

AAOM Student Organization (AAOM – SO) Gains National Strength and Stature

(Don't miss the next AAOM-SO meeting and \$60 Student Rate at Expo 2006)

The AAOM SO was the outgrowth of the last AAOM conference. Since its inception, the SO has developed several committees to assure its growth and continuance.

Rhonda Wilbers, of Midwest College, is the Chair of the Membership/Development Task Force. They have worked diligently to create a national network. Thus far, approximately 25 schools have been provided with materials to develop individual chapters. We would like to thank Ann Degrassi-Kalkis, Krista McCain, Claudia McCalla, Loren Romley, and Jeannette Schreiber for their outstanding efforts and contribution to this project.

Koala Moore, of Five Branches College, is leading the Bylaws Task Force, which will be responsible for presenting the initial bylaws to the AAOM Board for editing and review. This group is comprised largely of members of both committees and student representatives that were chosen from our colleges. The preliminary work space for this project was a Yahoo Group site, but it was later moved to the Student Forum of the AAOM Website. The combined efforts of the Task Forces and student representatives have been invited to join this historic finalization

In the development process it has been determined that certain policies needed to be in place at the student yahoo forum to monitor yahoo group discussions. In reference to the use of the yahoo forum on the AAOM website the following policy has been established: "List participants of the AAOM site and the AAOM -SO must gain approval from the AAOM board before utilizing the forum for grass roots political efforts, including distribution of petitions, organizing campaigns via phone, email, mail or any other media. AAOM must monitor the site due in part to the legal responsibility that the AAOM sustains through sponsoring the list."

AAOM SO has already made significant progress under the emerging, strong leadership responsible for coordinating this effort. The group has been responsible for the addition of 427 new student members in less than one year. If you are interested in joining, please visit the Student Services page at www.aaom.org. The students are currently awaiting finalization of the bylaws, which must be approved by the AAOM Board of Directors. We expect to hear more from this motivated group of students very soon!

Next National AAOM SO Meeting and \$60 Student Conference Rate

The next national AAOM SO Meeting will be held at the AAOM's 2006 Expo – *Oriental Medicine...Healing the Body, Mind and Spirit*. The International Conference and Exposition will be held in Litchfield Park (Phoenix), Arizona, October 19-23, 2006, at the Wigwam Resort and Spa. We are pleased to again offer a Student Rate of \$60 to AAOM student members for all workshops scheduled Friday-Sunday, October 20-22, 2006. (*The student rate does not include pre-conference and post-conference classes, meals, or overnights, but registration to these classes are priced at nominal student rates.*) Student members registering for this rate MUST attend the AAOM Annual Meeting and Student Caucus meeting on Saturday morning, October 21, 2006. If you are not a student member, this is a wonderful reason to join, and if you are, mark your calendars today and plan to attend the conference and the next national AAOM SO meeting. For conference information, visit our website at www.aaom.org.



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Rhonda Wilbers, OM Student (Midwest College)
Chair, AAOM-SO Membership Development Task Force



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