

Vital Signs

The Tulane SOM Student Government Newsletter

Note from the Editor

As the semester comes to a close, the Medical Student Government has been working for the change you seek. As per students' requests, the Murphy Building's hours have been changed on Sundays to 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. A new, flat-screen television has been delivered for the gym, and an order for additional furniture has been placed for the sixth floor student lounge. We are still accepting submissions of student artwork to adorn the lounge walls.

The coffee service has been upgraded and increased. Coffee is now available in the Murphy Lounge and Bowers Auditorium in the Poydras Building. Contact MSG representatives Sean Kim (T1) and Melissa Adrouny (T2) with any concerns about those services.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who lent their resources to aid the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. After the destruction of Hurricane Gustav, we were able to send the students 125 white coats, over 300 books and obtain a donation from *3m Stethoscope*.

Keep up the great work future MD's of Tulane. And on behalf of the MSG, we hear your desires and concerns. If you want to see change, get in touch with us at msg@tulane.edu.

Christina Le, class of 2011
Vital Signs Editor
MSG Secretary

From the desk of Dean Marc Kahn

I would like to thank everyone for allowing this year to get off to such a smooth start. We continue to have a high level of interest in our school among applicants. This year, we have over 600 more paid applications than last year, and total over 7000 applications. I am very pleased with the role that many of you have played with our admissions process. Our student body is our finest asset and allows us to continue to attract excellent students.

The T4s are well underway with their residency application process. We look forward to an excellent match this March.

(Continued on pg 2)



Inside:

From the Deans...1-3

Club Updates...8-11

Class updates...4-7

Calendar of Events...12

Dean Kahn, cont'd from pg 1

Did you know that the net present value of a Tulane MD degree is over \$640,000? Want to learn more? We will be having an information session on the combined MD/MBA Program on November 20 at noon in room 6001.

I know that the Murphy Building continues to be a great asset for us. Per student request, we have extended the hours of operations on weekends. Remember, after hours parking can be obtained through Parking Services.

I want to remind you that the Tulane Wave Runners continue to meet on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in Audubon Park across from Gibson Hall. Additionally, runners may be interested in the Ole Man River half marathon on the levee that will occur on Sunday, November 23. See www.runnotc.org for details. Keep up the great work!

Marc J. Kahn, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs

From the desk of Dean Kevin Krane



By this time of year, most students have their routines down well. However, I do want you to take note of a number of new initiatives. We have resumed the Interdisciplinary Seminar Series for third year students.

This series, disrupted by Katrina and now re-introduced, offers a variety of topics in which students can participate, at their own choosing. Most seminars are offered multiple times and dates and students are required to participate in five seminars over their third and fourth years.

Complete information is available at: www.som.tulane.edu/courses/interdisciplinary_seminar.html.

Students from the surgery and psychiatry clerkships have already begun clinical experiences at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge. Other clerkships are currently exploring opportunities for students as well.

Plans are now underway for the new large classroom which will be constructed on the 2nd floor of the Murphy Building.

This facility will be able to host team-based learning, lectures, and small groups and will be supported by multiple LCD projection screens and movable tables and chairs. Both students and faculty are involved in the planning process.

Construction on the simulation center on the 3rd floor of the Murphy Building continues with an official opening scheduled for January 2009.

Opportunities for students to participate in simulation activities as part of their medical education are also underway. Stay tuned for more updates as these facilities open.

N. Kevin Krane, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

From the desk of Rev. Owens

The fall semester is coming to end rather quickly. Next on our list is Thanksgiving and the winter holidays and New Year's. Again this year Barbara and I will be sending out an invitation to any student who does not have a place to go for Thanksgiving to join us at our home. As one student put it a couple of years ago "Father Don, my parents don't want me! I have no friends! And I am broke!! Can I join you all for Thanksgiving?"

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

We always have room at our table. We are in the middle of interviewing this year. A lot of great candidates have come our way. I look forward to the interview season. As you know I really enjoy being part of this great process. I get a chance to meet a segment of the class before they arrive in August. As many of you know I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I am available to any student, faculty, or staff member who would like to come in a talk. This can be for any reason. What is said in my office remains confidential. So remind folk that there is a safe place to drop by and unload. I also have referrals to make when wanted. I continue to hold weekly services. I celebrate the Eucharist (Mass) on Wednesdays on the 15th floor of Murphy. You can see the announcements around the school. Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and do well on your exams.

