

# AΩA @ USU

## Exciting Changes at USU AΩA



Evan Baines ('16) teaches Tactical Combat Casualty Care at the Mid-Atlantic Student Wilderness Medicine Conference

The past four years of medical school have flown by for the Class of 2016, never mind the year we spent at the helm of the Maryland Gamma Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha. Nevertheless, we are very proud of our accomplishments in such a short period of time. Jeremy's "Message from the AOA President" summarizes some of those changes and, with your help, lays the foundation for future success. Dr. O'Malley welcomes our new members in his quarterly message. I am certain that our Chapter will continue to be successful under the talented and able leadership of the Class of 2017. We have

### SPRING 2016

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*Learning to Care For Those In Harm's Way*

one of, if not the most unique Chapter in Alpha Omega Alpha, and I look forward to seeing where we can take our Chapter - together as students, faculty, residents, fellows, and alumni. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alumni Chair over the past year.

Very respectfully,

ENS Brian Andrew, Class of 2016

## Message from the AOA President

It is hard to believe that it has been a full year since the USUHS Class of 2016 took over the reins for the USU AOA Chapter and it has been a great year! There have been many notable achievements and innovations in the Chapter that I will highlight below. But first, I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank Dr. O'Malley for his superb leadership and confidence in my class and for helping to support us throughout this year.

This past year has seen the development of the quarterly newsletter by Brian Andrew, which has been a great outlet for spreading news to all of our chapter members and one of the first and important steps in networking with all members. We made a tremendous leap forward in both communications and capabilities in the chapter with the new Chapter website ([www.usuaoa.org](http://www.usuaoa.org)) that I hope by now many of you have already seen. That great leap forward was a product of the tireless efforts of Evan Baines and his wife, Amanda. The AOA election process was streamlined and improved through the work by Mike Meyer, David Lin, Colin Smith and Evan Baines which continued to help the Chapter select the very best new members from a highly qualified field of applicants. Our community service programs remained strong and connected with the local DC metro area through the guidance of Matt Ward. Colin Smith, as the awards officer, was instrumental in the submission of our national level awards and implementation of our inaugural chapter level awards.

There are so many great initiatives to highlight, but I want to pay special attention to our Alumni Associations that have been in development at SAMMC in San Antonio, NMSD in San Diego, and TAMC in Honolulu through the local leadership of those Alumni Associations of Dr. Hughes, Dr. Wessman, and Dr. Meldrum, respectively. Our goals as a chapter is to further strengthen our relationship with all our members and I encourage everyone to become active with fellow members in your area and if you do not have an alumni association in development then I would encourage you to begin the process for establishing one. Dr. Hughes and Dr. Meldrum have been directly involved in the process and I'm sure would be happy to mentor the establishment of alumni associations at our other military medical centers.

In line with the progress made this past year and now looking toward the future, we are planning to increase our impact both locally in the community, within the School of Medicine and WRNMMC, as well as with our members remote from the National Capital Area. To do this we need the support of our chapter members through annual dues. Dr. O'Malley recently attended the Annual AOA National Councilor Meeting and queried other chapters concerning the institution of chapter dues and what he learned was that nearly every other chapter collects due to support chapter activities. We are one of the few chapters that doesn't, but also we are one of the largest and most active chapters.

Our plans for future development include the institution of a "Fellow in Leadership Award", providing a \$3,000 grant for leadership development and outreach to our alumni associations. To this end, I would like to ask all members to contribute \$35 for our annual chapter dues. Next year we might have the option for lifetime dues similar to AOA National to alleviate paying them annually for those members that choose to do so. Payment of dues is a simple and easy process through the chapter website.

I'm excited about the announcement of the newly elected AOA members and the inaugural Chapter Award winners that you will see highlighted later in the newsletter. It is also my pleasure to introduce the new Class of 2017 AOA Chapter President, Andrew Branting, who will be taking over for me after our graduation on Saturday, May 21st. We will be recognizing the new members and award winners at our annual AOA Banquet on Friday, May 13th and look forward to visit with those members that are able to attend. Also, as a special note, if you have recently moved or have changes in your contact information please update it with AOA National and you can also send us any updated email addresses. We use the information from the National database to keep our own roster updated so that we are connected with our members.

