

 Touro University Nevada

Touro YOU

CONNECTING YOU WITH THE TOURO COMMUNITY

TO SERVE. TO LEAD. TO TEACH.

TOURO UNIVERSITY


Touro University Nevada

Then
& NOW

ISSUE 5
SEPT 2019



DAY OF SERVICE

Nearly 400 new Touro University Nevada students volunteered at non-profit organizations throughout the Las Vegas Valley during their 'Day of Service.' As part of orientation week, students from the Colleges of Health and Human Services and Osteopathic Medicine spent the day giving back to the Southern Nevada community as part of the university's commitment to social justice, intellectual pursuit, and service to humanity.



As we commemorate Touro University Nevada's 15th anniversary, it is important to celebrate and remember how much we've grown.

When Dr. Michael Harter was leading the efforts to bring this incredible university to the Las Vegas Valley in 2004, I was working to make life better for my fellow Nevadans as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. After leaving Congress in 2012, I wasn't sure if I would be afforded another opportunity to help improve the lives of my fellow citizens.

Then Touro called. Dr. Harter was retiring and Touro was looking for a new CEO & Senior Provost. I thought they were asking me to be on the search committee, but they wanted me to take over the helm.

Since becoming CEO & Senior Provost five years ago, I've witnessed the tremendous growth of this wonderful institution. Our College of Osteopathic Medicine has expanded from 135 to 168 students; I've seen our PA program go from 60 to 80 students; our Masters in Medical Health Sciences Program double in size; and our School of Occupational Therapy transition from a masters level to a doctoral degree.

We have also secured three mobile healthcare clinics that provide services to our underserved populations, and much more.

It amazes me how far we've come since our humble beginnings, when our faculty, students, and staff needed to wear hard hats inside the building.

As we continue into the future, I want to thank everyone who has played a part in helping this university develop into what it's become. We have grown tremendously since 2004, and I am confident that we will grow together as Touro University Nevada continues to be a leading and invaluable resource in our community.

Shelley Berkley
CEO and Senior Provost
Touro University Western Division



HOT PROGRAMS

Touro University Nevada Offers Healthcare's Most Sought-After Professions

Program Expansions in Line with Healthcare Industry's Demands

According to the U.S. News and World Report, three of Touro's programs rank in the top-10 "Best Healthcare Jobs," with physician assistant leading at number one.

The programs that Touro offers within its College of Health and Human Services continue to address the need for more healthcare providers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and nurse practitioners all have expected job growth of at least 24% by 2026.

"There is significant demand for highly qualified practitioners across the country, and we are providing that education right here at Touro University Nevada," said Dr. Andrew Priest, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. "The graduates from Touro will play a pivotal role in healthcare as the medical landscape continues to evolve."

Touro's College of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) is also working to address the healthcare shortage in the U.S. as

part of a national growing interest in osteopathy. According to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), the Fall 2018 semester was the first time that osteopathic medical students comprised 25% of all U.S. medical students.

Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar, Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, credits the osteopathic philosophy and the heightened interest of students in osteopathic medicine as the catalysts for the profession's continued growth.

"The increasing number of osteopathic medical schools, particularly in areas where there are no medical schools, created opportunities for students who never considered medicine as an option," he said. "The decision for a single accreditation system for residencies may have had a positive impact on growth as well."

The expansion of Touro University Nevada's programs is making a significant difference in both the Las

Vegas valley and across the country. Touro's medical school is accredited for 168 students each year, making it the largest medical school in the state of Nevada.

Upon graduation, more students are being accepted to local residency positions and staying to serve our community. In 2019, the College of Osteopathic Medicine had a 100% placement rate for the first time, including more than 20% of graduates who matched in Southern Nevada.

The School of Physician Assistant Studies (PA) is increasing its class size from 60 to 80 students for the 2020 school year, making it the largest PA program in the state of Nevada.

Touro's School of Occupational Therapy transitioned to a doctorate-level program; and the School of Nursing continues to offer strong online programs for RN-BSN, Master's of Science, Family Nurse Practitioner

(FNP), and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees.

