

# Still News

July 2006

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY | ATSU

## ATSU-KCOM graduation “bittersweet”

With a renewed sense of compassion, integrity, and a nurturing spirit, 159 men and women graduated from ATSU’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 3.

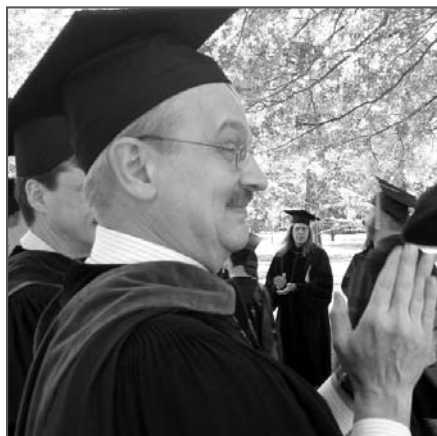
“It’s so exciting to share this day with all of my family. It’s a special day that I will cherish for the rest of my life,” said Becca Rodriguez, D.O.

“It’s been four years in the making. I am so overwhelmed with emotion. I knew I was going to cry,” said Jamie Capasso, D.O.

For the ATSU-KCOM graduates, commencement marks the end of a major stage in their medical education, and the beginning of another. They will now enter residency programs at medical facilities around the country and focus the next three to eight years of training on a particular specialty.

“I start my family practice residency internship at Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital through Saint Louis University in Belleville, Ill., next month,” Chase said.

“I will be heading to Cleveland, Ohio, Richmond



Four years ago, these ATSU-KCOM graduates stood shoulder-to-shoulder in their newly starched white lab coats and recited a pledge to give their best in learning medicine and applying it to their future patients. At Saturday’s graduation, they recited the Osteopathic Oath as 155 newly made physicians. The 170th graduating class from ATSU-KCOM included 99 men and 56 women from 34 states and two foreign countries. ATSU-KCOM also graduated four students with degrees in bio-medical sciences representing three states and one foreign country.

“Graduation is the end of student life but the beginning of a lifelong career as a physician,” said Diana Chase, D.O.

“Walking across the stage felt bittersweet because I knew it was really my last graduation. There was a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment,” said David Cleaver, D.O.

Heights Hospital, to do a traditional osteopathic year rotating internship. Then I will apply for a dermatology residency spot,” Cleaver said.

ATSU President James McGovern, Ph.D., urged graduates to keep the main objective — helping the patient — foremost in mind.

“The drugs, procedures, and equipment are secondary; getting the patient or client to activate their inner drives, motivations, and healing mechanisms is primary.”

### IN THIS ISSUE:

BASKETBALL STAR BECOMES DOCTOR .....	4
NEW ARRIVAL MAKES FOR UNIQUE GRADUATION.....	5
NEW MEDICAL FORENSICS COURSE.....	6

## Business leaders, ATSU work together for change

Unnecessary deaths, continuous quality improvement, and affordable, easily accessible healthcare for employees were topics at a recent meeting of a Blue Ribbon Committee of prominent business executives. The group met to help design “The Medical School of the Future” at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona.

“Our greatest concern is making sure our employees and their families have quality, yet affordable healthcare,” said Martin Fraser, CFO of CSK Auto Inc. “Too many times, I and many other executives are asked to make medical policy decisions that affect thousands of lives. I’m not comfortable in that role. Working with a new medical school to train future physicians to understand the many dimensions of healthcare is a step in the right direction.”

The Institute of Medicine and the Association of American Medical Colleges agree. How physicians are educated plays a major role in how physicians develop their attitudes about patients, quality, cost, and organization.

“A.T. Still University, founded in 1892, is bringing new ideas and practices into a medical education model essentially unchanged for the last 100 years,” said Ray Lamb, CEO of First National Bank of Arizona. “While other areas of society including business, entertainment, and technology have reinvented themselves every 10 to 20 years, medical schools have remained unchanged despite repeated calls for reform. We need a whole new way of healthcare delivery, and that means beginning with the training of the providers.”

