Four beginning medical students at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine have more in common than just first-year jitters. They all originally hail from Sallisaw, Okla., and share a strong childhood bond.

Students Rachel McKinzie, Hal Robbins, Brandy Keener, and Michael Schiesel were all cared for by Jim Herndon, D.O., a 1978 graduate of the medical school. Herndon, who is McKinzie’s father, also helped deliver Robbins, whose father is Rick Robbins, D.O. Dr. Robbins also helped care for the four when they were younger. McKinzie and Robbins even lived across the street from each other for a few years.

Today, Robbins and Schiesel are roommates as they begin their osteopathic medical education at OSU. McKinzie and Keener live in the same neighborhood. All attend the same first-year classes.

“I think it is unusual that so many students from one small town are in the same class,” McKinzie says. She adds that Mark Callery, D.O., who graduated just last year, is the son of another Sallisaw osteopathic physician, Mike Callery, a 1977 OSU graduate.

McKinzie says osteopathic medicine is a mainstay for Sallisaw, where osteopathic physicians are the norm.

Herndon’s pride in the students is deep. “We stay in touch and they still call me. When all four applied to medical school, because of their osteopathic influence, they only applied to osteopathic schools. It was my privilege to write letters of recommendation for each one,” he says, adding that all were honors graduates in both high school and college.

Herndon, from Asher, Okla., was a member of the second class to graduate from the medical school in 1978. After spending his hospital rotation in Sallisaw, he returned to set up a practice. “I saw a big need for physicians,” he recalled. “I wanted to do some of everything and I enjoyed the challenge of family practice.”

As for the brood of future DOs he has helped nurture Herndon says, “I am anxious to see what specialties and directions they go in.”
Dear Fellow Alumni,

Weather was warm and humid for the annual AOA Convention in New Orleans. We had a great turn out with more than 120 people in attendance at the Alumni Luncheon. Almost every graduating year was represented and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce and share news with old friends. Dr. Dan Overack was very disappointed that his health did not allow him to attend; photos were taken for him and many alumni wrote him kind notes. I would like to offer special thanks to Dr. Kayla Lakin, ’82, for providing the notebook and the cameras. A huge “thank you” is due Tami Watters for keeping up with all the changes here: alumni, paperwork, prizes and tickets. Her continued work is appreciated.

I know most of you are frantic with holiday preparations but Spring Fling will be upon us in a few short months. We will be honoring the Silver Anniversary Class from 1979; other anniversary classes from 1984, 1994, 1999, will be celebrating as well.

Dr. Julie Martin, ’98, won the woven OSU-COM throw provided by the Alumni Association. She and husband Shawn (the director of government relations for the AOA in Washington D.C.) must surely miss all the Orange in Tulsa and Stillwater.

Several potential alumni, in the form of current students, attended the sessions and joined us for lunch. Trustee, Dr. Ray Stowers, represented the AOA, and was recognized for his recent federal grant. The executive director of the OOA, Lynnette McClain, was around to chat with us before lunch. I was honored to welcome our new Dean, Dr. John Fernandes, who had some encouraging words for us about the school and plans for the future.

You should have recently received a request from the Dean for your e-mail address to allow quick communication with you about issues important to OSU. If you have not received this request please contact Tami Watters by phone or e-mail (see page 6). Additional information is always available at the OSU-CHS Website and I encourage you to snoop around the alumni areas and the Dean’s area for the latest from your alma mater. The biggest current activity at the school is developing the 5-year Strategic Plan. This seems all-consuming, but I do believe some education may be occurring on our campus despite the flurry of planning for the future of OSU as a system and the Center for Health Sciences and College of Osteopathic Medicine in particular.

Warm Regards,
Kathryn

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Hands-on treatment eases childhood ear aches, according to study.

Using osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) in addition to routine medical care for children who often have ear infections has shown potential benefit, results of a recent clinical study show.

Results of the study conducted by Miriam V. Mills, M.D., clinical associate professor of pediatrics, are published in the September issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

The groundbreaking study suggests OMT may prevent or decrease surgical intervention or antibiotic overuse, especially in infants and children. Mills says OMT benefits patients by gentle manipulation of the bones that cradle the Eustachian tube. The therapy relieves compression of the Eustachian tube and allows it to drain more freely.

Mills conducted a two and one-half year clinical study after using OMT in her private practice in Tulsa. She became interested in using OMT after being injured in a head-on auto collision. OMT relieved her pain without the use of medications.