The School of Physical Therapy, which accepts 40 doctoral students each year, prepares future physical therapists to enter a job market where Nevada ranks the highest in the nation with an annual mean wage of nearly \$108,000, according to the Labor Bureau.

The university's Masters of Science in Medical Health Sciences program (MHS), which began with fewer than 10 students in 2009, now accepts 60 new students each year. Upon meeting specific criteria during the 11-month MHS program, eligible students can interview for Touro's DO or PA programs.

The university also partnered with Nevada State College (NSC) to offer an accelerated double-degree program. Following their junior year at NSC, selected students matriculate into Touro as full time MHS students. At the conclusion of their fourth year, students graduate with a dual degree of Bachelor of Science from NSC and a Master of Science in Medical Health Science from Touro.

"We are proud to offer quality healthcare programs for the next generation of practitioners," Priest said. "I am quite pleased that Touro continues to be such a valuable asset to the Southern Nevada community as well as the rest of the country."



JOB GROWTH

Healthcare programs that Touro University Nevada offers and their respective employment numbers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Job Outlook, 2016-26:
37% growth

NURSE PRACTITIONER

Job Outlook, 2016-26:
31% growth

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Job Outlook, 2016-26:
28% growth

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Job Outlook, 2016-26:
24% growth

PHYSICIAN (MD AND DO):

Job Outlook, 2016-26:
13% growth



**Founding CEO Dr. Michael Harter and Current CEO Shelley Berkley
Discuss Touro's Solid Foundation and Ascent into the Future**

When Dr. Michael Harter was recruited by Dr. Jay Sexter in 2004 to become Vice President for Administration and eventually, the new CEO and Senior Provost of Touro University Nevada, he welcomed the challenge.

Harter had spent his entire life in education, including numerous endeavors in healthcare programs and higher educational settings. Before accepting the position at Touro, Harter worked as the Vice Dean and Chief Administrative Officer for the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine's Las Vegas campus.

He was enticed by the opportunity to help bring an entirely health-focused campus to Southern Nevada, even though he'd be starting from scratch.

"In my previous endeavors, most of the facilities were built out," Harter happily recalled of Touro's early beginnings when it was an under-construction warehouse.

He still remembered when the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) visited the campus in April 2004, shortly after Sexter hired Dr. Mitchell Forman to

become the founding dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Most of the construction wasn't done, so Dr. Forman and I put pieces of paper on the bare floors to show them where the classrooms and lecture halls would be," Harter recalled. "The accreditors were concerned that we still had so much construction to finish. So we worked with UNLV and they agreed to rent us space if construction wasn't finished by the beginning of August. By having a temporary home in case construction wasn't completed in time, we got the signal to go ahead."

Harter said he had tremendous guidance from Dr. Bernard Lander, the founder of the Touro College and University System, as well as support from the City of Henderson which expedited the university's construction permit approvals.

When classes began in August 2004, students and faculty who visited the campus for interviews were required to wear hard hats inside the building. The symbolism of the hard hat was also a representation of the founding spirit Touro created with its new students and employees.

"It helped establish a sense of pioneering at Touro," Harter said. "We told potential students that we were pioneers and we hoped they would join us as well. For us, every day was a new adventure."

Harter and Forman also encouraged the faculty to be on campus five days a week and keep an open-door policy to help foster a family atmosphere among the Touro community.

"We wanted our students to have access to their faculty and administrators," Harter said. "By keeping everyone informed, it helped contribute to the close-knit culture the university still has today."

As the years went by, Touro University Nevada continued to grow. The first students from the School of Physician Assistant Studies started in October 2004, and by the following year, the university had a School of Occupational Therapy, School of Nursing, and School of Education.

By 2009, Touro also debuted its School of Physical Therapy and a Master of Science in Medical Health Sciences program.

