



Chariny Herring, D.O., '01, graduated from the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP), a specialized graduate program sponsored by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). Dr. Herring is completing a Fellowship in Child Psychiatry at OUHSC. The goal of the program is to train professionals to become leaders in the field of child abuse and neglect in clinical practice, research, administration, and prevention.

Bruce F. McDonald, D.O., '96, a Wichita Falls dermatologist, and **Joseph M. Perks, D.O., '78**, a Greenville family physician, received certificates for their 5 years of service in the House of Delegates of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA) during the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, the policy-making body of the over 2,000-member association. Dr. McDonald also serves as a member of the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee and the Membership, Services & Professional Development

Committee. Dr. Perks also serves as a member of the Convention Program Planning Committee, Professional Liability Insurance Committee, Dome Day Planning Committee and the Environmental Health & Preventive Medicine Committee.

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students,

Your kind words of respect, caring and sharing of memories of Dan has been overwhelming.

I cannot thank each and every one of you enough. You really have helped me and my family through these hard days and your truly wonderful cards and thoughts have made us thank God for such a loving and caring extended family.

May God bless you all.

Love,
Sandy Overack

To Contact Your Alumni Association

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
College of Osteopathic Medicine
1111 West 17th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107-1898
Phone 918-561-8217 or toll free 800-677-1972
Fax 918-699-8609
henlece@chs.okstate.edu
www.healthsciences.okstate.edu

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President and Dean, John J. Fernandes, D.O., M.B.A.
Assistant to the President, Diana Price
Editor, Marla Schaefer
Art Director, Ellen L. Stockton
Graphic Designer, Mary Jane Nichols
Photographer, Terry R. Drenner



Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences
College of Osteopathic Medicine
1111 West 17th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107-1898

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

June 2004

Remembering "Dr. O"

Daniel Overack, Ph.D., a longtime (1976-1998) professor of anatomy at the College and director of alumni affairs died April 19 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. "Dr. O," as he was affectionately known, also taught early in his career at Indiana University and the University of Missouri. His teaching assignments at OSU included Systems I, II and IV, Systems Coordinator, gross anatomy, histology, basic neuroscience and course coordinator for embryology.

Over the years, his titles included Assistant Professor of Anatomy, Associate Professor of Anatomy and Acting Chairman of the Medical Biology Division, Associate Professor of Anatomy, Professor of Anatomy, Acting and Assistant Dean of Students, and Assistant Dean of Students for Admissions and Advisement, a title he held at his retirement in 1998. He also continued to teach medical histology until he retired. At the time of his death, he was director of alumni affairs for the College. Recently, colleagues and former students shared some of their memories of this outstanding educator and friend.

Kirby Jarolim, Ph.D.

Professor and chair, Anatomy and Cell Biology
My favorite memory of Dr. Overack is of the walks we would take into the area just south of the College before the neighborhood was built there. There were streets with no houses and a wooded area with wild flowers. We would take off immediately after eating lunch and walk slowly through the area. This was a very relaxing time before we would start work for the afternoon. We would talk about every aspect of life you could imagine. This is where I learned of Dan's strong faith, love for his family and friends, his joy in teaching future physicians, his wonderful sense of humor, and his dedication to the profession. Dan was a great friend, mentor, and teacher. He set a wonderful example that will help us carry on. I will miss him but the memory of him makes me smile.



Daniel E. Overack, Ph.D.
1932-2004

Robin Dyer, D.O., '92

When I think back to when I was in school (1988-92), I remember that Dr. Overack was so compassionate and such a wonderful teacher (and tutor). I remember the Christmas parties and Dr. and Mrs. "O" always disappeared and voila; "Santa Overack" would be there for the children. Recently, I feel so blessed that I had the opportunity to spend time with Dr. "O" and his wife, Sandy. I will never forget Dr. Overack, and I hope to always keep in touch with Sandy.

Richard Tayrien, D.O., '79

Dr. Overack and I had the most wonderful conversation recently, we reminisced for some time, and it brought back a lot of memories. I think there was a special relationship between the faculty and students in the first three classes. We were all working together to try and figure out how to run a brand new medical school and make it all work. The commitment of the faculty was incredible. They were not only our profs, they were also our friends. Dr. Overack and Dr. Gerald Kirk enjoyed teaching so much that you could not help but get caught up in their enthusiasm. I think they motivated us all to a level we might not have achieved otherwise. They both had this incredible sense of humor that made the grind not only bearable, but made you believe you were actually having fun, and we were!

Sara McBee, D.O., '86

Dr. Overack, I believe, was directly responsible for my acceptance to the first year class of 1982. He certainly asked the most questions in my group interview. Knowing I had three children, he asked me if I was sure my husband supported my decision to go to medical school. He asked that question at least three times. Exasperated, I told him my husband was sitting in the hallway and he would be glad to assure Dr. Overack of his support. Indeed, we bonded at that interview ... and he gave me great support and friendship throughout my years at OSU COM and beyond. I appreciate his wonderful mentoring for myself and so many other medical students. He will be greatly missed.

OSU medical school

Adds DO/MBA degree

This fall, Oklahoma State University medical students will be able to add "something extra" to their doctor's bag.

The students can enter the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program, a one-year, 36-hour accelerated program offered by the OSU College of Business Administration and the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The MBA curriculum is a blend of quantitative and behavioral classes, often with real-world applications, designed to reflect today's integrated and global marketplace. The DO/MBA program includes 30 hours of core course work and six elective hours. It is designed to foster managerial, financial and administrative excellence for health-care professionals.

"Since most physicians are going to be in a business or a business oriented organization, they must understand that orientation to succeed. They are faced with an increasingly complex and business oriented environment. By getting a DO/MBA degree, they are putting themselves in position to succeed in that marketplace," says **James R. Lumpkin, Ph.D.**, dean of the OSU College of Business Administration and Richard W. Poole Professor.

