



Stepping Forward

Fall 2013 | Issue 4

Dean's Message

Taking the First Step: Stepping with Swagger

Congratulations "Doctors". Because the three colleges represented here have "cut our teeth," "seen the light," and have "taken our first steps," together, we thought it appropriate to present a coordinated message through one last interprofessional activity before you head out into the world. You had faith in a piece of paper – an admission letter. Now you must take the appropriate steps in faith for proper growth.

These steps are a ladder of virtues, a step by step description of characteristics that build on one another as a person grows. Therefore, this process demands that we give all diligence in displaying a consistent energy and enthusiasm befitting these most valuable pursuits.

The Foundation Virtue is FAITH.

- The First Step from Faith is Virtue: Excellent Behavior
- The Second Step is Knowledge: Awareness or understanding, gained through experience or study
- The Third Step is Goodness: A balance of generosity, kindness and moral excellence
- The Fourth Step is Self-Control: Controlling one's passions as a matter of discipline
- The Fifth Step is Perseverance: Ability to stand firm under adversity
- The Sixth Step is Godliness: Signifies an Attitude of reverence and piety toward God
- The Seventh Step is Brotherly Kindness: A genuine kindness and concern for the needs of others
- The Eighth Step is Love: Virtue which seeks the highest good for others without expecting anything in return

Now that you are in the Health Care Family we expect a life of continuing growth. You should make every effort to add to your Faith, the step by step ladder in order to grow in Grace.

Lawrence B. Harkless, DPM
Founding Dean, College of Podiatric Medicine



Western University
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Podiatric Medicine



Issue Highlights

- Graduate Profiles
- Founding Faculty and Staff

Editor: Michelle Luna

Graduate Profiles



Adam Beckler

Memorable Moment: The most cherished memories I have from WUCPM are spending time with classmates outside of class grabbing dinner or getting together for a night out to blow off some steam. Similarly, having the opportunity to spend time with faculty outside the classroom at a

social event or academic conference and to get some perspective, has been something I value tremendously. Students and faculty alike have embarked on this journey together and the fellowship we share has meant the world to me.

Future Plans: Residency and possibly a fellowship to follow. I hope to receive as much training as possible while I can. In the future, I hope to be an attending at a residency training program, educating residents while staying current with literature and techniques and learning from them at the same time. I also hope to perform and publish meaningful research and should the opportunity present itself, do my part to serve by taking a leadership role in one of our professional organizations.

Announcements: Thank you to everyone who has helped me and my classmates during our time at WUCPM. Congratulations to all my classmates and best of luck moving forward. I look forward to seeing all the great things we can accomplish. I hope we all stay in contact and continue to support and challenge one another to be great!



Trevor Black

Memorable Moment: I'll never forget Dr. Harkless and his characteristic "touchdown every day!!!"

Future Plans: Residency at Grant Medical Center in Columbus, OH



Seth Brazier

Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was the good times we spent together between classes, building lifelong friendships and lasting memories.

Future Plans: Residency in Palo Alto.



Tyson Carter

Memorable Moment: I always think back to our first day of orientation in 2009. I recall sitting in Bartlett Hall eating breakfast and shaking hands with all of the strangers around me. I can still remember the first encounters I had with many of my classmates when we met. I had no idea that these

individuals would literally become a part of my extended family today.

Future Plans: I am moving to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend residency at Intermountain Medical Center. After residency I plan to pursue further education and training. I am very open minded and optimistic about future employment opportunities. Regardless of where I live and work I look forward to a challenging and rewarding career.



Michael Corpuz

Memorable Moment: All our battles on the hardwood. Broken ankles and posterizations everywhere.

Future Plans: #Cedars



Reina Deogracias

Memorable Moment: Wednesday Podiatry sessions in the Library...and the shenanigans at Buffalo Wild Wings after.

Future Plans: NY Nets Team Podiatrist.