After Harter retired in 2014, a decade after bringing Touro University Nevada to the Las Vegas Valley, former U.S. Congresswoman Shelley Berkley was asked to lead the university as its new CEO and Senior Provost.

With more than 30 years in public service, Berkley initially thought it was crazy when she was approached with the opportunity to come to Touro.

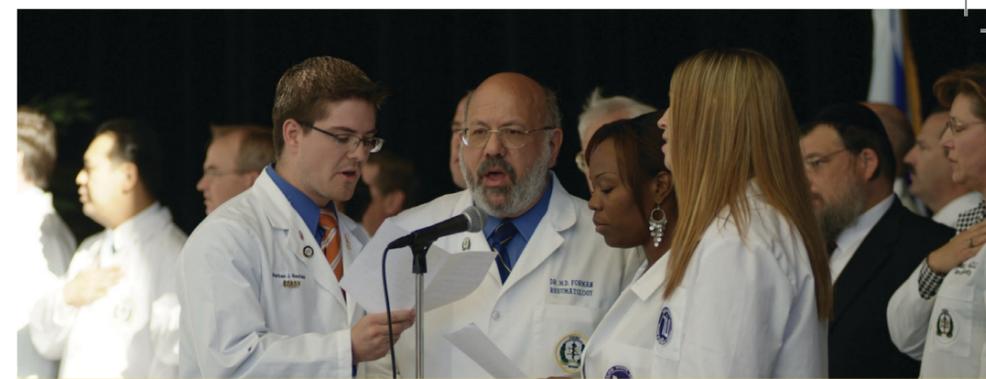
"The allure of Touro for me was that it was a challenge, a chapter in my life that was completely different from all of the others," she said. "I recognized that at my age, I might not have an opportunity to do something completely different again."

**"We told potential students that we were pioneers and we hoped they would join us as well. For us, every day was a new adventure."
-Dr. Michael Harter**

Immediately after taking the job, Berkley hit the ground running by using the contacts she gained during her time in public office to help expand the university's awareness within the community.

Since Berkley arrived at Touro, the university has greatly increased its donor support and partnerships which have led to several new projects that benefit students, faculty, and the Southern Nevada community.

In 2015, Berkley initiated the university's inaugural Gala, an annual event that raises funds for student



Dr. Mitchell Forman, Founding Dean of the Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine, sings with students during the 2005 White Coat Ceremony.

scholarships. The event has grown immensely every year since its inception and has attracted notable keynote speakers, including U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights icon John Lewis and former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

Additional projects Berkley has spearheaded include funding for the establishment of the Michael Tang Regional Center for Clinical Simulation, the Stephen J. Cloobek Regional Center for Disaster Life Support, three mobile healthcare clinics, the university's first endowed gift, and many more.

"We've had great success in fundraising for the school, but we still have a lot left to do," she said. "We've been able to elevate Touro's stature throughout the community and the state of Nevada. Over the past five years, Touro has become a major player in healthcare education for our state."

Harter is proud to see how much the university has grown since 2004, when it started as a medical school with just 78 students. Overseeing the creation of Touro's academic programs and the opening of the Touro Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities are two of his proudest achievements.

"When you look at everything we did back then and see what Shelley has done now, it went way beyond what we had envisioned in 2004," he said.

Berkley credited Harter, a longtime friend, for laying a solid foundation that she was able to build on. With nearly 1,500 students, Touro boasts the largest medical school, the largest physician assistant studies program, and the first occupational therapy doctorate program in Nevada.

"If not for Mike Harter's efforts and that he left this school in very good shape, we could not have been as successful as we are now. I had no idea if I could do this job or not, but Mike reassured me that I could," she said. "Our students are absolutely phenomenal, and I respect and admire the faculty, staff, and the efforts of our leadership team. I've been so fortunate to capitalize on a solid foundation and we've been able to keep this institution moving forward."

