Leadership Update:

The following individuals represent the current Board of Deans leadership:

- **Chair:** Michael B. Clearfield, DO, Dean
  Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine - California

- **Vice Chair:** Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, Dean
  Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

- **Secretary/Treasurer:** William D. Strampel, DO, Dean
  Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

- **Past Chair:** Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean
  Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

- **Member-at-Large:** Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, Provost & Dean
  Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine

- **Member-at-Large:** Lori A. Kemper, DO, Dean
  Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University

- **Assembly of Presidents Chair:** Michael D. Adelman, DO, JD, President
  West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

The following individuals have joined the AACOM Board of Deans since AACOM’s July report:

- **John J. Dougherty, DO**, Dean, Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Brian Kessler, DO**, Dean, Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Bret Ripley, DO, MS**, Dean, Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

The following additional leadership appointments have been announced:

- **Clinton E. Adams, DO, MPA**, President, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
AACOM Application Service (AACOMAS) Applications Update:

The 2016 AACOMAS application cycle began May 5, 2015 with the opening of the AACOMAS application. Colleges of osteopathic medicine began reviewing applications as early as June 15, 2015. The 2015-16 application cycle is the first cycle with a new application vendor, Liaison International, and included a number of enhancements and functionality improvements. Current submitted applications as of February 12 total 20,895, an increase of 3.16% from last year.

The 2016 application cycle ends April 1, 2016, although many colleges maintain submission deadlines before and some after this date. To view information for potential applicants, visit http://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/applying.

The key publication for 2016 applicants is the 2016 Osteopathic Medical College Information Book, produced by AACOM. It can be viewed online at http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/publications/cib.

AACOM continues to coordinate with the COMs an active program to recruit future physicians to osteopathic medical education. Highlights of this program include multi-college visits to career and graduate fairs around the country—events that are likely to attract prospective pre-medical students. A current listing of these events can be found on the AACOM website at http://www.aacom.org/events/calendar/Pages/recruitingevents.aspx.

Research Update

AACOM has released its “2014-15 Academic Year Survey of Graduating Seniors Summary Report,” a report summarizing the responses from its survey of 2014-15 osteopathic medical school graduating seniors. The annual study, conducted by AACOM’s Research Department through the COMs, compiles a comprehensive snapshot of graduating seniors’ self-reported debt and financing of osteopathic medical education, education experiences, satisfaction with various aspects of their medical education, and future plans. A total of 3,998 expected graduates from 31 COMs and branch campuses responded to the 2014-15 Graduating Seniors Survey.

Findings show that over 79 percent of graduates report being very satisfied or satisfied with their osteopathic medical training. Showing an increase of two percent from last year’s report, 33 percent of graduates report plans to specialize in the primary care disciplines of general internal medicine, general pediatrics, and family medicine.

The AACOM Research Department continues to develop and expand data on osteopathic medical education and make such data available to the osteopathic community and the public through the AACOM website at http://www.aacom.org/data/Pages/default.aspx.

**Single Graduate Medical Education Accreditation System Update:**

January 2016 marks the seventh month in the transition to the single accreditation system for graduate medical education, which officially launched on July 1, 2015. The transition continues to steadily progress with many AOA-accredited programs and institutions already in the process of applying for Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation, and some already receiving ACGME initial accreditation. There are currently 117 programs that have submitted applications for ACGME accreditation. Several more have begun the process of applying but have not yet submitted applications. Of those that have, 11 have achieved initial accreditation in dermatology (1), internal medicine (9), and pediatrics (1) specialties. The remaining 95 are in pre-accreditation status and 11 are in continued pre-accreditation status.

AACOM has continued to participate in monthly operations committee meetings, has monitored the progress of osteopathic institutions and is engaged in the development of key resources. For more updates on AACOM’s single GME activity, visit https://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/single-gme.

**ACGME Board Meeting in February**

The ACGME held its quarterly board meeting on February 4-8, 2016 in Phoenix, AZ. The Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (ONMM) Review Committee’s focused revisions will be considered for approval at this meeting. These revisions, if approved, will create a pathway for the AOA-approved NMM plus one within the ONMM program requirements.

**ACGME Annual Conference**

The ACGME’s 2016 Annual Educational Conference will be held February 25-28, 2016, in National Harbor, MD. AACOM will be exhibiting at the conference, with several staff members disseminating information and data on OME. Several additional AACOM staff members and leadership will be attending the meeting as attendees and taking in programming while at the conference.

**AACOM-AOA Collaboration:**

**Osteopathic Medical Educators & Leaders Conference (OMEL)**

The OMEL conference was held on January 7-8, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas, and featured several presentations on the single GME accreditation system. Featured speakers included:

- Robert Cain, DO, Chair of the Osteopathic Principles Committee, ACGME
- John Potts, MD, Senior Vice President, Surgical Accreditation, ACGME
- Rebecca Miller, Senior Vice President, Applications & Data Analysis, ACGME
Several ACGME Executive Directors were available on Day Two to speak one-on-one with conference participants and to answer questions related to applications for ACGME accreditation. View speaker presentations and agenda.

**Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC):**

AACOM is an IPEC partner, along with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH).

The next IPEC program is the Spring 2016 IPEC Institute, scheduled for May 4-6 at the Dulles Hyatt in Herndon, VA. This faculty development institute will be focused on quality improvement and patient Safety. The agenda will showcase the latest developments in IPE and bring together leading health care speakers and experts to contribute to the two and half days of presentations and discussions. Current confirmed speakers include:

- John Bulger, DO, Geisinger Health Plan
- Carolyn Clancy, MD, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- David Farmer, PhD, University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Elisabeth Kalenderian, Harvard University, School of Dental Medicine
- Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH, University of New England
- Denice Stewart, Oregon Health & Science University, School of Dentistry
- Deborah Trautman, RN, PhD, American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- Marcia Wilson, National Quality Forum

**Government Relations Update:**

**AACOM’s next COM Day on Capitol Hill will be held Wednesday, March 2, 2016.** With Congress negotiating numerous policy priorities of importance to the COMs and their students, this will be an extremely important time to meet with Members of Congress and their staffs. AACOM schedules congressional visits with Representatives, Senators, and their staff members. It is vital to unite our efforts to advance osteopathic medical education and elevate the profiles of the individual Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Ed to Med Campaign**

On January 27, AACOM launched a national grassroots advocacy campaign, ED to MED, to give students, medical educators, and other advocates a voice in critical public policy decisions affecting medical students and osteopathic medical schools.

Congress is currently negotiating the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), the law governing federal student financial aid programs. Many of these programs impact osteopathic medical and other graduate and professional student loans and repayment options. With a united front, ED to
MED will help protect federal financial aid programs for medical students, reduce the regulatory burdens on osteopathic medical schools, and promote the growth of our physician workforce.

This dynamic grassroots advocacy campaign will elevate the federal policy priorities of osteopathic medical education and promote the collective voices of medical students and other advocates across the country. To learn more, visit www.join.edtomed.com.

Health Policy Fellowship Seminar
AACOM hosted the 2015 Health Policy Fellowship (HPF) Seminar December 3-4 at its headquarters in Chevy Chase, MD, followed by a breakfast and debriefing session on December 5. Fellows flew in from across the country to participate in the seminar, which featured interactive dialogue with prominent health policy makers and experts on the various roles in federal health policy.

Throughout the seminar, Fellows heard presentations from numerous federal officials, including:

- Robert McNellis, MPH, PA, Senior Advisor for Primary Care, Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement, AHRQ
- Thomas A. Mason, MD, Chief Medical Officer, ONC HIT
- Robert L. Jesse, MD, PhD, Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, Office of Academic Affiliations, Veterans Health Administration, VA
- Candice Chen, MD, MPH, Division of Medicine and Dentistry, HRSA
- James Cosgrove, PhD, Director, Health Care, GAO
- Greg Martin, Deputy Director, Stakeholder Engagement, PCORI

AACOM hosted additional speakers to engage the Fellows, including David Moore, Senior Director of Government Relations at the Association of American Medical Colleges; and Abigail Pinkele, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs at the National Association of Community Health Centers. In addition, AACOM Director of Congressional Affairs Mary-Lynn Bender, presented on the role of coalitions in federal health policy.

The Health Policy Fellowship Program is designed for individuals who are preparing for leadership roles in the profession and in health policy. The New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine coordinate this certificate program in health policy through a collaboration of AACOM and its member colleges, and the AOA.

Financial Aid Debt Management Modules
AACOM, in partnership with its Council of Student Financial Aid Administrators (CSFAA), has launched its 2016 CSFAA Financial Aid Debt Management Modules for Osteopathic Medical School Students.

These educational modules are offered by AACOM as part of the continued commitment to support osteopathic medical students in their pursuit of a DO degree and serve as a resource for financial aid representatives at the nation’s COMs as they provide the best educational debt management guidance possible for their students and future alumni.
This year’s available online series includes the following five modules:

- Financial Decisions in Residency and Fellowship—Handling Your First Income Bump
- Income-Driven Repayment Plans and Forgiveness as Part of Your Repayment Strategy
- Responsible Borrowing and Responsible Repayment—Special Tips for the Class of 2020
- Repayment Strategies for Osteopathic Medical School Graduates in the Class of 2016
- Student Loan Update—Financing Your DO Degree and a Preview of Repayment Strategies

The 2016 AACOM-sponsored modules were developed with the guidance of CSFAA and in partnership with Paul Garrard, MBA, of PGPresents, LLC, as a tool for COMs to use in conjunction with financial aid counseling and to educate incoming osteopathic medical students on financial aid debt management.

