games.

Not lost in translation

An ATSU-MOSDOH faculty member improves language access to dental care for non-English speakers

By Sami Harris

Romana Muller, EdD, MSDH, RDH, '22, assistant professor of hygiene at ATSU-MOSDOH, was born in Czechoslovakia, a country once under a communist regime. When she was just 11 years old, her family had to make the difficult, and potentially dangerous, decision to flee the country. In doing this, Dr. Muller's parents could have been sent to prison. However, they got lucky when, on their last try, a guard allowed them to cross the border between Yugoslavia and Austria. From there, they immigrated to Canada.

Although necessary, this transition to a new country was hard on Dr. Muller. She experienced a huge language barrier as she did not yet know English and faced challenges assimilating to a new society.

"I remember the first day I was at school. I didn't know what people were saying," Dr. Muller says. "I could hear and see that people were talking to me, but I couldn't understand, and I could not respond. It felt like I didn't have a voice."



Dr. Romana Muller

Because of her experience, Dr. Muller is working to make sure other immigrants are able to find their voice when it comes to oral health.

“I have a passion in my heart for individuals who don’t speak English because I was there, in their shoes,” Dr. Muller explains. “As a child, I had to interpret for my parents during healthcare appointments. So, I know these barriers exist.”

Dr. Muller, along with her team of ATSU students, is breaking down language barriers between immigrant patients and their dental care providers at the St. Louis Dental Center. She is determined to increase access to written materials in languages other than English. To achieve this, the team is actively translating clinical forms necessary for patients to receive dental care, into as many languages as possible.

“I always say that when we get patients who come in from linguistically diverse communities, we need to do what we can to give them a voice,” Dr. Muller says. “Our clinic has close to 4,000 patients on record who speak a language other than English. There are currently 48 different languages spoken. We have always provided free interpreter services, and now, with this project, we are growing our portfolio of translated documents.”

“I had a vision to tap into the diversity of our students and faculty who have the ability to communicate, read, and write in different languages. I envisioned utilizing those talents to build a library of forms in different languages for our patients.”

So far, the team has successfully translated forms into 12 different languages, but there is still work to be done. Dr. Muller will continue to recruit students to join her translation team as long as support and funding are available.

“We’re doing what we can; it’s an improvement to what we had before,” Dr. Muller says. “I look at this project as if we are building a library of bilingual forms. Whenever we translate a form, we put it onto the bookshelf, so it’s always going to be there. When I get students on the team who can speak, read, and write in another language, then I can add to the library.”

Dr. Muller’s team is also developing and implementing assessments to test literacy in oral health terminology. So far, they have tested Spanish speakers and English speakers. In addition, the team developed educational components to teach patients what certain dental terms mean. Currently, these components are being prepared for translation into more languages.

Community service is an important part of the project. The team has delivered translated oral health education materials and intake forms to community events organized by the International Institute of St. Louis and the St. Louis Give Kids A Smile organization’s Tiny Smiles program.

“One of the biggest barriers in the lack of language access in healthcare is that the cost of translations is enormous,” Dr. Muller explains.

To complete this project, Dr. Muller has been awarded two separate grants, the most recent one being an ATSU internal grant, the ATSU Underserved Community Scholarly Improvement Grant. The first grant she received, In Any Language, Improving Oral Health Translates into Better Lives, was an external grant from the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, which does not usually give grants to schools.

“They just took a chance on us,” Dr. Muller says. “My dream came true when I got that grant. I have always wanted to do something like this, and I never thought that it would happen.”

“My vision for the long term, if I had continued funding and support, would be to take our forms that we are developing and make them available on a website where every dental school in the U.S. could access and utilize them with their patients. I think it is much needed.”

Dr. Muller is proud of what she and her team have done and will continue to do. She recognizes she couldn’t do any of this work without the help from her student translation team. She also has a team of reviewers, who are native speakers of languages included in the project, to ensure quality control. Some of them are recent ATSU-MOSDOH graduates who have previously contributed to the project as student translators and volunteered to stay on as reviewers.

In addition, Dr. Muller appreciates the support from ATSU-MOSDOH Dean Dwight McLeod, DDS, MS, and Vice Dean Poonam Jain, BDS, MS, MPH; ATSU staff; Affinia Healthcare administrators and staff at the St. Louis Dental Center; and other volunteer reviewers. She is grateful to those with ATSU Sponsored Programs, grant support teams, and Research Support, along with the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis.

“I think we’re making these people feel like they are welcomed, considered, and included, and I think that’s what means so much to them. Having been there myself, I understand how significant that is,” Dr. Muller says. “It’s just so groundbreaking and so life-changing. I hope this project can continue.” ■



Dr. Romana Muller meets with past and current members of the translation team. From left to right, along with the languages in which they are fluent, Svyatoslav Danylyk, DMD, '23, Ukrainian; Khoa Dang Vincent Nguyen, DMD, '23, Vietnamese; Sinhareeb Emara, D4, Arabic; Dr. Romana Muller, Czech; Zohal Alizai, OMS IV, Dari and Pashto; and Pedram Majbuleh, D4, Japanese.

STUDENT TRANSLATION TEAM

Reyberto Guzman Elias, DMD, '22
 Hanan Kayali, DMD, '22
 Larisa Macedo, DMD, '22
 Julianna Phan, DMD, '22
 Svyatoslav Danylyk, DMD, '23
 Sharon Murza, DMD, '23
 Khoa Dang Vincent Nguyen, DMD, '23
 Lisandra Nodarse, DMD, '23
 Syeda Zehra, DMD, '23
 Parisa Ebrahimi, D4
 Sinhareeb Emara, D4
 Pedram Majbuleh, D4
 Zohal Alizai, OMS IV

REVIEW TEAM

ATSU-MOSDOH faculty

Hanan Omar, BDS, PhD, MSc
 Shaista Rashid, BDS, MS, MPH
 Ahmed Zarrouh, DDS, DSc, BDS

ATSU-MOSDOH alumni and students

Sima Shakiba, DMD, '21
 Larisa Macedo, DMD, '22
 Julianne Phan, DMD, '22
 Svyatoslav Danylyk, DMD, '23
 Sharon Murza, DMD, '23
 Khoa Dang Vincent Nguyen, DMD, '23
 Lisandra Nodarse, DMD, '23
 Syeda Zehra, DMD, '23
 Jannette Covarrubias, D3

National Student Doctor of the Year

ATSU-KCOM's Michael Megafu follows unique path to prestigious AACOM award

By Jason Hunsicker

The email's subject line was ordinary enough. Something like "National Student Doctor of the Year results," recalls Michael Megafu, now a fourth-year student at ATSU-KCOM.

Megafu was on his third-year rotations at Bayonne Medical Center in New Jersey, checking his email on his phone. He clicked to open the message and reveal its contents.

As expected, it was the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) announcing its national student doctor of osteopathic (DO) medicine winner, selected by AACOM's Council of Student Government Presidents from a pool of nominees from every DO school in the U.S.

What Megafu didn't expect was the word to begin the email: "Congratulations."

"I was in utter shock," Megafu says. "Me? I'm Student Doctor of the Year? I screamed in the middle of the hospital. I was really loud. Everyone looked at me like, 'Mike, are you OK?' I would have never imagined it in a million years."

Megafu's path to this point had hardly been a straight line. For much of his life, he'd wanted to be a teacher. He played college basketball at St. Joseph's University, New York, starting and averaging a double-double in each of his four seasons. And when he decided to pursue his medical education, Megafu was turned down in two application cycles before earning his opportunity and choosing ATSU-KCOM.

But in explaining how it felt to win the award, Megafu perhaps best explains how he arrived at the moment – a combination of determination, gratitude, and modesty, which set a foundation for learning, growth, and success.

"When I was first selected to win ATSU-KCOM Student Doctor of the Year I was super humbled, because our school really brings out a lot of good students who are not only educationally sound, but actually doctors. People who have good bedside manners, people who you

want to have on your team to deliver patient care," Megafu says. "To win the national award, I was even more surprised and more humbled. It reminds me of how much I represent the people who voted for me.

"It's not just a personal accomplishment, it's representative of all of the student doctors across all of the different institutions. We all go through the same grind; we all have the same struggles we're facing to become osteopathic physicians. It's really easy to be discouraged, but the most important thing is patient care. We're doctors at the end of the day and our patients matter most, so we go through all of these struggles for the patients and that's what I try to demonstrate and emulate."

Megafu was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Queens. Healthcare was a big part of his life, with his mother a nurse and his father a public health investigator for the New York State Department of Health, but Megafu believed he wanted to be a teacher. Throughout his undergraduate studies, with a major in biology, he taught during the summers, and following graduation, he entered the teaching profession.

Something, though, kept pulling him toward medicine. Megafu said in high school he'd done an early exposure program in the health sciences and that sparked his interest, and that interest continued to grow until he decided to apply and eventually earn a seat with ATSU-KCOM.

His next challenge? Leaving all he knew in New York City and moving halfway across the country to Kirksville, Missouri.



Michael Megafu delivers remarks while accepting his National Student Doctor of the Year award at AACOM's Educating Leaders conference in April 2023.

"I moved in on the Fourth of July. The next day, I'm getting my stuff together, my family is leaving, and I actually cried. I was miserable," Megafu says. "The adjustment was tough."

What settled him was what had initially appealed to him about ATSU-KCOM, and why he's come to love and appreciate a place he chose to return to for his final year of rotations.

"The family-oriented nature and community vibes I got from ATSU were unparalleled. Kirksville breeds a lot of nice people who are supportive and friendly. I was able to establish relationships not only with my classmates, but with faculty, people in the community, my church, the school I taught at, and just being part of different organizations," he says. "In the city, you're forced to build small circles and hang onto your own. Kirksville brings you together. You get to know people on a deeper level.