TOURO TIMELINE

- APR. 2004** Touro University Nevada Opens its Doors
- AUG. 2004** First DO Class
- OCT. 2004** First PA Class
- AUG. 2005** First OT Class

BLAZING THE TRAIL AT SCHOOL AND IN THE FIELD

Rachel Rosenthal Hopes to Make Strides in Healthcare as One of Touro's First Occupational Therapy Doctorate Students



As one of the first students enrolled in Touro University Nevada's Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program, Rachel Rosenthal is excited to help chart the course for the School of Occupational Therapy's future.

"It's definitely exciting knowing that we are one of the foundation classes of Touro's OTD program," she said.

The San Diego-bred graduate of Fresno State University came to Touro in 2017, not too long after she realized that a career in occupational therapy (OT) was something she wanted to pursue.

"The more I looked into OT, the more it combined my interests with the mind, body, and health philosophy," she said. "I eventually did some shadowing with an OT and quickly discovered that I really loved the profession."

Coming from both a heavily populated high school and undergraduate university, Rosenthal said she was enticed by the smaller and close-knit feel of Touro's campus environment.

At the same time, she knew she wanted to pursue more than just a master's degree. With Touro transitioning to the OTD program, Rosenthal knew she had found the right place.

"There are other schools in the process of transitioning to an OTD program, but I liked that Touro was so eager to move toward the doctorate very quickly," she said. "To me, it showed that the university was committed to the success of its students as well as the profession. That really appealed to me."

Rosenthal said the smaller cohort has made her student experience much more enjoyable. The close-working relationships she's developed with her faculty and classmates have resulted in a deep professional network that will benefit her after she graduates, she added.

"Rachel is a hard-working student who epitomizes what the occupational therapy profession is all about," said Dr. Robyn Otty, Director of Touro's OT program. "She's been a great ambassador for her classmates here at Touro and will make a tremendous OT when she graduates."

Rosenthal is in the process of completing her capstone project with Dr. Otty as her faculty advisor. She wants to create programming to help all ages of adults with developmental disabilities obtain employment.

"It's unknown territory for OTs," she said. "We have so many services for school-aged individuals and older adults, but not as many resources once people graduate from high school. These individuals are capable of so much; we just need to provide them with the opportunities tailored to their needs."

For her capstone, she has partnered with The Garden Foundation, a Las Vegas-based organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing a place to learn, grow, socialize, explore, and be independent.

She looks forward to completing the necessary research and program development with the goal of implementing her capstone project at The Garden Foundation for 13 weeks.

After she graduates in May of 2020, Rosenthal wants to stay in Southern Nevada and help Touro grow its OTD program. As one of the program's first students, she's been fortunate to both learn from and provide direction to the faculty.

"The faculty have been tremendous to work with because they are learning right along with us," she said. "I'm still learning every day and I think having an OTD will help me go a long way. It gives us our seat at the table with other healthcare providers because we have more education, research, and evidence-based practice behind us. It's been an awesome experience to be at the forefront of that growth here at Touro."

Networking Platform Allows Alumni to Reconnect With Classmates and Mentor Future Graduates

As Touro University Nevada builds off its first 15 years of success, alumni have a new way to reengage with each other, the university, and current students.

Touro has launched *TUNConnect*, a social networking platform that allows all Touro University Nevada alumni to reconnect with former classmates and provide mentorship opportunities for current students.



"This is our 15th year, and so much has changed at Touro," said Veronica Fischer, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations. "It takes a few years for our alumni to get settled in residency or practice. This will help them stay connected with each other and the university."

TUNConnect is part of Graduway, one of the leading alumni networking companies in the U.S. In addition to reconnecting with former classmates and mentoring current students, the user-friendly app allows alumni to share their personal and professional accomplishments through the news feed.

"One of Touro's tenants is giving back to the community, and using *TUNConnect* to network will help our alumni enhance their own professional experience while working with our students," Fischer said. "Our alumni are already doing so much, and this will provide them with the

opportunity to be that mentor they may have wanted in school."

Alumni can answer questions about their specialty, and join selective groups, including those specific to their graduating class.