Fr. Don

Tulane Medical Alumni Affairs

Dear Medical Students:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and to let you know that the Tulane Medical Alumni Association now has permanent residence on the downtown campus once again. I am located in the Hutchinson Building right next to the dean's office. My contact information is below.

Here are the kinds of things that I can help you with:

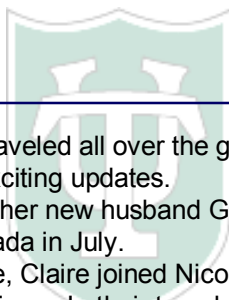
- Alumni physician mentors in specialty areas that you may be interested in pursuing
- Finding an alumnus in the city and state that you will be visiting while being interviewed for your Residency that will host you at his/her home during that time
- Running a report from our database to find physicians in particular cities, along with their specialty
- Invitations to medical alumni events for networking purposes
- Providing Tulane Medical Alumni Lunch and Lecture opportunities

The possibilities are endless. Please also note that I have a small refrigerator that contains soft drinks and water just for you! Stop by and take a quick break and introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you and assisting you during your years of medical training at Tulane. I admire your dedication and tenacity and I wish you great success.

Sincerely,

Cynthia T. Hayes
Tulane University Office of Alumni Affairs
Executive Director
Tulane Medical Alumni Association

Class of 2009 Update



Greetings from the Class of 2009! Having traveled all over the globe for away rotations and volunteer opportunities, our classmates have some exciting updates.

First off, congratulations to Claire Fung and her new husband Gregory Block! The two were married amongst friends and family in Toronto, Canada in July.

After enjoying a few months of newlywed life, Claire joined Nicole Gilg in a volunteer mission to Lesotho, Africa with the organization Touching Tiny Lives. In their travels, they worked with children with HIV/AIDs and their extended family members to support the health, nutrition, and emotional needs of these young patients.

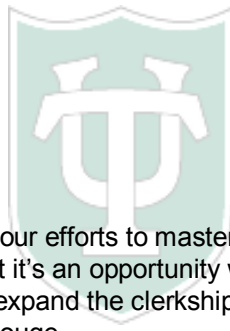
Meanwhile, across the globe in L.A., Molly Dorfman took a break from her visiting clerkships on the West Coast to compete on Trivial Pursuit, the TV Show!

Alanna Higgins also enjoyed her away rotation, getting to spend a month studying Pediatric Radiology at Northwestern.... and getting engaged! Tim Joyce, Alanna's fiancé, just started his MBA at Kellogg and he popped the question during her visit—congratulations!

And a final note to the Class of 2009-- keep collecting and submitting your pictures for the yearbook by emailing tsom09@gmail.com or bringing one of your class officers a flash drive or CD-ROM. Looking forward to all the upcoming festivities of fourth year and best of luck with travels and interviews!

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Class of 2010 Update



The Class of 2010 has been keeping busy in our efforts to master the wards. It's been an interesting adjustment, but I can say with confidence that it's an opportunity we've looked forward to for quite some time. The Tulane administration is hard at work to expand the clerkship program to include rotations at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge.

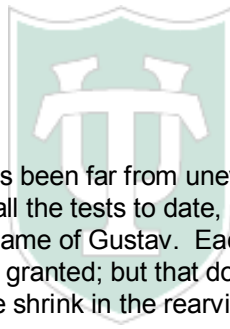
Students have recently begun clerkships in surgery and psychiatry, and other areas are on the horizon. The third years are looking forward to gaining knowledge through their experience at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, as it one of the busiest hospitals in the state.

Outside of rotations in Baton Rouge, each month a handful of third years venture to Pineville, in North Louisiana, for their obstetrics gynecology rotation. One student describes it as a very unique experience that lent itself to a "summer camp" feel; living in 2 person dorms, working together, eating together, and spending their off hours cooking, fishing, and exploring rural Louisiana.

Outside of the academic realm, many T3s have been equally busy with extracurricular and community service projects. The T3 flag football team "Doc Jocks" is competing in the intramural championship beginning this Friday. "Rostral-Caudal," the T3 band, made a guest appearance at a recent Music and Medicine and preformed original songs; "Expectations," "Left in the rain," and "Calypso 59."