Many prominent national business leaders are on the A.T. Still University Blue Ribbon Committee, including: Reginald Ballantyne III, senior corporate officer for Abrazo Health Care; and Robert Uhl, vice chair of Bar-S Foods, who both say a new approach is needed.

“Our Blue Ribbon Committee shows that business leaders can offer great organizational insights for a new medical school,” said Craig Phelps, D.O., provost of A.T. Still University’s Mesa, Arizona, Campus. “In talking with us, they give very practical views of the needs of patients, payers, and providers. And, if proposed solutions are to work, they need to address all these parties or parts simultaneously.”

Kevin M. McGovern, CEO of McGovern Associates of New York, appreciated the University’s openness and willingness to collaborate.

“Finally, someone in healthcare is listening to those who are paying the increasing bills for what is becoming a poorer and poorer product. Incredibly, this A.T. Still University is aware enough to ask business organizations to help them get down to business and learn how to organize for good results.”

## ATSU-Mesa opens new student lounge



On May 30, the ATSU-Mesa Campus held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of a new student lounge. Students, faculty, and staff attended the event, as well as the Mesa Chamber of Commerce. From left to right: ASDOH student Ian Bennett, treasurer of ATSU-Mesa SGA; ATSU-Mesa Provost Dr. Craig Phelps; SGA Vice President Valerie Lane; ASDOH student Shannon Coen, ATSU-Mesa Associate Provost Dr. Ted Wendel, and Beth Popp, assistant vice president of student services.

## Museum hosts Third Annual Secret Garden Tea



Steven Carroll, an associate professor of biology at Truman State University and co-author of *Ecology for Gardeners*, was the featured speaker at the Still National Osteopathic Museum’s Third Annual Secret Garden Tea in June. The program, entitled “The foxglove and the grapes: a gardener’s fable,” was also accompanied by a detailed tour of the Museum’s historic medical garden.

The Museum’s staff has spent the past seven years developing the historic garden on ATSU’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine Campus, focusing on medicinal plants used in Missouri during the frontier era.

## Telehealth network showcases high-tech care option

### NEMO network sites host open house, demonstrate services

With increasing specialization and the integration of high-tech methods, patients worldwide are benefiting from medical care specifically tailored to their condition or symptoms. Patients in rural areas, however, sometimes find this specialized care more difficult to access than those in city or urban settings. Now, that is all about to change.

The Missouri Foundation for Health awarded A.T. Still University \$1 million to implement a network of videoconference sites that could be used to allow patients to see physicians and specialists without actually traveling to their physical locations. The network, which encompasses 12 provider sites in 11 northeast Missouri counties, is under the leadership of Celia Hagan, project coordinator for the Northeast Missouri Telehealth Network.

Now one year into the three-year grant project, the network currently has four provider sites up and running. Hagan and the staff of the Northeast Missouri Rural Health Network hosted an open house in June to showcase the technology available to physicians and patients.



At right, John Heard, Ph.D., vice president for research, grants, and information systems at ATSU, demonstrates the new telehealth services in a teleconference with Pat Murdoch at Mark Twain Area Counseling Center.

Connected with the provider site at the Mark Twain Area Counseling Center, approximately 50 community members learned about telehealth. Hagan emphasized that the network exists as a service to the community.

“We are providing this service free of charge,” Hagan said. “Patients

should talk to their doctor to see if telehealth is right for them, and physicians are also welcome to contact us about using the service.”

For more information about the Northeast Missouri Telehealth Network, contact Celia Hagan at 660.342.0186.