Farid Didari

Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment was when we finished 2 years of basic sciences and proceeded into clinical training. Leaving campus and getting involved in full patient care was a very exciting feeling.

Future Plans: To be a very dedicated and hard working resident who thrives to learn and experiences different pathologies to become the best at what he does.



Adrienne Estes

Memorable Moment: By far the best time I had was being a TA for Gross Anatomy with my fellow "ISACers". I made friends for life! I was also lucky to have made many friends and future colleagues at the APMSA, ACFAS and APMA conferences I attended throughout my four years at WesternU.

Future Plans: After finishing at Swedish Medical Hospital, I hope to join an orthopedic specialty group or potentially join on a residency program close to family and friends. After a long successful career in practice, I hope to consider teaching.

Announcements: To my mentor, Dr. Labovitz for giving me the strength to believe in myself. To the Deans, I hope my growth and development have made you proud. To the CPM Faculty & Staff, I could not have done this without you. To my fellow classmates, may you all find your feet! Finally, I would like to thank God, my family, and close friends for their patience, love, and support.



Richard Gardner

Memorable Moment: Splashing Betadine on Dr. Nouvong during clinic at Oliveview.

Future Plans: I will be doing a residency at the West Los Angeles VA hospital.

Announcements: Engaged to be married to Beth Moosman on the 25th of May 2013.



Joshua Hunt

Memorable Moment: I really enjoyed getting to know all the people on campus. I really feel like I was able to connect with the painters, the guy throwing away his trash and most of all, with the two sweet ladies on the bench. As the class video showed, they all

helped me through some of my most stressful times. For me, they will forever epitomize the quote from Abraham Lincoln, "Be sure to put your feet in the right place, then stand firm!"

Future Plans: My wife, daughter, dog and I will be moving to Michigan for residency at Detroit Medical Center. Hopefully we will be able to adjust to the arctic climate and be able to enjoy what the beautiful state of Michigan has to offer. If we are able to survive the rigors of residency, we will move to the place at which I can get the best job offer.



Van Jackson

Memorable Moment: Sitting in the PMP groups the first year is my most memorable moment. Everyone was new, the students and the faculty. I got to see all different personalities and ways of reasoning.

Future Plans: I am going to New Haven, CT for a three year residency at Yale, and then I would like to Return to Texas and start or join a practice.

Announcements: I'm excited to graduate!



Christopher Jones

Memorable Moment: My interactions with my fellow classmates is what I will cherish most. They have provided such a great support group during a truly challenging time. I know I could not have done it without them.

Future Plans: Work in a multidisciplinary group or set up my own practice in a remote town in Montana.



Steven La

Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment was either the 2nd or 3rd day of school where the fellas of the CPM played basketball after class. It was the first time we really had a chance to bond and get to know one another. Baskets were made, stories were told, and Seth showed us his discolored toenail. That will be a moment I cherish forever.

Future Plans: I will be doing my residency training at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. Afterwards, I plan on opening a private practice as well as have some involvement academically, either with a residency program or with a college of podiatric medicine.



Darren Leavitt

Memorable Moment: Playing basketball during 1st and 2nd years and hanging out with some wicked people.

Future Plans: Residency and then work like a slave until my loans are paid off.

Announcements: I'm graduating!



Sonia Mvuemba

Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with the College of Podiatric Medicine was the first annual shoe drive which was organized by the class of 2013 in the fall of 2009. It was a very humbling experience for me, as I had the opportunity to interact with many low income families of the

city of Pomona and see how grateful they were to receive a pair of shoes.

Future Plans: I am moving to New Jersey to start residency training in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at the University Hospital/UMDNJ.



Vu Nguyen

Memorable Moment: My most memorial moment with the College of Podiatric Medicine is when we were in clinic with Dr. Harkless and he asked one of my classmates to check the patient's DP/PT pulses with a stethoscope. Even though we all know

that he meant to say Doppler but my classmate still used a stethoscope to listen to patient's DP/PT.