The T3s have also managed to stay involved in Fleur De Vie and the Bridgehouse, where our 4 months of clinical experience has proved valuable. We are also preparing as a class to participate in the American Heart Association Heart Walk on Saturday, November 15 at 9 a.m., for any of you who would like to join us.

Class of 2011 Update



Salutations from the Class of 2011!

The year is young, and yet our second year has been far from uneventful. Obviously, we are ecstatic to have four rounds of exams under our belts. But, of all the tests to date, perhaps the greatest was not of subject matter but instead a brawny hurricane by the name of Gustav. Each of us came to New Orleans with the full awareness that tomorrow is not to be taken for granted; but that does not change our love for the city and the fear of loss that is bound to watching its skyline shrink in the rearview.

Evacuating the city brings more than inconvenience to the daily routine of a student, it implies the fragility of New Orleans' very existence. But in the moments of anxiety that led up to the evacuation, a few students looked at their city and saw an opportunity to help. Our class can be proud that Dorothy Contiguglia, Joe Mather, Tim Park, Alex Sledd, and Allison Smith all answered the call of the Red Cross to help hundreds of people with a need for evacuation as well as chronic and emergency care through the week of the storm.

Since those days past, the school year has returned to a full sense of normalcy. In celebrating the ends of a couple of strenuous blocks, the class of 2011 took an early evening to enjoy some subs 'n suds in the park (with dozens of furry friends in tow) and most recently spent an afternoon bowling down at the Rock 'n Bowl followed by a night of dancing at the warehouse district's very own Red I.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

With the changing air of autumn comes the inevitable evenings of flag football. The class men's and coed teams are both eyeing the playoffs, with dreams of victory and celebration keeping each player awake late into the nights.

And not to be forgotten, the Second Annual TUSOM Battle of the Sexes Bowl will be kicking off in a few short weeks, where the ladies are planning to build their record to 2-0 after a lucky break in the final seconds of last year's game helped them to erase a 42-0 deficit. The day will include a BBQ and half-time performance by The Royal We to please the throngs of ravenous football fans sure to find their way to the game. Team captain Pooja Sethi has been spotted frothing at the mouth and guaranteeing a ladies' victory- will the walk back up the talk? Only time will tell.

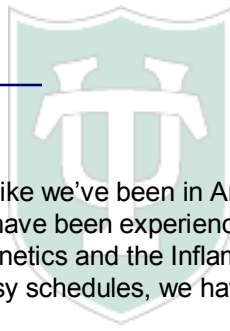
QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

To round out the fall recap with a bit of fantastic news, the class of 2011 recently welcomed the new baby boy of Mike Davis and his wife (pictured below) and is anxiously waiting to greet two more as Stacy Fernandez-Rodrigue and her husband are expecting their first and Brian Benson and his wife are awaiting their second.

Congratulations all around! It is our sincere hope that the T1's now feel fully acclimated to the city and school, and that the T3's and T4's find continued success through their clinical journeys. May we all enjoy the change in weather and the new opportunities it brings.

Brian Adams
Class of 2011 Secretary

Class of 2012 Update



Greetings from the Class of 2012!

We are three months into school and it feels like we've been in Anatomy lab for much longer than that! We swear, we can't tell what we smell like. T1s have been experiencing the new curriculum change, which boasts a systems based design as well as taking Genetics and the Inflammation block during our first year. However, through the evacuation, adjustments, and busy schedules, we have managed to fit in lots of other activities as well as time for chillaxin'.

The T1s had a strong showing at Race for the Cure (picture on the right, taken by Sajal Tanna) including top finishers Kevin Kniery, Jove Graham, and Liz Kelly. Many T1s helped out at the blood pressure tent, putting our recently acquired vital sign taking skills to practice. In other outdoor news, all of the T1 intramural teams have made it to the playoffs based on sheer skill and talent. Exciting!

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Owl club reps have been hard at work this year, from putting on challenging practice practicals to being the first group to successfully obtain permission to obtain online recordings of Histology, Anatomy, and Embryology.

Pet Therapy, a new service learning project, was recently approved thanks to the efforts of Holly Peek. This project allows med students to bring their pets to visit and socialize with the residents of St. Margaret's Daughters Nursing Home. William Kethman has been working hard on a provisional patent for an umbilical cord device in conjunction with the Biomedical Engineering Department at Tulane. Also, Jasdeep Dhaliwal, ladies' man emeritus, has been hard at work coming up with new pick up lines. Ask him to share some of his gems with you and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Also there was a lot of participation in the growing and shaving of Block 2 Beards that took place at the Fly (picture on the left taken by Sajal Tanna).

