

Still

M A G A Z I N E

2020
special
issue

Facing the
COVID-19
pandemic





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OUR POINT OF VIEW

Matthew Kahn, DDS, MS, associate clinic director, was one of ATSU-ASDOH's faculty members who continued to work in the Advanced Care Clinic on the Mesa, Arizona, campus throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Read about the University's response to the pandemic on Page 22.

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Through the challenges, sadness, and frustration this year has brought, the University community witnesses moments of hope and triumph.

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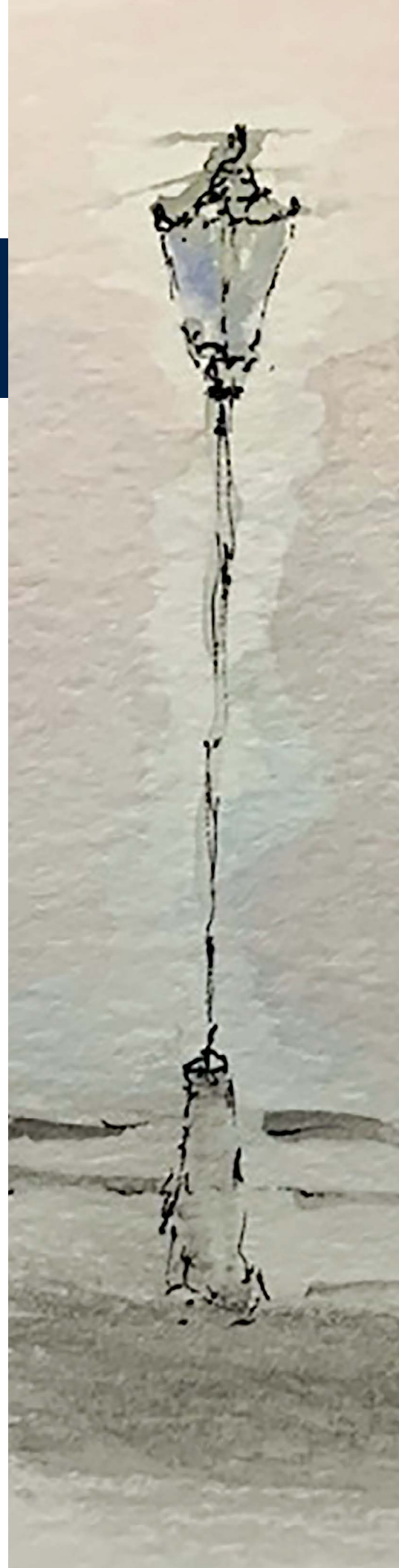
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ON THE COVER:

Jennifer Schoonover, nursing supervisor at ATSU Gutensohn Clinic, was the first staff member to test a patient for COVID-19.

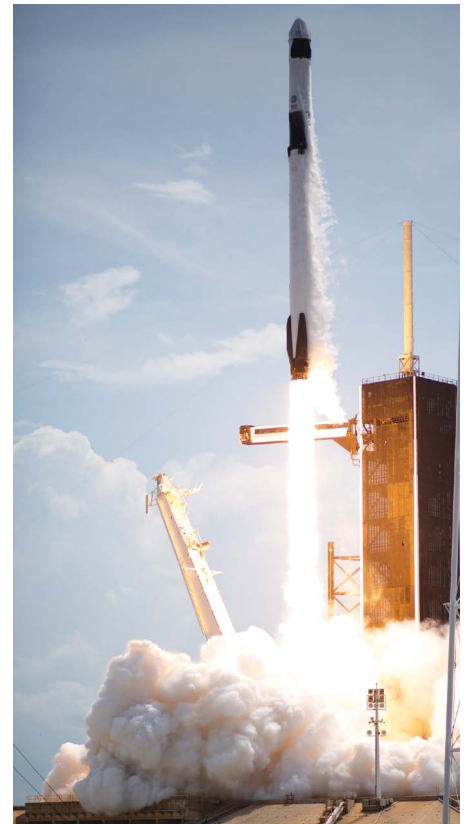




A sketch by Dr. Steven Short from his time as a volunteer physician in New York City during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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EDITOR
Katie Hubbard, MBA

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Kaley Burroughs, BA
Lizzy Ellery, MS
Jason Hunsicker, BS

DESIGN
Gail Doss, BFA

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS
Judy Funk

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Hector Contreras Al Maglio
Anna Dougherty Paul Markow

ATSU PRESIDENT
Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATION & MARKETING
Sean O'Connor, MBA

A.T. Still University (ATSU) schools/colleges:
Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
Arizona School of Health Sciences
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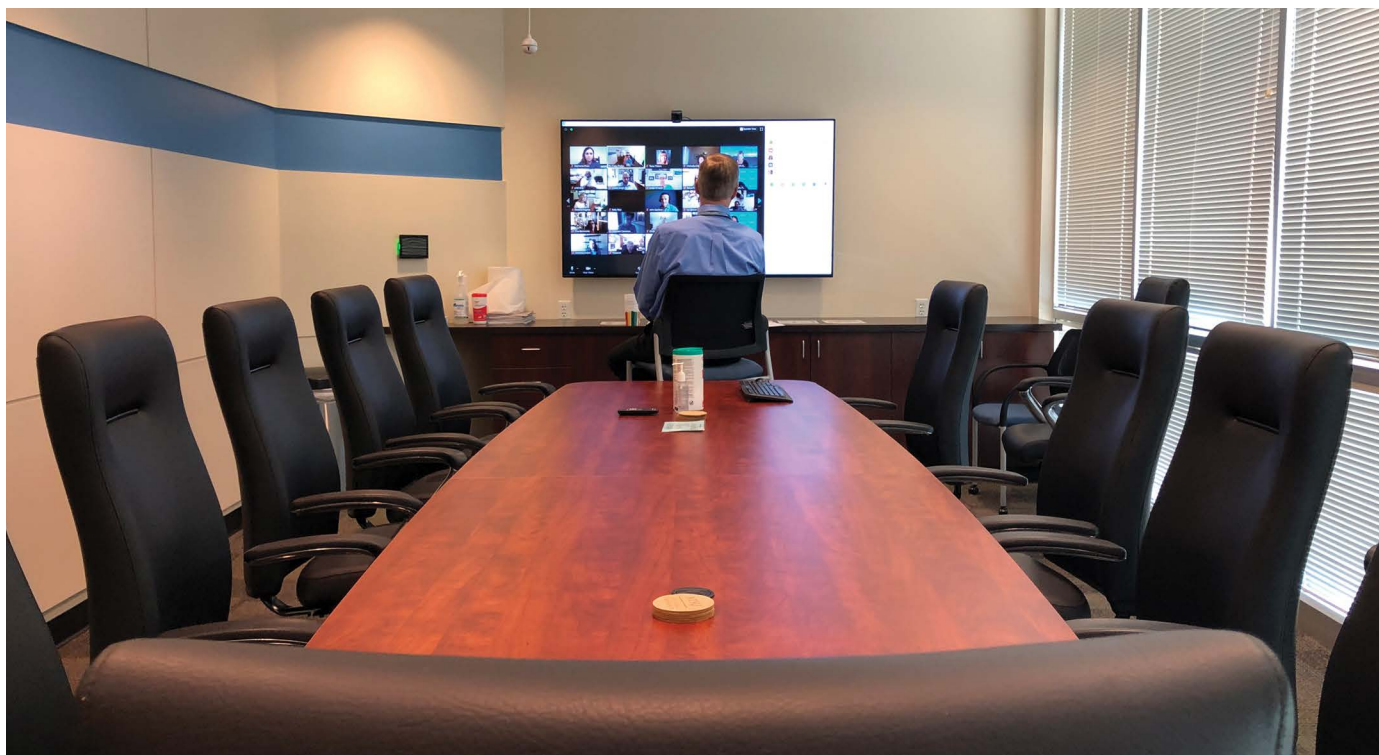
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs with a commitment to continue its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

Still Magazine strengthens and extends the positive connections of alumni, faculty, staff, and students to the University and each other by informing, entertaining, and engendering pride in a shared experience and University mission. The magazine focuses on a variety of academic, social, political, cultural, scientific, and artistic issues through the lens of alumni and student achievements, scholarly activity, and institutional news.

CONTACT US
Submit letters and editorial material to:
Editor, *Still Magazine*
A.T. Still University
800 W. Jefferson St.
Kirksville, MO 63501
stillmagazine@atsu.edu

Read *Still Magazine* online at
stillmagazine.atstu.edu.

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Dr. Craig Phelps shares the latest University news with ATSU faculty and staff members during a virtual coffee session.

In times of crisis


With all the anticipation 2020 brought in the new year, no one anticipated a year quite like this. The coronavirus pandemic and nationwide protests against racial injustice, combined with NASA's historic SpaceX launch, have brought about a mix of emotions and are the primary topics covered in this issue of *Still Magazine*.

The University has a long-standing culture of overcoming challenges and stepping up in times of crisis. With the events of 2020, the University community is stepping up in different ways, whether working on the front lines, assisting in the development of personal protective equipment, helping others learn and work online, carrying out essential services, or promoting diversity and inclusion.

We are grateful to all who have come together and worked as a team to keep the University running smoothly. The uncertainty of the last several months has reaffirmed what has always been great about ATSU: our resilience, shared values, and commitment to our communities. Thank you for your unending support of our university, our students, and our mission.

Yours in service,

Craig Phelps DO
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CONTACT

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CONTACT

ATSU-CGHS enrollment representatives
866.626.2878, ext. 2237
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A pandemic may have brought the world to a screeching halt, but it could not stop ATSU's virtual research days planned for spring 2020. Thanks to Zoom meetings and Kubify's Learning Toolbox technology, student research events continued with poster presentations in a digital format.

As originally scheduled, the University held ATSU-MOSDOH's D3 Research Day on Tuesday, April 7, and ATSU-ASHS' Doctor of Physical Therapy Capstone Research Day on Wednesday, June 3.

"Having the opportunity to showcase virtually the culmination of two years of research meant the pandemic didn't take this important celebration away from students," said Tara McIsaac, PT, PhD, professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS.

Learning Toolbox's e-poster platform allows student researchers to create interactive posters using a large variety of multimedia formats, such as Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, PDFs, videos, and more. Attendees, including project judges, are able to view the research presentations from anywhere on any device with internet access.

These e-posters, which live on a website for viewing during and after the events, may be accessed by a web address or by an individual printed mini-poster with a QR code. Among the many benefits of this technology, e-posters allow for collaboration among attendees and presenters through chat on the poster platform or via email. Presenters are notified of new chat activity on their e-posters, encouraging discussions beyond the event.

"Unlike a traditional paper poster, our e-posters, abstracts, mini-poster, and other resources are nested in an app format accessed via tiles on a phone or tablet," said Joan Davis, PhD, director of research and special projects at ATSU-MOSDOH. "Each poster was assigned a unique QR code and will be able to be accessed for years to come."

For more information, please contact Research Support at researchsupport@atsu.edu or by calling Jack Morris, MS, PMP, director, at 660.988.8597.

Virtual research days

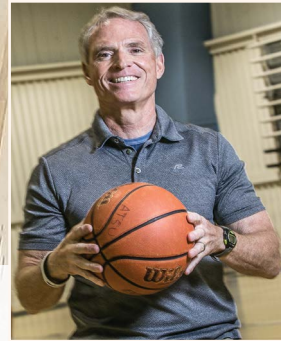
By Katie Hubbard



The Learning Toolbox app allows students to create and share their research with anyone, anywhere, anytime.



Photo credit: Deann Maag



Dan Martin Court

ATSU exceeds fundraising goal

Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends have raised more than \$300,000 to update the Thompson Campus Center's gymnasium, which was built in 1983. This fall, the gymnasium will be dedicated as "Dan Martin Court" in recognition of the outstanding contributions Dan Martin, MA, has made to the health and wellness of the ATSU community during the past 37 years.

Learn more at atsu.edu/dan-martin-court.

Visit atsu.edu/court-install-video to watch a time-lapse video of the floor installation.

FEATURES

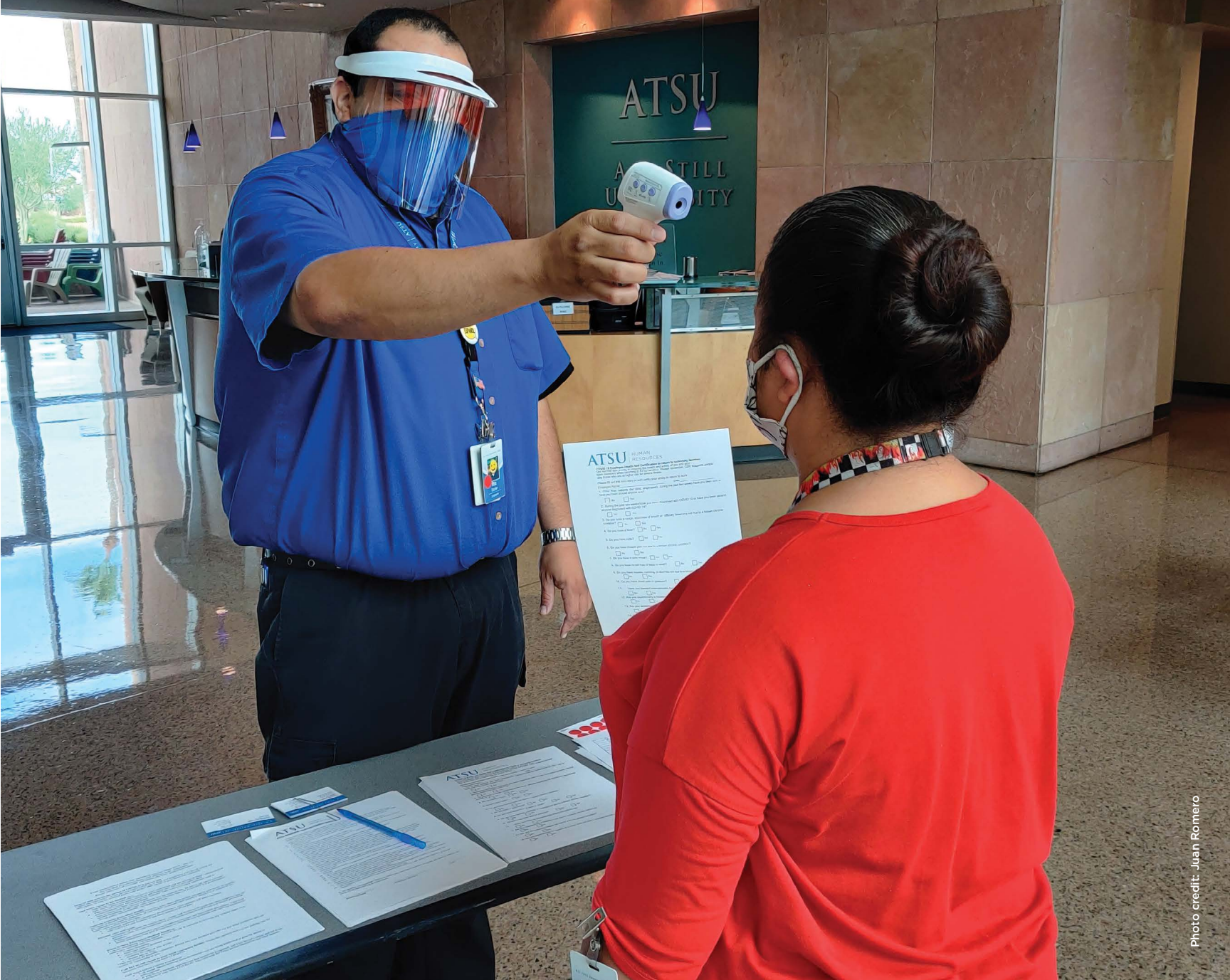


Photo credit: Juan Romero

Per ATSU's new health and safety requirements, each person entering campus has a daily checklist to follow. Everyone must wear a face covering, maintain appropriate physical distance, complete the health self-certification form, and check in at a specified location for a temperature reading.