"My first sub-internship in orthopedic surgery is in Kirksville. People ask, 'You're going back to Kirksville?' I'm like, 'Yeah, it was great. I missed it and the family I built there.'"

His path to this point may have been windy, but Megafu's destinations from here are clear. Graduation in 2024. Residency. Then, in some form, a return to teaching. It has long been a passion for Megafu, who earned a medical education fellowship at ATSU-KCOM, and he is quick to point out how closely medicine and education are related.

"The word doctor means teacher in Latin," he says. "My goal is to blend it all together. Whether I work at an academic center or a private practice and am affiliated with a medical school, I want to be able to be both a teacher and physician.

"I want to educate and inspire the next generation of, not only doctors, but medical professionals. That's what I plan to do. Actually, let me change that. That's what I will do." ■

Showing our #ATSUPride at Founder's Day 2023

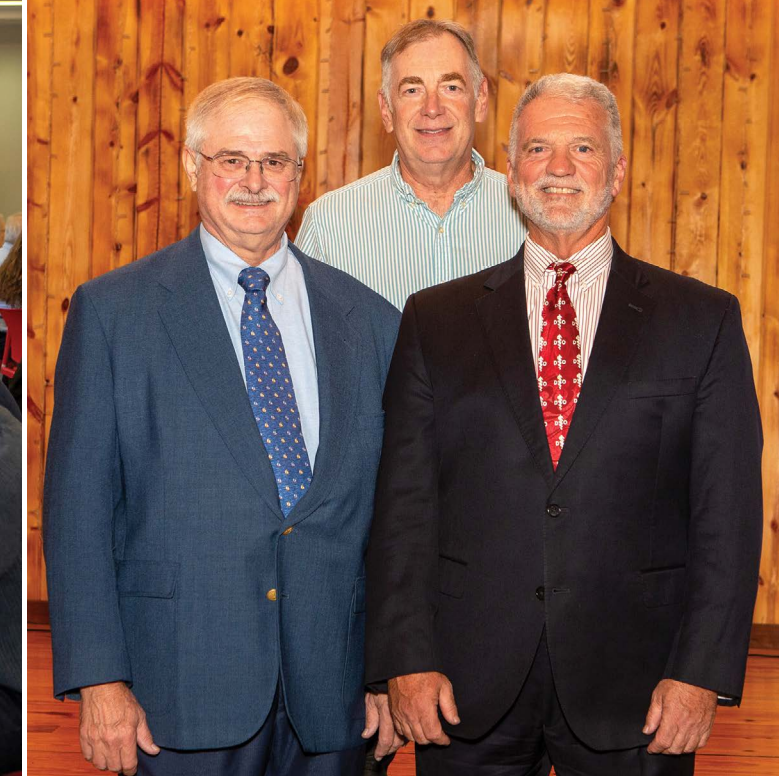
By Katie Hubbard

Every year, the ATSU community gathers to celebrate Founder's Day and honor the life and legacy of the University's founder, A.T. Still, DO. The 2023 all-campus celebration began in Kirksville, Missouri, from Oct. 12-14, then in Mesa, Arizona, on Oct. 19, and Santa Maria, California, on Oct. 25. ATSU alumni, students, faculty, and staff reconnected with one another and enjoyed a variety of activities showcasing their pride in the University's history and enthusiasm for the future.



Alumni and student breakfast

ATSU-KCOM and ATSU-MOSDOH alumni and students meet for breakfast, spending valuable time talking with and learning from each other.



Reunion Banquet and Alumni Recognition Ceremony

Members from the ATSU-KCOM class of 1983 are recognized by the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association for their 40-year anniversary, including (left to right) Kenneth Jones, DO, '83, Alumnus of the Year; Rusty Bond, DO, '83; and Kent Campbell, DO, '83, Living Tribute Award recipient.



Tinning Founder's Day Osteopathy Lecture

Roger W. Beaumont, DO, C-ONMM, AOBFP, '69, delivers the Fred C. Tinning, PhD, DOEd (hon.), '14, Founder's Day Osteopathy Lecture. In his lecture, "The New Era of Body, Mind, and Spirit Medicine," Dr. Beaumont says, "Remember, every moment matters. Never forget, every choice matters."



Community bus tour

Alumni and guests participate in a bus tour of the Kirksville community and see how the town has changed since their days as students.



Gold Medallion members

At the Reunion Banquet and Alumni Recognition Ceremony, ATSU welcomes back the class of 1973, which celebrated its 50-year anniversary and joined the Gold Medallion Club. Gold Medallion members in attendance include (left to right, front row) Paul Haight, DO, '68; Kenneth Harris, DO, '68; Roger W. Beaumont, DO, C-ONMM, AOBFP, '69; William Stanley, DO, '73; Randal Sparks, DO, '73; (second row) James "Mike" Ritze, DO, '73; George Kessler, DO, '73; Dennis Smallwood, DO, '68; Floyd Stevens, DO, '63, (back row) D. Kent Mulford, DO, '73; Daniel Moore, DO, '73; and Michael Murphy, DO, '73. Not pictured: Nils Olson, DO, '73



Women's flag football

The second-year ATSU-KCOM and ATSU-MOSDOH flag football team defeats the first-year squad, 21-13, during the annual game at the Thompson Campus Center field.



Still-A-Bration

Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and their families enjoy Still-A-Bration with food trucks, kids' games, a catered dinner, a bonfire, s'mores, and live music with Truman State University's a cappella group, True Men.



Arizona campus celebration

Featuring a dunk tank, carnival games, pie-eating contest, mechanical bull, and more, the Arizona campus holds its annual Founder's Day celebration for students, faculty, staff, and their families.



Rock climbing

Students, faculty, staff, and family members attending the Arizona campus celebration have the opportunity to practice their rock-climbing techniques.



Powderpuff games

Throughout the week, powderpuff teams on the Arizona campus compete for the Super Puff Championship. The Physical Therapy team wins 26-12 against the Occupational Therapy/Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology team. The Occupational Therapy/Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology team wins the coveted Spirit Stick.

See more photos from Founder's Day 2023 on ATSU's social media pages. [#ATSUPride](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Following ATSU's social media accounts is something you can do to help the University and spread awareness of the latest happenings.

By taking a little time to like, share, and engage with ATSU's content, you are furthering the reach of ATSU and the work of its amazing alumni, students, faculty, and staff, all while raising the University's profile.

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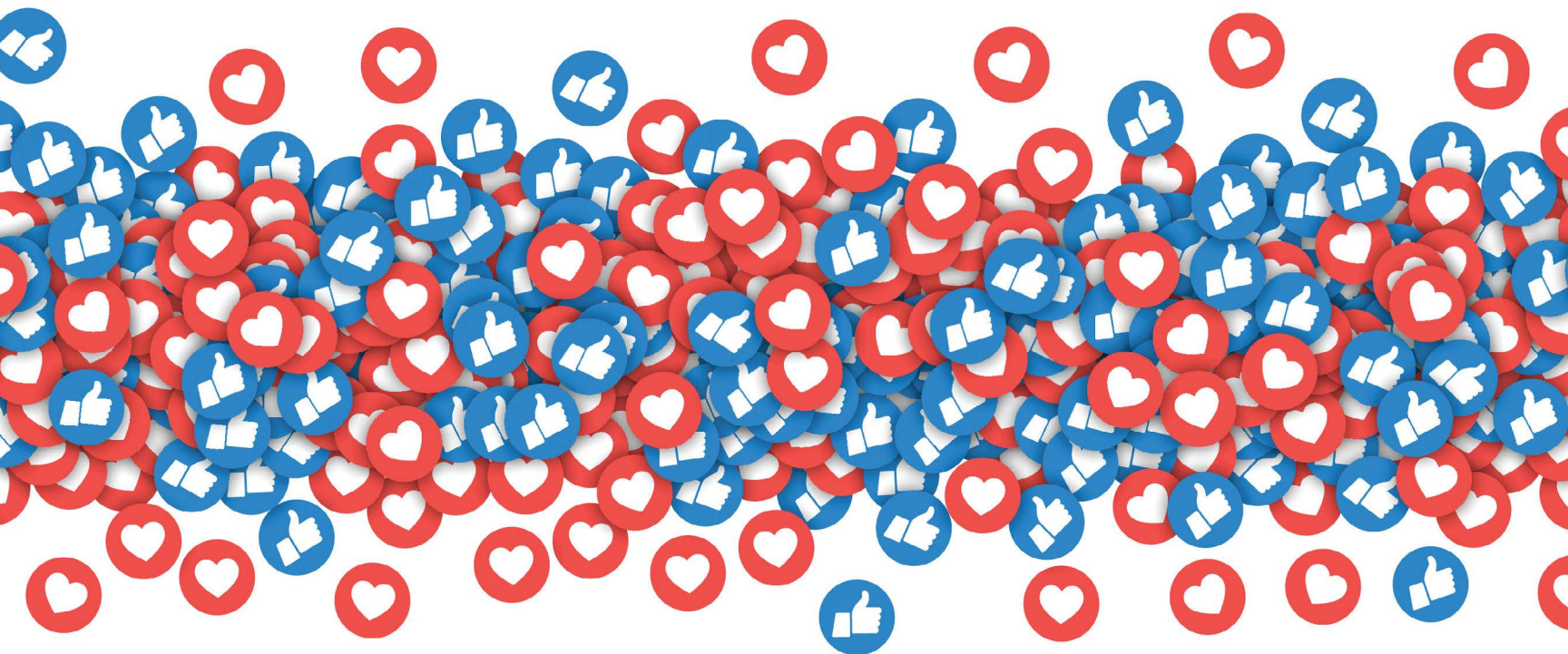
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YouTube

youtube.com/atstilluniversity



CONNECTIONS

ATSU-ASDOH hosted its 16th annual Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) event in February, providing 90 uninsured children with free dental care. Approximately 270 students participated, along with faculty, staff, alumni, and local volunteer dentists. In addition to providing dental treatments, students organized an outdoor carnival with games and face painting for the pediatric patients.