To access the modules, please visit http://www.aacom.org/ome/councils/aacom-councils/csfaa.

Advocacy Alerts
Government Relations staff regularly issue information and action alerts on the wide range of policy activities AACOM is addressing, and on federal funding and other opportunities. To view the alerts, visit http://cqrcengage.com/aacom/home. To sign up to receive AACOM alerts, visit http://cqrcengage.com/aacom/app/register?3&m=11737.

Department of Veterans Affairs Update:

AACOM has continued to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) on efforts surrounding the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA). Since this partnership began, AACOM has supported several informational webinars, as well as facilitated the dissemination of information and resources related to the VA’s GME Expansion Plan to the osteopathic medical education community and its GME partners.

For more information on the VA's GME Expansion Initiative, visit AACOM's VA GME web page. AACOM is currently in the process of developing a task force that will work with the Association in its effort to effectively gather information from a broad range of stakeholders and provide recommendations. The task force will be comprised of individuals who may currently oversee affiliation agreements between colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) and the VA, or are involved in establishing or managing relationships with the VA through an OPTI, clinical directors, program directors, directors of medical education, deans, and others with expertise and interest in this topic.

AACOM Annual Conference Update:

The AACOM 2016 Annual Conference will be held April 6-9, 2016, in Washington, DC. This year’s conference theme, “Osteopathic Medical Education: A Focus on Resilience,” will highlight the increasing role that resilience plays in the medical education and health care landscapes. Programming will discuss a wide array of resilience-focused topics, such as mental health, drug use, burnout, work-life balance, and more, as well as other crucial issues facing osteopathic academic programs, educators, and
students. For more information on the event and its programming, and to register for the conference, visit http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/conference.
Thank you for inviting the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s (AACOM) Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) to provide a brief update on our most recent and exciting initiative:

The Mental Health Awareness Task Force (MHATF)

COSGP has adopted Resiliency as its central theme for the 2015-2016 school year in response to student concerns about the growing need for mental health at their schools. COSGP is pleased to announce that it has partnered with several organizations including SOMA, the AACOM Board of Deans, COMSSO, and SOME to address the topic of mental health among osteopathic medical students and the stigma that is often associated with it. The task force’s action items are divided into three central goals that span a five year timeline.

1. The first goal is to anonymously survey osteopathic medical students at all COMs/SOMs about self-reported feelings of stress, depression, anxiety, and other wellness markers. With the research assistance and expertise of Dr. Elizabeth Beverly, PhD of OU-HCOM, an anonymous IRB approved survey has been distributed to osteopathic medical student nationwide. As of February 18, 2016, over 25% of the entire osteopathic medical student body in the United States has responded to this survey. This exceptionally high response rate highlights the importance of the topic of mental health and wellness among osteopathic medical students. Task force leaders Maureen McAteer, OMS-III of MU-COM and Daniel Krajcik, OMS-III of OU-HCOM will be presenting the survey results at AACOM's Annual Conference, the AACOM Board of Deans meeting, and the COCA meeting in April.

2. The second goal is to help fortify and/or change current resources that have been made available to students on their campuses. COSGP's Student Services committee has already begun collecting best practice models that currently exist at select osteopathic medical schools.

3. The third goal is to advocate for the mental health needs and wellness of all osteopathic medical students. The task force is passionate about beginning a movement of change: improving mental health among all osteopathic medical professionals, beginning with students.

This concludes COSGP’s update to the AOA Board of Trustees. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Breanne Hirshman
National Chair, AACOM’s COSGP 2015-2016
cosgpc@aacom.org
This year the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association are striving to “Take Tradition into Tomorrow.” This organization has a very important history with a strong foundation built by those first auxiliary board members in 1940.

The AAOA started traditions for members from across the country decades ago, and we would never have survived this long without those traditions. We appreciate those early Auxiliary board members who came together 75 years ago and in the following years to create the foundation for our organization. They built a solid base for us to build on and encouraged us to reach for the sky. They, and the AAOA, have succeeded!

However, we need to acknowledge that things have changed in the last 75 years. It can no longer be “this is how we’ve always done it”. Change isn’t easy. Sometimes it ruffles feathers. But in order to successfully flow with the changing times, we need to be willing to make some changes.

This year, our hope is to keep forward motion. The tradition is still there, but we must build onto this rock solid foundation to survive. We have to be open to trying new things and being humble enough to say out loud that it didn’t work.

As an organization, we are getting out there to talk to as many affiliates as we can. We have visits scheduled in Florida, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maine just to name a few. The exciting point with this is that the AAOA hasn’t been invited to Missouri in almost a decade, and what a great achievement to change that this year. What the state osteopathic associations are passionate about inspires us and gives us ideas of how the national advocates can help each state. For example, a great way that the AAOA can assist individual states is with our special projects funds and educational endowment funds that are available. If there is a state program that needs a little starter money to get it off the ground, an application is available right now on our website.

