



## **American Medical Association – Medical Student Section Chapter of the Year Award Winning Entries**

**2007 – University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine**

**2006 – Mayo Clinic College of Medicine**

**2005 – Baylor College of Medicine**

### **2007 Chapter of the Year University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine**

#### **Community service**

In April 2006, Shelley Baird and Kerry Wilkins successfully organized the “Get Fit” Health Fair at two local elementary schools to demonstrate healthy choices for a healthy lifestyle in an engaging and educational manner. The health fair focused on three main topics – mental, physical, and dietary health. This was presented to 5th grade students at each elementary school and included activities about topics such as emotional problem solving, positive self-image, anger/stress management, proper stretching technique, relay races, hula-hoop, Simon Says (following directions), over-under game (teamwork), healthy eating trivia game, and how to design a healthy meal.

In April 2007, Daine Bennett and Kendall Wagner expanded on the previous health fair and hosted the second annual “Get Fit” Health Fair at two local Elementary Schools. The 2007 fair included a skit featuring “S-CHIP Man” about the importance of covering the uninsured, as well as an informational folder for the elementary students to take home to their parents. The general themes of mental, physical, and dietary health were followed. However, new activities were created, including a station that taught students the importance of exercise and another station that taught them how to take their pulse before and after exercise. The new mental health station stressed the importance of not bullying, and the new dietary health station was a bean-bag toss into a food pyramid, where unhealthy food products were at the top of the pyramid, and healthy foods were at the bottom of the pyramid. Students were given prizes for healthy choices. The fair also included anti-smoking and anti-drugs/drinking stations where the children could see what smokers’ lungs look like, learn about the carcinogens in cigarette smoke, and also listen to what smokers’ lungs sound like versus normal lungs.

On five occasions throughout the past school year, many of our members participated in the Student Sight Saver Program with Keep Arkansas Seeing. These students traveled across the state to do ophthalmic screenings. In addition, they spent many hours at the River City Free Eye Clinic, which serves our local population.

Since 2005, and most recently in January of 2007, our chapter has organized three bone marrow donation drives, registering more than 200 donors so far, and securing donations from local businesses and individuals for the \$65 per person cost to join the national registry. Because of the fund-raising success, no one registering through our drives has had to pay.

#### **Advocacy**

In March 2006, many students participated in their first legislative advocacy effort after Dr. Gary Wheeler, past Chair of the Coalition for Tobacco Free Arkansas, discussed the Arkansas Clean Indoor Air Act with an auditorium full of medical students. The AMS student executive team worked with Dr. Wheeler and the Medical Society to organize hundreds of phone, e-mail and person-to-person correspondences between medical students and state legislators. With the encouragement of many students, who also rallied in front of the

Arkansas State Capitol, legislators passed the act making it illegal to smoke in the state of Arkansas inside most public places.

In addition, in February of 2007, many students made phone calls and sent e-mails to their respective area legislators in support of the Arkansas Trauma Bill. Arkansas is the only state in the nation that does not have a Level 1 trauma unit. Unfortunately, the senate rejected the bill, but the medical students plan to rally again for this cause in future legislative sessions.

Also in February of 2007, three students from our chapter traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Student/Resident Lobby Day. Christian Hester, Shelley Baird, and Shelby Bennett spoke with Senator Blanche Lincoln and Congressman Mike Ross, and with the staff members of Senator Mark Pryor and Congressman Vic Snyder. The three primary issues addressed were covering the un-insured and continuation of the S-CHIP program, the Medicare physician payment gap, and medical student debt relief.

### **Active membership**

Our past AMA-MSS Chair was Christian Hester. Over the past year, he was named to the Arkansas Medical Society Board of Trustees as the medical student representative. He also received the 2006 AMA Foundation Leadership Award. Most recently, he was elected as the Vice-President of the Young Democrats of Arkansas. Our AMA-MSS Chair is Leigh Shirey. She also is president of the Arkansas Medical Society – Student Section. Shelley Baird is our local chapter Vice-Chair. She was chosen to serve on the National Community Service Standing Committee for the 2006-2007 school year, and at the Interim meeting, she was appointed to serve as the Community Service Liaison for Region 3, a position the region plans to add to its governing council at the annual meeting in 2007. Shelley also serves on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the Arkansas Medical Society as its medical student member. Ross Blagg, our Alternate Delegate, was named to the National Ethics Standing Committee for the 2006-2007 school year. Misty Williams, our Delegate, serves on the Professional Awards Committee of the Arkansas Medical Society as its medical student member. Travis Bowen, a student member, serves on the Annual Session Committee of the Arkansas Medical Society as its medical student member.