"We changed the focus this year, and instead of one big day providing restorative treatment, our new goal is to bring these patients back on a monthly basis to establish a dental home for them," said Jessica Hochschuler, D4, GKAS co-chair.

IN THIS SECTION

Reconnect

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Faculty & staff news

In memoriam

Parting shot

2023 ALUMNI EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

When members of the ATSU family gather, a common thread emerges. Friends reconnect, new bonds develop, and students find inspiration. From Boston to San Diego and many points in between, recent events brought energetic, diverse, accomplished groups of individuals together – enriching and reinforcing the tapestry of social and professional networks that bind the University community together.

SPRING 2023



PT Alumni, Students & Friends Reception

**Physical Therapy (PT) Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) conference**
Hotel Solomar | San Diego, California



DO Alumni, Students & Friends Reception

**Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) Convocation**
The Broadmoor | Colorado Springs, Colorado



ATSU-ASDOH Alumni Reunion

Give Kids A Smile and ATSU-ASDOH Alumni Reunion Weekend
ATSU Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona

**Physician Assistant (PA) Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants Conference**
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort | Tucson, Arizona



Audiology Alumni, Students & Friends Reception

**Audiology Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Academy of Audiology (AAA) Conference + HearTECH Expo**
Sheraton Grand Seattle | Seattle, Washington

SPRING 2023

**Occupational Therapy (OT) Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Conference**
Loews Kansas City Hotel | Kansas City, Missouri



Orthodontic Program Alumni, Students & Friends Reception

**Orthodontic Program Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Annual Session**
Marriott Marquis Chicago | Chicago, Illinois

**PA Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Association of Physician Associates (AAPA) Annual Conference**
Omni Nashville Hotel | Nashville, Tennessee

Central Coast ATSU Alumni & Friends Reception
Dolphin Bay Resort & Spa | Pismo Beach, California

SUMMER 2023



AT Alumni, Students & Friends Reception

**Athletic Training (AT) Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Convention**
Indiana Convention Center | Indianapolis, Indiana

SUMMER 2023

**ATSU-CGHS Alumni & Students Reception
Kinesiology Summer Institute**
Tempe Mission Palms | Tempe, Arizona

**Alumni & Friends Reception
NACHC Community Health Institute**
Manchester Grand Hyatt | San Diego, California

FALL 2023



ATSU-MOSDOH 10th Anniversary Celebration in Dexter

ATSU-MOSDOH 10th Anniversary Celebration and Partnership/Community Thank You Events
St. Louis, Dexter, and Kirksville, Missouri

**DO & Dental Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
American Osteopathic Association OMed Conference and American Dental Association SmileCon**
Orlando, Florida



ATSU Founder's Day alumni event in Kirksville

ATSU Founder's Day
Missouri campus | Kirksville, Missouri
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

**PT Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
APTA 2024 Combined Sections Meeting**
Seaport Hotel Boston | Boston, Massachusetts
Feb. 15 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Give Kids A Smile, Continuing Dental Education,
and ATSU-ASDOH Alumni Reunion Weekend**
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona
Feb. 23-24

**DO Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
AAO Convocation**
The Broadmoor | Colorado Springs, Colorado
March 8 | 7:00-8:30 p.m. (tentative)

**OT Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
AOTA Annual Conference & Expo**
Orange County Convention Center | Orlando, Florida
March 22 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. (tentative)

**DO Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
ACOFP Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars**
Hilton New Orleans Riverside | New Orleans, Louisiana
April 5 | 6:30-8:00 p.m. (tentative)

ATSU-ASHS Alumni Reunion & Spring Expo
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona
April 5-6

ATSU-SOMA Alumni Reunion Barbecue
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona
April 6

**Audiology Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
AAA Conference + HearTECH Expo**
Atlanta, Georgia
April 17 (tentative)

**Orthodontic Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
AAO Annual Session**
Hilton Riverside New Orleans | New Orleans, Louisiana
May 4 | 6:45-8:45 p.m. (tentative)

**PA Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
AAPA Conference**
Marriott Marquis Houston | Houston, Texas
May 19 | 7:30-9:00 p.m. (tentative)

**AT Alumni, Students & Friends Reception
NATA Convention**
New Orleans, Louisiana
June 27 | 6:30-8:00 p.m. (tentative)

Founder's Day
Missouri campus | Kirksville, Missouri
Oct. 17-19, 2024

Attention job seekers and employers!

Alumni employment opportunities
are available across the U.S.

The University provides an online job board for ATSU alumni seeking employment and for employers searching for ATSU graduates to fill vacant positions. These job opportunities are shared by external employers and other alumni who value the skills and expertise of ATSU graduates. As a free resource for employers and job seekers, we encourage you to check back often when you are looking for a new opportunity or when you have positions at your organization or company to advertise. Please contact alumni@atsu.edu with any questions.



atsu.edu/alumni-jobs



Local ATSU-ASDOH alumni join faculty, staff, and students at the annual Give Kids A Smile event in Mesa, Arizona.

President's Circle

June 30, 2022, through July 1, 2023

The University's loyal supporters help pave the way for the next generation of leaders in whole person healthcare. President's Circle members provide foundational support for ATSU and its programs. By contributing \$1,000 or more annually to any University fund or initiative, you automatically become a member of this prominent group and will be recognized as a leading supporter. Your annual support at this level has a powerful impact. Please consider joining other President's Circle members and ensuring ATSU remains first in whole person healthcare.

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American Osteopathic College of Dermatology
Bryana K. Andert, DO, '09
Ashlee Aragon, DMD, '15
Kristol Lee Arcilla, DO, '05 & Mr. Roque Arcilla
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
Megan S. Aspelund, DO, '18
Karlene M. Ator
Back To School Clothing Drive Association
Aaron & Dr. Holli Bagwell, '08
Larry J. & Jane L. Baker
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Danielle Barnett-Trapp, DO, '11
Rebecca D. Barteel, DO, '91
& Ms. Synthia Deese
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Dr. Andrew, '55 & Jayne Berry
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Dr. Jack J., '62 & Nancy Blumenthal
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Deborah Botteron & Robert W. Botteron
Michael W. Bradbury, PhD
Granville Brady Jr., AuD, '02 & Ms. Carol Brady
Dr. David, '89 & Colleen Bremer
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Bruce Brink Sr., DO, '52
Bruce C. Brink Jr., DO, '77
Fred D. Brink, DO, '62
Douglas E. Brinkerhoff, DO, '75
Kevin Bryant
Ann Lee Burch, EdD & Steven Dudasik
Richard J. Burman, DO, '59
Charles W. & Sally J. Busenhardt
Lloyd H. Butler, DO, '71 & Gloria A. Butler
Jeffrey R. Bytowski, DO, '98
Dr. & Mrs. Kent Campbell, '83
Canadian Academy of Osteopathy
Dr. Bradley D., '88 & Stephanie Carman
The Tom J. & Edna M. Carson Foundation
Casa Colina Hospital
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Jude Thomas Cauwenbergh, DO, '94
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Nathan A. Miller, DO, '12
Drs. Bruce L. Mintz, '81 & Barb Girz
Matthew J. Miriani, DO, '87 & Mrs. Suzan Miriani
Susan Mish
Drs. Jamie Michelle Moenster, '05
& Christopher William Weyer, '06

Michelle K. Mollick
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George Muenster, DO, '62
& Mrs. Jeanne E. Muenster
Dr. Bradford J., '79 & Tricia S. Murphy
Mutual Insurance Company of Arizona
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The Mylander Foundation
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Isaac Robert Navarro, DMD, '08
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Ann-Margaret Ochs, DO, '98
Marian Osterweis, PhD
Thomas W. Ozbirn Jr., DO, '81
& Ms. Michelle Ozbirn
Tabitha Parent Buck, AuD
Richard G. Pepe, DO, '62 & Mrs. Margaret Pepe
Christine Perry, DO, '03
Maureen Munnely Perry, DDS & Mr. Bill Perry
Craig, '84, Stacy & Zach Phelps
Phelps Health
Pinellas Community Foundation
Mario Anwar Pinto, DO, '13
Dr. Thomas J. Piskorowski, '79
& Mrs. Diane M. Piskorowski
David Porter, DO, '89 & Mrs. Debra K. Porter
Deborah Jane Power, DO, '97
Wayne T. Prokott, DO, '89
& Mrs. Mary R. Prokott
Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. Prosser
Quad Cities Community Foundation
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Georgeanne A. Raftopoulos, DO, '09, MS, '07
Lorree A. Ratto, PhD
Kenneth & Debra Read
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Chet D. Ridenour, DO, '81
& Mrs. Shelley Mae Ridenour
Timothy Riestler
Felix J. Rogers, DO, '73 & Mrs. Caroline Rogers
Brenda Rucker
Les T. Sandknop, DO, '78
& Claudia Poore Sandknop
Santa Maria Valley Chamber
Jennifer Sargentini
Gary L. Sattman, DO, '97 & Mrs. Toni Sattman
Eric L. Sauers, PhD, MS, '97
& Dr. Andrea Lopes Sauers
Michael L. Schreiber, DO, '04
Schwab Charitable Fund
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& Jennifer P. Sewing, DO, '98
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& William Sexton, PhD
Jessica Sexton Walsh, DO, '07
Ralph B. Shaw II & Jean Adams Shaw
Eric Shirley
Sierra Orthodontic Services Ltd.
Lisa Sloan