In the photo above, Nelida Acosta, senior administrative assistant to the vice president of strategic university partnerships, turns in her daily health self-certification at a check-in station while Arizona campus security officer Ricardo Dozier takes her temperature.

IN THIS SECTION

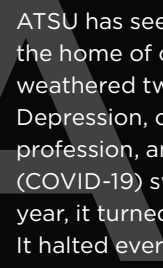
- 2020 special coverage
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Racial equality
- NASA's SpaceX launch

HOPE
in the
darkness



ATSU responds to the events of 2020

Introduction by Katie Hubbard



ATSU has seen hard times. In 128 years, the home of osteopathic medicine has weathered two world wars, the Great Depression, opposition to its founding profession, and more. When the coronavirus (COVID-19) swept across the world early this year, it turned everyday life upside down. It halted everything from dining in restaurants to in-person classes. Long lines and traffic evaporated overnight, and our communities fell eerily quiet.

The events of 2020 have proved to be another challenging time. ATSU is navigating its way through a global health crisis and taking a stand against systemic racism while continuing to educate healthcare leaders and serve the underserved. The University's guiding principles of health and wellness and compassion for community have never been more important or more meaningful.

Among the challenges, sadness, and frustration have been glimmers of hope, moments of triumph, and stories of inspiration. With compassion, empathy, and a willingness to have open, meaningful discussions embedded in the University's educational experience, ATSU graduates keep reaching for the stars and effecting change at a higher level.

On the following pages are a few of the many stories of those from the ATSU community who have risen to 2020's challenges in remarkable ways.

Ground zero

By Jason Hunsicker

The April 24 video on Steven Short's Facebook page is one of triumph. Staff at Woodhull Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, line the halls, clapping, cheering. A patient, recovered and clear of COVID-19, is being wheeled out of the hospital.

It's a bright spot in ground zero of the pandemic.

Dr. Short, a 1983 graduate of ATSU-KCOM, was quick to answer the call when he saw an urgent request for volunteers from the American College of Chest Physicians. A pulmonary/critical care physician in Manhattan, Kansas, he'd be a long way from home in New York City, but as the coronavirus spread, it was where doctors were most needed.

He chronicled his entire journey on his Facebook page. It's a day-by-day accounting of death, life, struggle, and faith.

And it's a longer story than initially planned. Dr. Short's assignment was set to be five days, the first of which was April 13. Before the day was out, he posted to his page those plans had changed.

"I have decided to stay longer, only because the situation is so bad and the need is so great," Dr. Short wrote.

He found he was the only specialist of his kind in a hospital seeing 200 new positive COVID-19 patients daily. Dr. Short described "unbelievable ventilator cases" using "antiquated machines" in short supply. Staff members explained when cases first exploded, sick patients were stuck in hallways until the hospital had resources to treat them.

"...(They) had to stay there until a patient died so they could bring them up to the unit," he wrote April 15.

The pandemic inundated healthcare workers with challenges, including personal ones. It's apparent at first glance of his Facebook page that Dr. Short is a deeply religious man.

"My faith is part of my practice," he said. "I have always prayed with my patients, or patient's family, in critically difficult times."

The pandemic robbed people of many things, including those opportunities for personal interactions.

"My greatest love of medicine has been relational, bringing human quality to the forefront, sitting with families, praying with families, answering questions, looking at faces," he wrote April 16. "None of that is possible. This virus has dictated a new world way."

He began every day in New York by contacting his wife in Kansas, and they prayed together. It was a way to restore and reset in the face of a grim reality.

Dr. Short found different ways to express himself during these difficult times. He's something of an artist, drawing skylines, landmarks, and people who he came to know and call friends.

"My art is expressed more dramatically when there is an inner need to express," he said. "Pain, emotion, love, I have to express in the picture. There are times they reflect more of the qualities I wouldn't have the ability to express otherwise."

April 25 marked Dr. Short's final day at Woodhull. He returned to Kansas, spent two weeks in quarantine, and is back serving his patients.

He's hopeful the world learns lessons from the pandemic.

"I have never seen a disease this devastating. It is rewriting the book on medical care," Dr. Short said. "We have to be better at early detection and rapid control. Let us pray that we will."

Dr. Short also uses words to express himself. Below is a poem he posted April 22.

Trust
 Releasing the control
 I am amazed that I am doing this
 I did not hesitate to come
 My faith, my life experiences, God's path
 My trust in Him
 The purpose? Healing? Nurturing?
 Sharing love?
 The open vessel and the ear to hear
 I am so thankful for this moment in time
 to be here.

This is one of Dr. Steven Short's sketches from his time as a volunteer physician in New York City.



Thanks
So much.

Bob
Covid

Deployed for public health support

By Lizzy Ellery



Dr. Don Altman was assigned to the Incidence Management Team at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego.

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, state mass disaster groups joined the National Disaster Management System (NDMS), which deploys and facilitates order during times of disaster. NDMS is composed of 5,000 professionals, including a variety of physicians, dentists, nurses, and paramedics. Don Altman, DDS, DHSc, EdD, MPH, MBA, MA, '12, professor and dean of ATSU-CGHS, is one of those NDMS professionals. He was deployed for two weeks to assist with a cruise ship returning to port amid the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Altman went through a barrage of experiences from the moment he declared his availability for deployment. It was only a couple of hours from the time he replied to a request for his service before his travel orders were issued. He quickly headed to Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego, where he was assigned to the Incidence Management Team.

The situation was ever evolving. Thousands of cruise ship guests were transferred to various air bases for quarantine, and personnel from around the country came together to ensure these guests were cared for and comfortable. But it wasn't exactly a smooth operation at the beginning.

"We were short of everything from the very beginning," Dr. Altman said. "We didn't have toilet paper, we couldn't get antibacterial soap, we couldn't get masks."

The team faced the same problems as everyone else across the country. For the first four or five days, they established a system so personnel could perform their duties. After the initial days, everything started to fall into place.

"It became totally different when things started to settle down, which was about five days into the operation," Dr. Altman said. "I think that's what happens in every single disaster. It is a disaster, people are deployed immediately. So those first days are always a bit chaotic."

Through this unplanned adversity came moments of resiliency and mutual appreciation for the human spirit. Dr. Altman noted the appreciation and gratitude that came from guests despite the initial chaos. Volunteers pulled together to do whatever they could for guests, especially those who were missing major life milestones. One nurse discovered her patient was going to miss his daughter's wedding, so she acquired the necessary technology to make it possible for him to virtually walk her down the aisle.

"He was grateful that people were taking the time to help him be there for his daughter's wedding," Dr. Altman said. "It was very heartwarming."

Many have been on the front lines since the COVID-19 pandemic began, selflessly giving their time and talents for the needs of others. While "physical distancing" is imperative during these times, Dr. Altman said not to take the term "social distancing" too literally. He encourages reaching out to loved ones, family, and friends and seeing how they are doing, even if it is just a text message, a telephone or video call.



Hoods are used for NDMS personnel to be tested and fitted for N95 masks.

Evolving patient care

By Katie Hubbard

As an osteopathic physician, Linnette Sells, DO, FAOASM, '82, was taught in medical school to examine patients through touch. When the COVID-19 pandemic upended all aspects of everyday life, including the traditional hands-on patient visit, diagnosing and treating patients became a more difficult task.

Dr. Sells, a former ER doctor, works as the sole physician at an urgent care center outside of Atlanta, Georgia. She and her staff have been adapting their clinic's services throughout the pandemic.

"Every day is something different," said Dr. Sells, who also serves as chair of ATSU's Board of Trustees and as a team physician for Georgia Tech. "We're evolving and trying to figure out what the best treatment is for patients."

Initially, clinic staff set up curbside patient visits in tents to avoid bringing potentially infected patients inside the facility. Dressed in personal protective equipment (PPE), staff members listened to lungs and checked oxygen levels. Without COVID-19 testing in place, they had to rely on their medical knowledge and common sense to triage patients appropriately.

After several weeks, the clinic was able to set up testing and take down the tents. However, the staff continued to do outdoor visits for patients with potential coronavirus infection. When a patient arrived, a tech would go to the parking lot and assess the patient's symptoms. In some cases, Dr. Sells also would go out to meet the patient and then decide if they needed to go to the ER, call 911, or continue the visit virtually from their car or home.

Like many other healthcare facilities at the time, the clinic experienced a marked decrease in typical patient visits, but it saw a surge in telemedicine. In fact, it wasn't even doing telemedicine before the outbreak.

While Dr. Sells continued to treat patients inside the clinic for typical urgent care matters, like broken bones, lacerations, and rashes, the clinic completely transitioned to telemedicine for possible COVID-19 cases. Dr. Sells stressed the challenge of treating and diagnosing patients virtually because she wants to ensure her patients receive the correct diagnosis while they are in her care.

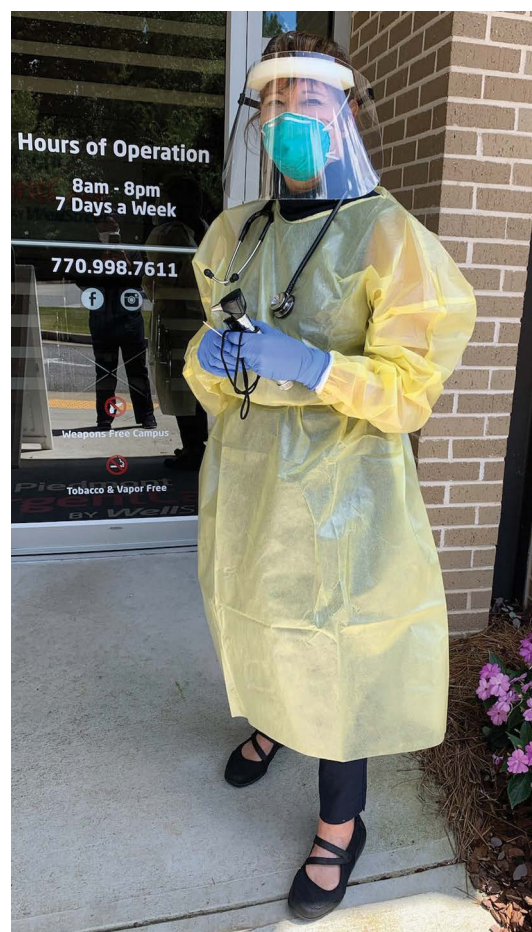
"Over a virtual visit, you can't listen to their lungs," she said. "They are complaining of coughs and wheezing, and we have to go by how they are breathing on the video."

"It's really mentally challenging. When I go home at night, my head is still spinning."

When case numbers started to climb in June and July, the telemedicine application became so overloaded with calls, Dr. Sells went back to doing curbside checks to help alleviate wait times. Dressed in full PPE under the hot summer sun, she has been doing her best to evaluate patient symptoms through open car doors. The sheer volume of patients, in person and via telemedicine, has kept Dr. Sells busier than ever.

"We have seen a huge increase of COVID-19 cases, particularly in teenagers and young adults," Dr. Sells said. "Early on, I thought it was great that so many people were following social distancing rules and taking necessary precautions, but that has totally changed now."

Dr. Sells has found mental health to be one of the most interesting aspects of the pandemic. Many older patients are making excuses to come to the clinic and be seen for very minor problems, while others have severe anxiety about visiting a clinic or hospital. Through her



telemedicine visits, she sometimes has to encourage patients to come to the clinic and, at a minimum, let the staff check their breathing and oxygen levels curbside.

"It's crazy that people are sitting at home with severe symptoms but are scared to go to the ER," Dr. Sells said. "In one patient case, I said, 'Listen, you can't speak in full sentences. You've got to go.' That's kind of the scenario we've got going on right now."

Dr. Linnette Sells, dressed in full PPE and armed with her stethoscope and otoscope, completes curbside checks for possible COVID-19 cases.

Response in the Arctic Circle

By Lizzy Ellery

With a passion for remote and austere environments, Melinda Rawcliffe, PA-C, '07, adjunct professor, ATSU-ASHS, is no stranger to practicing medicine far from her Arizona home. After working in locations like Iraq, Afghanistan, Suriname, Russia, and Trinidad and Tobago, she found herself in the distant and cold Arctic Circle.

Rawcliffe started working with a Fortune 100 company as their physician assistant and planned to stay in Alaska while the company proceeded through its exploration season. Little did she know her season would be extended, and she would be on the front line of defense against the coronavirus, leading a COVID-19 response team as western North Slope on-site chief medical officer.

“With COVID-19 hitting, the biggest point is to try and keep the core workforce that is here healthy,” Rawcliffe said. “And more importantly, away from all the native villages because we do not want to spread anything.”

Rawcliffe quickly went from regularly seeing patients to disaster planning mode. She pulled a team together and hit the ground running, as isolation alone would not be the answer. Being prepared for proper disinfection techniques and doing critical research to gain better understanding of what they were facing were just a few of the hurdles Rawcliffe faced in the early days of the pandemic.

Because of initial planning efforts, the workforce remained healthy with no reported cases of the virus. Rawcliffe was then able to transition from disaster planning mode to figuring out what was necessary to keep her workforce healthy.

“I feel that is where my background with ATSU has come into play, having been a student that was lucky enough to go through a phenomenal program, but also a professor to teach there,” Rawcliffe said.



Melinda Rawcliffe led a COVID-19 response team in the remote Arctic Circle.

“I am reaching in the back of my mind, remembering all those things from the pulmonology class we just taught, or community health, and trying to bring all that full circle.”

At the end of May, after several extra months in Alaska, Rawcliffe was able to safely make her return trip home. She looks forward to the paradigm shift that should occur as a result of the pandemic, with innovation being rewarded and the stresses of healthcare work being addressed. Through her colleagues, Rawcliffe has seen some of the struggles healthcare workers are facing, including workers who are furloughed due to lack of patients.

“Don’t give up, don’t get frustrated,” Rawcliffe said. “I know it has almost become a cliché to say we are going to get through this together, but we are, and we need to band together.”

Helping the homeless

By Lizzy Ellery



Top: Dr. Tessa Tibben works with Circle the City to help those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.

Other ATSU physician assistant alumni, including Alisha Crabtree, PA-C, '16, left, and Katie King, PA-C, '11, right, give their time to Circle the City.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Tessa Tibben, DHSc, MS, PA-C, '08, assistant professor, ATSU-ASHS, has been working with Circle the City (CTC), an Arizona organization serving the needs of those experiencing homelessness. During the course of the pandemic, CTC's focus quickly shifted to finding creative ways to serve this population and overcome challenges of sheltering in place and social distancing, since homeless encampment areas tend to promote people living in close proximity.

CTC operates two outpatient clinics; one is located on the Central Arizona Shelter Services Human Resource Campus. This location is able to offer additional coverage and provide service on nights and weekends. At both locations, the CTC team developed a tent area for "persons of interest" awaiting COVID-19 test results. They also designated sections in the respite to serve any recovering COVID-19 patient requiring a higher level of care, while keeping them separate from the rest of the population.

"CTC has also developed telephonic services," Dr. Tibben said. "We can conduct some visits over the telephone for patients, reducing exposure."

While working to provide services to the homeless community, healthcare professionals relied heavily on each other to get through the challenges they faced. Even in the midst of a pandemic, they continued their daily functions while taking on additional responsibilities.

"Shortly after the shelter-in-place order began, I found myself stressed like so many," Dr. Tibben said. "It was an education colleague who helped me tease through the layers of my stress."

She noted the stress of being an academician during this time and trying to swiftly shift gears to deliver the same quality education to students, in addition to the stress of the clinic, caring for patients and clinic colleagues.

"Once I identified the layers, I was able to shift my energy toward finding something in each arena I was grateful for and then channeling that energy into creativity so I could best serve each area," Dr. Tibben said. "Some days, I still find myself feeling the weight of the stress; however, with recognition comes the opportunity to reflect, meditate, and release."



