

# FOUNDATION CHRONICLE

February 3, 2009

Right: SOMA National Board and Board of Trustee members pose for a picture following the adjournment of the SOMA House of Delegates in Las Vegas, NV.



## SOMA Foundation Information at a Glance

### We Would Like to Thank You

We knew we had a tough year ahead of us because the economy was down and money was tight. But this group of Osteopathic Students showed excitement and readiness to work together to make sure students across the country received recognition for their hard work and received scholarships. We first turned to our Osteopathic family: the AOA, State and Specialty Organizations, and past contributors and were delighted at the support we had from our community. At our Foundation booth during the summer and fall conventions we were once again pleasantly surprised by the support from past SOMA members who are now practicing physicians staying in touch through the AOA convention or participants in the AOA HOD. We would like to thank all of you for continuing to support the SOMA foundation through a time of financial uncertainty. 💰

Collin Lovitt  
SOMA Foundation Chairperson

### 2008 - 2009 Foundation Officers

In beautiful Washington D.C. the 2008-2009 Foundation Board of Trustees and National Board were elected. Serving for 2008 - 2009 will be: Collin Lovitt (TU-COM) Foundation Chair, Michelle Barbosa (TU-COM) Foundation Director, Michael Dominello (UNE-COM) Associate Director of Financial Affairs, Meghan Cox (C-COM) Associate Director of Grants, Sabeena Rahman (TUN-COM) Associate Director of Scholarships, and John Litchfield (WV-SOM) Associate Liaison.

### 2008 SOMA New Member Scholarship Recipients

SOMA Would like to congratulate the following recipients. Welcome to SOMA!

- Alex Voldman, NYCOM, OMS-I
- Chirag Vora, Western, OMS-I
- Darren Hall, AZCOM, OMS-I
- Jacqui O'Kane, PCOM GA, OMS-I
- Jennifer Luo, UMNDJ, OMS-I

# SOMA Foundation

## The 2008 - 2009 Year-In-Review

By Michelle Barbosa, Foundation Director

We are very pleased with what the SOMA Foundation has accomplished this year. Early on, the Foundation underwent a restructuring of our executive team. In keeping with the most current vision of SOMA, the executive board developed an updated approach to the goals and mission of the SOMA Foundation. Our objective, to be largest national organization dedicated to transforming motivated osteopathic medical students into dynamic health-care leaders advancing patient-centered medical care within the United States and abroad.

We owe much of our success to the generous contributions of those who believe in our organization and wish to actively support the future of osteopathic medicine. Year after year, corporate and individual donations have provided a major source of funding. This has once again held true and as a result, we are happy to announce the availability of many of our SOMA Scholarship opportunities:

- SOMA New Member Scholarship
- Humanism in Medicine Scholarship
- Pre-SOMA D.O. Day on the Hill Scholarship
- SOMA Summer Research Fellowship Award
- Marvin H. and Kathleen G. Teget Leadership Scholarship
- Medical Education Scholarship and Corporate Education Scholarship
- Andrew Taylor Still Memorial Scholarship
- SOMA Minority Leadership Award
- SOMA Award for Commitment to Diversity in Medical Education
- The Ed and Melissa Loniewski Medically Underserved Scholarship.

Each of these awards serves to recognize outstanding students for a job well done and encourage those who may wish

to pursue an education and career in osteopathic medicine. They are an outstanding resource to our student membership, providing experiences, that otherwise, may not have been possible. In the words of a previous Scholarship recipient, "I can attest that my involvement with SOMA and my attendance at these conventions has been absolutely invaluable, and has undoubtedly inspired me to set loftier goals and expectations for myself."

Outside of valuable student scholarship opportunities, the SOMA Foundation also works in close association with SOMA to support community projects. This year we are proud to have been involved with the Preventive Medicine project held at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum (LDCM) in Las Vegas, NV. Over one hundred participants took part in this event, which served to educate families about childhood obesity. Another great success this year was the SOMA Unity project held at the Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee, FL. The Unity project is undoubtedly SOMA's largest student-run event and this year we again teamed with the nonprofit organization at Give Kids the World to help fulfill the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

In closing, we are happy to report a successful and productive year for the SOMA Foundation. We are truly grateful to each of our supporters for making it possible and we look forward to honoring them at our Spring Foundation Reception in Washington D.C.

To learn more about the work of the SOMA Foundation or to learn how you can become involved with one of our many programs or scholarships please contact us at [director@studentdo.com](mailto:director@studentdo.com). ☛

**SOMA Convention Las Vegas, NV**  
 Left: Michael Ruzek and Michael Dominello find their own entertainment while staffing the SOMA Foundation Booth.  
 Right: SOMA Members enjoy an evening of music and dancing at The House of Blues.