Our chapter had five members attend the Annual meeting in June 2006, three members attended the Interim meeting in November 2006, and three members attended the Student/Resident Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., in February 2007. Six medical students plan to attend the Annual meeting in June 2007.

Every semester, our chapter has three lunch meetings with guest speakers. On average, we have between 150-200 student members at each event.

The Pulaski County Medical Society recently donated \$500 for our recent service project that addressed the AMA-MSS National Service Project, “Covering the Uninsured and Protecting Access to Care.” The project involved more than 75 medical student volunteers and it reached over 100 local fifth grade students.

### **Innovation**

In order to educate children and parents about the uninsured, medical students wrote a skit featuring “S-CHIP Man,” the health insurance equivalent of Superman for the uninsured. Before the skit, children were given a numbered folder. The folder contained handouts regarding the S-CHIP program for the parents, but was also used as a tool in the skit. We asked the children to pretend that they had fallen and scraped their knees. Then we asked those who had a “2” on their folder to stand. These students represented the fraction of Arkansas children who have adequate health insurance, and they were given band-aids. The remaining children were then told that they wouldn’t be getting band-aids because they represented the percentage of children in Arkansas who don’t have access to care because of a lack of insurance. In the end, a medical student dressed as “S-CHIP Man” ran in with a handful of band-aids for the rest of the fifth graders, and he described the S-CHIP program and told the children that more information about the program was provided in the folders for their parents.

## **Collaboration**

In March of 2006, thirty of our medical student members partnered with the Y.E.S. Team (youth anti-tobacco activists from Arkansas) and the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas to lobby at our State Capitol for the passage of the Arkansas Clean Indoor Air Act, which legislators later passed.

In January of 2007, Najiyah Kazi and Jennifer Pharr, community service co-representatives, held our 3rd Annual Bone Marrow Donor Drive. This drive was co-sponsored by the UAMS chapter of SNMA (Student National Marrow Association). Together, the two organizations recruited a well-known hematology-oncology professor to speak to students and faculty about the importance of not only being bone marrow donors, but also to educate our patients about being registered on the national bone marrow registry. After the presentation, many students drew blood, took cheek swabs, and helped people register to become potential bone marrow donors. With the help of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), we have successfully registered over 200 people over the past two years.

In March of 2007, our chapter co-sponsored an event with Physicians for Human Rights. Medical students were invited to a panel discussion of AIDS patients who spoke about various aspects of their disease.

## **Chapter growth**

Chapter Vice-President and recruiter, Shelley Baird, recruited 87% of the freshman class to join the AMA-MSS, and about thirty students to join AMPAC. Attendance at chapter meetings has been steady, with about 150-200 students at each. Attendance at our state medical society meetings has increased dramatically. In May 2006, fifteen medical students attended the annual meeting, and in January 2007, forty medical students attended the interim meeting. Only two medical students had attended the previous interim meeting. Our chapter also sent seven female medical students to the Women Physician's Retreat of the Arkansas Medical Society in October of 2006. No medical students attended the Retreat in 2005. Our presence at the AMA-MSS annual meetings has remained steady, but we have increased our attendance at the interim meetings, going from no representation in 2005 to having three members present in Las Vegas in 2006. We also increased our presence at the Student/Resident Lobby Day, having no members attending in 2005, two in 2006, and three in 2007. Member participation in our community service activities has also increased, with over 50% of our freshmen participating in this year's "Get Fit" Health Fair.

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## **2006 Chapter of the Year Mayo Clinic College of Medicine**

### **Membership**

Every year, the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine has had a 100% membership rate for all incoming students (MD and MD/PhD) and retains this membership throughout their medical school tenure. This is due to our strong effort to recruit the incoming class via a combination of conducting a booth at the school's activity fair for incoming students, contacting all students via school-wide e-mails, and personally contacting the remaining individuals in order to let them know about the AMA and how valuable their membership in the organization is. Our recruitment efforts are assisted by the fact that our public service activities are the most recognized and widely-participated in on campus and we have a strong commitment to finding leadership roles for all interested students, whether it be at the local, state, or national level.

