Welcome to the very first Tulane Owl Club newsletter!

--AN UPDATE ON ALL THINGS OWL--

OWL WEBSITE UPDATES

• New Owl Representatives
• New ‘Quick links’ sidebar
• New “Helpful Apps and Websites” pages
• Updated Booklists
• Updated Student Research Page
• Updated Clerkship Pages

*Ideas or suggestions for website please email Melissa at mkeller4@tulane.edu*

WHAT IS NEW WITH OWL?

The AAMC Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) reps have officially joined Owl Club. OSR reps have had a productive semester both at home and nationally. Here at Tulane they continue to work on strategic projects to improve student experience, including collaborating with the OME to develop and pilot a medical education research elective. Tristan Juhan (T2) is working with Dr. C to build a career-counseling program while maintaining student representation on the T1 curriculum committee. Nationally, our Gabriela Magda (T4) and Justin Halls (T3) represent medical students as liaisons to the GSA, of which Dr. Kahn is the chair. In addition to his membership in Tulane’s curriculum committee Justin Halls was elected as national chair of the OSR. As national chair, Justin will represent medical students at the AAMC and organize OSR participation in AAMC activities. The OSR is thrilled to be a part of the Owl Club and look forward to working on issues important to Tulane students.

OWL & CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Owl Club has been working with the general Curriculum Committee to move the curriculum towards a competency-based approach to teaching and evaluation. The Owl Club continues to represent a student perspective on these changes and will participate actively in developing competency evaluations. The Curriculum Committee also developed a review panel for electives to optimize student experiences. The committee continues to work with the Dean’s Office on expanding both overall space and wired space for medical student exams. The Curriculum Committee would also like to notify students that the yearly report on the state of our students (Step scores, etc.) is available through Owl Club. Please email an Owl Club rep if you would like to view a copy of the report.
The T1 Owl Club reps have been working very closely with course directors and the curriculum committee through the T1 curriculum transition to systems-based integrated blocks. We recently sent out a survey for feedback on our Integrated Block 1 Exam to help the course directors determine where we can improve recommended study habits and how to make course expectations more transparent. The course directors found our feedback helpful and constructive and are working to make the transition smoother. The T1 Owl Club reps continue to be available for student comments and concerns and will be setting up "Office Hours" at the end of blocks as needed.

On October 28th, the T2 Owl Club reps hosted our annual Step 1 Presentation and Panel. With help from the current T3s, we shared data collected over the past six years on how Tulane students prepare for and perform on Step 1 and heard personal strategies from six T3 panelists who earned outstanding Step 1 scores. This event is always very well attended, and the current T2s find it helpful in determining how they will prepare for the exam. The T2 reps also helped to organize this year’s Owl Club Anatomy Review Session for the T1s just before their Shelf exam in October. As we move into the second half of the year, the T2 reps are working on collecting more current information from our classmates about the resources and strategies they use to study for each block. We have added questions to the block evaluation surveys to help gather new data, and we plan to update the information on the Owl Club website accordingly.

The 2016 Owl Club reps of the first HEALX class have worked to provide constructive and overall class-representative feedback for the OME and module directors. We continue to work with the OME to develop strategies to improve feedback quality and quantity for more accurate interpretation and presentation. We have worked to identify improvements to help implement a manageable and integrated accelerated HEALX curriculum. We continue to work with faculty to improve class time usage focusing on adult learning techniques and efficiency. Finally, HEALX Owl reps, with the help of the HEALX class, have begun to lay the foundations to supply a booklist and specific strategies for the incoming HEALX class of 2017 and their Owl Club reps.

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The T3/4 Owl Club reps have been working on setting up a Step 2 panel of T4s that will occur in early 2014. A survey was recently completed by T4s about both Step 2 CK and CS, and results will soon be made available for T3s to help us prepare. Stay tuned for more information. The T3/4 reps have added information about away sites for rotations to the Owl Club website and are creating a bank of web and app resources available to students. Owl Club has been working to reinstate clerkship reviews in conjunction with the OME, which will begin this spring. The T4 reps have created a survey with the support of the T3/4 curriculum committee to identify inefficiencies and wasted time on clerkships as a first step at addressing these issues. The T3/4 Owl Club reps remain available to answer questions and provide insight about clerkships. Please refer to the updated Owl Club website for course-specific information and contact information for T3/4 reps.