Future Plans: My future plans are to find a podiatry group or multispecialty group to work for a couple of years, then I will open my own podiatry practice.



Jackie Pham

Memorable Moment: The moment I realized these were not just my classmates, they are my family. I've created some of the greatest bonds and fondest memories in the past 4 years and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to share in this crazy roller-coaster ride with each and every one of you!

Future Plans: I'd like to establish an online photo portfolio of podiatric medicine and surgery. High quality, sharp photos with excellent exposure, depth of field, and great composition that is.



Cyrus Sircar

Announcements: I'll be getting married to my best friend in May. The past 10 years have been amazing, and I'm looking forward to all the adventures that await us in our new life together. Love you Veronica!



Julia Souvorova

Memorable Moment: White coat ceremony.

Future Plans: Finish residency and pay off loans.



Michael Stastny

Memorable Moment: It is hard to pick only one specific event. These four years were filled with beautiful memories. I believe it boils down to the fact that we had a special group who embarked on a quest with a new program, not knowing if we would

reach accreditation as a college, or graduation as an individual. So we embraced each other, supported each other, and lent a helping hand whenever we could. Together we superseded our expectations, making life long friends along the way. Thank you for a wonderful adventure.

Future Plans: I am fortunate to do my residency at the Los Angeles Veterans Hospital and Olive View Medical Center. I had a wonderful experience there during my third and fourth years as my core rotation site and have always appreciated the staff and patient population. What I find truly exciting is the opportunity to stay connected to and serve as a mentor to future Western University Podiatry students rotating through the facility, serving as an Alumni resource we never had.

Announcements: Stay true to thyself, family and friends; then life will reward you with happiness.



Jacob Stuart

Memorable Moment: What is fear?

Future Plans: Attend residency at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Michigan



Craig Udall

Memorable Moment: My favorite moment was the class basketball games after each of our exams. It was very satisfying "breaking the ankles" of Steven La and Adam Beckler, and watching Seth "Big Bunion" Brazier miss all his layups.

Future Plans: I am working at The Ohio State University Medical Center for residency.



Brett Waverly

Memorable Moment: I had many memorable moments at WesternU. Most of the better memories pertained to off campus activities, especially building life long relationships with my colleagues. Being part of the APMSA was a great experience that allowed me to represent my class and university on

a national level with leaders in podiatry and outside the profession, as well as other students from ALL podiatry schools.

Future Plans: My future plans include attending Regions Hospital/Health Partners in St. Paul, MN for residency training. Through my postgraduate years, I would like to be actively involved in student education and research. Long term, my goals include a possible fellowship and to be involved in residency training with the end goal of establishing a NEW residency program within a major University setting.

Announcements: To those students going through the school currently, it can only get better and you just have to power through.

Founding Faculty and Staff



Jason Campbell

Memorable Moment: I'll never forget the countless late night meetings with the founding administrative team in the Nursing Science Center and the incredible opportunity to take part in the transformation of an aggressive vision into reality.

Advice for the class of 2013: Keep pushing the boundaries and never forget the extent of the training you've been through during your time at WesternU CPM – you all have a unique opportunity to substantially shape the landscape of the profession with your experiences and depth of knowledge.

Advice for the class of 2013: Congratulations to the inaugural class of 2013! Love what you do and have fun!

Announcements: My daughter, Ava Isabella McDowell was born March 1st, 2012-We just celebrated her first birthday!



Robert Christman

Memorable Moment: You weren't my first, but certainly the most memorable!

Advice for the class of 2013: Take one day at a time.

Announcements: I'm only an email away so feel free to consult with me

whenever you have a radiology question or an interesting case!



Lanisa Gonzales

Memorable Moment: I assisted with CPM's very first OSCE for the inaugural class. I had only been working at CPM for a few months and they were very welcoming and respectful and made the whole experience fun and memorable.