Crisis on the

By Jason Hunsicker

Life is difficult on the Navajo Nation Reservation under the best of circumstances. Unemployment is around 50%. Nearly a third of Navajo reservation inhabitants lack access to water and electricity. And the population struggles with mortality rates for numerous diseases far higher than elsewhere in the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated a public health crisis. Abject poverty combined with the family-oriented environment make the 17.5 million acre piece of land straddling Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico a perfect place for the virus to thrive. The first positive cases were recorded in March. By the end of April, the volume of infection on a per-capita basis was second only to New York.

ATSU-SOMA alumnus Matthew Nelson, DO, MPH, '15, has been raising an alarm on the worsening situation since the start. A physician at Canyonlands Healthcare, a community health center in Page, Arizona, he's taken

to his Facebook page to share statistics, written a powerful essay for the Navajo Times, and worked to create PPE to provide area healthcare workers in need.

"I've been on social media, trying to raise at least some local awareness about the brewing hotspot for a while," Dr. Nelson said. "I'd been tracking the numbers, per capita, because I knew this was not going to play out well on the reservation, where there is housing insecurity, water insecurity, you-name-it insecurity."

Dr. Nelson knows the Navajo Nation well, first visiting as part of his mission with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He initially pursued degrees in cultural and linguistic anthropology before deciding he wanted to take a more active role in helping the struggling Navajo population.

That led him to ATSU-SOMA and an educational experience he said set him up for future success.

reservation

The Navajo Nation Reservation near Page, Arizona.

“The way you are learning is the way you are going to see things in the clinic,” Dr. Nelson said. “It was probably better than any medical school experience I could have hoped for. I feel like I was well prepared relative to medical students and residents coming out of other schools.”

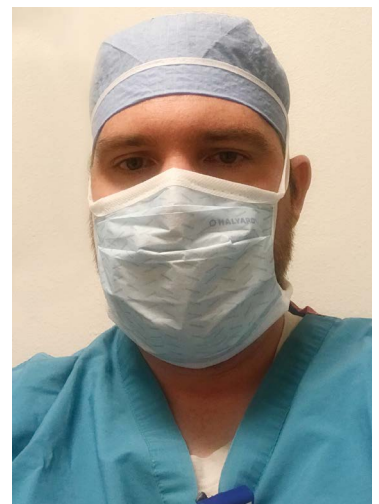
He targeted residency and fellowship opportunities he believed would present challenging opportunities to prepare him to serve one of the nation’s most underserved populations. And that was before COVID-19.

“A lot of my patients are scared to death to come into the clinic or hospital,” Dr. Nelson said. “We’re not allowing family members in to visit the sick, which is very difficult for a population that is significantly family- and elder-oriented. This population who reveres and respects their elders, and treats them as the absolute head and leader of a family, when they are burying those people, or when

those people are going into the hospital and they are symbolically burying them in the hospital, it’s really difficult and hard to watch that.”

In addition to encouraging his community to wear face coverings and follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Nelson purchased his own 3D printer and taught himself how to make N95-style masks to support his local front-line healthcare workers, particularly home health agency workers who are treating people on the reservation. He also organized regional volunteers to assist in procuring PPE for the community and was pleased to receive help from ATSU-SOMA faculty and students in the Phoenix valley and Flagstaff, Arizona.

“Those home health workers don’t have PPE, they don’t have masks,” Dr. Nelson said. “They are putting their lives on the line.”



Dr. Matthew Nelson

Unmasking communication

By Jason Hunsicker

Loren Lunsford, AuD, '09, knew there would be a problem almost immediately. As the COVID-19 pandemic progressed across the country and experts urged the public to wear masks to protect themselves, Dr. Lunsford was focused on impacts to her patients.

Dr. Lunsford co-owns 32 Sonus Hearing Care Professionals locations, many located in southern California, and The Hearing Spot online store. Her business serves people with a wide range of hearing-impairment problems.

Masks weren't going to cover anyone's ears, but they were blocking mouths. That caused new issues for many who rely on associating lip movements with voices to better understand what's being said.

Dr. Lunsford and her staff got to work, first enlisting a local contact to make a handful of masks with clear vinyl at the mouth. They needed more and found a local manufacturer who

could make 300. After getting these masks to patients, Dr. Lunsford shared the concept in an audiology Facebook group and said she had 140 masks remaining. They were sold within an hour.

It was only the beginning. Since April 30, Dr. Lunsford's business has sold more than 12,000 masks. Requests are coming from schools, governments, and more, leading her to seek new manufacturers to increase capacity.

The project has been a boon to her business, which had seen patient volume decrease dramatically during the pandemic. It also boosted local manufacturing, which early in the pandemic could only conduct business if creating personal protective equipment.

"It's a really cool, feel-good story," Dr. Lunsford said. "Very serendipitous for us, because we're helping a lot of people in the process."



Dr. Loren Lunsford displays one of her newly created facemasks with clear vinyl at the mouth.



Words of encouragement

By Jason Hunsicker

Kelly Parling-Lynch, DO, '99, knew there were more ways than traditional medical treatment to help her west Michigan community during the COVID-19 pandemic. She recalled her time as a University of Chicago undergraduate student, and later at medical school in Kirksville, Missouri. Family, friends, coaches, and teachers would send her notes of encouragement, vital correspondence during tough times.

So, the ATSU-KCOM alumna picked up a pen. Her medical education helped, having studied Dr. Still's approach to treating the mind, body, and spirit.

"I can't just think about taking care of my physical well-being, but also have to address my emotional state and my spiritual state during this stressful time of chaos the pandemic brings, and those are all osteopathic principles," Dr. Parling-Lynch said.

It began as a Facebook post but expanded to become a column in the Holland (Michigan) Sentinel newspaper, which serves readers where Dr. Parling-Lynch works as a medical oncologist with Cancer and Hematology Centers of Western Michigan. She thanked her community for social distancing, adhering to guidelines put forth by the medical community, and doing their part to keep everyone safe. She thanked those who were helping the community in other ways, too, from companies donating PPE, to teachers who were engaging their students online, to those on the front lines in the healthcare field.

She hoped her message would help her community know they'd get through the tough times together. It also helped reassure herself, too.

"I remember when we were training for medicine on campus in Kirksville, we read a lot of the history of A.T. Still and why he did what he did and he thought there was a better approach than allopathic way. It was those pandemics that caused him to bravely step up to try something new," Dr. Parling-Lynch said. "Our profession grew out of what was happening then and has us leading the way in adapting to what is happening now."



Dr. Kelly Parling-Lynch addresses her community through a newspaper column.

Support echoes through the streets

By Lizzy Ellery



ATSU-ASHS Dean Ann Lee Burch, PT, EdD, MS, MPH, shared a touching email with the School during the initial outbreak of COVID-19. She mentioned her daughter, who was living in New York City at the time.

Ruby Jean Dudasik was a college senior attending New York University. While she should have been preparing for graduation celebrations, she instead prepared for the nightly celebration heard throughout the streets of New York. Every night at 7:00 p.m., when the shift change occurred at two local hospitals next to her apartment, the neighborhood roared with applause to show support for healthcare workers.

"Everybody just made a lot of noise," Dudasik said. "There are people clapping, my roommate and I go to our roof and slammed pot lids together."

For the first few weeks after the virus hit the city, there was a lot of sad and dark news, and it was hard for Dudasik to see the benefit of the applause. Then things started to change.

While stores closed and streets had less traffic, many people came together to show solidarity. Stores and restaurants left notes on the windows saying they will be back soon. Some patrons also left notes in response, saying how much they missed the establishment.

"There is this sense of camaraderie when you walk around the neighborhood," Dudasik said. "We are in this together, and when you stay home, you are doing your part."



Photo credit: Jason Hunsicker

ATSU responds to the coronavirus

By Lizzy Ellery and Katie Hubbard

Ted Wendel, PhD, ATSU's senior vice president of university planning & strategic initiatives, recalls back to March 20, when the COVID-19 situation was beginning to escalate and the amount of uncertainty was beginning to rise. He remembers a feeling of not knowing what to expect, where things were going, or how long it was going to last.

"We had some idea that this was a really serious threat, but it wasn't a visible threat," Dr. Wendel said. "That was really a disconcerting feeling."

While most students and employees of ATSU began working from home at that point because of stay-at-home orders, there were some essential personnel who remained to keep the campuses secure.

"We locked everything up and left campus to a small group of people who deserve a lot of credit, and that is our Security team," Dr. Wendel said. "They were there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, protecting our campus. And that went on for a couple of months, because we were all at home."

Juan Romero, manager of safety & security on the Mesa, Arizona, campus, and his team have kept a watchful eye on the campus throughout the pandemic. Romero has seen many changes over the past few months but recalls the one that hit him the hardest.

"To me, when it really kind of got to me was when we closed the campus and actually locked down the main entryway of the campus," Romero said. "This was never done before."

Romero and his team placed a "campus closed" sign to officially lock down the campus as the state issued a stay-at-home order.

"It was so quiet, there was nobody around. It was almost eerie," Romero said. "It is odd not to hear the students in the hallways or to hear a lecture taking place."

ATSU leadership was very deliberate in their decision-making process from the start. With top leadership focusing on employee and student needs, Human Resources

immediately focused on limiting exposure for employees while ensuring basic functionality for the University.

"The CDC guidelines were signposts for our decision-making processes," said Donna Brown, MBA, assistant vice president, human resources. "In addition to considering the needs of employees as a whole, a large amount of time was spent working with individual employees related to their specific needs."

Some employees were considered part of the CDC-defined "higher risk" populations, and others needed assistance transitioning to a work-from-home environment, along with a hundred other specific needs. Human Resources' goal in this process was to understand the various needs and work with employees and supervisors to meet those needs.

For Bryan Krusniak, MBA, vice president, information technology, the decision to temporarily move activities online across the University meant his department had to act quickly. On the employee side, Information Technology Services (ITS) had to make sure people could work from home. The team scrambled to find and set up equipment, like laptops, and conduct training to help people learn to use new tools, like VPNs and remote workstations.

On the academic side, they expanded use of tools like Canvas and Zoom. They also partnered with the Teaching & Learning Center (TLC), A.T. Still Memorial Library, and Academic Affairs to provide training on how to transition to online delivery of classroom content. The team held weekly sessions and developed "Zoom moderators" to assist faculty in managing larger online classes and exercises.

While ITS met its share of challenges in developing new procedures and new ways of doing business, it was successful in shifting University events, like awards ceremonies, white coat ceremonies, virtual poster sessions, and student orientation, from in-person to virtual formats.

First-year ATSU-KCOM students Kasey Halila and Lauren Novick practice skills during Basic Life Support training on the Missouri campus.

“Fortunately, ATSU already had a culture that encouraged many people to be able to work from anywhere,” Krusniak said. “The events of 2020 have been a mix of quick reaction to an unforeseen pandemic and slow preparation for technology-driven change that has been on the horizon for years.”

Before the pandemic, many employees had already been issued laptops. The University had established a strong adoption of Zoom for online meetings, and it had recently completed a transition to move the learning management system platform to the cloud and standardize on Canvas. ATSU also had an established knowledge base of best practices in online education through ATSU-CGHS, the University’s online college of health studies. ATSU-CGHS’ instructional designers worked with the TLC and Academic Technologies to spread knowledge of online teaching tools and their use. In addition, ATSU already had studio space on the Kirksville, Missouri, campus to record and edit didactic and lab content videos for online delivery.

“We had plans to conduct a business continuity tabletop exercise around a pandemic scenario,” Krusniak said. “Little did we know how real it would become.”

As the pandemic continued, they realized the difference between getting people the ability to work at home and getting them to be efficient at their work in a non-standard office environment. In addition, having so many employees working from home, often on their own personal equipment, emphasized the need for additional information security training and tools for remote work.

With classes and University business operating in a virtual whirlwind, campus life was at a standstill. Tony Magliano, director of facilities, Arizona operations, had been adjusting to a change of pace with the campus shut down to non-essential employees.

“I hadn’t realized how much of my time actually is spent interacting and responding to staff,” Magliano said.

He immediately jumped into a to-do list of projects that normally would have been scheduled around student, faculty, and staff activities.

“We painted all of our curbs that needed to be painted, we organized our classrooms and cleaned,” Magliano said. “We had some major plumbing issues in one of our buildings. The fact that nobody was here allowed us to get a lot done.”

Many departments were able to take advantage of this unique down time to prepare for re-entry and the necessary processes that would soon be in place. As those re-entry discussions began, Human Resources quickly realized one of its main challenges would be figuring out who needed to be on campus.

“Many of us, just a few months ago, would have said being on campus was a necessity for our job,” Brown said. “Four months later, many have found we can be more flexible and adaptable in completing our job tasks.”

Although many people like to work near one another for the camaraderie, today’s technology and ATSU’s support departments, particularly ITS, have allowed for more remote working and learning than previously thought. The situation was an eye-opener for rethinking and redefining roles and interactions.

“In May, we started thinking about coming back to campus and what we were going to do,” Dr. Wendel said. “We came up with the idea that if you needed to be there, then we will make campus safe and secure.”

Safety has always been the guiding principle, which means following CDC guidelines and basing decisions off those guidelines. As plans were made about student re-entry, it became evident while many educational elements could be delivered online, some elements could not.

“We recognized not everything students had to learn could be taught using Zoom,” Dr. Wendel said. “We recognized we had to incorporate that into the plan. If it involved hands-on or clinical simulation, that was going to have to happen on campus.”

Magliano described going through campus and looking at room capacities. They tried to determine how the University could allow social distancing with various factors to consider.

“Some classrooms are shaped differently, some classrooms have round tables, some have rectangular tables,” Magliano said.



Photos credit: Juan Romero

Dedrixie Tsosie, lead dental assistant at ATSU-ASDOH, checks temperatures at a check-in station on the Arizona campus.

**“It is odd not to hear the students in the hallways
or to hear a lecture taking place.”**

- Juan Romero, manager of safety & security, Arizona campus



“But we went through and identified capacities to implement six feet between individuals in a classroom.”

In classrooms and offices, high touch points are being cleaned on a regular basis. Cleaning stations have been provided in common areas throughout all buildings. Some areas have even required new furniture to ensure more effective cleaning.

“A lot of our rooms around here, especially in our patient waiting area, had fake leather chairs,” Magliano said. “We’ve been swapping out and putting in plastic chairs because they are easier to wipe down and keep clean.”

Though the campus was shut down, some campus clinics remained open. The ATSU Gutensohn Clinic on the Missouri campus immediately began adhering to best practices and guidance from the CDC to screen patients and visitors for COVID-19 risks and symptoms. It then implemented a physician-resident platoon system, where teams of physicians and residents worked in different areas to avoid cross-contamination. By the end of March, the clinic started a complete foyer screening and roster system for everyone entering the building. Additionally, the clinic developed and enhanced its telehealth application for 15-20 patients per day on average.

The ATSU-ASDOH dental clinic remained open for emergency patients and those who were mid-treatment. Sneeze guards were installed at the reception desk, and with low patient numbers, social distancing measures were put in place around dental chairs.

“They are increasing the number of patients they are seeing now,” Magliano said. “They’re wanting some more protection around their work areas. So, we are working on helping them get ready to go.”

Following CDC guidance for social distancing, the University is bringing in small cohorts to ensure enough space among students. Rooms that once held 100 students at a time now hold a maximum of 30 students. The change in room capacity is causing some spaces to be temporarily repurposed, like the Thompson Campus Center gymnasium being used for delivery of lab-based education.

“That is social distancing, and that is what it dictates,” said Dr. Wendel. “We’ve



Occupational therapy students Ernesto Generoso and Yumee Kim participate in a hands-on lab under new safety guidelines.

worked with the deans and program chairs to try and plot a strategy so they could bring students back on campus and they could be safe, secure, and social-distanced and still accommodate their needs for learning.”