## SAA honors members

### Annual banquet at ATSU-Kirksville recognizes outstanding student spouses

The Student Associates Auxiliary (SAA) recently hosted its annual banquet in June to recognize outstanding members. Pictured are, from left to right, **Kylene Puckett**, Donna Jones Moritsugu Award recipient; **Charyce McGregor**, Olwen R. Gutensohn Student Family Award recipient; **Molly Hansen**, Olwen R. Gutensohn Student Family Award recipient; **Amy Olson**, Olwen R. Gutensohn Student Family Award recipient; **Toviah Cain**, Olwen R. Gutensohn Student Family Award recipient; and **Lori Haxton**, associate vice president for student and alumni services and SAA faculty advisor.





## Phoenix basketball star becomes a doctor

Becoming a doctor was not at the top of Sonny Huitron's career list. But that was before he met Cindy Cloud, chair of the business department at Phoenix College.

Huitron was a star basketball player at Phoenix College when he first met Cloud and her husband, Dr. Gary Cloud, director of advancement at ATSU-Mesa.

"She was the unofficial team mom for the basketball team," Huitron said. "She went to all of our games and cheered us on."

Cindy was his cheerleader off the court as well. Huitron said when it was time to decide on a career, he had no clear direction until she introduced him to one of her husband's colleagues.

"I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he said. "I thought I wanted to be a psychologist, but I was not really sure. So, I talked with Cindy about it, and she sent me to talk with Dr. Craig Phelps, ATSU provost and

team physician for the Phoenix Suns. After I met him and shadowed him around for a few days, my future became very clear."

Cindy said she knew Huitron appreciated her athletic support, but she was just as determined to help him see that he could be much more than a basketball player in life.

"Sonny is a very intelligent young man," she said. "Being his advisor and friend, I knew he could do anything he set his mind on. So, I encouraged him to dream big."

On June 3, the Clouds flew to Kansas City and then drove nearly three hours to Kirksville, Mo., to see Huitron graduate from ATSU's Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Cindy said it was like seeing one of her own children graduate.

"I am so proud of him," she said. "Seeing Sonny walk across that stage brought tears to my eyes."

Also there to support Huitron's momentous occasion was ATSU stu-

dent and future doctor Calvin Damper. He is also a former basketball player at Phoenix College and was guided to Kirksville by Cindy.

"Cindy Cloud is my guardian angel," Damper said. "I would have never thought of becoming a doctor had it not been for Cindy and her husband."

"The past four years were tough," Huitron said. "It has been a long process. Seeing my family and friends here to support me has made the journey worthwhile."

Huitron will begin his residency at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He has three daughters, ages 6, 5, and 3, and said balancing family and school was the biggest challenge.

Despite the challenges, Huitron managed to keep it all in perspective.

"God never gives you more than you can handle."



From left to right: Calvin Damper, MS II, Cindy Cloud, and Sonny Huitron, class of 2006.

“It was amazing to walk across the stage. It felt surreal.”

Jamie Capasso  
Class of 2006

“Graduation is the end of student life but the beginning of a lifelong career as a physician.”

Diana Chase  
Class of 2006

“It’s so exciting to share this day with all of my family. It’s a special day that I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

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“God never gives you more than you can handle.”

Sonny Huitron  
Class of 2006

## New arrival makes for unique graduation KCOM graduate delivers baby on commencement day



A brand new doctor of osteopathic medicine, Andrea Jones, D.O. (center), recites the Osteopathic Oath with ATSU-KCOM Dean Philip Slocum, D.O. (right), while holding baby Lilly Sophia.

For four years, Andrea Jones, D.O., devoted herself to study and made countless sacrifices to get through medical school. She could not wait to walk across the stage with her diploma from A.T. Still University’s Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Jones and her husband drove into Kirksville from Wichita, Kan., a few days before graduation to participate in the senior picnic and award ceremony. Jones was ecstatic to be graduating. She was also excited about delivering her firstborn in the next two weeks, or at least she thought her due date was supposed to be in mid-June.

At an awards banquet the night before graduation, Jones went into labor.

“I started having contractions. At first, they were 11 minutes, and then

eight minutes apart. By the time it was over, they were four minutes apart. So, we went to the hospital and here we are,” Jones said.

