Dear Colleagues,

It is that time of year again for our fall newsletter. Now in our 8th year, SOAS continues to gain funding and become more involved with the current residents, thanks to the generous support of our orthopaedic alumni, the Sandia Circle, and the Department of Orthopaedics.

On September 6th, we hosted our 4th Annual SOAS Memorial Golf Tournament at the UNM South Championship Golf Course. It was a beautiful Albuquerque September day and the golf course was in exceptional condition due to all the rain this year. The event was another huge success with over 85 registered players competing in a scramble format. The event honored and celebrated the life and legacy of Eric Thomas as well as highlighting SOAS and its benefits for our alumni and current residents. I would like to thank Ryan Wood in the Department of Orthopaedics and our volunteers for another outstanding job in organizing this tournament!

I would also like to thank the following companies and organizations for their generosity and support of this annual event: Kelly’s Pub, Scarpas Restaurants, New Mexico Orthopaedic Association, UNM School of Medicine, Golf Tec, Range Rover, Car Quest, Hanger Clinic, SRMC, Krinsky Carter Investment Management, and Admiral Beverage.

This past summer, our 3rd publication of the SOAS sponsored University of New Mexico Orthopaedic Research Journal was released and sent to all of our alumni, affiliates of the Department, and every orthopaedic residency program in the country. Information in this year’s journal included updates about the Department and original articles from the residents, faculty, and division of physical therapy.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2015 AAOS meeting in Las Vegas and we hope that you all will make plans to attend or support the 3rd Annual Joel Lubin Memorial Professorship at UNM next April.

Please visit our webpage at http://orthopaedics.unm.edu/soas/join-soas.html for additional information about SOAS, the Sandia Circle, the Joel Lubin Professorship fund, our SOAS Memorial Golf Tournament, or the Department of Orthopaedics. If you have not yet renewed your membership or made a contribution to SOAS, we encourage you to get involved. We need your support to become fully endowed which will solidify our role as an alumni society for generations to come!

You can also call Ryan Wood at (505) 272-8745, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dean W. Smith, M.D.
Class of 2000
SOAS President
The University of New Mexico’s Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation will grow its faculty numbers to 28 within the next few months – more than nine times the number of orthopaedic surgeons since the department’s inception in 1970. Included among incoming faculty are two UNM Orthopaedic Surgery Residency and two UNM Fellowship-trained orthopaedists.

Joining the department’s roster of new faculty this fall is Dr. Dustin T. Briggs. The former UNM Orthopaedic Surgery resident recently completed a Lower Extremity Reconstruction Fellowship in July at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, CA. Briggs is a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He returns to the Albuquerque area with his significant other, Callie.

Dr. Cory V. Carlston joins UNM’s Division of Hand and Microvascular Surgery in September. He is a graduate of the University of Utah School of Medicine and completed a UNM Hand Fellowship in July. Carlston previously completed an orthopaedic residency at LA County+USC Medical Center in Los Angeles. He currently resides in Albuquerque with his wife, Haylee, and their four children.

Also starting in September, Dr. Jessica C. McMichael will divide her time between UNM’s Division of Orthopaedic Trauma and Division of Pediatrics. She formerly served as an orthopaedic surgeon at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and recently completed a fellowship in pediatric orthopaedic surgery at UC Davis/Shriners Hospitals for Children Northern California. She resides in Albuquerque with her husband, Pete, and their daughter.

Dr. Urvij Modhia joins UNM’s Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) in Rio Rancho this fall. The former UNM Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery Fellow is a graduate of Gujarat University in India. He recently completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Modhia and his wife, Payal, have a son and daughter.

In addition, Dr. Charlotte E. Orr is joining the department’s faculty at Sandoval Regional Medical Center this month. She earned her MD from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in Lexington. Orr graduated from the UNM Orthopaedic Surgery Residency program earlier this summer and currently resides in Albuquerque with her husband, Jarrod, and their two children.

Also, new to the department is Assistant Professor Dr. Christina Salas. She completed her undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at UNM where she went on to finish both her Master’s and PhD in biomedical engineering. She now helps facilitate all orthopaedic research in the department.

Sixteen of the UNM Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation’s 28 faculty members are former graduates of either a UNM Orthopaedic Surgery Residency or Fellowship program – a “true testament to the rewarding and supportive work environment we foster here,” says Department Chair and Professor Dr. Robert Schenck. He expresses gratitude “to all residents, fellows, and faculty in the department who help us recruit such excellent new faculty.”
Dr. Deana Mercer Chosen as an ASSH Young Leader

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Dr. Deana Mercer, Assistant Professor with the University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, has been chosen as a participant in the 2014 American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) Young Leaders Program. Mercer is one of 15 “young, talented hand surgeons selected to participate out of nearly 50 qualified candidates” from throughout North America, says ASSH President Dr. Scott Kozin, who chairs the program.

Now in its 10th year, the 2014 ASSH Young Leaders Program will provide participants with interactive sessions focused on governance, best practices in voluntary leadership, advancing the field of hand surgery, achieving consensus and fostering community at the ASSH Council Meeting set for December 4-6 in Chicago. Program participants will also actively “help us address strategic issues of current importance to the Society,” says Kozin.

Mercer is a 2003 graduate of UNM’s School of Medicine where she completed both her residency and a Hand Fellowship with Orthopaedics. She is a recent graduate of the UNM Health System Medical Leadership Academy and serves as Orthopaedics’ research director. Mercer also serves as vice president for the New Notable Alumni & Faculty Activities

Thomas DeCoster, Trauma Fellowship Director - Was awarded a $5,000 trauma fellowship educational grant for 2014-15 by the Center for Orthopaedic Trauma Advancement (COTA).

Bryon Hobby, Class of 2012 Trauma Faculty - Presented on "Nonunions: What Are They? How Do They Happen? What Can We Do About Them?" at the 34th Annual Fall Primary Care Update for New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistants held September 11-13 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Charles Pribyl, Hand Class of 1989 - Was ranked in the top 5, respectively, in this year’s Top Doctors annual survey, put on by Albuquerque the Magazine. Dr. Pribyl has previously won the distinction of top orthopaedic doctor in Albuquerque more than once over the last few years.

Dean Smith, Class of 2000 - Published a chapter in: A Master Series: Athletes Hand and Wrist. Received faculty appointment as Clinical Instructor with the University of Texas—Houston Department of Plastic Surgery. Recognized as one of Houston’s Top Doctors in H Magazine, Houstonia Magazine, and Vitals.com Patient’s Choice Award on multiple occasions.

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

Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership

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

Register at: http://som.unm.edu/calendar2015.html

UNM Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education

7:30a.m. - 5p.m. Closing
Friday, January 30, 2015
Topic: Pediatric Trauma

Hospital Winter Conference
45th Annual Caire Tingey