Advice for the class of 2013: "The clock is running. Make the most of today. Time waits for no man. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it is called the present." - Alice Morse Earle



Amber Del Pozo

Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with the college was the inaugural class White Coat ceremony. All of the students were so excited, nervous and proud to be there. I will always remember this day.



Lester Jones

Memorable Moment: The most memorable moment from my perspective involves being on the receiving end of so many wonderful comments on the quality of performance of the students of the class of 2013 by the faculty and acting Chair

of the Department of Surgery at Olive View UCLA Medical Center. One glowing comment came when one of the Chief Residents remarked that they wish one of our students from the class of 2013 would apply for their General Surgery Residency because of this individuals previously demonstrated excellent performance as a member of the team.

Advice for the class of 2013: I would advise each member of the inaugural class of 2013 to: 1) Remain kind, courteous, and diligent and treat every patient contact as though that

individual is a member of your family, 2) Never forget that the practice of medicine involves expanding your medical knowledge, maintenance of professionalism and interpersonal communication skills, 3) Always strive for continuous improvement in critical-thinking skills, systems-based practice and life-long learning, 4) Maintain a high level of value for inter-professional collaboration.



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Diane Koshimune

Memorable Moment: Most memorable moment with the College so far is watching the Inaugural class return from externships in preparation for interviews. They had learned so much from being out on rotations.

Comparing them to the students from the other classes was fascinating. They still exhibited a very specific class “personality” but it had matured somehow.

Advice for the class of 2013: There will be days where you are on top of the world. But there will also be days where you feel deflated. Clinic is never ending, a wound care patient loses their leg, your favorite nurse relocates, there is a surprise in surgery... whatever the reason, keep your head up. Tomorrow will be better. Surround yourself with people you trust who support you and will be there for you through anything. If you find yourself in a bind, call the college. One of us is bound to be available to help you sort through it. After all, that is what families do...



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Jonathan Labovitz

Memorable Moment: Hearing the excitement in the students, staff, and faculty when CPM received the news we were granted full accreditation.

Advice for the class of 2013: Each of you is a part of the beginning of a new educational model that is elevating our profession and it takes a special kind of person to be the pioneer. Don't ever lose that desire and motivation to create, be on the forefront, and lead our profession to new heights.



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Michelle Luna

Memorable Moment: I'll never forget meeting Adrienne Estes. I was relieved to discover that she would be our first ISAC student and the first impression on campus of Podiatric Medicine. She really set the stage for the poise, intelligence and healthy competition

that this new college would offer. Way to represent Adrienne!!

Advice for the class of 2013: Don't forget where you came from and remember to pay it forward whenever you can.



Cristina Marchis-Crisan

Advice for the class of 2013: Dr. Charles Swindoll once said, “...life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it.” Having a persistent, forward thinking process pushes you past the “what if’s of impossibility.” The mind is powerful, when you can get past your doubts or

lack of hope and look forward in faith to the science of proving the impossible. Never give up! You are stronger than you think. The Lord Almighty never gives you more than you can handle. Use your eyes, ears, hands, and mind to alleviate pain to the best of your abilities and the outcome will be huge. Congratulations class of 2013. May all your scientific thinking continue to prove the acknowledgement that God does exist and with thankfulness watch and see how He will work through you and for you.



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Kathleen Satterfield

Memorable Moment: I will never forget sitting with Dr. Jones a couple of years before the college opened. We were in a big empty conference room and he had an unmarked legal pad in front of him. He said something to the effect of “Okay, here we go, let’s create the best

curriculum that has ever existed!” I was only a consultant back then but I remember realizing at that moment that I was a part of something very special that was happening. To think that from that legal pad to what exists today, well, it’s almost impossible to imagine!

Advice for the class of 2013: If you want to do something – travel, experience life, learn a different language – DO IT. Don't live your life and get to the end and say “I wish I had...” Life isn't guaranteed. Carpe Diem!