With her new 7 pound, 15 ounce bundle of joy, Lilly Sophia, Jones was forced to stay at the hospital and, so it seemed, miss graduation.

After the commencement ceremony, Dean Philip Slocum, Associate Dean Stephen Laird, Associate Professor Toni Smith, and Associate Dean Jeff Suzewits visited the hospital in full regalia to present Jones her degree. As Jones and Dean Slocum recited the Osteopathic Oath in unison, Lilly laid asleep in her arms.

“She is the best graduation gift I could have received.”



Medical forensics has become a profession of glitz and glamour due to the popularity of television programs like "CSI." However, those who work in medical forensics witness the complexity of real cases that cannot be solved within a one-hour television show.

To further educate individuals in law enforcement, legal, and medical professions about the particulars of medical forensics, ATSU's Arizona

## Online "Medical Forensics" course offered nationwide

School of Health Sciences (ATSU-ASHS) is offering a premier online medical forensics course available nationwide.

"APA 644-Medical Forensics" is a 12-week course beginning August 28 and is a four-credit, non-degree college course that introduces participants to basic aspects of forensic medicine.

The course is offered for both medical and non-medical personnel. It may satisfy one of the requirements to sit for certification for the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation Registry Exam.

The program will be offered during Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions beginning in Fall 2006. Coursework is a self-paced set of study modules covering many different areas of forensic medicine.

The course instructor is Dr. Ann Bucholtz, who is certified by the American board of Pathology in

Clinical, Anatomic and Forensic Medicine, and has served as the chief medical examiner for Nashville, Tenn. Dr. Bucholtz has also served as an associate medical examiner for Arizona's Cochise, Pima, and Maricopa Counties.

A bachelors' degree with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA is required, as well as a \$60 application fee. The course cost is \$845 including the required textbook. Course delivery methods include Power Point presentations, reading from the reference text, postings and discussions with classmates, questions and case studies related to the module topic, and online quizzes.

For more information about the non-degree college credit medical forensics course and admissions requirements, please contact an online enrollment counselor toll-free at 877.469.2878 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time or at [onlineinquiry@atsu.edu](mailto:onlineinquiry@atsu.edu).

## ATSU-KCOM alumnus awarded first place in research competition

Rachelle Tognacci, D.O., '01, of Madison Heights, Mich., accepted on behalf of herself and her research partners, first place in the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) Scientific Research Competition held in conjunction with the MOA's 107th Annual Postgraduate Convention & Scientific Seminar held in May.

Thirty-six exhibits were displayed at the convention and entered into the competition. Dr. Tognacci's winning exhibit was titled: "Building Bridges: Breast Cancer Prevention in Emergency Departments by Connecting At-Risk Women to Mammography."

## Varnold receives Distinguished Service Award

At ATSU-Kirksville's annual Employee Recognition Reception, ATSU President James McGovern, Ph.D., presented Jean Varnold, coordinator of information technology & services at ATSU, with the Distinguished Service Award.

The ATSU Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize an employee each year who displays distinguished service to ATSU. Winners have exhibited dedication, campuswide leadership, service above self, and a strong work ethic, as well as have a positive outlook.

President McGovern also presented Employee Excellence awards to Robert Clement, exhibit preparatory, Still National Osteopathic Museum; Curt Gilliland, technician, information technology & services; and Merle Gaspie, service worker II, facilities/plant operation. Gaspie and Katherine Steinbruegge, weekend supervisor, A.T. Still Memorial Library, received Above & Beyond Awards.





## “Diva dash” Helping girls be healthy

With passion and dedication, Athletic Trainer Sharon Baltmanis, M.S., is on a mission to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, and physical development in young girls. Baltmanis, a graduate from A.T. Still University’s Arizona School of Health Sciences, is co-founder of the Phoenix chapter of Girls on the Run (GOTR), an organization that promotes physical activity.

“I am very passionate about the program, as it is an opportunity to empower young girls to grow up self-confident and strong,” Baltmanis said.

The program is designed for girls ages 8-11. It helps to increase physical activity and emotional health by providing girls with the tools to make healthy decisions and form healthy self-images.

GOTR hosted its annual “Diva Dash” in Tempe, Ariz., in April.



Approximately 50 girls participated and finished the race. About 200 people from the local community came out to run the race as well. Many women also signed up to be “running buddies” during the race, where they were paired with a GOTR participant and ran with her to help encourage her completing the race. Every girl who participated in the run received boas, sunglasses, and tiaras. The money raised from the race will be used for scholarships.

“I know I would have benefited from a program of this nature when I was younger and hope that through the program we can help girls in the Valley grow up proud of who they are and not fall into a lot of the negative behaviors that are seen in many young women.”

You can find more information about the program at [girlsontherunofmc.org](http://girlsontherunofmc.org).

## Healing power ATSU-KCOM student explores the medicinal potential of art and music

Jason Chen has always believed in the healing power of music. As a second-year medical student in 2004, Chen founded The Musical Cure, an 80-member group of musicians and singers drawn from A.T. Still University and Truman State University as well as the Kirksville, Mo., community. The group performed at rehabilitation and cancer clinics, nursing homes, and adult care centers, much to the delight of residents.

This summer, the now fourth-year student is working to quantify the healing power of music that he witnessed firsthand.

“It is really heartwarming to see the therapeutic effect our music has not only on the patients but the performers as well,” Chen said in 2004. “When I see residents in their wheelchairs and hospital beds singing along, tapping their feet, and

just really enjoying the music in general, I know we’re really making a difference in their lives.”

Chen is currently completing a unique series of research fellowships at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, and Yale University. The combination of prestigious work opportunities was only possible due to the effort and creativity of Bill Sexton, Ph.D., professor of physiology at ATSU-KCOM. Chen’s goal during his fellowship experience is to find a way to quantify the healing effects of music and art therapy.

“I want to take my passion and create an evidence-based model or protocol to allow caregivers to tailor music and art selections to certain symptoms or diagnoses,” Chen said.

The notion of using certain types of music therapy and artistic exer-

cises has been around for a long time, but Chen believes that it has the potential to play a much greater role in healthcare.

“It is sort of ironic how pre-modern medicine is changing our current medical paradigm,” Chen said.

Currently working through his fellowship at NIH, Chen reflected on his medical education and those who helped to get him where he is today.

“I am passionate about bringing the healing influence of music to patients,” Chen said. “Because of Dr. Sexton, I am able to work with the best and brightest researchers from around the world, collaborate with top scientists from universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions throughout the country, and hold the banner of osteopathy high and proud in areas uncharted by our school and our profession.”

## ATSU leads educational participation in Governor's Conference on Aging

ATSU recently participated in the Governor's Conference on Aging 2006 and was the lead institution of higher education in delivering influential presentations to the Arizona community on geriatric care and health while also offering free health screenings.

"Working with the Governor's Office to benefit geriatric healthcare and aging is an important partnership beneficial to the entire state," said Craig Phelps, D.O., provost of the ATSU-Mesa Campus. "We are developing a new generation of health professionals with a passion for improving the quality of life for older adults."



Health screenings featured evaluations on hearing, skin cancer, blood pressure, oral health, and fall prevention.

Dr. Phelps emphasized that geriatric healthcare and aging were important subjects for ATSU students.

"The future of our Arizona Health & Technology Park, adjacent to the ATSU-Mesa Campus, incorporates a residential village," Dr. Phelps said. "Our students will need to be able to care for and interact with mature adults in a real-life environment."

ATSU was recognized for its outstanding participation at the Governor's Council on Aging in Arizona.

*StillNews* is published by University Relations for students, faculty, staff, and friends of A.T. Still University.

**Associate Vice President for University Relations:** *Elsie Gaber, Ph.D.*

**Design:** *University Relations*

**Printer:** *ATSU Printing Services*

**Editor:** *Joe Vincent*

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