Again, it was a great year and I'm honored and humbled to have served as the President for the USU AOA Chapter. I'm thoroughly confident in the new leadership that will be taking over and know that they will continue to lead us to new heights. Let us all remember to "Be Worthy to Serve the Suffering" in our daily lives.

Very respectfully,

2nd Lt Jeremy Bolin, Class of 2016

## Message from the AΩA Councilor

Spring is AΩA Season for the USU Gamma Chapter, with all the many activities going on. Our chapter has been extremely active this past year, with a lot to be proud of, ably led by our student leadership. We submitted applications for almost every AOA award. ENS Ross Bodnar won the student research award. 2nd Lt Jeremy Bolin was chosen to serve on the National AOA Board. Our Chapter members participated in many service projects, to include helping more junior classmates leap across their next thresholds of becoming physicians. The chapter members selected the most recent additions to the Gamma Chapter: students, residents, fellows, alumni, and faculty.

We welcome our newest members, and hope they can help us be even more worthy to serve the suffering in our future endeavors. Part of this initiation includes the annual Banquet where we more formally announce our newest members, and re-ignite the embers of our own version of "**The Pharos**", the lighthouse that symbolizes our mission: to inspire physicians and trainees to seek a higher calling within our profession, academically, educationally, and in

selfless service to our community, especially for the marginalized and less fortunate. Finally, the Chapter will host an invited Distinguished AOA Professor to share inspiring thoughts to our members. All of this work and activity is done on a bare bones budget. There is much more that our community can do if only we had the resources. We recently instituted annual dues for the Gamma Chapter, and we ask all our members to faithfully fulfill this request in order that the Gamma Chapter may dutifully serve our broader mission to be worthy to serve the suffering in a more effective and meaningful way. Look for a communication from our chapter members with a link to our new website, artfully designed by Evan Baines and others. Our website allows for an easy way to submit annual dues. Join me in thanking Jeremy Bolin for leading the Gamma Chapter so well this past year, and let's welcome our new leadership, with a challenge to take us to another level of excellence.

*Patrick G. O'Malley MD, MPH, FACP  
COL, MC, USA*



"...The Pharos, the lighthouse that symbolizes our mission: to inspire physicians and trainees to seek a higher calling within our profession, academically, educationally, and in selfless service to our community, especially for the marginalized and less fortunate"

~ Dr. O'Malley

## Congratulations to our new AΩA Members!

Please join us in welcoming our newest AΩA members. A special thanks goes out to the members from the Class of 2017 who will be taking on leadership roles following graduation in late May.

### Class of 2017

Andrew Branting – *President*

Jeremy Brenneman – *Vice President*

Douglas Morte – *Treasurer*

Nate Bastien – *Webmaster*

Shannon Thompson – *Newsletter/Communications*

Adrienne Wendling – *Service Activity Lead*

Tyler Short – *Satellite Chapter Lead*

Michael “Ben” Larkin – *Student elections*

Yevgeniy Maskimenko – *Student elections*

Cindy Lee Pubols – *Resident, Faculty, Alumni elections*

Michael Eckhoff – *Resident, Faculty, Alumni elections*

Kelley Flesher – *Awards and Outreach*

Donald “Trey” Colantonio – *Alumni Outreach*

Khang Lu – *Underclass Outreach*

John Curtin – *Underclass Outreach*

Elise Sienicki – *Local Fellowship*

Jakob Fischer – *Local Fellowship*

Ryan Mann – *AOA Specialty Night*

Bryan Adams

Subodh Arora

Taylor Bates

Thomas Bohman

Theodore Crisostomo-Wynne

Timothy Gregory

Aimee Moores

Elizabeth Schroff

Matthew Smith

### Residents/Fellows

Adam Barelski

Michael Cahill

Michael Hann

Luke Oakley

Benjamin Vipler

### Faculty

Joseph Brennan

Matthew Eberly

Stephen Harrison

Micah Hill

### Alumni

Christopher Bunt

John Csokmay

Arthur Guerrero

Brian Hemann



## Congratulations to our Inaugural Chapter Award Winners!

Please join us in congratulating the following individuals who have been honored with our inaugural Chapter awards. Their dedication to the principles of AQA is an inspiration to us all.