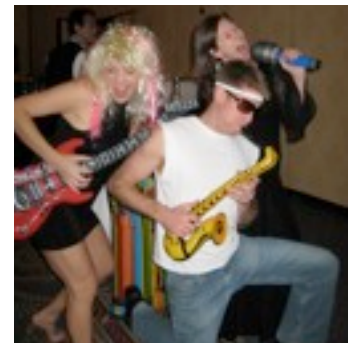
## Foundation Rocks with the Northup Teacher of the Year

By Collin Lovitt, Foundation Chairperson

Our reception theme this year was “SOMA Rock Stars” and boy did we Rock! Several students dressed up as their favorite rock stars, or what they would look like as a rock star. It made for a very entertaining and social environment. The real rock star was our guest of honor that evening, the Northup Teacher of the Year: Dr. Francine Anderson, Ph.D., PT, VCOM. She attended our reception with entire family in tow. It was an honor to have them present for such a special event. Raul Mirza, a VCOM student, presented this award to Dr. Anderson by reading the letter of recommendation he composed for her nomination. He told the audience of her long list of achievements and community involvements and, “Dr. Anderson possesses a combination of intellect, compassion and humility which makes her a fine educator, leader, successful researcher, devoted mother and wife.” He illustrated, “She lectures her classes with tremendous passion and holds affirmed the values and ethics of osteopathy and its relationship to anatomical research.” The SOMA Foundation proudly awarded the Northup Teacher of the Year to such an inspiring educator. 🎸



Above: Students from VCOM pose with Francine Anderson, Ph.D., PT.  
Right: SOMA Foundation members strike their best 'Rock Star' poses at the foundation reception.



### A Word From The Chairperson-Elect

Dear Family & Friends,

My name is Michael Dominello. I am a third year medical student studying at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in balmy Maine. This past year I have had the privilege of serving as the SOMA Foundation Associate Director of Financial Affairs. I am excited to announce that next year, I will be continuing my work within the organization as the SOMA Foundation Chairperson!

This past year has been an extraordinary year of transition and progress, from the development of a Foundation website where benefactors will have the option of contributing online, to our first ever Foundation Silent Auction, to the very restructuring of our board and executive responsibilities in order to advance continuity and connectedness between students and our patrons, who are so dedicated to supporting osteopathic medical students!

As SOMA Foundation Associate Director of Financial Affairs this year, I spent much of my time preparing for our silent auction, revisiting the SOMA Foundation mission and vision, and working towards bolstering our corporate sponsorship. Most excitingly, our First Annual SOMA

Foundation Silent Auction was held this past fall in Las Vegas during the AOA's Convention and Scientific Seminar. It was the Foundation's largest fundraiser this year with over five thousand dollars in donated items. Thank you to all of you who were in attendance and managed to make it to our tables amidst all there was to see and do both in the city and at the conference. Next fall's auction in New Orleans is sure to be a blast!

I want take a moment to sincerely thank you for your support of SOMA and of osteopathic education. Without generous donors like you it would be impossible for us to pursue our vision of providing leadership development for future osteopathic physicians, working to enhance the quality of patient-centered medical care through a keen promotion of osteopathic philosophy, advancing health education programs for the public, developing integrated programs to augment physician medical education, and advocating support for unity within the healthcare continuum.

I look forward to working more closely with all of you in the year to come. 🎸

With gratitude,  
Michael M. Dominello, OMS-III  
Chairperson-Elect


# Foundation Happenings

## Working With The American Osteopathic Foundation

By John Litchfield, Foundation Associate Liaison

This year the SOMA Foundation is proud to announce that it has secured two major grants from the American Osteopathic Foundation. The first is a grant for over \$6000 that will fund the creation of an online osteopathic preceptor database. This database, which will be accessed from our new website [[www.studentdo.com](http://www.studentdo.com)], will be used nationwide by osteopathic medical students to locate and evaluate osteopathic preceptors. The second grant is a series of awards which the AOF has termed Student Initiative Grants. In essence, these grants provide \$1000 to each college of osteopathic medicine to be used for student-led community projects. In the past similar grants were sponsored by the AOA and were used to help support fundraisers, health fairs, Midwestern's Dino the DO float in the Chicago St Patrick's Day parade, and other projects.

This year the Foundation held its Inaugural SOMA Foundation Silent Auction at the Fall AOA convention in Las Vegas. We had a broad array of items including tickets to the Venetian's Phantom of the Opera, a Coach purse, sports memorabilia and other items. Be sure to stop by our booth for the Second Annual SOMA Foundation Silent Auction this fall in New Orleans!

We are looking forward to other exciting partnerships with the AOF during this upcoming year, including the opportunity to participate in an AOF-sponsored service project at the fall AOA convention in New Orleans. 




### Preventive Medicine Project - Las Vegas, NV

Above pictures: Students from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia campus pose during the Preventive Medicine Project at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum.

