Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are having a wonderful summer.

Highlighted earlier this year, SOAS continues to offer a lifetime membership option. Please join myself, Bob Schenck, Brian Robinson (1998), Jen FitzPatrick (2010), Sanagaram Shantharam (1992), John Franco (2003), Deana Mercer (2008) and Kevin McGee (2008) as lifetime members in the Sandia Circle. In addition to furthering all of our causes as an alumni society and assisting the Department of Orthopaedics residents, membership in the Sandia Circle will accelerate our ability for SOAS to reach endowment status with the University. We have also begun looking into ways SOAS can assist the orthopaedic residents during each year of their residency.

In June, the 33rd annual Alumni Conference took place in Albuquerque in conjunction with Residency/Fellowship graduation ceremonies. This summer, we published the 3rd issue of the University of New Mexico Orthopaedic Research Journal. A copy is attached to this newsletter and is also available online at http://orthopaedics.unm.edu/research/research-journal.html. The journal will also be mailed to all of our affiliates of the Department, and every orthopaedic residency program in the country. Information in this year’s journal includes updates about the Department and original articles from the residents, faculty, division of physical therapy, and alumni.

This fall, I hope to see you all at our 4th Annual Eric Thomas SOAS Memorial Golf Tournament slated for September 6, 2014. Please make plans to attend! To sign up, call Ryan Wood at (505) 272-8745 or at rwood03@salud.unm.edu.

Please visit our recently updated webpage at http://orthopaedics.unm.edu/soas/et.html for additional information about SOAS, Sandia Circle, the Joel Lubin Professorship fund, the Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament, along with a new photo gallery of our events. If you have not yet renewed your SOAS membership or made a contribution to SOAS, we encourage you to get involved.

Should you have any questions about your 2014 dues, lifetime membership opportunities, or other upcoming events, please call Ryan Wood at (505) 272-8745 or email rwood03@salud.unm.edu.

Sincerely,

Dean W. Smith, M.D.  
Class of 2000  
SOAS President

John Franco, M.D.  
Class of 2003  
SOAS Vice President
33rd Annual Alumni Conference Gets Good Reviews

For the past 33 years, the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation has hosted an annual conference here at the University of New Mexico in honor of its graduating residents and fellows. It is a special day set aside for the whole department to gather, learn from the graduating trainees as they present their finished research projects, enjoy the camaraderie of returning alumni, and to discuss current trends in the practice of orthopaedic surgery.

This year’s conference was a great success. It focused on adult hip reconstruction and salvage surgery. More than 100 participants attended the conference, including alumni from New Mexico as well as Colorado, Oregon, Montana, North Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee. Visiting with returning alumni is always one of the most enjoyable parts of this annual event. For those of you who have not come back to Albuquerque for a while, I encourage you to do so sometime soon.

Powerful Presentations

As always, the day begins with presentations of original research projects by the graduating trainees. Drs. Deana Mercer and Thomas DeCoster continue to improve and build our research program here at UNM. Under their guidance, the strength and quality of research in the department seems to get better each year, and the result was reflected in this year’s excellent presentations. Congratulations to our graduating chiefs and fellows on a job well done!

For our guest presentation this year, we were fortunate to have world-renowned speaker Dr. Robert Trousdale from the Mayo Clinic join us for the weekend. His two presentations, “Joint Salvage Surgery in 2014” and “Keys to Successful Hip Revision Surgery,” were fantastic discussions of state-of-the-art, evidence-based topics in adult reconstruction. Each talk was followed by a panel consisting of current faculty, alumni and local colleagues from the private community. Drs. Christopher Hanosh, Selina Silva, Rick Gehlert, Michael Archibeck, Krishna Tripuraneni, and Joshua Carothers all shared their considerable expertise during the case-based panel discussions with Dr. Trousdale. Thanks to all of you for participating this year!

Technique Talks

Drs. John Franco and Dan Eglington, both UNM alumni, presented during the program as well. Dr. Franco gave a fantastic talk with lots of great video content on current indications and techniques in hip arthroscopy, Dr. Eglington also gave a very interesting review of stem cell treatment options for osteoarthritis of the knee. In addition, Dr. Ed Sweester, a colleague of ours who practices in Las Cruces, NM, gave an excellent presentation on “Quality, Cost, and Value in Joint Replacements.”

I would like to personally thank Mary Jacintha, Ryan Wood, Drew Newhoff, and Tony Pedri, who all helped make this year’s conference a success. Our moderators this year, Drs. Deana Mercer, Gehron Treme, Christopher Hanosh, and Michael Archibeck helped keep the discussion lively and entertaining. Thank you!

I invite everyone to next year’s conference set for Friday, June 5, 2015 at UNM in Albuquerque. Any alumni interested in presenting are welcome and encouraged to contact me directly at 505-272-4107. We always appreciate and enjoy hearing and learning from our alumni!

Eric C. Benson, MD
Course Chairman
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each quarter, we select an alumna from the University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation to highlight in our Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society (SOAS) newsletter’s "Where Are They Now?" column. In this issue, we proudly spotlight Sandia Circle member Deana Mercer, MD.

Rumor has it she regularly survives on as little as four hours of sleep. Not unusual, you may say, for a former University of New Mexico orthopaedics resident who recently gave birth to her fifth child. But considering she is also an active surgeon, assistant professor and research director with UNM’s Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, for which she also co-edits The University of New Mexico Orthopaedics Research Journal, and you get a strong sense that Dr. Deana Mercer does not squander hours in a day.