"Our fabulous alumni have played a huge role in the continuous growth and success of Touro University Nevada, and we want them to know how much we value them," said Shelley Berkley, CEO and Senior Provost of Touro University Western Division. "*TUNConnect* allows them to give back to the university by mentoring current students and lets them easily reconnect with their classmates."

Fischer said she is hopeful that alumni will use *TUNConnect* to host meet and greets with classmates, participate in webinars for students, and return to campus for guest lectures.



"We are at a very exciting time in our history," she said. "Great things are happening and we want our alumni to be involved."

You can download *TUNConnect* through both the Apple and Google Play Store. Search for 'Graduway Community' and then search for 'Touro University Nevada.'

AUG. 2005 First Nursing Class

SEP. 2005 First Education Class

DEC. 2007 Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Opens

JUL. 2009 Health Center Opens

ALUMNI Profile

Dr. Sartaj Kadiwala Siddiqui

College of Osteopathic Medicine
Class of 2008

Inaugural DO Graduate Recalls University's Early Beginnings as She Navigated Her Way Through Medical School



Dr. Sartaj Kadiwala Siddiqui (bottom left) and some of her classmates celebrating shortly before their 2008 Commencement.

Back where it ALL BEGAN



More than 1,200 miles away from her home in Austin, Tex., Dr. Sartaj Kadiwala Siddiqui took a chance on Touro University Nevada as one of its first medical students when it opened in August 2004.

Southern Nevada was not the original plan for Siddiqui, who was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. before moving to Texas in high school.

"Initially, I only applied to allopathic schools because I didn't know anything about the osteopathic philosophy," she said.

Siddiqui took a gap year after graduating with a dual major in biology and business administration from the University of Texas at Dallas. The more she learned about osteopathic medical schools, the more interested she became.

"I love the holistic approach to the body and being able to work with my hands," she said. "It was a much better fit for me."

Siddiqui applied to, and later interviewed at, Touro University California in Vallejo, Calif.

"A couple of weeks later, they called me and asked if I would be interested in the new Touro University Nevada campus,"

she recalled. "I knew I was taking a huge risk, but I thought it would be great to be a trailblazer."

Siddiqui still remembers her first day of school as one of Touro's charter class of medical students.

I knew I was taking a huge risk, but I thought it would be great to be a trailblazer.

"I remember driving to school with my roommate on our first day, and there was absolutely nowhere to park. Many of the spots were being used by neighboring businesses, and where we ended up parking was closer to our apartment than the school," she recalled.

At the beginning of Touro's first year, students and faculty coming in for

interviews were required to wear hard hats while construction was being completed. Siddiqui's white coat ceremony was held inside Touro's unfinished gymnasium with folding chairs for friends and family to sit.

"I remember how hot it was and how we had fans blowing inside of the gym to cool us down," she said. "But I'm proud that it was intimate and just us. The room was full of heart and everyone was so proud to be there."

Siddiqui said she and her classmates went to class in the same room every day. After class was over, they convened in the bullpen to study.

"Back then, it was only us and we were all transplants," she said. "Everybody had an open-door policy and it gave us a great opportunity to learn from our faculty and connect with each other."

Once her third year of medical school began, Siddiqui completed her rotations at Nellis Air Force Base, Valley Hospital, and Sunrise Hospital. By 2006, Touro was now home to the School of Physician Assistant Studies, the School of Occupational Therapy, the School of Nursing, and two new classes of medical students.

"There were so many more people there, and all of a sudden it wasn't just us anymore," she said.

In 2008, Siddiqui and her 77 classmates graduated as the first class of the Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing medical school in an unfamiliar place, Siddiqui went on to complete her general pediatrics residency at the University of Florida.

She has worked as a pediatrician for the last eight years, as well as a neonatologist for the last three. Back in Austin, Siddiqui still keeps in touch with her classmates who helped blaze the trail for what Touro University Nevada has become.

"I first came back three years ago with my husband and was shocked to see how much the university has grown," she said.