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Jarrod Shapiro

Memorable Moment: Looking at the class of 2013 this year while taking their class picture and seeing a remarkable group of students.

Advice for the class of 2013: Take advantage of every educational opportunity during residency. Three years goes by fast, and it is very difficult to learn new skills once in practice.



Lila Thi

Memorable Moment: There are too many memorable moments to name but perhaps the most memorable moment with the College of Podiatric Medicine for me was Residency Match Day on March 20, 2013. I remember going into the office early that morning and tearing up as I logged onto the

AACPM website to view our DPM c/o 2013 Match Results. All their hard work and dedication culminated to that very day!

Advice for the class of 2013: Keep up the hard work, motivation, and dedication you have all shown throughout your 4 years here at CPM. Be passionate about your work and remember to always put the patient first!



Jacqueline Truong

Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment with the College was when students from the inaugural class returned from their externship experience thanking me for preparing them well. They felt their educational experience gave them a competitive

edge over their counterparts from other institutions and they recognized all the hard work that has been put in the last few years. Their heartfelt thanks made all of the late nights spent spearheading the College's core curriculum worth it.

Advice for the class of 2013: Stay hungry for knowledge and keep learning as you move through your career. Keep close contact with each other because you'll never know what opportunities may come up later. And of course, don't forget about your poor professors here at WesternU CPM. We look forward to hearing about your successes in the future.

Announcements: I am blessed to have given birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl named, Alaina Bao-Lien Yen. She was born on January 31 of this year. My husband and I would like to share this photo of her with our WesternU family.



Ellice Vargas

Memorable Moment: My first white coat experience. It was fantastic to watch all of the incoming students receive their white coats and begin their journey to become a doctor.

Advice for the class of 2013: "If you would create something, you must be something." — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Erika Vitalez

Memorable Moment: My Darling "Ading" Michael Corpuz' videos... Hilarious! I have had so many good memories here and I look forward to the future of CPM.

Advice for the class of 2013: Don't forget who taught you how to wrap and roll.

Announcements: Congratulations to you all and I will miss each and every one of you, so come visit me some time!



Hazelle Voltaire

Memorable Moment: Best moment was during the 1st interview cycle for the inaugural class. I was working for admissions at the time and hosting three optometry candidates and one podiatry candidate (Sonia Mvuemba) at the NSC building. One of the OD candidates was on crutches due to an ankle injury so I called CDHP to get her a wheelchair. Without being asked, Sonia volunteered to help push her in the chair during our campus tour all over campus. I was completely taken aback by her act of altruism. She continues to embody what WesternU stands for and is a role model to all future healthcare providers.

Advice for the class of 2013: Don't forget me!!! On a serious note, I just want you all to know how much of a pleasure it's been these past few years seeing you first step foot on campus, to getting to know you and your families and now hearing your names at graduation as you receive your diplomas. Although there have been a few losses, those who pressed on are the resilient. Cheers and Congratulations!!! You will all be sincerely missed.



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**College of
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Edward James Olmos

Activist and actor Edward James Olmos, whose own family has been affected by diabetes and other health issues, was the keynote speaker for the inaugural commencement ceremony for the podiatric medicine, optometry and dental colleges on Wednesday, May 15. He urged the graduates to help as many people as possible, regardless of their circumstances.

"There will be some who cannot pay you. Treat them. There will be people who need hospitals. Go find them. Pay it back by giving of yourself. We need saints out here in today's world, more than ever," he said.

He also thanked the graduates for choosing health care as a profession, and noted that only with new generations of healers can hope survive. Gesturing to himself and to the faculty assembled on stage at the Pasadena Civic Center auditorium, he said "We're the wisdom. Youth is the hope. Hope without wisdom is useless. Wisdom without hope dies."

Olmos then pledged to keep helping the needy and underserved, and closed his remarks with the rallying cry made famous by his SyFy Channel show, "Battlestar Galactica": "So say we all!"