Also, the AAOA has been spending more time and energy on the development of SAA’s (student advocate associations) around the country; our students and their spouses are a high priority. Related to that, we are making an effort to work more closely with the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention project. For over a decade, the AAOA has partnered with Yellow Ribbon as a behind the scenes entity, but with an estimated 300 to 400 physicians dying annually from suicide, and with as many as 21 percent of medical students suffering from depression, we believe now is the time for the AAOA to take a bigger role in spreading the Yellow Ribbon message. If you’d like more information about this, please let me know.

Lastly, spearheaded by AAOA Past-President, Janet Burns, beginning last year, we partnered with the AOF to fund the Donna Jones Moristugu Award. This award honors and recognizes the partners of graduating osteopathic medical students who have gone above and beyond in supporting their student during medical school, and we hope to recognize them at each and every COM. The AOF agrees that having the Advocates promote this is a perfect fit, and we
hope to increase awareness of this award among our students and take a bigger role in the ceremonial presentations.

As tradition continues, we are holding the annual Fore You Golf Tournament on Saturday morning during OMED at the Tustin Ranch Golf Course, and we’ve moved the Fun Run to Sunday morning, most likely to be held on the hotel and convention center properties. We hope to see you at one or both of these fun events.

There are many many ways for you all to contact me and the AAOA board with your thoughts and / or ideas. We want to hear from you! I want to hear from you. Or your spouse or partner. Tell us why they are or are not an Advocate member. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, or check out the improvements and changes to our website.

It’s an amazing achievement for our organization to be 75 years old, and we are honored to be affiliated with the American Osteopathic Association and all of the people who have built it up over the years. We commit to represent the osteopathic profession with integrity and passion to the best of our ability. We hold our traditions close to our hearts as we move forward into tomorrow.
The American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), composed of osteopathic physicians serving on state osteopathic and composite medical licensing boards, is the unified authority in matters affecting osteopathic medical licensure and discipline. Strategically, the AAOE serves as the voice of osteopathic medicine within the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and collaborates to understand and react to state regulatory and licensing issues that impact osteopathic medicine.

The AAOE meets three times a year. Business meetings are held in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition (OMED) and the Annual Meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). This year we worked with the AOA to develop an integrated agenda for the Osteopathic Medical Educators and Leaders (OMEL) Conference. This meeting brought together osteopathic physicians interested in medical education, continuing education and regulation. The agenda focused on providing competency based educational opportunities for osteopathic medical students and physicians throughout the entirety of their career. Our AAOE Fellows found this meeting to be very informative and we look forward to collaborating for the 2017 program.

This report represents AAOE activities since their last Board of Trustees (BOT) update in October 2015.

Keeping DOs on State Boards Up to Date on Important Health Policy Trends
The AAOE held a business meeting during the OMEL Conference in San Antonio, TX. The meeting was a roundtable discussion of health policy issues effecting the osteopathic medical profession. AAOE Fellows that were present discussed state efforts to increase pain practice regulation in response to the growing prescription drug epidemic. The creation and regulation of assistant/associate physicians in Missouri and other states was also discussed, and AOA staff provided an update on recent activities to combat this type of legislation.

The AAOE continues to work with the AOA to promote the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. As a reminder, the AAOE and AOA worked together to ensure adequate osteopathic representation on the proposed Compact Commission. The Commission was created in 2015, and now 12 states have signed on to join the Compact.

AAOE Fellows continue to be concerned about the Supreme Court finding last year that ruled that state boards made up of active market participants must be actively supervised by the state in order to be exempt from anti-trust laws. Several states have proposed mechanisms for doing so, including having state attorneys general or legislative bodies
approve decisions made by regulatory boards. State reactions to this decision will likely be a focus of the upcoming FSMB Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA in April.

Participating in Federation of State Medical Boards Activities
AAOE Fellows continue to be active participants in several FSMB Committees, providing valuable insight from the osteopathic profession. James Griffin, DO and AOA Trustee Barbara Walker, DO both serve on the FSMB’s Nominating Committee. Several DOs are nominated/running for open FSMB Board positions in the upcoming elections in April.

Maintaining a Strong Relationship with the Osteopathic Medical Profession
In September 2015, Immediate Past President Geraldine O’Shea, DO represented the AAOE at the Osteopathic International Alliance meeting in Montreal. Dr. O’Shea presented to attendees on state-based licensure, the existence of 14 distinct osteopathic boards and the COMLEX-USA assessment tool used to license osteopathic physicians in the United States.