In October 2018, the university honored its original graduating class with an inaugural alumni reunion. Siddiqui said classmates who returned to the Touro campus to see the enhanced expansion were jealous that they didn't have those amenities when they were in medical school.

At the reunion, Siddiqui and her classmates shared laughs, reminisced about their days as Touro's first students, and even met for sushi at the same place they would go during medical school.

"It was so great to see everyone and catch up after all these years," she said. "Touro University Nevada has grown so much. It strengthens my degree and has gotten more competitive with applicants. I can't believe it's been 15 years."



Dr. Sartaj Kadiwala Siddiqui with Touro CEO & Senior Provost Shelley Berkley and Provost Dr. Ray Alden after being honored with the Blue and Gold Award during the 2018 alumni awards reception.

JUL.
2009

First PT Class

JUL.
2009

First MHS Class

APR.
2014

First 'Light It Up Blue' Fundraiser for Touro Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities

JUL.
2014

First Mobile Healthcare Clinic

A Touro Connection

Three Students From Different Touro Campuses Meet Halfway Across the World on Backpacking Trip

When Linsey Bui came to Touro University Nevada as a student in the Master's of Science in Medical Health Sciences program (MHS) in 2018, she had no idea she'd eventually forge a Touro connection halfway around the world.



Linsey Bui

The Orange County, Calif. native chose Touro University Nevada after meeting former Admissions Program Manager Charles Buckner during a recruitment trip in San Diego.

"He had a wonderful spirit and was one of the most amazing people I ever met," Bui recalled. "I knew that I would find more people like Charles at Touro Nevada, and I quickly found out that everyone on campus was just as accepting and eager to help."

Bui was in need of a roommate before she started the MHS program, so she connected with Northern California native Shwe Lew, who was also new to Touro's MHS program. The two quickly became roommates, but Lew soon relocated to Vallejo to attend Touro University California's (TUC) MHS program to be closer to her family.

After graduating from Touro's rigorous MHS program, Bui decided to try

something she always wanted: take a backpacking trip through Asia. She had recently been accepted into Touro University Nevada's College of Osteopathic Medicine and wanted to reward herself with an international adventure before medical school began.

The partner she originally agreed to travel with backed out at the last minute, forcing Bui to find a new partner.

"I texted everyone who I thought I'd be comfortable backpacking with, and it just so happened that Shwe said she would go with me," she said.

Bui and Lew flew from LAX to Hong Kong, only to be greeted by terrific news at the airport.

"When we had our layover in Hong Kong, Shwe found out that she had been accepted into TUC's College of Osteopathic Medicine," Bui recalled.

"It was the best way we could have started our trip."

During their 2.5-week adventure in Asia, Bui and Lew traveled to Japan, Thailand, and South Korea where they did plenty of eating, sightseeing, and completely immersing themselves in the culture. On their final night in South Korea, Bui and Lew stayed at a hostel where they later developed a new friendship halfway across the world.

"We saw this guy sitting in the hostel lobby and we just started talking to him," Bui said. "We told him that we had each finished a master's program and that we were about to start medical school. He told us he was about to do the same thing. We asked him where he went to school and he said 'Touro.'"

That student was Hansl Mo, a first-year student in Touro's College of Osteopathic Medicine in Middletown, N.Y.

"We had an understanding on a deeper level because we all went through our rigorous master's programs," Mo said.



Shwe Lew



Hansl Mo

"It was so unexpected. Of all the people I met on my trip to Asia, I was most shocked to see them."

The meetup presented them with the idea to help initiate more collaboration between the Touro College and University System campuses.

"We discovered that students across Touro programs don't know much about each other, and we want to change that," Bui said.

After a night of talking and learning more about their Touro stories, the three quickly developed a bond. Each completed a master's program at their respective Touro, and each of them were about to begin their first year of medical school.

"If I hadn't done MHS, I would've struggled so badly on my first exam," Bui said. "MHS taught me how to properly study and analyze a lecture. I wish more people could get that experience."