Many protocols were put into place to ensure the safety of anyone who steps foot onto campus. Communication & Marketing produced signage for safety and social distancing instructions. Human Resources and ITS developed an automated check-in process and databases to manage health-related data. Security and other staff stepped up to operate check-in stations. Now, every person who has a need to return to campus is required to follow all new protocols, including getting a temperature check and wearing PPE.

“We put together two forms, the daily health form and the return to campus form,” Dr. Wendel said. “I think that gave everybody the idea that we are serious. And it reminds them every day that we are serious.”

One of the biggest concerns throughout the pandemic has been adjusting to change. Krusniak notes how some employees are overwhelmed with all of the changes while others are anxious to try new tools and adopt new processes to facilitate remote work.



“ITS has to carefully manage projects to provide the benefits to those who need it, while not pushing others over the edge regarding how much change they can handle during this stressful time,” Krusniak said. “We have also tried to find ways to keep some ‘office serendipity’ alive with tools such as Zoom, Jabber, and Google chat/Hangouts.”

The President’s Office, ITS, and Human Resources worked to continually communicate a clear and consistent message among a constantly changing environment. To reinforce activity and help address ever-changing needs, ITS developed weekly Bits & Bytes messaging, and Human Resources sent weekly Q&As. ATSU deans also sent regular communication to their respective schools to keep faculty and staff up to date on the latest happenings.

Furthermore, employees remained positively engaged with ATSU leadership and with professional development opportunities. More than 60,000 LinkedIn Learning videos and 2,750 courses were completed. And, nearly 1,500 courses were completed on UltiPro Learning, Human Resources’ employee management software.

“We saw employees actively working to develop themselves professionally,” Brown said. “We were so impressed with employees’ desire to grow and develop during this time.”

Throughout the pandemic, the President’s Cabinet has continued to meet on a regular basis to address concerns, stay apprised of the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, and help keep the ATSU community safe. The overwhelming themes echoed from every corner of the University have been collaboration, compassion, support, problem solving, and flexibility. People have jumped in, without hesitation, to help ATSU move forward when the rest of the world came to a screeching halt.

“I am so proud of a leadership group that came together and did miraculous things,” Dr. Wendel said. “I have a tremendous amount of pride of being a part of a team that was really on top of what was happening and acted the best way they could with the information we had.”

Serving children in need

By Kaley Burroughs

When ATSU-KCOM’s Christine Harb, OMS III, learned schools in the Kirksville, Missouri, community had closed their doors due to the coronavirus pandemic, she knew she wanted to help in whatever way she could.

After reaching out to area leaders, Harb discovered a program through the local YMCA to prepare and distribute lunches to children in need. Working with her classmate, Barbara Senger, an osteopathic manipulative medicine fellow, she quickly organized a large group of student volunteers to participate in the program.

“Many of the local students would be receiving free breakfast and lunch at school,” said student volunteer Michaela Roberts, OMS III. “With schools closed and parents possibly out of work, some families were needing the extra support.”

Volunteers signed up for shifts and worked to fill the program’s needs, including food preparation, packaging, delivery, and cleanup.

Since the program began on March 17, it has expanded its impact by providing both breakfast and lunch, and extended delivery into weekends. Volunteers prepare hundreds of meals each day and more than 42,000 meals were served through late July.

“I always say that if we truly wish to heal our patients, we must heal the world around them, too,” Harb said. “Making meals through this program is our way of starting that process.”



Kimmmie Olson from Truman State University, Carolyn Grachen, OMS II, and Autumn Graves, OMS II, prepare school lunches.



ATSU's 3D-printed face shield

Made at ATSU

3D printing addresses PPE shortages

By Jason Hunsicker

As the COVID-19 pandemic's full scope came into focus in mid-March and news began to spread of nationwide personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages, ATSU sprang into action.

Using technology, resources, and community partnerships, the University drove an effort that, as of late June, had created more than 1,000 face shields and 400 N95-style masks for use by hospitals, healthcare providers, first responders, nursing homes, faculty, staff, and students.

ATSU-KCOM Dean Margaret Wilson, DO, '82, asked A.T. Still Memorial Library's Debra Loguda-Summers, public services and 3D print services manager, if the University's 3D printers could be used to help address PPE shortages in Kirksville, Missouri. According to Loguda-Summers, a face shield prototype was ready by the end of the week.

"I think it's amazing. I'm really proud of it," Loguda-Summers said. "As a library, you don't necessarily think about being able to step up and do something like that during a pandemic."

3D printing is a time-consuming pursuit. Individual projects take hours to complete, a timeframe that grows with complexity and size of each design. Then there are additional needs, such as loading materials into the printers, and cleaning and exchanging parts. The end product, too, is far from finished, often needing to be broken from excess material and cleaned.

A.T. Still Memorial Library has three printers, so to address the PPE problem in any meaningful way, the University looked outside. Loguda-Summers had worked previously with Rich Chapman, a teacher at the Kirksville Area Technical Center. Chapman and a student, high school senior Caleb Flaim, were eager to assist

with the public school's printers, and along with Jamie Carroll, senior graphic artist, using printers in Academic Technologies, they formed a team.

Early printing materials were donated by Stratasys/DEPCO and Affinia Healthcare, while the University and Student Government Association purchased additional necessities. Local Kirksville company S&S Printing also provided complementary support.

Carroll's recent experiences with 3D printers helped him solve some problems, too. He's previously been tasked with creating custom anatomical designs for faculty members, as well as other parts for Facilities. When dental students and faculty found the face shields and masks didn't always allow enough room for other equipment they needed to wear, Carroll customized the designs to meet those needs.

"All of that helped prepare me for being able to do a custom project like this, and not just learning how to do it, but having the skills to be able to do it in a timely fashion," he said.

As of late June, the nationwide PPE shortage began to subside. ATSU's local team is still printing, however, supplementing purchases and providing customized pieces. They are proud of the part they've played in supporting front-line healthcare workers and ATSU's needs.

"There is a sense of pride in working at ATSU and working toward a goal, helping incoming students, working toward a bigger mission," Carroll said.

Loguda-Summers shares that sentiment.

"The president had the initiative many years ago to start the 3D printing program, and we've expanded it over the last few years," she said. "I'm really proud we were able to do this."



Jamie Carroll's customized masks allow dental students to wear additional PPE.



Madison Trammell, AuD, '20

Congratulations, class of 2020!

By Katie Hubbard

The class of 2020 celebrated graduation like no class before. While most colleges and universities canceled or postponed commencement activities because of the COVID-19 pandemic, ATSU held its seven commencement ceremonies on their originally scheduled dates throughout the spring and summer. From May 8 through Aug. 7, the University made the most of social distancing to provide its newest graduates with a virtual ceremony, marking their significant achievements amid an unprecedented time in history.

“You are entering a profession that serves and cares for individuals and communities, in the best of times and in the worst of times.”

- ATSU-ASHS Dean Ann Lee Burch, PT, EdD, MS, MPH



Mai-Ly Duong, DMD, MPH, MAEd, FAGD, FSCD, '12, associate professor, ATSU-ASDOH, sang “God Bless America” during each ceremony.

Gary M. Wiltz, MD, served as the commencement speaker for each ceremony. He is former chair of ATSU’s Board of Trustees and CEO of Teche Action Clinic, a network of 13 federally qualified health centers in southwest Louisiana.



“Let not the distance, the technology, and the computer screen we stare at, separate us and distract from the jubilation of this occasion, but let them unite us in a spirit of achievement, celebration, and the spirit of improvisation.”

- ATSU-MOSDOH Dean Dwight E. McLeod, DDS, MS

“The world is in an interesting place right now. Times like these need leaders like you. Take your new knowledge, use it to lead the way, and make this world a better place.”

- ATSU-CGHS Dean Don Altman, DDS, DHSc, EdD, MPH, MBA, MA, '12

“You will now be directly responsible for the care of your patients, and they will look to you for advice, support, guidance, decisions, and advocacy regarding their health and well-being.”

- ATSU-SOMA Dean Jeffrey Morgan, DO, MA, FACOI, CS

“You are an extraordinary class that has faced an unprecedented time in history. No other generation of graduates has encountered a crisis of this proportion in our lifetime.”



- ATSU-KCOM Dean Margaret Wilson, DO, '82



Erik Anderson, DO, '20



Janine N. Burkhardt, MPH, '20

“Whenever you have a chance, choose to help make someone’s life just a little bit better.”

- ATSU-ASDOH Dean Robert M. Trombly, DDS, JD



Ludwig Frontier, DHSc, '20



ATSU President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84, virtually congratulates Zoraida Acevedo Solis, AuD, '20.



Jenna Gassman, DO, '20



Willskville College of Naturopathic Medicine

Emergency preparedness and disaster response

By Jason Hunsicker

As the COVID-19 pandemic exposed healthcare weaknesses nationwide, ATSU-CGHS looked at ways to provide something in short supply—public health professionals with experience in emergency preparedness.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response is a course being offered this fall. It will examine roles and responsibilities of public health during a disaster and emergency. Students completing the course earn three Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certifications.

“It’s very much what you’d do in the field,” said Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CPH, COI, ATSU-CGHS Public Health department chair and associate professor. “How to set up field hospitals, incident command training, table tops, after-action reports, and things like that.”

Additionally, a four-course Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response certificate program will begin in January. Students will need to complete Introduction to Public Health, Epidemiology, Global Health, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response courses to earn the certificate, along with three FEMA certificates and a contract-tracing certificate.

Dr. McNatt said the certificate is designed for public health and healthcare workers to gain more experience in emergency preparedness and response, and prepare them to be first responders.

Prior to coming to ATSU-CGHS in 2006, Dr. McNatt worked in bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, pandemic planning, and infectious disease surveillance in Texas’ Dallas County. She said much was accomplished in public health across the nation during the years immediately following 9/11.

“After 9/11, funding was increased. Then we saw increases in emergency preparedness, plans for outbreaks, pandemic planning, and many initiatives were put into place,” Dr. McNatt said.

During the past few years, federal public health funding has seen drastic cuts, stressing the system and further complicating pandemic response. Then COVID-19 spread throughout the country. Dr. McNatt said the field is



Dr. Mary-Katherine McNatt is an expert in public health.

approximately 70% understaffed and many people in public health leadership roles are entering their retirement years. The result has been desperate calls for thousands of public health workers to assist during the pandemic.

“When public health is working, and working well, you don’t hear anything about it,” Dr. McNatt said.

While the coronavirus pandemic should be behind us one day, Dr. McNatt said people need to understand it won’t be overnight, likely stretching into spring or summer of 2021. There are ways everyone can help slow the spread and protect themselves, she said, if Americans are willing. Everyone, Dr. McNatt said, should be wearing masks in public areas, both indoors and outdoors.

“It’s taking care of each other. It’s respectful,” she said. “It’s other people’s health, their wellness, their life.”

Doing things virtually for as long as possible is another key. Dr. McNatt said her children will attend

school virtually this fall, and her family will continue to stay home as much as possible. She also stressed physical distancing of six feet should be a minimum, not a goal, to protect yourself and others.

Until a vaccine or other reliable treatment is developed, everyone must do their part to protect themselves and others.

“The only way we’re going to get herd immunity is with a vaccine or once a treatment comes out,” she said. “It’s not going to happen by itself. Science tells us it’s not going to happen.”

Dr. McNatt praised ATSU leadership for taking positive, proactive steps to allow the University to continue its mission, while protecting students, faculty, and staff.

“ATSU has done a phenomenal job of allowing the employees, the students, to go home and manage this,” Dr. McNatt said. “I’ve always been proud of how ATSU supports the students, faculty, and staff.” ■



ATSU speaks out amid racial injustice protests

As the University continues discussions and learning opportunities about diversity, inclusion, and equity, here are some perspectives on racism in society, diversity at ATSU, and ATSU's role in solving healthcare injustice.

George Floyd. Trayvon Martin. Tamir Rice. Sandra Bland. Michael Brown. Eric Garner. Philando Castile. Breonna Taylor. Justin Howell. Sean Monterrosa. Jamel Floyd. These are just a small percentage of the victims who have been killed due to police brutality and were discriminated against as a result of the color of their skin. These last few months pinpointed a fundamental public health crisis that still exists in our country—racism. As affluent and accomplished as America is, we still live in a society where institutional racism exists despite the ignorance of those who deem racial injustice to be nonexistent. While these events have clearly gained the attention of the world, we are still in need of reform and policies to ensure the safety of the same people the law attempts to defend. Through the consistent efforts of racial injustice protests and discussions happening around the country, one thing is certain: Racial injustice still exists!

Why were these people targeted? Did they do anything differently than what we may have done if we were in their shoes? After watching some of their final moments before the police ended their lives, these were some of the things we learned: Tamir Rice was playing in a park, Breonna Taylor was asleep in her bed, Trayvon Martin was walking home, George Floyd was at the grocery store, and Eric Garner had just broken up a fight. Sounds normal, doesn't it? However, one thing unifies these individuals, their race. Is it skin color that dictates one's perception of a threat? How do we define a threat? What made them targets?

As an African American man, it is clear I have been raised in a society that deems me to be incompetent, threatening, and a criminal. Despite the white coat I may have on or the grey suit I might wear, my skin color accentuates the stereotypes and the negative perceptions that society has attributed to me. Despite this, I have realized the only thing I can do is continue to support the discussions on race and raise awareness on the importance of racial injustice. Many around me are completely clueless and unaware to the world that I live in. Although diversity and inclusion may sound like a ploy for affirmative action, there is a dire need to educate everyone about racial injustice, the meaning of diversity at a workplace or school environment, and what our response to these things should be.

All in all, we may not necessarily understand all that is happening in the world around us, but we can definitely speak up and encourage discussions that command our attention to these topics. Institutions must include racism-based and discrimination-based curriculums that prepare future professionals with the tools to handle situations like this. We must encourage panel discussions and focused talks that pinpoint our personal biases and stereotypes that we create based on our perception of an individual and provide us with ways to limit and eliminate them. We have to use our platform as health professionals and future leaders to address the concepts of racism and how they have led to the incidence of health disparities and racial injustices. However, no matter how flawed the system may be or how disappointing these events have been, we must begin by acknowledging that these issues exist and treat this issue like the public health crisis it truly is.

—Michael Megafu, OMS II, ATSU-KCOM

As one of the few African American students on campus at ATSU, I have always felt it to be one of my responsibilities to help advocate for other African American students, in a professional setting. In order to do that, I needed resources. I applied for the Graduate Professions Scholarship program at ATSU, which introduced me to the Office of Diversity & Inclusion on campus. I was very surprised in regard to the plans that Diversity & Inclusion was rolling out to try to make ATSU a more diverse community. Together, we were able to find students interested in creating multiple culturally focused clubs and events.

Almost three years into my experiences with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion brings us to present day, and I felt comfortable enough to ask for support from them to bring our students together to protest against the injustices happening in our communities to women and men that look like me. It's not easy entrusting a private institution with such a delicate topic, but ATSU has repeatedly pushed the boundaries traditionally expected of a professional institution. I won't deny, I do believe that ATSU can have better racial and ethnic representation across the board when it comes to student acceptance. These concerns have been voiced, and I am confident that before my time is up here at ATSU, we will start seeing a noticeable difference amongst the demographic of students on our campus.

—Belema Ogbanga, D3, ATSU-ASDOH

ATSU has led osteopathic medicine since it was founded by the University's namesake in 1892. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." This was 1966. In 1965, Drs. Jack Geiger and John Hatch opened the first community health center in rural Mississippi. Dr. Andrew Taylor Still was treating people where they are 70 years before that!

ATSU is closely aligned with the community health center movement to this day and building on its leadership in this work. ATSU, the civil rights movement, and the community health center movement are inextricably linked by their work to eradicate the injustices in healthcare and promote opportunity and access along the spectrum of academic delivery, student, faculty, staff, supplier, patient, and geographic diversity. ATSU has positioned itself to continue leading and pursuing a more culturally proficient community and industry.

