Report from the Chair

I’m pleased to present the second edition of the University of New Mexico Orthopaedics Research Journal. As the only academic orthopaedics training program in the state, we provide service and information that benefit the people of New Mexico and the community of orthopaedic practitioners who care for them, something we’ve done with distinction for 44 years now. One of the ways we accomplish this goal is through sharing orthopaedic information with our many partners in New Mexico and the Southwest. I’m proud to give you this report of some of what we’ve done in the past year.

Our faculty continued to grow. We welcomed Dr. Brad Blankenhorn, Dr. David Chafey, and Dr. John Austin this year. Brad is a foot and ankle specialist who came to us after med school at the University of Pittsburgh and fellowships at Brown University and the University of Utah. David is dually appointed to orthopaedics (trauma service) and the Cancer Center. He did fellowships at Sonoran Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeons in Arizona and at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. John is practicing sports medicine and general orthopaedic surgery exclusively at Sandoval Regional Medical Center. He trained at the University of Michigan and did a fellowship at Cincinnati Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center. We’re glad to have such fine new partners.

We wish our senior residents well as they end this phase of their careers and begin new ones. Owen Ala is leaving for a hand fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Aaron Dickens is going to the University of California San Diego for a trauma fellowship. Lex Allen will do a hand and upper extremity fellowship in Australia at the Brisbane Hand and Upper Extremity Research Institute. Dan Hoopes is going to the University of Washington in Seattle for a foot and ankle fellowship. Dustin Briggs will start a lower extremity reconstruction fellowship at Scripps Clinic in San Diego. They all have contributions in this issue of the journal, something of which I am most proud.

I want to thank Dean Smith (Class of 2000) and all of our loyal alumni for their great efforts and support through the Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society. SOAS brings UNM’s orthopaedic surgeon training program full circle for former and current residents, fellows, and faculty. We have two annual events each year to honor former residents hosted by SOAS. The Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament is held each September in honor of Eric Thomas (Class of 2004). We see alumni from all over the country back in Albuquerque, on the UNM Championship Golf Course links enjoying the great fall weather. The first Joel Lubin Visiting Lectureship was held this spring to honor Joel Lubin (Class of 2001). Larry Marsh from the University of Iowa delivered the lecture. Mike Willis (Class of 2000) also gave a talk that was much appreciated by the residents.

The assistance of alumni becomes more important to the department every year. SOAS, created exclusively for graduates of our program, has a new lifetime membership available for a pledge of $25,000, $5,000 each year for 5 years. I’m a proud donor and lifetime member of SOAS, and invite you to join me in becoming one, too. This is an exciting time to participate in the growth and success of UNM Orthopaedics.