In addition to being represented on the Board of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, the AAOE participated in two NBOME meetings. During the Liaison Committee Meeting and Client Seminar, AAOE representatives participated in discussions around clinical skills assessments products for osteopathic medical students and physicians. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of tools to assure competency to practice as a central component to protecting public health and safety.

AAOE Fellows contribute to the mission of the AOA by serving on selected committees: Tim Kowalski, DO serves as the AAOE representative on the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medical Education & Affairs (BIOMEA); James Griffin, DO, represents the AAOE on the Bureau of State Government Affairs (BSGA); and AOA Trustees Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO and Barbara Walker, DO are members of the AAOE Executive Committee.

The AAOE website, www.aaoe-net.org, contains relevant, timely information for members and the public and is updated regularly through support from the AOA.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Z. Hayden, DO
President
Respectfully submitted by Gina Routh, OMS IV, SOMA National President

**Board of Trustees/National Board of Directors:**

- **Board of Trustees 2015-2016:**
  - National President: Gina Routh, OMS IV, DMU-COM
  - National Vice President (Speaker of the House): John Carlson, OMS IV, LMU-DCOM
  - National Treasurer: Michael McKenna OMS IV, MWU-CCOM
  - National Board of Directors Chair: Allen J Shepard, OMS IV, LECOM
  - SOMA Foundation Chair: Shumaia Rahman, OMS III, PCOM
  - Region I Trustee: Megan Emmich, OMS III, UNECOM
  - Region II Trustee: Anne Callen Washofsky, OMS III, ACOM
  - Region III Trustee: Alexander Smith, OMS III, OSU-COM
  - Region IV Trustee: Patricia Egwuatu, OMS IV, PNWU-COM

- **National Board of Directors 2015 - 2016:**
  - Community Outreach Director: Neil Bhathela OMS III, CUSOM
  - Strategic Partnerships Director: Sarah Manners OMS III, LECOM
  - Convention Coordinator: Nkeiruka Banda OMS III, PNWU-COM
  - Health Disparities Director: Jordan Hitchens OMS III, CUSOM
  - Membership and Alumni Affairs: Kate DeGraaff OMS IV, TUNCOM
  - Osteopathic Principles and Practice Director: Elise Craig OMS III, MSUCOM
  - Senior Pre-SOMA Director: Jacqueline Do, OMS IV, UPKYCOM
  - Junior Pre-SOMA Director: Gregory Sun OMS III, Rowan SOM
  - Political Affairs Director: Samantha Ward OMS III, MSUCOM
  - Professional Development Director: Marie “Liesel” Bergmeyer OMS III, LECOM
  - Public Relations Director: Elizabeth "Liza" Gibbs OMS III, CUSOM
  - Research Director: Shoja Rahimian, OMS IV, LECOM
  - Resolutions Director: Matthew Smith OMS IV, OSU-COM
  - Website Director: Ryan Huang, OMS IV, TUNCOM

**Updates by the Board of Trustees**

- **President**
  - SOMA continues to expand how we function and has developed a strategic plan to give us a foundation to continue to have growth each year and not lost as we transition officers.
  - SOMA continues to support our affiliate partners working with COSGP to select the Student Doctor of the Year, Mentor of the Year, Pre-SOMA events, NoNo and ShaDO, and Primary Care Organization Consortium.
  - Our budget has been an area of limitation for us this year and we have had to be creative to remain fiscally responsible. We are looking for new benefits to offer our members, creating new revenue sources, and holding two membership drives.
  - As part of the Bureau of Emerging Leaders I am excited to be part of the changes we are developing for young physicians, residents, and students.
• **Vice President**
  - Oversaw productive and successful House of Delegates at our Fall Convention and planning for a successful Spring Convention House of Delegates.
  - Continuing to work closely with Resolutions Director to encourage and oversee drafting, submission, committee review, HOD debate, and possible ratification of high quality resolutions to guide and direct SOMA for the future.
  - Ongoing work as chair of the Election Criteria Task Force. The most significant contribution to date of this Task Force was a resolution, which passed in our House of Delegates, to create the position of Parliamentarian as a member of the Board of Trustees.
  - Undertaking a project this Spring which will evaluate and review all current SOMA policy in our organization records. These policies will be reviewed, edited, and eventually compiled into an universally accessible, easily-searchable database on our website. This will allow our future leadership a foundation on which to operate, and give us transparency with our members regarding how we operate.

• **Treasurer**
  - Continue to chair the Revenue Task Force, creating and passing an official SOMA Affiliates Policy to better define relationships with outside organizations.
  - Along with National President, Administrator, and Executive Director, performed mid-year budget review to assess the current financial state of the organization. This allowed for the creation of plan for the remainder of our fiscal year that will allow us to remain within the confines of our balanced budget.
  - Made first contact with potential merchandiser for SOMA-Branded fundraising items to be available to every chapter. This idea was developed in the Revenue Task Force, and we hope to roll it out in the next year to create an additional revenue stream with which our organization can expand its programming and influence.