"After completing my undergraduate studies at Syracuse University, my MCAT scores were really lacking," Mo agreed. "The master's program helped me become more familiar with the material. In medical school, I still

have the really competitive mindset that I needed in the master's program because we were fighting to get in. Holding on to that competitive spirit gave me a stronger background in the sciences that I'm learning in medical school."

Since crossing paths in South Korea, the three Touro students have briefly brainstormed how they can help strengthen the collaboration between their schools.

"We're not really sure what that collaboration would look like, but we'd love to start a club or organization that allows Touro students from the East Coast to interact with Touro students from the West Coast," Mo said.

Bui agreed their experience meeting halfway across the world while sharing a similar school background lends to future collaboration.

"The Touro system is a big system that we don't know enough about, but we all have a lot to offer," she said. "We tend to forget how big it is and that there are thousands of Touro students out there. I'm sure there are students with similar stories like ours. When we have time, I know we'll see each other again."

MAR. 2015

First Touro Gala

NOV. 2016

Second Mobile Healthcare Clinic

DEC. 2017

Tang/Cloobek Centers Open

APR. 2018

First Building Blocks Party

Faculty Profile

Dr. Amy Stone



A Head Start On Her FUTURE

It's been less than a year since Dr. Amy Stone arrived at Touro University Nevada, though she's already making waves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Basic Sciences and in the field of immunology.

Dr. Amy Stone Making Tremendous Strides as New Touro Faculty

Since joining the Touro faculty in November 2018, Stone has published a significant research paper on the West Nile Virus; received two Travel Awards from the American Society of Microbiology (ASM); and worked with Touro students and faculty to help bring healthcare to the Las Vegas tunnel homeless populations.

"In a lot of ways, it's like crossing the finish line because you spend all this time working toward a goal, and you get this moment of joy when you see that work to completion," she said in regard to her research.

Stone's paper, titled "RIG-I-Like Receptors Direct Inflammatory Macrophage Polarization Against West Nile Virus Infection," and published in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Communications*, explains why some people infected with West Nile Virus have no symptoms while others suffer with life-threatening debilitations or even death.

Stone began her research in the Summer of 2015 and co-authored the paper with Michael Gale Jr., Ph.D., from the University of Washington.

"This is the first particular breakthrough of its kind, so it's pretty exciting to play such an important role on the international scale," she said. "We didn't know how this was happening, but now we know it's because macrophages can sense the West Nile Virus and become polarized to the strong immune response."

Not much older than the Touro students she teaches, Stone discovered her love for teaching during her post-doctorate work at the University of Washington. Since then, she's excelled with the opportunity to train the future doctors and healthcare providers at Touro.

"I like taking extremely complex ideas and distilling them down to understandable chunks," she said. "I quickly came to realize that Touro genuinely valued teaching. What really gets me excited is thinking about how I can get these students to apply what they've learned and develop their own lightbulb moment."

"We are delighted about Dr. Stone's commitment to enlightened research that will ultimately enhance and optimize patient care," said

Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar, Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Stone is also excited to help shape Touro's expanded research culture.

"Collaborating with students and faculty will only strengthen the university's research capabilities," she added.

"I'm looking forward to pushing the boundaries of research here at Touro and bringing out the best that our students and faculty have in the research arena," she said. "I'm excited to see how we can shape our upcoming curriculum and help our students get to where they need to be."

With numerous accomplishments already under her belt, the future looks bright for the Colorado native as Touro works to expand its research footprint.

"I want to bring in students with different backgrounds and get them to contribute to something that's cutting edge," Stone said. "At this particular time, it's a great opportunity to come in with a lot of motivation and enthusiasm to help shape the research culture here at Touro."

CLASSNOTES

Do you have **NEWS** TO SHARE?

