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 ... 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 things. I also appreciate the wonderful 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 questions that I needed to hear, beyond. I appreciate his wonderful mentoring for myself and so many other medical students. He will be greatly missed.

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 Massachusetts. His teaching assignments at OSU included System 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 Associate Dean of Students, and Associate Dean of Students for Admissions and Advancement, a title he held at his retirement in 1998. He 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 Jardine, 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 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 everything from life you could imagine. This is when 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 good 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.

Robert 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 Dr. O and Mrs. “O” always disappeared and stole “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 the 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 peers, 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 tolerable, but made you believe you were actually having fun, and we were!

Sara McRae, D.O., ’86

Dr. Overack, I believe, was directly responsible for my acceptance to the first year class of 1982. He certainly asked the questions that I needed to hear, beyond. I appreciate the wonderful sense of humor, and his dedication to the profession. Dan was a good 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.
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 supporters of students in their efforts. We can 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 came 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 we 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 fundraising. It would also help us coordinate our activities, and our chapter, and we would need to scale at the policy for issues, and we would continue to keep any money we make with fundraising activities such as Sling 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 we 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 918-536-0127.

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 ill, 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. Harley, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., ’77
President of the Executive Committee

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 Osteopathic Association and the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association.

Recipients of this scholarship must be full-time osteopathic medical students at OSU, demonstrate financial need, have a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and a demonstrated interest in the osteopathic 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 918-443-8079 or toll free at 800-677-1972. On the web: www.healthsciences.okstate.edu/center/development/scholarships.htm

U.S. News & World Report ranking

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. The rankings are based on opinion and data collected from college administrators, program directors and senior faculty throughout the United States.

“This 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 Oklahoma 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 all” by U.S. News & World Report.

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 7th in oral medicine and 17th in family medicine. The rankings are based on opinion and data collected from college administrators, program directors and senior faculty throughout the United States.

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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.

Jennifer Mackey endowed scholarship

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

Jennifer Mackey, D.O., ’01

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 Shanda Davis, WSU, and to David Williams, WSU. In addition, OEFOM donated $1,500 to the College’s Student Senate to assist 30 Day at the Helm.

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, 30-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 managed, financial and administrative excellence for healthcare 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. Parker 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 winning 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.

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