UVM College of Medicine Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter

Report to Executive Director of AOA 2012

In 2012 the University of Vermont College of Medicine Alpha Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society continued to develop as a group devoted to acknowledging students and faculty/alumni that have excelled academically and in leadership roles, and in identifying our future leaders in medicine. We have worked to improve several of our processes and as a chapter have had a number of our students and trainees involved in national AOA programs.

AOA page on the UVM COM Alpha Omega Alpha page on UVM COM website

In early 2012, with the revision of the UVM COM website, we implemented a page devoted to chapter and national AOA activities found here: [http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/mededucation/?Page=honors.html&SM=students_menu.html](http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/mededucation/?Page=honors.html&SM=students_menu.html). The page links to our list of current student inductees and to the national AOA website and the Pharos. A Powerpoint™ presentation that reviews information from the UVM COM chapter and details those programs offered by national AOA has been included.

Annual AOA ppt presentation to 1st/2nd year medical school class

To better inform medical students of the activities of the local chapter, the processes used to determine student induction, and grant and publishing opportunities available through national AOA, a presentation is given to a combined group of 1st and 2nd year students in October of each year, with an opportunity to ask the chapter councilor questions.

Awards/ submitted essays /GME grant proposal

In 2011 our chapter was successful in receiving both a Medical Student Service Leadership Project Award and a Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship, as well as receiving an honorary mention for a student essay entitled “Carlos Finlay, Walter Reed, and the politics of imperialism in early tropical medicine” by Daniel Liebowitz, first year medical student.

In 2012 we have continued with two students submitting essays to AOA for consideration. Our chapter has also endorsed an application for the recently instituted AOA Postgraduate Award from Andrew Ross, M.D., PGY-2 in the Department of Radiology at Fletcher Allen Health Care/University of Vermont
College of Medicine entitled "Benefits of a Pre-Natal Ultrasound Program in Rural Uganda".

**Revised AOA nomination processes**

Our process for selecting students for nomination into AOA has been completely revised and updated for 2012. First, we established an AOA selection committee comprised of nine faculty and in-training AOA members. This committee meets in the spring and summer each year to review chapter processes and to select student nominees from the next year’s graduating class. We have instituted a spring 3rd year nomination process to identify 4 student members of the next year’s graduating class. From these 4 nominees, two officers (President and Vice-President) are selected, whose responsibility is to develop the annual AOA service project for AOA student nominees. The remaining nominees are selected by the committee in the summer between the 3rd and 4th year, using a newly-developed process that measures academic, service, leadership, and research accomplishments using an objective scoring system following anonymization of student applicants.

The process of selecting an annual faculty and graduate medical education inductee continues as previously, with the graduating students nominating individuals who are then evaluated by the AOA councilor and inductees chosen. The Volunteer Faculty Service Award has been reinstated, and a process has been developed whereby the UVM COM Alumni Committee nominates an alumnus who has demonstrated significant academic and leadership accomplishments as the alumni inductee. These three individuals are acknowledged at the annual AOA induction dinner.

**Annual AOA induction dinner and AOA Visiting Professorship**

Our annual AOA induction dinner is held in May each year during the week preceding medical school graduation. The dinner is held in conjunction with the induction ceremony for the Golden Humanism Honor Society and senior awards night. In 2012, our chapter initiated an AOA Visiting Professorship program with the visiting professor serving as the keynote speaker at the AOA induction dinner. For 2012 the UVM AOA Visiting Professor was Dr. John Niparko from Johns Hopkins University Medical Center. The opportunity to host the annual AOA Visiting Professor rotates amongst the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Psychiatry, Neurology, and Family Medicine.