

## Happy New Year!!!

### Career Center Assistance

Are you looking to land that dream job and start a rewarding career as a medical physician? Well, look no further!

ACOM has teamed up with YM Careers to bring the career connections directly to you!

Search thousands of DO job opportunities across the country by visiting the new job search platform ACOM has provided for all alumni.

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### GREETINGS ACOM ALUMNI

Welcome to the ACOM  
Alumni Engagement E-Newsletter!

We want to hear from you!  
Email the Alumni Affairs office  
with any professional updates  
or major life milestones so we  
can celebrate with you!

This newsletter will help you to  
stay engaged with fellow  
alumni, current students,  
ACOM activities and news.

The alumni office is accessible  
and willing to help you, so  
please let us know how we  
can improve your alumni  
experience.

Send an email:  
[alumni@acom.edu](mailto:alumni@acom.edu)

## ACOM SPOTLIGHT

This year has seen many challenges, but despite the circumstances of 2020, we have been inspired by how our graduates are standing strong on the front lines of history. With that in mind, there's no better way to start the new year than to share pictures of our alumni receiving the COVID-19 vaccine across the nation. **#ACOM #acomproud #acominspired #acomalumni #vaccinated**



## ACOM NEWS

### First-Year ACOM Students Win College's Simulation Competition

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine held its annual Simulation Competition (SimComp) in November on campus hosted by its chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). Eight teams of first- and second-year medical students (a total of 40 students) competed against each other in a race to save the patient, with a first-year team, the SIMps, being named the winner.

Teams were presented with an emergent clinical scenario, which required medical knowledge, clinical skills, teamwork, communication, and calm nerves to overcome the challenges. One ACOM team advances to the national competition each year.

In 2017, a team of second-year ACOM students won the national SimChallenge event and represented the United States at the International SimChallenge in Paris, defeating the French team in the final round to become international champions. In 2020, the ACOM team won the first National Virtual Patient Simulation Challenge hosted by AMSA. ACOM hopes to recapture the national title again this year, with this local tournament serving as an important step in that journey.

The SIMps are a team of first-year students led by student Elizabeth Vandervort. Vandervort, who has interest in emergency medicine, is a former EMT and Emergency Department Tech. Through their wide range of medical skills the team accomplished success in order to represent ACOM on the national level.

Brian Lewis is a former EMT and field training officer. During the competition he was responsible for talking to the patient in order to gain an in-depth history to determine a diagnosis. Teammates included, Arianna Serrano a former ER scribe and medical assistant, Will Laidig, former emergency department scribe and tech, and Connor Willis, a former medical assistant and scribe in primary care.

John T. Giannini Jr. MD, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Simulation expressed pride in each of the ACOM teams that competed. "If you could have seen these teams when we began, you wouldn't even recognize them today. Everyone did a great job."



## Two ACOM first-year teams advance to National Virtual Patient Simulation Challenge in March

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM) is pleased to announce that two first-year student teams advanced to the semifinal round of the National Virtual Patient Simulation Challenge hosted by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). The teams, SIMps 2 and Life is a Simulation 2, are two of four teams who will compete in March.



### Simulation Center Expansion

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM) Board of Directors has approved the expansion and construction of a new simulation center on campus. The new 10,000-squarefoot building will encompass the existing simulation center and will add more than 7,000 square feet to the space.

The clinical simulation faculty worked closely with Carmen Lewis, PhD, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, and Bill Jones, Southeast Health's Director of Design and Construction, to explore a variety of options for the project. The option recommended to and approved by the ACOM Board best addresses the growing needs for simulation space, without interrupting curricular activities.

"An important catalyst for quality medical education today is providing realistic patient encounters through simulation," Lewis said. "This expansion will help enhance the experiential learning that defines ACOM's training of the physicians of tomorrow."

Simulation is a cornerstone of the ACOM curriculum that is fully integrated throughout the first two years of training, including weekly encounters and skills exercises. The college hosts an internal simulation competition annually, and ACOM has risen to success through its students' participation in tournaments beyond the college, earning recognition nationally and internationally. In addition, the college offers a unique clinical simulation fellowship program, giving selected students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the role of simulation in medical education.

The construction will double the available training capacity to create eight simulation bays for patient encounters and a larger dedicated skills lab for activities, such as casting, suturing and intubation. In addition, the new center will include a study area to accommodate up to 64 students. The exterior design will coordinate with the main ACOM facility, and the interior will be upgraded to create a comfortable state-of-the-art center. ACOM selected Dothan-based architecture firm Donofro and Associates Architects to lead the design. Groundbreaking and construction is expected to begin in early 2021.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ACOFV Virtual Conference  
March 12 - March 13

acofp

AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF OSTEOPATHIC  
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