The study was supported by a grant from the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Osteopathy, and the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Mills’ future research will focus on OMT as a treatment for colic.

Miriam V. Mills, M.D.
Brian Allee, D.O., ’00, was recognized at the AOA Research Conference’s Louisa Burns Memorial Luncheon. He received one of six national research fellowships. His study was titled, “Osteopathic and Allopathic Family Practice Residents’ Attitudes Toward OMT/OPP.”

Richard Tayrien, D.O., ’79, is vice president of clinical information systems for Catholic Healthcare West. Based in Phoenix, he coordinates and executes strategy, development, and operations for clinical information systems for 42 hospitals in California, Arizona and Nevada. His team is responsible for technology supporting clinical outcomes improvement through the electronic health record, physician order entry, and clinical decision support logic. His email address is: rtayrien@chw.edu

Notes from the AOA meeting:

The following notes are from alumni visitors to the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine booth who filled out personal updates.

James A. Facello, D.O., ’94, of Marshall, TX, trains Missouri Fox Trotter horses for show. His yearling stallion placed second in the hand trail class at a recent national show. The Facellos showed horses in eight classes and placed in all eight.

Mark Gittings, D.O., ’85, of Austin, TX, works in the emergency room at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Carey Krause, D.O., ’93, of Kentwood, MI, practices at Saint Mary’s psychiatric-medical unit in Grand Rapids. She is president of the medical staff at Pine Rest Psychiatric Hospital. She has been elected president of Western Michigan’s Chapter of the Michigan Psychiatric Society.

Kayla Lakin, D.O., ’82, of Broken Arrow, OK, practices at Saint Francis Hospital at Broken Arrow, in the emergency room. Son Michael is in the Air Force, daughter Elizabeth is a sophomore at the University of Tulsa, studying premed. Daughter Sarah is a high school freshman.

John Loose, D.O., ’94, of Lawton, OK, practices at Reynolds Army Community Hospital-Family Practice at Fort Sill, where he is a civilian physician. He is also a physician in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and serves as physician for the Oklahoma American Legion Boys State Program, which he has been doing since medical school.

Julie Martin, D.O., ’98, of Bethesda, MD, is in her second year of an allergy and immunology fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, and currently involved in research in the Vaccine Research Center at NIH.

Ronnie Martin, D.O., ’79, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, is associate dean for academic affairs at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Randy McGivney, D.O., ’83, of Burr Ridge, IL, practices with MacNeal-Genesis Lab. He earned his MBA in March from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Christine McGivney played in the Houston NFCA Showcase softball tournament with the Oak Park Windmills team. Shannon McGivney is a freshman at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Trudy Milner, D.O., ’88, of Tulsa, OK, practices with Omni Medical Group. She is an Oklahoma Osteopathic Association board member and vice-president-elect of the Oklahoma Association of Family Practice. Her daughter, Stacy, married Ken Christiansen in September. Daughter Stephanie was a dancer with the Sacramento Ballet, and has moved back to Oklahoma, where she works for TAP Pharmaceuticals.

Gary Neller, D.O., ’82, of Rockwall, TX, practices in Rockwall. He is head of psychiatry at Dallas City Jail and on the faculty at University of Texas-Galveston medical department. His son Eric is a junior at University of Oklahoma medical school. Son Kyle is a sergeant in the 101st Airborne in Iraq.

Connie Jo Russell-Brown, D.O., ’86, of Peoria, AZ, does medical mission work along with her husband, Mark, with Hope 4 Kids International. She recently visited Chile to help with general medicine clinics, children’s clinics and dentistry.

Kendall W. Southern, D.O., ’82, of Vinita, OK, works at Oklahoma Forensic Center as a forensic psychiatrist. He is president of the medical staff.

Candy Ting, D.O., ’86, of Tulsa, OK, practices with Omni Medical Group. She writes she has survived Cushing’s disease and is doing great. Her son is a junior at Tulane. She is on the Board of Directors of the Tulsa County Medical Society and Board of Trustees of Oklahoma State Medical Association.

Michael Wieting, D.O., ’90, of Holt, MI, practices with Michigan State University Rehabilitation Medicine in East Lansing. He is national president of the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, an associate professor in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, and director of residency training at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing. He is medical director of the rehabilitation center at Ingham Regional Medical Center in Lansing.