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& Mrs. Cynthia T. Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Grayson Smith Jr., '75
Todd Wesley Smith, DO, '98
& Mrs. Jennifer Smith
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& Mrs. Tammy Sobieraj
Terrence Lee Soldo, DO, '90
& Mrs. Deborah Soldo
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Joel David Stein, DO, '83 & Mrs. Rosa Stein
Fred L. Steinbaum, DO, '68
& Mrs. Eleanor Steinbaum
Billy W. Strait, DO, '91
Straumann USA
Mary Hudson Strizzi, DO, '09 & Mr. Mike Strizzi
Alfred W. Studwell, DO, '62
& Mrs. Regina Studwell
Jeremiah Wayne Sturgill, DMD, '12, MPH, '11
& Riley Beth Sturgill, DMD, '13
Gaylah & Werner Sublette
Jeff L. Summe, DO, '87
David J. Swofford, DO, '78
& Mrs. Patrice Swofford
Drs. Tod & Karen Sylvara, '91
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Teget Foundation
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& Ms. Audrey Thurman
Dr. & Mrs. James Tooley, '86
Dr. James Towry, '85 & Mrs. Keri Towry
Robert M. Trombly, DDS
& Ms. Colleen R. Trombly
Kenneth Tuong T. Truong, DO, '96
United Way of the Capital Region
Lisa Upledger
Felix M. Valbuena, MD
Vanguard Charitable
Vascular Diagnostics LLC
Martha G. Venable
Dr. Eric S. von Hoven
& Mrs. Sarah E. von Hoven
Cory R. Walker, DO, '08
Leslie L. Walsh, DO, '82 & Ms. Lisa L. Walsh
Frederick Watson, DO, '97
& Mrs. Anne Merril Watson
Dr. Charlotte Weaver Foundation
Lynn Weinberg, AuD, '02
O.T. Wendel, PhD & Ms. Janet C. Wendel
Aisha Wilbur, DPT, '08
Laurie Willard
Heather Williamson, DO, '00 & Mr. James Quirk
Margaret Wilson, DO, '82 & Mr. Charles Lemley
Dr. Wade, '72 & Louise Wong
Dr. Andrew, '79 & Mrs. Mary Rose Zazaian
Dr. Lane, '85 & Terri Ziegler

An ATSU-SOMA alumna and Board of Trustees member shares her passions, goals, and more

When Danielle Barnett-Trapp, DO, '11, was asked to join the ATSU Board of Trustees in 2021, she jumped at the opportunity. A member of ATSU-SOMA's inaugural class, Dr. Barnett-Trapp, a clinical associate professor at Midwestern University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, is the first ATSU-SOMA graduate to serve on the board, something she views as an honor.

"I just love A.T. Still University," she says. "I'm a huge believer in its approach and its mission. I feel like the school is really grounded in osteopathic principles and treating people as humans."

While her path to osteopathic medicine may not have been as direct as others in the profession, her love of teaching was always apparent. When Dr. Barnett-Trapp began her undergraduate studies at Northern Arizona University, she wanted to be an elementary school teacher. However, she switched gears and majored in biology and minored in chemistry. She still wanted to teach but at a higher level. When her father, an osteopathic family physician, asked her what she planned to do after graduation, she still wasn't 100% sure and considered teaching high school biology or anatomy.

"My father told me if I went to medical school, I could teach on a graduate level. That's why I pursued medicine," she says. "I naturally liked it, and I was naturally curious about it."

However, despite her love for medicine and science, teaching was still Dr. Barnett-Trapp's main goal.

"I realized that doctors are teachers and teach their patients and their families," she says. "It came full circle for me."

Although her father graduated from the Chicago College of Medicine, Dr. Barnett-Trapp, who grew up in Arizona's Phoenix metropolitan area, opted to stay close to home and chose ATSU-SOMA because of its innovative curricular model.

"Being in ATSU-SOMA's first class allowed us to have a lot of impact and shape the School and its reputation in the Valley and my community," she says. "It was really important to me."

Dr. Barnett-Trapp felt extremely prepared when she graduated because of the clinical experience ATSU-SOMA students receive.

"You might not realize it while you're going through school because you're just learning, but when you get out there and start comparing yourself to other students and residents, you can see how prepared you are and how comfortable you are with patients," she says.

After graduating, Dr. Barnett-Trapp completed a family medicine residency at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

"I always knew that's the avenue I wanted to go because I wanted to have a very broad knowledge base. I didn't want to focus or specialize in one area," she says. "If I wanted to have an impact in the teaching environment, a broad knowledge base was important."

After three years, she joined the faculty at Midwestern University and continued practicing family medicine, gaining experience in a wide array of treatment modalities, which she says made her a better educator. She also completed an academic medicine fellowship at the University of Arizona.

Now, in addition to teaching second-year medical students at Midwestern University, she sees patients at the university's outpatient clinic. She also works in urgent care to hone her skills.

"When people ask me what I teach, it's kind of hard to explain," she says. "I teach students how to be a doctor, how to think critically, and how to integrate everything they're learning in those basic science courses to seeing a patient in an exam room."

As for what's in store for her future? Dr. Barnett-Trapp says she thinks about it all the time.

"I definitely will remain in academics. I'll be in academics for my whole life. That was always my focus. I want to remain clinically active as well, still seeing patients and keeping up with medicine to better educate our students on what it's like when they get out of school," she says.

Dr. Barnett-Trapp also says she'll serve on the board as long as they'll have her. Members serve in three-year terms for a maximum of three consecutive terms, or nine years. The board meets approximately four times a year across the three campuses to immerse themselves in ATSU programs and see how they may best support the University and its programs.

In addition to ATSU's Board of Trustees, Dr. Barnett-Trapp serves on the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.

"One of my other areas of passion is advocacy for the osteopathic profession and protecting the profession for future students," she says. "I'll continue to do that in whatever capacities are presented to me."

A teacher first

By Arselia Gales

Dr. Danielle Barnett-Trapp



CLASS NOTES



Philip Slocum, DO, '76

1970s

Philip Slocum, DO, '76, Joplin, Missouri, was honored with the Best Physician Award for 2022-23 from Freeman Health System. Dr. Slocum serves as medical director of Freeman's Respiratory Therapy department and director of the Freeman Lung Institute. Dr. Slocum served as ATSU-KCOM's dean from 2004-11.

1980s

Gary Midla, DO, '80, received the 2021 Distinguished Physician Award during the Annual Franciscan Health Medical Staff Celebration, held at the NCAA Hall of Champions, downtown Indianapolis, July 23, 2022. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, Dr. Midla retired from family medicine in August 2021 after 40 years of service.



Gary Midla, DO, '80

Robert C. Vandergraaf, DO, FAOCA, FASA, '83, was honored with the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism Award at the 2022 American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists' Annual Convention. Dr. Vandergraaf practiced as an anesthesiologist in the Sutter Health System in Vallejo, California. This award honors healthcare practitioners who best demonstrate the ideals of compassionate and respectful care for a patient's well-being.

Roy Skousen, DO, FAOCA, '85, was conferred the degree of fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists at the 2022 Annual Convention. Dr. Skousen serves as anesthesiologist at University of New Mexico Sandoval Regional Medical Center.

Walter Rose, DO, FAOCA, '86, was conferred the degree of fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists at the 2022 Annual Convention. Dr. Rose serves as staff

anesthesiologist at Norton Children's Hospital and assistant clinical professor and clinical instructor at the University of Louisville.

1990s

Mark DeSantis, DO, MS, FAAR, '93, received the 2023 E.O. Martin Award from the American Association of Physician Specialists (AAPS) for his distinguished service to the association, medical profession, and community. This is the highest award conferred by AAPS. Dr. DeSantis is a clinical assistant professor at the State University of New York and serves on staff at the Northport VA Medical Center. He is also a consultant to the Los Angeles medical examiner, New Jersey chief state medical examiner, and New York Suffolk County medical examiner.

Ian Fawks, DO, FACFP, '97, a physician with Cox Health in Springfield, Missouri, was appointed to the Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts by Gov. Mike Parson. Dr. Fawks is one of two DOs on the board.

2000s

Isaac Parr, MS, PA-C, '05, is presiding for two years as the Phoenix Indian Medical Center medical staff president.

Adam R. Borden, MHA, '07, joined the American Clinical Laboratory Association as its new senior vice president of policy and strategy.

Donald Donahue, DHEd, '09, Ashton, Maryland, was elected president of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine.

Maya Moody, DO, '09, St. Louis, Missouri, was recognized by Ingram's as one of "50 Missourians You Should Know." Dr. Moody is a pediatrician at

Mercy Health JFK Clinic and president of the Missouri chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Matthew Shupe, DO, '09, is providing monthly oncology and hematology care at Jefferson Community Health & Life in Fairbury, Nebraska. Dr. Shupe is a board-certified medical oncologist with Nebraska Hematology-Oncology PC of Lincoln.

Aaron Sigler, DO, '09, joined Bayhealth Neurosurgery in Dover, Delaware. A board-certified neurosurgeon who performs a range of surgeries involving the head and spine, Dr. Sigler has expertise in minimally invasive techniques to treat tumors of the brain and skull base.

2010s

Donald Diemer, DHSc, PA, '11, was appointed to serve as a member of the Illinois State Medical Board by Gov. J.B. Pritzker. Dr. Diemer is the program director for the Physician Assistant program and Doctor of Medical Science program at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He also serves as a physician assistant for Rural Health.