## SOMA Combats Childhood Obesity

By Margaret Hallahan, National Preventive Medicine Director

This year SOMA made strides in Las Vegas, NV at the Fall Convention where thirty osteopathic students volunteered their time to teach families about childhood obesity. SOMA teamed up with the Lied Discovery Children's Museum ([www.ldcm.org](http://www.ldcm.org)) on October 26, 2008. Six interactive stations were set up to provide hands-on learning for the children and their parents, which included: BMI calculations, vital signs, nutrition, exercise, and all were given pedometers, supplied by the AOA. SOMA members were greeting families as they entered the museum, handing out pamphlets which included information about setting up healthy and realistic goals about diet and exercise, eating balanced diet and most importantly supporting one another especially having parents as role models. Not only did children from the community enjoy the afternoon of activities, but the high school volunteers at the museum enjoyed the interactive displays.

During the spring convention, SOMA will team up with a non profit organization, North Street Village, which provides services to homeless and low income women. They provide a day shelter, have case management programs, provide medical care and have job training programs on site for women. North Street Village has asked us to collect the following items: umbrellas, pillows, plus size bras and underwear, warm socks, sanitary pads, shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo (travel and regular), lotion (travel size), wash clothes, hand towels, bath towels, twin sheet sets (unopened), sweat suits (plus sizes), purses, and belts. We are collaborating with ACOFP chapters. For more information go to [www.nstreetvillage.org](http://www.nstreetvillage.org). 

# Humanism in Medicine 2008 Winning Essay

By Jane Chun-wen Teng, PCOM, Class of 2010

As one of my mentors Dr. Kuchera used to say: "You should always treat the patient, not the symptom," and I believe that this is the basic virtue that distinguish our profession as osteopathic physicians. Often times I see doctors spend only five to ten minutes talking to the patient and examining them at the same time, then rushing back to the office to write a prescription. Medicine as a profession is indeed a very rewarding career not only because it provides a stable income but also because the heartfelt enjoyment you received after helping others to become healthier and happier. This special feeling that you were able to make a positive change in others life is just beyond comparison.

Compassion is one of the most important qualities that every physician should have. Many physicians who while in medical school wanted to be compassionate doctors eventually lose their passion toward their patients. It is absolutely sad to see this happen and therefore I believe that we as physicians need to resurrect and maintain the patient –centered care that is part of our mission as osteopathic physicians and see to our patients as if they are part of our families, and treat them with the same respect and care that we would to treat our love ones.

As an osteopathic medical student I would always try to talk to my patients, try to understand them as an individual and not just another patient with the medical record number complaining about their illness. I remembered around the year of 1998 there was a movie called "Patch Adams" and it was about this doctor that has a very particular approach to his patient. Robin William is the main character of that movie and the most memorable moment from the movie was that during the hospital rounds unlike many other medical students just asking questions regarding the patient's symptoms and jumping into all the differential diagnoses, Patch Adam was the only doctor that tried to gets to know that patient as a person but not a pathological example.

Many years after I saw that movie I still remember many details, and I constantly remind myself to get to know my patient even when I am busy, and I try to listen to them with patience even when I am tired. Therefore, as a mentor I would tell my peers and colleagues to always treat others as how you wanted to be treated because one day your love ones may end up in the hospital, and you would also want the best possible health care to be provided to them as well. 💰

## The Future Direction of The Foundation

By Collin Lovitt

The SOMA Foundation has spent a great deal of time this year reorganizing and upgrading to help the future Foundation officers and members. We have established a website, centralized all SOMA scholarships, and are considering other means of fund raising than purely membership.

We hope our website, <http://www.somafoundation.org>, will be of great value to all of our members and supporters. We plan for this website to be a place for existing members to keep in touch with the foundation, and for new members to learn about our scholarships and projects. We also plan to feature information about our large contributors on this website as a way to say, "Thank you."

We centralized all SOMA scholarships. In the past, the contact person for individual scholarships was the National Board Officer; now the Foundation will be more involved with all SOMA scholarships to ensure money is collected and distributed in a timely fashion and that our contributors are thanked appropriately. We are also establishing billing cycles to maximize the benefits for our contributors.

The Corporate Advisory Board met this year in Las Vegas. After this meeting it was clear that the foundation should be considering other means of fund raising to supplement the funds from membership. This will be a project to watch for next year. 💰



Las Vegas, NV

Left: Members wait to enter The House of Blues for the AOF Banquet.

Right: Crystal Lenz, Michelle Barbosa, and Collin Lovitt discuss the Foundation with Booth visitors.

# THE FOUNDATION CHRONICLE

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### Upcoming Events

- March 5, 2009 - Washington, D.C.
  - D.O. Day on Capitol Hill
- March 6-7, 2009 - Washington, D.C.
  - SOMA Spring Convention
- October 31, 2009 - New Orleans, LA\*
  - Corporate Advisory Board Meeting
  - Foundation Reception

\*Date subject to change

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The Student Osteopathic Medical  
Association Foundation  
C/O The American Osteopathic  
Association  
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Chicago, IL 60611