### **Community service**

Last year we conducted 5 community service projects, three of which received AMA-PPGs for 2005 or 2006 and were designated national service project of the week in the AMA eVoice. The public service repertoire is designed to address all aspects of our community including combating hunger, covering the uninsured, providing basic necessities (clothing, furniture, etc), promoting academics & closing the technology gap, and prevention of childhood obesity:

- Harvest Classic 5K Race (PPG06, eVoice: 12/1/2005): 18th Annual charity race and raffle to benefit the Channel One Food Bank and Food Shelf (channelone.org). More than 150 people and 32 local sponsors participated, making it the largest Harvest Classic to date, doubling last year's donation and raising over \$4,900 for Channel One, which will purchase 24,500 meals for low-income families. The 2006 Harvest Classic received a national award from Alpha Omega Alpha and will be a USA Track and Field Certified 10K race, drawing serious runners from multiple states to increase donations by several thousand dollars.
- Calling For Coverage (PPG05, eVoice: 12/15/2005): An association with Covering Kids and Families (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) to prevent local families-in-need from losing their state health care coverage. Students call families who are about to be dropped from their health insurance and fill out the renewal paperwork over the phone. Two calling sessions in November and February showed up to 15% reduction in the rates of uninsured.
- Holiday Helping Hands (PPG05, eVoice: 12/22/12005): Holiday project providing furniture, winter clothes, holiday toys, and other items to needy families. The project has grown in size every year and has assisted a Sudanese refugee, a family of 5 with their father serving in Iraq, and a pediatric cancer patient, among others.
- Computers for the Community: Designed to accept donated non-working computers and printers, refurbish them, and redistribute them to local schoolchildren whose families are financially unable to provide them. Seven desktop and two laptop computers with CD encyclopedias and learning software have been distributed, eliminating the technology divide for twenty children ranging from preschool to high school.
- Spring Wellness: Members created large displays, to be posted in high school cafeterias, containing pictures of healthy, active youths and adults as well as information about caloric intake and the benefits of sports and weight training. Prizes such as athletic equipment and gym time were donated by area businesses and given away to encourage active lifestyles.

### **Advocacy**

Our Calling for Coverage program included an educational component (attended by about 20% of our membership) where students were given a 3-hour training session, run by a state social worker, explaining the complexity and obstacles inherent in the Medicaid and MNCare insurance programs as well as how to complete the paperwork necessary to renew coverage. These students then called individuals receiving state health care, completing the forms with them, hearing their stories, and coming to a greater understanding of the reasons why so many remain uninsured. In the next several months, the project will be transitioned into an advocacy campaign reaching out to ESL members of the community.

In association with the Minnesota Medical Association MSS we have centralized news, information, and links to all state and national information and advocacy issues through a Web-log where students can connect to Grassroots advocacy, AMA-MSS national meeting info, and sign up directly for listservs (and the vast majority of postings have come from our chapter).

In April, our chapter meeting will be a Resolution Reading and Writing Workshop (modeled after a Region II workshop organized by one of our members two years ago) designed to educate members on creating, researching, submitting, and debating resolutions to the AMA-MSS and Minnesota Medical Association. It highlights the aspects of good and bad policy, how to add meaningful policy to the AMA-MSS agenda, and generate sincere involvement in the political process.

Beginning last August, members of our chapter, including one student serving on COLA, conducted a grassroots lobby campaign for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Students fought for extend deferment of

student loan repayment and for modifications to existing policy that will make it financially more feasible for students to work in underserved areas after their clinical training. Students gained experience contacting federal legislators, including two senators and one representative, and conducted an informational campaign asking their colleagues to individually contact their federal legislators.

Currently, our county medical society has requested that the student section compile a series of articles for publication in the local newspaper on topics ranging from childhood obesity to anti-smoking efforts. The articles will be conceived and written by students and focus on issues that they feel are important, which will increase the visibility of our chapter and develop lines of communication between our MSS and the community.

### **Involvement**

Chapter Meeting Attendance: We regularly have attendance of 60+ people at AMA-MSS chapter meetings, representing 30+% of the entire student body and have held meetings on a monthly to bi-monthly basis. Additionally, we have seen a significant increase in the number of women and underrepresented minorities taking leadership roles at all levels in the organization.

