

# Student Corner

The American Association of Oriental Medicine (AAOM) is making huge strides forward in its growth, both professionally and with membership. One development along these lines is the efforts being made by the AAOM board, committee leaders, and students to establish an American Student Association of Oriental Medicine (ASAOM). The goal is to give students the ability to participate more fully in AAOM by providing a vehicle to address student concerns more concretely. This is a natural development in the growth of all professional organizations.

Student leaders emerged at the AAOM October 2005 conference student caucus. Cynthia O'Donnell, AAOM Vice President at the time, and AAOM president emeritus, Claudette Baker facilitated the caucus with one hundred students. Students identified key issues, had questions answered and initiated two task force committees to formulate the student organization. Koala Moore, student of Five Branches Institute, is the leader of the by-laws committee tasked with developing a set of by-laws for AAOM board approval. Rhonda Wilber, student of Midwest College of Oriental Medicine, is the leader of the membership development task force.

In the next few months, the development task force will be contacting schools to establish a student contact and an administrative contact for our new organization at each Oriental Medical college. Concurrently, the AAOM board has elected to add a Student Affairs link on the AAOM website. This link should be available by December 20th, 2005 for students to log on and find out more details about the goals of our newly forming student organization and for them to chat and participate in its development. In order to promote student participation in this process, AAOM is offering a half price membership drive for students until January 30th 2006.

*Cynthia O'Donnell*

*Chair Student Affairs Committee*