John Fernandes, D.O., M.B.A., president and dean of the medical school, says the combined DO/MBA will benefit students throughout their medical careers. "Whether caring for the common cold or managing a thriving medical practice, the combined DO/MBA will open many doors for our students throughout their careers. Getting my MBA was one of the best career decisions I ever made," he said.

Officers elected

Newly elected Alumni Association executive committee members for 2004-2005 are:

President - **Charles E. Henley, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., '77**

President-Elect - **Murray D. Crow, D.O., '92**

Vice-President - **Joseph M. Coffman, D.O., '95**

Secretary/Treasurer - **Richard A. Hastings, II, D.O., '80**

College earns top ranking



The Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa is once again ranked one of the best medical schools in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

The top rankings were released in the 2005 Best Graduate Schools Guide, an annual publication that measures graduate schools in selected fields such as law, business and medicine.

Compared with the nation's 144 medical schools, OSU placed 13th in rural medicine and 17th in family medicine. The rankings are based on opinions and data collected from college academic deans, program directors and senior faculty throughout the United States.

"Our mission for more than 30 years has been to educate and train primary care physicians for rural and underserved Oklahoma," says **John Fernandes, D.O., M.B.A.**, president and dean of OSU's medical school. "These rankings solidify our commitment to the Oklahoma Legislature to produce excellent doctors and keep Oklahomans healthy."

OSU has graduated nearly 2,000 doctors, many of whom are primary care providers and specialists in Oklahoma. This is the fourth consecutive year the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine has been voted "best of" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Graduation Awards Banquet



Members of the Silver Anniversary Class received special recognition at the annual banquet. Among those attending the event were R. Paul Chandler, D.O., John V. Barson, D.O., and Ronnie Martin, D.O., all Class of 1979.

OOA Convention



Jim Harjo, D.O., '01, at the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association meeting in Oklahoma City, and his wife, Beverly.



Doug Foster, D.O., '86, with wife Mary and son Westin, at the OOA meeting.



Charles E. Henley, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., '77

Dear Fellow Alumni,

This is my first letter as your new Alumni Association president. I have been an alumnus since 1977, and someone asked me once what is different between then and now. My response was "there was no Alumni Association."

Now, our alumni are active in every aspect of support in the development of our college. They are interviewers for medical school applicants, volunteers, organizers, donors, and preceptors for students in their offices. We can all be proud of our alumni and their contributions to our school. No matter what our individual affiliations or practices may be, we are all part of the same family, and when it comes to supporting our college, we all rally around when the need arises.

Currently, your executive committee is considering the option of merging with the larger OSU Stillwater Alumni Association, and becoming a chapter (a constituent society member) of the OSU Stillwater Alumni Association. We have been a part of the University since 1988, and although many of our alumni come from other undergraduate programs, we are a college of Oklahoma State University. Since 1988, all of our students have graduated from Oklahoma State University, and are therefore OSU Alumni.

According to the director of the OSU Alumni Association, the ability to have all of the off-campus colleges come together under the umbrella of the OSU Alumni Association is a stated goal of our President, Dr. David Schmidly. Advantages include having a parent organization that would market our association, help with membership drives, and fund-raising. It would also help us advertise our chapter, and our college. We would have a seat at the table for policy issues, and we would continue to keep any money we make with fund-raising activities such as Spring Fling. The OSU Alumni Association would collect our members' dues, and we would keep \$5 per member. We would still have our own elected officers, and would decide who would be our representatives to the Stillwater board. We can also petition the board for the use of our members' fees for special projects.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the executive committee with questions or comments regarding this action. The committee feels that this merger will strengthen our relationship with Stillwater, provide structure and stability for alumni activities, and would not take away our autonomy. We are ready to move on this action, but would like to have your feedback. Please contact an executive committee member or call the alumni office at 918-561-8217.

In conclusion, I would like to say farewell to a friend of all of our alumni, who passed away recently, Dr. Dan Overack. Dan was a true gentleman, and a gifted teacher. He cared about us all, and was devoted to us as students. Dan was our director of alumni affairs, and even though ill, he worked hard for the people he cared about, and he will be missed. Some people are just hard to replace.

Charles E. Henley, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., '77
President of the Executive Committee



Dr. John Fernandes, president and dean, greets Dr. John Barson, president of the College from 1972-1984, who recently visited the campus.

Jennifer Mackey endowed scholarship established

An endowed scholarship has been established in memory of 2001 OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine graduate Jennifer A. Mackey, D.O. Mackey was a resident in emergency medicine at Tulsa Regional Medical Center at the time of her death. While at the College, she was active in the American College of Emergency Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Osteopathic Association and the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association.



Jennifer Mackey, D.O., '01'

Recipients of the scholarship must be full-time osteopathic medical students at OSU, demonstrate financial need, must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and a demonstrated interest in the osteopathic medical profession and emergency medicine. Preference will be given to non-traditional students.

To donate, send gifts to: OSU Center for Health Science Office of Development, 1111 West 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107. Make check payable to the OSU Foundation and designate the Jennifer A. Mackey Endowed Scholarship. For more information, contact the development office at 918-699-8709 or toll free at 800-677-1972.

On the web:
www.healthsciences.okstate.edu/center/development/scholarships.htm

OEFOM awards three scholarships

The Oklahoma Educational Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine (OEFOM) Board of Trustees has awarded three \$2,500 scholarships from the OEFOM Endowed Student Scholarship Fund to Garrett Decker and Shonda Davis, MS-IIs, and to Daniel Williams, MS-III. In addition, OEFOM donated \$100 to the College's Student Senate to assist DO Day at the Mall.