- Students Serving on National Committees:  
Joy Hardison-Grimes, Chair and founder: Committee on Public Health (ad-hoc committee) Danielle Armas, Vice-Chair: Committee on Minority Issues Amy Fothergill, Member: Committee on Public Health, and House Coordinating Committee (Interim 05) Andrew Landstrom, Member: Committee on Legislation and Advocacy Priyanka Gupta, Member: Credentialing Committee (Interim 05)
- Minnesota Student Delegate to AMA: Andrew ElBardissi
- Submitted Resolutions to the AMA-MSS:  
Amy Fothergill: Resolution calling for greater education about methamphetamine abuse; Adopted at Interim 05 Andrew Landstrom, Amy Fothergill, and Colin Segovis: Resolution regarding referrals in cases of conscientious objections; Adopted Interim 05 Joy Hardison-Grimes: Resolution placing AMA support behind the dissemination of government sponsored healthcare forms in multiple languages (Interim 05) Joy Hardison-Grimes: Resolution calling for the establishment of a government Office of Men's Health to fight causes of preventable diseases; Adopted Annual 05
- Zumbro Valley Medical Society (ZVMS – local medical society) Executive Committee Members: Joy Hardison, Nicholas Zane, Matthew Carter, Wayne Nelson
- ZVMS Annual Meeting:  
Each year, approximately 20 students are in attendance at the annual meeting as student members; two students received awards from the medical society in 2005: Colin Segovis – Special Recognition Award Mathew So – Outstanding Young Leadership Award
- Minnesota Medical Association (MMA)-MSS Officers:  
Andrew Landstrom, Chair  
Nicholas Zane, Secretary  
Colin Segovis, Chair 2004-05 and MMA-MSS Governing Council 05-06  
Brian Wilhelmi, MMA Board of Trustees Member (05)
- MMA-MSS Delegates:  
Britt Erickson, David Barbara, Aaron Small, Amy Dearing, Peter Conrad, Priyanka Gupta, Aaron Shinkle, Matthew Lohse (Alternate)

- Delegates to the MMA Annual Meeting 2005 (Representing the ZVMS): Andrew Landstrom, Steven Hamilton, Matthew Carter, Joy Hardison, Nicholas Zane, Colin Segovis, Summer Sawyer, Kurtis Reed, Amy Fothergill
- Serving on MMA Annual Meeting Reference Committee (2005): Nicholas Zane
- MMA State Committee Representatives:  
Legislation: Jennifer Kruse (Alt Rep)  
Minority and Cross-Cultural Affairs: Rayna M. Dyck  
Public Health and Preventive Medicine: Matthew Lohse (Alt Rep)  
Ethics and Medical/Legal Affairs: John Bois & Peter B. Conrad (Alt Reps)  
Medical Practice and Planning: Tushar S. Dabade  
MEDPAC Board: Priyanka Gupta  
Minnesota Medicine Magazine: Jamie Hess

### **Innovation**

Our chapter generated two new service projects in the past 1.5 years:

- “Calling for Coverage” – responding to the high rates of uninsured among the poor and ESL individuals & promoting the AMA’s focus on covering the uninsured “Computers for the Community” – students throw away many computers and buy new ones when they arrive at med school or leave for residency; we collect & refurbish these to give underprivileged children an opportunity to have technology in their homes
- For First-Time State/National Meeting Attendees:  
Stipulated that they must present testimony on behalf of the chapter in REFCOMS Experienced members wrote commentary on resolutions for Interim 05, highlighting their positive & negative characteristics and discussing how the amendment & voting process functions
- Residency Dinner:  
For the past three years, we have held a unique event: an annual dinner bringing together residency directors and students, providing an informal setting where students can learn about and discuss residency options directly with their program’s director. It is very highly attended and has gained praise and support from the administration of the medical school. This year, we expanded the number of program directors to 25 and some students set up shadowing and research experiences with the directors.