To take advantage of those rare and precious free moments, Shaun Hanson has put together a book club that meets every month to discuss their awesome reads. Their November read? Cosmicomics by Italo Calvino... sounds fancy. Shai Rosenfeld gathered a few avid music fans and formed an email music ring so everyone can share their favorite tunes as well as get some new tracks for their playlist.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

The T1 officers, Vaughn Alexis, Tanmay Mathur, Jason Coddington, and Julie Wang have been working hard to put together a tailgate in Baton Rouge for the Tulane vs. LSU game on November 1st, this was only possible due to the

Tulane Alumni Association and MSG. All in all, it has been a busy few months but we all know that this is just the beginning. We are looking forward to rockin' the Block 3 Exams, finally making it out of the Anatomy lab, and many more free lunches.

From the cubicle of: Julie Wang, T1 Secretary

Club Updates



American Medical Women's Associations (AMWA)

This fall started out with a joint meeting between AMWA and Race for the Cure to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness month. We had over 50 people signed up to run on the Tulane team which is one of our highest turnouts ever!

We elected our three T1 reps congratulations to Sandy Mudge, Elizabeth Kelly, and Caitlin Howard! Later in October we will continue our support of Susan G Komen with our annual tee-shirt sale and breast cancer ribbons. We will conclude the fall with a lunch meeting featuring Dr. Jeanette Magnus chair of Women's Health at Tulane's School of Public Health. Stay tuned next spring for a women in medicine panel and Heart Disease prevention month in February.

Rudolph Matas Surgical Society (RMSS)

RMSS has had yet another successful fall recruiting session with a large portion of the Class of 2012 coming in to learn more about the surgical specialties. Among those interested, four of the T1's were selected to act as representatives for the first year class. We would like to take this time to congratulate Sarah Berkey, Alex Caten, Jason Coddling, and Julie Wang on joining the leadership of RMSS.

They will work alongside the current second year officers and representatives to lead the many activities being offered by RMSS this fall. The Sterile Techniques Clinic will take place again, with dates set up on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout November.

This clinic gives first and second year students the opportunity to learn how to scrub in and observe surgeries from a first hand perspective. We will also again be hosting suture clinics in conjunction with the Emergency Medicine Interest Group. In these sessions surgical and emergency medicine residents, as well as fourth year students, take time to teach RMSS and TEMIG members the finer points of knot tying as well as basic sutures.

Finally, for the first time RMSS hosted a Resident's Fair on Wednesday October 22. Residents from General Surgery, ENT, Neurosurgery, Urology, and Orthopedics spoke to RMSS members about their fields and then entertained questions from the crowd.

This busy schedule of events has also been supplemented with lunch meetings hosting notable Tulane surgeons to further educate the RMSS members and hopeful surgeons.

Club Updates



Owl Club

Dear colleagues,

I hope you all had a great start for this academic year.

Here's a quick update on what Owl Club has in store for you in the next few months:

1. The Owl Club is in the process of organizing a USMLE Step 1 forum/panel for current T2s. You will be presented with crucial statistics on Tulane's performance in the last few years and also tips on how to succeed in this exam. This event will take place in early January. Please stay tuned!
2. Congratulations to the newly elected T1 reps! (please see list at http://tmedweb.tulane.edu/owlclub/?page_id=67) If you have any questions, comments or issues with a specific class, please let your respective Owl club reps know. It will be much more efficient for us to communicate and solve any potential problems with course directors and different departments.
3. Owl Club is working with MSG on developing a comprehensive guide for T3s and T4s on tips to succeed in residency, and also a similar guide for T1s and T2s on tips to succeed and perform well in 3rd-year clinical clerkships. Both guides should be finished and made available to students in the next few months. Stay tuned!
4. Owl Club Awards Ceremony Banquet: This is an event at the end of the school year that is hosted by students, organized by students, and serves to recognize outstanding departments, faculty, attending and residents for their teaching efforts. The night consists of great music, food, wine, and a chance to mingle with your fellow classmates, residents and faculty! You will not want to miss this night. Again, more updates to come in the next few months.

Best of luck for the rest of this semester. Please let us know if we can help you with anything.