**Region Trustee Activities**

• **Region I Trustee:** Region I returned to their local chapters from OMED inspired and energized to share their experiences. Chapter leaders shared their take on the AOA Brand Awareness Campaign, and it spread through COM campuses creating excitement among students and support from their communities. Region I hopes to help the AOA in this mission of increasing DO awareness. Region I feels strongly about supporting SOMA’s Strategic Priorities and have chosen the specific priorities of “Voice” and “Visibility” to promote the SOMA mission. Region I has successfully implemented their “buddy chapter system” which allows for idea-exchange for fundraising and workshops among chapter leaders and SOMA members. Region I has a goal to complete two National Community Service Projects this year. Region I decided to make a tradition of the Pancakes for Parkinson’s fundraiser. The event for the majority of chapters has been completed and overall Region I has raised $2,000+ and counting! Thanks to our excellent Pre-SOMA Directors, Region I had successful National Osteopathic Night Outs as well.

• **Region II Trustee:** The chapters in Region II have been hard at work to create and perform community service projects that benefit the pediatric populations in their local communities. The projects have been diverse in their approach, but all have had great success. For example, the SOMA members at ACOM are building a tactile/sensory wall at a local elementary school for autistic students. LECOM-Bradenton students volunteered at a STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) Night event for an elementary school, and they are additionally planning an event for the patients at the Children’s Cancer Center in Tampa. For MUCOM’s Region project, they “adopted” three little boys with cancer for the holidays. Working with an organization called “Little Wish,” a philanthropy that gives small gifts (e.g. Xbox, clothes shopping spree) to pediatric cancer patients in Indiana, they were able to raise around $1,100. The Region also has welcomed two new chapters this year at VCOM-Auburn and OUHCOM-Cleveland, and those chapters are working hard to get up and running, and prepared for DO Day.
**Region III Trustee**  The chapters in SOMA’s Region III have been hard at work since OMED, pursuing both local projects and our region-wide support of the St. Baldricks Foundation. Last year, Region III raised over $141,000 to support the St. Baldricks Foundation’s efforts toward childhood cancer research and supporting patients and families suffering from childhood cancers. Region III is proud to continue its support of this cause, and is seeking to raise a similar total again this year. Chapters in Region III are regularly hosting events in support of St. Baldricks, including MSU-COM’s Monster Dash 5K this past October and OSU-COM’s multiple restaurant night fundraisers. All of these events build up to the main event of the St. Baldricks campaign, each chapter’s own head shaving event later this spring. Region III chapters don’t limit themselves to St. Baldricks efforts during these winter months however, and continue to be active in providing their members opportunities to learn and to give back to the communities that support our education. CCOM SOMA held a benefit auction that raised over $4,500 to send students to DO Day on the Hill. DMU-COM SOMA helped to host the World AIDS Awareness Series at DMU, expanding students’ knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS in our world today. KCOM SOMA teamed up with other clubs on campus to host a Hunger Banquet, providing students with a deeper understanding of the issues of world hunger. KCU SOMA organized a night helping out at the Ronald McDonald House and Mercy Children’s Hospital in Kansas City, allowing the students at KCU a break from the hard work of medical school to give back and be reminded of why we all work so hard toward our degree.

**Region IV Trustee:** Region IV has been out providing service to their communities since OMED. They agreed to an overall theme of creating projects that provide community outreach to underserved communities. Touro Nevada has taken upon themselves to volunteer at Shade Tree, a shelter for women and children. This is done twice a month every month, and they uplift the community that is often left without dinner due to homelessness by helping to provide meals. ATSU SOMA is working on having Adrienne White-Faines at their COM this Spring and is also increasing their outreach to their community by making yard mats for the homeless community. PNWU is hosting a Health Policy week Feb 16-19th to help bring attention to the importance of Health Policy to the PNWU COM by inviting speakers from the state of Washington that are active in Health Policy.

**Scholarships and Grants**

- **The SOMA Foundation**
  - The SOMA Foundation continues to thrive as a student-run foundation supporting scholarships and grants for osteopathic medical students. Donations from the donors have helped us plan to fund over $12,000 in scholarships and $5,000 in various community service projects.
  - We have traveled to Chicago and Orlando so far this year, where we have hosted receptions for our donors and scholarships recipients and participated in community service with SOMA. The SOMA Foundation will be participating in DO Day on the Hill, as well as the Spring SOMA Convention, where we will host a SOMA Foundation Night Out, show videos for the Northup Educator of the Year finalists, and celebrate our newest scholarship and award recipients. We are looking forward to welcoming a new Board Of Directors, including Incoming Chairperson Paul Robbins, OMS III, who will take the SOMA Foundation to even greater levels!
  - Thank you for your support and continuing to include the SOMA Foundation as a donation option on AOA Membership Dues.

