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SOMA

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Fall Conference Scholarship winner announced**
- **Three new SOMA officers elected**
- **LOTS of volunteering opportunities for the month of October**
- **Generous funds available to help students get to Kissimmee, FL for the SOMA Unity Project**

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And The Winner Is . . .

LMU-DCOM SOMA is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2009 Fall Convention Scholarship, OMS-I student Cassandra Renfro. The selection was made based upon her short answer application. Renfro will accompany LMU-DCOM SOMA President Jessica Barnes and National Liaison Officer Amanda Stephens as a voting delegate at the Fall National SOMA Convention at the end of this month in New Orleans, LA.

The scholarship award includes hotel accommodations during the conference, registration fees, and up to \$250 toward travel expenses. "I'm excited to have the chance to go to the conference and New Orleans," Renfro says. "I want to take this opportunity

to learn more about the organization and I want to be able to interact with other osteopathic medical students to compare our experiences."



Photo from OU Math Club

The conference is being held at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Julia Street in New Orleans on October 30th and 31st, prior to the Annual Fall AOA Convention. If any other LMU-DCOM student

plans to arrive early to the AOA Convention and would like to attend the SOMA conference, please contact Amanda Stephens at

amanda.stephens@lmunet.edu.

Attending the national meeting is a great way to learn about the interworkings of the club, network with accomplished physicians, participate in valuable workshops and seminars, and to obtain new ideas to incorporate into our school. Renfro is looking forward to these things. "I hope that this will prepare me for holding an officer position next semester and being more involved in SOMA," she says. Congratulations Cassandra and thank you to all who applied!

September In Review

NEW OFFICERS

At the SOMA chapter meeting last month, elections were held to fill the vacant positions among the cabinet officers. Members voted Dan Pickett and Cassie Brooks to be the OMS-I Representatives and first-year student Joey Starke as the new Preventative Medicine Coordinator. Con-

gratulations to these students and thanks to everyone who expressed interest!

CV WORKSHOP

Professional Development Director Ryan Rose hosted SOMA's second Curriculum Vitae Workshop. We'd like to offer our thanks to Drs. Teitelbaum, Wiet-

ing, and Osborn for presenting their materials! For those who were unable to attend, the recording of the workshop can be found on Mediasite. Go to your OMS Class Folder, then click "Additional Videos." The video is entitled "CV Instruction For Physicians." Powerpoint materials have been made available at www.DCOMDO.com.

Pre-Interview Pizza Nights



Photo from Franklin Now

While it's hard to completely shake interview anxieties, good pizza and friendly conversation can certainly help! This year SOMA will continue to host the informal pre-interview meet-and-greet for interviewees the evening before scheduled interview days in an effort to casually orient visiting students to the area and the interworkings of LMU-DCOM. The pizza nights will be held at Pizza Hut in Middlesboro

where a table will be reserved for the group in the side party room every Sunday and Monday evening. SOMA is looking for student representatives to sign up for these dates to answer questions and welcome students. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the dates, please sign the sheet outside of the auditoria. Two students are needed for each evening, in addition to a SOMA representative, and should

arrive promptly at 6:30PM. If the slots are full on the nights you are available, sign your name to the side as an alternate for your date of interest and you will be contacted should one of the other representatives be unable to attend. Also, if you miss out this semester, there will absolutely be more opportunities through next semester. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

"The test of thankfulness is not what you have to be thankful for, but whether anyone else has reason to be thankful that you are here."
- unknown

SOMA Unity Project

This December will mark SOMA's 4th year of hosting a Unity Project, where students from osteopathic medical schools across the country join together toward a charitable event. This year, the project will again take place in Kissimmee, Florida at the *Give Kids the World Village*, a non-profit amusement park for terminally ill children and their families. In addition to Robert Cromley who spoke about this valuable opportunity at the chapter meeting last month, OMS-II Claudia Montenegro also had the opportunity to attend last year. "I was very moved walking into the Castle of Miracles,

a play place within the center," says Montenegro. "As you walk in and look up, you notice that the ceiling is covered in stars, each with the name of a child that has been to the park." Her duties included ground maintenance and helping with a game of Double Dare. "It saddened me to think of how many children and their families have had to struggle with the burden of a devastating illness," she explains. "However, I was quickly reminded by a little girl walking in and smiling that *Give Kids the World* isn't about thinking about how sick you are, it's about being a kid, let-

ting loose, and having some serious fun!"