Owl Club Board:

President: John Moustoukas jmoustou@tulane.edu

Vice President: Phil Chou lchou@tulane.edu

Treasurer: Jen Creedon jcreedon@tulane.edu

Secretary: Dustyn Williams dwillia4@tulane.edu

T3/T4 rep: Alex Carterson acarter@tulane.edu

T2 rep: Melissa Adrouny madrouny@tulane.edu

T1 rep: Holly Peek hpeek@tulane.edu

Club Updates

Tulane Outreach to Romania (TOR)

TOR is leading a specialty-oriented medical mission to several impoverished communities in rural northeastern Romania at the end of March 2009. The mission team will consist of both Tulane and Romanian medical students and physicians. Our focus will be on consultations in obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, and cardiology, and well as patient education and preventive medicine.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming evens and please join us in making a difference locally. Please feel free to contact us to learn more about our upcoming medical mission to Romania!

Sina Pourtaheri and Radu Postelnicu

Tulane Christian Medical Association (TCMA)

We at the Tulane Christian Medical Association have enjoyed a great start of the new academic year, and have welcomed many enthusiastic, new members from the class of 2012. We have had a number of enjoyable and productive outings including a BBQ in Audubon Park with our Public Health sister organization. We're planning an ethics debate catered luncheon for later in the year. Our upcoming plans include a community service project and a summer humanitarian mission trip to the High Atlas Mountains in sub-Saharan Morocco. Email Justin Miller if you would like to be added to the list-serve or if you have any questions about our group.

Membership to the Tulane Christian Medical Association is open to all students. Weekly and monthly meetings and activities are also open to all students, staff, and faculty.

President – Justin Miller Jmiller7@tulane.edu

Vice President – Matt Epps Mepps1@tulane.edu

Treasurer- Shaun Hanson Shanson@tulane.edu

Social Chair- Natalie Rodden Nrodden@tulane.edu

Service Chair- Brittni Scruggs Bscruggs@tulane.edu

Tulane Dermatology Interest Group (TDIG)

The Tulane Dermatology Interest Group (TDIG) has gotten off to a great start this year. We would like to congratulate Bridget McEvoy-Hein and Ryan Neff on being appointed as TDIG's T1 representatives.

We have been busy learning about interesting clinical dermatology cases, and getting to know the residents and physicians by attending weekly dermatology grand rounds at the Tulane hospital. Currently, we are planning informative lunch meetings with the Tulane dermatology residents, physicians and professors.

Anyone with the slightest interest in dermatology is welcome to attend our meetings or join us on grand rounds. Please email Secretary Julie Kumata at jkumata@tulane.edu if you have any questions or would like any more information.

Club Updates



Tulane Asian Medical Student Association (TAMSA)

This year's Bubble Tea Day was a great success! For those who couldn't make it, be sure to look for an upcoming email: we'll be having another one soon so that everyone gets a taste of good bubbly yumminess.

The Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association's (APAMSA) 15th National Conference this past mid-October in the city of Brotherly Love was co-hosted by the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Temple University School of Medicine, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - School of Osteopathic Medicine chapters of APAMSA.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

There were speakers with expertise in a wide range of topics relevant to Asian Pacific Islander (API) health and medicine, that lead seminars and workshops throughout the conference.

Of the many speakers, a few members of TAMSA that attended got to meet Tao Le, MD, the author of the well-known First Aid Step 1 review series! We got to talk to him in person and he divulged all the secrets to beating Step 1...perhaps he'll be going to next year's conference in UCLA so you'll be as lucky in getting to talk to "the" man!

Make room for October in your calendar for next year! Maybe it's a bit too early to plan for Fall '09

but not for Spring '09. Keep your schedule open for the Asian New Year celebration early spring loaded with events such as Health Fair Screenings at local Asian communities, Tea week, and a surprise event yet to be released to Tulane Med. (We can't tell you everything now!)

Anything you'd like to see more of? Suggestions or comments?
We're more than happy to address your concerns with a cup of black milk tea. (^-^)

Calendar of Events



2008:

November 27-28 Thanksgiving Break
December 20-Jan 4 Winter Break

2009:

January 19 MLK Day Holiday
February 23-27 Mardi Gras Break
March 19 Match Day for class of 2009
April 9 Passover
April 10 Good Friday
April 16 Professionalism Day
April 24-26, Jazz and Heritage Festival, City Park
April 30-May 3
May 16 Commencement
May 29 Year ends (class of 2012)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.