**Dr. Heather Yun** – winner of the USU Alpha Omega Alpha Faculty Teacher of the Year Award, presented annually to recognize one outstanding attending physician directly involved in the teaching at the graduate and/or undergraduate medical education level.

**Dr. Normal Waecker** – winner of the USU Alpha Omega Alpha Faculty Mentor of the Year Award, presented annually to recognize one outstanding attending physician directly involved in mentoring that may encompass one or more of the following categories: medical students, residents, and/or faculty

**Dr. Todd Gleeson** – winner of the USU Alpha Omega Alpha Volunteer Faculty of the Year Award, presented annually to recognize a single community physician who contributes with distinction to the education and training of clinical students at USU.

**Dr. Elizabeth Perkins** – winner of the USU Alpha Omega Alpha Resident Teacher of the Year Award, presented annually to recognize one outstanding resident/fellow physician for exceptional achievement related to teaching and mentoring.

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## Congratulations to our Student Research Award Winner!

Please join us in congratulating **Yaroslav “Ross” Bodnar**, who was awarded the 2016 Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship for his research in identifying the quantitative computed tomography imaging biomarkers of response to pulmonary tuberculosis therapy. The Kuckein Student Research Fellowship provides \$5,000 for support of student research in addition to \$1,000 reimbursement for travel to present research results at a national or international meeting. Congratulations Ross!



View of Kampala, Uganda from the top of the minaret of the Gaddafi Mosque, with Colin Smith ('16). Taken during a four-week rotation in Uganda as part of the Tropical Medicine Capstone. Photo credit: Brian Andrew

## IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to David Lin ('16) who was selected to receive the AMSUS Award for the Class of 2016! The AMSUS Award is presented annually to the graduating senior who has best demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership and academic involvement.

Our chapter president, Jeremy Bolin ('16), is doing some fascinating research into the utilization, functional recovery, and health outcomes data from patients who have had peripheral nerve injury repair using the Avance Nerve Graft. His multicenter retrospective study is the fulfillment of his Capstone project.

Charlie Meyer ('16) submitted his research on "Olfactory Neuroblastoma with Carcinomatous Differentiation: An Unusual Histologic Finding in a Rare Tumor" at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth resident poster competition and was awarded first place. Charlie will present his work, conducted with LT Erin Hamsley, DO, and LT Rudolfo Mansalvo, MD, at the Consolidated Otolaryngology Spring Meeting in May.

The first volume of *Progress Notes*, the first and only literary review for federal healthcare students, will be released in mid-May. *Progress Notes* is the culmination of the Capstone project of Colin Smith ('16), Donovan Reed ('16), and Brian Andrew ('16) who created the literary review with several other fourth-year medical students, including Evan Baines ('16). Throughout the year-long endeavor, Dr. Adam Saperstein (Tulane, '00) has helped steer the process as the faculty advisor and editor in chief.

Evan Baines ('16) joined two other fourth-year medical school classmates to present a morning lecture and an afternoon skills session on Tactical Combat Casualty Care at the Mid-Atlantic Student Wilderness Medicine Conference in April 2016.

*Do you have news to share? Email [shannon.thompson@usuhs.edu](mailto:shannon.thompson@usuhs.edu) to be included in the next issue. We want to hear from our alumni! Photography & poetry are also welcome.*

## Important Dates / Upcoming Events



- **2016 Spring Banquet** – Friday, May 13 at Maggiano's Little Italy (5333 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC). Cocktails at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30. Please RSVP by May 1 at [www.usuaoa.org](http://www.usuaoa.org). Admissions is \$65 / person.
- **Visiting Professor Lecture** – Dr. Aaron Baggish, cardiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and responder to the Boston Marathon bombing, will give a lecture on Friday May 13 at 1400 in Lecture Hall A.



## A Parting Thought: Stay Curious, My Friends



“Wonder” by Alex Grey

*“Men go forth to marvel at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, the broad flow of the rivers, the vastness of the ocean, the orbits of the stars, and they neglect to marvel at themselves.*

*~ Saint Augustine, about 400 CE*