Deana was born in Puerto Rico and is one of 10 children. Inspired by her internist mother, Dr. Ann S. Mercer, Deana earned her own M.D. in 2003 from UNM’s School of Medicine where she also completed her five-year residency. She fulfilled her first fellowship year at the University of Washington for shoulder and elbow surgery and returned to UNM for her second year focusing on hand surgery.

Deana has become a whirling dervish of activity and accomplishment since joining the faculty at UNM’s Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation in 2010. She regularly gives presentations for professional organizations like the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and teaches classes for the Southwest Orthopaedic Trauma Association. Adding to her extra-curricular activities, Deana ascended to the role of vice president for the New Mexico Orthopaedic Association this past June.

In 2012, Deana was nominated to participate in the inaugural UNM Health System Medical Leadership Academy. As if she wasn’t busy enough, the two-year class required Deana to attend quarterly, day-long meetings and even involved homework! She graduated from the Academy in June, just one month after earning a Master’s of Science in Clinical Research from UNM.

Deana was a driving force in facilitating the Perry Initiative twice at UNM during 2013. The renowned program pays homage to Dr. Jacqueline Perry (1918-2013)—one of the nation’s first board-certified orthopaedic female surgeons—and provides hands-on, day-long curricula to local young women interested in orthopaedic surgery and engineering.

Knowing all work and no play can make a dull doctor, Deana’s down time is spent pursuing personal challenges like marathons and mountain biking (in 2012, she competed in La Ruta de Los Conquistadores—a Costa Rican bike race billed as “one of the most difficult athletic events on the planet”). She balances her athletic activities out with gardening and taking fun family vacations to locales like Lake Tahoe. Deana also enjoys reading classic literature like The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand and re-watching her all-time favorite flick Star Wars.

Turn-of-the-century craftsman Gustav Stickley once avowed that “the keynote of life is work and that upon the honesty of work depends all that is worthy and lasting in art and life”—words that motivate Deana. One thing she personally finds worthy is supporting UNM’s Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation and its residency program. “That’s why I joined the SOAS Sandia Circle,” she says.

Thanks, Deana, for your outstanding leadership and generous support!
### Incoming Intern Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Bankhead, MD</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Dollahite, MD</td>
<td>Reedley, CA</td>
<td>California Polytechnic Institute State University</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Gilligan, MD</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>University of New Mexico</td>
<td>University of New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Johnson, MD</td>
<td>Bountiful City, UT</td>
<td>University of Utah</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Wojcik, MD</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>University of Colorado</td>
<td>University of Colorado</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outgoing Chief Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Godfrey, MD</td>
<td>Littleton, CO</td>
<td>Colorado College</td>
<td>University of Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Jobe, MD</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth McCord, MD</td>
<td>Soldotna, AK</td>
<td>Montana State University</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Morrell, MD</td>
<td>Port Washington, WI</td>
<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>Stanford University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Orr, MD</td>
<td>Zionsville, IN</td>
<td>Dartmouth College</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td>UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incoming & Outgoing Fellows

**Incoming Fellows**

**Tamas Bardos, MD - Sports**
Undergraduate: N/A
Medical School: University of Pecs - Hungary
Residency: University of Pecs - Hungary

**Blake Clifton, MD - Sports**
Undergraduate: Brigham Young University
Medical School: University of Vermont
Residency: Texas Tech University

**Andrea Lese, MD - Hand**
Undergraduate: College of William & Mary
Medical School: Ruprecht-Karls Universität - Heidelberg, Germany
Residency: Yale University

**Ahmed Thabet, MD - Trauma**
Undergraduate: Benha University - Egypt
Medical School: Benha University - Egypt
Residency: Benha University - Egypt

**Norfleet Thompson, MD - Hand**
Undergraduate: University of Vanderbilt
Medical School: University of Tennessee
Residency: University of Tennessee

**Outgoing Fellows**

**Stephen Becher, MD - Trauma**
Undergraduate: University of Georgia
Medical School: Columbia University
Residency: Atlanta Medical Center
Fellowship: Orthopaedic Oncology - Emory University

**Todd Bradshaw, MD - Sports**
Undergraduate: Texas Tech University
Medical School: Texas Tech University
Residency: Texas Tech University
Practice: Amarillo Bone and Joint Clinic - Amarillo, TX

**Cory Carlston, MD - Hand**
Undergraduate: Westminster College
Medical School: University of Utah
Residency: University of Southern California
Practice: UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center

**Lindsey Dietrich, MD - Sports**
Undergraduate: College of Tulane
Medical School: Louisiana State University
Residency: University of Alabama Birmingham
Practice: Orthopedic Medical Specialties - Arlington, TX

**Matthew Martin, MD - Hand**
Undergraduate: University of Cincinnati
Medical School: Case Western Reserve University
Residency: Plastic Surgery - Medical Education Partners
Practice: The Hand Surgery Center/Elite Plastic Surgery - Grand Rapids, MI
We hope to see you there!

contact Ryan Wood at 505-272-8745 or email rwood03@salud.unm.edu.

Join Dr. Tom DeCoster as he attempts to pull-off his first victory for the fourth year at the Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament. Enjoy a day of fun with friends and colleagues in support of the UNM Orthopaedic Residency and Children’s Cancer Fund of New Mexico. For more information, or to make a donation, contact Ryan Wood at 505-272-8745 or email rwood03@salud.unm.edu.

4th Annual Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 6, 2014
8:30 a.m. shotgun
UNM Championship Golf Course (UNM South)

For more information, or to join, please contact Ryan Wood at 505-272-8745 or email rwood03@salud.unm.edu.

Meet the Sandia Circle today by committing a pledge of $25,000 over 5 years ($416/month) to help current UNM Orthopaedic residents with financial burdens and better their experience in the same program that trained you.

Join the Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership.