



SOMA Foundation Newsletter

Winter 2019

“Supporting the education and professional development of osteopathic medical students through a not-for-profit commitment to administering scholarships and promoting philanthropy.”

A United Front from Osteopathic Foundations

In the world of Osteopathic Medicine, we pride ourselves on our collaborative teamwork, communication, and unity within our profession for the betterment of our patients. It comes as no surprise that the outstanding foundations that help support our physicians, students, and community would also unite for the betterment of the osteopathic profession. Since 1987, osteopathic foundations have congregated and formed a national network of osteopathic-supportive-foundations known as the National Association of Osteopathic Foundations (NAOF). This year, the NAOF continued their tradition of graciously inviting the SOMA Foundation to take part in their annual conference.



The NAOF's 2019 Conference held in Columbus, Ohio on October 10th and 11th hosted foundations such as the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, Brentwood Foundation, Ohio Osteopathic Association, Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation, Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation, and the American Osteopathic Foundation. The main purpose of this conference was to discuss and promote the exchange of ideas and information. Hector Zelaya, the SOMA Foundation's Chairperson, had the opportunity to represent the SOMA Foundation and updated the

NAOF and guests on the philanthropic work that the SOMA Foundation performs to give financial support to SOMA members through grants and scholarships. He also informed everyone on current and future plans for the foundation.

Along with the opportunity to educate the NAOF and distinguished guest about the itself, the SOMA Foundation took part on many of the discussion. From approaches to foundation investment oversight, to strategies for funding and fundraising, to furthering osteopathic recognition, the SOMA Foundation was able to provide a student perspective on many topics. One of the biggest contributions the SOMA Foundation was able to make was how to use social media as a platform within all the organizations. Working with seasoned foundations, there were incredible learning points and take-a-ways for the SOMA Foundation. This conference was a huge opportunity for our foundation to take ideas back for more opportunities for SOMA members.

It was an incredible honor to have been a part of the NAOF's 2019 Conference and to have met everyone there. A huge thank you goes to Ms. Sherri Wise and the NAOF for the invitation and the continued support of the SOMA Foundation!



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Fall Community Outreach – Helping Up Missions

On Saturday, October 26th, 17 SOMA members volunteered at Helping Up Mission, a community focused on helping men and women fight addiction and homelessness.



During our time on the men's campus, we were given a tour by some of the men involved in their one-year recovery program. We learned how they are supported in their efforts to re-engage the community and find freedom from their addictions through access to an on-campus barber shop,



professional clothing, art studio, gym, library, counseling, medical attention, and spiritual development.

After the tour, we assembled 20 hygiene kits, 10 for men and 10 for women. Helping Up Mission is currently building a new facility for women and children, and we are proud to help support their efforts to serve the people of Baltimore!



Fundraising Success at OMED and the Annual SOMA Foundation Fall Reception

SOMA Foundation had a successful time raising funds at OMED through tabling during the conference and hosting the Annual Fall Reception. We raised almost \$2,200 towards scholarships and grants for our fellow osteopathic medical students. Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors for your generous support and for helping us to achieve our goal. With your contributions, we are able to reduce financial barriers and support future physicians to succeed in their endeavors.

Fall Scholarship and Grant Recipients

With the closure of our fall scholarship cycle, we are happy to report that we received numerous qualified and impressive applicants, all of which are excellent examples of the future of osteopathic medicine. In addition, most scholarships achieved record number of applicants and we introduced our newest scholarship, quadrupling the usual number of applicants across all scholarships. Below are the recipients of our fall scholarships, including their school and year denoted at time of award:

Robert S. Juhasz, DO Innovative Leadership in Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship

Jenna Seeley, OMS-II PNWU

Humanism in Medicine Scholarship

Karen Custodio, OMS-IV RowanSOM

Community and Preventative Medicine Scholarship

Brittany Ann Lore, OMS-I PNWU



Travel Grant

Joseph Barber, OMS-II ACOM
Anh Lam, OMS-II OSUCOM

New Member Scholarship

Melvin Grimes, OMS-I VCOM-Auburn
Mahlaqa Butt, OMS-I NYIT-Old Westbury
Navreet Bhangu, OMS-I MSUCOM
Briana Krewson, OMS-I PCOM
Sridevi Snarayanan, OMS-I PNWU-COM

Women in Medicine in Scholarship

Claudia Green, OMS-I LECOM- Bradenton

Thanks to the support of our generous benefactors, the SOMA Foundation was able to provide eleven scholarships totaling \$7,500. We look forward to our Spring Scholarship deadline, and we hope to receive many qualified applications.

The “Donors and Recipients” corner help us showcase benefactors and scholarship winners!

Have you been by the SOMA Foundation website lately? We have a news and events section, as well as a video and photo gallery to help keep you up-to-date on all the workings of the foundation. Also, we are proud to highlight our scholarship winners as they share personal stories and reflect on what receiving a SOMA Foundation scholarship means to them. Furthermore, we have added a *Donors Spotlight* section, which showcases various donors throughout the year. Visit www.somfoundation.org to see all the great new additions!



Send a Holiday Greeting Card Through SOMA Foundation!

Spread some cheer this holiday season! Consider giving to the SOMA Foundation by sending a greeting card to your family, friends, and colleagues through SOMA Foundation’s Classy page! Follow the link below:



<https://www.classy.org/campaign/soma-foundation-holiday-giving/c261206>

SOMA Foundation Fall Reception

On October 26th, SOMA Foundation held its annual Fall Reception at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor in conjunction with OMED. We had the privilege of honoring Touro COM - Middletown Faculty member, Dr. Stephanie Zeszutek, with the 2019 Northup Educator of the Year Award, as well as our many Fall scholarship and grant recipients. Guests enjoyed the Halloween Masquerade Extravaganza, and we certainly had a blast!



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Thank you from your 2019-2020 SOMA Foundation Board of Directors!

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