Faculty and staff accomplishments (as of Dec. 31)

Accomplishment kudos

Bart Anderson, DHSc, MS, ATC, associate professor, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, received the School’s Distinguished Service of the Year award for excellence in service to the University, the community, and the profession.

Kellie Huxel Bliven, PhD, ATC, professor, interdisciplinary health sciences, ATSU-ASHS, was named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Sport Rehabilitation. She has served on the journal’s editorial board for the last 12 years.

Courtney Bonnell, director, budgets and financial reporting, finance, ATSU, earned a master of business administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University.

Elton Bordenave, PhD, MEd, director of Still Standing Falls Prevention Outreach program, ATSU-ASHS, received an award from the Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition for his leadership in the delivery of evidence-based falls prevention programs in Maricopa County.

Wayne Cottam, DMD, MS, vice dean, ATSU-ASDOH, was awarded the John McFarland Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Network for Oral Health Access. Dr. Cottam was nominated for the award by fellow faculty member and former student Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD, ’14.

Jay Crutchfield, MD, FACS, associate professor and chair, anatomy, ATSU-SOMA, was appointed as clinical sciences department chair – surgery, surgical subspecialties, and anesthesia for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners National Faculty commencing in 2020.

Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA, associate professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, participated in the 79th Academy of Management conference in August. She was among the facilitators for the Teaching Incubator, a professional development workshop hosted by the Healthcare Management Division. Additionally, she was appointed to the editorial board of the Patient Experience Journal. This peer-reviewed journal is committed to disseminating rigorous knowledge and expanding the global conversation on evidence and innovation on patient experience.

Mai-Ly Duong, DMD, MPH, MAEd, FAGD, FSCD, ’12, associate professor and associate director, special care dentistry, ATSU-ASDOH, was recognized as one of Phoenix Business Journal’s 40 Under 40. The awards program recognizes the region’s top business and civic leaders under age 40. Dr. Duong was nominated for her
commitment to her career and the community. She was also accepted into Valley Leadership’s 41st class. Valley Leadership is a prestigious program that prepares participants to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing Arizona. Dr. Duong received the Academy of General Dentistry Mastership Award at its annual scientific session. In addition, she was honored with two prestigious fellowships: the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the International College of Dentists.

Deanne Fay, PT, DPT, PhD, professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, was appointed to serve another term as chair of the School’s Promotion & Tenure Committee.

Anita Franklin, research data specialist, research & grants, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2019.

Dana Funderburk, CPA, associate vice president, finance, ATSU, earned a master of business administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University.

Jose Garza, general maintenance assistant, Arizona facilities, ATSU, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the second quarter of 2019.

Jaana Gold, DDS, PhD, MPH, CPH, associate professor, public health, ATSU-CGHS, was elected as a new member of the Board of Directors for Oral Health Florida.

Tonya Grimm, controller, financial reporting, budgets, & planning, finance, earned a master of science degree in accounting and finance from Southern New Hampshire University.

Devin Gudehus, accounts payable operator, finance, ATSU, earned a master of business administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University.

John Imundi, PT, DPT, CSCS, ’09, assistant professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the School’s Educator of the Year award for excellence in teaching, inspiring students to think critically, and promoting intellectual curiosity.

Tricia Ivie, administrative assistant, microbiology & immunology, ATSU-KCOM, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the second quarter of 2019.

Lynda T. Konecny, DHEd, DHSc, MS, CHES, ’08, associate professor, health education, ATSU-CGHS, was selected to serve as a reviewer for the Interdisciplinary Journal of e-Skills and Lifelong Learning and the International Journal of Doctoral Studies.
Ashley Love, DrPH, MPH, MS, CPH, associate professor, public health, ATSU-CGHS, was elected by her peers to serve as a governing councilor, representing the Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section of the American Public Health Association. Her two-year term began Nov. 7 following the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Linda MacConnell, MAEd, MPAS, PA-C, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, updated and edited ENT Made Easy, a reference book for primary care clinicians and students.

Tara McIsaac, PT, PhD, professor and director of research, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the School's Scholar of the Year award for excellence in the scholarship of discovery, integration, application, and teaching.

Clinton Normore, MBA, associate vice president, diversity & inclusion, ATSU, was named Registered Student Organization Advisor of the Year on the Arizona campus for his work with the Student National Medical Association.

Patrick Palmieri, DHSc, EdS, MBA, MSN, ACNP, RN, adjunct professor, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, was invited by the government of Cuba to participate in the 28th Annual Congress of the Cuban Nursing Society in September.

Jae Hyun Park, DMD, PhD, MSD, MS, professor and chair, postgraduate orthodontics, ATSU-ASDOH, was appointed associate editor for the American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics. Dr. Park’s article, “Correcting severe scissor bite in an adult,” co-authored by Drs. Un-Bong Baik, Yunji Kim, Junji Sugawara, and Christine Hong, was featured as the journal's Case of the Month for July. In addition, he was invited to be a keynote speaker during the 2019 Indonesian Association of Orthodontists Annual Session in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Onika Patel, DMD, MPH, FAGD, ’14, adjunct professor, ATSU-ASDOH, received one of the American Dental Association’s (ADA) 10 Under 10 awards for 2018. In addition, she was featured in the ADA Morning Huddle news bulletin.

Maureen Perry, DDS, MPA, MAEd, associate dean, Advanced Care Clinic, ATSU-ASDOH, received the Special Care Dentistry Association’s Education Award. The award honors dentists committed to educating future generations of oral healthcare providers who will care for individuals with special needs.

Sue Roe, DPA, MS, associate professor and chair, nursing, ATSU-CGHS, was honored as the 2019 Alumnus of the Year for the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona.
Deborah Ross-Carter, financial aid adviser, enrollment services, ATSU, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2019.

Benjamin Schrant, DO, FAOCA, ’08, assistant professor, surgery, ATSU-KCOM, was named Registered Student Organization Advisor of the Year on the Missouri campus for his work with the Clinical Simulation Club.

Patricia Sexton, DHEd, MS, FNAOME, ’08, associate dean, curriculum, ATSU-KCOM, was invited by the Association of Korean Medicine to speak with the Korean National Assembly and medical school leadership about osteopathic medical education and curricular revisions to the Korean Medical Doctors programs.

Robert Theobald, PhD, professor, pharmacology, ATSU-KCOM, was selected as the clinical department chair – foundational biomedical sciences for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners National Faculty.

Thom Van Vleck, MA, LPC, mental health wellness counselor, counseling services, ATSU, published two books. “Kelly Forever” tells the story of his wife’s battle with cancer, and “Moses Rawlings” tells a fictionalized account of his fifth great-grandfather.

Ted Wendel, PhD, senior vice president, university planning & strategic initiatives, ATSU, was recognized by the National Association of Community Health Centers during the organization’s 2019 Community Health Institute and Expo in Chicago, Illinois.

Letha Williams, PhD, FACHE, chair, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, was among three ovarian cancer survivors who shared their survival stories with Oakland University doctor of physical therapy students as part of the Survivors Teaching Students program of the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance. Additionally, Dr. Williams received the Missouri Hospital Association’s Regent’s Award.