Vasco Deon Kidd, DHSc, MPH, MS, PA-C, '11, a graduate of ATSU-CGHS, was reappointed to the California Physician Assistant Board by Gov. Gavin Newsom. He previously served a term on the board from 2021-23. Dr. Kidd is an associate clinical professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), School of Medicine. He also serves as the director of the Advanced Practice Providers Program at UCI Health.

Cassandra Lacher, DO, MHA, '11, joined Riverside Healthcare's team of oncologists. Prior to joining Riverside,

Dr. Lacher was an oncology and hematology provider at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana, where she also served as medical director for the Department of Oncology. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, she is board certified in oncology by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine and is board eligible in hematology.

Aretha Townsend, PhD, MPH, '11, was appointed deputy public health commissioner for the city of Springfield, Department of Health and Human Services in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Carol Younkin, DHSc, '12, is retired and provides volunteer ministry to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies.

Evan Lytle, DO, '15, a graduate of ATSU-KCOM, joined the Spectrum Health Lakeland team in St. Joseph, Michigan, as a neurosurgeon.

Shirlene Samuel, DO, '15, a graduate of ATSU-KCOM, was appointed to the Texas Medical Board District Four Review Committee by Gov. Greg Abbott. She is a board-certified pediatrician at Austin Regional Clinic and a member of the American Association of Pediatrics, American Osteopathic Association, and Texas Medical Board.

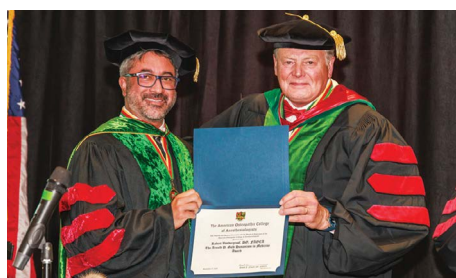
Taisei Suzuki, DO, '15, was named associate program director for The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education's National Family Medicine Residency program at Unity Health Care in Washington, D.C. In his new role, Dr. Suzuki will oversee resident physicians working at the training location, which offers medical outreach through 11 medical sites at homeless shelters, nine community health centers, two school-based health centers, medical walking outreach initiatives, and the D.C. Department of Corrections medical



Donald Diemer, DHSc, PA, '11



Taisei Suzuki, DO, '15



Robert C. Vandergraaf, DO, FAOCA, FASA, '83 (right)



Roy Skousen, DO, FAOCA, '85 (center)



Walter Rose, DO, FAOCA, '86 (second from left)



Matthew Shupe, DO, '09



Aaron Sigler, DO, '09



Evan Lytle, DO, '15

program. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, Dr. Suzuki is also a new board member of the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association.

Steven Vang, DO, '15, a vascular and endovascular surgeon, joined Aurora BayCare General & Vascular Surgery in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He is a graduate of ATSU-SOMA.

Trevor Bates, DHSc, '16, received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign during homecoming ceremonies in fall 2022.

Sarah Diaz, DO, '16, a graduate of ATSU-KCOM, joined the comprehensive cancer care team at MyMichigan Health in Midland, Michigan, as a colon and rectal surgeon.

Justin Babbel, DO, '17, joined Revere Health's Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology clinic in Orem, Utah. Dr. Babbel has been published in multiple scientific journals and given lectures on asthma and immunology. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, he is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Allergy and Immunology.

Jessica Ball, DO, '17, a graduate of ATSU-SOMA, joined Morrow County Hospital's Medical Specialty Center, specializing in otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery. Dr. Ball will share her time between OhioHealth Marion General Hospital and Morrow County Hospital.

Cesar Rivera, DMD, MD, '17, started an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency in July 2017 upon graduation from ATSU-MOSDOH. This included medical school at Texas Tech University School of Medicine, which he graduated from in May 2020. In June 2023, Dr. Rivera finished his residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Texas A&M School of Dentistry/Baylor University Medical Center.

Jenni Adams, DO, '18, a graduate of ATSU-SOMA, joined Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center's (HRRMC) medical staff, providing family medicine and obstetric care at the HRRMC Salida Health Center in Salida, Colorado. Dr. Adams is fellowship trained in high-risk and surgical obstetrics.

Gregory Janik, DAT, '18, LAT, ATC, '00, was inducted as the youngest athletic trainer into the Eastern Athletic

Trainers' Association (EATA) '49 Club, which honors athletic trainers whose work has helped shape and advance the profession and recognizes their leadership, accomplishments, and dedication to their home district, state, and EATA.

Jasser Khairallah, DO, '18, a graduate of ATSU-KCOM, was named the 2022 Outstanding Resident of the Year in Addiction Medicine by the American Osteopathic Foundation.

Megan Edwards, DO, '19, who is American Board of Emergency Medicine certified, published research in *The American Journal of Emergency Medicine* in 2022, presented research at Texas College of Emergency Physicians in 2022, and presented research at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine 2022. Dr. Edwards is a graduate of ATSU-KCOM.

Yosefa Pessin, DHSc, '19, program chair and director of the Diagnostic Medical Imaging Program at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, was named the 2022 Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Distinguished Educator.

Jenna Wong, DO, '19, a graduate of ATSU-SOMA, joined Fauquier Health in Warrenton, Virginia, as a family medicine physician. Dr. Wong is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Utah Academy of Family Physicians, and Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

2020s

Fadra M. Whyte, DMD, MPH, '20, a graduate of ATSU-CGHS, was appointed as San Diego County's chief dental officer to help develop policies and expand programs promoting oral health.



Fadra M. Whyte, DMD, MPH, '20



Trevor Bates, DHSc, '16



Sarah Diaz, DO, '16



Jessica Ball, DO, '17



Michael Rich, DHSc, '21



Sierra Hobbs, DAT, LAT, ATC, '22



Jacqueline Miller, DDS, MS, MPH, '22

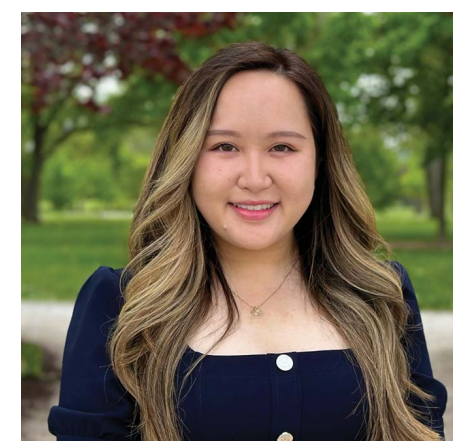
Jameda Davis, EdD, '21, received the award for Outstanding Pharmaceutical Publication from the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists at the summer 2022 conference.

Sandra Lindsay, DHSc, MBA, MS, RN, CCRN-K, NE-BC, '21, was appointed vice president of public health advocacy for Northwell Health. Dr. Lindsay spent 29 years in nursing, most recently serving as director of nursing critical care at Northwell Health's Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, New York.

Kris Pyles-Sweet, DMSc, '21, MS, '18, is serving her first term on the Board of Directors for American Academy of Physician Associates as director-at-large while serving on various committees and commissions. She continues on the Government Affairs committee with North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. Dr. Sweet is a graduate of



Tamika Lang, DMSc, '22



Kristina Nguyen, DMD, '23

ATSU-ASHS' inaugural Doctor of Medical Science program and Master of Science in Advanced Physician Assistant Studies program in the education and leadership concentration.

Michael Rich, DHSc, '21, was promoted to associate professor of athletic training at East Texas Baptist University.

Sierra Hobbs, DAT, LAT, ATC, '22, was named assistant athletic director for sports medicine at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Hobbs joined the university after serving as assistant athletic director for sports medicine at Clark Atlanta University. She also spent time as an athletic trainer with Source Fitness Management, where she provided sports medicine services at the secondary school level.

Reginald Jones, DHSc, MPH, '22, was awarded a fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

in Atlanta with the Center for Global Health funded by the ORISE Research Participation Program. ATSU-CGHS' **Patrick Palmieri, DHSc, EdS, MBA, MSN, ACNP, RN, '12**, adjunct faculty, health sciences, served as Dr. Jones' Applied Research Project chair, and **Vera Bannerman, MBA**, was Dr. Jones' academic advisor. In addition, Dr. Jones is serving as the junior collection editor for *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease*.

Tamika Lang, DMSc, '22, Clinton, South Carolina, joined the Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic of Laurens County as a board-certified physician assistant. She has experience in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine.

Jacqueline Miller, DDS, MS, MPH, '22, a graduate of ATSU-CGHS, was named the Missouri state dental director. Dr. Miller practiced orthodontics for 29 years and retired from private practice in May 2022. She looks forward to using her master of public health in an "encore career" to improve the oral health of all Missourians.

Kristian Pamas Velazquez, EdD, '22, published a manuscript of the doctoral research project, "Predictors of Success in the National Physical Therapy Examination for Hispanic Doctor of Physical Therapy Students," in the *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*.