Get **MARRIED?**

Did you receive a **NEW PROMOTION?**

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE GRADUATES

STEPHANIE PERSONDEK (NEE MORBECK), DO10

Dr. Stephanie Persondek (nee Morbeck) recently relocated to her hometown of Spokane Valley, Wash. to work in private OBGYN practice. Previously, she worked as an OBGYN laborist at Henderson Hospital in Southern Nevada. She was recently appointed as the Director of the Women's Health clinical rotation at Rocky Vista University in Ivins, Utah. She has also been working as an item writer and reviewer for multiple exams within the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Persondek has also been on faculty at America's Board Review, a company that trains OBGYNs for the written, oral, and maintenance of certification for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

She previously served as an adjunct clinical faculty at Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

TIFFANY BUJAK, DO13

Dr. Tiffany Bujak is practicing flight medicine at Fort Riley Military Base in Kansas where she was recently promoted to the rank of Major. She and her husband welcomed twin boys in November 2018.

MEDINA CULVER, DO15

Dr. Medina Culver came back to Southern Nevada after completing her Family Medicine residency at Montana Family Medicine, an affiliate of the University of Washington. She is a physician at Wikler Family Practice in Henderson, Nev.

Move to a New CITY?

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT GRADUATES

ADRIENNE CHAN (NEE MAR), PA15

Adrienne Chan (nee Mar), a 2015 graduate of the Touro University Nevada PA program, married Joshua Chan on June 23, 2018.

MATTHEW DEMAS, PA17

Matthew Demas works as an emergency room PA for the Valley Health System in Southern Nevada.

PHYSICAL THERAPY GRADUATES

CRAIG HADFIELD, DPT13

Dr. Craig Hadfield was recently selected for a fellowship in Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy from the American Academy of Manipulative Therapy.

SCOTT HARRIS, DPT15

Dr. Scott Harris received a certification in Mechanical Diagnosis through the McKenzie Institute.

GERALD DOLCE, DPT17

Dr. Gerald Dolce was recently certified as an orthopedic clinical specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS).

LAURA MARSH, DPT17

Dr. Laura Marsh works as a physical therapist at FYZICAL Therapy and Balance Center in Las Vegas.

LOGAN DEROIN, DPT19

Dr. Logan Deroin was accepted to the Evidence in Motion Sports Physical Therapy Residency in Boise, Idaho.

KIN LOK LEUNG, DPT19

Dr. Kin Lok Leung was accepted to the Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency at Kaiser in Union City, Calif.

SHENG LIN, DPT19

Dr. Sheng Lin was accepted to the Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency at Kaiser in Santa Clara, Calif.

We'd love to hear from you and your fellow alumni!

Please send your class notes to Steven Slivka, Communications Manager at steven.slivka@tun.touro.edu.

JUL. 2018

Third Mobile Healthcare Clinic

JUL. 2018

First Phase of Multi-Year Expansion Build-out of Touro's Campus

SEP. 2018

First Alumni Reunion

OCT. 2018

First Scholarship Endowment



Touro University Nevada
874 American Pacific Drive
Henderson, NV 89014

Touro YOU

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9/13-15

Alumni Reunion
Eastside Cannery
Hotel & Casino

9/16

White Coat Ceremony
Rio All Suites
Hotel and Casino

9/24

Fall Open House
Touro University
Nevada

10/25-28

Osteopathic Medical Education Conference (OMED)
Baltimore, Maryland

10/27

OMED Touro Alumni Reception
The World Trade Center,
402 E. Pratt Street, 7- 10 p.m.
Baltimore, Maryland

11/3

Winter Commencement
Paris Las Vegas Hotel
& Casino

12/8

Season of Lights Soiree and Silent Auction

SAVE THE DATE

Stories by Steven Slivka
Communications Manager

Photos by Mona Shield-Payne

Cover photo provided by
Dr. Sartaj Kadiwala Siddiqui

Design and layout by Virgen
Digital Brand Marketing

Touro YOU

Schlyer Richards
Vice President of Advancement

Melody J. Crickman
Director of Marketing & Public
Relations

For more information on TouroYOU stories
or how you can join our mailing list, contact:

advancement@tun.touro.edu
702-777-3100

Follow Us



@TouroNevada

tun.touro.edu