### **Collaboration**

- Covering Kids and Families of Olmsted County (Calling for Coverage): sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a collaboration with the county Department of Financial Services. The training and calling sessions were all conducted from their offices in City Hall.
- Channel One Food Shelf and 30+ businesses (Harvest Classic): raised thousands of dollars for the food shelf via monetary and prize donations and business advertising
- Hawthorne School (Holiday Helping Hands & Computers for the Community): Hawthorne teaches ESL classes to over 2000 immigrants annually; the school identifies its students/families with personal and financial needs, which we assess and provide food, clothing, furniture, and technology to fulfill.
- Rochester MN High Schools (Spring Wellness) – Members coordinated the project with high schools principals in order to put displays in cafeterias

- AMSA (Calling for Coverage) – the AMA-MSS and AMSA chapters held the first ever joint meeting of the two organizations in order to establish and raise awareness of the project and draw a larger group of volunteers
- Mayo Graduate School (all projects) – All students included in mailings, advertising, and service events, drawing upon a larger student base to conduct better projects and promote unity between the schools

### **Chapter Growth**

Since we achieve 100% school membership in the organization every year, we have focused our efforts upon generating active, intensely involved membership, and have achieved it in a variety of ways while improving the efficiency of our activities.

- Service Projects – Last year every chapter service project witnessed a tremendous increase in participation and results. The Harvest Classic doubled its donation to the Channel One Food Bank and Food Shelf and seeks to raise \$10,000 annually by 2009. Holiday Helping Hands assisted larger families with greater need, bringing in about 33% more physical donations while concurrently achieving the highest level of monetary donations in its 3 year history. Computers for the Community gave out five additional computers and Calling for Coverage was newly-generated this year thanks to an AMA-PPG and has met with good success signing up ESL families for state medical insurance.
- New Leadership – We selected many first-time leaders in the organization to chair local service projects and for state positions in order to promote diverse and lasting.

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## **2005 Chapter of the Year Baylor College of Medicine**

### **Membership**

What sets us apart is not only did we recruit from the entering class this year, but also from the second and third year classes through an in-person membership drive. The second year class has reached 98% membership in the Texas Medical Association and over 75% in the AMA. The Class of 2008 is nearing their goal to exceed the 2007 level of AMA membership and obtain 100% level of TMA membership in their class. Dozens of third year students, deep in clinics responded to our invitation to join the organization, showing the growth of the AMA MSS at Baylor College of Medicine.

### **Community service**

The AMA students at Baylor College of Medicine continually participate in numerous community service events throughout the year. Our chapter sponsored a night of documentaries as part of the Houston AIDS Film Festival, benefiting Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative. We also hosted an AMA day at the HOMES clinic, Baylor's homeless healthcare clinic, where AMA members provided clinic visits on a Sunday morning. During our school's annual community service day last year, our chapter hosted one of the off-campus service sites.

Dozens of first year students ran as the Baylor College of Medicine AMA group for the Komen Race-for-the-Cure 5K. Throughout the year, the chapter set up booths at local health fairs to distribute 100 bicycle helmets acquired by a grant from the Texas Medical Association Foundation "Hats for Little Heads" Program.

Currently, we are building support for the fight against obesity. We sponsored a lunch lecture on childhood obesity with a guest speaker from out of town, and then formed a task-force that is implementing our plan for

Baylor to take part in the National Service Project. Last month, as a part of the initiative to fight obesity, the chapter organized a health picnic in the public park adjacent to the Texas Medical Center, where we organized recreational sports and had healthy food options, as well as gave away fun fitness prizes like month-long gym memberships and more.

### **Advocacy**

After a surge in student involvement for the passage of Tort Reform in Texas during the Fall of 2003, the AMA MSS chapter continued to provide students information and updates on politics and issues important to organized medicine. In the Fall of 2004, we participated in the Region III voter registration drive and teamed with Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) to provide hundreds of chapter members a lunch speaker program on why medical professionals should vote. We brought in the lobbyist from HCMS to educate students, faculty, and staff on the key healthcare issues that could be decided in the upcoming legislature. During early voting, we organized a "White Coat Vote" at the local polling station that received media coverage encouraging people to vote. Five active students also attended the 2004 and 2005 AMA Lobby Days in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps the most unique advocacy activity of the year for the AMA chapter was joining forces with Smokefree Houston to advocate for smokefree workplaces in Houston. With the help of a Policy Promotion Grant, we started off by educating our chapter members on the health effects of passive smoking at a Brown Bag Lunch and then went out to collect signatures in support of the smoking ban in Houston. With help from concerned city members including medical students, the City of Houston recently passed its first smoking ban in restaurants! One AMA student member at Baylor spoke before Houston City Council on the issue, which was covered on the local news!