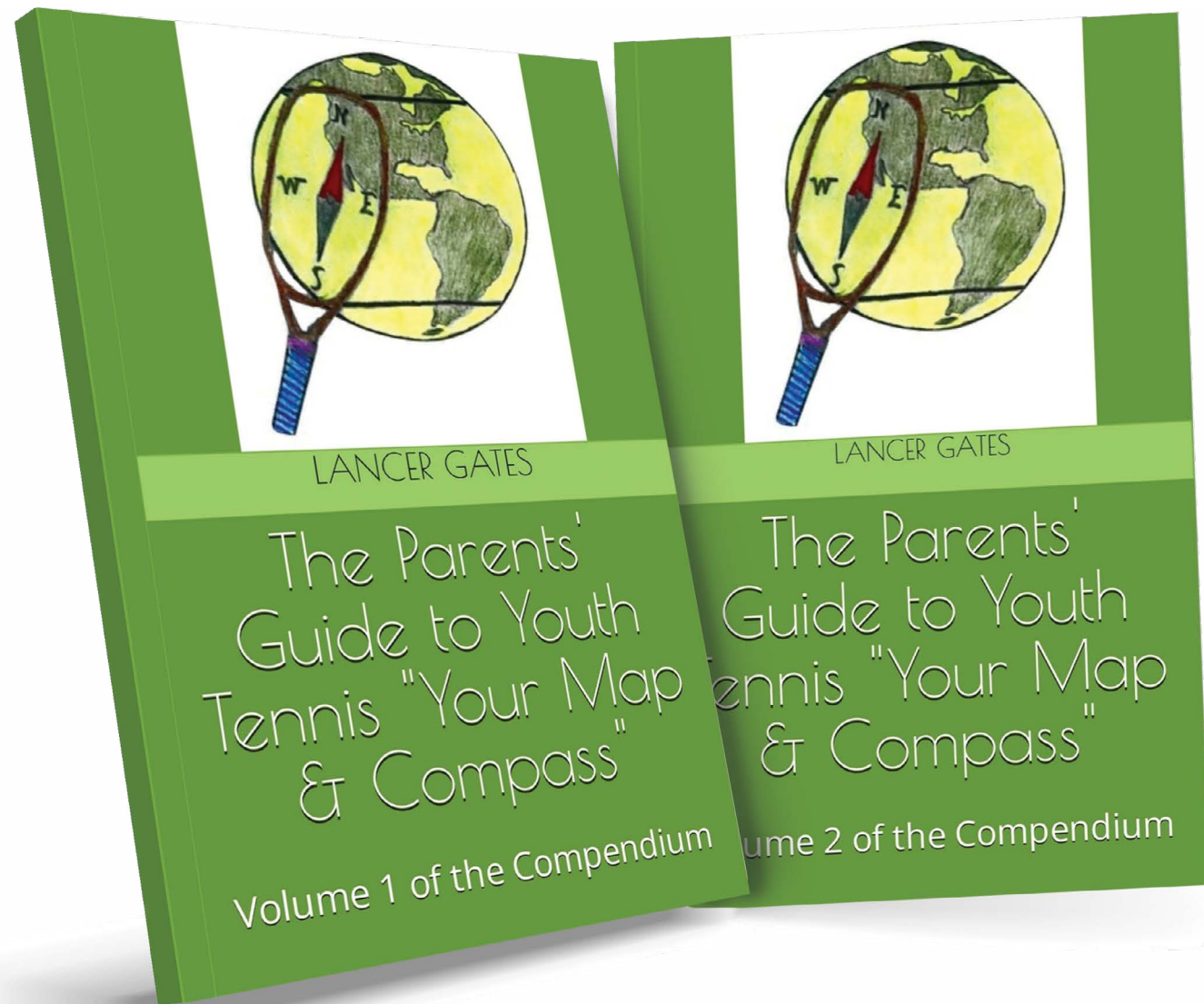
Jenny Sena, DHSc, MS, PA-C, '22, South River, New Jersey, was named dean for the School of Health Studies at Berkeley College. Dr. Sena began her career as a microbiologist at hospitals in New York City and later became a physician assistant, working in the areas of emergency medicine, pediatrics, urgent care, and employee health, as well as for the U.S. Department of Defense. A graduate of ATSU-CGHS, she has worked in academia for more than 10 years, serving as a professor, academic coordinator, director of clinical education, and physician assistant program director.

Kristina Nguyen, DMD, '23, Longview, Texas, joined Goodland Dentistry & Braces, providing general dentistry services in the Longview - Estes Drive office. Dr. Nguyen is a graduate of ATSU-MOSDOH.

[Submit class notes to
stillmagazine@atsu.edu](mailto:submitclassnotes@atsu.edu)

The bookshelf

Recent books from ATSU alumni

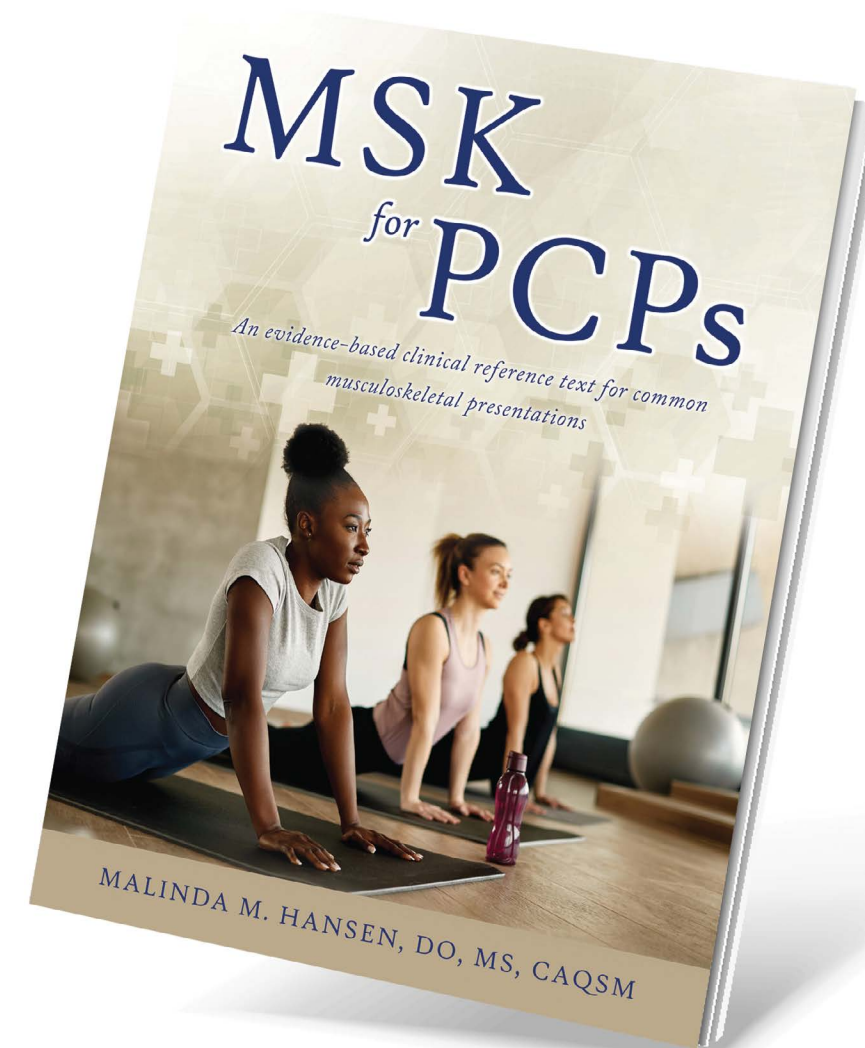


The Parents' Guide to Youth Tennis "Your Map & Compass" Vol. 1 & 2

By Lancer Gates, DO, '96

Independently published, February 2022

Dr. Gates navigates, informs, and entertains as he weaves threads of humor from personal experiences into a tennis tapestry. Volume 1 describes parenting roles and selecting a tennis club and instructor(s), as well as how to sign up, prepare for, and succeed at tournaments. It also highlights the Universal Tennis Rating and sportsmanship. Volume 2 addresses the high school tennis experience and college recruiting process, along with injuries, footwork, strokes, strategy, and making tennis more affordable.



MSK for PCPs: An evidence-based clinical reference text for common musculoskeletal presentations

By Malinda Hansen, DO, MS, CAQSM, '15, ATSU-SOMA

Mill City Press Inc., June 2023

Written for those in primary care, Dr. Hansen compiled a 100% evidence-based clinical reference guide of musculoskeletal exams and algorithms for workup. Flow charts help navigate which pathologies may be most likely for common clinical presentations, and the table of contents directs readers to differential diagnoses, provocative exams, workup, and nonoperative and operative considerations. With only information and algorithms found in the literature, readers have decision-making autonomy with solid references to the management necessary for each clinical presentation.

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ATSU's Dreamline Pathways receives 2023 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award



2023
INSPIRING PROGRAMS
IN **STEM** AWARD
FROM **INSIGHT**
Into Diversity
MAGAZINE

ATSU'S Dreamline Pathways program received the 2023 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education. The Inspiring Programs in STEM Award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This is the third consecutive year ATSU's Dreamline Pathways program was recognized by *INSIGHT Into Diversity*.

"To attain a future with more diverse and inclusive networks of healthcare professionals, leaders in the healthcare and health sciences education must be intentional in reaching interested students from all communities," said ATSU President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84. "ATSU provides engagement opportunities and mentorship to guide those students as they pursue their goals in health sciences. Congratulations to ATSU Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion Clinton Normore, MBA, and his team on the success of Dreamline Pathways and this well-deserved recognition."

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected ATSU's Dreamline Pathways program because of its unique approach to introducing K-12 students to graduate health professions programs. ATSU partners with school districts and community-based organizations, offering experiential learning opportunities to students. These collaborations introduce young minds to career opportunities in healthcare and nurture students through campus and graduate student engagement opportunities.



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Clinical Outcomes Assessment: An Overview

Concepts of Diagnostic Accuracy in Athletic Training

Evidence-Based Practice in Athletic Training

Examination of Concussion Reporting Influences and Educational Programs

Guidelines for Best Practices in Concussion Management: The Development of Position and Consensus Statements

Health Information Technology in Athletic Training

How Much Information is Too Much? The Role of Unlearning in Athletic Healthcare

Incorporating Evidence-Based Practice into Athletic Training: An Overview of Practice-Based Partnerships

Lower Limb Preventive Training Program Best Practice and Implementation

Medicolegal Considerations for Sport-Related Concussion

Optimizing Lateral Ankle Sprain Rehabilitation

Pain: How it Affects Stability and Movement

Promoting Patient Mental Health: Lessons & Considerations from a Sport Psychology Perspective

Quality Improvement in Athletic Healthcare

Role of Sports Specialization on Injury, Overtraining, Burnout, and Mental Health Considerations

Social Determinants of Health in Athletic Healthcare

Home study courses are available year-round and are web-based. Please email atce@atsu.edu for more information.

