Dear Members and Friends of TOMA,

The last week was again a busy travel week for your humble servant. On Tuesday, TOMA executive director Sam Tessen and Gail, ATOMA president Mona Sanderlin, Linda and I went to Nederland for a very well-attended meeting of District 12. Long-time osteopathic loyalist and district president-for-life Nick Pomonis assembled an exceptional group of members and guests who freely discussed their concerns about current issues in medicine. Another graduate of TCOM, Rocco Morrell, was elected as the new president of the district. As you will see in the pictures at the bottom of this note, Nick demonstrated the cohesiveness of the medical community in the Beaumont-Port Arthur area by including several allopathic colleagues in the gathering.

Linda and I came home to work on Wednesday, and then went to Victoria on Thursday for a meeting of District 9. Sam and Gail were again joined by Mona and TOMA board member Brent Sanderlin for this important function. District president Gordon Barth and Stacy hosted an enthusiastic group of our members that again had many questions for Sam and for me about national and state affairs. The Victoria area has long been considered as an opportunity for undergraduate and post-graduate osteopathic medical education, and the members made plans to work with Sam to approach several osteopathic schools about becoming a training site.

Yesterday, I had the great honor of representing all Texas osteopathic physicians on the stage for the graduation ceremony at the UNT Health Science Center. 360 graduates of the various schools were awarded their degrees including 150 new osteopathic physicians. I can’t begin to find the words to describe the fullness of heart emotional feeling that I experienced as the students processed in accompanied by exuberant cheers from their families and friends. As the degrees were presented, the longest and the loudest cheers came for the three new osteopathic physicians who also received military commissions, and who will be going on active duty to serve all of us. The platform group included the UNT chancellor and two regents, the deans of all of the schools, and representatives from the alumni board, TMA, and TOMA. TOMA and TCOM alumni board past-president Rodney Wiseman shook hands with every new D.O., and welcomed them to the profession. I had a very constructive visit with TMA president Susan Rudd Bailey, and I invited her to participate in our annual
meeting in June. Former TCOM dean **Bruce Dubin** was also there to congratulate graduates who had matriculated and advanced on his watch.

Among those that I had the privilege of meeting in Victoria was **Robert Bowling**. Dr. Bowling told me about the osteopathic tradition in his family, and I subsequently received the following e-mail from his daughter.

**Hi Dr. Cole,**

*My name is Amanda Brooke (Bowling) Hall. You recently met my dad, Robert Bowling, at a TOMA meeting in the Mid-County/Southeast Texas area. He said the meeting was great and was very impressed with many of the things you had to say. I know he had mentioned to you that I will be the 5th generation Osteopathic Physician, and I would love to tell you a little bit more about our background.*

*My great-great aunt, UdaBelle Garrison, graduated from American School of Osteopathy in 1921, followed by my great-grandfather, Archie Lee Garrison, who graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1931. In the mid-1950's he became the President of Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. My grandfather, Robert Allison Bowling, also attended Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduated in 1965, and practiced family medicine for 38 years. My father, Robert Lee Bowling, is a graduate and valedictorian of Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, class of 1985. I am about to start my 3rd year of medical school at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and plan to graduate in 2012.*

*I was born to an osteopathic student, raised by an osteopathic family, and I have shadowed the life of an osteopathic physician, and I love it. I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else. I love when we all get together and my father and grandparents tell stories about how the practice of medicine used to be. It makes me so proud of my heritage.*

*Thank you so much for being interested in our background.*

Amanda Brooke (Bowling) Hall

TCOM c/o 2012

It is to these students that we owe our greatest responsibility, to keep the profession safe for the next generation of osteopathic physicians.

**Kimberly Galusha** of Austin represented all of us at a meeting of DSHS that discussed the use of End of Life Directives, especially at state institutions. Dr. Gallusha practices in the Austin area and part of her work is in hospice care.

As a result of the joint meeting of the AOA and TOMA TCOM task forces that occurred on Sunday after the TOMA House of Delegates, we now have a published list of talking points to be utilized when discussing the allopathic degree issue with your political contacts. To receive the cards, please call the TOMA office and they will send you as many as you can use.

This week I received a very thoughtful article written by Tayson DeLongockey, a TCOM graduate who now practices retinal and vitreal surgery in Illinois. I also received a note from former TCOM faculty member Greg Smith, currently associate dean of clinical medicine at Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, who encouraged us to continue our efforts to educate the public regarding the true issues of the allopathic degree proposal at UNT.

The annual meeting of TOMA is in Fort Worth at the Worthington in June. Go to our web-site and register on-line. We will have a fantastic CME program, ACLS renewal, and family events. At the presidential banquet on Saturday evening, Elizabeth Palmarozzi will be installed as your new president. It has been a great year for me, but I suspect that you would like to hear from another voice. Remember that the TOMA office staff is ready and willing to help with any issues that you have in your practice, whether it be business or medical. The office number is 800 444 8662, and they will answer 8-5, Monday through Friday.

Please let me hear from you.

George M. Cole, D.O.

President, TOMA

Beaumont District President Nick Pomonis receives plaque for outstanding service to TOMA
Beaumont Osteopathic Physicians

Gail Tessen, Linda Cole, ATOMA President Mona Sanderlin & Marilyn Morrell
Rodney Wiseman, George Cole and Bruce Dubin