—Clinton Normore, MBA, vice president of diversity & inclusion

Healthcare professionals and their educational institutions must lead our country's efforts to close the gaps in healthcare and education disparities. There is no place at ATSU for racism, discrimination, or harassment. We will continue to promote and support cultural proficiency, diversity, and inclusion for our students, faculty, staff, patients, and communities.

Clinton Normore, MBA, vice president, diversity & inclusion, has successfully led our university's efforts in diversity, inclusion, and cultural proficiency. While tremendous progress has been accomplished, many additional opportunities await. We support our students', faculty's, and staff's rights to free speech and are proud to see them participate in peaceful gatherings addressing many of the most important challenges facing our country.

—Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84, president of ATSU





The sky is not the limit

By Jason Hunsicker

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft is launched on NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission to the International Space Station with NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley onboard, Saturday, May 30, 2020, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

ATSU-KCOM alumnus J.D. Polk, DO, MS, MMM, CPE, FACOEP, FAsMA, '93, looked on from NASA's Kennedy Space Center Launch Control. The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft carrying NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley was racing into the heavens, marking the first time since 2011 Americans had been launched into space from American soil.

The May 30 launch was an important milestone in a new chapter for NASA, one including a return of astronauts to the moon in 2024 and eventually a first visit to Mars.

This is why Dr. Polk, now NASA's chief health and medical officer, returned. He'd been with NASA as chief of space medicine before leaving to work on deterrents of weapons of mass destruction and counterterrorism at the Department of Homeland Security, and most recently serving as dean of medicine for Des Moines University's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Then NASA came calling with what he called a "Godfather" offer. It was something he could not refuse.

"How many times in your lifetime do you get to work on landing people on the moon and Mars?" Dr. Polk said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime deal."

His current role is one of the highest in both NASA and the federal government, and it carries a wide range of responsibilities. He works with engineers on building spacecraft to protect astronauts and contributes to strategic aspects for missions, looking at mission length and health implications on the crew.

Perhaps the least enjoyable part of his job comes with decisions regarding astronauts' flight status. He's the final authority.

"Those are not enviable decisions when you have to tell somebody they are not flying," Dr. Polk said.

Lately, he's added a new task, one he refers to as "pandemic czar."



Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

NASA astronauts Robert Behnken, foreground, and Douglas Hurley, wearing SpaceX spacesuits, depart the Neil A. Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building for Launch Complex 39A to board the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.



Photo credit: NASA/Kim Shifflett

On May 22, 2020, inside the Operations Support Building II at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA Chief Health and Medical Officer Dr. J.D. Polk signs the official document denoting the agency and SpaceX are a "Go" for the upcoming Demo-2 launch, following the conclusion of the flight readiness review.

He and his medical teams have been leading NASA's efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, altering processes in the NASA/SpaceX launch lead-up. For example, shift changes were typically handled face to face, with the new group receiving an update and then taking the control room chairs. To allow social distancing, NASA used multiple control rooms simultaneously. Each new shift would essentially take over a vacant room.

"If you get somebody who is sick and they spread it and you have to self-quarantine a dozen people, that might be OK in some circumstances," Dr. Polk said, adding with a laugh, "but when it's in Mission Control or Launch Control and you have a multibillion-dollar space station in orbit, probably not so much."

NASA also added steps to isolate or distance astronauts during mission training, but much of the final quarantine procedures were already in place. NASA wants astronauts to be in perfect health for their missions, as orbiting the Earth at more than 17,500 mph isn't an ideal place for a cold.

"It's tough to clear your ears and nose if you're doing a spacewalk," Dr. Polk said.

Dr. Polk and NASA are continuing work on the Artemis program, which is scheduled to land Americans on the moon for the first time since the Apollo program ended in 1972. As one of the few remaining generations at NASA who remembers those moon missions, Dr. Polk feels Artemis will re-energize younger generations, and its necessary technological advances will have impacts far beyond space flight.

During Apollo, NASA developed fuel cell technology, which now powers electric cars. Thermometers reading temperatures by bouncing thermograms off foreheads came from NASA doing the same to planets in our solar system. The impeller used with end-stage heart failure patients is a smaller version of what was developed and used in space shuttle main engines during launch.

"Most people wouldn't think an end-stage heart failure patient bridging to transplant owes anything to the space shuttle main engine, but they do," Dr. Polk said.

There's also important scientific research and development ongoing at the International Space Station.

"We've got Parkinson's research going on," he said. "We've done vaccine research, stem cell research on cardiac cells, a whole plethora of different research. The average medical student may never know when this therapy or vaccine or medication comes along, it owes some part of its existence to human space flight."

He's hoping more medical students become aware of the opportunities within their grasp, specifically more osteopathic medical students. Dr. Polk had been accepted at several MD and DO schools and chose the DO path because of its holistic approach. He's happy to report he's no longer unique at NASA, with several more DOs in various roles, but he hopes more students realize the different paths their careers can take.

"I'm looking forward to the first DO astronaut," Dr. Polk said. "It won't be me. I'm getting too old for that. But I'm hoping it's an ATSU grad who is the first DO astronaut."

"I'm hoping the students expand their horizons and definitions of what a physician can do. Hopefully, if nothing else, I'm proof the sky is not the limit." ■

CONNECTIONS



The founder of ATSU and osteopathic medicine came to life during the premiere of “Dr. A.T. Still: America’s Healthcare Disruptor” in fall 2019. The one-man portrayal of A.T. Still, DO, played by Patrick Lobert, PhD, told the story about the founding and growth of osteopathic medicine from Dr. Still’s perspective. Combining history and humor, the portrayal gave the audience a unique view of Dr. Still’s success story.

“It tells you about the people involved, how Kirksville came to be the place of osteopathy,” said Jason Haxton, MA, director of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine. “The world looks at us today for what this innovative man, Andrew Taylor Still, did and how so many people benefit from it.”

IN THIS SECTION

[From the museum](#)

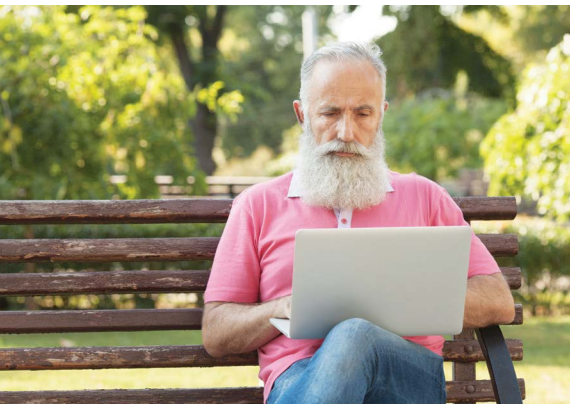
[Class notes](#)

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[Parting shot](#)



Upcoming CE programs

Athletic Training

- Clinical Outcomes Assessment: An Overview
- Evidence-Based Practice in Athletic Training
- Guidelines for Best Practices in Concussion Management: The Development of Position and Consensus Statements
- Health Information Technology in Athletic Training
- 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

EBP home study courses are available year-round and are web-based.
For more information, call 480.219.6131 or email atce@atsu.edu.

Dental

- Dental Ethics
- Clinical Dentistry and Ethics

Courses are available year-round and are web-based.
For more information, email asdohce@atsu.edu.
ATSU-ASDOH is an ADA CERP-recognized provider.

Register for courses online at ce.atsu.edu.



By Jason Hunsicker

When the coronavirus pandemic shut down much of day-to-day life, ATSU Communication & Marketing and Museum of Osteopathic Medicine Director Jason Haxton, MA, sought a way to engage with the University community and provide something entertaining, educational, and, hopefully, fun.

And so, “Museum Minute” was born.

With Haxton serving as host, museum staff providing relevant images, and Communication & Marketing performing video editing functions, “Museum Minute” has become a popular diversion and a new avenue for the University to share its history with the world.

Several “Museum Minute” episodes have already been produced and shared across official University’s social media pages. Topics have included timely entries such as Dr. Still’s views and efforts in areas of racial and gender equality, osteopathic medicine’s role in the current and prior pandemics, as well as lighter subjects, like graduation and Dr. Still’s approach to haircuts.

Haxton is ideally suited to host. A renowned expert in osteopathic medicine’s history, he speaks regularly throughout the U.S. and world. He’s become adept at providing online lectures and webinars

Visit [atsu.edu/museum-of-osteopathic-medicine/news-and-events-to-view “Museum Minute” episodes](https://atsu.edu/museum-of-osteopathic-medicine/news-and-events-to-view-museum-minute-episodes).



Museum Director Jason Haxton

with shelter-in-place requirements enacted and travel discouraged.

“I was thrilled at this opportunity to connect and share with our students, staff, and faculty,” Haxton said, “about our amazing founder, Dr. A.T. Still, and the great healthcare work that we provide the world. A lot of our history is relevant to healthcare problems today. My plan was to share our past successes in context to today’s healthcare challenges.”

While these episodes are brief, Haxton is accustomed to delivering talks of up to two hours.

“Keeping in mind our information overload, I strive for a quick, fun, and informative topic,” he said. “I really try to be concise, and yet my average ‘Museum Minute’ is closer to three minutes.”

1960s

Raymond C. DeCesare, DO, '69, Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania, was presented with Northampton County Medical Society's senatorial and congressional plaques for 50 years of exceptional care.

1970s

Alan Allmon, DO, '72, was named 2020 Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year by the Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. The award is given annually to an osteopathic family physician who exemplifies the principles of osteopathic family medicine via outstanding accomplishments and service for the betterment of the osteopathic profession.

Dr. Allmon served as a general medical officer in the 101st Airborne Division before practicing family medicine for 37 years. Since retiring in 2012, he works part time as a wound care physician at Bothwell Hospital in Sedalia, Missouri.

William A. Delp, DO, '75, Gainesville, Georgia, was promoted to associate professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Georgia location. He loves teaching and working with students.

Jan Willcox, DO, '78, Blacksburg, Virginia, received the 2020 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Outstanding Female Leader Award. Dr. Willcox is dean of Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine's Virginia campus.

1980s

Gary L. Roth, DO, MBA, FACOS, FCCM, FACS, '81, Lansing, Michigan, joined the Michigan Health & Hospital Association in 2015 and continues to serve as chief medical officer. With a 30-year career as a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon and intensivist, he received the 2018 Ballinger Distinguished Osteopathic Award from the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

John C. Licciardone, DO, '82, was awarded the academic distinction of Regents Professor by the University of North Texas (UNT) System Board of Regents for his work and his contributions to the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM). He is the first professor in TCOM's nearly 50-year history to receive this honor.

Dr. Licciardone, who has been with UNT Health Science Center for 32 years, is an innovator in pain research. He is the executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center, and he spearheaded the formation of the PRECISION Pain Research Registry at UNT Health Science Center.

Bruce Lirones, DO, '82, Rapid City, Michigan, retired on Jan. 31 after 37 years of practice.

Daniel Freeland, DO, '89, Lakeway, Texas, was appointed to the Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome Advisory Council by the governor of Texas. He is the owner and medical director for Bee Caves Family Practice.

Joseph W. Novinger, DO, '89, was elected board president of the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association.

Richard Unger, DO, '89, joined Stewart Memorial Community Hospital in Lake City, Iowa, as a board-certified general surgeon.

1990s

Stefan G. Chevalier, DO, PC, '90, proudly announces the birth of his grandson, Asher Wilson Chevalier, who was born May 11, 2019. Dr. Chevalier's daughter, Katarina, and Asher are doing well.

Additionally, Dr. Chevalier was elected chief of the Department of Surgery at Orange Regional Medical Center in Middletown, New York.

Kimberly Perry, DO, '91, was appointed senior vice president and chief medical officer for Kindred Healthcare in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition, Dr. Perry was featured in Louisville Business First's "20 People to Know in Health Care."

J.D. Polk, DO, MS, MMM, CPE, FACOEP, FAsMA, '93, chief health and medical officer for NASA, was featured in American Osteopathic Association's publication, *The DO*, for his work in helping launch the first human journey to Mars.

James Lewerenz, DO, '97, founder of Longevity Health Institute in Rochester, Michigan, and Lewerenz Medical Center located in Madison Heights, Michigan, was named a Top Doc by *Hour Detroit* magazine for 2019. Top Docs are nominated and voted upon exclusively by MDs and DOs in southeastern

Michigan. He is a board-certified family medicine physician and is on staff at Beaumont Hospital, Botsford Hospital, and St. John Hospital. He is also an assistant clinical professor at Michigan State University.

Bryan L. Bacon, DO, '99, Pinehurst, North Carolina, retired from U.S. Army Special Operations Command and opened a private practice.

2000s

Jeff Davis, DO, '00, Memphis, Missouri, was awarded Physician of the Year by the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in May 2020. Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Davis is chief medical officer of Scotland County Hospital, sees patients at Memphis Medical Services, and is Scotland County coroner.

Lara Salyer, DO, '00, Monroe, Wisconsin, was a 2020 American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation keynote speaker. She also provided four interactive workshops.

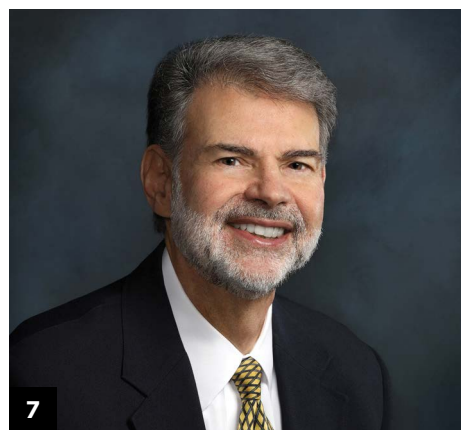
Carole E. Freiberger-O'Keefe, DO, '02, a critical care physician with Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, was presented with the 2019 Rising Star Award by the Kansas City Medical Society (KCMS). Dr. Freiberger-O'Keefe is an intensivist in the cardiovascular ICU and is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Rising Star Award recognizes a KCMS member physician who has made significant contributions to medicine, their practice, or the medical society early in their career.

Kari Bernard, MS, PA-C, '04, faculty and site director at Anchorage campus, University of Washington MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Training Program, was selected as a 2019-20 American Academy of Physician Assistants-Physician Assistant Education Association research fellow.

Alex Hellinger, DPT, '04, was named to the Marquis Who's Who list for top executives. Dr. Hellinger is executive director of Northwell Hospital in New York.

Stylianios Dokianakis, AuD, '05, Saugatuck, Michigan, was appointed to the Michigan Board of Audiology. Dr. Dokianakis is the owner of Holland Doctors of Audiology.

- 1 | Kristin Wade, DMD, '09
- 2 | Richard Unger, DO, '89
- 3 | Alex Hellinger, DPT, '04
- 4 | Carole E. Freiburger-O'Keefe, DO, '02
- 5 | Kimberly Perry, DO, '91
- 6 | James Lewerenz, DO, '97
- 7 | John C. Licciardone, DO, '82
- 8 | Gary L. Roth, DO, MBA, FACOS, FCCM, FACS, '81, receiving award
- 9 | Charmaine Ng, DMD, '09



David Tannehill, DO, '05, Fenton, Missouri, was reappointed to the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts. Dr. Tannehill is the clinical director of critical care medicine for Mercy Clinic in St. Louis. He is also an adjunct assistant professor of medicine at Saint Louis University.

David Cleaver, DO, '06, Kirksville, Missouri, was nominated as the 2021 board president for the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology. Dr. Cleaver was nominated by his peers based on his outstanding contributions to dermatology and medical education.

Annette D. Schnabel, DPT, MBA, FACHE, '06, Farmington, Missouri, was named president of Parkland Health Center, effective May 11. She most previously served as president and CEO of Perry Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital serving Bureau County, Illinois, and its surrounding communities.

Carrie Meyer, AuD, '07, joined Amplifon Hearing Health Care in Minneapolis as director of clinical programs. Prior to her new role, Dr. Meyer was lead audiologist at Ridgeview Medical Center for 10 years.