Audiology

American Institute of Balance
May 4, 2024
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona

Interacoustics Real Ear Course
Sept. 24-26, 2024
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona

For more information, contact trorie@atsu.edu or call 480.219.6124.

Dental

Interdisciplinary Treatment Planning: How to Enhance Your Treatment Planning Using Digital Technology
Feb. 1, 2024

Oral Inflammation and Its Links to Oral and Systemic Health: Novel Approaches to Screening and Monitoring
Feb. 5, 2024

Oral Candidiasis: Misconceptions and Considerations for Diagnosis and Treatment
Feb. 7, 2024

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Feb. 27, 2024

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March 5, 2024

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March 8, 2024

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April 5, 2024

Digital Dentures - Are We There Yet?
April 7, 2024

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April 10, 2024

Improving the Clinical Success of Alveolar Ridge Preservation and Guided Bone Regeneration (GBR): The When, Where, and How
April 13, 2024

Regenerative Endodontic Procedures
April 19, 2024

A "Clinician's Report" Dentistry Update, from a University Academic and Clinician
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April 26, 2024

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May 2, 2024

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May 5, 2024

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May 18, 2024

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May 22, 2024

The Why Behind the Smile: Motivations for Orthodontic Care
May 24, 2024

Tips and Tricks for Successful Local Anesthesia
May 30, 2024

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Medical

Primary Care Update
Feb. 29-March 2, 2024
Treasure Island | Las Vegas, Nevada

Primary Care Update
Aug. 2-4, 2024
Lodge of Four Seasons | Lake Ozark, Missouri

Founder's Day
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Update
Oct. 17-19, 2024
Missouri campus | Kirksville, Missouri

Primary Care Update
Dec. 5-7, 2024
Big Cedar Lodge | Ridgedale (Branson), Missouri

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For more information, email continuingeducation@atsu.edu or call 660.626.2232.

Physical Therapy

Evaluation and Treatment of the Shoulder: Managing Rotator Cuff Pathology and Osteoarthritis in the Active Patient
Feb. 3, 2024
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona

Evidence-Based Management of Patellofemoral Pain
June 1, 2024
Arizona campus | Mesa, Arizona

For more information, contact ptceu@atsu.edu or call 480.265.8035.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

ATSU

Courtney Bonnell, MBA, controller, finance, was selected for the 2023-24 National Association of College and University Business Officers Emerging Leaders Program, which helps participants enhance leadership skills, expand cross-campus relationships, and build a professional network.

Alan Freeman, DMgt, MBA, FACHE, former CEO of Affinia Healthcare, joined ATSU as senior director of patient care centers. In addition, Dr. Freeman received the 2023 John Gilbert Award presented during the National Association of Community Health Centers Community Health Awards of Excellence at the 54th Annual Convention & Community Health Institute in San Diego. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a level of excellence in the community healthcare field.

Matthew Heeren, JD, vice president & general counsel, was selected as U.S. Soccer's National Girls Recreational Coach of the Year.

Corey Luebbering, practice-based research network coordinator, A.T. Still Research Institute, earned a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Rebecca Nugent, administrative support, residential admissions, received the Employee Excellence Award for the Missouri campus for the second quarter of 2023.

Daniel Ochoa, general maintenance assistant, facilities, received the Distinguished Service Award for the Arizona campus during the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Kim Perry, DDS, MSCS, associate vice president, university strategic partnerships, was welcomed as a member of the Social Mission Alliance Advisory Board.

Dalton Rolland, associate director of sustained giving, development, earned a master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Julie Speer, PhD, MS, instructional designer, Teaching & Learning Center, received the Employee Excellence Award for the Arizona and California campuses for the second quarter of 2023.



Dr. Alan Freeman, ATSU



Dr. Kim Perry, ATSU



Dalton Rolland, ATSU



Dr. Jeffery Parent, ASDOH



Dr. Jae Hyun Park, ASDOH



Colleen Trombly, ASDOH

Julie Truitt, administrative support, learning resources & accommodation services, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the fourth quarter of 2022.

Dustin Usher, MSCIS, CEH, ECSA, CCISO, deputy chief information security officer, information security, earned a master of science in kinesiology from ATSU-CGHS.

Lisa Weichelt, service worker, environmental services, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2023.

ATSU-ASDOH

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, PhD, RDH, FSCDH, assistant dean for research, professor, was honored with the Esther Wilkins Lifetime Achievement Award at the American Dental Hygienists' Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. This award recognizes the distinguished careers of individuals who have consistently and effectively contributed to the enrichment of the dental hygiene profession.

Jeffery Parent, DDS, associate dean, patient care & clinic education, retired from the School in June.

Jae Hyun Park, DMD, PhD, MSD, MS, professor and chair, postgraduate orthodontics, was announced as president-elect of the American Board of Orthodontics. His one-year term began May 1.

Colleen Trombly, MHA, RDH, assistant professor, predoctoral education, retired from the School in June 2023.

ATSU-ASHS

María A. Centeno-Vázquez, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, associate professor and director, speech-language pathology, was elected as a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for her remarkable contributions to graduate education and service, along with her superior strengths in leadership.

Nick Cross, assessment coordinator, physician assistant studies, received the Employee Excellence Award for Arizona and California campuses for the first quarter of 2023.

Randy Danielsen, PhD, PA-C emeritus, DFAAPA, professor and director, medical science, received the Peer Corps Mighty Mentor award from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for his continued dedication to HLC's mission to develop the next generation of peer corps leaders and advance the quality of higher learning.

Michelle DiBaise, DHSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, '14, professor and chair, physician assistant studies, was recognized at the 2023 National Association of Community Health Centers Community Health Institute for her efforts in engaging community health centers to prepare healthcare professionals to deliver quality care for underserved communities.

David Doublestein, PT, PhD, CLT, Cert MDT, LLCC, assistant professor, physical therapy, received the Teaching & Learning Center's first runner-up Innovation in Teaching for Learning Award for his project, "Mobile-Office Hours."

Benjamin Gross, MOT, OTR/L, instructor, occupational therapy, was elected as treasurer of the American Occupational Therapy Association for a three-year term.

Kenneth Lam, ScD, ATC, FNATA, professor, interdisciplinary health sciences, received the 2023 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award and the 2023 Athletic Trainer Service award from the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Ivonne Maldonado De la Rosa, PhD, MS, CCC-SLP, instructor, speech-language pathology, received the 2023 Junior Faculty of the Year award during the annual ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly. In addition, Dr. Maldonado de La Rosa was named treasurer of the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Carrie Robinson, PT, DPT, OCS, assistant professor, physical therapy, received the Teaching & Learning Center's second runner-up Innovation in Teaching for Learning Award for her project, "Progressive Clinical Cases Based on Student Decisions."

Tania Shearon, MOT, CHT, PYT-C, assistant professor, director of curriculum, occupational therapy, earned a doctor of health sciences degree from ATSU-CGHS. In addition, she received the 2023 Educator of the Year award during the annual ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly.

Adam Story, PT, DPT, OTR/L, OTD, MTC, assistant professor, occupational therapy, received the 2023 Service of the Year award during the annual ATSU-ASHS faculty assembly.



Dr. David Doublestein, ASHS



Benjamin Gross, ASHS



Dr. Ivonne Maldonado De la Rosa, ASHS



Maggie Sudimack, ASHS



Dr. Candace Ayars, CGHS



Jodi Gamm, CGHS

Maggie Sudimack, MA, CCC-SLP, instructor, director of clinical education, speech-language pathology, was named recording secretary for the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAP, FNAK, professor and chair, athletic training, received the 2023 National Athletic Trainers' Association Foundation Medal for Distinguished Athletic Training Research. In addition, she was inducted as a distinguished scholar fellow in the National Academies of Practice Athletic Training Academy.

Cailee Welch Bacon, PhD, ATC, associate professor, athletic training, was named a fellow of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

ATSU-CGHS

Candace Ayars, PhD, associate professor, health education, received the 2023 Professor of the Year award during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Vera Bannerman, MBA, academic advisor, received the ATSU-CGHS Outstanding Employee Award for customer focus at the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA, associate professor, health administration, was selected by the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) as an item writer to develop ACHE's 2023-27 Board of Governors Certification Exam's Practice Exam.

Jodi Gamm, MBA, was promoted to enrollment manager for ATSU-CGHS.

Jolynn Gardner, PhD, MA, CHES, joined the College as associate dean of academics, assessment & curricular innovation. Dr. Gardner earned a doctorate in community health education and healthcare administration and a master's degree in health promotion management from The Ohio State University. Most recently, Dr. Gardner served as associate chair of the Department of Health Studies and director of the Master of Science program in health promotion management at American University.

Jaana Gold, DDS, PhD, MPH, CPH, professor, dental public health, received a scholarship to attend the 2023 Health Action Conference, "The Power of Community." She also received the Michael Samuels Impact Award at the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Laura Gray, PhD, EdS, MEd, adjunct professor, health education, received the 2023 Adjunct of the Year award for health professions education during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Marisa Hastie, EdD, MS, ACSM EP-C, PN-1, FACS, dean and associate professor, began her presidency of the New England chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Joan Leafman, PhD, adjunct professor, public health, received the 2023 Michael Samuels Impact Award during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Debra Leners, PhD, RN, adjunct professor, nursing, received the 2023 Adjunct of the Year award for nursing during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Greg Loeben, PhD, MA, associate professor, public health, received the ATSU-CGHS Professor of the Year award at the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Tracy Matthews, PhD, MA, adjunct professor, health sciences, received the 2023 Adjunct of the Year award for health sciences during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Sue McDaniel, MS, instructional designer, was announced as the incoming chair of the Missouri Quality Matters Consortium.

Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH, COI, professor and chair, public health, was nominated and selected to serve on the 2023 National Rural Health Association Board of Trustees. In addition, she was elected to the Council on Education for Public Health Board of Councilors, and she was appointed by the National Board of Public Health Examiners to be a Certified in Public Health exam question writer.

Dan Mikeska, DHSc, '16, MS, '12, adjunct professor, kinesiology, received the 2023 Adjunct of the Year award for kinesiology during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Heather Moore, DHA, MBA, adjunct professor, health administration, received the 2023 Adjunct of the Year award for health administration during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Patrick Palmieri, DHSc, EdS, MBA, MSN, ACNP, RN, '12, is serving as senior collection editor for *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease*.



Dr. Marisa Hastie, CGHS



Dr. Dan Mikeska, CGHS



Dr. Patrick Palmieri, CGHS



Dr. William Brechue, KCOM



Dr. Valena Fiscus, KCOM



Dr. Vineet Singh, KCOM

Marni Valenzuela, MPH, adjunct professor, public health, received the 2023 Adjunct of the Year award for public health during the annual ATSU-CGHS Awards Banquet.

Nicole Webb, DNP, FNP-BC, joined the College as chair for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Dr. Webb's nursing career began as a staff nurse in the hospital setting. In 2006, she obtained her master's in nursing with a concentration in the family nurse practitioner track from the University of South Alabama. After entering into nursing education, she earned her doctor of nursing practice degree in 2010 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

ATSU-KCOM

William Brechue, PhD, professor and chair, physiology, received the A.T. Still Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching for basic sciences at the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Alan Coonfield, coordinator, animal care, received the Distinguished Service Award for the Missouri campus during the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony. He retired in June.

Brian Degenhardt, DO, professor and director, A.T. Still Research Institute, received the Teaching & Learning Center's Innovation in Teaching for Learning Award for his project, "System Providing Objective Feedback for Calibration of Palpation Skills."

Valena Fiscus, DO, MPH, '13, assistant professor, internal medicine, received the A.T. Still Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching for clinical sciences at the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Patricia Sexton, DHEd, '08, associate dean, medical education, was recognized by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners as the COMLEX-USA Level 1 Item Writer of the Year.

Vineet Singh, PhD, professor, microbiology, was invited by Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Ludhiana, Punjab, India, for a two-week visiting professorship in the Department of Veterinary Physiology & Biochemistry.

Karen Snider, DO, professor, osteopathic manipulative medicine, received the 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees for her accomplishments toward advancing osteopathic medicine.

Lex Towns, PhD, emeritus professor, anatomy, retired from the College in June after 50 years in medical education. Dr. Towns received the honorary doctor of osteopathy in education degree during ATSU-KCOM's commencement ceremony.

ATSU-MOSDOH

Matthew Greaves, DDS, MS, comprehensive care unit director, published a textbook chapter with former faculty member Joan Davis, PhD. The chapter is titled "Oral Care of Persons with Cancer" in the sixth edition of "Darby and Walsh Dental Hygiene: Theory & Practice."

Romana Muller, MSDH, RDH, assistant professor, clinical education, earned a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Ammar Musawi, MDS, BDS, MPH, assistant dean of preclinical education & simulation clinic, associate professor, received his U.S. certification of naturalization in February 2023.

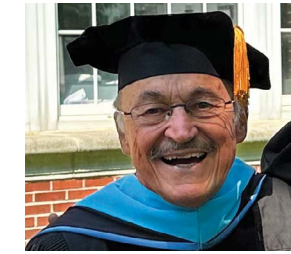
Brooke Robinson, MPA, director, student success, received the Elsie Gaber Compassion & Integrity Award at the 2023 ATSU Employee Recognition Ceremony.

Herbert P. Silva, DMD, assistant professor, was inducted into Marquis Who's Who.

ATSU-SOMA

Mariam Alshukri, MS, manager, medical education accreditation, assessment & integration, undergraduate medical education, earned a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Eboni Anderson, DHEd, assistant professor of public health, director of community-oriented primary care, co-edited the book "Educator Well-Being in Academic Medicine," published by the American Medical Association.



Dr. Lex Towns, KCOM



Dr. Ammar Musawi, MOSDOH



Brooke Robinson, MOSDOH



Dr. Herbert P. Silva, MOSDOH



Dr. Deborah Heath, SOMA



Dr. Erin Messer, SOMA

Jessi Barriga, operations specialist, retired from the School in January 2023.

Deborah Heath, DO, professor, was named chair of the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine department.

Erin Messer, PharmD, MBA, assistant professor, basic medical science education, earned a doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Sharon Obadia, DO, FNAOME, '97, was named dean of ATSU-SOMA, effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Submit faculty & staff news to stillmagazine@atsu.edu

Still Magazine remembers those who have passed away and extends deepest sympathies to their families and friends. Visit stillmagazine.atsu.edu to read full-length obituaries.

1950s

Marvin L. Enlow, DO, '52
O'Fallon, Missouri

Bernard S. Hoyt, DO, '53
Grove City, Pennsylvania

Keith M. Ernst, DO, '54
Cloverdale, Indiana

C. Reynolds Knorr, DO, '55
Boca Raton, Florida

Richard H. Mercer, DO, '55
Kirkville, Missouri

Glen F. Warren Jr., DO, '55
Springfield, Missouri

Elmer Kelso, DO, '57
Clifton, Texas

William A. Kuchera, DO, '58
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Anthony T. Mendicino Jr., DO, '59
San Antonio, Texas

1960s

Donald D. Buenger, DO, '60
St. Charles, Missouri

Yale B. Bickel, DO, '61
Long Beach, California

Ronald A. Esper, DO, '61
Erie, Pennsylvania

Frank A. Parzynski Jr., DO, '61
Sandusky, Ohio

Sigmund E. Landis, DO, '62
New York, New York

Roger L. O'Bryan, DO, '62
Ponte Vedra, Florida

Daniel P. Conte, DO, '63
Garfield, New Jersey

Ruth Howell Rucci, DO, '63
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Conrad G. Maulfair Jr., DO, '63
Barto, Pennsylvania

Herman S. Yassall, DO, '63
Brookfield, Ohio

Paul M. Williams, DO, '64
Brookfield, Missouri

Michael K. Willman, DO, '65
Ormond Beach, Florida

Peter K. Finelli, DO, '66
Belmar, New Jersey

David M. Beyer, DO, '68
Fort Worth, Texas

James A. Coder III, DO, '68
Tulsa, Oklahoma

John E. Beckert, DO, '69
Kahoka, Missouri

Ralph O. DeWitt Jr., DO, '69
Waynesville, Missouri

Robert H. Hackney, DO, '69
North St. Paul, Minnesota

1970s

James E. Davis, DO, '70
Longbranch, Washington

John E. Hall, DO, '70
The Villages, Florida

Harvey P. Siegel, DO, '70
Mendham, New Jersey

David H. Prigg, DO, '71
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

George W. Jenter, DO, '72
Sturgis, South Dakota

Harry B. "Burt" Young Jr., DO, '72
Kirkville, Missouri

James B. DeYarman, DO, '73
La Jolla, California

Robert L. Jackson Jr., DO, '73
Clearwater, Florida

David L. Pfanenstiel, DO, '73
Naples, Florida

Martin W. Schwarze, DO, '73
Chesterfield, Missouri

Ernest J. Davis Jr., DO, '76
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Carole C. Howard, DO, '76
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

David L. Bowman, DO, '77
Butler, Ohio

Thomas E. Wood, DO, '77
Centralia, Illinois

Richard B. Markwood, DO, '79
Maumee, Ohio

1980s

Sammy R. Banner, DO, '83
Dothan, Alabama

Gregory L. Rakestraw, DO, '84
Clearwater, Florida

John J. Rutledge Jr., DO, '84
Lakeland, Florida

James L. Suthoff, DO, '85
Springfield, Missouri

Michael L. Christian, DO, '86
Moses Lake, Washington

1990s

Noli Mendoza, DO, '93
Adrian, Michigan

2000s

Joseph G. Bolin, DO, '00
Plano, Texas

Laura A. Tinning, DO, '00
Lansing, Michigan

Karen A. Beer, MS, '04
Tucson, Arizona

Kristine L. Perkins, MPH, '05
North Yarmouth, Maine

2010s

Blanche L. Blackington, AuD, '10
San Diego, California

2020s

Ryan J. O'Hara, DMSc, '21
Asheboro, North Carolina

Faculty, staff & friends

Aaron Oberlander
Cincinnati, Ohio

Henry P. Trahan, AuD
Maurice, Louisiana



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PARTING SHOT

At the end of each academic year, this group of friends from ATSU-MOSDOH gathers to take a celebratory photo, marking a moment in time to take pride for completing another step in their dental education. This photo, which was taken at the end of their first year, shows the now third-year students (left to right) Carmelo Sabato, Gladys George, Rosann Sabato, Marina Rezkalla, Keely Skidmore, and Jonathan Le.

"The first year of dental school is pretty rigorous, which is why we did a little happy jump because it was quite the year and we were happy to be done!" says George. "Our school year was also July 2021 to June 2022, so even more of a reason to be proud of ourselves and celebrate."





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