AΩA Autumn Event

Our chapter began this Autumn with a fantastic new event. The Autumn event was the brainchild of AΩA Gamma Chapter’s President and Vice-president Cedric Pritchett and Sireesha Achanti, who wished to create a forum in which AΩA members throughout their careers could meet, socialize, and exchange ideas. On October 21, in the Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium, AΩA faculty, residents, and medical students (including our newly inducted seniors) gathered for a loosely structured opportunity for interaction, guidance, and fellowship. After time to mingle and sample the much-anticipated hors d’oeuvres, the participants were assigned to tables of nine. Conversations were notably diverse. Attendees told stories of their medical journeys and medical students discussed their future goals. There were lively, good-natured exchanges on college football and the upcoming elections and there was ample opportunity for students to have invaluable one-on-one discussions with faculty mentors. These discussions were especially appreciated by the students during this pivotal moment in their careers as they prepare for residency interviews and the match.

Interspersed among the time for conversation were speeches from leaders within AΩA and within the Ohio State Medical Center. Fourth year medical student and president of our chapter, Cedric Pritchett, opened the evening explaining how this event was meant to connect the various members of AΩA beyond the once-per-year induction ceremony. He spoke of the importance of interaction between students and faculty stating, “It is important to realize that students really are a large part of the face of the chapter, and yet a face detached from the head and body is a lifeless, deceptive façade - with very little to offer.”

We were fortunate to have Dr. Souba, Ohio State’s Dean of Medicine, share his perspective. Dr Souba emphasized that AΩA membership is a special privilege and distinction. He stressed that AΩA was about more than just academic excellence and praised the importance the Ohio State Gamma chapter places on service and leadership.

At the conclusion of the evening, Dr. Gabbe, Ohio State’s Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, spoke of the history of AΩA. He quoted the founder of AΩA, William Webster Root, who exclaimed that the honor society was to serve as a protest against “a condition which associated the name medical student with rowdism, boorishness, immorality, and low educational ideals.” This quote elicited the intended chuckle, but with it Dr. Gabbe also reminded us of our proud heritage.

The inaugural Autumn Event was a true success and enjoyed greatly by faculty, residents, and medical students alike. Dr. Pfeil, the faculty advisor for the Gamma Chapter, emphasized that the large number of faculty members in attendance demonstrated their support and was a sign of genuine interest in strengthening Ohio State’s chapter. We are truly grateful for the interest and support showed by the many faculty and residents who took time out of their busy schedule to attend the event. The evening ended with several groups of students and faculty still conversing as the caterers folded table cloths and packed up dishes. We will look forward to more great events like this in the future.
AOA Excelling Series

On Monday November 3rd, the first of the AΩA Excelling Series panel discussions took place in Meiling Hall. The event was centered on “tips for success in the preclinical years.” Panel members included fourth year medical students; Brent Warner, Jared Peterson, Scott McClintic, Daniel Hammer, Sireesha Achanti (VP), and Cedric Pritchett (P). Each panel member offered a few personal antidotes for his or her success, in addition to obstacles one may have faced in attempting to achieve excellence. Once the floor was opened for first year medical students to ask his or her most burning questions, the discussion truly began to flourish. Panelists attempted to tackle questions on mentorship, time management, and the learning transition during medical school from memorization to analysis. The event was a success and one small step towards establishing a framework of mentorship within the student body here at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Recognition

The AΩA Gamma Chapter of Ohio is proud to present the following newest members of our family:

Senior AΩA Inductees: Class 2009
Matthew Allemang, Kiran Bidari, Kristen Burnwick, Jacqueline Coloe, Robert Cronin II, Casey Curtis, Alissa Gilbert, Daniel Hammer, Phillip Horne, Erin Longbrake, Scott McClintic, Peter Meis, Anay Patel, Jared Peterson, David Rowley, Rachel Schleichert, David Shipley, Catherine Sinclair, James Wisler

Congratulations to Linden Lee and Lynda Labranche who won the AΩA service Grant. Their achievement marks an early path to excellence in the medical field as junior medical students.

Congratulations to Ohio State Graduate Greg Miday who took third place for the AΩA Helen H. Glaser Student Essay Award. Greg’s essay is titled “Drinking in the Earnest, Alcoholic Paradigms in Hemingway’s For Whom the Bell Tolls.”

Website

The website committee consists of current members Matthew Allemang, Randall Butler, and Robert Cronin and is undertaking the task of updating the chapter’s website. Plans include creation of an archival section that will consist of a narrative describing the chapter’s history, a compilation of all previous inductees, a list of previous winners of awards given by AΩA, and a collection of previous editions of this newsletter. President Cedric Pritchett and adviser Eileen Mehl have provided a variety of resources and personal contacts to achieve these goals. The committee is also working to add collections of photographs from past events, including last spring’s induction ceremony and the recent Autumn Assembly. Other goals are to create a database of resources for current medical students and to establish a link to the chapter’s website from the national AΩA website.