Adam Pomfret, PT, DPT, '08, was named a board-certified orthopedic clinical specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties of the American Physical Therapy Association. He has been with Union Hospital Therapy in Terra Haute, Indiana, for 19 years.

David Lemons, DO, '09, joined Hannibal Regional Medical Group as a cardiologist.

Charmaine Ng, DMD, '09, San Francisco, California, was named a "Woman to Watch" by *Incisal Edge* magazine's Lucy Hobbs Project. Dr. Lucy Hobbs was the first American woman to earn a degree in dentistry, and the project celebrates achievements of women in dentistry. Additionally, Dr. Ng joined Alameda Health System as chief chair of dentistry, focusing on the underserved population in the East Bay area.

Kristin Wade, DMD, '09, Payson, Arizona, received the Academy of General Dentistry's Fellowship Award. Dr. Wade practices at Payson Premier Dental.

2010s

Erick Schuermann, DO, MHA, '10, an anesthesiologist, joined St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, he completed his anesthesiology residency at Northeast Regional Medical Center along with a rotating internship in Kirksville. Dr. Schuermann previously worked with NEA Baptist and Kirksville Anesthesia Associates as a staff anesthesiologist.

Patrick Brandon, PT, DPT, Cert. MDT, '11, El Paso, Texas, was named clinic director of Border Therapy Services and Alliance Physical Therapy Partners' new outpatient rehabilitation clinic.

Mark Brown, DO, '11, an emergency physician at Freeman Health System in Joplin, Missouri, was awarded fellowship of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) at the President's Awards Reception of the ACEP conference in Denver in October 2019. Dr. Brown resides in Carl Junction, Missouri, with his wife, **Melinda Brown, MHA, '09**, and Zakory, Maggie, and Ashdyn Brown.

Cassidy Leonard-Scott, DO, FAAP, '11, returned to her hometown of Hannibal, Missouri, and joined Hannibal Regional Medical Group as a board-certified pediatrician. Dr. Leonard-Scott is a graduate of ATSU-KCOM.

Joshua Prickett, DO, '11, Aiken, South Carolina, joined Aiken Regional Medical Center as a staff neurosurgeon. A graduate of ATSU-SOMA, Dr. Prickett completed residency training at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and a one-year fellowship at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle.

Nadia J. Bijaoui, DHed, '12, was named in Marquis Who's Who. Dr. Bijaoui is a system designer who specializes in the interactions of the body, mind, and brain within a psychoanalytic perspective. She is also the director of Bio Health Education Corp., which she founded in 2005.

Matthew Corn, DPT, '12, a board-certified geriatric physical therapist, joined the Board of Trustees of Village on the Isle, a continuing care retirement community in Venice, Florida.

Garrett Fleming, DO, '12, a board-certified general surgeon, joined Watertown Regional Medical Center and the General Surgery Clinic in Watertown,

Wisconsin. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, he has a special interest in breast and hernia surgery.

Javair Gillett, MS, '12, head strength and conditioning coach for NBA's Houston Rockets, was appointed by SportsEdTV as a senior contributor to its free online sports education platform. Prior to joining Houston, Gillett spent 10 years as head strength and conditioning coach for MLB's Detroit Tigers. A graduate of the Human Movement program, he was voted by his peers to receive the Strength Coach of the Year award by the National Basketball Strength and Conditioning Association.

Kathryn Pardue, AuD, '13, joined Elmhurst Clinic in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Alex Bunce, DO, '14, joined Kettering Physician Network Primary Care in Centerville, Ohio. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, Dr. Bunce is a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

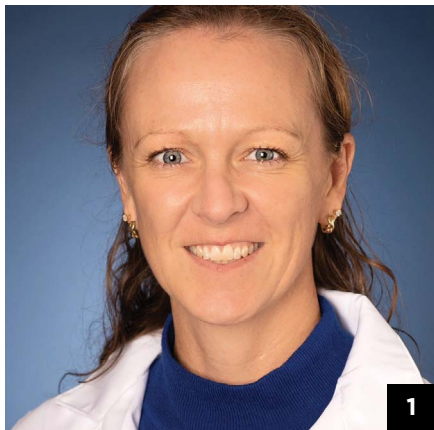
Thomas Colletti, DHSc, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA, '14, Lynchburg, Virginia, was promoted to administrative director of the Doctor of Medical Science program at the University of Lynchburg. In October 2019, he presented a poster at the 12th annual Conference of the International Academy of Physician Associate Educators in Winterthur, Switzerland.

Heather Curtis, DO, '14, joined Hannibal Regional Medical Group as an otolaryngologist. A graduate of ATSU-KCOM, she completed her residency at Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, Missouri.

Richard A. Erdman, DHed, '14, Grand Forks, North Dakota, retired from public school education in February and became the health promotion coordinator at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

James Barner, DO, '15, a graduate of ATSU-KCOM, joined the anesthesiology team at CHI St. Alexius in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Deshala Castille, DO, '15, Emporia, Kansas, joined Stormont Vail Health as an obstetrics and gynecology physician. Dr. Castille is an ATSU-KCOM graduate.



- 1 | Malinda M. Hansen, DO, '15
- 2 | Joshua Prickett, DO, '11
- 3 | Kelsey Davis-Humes, DO, '16
- 4 | Aurora Bell, DO, '16
- 5 | Mark Brown, DO, '11, receives ACEP fellowship
- 6 | Morgan West, DO, '15
- 7 | Kathryn Pardue, AuD, '13
- 8 | James Barner, DO, '15

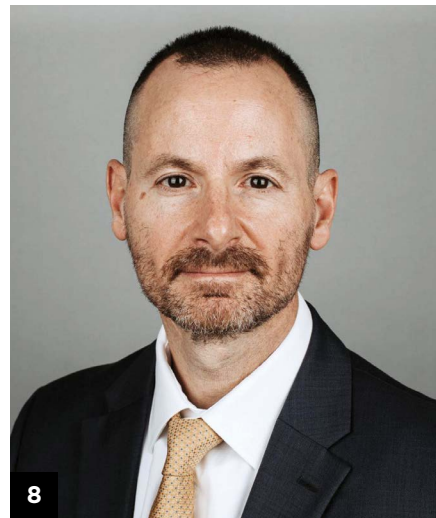




Photo credit: Meagan Thompson/The Montana Standard

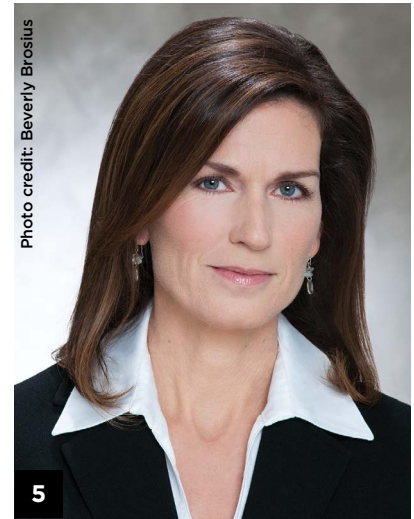


Photo credit: Beverly Brosius

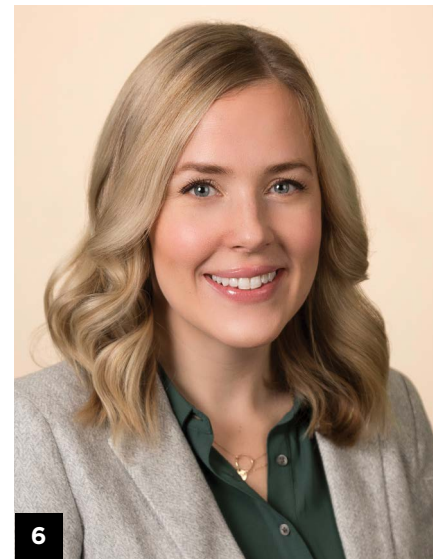
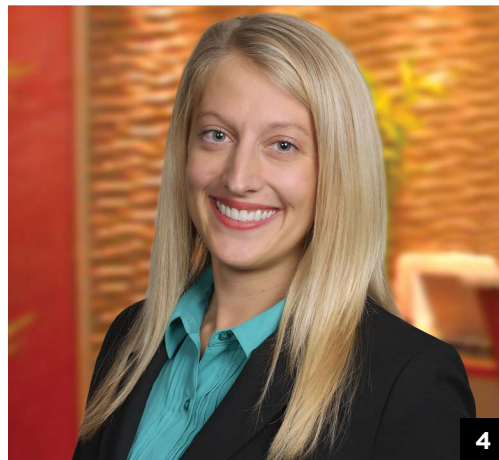


Photo courtesy: Billings Gazette



- 1 | Micaul McClafferty, MS, PA-C, '18
- 2 | Kirsten Thompson, DO, '18
- 3 | Angela Harrell, DHSc, MHA, '16
- 4 | Delaney Lundeen, MS, RD, PA-C, '18
- 5 | Donna L. Lamb, DHSc, MBA, '16
- 6 | Lindsay Schroeder, DO, '16
- 7 | Kate Krafft Thomson, DMD, '16, MPH, '11



Matthew Checketts, DO, '15, Creston, Iowa, joined Greater Regional Health's Medical Clinic as a primary care internal medicine physician. He graduated from ATSU-SOMA and completed his residency at Florida Atlantic University Charles B. Schmidt College of Medicine.

Felipe Eichenberger, MS, '15, Denver, Colorado, was recognized as an Outstanding Graduate by the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association. He earned his master's degree in kinesiology and exercise science at ATSU, and in 2017, he became the head strength and conditioning coach for the Denver Nuggets.

Malinda M. Hansen, DO, '15, was named the 2019 Resident of the Year by the American Academy of Osteopathy. An alumna of ATSU-SOMA, she completed a combined family medicine and osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine residency at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jason Howard, DO, '15, joined the Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. He is an anesthesiologist and graduate of ATSU-KCOM.

Leslie A. Marshall, DO, MS, '15, a board-certified dermatologist and graduate of ATSU-KCOM, joined the multidisciplinary Ozarks Medical Center (OMC) Medical Group in West Plains, Missouri. She brings over 11 years of clinical experience to the newly established OMC dermatology clinic.

Morgan West, DO, '15, a graduate of ATSU-SOMA, is practicing OB-GYN at Adelante Healthcare in Goodyear, Arizona. She provides comprehensive care to her patients by bringing in different philosophies and approaches to common ailments. She is skilled in gynecologic surgery should it be necessary, but individualizes her treatment plans, taking logical and conservative steps toward whole health. Her focus is education, allowing her patients the opportunity to better understand themselves.

Aurora Bell, DO, '16, joined Scotland County Hospital in Memphis, Missouri, and sees patients at Memphis Medical Services and Lancaster Medical Services. The Hannibal, Missouri, native graduated from ATSU-KCOM and completed a family medicine residency with Southern Illinois University at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Kelsey Davis-Humes, DO, '16, joined Scotland County Hospital in Memphis, Missouri, and sees patients at Memphis Medical Services and Wyaconda Medical Services. The Kahoka, Missouri, native graduated from ATSU-KCOM and completed a family medicine residency with Southern Illinois University at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Nicholas Deeter, DO, '16, Belle Plaine, Minnesota, joined Ridgeview Belle Plaine Clinic and Ridgeview Le Sueur Clinic. Dr. Deeter is a graduate of ATSU-KCOM and is board certified in family medicine.

Angela Harrell, DHSc, MHA, '16, was named dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

William Hatch, DO, '16, DHEd, '14, an internal medicine physician, joined the Sound medical hospitalist group, which partners with Covenant Health Plainview in Plainview, Texas, to provide in-patient physician services exclusively with the hospital. Dr. Hatch is a graduate of ATSU-SOMA and ATSU-CGHS.

Donna L. Lamb, DHSc, MBA, '16, Washington, D.C., is the new National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) president and CEO. Dr. Lamb comes to NRMP from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) where she served as the executive director of the Review Committees for Plastic Surgery, General Surgery, and Thoracic Surgery. She served on numerous ACGME committees, including the Single Accreditation System Education Council and the Accreditation Data System Workgroup and was the inaugural co-chair of the Risk Champions Group.

Lindsay Schroeder, DO, '16, Altoona, Wisconsin, joined Prevea Health as a family medicine physician. Dr. Schroeder is originally from Eau Claire and is a graduate of ATSU-SOMA.

Kate Krafft Thomson, DMD, '16, MPH, '11, received ATSU-ASDOH's Public Health Dentistry Award. The award honors an ATSU-ASDOH graduate who applies public health principles to effectively improve the oral health status or health literacy of a local, regional, or national population.

Abhinav Mahajan, DPT, '17, a licensed physical therapist in Modesto, California, was awarded national board certification by the American Association of Bariatric Counselors.

Corey Richardson, DHSc, MBA, '17, was featured in the Hickory Daily Record for his work in advocating for people struggling with substance use disorders and mental health concerns. Dr. Richardson, who once struggled with his own addiction, is currently CEO and clinical director of Integrated Care of Greater Hickory in North Carolina. In addition, he participated in a panel discussion with North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper regarding the opioid crisis and the need for more access to treatment facilities.

Delaney Lundeen, MS, RD, PA-C, '18, was chosen as 2020 Mentor of the Year by the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants. Lundeen practices at Voyage Healthcare in Robbinsdale, Minnesota.

Micaul McClafferty, MS, PA-C, '18, a physician assistant in family practice with SCL Health Medical Group in Butte, Montana, was recognized by the Montana Standard's annual 20 Under 40 publication.

Michael L. McDuffie, MD, DHSc, '18, was named CEO of Metropolitan Community Health Services in Washington, North Carolina. Dr. McDuffie most recently served as executive director of Metropolitan Community Health Services, a federally qualified health center, for five years.

Kirsten Thompson, DO, '18, joined the Montana Family Medicine Residency class of 2021 at RiverStone Health. An ATSU-KCOM graduate, she completed an osteopathic internship in Michigan.

Ash M. Walker, DHSc, '18, Lumberton, North Carolina, was appointed assistant professor and coordinator of the new Sports Performance, Health, and Fitness degree program at St. Andrews University.

Jennifer Wilbers, DHA, '18; Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA, associate professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS; and **John Fick, EdD, FACHE**, associate professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, authored "Do inpatient acute care hospitals with lower 30-day readmission rates have more satisfied patients?" The abstract was published in the November-December 2019 issue of *Journal of Healthcare Management*.

Kendell Coburn, DO, '19, a graduate of ATSU-KCOM, joined the Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana, as an internal medicine resident.

Continued on Page 49

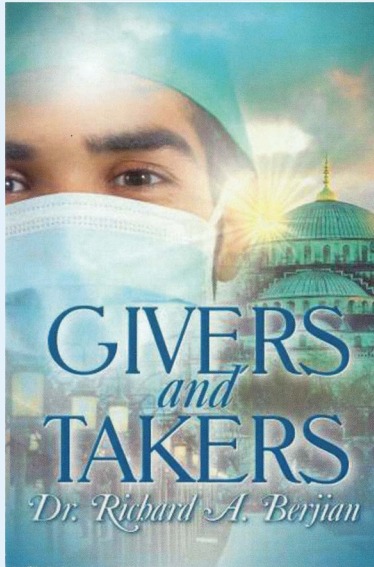
The bookshelf

Recent books from ATSU alumni

Givers and Takers

By Richard A. Berjian, DO, '55
Wings ePress Inc., April 2019

In his third novel, Dr. Berjian draws the reader into the lives of Ani Sarkissian and Haig Sarian, surviving descendants of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Turkey. They fall in love in 1980 Ankara, which begins a multigenerational love story between a man and woman, between mother and son, weaving in the challenges facing the Sarkissian family. The novel also addresses medical issues, as do his previous novels, "Behind Hospital Doors" and "An Uncertain Cure."

