

Music to His Ears

Student is in tune with osteopathic medicine

By Lee Cashatt



Before discovering his passion for osteopathic medicine, native Arizonian Brandon Abbott, OMS I, gave ear to the music industry.

Learning any instrument he could get his hands on, Abbott played in several bands in genres from ska and punk to rock and power pop. Not only does he write songs and occasionally tour, but Abbott also is the mastermind behind Uncle Abbott Records, his own not-for-profit production label. Abbott has produced several albums, two of which he completed in the month prior to matriculating to ATSU's School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. The label's profits are donated to organizations such as LifeStraw, which creates bacteria filterable drinking straws, and Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, which supports music education through the donation of musical instruments.

A history major at Arizona State University, Abbott studied the history of osteopathic medicine and worked with "several very prominent and wonderful osteopathic physicians, which sparked my motivation and confidence to actually go to medical school," he says. "Having studied the history of osteopathic medicine and been incredibly impressed with the unique curriculum at SOMA, it was a no-brainer for me to attend the Old Doctor's newest school. It is an opportunity for me to actually be part of the history I love."

As president of the Student Government Association and vice president of the Family Practice Interest Group, Abbott is involved in as many Campus activities as possible, such as the Sports Medicine Club, the Emergency Medicine Club, the Women's Health Club and more.

Currently earning his master of public health degree at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Abbott plans to graduate in June 2008. He also taught communication and physical examination during the male wellness portion of the curriculum at Midwestern University. Both experiences, he says, have exposed him to various osteopathic curricula prior to attending SOMA.

"I have certainly been inspired by the faculty and students at SOMA," he says. "So many have such wonderful, varied backgrounds, which lend them incredible abilities and compassion. Although we must study incredibly hard to learn and understand all of the sciences we're presented, I feel the environment of wonderful peers and faculty motivates many of us to focus on humanism in medicine." ■