Most recently this March, students from all four class-years stopped by an AMA booth at Baylor for a letter-writing campaign to our state senators and representatives. We gathered over 100 letters during the hour-long event focused on the future of state funding of Graduate Medical Education (GME) in Texas. In the coming week, Baylor AMA students will join with others in the Texas Medical Association in Austin, Texas to continue this advocacy campaign in person by lobbying state congressional members.

### **Involvement**

Scott Chaiet, last year's chapter president and the TMA 2005 Student of the Year, currently serves as the Chair-Elect of Region 3, on the AMA-MSS COLA as the Communication Subcommittee chair, and on the Harris County Medical Society Council on Legislation. Lindsay Botsford serves as AMA Delegate for Region 3, and on the AMA-MSS ad-hoc Committee on Medical Ethics, as the TMA-MSS Delegate Co-Leader on the Executive Council. Jonathan Wortham is serving as the AMA Delegate Co-leader for the TMA-MSS this year.

Our AMA/TMA chapter officer board is made up of 12 student members. We have 6 Baylor students appointed to Boards Councils and Committees within the TMA, and another 6 students that sit on standing committees of the Harris County Medical Society. We now have three students that sit on the TMA-MSS EC. Although we have not yet had any of our students on AMA Councils or the Governing Council, we hope that within the next two years we will have members serving in both of these areas as well.

This past year, we were able to send a total of twenty students to A-04 in Chicago and I-04 in Atlanta. We sent three students to the 2005 AMA Lobby Day. Our attendance at TMA events has been equally improved, with between 6 and 16 members attending each TMA meeting over the past year.

### **Innovation**

One of the problems we faced at the start of the year was having students not know that our chapter existed. Many thought that they enrolled in the national organization, but did not realize the activities at the chapter level. To combat this misconception, we developed a double-sided newsletter that went out biweekly to all students. We included articles on current issues, summaries of meetings, and a calendar for upcoming events. Not only did we see a better understanding of what goes on in the AMA, but it sparked students to join the AMA.

The perennial problem every chapter faces is funding for travel and activities, and our solution was to perfect our residency fair. The external vice-president of our chapter was charged with convincing residency programs from across Texas to pay to come for a one-day residency fair for students at Baylor and surrounding medical schools. Not only did we have students from 4 local medical schools attend, we raised over \$7,000 last year. This meant that we could fully fund the travel of any student who wanted to attend and AMA meeting, which sparked interest in students who would otherwise not be able to attend.

### **Collaboration**

What was unique about this year was our chapter's interaction with the AMA chapter at The University of Texas – Houston. Officers from our chapter went to UT-Houston to help train their officers as they began to rebuild their program. At the beginning of the school year, both schools teamed up for a Harris County Medical Society mixer and social that was a tremendous success. The neighboring schools then co-hosted the 2004 AMA Region 3 Conference in Houston, with over 100 participants. Organizers and committee chairs from both schools coordinated a 2-day meeting on advocacy that exemplified the advances both our chapters had made over the previous year. Currently, our chapter's community service chairs have been working to get students to work together on providing health screenings at community health fairs. In the coming year, we hope to plan more social events with members from both chapters.

### **Chapter growth**

Our AMA chapter has taken tremendous strides in leadership, membership, activities and quality over the past year. Membership soared, more and different events occurred, and participation at these events increased exponentially. We surveyed members to gauge their ideas, and it clearly increased interest and activity. A new newsletter strengthened communication to give the campus a look at the local/state/national scenes in organized medicine in a concise manner.

In previous years, we did not have anyone hold an office or committee membership outside our school, and now we can boast an AMA Regional Delegate, Region 3 Chair-Elect, TMA committee members, and AMA-MSS committee members. Our growth was recognized most recently by the TMA, as we received the accolade of the TMA-MSS Chapter of the Year. Perhaps the most satisfying growth over the past year is that which cannot be measured by numbers or events, but rather is the respect that we have instilled for our organization. Whereas in previous years we were fighting to tell members who we were, now all they want to know is what we are doing next.

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