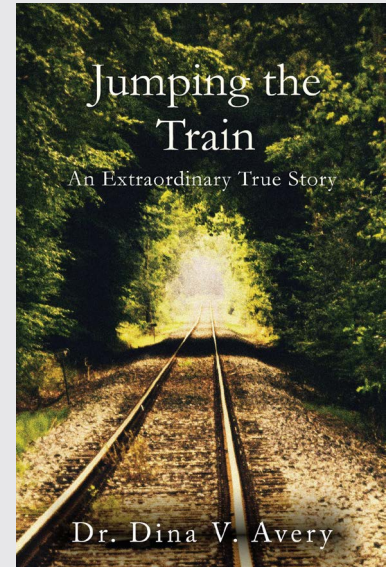


Still Magazine learned Dr. Berjian died Dec. 9, 2019, before this magazine issue was published.

Jumping the Train: An Extraordinary True Story

By Dina Avery, DHSc, '10
Independently published, August 2019

Dr. Avery keeps her family's history alive in this transcribed story, told to her by her grandfather. The book chronicles her great-great-grandfather's escape from slavery as a young boy with his brother and their journey to a safe haven. The brothers would build a community and legacy, with their descendants becoming Vietnam and civil rights heroes. After the death of her grandfather, Dr. Avery comes face-to-face with the descendants of her family's slave masters.



Fixing You

By Jordan Siewert, DO, '14
Independently published, November 2019

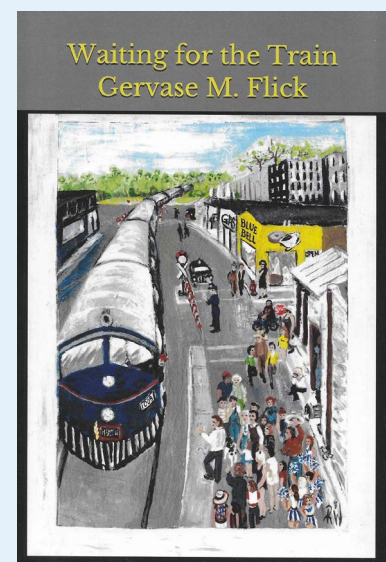
In this book, Dr. Siewert shares his struggle with finding a balance between being a new doctor and being the father of a daughter battling congenital heart disease. Providing a unique perspective on medical residency and chronic illness, the story focuses on one child's journey and the obstacles she encountered during the first few years of her life. All proceeds from book sales benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Waiting for the Train

By Gervase M. Flick, DO, JD, '60
Independently published, December 2019

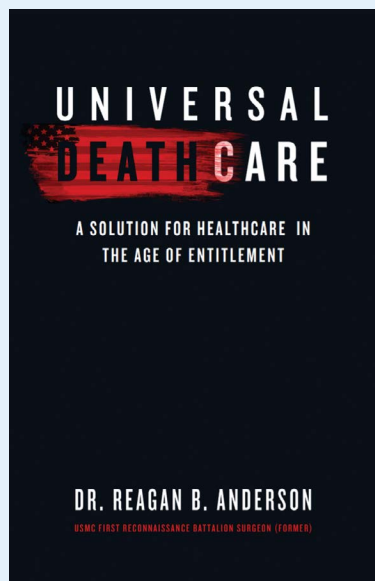
Dr. Flick died July 3, 1998, but not before he left his novel to his wife, Anne Rene' LaVasseur (Flick). She recently published the novel, which is based on Dr. Flick's experience in the last six months of his medical training at ATSU-KCOM and the rural clinics of northeast Missouri. The book has intrigue, romance, medical stories, mystery, and small town renewal.



Universal Death Care: A Solution for Healthcare in the Age of Entitlement

By Reagan B. Anderson, DO, '02
SRA Publishing, April 2020

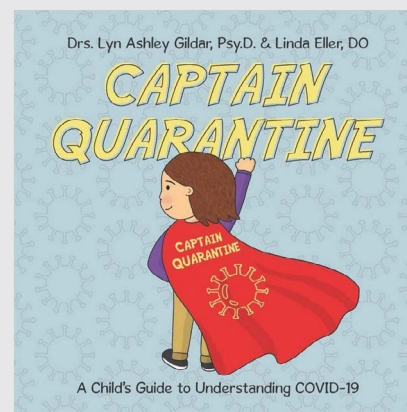
Dr. Anderson chronicles his experiences as a combat doctor in Fallujah, Iraq, a civilian doctor in the United States, and a veteran seeking care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The book is primarily a story, but it also describes the state of healthcare in America. From the bloodstained sands of Iraq to the fractured walls of medicine in the U.S., Dr. Anderson presents his unique insight and his call to action to cure what ails the current healthcare system.



Captain Quarantine: A Child's Guide to Understanding COVID-19

By Lyn Ashley Gildar, PsyD, and Linda (Shuler) Eller, DO, '11
Independently published, May 2020

Drs. Gildar and Eller take readers on a journey to understand COVID-19 through a child's viewpoint. The main character, Alex, a non-binary child, expresses questions about the pandemic and learns more about COVID-19 via telehealth while talking to a pediatrician and child psychologist. This vibrant and uplifting book empowers kids to take control in a developmentally appropriate way. The authors explain, through the eyes of Alex, how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and cope with big feelings.



Calling all alumni authors! Let us know about your latest nonfiction or creative work. Please email stillmagazine@atsu.edu or send a copy to *Still Magazine*, 800 W. Jefferson St., Kirksville, MO 63501.

Class notes

Continued from Page 47

Gina Hansen, DMD, MPH, '19, Park Falls, Wisconsin, joined the staff at the Park Falls Dental Center, operated by Family Health Center of Marshfield Inc. in conjunction with Marshfield Clinic. She is an ATSU-MOSDOH graduate.

Jason Lucas, DO, MHA, '19, Farmington, New Mexico, assumed the role of chief of staff at San Juan Regional Medical Center. Dr. Lucas has practiced with Orthopedic Associates in Farmington since 2004. He earned his master of health administration degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Doug Maury, DAT, '19, joined Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, as coordinator of clinical education for the new Master of Science in Athletic Training program.

Matthew Tilton, DO, '19, an ATSU-KCOM graduate, entered his first year of residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Smoky Hill - Salina.

2020s

Brittany Hout, DHSc, '20, and **Eric Matthews, PhD**, associate professor, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, co-authored "Global surgery: The perspective of public health students" in the *Global Journal of Health Science*.

Submit class notes to
stillmagazine@atsu.edu.

ATSU

Courtney Bonnell, director, budgets and financial reporting, finance, earned a master of business administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University.

Harold Bright, MLS, AHIP, was named university library director for A.T. Still Memorial Library. He earned his master of arts in library sciences from the University of Arizona in 1999 and spent 12 years as a reference librarian, supervisory librarian, and director of information services in Connecticut before returning to Arizona and joining ATSU in 2012.

Tynon Britton, security officer, Arizona facilities, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the third quarter of 2019.

Quincy Conley, PhD, MA, was named university director of the Teaching & Learning Center, effective Dec. 16. Dr. Conley brings more than 19 years of experience as a faculty member, researcher, instructional designer, and learning scientist. He earned his doctorate in educational technology from Arizona State University and his master's in instructional design and technology and bachelor's in aerospace science from the University of North Dakota.

Dana Funderburk, CPA, associate vice president, finance, earned a master of business administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University.

Tonya Grimm, controller, financial reporting, budgets, & planning, finance, earned a master of science degree in accounting and finance from Southern New Hampshire University.

Devin Gudehus, accounts payable operator, finance, earned a master of business administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University.

Crystal Hendron, MEd, learning adviser, learning & disability resources, received her doctor of education in health professions degree from ATSU-CGHS.

MaKay Hettinger, alumni relations coordinator, university advancement, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the fourth quarter of 2019.

Bryan Krusniak, MBA, was named ATSU's vice president of information technology, effective Aug. 1, 2019. Krusniak joined ATSU in November 1998 as director of information technology services (ITS). Since 2005, he has served as assistant vice president for ITS.



Dr. Quincy Conley



Bryan Krusniak



Michelle Mollick



Clinton Normore



Sean O'Connor



Gaylah Sublette

David Lopez, specialist, academic technologies, received his bachelor of science degree in information technology with a concentration in cyber security and a certificate in business management and project management from the University of Phoenix.

Ysenia Lopez, administrative assistant, student affairs, received her master of science in leadership degree from Grand Canyon University.

Alice Mayer, coordinator, residential admissions, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the third quarter of 2019.

Michelle Mollick, MBA, was promoted to senior director, sponsored programs, on the Missouri campus.

Clinton Normore, MBA, was appointed vice president of diversity and inclusion, effective July 1. Normore joined ATSU as director of diversity in 2013 and was promoted to associate vice president of diversity and inclusion in 2016.

Sean O'Connor, MBA, was named senior director of Communication & Marketing. A University of Arizona graduate, O'Connor is responsible for developing strategic institutional, cross-departmental, and programmatic marketing initiatives. With over 30 years in the marketing and advertising industry, his experience includes brand leadership positions across multiple industry sectors.

Megan Poulson, coordinator, student life, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2020.

Misty Seidel, assistant director, enrollment services, received her bachelor of science degree in marketing with a concentration in social media from Southern New Hampshire University.

Amanda Selby, assistant director, residential admissions, earned her doctor of education degree from ATSU-CGHS.

Carol Stanley, clerical support, research & grants, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2020.

Gaylah Sublette, MBA, was named ATSU's vice president of research & sponsored programs, effective Aug. 1, 2019. Previously serving as associate vice president of sponsored programs, Sublette has more than 30 years of leadership experience in sponsored programs, sponsored research, and research support and development.

Dolores Tafoya, coordinator, residential admissions, retired from ATSU in January.

Dougherty Tsalabutie, MS, was named director of the National Center for American Indian Health Professions.

Ted Wendel, PhD, senior vice president, university planning & strategic initiatives, was recognized by the National Association of Community Health Centers during the organization's 2019 Community Health Institute and Expo in Chicago, Illinois.

Michael Zajac, MA, was named associate vice president of student affairs. He is based on the Arizona campus.

ASDOH

George Blue Spruce Jr., DDS, MPH, assistant dean, American Indian affairs, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation Awards for Excellence in Social Mission in Health Professions Education. The award will be presented at the Beyond Flexner 2021 Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Wayne Cottam, DMD, MS, vice dean, was awarded the John McFarland Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Network for Oral Health Access. Dr. Cottam was nominated for the award by fellow faculty member and former student Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD, '14.

Joseph Creech, DDS, associate professor, received ATSU-ASDOH's Living Tribute Award at the School's alumni barbecue in February. The award was established to recognize and honor ATSU-ASDOH faculty, staff members, and administrators for outstanding accomplishments or long-term service to the School.

Rachel Duffy, DMD, MPH, '13, was promoted to the academic rank of assistant professor, effective July 1.

Mai-Ly Duong, DMD, MPH, MAEd, FAGD, FSCD, '12, associate director, special care dentistry, recently received several honors, including ATSU-ASDOH's Distinguished Service Award, Phoenix Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award, acceptance into Valley Leadership's 41st class, Academy of General Dentistry Mastership Award, and two prestigious fellowships with Pierre Fauchard Academy and International College of Dentists.

Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD, '14, assistant professor, was appointed to a TeleDent COVID-19 Advisory Board by MouthWatch LLC. This group of teledentistry thought

Podcast series featuring ATSU-ASDOH



PODCAST

TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY INTO DAILY PRACTICE



Ann Eshenaur Spolarich RDH, PhD, FSCDH Scott Howell DMD, MPH, FSCD Karen Fallone RDH, FSCDH
Ellen Gohlke RDH, BSDH, FSCDH Kathleen Moralez CDA, EMT Timothy Lukavsky DDS, FSCD
Mai-Ly Duong DMD, MPH, MAEd Maureen Munnely Perry DDS, MPA, MAEd

ColgateOralHealthNetwork.com

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, PhD, RDH, FSCDH, professor and assistant dean of research at ATSU-ASDOH, has worked in special care dentistry for the majority of her career. When Colgate approached her about hosting a special care dentistry podcast series, she jumped at the chance to provide listeners with practical tips and information.

The eight-episode series is available on the Colgate Oral Health Network website and features a cast of expert guest speakers from ATSU-ASDOH.

- Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD, '14
- Karen Fallone, RDH, FSCDH
- Ellen Gohlke, RDH, FSCDH
- Kathleen Moralez, CDA, EMT
- Timothy Lukavsky, DDS, FSCD
- Mai-Ly Duong, DMD, MPH, MAEd, FAGD, FSCD, '12
- Maureen Perry, DDS, MPA, MAEd

To listen to the podcast series, visit colgateoralhealthnetwork.com/podcast. Listeners may need to register for a free account through Colgate Oral Health Network. In addition, listeners may complete a short quiz about content of each episode to earn continuing education credit through the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP).

“He has helped countless students further their education in pediatric dentistry and they in turn care for their patients with compassion.”

– Charles Brown on Dr. Joseph Creech's Living Tribute Award

leaders is helping MouthWatch develop best practice protocols for implementing teledentistry in urgent care. The team is also assisting with creating timely teledentistry-focused education and training materials.

Additionally, Dr. Howell was named one of the American Dental Association's 10 Under 10 for 2020. This award recognizes 10 dentists who are making an impact on the profession less than 10 years after graduation.

Dawn Lend, operations manager, received her bachelor of science degree in accounting with a concentration in forensic accounting and fraud examination from Southern New Hampshire University.

Amanda Murphy, business operations specialist, received her bachelor of business administration degree with an emphasis in management from Northern Arizona University.

Jae Hyun Park, DMD, PhD, MSD, MS, professor and chair, postgraduate orthodontics, published a book titled "Temporary Anchorage Devices in Clinical Orthodontics." He was appointed as associate editor and editor of case reports for the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*. His case report, "Mandibular micrognathia and vertical maxillary excess correction with combination LeFort I and inverted L osteotomies," which was co-authored by Dr. Hunter Boss; Dr. Albert Carlotti; Michael Papademetriou, DMD, MS, director, orthodontics, ATSU-ASDOH; and John Grubb, DDS, MSD, adjunct professor, ATSU-ASDOH, was selected as Case of the Month in the *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics* for May 2020.

In addition, Dr. Park was awarded tenure status with the School, effective July 1. He is the first full-time ATSU-ASDOH faculty member to achieve this recognition.

Maureen Perry, DDS, MPA, MAEd, associate dean, Advanced Care Clinic, received the Special Care Dentistry Association's Education Award. The award honors dentists committed to educating future generations of oral healthcare providers who will care for individuals with special needs.

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich, PhD, RDH, FSCDH, professor, was honored by the American Dental Hygienists' Association with the Heart to Hands Award for her lifetime service to patients with special needs. In addition, she was promoted to assistant dean of research, effective July 1.

Ariel Summers, simulation coordinator, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the fourth quarter of 2019.



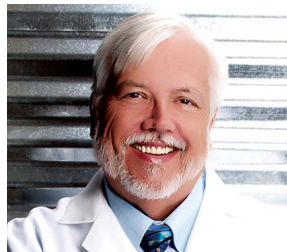
Dr. Jae Hyun Park



Dr. Maureen Perry, left



Dr. Elton Bordenave, right



Dr. Randy Danielsen



Dr. Rachel Diamant



Dr. Zarin Mehta

ASHS

Annette Bettridge, PA-C, MS, FNP, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, was a 2019 recipient of the Physician Assistant Foundation's National Institute on Drug Abuse Mentored Outreach Award. Her project was titled "Stamp Out Stigma - De-stigmatizing Substance Use Disorders and Comorbid Mental Illness Through Innovative Curricular Strategies."

Kellie Huxel Bliven, PhD, ATC, professor, interdisciplinary health sciences, was named editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Sport Rehabilitation*.

Elton Bordenave, PhD, MEd, director of Still Standing Falls Prevention Outreach program, received an award from the Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition for his leadership in the delivery of evidence-based falls prevention programs in Maricopa County.