In memoriam

Jennifer Mackey, D.O., ’01, died Nov. 13 in an auto accident. She was a resident in emergency medicine at Tulsa Regional Medical Center.

Alyce Ann Olmstead, wife of Stephen Mark Olmstead, D.O., ’89, died in an automobile accident October 26 in Rockwall County, TX. Survivors include her husband and their four children, daughters Sarah, Katherine and MacKenzie, and a son, Caleb.

Nice to see you – Larry Cherry, D.O., visits with Stella and John Loose, D.O., ’94, at the AOA convention.


Silver Anniversary Class gives gift to clinics - Charles Henley, D.O., ’77, checks out the Class of 1977 gift of a vital signs spot monitor at OSU Physicians on Harvard, assisted by nurse Tara McManamy. An audiometry also was given to the clinic by the Class of 1977. In addition, the class donated funds for a spot monitor and a spirometer for the OSU Health Care Center. Henley was co-chair of the ’03 Reunion Years fundraising campaign.

The American Osteopathic Foundation Welch Scholars grant honoring Sterling Welch, D.O., for his outstanding generosity to the Foundation and his desire to support osteopathic medical students has been awarded to Erik W. Shupe, MS III. The Russell C. McCaughan Educational Fund Scholarship, established in 1956 by Russell C. McCaughan, D.O., provides scholarships to second-year osteopathic medical students who have exhibited a strong motivation toward osteopathic philosophy during their first year as an osteopathic medical student. It has been awarded to Garrett H. Decker, MS II.

The Scholarship Fund of Tulsa County Medical Society announced Educational Assistance Awards for 2003-2004 to the following MS II students: Audrey Stanton, M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation Award. Garrett Decker, Dr. William R.R. and Ruth G. Loney Memorial Award. Joel J. Hopper, Dr. W.A. Showman and Emma Showman Memorial Award. Valerie Ritter, Dr. Walter and Shala Larrabee Memorial Award. Kristy J. Wingert, Dr. Frank L. and Jessie O. Flack Memorial Award. Fourth-year student Steven S. Sands received the Jerry L. Puls, M.D. Memorial Award.

The AOA New Orleans

E-mail addresses sought

Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine John Fernandes, D.O., M.B.A., would like to communicate with alumni via electronic mail.

Please send your name and e-mail address to: dkprice@chs.okstate.edu

Or you may call Tami Watters at the alumni office, 800-677-1972.

Your information will be kept strictly confidential and used only by the dean’s office, alumni affairs and the communications department.

Thank you.

Alumni Can Help with Student Recruitment

Often students decide to pursue medicine due to the inspiration of their family doctor. Physicians have the opportunity to reach out to prospective students and inspire them simply through care and commitment to their patients. OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine alumni can help recruit students by helping them to discover how rewarding a career in medicine can be. Alumni can encourage prospective students in other ways as well:

▲ Be observant. Identify students who show an interest in your practice. They may not have even considered a career in medicine.

▲ Allow students to shadow you. By observing a day in the life of a physician, they will know whether medicine is or isn’t what they want to do.

▲ Be a mentor. Allow students to seek advice from you. Tell them what contributed to your success as a physician.

▲ Write letters of recommendation. Each applicant at OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is required to submit a letter from a D.O.

For more information, contact Bonnie Bost Laster, Associate Director, Admissions and Recruitment, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine.

bblaster@chs.okstate.edu
918-699-8628
800-677-1972

Health Fair

SOMA health fair - Joy Manning, MS II, assists a visitor at the Student Osteopathic Medical Association health fair in Sperry, September 27th. The fair, called D.O. Your Body Good, drew more than 70 visitors.
The following alumni are serving as volunteers in investment leadership for 2003-2004:

**Family Fund**
Richard A. Hastings II, D.O. '80
Ross E. Pope, D.O. '81

**Young Physicians Society**
Thomas W. Britt, D.O. '02

**Reunion Years**

- **Silver Anniversary-1979**
  - Steven C. Buck, D.O.

- **15th Anniversary-1989**
  - Jeffrey L. Anderson, D.O.

- **10th Anniversary-1994**
  - F.C. "Jumbo" Eaton, D.O.

- **5th Anniversary-1999**
  - R. Troy Lehman, D.O.

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**Mark Your Calendar**

The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association and the Office of Continuing Medical Education present Spring Fling, May 14, and 15, 2004. Mark your calendar now and join us for an exciting array of continuing education presentations.