**The National Board of Directors**

- **National Board of Directors Chair:**
  - Strategic Plan
    - Finalized and assigned <12-month S.M.A.R.T. Goals to responsible officers based on critical success factors and strategic priorities.
  - Created an improved template for creation of formal job descriptions for national offices.
  - Developed analysis techniques for monitoring our web traffic.
• Results: Membership, Pre-SOMA, Professional Development Resources, and Conventions have largest overall traffic.
  o Coordinated promotion of AOA Brand Awareness Campaign through our website and social media.
  o Initiated affiliation refinement discussions between SOMA Board of Trustees and SOMA Foundation leadership.
  o Worked closely with OPP director on initial drafts of student-friendly OMT trainings available throughout the year and a OPP Board Prep quick-reference publication.

Community Outreach/Public Health
• Health Disparities Director
  o Debriefed after the Health Issues in Transgender Population workshop from SOMA at OMED
  o Sent proposal to Board of Trustees regarding Primary Care Organization Consortium funded scholarship to be awarded to one or few local SOMA Chapters for a primary care focused project; waiting on confirmation of funds from PCOC and will soon thereafter send out SOMA Sunday advertisement for this scholarship
  o Continuing to work on a pre-packaged Minority in Medicine day to be put up on the website for access by all local chapters
  o Proposed idea for SafeZone workshop at Spring SOMA Conference; working on reaching out to organizations for funding for this workshop
  o Continuing to reach out to DOCARE Int’l for SOMA/DOCARE scholarship and other opportunities for collaboration

• Community Outreach Director
  o Current community outreach is focused on support of chapter and regional-level events taking place on COM campuses and surrounding community.
  o During both the Spring and Fall SOMA convention we hosted community outreach projects to give back to the communities and promote osteopathic medicine. This year we made blankets and mats for the homeless population in Chicago, IL and worked with Give Kids the World in Orlando, FL.

Political Advocacy
• Resolutions Director
  o Fall HOD created new position of Parliamentarian to oversee internal documentation, records, and Resolutions processes. This new position will be filled by special election at the Spring HOD.
  o SOMA HOD has passed 7 resolutions at the Fall Convention that will be sent to the AOA HOD.
  o SOMA is reworking an additional resolution that was referred back to us by the AOA HOD for revision and resubmission.
  o SOMA is preparing a blast email for this spring to help educate students on the resolution and HOD processes.

• Political Affairs Director
  o Added eight new resource fliers to the political affairs webpage including three fliers on general US Government structure, two on the single accreditation process with updates from OMED, and three on advocacy and policy as an osteopathic medical student.
  o Worked with Jeanine to help plan a timeline for DO Day on the Hill 2016, ensuring the effective and engaging involvement of students during the event.
  o Working with the OBI president and an OBI member to create a webinar or a workshop at DO Day on the Hill 2016 about advocacy on the hill, providing our members with even more preparation for their trip to Washington, DC.
  o Creating a workshop for SOMA's Spring Convention to teach chapter leaders how to hold political advocacy workshops on their own campuses
Outreach to Pre-Medical Students

- **Pre-SOMA Directors**
  - Continually adding new chapters everywhere while old chapters (for example Rutgers) are becoming active once more.
  - Held the annual Meet and Greet during the SOMA Fall Convention in Orlando. The pre-medical students also had the opportunity to meet and network with student leaders from each of our SOMA chapters. During the Meet and Greet, pre-medical students were provided the opportunity to meet with the Directors and had group sessions of mock interviews for medical school and were provided with tips and suggestions on how to approach medical school interviews. The pre-medical students also attended the workshops held by SOMA and OMED conferences.
  - NONO: National Osteopathic Night out was held in December with 63 sites and 143 pre-meds registering for the event. Some sites did not have any pre-medical students register; however, all the feedback we received has been extremely positive.
  - Our next event will be ShaDO Week scheduled to take place on April 17th to 23rd. Save the Date flyers to the medical students will be released to the Board of Trustees in order to be distributed to all the SOMA Chapters. We plan to become more student dependent and will be asking everyone on the SOMA National Board to take their part in terms of advertisement.
  - The goals of Pre-SOMA are being re-evaluated in order to include more mentorship and will be spearheading the Mentorship SMART Goal.

Osteopathic Development

- **Osteopathic Practices and Principals Director**
  - Created the SOMA High Yield OMM Study Guide, a 30 page document highlighting the most important OMM concepts, treatments, and diagnostic pearls that will be on the COMLEX exam.
  - Highlighted Chapter’s OMM events, clinics, and electives in the OPP SOMA Spotlight. Used this to help other Chapter’s find new ideas to pursue and to highlight the hard work of our members at their respective COMs.
  - Hosted two workshops at OMED, which were led by MSUCOM and OUHCOM OMM and Sports Medicine Physicians. Explored unique avenues of OMM that students have not had exposure to in their home OMM lab and learned new techniques for self-treatment.
  - Working with Chapters to create an OPP position on their executive board and encouraging them to work with their schools’ SAAO Chapters to collaborate and co-host OMM events.
  - Worked with National SAAO to provide students with powerpoints and handouts for new treatment techniques based off of presentations given at AAO Convention.