This year, SOMA will help staff the park on December 27th through the 30th and all members are highly encouraged to attend. National SOMA is really attempting to make this as easy as possible for students by covering the cost of hotel rooms and reimbursing travel costs up to \$250, possibly more for the first 100 students who sign up. If you are interested in taking part of this memorable event, fill out the application on our local [SOMA website](#) and place it in the folder outside of the auditoria.



Photo on left from GKTW; middle and right photos from Facebook

SOMA Wants YOU!

Now that you have all the basics of writing your curriculum vitae, it's time to build it up! SOMA has several ways you can get involved this month.

PRE-SOMA OUTREACH

On Wednesday, October 21st at noon, Pre-SOMA members, as well as the rest of the LMU undergraduate community, have been invited to visit DCOM to learn about our program and the application process through tours, a student panel, and lunch with current students. If you are interested in giving a tour or sitting on the student panel, please contact Brittany Lower at brittany.lower@lmunet.edu. Student representatives will receive a free pizza lunch!

WHAT'S IN A DOCTOR'S BAG

SOMA will again be visiting local elementary schools to teach children about what they might en-

counter on a visit to their doctor. Students demonstrate their medical equipment for the children and attempt to alleviate anxieties associated with visiting the doctor. This program has been a huge success in the past and several additional schools have requested our students visit this year. If you are interested in participating in this program, email John Venditti at john.venditti@lmunet.edu.

Dates are in the process of being negotiated with local schools, so interested candidates will be contacted when details are finalized.

MINI MED SCHOOL

After great success last year, Mini Medical School is planning more visits to area elementary schools to teach children about various medical topics, including bones, X-rays, organs, nutrition, exercise, hygiene, and medical instruments. Children rotate through the various stations listed above and receive a "diploma" once completing the circuit. SOMA needs 20

volunteers for each school visit. Like What's In A Doctor's Bag, dates are being finalized, but if you are interested in participating in this program, contact Allan Apostol at allan.apostol@lmunet.edu. Students in good academic standing will be excused from class to participate in these events.

MR. DCOM

Mr. DCOM is a fashion show fundraiser hosted by Sigma Sigma Phi in order to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. All of the participants in this entertaining fashion show are men, who will compete in three categories: spirit, evening wear, and talent. This year, SOMA intends to sponsor a Mr. DCOM candidate for the event that will take place in the middle of this month. If you would like to nominate a candidate for SOMA to sponsor, please contact Jessica Barnes at jessica.barnes389@lmunet.edu. The cost to attend the event is \$5.

Important Dates:

- October 5th:
2014 Interviews Begin
- October 6th:
OMS-II ACLS Exam
- October 8th:
OMS-II OSCEs
- October 9th:
OMS-I Block Exam
- October 12th:
**OMS-I MGA Practical
OMS-II Block Exam**
- October 21st:
**Pre-SOMA Outreach
SOMA Spaghetti Sale
OMS-I OPP Exam**
- October 22nd:
OMS-II OSCEs
- October 23rd:
**OMS-II OPP Exam
SOMA Spaghetti Sale**
- October 26th:
OMS-II Block Exam
- October 30th:
SOMA Fall Conference
- October 31st:
Halloween



Then...

FALL BREAK!!!

Photo from Shell Games

International Clinical Research

By Kelsey McAnally, OMS-II



Many students are looking forward to the possibility of spending one of their clinical

rotations internationally. However, if you are hoping to spend more than four weeks abroad there is an exciting opportunity to do so through the Fo-

garty International Clinical Research Scholars Program (FICRS). The FICRS program was designed for students with a strong interest in clinical research and international medicine and, to date, has sent 160 U.S. students to foreign sites. Each year 25-30 senior medical students and other health profession graduate students are selected to spend a year conducting clinical research in a developing country. Scholars are

matched with a mentor from a NIH-approved research site and provided with a living stipend for the year. Applications are reviewed each December and finalists are interviewed in March for the program which starts each July. For more information about the FICRS program, visit their website:

[Fogarty International Research Scholars Program](http://www.ficrs.org).