Professor of the Year 2009

Donald L. Batisky, M.D.

The Class of 2009 has had the opportunity to learn invaluable lessons from many individuals during our four or more years at the College of Medicine. All of these dedicated and devoted teachers have played a significant role in shaping our medical education and helping us achieve and reach our goals. Since 1931, the senior class of the College of Medicine has awarded a single faculty member with the Professor of the Year Award. As the highest honor a faculty member can earn from the graduating class, the Professor of the Year is selected for his or her devotion to teaching and commitment to excellence as an educator, role model, and friend. Today, the Class of 2009 is proud to present Donald L. Batisky, MD, professor and associate dean for Admissions and Records, College of Medicine, and pediatric nephrologist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, with the 2009 Professor of the Year Award.

Dr. Batisky grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, in a family of seven. As a first-generation college student, he graduated magna cum laude from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio, in 1983 with a degree in chemistry. He completed medical school at the Medical College of Ohio (MCO) at Toledo where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in 1987. Columbus Children's Hospital/The Ohio State University was fortunate to have him for his residency training from 1987 to 1990. In 1990, he left Ohio to pursue a fellowship in nephrology at the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1996, Dr. Batisky returned to the Buckeye state to MCO as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics. He was immediately recognized for his outstanding performance, earning the Faculty Achievement Award from the Department of Pediatrics (1997) and being named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Dean of the MCO School of Medicine. Dr. Batisky sat on the Admissions Committee for three years and chaired the Student Recruitment Sub-Committee his last year at MCO.

Dr. Batisky joined the OSU College of Medicine team as an associate professor in 1999, where for 10 years he excelled as a clinician, teacher, and mentor. Among his honors are the Excellence in Teaching Award, Gold Foundation Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, and induction into OSU's inaugural chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He also served as president of Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Batisky has coordinated dozens of clinical research trials with a focus on pediatric hypertension and management strategies as well as serving on a working group with the National Institute of Child Health and Development. His leadership positions include Executive Committee member and education chair of the International Pediatric Hypertension Association. The author of numerous abstracts, book chapters, and original articles, he has presented his findings at both national and international meetings.
High on Dr. Batisky’s “top 10” list at the College of Medicine are his experiences with the London Honors program, his mentoring for the Early Admissions Pathway, and especially his interactions with students. Our class knows him primarily through his role as associate dean for Admissions, where he became our advocate even before we were official students here at the College. Dr. Batisky’s enthusiasm for the College of Medicine—coupled with his dedication and warm, yet professional demeanor—made him an obvious role model. We always found him with an engaging smile on his face and a wonderful wit to brighten our days. It was also quite evident that he took a great interest in our personal and professional development, bringing out the best in all of us.

Thank you, Dr. Batisky, for being a wonderful advocate, educator, and role model. On behalf of the Class of 2009, I am honored to present him with the Professor of the Year Award.

Catherine Sinclair
President, Class of 2009