- **Research Director**
  - Extended calls for abstracts for the 2016 Ohio Osteopathic Symposium Poster Competition and Exhibition
  - Will soon begin advertisements for the next OMED research poster competitions.
  - Working with SOMA chapters on establishing their research pages for the SOMA Research Consortium, a database of Osteopathic student research.
  - Established communication with individual chapters regarding potential research as well as scholarship opportunities that they may apply for.

- **Professional Development Director**
  - Worked with Public Relations Director to create a “CV 101” presentation and resources for SOMA members. This was presented during the OMED Student Track in October and will be finalized and posted on the SOMA web page and given again as a workshop at the SOMA Spring Convention
- SOMA implemented a tracking process to allow for easy access important documents, pass along leader specific goals initiated by the strategic plan, and give guidance to a new officer. We plan to update these documents for our officer transitions in April.

- **Convention Director**
  - SOMA achieved 300 total registrations for its 2015 Fall Convention at OMED, including 6 non-members and 35 pre-medical students. This is an increase of more than 50 registrations over the previous year’s Fall Convention.
  - Continue to head the Convention Committee, wrapping up all details of the Fall Convention and gathering information from students regarding their experience of the SOMA/OMED combination experience. Students loved it and were very receptive to the idea of future collaboration between SOMA and the AOA to continue developing the OMED student track.
  - We are now in full gear of planning our SOMA Spring Convention in DC. Reservations and meeting rooms have been confirmed, and we will soon begin publicizing DO Day on the Hill and SOMA Spring Convention to our members and hoping for an awesome turnout to both events.

**Public Relations/Promoting the Profession**

- **Public Relations Director**
  - Worked with Professional Development Director to create a “CV 101” presentation and resources for SOMA members. This was presented during the OMED Student Track in October and will be finalized and posted on the SOMA web page and given again as a workshop at the SOMA Spring Convention.
  - Continually updating National SOMA social media to keep members up to date with information about the AOA re-branding, political advocacy, membership benefits and more.
  - Working with the PR Taskforce to create an official SOMA policy for potential future National SOMA Newsletter distribution.
  - Working on updating the SOMA Wikipedia webpage to include the most up to date information and links.
  - Working with the Strategic Planning Committee and other National Board Directors on the Strategic Plan roll out and associated S.M.A.R.T Goals.
  - Beginning plans to promote D.O. Day on the Hill and the SOMA Spring Convention.

- **Web Content Director**
  - Finishing the creation of a guide to the running and maintenance of SOMA’s new website, studentdo.org.
  - Continuing to innovate with our new website, creating a homepage with more dynamic content, highlighting current SOMA activities as evidence of how active our organization is.
  - Updated content on the political affairs page to prepare members for DO Day On the Hill and update members on political issues important to osteopathic physicians
  - Implementation of National Board of Directors pages and creation of an elect page.
  - To diversify our revenue sources I worked with the Strategic Partners Director to create contacts and sponsorship opportunities for the website.

**SOMA Membership, Benefits, and Alumni Affairs**

- **Membership and Alumni Affairs Director**
  - The Fall Membership Drive officially closed on October 18, 2015. Our chapters added a total of 3273 new members, the vast majority (3149) from the first year class. This represented 45% of the class of 2019.
  - SOMA is now gearing up for a Spring Membership push. Our Spring Membership drive materials will feature detailed listings of our many board prep discounts and will allow chapters to personalize the membership materials to fit the needs and interests of their school.
• **Strategic Partnerships Director**
  
  o Over this last year SOMA has continued to work on strengthening our current partnerships with outside organizations as well as finalizing some new and exciting agreements. With the help of members of the Revenue Task Force, the differing types of relationships we have with other organizations have been formally defined. We have defined these relations as partners, affiliates, and sponsors each having unique benefits and responsibility as well as clarifying the many relationships SOMA has with other organizations.
  
  o Another obstacle with the current contracts has been fulfilling the marketing requests of our partners while making sure there is benefit to the thousands of SOMA members. To address this problem, three separate “tiers” of agreements are in the making, each with different monetary value, responsibilities, and benefits to our members.
  
  o This year’s partners lunch at OMED was a huge success! Not only was it a great source of revenue, students and partners were able to interact and SOMA members were able to get a better idea of all the membership benefits SOMA has to offer. Currently the spring luncheon is in the works and we are hoping to make it even bigger and better!