Randy Danielsen, PhD, PA-C emeritus, director, medical science, was recognized for 10 years of service as a peer reviewer with the Higher Learning Commission.

Rachel Diamant, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, professor, occupational therapy, retired after more than 20 years as a member of the occupational therapy faculty.

Jamie Kuettel, PT, DPT, NCS, GCS, director of physical therapy progress administration, assistant professor, received the ATSU-ASHS 2020 Junior Faculty of the Year award during a virtual faculty assembly in May. Faculty members were nominated and selected by colleagues for their contributions during the 2019-20 year.

Kenny Lam, ScD, ATC, associate professor, interdisciplinary health sciences, received the ATSU-ASHS 2020 Faculty Service of the Year award during a virtual faculty assembly in May. Faculty members were nominated and selected by colleagues for their contributions during the 2019-20 year.

Zarin Mehta, PhD, associate professor, audiology, received the ATSU-ASHS 2020 Educator of the Year award during a virtual faculty assembly in May. Faculty members were nominated and selected by colleagues for their contributions during the 2019-20 year.

Beth Poppre, EdD, MEd, former associate vice president of student affairs, transitioned to the Physician Assistant Studies department as administrative manager for the Doctor of Medical Science program.

Marlene Salas-Provence, PhD, MHA, MA, CCC-SLP, FASHA, was named vice dean, effective Jan. 6. Dr. Salas-Provence holds a doctorate in speech science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, master's in speech pathology from New Mexico State University, and master's in health administration from the University of Missouri School of Medicine. She previously served as associate dean of academic and student affairs and professor in the School of Health Professions at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.



Dr. Marlene Salas-Provence

Albert Simon, DHSc, PA, associate director, medical science, was named 2020 PA of the Year by the Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants (ASAPA). Dr. Simon has been a PA in Arizona since 2005. Under his direction, the PA Studies program has graduated more than 800 entry-level PAs and 300 postgraduate PAs.



Dr. Alison Synder Valier

Alison Snyder Valier, PhD, ATC, FNATA, director, athletic training, was a visiting scholar and guest of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Athletic Training Education Program. Funded by the Mueller Fund for Athletic Training Excellence, her visit included a seminar presentation and symposium keynote address, as well as meeting with research faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students.



Dr. Jim Farris

Tawna Wilkinson, PT, DPT, PhD, PCS, director of physical therapy, associate professor, received the ATSU-ASHS 2020 Scholar of the Year award during a virtual faculty assembly in May. Faculty members were nominated and selected by colleagues for their contributions during the 2019-20 year.



Dr. Jaana Gold

CGHS

Erin Breitenbach, PhD, MA, chair, health education, earned her master of education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Houston in May 2020.

“It has been my great fortune to work with so many wonderful PA colleagues over the years.”

– Dr. Albert Simon on being named ASAPA's PA of the Year

Heather Brown, EdD, MTS, assistant director, University Writing Center, signed a contract with Routledge for her first book, tentatively titled “Weight Bias in Health Education: Critical Perspectives for Pedagogy and Practice,” which she is coediting with Dr. Nancy Ellis-Ordway.

Thomas DiDonna, DHSc, MSN, RN, adjunct professor, health sciences, received the College's Health Sciences Adjunct Faculty of the Year award.

Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA, associate professor, health administration, was appointed by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration to serve a three-year term on the Winston Scholarship Selection Committee. She was appointed to the editorial board of the *Patient Experience Journal*.

Jim Farris, PT, PhD, joined the College as associate dean of academics and assessment, effective Sept. 1. Dr. Farris came to ATSU in 2008 and previously served as chair of ATSU-ASHS' Physical Therapy department. He was instrumental in design and implementation of the Center for Occupational and Physical Therapy in 2019.

Jaana Gold, DDS, PhD, MPH, CPH, associate professor, public health, was elected as a member of the Board of Directors for Oral Health Florida.

Michael Halasy, DHSc, MS, PA-C, adjunct professor, health sciences, was named to the editorial board of the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Innovation, Quality, and Outcomes* journal.

Tracy Hultgren, MS, adjunct professor, kinesiology, received the College's Kinesiology Adjunct Faculty of the Year award.

Lynda T. Konecny, DHEd, DHSc, MS, CHES, '08, associate professor, health education, was selected to serve as a reviewer for the *Interdisciplinary Journal of e-Skills and Lifelong Learning* and the *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*.

Dan Leask, MBA, adjunct professor, health administration, received the College's Health Administration Adjunct Faculty of the Year award.

Ashley Love, DrPH, MPH, MS, CPH, associate professor, public health, received the College's 2020 Professor of the Year award. Additionally, she was elected by her peers to serve as a governing councilor, representing the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section of the American Public Health Association.

Michael McCunniff, DDS, adjunct professor, public health, received the College's Public Health Adjunct Faculty of the Year award.

Olawunmi Obisesan, PhD, DHEd, MPH, adjunct assistant professor, health education, received the College's Health Professions Education Adjunct Faculty of the Year award.

Sue Roe, DPA, MS, associate professor and chair, nursing, was honored as the 2019 Alumnus of the Year for the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona.

Helen Salisbury, PhD, assistant professor, health sciences, received a grant from AZPetPlates.org to benefit the Humane Society of the White Mountains in Lakeside, Arizona.

Susan Thomas, MEd, instructional designer, received the College's 2020 Outstanding Employee Award.

Letha Williams, PhD, FACHE, chair, health administration, received the Missouri Hospital Association's Regent's Award.



Dr. Julie Hessler



Dr. Jeremy Houser

KCOM

Michael Bradbury, PhD, MPhil, chair, biochemistry, received the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) 2020 Outstanding Reviewer Award during IAMSE's virtual annual meeting in June.

Julie Hessler, DO, '96, assistant professor, family medicine, received the Max Gutensohn, DO, Outstanding Teaching Award from ATSU-KCOM's class of 2022 during the Student Government Association awards ceremony held April 30.

Jeremy Houser, PhD, associate professor, anatomy, received the Max Gutensohn, DO, Outstanding Teaching Award from ATSU-KCOM's class of 2023 during the Student Government Association awards ceremony held April 30.

Tried and True

ATSU employee celebrates 51-year career

By Kaley Burroughs

She didn't know it at the time, but when Carla True walked through the doors of ATSU-KCOM on July 21, 1969, she had begun the first day of her more than five-decade career with the University.

For eight years, True remained in her initial position, working as a transcriptionist at ATSU-KCOM and briefly working for a hematologist. When a friend informed her about an available patient care coordinator position in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, she transferred, excited but nervous about her career change. True became a staple of the department, as well as one of ATSU's longest-serving employees.

In her role, True ensures patients are taken care of, from their initial phone call to compiling medical histories before their doctor arrives. While she enjoys the office work, True says her patients and co-workers are the best part of the job.

"They know what I like to eat, what I like to do for fun, what I do on the weekends," True says of her co-workers. "They just get into your life, and you get into theirs."

One employee in particular made his way into True's life, her husband of 49 years and the Kirksville, Missouri, campus' former lead electrician, Allen True. For more than 23 years, the pair enjoyed being both co-workers and life partners.

Over the course of True's career, the University and osteopathic medicine have undergone significant changes. ATSU's size, scope, and available technology have increased dramatically. She has even worked under eight of the University's 12 presidents.

The strong bonds she has formed with those around her, however, have remained constant.

"They're good to you, you're good to them," True says. "Most of them have been just like family."



Carla True retired from ATSU-KCOM on Aug. 28.

Richard J. LaBaere II, DO, MPH, FAODME, associate dean, Still OPTI, was recognized for his more than 15 years of service on the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators and Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators-American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine board of directors.

Trish Sexton, DHEd, MS, FNAOME, '08, associate dean, curriculum, was invited by the Association of Korean Medicine to speak with the Korean National Assembly and medical school leadership about osteopathic medical education and curricular revisions to the Korean Medical Doctors programs.

Robert Theobald, PhD, professor, pharmacology, was selected as the clinical department chair – foundational biomedical sciences for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners National Faculty.

Margaret Wilson, DO, '82, dean, was elected chair of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Deans at its March 28 meeting. She began her two-year term on July 1.

MOSDOH

Chris Ivanoff, DDS, joined the School as professor and CCU director at the St. Louis Dental Center.

Adepitan Owosho, DDS, FAAOMP, FAAOM, DABOMP, director, integrated human sciences, received the Outstanding Teaching Award from ATSU-MOSDOH's class of 2023 during the Student Government Association awards ceremony held April 30.

Patricia Pou, MA, joined the School as the associate director of continuing education/faculty development, located at the St. Louis Dental Center.

Richard Vargo, DMD, director, comprehensive care unit, received the Outstanding Teaching Award from ATSU-MOSDOH's class of 2022 during the Student Government Association awards ceremony held April 30.

SOMA

Shipra Bansal, MD, assistant professor, served as conference medical director for Sedona Health & Nutrition Conference 2020.

Susan Baroodly, DO, joined the School as a regional director of medical education at the Wright Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Chris Ivanhoff



Dr. Adepitan Owosho



Patricia Pou



Dr. Inder Makin



Dr. Lisa Tshuma



Dr. Michael Zawada

Yohannes Ghidey, MD, joined the School as a regional director of medical education at Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation in Sauget, Illinois.

Brenae Maddix, education integration specialist, earned her master of public health degree from ATSU-CGHS in May.

John Magner, MD, joined the School as a regional director of medical education at Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation in Sauget, Illinois.

Inder Makin, MD, PhD, was awarded tenure status with ATSU-SOMA, effective July 1.

Erin McFadden, MD, joined the School as a regional director of medical education at the Wright Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Sharon Obadia, DO, FNAOME, associate dean of clinical education and services, associate professor of internal medicine, was appointed to the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education Board.

Janelle Pieros, DO, '11, joined the School as a regional director of medical education with San Ysidro Health Center in San Diego.

Steve Ritter, DO, joined the School as a regional director of medical education with San Ysidro Health Center in San Diego.

Jeni Rogers, executive assistant to the dean, earned her master of health administration degree from ATSU-CGHS in May.

David Shoup, DO, was promoted to professor, effective July 1.

Lisa Tshuma, DBH, MPAS, MPA, PA-C, joined the School as assistant director, faculty development. This is a five-year, full-time position funded by a Human Resources and Services Administration Primary Care Training Enhancement grant. In this role, Dr. Tshuma works with ATSU-SOMA and ATSU-ASDOH clinical faculty to develop faculty training around topics related to primary care, behavioral and oral health integration, patient care for substance use disorder, and provider wellness/resilience to burnout.

Michael Zawada, PhD, was promoted to chair of basic sciences, effective March 1.

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. Read full-length obituaries online at stillmagazine.atsu.edu.

1940s

Joseph F. DePetris, DO, '45
Dallas, Texas

1950s

Leslie V. Spriggs, DO, '51
Naples, Florida

Carl O. Sites Jr., DO, '52
Hillsboro, Ohio

Eugene R. DeLucia, DO, '53
Tampa, Florida

Martin S. Landis, DO, '53
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Virgil J. Rose, DO, '53
Louisville, Colorado

H. Rex Holloway Jr., DO, '54
Savannah, Georgia

Russell F. Mahoney, DO, '54
Warren, Michigan

Leon Stein, DO, '54
Pompano Beach, Florida

Richard A. Berjian, DO, '55
Stuart, Florida

Joseph H. Morrow Jr., DO, '55
Dallas, Texas

Elmer C. Shurlow, DO, '55
Clare, Michigan

Bruce E. Adams, DO, '57
Warren, Michigan

George H. Coupe, DO, '57
Palm Harbor, Florida

Fred C. LeMaster, DO, '57
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Jack E. Quarters, DO, '57
Saginaw, Michigan

Arno B. Schury, DO, '57
Frankenmuth, Michigan

Jimmie L. Woolbright, DO, '57
Atlantic Beach, Florida

Herbert Pardell, DO, '58
Port St. Lucie, Florida

William C. Stonecipher, DO, '59
Camp Verde, Arizona

1960s

Gerald M. Hoffman, DO, '60
Hollywood, Florida

Perry Kohan, DO, '60
San Clemente, California

Carl W. Winans, DO, '60
St. Petersburg, Florida

Ronald Ziegler, DO, '60
Wellington, Florida

Michael V. Altamura Sr., DO, '61
Peoria, Arizona

E. Lee Foster, DO, '61
Warren, Ohio

John K. Graham, DO, '63
Mishawaka, Indiana

Rex G. Hardman, DO, '64
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dennis Orland, DO, '64
Boynton Beach, Florida

Francis M. Osher, DO, '64
Flint, Michigan

John M. Fry, DO, '65
Springfield, Missouri

Gerald H. Kursar, DO, '65
Naples, Florida

Wendell T. Henderson, DO, '67
Hardin, Kentucky

Otto T. Lorenz II, DO, '67
Bangor, Michigan

Paul R. Munson, DO, '67
Salem, Oregon

Stephen D. Parker, DO, '67
Union, New Jersey

Ralph B. Coffman, DO, '68
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Laurence J. Burns, DO, '69
Grand Rapids, Michigan

1970s

Richard P. Bruce, DO, '70
Phoenix, Arizona

James R. Johnson, DO, '70
Ocala, Florida

Fred D. Price, DO, '70
Spokane Valley, Washington

Roger F. Classen, DO, '72
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Donald W. Fox, DO, '72
Arlington, Texas

James M. Slater, DO, '75
Fayetteville, Tennessee

Nathan E. Byam, DO, '76
Jefferson City, Missouri

Walter E. Scott III, DO, '79
Warren, Ohio

1980s

Stephen R. Wood, DO, '80
Seminole, Florida

Perry D. Bramhall, DO, '84
Farmington, Missouri

Lyle P. Christopherson, DO, '88
Huron, South Dakota

Timothy L. Sprenkle, DO, '88
Jasper, Missouri

1990s

Gordon M. Byrom, DO, '90
Cameron, Missouri

2000s

Jennifer Wallberg, AuD, '03
Southington, Connecticut

Ari J. Gershman, DO, '04
Danville, California

David E. Nuss, AuD, '06
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

2010s

Benjamin R. Bryan, DMD, '10
Bend, Oregon

Karen Burris Whitfield, AuD, '12
Marietta, Georgia

Tiffany H. Diamond, MS, '14
Grayslake, Illinois

Cheryl S. Nadeau, AuD, '14
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Margaret L. Bartlett, DPT, '18
Corvallis, Oregon

Stephen Scarbrough, DHSc, '18
Sylvania, Ohio

Caleb Marting, OMS III
St. Louis, Missouri

Friends

Morgan Andersen, DDS
Mesa, Arizona

Frank V. Colton, EdD
Leawood, Kansas

Carolyn S. Glaubensklea, PhD
Mesa, Arizona

Donald G. Hunter
La Plata, Missouri

John P. Methner, DO
Fort Worth, Texas

Bernadette Mineo, PhD, OTR/L
Portland, Oregon

Elizabeth "Ashley" Strait
Columbia, Missouri

Shirley Swofford
Sunnyside, Washington

Fred C. Tinning, PhD
Lansing, Michigan

Douglas L. Wood, DO, PhD
Annapolis, Maryland



ATSU

ATSU rising

The tank of a new 137-foot-tall water tower was raised to the top on June 16, marking a significant milestone in the project scheduled for completion in September. Emblazoned with ATSU's blue wordmark, the one million-gallon tank is adjacent to Patryla Park and overlooks Osteopathy Street. This new water tower is replacing the downtown water tower located at the corner of Jefferson and Main streets near the ATSU campus.

Visit atsu.edu/water-tower-video to view a time-lapse video of the tank raising.



A.T. Still University
800 W. Jefferson St.
Kirksville, MO 63501-1497

Clifton Whitworth, DDS, an ATSU-MOSDOH adjunct faculty member, has worked urgent care at the St. Louis Dental Center throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more on Page 22.

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